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STANDARDS OF OUR NATIONAL PARKS SYSTEM

Conceived with Yellowstone in 1872, Developed by Popular Thought and Aspiration, Maintained by Successive Congresses and Administrations in Response to Popular Sentiment, Defended against Assault by Popular Uprisings, Today the Sole Protection against Degradation of one of America's Proudest Possessions

By ROBERT STERLING YARD

THE Standards which differentiate our National Parks System from State Park and National Forest recreational systems alone guarantee its unique character, remarkable distinction, and inspirational usefulness. These sprang directly from the people in the beginning, and have been maintained by popular aspiration reflected during many years in the National Government. From the creation of Yellowstone in 1872, succeeding Congresses and succeeding administrations have built up the system, unit by unit, in response to the popular demand, each of its own time.

When the first national parks administration assumed charge under the Interior Department in 1915, it found a large group of great national parks of remarkable scenic magnificence, and several parks besides so small and wholly out of key with the rest as to be manifestly accidental exceptions. It was this group of great parks, the creation of forty-three years of public expression and governmental response, which, in the absence of definition in law, the first national parks administration took as its model for the development of the system.

What National Parks Are

It is the standards exacted by the people preceding that date which remain the standards which are vigorously upheld and defended by enlightened public opinion today.

National Parks, therefore,

have always been, are now, and must remain, areas of original unmodified conditions, each the finest example of its scenic type in the country, preserved as a system from all industrial use. The day that sees these historic standards lowered in any part of the System will begin the entire System's degradation to the common level of playground reservations of any type. All will then be lost of this proud possession except a name.

Previous to the sudden invasion of all American outdoors by the new-born craze for long-distance motor touring, there had been no need of formal national park definition; the country was single-minded. As Dr. Henry S. Graves stated in 1920, during the early rush of the invasion, "the one thought in the minds of the nation in setting aside National Parks has been to preserve the national scenic and historic features of extraordinary interest and make them available for all time." The motive was preservation of the extraordinary.

During this long period, our National Parks were widely regarded as the particular glory of the nation. The first annual report of the first national parks administration named "stimulation of national patriotism" as first of their functions. People visited them at great expense of time, money and often hardship, in the same spirit in which they also traveled in foreign lands. Our National Parks

SECRETARY WORK ON NATIONAL PARKS

(From a letter to Senator Fletcher, Jan. 14, 1924)

“UNDER the theory and practice of the United States Government since 1872 when Yellowstone National Park was created, our National Park System is made up of areas enclosing scenery of quality so unusual and impressive, or natural features so extraordinary, as to possess national interest and importance as contradistinguished from local interest. * * *

“The National Parks, therefore, must not be lowered in standard, dignity, and prestige by the inclusion of areas which express in less than the highest terms the particular class or type of exhibit which they represent. * * *”

(From a letter to the Editor of the National Parks Bulletin, October 16, 1925)

“Municipal and State Parks and National Forests together offer outdoor opportunities in countless numbers, and easily accessible. The Government finds itself duplicating these areas down to the smallest picnic park. We have gotten away from the fundamental principle that the Government should do nothing an individual municipality or state can do for itself, and we are competing in little things, benumbing public spirit and thwarting local pride of possession and development.”

were hailed by many as the wonders of America and of the world. Many came from abroad to see our Yellowstones and Yosemite, concerning some of which much was published in both continents. They were widely celebrated also in picture. They inspired an art and a literature of their own.

During this period, the definite conception of complete national park conservation took a powerful grip upon the public mind. During the seventies and eighties, George Bird Grinnell organized, fought and won "the first Yellowstone war," securing from Congress by popular organization and demand laws forbidding hunting in the national park; there was only one then. His was the first national wild-life conservation organization, and inspired the immense conservation movement that followed.

Original Records of the American Wilderness

In this period's later years, popular organization to conserve forests, game, native birds and animals, wild flowers, and historic and prehistoric relics everywhere attained nation-wide influence, and innumerable other clubs, societies and leagues of clubs operating for far different purposes had also their conservation committees. Fore-runners, these, of the far greater and broader organization since, based on popular scientific study and backed by immense popular sentiment, which is represented today in association with the National Administration by the National Conference on Outdoor Recreation.

