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BY LS NARA DATE: 10/4

10-23  
(June 1941)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

----- NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. ~~(051)~~

0-32

Proposed Parks

Absearoka

Montana

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file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge.

All Files should be returned promptly to the File Room.

Officials and employees will be held responsible for failure to observe these rules, which are necessary to protect the integrity of the official records.

NEWTON B. DRURY,

*Director.*

ABSAROKA NATIONAL PARK, MONTANA.

LOCATION AND AREA: Meagher, Sweetgrass and Gallatin Counties. Includes that part of the Absaroka National Forest lying north of the Yellowstone River. Area is portion of Beartooth Range of Rocky Mountains. Approximately 220,000 acres - the entire area of the northern section of the Absaroka National Forest.

HISTORY AND REMARKS: Report submitted by Mr. Henry Gerharz, Surveyor General for Montana, in September 1916. Report acknowledged October 23, 1916. No further action taken.

ACCESSIBILITY: By motor from Livingston, Montana. Livingston is on the Northern Pacific Railroad.

PERSONS INTERESTED: No one interested in this project.

STATUS: Abandoned.

1

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GENERAL LAND OFFICE  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR OF SURVEYS  
DENVER, COLORADO

September 27, 1916.

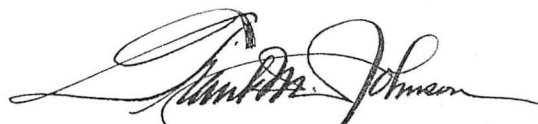


Mr. Robert B. Marshall,  
Superintendent, National Parks Service,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Marshall:

Pursuant to the suggestion made during your recent visit to my office, I am sending you herewith a paper entitled "Some Facts Concerning the Proposed Absaroka National Park", by Mr. Henry Gerharz, Surveyor General for Montana, together with some photographs of the country embraced by the area shown on the accompanying diagram of the boundaries of the proposed Absaroka National Park in Montana.

Yours very truly,



Supervisor of Surveys.

Ans'd OCT 23 1916

SOME FACTS CONCERNING THE  
PROPOSED ABSAROKA NATIONAL PARK.

---

LOCATION. The area proposed to be included in this Park lies in Meagher, Sweetgrass and Gallatin Counties, Montana, and includes that portion of the Absaroka National Forest lying North of the Yellowstone River. It is a portion of the Beartooth Range of the Rocky Mountains.

BOUNDARIES. The tentative boundaries are the boundaries of the present Absaroka National (Park.) <sup>Forest</sup> This boundary can be changed at any time, any good reason appearing.

AREA. There are approximately 220,000 acres included within the boundaries of this portion of the National Forest, most of which is covered by a sparse growth of forest, and not in sufficient quantities to be a commercial product. At the present time the chief use of this area is for grazing purposes. As stated before, this land is now included within the Absaroka National Forest and is supervised by the Forestry Service. As the area lies within the Railroad limits every alternate section is owned by the Northern Pacific Railway Company.

TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES. If a National Park were made out of this area, it would be very well supplied with railroads, as the main transcontinental line of the Northern Pacific runs along the Southern boundary; the Shields River Branch of the



Northern Pacific along the Western boundary, and the Chicago Milwaukee and Puget Sound Railway along the Northern boundary. Every town along these lines would have a branch wagon road to within the area. The Yellowstone Trail, along the main line of the Northern Pacific also furnishes facilities for automobiles.

Quoting from a letter written By John E. Wolff, Curator and Professor of petrography and mineralogy of Harvard University, Cambridge:- "I visited the peak (Crazy Peak) in August of the year 1883, being the first geologist to study the mountains. Again in 1889 I spent a summer in the mountains for the U. S. Geological Survey, and ascended the peak, and in 1907 spent a third summer there on my own resources, and invited the Summer School of Geology to spend ten days with me. It was then that those names appeared on the record ( names found in tin can). Of those names, one, that of C. T. Broderick, brings sad thoughts. He had become a very successful mining engineer employed by one of the great copper companies of Siberia, and made a visit home last winter, on his way back he took the Lusitania, and after helping others to safety died from exposure.

I have published several papers on the Crazy Mountains, and send you under separate cover those of which copies remain, and hope before next summer to complete a monograph on the mountains. They are one of the most interesting localities in the world, of over twenty varieties, some very rare and most beautifully exposed, as you have seen. Scenically I have never seen in such a small compass so many varieties; one glacier at least, at the head of main Big Timber, above the miner's cabin, beau-

tiful waterfalls and cascades, great mountains and peaks, and the beautiful coloring of many of the lakes. I think for general beauty the view well up into Shields River Basin is the finest, although not as grand, as in some of the big mountains. "

The pictures that are submitted herewith were taken up at the head waters of Big Timber Creek. Besides Big Timber Creek there are the Sweetgrass, the American Fork of the Musselshell, Rock Creek, the headwaters of the Shields River and many other smaller creeks which head in these mountains, where the scenes are equally as beautiful.

The mountains are very rugged and contain the second highest peaks in the State. Crazy Peak attains an altitude of 11,1178 feet. Besides this peak there are several others attaining an altitude of over 10,000 feet. All these peaks have glaciers on their North and East exposures. On account of the precipitousness of the country, there are many waterfalls, which are very beautiful.

This area is unique in that it stands out all by itself, without any other high peaks anywhere near it, and standing on one of the peaks the Atlantic Ocean could be seen if one could see that far.

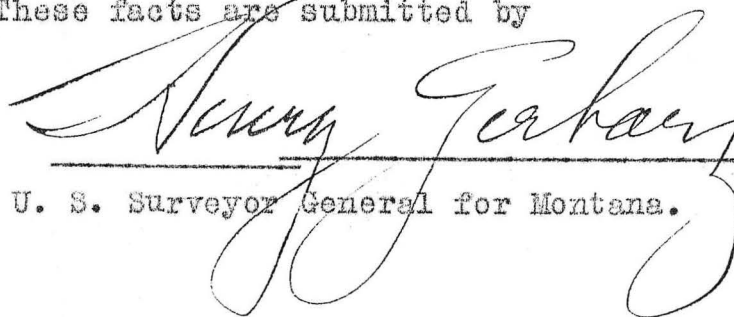
Fine trout fishing is to be obtained in the  
SPORTS. head waters of any of the streams in this region, and mountain climbing as rugged as any within the United States can be indulged in.

If a National Park were created in this area,  
HOW TO it would be different from the other Parks,  
UTILIZE. in that one day or thirty days could be spent in this region without covering the same

territory more than once. Large hotels would also not be necessary as small stopping places could be built on each creek, and the trips from there taken, either on horseback or on foot.

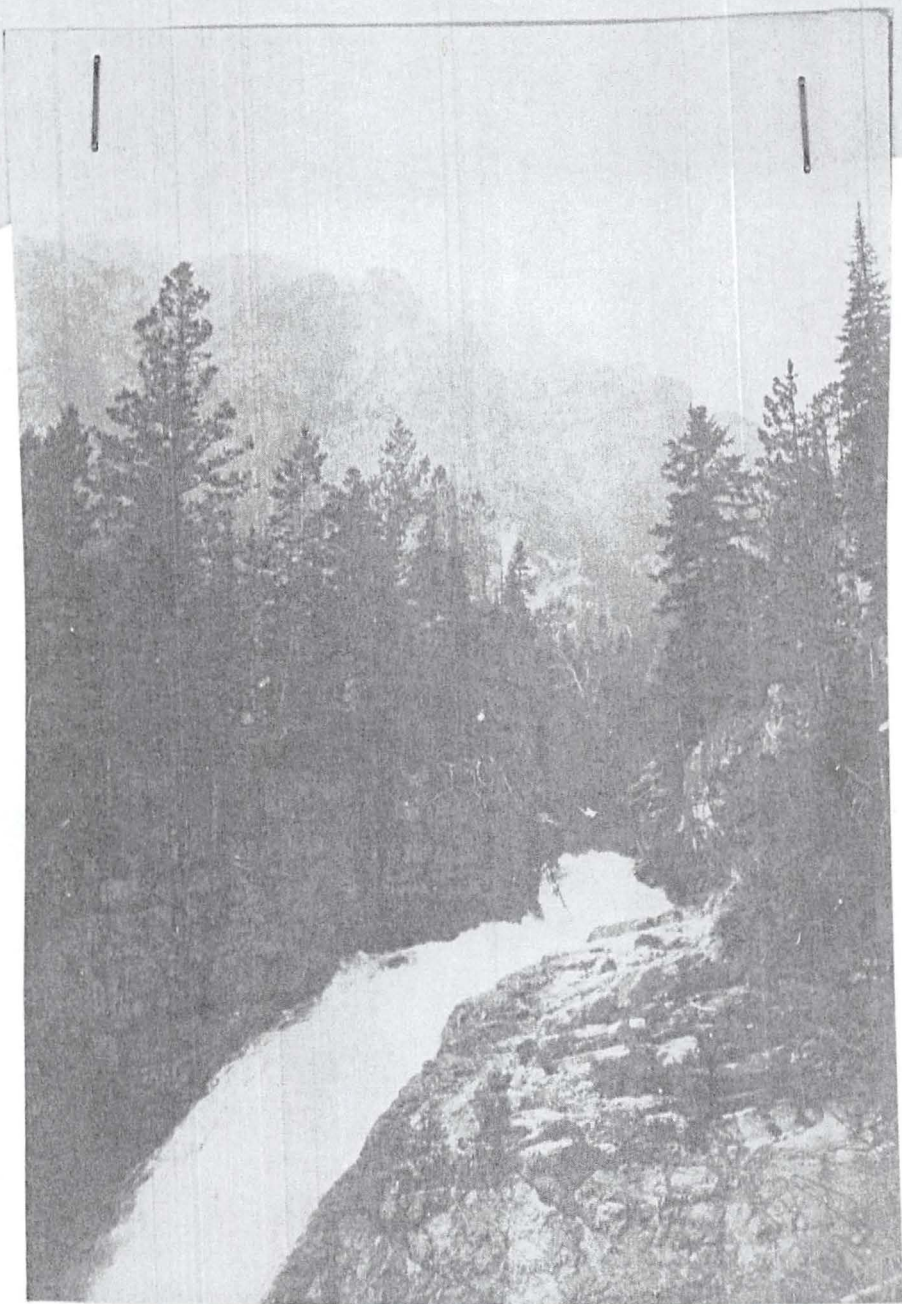
While it is true that we now have two National Parks within Montana, this region because of its unique character would be a distinct addition, and a good reason for having it created at the present time is that the land is now owned by either the Northern Pacific Railway Company or the National Government, while if we wait a few years, at least the lands owned by the Northern Pacific are very likely to be sold, and pass into the ownership of smaller holders, when it will be well nigh impossible to repurchase them.

These facts are submitted by

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
U. S. Surveyor General for Montana.

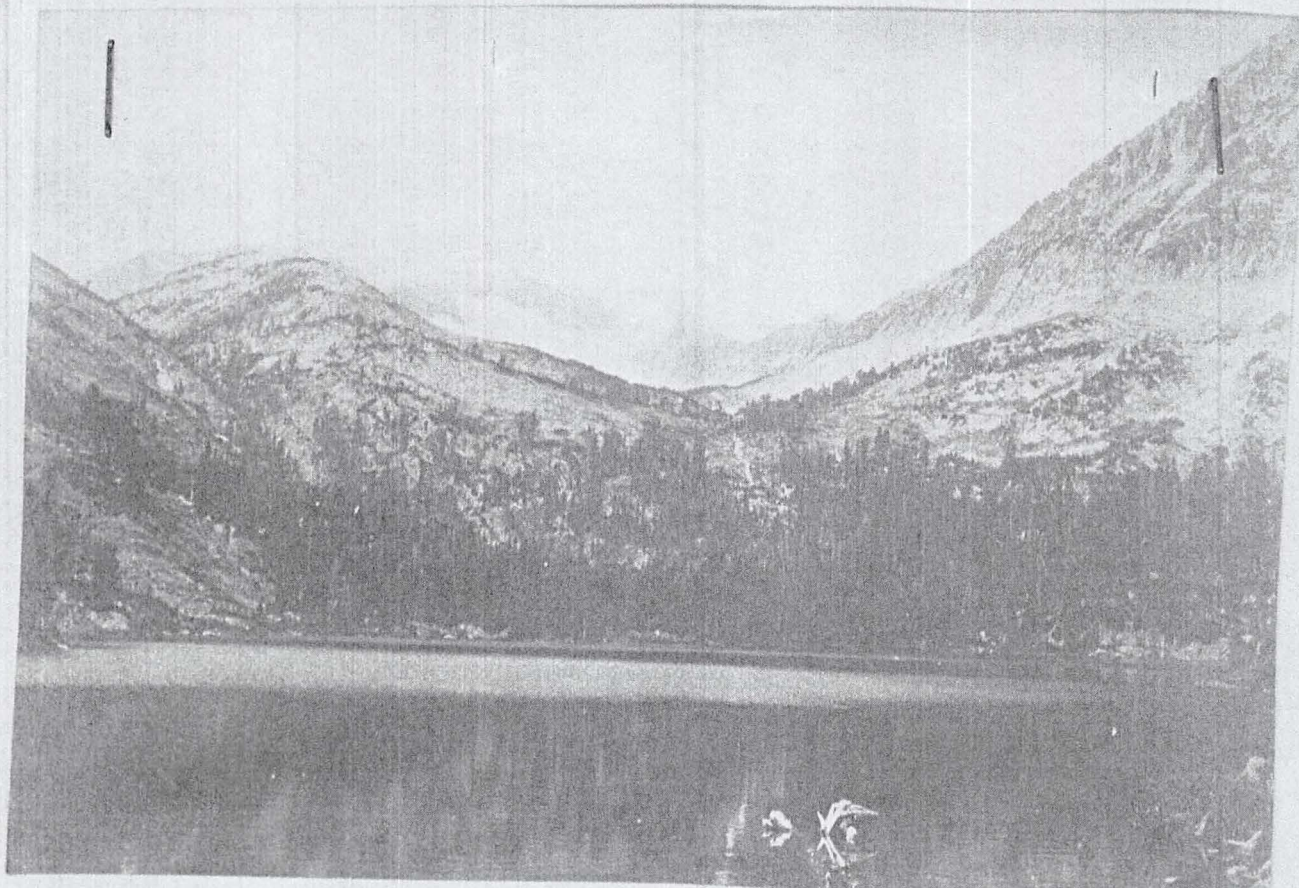
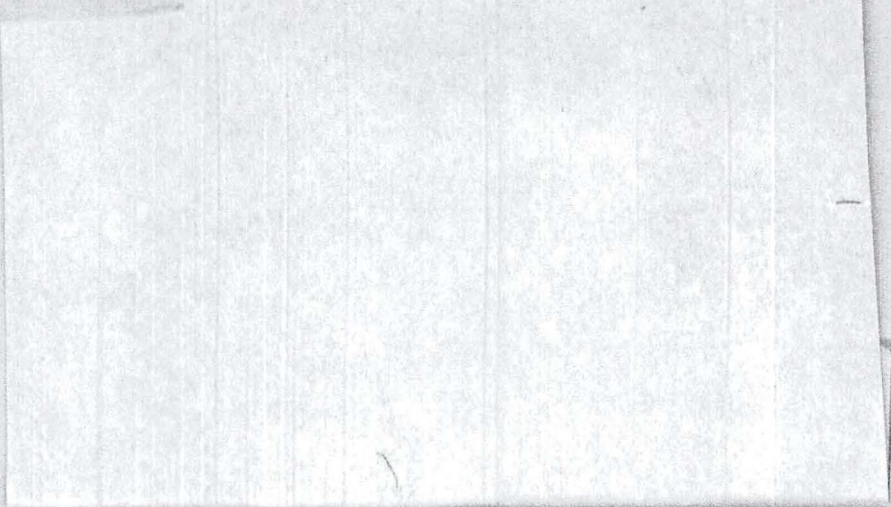


