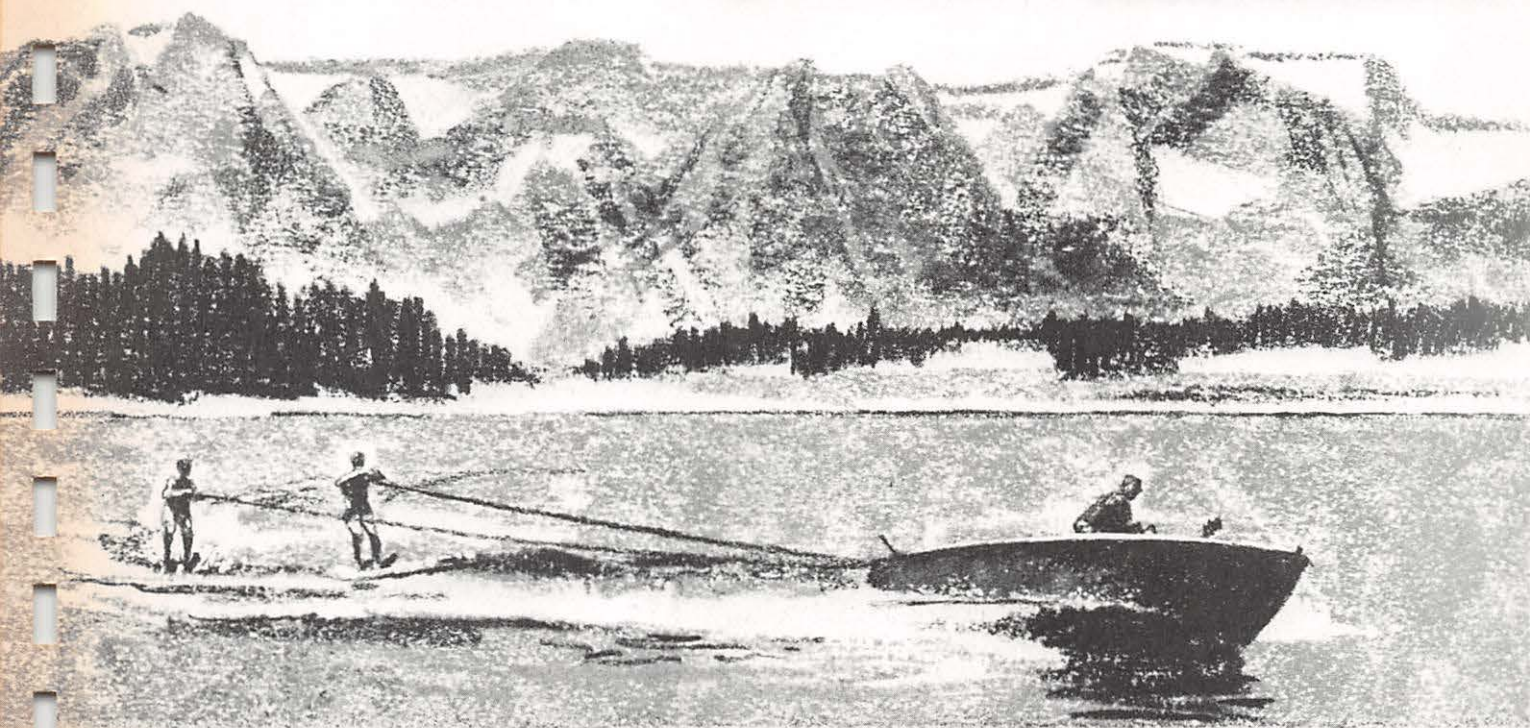
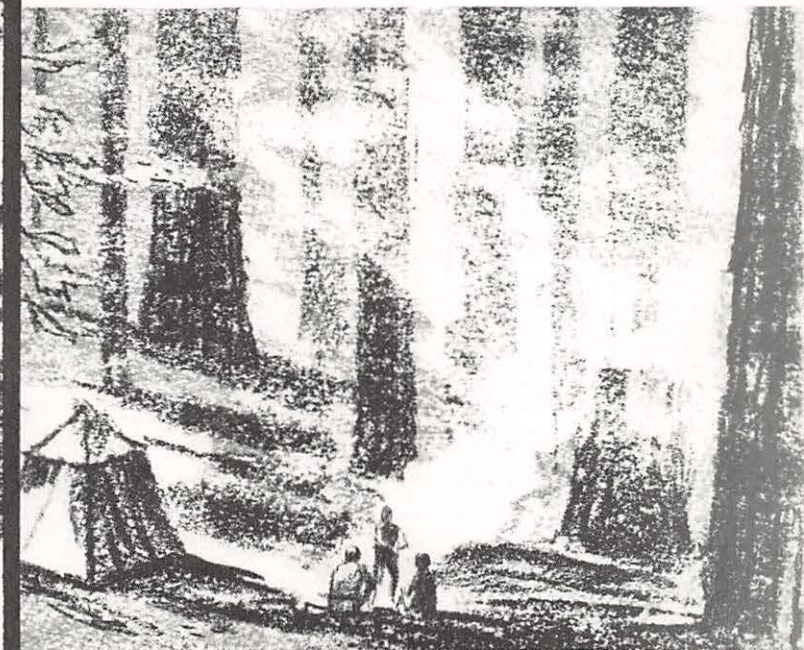




UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

LONG RANGE PLAN

file 15

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE LONG RANGE PLAN

DRAFT

for the

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
CONFERENCE OF CHALLENGES
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK**

OCTOBER 13-18, 1963

P R E F A C E

The National Park System is a dynamic and growing institution, possessing great diversity of composition, but having unity of purpose—providing for enduring public use and enjoyment of the park resources.

While a National Park was the progenitor of the National Park System, it is no longer the sole standard of measurement for all other areas in the System.

Each enactment of the Congress, adding another area to the System, has further defined the System and reaffirmed its purpose. Fundamental to the concept of a National Park System is the philosophy that regardless of official titles assigned, all areas administered by the National Park Service are considered to be parks since the theme which binds all parks together into one System is their purpose of providing a quality experience. Despite the diversity of the resources, the some 200 parks divide naturally into three major categories, each of which requires consistent and appropriate management concepts. (See pp. 20 & 21 for full definition of each category). The three categories of parks in the National Park System are:

- a. Natural Parks (scenic and scientific)
- b. Historical Parks (historical and archeological)
- c. Recreational Parks

The determinants of the appropriate category for each park are the predominant purpose for its establishment, its basic resource value, and the appropriate use thereof. These parks having, as they do, differing values and significance, do not dilute or detract from the significance of each other. Rather, with clearly defined and realistic policies for the management of each of the three categories of parks, they add strength to the whole, and to each other.

THE LONG RANGE PLAN

OBJECTIVE ONE

To Provide for the Highest Quality of Use and Enjoyment of the National Park System by Increased Millions of Visitors in Years to Come.

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OBJECTIVE TWO

To Conserve and Manage for Their Highest Purpose the Natural, Historical and Recreational Resources of the National Park System.

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OBJECTIVE THREE

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A STATEMENT OF CONSIDERATIONS

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OBJECTIVE ONE

To Provide for the Highest Quality of
Use and Enjoyment of the National
Park System by Increased Millions of
Visitors in Years to Come.

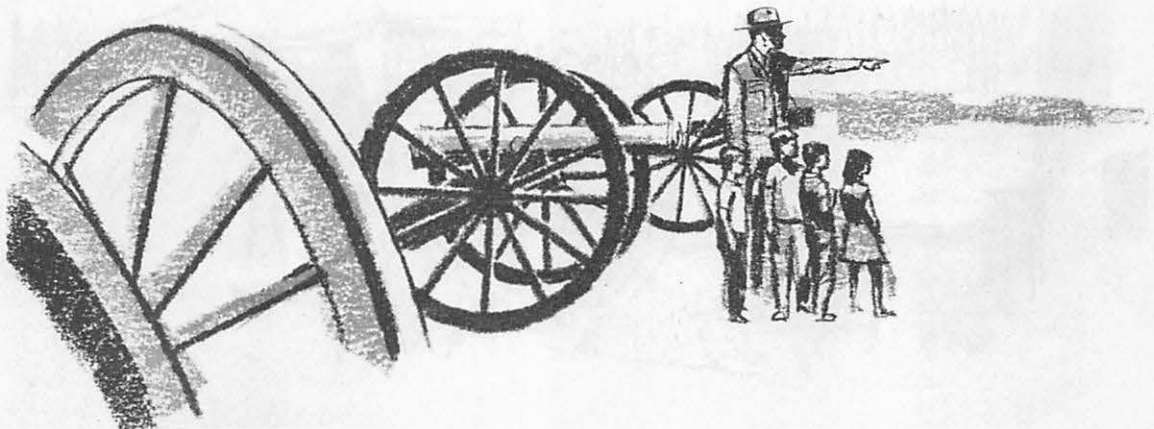
GOALS FOR ALL PARKS

1. HELPING VISITORS ENJOY THE PARKS: To provide all visitors with more information on how best to take advantage of all opportunities available for enjoyment of the park resources, and to provide facilities appropriate to the needs of all age groups.
2. SEEING THE PARK ON FOOT: To develop on a System-wide basis a program which will encourage visitors to see the park on foot.
3. REDUCING IMPACT OF USE: To ease congestion and reduce visitor impact on park resources by such methods as expansion of facilities and services in appropriate areas, extension of seasonal and day use, alterations in travel and use patterns, and coordination of development plans with other agencies.
4. CONCESSIONERS' SERVICE TO VISITORS: To insure that all services supplied by concessioners—as well as those supplied by the National Park Service—adhere to standards which will provide a quality park experience.
5. KNOWLEDGE OF VISITORS: To obtain on a System-wide basis, complete data on visitor use of all facilities and services, participation in activities, visitor needs, preferences and satisfactions, as a guide to anticipating future trends and providing better public service.
6. DETERMINING PARK CAPACITY: To support all park programs with accurate measurements of the present and potential capacity of each park to accommodate rising visitor use in years to come.