Among the thinkers and workers for conservation of that earlier time, hundreds of thousands in number, the National Parks System, because preserving majestic wildernesses in original unmodified condition, acquired great fame. Besides the system's manifest status of National Museum of American Scenic Masterpieces, it was conceived also, as later on it was often called, our National Outdoor Museum of Original America, a national institution in a big and true sense. Its park units were recognized as the outposts of the swelling conservation movement, preserving in original record the plant and life forms of this country as our forefathers had found it.

Recreation Not Then a Principal Objective

This was the precious national possession which the Interior Department was now to develop.

National Parks had been created separately, and up to that time were administered individually in a group including freedmen's institutions and other unclassified federal units. It was inevitable that they should be correlated and handled as a system, and this was undertaken in the Secretary's office in 1915. A separate bureau was created in 1916 and became operative the year following.

The first annual report of the new park administration in 1916 ranked National Park purposes as "the stimulation of national patriotism" and "the fostering of knowledge and health." So far, recreation had not figured as a principal National Park function. It was the beginning of the "see America first" promotion, and the report stressed National Parks as a factor in holding travel at home, but cautioned that "the fostering of recreation purely as such is more properly the function of the city, county and state parks, and there should be a clear distinction between the character of such parks and National Parks." It also differentiated National Parks

ROOSEVELT ON BEAUTY

"There is nothing more practical in the end than the preservation of beauty, than the preservation of anything that appeals to the higher emotions of mankind."

from the National Forests.

There was never a doubt in the minds of this first administration, of which the writer was then a part, of the precise nature of the National Parks System and its marked distinction from

every other land system in the country. That an official definition of what the country was so absolutely agreed upon should ever be needed, occurred to none of us.

Early Official Definition

Probably the first official attempt at definition came from Secretary of Agriculture Houston in his annual report of 1916, inspired by fear of park encroachment upon his National Forests. "A National Park," he said, "should be created only where there are features of such outstanding importance for beauty as well as for natural marvels that they merit national recognition and protection."

Secretary of the Interior Franklyn K. Lane, official custodian of the National Parks System, was far more explicit in his policy statement of May 13, 1918, addressed to Director Stephen T. Mather.

"In studying new park projects," he said, "you should seek to find scenery of supreme and distinct quality, or some natural feature so extraordinary or unique as to be of national interest and importance. You should seek distinguished examples of typical forms of world architecture. * * * The National Parks System as now constituted should not be lowered in standard, dignity and prestige by the inclusion of areas which express in less than the highest terms the particular class or kind of exhibit which they represent."

As Officially Viewed Today

That this principle has inspired the government to the present time, outliving the intermediate motor touring tidal wave and in face of the preaching of double standards by recreational enthusiasts anxious to extend parks under federal control and upkeep into the east, is noted in a letter written January 24, 1924, by Secretary Hubert Work to Senator Fletcher, defining National Parks in some part in the identical phrases used by Secretary Lane eight years before.

In furtherance of his National Park policy, Secretary Work said, in a letter to the writer dated October 25, 1925, for which he suggested publication:

"Municipal and State Parks and National Forests together offer outdoor opportunities in countless numbers, and easily accessible. The Government finds itself duplicating these areas down to the smallest picnic park. We have gotten away from the fundamental principal that the Government should do nothing an individual municipality or state can do for itself, and we are competing in little things, benumbing public spirit and thwarting local pride of possession and development."

Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover has also contributed to the governmental expression of National Park standards a phrase fast becoming famous.

"My own thought," he said to the National Conference on Outdoor Recreation in December, 1925, "is that the National Parks—the parks within the responsibility of the Federal Government—should be those of outstanding scientific and spiritual appeal, those that are unique in their stimulation and inspiration."

A year or two after the new National Park administration began its labor of correlating the units into a practicable cooperative system, came the phenomenal first rush of automobile touring which, beginning with our National Parks, later engulfed in a tidal wave the mountains, plains and deserts of America. National Park patronage, by rail and motor, had been growing healthily up to that time. It became the fashion to visit the parks. Also, Secretary Lane had emphasized their "playground" functions, and more people were coming in the purely recreational spirit, to fish and camp and hike, than in the decades preceding. Suddenly came the deluge.

