File Olym-10.

SUPERINTENDANTS MONTHLY

REPORT

for

January, 1926.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

MOUNT MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK.

February 3rd, 1926.

Dear Sir;

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

000 - General

Although the weather still continues to remain somewhat warm for this time of year, keeping the trails in poor condition for safe and fast travel, many extensive patrols were made this month throughout the park. Game has shown itself to be plentiful and very tame, and this latter feature is going to prove a big asset to those who wish to see wild life in its natural surroundings and yet safe from the gun and trap, enabling the watcher to vision and photograph animal life as it really is and not what it appears to be when penned behind wire netting and iron bars.

There is though, a problem presenting itself, which will require very careful attention and that is, the use of poison to procure fur-bearing animals in the park. It is a well known fact that trappers, in the central and western portion of this park, are resorting to this means of obtaining their catch. This method of killing, not only being detrimental to the animals which are caught but to those who will pass by these poisoned baits in the future and will also be poisoned also it is very dangerous for the rangers' dogs, who might scent a piece of poisoned meat, eat it and die in their harness, leaving the ranger at the mercy of the wilds and the elements and thusly endangering their lives. A solution to this problem must be found in the near future.

100 - Administration

The administration of the Park is now vested in a superintendent, clerk and 2 rangers. On January 11th, 2 rangers resigned and on January 12th, 1 ranger entered upon duty. Men who can stand the isolation and the hardships of the trail, are very hard to find and after a few weeks' trial do not always show up as well as might be and their resignations are then requested.

110 - Status of Work

All the accounts and files are now up-to-date and a strenuous effort will be made to keep them in this condition in the future.

Superintendent Karstens has completed, rendered and submitted monthly

reports covering the daily activities and conditions at this park, during the months of April to November, 1925, inclusive.

As has already been stated, in other reports, it is impossible for the clerk to devote an uninterrupted day in the office, on account of the minor chores to be done around camp during the absence of the rangers and superintendent, while on patrol in the park.

A great deal of time is also absorbed, theoretically, in answering letters of inquiry from prospective visitors, etc. In the absence of a park folder, it is necessary to write quite lengthy letters on the various topics of interest. It is hoped that the folder, which is now being written in this office, will eliminate this "time-eating" occupation of answering tourist inquiries, which take on the effect of form letters eventually.

On January 15th, a report was prepared and forwarded to the California Academy of Science relative to the Ovis Dalli, the species of mountain sheep ranging the hills in this park. The fact of, after whom Mt. Dall was named, was also brought up but definite or substantial evidence was found to be lacking and no reference could be found as to its discoverer. Mount Dall is westward of the western boundary of the park.

120 - Park Inspections by:

121 - Superintendent

On Jan. 27th, Superintendent Karstens left headquarters, on snowshoes, to break a new trail for the newly appointed rangers, to Windy Creek Ranger Station. He covered a distance of 12 miles and returned to camp that same day.

On Jan. 30th, Superintendent Karstens left headquarters, at 10.30 A.M. for Windy Creek Ranger Station, with a dog-team. It is his intention to remain over there a few days, inspecting the station, breaking a new trail and ranging over the country in the south-eastern section of the park. This trip was more or less occasioned by the unusual warm weather lately, which has caused Riley Creek , the usual patrol trail, to remain open and not freeze over and thus become impossible for travel. The distance to Windy Creek Ranger Station is about 32 miles.

130 - Finance and Accounts

The following is a status of the two accounts applicable to this park and handled by the S. D. A.;

Appropriation No. 46425. Mount McKinley National Park.

	Allotment	Expended	Unexpended Balance.
Previously reported.	$ 13,524.00	$ 6,665.11	$ 6,858.89
January, 1925.		690.32	
Total	$ 13,524.00	$ 7,353.43	$ 5,184.34

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

	Donated	Expended	Unexpended Balance.
Previously reported.	$ 1,000	$ 700.25	$ 299.75

190 - Equipment and Supplies

On Jan. 13th, the Healy River Coal Corp. completed delivery on approximately 65 tons of coal, our winter's supply. Although part of this coal was delivered in September, 1938, payment for same was not made until this month, as per contract. The whole amount involved was taken into the Storehouse Account for January and the Storehouse Issues were given due credit for coal consumed prior to this month.

There were also 3 pairs of snowshoes purchased this month and a few minor articles of equipment, which were absolutely necessary.

