Cultural History along the Natchez Trace Parkway

Classroom Lesson:

So what is the Natchez Trace Parkway? (code HSSW)

- Grade Level: High School
- Subject Areas: History, Government, Physical Education
- Setting: Classroom
- Duration: 50 minutes or more with extension
- Skills: Public Speaking, deduction, inference
- Vocabulary: See National Park category sheet

Summary: This lesson will teach students about how the Natchez Trace Parkway and the Natchez Trace Scenic trails relate to the National Park Service, through class discussion and review worksheet.

Materials Needed: A copy of the pictures of each type of National Park area with attached unit description. For each group, one copy of the descriptions of the NPS, one organizational tree. A worksheet for each student. Pen or pencil.

Instructional Information

United States History:
Standard Number 5.0: History
Era 6
Investigate the dynamics of the post-Reconstruction era and the people and events that influenced the country.
Era 7
Standard Number 1.0 Culture:
Understand the cultural changes in the early 20th century.
Era 8
Standard Number 1.0: Culture
Understand the effect of the Great Depression upon American society.

Contemporary Issues:
3.0 Geography
3.1 understand the current debates on environmental usage and protection issues.

United States Government:
Standard Number: 4.0 Governance and Civics:
4.1 understand the role of politics and government in society.

Learning Objectives: The students will be able to: 1) learn that the Natchez Trace Parkway is a unit of the National Park Service, 2) the National Park Service is part of the Executive Branch of the US Government created to preserve and protect areas important to our national heritage, 3) There are sixteen different categories or types of National Park Service units, 4) There are National Scenic Trails within the Natchez Trace Parkway.

Teacher Set: This lesson will introduce students to the concept of the National Park Service the government unit behind the existence of the Natchez Trace Parkway and the associated National Scenic Trails. Students will participate in class discussion through an informal presentation and complete a related worksheet.

Teacher Overview: The National Park Service, "which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." **is**

under the administration of the Department of the Interior. One unit of the National Park Service is The Natchez Trace Parkway which is a 444 mile long scenic by with 5 National Scenic Trails within its boundaries. Legislation to enable the Natchez Trace Parkway passed congress on May 18, 1938. Being part of the federal government, the Natchez Trace Parkway is "owned" by the people of the United States of America. The purpose of the Natchez Trace Parkway is to preserve and protect for the people of the United States of America, areas associated with an ancient Native American pathway which evolved to be a significant roadway in our country's early development. See attached background information.

Student Instruction: Explain to the students the background of the National Park Service and that there are 16 different types of places administered by the NPS. Be sure to emphasize that icons that represent the culture of our country, and what is important to that culture are preserved and protected for the enjoyment of everyone in the world.

Divide the students into groups so that they can review and informally report on one or more (depending on the number of groups) of the 16 different National Park Service categories. Give each group one or more pictures.

Student Task: Look at the picture and the associated description of the National Park Service category. Prepare an informal presentation about your NPS unit. 1. Decide how to describe the NPS category. 2. Explain why your type of NPS unit fits into its category. 3. How it may be different from another category.
Use the NPS Category handout to learn the differences. After the presentation, complete the worksheet.

Teacher Closure:
Ask the students:

1) Describe the purpose of the NPS. (to preserve and protect important historic and natural sites so that both we and following generations may enjoy those sites.)
2) Who administers the NPS? (Department of the Interior, in the executive branch of the US Government)
3) How is the Natchez Trace Parkway is associated with National Scenic Trails? (There are five National Scenic Trails within the boundaries of the Natchez Trace Parkway)

Student Assessment: Participation in the class discussion and accuracy of answering questions on the worksheet.

Suggestions for re-teaching: Visit the Natchez Trace Parkway. Explore the National Park Service website at www.nps.gov.

Extension:

1) Have the students design their own national park unit.
2) Have the students research a national park unit to report
    a. What is the park's name?
    b. What are park's main features or resources?
    c. What are three things that make the park special?
    d. What makes this park so special that it should be preserved and protected for future generations?
    e. In what city and state is the park located?
    f. On what date was the park established?
    g. How many people visit the park each year?

3) Show segments of PBS series: Ken Burns-The National Parks: America's Best Idea

Teacher Background:

National Park Service History Summary of Events

1791 – Federal government acquires 17 public reservations for the nation's capital

1832 – Congress sets aside area around Hot Springs, Arkansas; designated for public use as a park in 1880

1864 – Congress designates land grant of Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Big Tree Grove to California; designated as a state park in1890, a national park in 1906

1906 - Antiquities Act passed giving U.S. Presidents the authority to designate national monuments

1916 – National Park Service established.

The words "national park" have special meaning to most people, conjuring up images of Old Faithful, Yosemite Falls, and the Grand Canyon. Historically the first parklands trace their origins to the 17 public reservations that the federal government acquired in 1791 for the nation's capital. They included the National Mall, the White House grounds, and other units in the District of Columbia. In 1832 Congress set aside an area around the Hot Springs of Arkansas. This reservation was designated for public use as a park in 1880.

The earliest action by Congress to create a large natural park took the form of a land grant of Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Big Tree Grove to the state of California in 1864. In 1890 California established these areas as a park. They were returned to the federal government in 1906 to become Yosemite National Park.

Yellowstone National Park, established in 1872, was the first federally managed national park. It was the first unqualified embodiment of the national park idea – the world's premier example of large scale natural preservation for all the people. Since then the idea has been adopted around the world. After Yellowstone's establishment, the national park idea was attacked by special interests, stoutly defended by friends in Congress, and successively refined and confirmed. Fourteen more national parks were established in the West between 1872 and 1916, most of them closely following the Yellowstone prototype.

