

REPORT OF THE
ACTING SUPERINTENDENT OF THE
SEQUOIA AND GENERAL GRANT
NATIONAL PARKS

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

1907



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REPORT OF THE ACTING SUPERINTENDENT OF THE SEQUOIA AND GENERAL GRANT NATIONAL PARKS.

OFFICE OF THE ACTING SUPERINTENDENT,
Camp at Kaweah, Cal., October 3, 1907.

SIR: In compliance with instructions contained in letter from your office, dated June 29, 1907, I have the honor to submit the following report of the condition of affairs and of the management of the Sequoia and General Grant national parks for the year 1907:

The troops detailed for duty in the Sequoia and General Grant national parks by General Orders, No. 18, Department of California, March 27, 1907, consisting of Troop F, Fourteenth Cavalry, and a detachment of the Hospital Corps, U. S. Army, left the Presidio of San Francisco, Cal., on May 25, 1907, and after marching 287½ miles arrived on June 8, 1907, at Kaweah, Cal., where temporary camp was established on the farm of Mr. C. F. Keller. It was found that repair work on the Giant Forest road had been progressing favorably and a few days later the road was open to travel. The county had been making repairs on the Mineral King road through the park and it also was in a condition for travel. After procuring supplies and sending out detachments to the central and southern parts of Sequoia Park permanent headquarters camp was established on June 18 at Sequoia Creek, on the Giant Forest road, about 2 miles from the Giant Forest. I believe this to be the most suitable camp site for the proper administration of the parks. It lies in the forest at an elevation of 5,600 feet, is cool and healthful, the soil is a soft loam, excellent from a sanitary point of view, and I believe camp conditions can not be excelled. Water is obtained from Sequoia Creek, a mountain stream, and is of good quality, as is, in fact, the water in every stream in the park. There are no buildings in this camp, tents being used for shelter.

On account of the probability of early rains and snow in the higher altitudes and the consequent blocking of the road, the command was moved to the camp at Kaweah on September 28.

GUARDING THE PARKS.

The duty of the troops, under the instructions of the Secretary of the Interior, is to preserve and protect the trees, plants, birds, animals, fishes, mineral deposits, and natural curiosities, to prevent the unauthorized use of Government lands within the parks by cattle and sheep men, to prevent forest fires, and to carry out such additional rules and regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may see fit to issue. Firearms are permitted in the parks only by written permission of the superintendent, and must be sealed, except those of the troops and rangers. Particular attention is paid to seeing that camp

fires no longer needed are completely extinguished by campers. Trespassers and persons who misbehave or who fail to observe the rules and regulations are summarily removed from the parks. For the above-named purposes detachments were stationed as follows: On June 14, one noncommissioned officer and two privates at Clough Cave; on June 18, one noncommissioned officer, one trumpeter, and one private at Cold Springs; on June 18, one noncommissioned officer and two privates at Atwell's Mill; on July 2, one noncommissioned officer and two privates at Rocky Gulch; on July 8, one noncommissioned officer and two privates at Buck Canyon; on July 12, two privates at General Grant Park. The noncommissioned officers were kept at the places where first stationed during the entire season, while the privates were changed from time to time. All these men were mounted and frequently patrolled the portions of the park assigned to them. Patrols were made from the main camp to those portions of the parks not occupied by detachments. The rifles of the men were retained at the main camp, their use at the detachment camps not being considered necessary.