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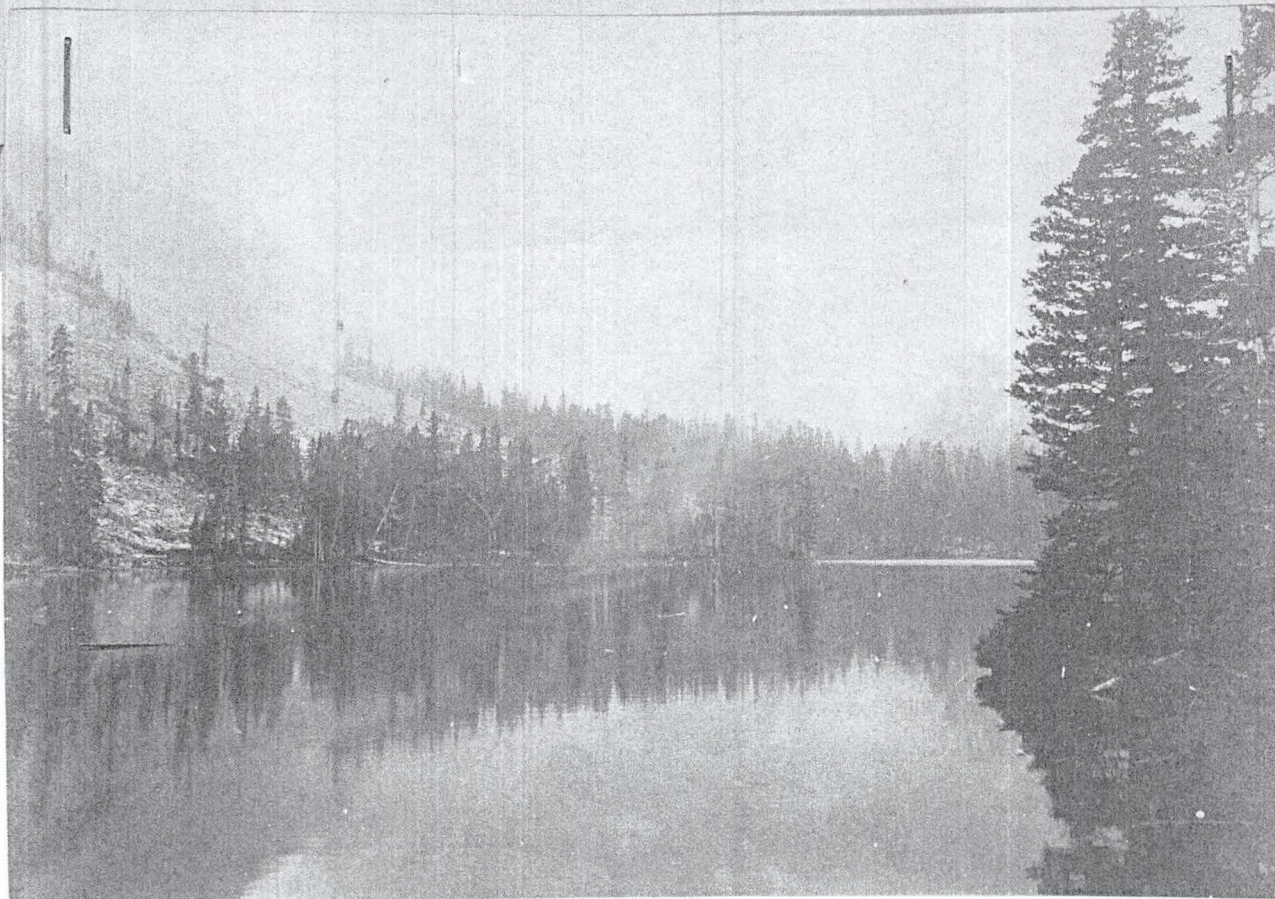


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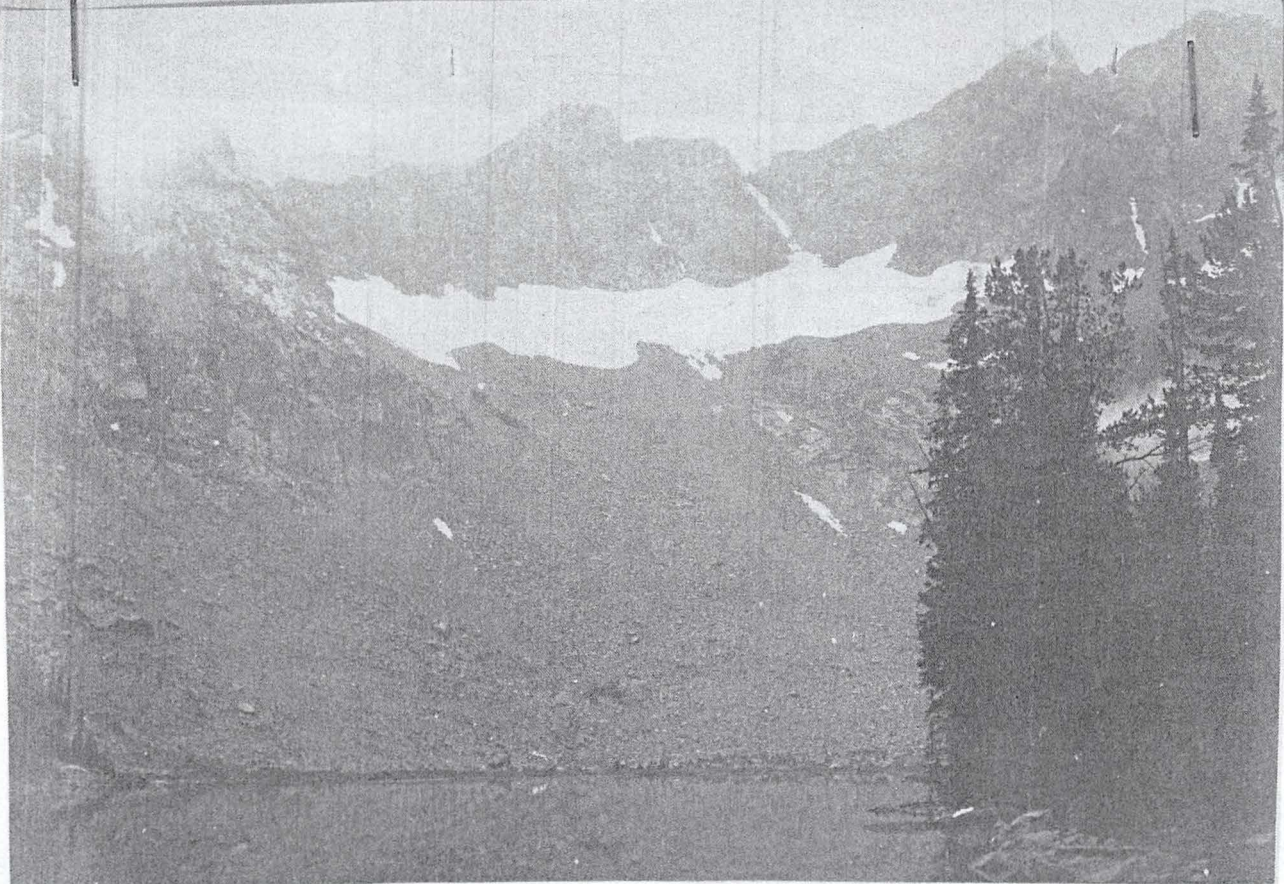


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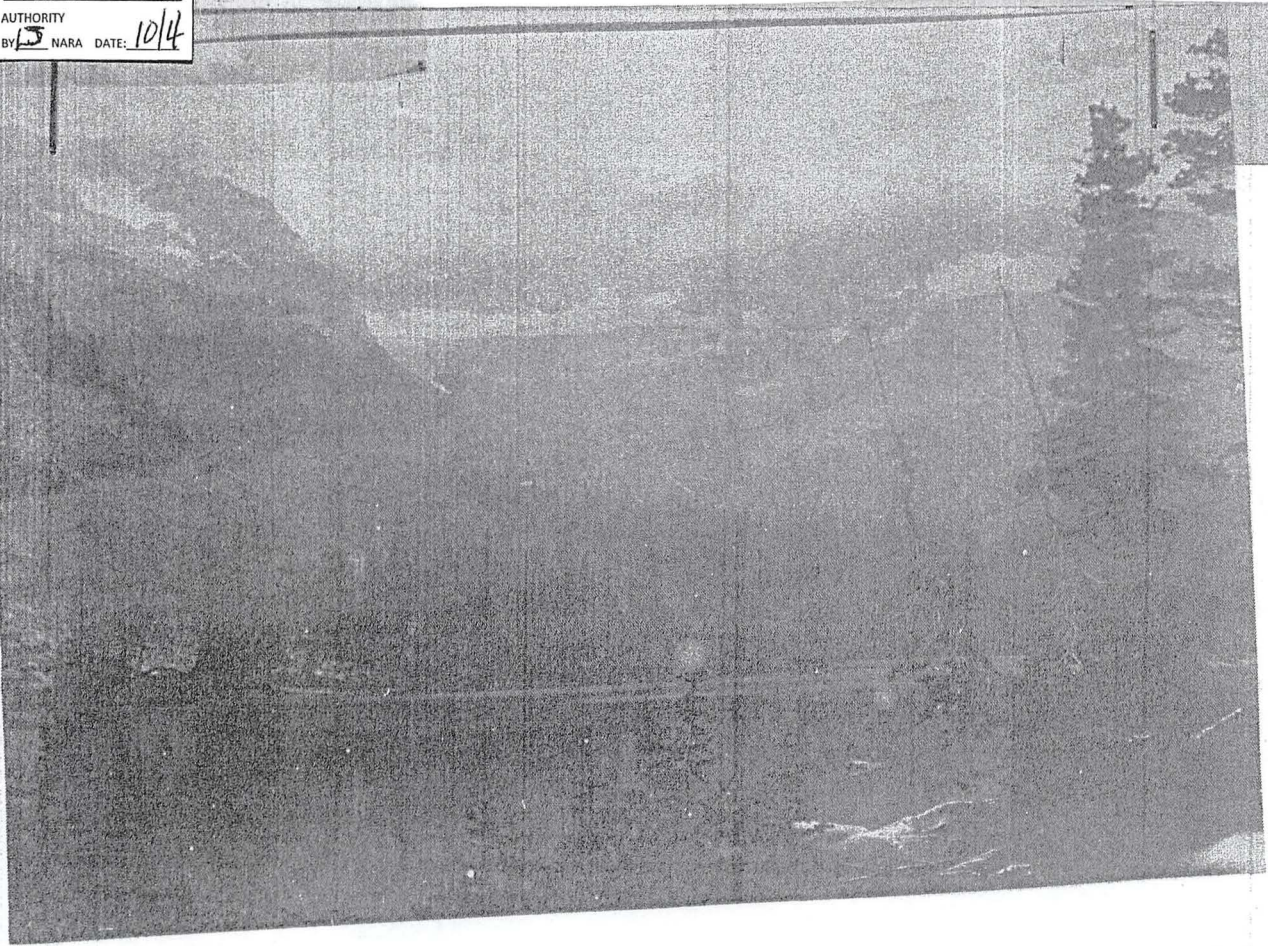


