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PROCEEDINGS

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# NATIONAL PARK CONFERENCE

HELD AT THE

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK  
SEPTEMBER 11 AND 12, 1911



WASHINGTON  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
1912

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# PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL PARK CONFERENCE HELD AT YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK SEPTEMBER 11 AND 12, 1911.

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## INTRODUCTION.

On September 11 and 12 there was held in the Yellowstone National Park the first conference of departmental officials and other persons interested in the development and administration of the national parks. There were present at this conference the superintendents of the various parks, the principal Washington officers of the Department of the Interior who handle national park matters, and representatives of the concessioners, of the transportation companies tributary to the parks, and of independent organizations that have been interested in the problems of park administration. All persons holding concessions in the national parks were invited to be present and all of the railroads tributary to the parks were invited to send representatives. Every important interest connected with the parks both on the side of the Government and on the side of the concessioners and railroads was adequately represented. The purpose of the conference was to consider all the questions that arise in the administration of these reservations in order that the department might be able to make such changes in the regulations and to foster such development as might be for the best interest of the public. It should be distinctly understood that the views herein expressed are those of the individuals presenting them, and that the department gives no official sanction to the facts stated or to the recommendations made.

### PERSONS ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE.

W. F. Arant, superintendent Crater Lake National Park, Klamath Falls, Oreg.  
C. J. Blanchard, statistician, United States Reclamation Service, Washington, D. C.  
W. M. Boland, ranger, Wind Cave National Park, Hot Springs, S. Dak.  
Frank Bond, chief clerk, General Land Office, Washington, D. C.  
Lieut. Col. L. M. Brett, acting superintendent Yellowstone National Park, Yellowstone Park, Wyo.  
Eugene S. Bruce, expert lumberman, Forest Service, Washington, D. C.  
Josef Brunner, assistant, Bureau of Entomology, Columbia Falls, Mont.  
R. C. Bryant, Bryant camps, Yellowstone Park, Wyo.  
H. E. Burke, assistant, Bureau of Entomology, Yreka, Cal.  
D. E. Burley, general passenger agent Oregon Short Line Railroad, Salt Lake City, Utah.  
J. B. Callahan, Finance Division, office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C.  
H. W. Child, president Yellowstone Park Hotel Co., Yellowstone Park, Wyo.  
Thomas Cooper, assistant to the president Northern Pacific Railway, St. Paul, Minn.

