

# Mount Rainier

NATIONAL PARK • WASHINGTON



### **AN ARCTIC ISLAND IN A TEMPERATE ZONE**

Mount Rainier, a towering, ice-clad dormant volcano, dominates this national park. The most superb landmark of the Pacific Northwest, it rises to 14,410 feet a few miles west of the crest of the Cascade Range. Its gleaming mantle of ice is composed of many glaciers, more than are on any other single mountain in the United States south of Alaska. This mantle conceals all but the most rugged peaks and ridges of Mount Rainier. In delightful contrast to this bold landscape are the parklike subalpine forests with their flower-covered meadows and dense forests downslope.

Successive volcanic eruptions of several kinds built up Mount Rainier less than a million years ago, and glaciers sculptured the mountain to its present shape.

From mid-June through October, warm, sunny days are mixed with cool, rainy ones. The experienced visitor comes prepared for rain and coolness as well as sunshine and heat.

From November through May, heavy snowstorms are frequent. At Paradise (5,420 foot elevation), as much as 80 feet of snow falls in winter and may lie as deep as 30 feet; 5 to 14 feet may remain on the ground in June, and 3 to 8 feet in July.

Flowers in the high meadows begin to appear in mid-June as the snow recedes. In late July and early August, the bloom is at its height, and the meadows are luxuriant with color.

Late in August, huckleberries, vine maple, and mountain-ash start to turn red. Autumn color is at its best in late September.

### **DRIVING PARK ROADS**

Park roads from the end of Wash. 706 at Nisqually Entrance to Paradise and on U.S. 40 and Wash. 123 from the northeast boundary through Ohanape-cosh are open all year. Snow closes them for short periods. Chains may be required for winter driving. All other park roads, including Stevens Canyon, are closed by snow about November 1 and, depending on snow conditions, are not open again until June or July.

Curving mountain roads demand careful driving. Observe posted speeds; drive defensively. Use lower gears for steep hills. Help prevent traffic jams by using turnouts and parking areas while observing wildlife or scenery.

Motorcycles and motorbikes must be licensed, and riders must comply with Washington State laws. They are not allowed on park trails.

Stop at overlooks marked "POINT OF INTEREST AHEAD" for grand views and exhibits on Mount Rainier's features.

Gas stations are at Longmire (all year) and Sunrise (summer only). *No gas at Paradise.*

## ACCOMMODATIONS AND SERVICES

**Hotels.** National Park Inn at Longmire is open from early May until mid-October; Paradise Inn, mid-June until Labor Day. Write to the Rainier National Park Co., Box 1136, Tacoma, WA 98401, for reservations and rates. There are no overnight accommodations at Sunrise or Ohanapecoh, but they are available near the park at Ashford, Packwood, White Pass, Crystal Mountain, and Enumclaw.

**Campgrounds** are open throughout the park in summer on a first-come, first-served basis. Stays are limited to 14 days a season. Sunshine Point Campground at Nisqually Entrance is the only one open all year. There are no trailer utility hookups in the park, but there is a trailer dumping station at Cougar Rock Campground. Camping, including

back-country, is allowed in designated sites only. (Also, for back-country camping, you will need a fire permit, which is available at any ranger station.) Build fires only in places provided; dead and down wood only may be used. Do not leave fires unattended; extinguish them completely with water. Report unattended fires to a ranger.

To keep bears and other animals from your food, you must store it in your car or suspended high in a tree.

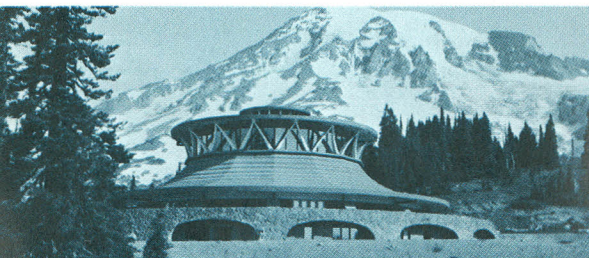
Valuables should not be left in your car, which should be locked when you leave it.

