UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WASHINGTON 25, D, C.

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK, MONTANA

A History of its Establishment and Revision of its Boundaries

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The Boundaries of Glacier Kational Park

Glacier National Park, carved out of National Forest land by act of Congress May 11, 1910 (36 Stat. 354), has ever since enjoyed fixed and logical boundaries.

These boundaries, formed either by topographical features or by political limits impossible or at best very difficult to change, make the park a clearly defined unit of territory embracing the Continental Divide. Few serious attempts have been made to change them.

Glacier Park is bounded on the north by the United States-Canada international boundary; on the east by the Blackfeet Indian Reservation; on the south by the right-of-way of the Great Morthern Railroad, and on the west by the Middle and North forks of the Flathead River.

The Park was created largely through the efforts of George Bird Grinnell, explorer and author, who made many trips into the area and recognized not only its scenic value and significance as a game reserve but also its importance as a vaterahed. Benator Thomas H. Carter and Representative Charles B. Free of Montana, and L. W. Hill, President of the Great Northern Hallroad, were among the most enthusiastic of the park sponsors.

At the time (1891) the area east of the Continental Divide was a part of the Blackfeet Reservation but was bought from the Indians in 1895 so as to allow prospecting and the mining claims. The whole region was created a forest reserve in 1897.

Hopes for rich mineral strikes waned, however; most of the prospectors departed within a few years, and in the early years of the twentieth century Mr. Grinnell put forth his plan for a national park.

(See "Glacier National Park," in <u>Hunting and Conservation</u>, the book of the Boone and the Crockett Club, Yale University Press, 1925.)

FIRST BILLS EXCLUDED VALLEY

The first of two preliminary bills to create the Park (3.2032) bad drawn the western boundary down section lines east of the North Fork of the Flathead River, excluding from the proposed park territory the bottom land along the river. A second bill (3.5648) excluded all surveyed lands in the area, which threw the proposed west boundary still further east of the river across the footbills of the sountains.

The Senate Public Lands Committee, however, was quick to give the proposed park natural boundaries, explaining in Report No. 580 on S. 5648:

"By a majority vote of the Committee the boundary of the proposed reservation is changed so as to bring the west boundary of the proposed park down the middle line of the Flathead River, as the majority of the Committee believe unless some natural boundary line be established there that it will lead to much confusion as to the territorial limit of the proposed park and result in the slaughter of the elk, deer, and other animals that might use this country as a feeding ground during the susmer months."

The Committee's amendment for a time created a conflict in the bill, resulting from a provision which excluded from the park all surveyed lands. But R. H. Chapman of the Geological Survey, who wrote the official description of the park printed in the Committee's reports, caught the

^{*(}Believe here the Committee meant to say "winter months" - Ed.)

conflict. He pointed out that the provision would in effect move the west boundary well east of the river, and the provision was changed so as to exclude only existing land claims.

During Senate debate of February 9, 1910, on 3. 2777, the bill enacted to create Glacier National Park, Senator Weldon B. Heyburn of Idaho made the following remarks during discussion of railroad holdings in the proposed park:

". . There are a number of considerable streams coming down from the east to the Flathead River. There are a number of very beautiful lakes at the head of or along those streams, and it will be found when this country is opened that there is an immense field lying immediately east of the Flathead River from the Canadian line down, where people will go to camp and to enjoy the park, according to its purpose. . ."

(February 9, 1910. Congressional Record, Vol. 45, Part 2, Page 1640)

PARK BOUNDARIES DESCRIBED

The act of 1910 creating the Park described its boundaries as follows:

"Commencing at a point on the international boundary between the United States and the Dominion of Canada at the middle of the Flathead River; themce following southerly along and with the middle of the Flathead River to its confluence with the Middle Fork of the Flathead River; thence following the north bank of said Middle Fork of the Flathead River to where it is crossed by the north boundary of the right-of-way of the Great Morthern Railroad; thence following the said right-of-way to where it intersects the west boundary of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation; thence northerly along said vest boundary to its intersection with the international boundary; thence along said international boundary to the place of beginning. . ."

"The territory embraced contains about 1,400 square miles, with approximately equal areas on the east end west of the summit of the main range of the Rocky Mountains issediately south of the international boundary line," reported the Senate Public Lands Committee in the 60th Congress, Report No. 580, April 29, 1908.

"There is practically no agricultural land and no mineraltearing formations of any significance or commercial value within the exterior limits of the area described in the bill. Mountain goats, mountain sheep (Bighorn), black bears, deer, elk, and moose abide in the country proposed to be embraced in the park, as well as a great variety of birds, and it is believed that these game animals and birds will increase in numbers, if protected by law from interference, to such an extent as to furnish in the overflow from the park a tempting supply to sportsmen for all time to come, whereas in the absence of such protection of the breeding ground many of the animals, particularly the sheep and the goats, will become practically extinct within a very short time."

