

Petroglyphs.

partly through forests of pine and aspen. It is usually free of snow from June 15 to October 15, but local inquiry should be made before attempting this route.

The visitor center presents exhibits and illustrated orientation programs that will make your visit more enjoyable.

Midsummer daytime temperatures are in the 80° and 90° range, and the nights are normally cool. Winters are usually cold during the latter part of December and in January.

Hiking is best during the generally mild weather of spring and autumn.

Capitol Reef Lodge offers sleeping accommodations, tours, and meals for a limited number of guests. Gifford Motel also offers modern accommodations, including two housekeeping apartments. Both the lodge and the motel are on private lands within the monument boundary. The National Park Service, therefore, exercises no control over them. At the end of the drive and outside the monument is the Sleeping Rainbow Guest Ranch, where tours, meals, and overnight accommodations are available.

Camping space, tables, fireplaces, water, and rest-rooms are provided at the Fruita Campground. Utility connections for house trailers are available at the lodge.

Gasoline is available at the lodge and at the Sleeping Rainbow Guest Ranch, but there are no facilities for repair of automobiles.

Preservation of the Monument

Regulations have been designed for the protection of the natural features and for your safety and convenience.

Please do not damage petroglyphs or disturb flowers, trees, rocks, wildlife, or other natural features. Use of firearms is not permitted.

Camp and picnic only in the established campground. *Help keep the monument clean!*

FIRES AND SMOKING. Be careful with all fires, including cigarettes and cigars. *Be sure your campfire is out!*

You may take your pet into the monument provided you keep it on leash or under other physical restraint at all times.

Mission 66

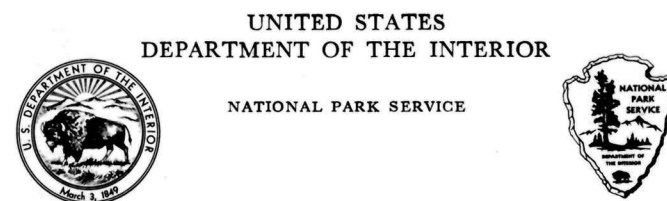
Mission 66, a program designed to be completed by 1966, the 50th anniversary of the National Park Service, will assure the maximum protection of the scenic, scientific, wilderness, and historic resources of the National Park System in such ways and by such means as will make them available for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Administration

Capitol Reef National Monument, established on August 2, 1937, has an area of 61 square miles. It is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Torrey, Utah, is in immediate charge. He can usually be reached either at the visitor center or at his residence, 1¼ miles east.

Created in 1849, the Department of the Interior—America's Department of Natural Resources—is concerned with the management, conservation, and development of the Nation's water, wildlife, mineral, forest, and park and recreational resources. It also has major responsibilities for Indian and Territorial affairs.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department works to assure that nonrenewable resources are developed and used wisely, that park and recreational resources are conserved for the future, and that renewable resources make their full contribution to the progress, prosperity, and security of the United States—now and in the future.



