

REPORT

OF THE

ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

OF THE

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

IN

CALIFORNIA

TO THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

1900.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1900.

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R E P O R T
OF THE
ACTING SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK,
OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT,
Wawona, Cal., September 15, 1900.

SIR: In compliance with your instructions of July 7, 1900, I have the honor to submit the following report of the condition of affairs in the Yosemite National Park, California.

Under orders from headquarters, Department of California, I reported to you by letter and received instructions to be guided by instructions already given former superintendents.

I left the Presidio of San Francisco on May 21, 1900, with Troops F and G, Sixth Cavalry, having been instructed by the department commander to conduct the squadron to Madera, Cal., where Troop G was detached for duty in Sequoia Park, and I, with Troop F, proceeded to this place, arriving June 3, 1900.

Soon after my arrival here telegraphic instructions were received from the department commander to keep the troop concentrated in anticipation of its being sent to the Philippines, which instructions were not removed until July 17, 1900. I was also ordered on detached service from June 12 until August 10, 1900.

On July 18, 1900, the first patrol was sent out, and up to the present time patrols have been kept constantly on the move in different parts of the reservation (1,147 miles in the aggregate) looking for trespassers and hunters. One flock of about 4,000 sheep has been scattered, and the herders brought here and sent out of the park.

Other flocks of sheep have trespassed on the borders of the reservation, but had gone beyond the park limits before the patrols found them.

Up to date none of the meadows on the reservation have been eaten off, an indication that any trespassing that has occurred has not damaged them. In this connection I would urgently recommend that the boundaries of the reservation be properly monumented and blazed, so that patrols, as well as others, may know the reservation limits. Under present conditions it is difficult to determine where the boundary lines are, and often causes ill feeling between the troops and civilians. The cost of properly monumenting and blazing the boundary lines would be considerable, but its usefulness would be of incalculable value and save any discussion as to where the line runs.

Very few cattle have been found on the public lands. Most of the owners of patented lands have kept their stock within their inclosures and shown a disposition to live up to the rules and regulations of the park.

It is a very difficult matter to keep out hunters. They can slip in without observation and get away before their presence is known.

Twenty-three firearms have been taken from persons entering and found within the park limits. Only one instance has occurred where hunters have killed a deer and got away without discovery. Deer, quail, and grouse are very plentiful and appear very tame, indicating that they have not been hunted. It is when the snow falls, driving the game out of the mountains and off the reservation, that their slaughter begins.

In some known instances county officials living in the vicinity of the park have killed game on the reservation, setting a bad example for the plain civilians and showing by actions their disregard for laws and regulations which their duty requires them to enforce.

Much of the land in the park is owned by individuals, the title thereto having been acquired before or soon after the establishment of the park.

The Government should own all the land inside the park, and none should be given over to private use except for the purpose named in the act reserving the land now included in the Yosemite National Park.

The purchase by the Government of all patented lands within the park will be to the benefit of the United States. There has been one forest fire within the park limits this season. The fire was evidently caused by lightning, and was extinguished by the troops before any damage occurred.

The contractor has begun constructing the bridge over the main Merced River, and when completed it will be of great benefit to the inhabitants of the Yosemite Valley as well as the troops.

I would recommend that the trail from the bridge under construction be repaired to where it joins the Coulterville road. The distance is about 14 miles and will require the construction of two small bridges (over Crane and Moss creeks). With these improvements the trail would be one of the best in the park and afford means for travel through a very wild and interesting part of the reservation.

Forest Rangers Leidig and Leonard have rendered very efficient work during the season. I believe both are reliable, trustworthy men and perform their duty in a conscientious manner.

I would also report the recommendations of former superintendents in regard to the construction of a mess-house and amusement room for the men and a shed for the shelter of the horses. The latter suffer considerably from the cold nights, but more especially from the rain and snow when the ground becomes muddy.

During the latter part of last season the animals were compelled to stand in the rain and slush over ankle deep for nearly six weeks. From present indications the same conditions will obtain this year.

Efforts have been made to have a suitable shed constructed by the Quartermasters' Department but have proven failures.

A good substantial shed could be constructed for \$500.

There have been 5,000 visitors in the Yosemite Valley this season, about equally divided between tourists and campers.

Respectfully submitted,

L. H. RUCKER,

Major, Sixth Cavalry, Acting Superintendent.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

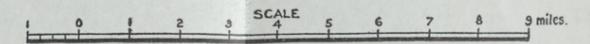
Washington, D. C.

MAP
OF
THE YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

PREPARED FOR USE OF U.S. TROOPS BY

N.F. MCCLURE, 1ST LIEUT., 5TH CAVALRY

MARCH, 1896.



REMARKS.

Mainly from Scouts by Officers and Men of the Fourth U. S. Cavalry, particularly those of Lieuts. H. C. Benson, M. F. Davis and W. R. Smedberg Jr., Fourth U. S. Cavalry and Lieut. N. F. McClure, Fifth U. S. Cavalry.

Much assistance gained from Yosemite Sheet, U. S. Geological Survey, comprising Townships 1 North & 1, 2 & 3 South; Ranges 19, 20, 21 & 22 East, Mt. Diablo Base Line.

Only a few of the many meadows and falls have been represented.

Magnetic Variation N. 16° E. Latitude of 38° North and Longitude of 119° 45' W. G. are indicated in the margin; also Township 1 N. R. 19 E. Well-travelled or well-blazed trails are indicated thus.....

Dim trails or cross-country routes thus.....