While the early national parks were being established, a separate movement got underway to protect the magnificent cliff dwellings, pueblo ruins, and early missions discovered by cowboys, army officers, ethnologists, and other explorers on the vast public lands of the Southwest. They were especially threatened by plunder and destruction at the hands of artifact hunters and vandals. The effort to secure protective legislation began among historically minded scientists and civic leaders in Boston and spread to similar circles in Washington, New York, Denver, Santa Fe, and other places during the 1880s and 1890's. With important help from Rep. John F. Lacey and Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge, an Antiquities Act was passed in 1906 to help protect such areas and structures

The act authorized the President "to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest" situated on lands owned or controlled by the U.S. government to be national monuments. It also prohibited excavation or appropriation of antiquities on federal lands without a permit.

The first national monument, proclaimed by President Theodore Roosevelt some three months after he signed the Antiquities Act, was Devils Tower. It was established to protect a prominent Wyoming landmark, an 867-ft massive stone shaft visible for a great distance and a guidepost over the centuries for American Indians, explorers, and settlers. Today there are more than 70 monuments in the National Park System.

A new era for national parks and monuments opened on August 25, 1916, 44 years after the establishment of Yellowstone, when President Woodrow Wilson signed legislation creating a new federal bureau, the National Park Service, in the Department of the Interior. This action culminated years of efforts to establish a separate bureau to administer and coordinate policies and plans for parks and monuments. The act created the National Park Service to:

"...conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

This mission statement, known as the Park Service Organic Act, continues to guide the management of the parks today. National park, lakeshore, military park, historic site, memorial, preserve and trail are just a few of the titles that have been used to designate our national parklands since Yellowstone National Park was established in 1872. Over the years, new titles have been created whenever new parklands were authorized that differed somewhat from those already in the National Park System.

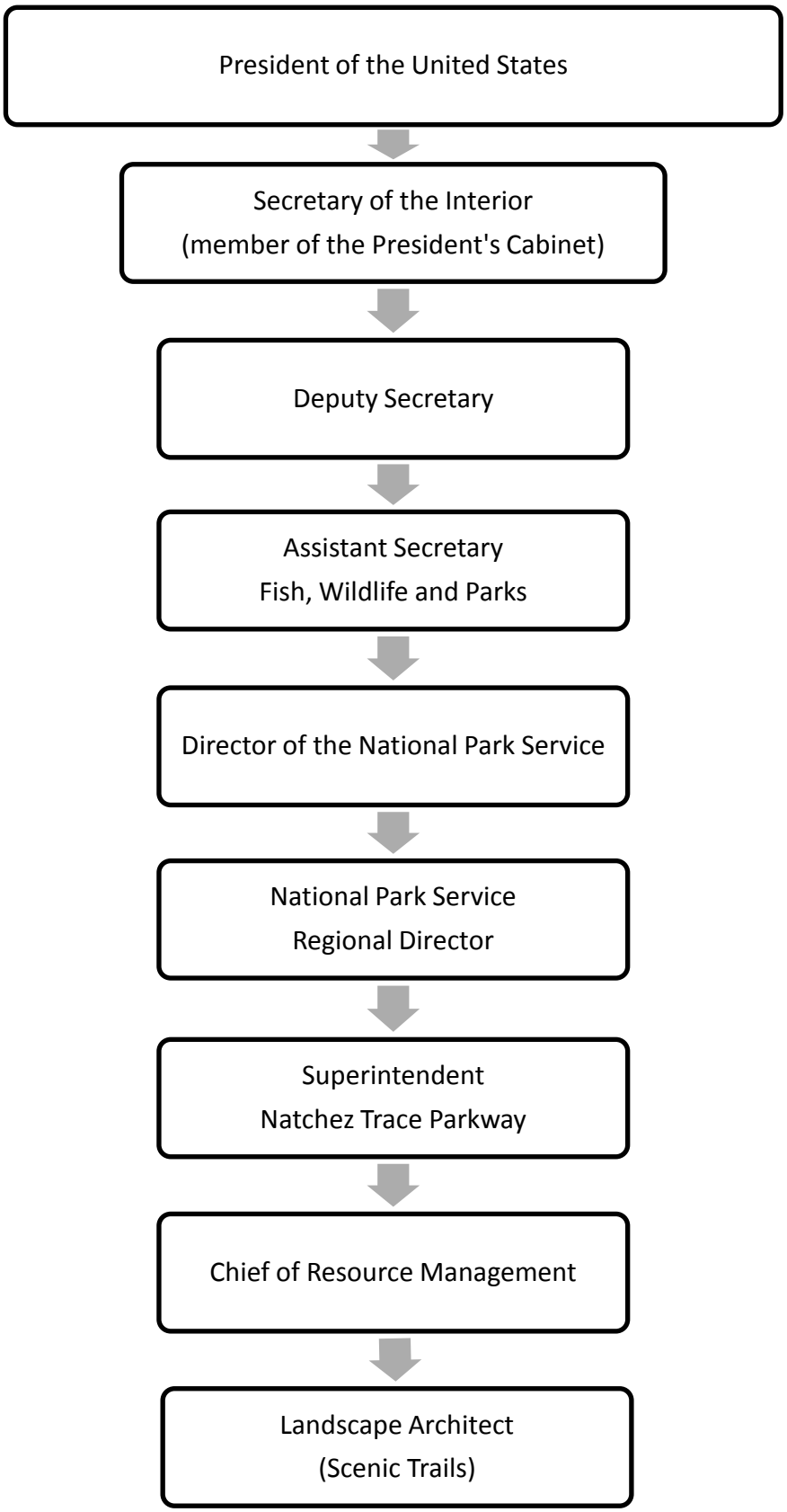
Today there are 392 areas in the national Park System covering more than 83 million acres in every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These areas include national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, seashores, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House. There is always the possibility of new areas being added to the list of National Park Service units in the upcoming years.