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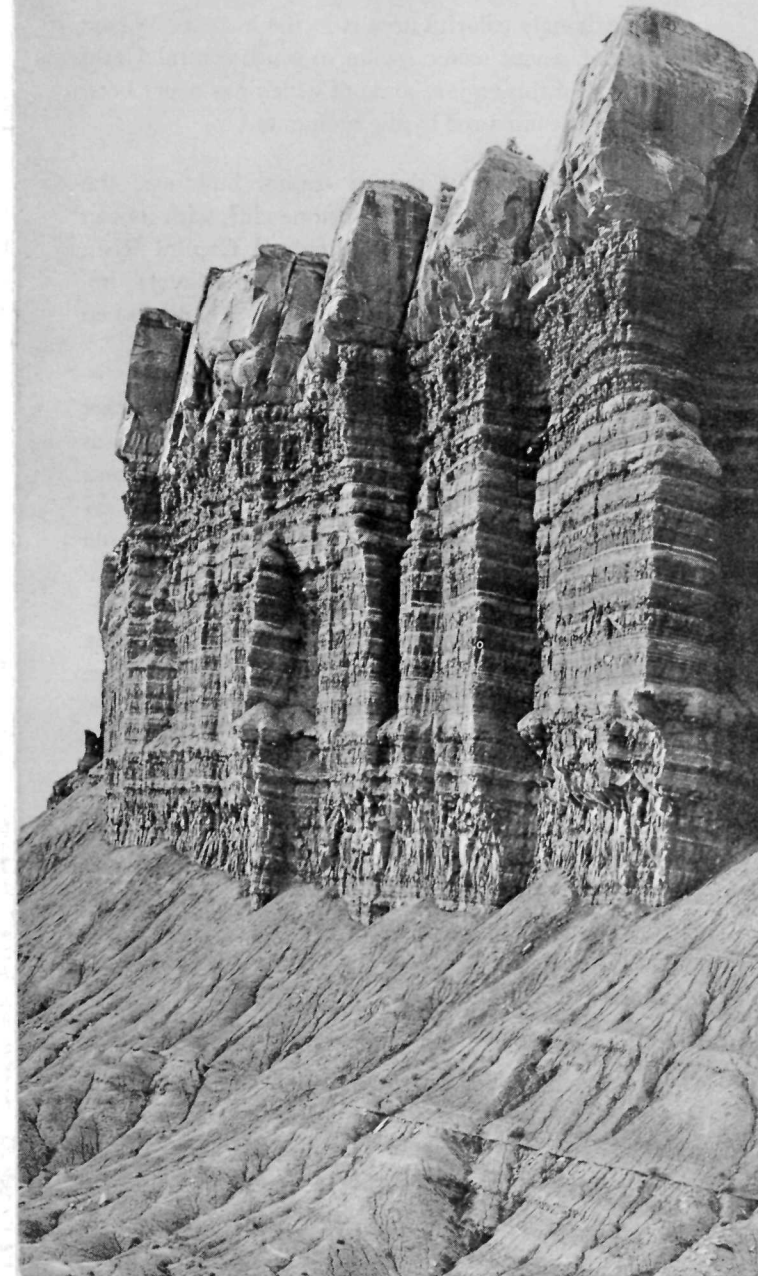
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Capitol Reef NATIONAL MONUMENT

Utah



Capitol Reef

NATIONAL MONUMENT

This strikingly colorful area is in the heart of Wayne Wonderland, a vast scenic region in south-central Utah: A large part of this region, some of which has never been explored, is encompassed by the monument.

Because it resembles domed capitol buildings, the great 20-mile-long buttressed sandstone cliff, with its cap of white Navajo sandstone, was named Capitol Reef. Early geologists called such cliffs in this area "reefs" because of their visual resemblance to sea reefs composed of rock or limestone skeletons of coral.

The monument includes a section of the Waterpocket Fold, a great doubling up of the earth's crust that was caused by an unusual geological movement. The western edge of this fold (of which Capitol Reef is a part) is exposed as a great cliff, or escarpment, of brilliantly colored rock layers. It extends from Thousand Lake Mountain southeastward about 150 miles to the Colorado River. The fantastically eroded fold, or reef, was a barrier to the pioneer traveler. It can be crossed in only three places on horseback. One of these passages, following the Fremont River, allows automobiles to cross.

The Fremont River and its tributaries, Sulphur Creek and Pleasant Creek, are the only perennial streams. Many of the water pockets (large potholes in rocky gorges) retain runoff water for long periods. The vegetation is sparse and desertlike. Pinyons and junipers grow along the talus slopes of the reef, and cottonwoods are predominant along streams.

The National Park System, of which this area is a unit, is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and inspiration of its people.

Prehistory and History

Prehistoric Indians known as the Fremont Basketmakers found this area attractive and raised corn on flat plots of ground near streams. Smooth cliff walls are covered with many petroglyphs of unusual size and style. The Indians colored these ancient engravings in various tints; some of their pigments still adhere to the rocks. The Basketmakers lived in open caves but built small stone structures for corn storage. Artifacts and relics from some of these structures are on display at the monument visitor center.

Because of its peculiar geographical isolation, the Fremont River drainage was the last section of Utah to be explored and settled. In January 1854, Col. John C. Fremont and members of his expedition looked down from Thousand Lake Mountain into the present monument, but little is known of this journey. In 1866 a semi-military expedition of Mormons, under the leadership of Capt. James Andrus, came in from the south over Boulder Mountain. Prof. A. H. Thompson, geographer of the Powell survey, made the first geographic and geologic reconnaissance of the area in 1875, applying many names still in use.

The first permanent settler was Neils Johnson, who located a homestead near the junction of Fremont River and Sulphur Creek in 1880. The pioneers found so many difficulties to overcome in cultivating the tillable land that the area until recently could not support more than 8 or 10 families. Impassable roads discouraged visitors, and the area remained practically unknown to the outside world until the 1930's.