On Dec. 16th, Mr. H. Horn, assistant general manager of the Alaska Railroad, transferred to this park, without charge, a fine transit with vernier and swinging telescope and also a tripod and plumb-bob. On Jan. 17th, he sent us a Philadelphia rod. This was very much appreciated on account of the dire necessity for this instrument and its equipment, for future development.

160 - Status of Alienated Lands

Although it has not been the precedent in the past, it will be the custom in the future, for all prospectors going into the park, to record their entry and also advise this office of the location of their claims. This is very essential, for at present, though the names of the prospectors in general are known, we are not cognizant of each and every one nor of the point where they are engaged in working nor the exact location of their claims.

170 - Plans, Maps and Surveys.

A floor plan and elevation drawing for the proposed superintendents office to be erected this coming Spring, was completed on Jan. 18th, by Mr. H. Buckle. This drawing has been traced and blueprints will be made in the near future and forwarded to the Director for approval. Plans have now been started for a warehouse and another for a combined carpenter's and machine shop.

180 - Circulars, Placards, Publicity Bulletins, etc.

A folder, designed for the information of tourists and all those interested in Mount McKinley National Park, is now being compiled and will be ready for submission to and for the approval of the Director, Washington, D.C., during the coming month. It is hoped that we may have them in use during this coming summer.

It will roughly consist of 5,000 words covering the various characteristics of this park, which will always prove interesting to the nature and wild life lover, schedule of rates of accomodations and an itinery of tours by the McKinley Park Transportation Company, also articles on the general weather conditions, wild animals and scenic descriptions of the park.

Due to the excessive cutting of the scant and sparsely growing timber in the Toklat River and McKinley River sections of the park, a letter-, notice was formulated and given to Ranger Nyberg to post in conspicuous places in that vicinity. Also the condition of the cabins, tents, etc., caused by careless travellers and prospectors within the park, prompted attention and reference was made to cleaning-up camps, in this same notice. A copy of this is attached to this report.

190 - Signs

Owing to the fact that our present paraffine-coated boundary signs being unsuitable for our requirements, it is hoped that we may receive the deliberations of the Park Sign Standardization Committee and also a list of contracts awarded by them.

There is an urgent need of signs on our boundaries here, metallic ones.

200 - Maintenance, Improvements and New Construction

210 - Maintenance

The usual routine maintenance work was accomplished by the rangers when they arrived at headquarters, from their patrols, such as repairing harness, sleds, etc. A certain amount of routine chores were done by them and they also cared for the stock, when in camp.

220 - Improvements - Roads (Trails)

Superintendent Karstens and Ranger Wirn devoted two days' time to blazing a new trail between headquarters camp and Windy Creek Ranger Station. A distance of 12 miles was negotiated on the west side of Riley Creek. This will greatly facilitate patrol on the eastern boundary and eliminate a great deal of danger, otherwise experienced when travelling either on foot or by dog-team.

300 - Activities of Other Agencies in the Park.

Repeated efforts have been made to have the McKinley Park Transportation Company submit their financial and operating report for the year of 1935, also their schedule of rates for the coming year, but to date, no results have materialised.

400 - Flora, Fauna and Natural Phenomena

450 - Animal Diseases Control

No indications of diseases have manifested themselves of late and much to the relief of all concerned, there does not seem to be any further advancement of the ailment which killed a number of caribou last year. A sharp look-out is being kept for dead animals and when found, a minute examination reveals whether death was caused by firearms or natural causes (including disease).

471 - Caribou

Large numbers of these animals are reported in the western and north-western and central sections of the park, in the vicinity of Toklat River and McKinley Bar (which is a part of the McKinley River). Herds numbering around 2,000 have been continually seen in the draws and sheltered nooks among the hills of the northern range. No reindeer have been noticed in these herds. They all seem to be becoming domesticated very rapidly.

In the eastern section, they are not so plentiful, though several bands have been seen. Their number are not as great as those in other parts of the park.

472 - Sheep

This month has proven to be a banner one in regards to the number of sheep seen. Ranger Hyberg reports seeing innumerable bands on all the hills in the western and north-western section of the park. In one instance, a band of about 50 grazed on the hillside, about 300 yards above his tent, on Toklat River. This proves they are very tame, for sheep are one of the most timid animals which range the hills and mountains.

Sheep were seen constantly during the last month on Fox, Stony and Igloo Creeks, on the sloping banks of Main Toklat and the East Fork of Toklat River, also in the East Fork Canyon, Stony Canyon and on Copper Mountain. Bands numbering as high as 263 were seen on East Fork of Toklat River. Many bands of these animals were seen in Savage and Sanctuary Canyons and on the range north of the highway. A small band of 6 were seen on the hillside, just south of headquarters camp.