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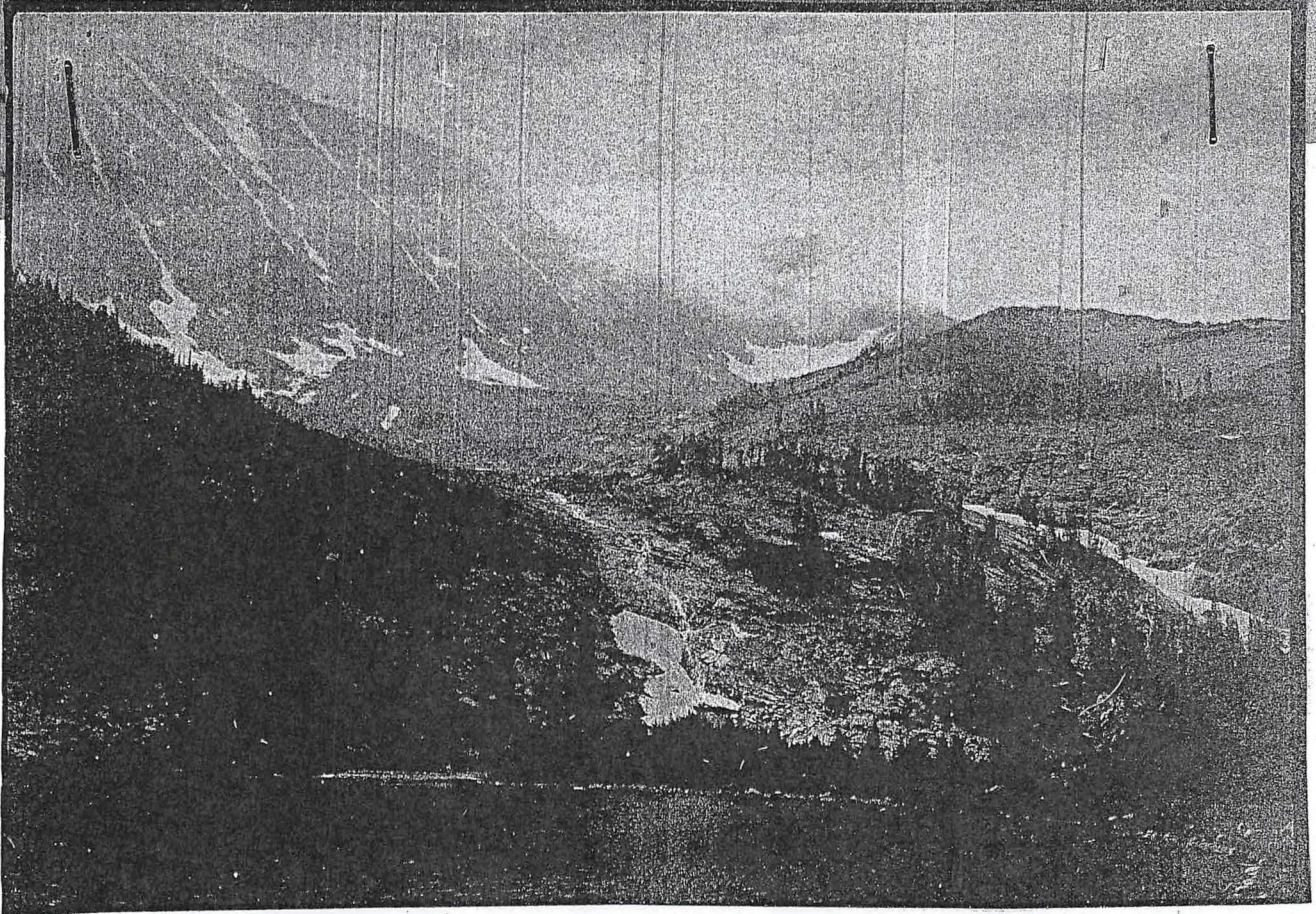
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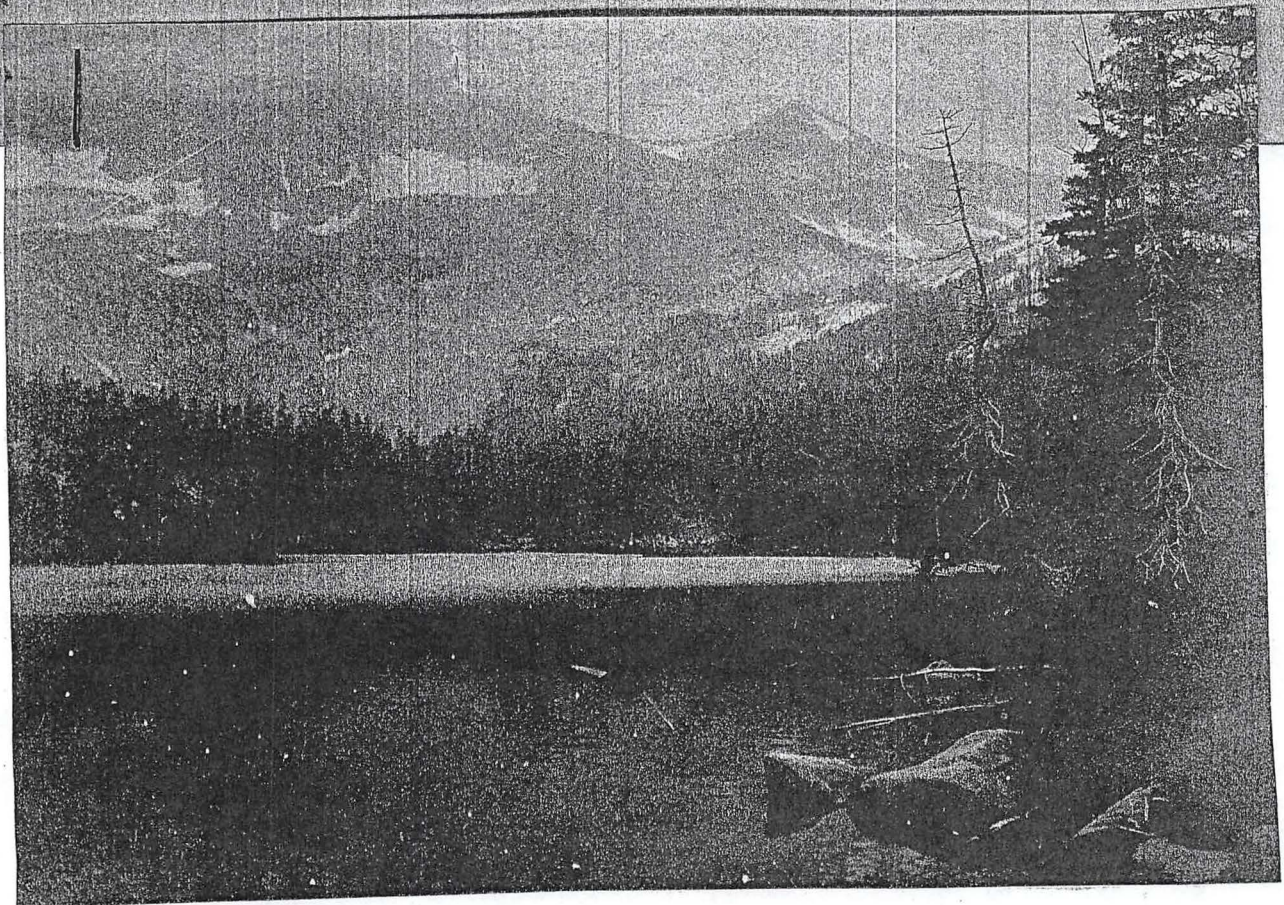


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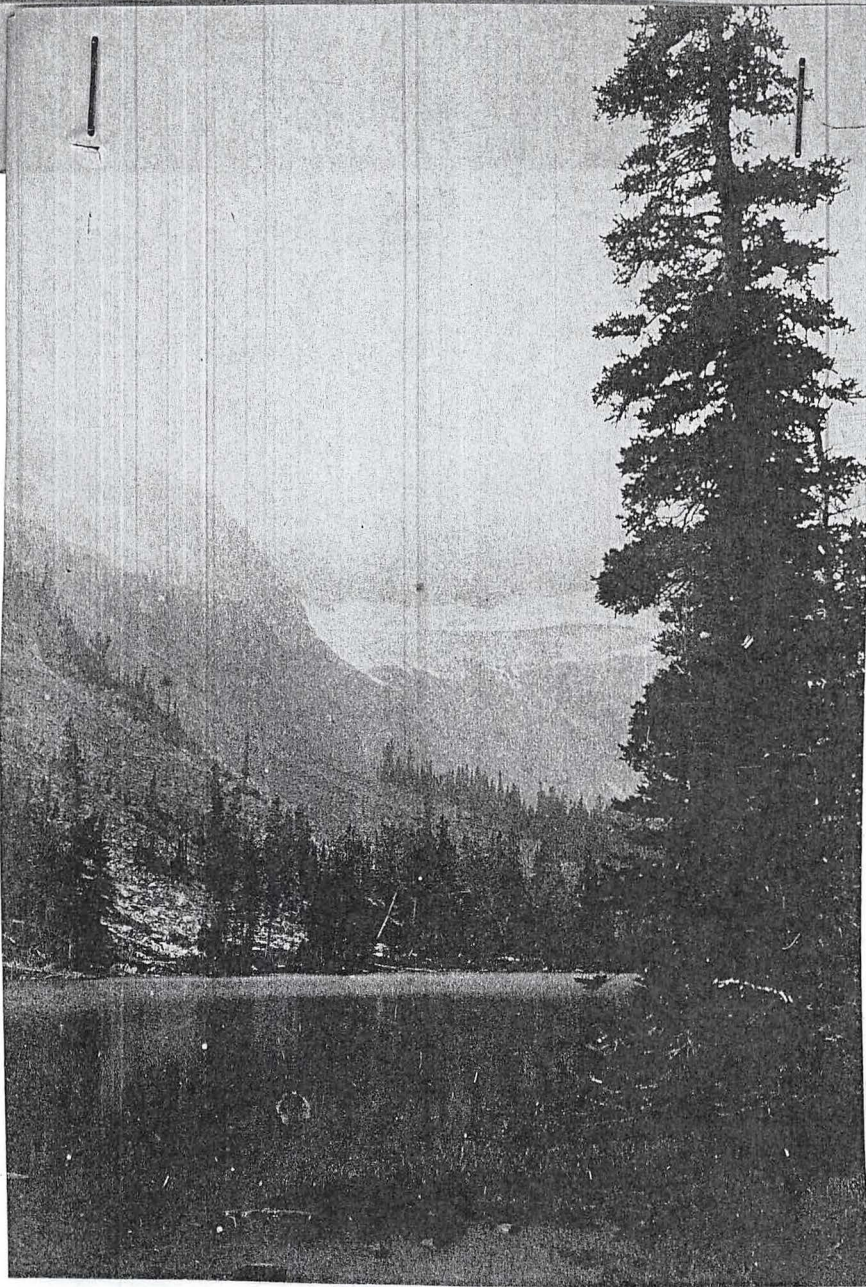


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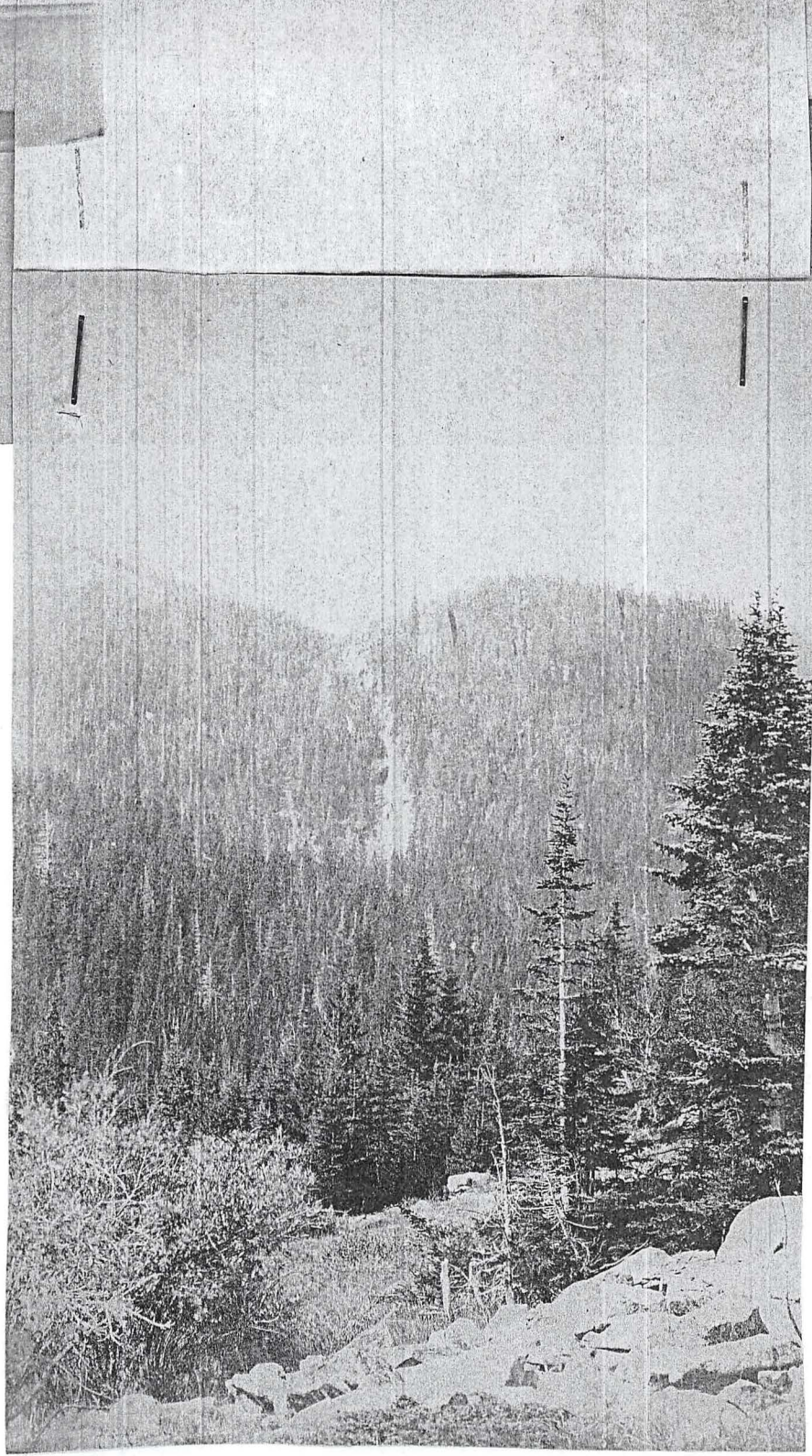


