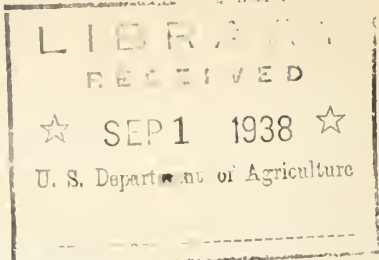


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NATIONAL FOREST VACATIONS

White Mountain National Forest, New Hampshire and Maine

A radio talk by Elizabeth S. Pitt, United States Forest Service, broadcast August 9, 1938, in the Department of Agriculture period, National Farm and Home Hour, by the National Broadcasting Company and a network of 90 associated radio stations.

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JOHN BAKER:

Now---let's talk about vacations----for those who are lucky enough to get a vacation. To be more specific--we're going to talk about vacations in the national forests. Elizabeth Pitt, of the Forest Service is a frequent visitor on these programs, and she's told us in the past that there are 160 national forests in the United States---administered by the Forest Service. She's told us about the way they're handled---so they produce timber, protect watersheds, provide a home for wild life--- and provide opportunities for recreation. The last time she was here she told us about the Nantahala National Forest in North Carolina. Today she's going to take us north---to tell us what you might find-- if you were to take a vacation in the White Mountain National Forest. It looks to me as though this is the only way I'll get a vacation--- So take the trail to the White Mountains, Betsy.

ELIZABETH PITT:

Today the Vacation Trail leads to the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire and Maine. This National Forest consists of more than 700,000 acres in a section of the country that has been famous since the days of the first settlers. Here are the headwaters of the Saco and Merrimac Rivers and the principal tributaries of the Androscoggin and the Connecticut. Mount Washington, well known to mountain climbers and skiers, dominates the northern section of this Forest. Pinkham Notch and Crawford Notch are near by, and also Franconia Notch, though not so near.

It is said that more has been written about the White Mountains than any other mountains in the world except the Alps, and that the wealth of history and legend that has grown up about them rivals the stories of the Rhine and the Scottish Border. Much of this interesting background centers around the Indians and the early colonists.

Just how and when the White Mountains received their present name is a question that never has been definitely settled, but there are some interesting sidelights. Historians do not seem to believe that they received this rather commonplace name because of the presence of snow on the summits of the peaks during at least half of the year, but rather from their natural appearance. No less an authority than Major Robert Rogers, the celebrated Colonial Ranger, is quoted to prove this contention. In his "Concise Account of America" published in London

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in 1765, Major Roberts states that the White Mountains are "so called from their appearance, which is much like snow, consisting, as is generally supposed, of a white flint, from which the reflection of the sun is very brilliant and dazzling."

The section of New Hampshire in which the White Mountain National Forest is located was well known to Major Rogers, celebrated hero of Mr. Kenneth Roberts' well known book, "Northwest Passage." It was through this country that he traveled with his Rangers on their return from the expedition to St. Francis. When the company was near starvation and the French and Indians were on their heels on this hazardous journey home, against the wishes of Major Rogers they split up into small parties, believing this would increase their chances of a safe journey. Several of these small parties traveled through the area which is now known as the White Mountain National Forest.

The White Mountain National Forest was established in 1918 by a proclamation signed by Woodrow Wilson, and has played an important part in the economic life of New Hampshire. Its establishment assured the proper protection of the great central watershed from which the drainage system of New England draws. This centers around the Saco, the Merrimac, the Androscoggin, and the Connecticut Rivers, which have their principal economic importance in parts of New England beyond the borders of New Hampshire.

Realizing the outstanding recreational opportunities offered by the lands included in the White Mountain National Forest, the Forest Service has carefully fostered these values. Good roads and trails make the area thoroughly accessible without spoiling its natural beauty. Seventeen forest camp grounds have been established for the comfort and convenience of visitors who bring their own camping equipment. Parking spurs, tent sites, fireplaces, tables, and pure drinking water are provided. In a good many cases you will find firewood ready to use.

For many years the White Mountain National Forest has been a leading area for winter sports, especially skiing. The deep gulch on the slopes of Mount Washington, known as Tuckerman Ravine, provides the longest ski season in the East. Usually snow is found there until the middle of summer and the area has heavy use by visitors from New York, Boston, and the other large Eastern centers of population. Many of the members of the famous Dartmouth skiing teams have used Tuckerman Ravine for a training field. Large ski events are held there every year.

Like all other National Forests, the White Mountain National Forest can be entered without charge, and the Forest Service asks only that you observe the simple regulations to prevent forest fires and keep campgrounds clean. Vacation maps and further information about it may be obtained by writing to the Forest Supervisor at Laconia, New Hampshire. L-a-c-o-n-i-a, Laconia, New Hampshire.

BAKER:

That was Elizabeth Pitt of the United States Forest Service telling you about vacation opportunities in the White Mountain National Forest. Later she will swing a little farther along the National Forest Vacation Trail and tell you about the Nicolet National Forest in Wisconsin.

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