

# NATIONAL PARK

# *Briefs*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HAROLD L. ICKES, Secretary

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, ARNO B. CAMMERER, Director



# Visit YOUR Parks!

■ FROM the rocky coast of Maine to the tropical islands of the Pacific, from the ranges of the eastern seaboard to the snow-capped peaks of central Alaska there stretches a great network of scenic and historic areas reserved by the Federal Government for the enjoyment of the American people. Administered by the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior, they include 26 national parks, 82 national monuments, and 51 areas of various classifications. Since 1872, when Yellowstone National Park was created by Congress "as a pleasuring ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people," the Government has set aside nationally important areas of scenic, historic, and archaeological interest in order to preserve them for future generations.

Each national park is in immediate charge of a superintendent, who



Riding in Yosemite Valley

is stationed in the park and is responsible to administrative headquarters in Washington, D. C., for all activities within the area under his control.

### Park Rangers

Park rangers, the men in the forest-green uniforms, are stationed in every national park to assist the visitor. Under the direction of the park superintendent, they are responsible for the protection and administration of the area. It is their duty to provide proper protection from fire and other physical damage to all natural features so that future generations may enjoy them. The safety of visitors on roads, trails, and public-use areas is likewise their responsibility. In order that everyone may leave each area with a feeling that his Government has endeavored to provide him with the greatest possible pleasure and mental stimulation, the park rangers stand ready to assist at all times.

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Left: Avalanche lilies

Right: Bear grass is abundant in Glacier



Kaibab squirrel

### Interpretive Service

The national parks are areas of unusual scenic beauty and natural wonders, and few visitors fail to respond to their inspirational appeal. An inevitable consequence of this interest is their desire to know more about these scenic spots. To satisfy this desire, the National Park Service has established an interpretive service which is free to all. Naturalists assigned to most of the parks conduct field trips on foot, by auto, boat, or pack train. They give lectures and campfire talks, describing the plants, animals, and geology of the area. Outstanding features are also portrayed in graphic form in the museums and other exhibit structures erected in the parks.

### Plant and Animal Life

The national park system provides the American people with the opportunity to enjoy and study animals in their natural surroundings, undisturbed by the hunter and trap-



Mountain goat



Black bear

per, and vegetation that is safe from the ravages of lumbering or thoughtless flower-picking.

A great variety of plant life is found in the park areas, ranging from the tiny Venus's flytrap to the mighty sequoia, largest and oldest of living things. Animal life runs the gamut from tiny insects to great caribou herds.

Altogether, the 26 parks provide an unequalled opportunity for the nature lover, camera "hunter," or artist to pursue his hobby amid unspoiled wilderness country.

### Forests and Trees

As America's once vast virgin forest areas are gradually reduced or destroyed by the onslaught of the woodsman's axe, the national parks loom ever greater as a permanent showroom of the Nation's finest wooded regions. Each park has its own feature: majestic pines and sequoias, interesting desert types, "rain forests," conifers, hardwoods, and so on.

### Geology

Behind the magnificent scenery of the parks is the tale of age-old earth processes, producing these natural wonders. The beheaded volcano which harbors Crater Lake, the roaring geysers of Yellowstone, and the rocky cliffs of Acadia exemplify geologic forces which are slowly but inevitably changing the surface of the earth. Rocks of all the geologic periods, and of many types are represented in the parks. The obscure as well as the most dramatic phases of the processes of erosion, sedimentation, vulcanism, and earth movement invite attention.



Trailer camp in Grand Teton

### Accommodations and Facilities

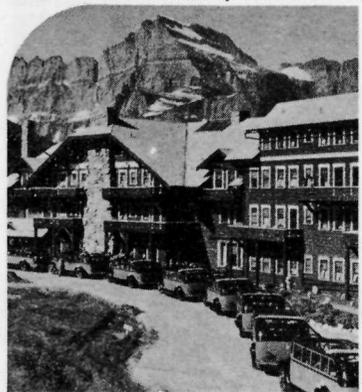
While national parks are primarily wilderness areas, they are accessible by automobile, train, bus, and airplane. A wide choice of accommodations is to be found, ranging from free public campgrounds, through housekeeping tents and cabins, to lodges and luxurious hotels with American and European plan. Cafe and cafeteria service is provided; stores furnish groceries and other campers' supplies; and gasoline and oil are available.

