

RECEIVED
JUN 13 1949
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
REGION FOUR
180 New Montgomery Street
San Francisco 5, California

207-01

No. 49-82.

June 9, 1949.

REGION FOUR MEMORANDUM.

Your attention is called to the first paragraph of the Director's informational memorandum of April 25 advising that a supplemental report covering significant events of the year, which were not covered by the June 1 report already submitted, should be furnished in time to reach the Director's Office not later than July 15.

While not specifically stated in the Director's memorandum, the original of this supplemental report should be mailed to the Director and two copies supplied this office, as in the case of the June 1 report.

A. Tomlinson
A. Tomlinson,
Regional Director.

✓	Superintendent	copy by
✓	Asst. Supt.	7/15
	Chief Clerk	
	Engineer	
	Naturalist	
✓	Chief Ranger	
✓	Adm. Assist.	rw
	Oper. Mgr.	
	Forester	
	Mechanic	
	Files	

Just file?

FILE COPY

207-01

Yosemite National Park
California

AIR MAIL

May 27, 1949.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

In compliance with your memorandum of April 25 for all field offices, we transmit herewith a brief report on significant events of the 1949 fiscal year to date.

The emphasis given to "inadequacy of funds" in the Director's Annual Report for 1948 was timely and the story was presented clearly. So far as Yosemite National Park is concerned it would seem proper to give much the same emphasis to this subject in the 1949 report.

(SGD) C. P. Russell

Carl P. Russell,
Superintendent.

Enclosure

cc to Regional Director, Region Four
w/cc enclosure in duplicate

CPR: jk

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OF THE 1949 FISCAL YEAR

Yosemite National Park
California

SUMMARY SHEET

1. Rancheria Fire Worst in History of Yosemite National Park
2. Forestry Activity in Yosemite Embraces Many Problems
3. Yosemite National Park Suffers from Increased Costs, Decreased Effective Funds
4. Yosemite National Park Development Plan Progressing
5. Fire Protection Needed for Valuable Museum Exhibits and Materials
6. Training School for Future Naturalists now Reorganized

May 27, 1949.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OF THE 1949 FISCAL YEAR

Yosemite National Park California

1. RANCHERIA FIRE WORST IN HISTORY OF YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

On the morning of September 9 a trail crew at Pate Valley on the Tuolumne River in Yosemite National Park discovered a forest fire. Lack of funds had prevented maintenance on the telephone line so there was no way to summon immediate help. Hour after hour the tired men fought a losing battle. Not until the heavy blanket of smoke lifted next day did anyone in Yosemite Valley know that one of the worst fires in Yosemite history was burning, tearing its destructive path to the top of Rancheria Mountain.

The fire brought into action everyone in Yosemite from postal clerks to ex-GI's who cheerfully accepted the challenge to control the fire and at the same time supply the needs of 400 weary fire fighters. Boat transportation was set up at Hetch Hetchy with the cooperation of the City of San Francisco, army troops from Fort Ord moved in and performed like seasoned veterans, and the fire was finally stopped after burning over 10,000 acres of one of the most rugged sections of the park.

Why did we lose so much to this fire and have to pay \$90,000 for fire fighting? The answer is summed up best in Bernard de Voto's excellent article in Harper's Magazine for February - "... because it took 24 hours instead of 2 minutes to get word to park headquarters that fire had broken

out. Why did it take so long? Because it had been impossible to keep Park Service telephone lines in distant areas in good condition."

The circumstance of no telephone service from outposts in the Yosemite backcountry is attributable entirely to the lack^{of} funds with which to pay for this vital protective work.

2. FORESTRY ACTIVITY IN YOSEMITE EMBRACES MANY PROBLEMS

Eradication of gooseberry and currant bushes to head off excessive damage from White Pine Blister Rust now within striking distance of Yosemite from the north was given high priority during the past year. The program calls for eradication work on 101,557 acres of which 20,429 are of highest priority in the finest sugar pine forests.

Insect control against the pine bark beetles was carried on over the fall, winter, and spring months at a cost of \$5000 in which 141 trees were felled and the bark peeled and burned to destroy larvae. This work is carried on from year to year and the number of beetles is reduced thus safeguarding countless trees from future attack.

A report entitled Grazing Problems in Yosemite was completed by park forester Emil Ernst and submitted to the Director late in March. The pack and saddle use of park lands was analyzed and suggestions for improvement in control and use were included in the study.

A study of the wood utilization problems in Yosemite National Park has been under way for several months and it is expected that valuable data will be ready for the 1951 estimates.

Two private land problems are being solved through acquisition of the Powers Estate lands at Tenaya Lake, Murphy Creek and Illilouette Creek, and the McNea Estate lands at Tamarack Flat. The logging threat involving the West Side Lumber Co lands north of Lake Eleanor has been averted at least for 1949. The Davis Brothers operated on the Aspen Valley private lands until closed down by winter weather. They intend to continue operations in 1949.

3. YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK SUFFERS FROM INCREASED COSTS, DECREASED EFFECTIVE FUNDS

Yosemite National Park along with most parks in the west experienced one of the most severe winters on record. Early snowfall and extremely low temperatures for long periods of time resulted in excessive cost for the maintenance of roads and utilities. Due to lack of rainfall and the excessive low temperatures the Yosemite Power Plant was practically inactive from early October until the first week in March. This necessitated the purchase of commercially generated electric energy at a cost of over \$12,000. Budget estimates based on normal costs, allowed for an expenditure of only \$2000 for this purpose. In order to meet this over-expenditure of the budget it was necessary to curtail operations in other departments, resulting in fewer seasonal rangers, ranger naturalists, and sanitation men. This over-expenditure of the budget was further aggravated by the increased cost of wages and salaries of personnel operating under the Wage Board system. Appropriation estimates for the 1949 fiscal year were submitted in August of 1946 and were based on a common labor wage of \$0.97 per hour. Minimum wages paid during the 1949 fiscal year for this type of labor was \$1.11 per hour, representing an increase of over 14% over the estimate. This increase was reflected throughout the whole wage board structure and had the effect of reducing the available man-hours of work by over 15%.

