



NATIONAL PARKS and NATIONAL MONUMENTS

Are established

“... to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife 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.”



The wild things of this earth are not ours to do with as we please. They have been given to us in trust, and we must account for them to the generations which will come after us.

—W. T. Hornaday.

WHY THIS BOOKLET?

The main purpose of this little folder is to acquaint you with the National Parks and National Monuments and to give you a brief outline of what they are, why they are established, and how they are operated. We hope that perusing this booklet will make you want to read some of the excellent National Park books available at most libraries.

WHO RUNS NATIONAL PARKS?

Like any big company that has operations scattered throughout the country, there must be a parent organization. In the case of the National Parks and Monuments, they are owned by the people of the United States and operated for the people by the National Park Service.

WHEN DID PARK SERVICE START?

The National Park Service was created by an Act of Congress August 25, 1916, and the important part of the act is quoted on the cover page of this folder. This part of the act governs many of the things we do in a National Park. It is our constant guide.

HOW MANY NATIONAL PARK AREAS?

There are twenty-eight National Parks in the National Park system but the National Park Service administers other types of areas (now totaling 179 areas). These include National Monuments, Historical areas, Parkways, and National Recreation areas. All of them, however, regardless of what they are called, are operated more or less under the same rules and policies as the National Parks.

“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where Nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike.”

—John Muir.

HOW AND WHY ARE NATIONAL PARKS SET ASIDE?

A National Park is established only by an Act of Congress. The primary purpose for the establishment of a park is to preserve for all time the superlative examples of the scenic and majestic in nature. Each is a sanctuary for all forms of wildlife. As a rule only lands containing outstanding scenic, geologic, or other natural feature are set aside as National Parks.

HOW NATIONAL PARKS ARE DEVELOPED.

Developments are permitted only for the administration and protection of the areas and for the use and comfort of those who visit the areas. Roads and trails are built so that people can get into the parks. Campgrounds, picnic grounds, and comfort stations are built for the visitors' use and enjoyment. Any construction work in parks must be done "... in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RANGERS

Rules and regulations are necessary for the protection of the parks and all of their natural features. To protect the areas from fire and to see that the regulations are carried out, each park has a ranger force. These park rangers are highly-trained men devoted to their work. Their work involves not only the enforcement of regulations but direction of traffic, collection of entrance fees, information to visitors, repair of telephone lines, first aid and life saving, fish planting, and numerous other tasks. These men wear the National Park Service uniform and are always ready and willing to help park visitors.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NATURALISTS

The use of the parks by millions of Americans each year is a matter under constant study. How can they best be used by all these people and leave them unimpaired for future use? One

part of the answer is to direct use through interpretation. To accomplish this each park has a park naturalist, whose duty it is to contribute to visitor enjoyment and understanding of the areas. During the summer or travel season he is assisted by a force of ranger naturalists.

These men are trained in the natural sciences. They conduct the evening campfire programs, nature walks, and operate the museum where the park has one. Explaining the natural features, the forests, the wild flowers, the wildlife, or the geology is their full time job. The ranger naturalists also wear the National Park Service uniform.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NATIONAL PARKS AND NATIONAL FORESTS?

Some people erroneously believe that National Parks and National Forests are one and the same thing. This is not so. The rangers in the Parks are park rangers and those in the National Forests are forest rangers. There is little difference in the type of men who work in parks and forests. The major difference lies in the policies governing parks and forests. The National Park Service is a bureau of the U. S. Department of the Interior. The Forest Service is a bureau of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. One way to remember the difference is to consider the Forest Service a conservation agency and the National Park Service a preservation agency. In order to carry out the edict of Congress we must preserve. In the parks we do not cut our forests for lumber, dam our streams for power or irrigation; mining claims, grazing of cattle or sheep, hunting at any time, and building of summer homes are not permitted. All of these things can be done in a National Forest under proper regulations.

"An unwritten compact between the dead, the living, and the unborn requires that we leave the unborn something more than debts and depleted natural resources." — A Supreme Court Decision.

WHAT HAPPENS TO PARK ENTRANCE FEES?

Many people are under the impression that the money collected in the park by the Federal government such as the entrance fees is used to maintain and operate the park. This is not the case. All money collected in the park is turned into the Federal treasury. Funds for the operation of the park are appropriated each year by Congress.