SETTLERS SOUGHT FLATHEAD VALLEY

In 1911 and 1912 cases the first of several efforts to exclude from Glacier National Park this eastern side of the Flathead River Valley, forming the western-most portion of the Park. The effort culminated in two petitions signed by residents of the area and sent, one to the Secretary of the Interior and the other to Chairman Joseph M. Dixon of the Cenate Committee on Conservation of National Resources. The move had the backing of the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce.

The petitions asserted that the Flathead Valley area incorporated within the park contained at least 50,000 acres of agricultural land, ten or twelve thousand of which were already patented or held by settlers and that the balance of the territory was valuable timber land with no particular scenic value. The petition also called attention to the fact that the main highway between the United States and Canada passed

through the area. It stated, too, that "at least 90 percent of the game that winter in this part of the Park go north into Canada in the spring. . ."

(Archives: Parks, Reservations and Antiquities - Glacier Mational Park. Lands - General, Part 4)

Both Government and conservation groups were quick to oppose this attempt to open up the Park portion of the Flathead Valley.

I have taken up the matter of the proposed opening of the Flathead Valley to settlers with the Subcommittee on Mational and International Parks, and we feel most strongly as you do, that such a step would be most unfortunate," Frederick K. Vreeland of the Campfire Club of America, chairman of the club's subcommittee, wrote to Major W. R. logan, Superintendent of Glacier Mational Park on February 1, 1912. "If the matter comes to the point of a fight before Congress you may be sure that we shall stand with you in opposing it with all our power."

(Archives: Parks, Reservations and Antiquities - Glacier Mational Fark. Lands - General, Part 4.)

On the same day Mr. Vreeland wrote E. S. Bruce of the U. S. Porest Service:

"Do you think there is any possibility of putting through the measure to set upon the whole of the north fork Flathead Valley for park purposes!"

(Archives: Parks, Reservations and Antiquities - Glacier Mational Park. Lands - General, Part 4)

Mr. Bruce wrote Major Logan on February 6:

"Your letter referring to the attempt being made to open to settlement the lands in Glacier Mational Park contiguous to the North Fork of the Flatheed was duly received, and I took the subject up promptly with the Comp Fire Club' and have received letters on the subject from Mr. Rice, the Secretary and Mr. Houghton, Vice Chairman, also Mr. Vreeland, Chairman of the Committee on Mational and International Parks. . . The Club is sending Mr. Charles D. Cleveland here tomorrow to meet me and we will get into the game still further. You can rest assured we will do what we can to prevent what I would consider practically an emasculation of the usefulness of the Park. The lower areas along the Flathead River on the west side of the Fark are absolutely necessary, in my judgment, to be retained as an integral part of the Park in order to furnish adequate winter forage grounds for the animals that inhabit the higher mountain areas in the summer but where they are unable to exist during the winter months owing to the great depth of show that comes early in the fall and remains late in the spring. I will do all I can in the matter, Major."

(Archives: Parks, Reservations and Antiquities - Glacier National Park. Lands - General, Part 4)

Acting Fark Superintendent H. W. Hutchings added his voice to the protest against park homesteading in a letter to the Secretary of the Interior of February 17, 1912:

"This North Fork country is a vinter home for the deer. They gather in large numbers in the yard for vinter. If the country was opened to settlement, it would mean that there would be practically no protection for the game."

(Archives: Parks, Reservations and Antiquities - Glacier National Park. Lands - General, Part 4)

Assistant Secretary of the Interior C. A. Thompson wrote the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce, Senator Dixon and Mr. Butchings all in the same vein:

". . . this Department does not at this time contemplate requesting Congress to eliminate any portion of the lands to which reference is made from the metes and bounds of the Glacier Estional Park."

(Archives: Parks, Reservations and Antiquities -Glacier Rational Park. Lands - General, Part 4) In 1914 the Game Warden of the State of Montana, J. L. De Eart asked that the Park boundary line down themiddle of the North Fork of the Flathead River be moved to the eastern shore of the stream, but the Mational Park officials turned down the request as useless.

(Archives; Glacier Mational Park. Lands - Boundaries 602, Part 1)

PLATHEAD EXCLUSION AGAIN URGED

Then in 1915 the question of excluding the Flathead Valley from the Park again was raised. Again, too, it took the form of a petition signed by residents of the Park area in question. Most of the signers were the same individuals who had petitioned before.

This time they took the stand that they were ". . . deprived of roads and schools and other advantages and during several months of each year are entirely isolated from the outside world."

"It is practically impossible," they declared, "to transport farm products out of the Valley and that this isolated situation must continue until development is brought about by more settlers or other basistance.