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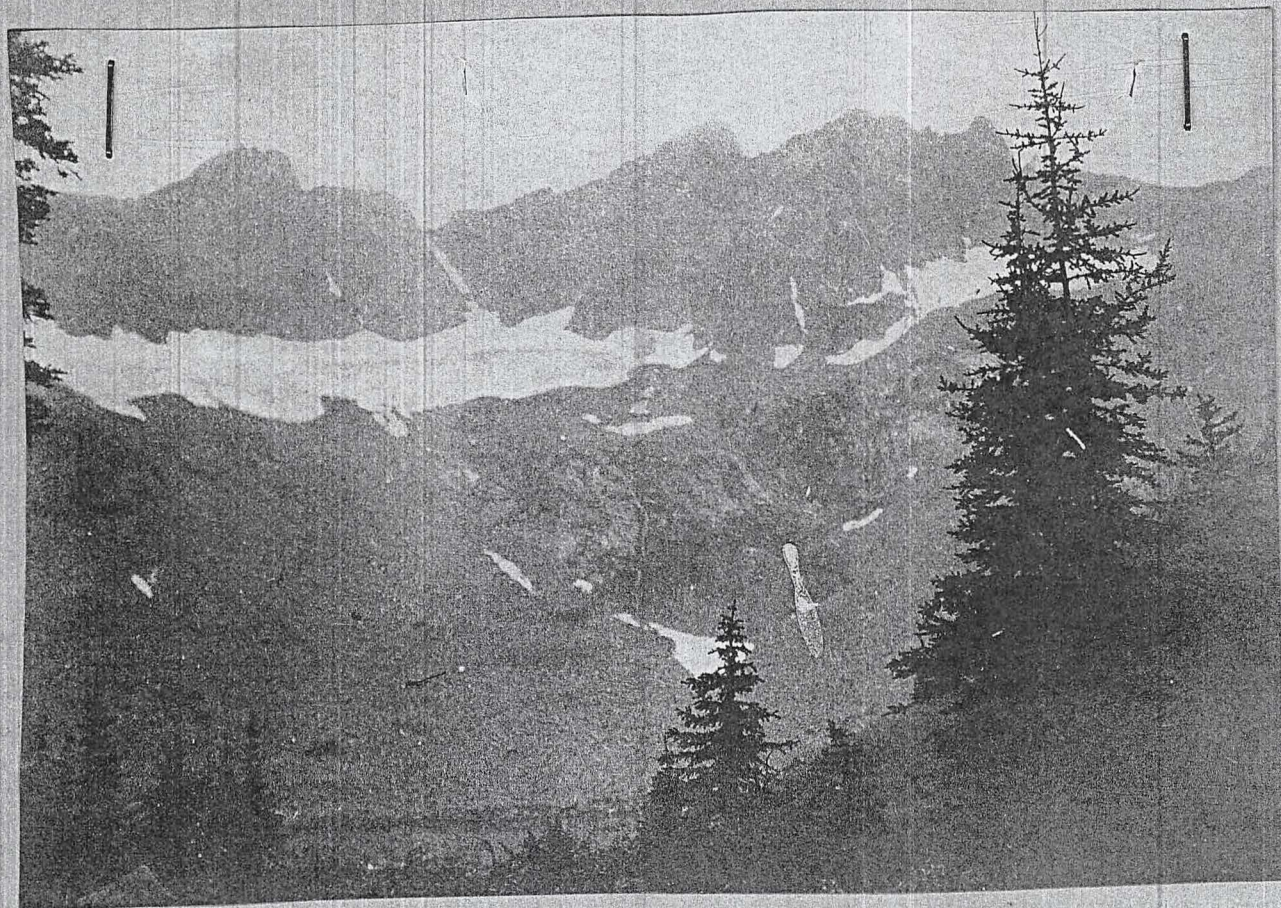


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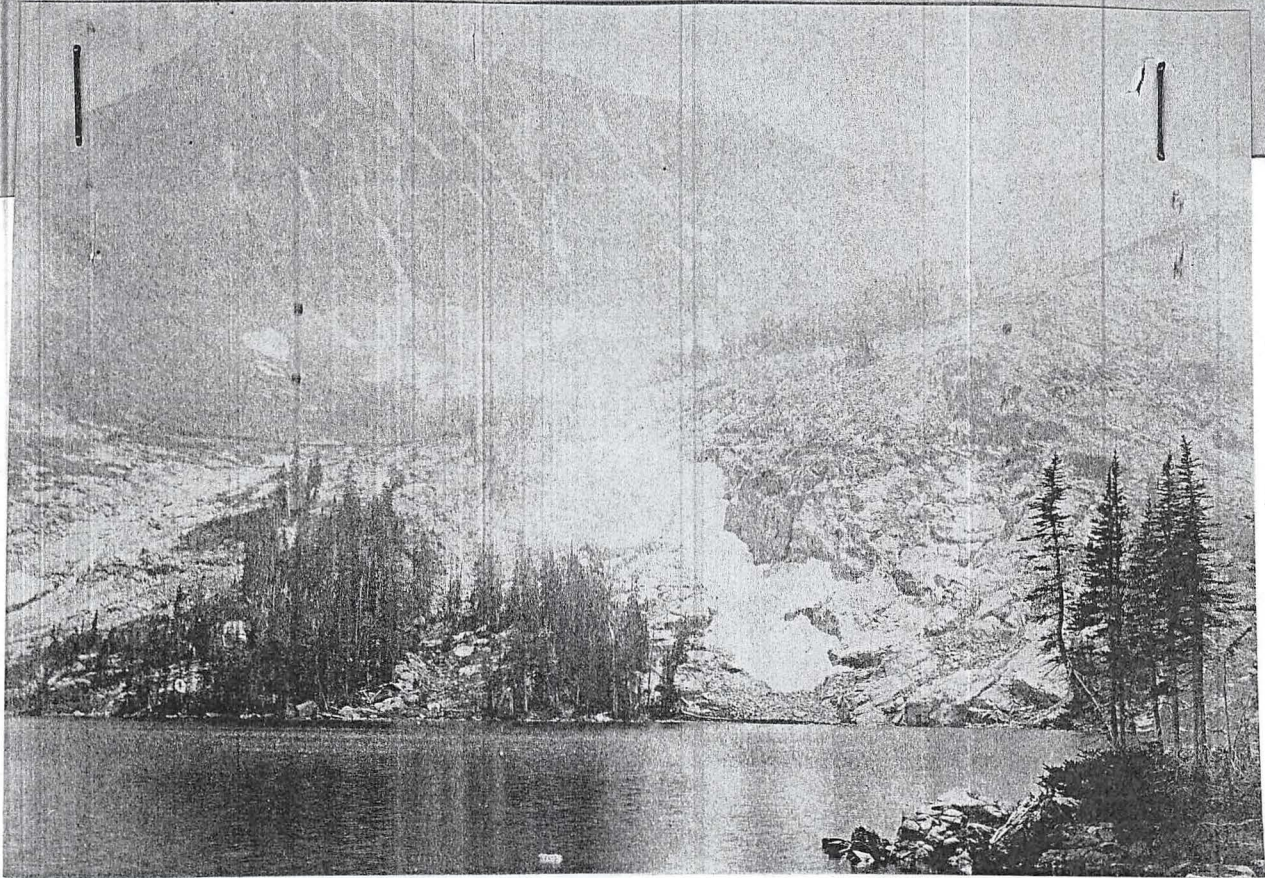


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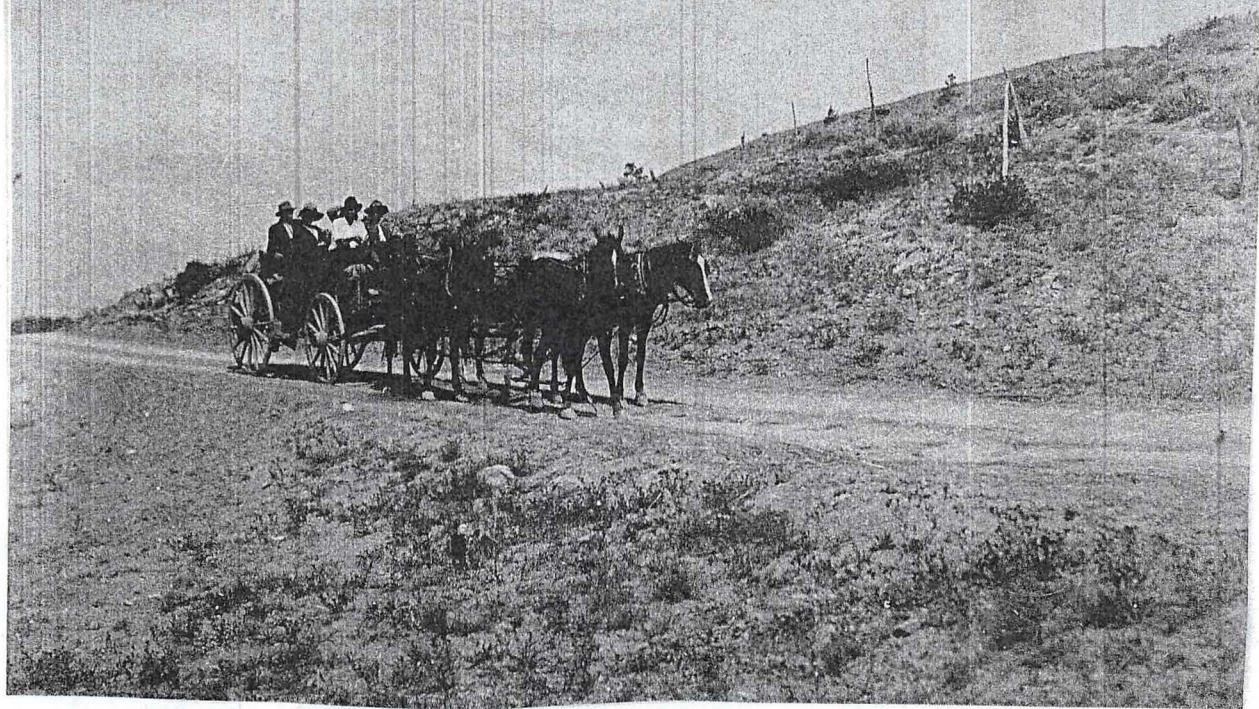