HOW ARE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE EMPLOYEES CHOSEN?

The permanent personnel of the park are Civil Service employees. Most of the temporary or summer employees are required to take examinations in order to determine whether or not they are qualified for the work to which they will be assigned.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CONCESSIONS

Where a park is located some distance from a town or community it is essential that accommodations be provided for park visitors. Lodges or cabins, meals, campers' supplies, and service stations are necessary for the visitors' convenience. These businesses are run by concessioners who pay a fee to the government for the privilege granted. Since the concessioner is required to serve the public the same as the National Park Service there is a close working relationship. Where a concessioner has a number of activities he employs young people of high school and college age to work during the summer or travel season.

PARK "HOUSEKEEPING."

A schoolhouse or playground which is used by many people over a long period of time gets dirty and untidy unless it is cared for. This is true also of a National Park, and keeping the parks clean and free from man-made litter is one of the Service's never-ending, most thankless, and costly jobs. It is natural that visitors take it for granted when they find National Parks spick and span. However, if the areas are poorly kept

and littered, there develops great criticism from the public. The loudest complainers are often the very ones responsible for the mess. When in a park, one should think of himself as part owner and help by the proper disposal of his own trash. In any leaflet such as this it would seem unnecessary to mention that any defacement of nature such as tree carving, rock painting, and defacing of signs and the like is improper. One wouldn't do this in one's own home, so one would not wish to do it in a park.

THE NATIONAL PARK IDEA

The far-reaching National Park idea had its origin in our own United States and is uniquely American. No other country in all the world had thought of anything like it. Today, less than 100 years after the creation of the first National Park (Yellowstone - 1872), many other nations are following in America's path, making preserves of their own. England, Belgium, and Japan, among others, send their representatives to the United States to learn about what we have done here in this field and to take back their knowledge to apply at home.

WHY WE TREAT NATIONAL PARKS AS WE DO

The National Parks are ours to USE but NOT to USE UP. How can we use the parks without using them up, you may ask. This is a great basic problem your representative, the National Park Service, must work on night and day, both in the parks and outside, protecting them from grasping, selfish interests which would USE THEM UP. This is the basic problem of the National Parks. Public spirited citizens supporting the National Park Service administration battle constantly to protect these irreplaceable areas from grasping self interests which would USE THEM UP.

"There is unremitting pressure from those who would turn a nimble dollar by picking the landscape to its bare bones."
—Paul B. Sears.

Our policies are designed to keep the National Parks in their natural and unspoiled conditions to the greatest possible degree. That is why we let the trees lie where they fall, eventually to decay, making soil for future forests, why we let the coyote and the mountain lion prey upon sick and weak animal life as in nature. It is why we let flowers bloom and die untouched except by the appreciative eye, and why we like the camera shot but not the gun shot. In short, we try to let nature take its course, interfering as little as we can.

COOPERATING SOCIETIES

There are a number of national and state organization in our country whose purpose is to promote conservation — the wise use — of all natural resources. Such organizations are active in helping to protect National Parks which belong to everybody, from commercial exploitation for the benefit of a select few.

Most parks also have local cooperating societies known variously as natural history, history, or museum associations whose purposes are primarily to aid in the accumulation and dissemination of information pertaining to the human and natural history of the particular areas concerned. The Loomis Museum Association which has paid for the publication of this booklet is Lassen's local cooperating society.

"This is our country. All we have and all we are we owe to it, so let us think more of our duties and obligations than of our rights and privileges."
—Richard Lieber.

The information contained in this booklet applies to all National Parks and Monuments. However, since Lassen Volcanic National Park is practically in your own back yard you may be interested in the publications devoted specifically to it. The material is available on a loan basis from the County Library or may be obtained at the park:

Information Folder, Lassen Volcanic National Park.....	Free
Geology of Lassen's Landscape.....	\$.55
Pictorial History of the Lassen Volcano.....	.85
Guide to Lassen Peak Highway.....	.25
Stories of Lassen's Place Names.....	.40
Indians of Lassen Volcanic National Park and Vicinity.....	.85
Birds of Lassen Volcanic National Park & Vicinity.....	.85
Fish and Fishing in Lassen Volcanic National Park.....	.40

LOOK

FOR THE MAN IN THE

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE UNIFORM

HE IS ALWAYS WILLING AND READY TO HELP YOU

Written by E. D. F. — 1-55



