

ORIENTATION TO NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OPERATIONS

RECOMMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS ON THE
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE: ITS HISTORY AND MISSION

Compiled by:

* Bruce Craig
Mather Training Center
September, 1985

* Special thanks to Barry Mackintosh, Bureau Historian, WASO

Albright, Horace A.
Origins of National Park Service Administration of Historic Sites
Philadelphia, PA; 1971
Eastern National Park and Monument Association
311 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

In this slim little booklet Director Albright chronicles his work on behalf of historic preservation. It described the politicking that took place in FDR's administration which resulted in historic areas being placed under the jurisdiction of the National Park System.

Connally, Eugenia (Editor)
National Parks in Crisis
National Parks and Conservation Association
1701 18th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20007
\$14.00 (plus \$1.50 postage and handling)

A collection of conference papers by an impressive array of park authorities. The book focuses on the preservation verses use issue.

Conservation Foundation
National Parks For a New Generation
Conservation Foundation
1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036
\$19.95 (plus \$2.00 shipping)

This study states "the National Park System has entered an era for which its traditions and policies have not prepared it." The Washington Post reports that Director Mott, "generally agrees with the study." Interesting reading!

Everhart, William
The National Park System
Boulder, Colorado;
Westview Press
1983. (\$10.95 paperback)

One of Westview's library of Federal Department, Agencies and Systems series. This book presents Bill Everhart's "traditionalist" view of the evolution of the NPS. The book describes Service history through to Russell Dickenson's taking the helm as Director. The book is recommended if you have time to read only one book on the history and evolution of the NPS.

Foresta, Ronald
Americas National Parks and Their Keepers
Resources for the Future
1755 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

The first analytical study of the Park Service as a bureaucracy. There are few inaccuracies here and there, but generally the book is well done.

Garrison, Lemuel
The Making of a Ranger
Salt Lake City;
Howe Brothers
155 Pierpont Avenue
Salt Lake City, Utah
1983

One of the more recent autobiographies by a retired NPS career professional.

Ise, John

Our National Park Policy: A Critical History

Baltimore, Md.

published for Resources of the Future by Johns Hopkins University Press, 1961

Ise's detailed study is not easy reading, but is a thorough examination of the development of the National Park Service. It is the kind of book to have readily at hand and to consult often on specific matters. It has long been out of print, as have some of his other histories of conservation agencies and groups. If you should see it in a used book store, and if it is at a reasonable price, and if you happen to have the money available, buy it.

Johnson, Darryll et al

"The Organization and the Employee in an Era of Change: The NPS Employee Survey of 1983, Statistical Abstract"

NPS, Cooperative Park Studies Unit;

1983

Every permanent employee of the NPS received a copy of this statistical report that illustrates the need for and the inevitability of change.

Leopold, Aldo

A Sand Country Almanac

New York;

Oxford University Press,

1970

Aldo Leopold's book is a revelation of the intimate feelings of an individual who fully senses the wonders of nature. The final chapter on "The Land Ethic" is very special; it reflects Leopold's sense of ethics and philosophy.

Mackintosh, Barry
The National Parks: Shaping the System
NPS, 1985

A slim little book (available free from the Mather Training Center) documenting the shaping of the park system; it is based on Ronald F. Lees Family Tree of the National Park System. This book is a standard text for all "Orientation to NPS Operations" courses.

Nash, Roderick
Wilderness and the American Mind
New Haven, Conn;
Yale University Press
1982 (3rd edition) (\$7.95 paperback)

Roderick Nash's study on America's hanging attitudes toward wilderness has received wide acclaim and is a standard text in many college survey courses on wilderness preservation and the national parks. A must for resource management specialists and nature interpreters.

Runte, Alfred
National Parks: The American Experience
Lincoln;
University of Nebraska Press
1979 (\$16.50)

In Professor Runte's comprehensive yet very personal intellectual history of the national park idea, the author proposes that in order to guide the future of our national parks we must first understand the social and cultural forces that created them. An excellent book for the serious student of the national park idea.

Shankland, Alfred
Steve Mather of the National Parks
New York;
Alfred A. Knopf
1970

This is virtually the only biography of the first Director of the NPS. It is interesting reading, especially for those who seek more specific information on how Mather "sold" the concept of national parks to Washington politicians and the general public. Copies are rather hard to find now-a-days; it is well worth picking up if you see a copy in a used bookstore.

Sharp, Grant, et al
Park Management
John Wiley & Sons
NY, 1983

An introductory college-level on park management that was team written by Grant Sharp, a widely published professor at a major university, and now Regional Director Charles Odegaard. If you're looking for a good general overview of park management, this is a fine choice.

Tilden, Freeman
The National Parks (revised edition)
New York;
Alfred A. Knopf
1968

A somewhat dated but classic book on the national parks by the grand guru of park interpretation. The essay on "The Meaning of National Parks" eloquently conveys the meaning of the national parks. Park seasonals would find Tilden's reflections on the park they work in of special interest.

7
Tilden, Freeman
Who Am I
Washington, D. C.;
Office of Publications
National Park Service
1975

A short but pithy little booklet written by Tilden that reflects on the meaning of parks "On the Occasion of the Nation's Bicentennial."

Tilden, Freeman
Interpreting Our Heritage
Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina Press
Revised edition, 1975

The classic work on interpretation; required reading for all NPS interpreters.

Wauer, Roland
"The Role of the National Park Service National Resources Manager"
Seattle, WA;
Cooperative Park Studies Unit (NPS)
University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195
UW/CPSU Report B-80-2
Feb., 1980

A policy study paper by an expert in resources management. Wauer examines the issue of the "dual role of resources management and law enforcement" in park operations and suggests that "the park ranger can no longer be all things to all people." The pamphlet has an outstanding summary of typical natural resource management activities.

Wirth, Conrad
Parks, Politics and the People
 Norman;
 University of Oklahoma Press,
 1980

In his book former Director Conrad Wirth traces the history of the park movement in the United States. Of particular interest are the chapters on the CCC and other "New Deal" related programs. The book is a personal account of the challenges, struggles and victories of a public park administrator. Wirth also makes some critical reflections on the inner workings of government and gives some practical advice for aspiring career civil servants.

Wilderness Society
 "Toward a Premier National Park System"
 The Wilderness Society
 1901 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
 Washington, D. C. 20006

A summary report of a series of meetings recommending goals and objectives for the National Park System and National Park Service; prepared cooperatively by the Wilderness Society, NPCA, Sierra Club and National Audubon Society.

Specialized Books and Articles Dealing with Some Aspect of National Park Service History

American West, September 1969

The entire issue is devoted to the national parks, and this issue of the American West has the typical nice blend of illustrations and narrative.

Brockman, C. Frank. "Park Naturalists and the Evolution of National Park Service Interpretation Through World War II," Journal of Forest History, January. 1978, pages 24-43.

This is the only article yet available tracing in any detail the origins and development of that active but elusive aspect of the National Park Service service to visitors called "interpretation." Brockman includes some data on early interpretive as well as museum efforts in the Service, and in a few short pages, covers a great deal of ground well.

Hampton, Duane H. How the U.S. Cavalry Saved Our National Parks.
 Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 1971.

The title tells it all.