

Selected Statutory Provisions Governing the Administration of the National Parks

The National Park Service is created within the Department of the Interior to manage national parks, monuments, and reservations. The purpose of the national parks, monuments, and reservations is to **conserve** their scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife, and leave them **unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations**. [16 U.S.C. §1]

Congress reaffirms the purposes set out in 16 U.S.C. §1, and states that the management of the parks shall not be conducted in derogation of the purposes for which the parks were established. [16 U.S.C. §1a-1]

The Secretary of the Interior shall promulgate regulations as the Secretary deems proper for the use and management of the parks. The Secretary may sell or dispose of park timber where the cutting of timber is necessary to control insects or disease or conserve the scenery or natural and historic objects of a park. The Secretary may grant privileges, leases, and permits for the use of land for the **accommodation of visitors**, but not so as to interfere with free access by the public to objects of interest. The Secretary may grant **grazing privileges** when in the Secretary's judgment such use is not detrimental to the primary purpose for which the park was created. [16 U.S.C. §3]