**Food Service.** In summer, snackbars are operated at Longmire, Paradise, and Sunrise; cafeterias at Longmire and Paradise; dining room at Paradise Inn. In winter, a snack bar is open daily at Longmire, and on weekends and holidays at Paradise.

**Stores.** Minimum groceries are on sale at Longmire and Sunrise in summer. All other stores are outside the park.

**Equipment rental.** Summer mountain climbing and winter skiing and sliding equipment can be rented at Paradise.

**Mail and telephone.** Address of park is Longmire, WA 98397. Phone at park headquarters, Longmire, is 206-569-2233 or 2211.



## NATURALIST SERVICES

To better acquaint you with Mount Rainier, information, publications, and exhibits are available at Longmire and Paradise Visitor Centers all year and at Ohanapecosh and Sunrise in summer.

Conducted trips and evening programs are scheduled from late June through Labor Day. Ask for the printed program at visitor centers and ranger and entrance stations.

Self-guiding trails are at Kautz Mudflow, Longmire Meadow (Trail of the Shadows), North Puyallup (Auto Trail), Nisqually Vista, Ice Caves Trail, and Emmons Vista.

## WILDLIFE

Deer, bear, and other animals may approach you for a handout, but it is unlawful and dangerous to feed or touch any wild animal. Look for mountain goats on cliffs, ridges, and snowfields. Black bears often enter camps in search of food. Lock food in cars and keep a clean camp.

*Pets* are prohibited on trails or in public buildings, and should not be left unattended. They must be confined or leashed at all times for the protection of park wildlife and visitors.

*Firearms* must be cased, broken down, or packed. Hunting is prohibited.

All natural features, including rocks, plants, and animals are protected by law, and must be left in place and unharmed. In the next decade, 20 million others will see the park as you found it.

## ACTIVITIES

*Hiking.* Explore the park's scenery along 300 miles of trails. Go prepared with map and compass. Trail guides and maps can be purchased at visitor centers. For safety, register at trailheads. Tell a responsible adult where you are going and when you will return. On long hikes, carry rainwear, extra woolen clothing, and food. Steep snowbanks and rock slopes are dangerous.

If lost, hurt, or caught by fog or darkness, *wait*. Do not try to travel; build a fire and stay by it. Rescuers will find you.

*Fishing.* Licenses are not required. The season for stream fishing is from the third Sunday of May through October 31; lake fishing from July 4 through October 31. The Ohanapecosh River and its tributaries are limited to fly fishing only. Other

regulations are available at ranger stations and visitor centers, and on bulletin boards. Please fill in creel census forms.

*Horseback riding.* You may ride the trails anywhere in the park except in the Paradise, Longmire, and Sunrise areas, but stock must be kept more than 100 yards from campgrounds or trails. Feed should be carried. (Rental horses are *not* available in the park.) For information on routes, write to the superintendent in advance or ask a park ranger.

*Winter Sports.* On weekends and holidays from December through April, ski tows operate at Paradise. You may slide on platters or inner tubes on slopes near the visitor center. Snacks, equipment, and skiing lessons are available on weekends and holidays. Ski tourists should ask rangers for routes and conditions. Snowmobiles are permitted on designated roads only. Ask a ranger.

## **TO AVOID HAZARDS**

Stay on roads and trails and keep children under control so they will avoid serious falls.

Do not slide on snowbanks—they may hide rocks, cliffs, or streams. Also, in spring, snow bridges form over streams and may collapse under a person's weight.

Keep away from glaciers—they contain deep, hidden crevasses; and rocks fall continuously from their snouts.

Be prepared for wind and rain, as weather changes may be sudden and violent.

Emergency help and first aid are available at any ranger station.