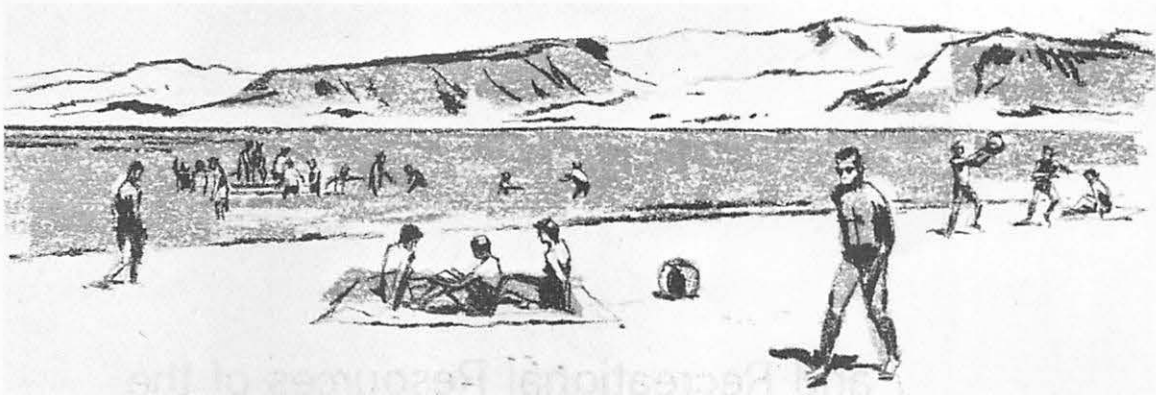
GOALS FOR SCENIC AND SCIENTIFIC PARKS

1. THE PRIMITIVE WILDERNESS: To continue to reserve the primitive, roadless wilderness for all those visitors willing to use the wilderness on its own terms.
2. THE WILDERNESS THRESHOLD: To encourage wider enjoyment of the less rugged portions of the back country by making more accessible the "Wilderness Threshold" lying between developed areas and the primitive wilderness.
3. FACILITIES IN DEVELOPED AREAS: To continue to provide, as public need is demonstrated, facilities in developed areas that will enable visitors better to enjoy the park.
4. LIMITS OF DEVELOPMENT: To define limits for development of National Park Service and concession facilities, and eliminate or relocate those facilities that intrude on the primary resources of the park.
5. ENJOYMENT OF HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL VALUES: To identify, preserve and interpret more fully, important historical or archeological features found in scenic and scientific parks.



GOALS FOR HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL PARKS

1. ENJOYMENT OF NATURAL VALUES: To identify, preserve and interpret more fully, significant scenic or scientific features in historical or archeological areas.
2. LIMITS OF DEVELOPMENT: To define limits for development of National Park Service and concession facilities, and eliminate or relocate those that intrude on the primary resources of the park.
3. GREATER OPPORTUNITY FOR USE: To encourage wider use of park resources through development, where needed and appropriate, of lunching, picnicking and camping facilities and historical and nature trails.



GOALS FOR RECREATION PARKS

1. MAXIMUM RECREATIONAL USE: To provide maximum recreational opportunity in each recreation park, based on fullest use of the resource.
2. DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES: To develop all needed public and concession facilities that will assist visitors in making maximum use of recreational opportunities.
3. RECREATION-ORIENTED PROGRAMS: To develop informational and interpretive programs primarily oriented to enjoyment of recreational resources.
4. NATURAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES: To provide for the enjoyment of outstanding natural or historical features when they are of such value that they are recognized as an element of the recreational resources of the park.

OBJECTIVE TWO

To Conserve and Manage for their

Highest Purpose the Natural, Historical

and Recreational Resources of the

National Park System.

GOALS

1. CONSERVATION THROUGH MANAGEMENT: To base conservation of the resources upon more effective management programs, as well as upon protection, with programs for natural resource management developed in harmony with the concepts of the Secretary's Committee on Wildlife Management, and the Report of the National Academy of Sciences.
2. NEW KNOWLEDGE: To expand the National Park Service's capability to carry out a sustained, comprehensive research effort, by authorities in and outside the Service, including as guidelines the recommendations of the Report of the National Academy of Sciences and the Report of the Secretary's Committee on Wildlife Management. (See also Objective VI.)
3. A MORE EFFECTIVE MASTER PLAN: To improve the effectiveness of the Master Plan as a management tool through the development of a formal Land Use Plan for zoning parks, giving special attention to scientific values of unusual natural and historical features.
4. CONSERVATION THROUGH DEVELOPMENT DESIGN: To continue to develop capabilities and philosophy in the fields of park design, construction, and historic structure preservation and restoration as a tool of park conservation.

