
Records of the Office of the Superintendent

Finding aid created by Yosemite National Park Archives staff using RecordEXPRESS

Yosemite National Park Archives

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<http://www.nps.gov/yose/historyculture/collections.htm>

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Records of the Office of the Superintendent

Dates: 1923-2010

Collection Number: YCN: 1008 (YOSE 232960)

Creator/Collector:

Extent: 114 LF

Online items available 

https://voro.cdlib.org/user-pdf-dav/yosnpa/FINAL_Records_of_the_Office_of_the_Superintendent_Revised_2017.pdf

Repository: Yosemite National Park Archives

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Abstract: The Records of the Office of the Superintendent Collection represents 15 accessions, which were deposited by various superintendent's office staff members from 1991 to 2012. The collection contains reports, correspondence, appointment calendars, meeting notes, case files, project planning documents, budget spreadsheets, oversized maps and plans, black and white photographs, color photographs, Polaroid photographs, and electronic and magnetic media (VHS tapes, U-Matic tapes, a cassette tape, and floppy discs).

Language of Material: English

Access

While this collection is open to the public, sensitive materials have been flagged and require appropriate permission through the Yosemite archivist to access.

Preferred Citation

Records of the Office of the Superintendent. Yosemite National Park Archives

Acquisition Information

Office of the Superintendent, Yosemite National Park. The majority of the records was received by Yosemite National Park Research Library (1991-1998) and transferred to the Yosemite National Park Archives in 1998. The records in this collection were transferred to the Archives from 1998 to 2012.

Biography/Administrative History

Yosemite National Park was set aside by Congress in 1890. Yosemite was administered under a series of military superintendents until the creation of the National Park Service in 1916, a civilian agency charged with management of the national parks. The first superintendent in Yosemite under National Park Service administration, Washington B. Lewis, was appointed in 1916. Between 1928 and 1952, five men served after Lewis' tenure. The Yosemite Archives does not hold the records of the pre-NPS years of park management. Early records of the office are located in the National Archives, Record Group 79.7.17, covering the years 1910 through 1953. The Records of the Office of the Superintendent represents an assortment of files deposited in the Yosemite Research Library and later transferred to the Yosemite Archives. The earliest documents in the collection are the annual and monthly reports. These reports were generated by Yosemite's superintendents and division chiefs for the NPS director and provide succinct accounts of the park's priorities, programs, major initiatives, activities, and accomplishments. Originally part of the park central files, the reports cross two different filing systems and were transferred to the Research Library in the 1970s because of the frequency of research use by park staff. The records have been placed in the Office of the Superintendent Records Collection to reflect the office of origin. The body of the collection represents records released to the Yosemite Research Library and Yosemite Archives from 1991 to 2012. In 1991, files previously stored in the Mail and Files room of the Administration Building were deemed inactive or unnecessary to the operation of the Office of the Superintendent were transferred to the Research Library for addition to the park archives. As administrations changed with the arrival of new superintendents, older files were transferred to the Research Library. The records were sorted and boxed by the Mail and Files clerk, superintendent's secretary, administration officer, management assistant, information specialist, and Hetch Hetchy Program manager; a former superintendent returned one small group of records by U.S. Postal Service to Yosemite. The records remained stored in the "museum attic" of the Valley District Building until they were transported to the Yosemite Archives storage facility in El Portal in 1998, where they were placed on shelves, awaiting the attention of archivists. One of the major functions of the Office of the Superintendent is the overall management of the park. The process of designing a long-range conceptual management plan was initiated in 1968 with the conception of the Master Plan, which was ultimately rejected by the Department of the Interior (1974). A six-year planning process which emphasized public involvement was initiated and resulted in the General Management Plan (GMP). Records from the Office of the Superintendent relating specifically to the development of the Master Plan and General Management Plan are found in Collection 1004 Environmental Planning and Compliance Records (YOSE 229582). Management plans developed after 1980, including the Merced River Comprehensive Management Plan

(1999-2013) and Tuolumne River Plan (2005-2013), were intended to further the implementation of the GMP and have been overseen by the Office of the Superintendent. The administrative workload of the many implementation plans, management plans, and flood recovery projects led to the creation of the Office of Strategic Planning and Partnerships. As stated in a July 2001 memo to the superintendent from the Chief of Strategic Planning Palmer "Chip" Jenkins, the role and function of the office was to conduct and coordinate strategic planning; land use planning; transportation planning; park-wide and site-specific conceptual planning; responsibility for park-wide environmental and historic resource compliance associated with planning; responsibility for establishing and maintaining relationships with local communities, officials and institutions; and to develop alternative fund- raising with partners, such as the Yosemite Fund. An important activity within the Office of the Superintendent is the Hetch Hetchy Program, which coordinates with the City and County of San Francisco Public Utilities Commission in the management of the water and power supply to the Bay Area. The files of the City Program manager/Hetch Hetchy Program manager document the development and streamlining of the City Program, focusing primarily on the coordination of funding and projects.

Scope and Content of Collection

The collection is organized into fourteen series, 24 subseries, and one sub-subseries.
