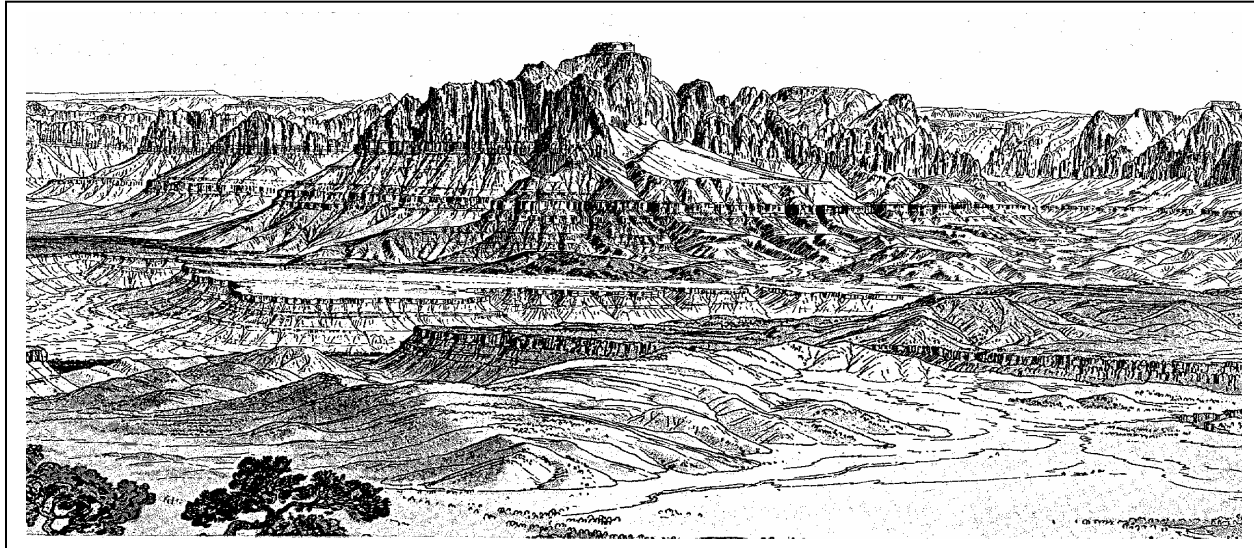




Zion National Park Profile 2007



Overview

Located in Washington, Iron and Kane Counties in Southwestern Utah, Zion National Park encompasses some of the most scenic canyon country in the United States. The park is characterized by high plateaus, a maze of narrow, deep, sandstone canyons and striking rock towers and mesas. Zion Canyon is the largest and most visited canyon in the park. The North Fork of the Virgin River has carved a spectacular gorge here, with canyon walls in most places rising 2000-3000 feet above the canyon floor. The southern part of the park is a lower desert area, with colorful mesas bordered by rocky canyons and washes. The northern sections of the park are higher plateaus covered by forests.

Mission Statement

The Zion National Park mission is to preserve the dynamic natural process of canyon formation as an extraordinary example of canyon erosion and to protect and preserve the valuable cultural, geologic, vegetation and wildlife resources while providing safe, sustainable and cost-efficient access for visitors experience and enjoyment. In addition, the park aims to educate both visitors and the general public about this exceptional environment.

Establishment

Established as Mukuntuweap National Monument in 1909; name changed to Zion National Monument in 1918; expanded and established as a National Park in 1919; Kolob Canyons section established as a National Monument in 1937 and added to Zion National Park in 1956.

Name

Zion, a Hebrew word referring to a place of safety or refuge, was given to the canyon by Mormon pioneers in the 1860's.

Human History

Evidence of 6,000 years of human occupation by Archaic, Ancestral Puebloans, (known by archeologists as the Virgin Branch of the Kayenta Anasazi and Parowan Fremont) Southern Paiutes and Mormon settlers who arrived in the 1860's.

Natural Resources

Geographic Features

Size: 146,597 acres (229 square miles) 90% recommended wilderness
99 miles of perimeter boundary

Rivers and Streams: 160 miles

Elevation: highest 8,726 ft (2660 m) Horse Ranch Mountain
lowest 3,666 ft (1128 m) Coalpits Wash

North Fork of the Virgin River

River length in park: 18 miles (Primary tributary length in park: 39 miles)

Gradient: 50-70 feet per mile

Sediment transfer: One-million tons per year (average)

The Narrows:

A two mile section of the North Fork of the Virgin River above the Temple of Sinawava that in places is only 20-30 feet across with 2000+ foot canyon walls on each side

Zion Canyon:

A 6.5 mile section of the North Fork of the Virgin River that has carved out a major canyon from the Temple of Sinawava to Springdale.