The Automobile Invasion

No careful observer of that period will dispute the part which the National Parks System, then first "discovered" by the press and the object of vast publicity, unconsciously played, not at all in creating this motor touring era, but in precipitating it. It supplied an objective for the new instinct for the long road, with its new sights, new people, and new adventures, which lurked in the minds of a million people at that time.

We in the service were too close to this phenomenon to comprehend it. Not until years had brought this first rush of the touring motor into national perspective were we able to see how incidental to its beginning were the parks themselves. Had there been no National Parks, these new devotees of the wheel would probably have invaded the National Forests first, instead of afterward, doubtless with as great initial excitement and happiness.

The Real Motor Tourist

The touring motorists' invasion of National Parks, as later of every corner of the country, continues; it is responsible for much of the overcrowding, the "jazz," and other differences which disturb the serenity of certain points of concentration in several of our most conspicuous National Parks today. It is also responsible for the large increases in patronage reported annually by the National Park Service—which is, however, probably no greater in ratio than in our National Forests and not so great as in our State Parks.

The motor invasion is used recently by ardent recreationalists to prove that the times have changed, that the standards are no longer popular—and, anyway, lower national park standards in the east will not affect the higher standards in the west.

On every count, this promotion is fallacious. The motor visitors to our National Parks, whatever their sins may or may not be in other respects, are in this respect altogether maligned. These invaders of the solitudes of our National Parks are for the most part earnest, wide-awake Americans on holiday, for which many of them have been saving for months or years. They are seeing America and come into the National Parks for the wonderful "sights"

of which they have read in the newspapers and heard from their friends.

With few exceptions, those of them who hear, while in the National Parks, what this System really is, what its standards and purposes are, and what it means to the Nation, rise enthusiastically to the splendid conception. They have discovered another and a glowing reason to be proud of their country.

My personal experience in spreading knowledge of the System and its standards, which is long, wide and varied both in and out of the National Parks, shows that the plain people of America, once they grasp this vision, are its readiest and most enthusiastic advocates. Met on the trail, on the rim, around the family camp fire or on the side-lines of the dancing pavilion, most of them will talk earnestly of the greatness of our National Parks, and the need for keeping the System at its highest point of efficiency. It is significant that more than ninety per cent of the many thousands who visited and used the new Yosemite museum last summer came from motor camps.

So, also, without the parks; the audiences which rise quickest to the ideal of National Park standards, who show the most interest, and ask the most (and often most intelligent) questions, are those made up of the plain people of the country. With them, when once they grasp the vision, National Park standards are safest.

The Period of National Appreciation

Meantime, during the last six or seven years, the System in its original conception has engaged the appreciation and support of a very large proportion of those who, whether or not they visit the parks themselves, read, study and think. This is a national institution, not a travel proposition. Never before has it been so carefully studied, so widely understood, so considered from the point of view of the extraordinary service, intellectual and spiritual, which it alone can render to the Nation and the people who compose it.

Assailed for several years in Congress by organized industrialists wanting to dam and store its waters for ordinary business purposes, popular organizations representing millions of members persistently and successfully defended it, and thousands of individuals, many of whom had not seen a National Park and expected never to see one, appealed to Congress for its protection.

Meantime, the educational era of its service has also begun. Safe-guarded by its standards, the System is seen today as our Super-University of Nature. Dr. John C. Merriam believes that, for many purposes National Parks have "purely educational value far beyond that of any regularly established formal educational institutions."

"The work of the Creator's hand," he continues, "presents itself here in such a way that all may compre-

A NATIONAL PARK CREED

By JOHN C. MERRIAM

President Carnegie Institution of Washington

WHILE the National Parks serve in an important sense as recreation areas, their primary uses extend far into that fundamental education which concerns real appreciation of nature. Here beauty in its truest sense receives expression and exerts its influence along with recreation and formal education. To me the parks are not merely places to rest and exercise and learn. They are regions where one looks through the veil to meet the realities of nature and of the unfathomable power behind it.