Geological Significance

Like other parts of the Colorado River basin, the Capitol Reef region was once a low-lying country, consisting of swamps, shallow lagoons, and wide sluggish streams, inhabited by giant reptiles and amphibians.

For millions of years, streams carried silt, sand, and mud into the swampy lowland. As these sediments were buried, they gradually hardened to become sandstone and shale. From the Moenkopi formation (shale) to the Navajo sandstone, the rocks of Capitol Reef record a period of earth history when dinosaurs first dominated the world.

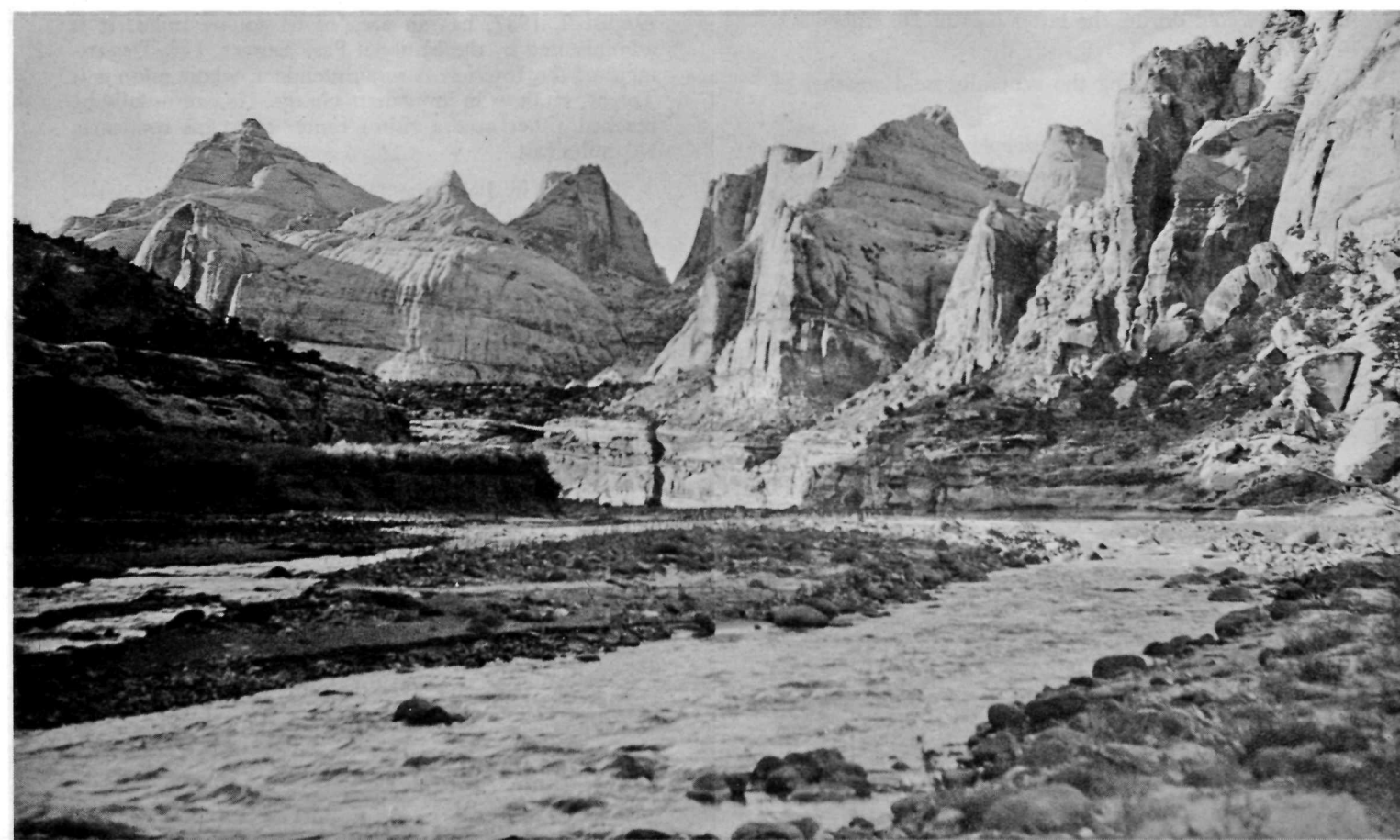
When the Rocky Mountains began to form about 60 million years ago, the rocks of this area were buckled and folded. Streams, rain, and wind removed the softer upper formations and cut deep channels and gorges into the more resistant rock where joints, or fractures, occurred. Erosion is thus seen to be the sculptor that carved

the innumerable towers, pinnacles, and great domes you see in Capitol Reef today.