OBJECTIVE THREE

To Develop the National Park System

to Meet Future Needs Through

Inclusion of Additional Areas of Scenic,

Scientific, Historical and Recreational

Value to the Nation, While these May

Still be Saved.

GOALS

1. NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM PLAN: To insure an adequate National Park System Plan to meet the needs of the people by:

a. Preserving additional natural environments, scenes and processes of national significance not now represented in the National Park System.

b. Utilizing the findings and recommendations resulting from the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings to develop a balanced historical representation in the National Park System.

c. Expanding the capacity of the National Park Service to identify, plan, develop and administer the several kinds of areas included in the National Recreation Area System.

2. NEW MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS: To develop new management concepts and attitudes necessary for the operation of the new kinds of parks of all types being proposed for addition to the National Park System.

3. NATIONAL CAPITAL PARKS: To preserve the memorial character, the open spaces and recreational opportunities of the Capital Parks, and make them increasingly meaningful to visitors.

4. NOMENCLATURE OF THE SYSTEM: To simplify the nomenclature of the units in the System, by making use of the work "Park" in the names of each park in the three categories listed in the preface.

5. REGISTERED SCIENTIFIC AND HISTORIC LANDMARKS AND THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY: To increase the use of the Registered Landmark Program and the HABS as a major extension of the preservation purposes of the National Park System.

OBJECTIVE FOUR

To Participate Actively with Federal,

State and Local Agencies and with

Other Organizations in Programs of

Conservation, Historical Preservation

and Outdoor Recreation for This and

Other Nations.

GOALS

1. COOPERATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES: To explore ways and means by which the experience of the National Park Service in the field of outdoor recreation can be shared more extensively with other bureaus of the Department of the Interior and with other Federal land-managing agencies.
2. STATE COOPERATION: To pursue an active program of Federal-State cooperation through a systematic program of assistance and advice to non-Government organizations, the States and their political subdivisions in the fields of land planning, design, management, interpretation and operation of parks and other areas, and through the exchange of information on techniques and methods related thereto.
3. SUPPORTING HISTORICAL PRESERVATION: To extend to other agencies, groups and individuals, the National Park Service knowledge and experience in the special fields of historical preservation and presentation.
4. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION: To exchange park knowledge and personnel with other nations, aiding in the improvement of existing park systems and the saving of threatened areas of worldwide significance through a world park system plan and an international exchange of conservation knowledge, including an International Conservation Institute.
5. INTERNATIONAL PARKS YEAR: To implement the recommendation of the First World Conference on National Parks, that the 1972 Centennial of Yellowstone National Park be celebrated on an international scale.

OBJECTIVE FIVE

To Communicate the Cultural,

Inspirational and Recreational

Significance of the

National Park System.

GOALS

1. QUALITY INTERPRETATION: To achieve quality interpretation, reflecting standards established by the Washington Office, supported with review and inspection by the Regional Office, maintained through critical and systematic appraisal by the park staff, based upon visitor use and reaction.
2. PROFESSIONAL INTERPRETATION: To improve interpretation in the National Park Service as a professional career, performed by interpreters qualified in their subject fields and with full-time responsibility for interpretation in breadth and depth. (See also Objective VI).
3. PERSONAL INTERPRETATION: To maintain, concurrent with increasing park use, the informal, personal interpretation methods that are the hallmark of the National Park Service's visitor program.
4. COMMUNICATION OF POLICY: To prepare field guides for area management, covering policies for the three categories of areas and, as appropriate, to communicate those policies to the public through informational and interpretive media at all levels of Service operation.
5. SPECIAL PROGRAMS: To reach a wider representation of park visitors through special interpretive programs and facilities for young people and for visitors from other nations.
6. MUSEUMS AND AUDIO-VISUAL PROGRAMS: To constantly seek new ways to enhance the design and to improve the effectiveness of museum and audio-visual presentation.
7. AMERICANA: To expand the Service's preservation and interpretive programs in the fields of early American music, art, handicrafts, folklore and other aspects of the national cultural development.
8. NEW AND IMPROVED INTERPRETIVE METHODS: To develop, test and apply on an increasing scale, methods and tools of interpretation made available by new knowledge and advancing technology.
9. THE PUBLIC BEYOND THE PARKS: To communicate the significance of our national heritage, as represented in the parks, to the public at large by means of improved publications, graphic arts, and extension services, with increased emphasis on the use of television and motion pictures.
10. LOCAL COMMUNITY RELATIONS: To continue and strengthen nationwide the development of mutual understanding and cooperation between each park and its neighboring community.

