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master plan

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ZION



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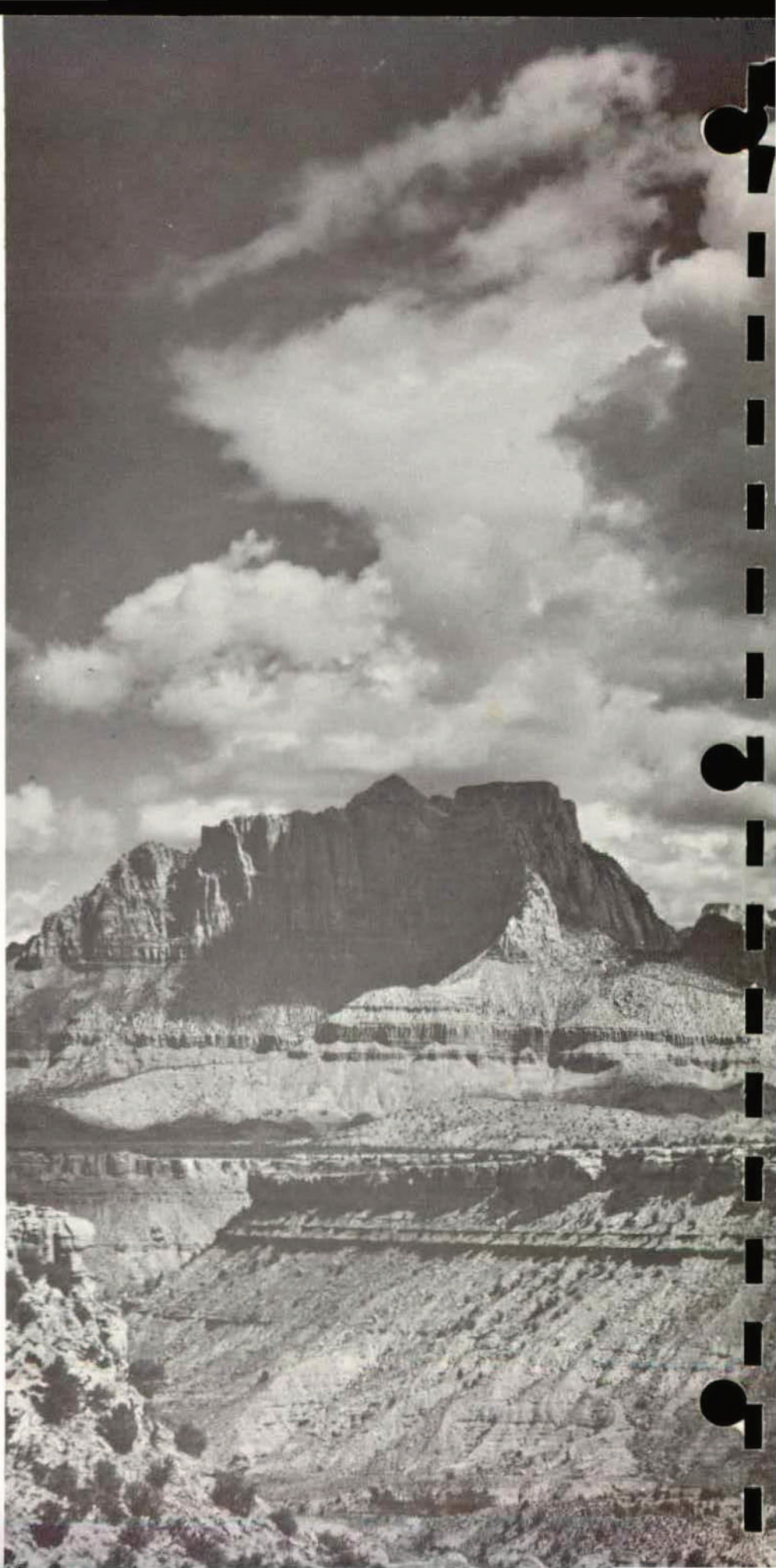
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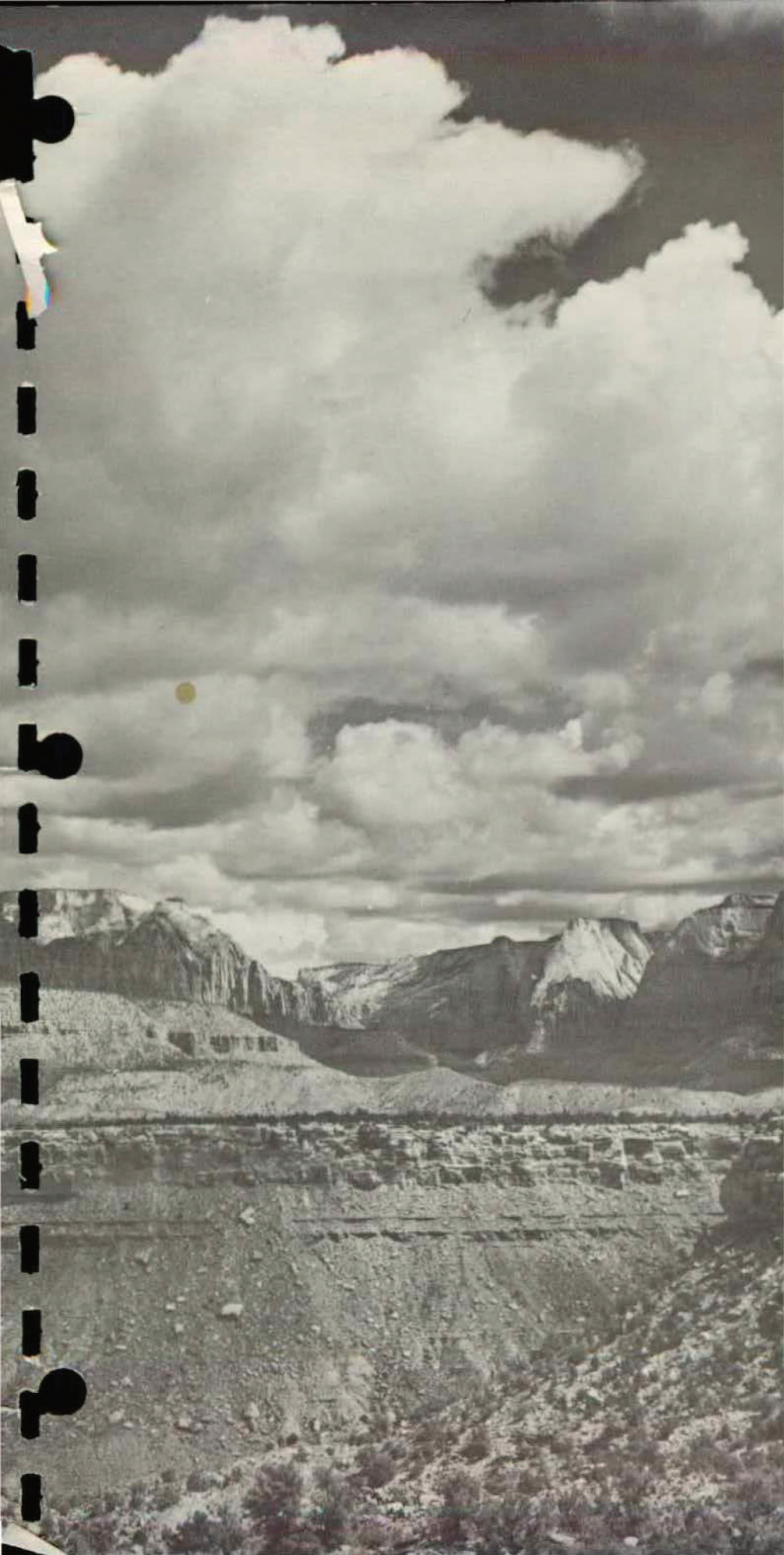
APPROVED:

Kenneth R. Ashley  
Acting Regional Director  
Rocky Mountain Region  
January 20, 1977

United States Department  
of the Interior / National  
Park Service







# ZION

NATIONAL PARK  
MASTER PLAN

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# Introduction

## PURPOSE

Zion National Park, by provision of its establishment act dated November 19, 1919, was set aside to protect the extraordinary examples of canyon erosion, volcanic phenomena, native flora and fauna, and other objects of scientific interest, and to provide opportunities for visitor enjoyment of its grandeur and scenic features.

## MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

Zion National Park is a natural area and will be planned and managed in accordance with the administrative policies for this category.

## LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

Although the area was settled and named by Mormon immigrants as early as 1861 and was described in glowing phrases by Captain Clarence E. Dutton of the Geological Survey in a report published in 1880, it was not until July 31, 1909, that President Taft — prompted by a recommendation from the Secretary of the Interior — issued a proclamation establishing Mukuntuweap (Zion) Canyon as a national monument. Authority was granted under the 1906 act (34 Stat. 225) for the preservation of American antiquities.

The establishment of the National Park Service by a 1916 act (39 Stat. 535) prompted a series of legislative acts that provided for a higher degree of resource protection than was

allowed under Zion's original status. These acts are summarized as follows:

An act of March 18, 1918, changed the name of the area to Zion National Monument, and the name of Mukuntuweap Canyon to Zion Canyon, and added 61,600 acres of land to the area.

An act of November 19, 1919, redesignated the area as Zion National Park, under the administration, protection, and promotion of the Secretary of the Interior, subject to provisions of the act of August 25, 1916, which established the National Park Service.

An act of June 7, 1924, authorized the Secretary of the Interior to exchange alienated lands in the park for unappropriated and unreserved lands of approximately equal value and area in the State of Utah.

An act of May 28, 1928, provided for the relief of Springdale, Utah, by diverting water from within the park.

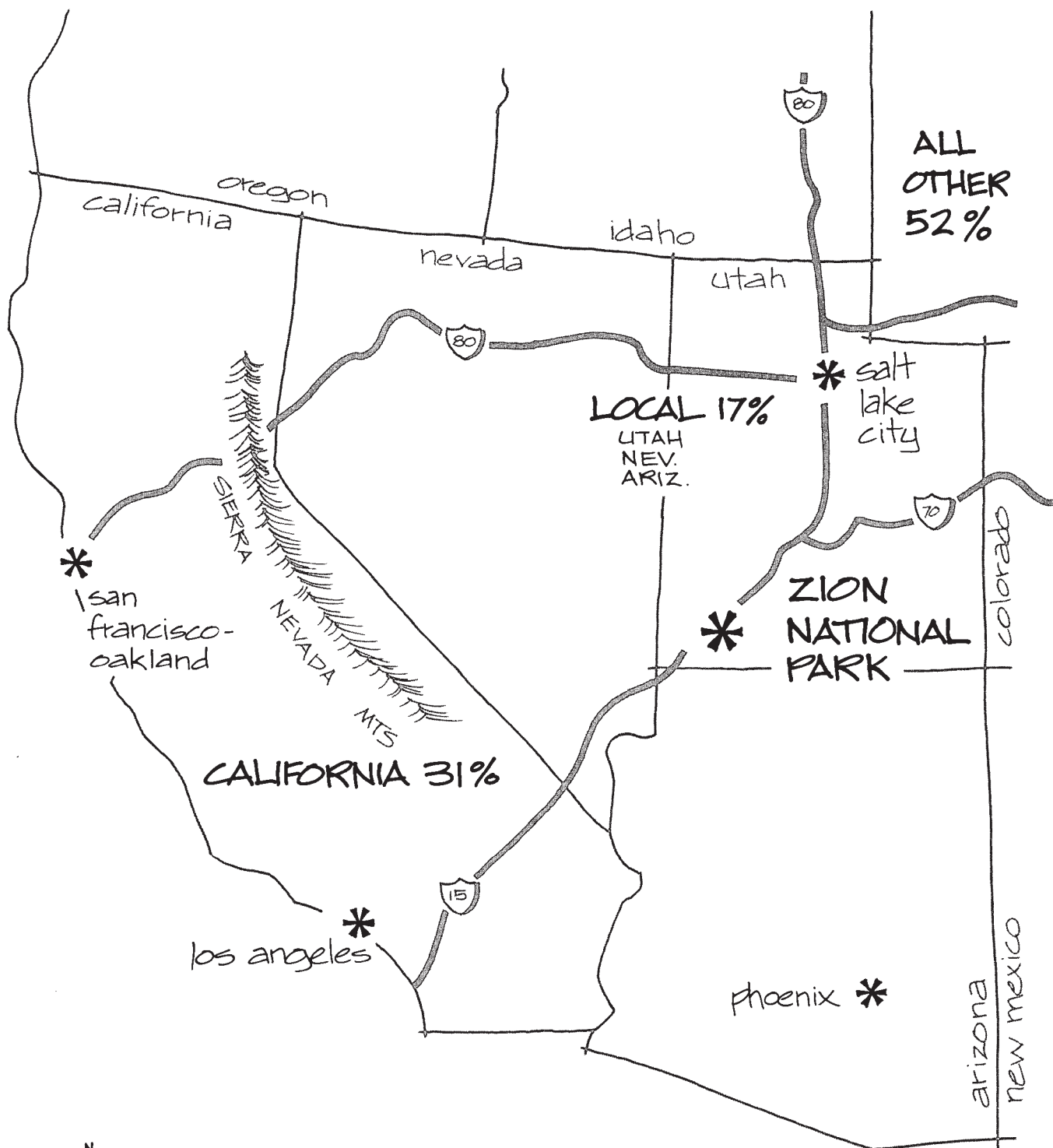
An act of June 13, 1930, revised the boundaries, adding certain lands to the park.