Among the sports which may be enjoyed in most of the national parks are hiking, mountain climbing, swimming, horseback riding, fishing, boating; and many of them have winter sports.

### Parks on the West Coast

**OLYMPIC.** Located in the central part of the Olympic Peninsula of northwest Washington, this park, first set aside as a national monument in 1909, now includes more than 1,300 square miles of glacier-clad peaks, alpine meadows, lakes, canyons, and primeval forest. Large bands of Roosevelt elk, almost extinct elsewhere, are frequently seen in the summer. Nearly every lake

Busses at Many Glacier Hotel



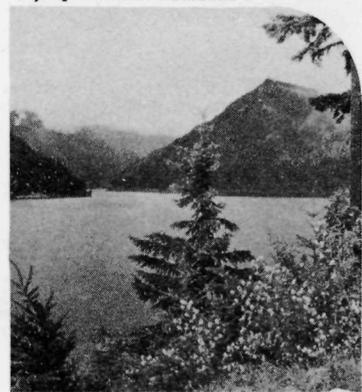
and stream offers good fishing, and an extensive trail system provides the hiker or horseback rider opportunity to enjoy remote sections of the park.

**MOUNT RAINIER.** Nearly 378 square miles of mountain and glacier country in Washington, surrounding "the mountain that was God," offer a wide variety of scenic features. An outstanding winter sports area, Mount Rainier is equally popular for its numerous trails. Other attractions include excellent fishing, hot mineral baths, spectacular wildflower meadows, and dense evergreen forests.

**CRATER LAKE.** The central feature of this area in southwestern Oregon is a deep-blue lake, 2,000 feet in depth, in the heart of a vast, extinct volcano. Of great geologic and scenic importance, the park is also noted for its fishing, winter sports, and abundant wildlife.

**LASSEN VOLCANIC.** Lassen Peak, a volcano inactive since 1917, is the central feature of this spectacular mountain area located in northern California. Encircling it are several peaks reaching more than 9,000 feet above sea level. Among

Olympic's Lake Crescent

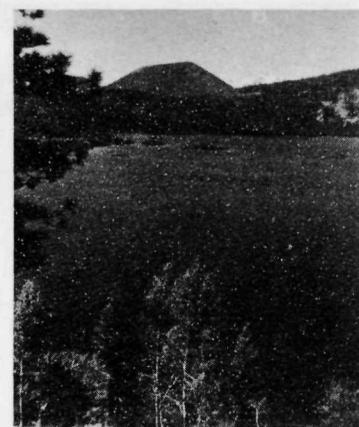


Skiers at Mount Rainier

the points of interest are mud geysers, fumaroles, and beautiful lakes. Fishing and winter sports are popular.

**YOSEMITE.** One of the Nation's largest parks, Yosemite, in east-central California, is famed for its unusual glacial valley with spectacular waterfalls and granite monoliths, its beautiful rugged back country, and its groves of Big Trees. A wide variety of sports may be enjoyed during the summer, while each winter thousands come to enjoy skiing, ice skating, tobogganing, and many other winter sports.

**KINGS CANYON.** Created in 1940, this park comprises nearly 500,000 acres of primitive forest, canyon, and lake country in east-central California, including the Big



Lassen Volcanic National Park

Trees of former General Grant National Park. The Kings Canyon proper is a tremendous gorge dominated by great purplish-gray granite walls. Good trails lead to sparkling streams, deep-blue lakes, and high wildflower meadows.

**SEQUOIA.** The park, with towering mountain peaks, great precipices, and groves of giant sequoias, lies on the west slopes of the Sierra Nevada, just south of Kings Canyon. It provides such recreational features as fishing, swimming, riding, mountain climbing, hiking, and winter sports. On the east boundary of the park is Mount Whitney, the highest mountain in United States proper. The famous Kern Canyon also forms part of Sequoia. Other points of interest include Moro Rock and Crystal Cave.