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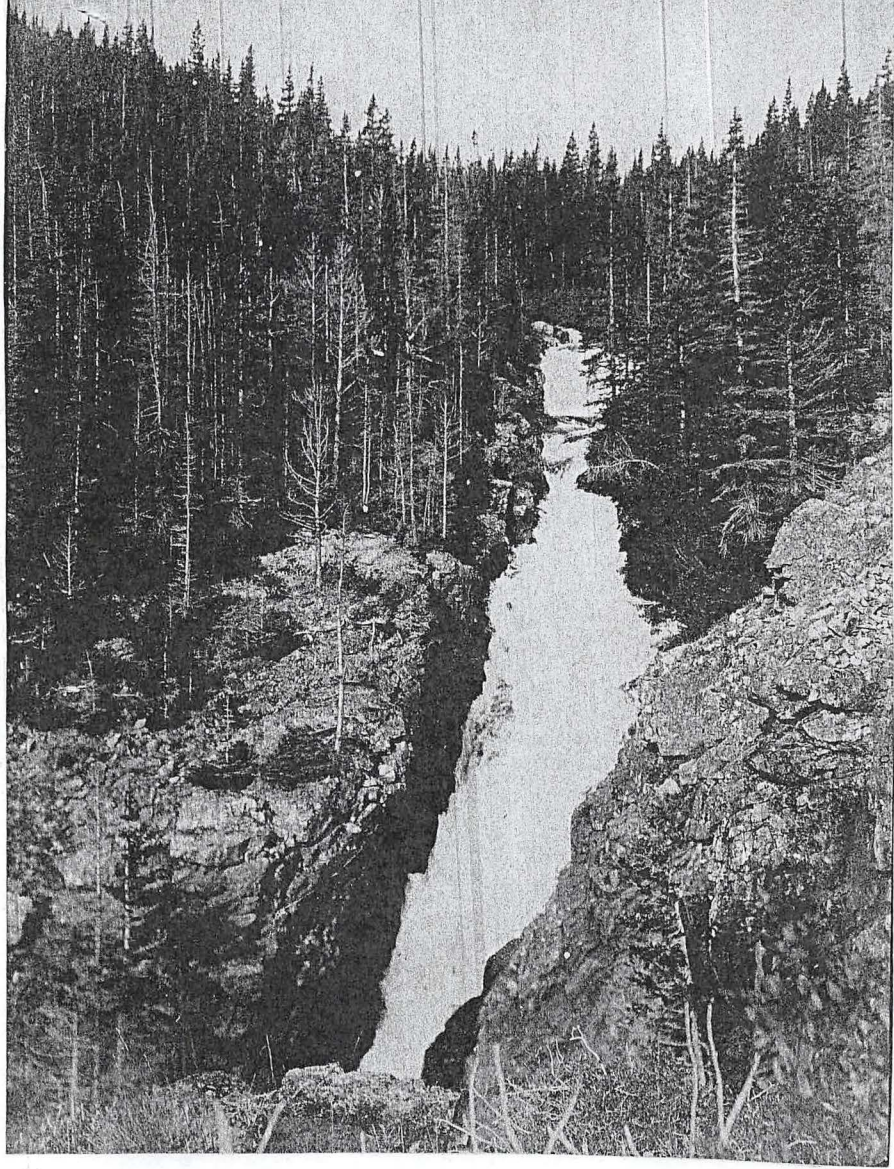


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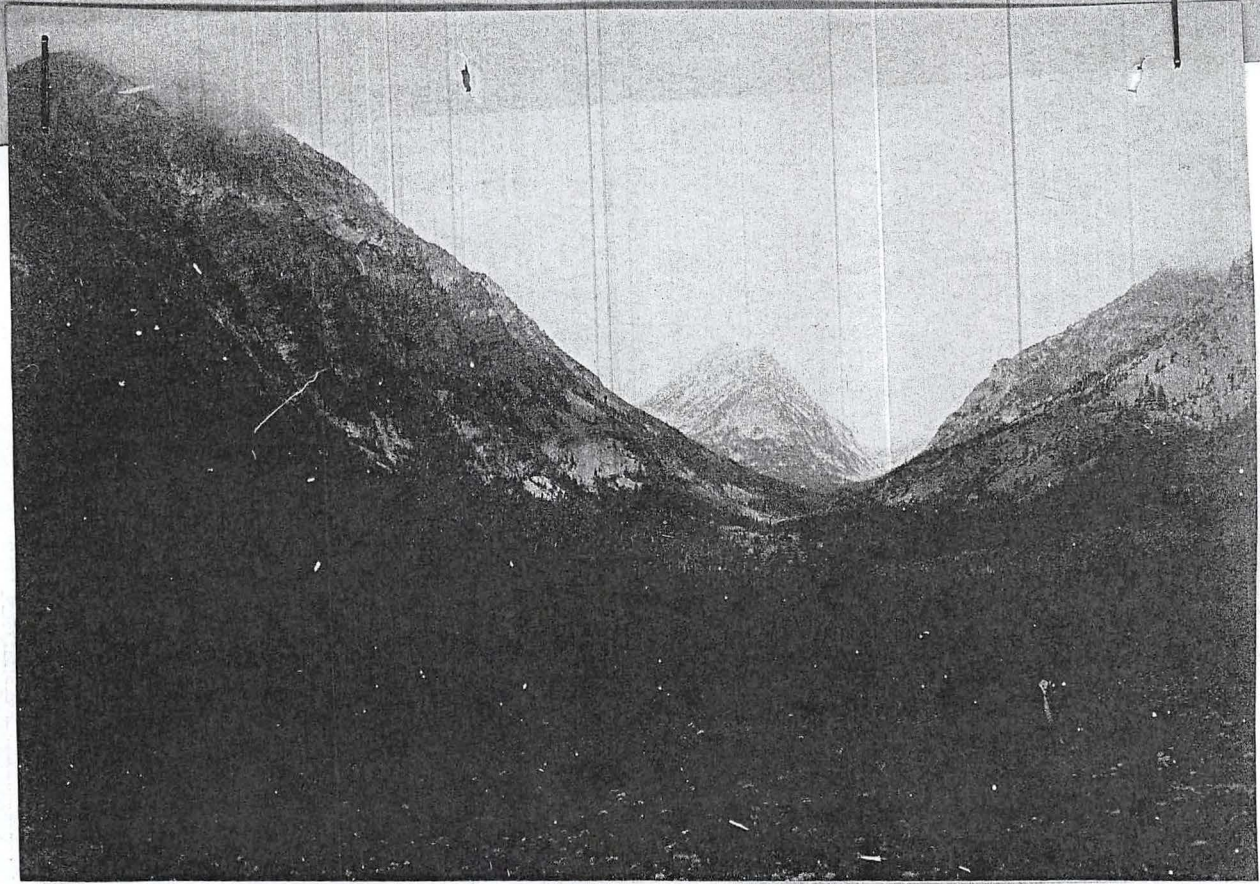


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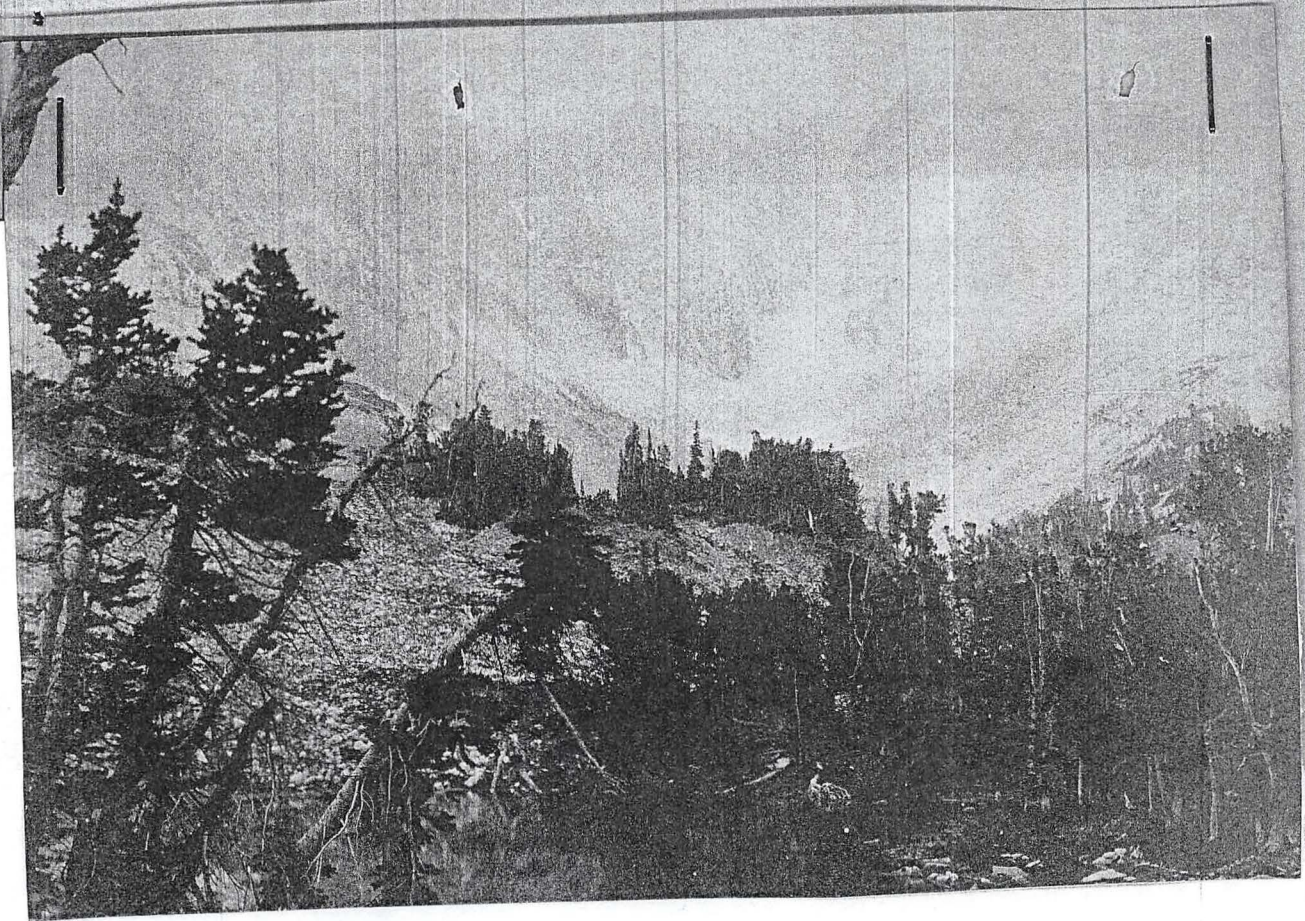


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Washington, D. C.,  
October 23, 1916.

Dear Mr. Gerharz:

Mr. Frank M. Johnson, Supervisor of Surveys of the General Land Office, has forwarded to me your very interesting report regarding the proposed Absaroka National Park in Montana, with some interesting photographs and a print showing the boundary of the proposed park. I am quite sure, after examining the photographs and carefully reading your statements, that if created a national park by Congress this section of Montana might be developed into a very attractive national play-ground.

I am very glad to have these data and will keep them on file as they will be of great assistance to the Department should Congress request a report on the advisability of establishing such a national park.

Cordially yours,

(Sgd) R. B. MARSHALL.

Superintendent.

Mr. Henry Gerharz,  
Surveyor General of Montana,  
Helena, Montana.

(Copy to Mr. Johnson.)  
IFS



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10-23

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
~~PROPOSED PARKS~~..... NATIONAL PARK

0-32  
FILE NO. ~~051~~

Part 1.

PROPOSED PARKS

ABSAROKA

MONTANA

.....

LAST DATE ON TOP

.....



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
STATE PARK DIVISION

Helena, Montana  
September 12, 1935

Sixth Regional Officer,  
300 Keeline Building,  
Omaha, Nebraska.

Dear Sir:

We herewith submit our report on the Absaroka  
Mountains proposed National Park.

All of this mountain range is within either the  
Absaroka or Custer National Forests. Consequently we do  
not recommend this area for a National Park.

If Yellowstone National Park needs or will need  
additional area for the preservation of wild life it would  
be advisable to add a considerable portion of this area  
to the north of Yellowstone Park, which would include Granite  
Peak, the highest point in Montana. Practically the entire  
area is inaccessible at this time by automobile.

*Wingert  
Thompson*

Respectfully submitted,

*Carl A. Taubert*

C. A. Taubert, Inspector SP-ECW

*E. A. Hummel*

E. A. Hummel, Asst. Historian,  
Region VI

CAT:DG



100532

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
BRANCH OF PLANNING  
EXTENSION DIVISION

PROPOSED NATIONAL PARKS & MONUMENTS

(Form of report from Regional Officers)  
To be typed throughout.

Letter of transmittal - To be attached (summary and recommendation)  
Name of Project: Absaroka National Park, Montana  
Location - (state, county, distance and direction from known city)  
Partly in Absaroka National Forest, Stillwater County, Montana  
about 40 miles from Livingston, Montana  
Area - Total \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Square Miles.

Boundaries - (description, reference to maps to be attached.)

Proposed:

To include Granite Peak north of Yellowstone Park  
and surrounding territory.

Recommended:

Accessibility:

Railway: 50 miles south of Northern Pacific  
Highway: Between State Highways 32 and 87W., about 30 miles from  
each.  
Airline:  
Waterway:

Major Characteristics - (Indicate those which are outstanding and  
attach additional information if necessary)

1. Scenic features - (topography, elevation, plant cover,  
water, etc):  
Highest point 12,850, covered with coniferous trees.
2. Historical or prehistoric features:  
None
3. Geological features:



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4. Recreational possibilities (if compatible with project)

National:

Local:

Estimated population within a radius of  
50 miles: 30,000  
100 " \_\_\_\_\_  
200 " \_\_\_\_\_

5. Biological features:

Vegetative:

Coniferous trees.

Wildlife:

Deer, antelope, etc.

Need for conservation:

None. All within Absaroka and Custer National Forests.

Relative importance in comparison with areas of similar nature elsewhere:

Inferior to Glacier, Rocky Mountain, or Grand Teton National Parks. //

Possible development -

Recreational facilities (if compatible with project):

Hunting, Fishing, Mountain Climbing, etc.

Utilities -

Water supply:

Parking Space, capacity:

Campground sites, capacity:

Light and power facilities:



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Sewage disposal facilities.

Capacity for handling of visitors:

Practicability of administration and protection:

Could be added to Yellowstone National Park. //

Other land uses --

Mining resources:

Agricultural resources:

Crazing:

Good.

Cultivated crops:

Timber:

Mostly coniferous trees.

Hunting & Fishing uses:

Good.