I CANNOT say what worship really is—nor am I sure that others will do better—but often in the parks, I remember Bryant's lines, "Why should we, in the world's riper years, neglect God's ancient sanctuaries, and adore only among the crowd, and under roofs that our frail hands have raised?" National Parks represent opportunities for worship through which one comes to understand more fully certain of the attributes of nature and its Creator. They are not objects to be worshipped, but they are altars over which we may worship.

hend. Here is found also much that represents the unmodified primitive life of the world, both plant and animal, remaining just as the Creator moulded it over the mountains and valleys. Nature is said to be an open book to those who really wish to read it, but there are grades and shades of meaning which may be hard to understand. There is certainly no place where the leaves are more widely spread or the print more clear than in these portions of the book."

Scientific organization has recently been effected to study intensively the original records of untouched nature which constitute our National Parks System, and educational organization is perfecting to open this unique Book of Knowledge to all.

The Spirit of Today

The temper of the times sharply distinguishes between the type of area to be included in future additions, if any, to the National Parks System, and the types which belong naturally to State Park and other principally recreational systems.

On May 24, 1924, the all-representative National Conference on Outdoor Recreation, after thorough discussion, passed the following:

Resolved, 1. That the Conference express its approval of the historic and popular belief that the National Parks System consists of permanent national reservations protecting inviolate those wonderful or unique areas of our country which are museums representing the scenery and principal natural features of the United States available in our great heritage of animate and inanimate nature;

2. That these Parks must be protected completely from all economic use; that their scenic qualities should represent features of national importance as distinguished from those of sectional or local significance and that they must be preserved in a condition of unmodified nature;

3. That laws should be provided which will furnish an administration as nearly uniform as possible throughout the National Parks System.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science, much the largest and most progressive scientific body in the world, has issued a series of National Park resolutions covering a number of years, the latest of which, passed by the Council December, 1925, follows:

"Resolved, That the American Association for the Advancement of Science recognizes the National Parks as the means of preserving unique representations of the primitive and majestic in nature, and wishes to record its protests against additions to the National Park System, or change in policy, which may tend to lessen in fact or in public estimation their present high value as natural museums, their complete conservation from industrial uses, and their effectiveness as a national educational institution."

The National Chamber of Commerce passed the following resolution on May 13, 1926:

"The Chamber of Commerce of the United States has earlier expressed its interest in the creation of national parks. It believes the primary responsibility of the federal government in the establishment or maintenance of national parks is to preserve those features of our landscape where, in sufficiently large areas, the scenery is so unusually beautiful and is so characteristic of its kind, and where consequently it has so great an educational or other value, that it may be considered a heritage of the

whole nation rather than a recreational facility for the inhabitants of adjacent territory.

"The primary responsibility for supplying recreational facilities for the people of states and municipalities lies with the states and municipalities themselves."

During the same month the Conservation Council of Chicago, representing forty-six organizations of diversified civic interests, passed the following resolution:

"The Conservation Council of Chicago sees the National Parks System as a national institution of untold importance to the education, as well as to the health, recreation and spiritual inspiration, of the American people.

"It should be conceived, not merely as a better system of playgrounds in a nation and age of playgrounds, but also as our Super-University of Nature, in which Nature herself, in her loftiest manifestations of unique scenery and primitive life, is the supreme teacher."

Scores of others upholding National Park ideals could be cited, but these present a sufficiently wide range of representative organization sentiment.

The Time for Action is at Hand

The time has come for a concerted popular movement to consolidate these truly national ideals.

The National Parks System was born of the instinct to preserve for all time extraordinary beauty and majesty of native landscape in original unmodified record; it was developed by the genius of the people, without conscious planning, through a generation and a half of park making; this product analyzed, its purpose and its standards were formulated for the conscious upbuilding of the future. The System is thus revealed a unique expression of the combined idealism and practicality which makes this nation great.

The protecting standards of the National Parks System are defined in the parks themselves and in the thoughts and aspirations of the American people, but they will not be wholly safe till they are defined also in the law.

INCREASED NATIONAL PARK TRAVEL

The National Park Service has issued the following table of travel to National Parks during the last three years.

