

Through information provided by the resource-base description and special studies of the total park environment -- plant and animal life, land formation, soil, geology and climate -- park naturalists develop interpretive programs to help visitors understand and appreciate the individuality of each national park. The programs include guided hiking, illustrated lectures and exhibitions.

The natural resources of the national parks must be protected from misuse, damage and destruction, a job that falls to the park wardens. Trained in resource-management, the wardens are involved in forest-fire control and assessment of the condition of plant and animal life. They also deal with visitor safety and search and rescue operations.

The national parks staff are advised on wildlife management and protection by specialists of the Canadian Wildlife Service. Other federal agencies also provide expertise -- the National Museum of Natural Science, the Forest Management Institute, the Geological Surveys of Canada and the Fisheries Research Board.

A Junior Warden Program, begun in 1971 as a pilot project in Georgian Bay Islands National Park, Ontario, and Fundy National Park, New Brunswick, will be extended in 1972 to 12 parks. The boys, 16 and 17 years of age, were selected by the Boy's Clubs of Canada. The boys spent several weeks working with park naturalists on interpretation programs and studying park resources, forest, wildlife and fisheries management, forest-fire control and safety regulations.

Description

Evidence of the increasing attraction of Canada's national parks is the growing number of visitors. Since 1961, attendance has almost tripled, over 13.5 million people visiting the parks in 1970-71.

The 25 national parks extend virtually from sea to sea -- Pacific Rim National Park on the west coast of Vancouver Island and Terra Nova National Park on the east coast of Newfoundland.

Pacific Rim National Park will be under development until the mid-1970s. The park will encompass three distinct areas: Long Beach, including Grice Bay and a section of Kennedy Lake totalling 60 square miles; 90 to 95 islands and rocks in Barkley Sound and a 45-mile stretch of coastline between Port Renfrew and Bamfield.

There are two national parks in the Selkirk Mountains of British Columbia. Mount Revelstoke covers 100 square miles of timbered slopes, alpine meadows and lakes. It is located near the city of Revelstoke. Glacier National Park lies a few miles to the east and covers 521 square miles. There are more than 100 glaciers in the park.