The three main entrances to Sequoia Park from the west were guarded by the detachments at Rocky Gulch on the Giant Forest road, at Cold Springs on the Mineral King road, and at Clough Cave on the South Fork trail. The detachments at Buck Canyon on the Seven-mile Hill trail and at Atwell's mill on the Mineral King road guarded the main entrances from the east. Patrols were made from the main camp to Alta Meadows on the east and Clover Creek, Dorst Creek, Stony Creek, and Halstead Meadows on the north. The detachment at General Grant Park guarded that park. Park Ranger Fry was assigned to duty in the central and northern portions of Sequoia Park, Ranger Blossom to the central and southern portions of Sequoia Park, and Ranger Britten to the southern and southeastern portions of Sequoia Park. Ranger Davis was assigned to duty in General Grant Park. It must be understood that the two parks are in a mountainous section and the country is extremely rugged, with few trails. So far as known no violations of the rules and regulations occurred, and it was not necessary to make any arrests or to remove anyone from the parks. Considerable hunting for deer and bears was going on north, east, and south of Sequoia Park during the season, but it is believed that no hunters trespassed on park lands. Tourists and campers were disposed to learn and obey the rules for the government of the parks. From inspections and reports and from conversation with tourists and rangers passing through the detachment camps it is my opinion that the soldiers of the command have performed their duties in a zealous and creditable manner. Considerable trouble and annoyance would be obviated if it were generally known that unsealed firearms are not permitted in the parks. There is no necessity or reason why firearms should be brought into the parks by anyone, except hunters who are passing through for the purpose of hunting on the farther side. Dogs, except those belonging to rangers or hunters passing through, should not be allowed in either park.

There being practically no tourists in either park during the latter part of the season the detachments were relieved and returned to the main camp as follows: From General Grant Park, September 18;

from Buck Canyon, September 26; from Rocky Gulch, September 27; from Clough Cave, Cold Springs, and Atwell's mill, September 30.

PRIVATE LANDS.

There are about 3,800 acres of private lands in Sequoia Park and 160 acres in General Grant Park. These lands have been a source of annoyance and contention to the Interior Department, to the troops guarding the parks, and to the claimants themselves. Most of these lands contain fine timber, notably sequoia trees, for the protection and preservation of which the parks were established. Nearly all the large sequoia trees on the Atwell's mill tract have been cut down and marketed. Other private owners would undoubtedly market the timber on their lands if public or private roads were available. They are not permitted to use the park roads. The Government is not willing to purchase these lands and yet does not allow the owners, whether patentees or purchasers, the free and full use thereof. As a matter of justice to the owners of these private lands, in order to preserve the beauty and value of the parks and to prevent future annoyances and difficulties, I urgently recommend that all patented and private lands in both parks be purchased by the Government. This can be done for about \$70,000, a sum insignificant compared with the value and benefit received.

PARK RANGERS.

The park rangers employed are Walter Fry, C. W. Blossom, and H. T. Britten, all of Three Rivers, near Sequoia Park, and L. L. Davis, of Millwood, near General Grant Park. The first three are on duty in Sequoia Park, and Ranger Davis lives in General Grant Park throughout the year. They are all zealous, capable, and well fitted for the duties of ranger. In addition to their ordinary duties they have been of great assistance this year in taking immediate charge of the construction of ranger cabins, trail work, telephone work, and the distribution of fish. There are ranger cabins now at Rocky Gulch, Colony Mill, Hockett Meadows, and Quinn's Horse Camp, and it is probable that one will be built at Clough Cave this year. The one at Hockett Meadows was built last year and the one at Quinn's Horse Camp this year. Others should be constructed, so that the rangers and soldiers may have places for shelter and storage of supplies, from which they can more rapidly and efficiently perform their duties. A storehouse should be built on Sequoia Creek at the main camp of the troops on duty in the parks. There are no buildings there at the present time.

FISH.

