



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Zion National Park
Springdale, Utah 84767

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A2615 (ZION-S)

February 7, 2003

Memorandum

To: Director, Intermountain Region
From: Acting Superintendent, Zion National Park
Subject: Superintendent's Annual Report
Reply Due: February 7, 2003

Enclosed is the requested subject report for Zion National Park for the fiscal year 2002.

Eddie L. Lopez

Enclosure

ADMINISTRATION

Budget

The ONPS budget for fiscal year 2002 started out with a green book figure of \$5,963,000; after all assessments and adjustments, the final figure was \$6,075,500. The park received a \$152,000 base increase as part of the Natural Resource Challenge.

Indicated below is the breakout of appropriated or revenue amounts by fund source, accountable in 212 accounts and 9 fund sources:

01)	ONPS	\$6,075.5
01)	SEPAS	\$ 120.6
01)	Volunteers in Park	\$ 5.8
01)	Tunnel Operations	\$ 195.3
01)	Commercial Filming	\$ 1.3
01)	Incidental Business Permits	\$ 5.1
01)	Minor SAR	\$ 7.0
01)	Major SAR	\$ 65.8
06)	Reimbursable	\$ 140.3
22)	National Park Pass	\$ 946.4
25)	Recreation Fee Demonstration	\$2,080.6
26)	Donations (Includes Kolob)	\$ 17.3
34)	Quarters (Includes Kolob)	\$ 217.0
45)	Transportation Fund	\$1,441.1
68)	Concessions Franchise Fee	\$ 5.4
85)	Fire Program	\$3,088.4

Total fiscal responsibility for FY2002 was \$14,415,900

Contracting/Procurement/Property

Advance acquisition plans were prepared for seven "proposed projects" for projects over \$25,000.00.

Prepared bid documents, conducted bid openings, awarded, administered the following contracts:

Contracts:

C1590-02-0001 – Maintenance service for elevator – one-year contract with renewal options up to five years. Awarded to: Thyssen Dover Elevator, \$2,584.00.

C1590-02-0002 – Trash collection – one-year contract with renewal options up to five years. Awarded to: Camco Disposal \$21,780.64.

C1590-02-0003 – Alarm monitoring of systems throughout Zion – one-year contract with renewal options up to five years. Awarded to: Mountain Alarm \$3,420.00.

Plateau District

Some of the most dramatic increases occurred in the slot canyons. This was the fifth 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, Mystery, and Pine Creek canyons could be attributed to visitors' increasing understanding of the permit requirement and exposure through use.

2002 Backcountry Statistics Comparison

During the 2002 season, we issued 7,801 permits to 27,298 visitors who spent 14,342 nights in the backcountry. Trends that we have seen over the last few years have continued. The number of permits increased by 6% over the number of permits issued in 2001. The number of backcountry camping permits remained static, and the number of climbing bivouac permits decreased. The number of day and overnight permits for Zion's slot canyons increased with some areas seeing dramatic increases.

Here are some comparisons over the last five years.

Overall

1998 3,950 Permits
1999 5,358 Permits, 36% increase over 1998
2000 6,947 Permits, 30% increase over 1999
2001 7,358 Permits, 6% increase over 2000
2002 7,801 Permits, 6% increase over 2001
1998 through 2002, 97% increase

Backcountry Camping

1998 1,874 Permits
1999 1,938 Permits, 3% increase over 1998
2000 2,618 Permits, 35% increase over 1999
2001 2,519 Permits, 4% decrease over 2000
2002 2,505 permits, 1% decrease over 2001
1998 through 2002, 34% increase

Narrow Canyon Day Use

1998 1,039 Permits
1999 1,990 Permits, 92% increase over 1998
2000 2,910 Permits, 46% increase over 1999
2001 3,437 Permits, 18% increase over 2000
2002 3,812 permits, 11% increase over 2001
1998 through 2002, 267% increase

Narrow Canyon Overnight Use

1998 471 Permits
1999 761 Permits, 62% increase over 1998
2000 1,051 Permits, 38% increase over 1999
2001 934 Permits, 11% decrease over 2000
2002 1,091 Permits, 17% increase over 2001
1998 through 2002, 132% increase

Overnight Climbing

1998 566 Permits
1999 669 Permits, 18% increase over 1998
2000 371 Permits, 45% decrease over 1999
2001 433 Permits, 17% increase over 2000
2002 392 Permits, 9% decrease over 2001
1998 through 2002, 31% decrease

Virgin River Boating

2000 11 Permits
2001 35 Permits
2001 1 Permit

Recent Permit Changes

1998 was the first year that permits were required for all of the park's technical canyons. There have been no significant changes in permit requirements since 1998. The cost of permits did decrease from \$5 per person per night to \$5 per permit from the 1999 to the 2000 season. 2000 was the first year that there was a fee for overnight climbing permits.

Long-Term Trends

There have been a number of changes in permit requirements over the last 20 years. Once those changes have been accounted for, it appears that we had a 100% increase in backcountry use from 1980 through 1990, and another 100% increase from 1990 to 2000. 1997 was the first year that the park charged for permits. There was a dip in use from 1996 through 1997.

Specific Areas

The following areas received greater than a 30% change in use from 1998 through 2001. Only areas where 100 or more permits were issued were looked at.