"Said Valley is capable of supporting a dense population and We submit that it is more important to furnish homes to a land-hungry People than to lock the land up as a rich man's playground which no one will use or ever use."

The petition also stated that the valley of the North Fork contains no glaciers or other scenic attraction "and never has been visited and will not be visited in the future by tourists entering the park."

(Archives Glacier Mational Park. Lands - Boundaries 602, Part 1)

The petition, addressed to President Wilson, was forwarded to the Interior Department by Senator H. L. Myers. Assistant Secretary of the Interior Bo Sweeney acknowledged receipt of the petition on February 20, 1915, without comment.

(Archives: Glacier National Park. Lands -Doundaries (O2, Part 1)

FASTWARD ADDITION OF-INDIAN LAND SOUGHT

On December 4, 1919, the National Fark Service received word from Clasier National Park Superintendent W. W. Payne that Blackfeet Indian land lying east of the east boundary of the Park and west of the Clasier Park - Babb road would be allotted to individual Indians.

Mr. Payne expressed the belief that this area should become part of the Park and suggested that the territory might be acquired before individual Indian owners came into possession of small holdings in the area. He noted that a drought had made stock raising unprofitable there.

(Archives: Clacier Mational Park. Lands - Boundaries 602, Part 1)

The Mational Park Service, however, found that much of the land had already been allotted.

That did not dash the bopes of those who wished to see this part of the Park extended, however. G orge Bird Grinnell wrote to Madison Grant of New York on September 21, 1520:

"Some years ago you spoke about a proposed enlargement of the Glacier Park to take in territory lying between the present eastern boundary of the Park and the autosobile road by which the Park is reached.

"At the time you brought up the matter I was doubtful of the wisdom of moving in it, because the Blackfeet Indians were then being allotted, and I feared that the suggestion to increase the area of the Park might interfered with their rights. "Their allotment has now been accomplished, I believe, and the people are located, and possess definite rights which they can sell if the Government wishes to purchase.

"The game animals in the Park - elk, doer, and sheep - are somewhat increasing, but they have very little vinter range. The deep shows in the high mountains often drive the elk out to the prairie, and the Cros and Chippeva Inlians kill them. To increase the size of the Park as suggested would give the elk some vinter range."

(Archives: Glacier Bational Park. Lands - Boundaries 602, Part 1)

Steven T Mather, Director of the National Park Service wrote to the Secretary of the Interior on October 26, 1920:

"I desire to call to your attention the fact that for several years this Service has maintained the Glacier Park-Many Clacier Highway which crosses the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, following the east boundary of Glacier Mational Park, under authority of appropriations granted this Service by Congress. This highway is in reality the logical and natural east boundary of Glacier Hational Park, and I propose to submit for your approval proposed legislation for submission to Congress, providing for the enlargement of Glacier Park to to include the Glacier Park-Many Glacier Highway and the lands lying between the highway and the present east boundary of the Park.

"The land which would be added to the park are of course lands now included within the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, and, if Congress passes this proposed legislation, provision would have to be made for the payment to the Indians of the value of these lands. . .

"It is requested that no further allotments be made to Indians of any lands in that section of the Blackfest Indian Reservation lying between the Glacier Fark - Many Glacier Highway and the present east boundary of the park until the proposed legislation may be presented to Congress for its action."

(Archives: Glacier National Park. Lands - Boundaries 502, Part 1)

The Office of Indian Affairs did not believe it could hold up the the thought peopardizing the rights of the Indians. And as a result of the different stands of the two agencies of the Department of the Interior Mr. Mather of the Park Service wrote to Cato Salls,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs on January 7, 1921:

"If the eastern boundary is extended so as to embruce the present 'Blackfeet Highway' (the road from Glacier Park Station to Bebb) and to the vest bank of the the Marys River, the lands thus taken into the park will be of but little value for grazing or for agriculture, as most of this area is rough, hilly, or mountaincous land, and approximately half of it is timbered. This is especially true of the area between the Blackfeet Highway and the Park, south of Divide Creek. In other words, much of this land is valueless except for scenery; or for game refuge, and game feeding areas during the fall, winter, and spring months; or for the protection of Glacier National Park.

"While there are some Indian families actually living on the above described area, the number of these is relatively small; aside from those residing in the immediate vicinity of Glacier Park Station it is notthought that there are over five or six families actually living on this area.

"It is understood that certain other tracts of these lands are already allotted to Indians, although the allottees are not living upon them. Also, that much of the other open land in the area has been or will soon be allotted, as the field work and much of the office work has been done, necessary to such additional allotments, although the allotments have not been made and are at present being held up by the Secretary pending decision in the matter of requesting an extension of Glacier National Fark to embrace these lands.

