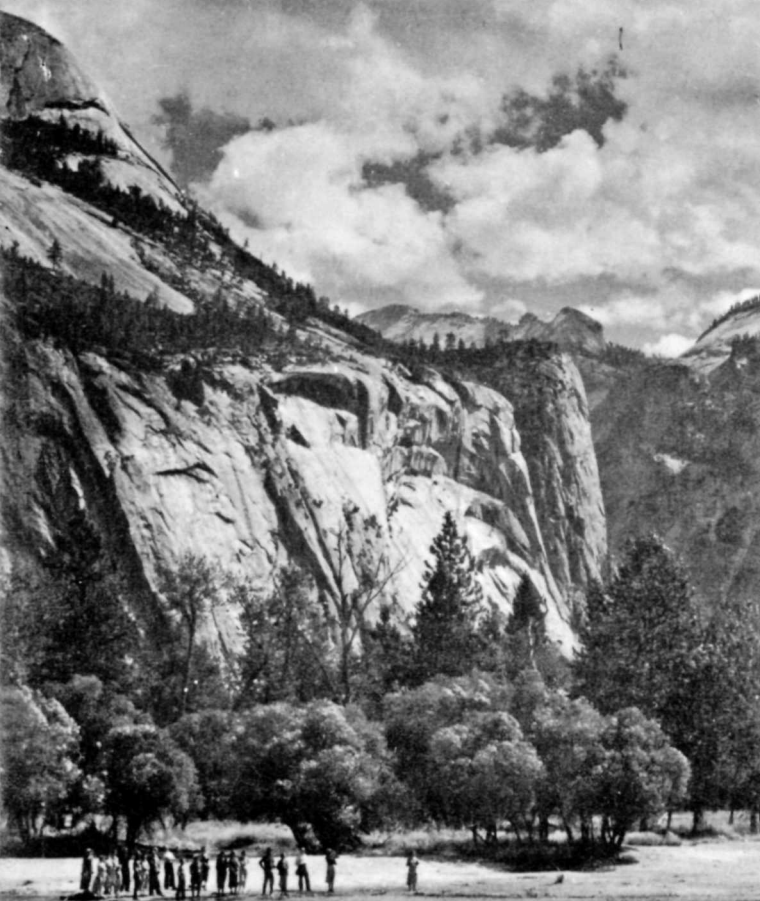


Your National Parks

A BRIEF HISTORY,
WITH QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



Your National Parks

A BRIEF HISTORY



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Stewart L. Udall, *Secretary*

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Conrad L. Wirth, *Director*



For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing
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The National Park System is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and enjoyment of its people.

In the high country of northwestern Wyoming on the night of September 19, 1870, a group of men sat talking around a campfire. Members of the Washburn-Langford-Doane Expedition, they had traveled for weeks through this land—a land that seemed to have been granted special favor in its creation.

This enchanted place filled their thoughts. They spoke in wonder of its vast, dense forests, of high waterfalls thundering into rocky canyons, rushing rivers and still brooks, mighty geysers spouting steam and water high into the air, mud-pots bubbling ceaselessly, towering columns of lava rock, and hot springs blanketed with clouds of steam. And they talked of the abundance and variety of wildlife.

They then discussed what could be done with this land of natural marvels. They suggested dividing the area among themselves, because they knew that people in years to come would gladly pay to see the wonders of this land.

Finally, Cornelius Hedges, a Montana judge, spoke up. He thought that there should be no private ownership of any part of the region, but that it should be set aside as a great park to be protected in its natural state for the use and enjoyment of all people.

The suggestion fired their imaginations, and they talked far into the night, trying to devise a way to protect this land from the westward movement of civilization that could destroy its beauty.

On December 18, 1871, William Claiborne, a newly elected member of Congress from Montana, introduced a bill for a National Park Act in the House of Representatives. The bill was passed on January 30, 1872. Claiborne personally took the bill to the Senate, where it was passed on February 27. On March 1, President Grant signed the bill which created Yellowstone National Park—first in the Nation, first in the world.

The idea of a Federal reservation of an area with park values wasn't entirely new, however. As early as 1790 the parks in Washington, D.C., were established for the enjoyment of the city's residents and visitors. In 1832, Congress established the Hot Springs Reservation in Arkansas "for the future disposal of the United States, and shall not be entered, located, or appropriated, for any other purpose whatever." This reservation is now a National Park. And in 1864 the Federal Government granted Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees to the State

of California for park purposes. Later, this area, too, became a National Park.

