



Bulletin

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THREE NEW NORTHERN NATIONAL PARKS

Over 18,500 square miles of land in the Yukon and Northwest Territories have been set aside for three new national parks, increasing the area of Canada's national parkland from 31,300 to 49,800 square miles.

The new parks, the first established in Canada above the 60th Parallel, are in the Kluane area of the Yukon Territory, along the South Nahanni River, and on the Cumberland Peninsula of Baffin Island in the Northwest Territories. They contain some of the most spectacular scenery in Canada.

Mr. Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, who announced creation of the new parks to the House of Commons on February 22, stated that their existence would not be allowed to affect the traditional use of wildlife and fish resources by natives of the North. "We will discuss with the Indian and Eskimo people who live near the parks ways to make sure that they get their share of the jobs created and every other possible economic advantage the parks can provide," he stated.

KLUANE NATIONAL PARK

The Kluane area (8,500 square miles), in the southwest corner of Yukon Territory, includes the St. Elias

Mountains, which contain Mount Logan (19,850 feet), the highest peak in Canada, one of the world's largest non-polar icefields systems and some of North America's finest wildlife.

During the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898, one of the minor routes for travellers from the Pacific was in the vicinity of the park's southeastern boundary. Dalton Post, just outside the area, was a stop-over camp. Prospecting occurred in other areas of the Yukon, following the Klondike rush, and a control post was established in 1904 by the North-West Mounted Police on the south shore of Kluane Lake. In 1942, Kluane Lake was the meeting point of American and Canadian crews building the Alaska Highway.

Since the late 1800s, the St. Elias Mountains have been popular with mountaineers. Mount Kennedy, named for the late American president, was climbed in 1965. During Canada's centennial year, 12 peaks were climbed and named for each Canadian province and territory.

NAHANNI NATIONAL PARK

The new park along the South Nahanni River covers 1,840 square miles. The South Nahanni is Canada's most spectacular wild river and the best of it is now protected within the park, which includes Virginia Falls, twice as high as Niagara; three major canyons reaching 4,000 feet in height and a vast number of caves and sulphur hot springs.

The forested river valleys are prime habitat for moose. Grizzly and black bear, wolf, woodland caribou, deer and beaver are among the more than 40 species of mammals in the Nahanni area.

At least 13 species of fish, including Arctic grayling and Dolly Varden trout, are found in the streams that flow into the Nahanni and Flat Rivers. Over 120 species of bird have been recorded in the area, including the golden eagle and Canada goose. American coot, wandering tattler, violet green

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