

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESS

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 31, 1925.

After a number of years of consideration and negotiation, agreements have been reached for the adjustment of the boundaries of four of the larger national parks in the West, it was announced at the Interior Department today.

The National Parks affected include the Yellowstone in Wyoming, the Grand Canyon in Arizona, the Mount Rainier in Washington, and the Sequoia in California. The proposed boundary adjustments were completed through the efforts of a special commission organized by the President's Committee on Recreation, composed of the Secretaries of War, Interior, <sup>Commerce</sup> Agriculture, and Labor. The personnel of the commission includes Representative Henry W. Temple, of Pennsylvania, chairman; Charles Sheldon of Washington, D. C.; Major W. A. Welch; Director Stephen T. Mather of the National Park Service, and W. B. Greeley, Chief of the Forest Service. In each case adjustments provide for the transfer of areas from the National Forests to the National Parks and eliminations from the parks to the forests, which will not affect materially grazing areas now available for stock raising. The agreements for new boundaries were reached after an extensive tour of the parks and forests by the committee during the past summer.

Adjustment of the boundaries of the Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming provide for the addition of the Teton Range with its lofty mountains towering 7,000 feet above the surrounding country. This area lies below the southwest end of the park and it is planned to administer it as a separate unit, leaving the area immediately to the north of the Tetons in the Teton National Forest. The eastern boundary of the park is also altered radically by making the crest of the <sup>Absaroka</sup> ~~Absarcke~~ Mountains as the boundary. The western

*Absaroka*

watershed of the ~~Absaroka~~ range becomes a portion of the park, while the eastern watershed, now included in the park, is transferred from the park to the Shoshone National Forest.

The watershed of the Upper Yellowstone River, which includes the Thoroughfare Basin, Bridger Lake and the entire drainage of the Upper Yellowstone, is added to the park. In proposing this addition proviso was made that this wilderness area should be kept intact and free from either roads or resort developments of any kind as a protection to the game. All the grazing and hunting area directly south of the park, which it had been proposed to include in the park, remains in the Teton National Forest.

The park line is drawn back to the Snake River, thus making a natural boundary at this point, and making it possible for timber to be utilized in this section by having the Snake River available for logging operations. These proposed changes will add over 300,000 acres to the Yellowstone Park. The entire area is practically high mountainous country and will affect very little, if any, of the present grazing area in the national forest surrounding the park. A very large area directly south of the park is made available for hunting. It is believed this plan will give Congress a basis for action at the coming session, as the administrative departments controlling the Federal area involved are thoroughly in accord on it.

The adjustments in the Grand Canyon National Park call for an addition of about 45,000 acres by elimination from the Kaibab National Forest north of the Colorado River, with a net addition to the park on the south side of about 2,000 acres. This area was studied on the ground by the commission which found the local people utilizing the Kaibab Forest for grazing thoroughly in accord with the plan on the north side. These additions will make possible the carrying out of the road program of the National Park Service by new road

building to the most scenic points along the north Canyon rim and at the same time give a reasonable sanctuary for the deer and other game in the northern portion of the park. The adjustments on the south side are relatively small, the most important of these being a small addition at the southeast corner to allow of some road development to Desert View and other scenic points on the south rim of the Canyon.

In Mount Rainier National Park adjustments provide that certain streams flowing from the park at the various corners become the natural boundaries. This is especially important in connection with the Nisqually River at the southwestern corner of the park and puts a most important road reaching Paradise Valley entirely within the park boundaries.

In the case of the Sequoia National Park in California, its proposed enlargement included the addition of the national forest land lying west of the park and up the crest of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The area has long been recognized as containing some of the most rugged and scenic country in the United States. It includes Mount Whitney, the highest mountain in the United States proper. Adjustment of the boundaries of this park were made between officials of the National Park Service and the Forest Service and the Commission accepted the agreement.

Changes in the boundaries of the national parks and forests must be approved by Congress before they become effective. The special commission has already filed its report with the President's Committee and after consideration by this Committee will be submitted to Congress at its coming session.