Power resources:

Irrigation resources:



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Ownership:

•Railways: \_\_\_\_\_  
•State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Municipalities: \_\_\_\_\_  
Private: \_\_\_\_\_  
Total alienated lands \_\_\_\_\_

Mining claims: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grazing permits and withdrawals: \_\_\_\_\_  
Power permits: \_\_\_\_\_  
Total permit acreage \_\_\_\_\_

National forest lands: \_\_\_\_\_  
Public domain: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reclamation projects: \_\_\_\_\_  
Indian Lands: \_\_\_\_\_  
Total public lands \_\_\_\_\_  
Total acreage \_\_\_\_\_

Land values:

History of project:

Suggested by Henry Gerhorz, Surveyor General of Montana.

Local attitude:

Persons interested:

Itinerary (Sheet to be attached)

Bibliography:

List of photographs, maps and printed information submitted:

Highway Map. (Sheet to be attached)

Note: All maps which are specially prepared by the Regional Offices should conform to one of the following standard sizes:

Letter size - 18" x 24" - 24" x 36"



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ITINERARY

September 11, 1935 - Area visited by Inspector Carl A. Taubert and  
and Assistant Regional Historian E. A. Hummel



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

*at 9/25*  
*Mr. Wirth*  
*mas. 9/26*  
*File*



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

September 18, 1935

*PC*

The Director,  
National Park Service,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Director:

It will be appreciated if you will send me your files on the proposed national parks and monuments in Montana, including:

- Absaroka
- Flathead
- Gates of the Mountains
- Sacajawea

It is my recollection that there was a former project which may have been removed from the list relative to the Crazy Mountains. In case you have a file on that area I would be glad if you would send it also.

The above includes all of the areas in Montana so far as I know except the Big Horn and that file is not needed.

Very truly yours,

*Roger W. Toll*  
Roger W. Toll  
Superintendent



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

*Butterfield  
Width  
M.A.B.  
Jennings  
Palson*

SEP 27 1958

*0-32  
Absaroka*

Mr. Roger W. Toll,  
Supt., Yellowstone National Park,  
Yellowstone Park, Wyo.

Dear Mr. Toll:

The Service has received your letter of September 18 in which you ask for the files on proposed national parks and monuments in Montana, including:

Absaroka	Gates of the Mountains
Flathead	Sacajawea

These files are being sent you under separate cover.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) A. E. DEMARAY  
Acting Director.

NAB-fmd



*Lee Brown*

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
STATE PARK DIVISION

300 Keeline Building  
Omaha, Nebraska  
REGION VI

*Files*

*Noted on Green  
Card. 10/17  
HHA*

*Note possibility as an  
addition to Yellowstone*

October 9, 1935



National Park Service,  
State Park Division,  
Washington, D. C.

Subject: Proposed National Park

Gentlemen:

In compliance with your memorandum SP-5-34 dated May 31, 1935  
we herewith enclose two copies of a report on the proposed Absaroka  
National Park in Montana.

Yours very truly,

*George Gibbs*

George Gibbs  
Regional Officer,  
REGION VI

EAH:LN  
enc:



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

File

D-32  
Absaroka

Sixth Regional Officer,  
National Park Service,  
500 Keeline Building,  
Omaha, Nebr.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of October 9, 1935, transmitting a report on the proposed Absaroka National Park, has been received.

This report has been studied and it has been decided to drop this matter for the present at least. However, it has not been disapproved and will be considered as a possible extension to Yellowstone.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) CONRAD L. WIRTH

acting Assistant Director.

cc: Mr. Gibbs  
NAB-fmd



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK  
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYOMING

~~The Director~~  
HRA  
File



October 16, 1935

The Director,  
National Park Service,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Director:

Enclosed herewith I am returning your file on the  
Proposed Absaroka National Park, Montana.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roger W. Toll".

Roger W. Toll,  
Superintendent.

Enclosure



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK  
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYOMING

October 16, 1935.

The Director,  
National Park Service,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Director:

On October 2 I visited the Proposed Absaroka National Park, in Montana.

This proposed area comprises the northern unit of the Absaroka National Forest and is located in the counties of Park, Sweetgrass, Meagher, and Wheatland. It includes the range known as the Crazy Mountains. The area is approximately 220,000 acres.

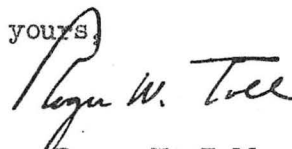
The chief feature of the area is the mountains, which are highly scenic and probably are among the most picturesque in the state.

It is believed that this area is unsuitable for a national park or monument for the following reasons:

1. The area is now entirely within a national forest.
2. Half of the land, every alternate section, is owned by the Northern Pacific Railroad or is in private ownership.
3. The scenery, though excellent, is not of outstanding national character nor equal to that of the existing national parks whose chief feature is mountains, such as: Glacier, Grand Teton, Mount Rainier, and Rocky Mountain.

It is recommended that this project be disapproved.

Very truly yours,

  
Roger W. Toll,  
Superintendent.



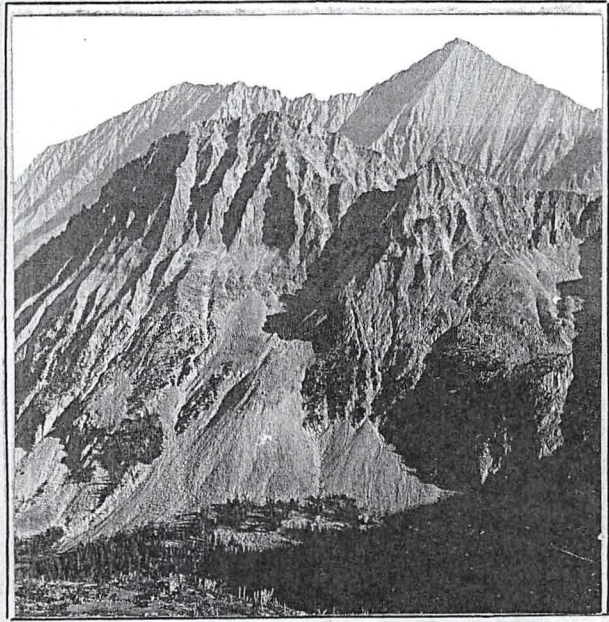
10-23  
(May 1929)  
6-7410

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

*M*  
*The Director*  
*10/16/35*  
*Mr. [unclear]*  
*File*

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
RECEIVED  
OCT 21 1935  
MAILS AND FILES

FILE NO.



*D-32*  
*Absaroka*

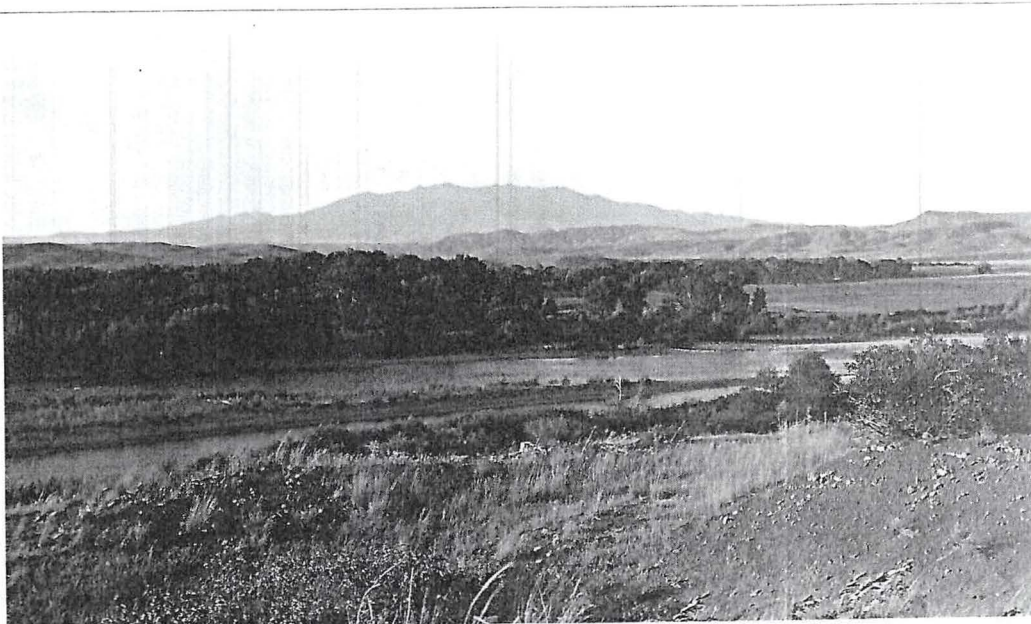
Report on the  
Proposed  
ABSAROKA NATIONAL PARK  
In The Crazy Mountains, Montana  
To  
The Director, National Park Service  
By  
Roger W. Toll  
October 16, 1935.

IMPORTANT

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,  
Director.



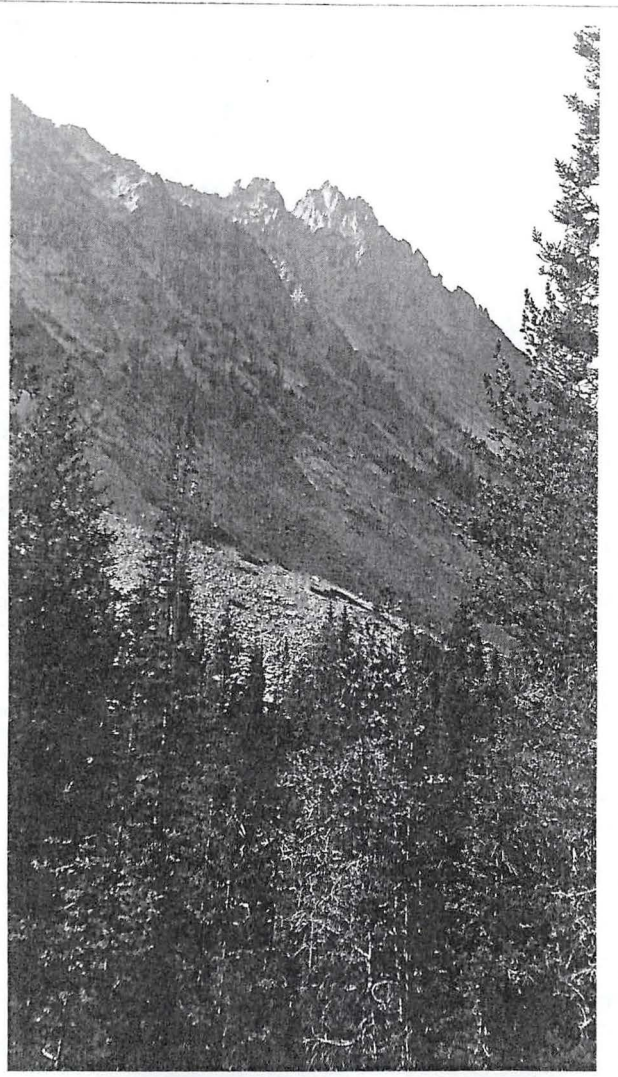


Crazy Mountains from the south, near U. S. 10. Yellowstone River in the foreground.

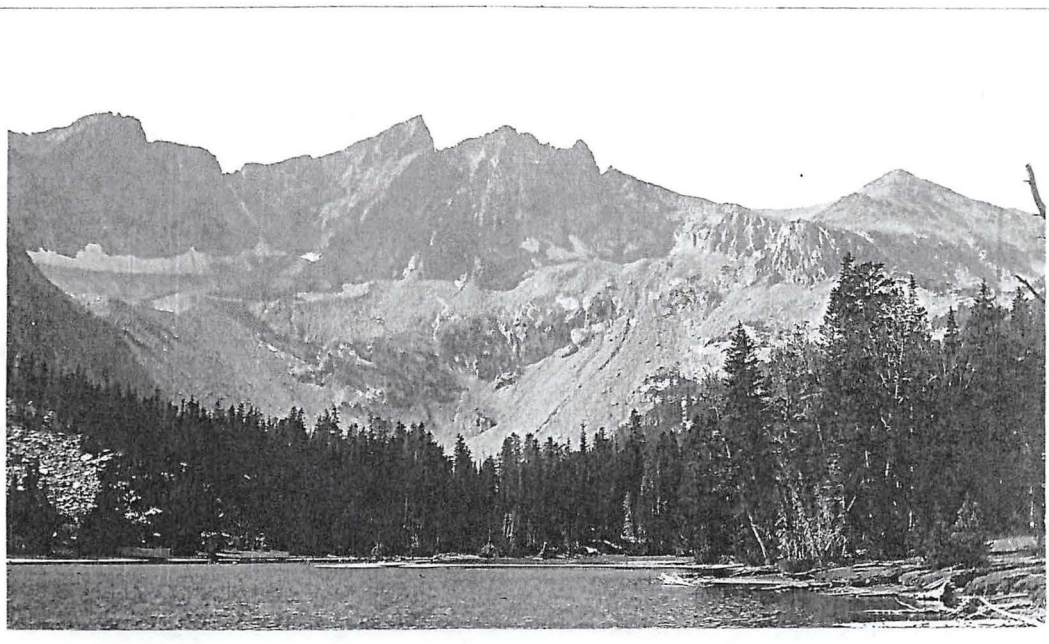


Looking up Big Timber Creek from Van Cleve ranch. Big Timber Peak at left; Granite Peak, center.