OBJECTIVE SIX

To Increase the Effectiveness of the

National Park Service as an

Organization Dedicated to Park

Conservation, Historical Preservation

and Outdoor Recreation.

GREATER OPPORTUNITY—GREATER RESPONSIBILITY

Over the past eight years the opportunities for service, and the responsibilities of the National Park Service to the people, have increased tremendously as an outcome of continued growth of the System—an increase of 20 units; greater use of the parks—visits up approximately 80% (1962 - 90,000,000 visits); expansion of all Service programs, and initiation of new programs such as the Registered National Landmarks Program. Consequently, the size of the Service and the funds necessary to meet its responsibilities have greatly increased.

The continuing upsurge in the Nation's economy, the increasing amount of leisure time and the ever increasing interest in outdoor recreation plainly show a rising demand for efficiently planned and managed Service programs. To assure a National Park Service with the capabilities of fulfilling its mission as a "people serving" organization, it is necessary to reappraise organizational structure, utilization of manpower, and methods of operation. This is Objective VI of the Long Range Plan.

GOALS

1. WORKLOAD DISTRIBUTION: To distribute the workload of the National Park Service to each level of the organization as follows:

a. Washington Office: Propose to the Department the objectives of the National Park Service; formulate the policies, systems, procedures and standards of performance to achieve the objectives of the NPS; assure the maintenance of a high quality of service and secure maximum efficiency of operations; prepare and present to higher authorities for presentation to Congress all matters requiring legislative and budgetary action; communicate the program.

b. The Regional Office: Represent the Director; perform facilitating services for areas; provide professional assistance to areas not adequately staffed; be responsible for the execution of the NPS programs within the Region; interpret policy and require its execution at the area level; assure the maintenance of a high quality of service; secure maximum efficiency of operations; communicate the program of the National Park Service within the Region.

c. The Field Area: Formulate, propose and efficiently execute a dynamic action program for the management of the area's resources for the use and enjoyment of the people; execute policies formulated by WASO and as interpreted and supervised by Regions; communicate the values of the area and its program to our visitors and our neighbors.

2. GROUPING OF FUNCTIONS: To assure maximum efficiency, closely related functions are to be grouped together in each organizational unit. Particular emphasis will be given to:

a. Visitor Services: All functions and responsibilities incident to interpretation and other visitor services and activities can best be accomplished through direction by one organizational unit.

b. Management of Park Resources: All functions and responsibilities necessary to assure conservation of resources require coordination and direction by one organizational unit.

c. Research: The success of the National Park Service program—particularly in Resource Management—depends upon a strong research activity, organized under single direction, with guidelines of the type suggested by the National Academy of Sciences Committee in its Report dated August 1, 1963, and the Report of the Secretary's Committee on Wildlife Management.

d. Program Coordination: All Service programs—management and protection, maintenance, construction and land acquisition—require integration and direction by a single coordinating unit of the organization.

3. MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION: To assure full and efficient development and use of manpower, the Service will:

a. Improve recruitment selection and placement methods and procedures.

- b. Develop a coordinated, Service-wide training program.
- c. Develop standards to measure the performance of personnel.
- d. Expand the career counselling program.
- e. Develop methods of maximum use of personnel in "off-season" periods.
- f. Accomplish selected programs by means of teams drawn from the required disciplines in parks, design offices, regions and WASO, rather than building up specialized and duplicating organizations for these purposes.
- g. Use nonprofessionals in situations in which they can perform with complete adequacy, i.e. maintenance managers or specialists might replace park engineers.

4. OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES: To achieve maximum results through improved operational procedures:

- a. Consolidate fiscal and other facilitating operations where possible, and plan for adoption of automatic data processing.
- b. Insure high quality service, maximum efficiency of operations and adherence to established policies, procedures and programs by means of clearly stated directives and guidelines, systematic review, evaluation and corrective action, as required.
- c. Clarify and simplify review and approval procedures by insisting upon clearly developed program requirements.
- d. Raise the competence of park maintenance through development and broad communication of new techniques, modern methods, the provision of uniform standards and other means.

5. COORDINATED PARK PROGRAMS: To improve the overall effectiveness of park operations through establishment of a systematic program sequence which translates the objectives and goals of the Long Range Plan into park objectives and goals included in the Master Plan, and develops coordinated park programs to achieve these objectives.

6. CAPABILITY FOR COOPERATIVE SERVICES TO OTHERS: To provide Service capability to extend cooperative services and advice in the areas of land planning, management, design and interpretation to private and quasi-public organizations and other agencies, Federal, state and their political subdivisions, as well as to other nations.



