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By J.M.H.V.A. Date 12-9

10-23
(May 1929)

6-7410

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SALTON BASIN NATIONAL ~~PARK~~ MONUMENT

FILE NO. 0-35

PART 1

PROPOSED MONUMENT

SALTON BASIN

LAST DATE ON TOP

IMPORTANT

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,
Director.

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Authority: 1-129580023
By: J.M. Date: 10/27/97

file

SALTON BASIN NATIONAL MONUMENT, ARIZONA.

LOCATION
AND
AREA:

In Yuma County, Arizona. Area not known.

HISTORY AND
REMARKS:

The only information we have is a letter dated March 25, 1932, from Mr. Toll on the proposed Castle Dome National Monument, that he may report on Salton Basin next winter.

ACCESSI-
BILITY:

PERSONS
INTERESTED:

STATUS:

Mr. Toll is expecting to examine this area during the winter of 1932-1933.

HLB-fmd

C O P Y

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
515 New Custom House,
Denver, Colorado.
March 25, 1932.

The Director,
National Park Service,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Director:

On October 21, 1930, you forwarded some correspondence from the Forest Service, one paragraph of which reads as follows:

"The Castle Dome and Kofa Mountains and a limited area around their bases are well worth considering as a National Park. As far as is known, the National Park Service has no comparable country included within its area and these mountains should not be released for private use until that Service has made an examination if such has not already been done."

There was no opportunity to visit this area on the last trip, but I made inquiries regarding it. At first I got hearsay reports of native palms in these mountains and was inclined to regard them as legendary, but am now positive that these palms do exist. I have seen photographs of a group of palms containing a group of about 50 individuals, 25 to 30 feet in height of the species "Washingtonia Arizona Cook." Other groups of about six palms, 15 palms, and 80 palms are said to be located in the Kofa Mountains but this is hearsay. It is not certain whether other palms exist in the Castle Dome Mountains.

The mountains have cliffs about 1,200 feet in height and, while the mountains are low in elevation, the scenery is said to be exceptionally rocky with narrow canyons. It seems quite likely that a very desirable monument can be found in this region. It is important to protect the best of these palms, since they will become such in demand for transplanting as rare species. Heretofore they have been protected because of the fact that so little was known about them.

There is a rumor of mountain sheep in this area.

It seems a desirable region to put on the list for next winter, together with the sand dunes of the Salton Basin, which are not far distant. The Marqua Kala Mountains, which are also in this region, and are included in the list of proposed national monuments, could also be included at the same time.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd) ROGER A. TOLL.