Granite Peak  
from  
valley of  
Big Timber Creek

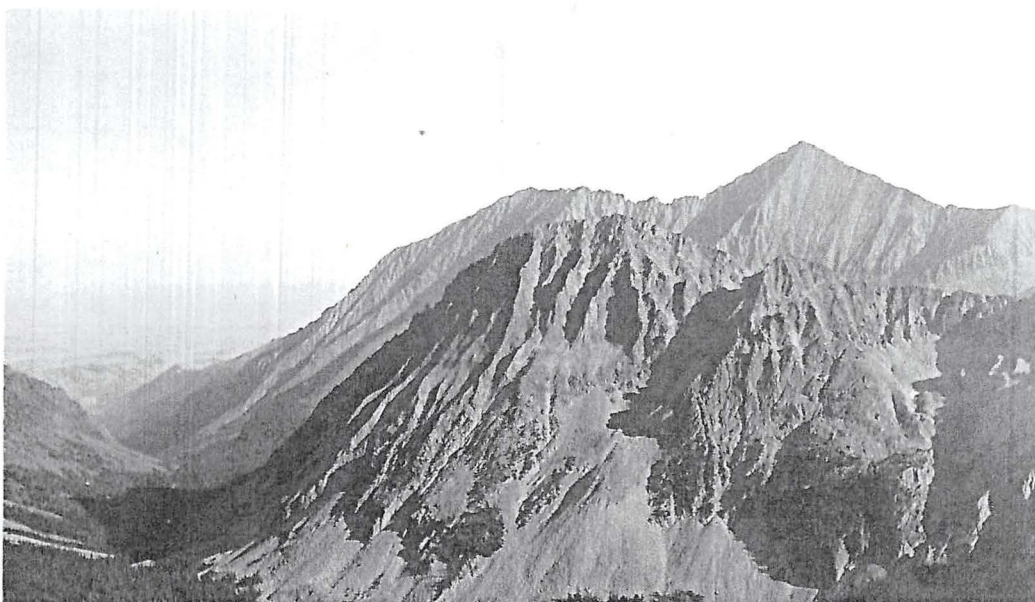


Headwaters of Big Timber Creek from Lower Twin Lake. Permanent  
ice field at left. Peaks unnamed.  
Photos by Toll





Granite Peak, from timberline.



Crazy Peak at right, Big Timber Peak in center, with Granite Peak in foreground. From pass, elevation 10,000 feet, south of Conical Peak.



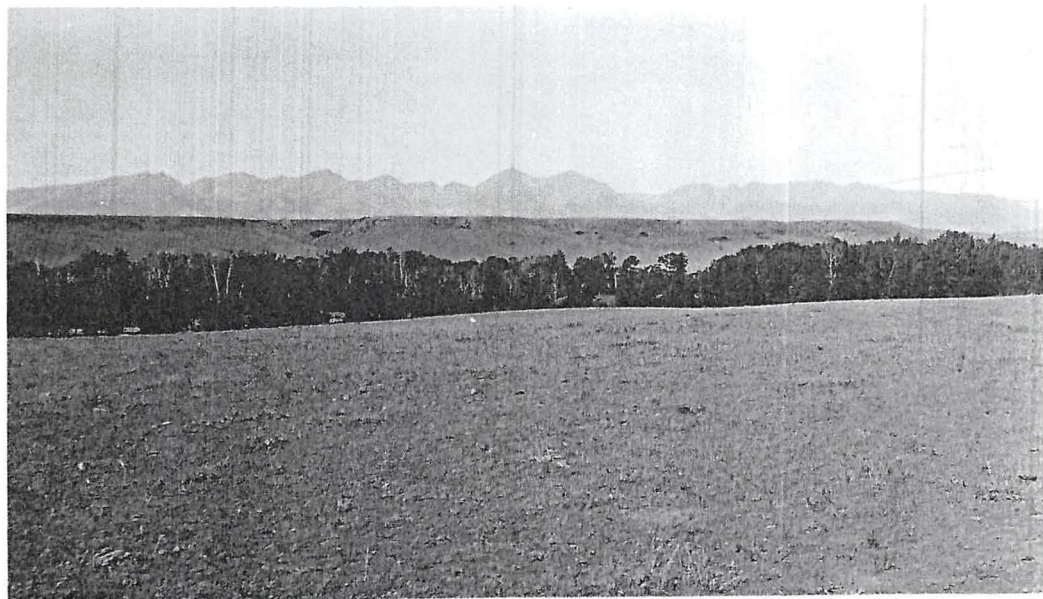


The heart of the Crazy Mountains. Several watersheds meet at high, sharp peak (unnamed). Grasshopper Glacier lies to the right of this peak. Ice field at left. View from pass south of Conical Peak.



Crazy Mountains from the east. Crazy Peak and Big Timber Peak, left of center; Granite Peak, near center.





Crazy Mountains from the southeast. Valley of Big Timber Creek in foreground.



History of the Project. In 1916, Mr. Henry Gerharz, Surveyor General for Montana, prepared a report entitled "Some Facts Concerning the Proposed Absaroka National Park." This report was transmitted to the National Park Service under date of September 27, 1916, by Mr. Frank M. Johnson, Supervisor of Surveys.

There has been no recent agitation for this project.

The administration of the Forest Service seems suitable to the area.

Scenery. The Crazy Mountains include many rugged and precipitous peaks, in a rather compact group, at the crest of the range. The highest peak of the range is Crazy Peak, whose elevation is 11,178 feet.

The scenery resembles that of Glacier Gorge in Rocky Mountain National Park, though the difference in elevation between the peaks and the valleys is not so great.

There is a Grasshopper Glacier in a cirque at the head of Cottonwood Creek, though we did not visit it since an additional day's trip would be required to reach it. It is probably rather more of an ice field than a glacier, and is not so large as the Grasshopper Glacier near Cooke, Montana.

There are numerous other perpetual ice fields in the range. The glacial topography of the area is conspicuous.

Wildlife. There are now mule deer and black bears in the area and also a very few (probably only four or five) mountain sheep. Formerly sheep were more abundant, and there were also white-tailed deer, grizzly bears, and elk. Buffalo were once found in parts of the area.

There are fish in the streams, both native and introduced species.

Trees. Douglas fir is abundant in the lower part of Big Timber Creek canyon and is mixed with some lodgepole pine. In the higher portions of the canyon are Englemann spruce, Alpine fir and white-barked pine.

Grazing. A number of cattle are grazed in the area. Mr. Van Cleve, Jr., has the largest number, about 300 head. The grazing is controlled under permits from the Forest Service.

Mining. There has been a good deal of prospecting done in the area, and a few deposits of galena have been found, but there are no active mines in the Big Timber Creek region, and perhaps none in the entire area.



Photographs. Mr. L. B. Brown, photographer for the Northern Pacific Railway Company, has taken some excellent photographs of the area, which may be obtained, if desired, from the railway company. Nos. 802, 803, and 847 are among the most representative of the mountain scenery.

Prof. C. H. Burgess of the Department of Geology, Harvard College, took some airplane views of the Crazy Mountains this summer, in company with Paul Van Cleve, III, and they may be available for purchase, but Mr. Van Cleve has not yet seen the photographs.

Land Values. The Northern Pacific Railway Company originally owned every alternate section, as part of a land grant. The railway company sold 37 sections in the Big Timber Creek region to the late Mr. Simons of Minneapolis. The executor of his wife's estate, C. O. Lundquist, 704 Phoenix Building, Minneapolis, Minn., has offered this land for sale, and Mr. Paul Van Cleve, Jr., believes that it could be bought for 50 cents per acre, or possibly less.

Recreational Use. The Lazy K Bar Ranch, operated by the Van Cleves, is situated near the mouth of Big Timber Creek. This dude ranch is well operated, and during the summer season accommodates perhaps fifty or a hundred guests, who spend their time fishing, hiking, and taking horseback trips in the Crazy Mountains. It is understood that there is one other smaller dude ranch in the Crazy Mountains.

Nomenclature. The name Crazy Mountains is said to be the translation of the Indian name for the range. The Indians felt that the mountains were not normal and dependable because the weather that the mountains produced was erratic. It often was not in conformity with neighboring weather and did not follow customary methods of forecasting. So the mountains were mad or crazy.

Many of the peaks are unnamed. The area is used by a comparatively small number of people, and the existing maps are of small scale and cannot use many names, so only the most prominent topographic features have been named.



ITINERARY

October 1, 1935

<u>Time</u>	<u>Miles</u>	
: 1:25 p.m. :	0 :	Left park headquarters by auto. :
: :	: :	: :
: 5:35 p.m. :	96 :	Arrived at Big Timber. :
: :	: :	: :
: 6:45 p.m. :	120 :	Arrived at the Van Cleves' "canyon" Ranch, :
: :	: :	the Lazy K Bar dude ranch. :
: :	: :	: :
: 8:00 p.m. :	138 :	Arrived at the Van Cleves' lower ranch. :
: :	: :	: :

October 2, 1935

: 8:45 a.m. :	:	Left the Van Cleves' lower ranch by auto. :
: :	: :	: :
: 10:00 a.m. :	:	Arrived at the canyon ranch, on Big Timber :
: :	: :	Creek. :
: :	: :	: :
: 10:30 a.m. :	:	Left the ranch on horseback with members of :
: :	: :	the Van Cleve family and rode up the trail :
: :	: :	along Big Timber Creek. :
: :	: :	: :
: 11:00 a.m. :	:	Half Moon Park. :
: :	: :	: :
: 1:25 p.m.) :	:	Stopped for lunch at timberline. :
: 2:30 p.m.) :	:	: :
: :	: :	: :
: 3:10 p.m.) :	:	Pass south of Conical Peak, elevation about :
: 3:40 p.m.) :	:	10,000 feet, on the watershed between Big :
: :	: :	Timber Creek and Sweetgrass Creek, about 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ :
: :	: :	miles from the ranch. :
: :	: :	: :
: 6:45 p.m. :	:	Returned to the canyon ranch. :
: :	: :	: :
: 10:30 p.m. :	:	Returned to the lower ranch. :
: :	: :	: :

October 3, 1935

: 9:25 a.m. :	138 :	Left the Van Cleves' lower ranch. :
: :	: :	: :
: 10:25 a.m. :	159 :	Arrived at Big Timber, and thence to Red :
: :	: :	Lodge. :
: :	: :	: :

October 4, 1935

: :	:	Returned to Yellowstone National Park via :
: :	: :	the Red Lodge-Cooke road. :
: :	: :	: :



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

204

Files

March 16, 1936.

Memorandum for  
MR. J. LEE BROWN:

W

You have requested a review of the reports on the proposed Absaroka National Park in Montana from the Wildlife Division. Because this area is well isolated from Yellowstone National Park and because presumably the area in question is largely summer range, whereas Yellowstone needs the addition of winter range, I think that it is not a valuable area.

If you have not already done so, I suggest that Mr. Baggeley's opinion be sought.

*Victor H. Cahalane*

Acting Chief,  
Wildlife Division.

*Mr. Baggeley.  
What do you  
think of it?  
J*



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WASHINGTON

March 23, 1936

Memorandum for Mr. J. Lee Brown

Reference is made to the two attached reports on the proposed Absaroka National Park in Montana.

The two reports being concerned with different areas in Montana perhaps separate comments are desirable.

The Crazy Mountain section of the Absaroka National Park which lies 40 miles north and east of Livingston, Montana is not especially outstanding as compared with other mountainous sections of Montana although it does lay at some distance from any other chain of mountains. So far as its wildlife potentialities are concerned it offers fairly good grazing territory for mountain sheep, deer and elk and the possibility of a few antelopes although grazing and other intensive domestic uses have depleted the value of this section for wildlife. It would not seem to be an important area for the National Park Service to concern itself with at this time.

The section of the Absaroka National Forest which lies to the north and east of Yellowstone National Park and abutting it on the north and east boundary is by far the most desirable section of territory to be considered as future park area. While it does not offer any particular advantages to Yellowstone Park nor any additional grazing for wildlife of Yellowstone National Park except summer range, it is perhaps the most outstanding mountainous section in the State of Montana. It is now a part of the so-called Forest Service primitive area.

Its use for National park purposes would not materially affect the Yellowstone wildlife problems, although that section is especially valuable for the native furbearers, grizzly bears and bighorns. It is, of course, entirely too high to be considered as grazing range for antelope, deer and elk. Undoubtedly there will be a time when the National Park Service will want to consider this section of the Absaroka National Forest as a possible addition to Yellowstone National Park, although I question whether this is the time to bring up such a proposal. I do think, however, that the area ought to be

-2-

studied more fully during the next year so that the Washington Office would have a complete report on it.

George F. Bagglely  
Wildlife Supervisor

cc: Dr. Bryant  
Cahalane  
Thompson  
Bagglely



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AUTHORITY  
BY [initials] NARA DATE: 10/4

10-39.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

*File*

It does not seem to me that it would be wise to consider the area near Cook City for park status, at least so long as western sentiment is unchanged. The Crazy Mt. area is disapproved by R. W. Toll.  
D. S. H. B. B. H. T.

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BY 15 NARA DATE: 10/4

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

~~Mr. Cahalano~~ VHC  
~~Mr. Ben Thompson~~ BHJ  
~~Dr. Bryant~~ HCB

3/25/36

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Please note Mr. Baggley's comments on the two attached reports.

Do you feel additional investigation by wildlife men advisable at this time?