### The Desert Parks

**BRYCE CANYON.** Lying in the desert country of southwestern Utah,



Hikers at Yosemite



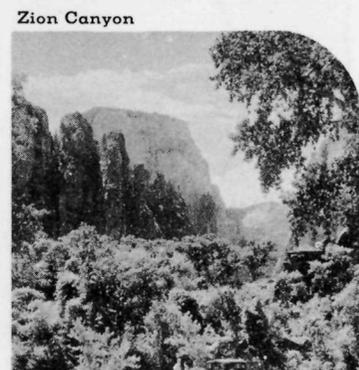
Looking down Kings Canyon

Bryce is a fine example of water erosion. Its great amphitheater, 3 miles long and 2 miles wide, is filled with fantastic figures of many colors.

**ZION.** About 90 miles from Bryce, Zion's central feature is its great canyon, whose sandstone cliffs are brilliantly colored. The Virgin River which flows through the canyon carries away 3,000,000 tons of rock a year. Roads and trails lead to important sections of the park.

**GRAND CANYON.** One of the world's greatest wonders, the Grand Canyon, in Arizona, is a mile-deep gorge whose myriad colors change constantly. Excellent trails lead into the canyon from both the North and South Rims.

**MESA VERDE.** In the shelter of caves cut into the canyons at Mesa Verde, in southwestern Colorado, are many of the best-preserved cliff dwellings in America. In this set-



Zion Canyon



View of Bryce Canyon

ting, the visitor can study the remnants of a departed civilization.

**CARLSBAD CAVERNS.** While 3 main levels have been discovered, Carlsbad Caverns, in the Guadalupe Mountains of southeastern New Mexico, is still not fully explored. Visitors walk on 7 miles of paved, well-lighted trail at the 750-foot level to view the unusual formations.

### The Parks of the Rockies

**GLACIER.** Lying in northwestern Montana, at the border between Canada and the United States, Glacier, with its Canadian neighbor, forms the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. Nestled among the higher peaks are more than 60 glaciers and 200 lakes, most of which can be reached by trail during the summer. Alpine gardens, great fir,



Magnificent grove of sequoia gigantea



Grand Canyon from the Rim

pine, and spruce forests, bighorn, mountain goats, and bear are found in abundance.

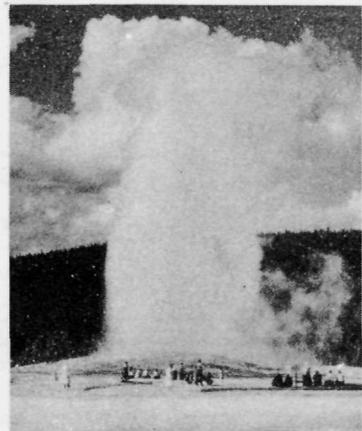
**YELLOWSTONE.** Largest of the parks, Yellowstone, mostly in northwestern Wyoming, is as well known for its canyon, immense lake, and towering peaks as for its famous hot-

water phenomena. Old Faithful is but one of about 3,000 geysers and hot springs there. The park is one of the world's greatest wildlife sanctuaries.

**GRAND TETON.** Just south of Yellowstone, this area embraces the most scenic portion of the Teton Range in Wyoming, beneath which lie several beautiful lakes and streams. Trails lead to the summits of some of the lofty peaks, making mountain climbing popular.

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN.** In the heart of the Rockies, in north-central Colorado, this park lies on the Continental Divide. Included among its 65 named peaks of 10,000 feet and over is majestic Longs Peak. Scores of miles of trails lead to the lakes and peaks on both sides of the Divide. The Trail Ridge Road, highest continuous automobile road in America, offers the motorist unforgettable thrills.

Left: Carlsbad Caverns boasts its Rock of Ages. Below: Old Faithful in eruption at Yellowstone



Peaks in Glacier National Park

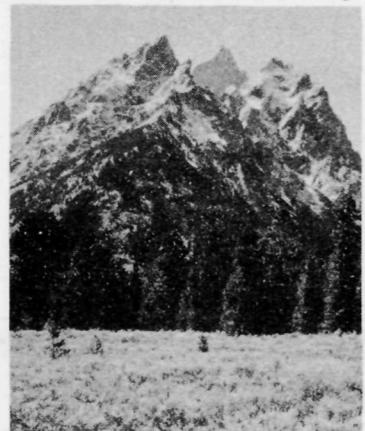
**Parks of Central United States**

**ISLE ROYALE.** The largest island in Lake Superior, Mich., Isle Royale comprises more than 200 square miles of picturesque forests, open glades, and inland lakes. There are also interesting copper mines. Fishing and camping are the chief recreational features.

