

Forest and Wildlife Management

But a Park has obligations beyond providing the public with good accommodation, essential though this may be. Forest and wildlife management are inseparable from the total operation of any National Park. Forest protection is among the important duties of the Warden Service, acting under the direction of the Chief Park Warden. Communication within the wide-spread range of the park is by forest or radio telephone. Fire roads and trails are not only essential for detection and suppression of forest fires but for game patrols. Forest fire look-out and control stations are established at key points throughout the parks.

Wildlife management, including the work of the fish hatcheries, is carried out under supervision of the Canadian Wildlife Service, a division of the National Parks Branch. Wildlife is so fundamentally a part of the character of a park that without it the concept of these great national nature preserves would be without meaning.

Only in part does even the most dedicated and far-sighted Parks career man see the result of his lifetime of work. Rarely is he fortunate enough to watch the plans he helped to shape mature fully. He is always building on somebody else's work or creating new bases for those who come after him.

This, at least, has been largely true in the past. It is becoming less and less true today. The pace of national development is shortening the old time-tables. The Parks are a unique and invaluable national heritage and Canadians are discovering them in ever-growing numbers. National Parks administration that once entailed the care of one small area in the Canadian Rockies today entails the administration of a dynamic national estate. Those who manage it on behalf of the people of Canada not only must move with foresight but with rapidity.

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