But the concept of setting aside a place of extraordinary character and national significance as a National Park for the benefit and enjoyment of all the people was first put into practice with the establishment of Yellowstone.

Spurred by John Muir and other conservationists, Congress, in 1890, established General Grant, Sequoia, and Yosemite National Parks in California. Nine years later Mount Rainier in the State of Washington was made a National Park. In the years since, other National Parks have been established, each by a separate act of Congress.

On June 8, 1906, Congress approved the Antiquities Act to give the President authority "to declare by public proclamation (as National Monuments) historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of scientific interest that are situated upon the land owned or controlled by the Government of the United States." Under this authority, many of our National Monuments were established.

In 1908, conservationist J. Horace McFarland and his American Civic Association began a campaign to establish a separate Bureau of National Parks. Presidents Roosevelt and Taft vigorously endorsed this proposal, and Taft sent a message to Congress urging the establishment of a separate bureau. But it was not until 1915, when a new force took up the National Parks cause, that effective actions were taken.

This new force was Stephen Tyng Mather, a wealthy and influential businessman, who, in 1915, became Assistant to Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane. With the Secretary's support, Mather stepped up the campaign for a Bureau of National Parks. He and his assistant, Horace M. Albright, drafted the bill establishing the National Park Service as a bureau of the Department of the Interior. This bill provided the authority and the machinery for administering a National Park System.

The heart of this law, which has largely determined the policies by which the National Park System is administered, directs the National Park Service ". . . to promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations . . . by such means and measures as to . . . conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

This bill became law on August 25, 1916. Mather was appointed first director of the National Park Service. Under his administration, the Service was coordinated and expanded.

Mather not only gave time and devotion to his work, he made large contributions for roads and educational programs when funds were not appropriated by Congress. He retired in 1929, having earned the lasting gratitude of the people of the United States—a gratitude expressed by Congressman Cramton's tribute: "There will never come an end to the good he has done."

The National Park System's most rapid growth occurred under the authority of the Reorganization Act of 1933, when the Service was given responsibility for administering all National Parks and Monuments, National Military Parks, National Battlefield Parks and Sites, National Memorials, the National Capital Parks, and certain National Cemeteries.

In August 1935, the Historic Sites Act was approved to provide for the establishment of National Historic Sites and for the protection and administration of historic areas of national interest. It also empowered the Secretary of the Interior, through the National Park Service, to conduct a nationwide survey of historic American sites, buildings, objects, and antiquities.

Congress authorized another important study with the Park, Parkway, and Recreational Area Study Act of 1936. It called for a review of National, State, and local public park, parkway, and recreational area programs, and it required a survey of lands throughout the United States which were, or might be, chiefly valuable for recreational purposes. This directive resulted in the Service acquiring several National Parkways.

The Service administers 183 areas, including 29 National Parks, which are now visited by more than 60 million people a year. Thus, the original concept expressed at the Yellowstone campfire is continuing to be fulfilled.

A park was chosen to signify the friendship that exists between the people of Canada and the people of the United States, the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, Alberta and Montana.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT YOUR NATIONAL PARKS

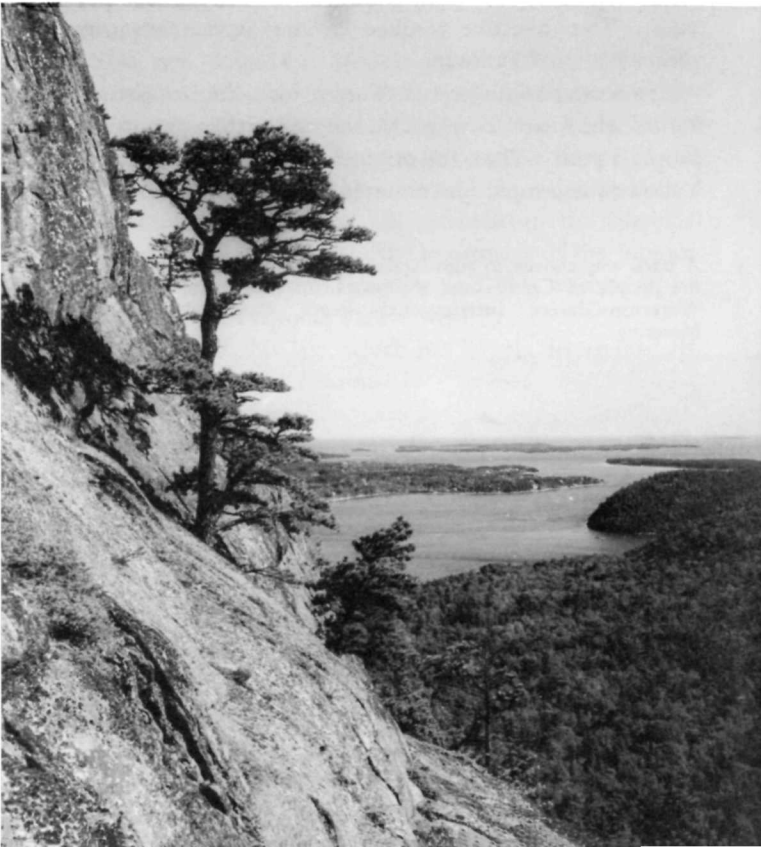
What is the difference between the National Park Service and the National Park System?

