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THE PROPOSED ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT

*P 1, A20-21
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under same call*

Preliminary Report
To Governor Henry H. Blood

UTAH STATE PLANNING BOARD
May, 1936

By
Ray B. West
Director

3 Jan 76

Introduction:

The National Park Service is recommending the establishment of the Escalante National Monument. The monument has been discussed with Congressman Murdock and he in turn has referred it to Governor Blood. While the people of the State have not yet expressed their sentiment regarding this matter, the State Planning Board have been requested to consider the project.

Proposed Area:

The area included in this proposed national monument is shown on the accompanying map. It will contain approximately 6,968 square miles of mostly rough and difficult terrain or about 8% of the total area of the State. It will include a large area on both sides of the Colorado River from near the Grand-San Juan County lines to the Arizona line and both sides of the Green River from 15 miles south of the town of Green River, Utah, to its confluence with the Colorado.

The area nearly surrounds the southern portion of the La Sal National Forest on the east but will not include any land already included in National Forests or Indian Reservations.

Population:

The area is sparsely settled and contains only the towns of Fruita, Wayne County, and Hite, San Juan County, a small settlement on the Colorado River, both with a population of about fifty people.

Included in this area are approximately 33,290 acres of patented land and 38 sections or 24,320 acres of school lands. There are about 151 unsurveyed townships which contain 604 sections of potential school lands.

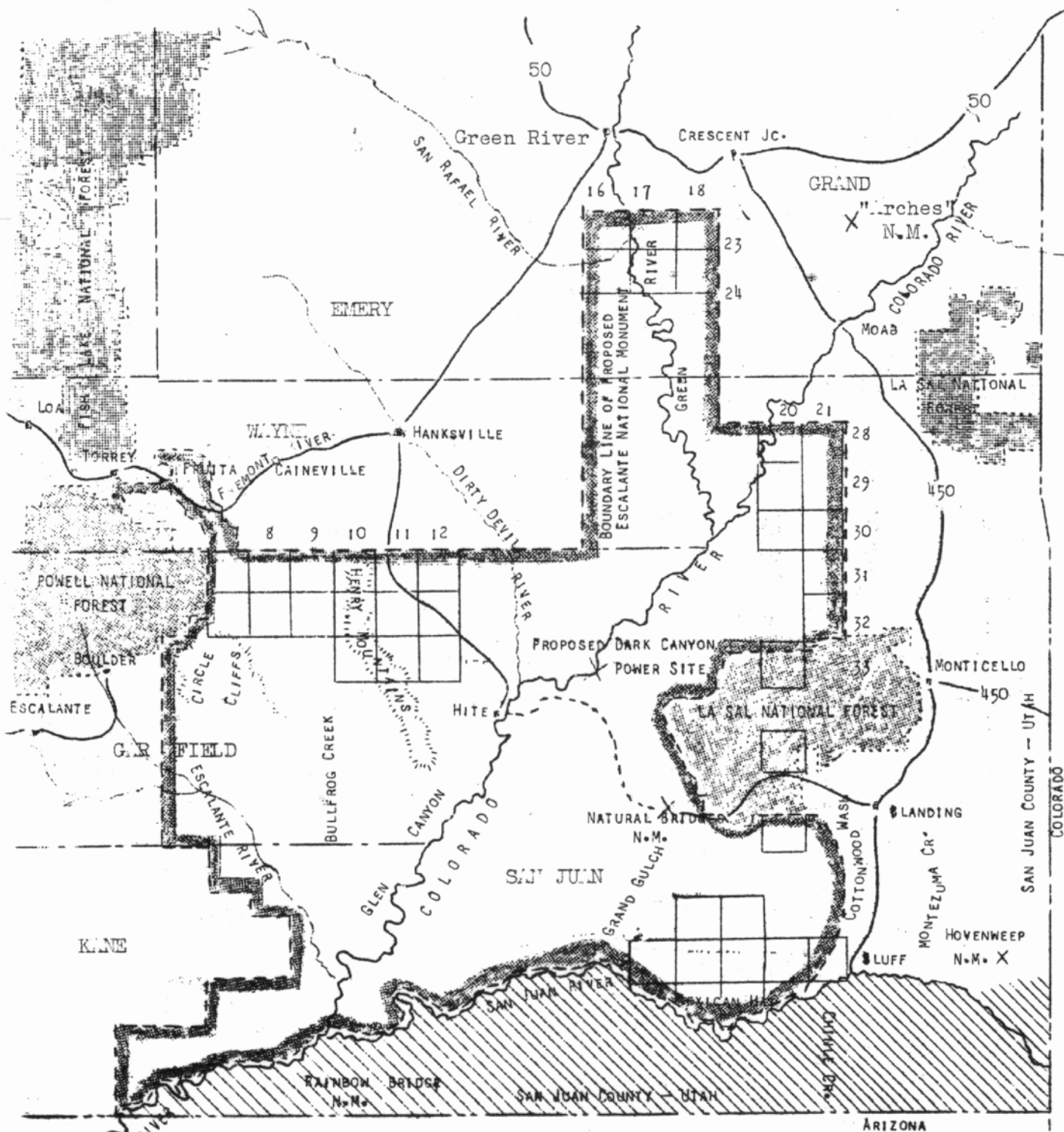
Land Use:

The area includes about 50% of Grazing Districts No. 5 and 6, and

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

PROPOSED ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT

April, 1936



LEGEND

-  HIGHWAYS
-  PROPOSED HIGHWAYS
-  INDIAN RESERVATIONS
-  NATIONAL FORESTS
-  PROPOSED MONUMENT BOUNDARY

about 10% of No. 7. Mr. John Q. Peterson of the Taylor Grazing Act Staff estimates that there are 463 families dependent upon this area for year round grazing of their livestock. It is estimated that there are 26,290 cattle, 2,618 horses, 144,298 sheep and 534 goats which pay to the State in grazing fees about \$26,000.

Mineral Resources:

A number of bulletins and professional papers have been issued by the United States Geological Survey covering the geology, water supply, etc., of several of the more important areas in this proposed national monument. These indicate that the mineral production has been relatively unimportant to the present time.

The principal minerals mentioned are gold, both as placer and as lode, vanadium, uranium, copper and oil. Of these the gold developments are probably the most important. When the relatively low grade American uranium deposits were able to compete with production elsewhere, southwestern Utah held the promise of supplying an important part of this material. The development of large uranium deposits of good grade in northern Canada and in Central Africa greatly reduces the importance of Utah ores.

The copper occurrences are principally in sandstone and those so far discovered are not important. The oil wells that have so far been drilled have not developed any commercial sources of oil. Deeper drilling might change this but they would have to be exceptionally productive to receive much attention so far from a railroad.

The Henry Mountains is probably the most important area from which future mineral developments might be expected. There is also always the possibility that due to the inability to import uranium, the small bodies of relatively low grade carnotite may become a commercial source of this element.

The gold developments might conceivably improve to the point where capital may be induced to carry on large scale operations. The lack of railroad transportation has hampered the developments of this region.

The sands of the Colorado River have long been worked for their gold contents and occasionally the results obtained have warranted further operation; however, the production from this source has also not been large. The entire recorded gold production of Garfield and San Juan Counties for 1934 has been reported as 20 ounces of gold as against 136,581 ounces for the entire State of Utah.

Advantages:

The principal advantages that will accrue from the designation of this area as a national monument will be the preservation for all time and under proper control of the many scenic wonders and areas of archaeological importance.

Among the attractions already of great interest in this area are the Natural Bridges, the Wayne Wonderland, the Aquarius Plateau, the Petrified Forests, and the Thousand Lake Mountain.

The creation of this area as a national monument will mean the expenditure of large sums of money for the construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, lodges, stores, etc., all of which can be more satisfactorily carried on by the National Government than by the State or by private individuals. To illustrate the expenditures that may be involved in such a project Mr. P. P. Patraw, Superintendent of Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks, makes the following statements:

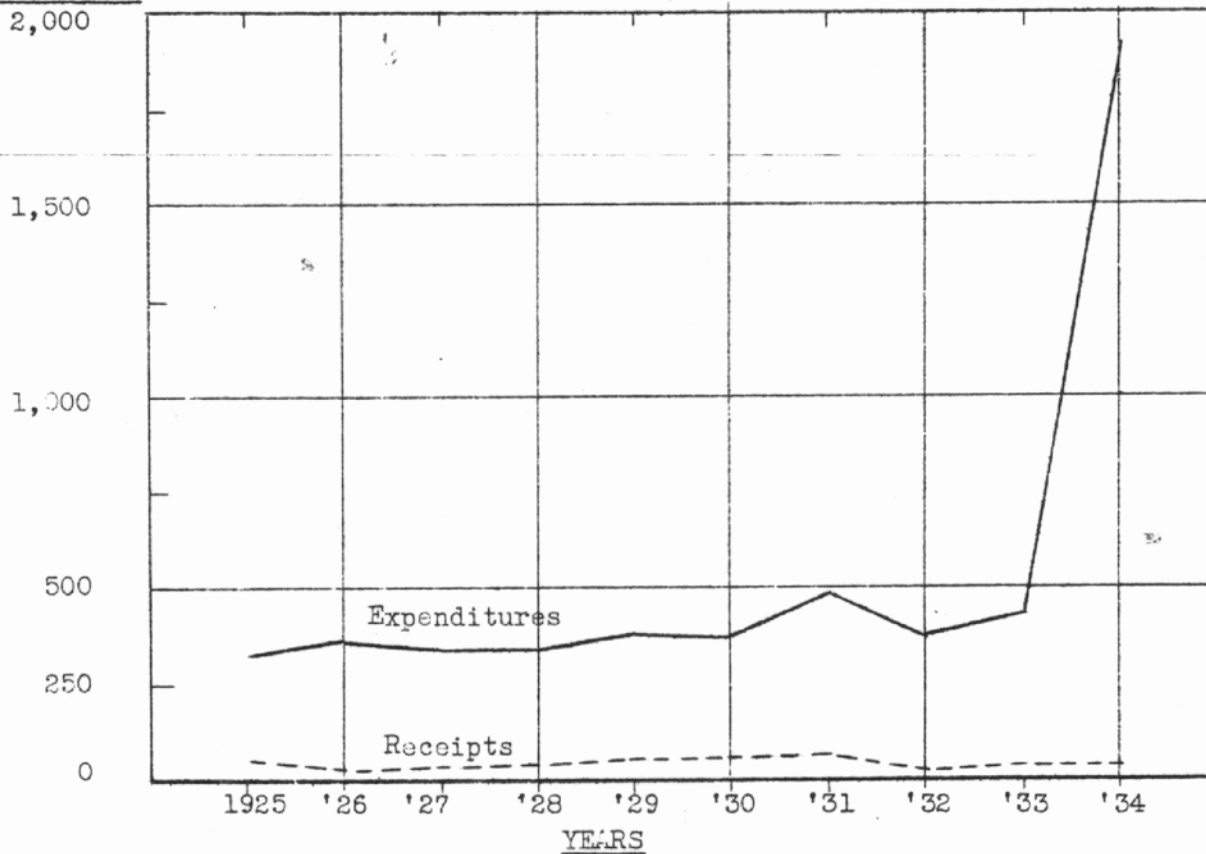
"During these seven years (1929-1935) the federal appropriations for operation, maintenance, and new construction were \$1,208,979.00 for Zion, and \$663,101.00 for Bryce, making a total of \$1,872,080.00, which was expended chiefly in Utah. From this should be subtracted entrance fee permits paid

NATIONAL FOREST EXPENDITURES*

AND RECEIPTS IN UTAH

Thousands
of Dollars

1925 - 1934



<u>YEAR</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
1925	\$51,042.63	\$ 324,701.11
1926	38,367.53	355,480.69
1927	46,624.26	346,530.40
1928	49,701.46	348,121.90
1929	51,287.05	374,947.28
1930	57,806.17	370,615.32
1931	58,054.73	479,225.70
1932	24,830.50	375,250.80
1933	44,624.51	439,668.75
1934	48,235.79	1,911,712.78
TOTAL	\$470,574.63	\$5,326,254.73

SOURCE: United States Forest Office, District #4.

* Except Forest Highway and Regional Office Funds.

to the United States Treasury, to the amount of \$69,405.50. It is interesting to note that this amount is only 5.7 percent of the appropriations, and that less than one-third of it was paid by Utah residents."

The United States Forest Service has expended in the Forests of the State (1925 to 1934) \$5,326,254.73, exclusive of Highway and Regional Office Funds, and have received in grazing fees, timber sales, rentals, etc., \$470,574.63. A graph showing the expenditures and receipts of this work is attached to this report.

It is reasonable to expect that the proceeds due directly or indirectly to tourist business will mean more to Southern Utah than those from any other use to which this barren and almost unproductive area may be put.

The eventual development of the proposed Dark Canyon hydro-electric power site will also not be affected by the withdrawal of this land. This would no doubt be a government project if ever undertaken.

Disadvantages:

The withdrawal of the area included in this proposed national monument will probably prohibit future mineral developments. While the geology of the area is not such as to expect the discovery of enormous and valuable ore deposits, the possible income from such a discovery should not be overlooked and it may be advisable that the Henry Mountain area be not included in this proposed national monument. Any placering for gold on the Green or Colorado Rivers will be so small compared with the width and depth of the river canyons that it is inconceivable that any placering operations could change its scenic interest and it is suggested that placering be permitted to continue, if necessary, under government supervision.