Name of Park	1924	1925	1926
Hot Springs, Arkansas..	164,175	265,500	260,000
Yellowstone, Wyoming..	144,158	154,282	187,807
Sequoia, California.....	34,468	46,677	89,404
Yosemite, California ...	105,894	209,166	274,209
General Grant, Calif....	35,020	40,517	50,597
Mount Rainier, Wash...	161,473	173,004	161,795
Crater Lake, Oregon...	64,312	65,018	86,019
Wind Cave, S. Dakota..	52,166	69,267	85,466
Platt, Oklahoma.....	134,874	143,380	124,284
Sully's Hill, N. Dakota..	8,035	9,183	19,921
Mesa Verde, Colorado...	7,109	9,043	11,356
Glacier, Montana.....	33,372	40,063	37,235
Rocky Mountain, Colo...	224,211	233,912	225,027
Hawaii, Territory of			
Hawaii	52,110	64,155	35,000
Lassen Volcanic, Calif..	12,500	12,596	18,739
Mount McKinley, Alaska	62	206	533
Grand Canyon, Arizona.	108,256	134,053	140,252
Lafayette, Maine.....	71,758	73,673	101,256
Zion, Utah.....	8,400	16,817	21,964
TOTAL	1,422,353	1,760,512	1,930,865

THE NATIONAL PARKS AT A GLANCE

They are nineteen in number, with a total area of 11,387 square miles. Together, they include scenic features of greater magnificence and wider variety than are comfortably accessible in all the rest of the world combined. They are completely conserved in a condition of original unmodified nature, constituting a system of National Museums of natural wilderness landscape and wild life whose equal no other nation can ever possess.

National parks in order of creation	Location	Areas in square miles	Distinctive characteristics
Yellowstone 1872	Northwestern Wyoming.....	3,348	The world's most spectacular volcanic exhibit—More geysers than in all rest of world together—Boiling springs—Mud volcanoes—Petriified forests—Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, remarkable for gorgeous coloring—Large lakes—Many large streams and waterfalls—Vast wilderness, greatest wild bird and animal preserve in world—Exceptional trout fishing.
Sequoia 1890	Middle eastern California	604	The Big Tree National Park—The Giant Forest alone contains hundreds of sequoias over 10 feet in diameter, and a few 25 feet in diameter—Sugar pines, white fir, yellow pine and incense cedar all attain their greatest development—There are startling precipices and towering mountain ranges.
Yosemite 1890	Middle eastern California	1,125	An immense granite wilderness replete with world-famous spectacles—The Yosemite Valley acknowledged the most beautiful in existence—Many waterfalls of extraordinary height—Great forests, including three groves of giant sequoias—High Sierra, glaciated—A paradise for trail riders and campers.
General Grant..... 1890	Middle eastern California	4	Created to preserve the famous General Grant Tree, 29 feet in diameter, and the splendid forest which surrounds it—Six miles from Sequoia National Park.
Mount Rainier..... 1899	West central Washington	324	Largest accessible single peak glacier system—28 glaciers, some of large size—48 square miles of glacier, 50 to 500 feet thick—Wonderful subalpine wild flower fields, surrounded by a belt of enormous trees—Hotel, camps, trails to summit and around the mountain.
Crater Lake 1902	Southwestern Oregon.....	249	Lake of extraordinary depth and color filling crater of prehistoric Mount Mazama, a volcano which collapsed within itself—Six miles in diameter, brilliantly colored lava sides rising 1,000 to 2,200 feet above surface—Fine fishing.
Wind Cave 1903	South Dakota	17	Limestone cavern having many miles of galleries and numerous chambers containing peculiar formations.
Platt 1904	Southern Oklahoma	1½	Conserving sulphur and other springs—Serves the town of Sulphur as a city park.
Sullys Hill 1904	North Dakota	1 1/5	Wild animal reservation administered by U. S. Biological Survey.
Mesa Verde 1906	Southwestern Colorado.....	77	Most notable and best preserved cliff dwellings in the United States, perhaps in the world—Archaeological excavations revealing new treasures—A romantic region, full of human and historic interest.
Glacier 1910	Northwestern Montana.....	1,534	Rugged mountain region of unsurpassed romantic beauty and extraordinary individuality—250 glacier-fed lakes—60 small glaciers—Precipices thousands of feet deep—Cirques of sensational magnificence—Next to Yellowstone, our most populated wild animal reserve.
Rocky Mountain..... 1915	North middle Colorado.....	397½	The heart of the granite Rockies—Snowy Front Range carrying the continental divide with peaks from 11,000 to 14,255 feet in altitude—Remarkable records of the glacial period—Most patronized of all our National Parks.
Hawaii 1916	Hawaii	186	Three separate areas—Kilauea and Mauna Loa on Hawaii, Haleakala on Maui—Includes the world famous "Lake of Everlasting Fire."
Lassen Volcanic 1916	Northern California.....	124	Only active volcano in United States proper—Lassen Peak 10,465 feet—Cinder Cone of 6,879 feet—Hot springs—Mud geysers—Fine exposition of volcanism in most of its phases, but there are no geysers.
Hot Springs 1917	Middle Arkansas	1½	Conserves 46 hot springs possessing properties which alleviate and often cure rheumatic and other affections—Hotels at all prices, and 18 bath houses under government supervision.
Mount McKinley 1917	South central Alaska.....	2,645	Encloses the heart of the Great Alaskan Range with Mount McKinley rising 20,700 feet, seen from an altitude of 3,000 feet—Colossal glaciers—Immense herds of caribou—Mountain sheep in large numbers.
Grand Canyon 1919	North central Arizona.....	958	The greatest example of erosion, and no doubt the spectacle nearest sublimity in all the world—Fine hotel, camps and motor camps, and trails to river and along the canyon floor.
Lafayette 1919	Maine coast.....	8	A group of ancient granite mountains on Mount Desert Island remarkable for their beauty, their geological significance and their history.
Zion 1919	Southwestern Utah	120	"The Rainbow of the Desert." A gorge cut 3,000 feet down through the White Cliff and the Vermilion Cliff of the colorful Plateau Country of Utah. Magnificently carved by erosion.

