

640.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Telephone line to South Rim of Alamo Canyon.

4 miles - 10 man-days at \$5.00

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

\$50.00

BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

\$2,000.00

May 16, 1942.

MEMORANDUM for the Superintendent, not made since it is felt that if you intend to at Southwestern National Monuments, you may have an estimate made by the Branch of the Coolidge, Arizona, other group.

I had intended to make a report on the "blow-down" that occurred on April 30th. before this time but telephone line and water intake repairs have kept us all so busy that the report was postponed.

The full extent of the storm has not as yet been determined but it is known that severe destruction of timber occurred as far north as Santa Clara Canyon and as far south as Canada. The Dome road is still not open so little is known of the damage caused on the monument in the vicinity of Capulin Canyon. Telephone communication with Espanola was re-established on May 12th. but the Forest Service crew is still working on the Dome and Canada lines.

On May 14th. and 15th. a reconnaissance of the South Mesa and Upper Frijoles Canyon was made in company with Associate Regional Forester Carlson.

In an area of approximately 3,000 acres on the South Mesa it is estimated that 15,000 pines are blown over. Of course the damage was greatest in certain spots; principally in the heads of small canyons where in some instances about 90% of the timber stand was destroyed. In the Upper Frijoles fir and pines are piled in the canyon bottom like jack straws. It is possible, in places, to clamber over fallen trees for at least 100 yards without ever touching the ground.

The terrific fire hazard presented by down timber on the monument should not be overlooked and it is strongly recommended that an attempt be made to secure enough emergency money to open up the trails for fire protection purposes. At the present time all trails can be considered closed to horse travel and some can be negotiated on foot only with great difficulty. The Forest Service plans on opening up that portion of the Upper Crossing Trail which is not on the monument immediately.

The following is a very rough estimate of the man-days necessary to open up the trails that are needed for fire protection but does not cover burning of the limbs and brush removed from the trails. The cost of \$5.00 per man-day should cover the expense of setting up and moving a camp to accommodate a crew of about eight men, and would also cover horse hire and equipment purchase.

Frijoles Stone Lions Trail to bottom of Capulin Canyon.

14 miles - 280 man-days at \$5.00 a Canyon opposite Corral Hill \$1400.00

Frijoles Canyon Trail.

6 miles - 110 man-days at \$5.00

550.00

Although the down timber will present a serious insect problem it is felt that Mr. Carson will probably cover that phase in his report.

In view of the hazards to life and limb from weakened trees , loose rocks, trees hanging from cliffs, and blocked trails we are planning to discourage any hiking beyond the Ceremonial Cave. Would you sanction the complete closing of the Upper Frijoles? The Forest Service isn't interested in closing the Upper Crossing unless the fire danger becomes extreme.

Will be very glad to attempt to furnish any additional information concerning the subject of this report.

Acting Custodian.