The National Park Service is the agency which administers the National Park System. The National Park System is composed of those areas over which the National Park Service has administrative jurisdiction.

Are there areas which bear a Federal designation, but which are not included in the System and are not administered by the Service?

Yes. However, such areas are limited to National Historic Sites. The Historic Sites Act of 1935 authorizes the designation of objects or areas having national historic significance, but not necessarily under Federal ownership or administration. However, a non-federally owned National Historic Site must be managed according to Service standards, set forth in a cooperative agreement between the owning agency and the Secretary of the Interior. The Service assists in administration and donates professional services to assure adequate protection and operation.

Other selfless benefactors worked to set aside and preserve for all time such areas as Acadia National Park in Maine.



And Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia.

What types of areas are included in the National Park System?

National Parks	National Historic Sites
National Monuments	National Cemeteries
National Historical Parks	National Memorials
National Military Parks	National Parkways
National Memorial Park	National Capital Parks
National Battlefield Parks	National Seashore Recreational Area
National Battlefield Sites	

Why is there such a wide variety of area designations?

Official designations of the areas administered by the National Park Service have been given by Congress, except for National Monuments established by Presidential proclamation and National Historic Sites designated by the Secretary of the Interior. Regardless of name, the basic objectives and policies of all are the same, because all are covered in the National Park Service Act of 1916.

What is the total acreage of areas administered by the National Park Service?

In 1960, there were 186 areas containing approximately 25 million acres, or about 1 percent of the area of the United States. Included in this acreage were approximately 500,000 acres of non-Federal land within park boundaries.

What is the justification for including a new area in the System?

An area must possess qualities—superlative scenery, features of exceptional scientific interest, nationally important

historic sites, or structures—which are of such significance as to justify Federal concern with management and protection. Other factors, such as incompatible uses, land ownership, agreement with other Federal agencies affected, and adequacy of boundaries may be important in determining whether establishment is recommended.

By what means are areas in the System established?

National Parks are established by specific acts of Congress. National Monuments may be established by specific acts of Congress or by Presidential proclamation. Other types of areas are established by specific acts of Congress, except that National Historic Sites may also be established by Presidential proclamation or designated by the Secretary of the Interior.

How are areas of the System abolished?

Only by specific acts of Congress.

What is the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments?

Established by the act of August 21, 1935, the Advisory Board consists of 11 private citizens, appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, each of whom is competent in one or more of the following fields: history, archeology, architecture, conservation, natural history, and recreation. The board makes recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior concerning the selection and acquisition of areas;

The visitor center at Dinosaur National Monument, Colorado and Utah, which was built over the quarry face where fossil dinosaur bones are exposed, exemplifies the spirit behind the MISSION 66 program: protection of the units of your National Park System and consideration for the constantly increasing numbers of visitors.



their preservation, maintenance, and administration; the development of programs of research, education, and recreation.

What is the purpose of the National Registry of Historic Landmarks?

The National Registry of Historic Landmarks is designed to recognize and endorse the preservation and protection of structures and sites now administered by the States, other public agencies, and historical societies and to encourage private owners of historic landmarks to maintain such properties.

Federal involvement is limited to the issuance of certificates, periodic inspection, and arrangements for the site owner to acquire a suitable marker. Participation is voluntary.

What is the difference between a National Park and a National Monument?

Generally speaking, National Parks are established to conserve an assemblage of outstanding features which constitute superlative scenery. National Monuments, in most cases, are established to conserve outstanding historical or scientific features. The main difference is in the authority under which they are established—separate acts of Congress for parks, the Antiquities Act for monuments.

What is the difference between National Parks and National Forests?