Practically all the waters of Sequoia Park are stocked with trout, but the amount of fishing requires that they be restocked from time to time. Ninety thousand trout of the rainbow, lock leven, and eastern brook varieties were obtained this year through the kindness of the State board of fish commissioners of California, and were transported free of charge, by the Southern Pacific Railroad Company and the Visalia Electric Railroad Company, to Lemon Cove, from which point they were distributed and liberated as follows: In the Middle

Fork of Kaweah River, 15,000 rainbow and 5,000 eastern brook; in the South Fork of Kaweah River, 5,000 rainbow; in Buck Canyon Creek, 5,000 rainbow; in Marble Fork, 10,000 rainbow; in Wolverton Creek, 10,000 eastern brook; in Clover Creek, 5,000 eastern brook; in Swanee Creek, 2,500 eastern brook; in Halstead Meadow Creek, 2,500 eastern brook; in Log Meadow Creek, 5,000 lock leaven; in the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the Kaweah River, 5,000 eastern brook and 5,000 lock leaven; in Sequoia Creek, 5,000 lock leaven; in Twin Lakes, 10,000 lock leaven. During the past summer about 1,300 adult trout were transplanted from Whitman Creek to the South Fork of Kaweah River and to Horse Creek.

GAME.

All game in the parks is protected, except mountain lions, wild cats, wolves, and coyotes, which rangers and soldiers are authorized and instructed to kill. A large number of wild cats have been killed during the past two years, and there seems to be no appreciable increase in their number, but mountain lions are apparently increasing and are a menace to other game, especially deer. They are extremely wary of the presence of man, and it is probable that a determined effort will be necessary to reduce their number. Four coyotes and one wolf were killed during September by the noncommissioned officer in charge of the detachment at Atwell's mill. Deer and bears are numerous and reasonably tame. Quail and grouse are abundant, although quail are not so numerous as last year. Last winter severe weather drove the quail to lower altitudes west of the park, where hunting parties killed a great many of them. They were further depleted by a severe hail and sleet storm last June. The squirrels most abundant are the gray squirrel, the Douglas squirrel, and the chipmunk. Large numbers of the smaller animals common to the forest and the mountains are found. A pair of Japanese pheasants were liberated at Colony Mill two years ago. They have increased to about twenty. The elk placed in the Sequoia Park two years ago are thriving and increasing, although it is not possible to know the exact number. One bull elk was killed last January in a fight with others of the herd.

Recently the attention of a number of persons and some societies, such as the American Bison Society and the Boone and Crockett Club, has been directed toward the preservation and propagation of buffaloes. What is known as the "Elk Park" within the limits of Sequoia Park, about 40 square miles in area, and, extending from 1,100 feet to 7,000 feet in elevation, is considered to be a proper place for this purpose. Natural and artificial barriers would prevent the escape of these animals, the climate is believed to be suitable, and the resources of this area are sufficient to keep a herd once placed there without maintenance expense. It is therefore recommended that Congress be asked to appropriate \$10,000 for the purchase, propagation, and preservation of a herd of buffaloes in the Sequoia National Park. The buffalo, male and female, can be obtained from the Allard herd in Montana at from \$350 to \$400 per head, including transportation.

ROADS.

There are two wagon roads in Sequoia Park. One, known as the Mineral King road, extends through the southern half of the park from Three Rivers to the village of Mineral King. This is a county road and is kept in repair by Tulare County. The other, known as the Giant Forest road, rises 4,000 feet in its 21 miles of length from the western boundary of the park to the Giant Forest, where it ends. About \$1,100 was expended last spring in removing landslides, making more passing places for teams, putting in water culverts, and otherwise repairing this road. Although a first-class mountain road now, it should be still further improved to meet the increased travel which it is receiving from year to year. It should be widened to 18 feet, should have a system of concrete or tile drainage, and should be oiled. An estimate calling for \$28,500 for this purpose has been submitted.