- Foster Curry, representative of Yosemite Park concessioner, Yosemite, Cal.  
 William T. S. Curtis, representative of Hot Springs concessioners, Washington, D. C.  
 Dr. Charles Dake, president Federal Registration Board, Hot Springs, Ark.  
 W. D. Edmonston, assistant, Bureau of Entomology, Baker, Oreg.  
 Charles S. Fee, passenger traffic manager Southern Pacific Co., San Francisco, Cal.  
 W. L. Fisher, Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.  
 Maj. William W. Forsyth, acting superintendent Yosemite National Park, Yosemite, Cal.  
 Gerrit Fort, passenger traffic manager Oregon Short Line Railroad, Omaha, Nebr.  
 W. J. French, superintendent Platt National Park, Sulphur, Okla.  
 Walter Fry, ranger, Sequoia and General Grant National Parks, Three Rivers, Cal.  
 L. C. Gilman, assistant to the president Great Northern Railway Co., St. Paul, Minn.  
 H. S. Graves, Forester, Forest Service, Washington, D. C.  
 E. S. Hall, superintendent Mount Rainier National Park, Ashford, Wash.  
 Maj. Harry M. Hallock, medical director, Hot Springs Reservation, Hot Springs, Ark.  
 J. M. Hannaford, second vice president Northern Pacific Railway, St. Paul, Minn.  
 F. F. Harvey, Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway System, Chicago, Ill.  
 L. T. Hay, manager, Arlington Hotel Co., Hot Springs, Ark.  
 F. J. Haynes, president Monida & Yellowstone Stage Co., Yellowstone Park, Wyo.  
 H. H. Hays, general agent, Wylie Permanent Camping Co., Yellowstone Park, Wyo.  
 R. D. Heini, correspondent, Leslie's Weekly, Washington, D. C.  
 W. J. Henderson, concessioner, Yellowstone National Park, Yellowstone Park, Wyo.  
 James R. Hickey, vice president Monida & Yellowstone Stage Co., Yellowstone Park, Wyo.  
 L. W. Hill, president Great Northern Railway Co., St. Paul, Minn.  
 A. D. Hopkins, expert in charge forest insect investigations, Bureau of Entomology, Washington, D. C.  
 Maj. James B. Hughes, acting superintendent Sequoia and General Grant National Parks, Three Rivers, Cal.  
 W. E. Kelly, office of chief clerk, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C.  
 E. A. Keys, inspector, Department of the Interior, Spokane, Wash.  
 H. E. Klamer, concessioner, Yellowstone National Park, Yellowstone Park, Wyo.  
 George H. Lamar, representative of Wylie Permanent Camping Co., Washington, D. C.  
 O. W. Lehmer, superintendent and traffic manager, Yosemite Valley Railroad, Merced, Cal.  
 W. R. Logan, superintendent Glacier National Park, Belton, Mont.  
 E. B. Linnen, inspector, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C.  
 Alexander Lyall, concessioner, Yellowstone National Park, Yellowstone Park, Wyo.  
 R. B. Marshall, chief geographer, Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.  
 W. G. Maurice, Maurice Bath House, Hot Springs, Ark.  
 H. F. McCabe, Interior Department, Washington, D. C.  
 J. Horace McFarland, president American Civic Association, Harrisburg, Pa.  
 A. W. Miles, president Wylie Permanent Camping Co., Yellowstone Park, Wyo.  
 H. H. Myers, superintendent Hot Springs Reservation, Hot Springs, Ark.  
 J. H. Norris, inspector, Interior Department, Washington, D. C.  
 Allen C. Orrick, representing Palace Bath House, Hot Springs, Ark.  
 G. A. Pryor, concessioner, Yellowstone National Park, Yellowstone Park, Wyo.  
 L. F. Schmeckebier, clerk in charge of publications, Interior Department, Washington, D. C.  
 W. M. Sell, concessioner, Yosemite National Park, Yosemite, Cal.  
 D. A. Sherfey, resident engineer, Yosemite National Park, Yosemite, Cal.  
 S. E. Shoemaker, ranger, Mesa Verde National Park, Mancos, Colo.  
 Hoke Smith, Great Northern Railway, St. Paul, Minn.  
 R. E. L. Smith, representing Shaw & Powell, Yellowstone National Park concessioners, Washington, D. C.  
 W. G. Steel, president Crater Lake Co., Crater Lake, Oreg.  
 E. M. Sunderland, architect, Ouray Building, Washington, D. C.  
 J. P. Ternes, president Tacoma Carriage & Baggage Transfer Co., Tacoma, Wash.  
 C. A. Thompson, Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.  
 C. S. Ucker, chief clerk, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C.  
 George Uhler, supervising inspector general, Steamboat-Inspection Service, Department of Commerce and Labor, Washington, D. C.  
 A. G. Wells, general manager Coast Lines, Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway System, Los Angeles, Cal.  
 Richard Wright, acting superintendent Mesa Verde National Park, Mancos, Colo.  
 C. M. Ziebach, acting superintendent Sullys Hill National Park, Fort Totten, N. Dak.