In all instances, the mountain sheep were very tame and did not seem to mind the presence of dogs nor men in their close proximity. Although the park has not an adequate number of rangers to do the patrol work efficiently and thoroughly by any means, it is gratifying to all concerned, to see these beautiful animals so tame and unafraid. This fact is conclusive in itself - that illegal hunting, in certain sections, is on the decrease.

473 - Moose

From all indications, it is to be assumed that moose are again going to range the hills and plains of this park in appreciable numbers. They have been seen both at the head of Riley Creek and on Muddy Creek. The animals seen were fine specimen of their breed and everyone hopes that they will increase very materially in the near future. One dog was injured by one during the month.

475 - Porcupine

Many of these pests are seen by the rangers while on patrol and thanks is offered that they have finally deserted the dwelling cabins at headquarters camps, on the porches of which they used to forage for food.

475 - Fox

There were not very many foxes seen this month, although many tracks were in evidence on all the creeks and rivers, showing there were quite a few in the vicinity. One large red fox followed a ranger a distance of 10 miles, while on a recent patrol.

477 - Rabbits

From all present indications, it seems as though the "Jim-bush moose" is increasing in large quantities and no fear is held for the extermination of these pretty-but-destructive animals. Thousands of them are in all parts of the park and one can even find them above timber-line, searching for food.

478 - Marten

Though never seen, these little fur-bearing animals are quite

plentiful, if one can judge from the number of tracks in the snow. There may be a close season on marten, but this fact does not deter trappers from coming into the park area and setting their traps. Although no traps have been found, evidences show that they have been set and removed before the arrival of a ranger. Marten tracks and trappers signs can be seen on all the large creeks and rivers in the central and western portions of the park which have not been patrolled as extensively as the eastern section.

Miscellaneous Animals

Many tracks have been seen of mink, weasel (ermine) and wolverine, for they are all too timid to be seen by even a watchful and careful observer. The tracks were not in abundant quantities.

520 - Weather Conditions - General

Very little snow has fallen in the territory during the month and the thermometers have been recording a steady temperature. No cold weather has been experienced - that is, weather when the thermometers register below 10° below zero.

521 - Weather in the Park

January has been a wonderful month, snappy at times but no low temperatures and no snow to speak of. The monthly total snowfall was 1.85 ins. with a precipitation, "melted snow" of .61 ins. During the latter part of the month, the skies at night, were resplendent with the minuted colors of the Aurora Borealis.

The mean maximum temperature for the month was 34.96°, the mean minimum 15.76°, with a mean of 25.36°. The highest temperature for the last 31 days was 47° on January 27th, and the lowest temperature was 10° below zero which occurred on January 31st. The greatest daily range occurred on the 22nd, from 34° to zero, a range of 34 degrees. Weather Bureau Form No. 1009 is attached to this report.

600 - Protection

641 - Predatory Animals - Wolves

Wolves have not shown themselves or made themselves heard, very often this month. A number of tracks have been seen in the eastern section and also in the central and western sections.

Ranger Nyberg reported that a male wolf became attached (affectionately!) to himself and his team of dogs on Dec. 3rd and was in his company continually until Dec. 24th. He (the wolf) had followed him from Sanctuary River to the western part of the park. Ranger Nyberg became so attached to it, that he stated, he did not feel justified in killing it. The wolf was of a grayish-yellow color.

This incident proves conclusively that though there may be a few wolves in the park, they are not of a ferocious nature and consequently not dangerous to travellers.

A trapper killed 1 wolf just outside the eastern boundary, at Mile 340, during the month; it was a female and measured 6ft. 8 ins. from tip to tip and was of a grayish-yellow color.

There were no signs of coyotes this month, according to report received in answer to requests made by this office regarding them.

900 - Miscellaneous

901 - Ranger Patrol

Constant patrol was in vogue this month and only a few days were wasted or lost, while the rangers were at headquarters, resting themselves and preparing for their next trip.

The new ranger adapted himself to his surrounding very well and made some fine patrols, though the soft snow and the cracks being open prevented him from arriving at his objective in some instances.