The time has arrived when a system of roads throughout Sequoia Park should receive the earnest attention of the Department. At present only tourists who can ride a horse or mule on a trail and are able to endure some hardships have the privilege of enjoying the scenic beauty of the high Sierras, in which region this park lies. As the park is becoming better known and the conditions for reaching it are improving, the need of more roads and trails is apparent. The proposed system of roads might encircle the Giant Forest, the principle point of interest in the park, and from a point on this road be extended to Buck Canyon, and thence to Atwell's mill on the Mineral King road, a connection being made in the valley of the Middle Fork of Kaweah River with the road which the Mount Whitney Power Company is now building. The Marble Falls trail, now being constructed, and the South Fork trail from Clough Cave to Hockett Meadows could both be converted into roads. On account of the rugged nature of the country to be passed over it is estimated that the 39 miles of road above mentioned would cost about \$4,000 per mile, or in all \$156,000. If any such sum of money is appropriated for the purpose mentioned, I believe it would be to the interest of the Government to have the appropriation extended over a term of years, as for example, \$15,600 per year for the period of ten years. In accordance with its agreement with the Department, the Mount Whitney Power Company has completed 154,000 feet of wagon road up the valley of the Middle Fork of Kaweah River. This work includes four bridges and eight culverts.

TRAILS.

In order to have better protection against fire, to enable soldiers and rangers to patrol more rapidly and thoroughly, and to render all parts of Sequoia and General Grant parks accessible to tourists, more trails are needed.

The Black Oak trail, which was begun two years ago, was completed during the early part of this year, the distance built being about 15 miles. This trail extends from a point on the Giant Forest road about 2 miles above Colony Mill to Dorst Creek, where it con-

nects with the old trail leading to General Grant Park. It passes through a magnificent grove of sequoia trees.

The Colony Mill trail was completed this year. It extends from the Giant Forest road at a point near Colony Mill to the valley of the Middle Fork of the Kaweah River, a distance of about 5 miles. This is an important trail, shortening the distance to Three Rivers and to all points in the central and southern portions of Sequoia Park.

About 2 miles of the Marble Falls trail have been completed. This trail should be finished to the Marble Falls, and a spur should be built to the valley of the Middle Fork, thus making another important connection between the Giant Forest road and the valley of the Middle Fork.

A first-class trail connecting Hockett Meadows and Quinn's Horse Camp was built this year, an important addition to the trails in use. A number of the old trails were repaired during the year.

The following-described trails should be among those built in the near future: From Buck Canyon to Atwell's mill; from Atwell's mill to a point on the Tar Gap trail; from Cold Springs to Clough Cave; from Alta Meadows to Alta Peak; from the Kings River trail on Clover Creek to Twin Lakes, thence to the ridge overlooking Roaring River, thence down a tributary of Silliman Creek to the Kings River trail; from Atwell's mill to Castle Rocks, thence to Milk Ranch Peak.

TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

A telephone line from Three Rivers to Camp Sierra in Giant Forest, a distance of 33 miles, was completed on September 27. This is an independent line, the Department owning all of the equipment. It is expected that this line will be extended to all of the detachment camps and will be, when completed, most valuable in the administration of the parks.

POST-OFFICE.

A post-office, named Ranger, was established at Camp Sierra in the Giant Forest this year, and proved to be of great benefit to the tourists, employes, and troops.

FOREST FIRES.

The danger to the parks from forest fires was fully illustrated in August of this year, there having been five separate fires near to and west of Sequoia Park during the month. In each case citizens and soldiers were compelled to use their best efforts to extinguish them, and the parks were fortunate in not being reached by this dreaded danger. Two small fires were discovered in Sequoia Park during the month of September, but were extinguished before gaining any headway. The western boundary line should be cleared throughout its length of all timber and underbrush for a space 100 feet wide.

TOURISTS.

About 1,100 tourists and campers visited General Grant Park during the season and about 900 visited Sequoia Park.

SEQUOIA TREES.

The sequoia tree grows on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada, between Placer County and Kern County, in California, and grows naturally nowhere else in the world, so far as known. It is found at an altitude of from 5,000 to 7,500 feet, and it may be said that wherever the Sequoia tree grows the spring, summer, and autumn climate can not be excelled. The largest trees are more than 30 feet in diameter and over 300 feet in height, and some of them are estimated to be over 5,000 years old. The lumbermen have already destroyed a large number of these trees. Near General Grant Park, where there was once a magnificent grove of Sequoia trees, ruin and desolation now exist. Even in the parks private lands contain a large number of sequoia trees which would be marketed if public roads were available.

