



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In reply refer to:
11415 JACK

PRS 2392

OCT 10 1950

Air Mail

OCT 10 1950

My dear Mr. Bagley:

I have received your request of September 20 that no restrictions be imposed by the National Park Service on hunting within the newly established Grand Teton National Park for the 1950 season.

I can readily appreciate the situation which confronts the numerous sportsmen, both resident and non-resident, who have purchased Wyoming hunting licenses and have incurred trouble and expense in traveling to and establishing their camps in the area. Many have hunted in the Park since it became an actuality on September 14, when the President signed the act of establishment.

Accordingly, at the request of Governor Crane, I telegraphed him on September 26 as follows:

"Hunting regulations have been suspended for hunters legally licensed by State of Wyoming prior to passage of act creating Grand Teton National Park during 1950 hunting season, as established prior to September 14, effective date of act."

Regulations to give this informal arrangement legal effect are being promulgated. Thus the portion of the enlarged park which was formerly known as Jackson Hole National Monument will remain open to hunting, as set forth in the regulations of the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, which regulations had been issued and published prior to the signing of the act of September 14, 1950, establishing the new Grand Teton National Park, and for such hunting licenses as had been sold by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission prior to the same date, September 14, 1950.

If the imposition of Federal restrictions concerning hunting in the newly established Park would embarrass you and your Commission, I can assure you that equally grave embarrassment devolves on me and this Department as a result of the need for finding a way out of this dilemma. The act which established the new Grand Teton National Park does not allow the hunting of any animal species at any time or place within the boundaries, except elk

within certain specified portions of the area and then only after following certain preliminary procedures as described in Section 5. Other laws which are applicable to the administration of national parks, and which are not rendered inoperative by any portion of the new Grand Teton Act, are explicit in requiring protection of park wildlife. I feel strongly that your Commission, with the knowledge it possessed last Spring concerning discussions of a settlement of the Jackson Hole National Monument controversy, could well have drafted its 1950 hunting regulations with greater discernment and flexibility. However, we are confronted with a serious problem for the hunters who purchased licenses in good faith and traveled to and are hunting in the area, and I shall certainly try to work out a solution.

As I wrote Governor Crane some time ago, I have asked the National Park Service of this Department to work out and discuss with you a joint program of study concerning elk numbers, migrations, winter range conditions and other factors which bear on the herd reduction problem. This study is required by Section 6 of the act establishing the enlarged Grand Teton National Park as a prerequisite for drafting a program of elk management and hunting for the Fall of 1951.

Sincerely yours,

(SG) SCOTT L. CHAMBERLAIN
Secretary of the Interior

Mr. Lester Bagley
State Game and Fish Commissioner
Game and Fish Commission
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Copy to: Hon. Joseph C. O'Malley
Hon. Lester C. Hunt
Hon. Frank A. Sarrett
Governor A. G. Crane
Mr. Carl Shoemaker, National Wildlife Federation,
3308 - 14th Street, NW., Washington 10, D. C., with copy
of Mr. Bagley's letter of September 20, 1950 (By NPS)
Regional Director, Region Two (2), with copies of Mr. Bagley's
letter of September 20, 1950 (By NPS)
✓ Mr. Drury (By NPS)
Mr. Wirth (By NPS)

VHCahalane:CLW:jca