THE
LONG RANGE
PLAN,
A
STATEMENT
OF
CONSIDERATIONS

The National Park Service has concluded a long range study looking to the future of our national parklands. The study represents a searching analysis of the role which National Parks should play in the whole scheme of outdoor recreation in America, of the capacity of the parks to continue to provide inspirational enjoyment of a unique kind, and of the place which the National Park System should occupy in the fabric of society.

Throughout the Plan, use of the term "National Park System" refers to all areas administered by the National Park Service. The terms "parks", "areas", and "units" are used in a generic sense to refer to all components of the System. A basic recommendation of the Plan is that the Service work toward a simplified and more easily recognized nomenclature in which the word "park" would appear in the title of all units of the System.

The National Park System now consists of more than 200 parks. The optimum number that will ultimately be included is unknown; "rounding out" the System according to present day standards and needs implies unusual foresight. It should be the privilege of each generation to avail itself of the opportunity to set apart for the common good such representations of the national heritage as may be desirable.

The Three Categories of Parks

The National Park System is a dynamic and growing institution having great diversity of composition, but with a single unity of purpose—providing for public use and enjoyment of the parks. To achieve effective management it will be necessary to clearly establish policies for the administration of the three categories of parks within the System which are defined as follows:

a. Natural Parks (Scenic and Scientific): Natural land and/or water compositions, with their indigenous wildlife (plant and animal), generally spacious in extent, of outstanding natural character, wonder, and beauty. They have been dedicated as public parks to preserve the distinctive character and quality of their compositions and resources and because of their inherent capacity to provide enjoyment and inspiration for the people of this and future generations.

The prime consideration in a natural park is the preservation of its qualities and scenery for use and enjoyment in place by people. Recreational pursuits per se will be of a character and type that stem from the values of the park and that best promote a close association with the outdoors and an understanding and appreciation of the natural qualities of the park with the minimum of disturbance to the total environment and the composition as a whole.

Reserves of a historical nature as may exist in a National Park, will be managed to provide opportunities for enjoyment and inspiration consonant with the purpose for which the park was established.

b. Historical Parks (Historical and Archeological): Sites of man's pre-historic occupation of this country, historic sites and memorials that are of national significance in commemorating or illustrating the history of the nation.

The prime consideration in historical parks is the preservation of historical resources for their educational and inspirational benefits

to the people. Such natural resources and recreational opportunities as may exist will be managed to provide opportunities for enjoyment and inspiration consonant with the purpose for which the park was established.

c. Recreational Parks: Land and/or water complexes comprising either or both natural and man-made resources conducive to intensive and extensive recreational use and of such magnitude that they have been set apart for public park purposes to provide a continuing source of outdoor recreation in a pleasing environment of the kind and quality as will promote the health and physical well-being of the people of this and future generations.

The prime consideration in a recreational park is the full development and use of the park's natural and/or recreational assets and features, including the introduction of such man-made creations as may be required to permit fullest utilization of the park's potential for satisfying recreational needs.

In the past the Service has broadly administered all parks under unified policies which allow for individual differences. The Long Range Plan provides for clarification and organization of these policies in order to achieve consistent and appropriate management concepts within each of the three categories.

Regardless of category the System places a premium on quality. There can properly be no gradation of the quality of the park resources in terms of the qualities of another park. There can be no evaluation of Gettysburg in terms of Yosemite. While a National Park was the progenitor of the National Park System it is no longer the sole standard of measurement for all parks in the System.

These parks, having differing values and significance, do not dilute or detract from one another. Rather, with clearly defined and realistic policies, practices, and principles established for the management of each of the three categories, they add strength to the whole, and to each other. The factors which determine the appropriate category designation for each park are the primary purpose for its establishment, the basic resource value, and the appropriate use thereof.

While the tradition of historical and natural parks goes back to the 19th century, the concept of National Recreation Areas is comparatively new. Within the System these areas are of equal importance to the historical and natural areas. The formalizing of a National Recreation Area System by the President's Recreation Advisory Council underscores the future importance of such areas. It is the major field for development of future parks for the Nation. The Service can make a significant contribution to the needs of the American people by applying its experience to the management of these areas. They will require equal skills.

Constants In A World Of Change

The National Parks are constants in a complex world of change. Unlike most enterprises which seek new methods and new products, the National Park Service deals with an unchanging one. A generation ago, a typical family drove into a National Park, drove along park roads, enjoyed the wildlife or the historic site, or the spectacular scenery, camped in the campground or stayed at a hotel, attended a nature walk or a guided tour of a historic house or an Indian pueblo; the family on vacation does almost exactly the same thing today.

It is not the intent of the Long Range Plan to achieve a radical new design for park use; rather it seeks to maintain the traditional pattern.

The mounting need to provide space for outdoor recreation, and the rising demands that threaten to destroy these spaces, stem from the same universal forces: a society which has changed from predominantly rural in 1900, to 70% urban today, a fast-growing population which will double by the year 2000, along with rising incomes, increased leisure, and a steadily increasing appetite for outdoor recreation.

