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Hovenweep National Monument

Colorado National Parks

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**US Dept of Interior (NPS) Hovenweep National Monument Square  
Tower Group: Hovenweep Memorandum**

National Park Service of the United States

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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK  
COLORADO

ROUTING  
Mr. Lohr  
Mr. Douglas  
Felt-10-1-41  
McDougal



Colo.  
715-03  
(MPS)  
CNO

September 26, 1941.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

Some delay has arisen in replying to Acting Associate Director Tolson's memorandum of July 18, regarding elimination of surplus bison at Colorado National Monument; we have been waiting to review the report of Mr. Rouse, Fish and Wildlife Service representative. To date no report has been received from that Service.

In order to bring matters up to date, it should be stated that the Ute Indians are anxious to have the surplus bison which will be slaughtered and turned over to them.

A complication has arisen due to the discovery of five more bison in an isolated canyon which brings the total to twenty-nine. While the Departmental authorization for removal of the surplus numbers states, "authority is requested for the disposal of four bison . . . to prevent the herd from exceeding a total of twenty," I assume that we will be permitted to remove nine head in order to maintain the total of twenty. At last reports the entire twenty-nine animals had banded together.

It would be appreciated if you would provide us with a copy of the policy and procedure approved for the disposal of surplus bison at Wind Cave and Yellowstone National Parks. Our files contain no information on the matter and the Administrative Manual gives nothing definite.

Corralling the bison for slaughter will be difficult, for driving the animals over the rough terrain of the monument is out of the question. It is possible that we may be able to entice the herd into a trapping corral by use of salt or hay. In any event, we are now securing poles from the adjacent national forest in order to have materials with which to build corrals.

I rather gather from remarks made by Mr. Rouse that he does not concur in the use of corrals; however, this is only an impression, and I may be mistaken. Undoubtedly, corrals offer the least difficult and most practicable means of carrying out the disposal work, but getting