The "Sullys Hill" is located on the eastern boundary of the park, and the remainder of the territory covered by the park is covered with rough hills, and in the southwestern part is a small lake covering 30 or 40 acres known as "Sweet Water." Almost the entire portion of the park is covered with small timber and brush consisting of oak, elm, poplar, ash, birch, boxelder, willow, and hazel brush. There is also an abundance of small fruit, such as raspberries, gooseberries, strawberries, plums, high-bush cranberries, June berries, etc. A number of very fine springs empty into the Sweet Water Lake. A number of prehistoric mounds can be found on the hilly portion of the park which have been explored and trinkets of ivory, stone, and copper have been found. The Indians of the Devils Lake Reservation ceded the 960 acres for park purposes in a treaty negotiated by Maj. James McLaughlin in April, 1904. This fact has been the cause of many councils and trips to Washington on the part of the Indians who had become convinced that the land was valuable for coal and that Sullys Hill contained valuable minerals, and, as the land was ceded without compensation, it was a choice matter to discuss, and many eloquent speeches have been made on the subject. In order to adjust the matter an appropriation was made by Congress in 1910 of \$3,120, or at the rate of \$3.25 per acre for the 960 acres, and this amount was expended in a payment of about \$3 per capita to the Indians in February, 1911.

In taking up the subject of the future of the park I wish to say that the State of North Dakota furnishes only a very few wooded tracts, and the expenditure of a few thousand dollars in walling up of springs, road making, and clearing out underbrush for camping places would give the people an ideal spot in which to resort to for a few days' recreation. As a majority of the people living in the State follow agriculture as an occupation, the short work season demands the greatest effort to be put forth in spring. When seeding is done and during the months of July and part of August they have time to take an outing while waiting for the harvest to come, and if the park could be maintained and improved it would soon become a popular resort and a great benefit to the State at large.

If no appropriation for the improvement of the park is made in the near future, I would recommend that the park be turned over and made into a forest reserve, as nearly every tree known to grow in this northern climate is found within the park limits.

#### **CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK, BY W. F. ARANT, Superintendent.**

The territory embraced within the Crater Lake National Park is largely of volcanic formation, and although Crater Lake is the chief attraction of the reserve, there are many other very interesting natural features, such as beautiful and almost ice-cold springs and creeks, deep canyons, magnificent and lofty peaks, vertical cliffs almost 2,000 feet high, fine water-

falls, beautiful and interesting pinnacles (some of which are 125 to 175 feet high), great caves, and many other beautiful and unique volcanic formations.

No picture ever does this beautiful lake justice. I have often heard this remarked by persons who for the first time were viewing the beauties, magnificence, and grandeur of Crater Lake. I have seen many fine photographs and beautiful paintings, but I have never seen a picture of Crater Lake; and this is true of almost every one who sees it; no photograph or picture of any kind ever fully portrays its marvelous beauty and magnificence; there is a certain grandeur and sublimity about it that can not be brought out in a picture.

Crater Lake was first discovered by white people on June 12, 1853, by a Mr. John Hillman and his party of gold hunters; the Indians of southern Oregon had told them of a mountain of gold high up in the Cascades, and it was while hunting for this that the party accidentally came upon this beautiful lake.

The lake is situated on the summit of the Cascade Mountains in Oregon, in the crater of an extinct volcano, which, as the geologists tell us, many centuries ago destroyed the giant peak of the Cascade Range of mountains. It is 62 miles from Klamath Falls, 83 miles from Medford, and 97 miles from Ashland.

This lake has no outlet nor inlet; the supply of water is kept up by the precipitation, which is more than 72 inches annually; there is an average annual rise of about 3 inches; the snow at the lake and in other portions of the park falls each winter to a depth of from 15 to over 20 feet.

The lake is 6 miles long and 4 miles wide, and the water is 200 feet deep; is of a beautiful ultramarine color and is so beautifully clear and transparent that the bottom may be easily seen at a depth of more than 100 feet.

The walls of the crater are almost vertical and stand from 1,000 to 2,000 feet above the water of the lake, and some are more than 8,000 feet above sea level; the elevation of the surface of the lake above sea level is 6,177 feet. The rim of the lake is described by Prof. Diller as the base of a truncated conical mountain hollowed to a shell.

While this "Gem of the Cascades" was known to the officers and enlisted men at Fort Klamath, Oreg., as early as 1865, it did not come into much prominence as a resort until the early eighties.