The combination of conditions as reflected above has had a very definite effect on the operation of Yosemite National Park during the past year. Certain functions not essential to the health and well-being of the visiting public had to be curtailed or eliminated entirely. Even those functions directly

affecting the public such as comfort station cleanup, garbage collection, and campground maintenance could not be maintained to the degree normally expected or desired in a national park area.

4. YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROGRESSING

A definite plan for the development of Yosemite National Park is taking shape which will determine for many years to come the location of facilities to avoid as much as possible encroachment upon the scenic values of the park.

Funds are expected soon for campground developments at Crane Flat and Wawona, the improvement of Camp 15 in Yosemite Valley, and the erection of three new residences for government employees.

The location of Yosemite Lodge has been determined and final plans are being drawn. Funds set up for installation of utilities by the National Park Service were withdrawn for distribution to other park areas since the Yosemite Park and Curry Co. found it impossible to start construction in 1948.

Construction of the three campground stores mentioned in last year's report has been started.

5. FIRE PROTECTION NEEDED FOR
VALUABLE MUSEUM EXHIBITS AND MATERIALS

In order to safeguard irreplaceable paintings, bound library volumes, historic photographic plates, prints, manuscript documents, and numerous separates and series of journals, new fireproof housing is urgently needed to protect the government's investment. These valuable research and interpretive items are used and enjoyed to the extent of half a million visitor-days use each year.

6. TRAINING SCHOOL FOR FUTURE NATURALISTS NOW REORGANIZED

A successful training program for naturalists for national park field areas was reorganized last summer when the Yosemite School of Field Natural History was reopened the first time since the war.

Eighteen post-graduate students were given National Park Service indoctrination through participation for seven weeks in actual naturalist field work, lecturing at campfire programs, leading nature walks, teaching a Junior Nature School program, and giving talks on the natural phenomena found in the Yosemite region. Relatively small investments in government money thus yield incalculable dividends in the spreading of the national park concept throughout the Nation.

RHA:CPR:JK

Note dates
 J.B.W.

MEMORANDUM for All Field Offices.

Each Regional Director and Superintendent is requested to prepare, for submission to this Office not later than June 1, a report recounting the most significant events of the 1949 fiscal year up to the date of submission. This should be followed, after July 1, by a supplemental report covering any significant events of the year not covered by the June 1 report. This supplemental report should reach the Director's Office not later than July 15.

This material is requested for use in preparing the Director's 1949 Annual Report to the Secretary. The June 1 and July 1 reports together will constitute the Superintendent's Annual Report; no other will be required.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS AND FOLLOW THEM CAREFULLY:

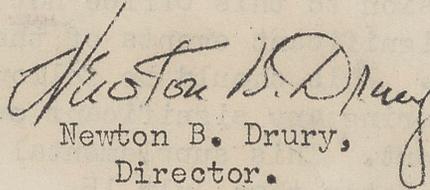
1. Start the task by making as complete a list of possible topics as you can. Of each one ask yourself the question, "Is this of sufficient importance for mention or discussion in the Director's Annual Report?" If your answer is definitely in the negative, eliminate it from the list; retain all others. In writing about any topic, make your account complete; include such details as are needed to make the situation described clear to an individual unfamiliar with the place or the attendant circumstances, but do not load it with more detail than is necessary. We shall endeavor to review submissions here as promptly as possible, and will ask for more information on any topics that seem to deserve fuller treatment.
2. Each topic should be given a brief heading and should be started on a new sheet; topics should be numbered consecutively; there should be a cover sheet containing a numbered list of the topics; and all should be clipped or stapled together.
3. Each sheet must bear the name of the area from which it originated.
4. The original of each report will be mailed to the Director's Office. At the same time, two copies will be mailed to the Regional Office. The Regional Director will be expected to review these and to forward to the Director's Office one copy of each, on which he will have indicated such items as he considers of special importance.

Supintendent	.....
Asst. Supt.	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Engineer	.....
Naturalist	.....
Chief Ranger	.....
Adm. Assist.	.....
Oper. Mgr.	.....
Forester	.....
Mechanic	.....
Files	.....

cc Anderson

5. The Regional Director's report will deal with significant Regional Office events or activities; it should not attempt to summarize events throughout the region or the reports received from the Superintendents.

6. Any field official should feel free to offer suggestions for improvement of the overall character of the Director's Annual Report or for treatment of any topic or any phase of the work of the National Park Service in the report.


Newton B. Drury,
Director.

207-01.4 Reports, Supt's. Annual.

1304

Informational

RECEIVED
MAY 22 1949

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Washington 25, D. C.

Informational

April 25, 1949.

YOSEMITE

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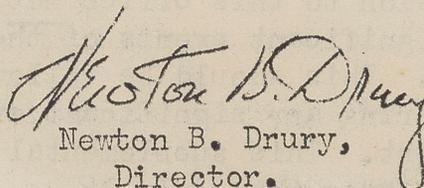
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