Depth: 2000-2500 feet

Width: Up to .25 mile

Climate and Weather

Annual Precipitation: 15 inches (Zion Canyon)

Temperature extremes: Highest: 115 F (July 13, 2002; Zion Canyon)

Lowest: -2 F (January 1, 1989; Zion Canyon)

ZION CLIMATE CHART

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
TEMPERATURE											
Normal Daily Maximum °F											
52	57	63	73	83	93	100	97	91	78	63	53
Normal Daily Minimum °F											
29	31	36	43	52	60	68	66	60	49	37	30
Extreme High °F											
71	78	86	94	102	114	115	111	110	97	83	71
Extreme Low °F											
-2	4	12	23	22	40	51	50	33	23	13	6
PRECIPITATION (in inches)											
Normal											
1.6	1.6	1.7	1.3	0.7	0.6	0.8	1.6	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.5
Maximum											
7.5	6.7	7.1	4.4	3.0	4.0	3.6	4.8	6.7	3.3	3.3	4.3
Maximum 24-hour Precipitation											
1.6	1.3	0.9	1.2	1.8	2.2	1.1	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.3	2.0
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Flora: approximately 900+ species (richest diversity of plants in Utah)
 Exotics: Approximately 100, of which 15 are of major concern
 Threatened Species: Shivwits Milkvetch

Fauna: 78 species mammals
 290 species birds
 44 species reptiles and amphibians
 8 species fish
 Threatened or endangered species:
 Mexican Spotted Owl
 Southwest Willow Flycatcher
 Desert Tortoise
 Species of special concern/Rare species:
 Zion Snail (endemic)
 Virgin Spinedace
 Peregrine Falcon

Cultural Resources

Archeological: 432 sites (13% of park surveyed to date)

List of classified structures (Historic/prehistoric): 94

National Register of Historic Places and Properties

Districts: 4

Trails: 8

Buildings/Structures: 68

Transportation Structures: 2

Irrigation Ditches: 4

Cultural Landscapes: 2

Archaeological Sites: 36

Cataloged Museum Objects: 219,000

Administration

Number of employees in fiscal year 2006

	Permanent	Seasonal
Administration	11	4
Interpretation	7	12
Protection	31	36
Maintenance	39	13
Resource Management	4	24
Fire Management	<u>17</u>	<u>19</u>
Totals	99	108

Volunteers in Parks – 470 volunteers contributed 34,035 hours of service

Student Conservation Association – 8 SCAs contributed 2,913 hours of service

Operating Budget: 2006

\$6,199,400 Base Appropriation

Park Management	\$367,410
Concessions	\$2,750
Administration	\$890,740
Interpretation	\$727,400
Visitor Protection/Backcountry	\$1,189,500
Maintenance	\$2,123,500
Safety	\$30,000
Resource Management/Research	\$868,100

Visitor Services and Protection

Visitation: 2,589,250 (2006)

Average of 2.5 million over the last ten years (11,000 visitors per day during peak season months of July and August). Between mid-1980 and 2000, annual visitation nearly doubled from 1.5 million visitors to over 2.5 million.

Frontcountry Camping (limited to 14 days)

Watchman Campground: 152 sites (hookups, reservations April-Oct.)

South Campground: 127 sites (no reservations)

Lava Point Campground: 6 sites (primitive, no reservations)

Picnic Areas: 4 (Grotto, Kolob Canyons, Nature Center, Zion Canyon VC)

Backcountry Use (2006)

Backcountry Camp Sites: 41

Total Permits issued: 7677

Overnight Backpacking Permits: 2960

Technical Canyoneering (Day Use): 4461

Climbing Bivouacs: 198

Hiking trails: 120 miles

Concessionaires

Parks Transportation, Inc. (Shuttle System)

Beginning in May 2000, Zion instituted a mandatory shuttle bus system for visitors during April – October for the six miles of the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive. There are 30 propane-powered buses (with 21 accompanying trailers) that make 15 stops (six in Springdale and nine in the park)

2,811,263 passengers in 2006 (up % from 2005)

Xanterra Parks and Resorts (Open all year)

Zion Lodge (motel units, cabins, restaurant, snack bar, gift shop)

Canyon Trail Rides: Guided horse trips in Zion Canyon (March-October)

Visitor Protection (2006)

Search and Rescue: 64 incidents

Law Enforcement Incidents: 2,500

Emergency Medical Services: 185

Fire Management (2006)

Wildland Fires (includes fire use fires): 24 (10,792 acres total)

Prescribed Fires: 1 East Mesa (1,835 acres total)

Mechanical Fuels Reduction: 343 acres

Interpretation and Education

Programs presented: 2006 (numbers do not include visitor center contacts)

Talks, hikes, evening programs, shuttle tours: 32,536 visitors

Information Mail outs: 4,037

Information Phone Calls: 7,201

Information e-mails: 3,236

Educational Outreach : 3,041 students

Human History Museum Visitation: 128,742

Zion Natural History Association: A non-profit organization that supports education, research and other programs for the benefit of Zion. Financial aid is provided to the park through the sales of interpretive products. Outlets for these products are located in the two park visitor centers and the Zion Human History Museum.

Zion Canyon Field Institute: A non-profit organization that provides year-round field education classes dealing with the Zion Ecosystem.

Development

Roads: 57 miles (Paved and gravel)

Zion/Mt. Carmel Tunnel

Constructed: 1927 – 1930

Cost: \$1,896,000. (includes cost of highway)

Length: 5613 feet (1.06 miles)

Width: 22 feet

Height: 16 feet

Structures/buildings: 92 administrative/public use (19 historic)

35 housing structures (13 historic)

2 Visitor Centers

Main Headquarters

Environmental Education Center (Nature Center)

Human History Museum

Emergency Operations Center