Dear Senator Murray:

Your Committee has requested a report on S. 160, a bill "To preserve permanently as a national park an area of national significance in Colorado and Utah, such park to be known as the Dinosaur National Park, which shall supersede the Dinosaur National Monument, and for other purposes."

We recommend that S. 160 be enacted, if amended as we recommend in this report.

The proposed Dinosaur National Park that would be established in the States of Colorado and Utah by this bill would be comprised principally of the area now within the present Dinosaur National Monument. The proposed change from the existing boundaries of the monument area results in a net increase of 4,640 acres. The additional area is mostly vacant public land administered by this Department. Inclusion of such land within the park is desirable to provide a more practical boundary and to facilitate public use and administration of the park.

The area proposed for establishment as the Dinosaur National Park is eminently suitable for such designation. It would include an area of outstanding character from a geologic, scenic, scientific, and historic standpoint. The geological formations within the proposed park are unique. These formations represent an important segment of geologic time that tells of the history of the earth, spanning about 500 million years. Here is exhibited the record of the eras when the region was beneath the sea, receiving sediments from eroding land masses, and when water-borne and wind-borne sediments were accumulated; of later periods when earth movements elevated and arched the sedimentary rock to form a prominent east-west mountain range; and of erosional and depositional processes that helped to produce the present spectacular river scenery.
In the course of the earth movements that formed this area, the Green River, which formerly flowed to the east, was intercepted and turned from east to south by a smaller southward flowing stream that had rapidly cut headward because of its increased gradient. In no other area of the National Park System is there exhibited so grand an illustration of stream piracy, the natural process whereby one stream is intercepted by another and its course changed completely. Here the folded and sedimentary rock formations have been cut by the deeply intrenched meanders of the Green and Yampa Rivers. This dynamic process of river erosion has produced a colorful and rugged wilderness of deep canyons, dissected erosional benches and bold promontories of exceptional grandeur.

Here, too, is the world-famous Dinosaur quarry, the most diverse assemblage of these fossil forms ever found. This quarry has produced remains of 11 genera and 12 species of dinosaurs. Studies of these fossils have given science its best opportunity to gain information concerning the development and dominance of these long extinct creatures and the environments in which they lived. Work is in progress to expose skeletal material in relief on the face of the quarry. A new structure has been provided to house this unique "in-place" exhibit and its related displays in such a manner as to augment the exposed material and tell the entire dinosaur story. As a result, visitors may now observe the techniques of the paleontologists as they uncover the buried skeletal specimens.

The Green and Yampa Rivers have an interesting historical background reaching into the early exploration and settlement of the west. According to the distinguished historian, Herbert E. Bolton, early visits of white men to this area included the Father Escalante Expedition of 1776 from Santa Fe to the California missions, during which Escalante discovered and crossed the Green River near the present southwestern boundary of the Monument, in the proposed park. Two famous groups of Astoria fur traders crossed the Green River basin early in the 19th century—Wilson Price Hunt's expedition in 1811, and Robert Stuart's party in 1812.
Exploration of the Green River canyon country dates back to 1825, when General William Henry Ashley and his party carefully covered much of the area and prepared complete accounts of their explorations. Other important scientific and historical expeditions followed, under public or private auspices. In 1922, a geological survey party did further extensive exploration and mapping of the Green River. Ranching began in this area in the 1880's. By 1915, a number of homesteads had been established, the remains of several of which now exist within the proposed park boundaries.

Plant and animal life having their habitat in the area are characteristic of this arid region. Otter, beaver, ring-tail, coyote, badger, bobcat, and an occasional cougar may be found. Deer are abundant and bighorn sheep inhabit the canyons. Sheep, elk, and other animals are represented in prehistoric pictographs preserved in the area. Native plant life varies from the desert plants of the canyon floors, to the Douglas fir, aspen, and spruce of the plateaus and peaks.

There is evidence, archeologically, of a long and continuous human occupation of the area in and around Dinosaur National Monument. Refuse heaps, left by the earliest inhabitants, indicate that man lived in the canyon bottoms about 1500 to 2000 years before Christ. These deep, stratified, undisturbed aboriginal deposits are essential in establishing the prehistoric use of the area by man. Many of the cave areas within the proposed park also were inhabited, and it is from these caves that spectacular samples of weaving, basketry and feather headdresses have been recovered. These aboriginal deposits left by man reveal a chronological table of human occupation just as the rock formations in the canyon walls and escarpments provide a chronological table of the earth's history.