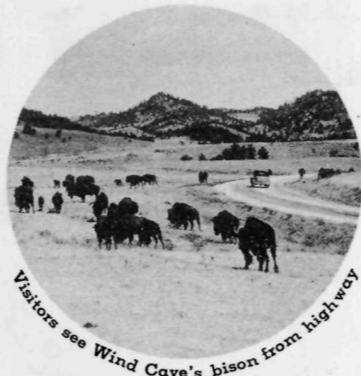
**WIND CAVE.** Located in the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota, Wind Cave is named for the strong currents of wind that blow in and out of its mouth. The characteristic "boxwork" formations have not been found elsewhere in the United States.

**PLATT.** This area in southern Oklahoma was set aside to protect a large group of sulphur, bromide, and

Part of the Teton Range



Trout fishing in Rocky Mountain

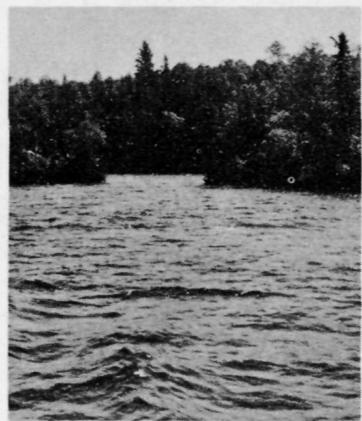


**SHENANDOAH.** In the heart of Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains, Shenandoah is a hiker's paradise, and the 105-mile Skyline Drive along the crest of the peaks is a joy to the motorist.

**MAMMOTH CAVE.** About 100 miles south of Louisville, Ky., Mammoth is one of the largest caverns in the country, and contains many unusual formations. Discovered in 1799, the cave became well known in 1812 when saltpeter for gunpowder was mined there.

**GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS.** So named because of the deep-blue mist that enshrouds them, the Smokies, on the North Carolina-Tennessee line, are among the most scenic mountains in the East. There are 16 peaks above 6,000 feet in altitude, extensive virgin forests of spruce and hardwood, many forms of animal and bird life, 600 miles of trout streams, beautiful floral displays, and over 500 miles of horse and foot trails.

Platt has numerous mineral springs



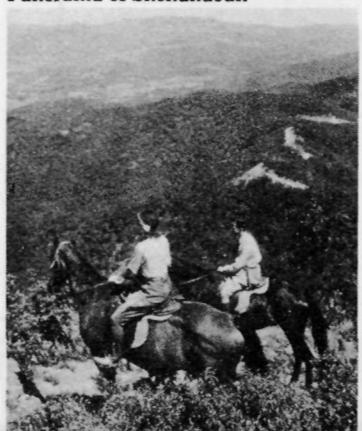
Isle Royale in Lake Superior

**Territorial Parks**

**MOUNT MCKINLEY.** Embracing more than 3,000 square miles of Alaska's most magnificent mountain country, McKinley is dominated by Mount McKinley itself, the highest peak on the North American continent—20,300 feet above sea level. First ascended in 1910, this majestic peak has long been the goal of expert mountain climbers. The park offers excellent opportunities to study such wild animals as caribou, moose, bear, mountain sheep, wolf, wolverine, coyote, fox, and lynx.

**HAWAII.** This spectacular area consists of two separate tracts of land lying on the Hawaiian islands of Maui and Hawaii. The chief features are the great volcanoes of Kilauea, Mauna Loa, and Haleakala; luxuriant tropical vegetation; and rare birds.

