

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

515 Customs House  
Denver, Colorado.  
March 23, 1932

The Director  
National Park Service  
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Director:

On February 26 I went over the Apache Trail which passes through the proposed Arizona National Park.

This project has not been actively proposed since 1920 and for that reason I made no effort to interview any of those who had formerly been interested in it. The original area proposed included some 280,000 acres and only a part of it was seen on this trip. The Park Service discouraged the project in 1920 for the reason that the principal objectives seemed to be the desire of Maricopa County to be relieved of the expense of maintaining the Phoenix-Roosevelt road.

A series of four or five dams has been constructed on the Salt River and are used for irrigation and hydro-electric power. These are operated by the Salt River Valley Users Association. The upper one of these reservoirs is the Roosevelt Dam, which makes the largest storage reservoir. The other dams are probably more useful for power than for irrigation or storage.

The area has excellent and varied scenery, including mountains, mesas, canyons, impressive cliffs, considerable color and in general it seems to be decidedly one of the scenic areas of the Southwest. However, I do not believe that it is equal to any of the present national parks. If the number of parks were to be doubled this area would probably qualify from a scenic standpoint, but it seems less important than several of the present proposed national parks. The fact that the lakes are artificial reservoirs and that the Salt River has been so completely developed for irrigation and power seem to make the area ineligible for national park use. The roadway of the Apache Trail is well surfaced but the road is narrow, though it has passing width for most of its length. Some of the grades are steep and there are many sharp curves. The road would have to be reconstructed if it were to be brought up to the present park standard.

There is a lodge for the accomodation of visitors near the Roosevelt Dam and there are several motor camps available.

Canyon Lake seems to be one of the chief recreational areas since it offers bass fishing. Boats are available, including row boats and motor boats. One of the operators advertises "14 Miles of Virgin Canyon Scenery Accessible by Boat."

The vegetation is of the semi-arid type and includes the sahuero, or giant cactus, and the usual list of plants accompanying it.

Very truly yours

*Rogers Toll*  
Rogers E. Toll