Tou are perhaps aware of the fact that during the spring, full, and winter months deer and elk which are more more or less tame because of the protection afforded them in the park for about six months of th year, are driven by storms and by the lack of food from the security of the park to the lower levels included in the above areas, and are slaughteredby residents of the reservation and others, and that sometimes (as in the spring of 1917) cow elk which are heavy with calf are killed by the Indians. These facts have been brought to the attention of your office by this Service. It is doubtful, however, if it has ever been brought to your attention that the principal salt or game licks are on the reservation just outside the present boundary of the park, and that until the game that congrugates at the Flattop Mountain, Tellow Mountain, and Chief Hamasian licks are given protection as they are in the park it will not be safe from eventual extermination.

"This is especially true of the Rocky Mountain goats and Big Horn sheep, which are today making their principal 'last stand' in Glacier National Park.

"Your attention has been called to the likelihood of some of these lands being used for recreational purposes such as 'dude ranches,' summer hotels, etc., when they have been definitely allotted, or at least when patented! as the lands in the pretty valleys are better adapted to this use than for any other purpose. One such 'dude ranch' is now being established by Bill Gird near St. Marys. The excellent botel accommodations and the saddle horse service, two features of Glacier Park that find special favor with the park visitors, are only possible under substantial and well regulated companies or corporations; and without protection from irresponsible and unreliable and unregulated competition our present satisfactory hotel and saddle borse service would soon be driven out of business; at least the type of service would have to be reduced to compete with that furnished by the unreliable 'dude ranches; for park concessioners will not accept responsibility and financial losses without some chance at least of reward. If 'duds ranches' are permitted on these lands without regulation then the administration of the park will be made such more difficult and the service accorded the visitors by the concessioners will be of lower quality.

The necessity for the Park Service to have police and traffic control over the Blackfest Highway and other roads on the reservation that are maintained and improved by this Service wader annual appropriations for Glacier Park was also brought to your attention. Park visitors who travel these roads on the cars of the Glacier Park Transportation Company, or in their own cars expect and should receive protection from 'speed maniacs' and road hogs, which can only be secured by this Service exercising the same police authority as it does on the roads within the park. Many minor accidents and some near fatalities have occurred and only good fortune has prevented serious or fatal accidents heretofore. The investment of the Covernment in the improvement and maintenance of these roads, which ascunts to over \$200,000,000 needs oversight, for it is but of little benefit to regrade and gravel roads so that they may be suitable for automobiles and auto bus travel and have them cut up or otherwise damaged by heavy freight wagons or trucks using them in the wet seasons of the year. Considerable damage is done to the Blackfeet Highway, and automobile travel is made uncomfortable and dangerous by cattle in the road and by the road being punched up when it is soft, or rocks rolled into it by the range cattle where there are high banks. There have been several instances

in the past when allottees owning land on each side of the road have attempted to, and have temporarily stopped travel thereon by installing a gate and locking it or by building a fence across the road or by demanding road toll before permitting travel to proceed, all of which caused inconvenience to the traveling public and trouble to this Service. This is a situation that it seems could be remedied by the Park Service being given absolute jurisdiction over the road, or by special reservations in the allotment.

"I have been informed by two or three people more or less familiar with conditions on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation that the Indians would be glad if the unallotted lands embraced in the above extension could be sold, provided they received the money arising from the sale; also that the people at present holding allotments on this area would be willing to sell their lands at a fair price. I realize that you feel, as you have stated, that the sale of this land might not be for the ultimate good of the tribe or of the allottee who would be paid for his allotment. Right it not, however, be of greater benefit to the greatest number of the Indians of the reservation if all of these lands contemplated above could be sold at a fiar appraised price, (for, as I have said, such of it has no value to them and never will be allotted) and the funds derived from the sale be visely invested for the benefit of all the tribe, if at the same time the entire tribe be permitted to make general use of the lands to graze and to cut fire wood thereon under suitable regulations? This might be better than to allot the desirable tracts of this area to a part of the Indians, which scoper or later they will dispose of by lease or sale. The former would not only benefit the greatest number of Indians, but would preserve for the people of the United States an area that properly supplements Clacier National Park, which area if once disposed of through final allotment and patent, can never be acquired again except by the payment of vastly more money then would be necessary at this time.

(Archives: Glacier Mational Park - Lands-Boundaries 602, Part 1)

Mr. Mather presented to Mr. Sells three proposals in order of their acceptability to the National Park Service. The first was to suspend furtherIndian allotments pending preparations to extend the Park boundary eastward to the Blackfeet Highway to lover St. Mary Lake and to the St. Mary River but guaranteeing present allottees and owners

of private holdings the full protection, use and enjoyment of their lands if legislation were secured to buy the area in question. It also permitted some grazing and woodcutting. The second proposal suggested that if the Indian lands were not actually made part of the Park that they be made subject to park laws controlling hunting, fishing, trapping and the regulation of ammenments, hotels, camps, ranches, and other enterprises. The third proposal merely asked for National Park Service exclusive jurisdiction over the Blackfeet Highway and all other roads in the Blackfeet Indian Reservation improved and maintained by the Mational Park Service.