Units of the National Park System have been created in two principle ways: Acts of Congress and presidential proclamations. When congress creates an addition to the National Park System, it determines the name and designation for each area and makes reference to the general concepts under which it will be managed. Sometimes congress is very specific about management terms; sometimes Congress simply refers to the 1916 National Park Service Act.

The areas in the system are a remarkable representation of the nation's greatest natural and cultural places and recreational areas of outstanding attraction. Not every park is a Yellowstone, not every historic site boasts an Independence Hall. But all have resources and values that make them special and nationally significant.

See www.nps.gov

Organizational tree showing how the Natchez Trace and Scenic Trails fit in with the US Government



Match the National Park Service name designation with the correct description.

1._____ These are generally large natural places having a wide variety of attributes, at times including significant historic assets. Hunting, mining and consumptive activities are not authorized.

2. _____ The Antiquities Act of 1906 authorized the President to declare these landmarks, structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest situated on lands owned or controlled by the government.

3. _____ These are areas are similar to national parks although public hunting, trapping, oil/gas exploration and extraction are still allowed. Many, without sport hunting, would qualify for national park designation.

4. _____These usually contains a single historical feature that was directly associated with its subject.

5. _____ This designation generally applies to areas that extend beyond a single property or building.

6. _____ These commemorate a historic person or episode; it need not occupy a site historically connected with its subject.

7. _____ These are centered on large reservoirs and emphasize water-based recreation or contain open spaces in urban areas.

8. _____ These are established on the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific coasts; some are developed and some relatively primitive. Hunting is allowed at many of these sites.

9. _____ These are all on the Great Lakes and closely parallel the seashores in character and use.

10. _____ These are roadways and the parkland paralleling the roadway. All were intended for scenic motoring along a protected corridor and often connect cultural sites.

A. National Lakeshore
B. National Parkway
C. National Historic Site
D. National Monument
E. National Seashore
F. National Preserve
G. National Memorial
H. National Recreation Area
I. National Park
J. National Historical Park

Match the National Park Service name designation with the correct description.
ANSWERS

1.___I__ These are generally large natural places having a wide variety of attributes, at times including significant historic assets. Hunting, mining and consumptive activities are not authorized.

2. ___D__ The Antiquities Act of 1906 authorized the President to declare these landmarks, structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest situated on lands owned or controlled by the government.

3. ___F__ These are areas are similar to national parks, public hunting, trapping, oil/gas exploration and extraction are still allowed. Many without sport hunting, would qualify for national park designation.

4. __C__ These usually contains a single historical feature that was directly associated with its subject.

5. __J__ This designation generally applies to areas that extend beyond a single property or building.

6. __G__ These commemorate a historic person or episode; it need not occupy a site historically connected with its subject.

7. __H__ These are centered on reservoirs and emphasize water-based recreation or contain open spaces in urban areas.

8. __E__ These are established on the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific coasts; some are developed and some relatively primitive. Hunting is allowed at many of these sites.

9. __A__ These are all on the Great Lakes and closely parallel the seashores in character and use.

10. __B__ These are roadways and the parkland paralleling the roadway. All were intended for scenic motoring along a protected corridor and often connect cultural sites.

A. National Lakeshore
B. National Parkway
C. National Historic Site
D. National Monument
E. National Seashore
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G. National Memorial
H. National Recreation Area
I. National Park
J. National Historical Park

National Park: These are generally large natural places having a wide variety of attributes, at times including significant historic assets. Hunting, mining and consumptive activities are not authorized.

National Monument: The Antiquities Act of 1906 authorized the President to declare by public proclamation landmarks, structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest situated on lands owned or controlled by the government to be national monuments.

National Preserve: National preserves are areas having characteristics associated with national parks, but in which Congress has permitted continued public hunting, trapping, oil/gas exploration and extraction. Many existing national preserves, without sport hunting, would qualify for national park designation.

National Historic Site: Usually, a national historic site contains a single historical feature that was directly associated with its subject. Derived from the Historic Sites Act of 1935, a number of historic sites were established by secretaries of the Interior, but most have been authorized by acts of Congress.

National Historical Park: This designation generally applies to historic parks that extend beyond single properties or buildings.

National Memorial: A national memorial is commemorative of a historic person or episode; it need not occupy a site historically connected with its subject.

National Battlefield: This general title includes national battlefield, national battlefield park, national battlefield site, and national military park. In 1958, an NPS committee recommended national battlefield as the single title for all such park lands.

National Cemetery: There are presently 14 national cemeteries in the National Park System, all of which are administered in conjunction with an associated unit and are not accounted for separately.

National Recreation Area: Twelve NRAs in the system are centered on large reservoirs and emphasize water-based recreation. Five other NRAs are located near major population centers. Such urban parks combine scarce open spaces with the preservation of significant historic resources and important natural areas in location that can provide outdoor recreation for large numbers of people.

National Seashore: Ten national seashores have been established on the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific coasts; some are developed and some relatively primitive. Hunting is allowed at many of these sites.

National Lakeshore: National lakeshores, all on the Great Lakes, closely parallel the seashores in character and use.

National River: There are several variations to this category: national river and recreation area, national scenic river, wild river, etc. The first was authorized in 1964 and others were established following passage of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968.

National Parkway: The title parkway refers to a roadway and the parkland paralleling the roadway. All were intended for scenic motoring along a protected corridor and often connect cultural sites.

National Trail: National scenic trails and national historic trails are the titles given to these linear parklands (over 3,600 miles) authorized under the National Trails System Act of 1968.

Affiliated Areas: In an Act of August 18, 1970, the National Park System was defined in law as, "any area of land and water now or hereafter administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the National Park Service for park, monument, historic, parkway, recreational or other purposes." The Affiliated Areas comprise a variety of locations in the United States and Canada that preserve significant properties outside the National Park System. Some of these have been recognized by Acts of Congress, others have been designated national historic sites by the Secretary of the Interior under authority of the Historic Sites Act of 1935. All draw on technical or financial aid from the National Park Service.

