

# AT YOUR SERVICE

## Our National Forests

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The 180 million acres of recreation area in our 150 national forests receive over 21 million visits yearly, for picnicking, camping, skiing, fishing, hunting, swimming, hiking, mountain climbing, and riding.

There are 4,500 public camp and picnic areas at which 280,000 people can camp and picnic at one time, and 236 winter sports areas and 65 organization camps maintained by the Forest Service. In addition, organizations have built 300 organization camps for group use at which thousands of young people enjoy low-cost vacations.

Private capital under a special-use permit also has constructed and operates 500 resorts at which vacationists and tourists can get reasonably priced accommodations. On areas not needed for public use the Forest Service permits individuals to build summer homes for personal use for a moderate fee.

The national forests have 120,000 miles of forest highways and roads, 136,000 miles of trail for horse or foot travel, and 70,000 miles of good fishing streams.

Add to this 100 million acres of good hunting country and 14 million acres of wilderness and you have a summary of the type and variety of recreation available in the national forests.

In general, visitor restrictions are limited to those necessary for the safety of the users and the protection of the forest. No one is required to have a guide in the national forests. Hunting and fishing are regulated by State law and some States require a guide for out-of-State hunters. During dry summer or fall weather rigid fire control is necessary and some areas are closed to all use.

Starting in 1949 the Forest Service will make a small charge for camping and picnicking at a representative group of its larger recreation areas. Most areas will still be free. This new policy will be experimental, charges will be 50 cents per party of not over six for camping, and 25 cents to 50 cents per party of not over six for picnicking.

The Forest Service does not conduct tours or provide recreational programs. However, at some private resorts there are organized activities and guided trips through the forest and into wilderness areas.

The forest supervisor in charge of a national forest is responsible for its administration and management of resources. Each forest has available for distribution pamphlets and maps of its recreation facilities. The forest supervisor cannot furnish detailed information about accommodations at resorts or dude ranches in or near the forest, which should be requested from local chambers of commerce or civic associations.

Available at all forest supervisor and regional forester offices or from the Chief, Forest Service, Washington 25, D. C. are: National Forest Vacations, a general description of recreation resources of the national forests and a

list of forest supervisors' offices and addresses; Rules and Suggestions for Recreation Visitors on the National Forests, a list of fire restrictions and suggestions to visitors; a map of all national forests with addresses of forest supervisors; and a list of national forest wilderness areas and map with a short synopsis of each area.

## Interior Department Centennial

Open house with a public reception attended by Congressmen dealing with Interior programs as guests of honor marked the Department's hundredth birthday last month. "The Department dedicates itself," declared Secretary Krug, "to vigorous attainment of the resource goals necessary to keep this land of freedom, prosperity, and expanding opportunity for the people."

## C & NW-UP R. R. Tours

Nearly a hundred all-expense escorted tours are offered the public this year by the joint Department of Tours of the Chicago & North Western Ry. and Union Pacific R. R.

The trips will range from 9 to 16 days at rates from \$170 to \$385 including tax. Six will be leaving every week-end during the entire summer, beginning May 28, with the last leaving Chicago September 4.

National park tours included are Rocky Mountain (9 days), Yellowstone (9 days), Zion-Grand Canyon-Bryce-et al. (12 days), Yellowstone-Zion-Grand Canyon-Bryce-et al. (14 days), Yellowstone-Rocky Mountain (12 days), and Yosemite via Hoover dam with a California auto tour that goes down to Tiajuana (16 days).

The department's tours are complete in all details with no itineraries or costs to be figured out by travel agents—just one reservation to write or wire for.

A 16-page illustrated folder and 48-page "Summer Tours" book are available on request from I. D. Kessler, manager, Department of Tours, 400 West Madison Street, Chicago 6.

## This Week Travel Package

Culmination of an industry-government cooperative effort came with the public announcement in the April 24 issue of This Week magazine of the availability of the This Week Vacation Guide (68 pp.) and the United States Travel Division recreational area map as a package for individual travelers. The map and guide combined sells for \$1. The map alone costs 25 cents. Inquiries and orders should be addressed to: This Week, P. O. Box 239, Station G, New York 19, N. Y.

## Correction

An interchange of photographs in the April issue resulted in confusing the identities of United States Travel Division Collaborators J. S. Turner and James B. Robbins. The picture on the bottom left on page 10 is Mr. Turner. The one on the right is Mr. Robbins.