

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE • U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## THE NATIONAL PARKS

*Their purposes and management*

FOREST SERVICE • U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## THE NATIONAL FORESTS



*Millions* of people annually visit National Parks and National Forests, or in some way benefit from them. Many visitors want to know more about these public lands, their purposes and management.

Both the National Park System and the National Forest System exemplify conservation—the wise use of our resources. In different, but equally important ways, each enriches the lives of the people of our Nation.

This folder briefly describes the National Park System and the National Forest System, the purposes for which each was established, and how each is managed for the benefit of all Americans.



# NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

**T**HE National Park System consists of more than 270 natural, historical, and recreational areas of national significance. These range from Alaska to the Virgin Islands and from Puerto Rico to Hawaii. The National Park Service, an agency of the Department of the Interior, administers virtually all of these areas.

The National Park Service was established by Congress in 1916 "to promote and regulate the use of the . . . national parks, monuments and reservations" in accordance with their purpose which "is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein . . . by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

In 1964 the Secretary of the Interior recommended separate management concepts for the "three different categories of areas, natural, historical and recreational." The National Park System, which comprises almost 30 million acres, contains in excess of 70 Natural Areas and more than 165 Historical Areas. Recreational Areas number more than 30. The National Park Service also administers the National Capital Parks, in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.

The Natural Areas include all but one national park and more than 30 national monuments. The Historical Areas range from Mesa Verde National Park to Statue of Liberty

National Monument and Gettysburg National Military Park. The Recreational Areas include national recreation areas, such as Lake Mead National Recreation Area, national parkways, national seashores, national lakeshores, and Ozark National Scenic Riverways.

Congress established the first national park in 1872 when it set aside more than two million acres as Yellowstone National Park at the junction of Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. Yellowstone is the largest of the 35 national parks, which often are called the "crown jewels" of the National Park System for their superlative scenery, wildlife, and wonders of nature. The largest area in the System is Glacier Bay National Monument, Alaska, with more than 2.8 million acres. The smallest is the House Where Lincoln Died, which occupies one-twentieth of an acre opposite Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C.

Visitations to the National Park System are expected to increase from over 150 million in 1968 to 400 million by 1980.

The national park idea, an American concept first expressed in the establishment of Yellowstone National Park, has been adopted by more than 90 nations. The National Park Service actively assists other countries throughout the world in establishing and expanding national park programs.

# NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

**T**HE National Forest System comprises 154 National Forests and 19 National Grasslands in 41 States and Puerto Rico. These public lands are administered by the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

As directed by Congress, renewable forest resources—water, timber, forage, wildlife, recreation—are managed under the principles of Multiple Use and Sustained Yield. Multiple Use means that resource management is coordinated so that areas of land produce a combination of values that best serves the American people. Sustained Yield means that resources are managed so as to provide services and products at a level of supply as high as can be sustained without harming the land's ability to produce. Under such management, the National Forests represent the Nation's largest tangible accomplishment in forest resource conservation.

Water from the forests irrigates millions of agricultural acres and is used for domestic and industrial purposes in hundreds of cities. Timber from the forests is manufactured into 5,000 products sold worldwide. National Forests and Grasslands provide habitat for millions of big and small game, game birds, and

fish, and produce forage for 1,300,000 cattle and 2,600,000 sheep. Forest recreation includes scenic drives, wilderness travel, picnicking, camping, hiking, skiing, swimming, boating and, subject to State conservation laws, some of the country's finest hunting and fishing. The National Forests are truly America's Playgrounds.

The Forest Service pioneered in wilderness preservation in 1924 when it set aside the Nation's first Wilderness. The initial 9.1 million acres of the National Wilderness Preservation System created in 1964 are in 54 National Forest Wildernesses, previously classified as Wilderness, Wild, and Canoe Areas. Another 5½ million acres of the National Forests, set aside in 34 Primitive Areas, are being studied for possible inclusion in the wilderness system.

The Forest Service has two other equally important responsibilities. It maintains eight regional forest and range experiment stations, an Institute of Tropical Forestry, an Institute of Northern Forestry, and a Forest Products Laboratory. It also directs programs to encourage and support better management and protection of forest lands in State and private ownership.





**PARK RANGER**

**FOREST RANGER**



## ***VISITING THE NATIONAL PARKS***

**V**ISITORS travel to the National Park System by car, bus, camper, airplane, railroad, and boat. At least one of every five visitors at Everglades National Park now arrives by boat. A similar trend is evident at the national seashores, lakeshores, and other major waterfront areas.

Camping is one of the most popular activities in the National Park System. Many campsites accommodate both tent and vehicle campers. For details on arrangements and fees, prospective visitors should contact superintendents of the park areas in which they are interested.

Good motel, lodge, cabin, and trailer park accommodations operated by concessioners are available in many National Park Service areas. For specific information on campgrounds, lodging, and fees, write directly to the superintendent of the park concerned, or to National Park Service, Room 1013, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

## ***VISITING THE NATIONAL FORESTS***

**H**ERE are 187 million acres of the Nation's magnificent outdoors, open year around for public use and enjoyment.

National Forests are accessible by car and public transportation, and public accommodations are numerous in privately operated resorts and cities in or adjacent to the forests. The Forest Service provides nearly 6,000 campgrounds with space for more than 75,000 families. The regular season, May 30 to Labor Day, is extended in the milder climates from a few months to all year. Campfire permits are required in some forests, and in some designated recreation areas, moderate fees are charged.

Contributing to the visitor's enjoyment and understanding of the outdoors is the Visitor Information Service. Interpretive facilities include self-guiding auto tours and walking trails, campfire programs, roadside overlooks, signs and exhibits, and Visitor Centers.

Detailed maps, brochures, and campground directories are available for most National Forest areas. For further information write to the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.