Other Designations: Some units of the National Park System bear unique titles or combinations of titles, like the White House and Prince William Forest Park.

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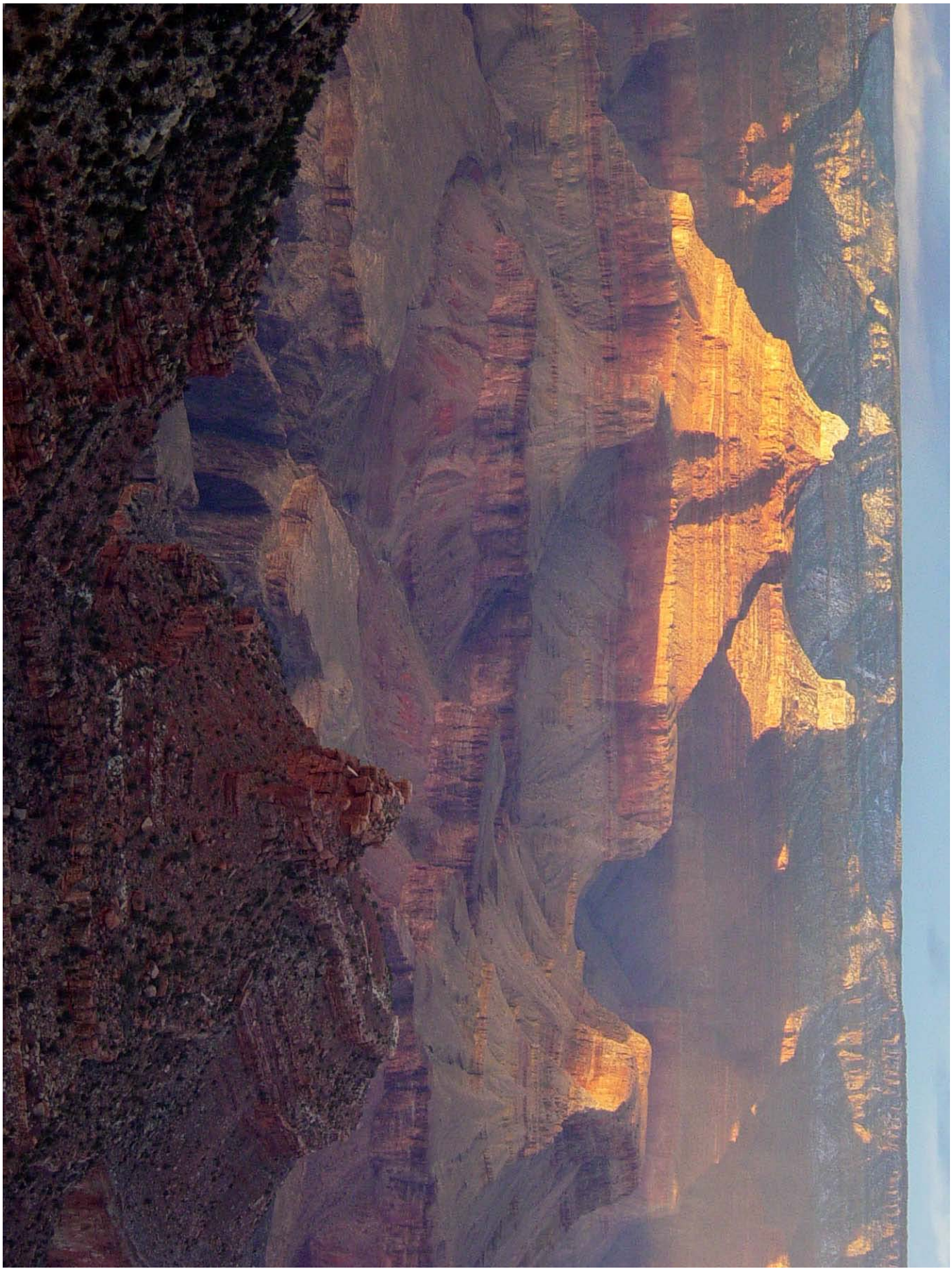
Grand Canyon National Park



National Park

Example: Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona achieved National Park status in 1919.

National Park: These are generally large natural places having a wide variety of attributes, at times including significant historic assets. Hunting, mining and consumptive activities are not authorized.