The main distinction is that each is established under a different concept of land use. National Parks are units of Federal land that are preserved, in a natural condition insofar as is possible, and are used for recreation. National Forests are managed primarily to insure a continuous supply of forest products and to protect watersheds. In the course of this management, recreational and other benefits may be obtained.

What is a National Parkway?

A National Parkway is an elongated park traversed by a road designed for pleasure travel, perpetuating a historic travel route or providing a pleasurable route of travel to or through scenes of natural beauty or historic interest. National Parkways can be established only by acts of Congress.

Following page: Because of the vision and generosity of your fellow Americans, you, too, can enjoy the unmarred beauty of Mount Rainier National Park, Washington.



What are National Recreation Areas and how do they differ from other areas in the National Park System?

National Recreation Areas are Federal reservations established primarily to conserve and develop, for public enjoyment, recreational resources of national significance, including areas of scenic, natural, or historic interest and their wildlife. Not parts of the National Park System, they differ from areas of the System in that the Service administers them through a cooperative agreement with other Government agencies. At Lake Mead, for example, the Bureau of Reclamation retains basic jurisdiction over the area, and the function of the National Park Service is to plan, develop, and manage only the recreational facilities or resources.

Does Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area fit into the National Recreation Area designation?

No. It is unique among areas administered by the Service. Congress originally designated the area as a National Seashore but changed the designation to National Seashore Recreational Area because of certain exceptional conditions governing its administration. The area includes the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, administered by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U.S. Department of the Interior.

What are the National Capital Parks?

Nearly 800 parks, parkways, historic sites, monuments, and memorials in the District of Columbia and environs are included in the National Capital Parks. The office administering these areas is called National Capital Parks and, although located in Washington, D.C., is a field office of the National Park Service. The purpose of the areas is to enhance the attractiveness and preserve the history of the Nation's Capital.

What is MISSION 66?

MISSION 66 is a conservation program for the National Park System and other areas administered by the Service. Under this program, areas of the System are being developed and staffed so as to permit their wisest possible use, maximum enjoyment for those who use them, and maximum preservation of the scenic, scientific, and historic resources which give them distinction. It is a 10-year program to be completed in 1966, the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Park Service.

Why is the MISSION 66 program necessary?

In 1955, the areas of the System were equipped and staffed to handle only about half the number of visitors. This was brought about by the following: (a) There had

been a phenomenal increase in travel—25 million visitors in 1940 as compared with 50 million in 1955 and an estimated 80 million by 1966. (b) The automobile and its attendant changes in travel and recreation habits caused the physical plant, which had been developed largely prior to 1930, to become obsolete. (c) Modernization and expansion had been delayed by World War II and the Korean conflict, during which time funds for park purposes were greatly curtailed.

What are the objectives of MISSION 66?

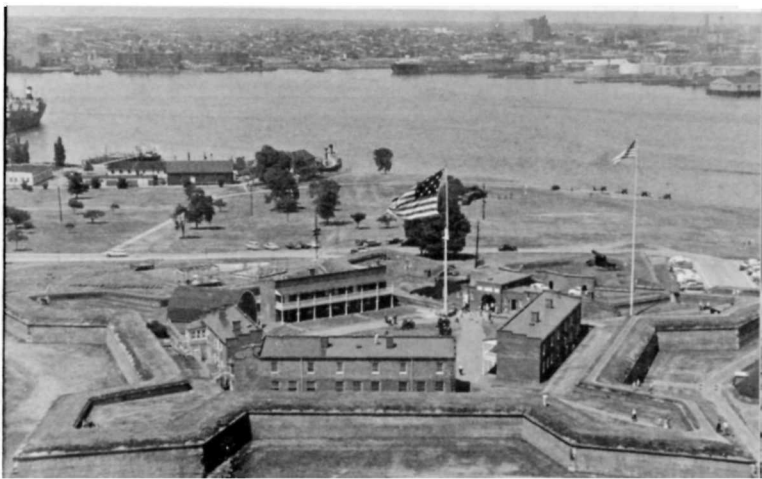
Basically, the objectives of MISSION 66 are to improve the quality of use of the parks, providing for that kind and volume of use that are consistent with the preservation of the significant resources of the parks.

In accomplishing these objectives, certain specific things must be done: (a) Adequate physical facilities must be provided. (b) There must be a program of effective presentation and interpretation and other services to the visitor. (c) Park resources must be protected. (d) A national recreation system that will be adequate to the needs of the future must be developed. (e) A strong research and investigation program must be provided to furnish the information needed to implement these objectives.