People living in ever more crowded metropolitan areas need more and more land for recreational resources; they also need more water, more power, more lumber, more highways—and more and bigger cities. Everyone, conservationist as well as developer, needs the houses, food and utilities which depend upon the industrial development of resources.

We face the kind of problem which has made careful and comprehensive planning so essential in our complex world. It is therefore a matter of considering urban, metropolitan, and outdoor recreation needs all together. It will require coordination of a novel kind among all recreation and resource planners if lands for public outdoor recreation sufficient to the needs of the Nation are to be saved before the opportunity is lost.

Park administrators must possess vision to see beyond the boundaries of the parks. They must seek methods to achieve close cooperation with neighboring agencies in establishing integrated plans for park conservation and recreation. They should be concerned with any destruction of the natural and historic environment of this country.

The National Parks will retain their integrity and vitality only if broad public support is given to the strengthening of the conservation ethic in this country. The National Park Service, which has contributed so vitally, must rededicate itself, its energies, and its abilities, to the furthering of this ethic, and to the expanding of its own conservation horizon. In so doing, it can contribute importantly to man's continuing effort to live in harmony with his environment.

Leisure At The Core Of Life

Many persons have applied projections of population, income, leisure, and mobility, to the field of outdoor recreation. All are in agreement that the impact upon outdoor recreation facilities will assume avalanche proportions in the future. These estimates are ample evidence in themselves of the absolute necessity for all agencies in the field to work in concert.

The Long Range Plan was not drawn up to meet the needs of a specific number of park visitors by a specific date. Essentially, it seeks methods of accommodating a steadily increasing number of people, while conserving the basic resources, and yet insuring that people will continue to enjoy a park experience whose quality is unimpaired.

Authority to set aside the natural, historic, and recreational areas needed to meet this urgent need rests with Congress, which is a way of saying that the future of conservation and recreation lies with those who will receive the benefits—the people. The widespread interest and support now being expressed in the future of outdoor recreation is a hopeful sign. The major accomplishments of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission, the notable legislative record of the 87th Congress which authorized three National Seashores and two Historic Sites, presages a continued expansion of the National Park System.

The Service can contribute importantly to this expansion in many ways. It can, where appropriate, assist the legislative process by directing a major effort to the studies and planning necessary to achieve ultimate park authorizations. It can participate in joint studies with other agencies, to assure wisest use of land, such as the joint survey of the Northern Cascades conducted by the Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture. It can actively support the work of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, which coordinates all Federal programs.

Parks Are For People

To develop a program to meet this challenge, the Long Range Plan must look to the underlying principles of the Service and reduce them to a fundamental statement of purpose. The guiding philosophy is this: parks are preserved for people, for their continuing enjoyment, inspiration and education; parks are owned by the people, all of whom have equal rights to enjoy all the values. Parks are needed by people, a belief basic to all others.

Increased use of the parks by the people in the years ahead should be welcomed, for it can result in ever increasing educational, inspirational, and recreational benefits. It will be the responsibility, and a most critical one, of the National Park Service to utilize its capabilities in the development of techniques which will accommodate these visitors.

The Long Range Plan envisages no immediate limitation of entry into the parks. Actually, some of the present "crowding" of parks is misleading. That minute portion of any park in which facilities are located is often crowded; the remainder of the park, particularly the large natural parks, remains relatively undisturbed. The solution of this dilemma will be a major and continuing challenge of the future.

What must be accepted is that world famous historic and natural features, reached by good roads, will seldom result in peace and quiet. These concentration points in the parks will continue to be crowded; there is no way to avoid this. A nation of 200,000,000 people will inevitably exert upon its park system a different pressure than did a nation of 100,000,000. The obligation of the Service is to seek means of diffusing the impact, and to permit an informed public to choose among all opportunities for enjoying the park resources, so that each visitor may enjoy freest possible use.

Above All, Naturalness

The Long Range Plan endorses a concept of management of the resources which marks a milestone in conservation history. From the beginning of the park idea, the objective of preservation in natural parks has been that flowers, shrubs, and trees, the animals and insects, all have the opportunity to adapt themselves to changing natural conditions as best they may; it is the maintenance of this freedom which sets aside National Parks as unique preserves.

In recent years it has become increasingly evident that park boundaries are not proof against the modern world of pesticides, power and irrigation projects, of polluted air and water, of science working its miracles. The dynamic forces of civilization cannot be locked out. The natural forces set in motion by every act of every animal and bacterium, by every inch added to the growth of plant or tree, affect the lives of all other creatures. The introduction of powerful new forces disturb these ancient, exquisitely balanced, rhythms of life. Protection itself has in some cases interfered with natural processes, of which fire is only one example.