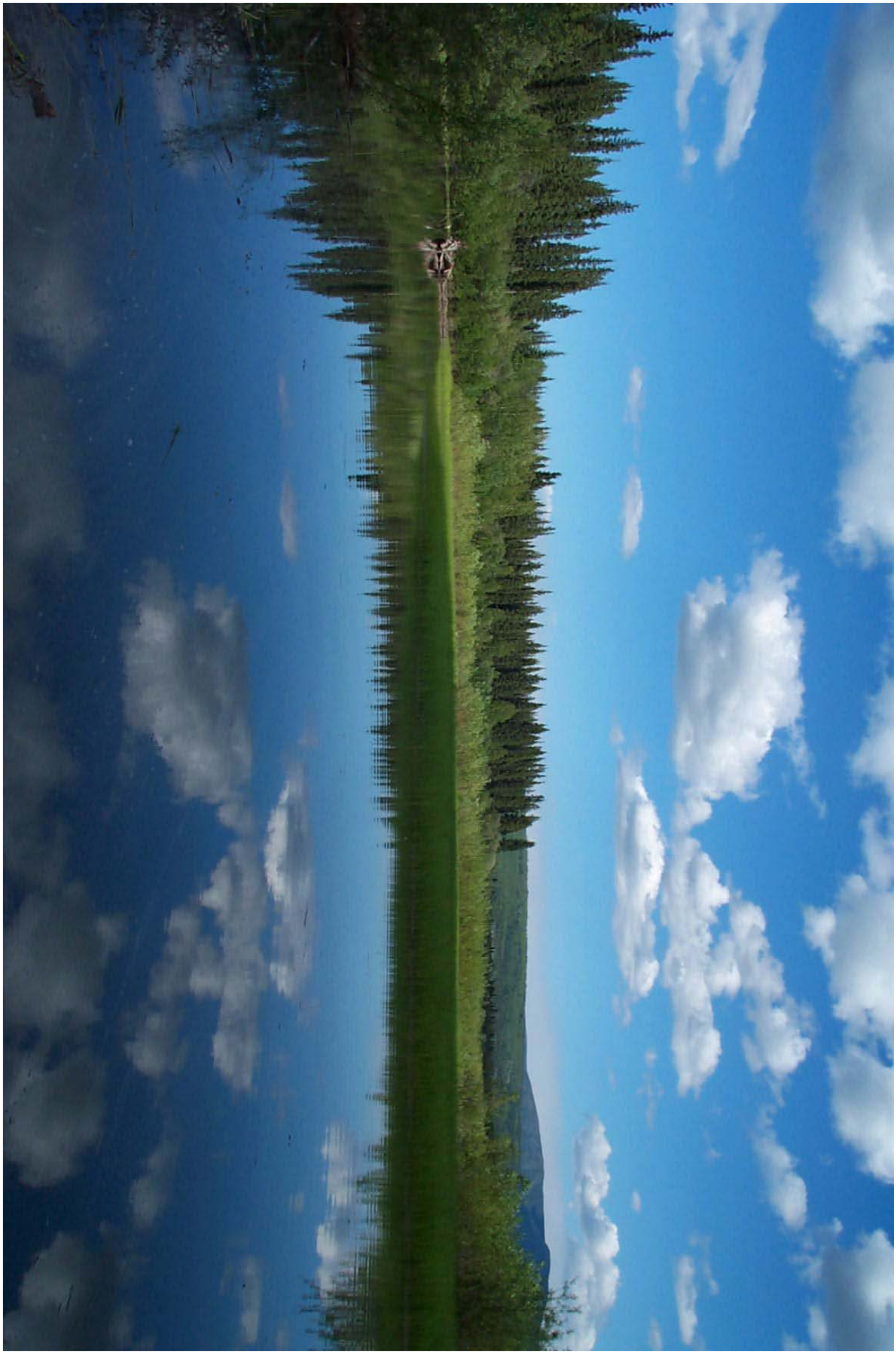
Tuzigoot National Monument

National Monument

Example: Tuzigoot National Monument in Clarkdale, Arizona is the home of a 110 room pueblo known to the ancients as Sinagua.

> **National Monument: The Antiquities Act of 1906 authorized the President to declare by public proclamation landmarks, structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest situated on lands owned or controlled by the government to be national monuments.**

Yukon Charley National Preserve



National Preserve

Example: Yukon Charley is on the Alaska Canada border. Panning for gold and hunting are allowed at Yukon Charley.

National Preserve: National preserves are areas having characteristics associated with national parks, but in which Congress has permitted continued public hunting, trapping, oil/gas exploration and extraction. Many existing national preserves, without sport hunting, would qualify for national mark designation.

Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site

National Historic Site

Example: Bent's Old Fort in Colorado is a reconstructed adobe fur trading post.

National Historic Site: Usually, a national historic site contains a single historical feature that was directly associated with its subject. Derived from the Historic Sites Act of 1935, a number of historic sites were established by secretaries of the Interior, but most have been authorized by acts of Congress.

Thaddeus Kosciusko National

Independence National Historical Park

Edgar Allan Poe House

National Historical Park

Example: Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, PA consists of many types of buildings, structures, gardens and statues. It spans over and area of many city blocks. It includes the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, Declaration House, Ben Franklin Court, Christ Church, the Second Bank, Thaddeus Kosciusko house, the Edgar Allan Poe house and much more.

National Historical Park: This designation generally applies to historic parks that extend beyond single properties or buildings.