In the Sequoia and General Grant Parks are nine separate groups of Sequoia trees, the largest group, called the "Giant Forest," in Sequoia Park, being spread over an area of from 12 to 15 square miles. There are about 5,000 trees in this forest with diameters exceeding 15 feet, and many thousand smaller ones. The group in General Grant Park contains many interesting specimens, the General Grant being about 34 feet in diameter and 107 feet in circumference. On the slopes bordering Dorst Creek, in the northwestern part of Sequoia Park, is a large group. It is estimated that there are here more than 3,000 trees with a diameter exceeding 10 feet, and the natural reproduction is greater than in any other portion of either park. Not much was known of this group until the Black Oak trail opened up this heretofore inaccessible country. In the Sewanee Creek group are 129 trees. Three groups of from 300 to 1,000 trees each are found north of the Mineral King road, on Squirrel Creek, near Oriole Lake, at the head of Redwood Canyon, and at Atwell's mill. There are about 2,500 trees of good size on the slopes bordering the South Fork of Kaweah River and an abundance of smaller growth. On the southern slopes of Dennison Ridge, in the extreme southern portion of Sequoia Park, is found another group containing about 1,000 Sequoias of good size. It is to be understood that the Sequoias in these groups do not grow to the exclusion of other kinds of trees, but are interspersed with and have as neighbors the sugar pines, the yellow pines, the firs, and the cedars.

Very respectfully,

KIRBY WALKER,
*Captain, Fourteenth Cavalry,
Acting Superintendent Sequoia and
General Grant National Parks.*

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK.

GENERAL REGULATIONS.

1. By act of Congress approved September 25, 1890, the tract of land in the State of California described in township 18 south and ranges 30 and 31 east, and also sections 31, 32, 33, and 34, in township 17 south and range 30 east, and by act of Congress approved October 1, 1890, the adjoining tract described as townships 15 and 16 south, ranges 29 and 30 east, and also township 17 south, range 30 east, except above-mentioned sections 31, 32, 33, and 34, have been set apart for a public park, and the same shall be known as the "Sequoia National Park."

2. The park by said act is placed under the exclusive control of the Secretary of the Interior, and these rules and regulations are made and published in pursuance of the duty imposed on him in regard thereto.

3. It is forbidden to injure or disturb in any manner any of the mineral deposits, natural curiosities, or wonders on the Government lands within the park.

4. It is forbidden to cut or injure any timber growing on the park lands. Camping parties will be allowed to use dead or fallen timber for fuel.

5. Fires shall be lighted only when necessary and completely extinguished when not longer required. The utmost care must be exercised at all times to avoid setting fire to the timber and grass.

6. Hunting or killing, wounding or capturing any bird or wild animal on the park lands, except dangerous animals when necessary to prevent them from destroying life or inflicting an injury, is prohibited. The outfits, including guns, traps, teams, horses, or means of transportation used by persons engaged in hunting, killing, trapping, ensnaring, or capturing such birds or wild animals, or in possession of game killed on the park lands under other circumstances than prescribed above, will be taken up by the superintendent and held subject to order of the Secretary of the Interior, except in cases where it is shown by satisfactory evidence that the outfit is not the property of the person or persons violating this regulation and the actual owner thereof was not a party to such violation. Firearms will only be permitted in the park on written permission from the superintendent thereof.

7. Fishing with nets, seines, traps, or by the use of drugs or explosives, or in any other way than with hook and line, is prohibited. Fishing for purposes of merchandise or profit is forbidden. Fishing may be prohibited by order of the superintendent of the park in any of the waters of the park, or limited therein to any specified season of the year, until otherwise ordered by the Secretary of the Interior.