The recommendations of the Secretary of the Interior's Committee on Wildlife Management bring into focus the objective which should guide future programs.

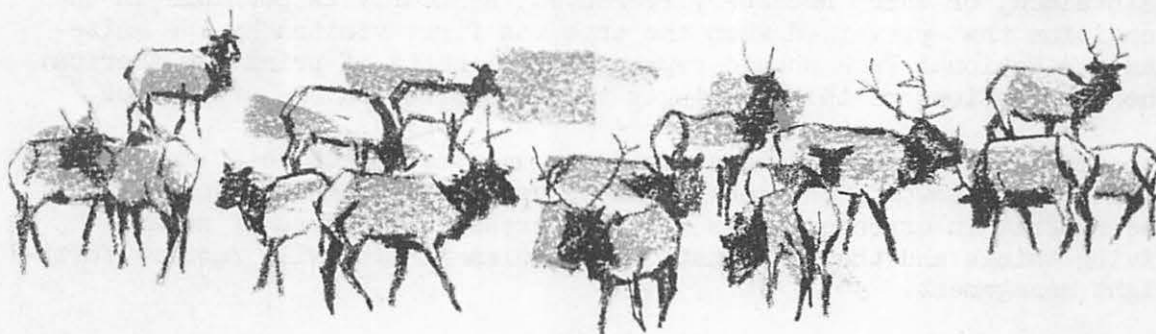
"We would recommend that the biotic associations within each park be maintained, or where necessary recreated, as nearly as possible in the condition that prevailed when the area was first visited by the white man. A National Park should represent a vignette of primitive America. The implications of this seemingly simple aspiration are stupendous."

The implications are indeed stupendous, and the objective is more a goal to work toward, than one which is capable of complete achievement. The report, in essence, calls for an increased awareness of natural living things and their habitat. Its implementation will require forthright management.

But management of the resources cannot be undertaken without a fund of knowledge which does not presently exist. In certain parks, or portions of parks, simple protection provides exactly what is needed. In others, it does not.

The knowledge required to develop sound management programs is directly dependent upon the breadth and depth of the Service research program. Such a program does not presently exist. The Service must develop the capability to carry on the needed research necessary if "a reasonable illusion of primitive America" is to be recreated. The scope of such a research effort has been detailed in the recent Report prepared by the National Academy of Sciences Committee.

The need for more informed knowledge of the resource is also strongly evident in the more than 100 historical and archeological areas of the National Park System. The effect of industrial posions, smog, and the attrition of use upon historic structures and objects is not sufficiently known. Protection may not be enough to stabilize the 1000-year-old walls of an Indian pueblo, or preserve a 300-year-old weapon. The ultimate solution to historic preservation depends in large part upon the breadth and depth of the research effort, one which the Service is as yet unable to mount.



The Challenge To The Service

The final element of the Long Range Plan deals with the National Park Service organization, the employees who administer the parks. The National Park idea involves not only the resource, but the body of concepts and techniques which are applied to the management of the resource.

A special survey has been conducted, and recommendations have been made in the plan, to assure that the organization's structure and procedures will accomplish the objectives of the Long Range Plan, and that its effectiveness in manpower development and utilization will be equal to the task ahead.

One of the great opportunities of the Service is to communicate the park idea, within the park, to the nation, and to the world. In many ways the most individual of all Service activities, the most far reaching and necessary for visitor appreciation and understanding of park values, the park interpretive program may yet become the most important single function of the Service. "To translate the language of nature and the story of history—to translate the sights and sounds that are so obvious and yet so filled with hidden meaning and mystery," this will be a constantly challenging goal of interpretation.

One of the most powerful weapons of conservation, one of the most effective tools for preserving park resources, is an informed public. The need to promote the cause of conservation is implicit in the interpretive program.

The first National Park was established in the United States, nearly a century ago; from that time the United States has been the recognized world leader in park conservation. In recent years, 80 other nations have developed national park systems, many of which have been inspired by visits to the American parks. The Service can continue to contribute importantly to the National Park idea throughout the world while at the same time benefitting from the knowledge and experience of other park systems.

The attitude of the Service, as it faces the road ahead, should deservedly be one of confidence, bulwarked by its long experience and high standards in the field of park conservation. The challenge of the future for the National Park Service is reminiscent of the Chinese character for the word crisis, which combines two elements—danger and opportunity. It is the purpose of the Long Range Plan both to identify the dangers, and to call attention to the opportunities.

The theme of the Plan, then, is this: The Service must stand as a vital, vigorous, effective force in mounting a crusade to save our land from ugliness, to provide sufficient outdoor recreation space for all, and to preserve the places of history and beauty which give special meaning to our national character. The ultimate objective is clear: The Service must continue to guard jealously the irreplaceable treasures of the System, while finding ways to preserve from impairment a park experience unmatched in quality.