Mr. Sells explained in a letter to Mr. Mather, February 1, 1921, that he felt that he could only agree to the third proposal.

(Archives: Glacier Bational Park. Lands-Boundaries 602, Part 1)

The proposal to the park by including the area of the Blackfeet Reservation west of the Blackfeet Highway was revived in 1929 and 1930 and was thoroughly discussed in two letters - one from Bational Park Service Director Horace M. Albright to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated January 13, 1930, and the Commissioner's reply of January 24. The two letters follow:

"My dear Nr. Cossissioner:

"The area lying between the eastern boundary of Glacier Hational Park on the west, the Blackfeet Highway on the east, the Great Northern Railroad on the south and the Babb-Nany Glaciers Highway on the north, all in the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, in Montana, is by topography, juxtaposition and character logically a part of Glacier Mational Park. As such, it is desirable in my opinion

and in the opinion of many others interested in the proper preservation and development of the park, that, so far as possible, its natural features be given the mane type of protection accorded in other national park areas, and that the developments therein for the accommodation of tourists be established and maintained in accordance with established policies effective elsewhere in the National Park System.

"The coming of better reads, with the increased automobile travel, has brought about a condition where, unless this is done, the Blackfeet Highway and other eastern approach roads to the park are bound to suffer from obnoxious signs and billboards, inharmonious gasoline filling stations and hot dog stands and even tourist facilities of a character that materially detract from the natural appearance of the landscape.

"Since 1919 discussions have periodically been between this Service and the Indian Service looking toward the addition of this area to the park. While authority for the supervision of traffic over the Blackfeet Highway was transferred by the Secretary to the National Park Service a few years ago and last year concurrent police jurisdiction over the road was granted by the Montana State Legislature, no real progress has been made in the actual addition of the area to the park. There has always been the question of, first, securing the consent of the Indians to dispose of their holdings and, second, the difficulty of securing Congressional appropriations with which to purchase the land. In 1928, however, the situation was investigated by Congressman Louis C. Craspton of Michigan, who indicated a considerable interest in the proposition which may, at least, be of some benefit in solving the latter problem.

"In September 1929, Secretary Wilbur and I thoroughly studied the problem, and the decretary has concurred in my contention that some (word missing in copy) should be found, if possible, to get control of this area, of (word missing in copy) compensating the Indians for the reasonable value of the resources involved.

"I am attaching a sap of Glacier Park and surrounding region on which I have had shown the maxisum area proposed for addition, and the approximate status of the various lands involved. The total area approximates 90 square miles, or 57,600 acres. Of this assumt 22,000 acres appear to have been alletted to individual Indians, 29,200 acres are included in tribal lands in the nature of timber reserves, 35,000 acres are included in reclamation withdrawals and 2,900 acres represent water area. Of the 22,000 acres of allotted lands, the land Office tract books indicate that only to a small extent have fee patents been issued, the remainder being occupied under trust patents or approved allotments.

There is also attached a copy of a proposed bill for the accomplishment of this purpose. It will be noted that this contemplates acquisition of the lands without materially interfering with the Indian rights as to the use of tribal lands; the payment of an equitable sum to the tribe for the land only of the tribal lands, and compensation for the holdings of the individual owners, Indians or Whites.

"You will also note that the bill does not contemplate the addition of the area outright to the park but authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire such of these lands as the President may deem desirable for addition to the park. This leaves the matter of actual establishment of the new boundaries for future consideration and that of the acquisition of the lands a matter of negotiation between the Secretary and the individual owners, and the Blackfeet Tribe. The passage of such a bill would, therefore, not constitute an actual extension of the park but would merely authorize negotiations looking towards that end.

"I would appreciate your full consideration of this matter, your views and comments thereon and, if possible, a rough estimate, at least, of the probable cost to the Government of acquiring the lands included in the project."

REPLY

"My dear Mr. Albright:

"The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of January 13, 1930, enclosing for the consideration of this Office a proposed bill to provide for the extension of the eastern boundary of the Glacier Mational Park in Montana.

There was transmitted with your letter a map of the Glacier Park region on which is indicated in colors certain parts of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation which it is proposed to include within the boundaries of the park consisting of portions of the tribal timber reserve, sllotted lands, reclamation withdrawals and lake areas embracing a total of 57,600 acres. Examination of the proposed legislation reveals that the general purpose is to acquire on behalf of the United States from the Blackfeet Indians, individual Indian allottees and other owners' title to the lands to be included in the fark, payment to be made therefor out of public funds.