No! HCB

mas

Butterfield. ✓

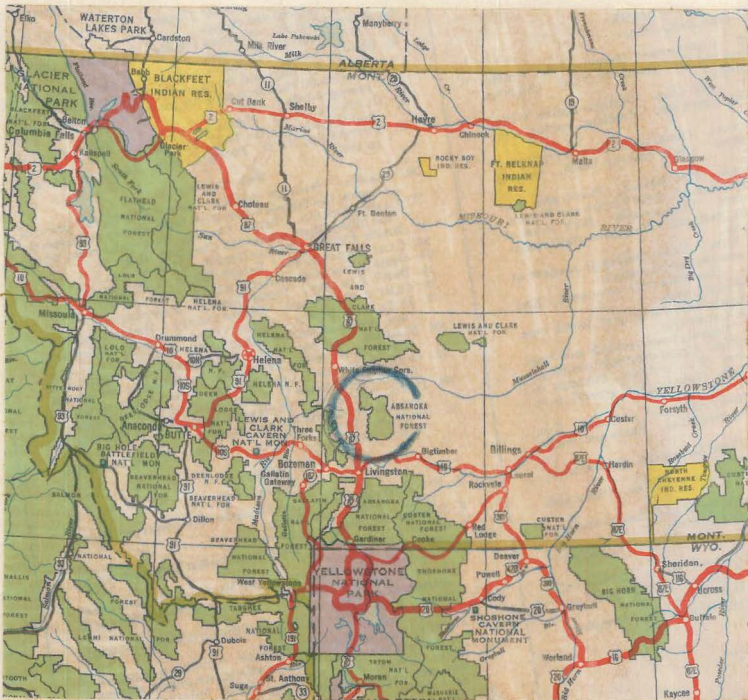
If Murie's schedule under the regionalized plan of work permits, he should make an examination by next November.  
VHC



Portion of  
National Park Service Map of  
Recreational Areas of the United States

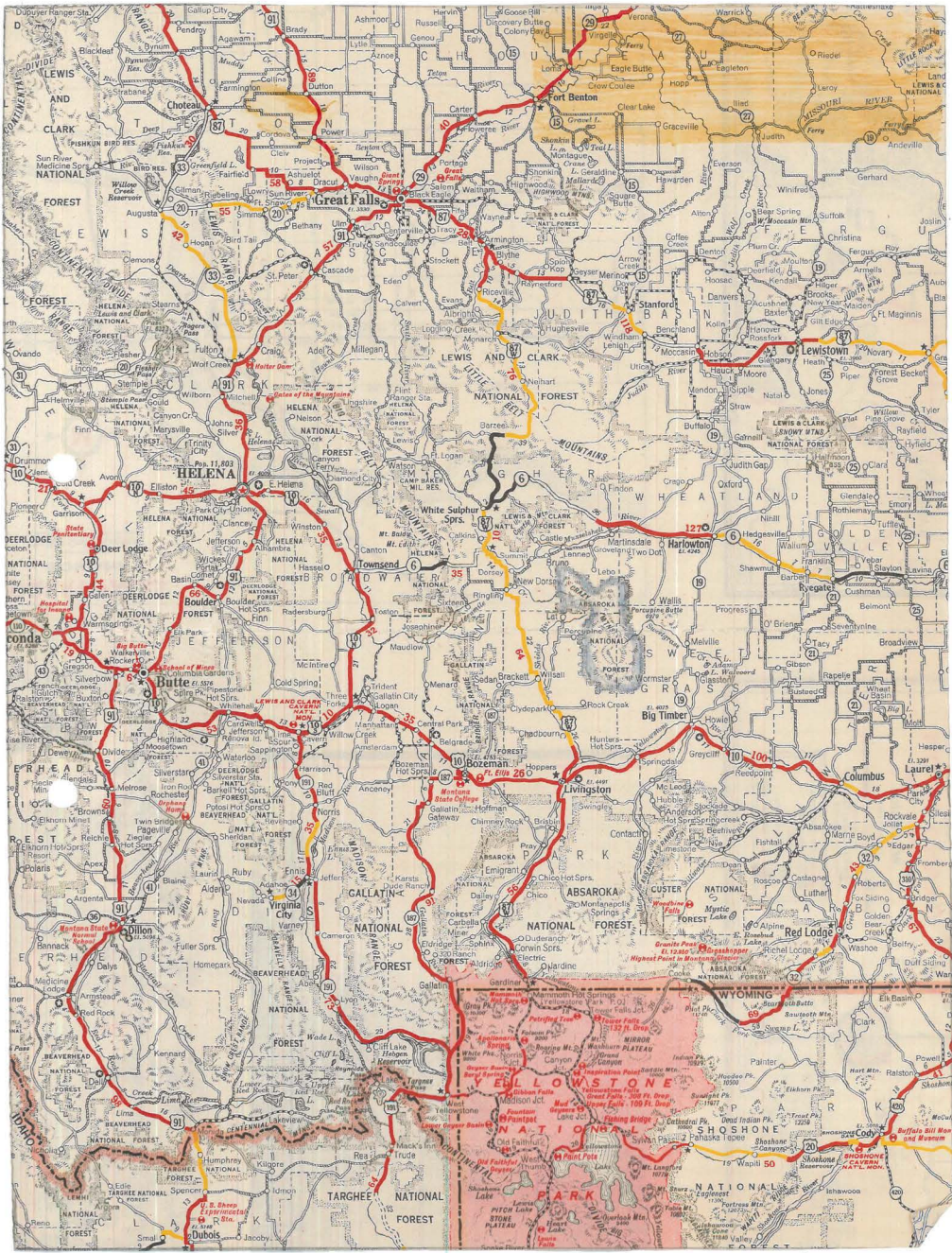
1934

Scale: 1" = 75 miles



7

Portion of  
Map of Montana  
Published by State Highway Commission  
1934  
Scale: 1" = 22 miles



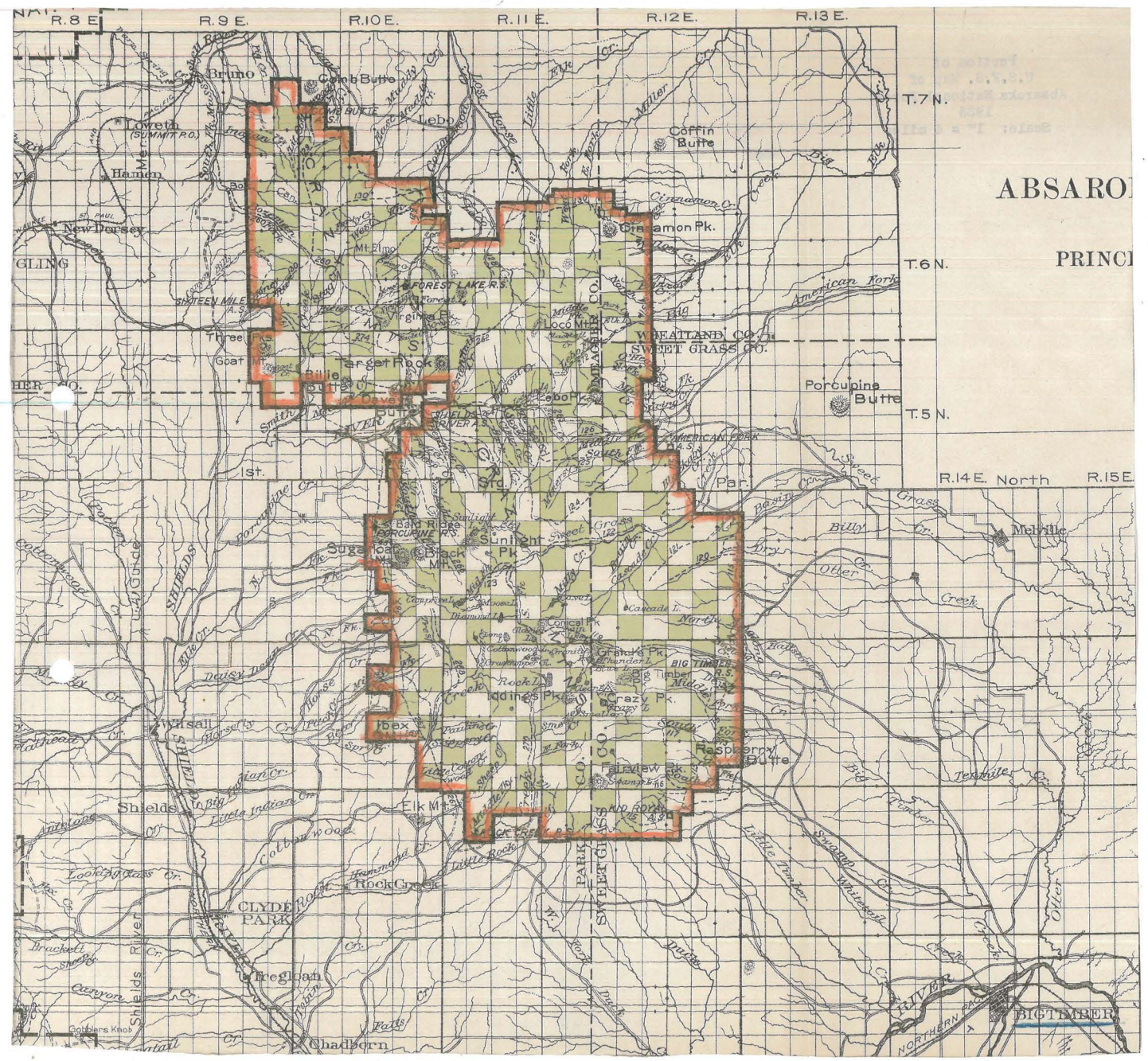


7  
Portion of  
Map of Montana  
Published by State Highway Commission  
1934

Scale: 1" = 22 miles





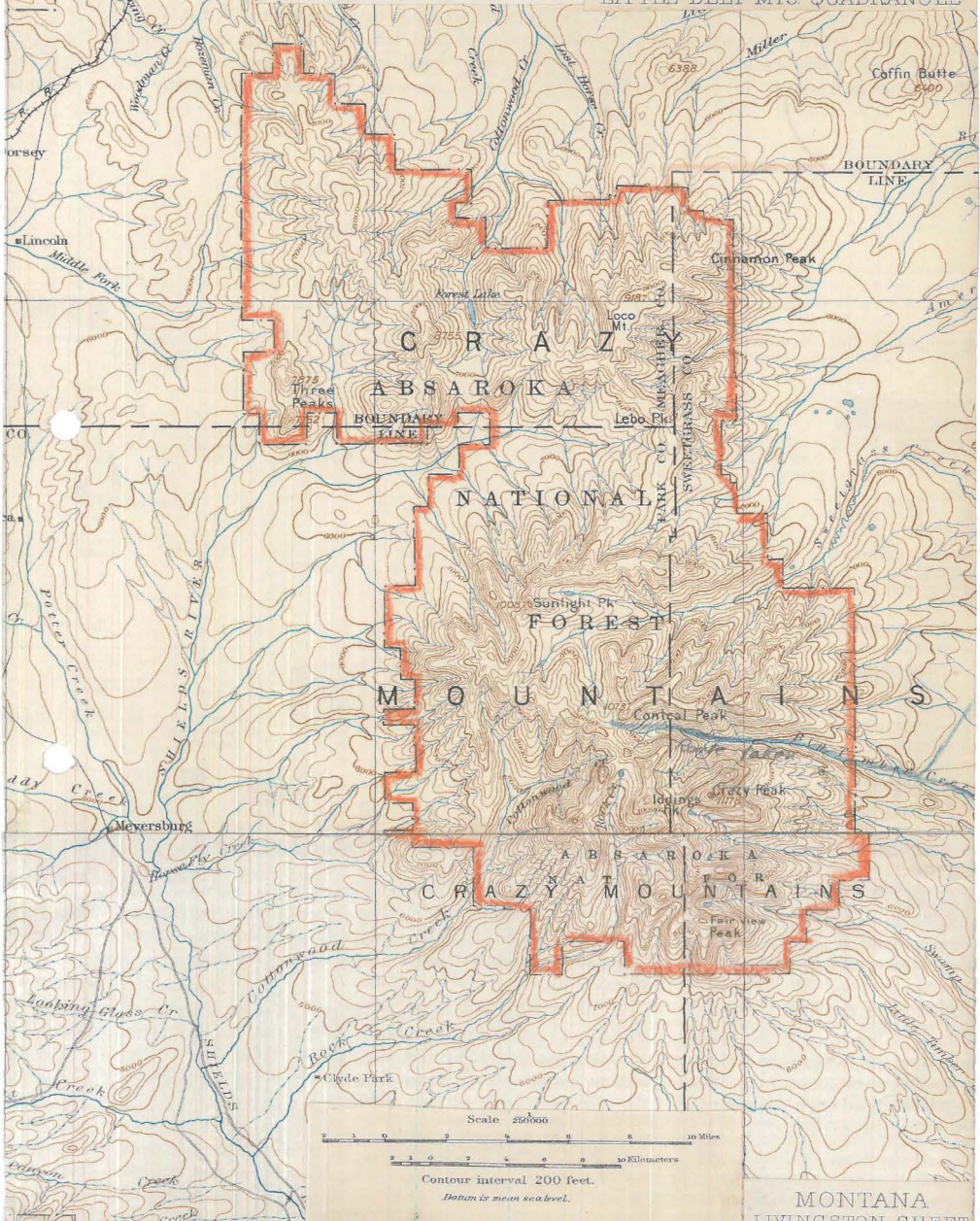


ABSAROKA

PRINCIPAL

BIG HORN





C R A Z Y  
M O U N T A I N S  
N A T I O N A L  
F O R E S T

A B S A R O K A  
C R A Z Y M O U N T A I N S

A B S A R O K A  
C R A Z Y M O U N T A I N S

Scale 250000



Contour interval 200 feet.  
Datum is mean sea level.