There is little doubt but that the Indians had known of the existence of this lake for many ages, but owing to its peculiar awe-inspiring effect they were very superstitious concerning it, and would not go near it nor would they tell anyone about it. It was their belief that there was a great sea monster living in it; some sort of a great sea devil that would sometimes rise to the surface of the water, its horns extending several feet high, and would spout the water in the air and in its awful fury would lash the waters of the lake into a foam.



They believed it was the abode of the evil spirits—the Llaos, and at the base of Llao Rock, a prominence on the wall of the crater standing 1,909 feet above the water, 1,400 feet of which is a vertical wall of rock, was the home of the Llaos, the evil spirits.

It was their belief that if any young member of their tribe ever looked upon this lake that his usefulness to his tribe as a warrior was forever destroyed; but in recent years through the advantages of education and enlightenment they have laid aside all such superstitions and legends and often make visits and camping trips to the lake and go out upon it on boating trips and excursions.

The Crater Lake National Park was established by act of Congress, approved May 22, 1902, and comprises 249 square miles or 159,360 acres. It is about  $18\frac{3}{4}$  miles long, north and south, by  $13\frac{3}{4}$  wide, east and west.

Being new, and until recently remotely situated, so far as railroad transportation is concerned, there has never yet been sufficient appropriations made by Congress for its proper protection and improvement, so that the development which is warranted by its merits as a resort has not been accomplished.

The Crater Lake National Park is an ideal summer resort; the altitude is from 4,500 to nearly 9,000 feet above sea level, mostly above 6,000 feet. In the summers, when it is hot and sickly in the valleys, this ideal camping resort is above the heat and smoke and the impurities of the atmosphere, and is clear, cool, and pleasant, and the atmosphere is healthful and invigorating, and the water is the perfection of purity.

The water of some of these springs as it gushes from the base of this Crater Lake mountain has a temperature of  $35^{\circ}$  the year around.

The park is in a timbered section, and portions of it are very heavily timbered. It is also situated in what is known as the semiarid section of the State.

Taking these two conditions together, that of being timbered and in the dry belt, increases at all times during the dry season the danger of forest fires.

The handling of the forest fire question in the national forests and other timbered sections of Oregon has been done on scientific principle, although I believe some improvements could still be made upon it, but as at present handled the damages resulting from such fires have been reduced to the minimum.

The main trouble in this respect in the Crater Lake National Park is the small appropriations made for the protection and improvement of the reserve, and the impossibility of placing a sufficient number of men on duty as park rangers and fire guards. These men should also be empowered and authorized to act as game wardens in the park. At the present time there is but one park ranger in the whole of our reserve, a territory of 249 square miles, having 65 miles of boundary line. It

seems to me that it would be very apparent that such a small force is impossible to maintain a proper protection over the park; but with sufficient funds provided, and the employment of a sufficient number of park rangers and guards, any question concerning the administration of the affairs of the reserve would be solved. It would not be difficult to maintain perfect control over the situation in every portion of the park with sufficient help.

As I have before stated, there is now and never has been but one park ranger in the Crater Lake National Park; but from the urgent necessities of the case I would advocate and recommend the employment of 6 park rangers in our reserve. There should be one permanent ranger whose duties should be at and in the vicinity of the headquarters in the park, and 5 temporary park rangers stationed upon the lines in different portions of the reserve. In this manner there could be a constant patrol kept up on all the roads and trails. This is the only means by which the forests may be protected from forest fires and the game in the reserve protected from poachers. In this connection I am pleased to say that there is very little if any poaching done in our park, presumably, partly at least, because game is quite plentiful upon the mountains outside of the reserve; but as game becomes more scarce on the outside and more plentiful in the park, as it soon will under proper protection, there will be a greater inclination on the part of some to steal in across the lines and hunt inside, if there is not a sufficient guard kept up in all parts of the reserve.

In our park there should be a better system inaugurated for the protection of our game animals and birds.

The principal game animals are the black-tail deer, the black and brown bear, the silver-gray squirrel, and several other varieties of timber squirrels. The birds are the grouse and timber pheasant. There are few water fowl about the lake, presumably by reason of its great elevation above the sea level and its isolation from any other body of water.

