MOUNT MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK

Alaska.

File Olym - 10

SUPERINTENDANTS MONTHLY

REPORT

for

April, 1926.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
MOUNT McKINLEY NATIONAL PARK
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
McKINLEY PARK, ALASKA

May 1st, 1926.

Dear Sir;

I herewith respectfully submit my report on Mount McKinley National Park, Alaska, for the month of April, 1926;

000 - General

The budding of the trees, the return of the birds from their winter sojourn in the sunny south, the appearance of the park's fauna from the more isolated and higher ridges and mountains to the more-travelled trails below, the arrival of the Road Commissions crew and visits by a few tourists, break the winters grip on the park varies the somewhat isolated nature of this park.

100 - Administrative

Acting upon the report which was brought to headquarters camp, by Ranger Winn, Superintendant Karstens left this camp for the Toklat River Ranger Station, dog-team, on April 17th. This trip was occasioned by the apprehension of Frank B. Giles, prospector in the Copper Mountain district, who was caught by Rangers Nyberg and Winn, with the carcasses of 8 caribou in his possession. A more detailed report of this incident is had in Superintendant Karstens' report to the Director, regarding the case in hand. Superintendant Karstens returned to headquarters on April 23rd.

125 - Other Governmental officers

On April 20th, Superintendant Hawley Sterling, of the Alaska Road Commission, who will do the maintenance work on the road, arrived here to supervise the activities incidental to the preparation of the season's work. He brough with him, 8 men and a foreman.

He stated that there would be one Holt 5-ton tractor here also four Ford dump-trucks. He returned to his headquarters on April 23rd.

130 - Finance and Accounts

The following is a status of the two accounts which

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are applicable to this park and handled by the S. D. A.;

Appropriation No.46426, Mt. McKinley National Park, 1926.

	A'm't.	Expended	Unexpended Balance
Previously reported	$ 13,524.00	$ 10,234.74	$ 3,289.26
Expended April		1,057.73	
Total	$ 13,524.00	$ 11,292.47	$ 2,231.53

Donations (Roads and Trails) Mt. McKinley National Park.

Previously reported	$ 1,000.00	$ 700.25	$ 299.75

150 - Equipment and Supplies

During the month, a small amount of supplies were purchased. Dog salmon being very scarce, it was next to impossible to purchase any appreciable quantity but an amount, sufficient for our present requirements to the end of this fiscal year, was procured.

200 - Maintenance, Improvements and New Construction

210 - Maintenance

From current reports, it is apparant that only maintenance work will be done on the park highway during the coming summer and fall. Superintendant Sterling of the Alaska Road Commission, stated that the sum of $18,000 had been alloted to this park and that no new construction for the continuation of the park highway, in a westerly direction, would be undertaken past Sanctuary River at Mile 22.

The road to Sanctuary River from McKinley Park station is by no means in a condition to support automobile travel as yet - particularly in a wet condition. Extensive gravelling and grading must be done on the Savage - Sanctuary end and also numerous places between the depot and Savage River. One spot, about 600 yards, located at about Mile 1.5, is practically impassible, as it is built on rip-rap laid on the mossy surface of a muskeg swamp.

It has been reported that it is the road crew's intention of first laying gravel on the hillside coming out of Savage River and going westward, while the frost still remains in the ground. This would possibily facilitate the handling of the dump trucks. Then the crew will move eastwards on the highway and work will commence on this end of the road.

No resident engineer will be stationed in this park but it is assumed that Superintendant Sterling will make periodical visits for the purpose of general supervision.

230 - New Construction

Stony Creek Ranger Station, a log structure with dimensions of 10 feet by 12 feet, inside measurements, was completed on April 12th, although the windows have yet to be cut-in and the frames built. This is a very substantial building and its need has been long felt for in that district, for it is in the direct line of travel of patrol of the north-western boundary. As the occasion presents itself, the windows will be freighted there from headquarters and the cabin really completed , which will probably be sometime during the forth-coming summer.

On April 26th, construction was started on the park office building. Specifications and structure will be in accordance with the blueprint submitted to the Director, earlier in the year. A fair stand of spruce timber was located within a mile of headquarters and logs were cut, brush piled and the timber hauled to the headquarters site before the construction work was begun. The work is progressing very rapidly and will probably be completed about the 15th to the 20th of May.