In 1958, this Department gave careful attention to determining the minimum area desirable for designation as the Dinosaur National Park. In making this determination, certain adjustments were considered and adopted that would eliminate areas believed to be more essential to grazing than for park use. To the extent practicable and possible, also, this boundary was determined with a view
to aiding the wildlife management objectives of the Department of Game and Fish of the State of Colorado.

As a result of this study, we would recommend that the boundary description contained in this bill beginning on line 22, page 2, and continuing through line 21, page 7, be stricken and that a new boundary description be inserted, this description being attached hereto.

We feel that such a boundary revision would enable the Department to fulfill the purposes and objectives of the Dinosaur National Park and meet the administrative and operational responsibilities that the establishment of such a park would place upon this Department. The lands encompassed by the recommended boundary revision contain features of scientific and historic interest, which, when combined with the spectacular scenery, comprise an area of outstanding educational, inspirational, and recreational values that should be preserved and administered as a national park.

Because of the boundary revision, certain perfecting amendments are desirable. On page 1, line 6, strike "those portions of", and on page 1, line 7, insert immediately after the word "Rivers" the words "including portions".

The bill in section 1 provides that nothing shall preclude the Secretary from investigating the suitability of reservoir and canal sites within the area of the proposed park. We would recommend in connection with that part of the bill that beginning on line 9 following the word "supplemented" that all of the section be stricken and that there be inserted in its place the following: "Any portion of the lands and interest in lands comprising the Dinosaur National Park shall be made available upon Federal statutory authorization for public non-park uses when such uses shall have been found, in consideration of the public interest, to have a greater public necessity than the uses authorized by this act." Although such a provision sets out what we believe to be
an accepted proposition, which is that one Congress cannot bind
a subsequent Congress from taking action, required by public
necessity, to authorize the use of the lands for non-park purposes,
we feel that the suggested amendment more clearly states the
desired intent. Identical language was recently approved by the
House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee in connection with
the consideration of the bill to authorize the C&O Canal National
Park, H. R. 2331.

As a perfecting amendment, we recommend that line 8,
secs. 1 et seq.).

Section 3 of S. 160, which contains the entrance road
authorization, is considerably more restrictive than would be
desirable in the interests of the park and the public. As written,
land and interests in land needed for these roads could be acquired
by donation only. To the extent possible, this Service expects to
acquire land and interests in land for the entrance road or roads,
as well as other land and interests in land for the proposed park,
by donation. We feel, however, that such acquisitions should not
be limited to procurement by this means. Development of suitable
access or accesses to the proposed Dinosaur National Park is a
matter of paramount importance. Should donations of land or
interests in land or donated funds for such acquisitions not be
forthcoming, the Secretary should have authority to acquire land
and interest for park purposes by purchase or exchange.

Section 3 also limits the proposed entrance road or roads
to a right-of-way (to be acquired in fee), of not more than 100 feet
in width and to scenic easements over adjoining land as the Secre-
tary may deem necessary. We believe authority should be provided
in this bill for the acquisition of fee title to a right-of-way of not
more than an average of 25 acres per mile and of scenic easements
on lands which adjoin the right-of-way not to exceed an average of
100 acres per mile. Several other clarifying amendments to section
2 would be desirable. Accordingly, we recommend the following
amendments to this section:
1. Insert the words "encompassed by the boundary" after "Utah" on line 16, page 2.

2. On line 22, page 7 insert immediately before "Dinosaur" the words "and administrative facilities for."

3. Eliminate the comma on line 25, page 7, and insert in lieu thereof "from U. S. Route 40, including an entrance and related administrative headquarters site of not more than 400 acres."

4. Eliminate the words "donation only" on line 1, page 8, and substitute "donation, purchase, or exchange, ".

5. Revise lines 3 through 5 of page 8 to read "right-of-way of not more than an average of 25 acres per mile and of scenic easements on lands adjoining the right-of-way, said easements not to exceed an average of 100 acres per mile."

6. Substitute "acquisition" for "acceptance" on line 6, page 8.

7. Eliminate the comma after "bridges" on line 10, page 8, and insert in lieu thereof "and other structures and utilities as necessary."