A Presidential proclamation of January 22, 1937, added 48,414 acres to be set aside as Zion National Monument, which, on July 11, 1956, by an act of Congress, became a part of Zion National Park.

An act of June 3, 1941, authorized the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain property (Virgin River Bridge) to Washington County, Utah.

An act of July 8, 1943, amended the description of the area affected by the act of May 28, 1928.

An act of February 20, 1960, revised the boundaries, added land to the park, and authorized the Secretary of the Interior to acquire privately owned lands or interests within said boundaries, and authorized the Secretary to convey to the Utah State Road Commission certain lands deemed necessary for the realignment of U.S. Highway 91.



# region

ZION NATIONAL PARK

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## REGIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Zion National Park is located in Washington, Iron, and Kane Counties in southwestern Utah, and encompasses some of the most scenic canyon country in the United States. The region abounds in natural, cultural, and recreational attractions such as Bryce Canyon and Grand Canyon National Parks, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Cedar Breaks and Pipe Spring National Monuments, and Kaibab and Dixie National Forests. The proximity of the Paiute and Navajo Indian Reservations adds to the diversity of visitor experiences in the area.

The Zion region is in a state of economic transition. Historically, the economy centered around small-scale farming, ranching, logging, and mining, the remnants of which are still visible today. However, improved access, specifically along Interstate 15 and Interstate 70, has encouraged vacationers — originating from once-remote metropolitan centers such as Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Salt Lake City, and Phoenix — to visit the area, and tourism has begun to dominate the regional economy. Indicative of the changing economy is the fact that St. George and Cedar City, the region's major urban centers, have both recorded economic upswings, in part the result of enterprise evolved to serve the needs of visitors. The visitation to Zion has likewise increased by some 100,000 during the past 4 years.

Nevertheless, if this new economic base is to sustain the regional population, the region's resource matrix — its principal tourist attraction — must be protected. To this end, regional and local planning must be strengthened and vigorously enforced. Ongoing planning efforts within the surrounding counties, and particularly in the adjacent town of Springdale, are encouraging. However, in the final analysis, unless such efforts are expanded by federal and state land-management agencies — whose lands comprise a large part of the resource base — planning results can only be minimal. Thus, a concentrated attempt to coordinate all planning for land and water resources is necessary in order to make the region's unique scenic, historic, and recreational features a valuable asset to the regional economy.

## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND BIOTA

Within the continuum of nature's slow but relentless rhythms of change, new mountain masses and high plateaus are periodically born. Rains and melting snows carry soil from the



uplifted land through waterways toward the sea. These tiny streams and raging rivers comprise only one of the forces that sculpture the landscape, but they do more than all other forces combined to change the topography of the land. Although the causes of the great upheavals remain hidden, and only partially understood, the agents of erosion work openly and can be easily observed by man.

The Colorado Plateau is the progenitor of Zion. Near the headwaters of the Virgin River, at the southwest corner of the Colorado Plateau, the older layers of sediment have been gradually eroded and now expose the Navajo Sandstone. The Navajo Sandstone in Zion illustrates the middle period of a geologic history that is completed by geologically younger Bryce Canyon National Park and geologically older Grand Canyon National Park. Composed of sharply eroded sandstone canyons — cut through high, relatively level plateau land — Zion reveals evidence of bygone seas, flatlands, raging rivers, and deserts with great shifting sand dunes. Superimposed on every feature — from the small stones elongated by wind to the giant incised monoliths — are the impressions of erosion. Even within this sedimentary layer, however, some materials resist erosion more stubbornly than others, leaving grotesque, sometimes spectacular, landforms.

Associated with the brilliantly hued canyons and etched terraces is a wide assortment of plant and animal life. Although the park is small — only 147,000 acres — the elevations range from 3,700 feet to 8,700 feet and encompass four major life zones. However, varying aspects, precipitation, and topography produce a wide variety of habitats within each zone, and the expected altitudinal distribution of flora and fauna is often all but cancelled: Plants suited to the harsh, dry conditions of a Mexican plateau grow virtually side by side with species dependent on the moist, cool environment of lower Canada. Moisture and elevation are influences that the visitor will observe as important factors in the distribution of dominant vegetation communities.