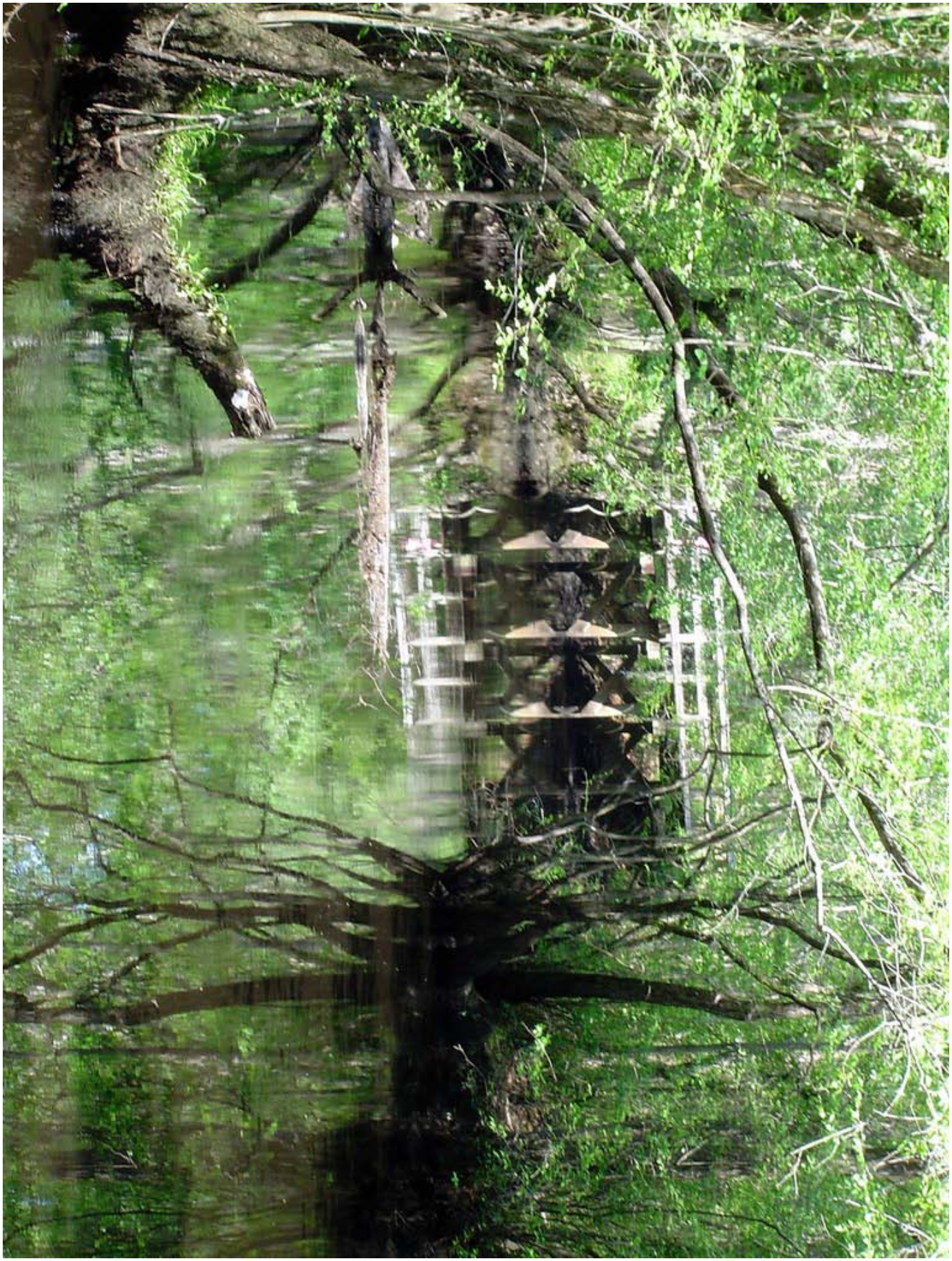
Korean War Veterans Memorial National Memorial

National Memorial

Example: Korean War Veterans Memorial National Memorial is in Washington, DC.

National Memorial: A national memorial is commemorative of a historic person or episode; it need not occupy a site historically connected with its subject.

Moore's Creek National Battlefield



National Battlefield

Example: Moore's Creek National Battlefield in North Carolina where in 1776 the Patriots won victory over Scottish Loyalists.

National Battlefield: This general title includes national battlefield, national battlefield park, national battlefield site, and national military park.