240 - Improvements of Approaches to the Park.

From current rumors and articles published in the local papers, it is to be assumed that the Alaska Railroad are going to throw a good deal of support behind this park during the coming year. Mr. George C. Dickens, passenger agent, paid us a short visit on the 16th, and while here, informed us that it was their (the Alaska Railroad) intention of erecting a fine large rustic-type arch-way, over the park highway, about 500 feet due south of the railroad depot. Upon this arch-way, would be a prominently lettered sign to inform its readers that this arch-way was the gate to McKinley National Park. Though no plans of the proposed arch-way has been submitted to this office for comment, the construed idea is one of a vast material value from the visitors' point of view, for when they arrive at the depot, there is nothing present which is indicative of Mount McKinley National Park, save a park representative or some automobiles. Further developements in this matter will be duly reported to your office, as they occur.

In addition to the above mentioned structure, the Railroad propose reconstructing their depot at McKinley Park station, and turn it into an exhibit booth, for the benefit of the tourists, for at least the summer season. In view of the fact that their schedule of transportation allows trains to remain at this depot for 10 minutes, it will give the traveller an opportunity to view mounted specimens of the wild animal life which abounds in this locality and other spots adjacent to the Alaska Railroad. Mr. Noel W. Smith also stated that the railroad, in conjunction with the Transportation Company, would have a man at this booth to look after it and one who would be thoroughly conversant with the flora, fauna and natural curiosities of the park and Alaska activities in general.

This booth should prove to be of great interest to the tourists and a valuable asset to the park at large.

300 - Activities of other agencies in the park.

310 - Public service contractors

Mr. Robert E. Sheldon, general manager of the McKinley Park Tourist and Transportation Company, made a short visit to this park on April 16th, in connection with the beginning of the years activities. He returned to Fairbanks the same day and stated that it was his intention of returning here during the first part of May, for a general reconnaisance survey of conditions.

400 - Flora, fauna and natural phenomena

471 - Caribou

During the month, these animals did not seem to be in very large numbered bands in the eastern section of the park although Ranger Wimn saw about 57 and Ranger Pearson saw a band of 61 on the east bank of Savage River, in the vicinity of the Transportation Company's Base Camp, also 40 on Sanctuary River, this latter band seemed to be travelling in a westerly direction. Ranger Pearson, in patrolling the south-eastern boundary, near Windy Creek Ranger Station, saw 15 of them on Riley Creek. Ranger Nyberg reported having seen 941 on the McKinley Bar, during the month, all of which were travelling towards to west.

All the caribou seem to be in fine physical condition and fat, and from this one can safely assume that they spent a good winter and that forage was more or less plentiful. They are now shedding their heavy wintry fur.

Ranger Nyberg stated that he saw in the neighborhood of 3,000 caribou, in his bailiwick, during the month of March, travelling on the northern boundary between Toklet River and McClod Creek. They were all travelling in a general easterly direction.

472 - Mountain Sheep

Many of these fine animals were seen by all who travelled in the park this month. Ranger Nyberg reported having seen 297 of them between Stony Creek Ranger Station and headquarters, when returning from his winter sojourn in the central and western portions of the park. They were all located on the southern slope of the northern range and appeared to be fat and unafraid of his dog-team or presence of himself. 37 were reported as being seen in Savage Canyon with a possibility of many others being out of sight behind a little knoll and obscured from vision.

In all instances they were reported as being very tame and less timid than formerly which indicates the absence of hunters and proves what patrol will do to their timid dispositions.

475 - Porcupine

These destructive pests seem to be very numerous, as all

the rangers report having seen groves of timber, which is sometimes sparse, absolutely devastated by their foraging for food. A contractor for the Transportation Company, reported having gone to a certain grove of spruce trees, just outside the park boundary, in order to cut poles for the erection of the Company's tent-house camps, and when he arrived there, found all of them ruined both large and small. As the timber is somewhat scarce in this park and reforestration is very slow in germinating, it is thought that some action will have to be taken to rid certain localities of porcupine.

476 - Fox

These animals seen to be getting very numerous as a number have been seen playing around their dens and in a number of instances have been seen crossing the highway, only a short distance in front of automobiles. These are of the "red" variety. At Mile 10, on the park highway, a fine black fox was seen running across the road in front of a car.

