



Selection of Sites

An important step in the development of national park administration was taken in 1964 when all policies concerning the parks were reviewed, amended and consolidated in a statement and tabled in the House of Commons.

Two obligations were recognized concerning the establishment of new parks -- preservation of the Canadian heritage and insurance that Canadians of the present and future would have the opportunity to appreciate and understand their natural environment and to enjoy and benefit from the values of natural wilderness.

Originally, national parks were chosen for their outstanding scenery and unique features, but today areas representing the diversity of the Canadian landscape are selected. One of the basic objectives of the National Parks System is the preservation of representative areas from the various physical and biological units found in the country, as well as the protection of outstanding or unique areas.

Included in the policy statement was recognition of the need to establish at least one national park in each province. This has now been realized, with the establishment of two such parks in the Province of Quebec -- Forillon and La Mauricie.

The expectation of industrial development in Canada's North and the resultant population growth has brought recognition of the need to set aside land for national parks in the North, both to meet the future needs of the people who will live there and to protect examples of the natural environment.

Two large areas of land have been placed in reserve in the Northwest Territories for this purpose: 870 square miles in the South Nahanni Reserve and 2,860 square miles in the Great Slave Lake Reserve. Also under consideration are amendments to legislation that would create a significant national park in the Yukon Territory. The area is currently the Kluane Game Reserve.

Development

A resource inventory program was begun by the National and Historic Parks Branch in 1970 to provide a description of the total resource-base of each national park.

One objective is to identify and describe within each park the representative samples of the country's landscape worthy of being preserved unimpaired for future generations or warranting interpretive programs.

The information contained in each resource inventory will be used by park-planners to achieve a sound zoning-plan. Nature interpreters will use the information to plan programs suited to the character of each park and resource-conservation personnel will initiate resource-management plans based on the findings.