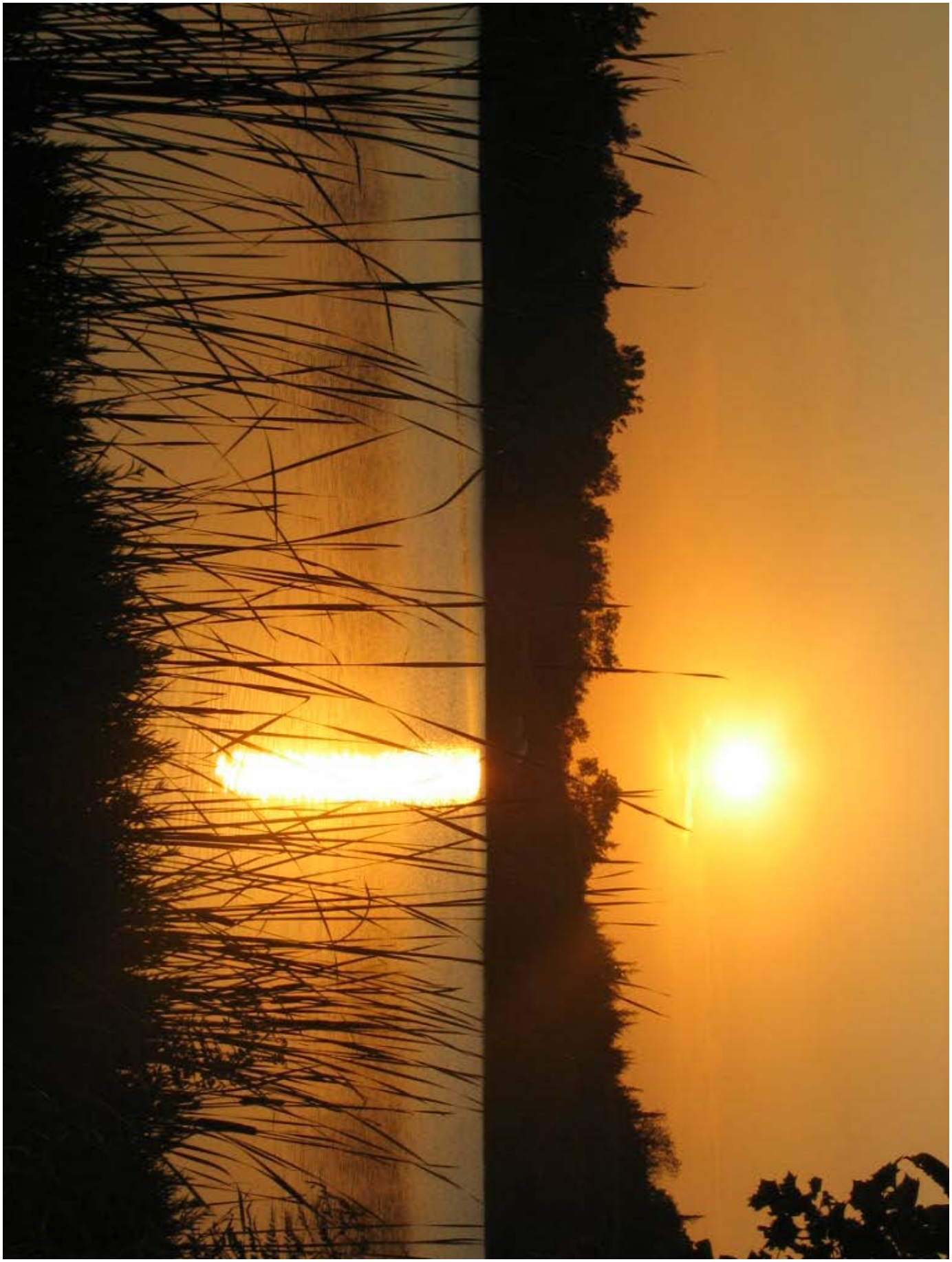
Antietam National Cemetery

National Cemetery

Example: Most of those buried in Antietam National Cemetery in Maryland died during the Battle of Antietam during the Civil war.

National Cemetery: There are presently 14 national cemeteries in the National Park System, all of which are administered in conjunction with an associated unit and are not accounted for separately.

Chickasaw National Recreation Area



National Recreation Area

Example: Chickasaw National Recreation Area in Sulphur, Oklahoma contains rivers, streams, springs and seeps overlaying a large aquifer.

Twelve NRAs in the system are centered on large reservoirs and emphasize water-based recreation. Five other NRAs are located near major population centers. Such urban parks combine scare open spaces with the preservation of significant historic resources and important natural areas in locations that can provide outdoor recreation for large numbers of people.

Gulf Islands National

National Seashore

Example: Gulf Islands National Seashore spans the coast of Mississippi and the Florida panhandle.

National Seashore: Ten national seashores have been established on the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific Coasts: some are developed and some relatively primitive. Hunting is allowed in many of these sites.

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore

National Lakeshores

Example: Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in Michigan has sandstone cliffs, beaches, sand dunes, waterfalls, lakes, forest, and shoreline on Lake Michigan.

National Lakeshores: All are on the Great Lakes, closely parallel the seashores in character and use.

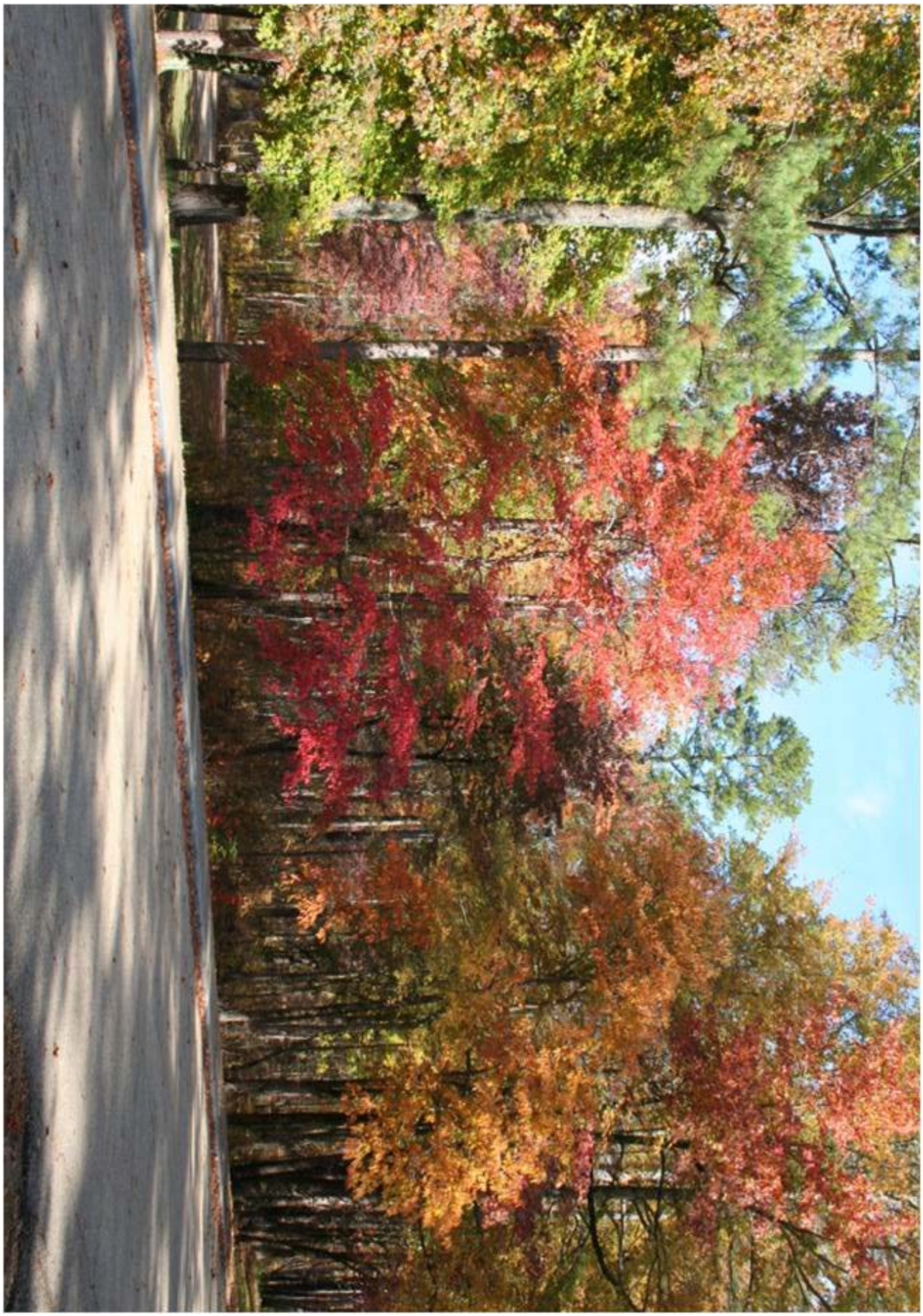
Obed National Wild and Scenic

National River

Example: Obed Wild and Scenic River is in Tennessee. Canoeing, kayaking and rafting bring many people to the Obed. It includes three different difficulty classifications (II-IV).