Ranger Nyberg returned from the Toklat River station on Jan. 31st. He made the run from Toklat River tent to headquarters camp, a distance of 53 miles, from 6 A.M. to 5. 45 P.M., breaking his trail through the soft snow a great deal of the distance. This is a record trip, in this park, for dog-teams. He reported to camp by reason of extensive cutting of green timber by prospectors, trapping activities very pronounced, of the fur-bearing animals and a shortage of supplies. He also reported that prospectors in the park, had dog-teams numbering 10 to 13 dogs. Bearing for a fact that these men do not carry dog-feed for their animals, it is a fact that they kill caribou for dog-food. Ranger Nyberg also desired Superintendent Karstens to make a trip into that central and western portion of the park to investigate matters and endeavor to solve this problem of trapping, hunting, etc.

Patrol Mileage

Mount McKinley National Park, Alaska.

Officer or Ranger	This Month	Last Month	Fiscal Year to Date.
Previously reported.			1135
a. Rangers (2)	112	454	
b. Ranger (1)	105	-	
c. Ranger Nyberg	371	425	
Supt. Karstens	76	-	
Clerk Mackie	44	-	
Total	768	879	2308 stat. miles.

a. Shows the patrol mileage made by Rangers Armstrong and Sinclair, during this month. Their services terminated on January 11th, 1925.

b. Ranger Albert L. Winn entered upon duty on January 12th, 1925, and this figure shows the mileage he made during the balance of the month.

c. Ranger Nyberg did not report to this office until January 31st, 1925, so that his patrol mileage was not shown on the report for December, 1924.

Clerk Mackie made 2 short trips to Savage River Ranger Station, on Sundays, and also 1 trip to old H.Q., on Riley Creek.

All patrol work, in this park during the winter months, is being by dog-teams, if the trails' conditions warrant and allow their passage, otherwise officers and rangers use snowshoes, which is much slower and a greater hardship. During the month, due to the warm weather, the snow has disappeared in spots and this necessitates the rangers travelling on foot, over these barren stretches on their patrols.

Dog-team mushing and travelling on snowshoes is an accomplishment which is not possessed by all applicants for positions on the personnel. Care must be taken before a man is employed to be sure that he is able to handle dogs on the trail and can thoroughly take care of himself in the hills. Not only is the knowledge of dogs essential but a man must have the stamina to stand up under the strain of mushing long distance, for as it has been expressed by those who know, a man, driving a dog-team, is sometimes the biggest dog himself.

Very respectfully yours,

Henry P. Karstens

Henry P. Karstens,
Superintendent.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
MOUNT McKINLEY NATIONAL PARK

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT — McKINLEY PARK, ALASKA

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

It has been brought to the notice of the Superintendant of this park, that people resident outside the park and also prospectors within the boundaries of Mount McKinley National Park, have been in the practice of cutting live timber, within the park area, and transporting same to various points within the park, for mining purposes, etc. These actions are against the Rules and Regulations, i.e.;

> Rule 7. Preservation of Natural Features.
> The destruction, injury, defacement, or disturbance in any way of the public buildings, signs, equipment, or other property, or the trees, flowers, vegetation, or other natural conditions and curiosities in the park, is prohibited.

Travellers within the park boundaries are also in the habit of leaving the cabins, tents and other shelter houses, in an unsanitary and disorderly condition, after camping in them. Please be guided by

> Rule 2. Camping.
> ..... All refuse, resulting from camping, should be burned or hidden where it will not be offensive to the eye.

It is only a matter of a few minutes. to gather your tin cans, paper, etc., and drop them into a nearby creek, where they will be washed away.

Any person desiring to cut, burn or otherwise consume standing timber, other than dead or fallen timber, must first obtain permission to do so, in writing, from the Superintendant.

Persons who render themselves obnoxious by disorderly conduct or bad behaviour, by breaking any rule of this park, will be subjected to a just punishment and may also be summarily removed from the park by the Superintendant and not allowed to return without permission, in writing, from the Director, National Park Service, Washington, D. C.

Respectfully.
Henry P. Karstens
Henry P. Karstens,
Superintendant.
Mount McKinley National Park.

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UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATUS OF PERSONNEL

MOUNT MCKINLEY National Park for the Month of January, 1926.

	This Month	This Month Last Year
Number of employees beginning of month,	6	3
Number of additions,	1	1
Total,	7	4
Number of separations,	2	-
Number of employees close of month,	5	4
Number of promotions during month	None	
Aggregate amount of annual leave taken,	None	
Aggregate amount of sick leave taken,	None	
Aggregate amount of leave without pay,	None	

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