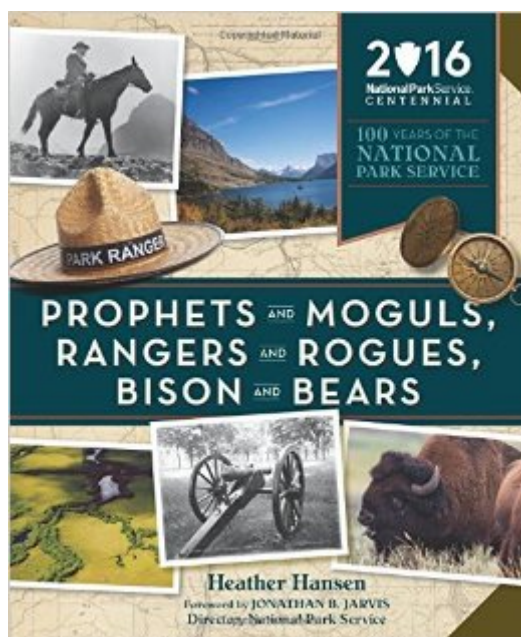


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# Prophets And Moguls, Rangers And Rogues, Bison And Bears: 100 Years Of The National Park Service



## Synopsis

"The park system is the biggest, real-world science laboratory on the planet, and an eyewitness to American history."--from the foreword by Jonathan B. Jarvis, Director, National Park Service

Most people who have stood beneath a redwood, necks craned to see its top 300 feet rising far above; or who have heard ghostly whispers of residents long-past among the burnt-red cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde; or who have climbed the stairs to gaze out from the Statue of Liberty's crown, would agree that our National Park system is a source of pride and wonder. But 100 years ago, creating a bureau to administer America's vast and diverse parks was a concept requiring great debate and persuasion. Those who argued vigorously for its creation, believing in conservation but appealing to patriotism and economic sense, understood that if Americans were to be enticed to spend their tourist dollars at home (and if Congress was to devote resources to protecting instead of exploiting our natural resources) then the parks would have to open their arms to all Americans. The story of the NPS is the story of people who fought for the protection of the places that have helped to define our national identity, those places which we now hold dear from the blue hazy mist that hangs over fall color in Great Smoky Mountains National Park to the spouting geysers of Yellowstone to the thick, steamy waterways of the Everglades. At a moment when the American mind was beginning to shift from the concept of wilderness as something to conquer to a more romantic notion of nature, the NPS founders were the architects of our family vacations, the inventors of icons with worldwide appeal. They battled progress, which often masked greed and ignorance, and their story continues with those who molded and grew the NPS through a flu pandemic, the Great Depression, World Wars, and beyond.

## Book Information

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Mountaineers Books (November 15, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1594858888

ISBN-13: 978-1594858888

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.9 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (24 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #67,285 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in [Books > Law > Environmental & Natural Resources Law](#) #199 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government >](#)

## Customer Reviews

I could hardly wait to get my hands on PROPHEETS AND MOGULS, RANGERS AND ROGUES, BISON AND BEARS, and it's even a richer story of our National Park Service than I could have imagined. Heather Hansen has done an extraordinary job of organizing complex archival and present-day accounts into a highly entertaining and informative book. I especially appreciate the many photographs that bring the history of the NPS vitally alive. It sparkles with stories of the people, events, conflicts and successes that made not just our national parks but wilderness, rivers, trails, archaeological and other sites the stunning resources they are today.

This book was given to me as a gift. Honestly, my first thought was that it would sit on the coffee table along with some other interesting but dense books that make me look smart. I happened to pick it up a few nights ago and I found myself really immersed in the story of how the parks started. I surprised myself by spouting a bunch of NPS facts and tidbits at a holiday party last night, which is interesting because I'm not one to remember random dates or names or even important events. My assessment of the book is that it's totally read-able and that history is woven into stories so seamlessly that it doesn't feel like a bunch of facts. That said, the book is absolutely packed with information. The research that must have gone into writing it is mind-boggling. So thumbs up. I'd highly recommend it. I may have to buy additional copies for gifts. Perfect for anyone who enjoys the parks.

As a former Park Ranger of the NPS for many years, I was excited to read this "walk down memory lane". Heather Hansen does a great job incorporating both a look at history and giving us personal anecdotes about old time rangers as well as mixing in current day stories of the NPS most fascinating stories and characters. She really captures the spirit of the national parks and its dedicated group of rangers, as well as detailing its history and events in a way that's fun and interesting. The book is not just a history book, but really a great read that had me turning the pages quickly, and is a must for anyone who has visited a national park and cares about our nation's treasures.

A history of America's National Parks, focusing on a few to illustrate the variety. Not a guide book. Entertaining and inspiring. Makes you want to get out there and hug a tree, splash some water,

climb a trail, listen to a Ranger, watch a sunrise, touch a fern, watch an elk.

Fascinating read. The book is extremely well organized so that you can either read it cover to cover or simply flip through and enjoy the story told through captions and photos. It's interesting to see the parks through so many lenses. I have a much better sense of how and why many decisions were made over the years. My respect for the parks has increased immensely. I particularly love the way Hansen included suggestions (e.g. "if you like Ansel Adams then you'll love Carleton Watkins").

I have known the author for years and have read her first book ("Disappearing Destinations") and countless articles she's written about policy and laws and the people who enforce them, as well as about nature in its beauty and its peril. Having had the privilege of talking at length with Ms. Hansen during her reporting of "Prophets and Moguls," I have insights into her dogged reporting at myriad parks about which she writes and her deep dive into the Parks system's history, genesis, growth, and internecine rules and regulations. Ms. Hansen's passion for the outdoors, its preservation, landscapes of all types and hues, and the people who protect them and educate others about them all are within the binding of "Prophets and Moguls." Who else but Ms. Hansen could make this country's national parks system interesting and beautiful to the reader and student.

This skillfully written book makes the past 100 years of National Park history come to life. Through extensive research and hands-on experiences, the author conveys so many wonderful insights about these treasured parts of our country. I especially enjoyed the rare photos and snippets found throughout the book. Reading this is truly an enlightening and educational experience. With my newly gained knowledge, I am now more motivated than ever to visit the parks that I have not yet seen. This is an excellent resource for my future travels -- j.e.

At the top of my list to give and to get, *Prophets and Moguls, Rangers and Rogues, Bison and Bears* is the book that finally brings to life the background and development of one of our greatest American treasures -- the National Park system. Who were the extraordinary people to envision it and why? How did they convince others of their plan of protection and conservation? And when did we realize these natural wonders would define our nation? Thank you Heather Hanson for giving us the answers through your most excellent researching, writing and story telling. Great reading awaits.

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