National River: There are several variations to this category: national river and recreation area, national scenic river, wild river, et. The first was authorized in 1964 and others were established following passage of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968.

Natchez Trace Parkway



National Parkway

Example: The Natchez Trace Parkway exists as a scenic byway through Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee. It travels through and embraces areas of cultural, historic and natural significance. It includes five National Scenic Trails.

National Parkway: The title parkway refers to a roadway and the parkland paralleling the roadway. All were intended for scenic motoring along a protected corridor and often connect cultural sites.

National Scenic Trail

National Trail

Example: Southern-most portion of the National Scenic Trails, Loess Hills section, on the Natchez Trace Parkway.

National Trail: National scenic trails and national historic trails are the titles given to these linear parklands (over 3,600 miles) authorized under the National Trails System Act of 1968

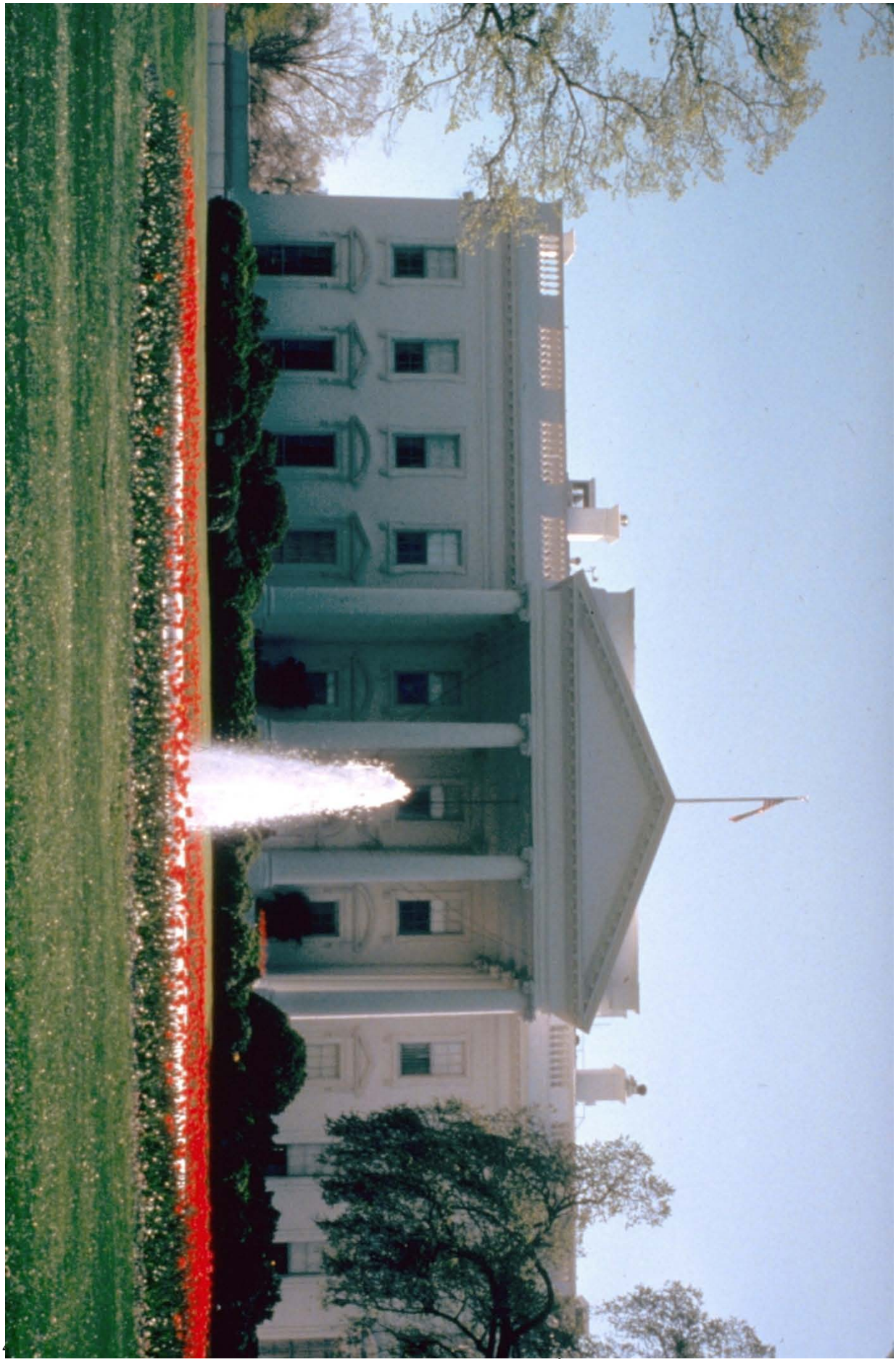
Ben Franklin Memorial in the Franklin Institute

Affiliated Areas

Example: Ben Franklin Memorial inside the affiliated site, the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, PA.

In an Act of August 18, 1970, the national Park System was defined in law as, "any area of land and water now or hereafter administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the national park Service for park, monument, historic, parkway, recreational or other purposes." The Affiliated Areas comprise a variety of locations in the United States and Canada that preserve significant properties outside the National Park System. Some of these have been recognized by Acts of Congress, others have been designated national historic sites by the Secretary of the Interior under authority of the Historic Sites Act of 1935. All draw on technical or financial aid from the national Park Service.

The White House



Other Designations

Example: The White House in Washington, D.C.

Some units of the National Park System bear unique titles or combinations of titles, like the White House and Prince William Forest Park.