Is MISSION 66 resulting in more and better public accommodations?

Outmoded facilities are being replaced, capacity is being increased, and accommodation standards are being raised. Where necessary, access roads, parking areas, and utilities for concessions are being provided by the Service to encourage concessioners to increase facilities and accommodations. In some areas, facilities are being relocated to restore and preserve scenic and other values.

And at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine in Baltimore, you can stand at the very spot above which waved Francis Scott Key's "Star-Spangled Banner."



Is MISSION 66 increasing camping and picnicking facilities?

More than 3,000 new campsites have been developed. The goal is 30,000 by 1966. Picnic areas are being constructed to take care of the increased number of day-use visitors. Campgrounds and picnic areas are located in sections of the parks that are less subject to deterioration by concentrated heavy use. Trailer camps within some parks are being provided.

Is MISSION 66 increasing the size of park staffs?

The number of uniformed personnel is being increased to handle more effectively the necessary contacts with the increased number of park visitors. Increases in maintenance and administrative personnel are also being made, commensurate with the increases in facilities and administrative duties.

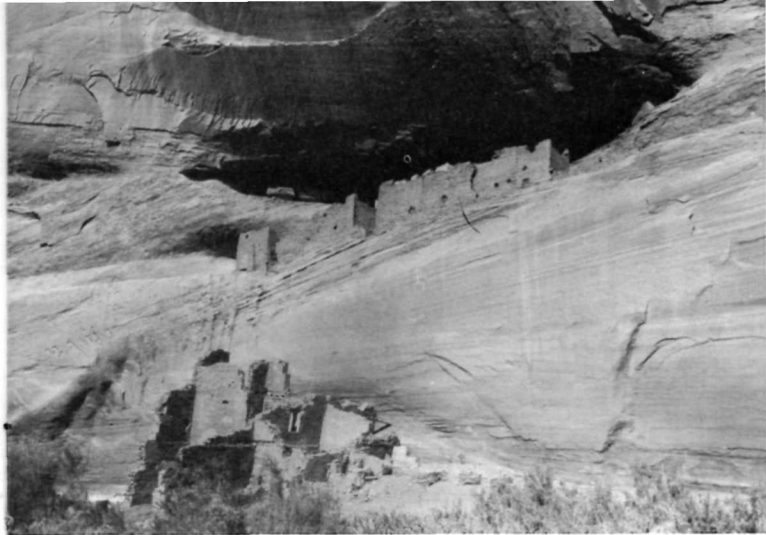
How is MISSION 66 furthering the preservation of park qualities?

The preservation of the wilderness is being accomplished by limiting development to the less scenic and less vital sections of the parks and by not extending roads into the wild natural areas. Where hotels, campgrounds, and other developments are necessary, they are being placed in sections of the parks that have less primary value.

Does MISSION 66 plan for the expansion of the National Park System?

A comprehensive National Park System Plan is being prepared which will point out areas needed to round out the System and those now in the System which might be more appropriately administered by other agencies.

You can feel the beat of the surf on an unspoiled, uncluttered beach at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area, North Carolina.



You can learn of the ways of early Americans when you visit their protected homes at Canyon de Chelly National Monument in Arizona.

Who operates concessions in areas of the System?

Private companies or individuals as concessioners pay a fee to the Federal Government for the privilege of providing services necessary for the accommodation and convenience of visitors, and they are required to maintain specified standards of service. The National Park Service is responsible for approving rates and prices.

Why are visitor-use fees charged in some areas of the System?

Automobile, housetrailer, motorcycle, guide, admission, and other fees are charged in accordance with policies established by Congress, which require that certain benefits, services, and privileges be made at least partially self-sustaining by collecting such fees and charges as may be fair and equitable. Such park revenues are deposited in the U.S. Treasury. They offset appropriated funds, thus reducing the cost to the taxpayer.

Why are visitor-use fees not collected in some areas?

Visitor-use fees are not collected in some areas for one or more of the following reasons: (a) The cost of collection would exceed the revenue. (b) The area is inadequately staffed. (c) The area has not yet been developed sufficiently to justify collection. (d) A State highway traverses the area, carrying a large percentage of through traffic.

What is the wildlife management policy of the National Park Service?

The wildlife management policy of the Service is that the whole natural community of an area shall be subject to a minimum of human interference or manipulation, and that there shall be a free play of natural forces and processes.



You can sense the agelessness of your heritage in the sweep of ancient, vegetation-covered mountains at Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina and Tennessee.

