

A PAGE ABOUT THE AREA DEVOTED TO

Information For Visitors



Development Of Smokies Has Been Long In Making

The Great Smoky Mountains, on the boundary line between North Carolina and Tennessee, are a part of the oldest land area of the world, and embrace the loftiest mountain peaks in eastern United States and are the greatest land mass east of the Black Hills of South Dakota. They are now within The Great Smoky Mountains National Park, which enjoys more visitors annually than any other area in the National Park System.

A movement for the establishment of a National Park in the Southern Appalachian Mountains began March 27, 1894, when John S. Henderson, a member of Congress from North Carolina introduced in the House of Representatives a memorial of the North Carolina Press Association requesting the Congress to give consideration to the establishment of a National Park in the State of North Carolina. The movement continued intermittently until 1924 when the states of North Carolina and Tennessee created organizations for

the express purpose of promoting the establishment of "The Great Smoky Mountains National Park. In January, 1923, the Congress created a Commission to establish National Parks in the Southern Appalachians.

Then followed the action of the 69th Congress, on May 22, 1926, Public Law No. 268, establishing The Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This Act of Congress provided, reduced to simple terms, that if title was vested in the United States to certain land in The Great Smoky Mountains there would be established and developed a public park "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people."

February 6, 1930, the states of Tennessee and North Carolina joined in delivering to the United States deeds for 158,000 acres of land in The Great Smokies and thus met the requirement for establishment of federal supervision—and the first superintendent of the park was appointed. Conveyances of additional lands were thereafter made until more than the minimum of 427,000 acres set by the Congress had been transferred to the United States.

On September 2, 1940, The Great Smoky Mountains National Park was formally dedicated by the President, culminating the effort over a period of 46 years to preserve for posterity the enchanting and majestic beauty of The Great Smoky Mountains and their vast reservoir of objects of natural history and pioneer culture.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park was made possible by donations to the United States of the land included therein. Such donations represent sizeable investments of public and private funds, provided by the states of North Carolina and Tennessee, and the Laura Spellman Rockefeller Found-

ation. The cost of acquiring this land was more than \$11,500,000, of which amount North Carolina and Tennessee and the people of these two states provided more than \$4,350,000.

Today the Park consists of 460,882 acres, the equivalent of 720 square miles divided equally in the states of North Carolina and Tennessee. It is generally elliptical in shape, the greatest length being 52 miles and the greatest width 19 miles.

The Park generally is rugged, being notable for the highest peaks in the east, except Mount Mitchell. Clingman's Dome is the highest peak with an elevation of 6,642 feet. There are 24 peaks with elevation in excess of 6,000 feet and 11 more between 5,000 and 6,000 feet. Nestling between cross-ranges many valley areas open to provide variety. Mount Le Conte on the Tennessee side rises 5,301 feet from its valley base. Two of the valleys, Cataloochee in North Carolina and Cade's Cove in Tennessee are quite wide and open.

The Park is particularly notable for the variety of its plant life, this being the result of the wide range in elevation, a well distributed generous rainfall and a relatively long growing season. It is reported that 152 species of trees are found within the Park as compared with only 85 native to Europe. The variety of plant life is so great that a scientist has reported that: "In going from the base of one of our mountains to the top,

one traverses the same floral zones that are to be found in a trip from southern Tennessee to southern Canada." The same conditions provide animal life in an equally varied degree. Magnificent floral displays provide interest and enjoyment to the visitor and are a main attraction. Virgin stands of timber are found in various sections of the Park. Where timber has been removed new growth is rapidly establishing itself.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is officially credited with having had during recent years more visitors than any other National Park.

More than two-thirds of the population of the United States live within the area, the outer boundary of which is not more than two days' travel by automobile, bus or train from this Park. It has been truly said that this is the one major National Park accessible to that vast multitude of people in the lower income brackets residing in the eastern half of the United States—and for whom this Park is

Which Way To Go?



Confronted by this sign at Soco Gap, the motorist is presented his choice of a variety of widely-known places to visit. The place he has come from or through would probably be eliminated, but if unusual mountain sights are what he craves, he could pick any one of the places shown on the sign and be sure of an interesting trip.

'Come All The Way Up' Is New Tourist Slogan

"When you come to the mountains, come all the way up," is the lines recently dreamed up by one of Haywood County's leading hotel operators. And good reason he had for saying come all the way up, because in Haywood you'll find more mountains over a mile high than in any other county in Western North Carolina.

Several years ago a list of mile-

high or more piled. There with a total of third in the Haywood, Guyot, that is 6,600 feet one between teen range from 6,000; 26 from 27 from 5,500. Haywood is where you can up."

Telegraph The first graph line was ber 24, 1861, before the contin rail.

Battle Harbador's fishing took its name word batal.

admirably suited.

The National Park Service has had completed for more than ten years a master-plan for development of the Park which when carried out will provide the facilities necessary to accommodate the ever increasing visitors attracted to the Park.



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