Panorama of Shenandoah



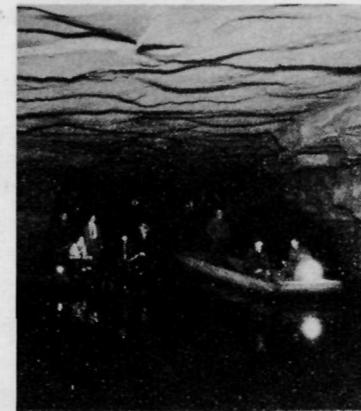
Naturalist party in Acadia



Drinking Hot Springs water



Mammoth Cave's Echo River



Haleakala Crater in Hawaii



Waterfall in Great Smoky Mountains

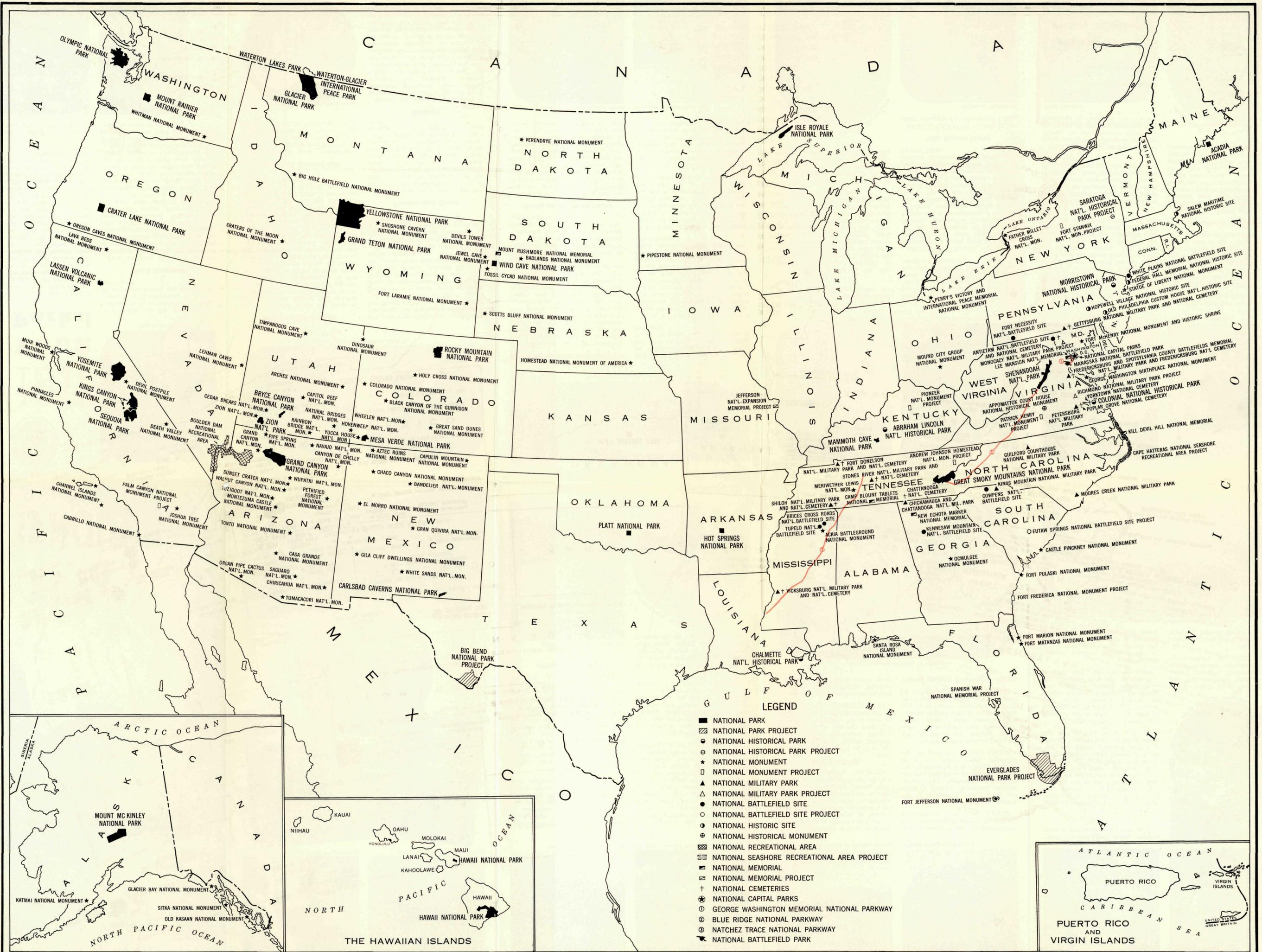


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NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM AREAS AND PROJECTS