



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Zion National Park  
Springdale, Utah 84767

IN REPLY REFER TO:

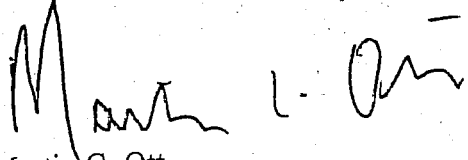
A-2615 (Zion-S)

February 9, 2001

Memorandum

To: Director, Intermountain Region  
From: Superintendent, Zion National Park  
Subject: Superintendent's Annual Report  
Reply Due: February 9, 2001

Enclosed is the requested subject report for Zion National Park for the fiscal year 2000.

  
Martin C. Ott

Enclosure

The shuttle began actual operation on May 23, and the ribbon cutting ceremony occurred on May 26 with members of the congressional delegation, other dignitaries and local, state and regional constituents in attendance. The park hosted an open house in the old visitor center lobby and served punch and cake. A barbecue was held in the evening for invited guests.

Actual boardings for the first season, May 23 to October 29, were 1,552,113. There is no measure at this time for the average number of times an individual boards the shuttle. PTI operated for 34,091 hours of service.

The system received a high approval rating from park visitors throughout the summer. PTI was flexible and adaptable in responding to the needs of both the park and the visitors.

## ADMINISTRATION

### Budget

The ONPS budget for fiscal year 2000 was \$4,895,000 with \$133,000 being set aside as fee enhancement (no-year) funding. After the following adjustments our final total was \$4,863,600:

- \$48.0 permanent decrease for Fee Collection Operations
- \$40.4 one time decrease for PCS moves
- \$28.0 one time decrease for Reutilization Program
- \$26.0 one time increase for Concessions Management Salary
- \$14.0 one time increase of Contingency Funding for CISD/SAR Investigation
- \$45.0 one time increase for Special Development Training

This was accountable in 250 accounts and 11 different fund sources. Breakout by fund source is listed as follows:

• 01) ONPS	\$4,730.6
• 01) SEPAS	130.3
• 01) Volunteers in Park	5.8
• 01) Tunnel Operations	251.7
• 01) Commercial Filming	1.5
• 01) Incidental Business Permits	3.2
• 01) Minor Search and Rescue	3.4
• 01) Major Search and Rescue (17 events)	46.0
• 04) Fee Enhancement (No-Year)	133.0
• 05) Construction (Includes Equipment Replacement)	9,139.4
• 06) Reimbursables	224.2
• 25) Recreation Fee Demonstration	2,598.7
• 26) Donations (Includes Kolob)	114.8
• 34) Quarters (Includes Kolob)	184.4

- 44) Federal Lands Highway Program 2,585.6
- 45) Transportation Fund 1,441.7
- 68) Concession Franchise Fees .9
- 85) Fire Program 1,073.9

Total fiscal accountability for 2000 was \$22,669,100.

**Contracting/Procurement/Property**

<u>CONTRACT #</u>	<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Dollar Amount</u>
• CX1590-A-0001 Trash, solid waste removal	Camco Disposal	\$22,166.54
• CX1590-AO-0003 Supply & Application of bituminous material for roadway/switchback & canyon	Crown Asphalt	\$44,000.00
• CX1590-AO-0004 Furnish & install/ construct car wash	Royce Industries	\$63,621.05
• CX1590-AO-0005 Supply & application of bituminous material Watchman, yard, bus maint.	Ashdown Brothers	\$166,110.95
• CX1590-AO-0006 Install split rail fence at new visitor center	Apache Enterprises	\$9,500.00
• CX1590-AO-007 Tunnel spring adit repair	MCO Mine Services	\$110,000.00

## Backcountry

Some of the most dramatic visitation increases occurred in the slot canyons. This was the third season that we required permits for all technical slot canyons (as opposed to just requiring permits for canyons that feed into the Narrows). Part of the increase in use for canyons like Behunin and Pine Creek could be attributed to visitors' increasing understanding of the permit requirement.

There was a decrease in the number of overnight climbing permits. Much of this decrease occurred during the fall. The fall of 2000 was unusually cold and rainy. It is also possible that some of the decrease in climbing use was caused by the mandatory canyon shuttle system in place through the end of October.

### **Backcountry Visitor Use Statistics**

(Numbers in parenthesis are the percentage increase over 1999/1998 figures)

	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
Number of Permits	6,947 (30%/76%)	5,358	3,950
Number of Users	23,875 (42%/100%)	16,835	11,963
Visitor Use Nights	14,687 (32%/36%)	11,252	10,925
Average Group Size	3.4 (10%/13%)	3.1	3.0

### **Types of Permits**

Back Country Camping	2,618 (35%/40%)	1,938	1,874
Narrow Canyon Day	2,910 (46%/180%)	1,990	1,039
Narrow Canyon Overnight	1,051 (38%/123%)	761	471
Overnight Climbing	371 (-45%/-34)	669	566

### **Breakdown into Specific Areas**

Narrows Day	640 (33%/124%)	710	434
Narrows Overnight	989 (39%/128%)	710	434
Subway Day	1,389 (36%/146%)	1,022	565
Pine Creek Day	317 (106%/346%)	154	71

Orderville Day	192 (12%/170%)	171	71
Keyhole Canyon Day	139 (184%/infinite)	49	9
Hop Valley & La Verkin Overnight	1,141 (143%/2020%)	470	378

### KOLOB DISTRICT OPERATIONS

Total visitation in 2000 was 167,309, a decrease from 176,947 in 1999. Even though the total visitation number is down, the number of visitors using the trails, backcountry permits and the total fees collected increased.

Coordination with resource management continued in supporting several volunteer groups from the American Hiking Society and the Wilderness Volunteers to work on the Horse Ranch Mountain area exotic plant eradication. This is a continuing program to control the scotch thistle and mullein in this area. Another volunteer group from the American Hiking Society worked the La Verkin Creek drainage to control scotch thistle, mullein, and tamarisk. The Kolob Canyons staff was able to continue exotic plant eradication using mechanical and chemical means in Hop Valley, LaVerkin Creek, Timber Creek, Taylor Creek, and Camp Creek with 495 scotch thistle, 2,352 mullein, 66 tamarisk and 33 Russian olive removed.

The Kolob Canyons staff completed numerous small trail maintenance projects on the Timber Creek Overlook Trail, Taylor Creek Trail, and Hop Valley/LaVerkin Creek Trails. The yearly campsite monitoring in LaVerkin Creek was completed along with trail monitoring.

An air quality monitoring station was installed at the Kolob Canyons District under a cooperative agreement with NPS and the University of California Davis with weekly checks required. The staff also continued with the ozone-monitoring project near the Timber Creek Overlook. The Kolob Canyons staff also assisted with the mapping of plant communities, Goshawk surveys, Peregrine Falcon surveys, sound monitoring and archeological site restoration.

#### Interpretation

In 2000, 140 short talks were presented to 777 visitors. Both of these are up from 1999. These programs included topics on botany, geology, and wildlife. Guided hikes were presented on Saturday mornings, May through September. These hikes began at the Taylor Creek trailhead and ended at the Larson Cabin. They were about two hours in duration. Approximately 275 visitors joined us for an average of about 10 visitors a hike.

Roving interpretation was again a strong point in 2000. 3,869 visitors were contacted on 352 roves. School outreach programs were also very strong and well received by all. During the spring, an ecosystems program was developed and presented to 5 local