

ZION - 1125

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Zion NATIONAL PARK

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[Signature]

Superintendent's Annual Reports

1929-1942

Superintendent's Annual Reports

IMPORTANT

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,
Director.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

6-7410

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October 24, 1942

J. P. / 24

MEMORANDUM for the Director:

There are transmitted herewith the following annual reports for the year ending June 30, 1942:

1942

- Zion National Park
- Bryce Canyon National Park
- Zion National Monument
- Pipe Spring National Monument
- Capitol Reef National Monument
- Timpanogos Cave National Monument
- Cedar Breaks National Monument

Superintendent

CG - Region Three

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SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Zion National Park

July 1, 1941, to June 30, 1942

Protection

Declaration of war by the United States on the Axis nations made it necessary to revise our protection program to some extent. The Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway being a through highway connecting U. S. 89 and U. S. 91 and of strategic importance in moving war materials and civilian traffic from the east to the west coast, it became necessary to increase surveillance on this highway and the two tunnels and six highway bridges located on the highway. The east entrance checking station, which is ordinarily closed during the winter months, was opened in December and operated by a CCC enrollee throughout the winter, and additional patrols were sent over the highway daily. With the coming of summer and appointment of temporary rangers, the checking station hours at the south and east stations were extended, the day patrols were increased, and a night patrolman kept watch at night.

Fire danger was exceedingly high at the opening of the year, and it was necessary to prohibit smoking along the highway during the month of July, 1941. A fire guard was stationed at Pine Knoll, on the east rim, during 1941, and at Lava Point in Zion National Monument during the fire season of 1942. During the year ten fires were suppressed, none of which were of large proportions. With the liquidation of the CCC camps, the problem of fighting fires if a large one should occur in this area became a critical one, as all man power has migrated to other areas where defense work is plentiful. Our cooperative fire agreements with neighboring national forests were revised to make the fullest use of existing facilities, but the Forest Service is in about the same situation as the National Park Service in this respect.

The spraying of trees in the valley of Zion Canyon was started on May 5 and continued to May 28, 1942; the cottonwood and willow trees for control of tent caterpillars, the ash trees for control of ash looper. The work was done by CCC forces, with \$88.48 expended for supplies. During August, 1941, a small amount of spraying was done on the Grotto Campground, at a cost of \$11.51 for supplies, labor furnished by CCC without charge. The caterpillar epidemic during the spring of 1942 was unusually light. A rather heavy attack by a saw fly on the pinyon pines in the lower end of Zion Canyon was noted in May, 1942, but no control measures were taken.

Over-population of deer in Zion Canyon, with consequent scarcity of feed, is one of the major problems at present in Zion National Park. For several years deer have been trapped during the winter months and removed to other areas where feed is more plentiful. During the winter of 1941-42 52 deer were trapped and removed, but this number is so small compared to the number which are surplus to the carrying capacity of the range that the situation is not much relieved. Vegetation is so over-browsed that it is in serious condition and there is danger of complete destruction. Numerous complaints of deer damaging crops and cattle range on private property outside the park were received during the year. Because the trapping does not seem to be solving the problem, plans were made during the year to slaughter between 200 and 300 animals during the 1942 fall season, asking help of the Indian Service in exchange for the venison to be distributed among the Indians for meat.

Development

Reconstruction of the road and facilities destroyed by the large slide which occurred on May 16, 1941, was completed this year. The road bed was completed in October, 1941, and left to settle during the winter, before putting on the oil surface. The water mains which had been destroyed, irrigation diversion dams which had been washed out, and obliteration of scars and landscaping of the area were completed in December, 1941. The final oil surfacing was applied in May, 1942, and the project completed.

Road and trail maintenance was very heavy due to the wet summer of 1941, requiring removal of small slides and minor reconstruction.

The CCC program, which has been carried on in Zion National Park continuously since it was first organized in 1933, was terminated June 30, 1942, and all personnel disbanded and projects closed in the first few days of July, 1942. During the report year the most noteworthy project completed by the CCC was the ranger's dormitory, a handsome building accommodating 16 men, with large living room, kitchen, dining alcove, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and one large bunk room. The program was terminated before the outside could be landscaped. Another very worthwhile project completed by the CCC was an addition to a park equipment shed, consisting of three large stalls for extra large equipment, and three standard stalls. The building is of stone, with sliding doors. A third project, revetment construction to protect the park utility area from Oak Creek flood waters, was rushed to 90 per cent completion when the camp disbanded.

A W.P.A. project was carried on throughout the year, working on road drainage structures and stone guardwalls. They also completed

a project for landscaping the cafeteria and cabin grounds, which consisted of laying out roads and trails, building stone curbing and steps, oil surfacing the service roads, and planting trees and shrubs. This project has greatly improved the appearance of the cafeteria area. Due to curtailment of funds, the W.P.A. project was closed on April 3, 1942.

Visitor Use

The first months of the year, up to and including part of December, 1941, showed large increases over previous years in numbers of visitors. Following the declaration of war, however, a very sharp decline started which continued with each successive month. The travel year ending September 30, 1941, showed a total of 190,016 visitors, as compared with 165,029 for the previous travel year. Visitors for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1942, totalled 158,073, as compared to 169,052 for the previous period.

Visitor use was so light in the spring months that it was necessary to close the Zion cafeteria-camp center on May 30, 1942, and the only accommodations available throughout the summer were those offered at the Zion Lodge.

Some noteworthy visitors to Zion National Park during the year were:

- July 9 - Miss Mary E. Powell, daughter of Major John Wesley Powell, explorer
- July 14 - William Burdett, Director of National Parks, Amsterdam, Holland
- Aug. 7 - Director Drury and Congressman J. W. Robinson of Utah
- Oct. 8 - Senator Rufus C. Holman of Oregon

Superintendent

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
National Park Service
Washington

 **COPY**

June 11, 1942.

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MEMORANDUM for all Field Offices.

In order that the continuity of annual reports not be broken for historical and archive purposes, it is requested that the officer in charge of each unit of the Federal park system submit to the Director a brief report for the fiscal year. Since the reports will not be printed, and are not necessary for the preparation of the Director's brief annual report to the Secretary of the Interior, they need not be submitted until the end of the travel season. They should be transmitted through the respective regional offices, and should reach Washington (or Chicago, as the case may be) not later than November 1.

The reports should be in duplicate and should cover only the highlights of protection, development, and visitor use.

As usual, each superintendent or custodian should wire direct to the Director on September 30 the total travel figures for the 1942 travel year, ending on that date. Total number of visitors, of private cars, and of men in uniform of our armed forces should be given. Copy of the travel telegrams should be sent immediately to the regional offices concerned.

G. E. Demaray

Associate Director.