YELLOWSTONE'S CHIEF DESCRIBES BECHLER BASIN

The Famous "Cascade Corner," the Meadows Climax of which Representative Addison T. Smith Demands Cut Out of Yellowstone National Park for a Local Irrigation Reservoir

By HORACE M. ALBRIGHT

Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park

A GLANCE at a topographic map of Yellowstone National Park will show that the Continental Divide which is the summit of the Rocky Mountains crosses Yellowstone Park from the western boundary to the southern line, and leaves a triangular area in the Pacific watershed.

The descent from the Continental Divide toward the Pacific watershed that is in a southerly and westerly direction is very gradual for several miles; then there is a sharp break taking the form of steep cliffs in several places. These relatively flat areas south and west of the Continental Divide are called the Madison and Pitchstone Plateaus. The latter is crossed by the road from Lake Yellowstone to the Jackson Hole. The Madison Plateau is farther west, and extends to the western boundary of the Park. In the Madison and Pitchstone Plateaus, the following have their source:

Bechler River and its upper forks; Boundary Creek, a lower tributary of the Bechler; Falls River; Mountain Ash Creek, a big branch of the Falls River; Proposition Creek, also a large tributary of the Falls River; all of these streams have many branches.

The Bechler River flows into the Falls not far from the south park boundary. Really it should be said that the Falls River is a tributary of the Bechler, because the latter is the larger stream at their confluence.

At any rate, as the Falls River, with the waters of the Bechler combined with it, leaves the Park, it is next to the Yellowstone in size—the second largest stream in the entire Park.

Climax of Many Waters

The headwaters of these streams are in sparsely wooded highlands, at an altitude of 9,000 feet, more or less. Between the wooded areas, there are large open grassy parks. The soil is volcanic and porous. It is a region of very heavy snowfall, and much of the moisture goes into the ground to reappear lower down in springs. As the plateau becomes steeper, the streams of water from melting snow and springs have cut valleys, and as they converge, and the streams grow, the valleys become deeper canyons. Also at lower altitude, the forests become very dense, and these hold the snow even longer than it stays at higher elevations.

Streams from these forested slopes and from springs issuing from the canyon walls become more numerous as the Madison Plateau breaks off rather precipitately. Waterfalls appear at every turn, and three big forks of the Bechler come together with a crash at Three River Junction. There are cascades and waterfalls on all of the other streams that cut the Madison Plateau. They appear on every hand, and in the canyons of the Falls and Bechler rivers one becomes bewildered by the noise of rushing and falling water amid spectacular scenery and fine forests.