478 - Moose

Quite a number of these majestic animals have been reported as roaming up the rivers of the park, this last month. Ranger Nyberg saw 4 of them between Muddy Creek and McClod Creek, last month.

521 - Weather Conditions in the park.

Spring weather of the finest kind prevailed during the most of the month. The snow had all disappeared from the ground in the eastern section of the park and only those places, well sheltered by the trees, held evidences of last winter's snowfall. In the central section of the park, near Stony Creek Ranger Station, 8 inches of snow fell on the 1st and 2nd but it only registered rain and hail in and around headquarters at that time. There was about 18 of snow on the level ground between Savage River and Toklat River during the first of the month .

The mean maximum temperature for the month was 46.07°, the mean minimum being 22.47°, with a mean of 34.27°. The highest temperature recorded during the month was 57° on April 25th, and the lowest point to which the mercury dropped was 2° above zero on the 4th and 5th. The greatest daily range of 36° occured on the 5th and 6th, when the thermometer went from 38° to 2° and 41° to 5°. The prevailing wind during the month, here, was from a west and south-westerly direction. Weather Bureau Form No.1009 is attached hereto.

Comparative Table.

	Max.	Min.	Mean Max.	Mean Min.	Monthly Mean.	Total Precip.	Number of Days Rain	Snow
1925.	47	-1	37.2	14.9	26.0	1.16	5	
1926.	57	2	46.1	22.5	34.3	2.7	3	

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900 - Miscellaneous
901 - Ranger Patrol

On April 23rd, Rangers Nyberg and Winn returned from the central portion of the park, where Ranger Nyberg's bailiwick is located. Ranger Nyberg has been stationed in this section practically all winter and being out of supplies and the winter's patrol by dog-team at an end, he returned to headquarters. Ranger Pearson made a patrol, on foot, to Savage River, through Savage River Canyon, due west along the northern boundary to Sanctuary River, up Sanctuary River and over the divide down into Windy Creek and returned to headquarters along Riley Creek and the eastern boundary, covering a total distance of 96 miles. This patrol was made from the 18th to the 25th, inclusive.

Patrol Mileage

Mount McKinley National Park, Alaska.

Officer or Ranger	This month	Last month	Fiscal year to date
Previously reported			4125½ miles
Superintendant Karstens	151	275	
a. Ranger Nyberg	262	673	
b. Ranger Winn	252	611	
c. Ranger Pearson	156	360½	
Total	820	1912½	6230½ miles

a. Ranger Nyberg returned to headquarters during the first part of the month and reported the above stated figures of travel in his bailiwick. He also reported a distance of 436 miles covered during the month of February, which figure is included in "Total - fiscal year to date".

b. Ranger Winn returned to headquarters during the first part of April and reported the above stated mileage covered during March and April.

c. This month's patrol mileage of Ranger Pearson represents a distance of 20 miles by dog-team, 40 miles on snow-shoes and 96 miles afoot.

Respectfully yours,

Henry P. Karstens

Henry P. Karstens,
Superintendent.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

TRAVEL REPORT

Mount McKinley National Park for the Month of April, 1926.

	This Month	This Travel Year To Date	This Month Last Year	Last Travel Year To Date	Increase for Travel Year	
					Number	Percent
PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION:						
Cars first entry,						
Cars reentry,						
Motorcycles,						
Total motor vehicles,		None		None		
Persons entering via motor vehicles,						
Persons entering via other private transportation,						
Total persons entering via private transportation,		None		None		
OTHER TRANSPORTATION:						
Persons entering via stages,						
Persons entering via trains,						
Persons entering otherwise,	7	12	0	0		
Total other transportation,	7	12	0	0		
GRAND TOTAL ALL VISITORS,	7	12	0	0		

	This Year	Last Year	Increase	
			Number	Percent
Automobiles in public camps during month,				
Campers in public camps during month,				

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STATUS OF PERSONNEL

Mt. McKinley National Park for the Month of April, 1926.

	This Month	This Month Last Year
Number of employees beginning of month,	6	3
Number of additions, ...	0	3
Total, ...	6	6
Number of separations, ...	0	2
Number of employees close of month, . . .	6	4

Number of promotions during month ____

Aggregate amount of annual leave taken, None

Aggregate amount of sick leave taken, None

Aggregate amount of leave without pay, None