8. No person will be permitted to reside permanently or to engage in any business on the Government lands in the park without permission, in writing, from the Secretary of the Interior. The superintendent may grant authority to competent persons to act as guides and revoke the same in his discretion, and no pack trains shall be allowed in the park unless in charge of a duly registered guide.

9. Owners of patented lands within the park limits are entitled to the full use and enjoyment thereof; such lands, however, shall have the metes and bounds thereof so marked and defined as that they may be readily distinguished from the park lands. Stock may be taken over the park lands to patented lands with the written permission and under the supervision of the superintendent.

10. The herding or grazing of loose stock or cattle of any kind on the Government lands in the park, as well as the driving of such stock or cattle over the same, is strictly forbidden, except in such cases where authority therefor is granted by the superintendent.

11. The sale or use of intoxicating liquors on the Government lands in the park is strictly forbidden.

12. Private notices or advertisements shall not be posted or displayed on the Government lands within the reservation, except such as may be necessary for the convenience and guidance of the public.

13. Persons who render themselves obnoxious by disorderly conduct or bad behavior or who may violate any of the foregoing rules may be summarily removed from the park and will not be allowed to return without permission, in writing, from the Secretary of the Interior or the superintendent of the park.

14. The superintendent designated by the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and directed to remove all trespassers from the Government lands in the park and enforce these rules and regulations and all the provisions of the act of Congress aforesaid.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE IMPOUNDING AND DISPOSITION OF LOOSE LIVE STOCK.

Horses, cattle, or other domestic live stock running at large or being herded or grazed on the Government lands in the Sequoia National Park without authority from the superintendent of the park will be taken up and impounded by the superintendent, who will at once give notice thereof to the owner, if known. If the owner is not known, notices of such impounding, giving a description of the animal or animals, with the brands thereon, will be posted in six public places inside the park and in two public places outside the park. Any owner of an animal thus impounded may, at any time before the sale thereof, reclaim the same upon proving ownership and paying the cost of notice and all expenses incident to the taking up and detention of such animal, including the cost of feeding and caring for the same. If any animal thus impounded shall not be reclaimed within thirty days from notice to the owner or from the date of posting notices, it shall be sold at public auction at such time and place as may be fixed by the superintendent after ten days' notice, to be given by posting notices in six public places in the park and two public places outside the park, and by mailing to the owner, if known, a copy thereof.