## **CLIMBING**

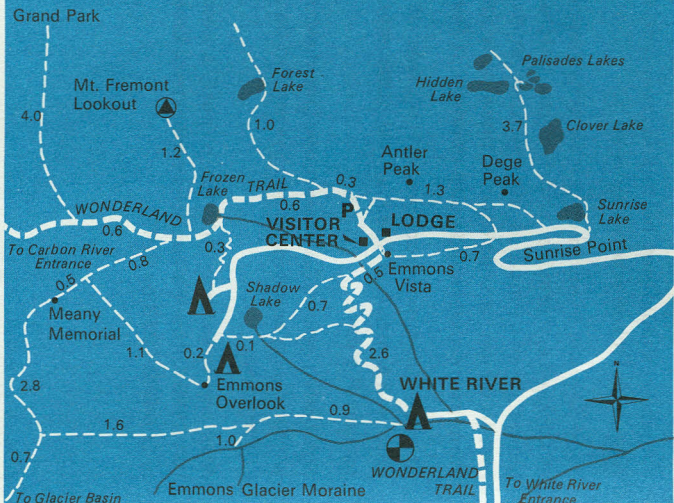
The challenge of Mount Rainier—its 14,410-foot elevation and its large glaciers—is accepted by many climbers. Its steep unstable rock and heavily crevassed glaciers, coupled with sudden devastating storms demand that climbers be well conditioned, well equipped and clothed, and know mountain travel and survival techniques.

Rainier Mountaineering, Inc., at Paradise, offers 1-day snow-and-ice climbing schools, guided summit climbs, and 5-day climbing seminars. They also rent minimum equipment.

To ensure the safety of prospective summit climbers, special regulations have been established by the National Park Service in consultation with local mountaineering groups. Write to the superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park for complete summit-climbing information, including an equipment list.

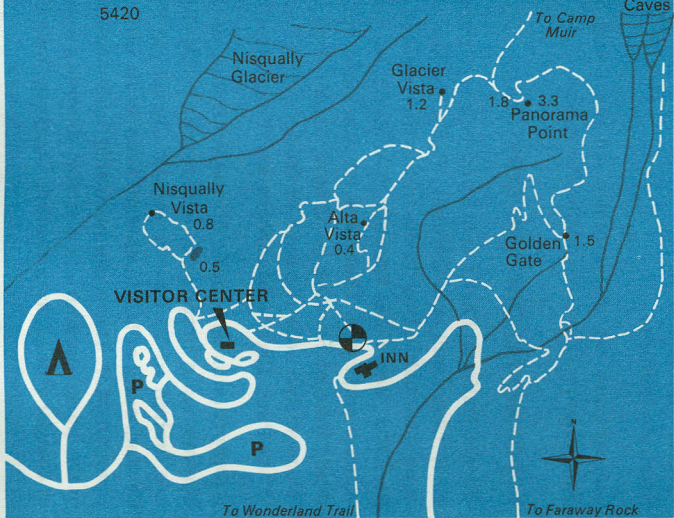
Climbing parties must register with a ranger before and after each trip. Solo climbing requires prior approval by the superintendent. Before attempting a summit climb, consider your party's experience on similar glaciated mountains, equipment, leadership, and strength. Climbers under 18 years of age must have written permission of a parent.