"As stated in your letter, this matter has been under consideration for several years past and in 1925 the Blackfeet tribal council protested against any legislation that might be initiated to eliminate any of the tribal timber lands from the reservation for any purpose or to change the status of said lands which were reserved from allotment for the benefit of the Indians pursuant to the act of Warch 1, 1907 (34 Stat. 1015-1035). Regarding this matter, the Indians were advised through the Superintendent in charge by letter dated July 25, 1925, in part, as follows:

"This Office is not aware of any movement or plan to procure legislation to change the status of these timber lands, or to eliminate them from the reservation for any purpose. Should such legislation be introduced in Congress and referred here for report all the facts in the case would be investigated and the interests and wishes of the Indians given first consideration in any report made by this Office." (Indian Office file 13256-26.)

"Again in 1928, a telegram was received by Senator Wheeler from Robert J. Hamilton, a leading Indian of the Blackfeet Reservation protesting against the ennexation of the tribal timber reserve to the Clacier National Park or the disposition of the timber lands by sale, lease or otherwise. This Office was advised of the telegraphic protest by Senator Wheeler, and in our letter to the Senator dated December 17, 1928, he was advised of a similar protest previously submitted by the tribal council and the attitude of the Indian Office with respect to the matter as above quoted.

"Subsequently, in our letter of February 7, 1929, to Hon.
Louis C. Cramton, House of Representatives, who had become interested
in the proposed addition to the Glacier Mational Park, there was
quoted from a letter received by this Office from the District
Superintendent in charge of the Blackfeet Reservation who had
made a preliminary investigation as follows:

This I understand the situation, it would not be possible for me to get definite information until such time as the areas desired would be defined. As I remember, those allotments and areas desired are west of the present and proposed highways connecting various parts of the Park and some considerable area east of the highway. I do not think there is any desire on the part of the Blackfeet Indians to sell these allotments, which, of course, would be individual transactions with the allottees, nor to sell their tribal area, which would be a tribal transaction.

However, before any definite attitude on the part of the allottees and the tribe could be had, some definite or concrete proposition would necessarily have to be placed before them.

"In the meantime, if the Office will ascertain from Congressmen Craston just what formal information is required on the part of the Office we will be pleased to furnish the name. In this connection, I will say, however, that some of the very desirable and select allotments lie within the area mentioned, and besides the Blackfeet people are very jealous of their timber area. This reservation is not well timbered and the tribel forest will be a source of fuel supply for them for all time, provided it is retained in their possession. It will also be a supply of building material and material for improving their homes which will also be valuable to them, and I am inclined to believe that the Blackfest Indians will not willingly give up this tribal area for a money consideration, although doubtless some of the allottees would be willing to sell their individual allotments. If this is done it should be with the distinct understanding with the allottee that be should use such funds to purchase other lands within the reservation. The only lands available for such purchase would be deceased Indian lands. The movement of land here has been very slow, although from time to time sales have been made in the vicinity of the Park area because those lands are more valuable than in most other parts of the reservation and they are more attractive also, because of the Park.

"'The Blackfeet also prize their Treaty rights as to hunting, trapping and fishing, and the areas mentioned are valuable on that account.' (Indian Office file 59976-28.)

"Since the receipt of your letter, the entire subject has been reviewed and considered from its different angles. It is readily admitted that from the viewpoint of the ark Service, the proposed extension of Glacier Fark boundaries as proposed would be advisable and that the territory proposed to be included could be administered and controlled by the Fark Service in the very best interests of the public generally. However, from the standpoint of the interests of the Blackfeet Indiana and inasmuch as their timber lands are a valuable asset and were specially reserved for them by appropriate act of Congress, it seems only right and proper that their vishes in the matter should be given first consideration. Under these circumstances, it is believed that the Indians through their tribul council should be given an opportunity to consider the legislation

es now proposed and to that end a copy of this letter with copy of the proposed bill and the may submitted by you have this day been forwarded to the Superintendent of the Blackfeet Agency with appropriate instructions to lay the matter before the tribal council for consideration and thereafter to submit to this Office the views and wishes of the Indiana as expressed through the council.

When this Office has received the Superintendent's report with an expression of the wishes of the Indians, we will communicate with you further."

(Archives: Clasier - Lands- Brundaries Extension 602-1, Part 1)

A further explanation of the Service's stand concerning the eastward boundary extension was made in a letter to Senator Burton K. Wheeler of February 17, 1930. The Senator had sent to the Park Service a protest from a citizen of the area in question registering opposition to any such plan.

Acting Director A. E. Demaray wrote:

"Dear Strator Wheelers

"In Edrector Albright's absence, I have for reply your letter of Fobruary 14 inclosing a letter from Mr. Villiam A. Barr of Glacier Fark, Montana, relative to the matter of extending the eastern boundary of Glacier Park.

