

10-28
(May 1929)
6-7410

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
HARRIMAN..... NATIONAL PARK

Files

FILE NO. 0-32

PART 1

PROPOSED PARKS

HARRIMAN

LAST DATE ON TOP

IMPORTANT

This file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge.

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,
Director.

File

PROPOSED HARRIMAN NATIONAL PARK, ALASKA.

LOCATION: In Prince William Sound, including glaciers in and about Port Wells.

HISTORY
and

REMARKS: First brought to our attention by Mr. Merl La Voy and brought to the Director's attention by Mr. Wirth's memorandum dated January 23, 1933. Mr. La Voy refers very enthusiastically to the possibility of people visiting this area and gaining a true impression of the wonders of Alaska without spending a great deal of time traveling over the inner portion of this vast area.

ACCESSI-
BILITY: Easily accessible by boat to Valdez, then travel over this area to Anchorage by airplane.

PERSONS
INTERESTED: Mr. Merl La Voy, New York.

Proposed
Harriman National Park, Alaska.

General:

Location: In Prince William Sound, including glaciers
in and about Port Wells.

Area:

General Characteristics:

- (a) Scenic:
- (b) Historical:
- (c) Geological:
- (d) Recreational:
- (e) Biological:

Accessibility:

Interested

Individuals: Mr. Merl La Voy

Reports

Brought to our attention by Mr. Merl La Voy, and to the Director's attention by Mr. Wirth's memo dated Jan. 23, 1933. Mr. La Voy refers very enthusiastically to the possibility of people visiting this area, and gaining a true impression of Alaska without traveling over the interior of this vast area.

and

Action:

The Director recommended no further action at present.
Jan. 23, 1933.

7-17-36

*I am not favorable
to this
among*

ALASKA



HARRIMAN

NATIONAL PARK

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

January 23, 1933.

Memorandum for the Director:

Subject: Proposed Harriman National Park, Alaska.

Attached is a map showing the location of the proposed Harriman National Park as presented the other day by Mr. Merl La Voy. According to Mr. La Voy, this particular ^{area} is easily accessible and is the most outstanding part of Alaska. He refers very enthusiastically to the possibility of people visiting this area and gaining a true impression of the wonders of Alaska without spending a great deal of time traveling over the inner portion of this vast area. He states that people coming up on the boat could get off at Valdez, then travel over this area to Anchorage by airplane, then take the train from Anchorage to Seward and pick up the boat before it returns to the States. He also states that the train trip from Anchorage to Seward is the most scenic part of the railroad trip in Alaska.

He stated that in developing this area, the boat could leave Valdez and travel up to Port Wells and Harriman Fiord right up to the foot of Harriman Glacier and Surprise Glacier without taking any risk whatsoever. He said that the development of a hotel site would be feasible near Mt. Moran, adjoining Harriman Fiord. He also states that the Passage Canal is also very attractive and that it would be an easy matter to build either a trail or road from the hotel to Passage Canal and to the railroad ~~route~~ across the divide and down the west slope along Portage Creek. This would make one of the most interesting trails in Alaska. He also stated that there is very little commercial timber in this area and very few commercial enterprises. There may be a small amount of prospecting but he believes that should be continued even if the park is established the same as now exists in Mt. McKinley and along the thoughts you have in mind for Death Valley. His idea of this park development would be to permit mining and a certain amount of grazing for the atmosphere affect. He said that this area would only take care of a few heads of cattle and he thought that by allowing a few people to graze their cattle and take care of tourists, this park would be very attractive for visitors. I think he has in mind the farmer type class that is found in Switzerland. Evidently this area could never be developed extensively ~~or~~ commercially. While prospecting would be allowed, there ~~are~~ practically no minerals in ~~that~~ section that would interest any large mining company. He also stated that fishing ~~to any great extent~~ and fur farming are found in the out-lying farms south of the boundary which he proposed.

I believe I have given you the thoughts which he had in mind and we have listed this area as a proposed national park in our files.

Is there any further action you would suggest at this time, such as writing to Governor Parks and others who might be interested in this particular enterprise?

Wirth

WIRTH.

Noted & m
Jan 23, 1933

No further action now -
Wirth