8. Revise lines 15 through 19 of page 8 to read as follows:

"of the said entrance road or roads and administrative site as in his discretion may be necessary. The Secretary may, by appropriate order or orders, revise the boundaries of Dinosaur National Park to include lands for the entrance road and administrative site, such order or orders to be effective upon publication in the Federal Register."
Under its MISSION 66 program, the National Park Service contemplates, and has already initiated, a development program for this area that is designed to provide for maximum public enjoyment of the outstanding attractions it contains, consistent with the objective of preserving these attractions for future generations. An essential part of this program is the provision of an adequate entrance road or roads of parkway standard from U. S. Highway 40 to points of entry into the area. Roads and trails to the main park features, campgrounds with sanitary facilities, and potable water would be provided as needed, in connection with development of an adequate circulation system, without intruding upon or causing damage to important features. The enactment of S. 160, with the amendments proposed, would facilitate the accomplishment of these objectives.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this report to your Committee.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Secretary of the Interior

Hon. James E. Murray
Chairman, Committee on
Interior and Insular Affairs
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure
Boundary Description

Proposed Dinosaur National Park

Beginning at a point on the Utah-Colorado State Boundary Line at the northeast corner of section 36, township 2 south, range 25 east, Salt Lake Meridian, Utah;
thence westerly along the north lines of said section 36 and section 35, said township and range, to the north quarter-section corner of said section 35;
thence southerly along the north-south quarter-section lines of said section 35, said township 2 south, range 25 east, and sections 2, 11, and 14, township 3 south, range 25 east, to the north quarter-section corner of section 23, said township and range;
thence westerly along the north lines of said section 23 and sections 22, 21, and 20, said township and range, to the northwest corner of said section 20;
thence southerly along the west line of said section 20 to the northeast corner of section 30, said township and range;
thence westerly along the north lines of said section 30, said township 3 south, range 25 east, and section 25, township 3 south, range 24 east, to the north quarter-section corner of said section 25;
thence southerly along the north-south quarter-section lines of said section 25 and section 36 of said township and range to the northeast corner of the southwest quarter of said section 36;
thence westerly along the east-west quarter-section lines of said section 36 and section 35 of said township and range to the west quarter-section corner of said section 35;
thence southerly along the west line of said section 35, said township 3 south, range 24 east, to the southwest corner of said section 35, at a point on the north line of section 3, township 4 south, range 24 east;
thence westerly along the north line of said section 3 to the northwest corner of said section 3;
thence southerly along the west line of said section 3 to the northeast corner of southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 4, said township and range;
thence westerly along the north one-sixteenth latitudinal section lines of said section 4 and sections 5 and 6, said township 4 south, range 24 east, and unsurveyed section 1, township 4 south, range 23 east, to the northwest corner of the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of said unsurveyed section 1;

thence southerly along the west line of the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of said unsurveyed section 1 to the northeast corner of the southwest quarter of said unsurveyed section 1;

thence westerly along the east-west quarter-section line of said unsurveyed section 1 and unsurveyed section 2, said township and range, to the west quarter-section corner of said unsurveyed section 2;

thence southerly along the west line of said unsurveyed section 2 to the southwest corner of said unsurveyed section 2;

thence westerly along the south lines of unsurveyed sections 3 and 4 of said township and range to the north quarter-section corner of unsurveyed section 9, said township and range;

thence southerly along the north-south quarter-section lines of said unsurveyed section 9 and unsurveyed sections 16 and 21 and sections 28 and 33, said township and range, to the southwest corner of the northeast quarter of said section 33;

thence easterly along the east-west quarter-section line of said section 33, said township 4 south, range 23 east, to the thread of the Green River;

thence upstream along the thread of the Green River within said township and range and township 5 south, range 23 east, township 5 south, range 24 east, and township 4 south, range 24 east, to a point at its intersection with the south line of section 30, said township 4 south, range 24 east;

thence easterly along the south lines of said section 30 and sections 29, 28, and 27, said township and range, to the north quarter-section corner of section 34 of said township and range;

thence southerly along the north-south quarter-section lines of said section 34, said township 4 south, range 24 east, and section 3, township 5 south, range 24 east, to the southwest corner of the northeast quarter of said section 3;