# SUNRISE



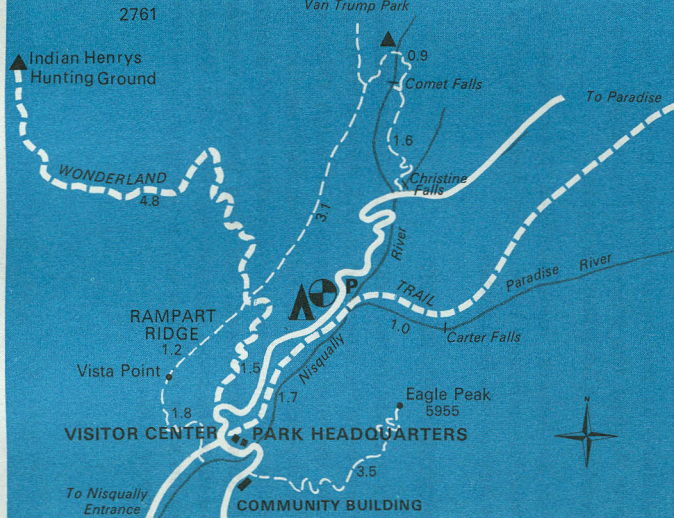
# PARADISE

5420

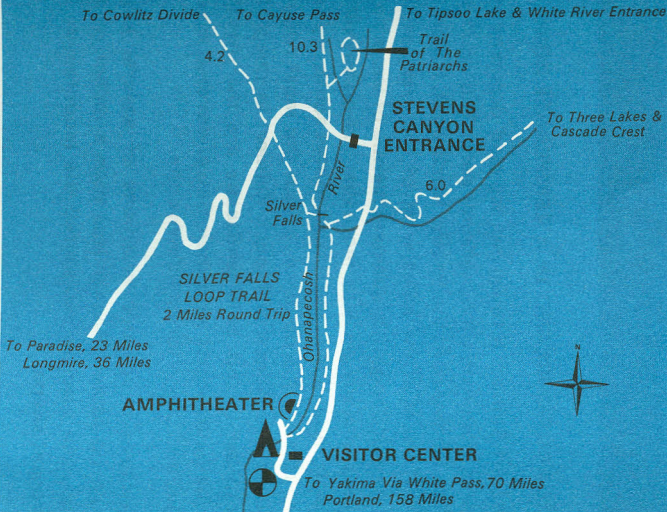


# LONGMIRE

2761



# OHANAPECOSH



### **SUNRISE (6,400-foot elevation)**

Alpine wild flowers and a classic view of Mount Rainier and Emmons Glacier await you at Sunrise. Here, whitebark pine and Engelmann spruce join subalpine fir and mountain hemlock to form a scattered forest at the upper limit of tree growth. Stop at Sunrise Point (6,100-foot elevation) for views north to Mount Baker and Glacier Peak, and south to Mount Adams. From Sunrise Visitor Center, where exhibits tell the mountain's geologic history, watch mountaineers scaling the glaciers, and mountain goats climbing on Goat Island Mountain. A network of trails leads to spectacular scenes of mountain and glacier.

### **PARADISE (5,420-foot elevation)**

Wildflowers in July and August, autumn colors in September, and snow as deep as 30 feet in April are all in Paradise. These attractions, combined with a closeup view of Mount Rainier and Nisqually Glacier, make this an exciting place. Walk the trails but leave the wildflowers unpicked and untrampled so other visitors can enjoy them, too. View the Nisqually Glacier from the Nisqually Vista loop trail, and hike 3 miles to the ice caves. Climb to Camp Muir (10,000 feet) or to the 14,410 summit of Mount Rainier (see *CLIMBING*). Ski or slide the snowy slopes from December through April.



### **LONGMIRE (2,761-foot elevation)**

Enroute to climb the mountain August 13, 1883, George B. Bayley, Philemon B. Van Trump, James Longmire, and Indian Henry camped by "soda and iron springs of great variety." Longmire returned to build a trail and a hotel at "Longmire's Springs." The hotel and its associated mineral baths are gone, but the old stopping-place remains as the headquarters of Mount Rainier National Park. From here, you can: Explore the 0.5-mile Trail of the Shadows that circles Longmire Meadow; climb a steep 3.5-mile trail to 5,955-foot Eagle Peak for a grand view of Mount Rainier; or take the Wonderland Trail from Longmire that leads 6.4 miles to Indian Henry's Hunting Ground.

### **OHANAPECOSH (1,900-foot elevation)**

Deep forests of western hemlock and western red-cedar along a fast-moving river invite you to pause and wonder. The Grove of the Patriarchs offers you a glimpse into a forest nearly 1,000 years old. Also, see Silver Falls, 1 mile north of Ohanapecosh, a favorite goal for casual hikers from the campground; and fish the Ohanapecosh River, where sport is the object (artificial flies are required). Steep trails lead 6 miles to Three Lakes and the Cascade Crest, 4 miles to Shriner Peak Lookout, or 4 miles to Cowlitz Divide.