"For a number of years the desirability of moving the eastern boundary of the park further eastward to include the Blackfeet Highway has: been under consideration, and has been a matter of discussion and correspondence between this Service and the Indian Service.

"The Blackfeet Highway is a Covernment built road connecting Glacier Park Station and the International Boundary. From this connecting roads, error the part. The entire road is primarily a park road as, by far, the bulk of travel over it is destined to Glacier National Park and accordingly it has been maintained by the National Park Service, and heretofore such supervision of traffic over it as has been maintained has been given by the Park Service. Last year the Legislature of Montana granted concurrent police jurisdiction over this road to the United States, and there is now a bill before, Compress providing for the acceptance of this concurrent police jurisdiction.

"The area between the Blackfeet Highway and the present park boundary is, for the most part, by topography and location a logical part of the park, and in the interests of protection of the forests and the wild life in this area, as well as in the adjoining park area, it would seem desirable to extend the park boundaries to include it.

"Furthermore, the Blackfeet Highway and connecting park roads existing primarily for park travel, it is desirable that some means be found to prevent them being littered with unsightly buildings and structures such as are rapidly appearing with the increased travel over the roads.

"The proposition is only in its formative stage with no definite scheme determined upon by which this extension of the park might be effected. However, any plan that might be determined upon would give full protection to the rights of the Indiana and would not affect any business in and around Glecier Fark Station."

(Archives: Glacier Lands- Boundaries Extension 602-1, Part 1)

Despite efforts to win the Indians over to the proposal that they sell their holdings for an eastward extension of the Park, the Tribal Council opposed the idea, and no further progress was sade.

PLATHEAD VALLEY SOUGHT FOR RESERVOIR

In 1927 the subject of eliminating a portion of Glacier
Mational Park along the north branch of the Flathead River was again
raised. This time, it was a matter of water impoundment that raised
the issue and not homesteading. Howevever, on September 13 Director
Mather received a letter from P. M. Bernard, Secretary of the Kalispell
Chamber of Commerce, who said, in part:

"In 1920, the Rocky Mountain Power Company made application for a preliminary permit on Flathead Lake . . . This was contested by the people of Flathead Valley on the ground that the proposed elevation inundated a large area of very valuable land. The protestants at the hearing before the Columbia River Board at Spokane took the position that storage should obtain in the upper reaches of the Flathead Basin, particularly in the canyons.

This doctrine of storage seemed to have appealed to the engineers and to the Federal Power Commission, for some months afterwards the Commissioner of the General Land Office ordered a withdrawal of the land in the Flathead Forest on the South Fork of the Flathead R. ver in the Hungry Horse Basin, also a withdrawal of land on the west side of Glacier Estional Park in the canyon of the North Fork River. . .

The Rocky Mountain Fower Company has made a new application for power on Flathead Lake and this raises the question again of storage in the upper reaches, and this letter was written to determine the attitude of the Park Service through yourself as Director in regard to whether you would oppose the proposed storage on the west side of the Park. It has been my understanding that the Park Service had been of the opinion that the west side of the Park bordering on the North Fork and in the immediate vicinity of the Borth Fork was not a valuable asset to the Park, on account of the fact that it does not possess scenic beauty, and that there are a large number of settlers on the west side in an agricultural region that is not a Fark asset.

"Two years ago when a special Congressional investigating cosmittee, of which Congressman Crampton was the chairman, visited Glacier Estional Park, I understand that he investigated Park conditions and reported adversely to farmers holding land in Glacier Estional Park, and from information which this office has received, we concluded that the Park would oppose a special act providing for withdrawal of a canyon of the Borth Fork from the Park area for storage purposes. I apprehend that this might be looked upon as a dangerous precedent; I also apprehend that the demand today for storage is so great, and so necessary in this particular instance, that it would be reasonable upon the part of the Park Service to grant, or favor, the passage of a bill providing for such storage and the climination of the Borth Fork canyon from the park area."

"The demand for storage in the upper reaches of the Flathead is an insistent one and for that reason this letter is written," Mr. Bernard concluded. "Would you kindly advise us if you will be adverse to an act providing for the climination of the North Fork canyon from the Glacier Park area?"

(Archives: Glacier Reservoir Sites 601-05)

Mr. Mather wrote Mr. Bernard of the Chamber of Commerce very briefly on September 26, 1927:

"I have never seen this area and, therefore, can express no opinion as to its recreational and park value. I am, however, strongly opposed to any invasion of national parks for consurrial

purposes."

(Archives: Glacier Reservoir Sites, 601-05)

PLACIER VIEW DAM PROPOSAL

In recent years the much-discussed Glacier View Dem project in this self-same North Fork Valley has again spotlighted the western boundary of Glacier National Park and has resulted in many proposals, many oppositions and a voluminous file. (Note. See Branch of Area Investigations files; Glacier National Park - Glacier View Dam) The Bepartment of the Interdor firmly resisted this proposal encroachment spon Glacier National Park.