In winter the snow falls so deep—15 to 20 feet—and lies upon the ground so long a time—from November to July—that all the animals and birds are compelled to migrate to a lower and warmer climate. They go down on the western slopes of the Cascade Mountains, a great many of them never to return.

The lines of the park should be extended to the north 12 miles and to the west 20 miles so as to include Diamond Lake on the north and a portion of the lower mountain elevations and foothills on the western slopes of the Cascade Mountains as a wintering ground. At the very least one good range station should be established and maintained the year round in the added territory on the western slopes to maintain a constant and vigilant protection of the game during the winter as well as the summer. Such a move properly carried out would result in making the Crater Lake National Park the ideal game preserve of the Pacific coast.

There is also great need of more roads and better roads in our reserve. The roads and trails have been kept in the best possible condition with the very small appropriations made for repairs and improvements, but since the inauguration of the move for the location and survey of a complete system of roads in the park, under the supervision of the Secretary of War, I have not deemed it advisable to expend large sums of money upon the old roads that apparently will soon be abandoned. The soil over which all of the roads in the reserve run and are to be constructed is of a very light and porous lava formation. Travel soon makes a fine and deep dust, which is the least pleasant condition of traveling in or through the park; and while I would not favor expending large sums of money upon any of these old roads, I believe it would be money judiciously expended if Congress would take a sufficient appropriation for the proper construction of a small section of road and the experimenting upon the same with sprinkling and with treating it with an oil finish to the end that we might be better prepared for the construction and finishing of our better system of roads when they shall come.

At the present time there are two permanent camps or hotels furnishing accommodations to the visitors and tourists in the reserve; one of these is at Camp Arant, 5 miles down from the rim of the crater, and one is immediately upon the brink of the crater. These hotels are operated by the Crater Lake Co. and are both doing a fairly good business and giving the people a good and satisfactory service.

This same company has a good equipment of launches and row boats on Crater Lake and a great many avail themselves of the pleasures of a trip across or around the lake under the gigantic wall of this great caldera in which the lake is situated.

The Crater Lake Co. also has a good automobile transportation line running into and through the reserve and to the lake.

In addition to the commercial transportation cars, there have been 223 private automobiles licensed to run in the park July 10 to September 1. The license fee for a single round trip through the reserve is \$1 and a season license is \$5. Some automobile owners and drivers object to paying this fee unless it be used for the benefit of the roads which, under existing laws can not be done. The amount thus collected would be sufficient to pay the salary of one good man during the whole season in the park, but under existing conditions the reserve gets no benefit whatsoever of this money.

This matter should be taken up at the next session of our Congress and a law enacted authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to allot the funds arising from the collection of these fees for the benefit of the roads in the parks.

The tourist season in this park is little more than three months—July, August, and September, and sometimes part of October—but during the season of 1909 more than 5,000 people visited the reserve, and during

the season of 1910 there would have been as many or more, only the erroneous impressions regarding the danger from forest fires kept a good many out. There was not much travel in the park after August 24 last year. This year the number of visitors is as good or better than during the preceding seasons.

Now, referring again to the matter of appropriations for the Crater Lake National Park, I would say that with a sufficient amount appropriated for the purpose there would be no difficulty in maintaining a good administration over the affairs of the reserve. The appropriations that are made are for the protection and improvement of the park, but the funds provided are not sufficient for either the protection or the improvement. There has been no more than \$3,000 appropriated any year excepting one, and that amount must cover every expense of the reserve, including all salaries as well as all other expenses.

The amount available for the roads, trails, and bridges in the park this year is \$850. Exclusive of any consideration for the construction of new roads, there should be an appropriation of at least \$20,000 for the proper protection of the reserve.

That, of course, would include the protection of the game; of the timber from forest fires, and other damages; the establishing of a sufficient number of ranger camps upon the lines of the park, and the maintaining a constant patrol throughout the reserve; the protection of the natural objects and curiosities in the park, and a general administration over all of the affairs of the reserve.