Backpacking

Southwest Desert

1998 248 permits
1999 113 permits, 54% decrease over 1998
2000 196 permits, 73% increase over 1999
2001 173 permits, 12% decrease over 2000
2002 123 permits, 29% decrease over 2001
1998 through 2002, 50% decrease

LaVerkin Creek

1998 378 permits
1999 470 permits, 24% increase over 1998
2000 1,141 permits, 143% increase over 1999
2001 1,032 permits, 10% decrease over 2000
2002 1,139 permits, 10% increase over 2001
1998 through 2002, 201% increase

East Rim

1998 446 permits
1999 411 permits, 8% decrease over 1998
2000 381 permits, 7% decrease over 1999
2001 329 permits, 14% decrease over 2000
2002 204 permits, 38% decrease over 2001
1998 through 2002, 54% decrease

West Rim

1998 727 permits
1999 899 permits, 24% increase over 1998
2000 840 permits, 6% decrease over 1999
2001 909 permits, 8% increase over 2000
2002 955 permits, 5% increase over 2001
1998 through 2002, 31% increase

Narrow Canyon Day Use

Narrows – 80 person/day limit throughout period

1998 286 permits
1999 482 permits, 69% increase over 1998
2000 640 permits, 33% increase over 1999
2001 646 permits, 1% increase over 2000
2002 698 permits, 7% increase over 2001
1998 through 2002, 144% increase

Subway – 50 person/day limit throughout period

1998 565 permits
1999 1,022 permits, 81% increase over 1998
2000 1,389 permits, 36% increase over 1999
2001 1,399 permits, 1% increase over 2000
2002 1,281 permits, 8% decrease over 2001
1998 through 2002, 127% increase

Pine Creek

1998 71 permits
1999 154 permits, 117% increase over 1998
2000 317 permits, 106% increase over 1999
2001 417 permits, 32% increase over 2000
2002 598 permits, 43% increase over 2001
1998 through 2002, 742% increase

Mystery Canyon

1998 38 permits
1999 81 permits, 113% increase over 1998
2000 143 permits, 77% increase over 1999
2001 215 permits, 50% increase over 2000
2002 283 permits, 32% increase over 2001
1998 through 2002, 645% increase

Keyhole Canyon

1998 0 permits
1999 49 permits
2000 139 permits, 184% increase over 1999
2001 268 permits, 93% increase over 2000
2002 306 permits, 14% increase over 2001
1999 through 2002, 524% increase

Behunin Canyon

1998 9 permits
1999 45 permits, 400% increase over 1998
2000 77 permits, 71% increase over 1999
2001 120 permits, 56% increase over 2000
2002 99 permits, 18% decrease over 2001
1998 through 2002, 1000% increase

Narrow Canyon Overnight Use

Narrows

1998 434 permits
1999 710 permits, 64% increase over 1998
2000 989 permits, 39% increase over 1999

2001 870 permits, 12% decrease over 2000
2002 1012 permits, 16% increase over 2001
1998 through 2002, 133% increase

Some other areas to watch

Spry Canyon

2001 28 permits
2001 65 permits, 132% increase

Echo Canyon

2001 45 permits
2002 72 permits, 60% increase

Kolob Creek

2001 24 permits
2002 44 permits, 83% increase

Months

January 47 permits
February 76 permits
March 498 permits. Permit staff took the desk over from interpretation on 3/9.
April 668 permits
May 1,323 permits. Permits were issued through the spring for the Narrows.
June 1,348 permits. Busiest month ever for Zion's backcountry.
July 1,055 permits
August 1,004 permits
September 841 permits. After a record setting spring/summer, the fall was slow.
October 657 permits
November 238 permits. Desk operated 50% by permit staff, 50% by interpretation.
December 48 permits. Desk operated by interpretive staff.

District Incident Summary

- 10 weapons violations on KT road (one a concealed weapon)
- 1 wildlife incident; spotlighting, possession, molesting
- 1 damage to government property/BC signs
- 1 damage to private property
- 3 natural resource damage; KT road and Virgin River
- 10 dog violations in the backcountry
- 5 incidents of driving off roadway
- 14 drug/alcohol cases on KT road
- 1 incident of theft from vehicles parked at trailheads on KT road
- 1 incident of recovery of stolen property
- 1 DUI arrest
- 2 cases of public intoxication
- 1 incident of disorderly conduct
- 259 vehicle license, driving, equipment violations on KT road

- 3 warrant arrests
- 3 incidents of closure/trespass violations
- 18 visitor assistance calls
- 1 LE agency assist
- 2 livestock trespass/grazing violations
- 8 closure/trespass violations
- 3 camping violations
- 1 commercial business, operating without a permit
- 25 BC permit violations
- 1 bicycle in the backcountry violation
- On staff: 2 Park Medics, 5 EMT's, and 3 First Responders
- Coordinated EMT-B refresher for all park EMS staff
- 19 EMS cases in BC (includes 3 ALS cases)
- 3 technical rescues
- 13 non-technical rescues
- 2 water rescues
- 8 searches

Resource Protection

- Patrolled over 3,500 miles of trails and canyon routes
- Dismantled a total of 40 fire rings
- Removed 50-60 graffiti panels
- Removed an estimated total of 150+lbs. of trash
- Inventoried exotic plants and provided eradication assistance
- Collected annual campsite monitoring data on all designated campsites
- Performed trails clearing and project work
- Conducted Peregrine Falcon monitoring for climbing restrictions
- Ten district personnel obtained Red Cards
- Provided a canyoneering safety training for all staff
- Conducted and documented archeological site data
- Continued human waste disposal program in the Narrows
- Worked with Access Fund to improve climbing route access trails with clean up
- Developed backcountry trip planning and education displays in visitor center

Communication Center

The supervisory dispatcher position description was reclassified in May due to an accretion of duties.

Lorri Economy was hired through the Student Career Employment Program (SCEP) into a permanent, full-time dispatcher position in May. Karen Fleming, who transferred to a dispatcher position at Shenandoah National Park in February, previously occupied this position.

One permanent, full-time dispatcher position was vacant at the end of the year. The position was previously occupied by Scott Cooper, who went on leave without pay in December to move to North Carolina.