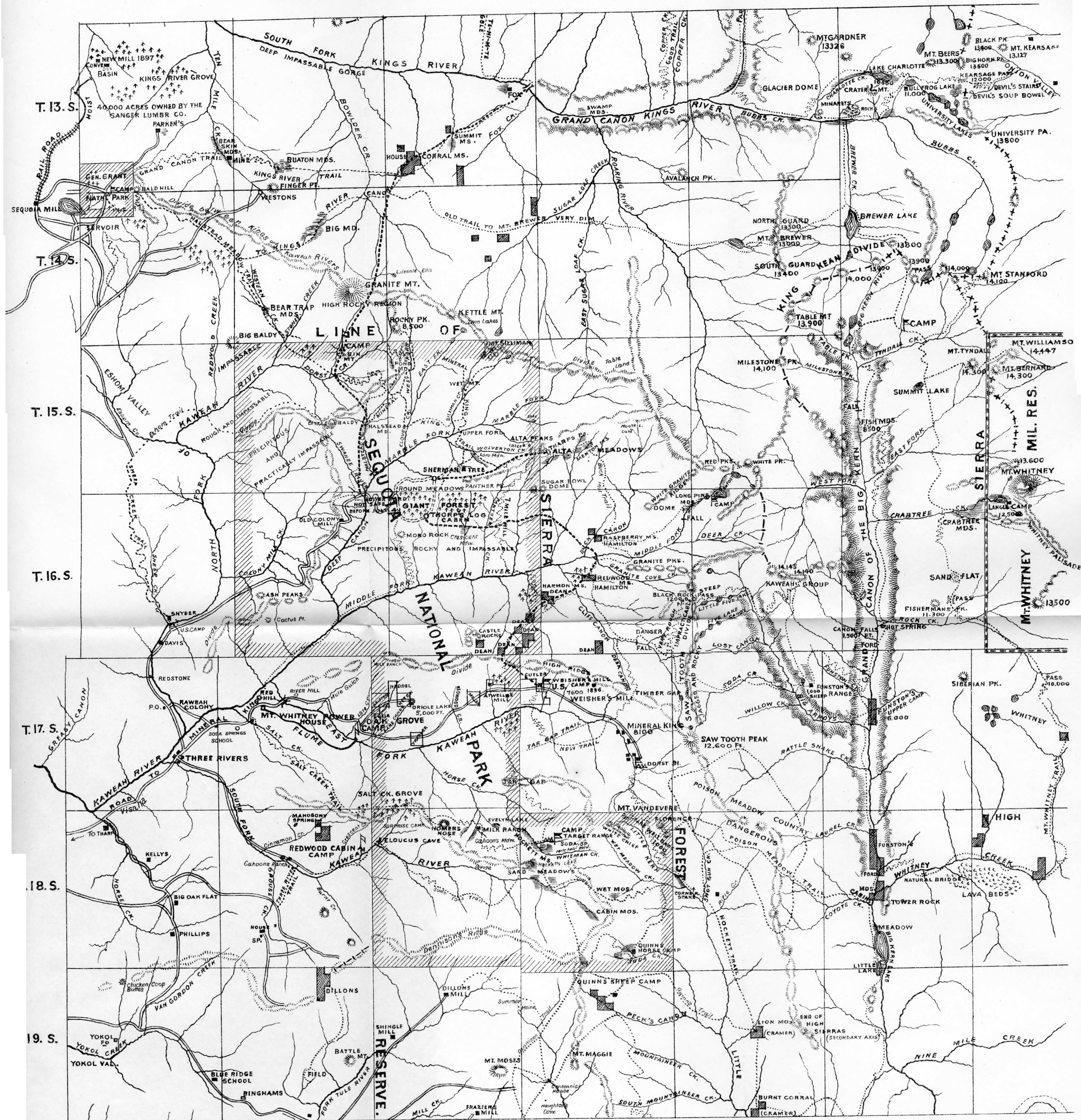
All money received from the sale of such animals and remaining after the payment of all expenses incident to the taking up, impounding, and selling thereof, shall be carefully retained by the superintendent in a separate fund for a period of six months, during which time the net proceeds from the sale of any animal may be claimed by and paid to the owner upon the presentation of satisfactory proof of ownership; and if not so claimed within six months from the date of sale, such proceeds shall be turned into the Sequoia National Park fund.

The superintendent shall keep a record in which shall be set down a description of all animals impounded, giving the brands found on them, the date and locality of the taking up, the date of all notices and manner in which they were given, the date of sale, the name and address of the purchaser, the amount for which each animal was sold and the cost incurred in connection therewith, and the disposition of the proceeds.

The superintendent will, in each instance, make every reasonable effort to ascertain the owner of animals impounded and to give actual notice thereof to such owner.

GENERAL GRANT NATIONAL PARK.

The general regulations and the regulations governing the impounding and disposition of loose live stock are the same as those given above for the Sequoia National Park. The General Grant National Park includes sections 5 and 6, in township 14 south, range 28 east of Mount Diablo meridian, and also sections 31 and 32 of township 13 south, range 28 east of the same meridian.



SKETCH OF THE
SEQUOIA AND GENERAL GRANT NATIONAL PARKS
 and the
SIERRA FOREST RESERVE
 in their Immediate Vicinity

To Accompany Report of the
 Acting Superintendent of Sequoia and General Grant National Parks
 1907.

ROAD TO GIANT FOREST, ...
 EXTENSION AROUND FOREST, ...
 TRAILS, PROPOSED, ...

THE NORRIS PETERS CO., WASHINGTON, D. C.