The roads in the monument lie principally upon the Moenkopi formation. This dark-red or brown, ripple-marked shale shows unusual erosional forms along the cliff base and contains fossil footprints of reptiles and amphibians in many places. Stranded on the Moenkopi beds are large volcanic boulders, which were washed down from the high plateaus by melting glacial ice 10,000 years ago. Above the Moenkopi is a thick exposure of Chinle shale in various colors, with the gray-green band at its base a prominent feature. The lower part of this formation contains petrified wood. Above the Chinle, 600 feet of red Wingate sandstone forms the sheer, high pinnacle cliffs that dominate the landscape.

Finally, as a cap rock, the gray or white Navajo sandstone rests on top. Eroded into cones, arches, and rounded domes, it resembles the domes of many capitol buildings.

Rising above the swift waters of the Fremont River, domed pinnacles of Navajo sandstone resemble capitol building architecture and give the reef its name.



Plants and Animals

The vegetation, mammals, and birds of the monument are typical of the pinyon-juniper belt of the Colorado Plateau. Sagebrush, saltbush, and squawbush form much of the shrubby ground cover. Deer, foxes, bobcats, and porcupines and other smaller rodents make up the bulk of the mammal population. Lizards are numerous, but snakes are rarely encountered. Hawks, owls, ravens, and other birds of woodland and desert are common.

Places of Special Interest

All along the road through the monument you will see highly colored, grotesquely eroded cliffs. Colors appear strongest in early morning or late afternoon.

If you travel from the west on Utah 24, you enter the monument some 6 miles before reaching the visitor center. Soon after passing the entrance marker, you come to



From the trail to Hickman Natural Bridge, the view into Fremont River gorge shows a toylike farmland.

a viewpoint near Twin Rocks. Two miles beyond, on the right, is the Motorman, and just beyond that is Chimney Rock, on the left. About 1 mile beyond Chimney Rock, you may turn right onto a dirt road. At its terminus, a short trail leads to the rim of spectacular Sulphur Creek Gorge.

If you enter the monument from the east, you will travel 5.7 miles from the entrance to the visitor center. This drive is along the narrow Fremont River Canyon. Parking areas on the drive offer opportunities for taking pictures and for following a trail that leads into Grand Wash and another trail that leads to the Hickman Natural Bridge and Cohab Canyon.

The self-guiding trail to the bridge is an easy 2-mile hike. The bridge, carved by the forces of nature from the rock, is 72 feet high and has a 133-foot span.

From the visitor center, the monument drive leads south to Pleasant Creek, 11 miles. Along this route are road spurs leading into Grand Wash and Capitol Gorge.

Grand Wash is one of the finest attractions in the monument. From the end of the road in the canyon, you can hike less than a mile and find yourself in the narrows, where 1,000-foot walls are only 16 feet apart. And before reaching the narrows, you will find the 1½-mile trail to Cassidy Arch. The views along the trail are as beautiful as the arch itself. If you continue on down the gorge through the narrows, you will arrive at Utah 24 in the Fremont River Canyon.

Capitol Gorge, until recently, was used as the only route through the reef. About 2½ miles into the gorge, you will come upon a trail that leads to the top of the

reef near Golden Throne. Beyond this point is wilderness. Back in the gorge, a short distance beyond the foot of this trail, you may see on the north wall petroglyphs that are estimated to be 1,200 years old. These ancient rock carvings are believed to have been made by the Basketmaker Indians.

The precise end of the road in Capitol Gorge may reflect the effects of recent storms; but from the end of the road, a walk of little more than a mile will bring you to the narrows. It was here that pioneers carved their names and the dates of passage. The earliest date is 1871.

Trails into the wild upper sections of Capitol Reef National Monument should not be attempted without back-country information from the monument office. Do not take shortcuts or wander off the regular trails. Hikers and mountain climbers planning trips into the back country should notify the superintendent before and after each trip.

About Your Visit

Approaches to Capitol Reef are by way of Utah 24, connecting U.S. 89 on the west at Richfield and Sigurd with U.S. 50-6 on the east 5 miles west of Green River. The monument is 68 miles east of Richfield and Sigurd and 90 miles west of the junction at U.S. 50-6.

Monument roads are open all year, except for occasional short periods following flash storms or heavy snowfall.

An unusually scenic approach is through Escalante and Boulder and over Boulder Mountain, connecting with Utah 24 one mile east of Torrey. This graded road runs partly through spectacular red-rock country and

Hickman Natural Bridge.