On Bechler River there are Ragged, Tenday, Wahhi, Twisted, Ouzel, Iris and Colonnade Falls, and a large number of small falls and cascades; on Boundary Creek, Dunanda and Silver Scarf Falls; on Mountain Ash Creek, the amazing Union Fall, probably as unique and beautiful

as any waterfall in the world; on Falls River, Rainbow, Terraced and several unnamed falls.

After the Falls River and Bechler River come together, there is Cave Fall, nearly 300 feet long and over 50 feet high. Its name was derived from the fact that there is a great natural cave which can only be entered from a point near the bottom of the fall. The view of the river and its fall from a short distance within this cave is very much worth while.

This section of the Park has been called the Cascade Corner on account of its numerous waterfalls and turbulent streams.

The Bechler River Basin

After the rivers issue from the canyons cut through the Madison Plateau, they enter extensive meadows, interspersed with unusually clean, open forests; that is, there is no dead and down timber to impede progress through them. These forests contain some large trees, and it is believed that the biggest trees in the Park are in this region. One is impressed at once with the extent and variety of the forests and other vegetation. Ferns grow luxuriantly near the mouths of the canyons, and natural forage is very abundant all over the basin.

As the country has never been grazed by domestic stock, the wild flower exhibit is splendid throughout the summer. Wild berries are also to be found all over the basin.

While the snow is melting and for a time afterwards, the meadows are wet, and, if the previous winter has brought excessive snow, or if the spring has been late, the meadows are swampy for a few weeks; but most summers find the Bechler and Falls River Meadows dry and firm early in July. Of course, when the snow is melting and the meadows are wet, mosquitoes are a great pest, and comfortable camping is not to be thought of.

On the other hand, when the meadows have dried, and mosquitos gone, there is no prettier camping region in the West, than these tree-bordered parklands, through which trout-laden streams lazily meander to big rivers.

The time will come when every acre of this region will be needed for campers.

There is also considerable wild animal life in this region—mostly elk, but there are quite a number of moose and bear.

"A Glorious and Indispensible Part of Yellowstone National Park"

Consider the canyons, the wild rivers and streams leaping over their walls and dashing through their bottoms, the cascades and waterfalls, many of which are unique in form, the cliffs of the Madison Plateau; then the forests, wild flowers and ferns, the meadows, and the streams now placid and slow-moving, well stocked with the native cutthroat trout; and we have a composite picture of the Cascade Corner, a glorious and indispensable part of Yellowstone National Park.

It is proposed by Idaho irrigation interests to build a reservoir in the basin, if they can get permission to con-

struct them in the Park, or if they can get the meadow area eliminated from the Park. The reservoir would be built on Bechler River by building a dam and dykes not far above the junction of the Bechler and Falls Rivers. This project would flood all of the Bechler River meadows and most of those of Boundary Creek, and water would be backed up into the mouth of Bechler River Canyon.

Arguments Against the Projects

1. Since the lands covered by the project have national park standard as to scenery, forests and other vegetation, and recreational advantages, they should not be utilized for anything but park purposes.

2. They cannot be eliminated from the Park without creating a dangerous precedent for "nibbling" off other sections for commercial purposes.

3. If eliminated, and the reservoir is built, access to the canyons and their spectacular waterfalls would be cut off, and a very expensive road would have to be cut in the solid rocks of the Madison Plateau cliffs in order to enter these gorges, especially the Bechler River Canyon which is the best of them all.

4. Some of the best forests would be sacrificed if the Park loses this section.

5. Camping areas that may be used by tens of thousands in the future would be turned over to the perpetual use of a few, and, without any cost to the irrigation interests for the land to be flooded.

6. The meadows are ideal range for wild life, particularly moose. Inadequate game protection in Idaho and the Wyoming strip beyond the Tetons, in the past, has resulted in the loss of most of the larger animals of this region, as it is natural for park animals to drift down and over the park line. Better protective measures are being taken now, but it will take time to restore the former numbers of big game animals in this region. Elk now winter in small herds on the Warm Fork of Boundary Creek well within the Park, but this warm spot would be flooded if the reservoir is built. Moose are not very numerous but would certainly become scarcer if the meadows are flooded.

