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27 January 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

NEW INITIATIVES FOR THE NATIONAL PARKS

Our National Park System encompasses the Crown Jewels of the American Heritage. The Park Idea has not received the Presidential and Congressional support and concern that the times require. You have an unsurpassed opportunity to make an historic and lasting contribution by initiating a major new effort to bring the Park System and the Park Service into our nation's third century. Your efforts could be achieved with relatively little new funding, and could bear visible fruit by the crucial year of 1976: the Bicentennial and your Re-election Campaign. The program would, I am confident, receive the strongest public support. The National Park Idea is among the most potent and positive in the American Consciousness.

Among the Initiatives I urge you to consider:

1. Redefinition of the Meaning of Parks, and the basic purposes of the System, including development of "Reserves" and "Preserves."
2. A Presidential Commission, chaired by Laurence Rockefeller, to thoroughly study and modernize the organization, personnel and attitudes of the National Park Service.
3. A major review of concessions policy and management, developing non-profit, public trustee foundations as the optimum approach to best serving the public and the Parks.
4. Reduction of man's physical impact on "prime" areas such as Yosemite Valley, and replacement of automobiles by alternative transportation systems in most Parks and Monuments.
5. New emphasis on preservation and environmental responsibilities. Improved park interpretation, stressing natural values and contemporary awareness.
6. Improve National Park Service performance in realizing and expanding compliance with the Wilderness Act.
7. Urgent Presidential intervention to prevent any OMB reductions in proposed Park Service Budget and staffing levels.
8. Presidential-level review of all areas of future Park or Reserve potential. This generation may have the last chance to save essential lands for future centuries.





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There is an urgent need for new parklands for America. You have perhaps the last opportunity for bold Presidential action of great and historic character; strides such as those made by President Theodore Roosevelt, and President Woodrow Wilson.

Many new Parks and Reserves could be created at little cost, from public lands. A major program involving numerous Presidential dedication ceremonies in 1976 would relate to both the Bicentennial and the Elections. Public approval and enthusiasm are certain.

Parks and Reserves to be created from public lands:

1. Sawtooth National Reserve
2. Hells Canyon National Recreation Area
3. White Mountain National Park (New Hampshire & Maine)
4. Appalachian National Park (Virginia & North Carolina)
5. Sequoia National Park Additions, including Mineral King
6. Death Valley National Reserve -- change from Monument
(A "Reserve" would be similar to present "Park," but with added emphasis on resource preservation)
- aska: 7. Mt. McKinley National Park Additions
8. Gates of the Arctic National Reserve
9. Wrangell-Kluane International Reserve
10. Glacier Bay National Reserve -- change from Monument
11. Katmai National Reserve -- change from Monument
12. Lake Clark National Reserve

Essential Areas for Urgent Purchase:

1. Immediate expansion of Redwood National Park to protect threatened Park watershed.
2. Santa Monica Mountains National Urban Park
3. Tall Grass Prairie National Park