CARBON RIVER ENTRANCE  
1,700

VIA 165  
TO TACOMA, 40 MILES

SNOQUALMIE NATIONAL FOREST

IPSUT CREEK  
2,300

Tolmie Peak  
5,939

Mt. Fremont  
7,200

SUNRISE  
6,400

SNOQUALMIE

NATIONAL

FOREST

**MOUNT RAINIER**  
14,410

Klapatche Point

Point Success  
14,156

Little Tahoma  
11,117

Camp Murr  
10,000

Gobblers Knob  
5,510

Tahoma Creek  
3,100

COUGAR ROCK  
3,180

PARADISE VISITOR CENTER

NISQUALLY ENTRANCE  
2,003

SUNSHINE POINT  
TO TACOMA, 55 MILES

LONGMIRE PARK HEADQUARTERS  
VISITOR CENTER  
2,761

Eagle Peak  
5,955














Pinnacle Peak  
6,562

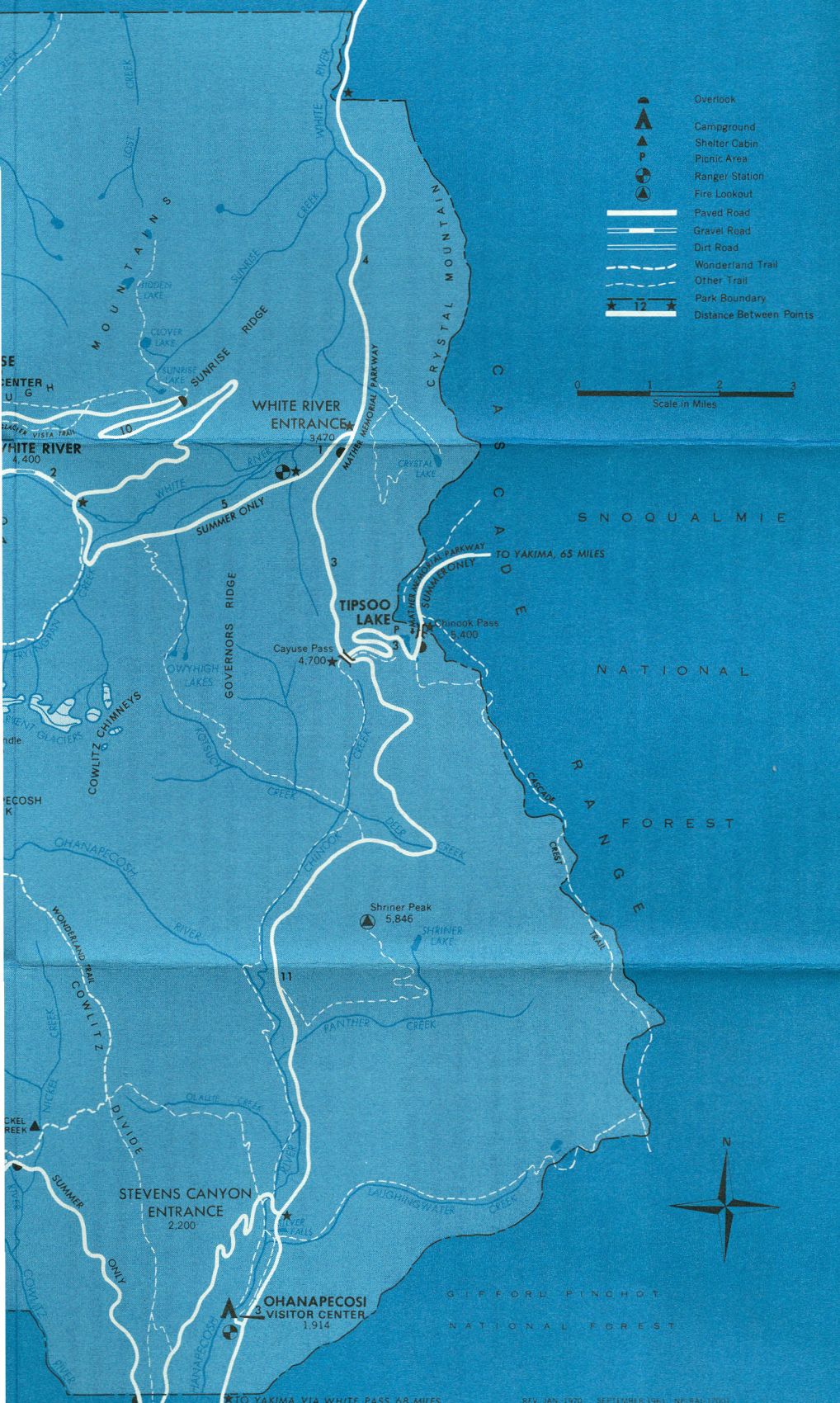
Unicorn Peak  
6,939

SNOQUALMIE NATIONAL FOREST

GIFFORD PINCHOT NATIONAL FOREST

410 TO TACOMA, 58 MILES

-  Overlook
-  Campground
-  Shelter Cabin
-  Picnic Area
-  Ranger Station
-  Fire Lookout
-  Paved Road
-  Gravel Road
-  Dirt Road
-  Wonderland Trail
-  Other Trail
-  Park Boundary
-  Distance Between Points



SNOQUALMIE

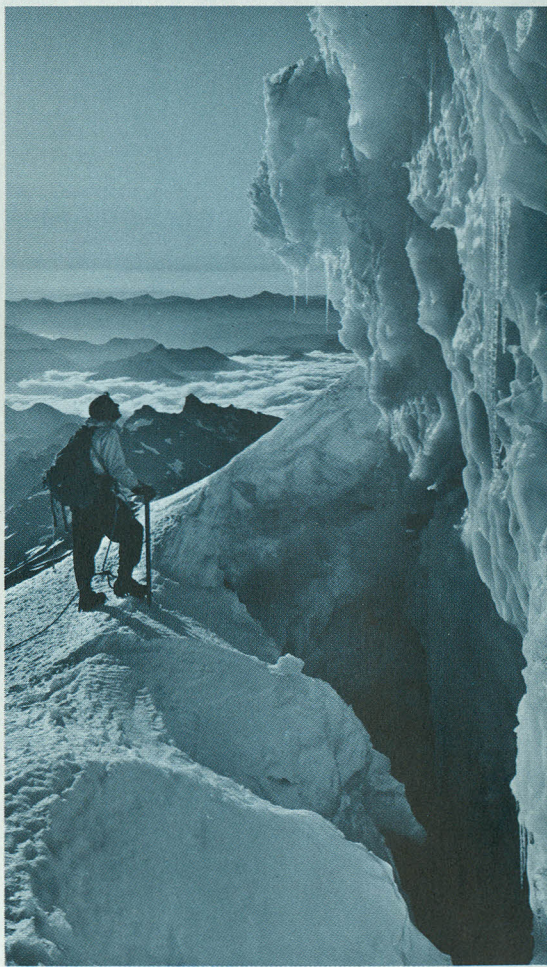
NATIONAL

RANGE FOREST

GIFFORD PINCHOT NATIONAL FOREST



TO YAKIMA, VIA WHITE PASS 68 MILES  
 PORTLAND, 159 MILES



## HOW TO REACH THE PARK

Park headquarters, at Longmire, is 70 miles southeast of Tacoma, 95 miles southeast of Seattle, and 103 miles west of Yakima.

From June to mid-September, daily bus service is available from Tacoma and Seattle. No transportation is scheduled in winter. For rates, write to the Rainier National Park Co., Box 1136, Tacoma, WA 98401.

Rental cars are available at all major cities near the park.

## ADMINISTRATION

Mount Rainier National Park, established on March 2, 1899, has an area of 378 square miles. It is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Longmire, WA 98397, is in immediate charge.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources." The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.

U. S. Department of the Interior

National Park Service

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