Reservoir Sites Outside the Park

7. From the standpoint of general park protection, the meadows should be retained in the Park. We can guard the whole southwest corner with two men under existing conditions, but with the line drawn back to the foot of the Madison Plateau, we would have to keep a patrol in every canyon to keep trespassers from working over into the heart of the Park.

8. There are other reservoir sites outside the Park that should be developed before these sites within the Park are considered. There are several sites near the southwestern corner of the Park. There is the Lake of the Woods site, which has been eliminated from the Park enlargement plan. These sites in the aggregate may not store as much water as the site in the Park, but they would materially improve the irrigation situation.

Furthermore, there are big sites available, such as Island Park and Teton Basin, which are discussed in the 1904 Report of the Director of the Reclamation Service. Of course, these sites would have to be purchased, in whole or in part.

9. I have never been convinced that this irrigation project has not been, at least in part, a land speculation scheme. There are well-informed citizens of Idaho who believe that if the right to use the Bechler River Basin is secured there will be some heavy sales of land around St. Anthony. I believe that the bona fide settlers, who ex-

FOR LOVE OF COUNTRY

By CLOYD H. MARVIN

President of the University of Arizona

PERHAPS there is no other educational force that will give the people a love of their country and stabilize their social and patriotic ideas as much as our national parks, so I am glad you are carrying on the campaign in behalf of the park system.

pect to stay and develop their properties, and who do not expect to make big returns through real estate turn-overs, will be able to secure all of the water necessary to the development of their properties.

The Proposed Exchange

In some of the recent correspondence I have seen, I note the revival of the proposed exchange for a larger area west of the Park, now a part of the Targhee National Forest. In 1921, the Legislature of Idaho enacted a law, setting apart the "Fremont State Game Preserve," adjacent to the Park and south of the Continental Divide. It was provided, however, that the preserve should become effective and subject to an absolutely closed hunting season, only when the basin is made available for reservoir purposes! This remarkable piece of legislation carried on its face utter lack of regard for the wild life of the preserve, and was plainly a piece of bait to attract the interest of conservationists who had been opposed to the project.

As a matter of fact, the "Fremont State Game Preserve" would have served no good purpose if it had been made effective, because there is very little game in the region—none, except in the southern end of the proposed preserve. It has no scenic features, and in no other respects possesses interest for park people. It is too barren even for pasturage of cattle and sheep, except in the southern end.

It appears now that this "Fremont Preserve" may be offered in exchange for a part of the basin. This would be a rather bold proposal in view of the fact that the Federal Government owns both tracts. Again, the Forest Service would never agree to adding the "game preserve" tract to the Park. As for the National Park Service, it ought not to give the proposal a moment's consideration.

EDITORIAL NOTE: During the summer a Senate Committee headed by Senator Robert N. Stanfield, whose special committee worked up so much local sentiment summer before last for the grazers' demands on the National Forest, has visited the Bechler Basin and held an enthusiastic mass meeting in Idaho. Senator Stanfield is chairman of the Public Lands Committee of the Senate. To him, and Senator Nicholas J. Sinnott, chairman of the Public Lands Committee of the House, protests may be addressed.

MONTANA SPORTSMEN DEFEND YELLOWSTONE

The Montana Sportsmen's Association, at its annual meeting in Helena, passed vigorous resolutions against Addison Smith's proposed amendment to the Yellowstone Boundary improvement bill to cut the Bechler Basin out of Yellowstone for reservoir purposes.

It went farther, protesting against taking any portion of any park or monument for industrial uses which is now used for the perpetuation of game or for outdoor recreation purposes of any kind.

THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

1512 H STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.

OBJECTS

1. To conserve nature and win all America to its appreciation and study.
2. To encourage use of the National Parks System for enjoyment of its unsurpassed spiritual and educational value.
3. To protect National Parks against whatever may tend to disturb their continuity of natural conditions or to diminish their effectiveness as supreme expressions of beauty and majesty in nature.
4. To promote use of National Parks for purposes of popular education and scientific investigation.
5. To promote a national recreational policy under which publicly owned lands of the nation shall be equipped for recreational service of the people so far as this is consistent with other requirements.
6. To protect wild birds, animals and plants, and conserve typical areas existing under primitive conditions.
7. To aid specialist organizations, and to interest organizations of many kinds and the people generally, in these objectives.

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