In a reply of December 24, 1948, to the Conservation Council of Pennsulvania, which protested against the dam project, Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug wrote:

"... I am deeply sympathetic with your attitude. Having studied the problem on the ground, I am convinced that because the area which would be flooded is essential to the maintenance of wildlife resources, resulting loss to Glacier National Park would be far greater than a comparison of the acreage lost to the total park area would indicate. While I recognize the need for water control in the vicinity, we should find some way to do it without building this dam which would eliminate the winter range essential to maintenance of the wildlife resources of Glacier National Park."

(Branch of Area Investigations files - Clacker National Fark, Clacker View Dem - 1. Reports, Statements and Notices, File 9A)

COGESTED REST EXTENSION

Dem proposals apparently brought forth a suggestion to extend the Park boundary vestuard so as to include an area across the North Nork Valley.

The suggestion seems first to have been put forth in 1937 by me E. B. Sisson of Eureka, Montana, although there is no evidence that me had the dam project in mind. He wrote to Senator Burton K. Wheeler, power, and Senator Wheeler referred the matter to the Park Service.

Director Arms B. Casserer wrote the Senator On February 18:

"According to the report of Superintendent Scoyen of Glacier National Fark, the major portion of this proposal to the vest of the present park area is within the Blackfeet National Forest. Also the area contains many private holdings and grazing permits. Such an addition is almost sure to meet much local opposition, and, although the country is reported to be quite beautiful, its inclusion within the park does not appear justifiable, according to our present information."

(Branch of Area Investigations files: Glacier Mational Park-Glacier View Dam. 1. Reports, Statements and Motices, File 9A)

Proponents of the dam apparently seized upon this western Extension proposal as a means to recompense the Park for the loss of Perritory flooded by the dam and thus to eliminate Park Service Prosition to the dam proposal. But the Glacier Entional Park Boundary Status Report of March 20, 1945 stated:

"On thewest, along the North Fork of the Flathead River, some proposals have been made that the Fark boundary be extended either to the Forest Service road or on the west to the crest of the Whitefish Mountains. We do not favor either of these proposals, as the present area is well enough balanced in the provision of range for the different periods of the year, and provides opportunity for surplus to enter the adjacent Estional Forest where hunting is permitted.."

On October 15, 1948, L. P. Tonner, Vice President of the konstown Builders Club wrote Secretary of the Interior Krug from Martin Lity, Montana, to tell him of a resolution passed by the club, which havored the construction of the dam.

The club's resolution was as follows:

"Resolved that we the Boostown Builders write to Mr. J. A. Krug, Secretary of the Interior and suggest that all that Mational Forests land from the confluence of Masdow Creek with the Morth Fork River to the top of the Whitefish Divide, thence Morth on the Whitefish Divide to the Canadian Border, thence East to the western boundary of Glacier Mational Park be transferred to and become a part of Glacier Mational Park thus adding to Glacier Mational Park much more than would be taken away by Glacier View Reservoir.

"This Forest is primeval and would provide with the area a much larger Game Range and could be developed otherwise and the scenic beauty of Glacier Mational Park would be greatly enhanced. It is further recommended by the Boomtown Builders that the construction of Glacier View Dam be under the direction of the Burgau of Reclamation."

(Branch of Area Investigations files: Glacier National Park - Glacier View Dam - File 9 A)

But Mr. Krug replied on November 1:

"I was in Glacier Mational Park recently and inspected the area that would be inundated. I observed that these bottom lands along the Flathead River have great value as a vinter range for vildlife as well as high recreational value, and it is my belief that nour suggestion of adding higher, forested lands to the park would not compensate for their loss, particularly since the higher lands are not suitable for winter range."

(Branch of Area Investigations Files Clacier National Park - Glacier View Dam - File 9A)

LIDDLE FORK MODIFICATION

One other modification in the boundary of Glacier National

Park - a slight extension along the Middle Fork of the Flathead River

between Belton and Bimrod was broached in a letter of January 30, 1939,

from one Russell D. Page to Senator Burton K. Wheeler (Glacier -Boundaries

Branch of Area Investigations - file.)

Mr. Page advocated moving the boundary from the north bank of the Middle Fork up to the main line of the Great Morthern Bailroad in order further to protect the game of the park.

Mational Park Service Director Arno B. Cammerer told Senator Wheeler on March 15, 1939, however, that the Service felt this boundary should not be moved, as the river was a natural boundary, as very slight additional protection would be afforded the wildlife of the Park and as the shift would involve extensive acquisition of private property with no apparent commensurate benefits to the Government.

(Clacier - Boundaries. Branch of Area Investigations Pile.)