Why are State fishing licenses required in some areas and not in others?

State fishing licenses are usually required in those parks in which the State reserved the right to require such licenses when the park was established. A fishing license is not required in National Parks which were established on public lands in territorial status.

What is the policy of the National Park Service with respect to native vegetation, including forests?

In areas in which a primary objective is display of the natural landscape, the policy of the Service is to conserve as nearly as possible the primitive and natural character of the native vegetation. Intensive fire control, prevention of losses from epidemic forest insects or tree diseases, elimination of grazing or browsing damage, elimination of non-native plants, and prevention of damage by human activities are essential in attaining the objectives of this policy. In areas of historical significance, the vegetation is, as a rule, maintained in, or restored to, a condition similar to that which prevailed at the time of the event being commemorated.

Why doesn't the National Park Service harvest forest products in the same manner as is done in National Forests and private forest lands?

The unique inspirational value of park forests lies in their natural and primitive character. They are, in effect, forest museums in which normal natural processes are given fair play. The values they possess are increasing in scientific, social, and economic importance as commercial harvesting reduces the remaining undisturbed forest elsewhere. Less than 1 percent of the Nation's total forest cover is in areas of the System. The Forest Service and most landowners, operating under different concepts of land use, re-

gard their forests quite properly as a renewable resource which can be harvested periodically.

What type of campgrounds may be found in the System?

Camping facilities in the 60 areas of the System where camping is permitted fall into three main categories: (a) Campground—an organized layout that has well-defined roads, parking spaces, and campsites. Drinking water and sanitary facilities, including toilets and refuse cans, are furnished on a community basis. (b) Camping area—an area that is designated and regularly used for camping by individuals, families, and parties. The area may be accessible either by road or trail. Facilities provided are minimum, generally limited to access roads, basic sanitary facilities, and some fireplaces and tables. (c) Group camp—an area that is intended for organizational groups, such as Boy Scouts, school groups, or other large parties. Group camp sites are provided with large fireplaces, several tables, and parking space for buses or a number of cars.

Is camping permitted anywhere in the parks?

Camping is permitted only in designated areas, unless authorized elsewhere by the superintendent.

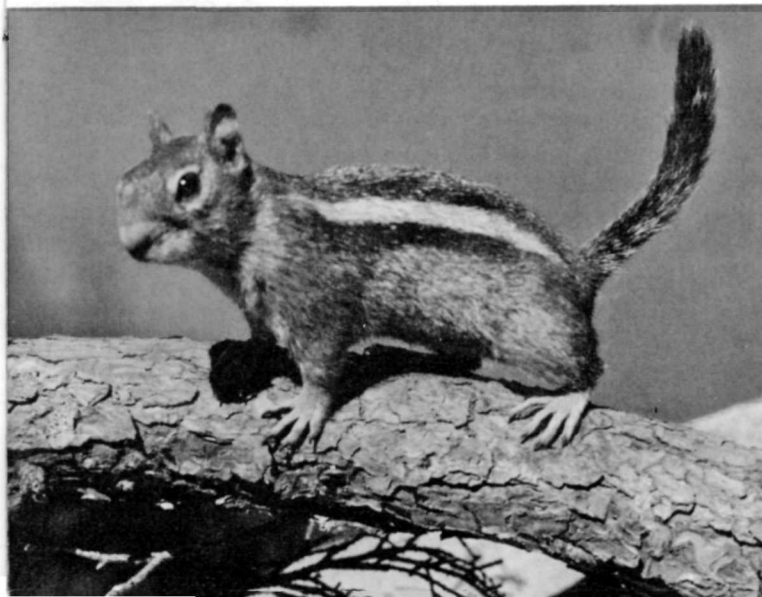
Are reservations required in advance for campsites?

With the exception of group campsites, camping is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Is there a charge for camping?

There are no charges for camping.

In all the natural areas of your National Park System, you will know that this little fellow, or his local counterpart, and other wild creatures will be undisturbed by man.



Are there limitations as to the length of stay?

In some of the most heavily used areas, stays are limited in order to make the campsites available to more people.

PUBLICATIONS ON INDIVIDUAL AREAS OF THE SYSTEM

The Service issues illustrated informational publications for most of the areas of the System. Copies are provided to visitors at entrance or information stations, and they may be purchased by mail from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. In addition, the Service issues a number of specialized publications which are obtainable by purchase only. Price lists of National Park Service publications sold by the Superintendent of Documents may be obtained free from the Government Printing Office.



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