thence easterly along the east-west quarter-section lines of said section 3 and sections 2 and 1 of said township and range to the east quarter-section corner of said section 1;

thence northerly along the east lines of said section 1, said township 5 south, range 24 east, and sections 36 and 25, township 4 south, range 24 east, to the southwest corner of section 19, township 4 south, range 25 east;

thence easterly along the south line of said section 19 to the southeast corner of said section 19;

thence northerly along the east line of said section 19 to the southwest corner of section 17 of said township and range;
thence easterly along the south lines of said section 17 and sections 16 and 15 to the northwest corner of section 23 of said township and range;

thence southerly along the west line of said section 23 to the southwest corner of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of said section 23;

thence easterly along the south one-sixteenth latitudinal section lines of said section 23 and fractional section 24, said township 4 south, range 25 east, Salt Lake Meridian, Utah, to a point on the Utah-Colorado State Boundary Line;

thence southerly along the Utah-Colorado State Boundary Line, being the west line of fractional section 23, fractional township 6 north, range 104 west, 6th Principal Meridian, Colorado, to the southwest corner of lot 12, said fractional section 23;

thence easterly along the south one-sixteenth latitudinal section lines of said fractional section 23 and section 24, said fractional township and range, to the northwest corner of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of said section 24;

thence southerly along the north-south quarter-section line of said section 24 to the south quarter-section corner of said section 24;

thence easterly along the south lines of said section 24, said fractional township 6 north, range 104 west, and section 19, township 6 north, range 103 west, to the northwest corner of section 29, said township and range;

thence southerly along the west line of said section 29 to the southwest corner of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of said section 29;

thence easterly along the north one-sixteenth latitudinal section lines of said section 29 and section 28 of said township and range to the southwest corner of the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of said section 28;

thence southerly along the north-south quarter-section line of said section 28 to the southwest corner of the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of the said section 28;

thence easterly along the south one-sixteenth latitudinal section lines of said section 28 and section 27, said township and range, to the northwest corner of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 26, said township and range;

thence southerly along the west lines of said section 26 and section 35, said township and range, to the west quarter-section corner of said section 35;

thence easterly along the east-west quarter-section lines of said section 35 and section 36, said township and range, and sections 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36, township 6 north, range 102 west, sections 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36, township 6 north, range 101 west, and sections 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36, township 6 north, range 100 west, sections 31 and 32, township 6 north, range 99 west, to the southeast corner of the northwest quarter of said section 32;
thence northerly along the north-south quarter-section lines of said section 32 and section 29, said township and range, to the southwest corner of the northeast quarter of said section 29;

thence easterly along the east-west quarter-section lines of said section 29 and sections 28 and 27, said township and range, to the southeast corner of the northwest quarter of said section 27;

thence northerly along the north-south quarter-section lines of said section 27 and section 22, said township and range, to the northeast corner of the southwest quarter of said section 22;

thence westerly along the east-west quarter-section line of said section 22 to the east quarter-section corner of section 21, said township and range;

thence northerly along the east line of said section 21 to the northeast corner of said section 21;

thence westerly along the north line of said section 21 to the southeast corner of unsurveyed section 17, said township and range;

thence northerly along the east line of said unsurveyed section 17 to the east quarter-section corner of said unsurveyed section 17;

thence westerly along the east-west quarter-section line of said unsurveyed section 17 to the southeast corner of the northwest quarter of said unsurveyed section 17;

thence northerly along the north-south quarter-section lines of said unsurveyed section 17 and unsurveyed section 8, said township and range, to the north quarter-section corner of said unsurveyed section 8;

thence westerly along the north lines of said unsurveyed section 8 and unsurveyed section 7, said township 6 north, range 99 west, sections 12, 11, 10, 9, and 8, township 6 north, range 100 west, to the southeast corner of section 6, said township and range;

thence northerly along the east line of said section 6 to the east quarter-section corner of said section 6;

thence westerly along the east-west quarter-section lines of said section 6, said township 6 north, range 100 west, and unsurveyed sections 1 and 2, township 6 north, range 101 west, to the east quarter-section corner of unsurveyed section 3, said township and range;

thence northerly along the east section lines of said unsurveyed section 3, said township 6 north, range 101 west, and section 34, township 7 north, range 101 west, to the east quarter-section corner of said section 34;

thence westerly along the east-west quarter-section line of said section 34 to the east quarter-section corner of unsurveyed section 33, said township and range;
thence northerly along the east section lines of said unsurveyed section 33 and unsurveyed section 28, said township and range, to the east quarter-section corner of said unsurveyed section 28;

thence westerly along the east-west quarter-section lines of said unsurveyed section 28 and unsurveyed sections 29 and 30, said township 7 north, range 101 west, and unsurveyed sections 25, 26, 27, and 28, township 7 north, range 102 west, to the east quarter-section corner of unsurveyed section 29, said township and range;

thence northerly along the east section line of said unsurveyed section 29 to the northeast corner of said unsurveyed section 29;

thence westerly along the north lines of said unsurveyed section 29 and unsurveyed section 30, said township and range, to the north quarter-section corner of said unsurveyed section 30;

thence northerly along the north-south quarter-section lines of unsurveyed sections 19 and 18 and sections 7 and 6 of said township 7 north, range 102 west, to the south quarter-section corner of section 31, township 8 north, range 102 west;

thence easterly along the south lines of said section 31 and section 32, said township and range, to the south quarter-section corner of said section 32;

thence northerly on the north-south quarter-section line of said section 32 to the southwest corner of the northeast quarter of said section 32;

thence easterly on the east-west quarter-section lines of said section 32 and section 33, said township and range, to the east quarter-section corner of said section 33;

thence northerly on the east lines of said section 33 and sections 28, 21, and 16, said township and range, to the east quarter-section corner of said section 16;

thence westerly on the east-west quarter-section line of said section 16 to the east quarter-section corner of section 17, said township and range;

thence northerly on the east section lines of said section 17 and section 8 and unsurveyed elongated section 5, said township 8 north, range 102 west, to a point in the south line of section 33, township 9 north, range 102 west;

thence easterly along the south line of said section 33 to the south quarter-section corner of said section 33;

thence northerly along the north-south quarter-section lines of said section 33 and sections 28, 21, and 16, said township and range, to the north quarter-section corner of said section 16;

thence westerly along the north lines of said section 16 and sections 17 and 18, said township and range, to the north quarter-section corner of said section 18;
thence southerly along the north-south quarter-section lines of said section 18 and section 19, said township and range, to the north quarter-section corner of section 30, said township and range;
thence westerly along the north line of said section 30 to the northwest corner of said section 30;
thence southerly along the westerly line of said section 30, said township 9 north, range 102 west, to the northeast corner of section 36, township 9 north, range 103 west;
thence westerly along the north line of said section 36 to the northwest corner of said section 36, said township and range;
thence southerly along the west line of said section 36, said township 9 north, range 103 west, to a point in the north line of elongated section 2, township 8 north, range 103 west;
thence westerly along the north line of said elongated section 2 to the northwest corner of lot 6, being a midpoint of the north line of said elongated section 2;
thence southerly along the north-south line dividing said elongated section 2 to the north quarter-section corner of section 11, said township and range;
thence southerly along the north-south quarter-section line of said section 11 to the south quarter-section corner of said section 11;
thence westerly along the south line of said section 11 and the north line of section 15, said township and range, to the northwest corner of said section 15;
thence southerly along the west lines of said section 15 and sections 22 and 27, said township and range, to the north-east corner of section 33, said township and range;
thence westerly along the north lines of said section 33 and section 32, said township and range, to the northwest corner of said section 32;
thence southerly along the west lines of said section 32, said township 8 north, range 103 west, and section 5, township 7 north, range 103 west, to the northeast corner of section 7, said township and range;
thence westerly along the north lines of said section 7, said township 7 north, range 103 west, and section 12 and fractional section 11, fractional township 7 north, range 104 west, 6th Principal Meridian, Colorado, to a point on the Utah-Colorado State Boundary Line, being a point on the east line of township 3 south, range 25 east, Salt Lake Meridian, Utah;
thence northerly along the Colorado State Boundary Line, being the said east line of township 3 south, range 25 east, and the east line of township 2 south, range 25 east, Salt Lake Meridian, to the northeast corner of section 36 of the said township 2 south, range 25 east, Salt Lake Meridian, Utah, the point of beginning.

The tract as described contains approximately 214,500 acres subject to adjustment to lines of public land surveys.