The most conspicuous vegetation community is the streamside woodland, dominated by cottonwood, ash, and boxelder.

However, the most common community throughout the park is the "pygmy forest" — dominated by pinyon and juniper — which extends from the canyon floor to the plateau tops. Interspersed with this open forest are grasslands, sagebrush, chaparral, stands of Gambel oak, and, at upper elevations, Douglas-fir/white fir/aspen associations blended with nearly pure stands of ponderosa pine. Hanging gardens drape the moist niches on the cliffsides, providing a beautiful and unusual raiment.

The wildlife at Zion is largely hidden by protective coloration, isolation, or darkness. Wildlife distribution often defies correlation with elevation zones; species adapted to the desert and those associated with high plateaus are frequently found in the same general habitat. Deer, coyote, bobcat, and beaver are representative of the large mammals found at Zion, and the mountain lion continues its struggle to survive in the more primitive areas of the park. Bighorn sheep, wolves, grizzly bears, and elk have been extirpated from the area. Smaller animals include the gray fox, porcupine, skunk, squirrel, chipmunk, shrew, mole, rat, and mouse. Numerous reptiles and amphibians find the varied exposures and vegetation zones suitable for habitation.

Resource managers should plan for the protection of faunal species unique to the area, especially the endemic Zion snail and the rare and endangered woundfin and spinedace fishes.

Archeological studies suggest that there may be many more prehistoric sites in Zion than were originally indicated. Parunuweap Canyon contains at least 33 recorded sites. An excellent petroglyph site lies just off the east entrance approach road. In Cave Valley, a site exhibits varied and unusual pictographs.

History plays a comparatively minor but fascinating role in the Zion story. A number of sites lend understanding of the struggles of early settlers; most notable is the cable works atop Cable Mountain. This fragile structure remains from the turn of the century, when lumber was lowered from the high plateau to the canyon floor. Other historic sites include the oil rig in Coalpits Wash, two lumber-mill sites near Deertrap/Lemon Springs, and the pioneer irrigation canals in Pine Creek and Zion Canyons.

# The Plan

## EXPANDED RESOURCE- MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

The spectacular geologic formations for which Zion National Park was established have changed little during historic times. However, these striking, barren sandstone features occupy less than 20 percent of the park lands, and the remaining areas, with their associated biota, are much more susceptible to environmental influences — including modern man.

The history of European man in Zion Canyon began in the 1860s with the establishment of the first ranching operations. During the next 50 years the flat lowlands were farmed, and the surrounding slopes were severely overgrazed. Periodic floods hastened the destruction of the canyon's natural vegetation and topsoil. Natural vegetation recovery has been gradually taking place since Zion Canyon achieved park status in 1919.

In planning resource-management objectives and programs, it is imperative to keep in mind the rate of vegetation recovery in the Southwest. Vegetation in less fragile areas can be expected to regenerate within a few years; in the semi-arid climate of Zion, recovery is measured in decades. Considering past land uses and the slow vegetation recovery rate, the primary concept of resource management will be the restoration of the natural biotic communities. Consistent with this general concept of restoration, the following ongoing programs should be accelerated:

Acquire all private property and grazing rights, and eliminate all domestic stock from the park.

Cooperate with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the Bureau of Land Management in maintaining the

deer herd at a level commensurate with sound wildlife- and forage-management practices.

Reestablish the extirpated Nelson bighorn sheep in its former range.

Continue the exchange agreement with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, whereby exotic wild turkeys are trapped in Zion and exchanged for native Gambel's quail.

Develop guidelines for the management of endangered species.

In the long run, "mission-oriented" research — that is, those studies directed toward anticipating and solving specific management problems — is a must if resource deterioration is to be halted and the natural ecological balance is to be ultimately restored. There follow several resource factors that need further study in order to establish adequate management programs.

Visitors have had an important effect on the resources in Zion Canyon. As the numbers of visitors increase, the need for better systems to transport them through the canyon area becomes more critical, in order to minimize their ecological impact. Further, there is a need for research studies to determine the degree of visitor use in the backcountry, as well as in developed areas, and the impact of this use on the resource.

Public health standards have been established to ensure the protection of visitors with regard to the design of waste-disposal and water-treatment systems. However, knowledge is sorely lacking about the long-term effects of such systems on riparian ecosystems and associated wildlife.

The role of fire and insects in shaping and maintaining the Colorado Plateau vegetative cover is little understood. Any attempts to alter or control these biological species and physical elements should be preceded by studies to evaluate their ecological contributions.

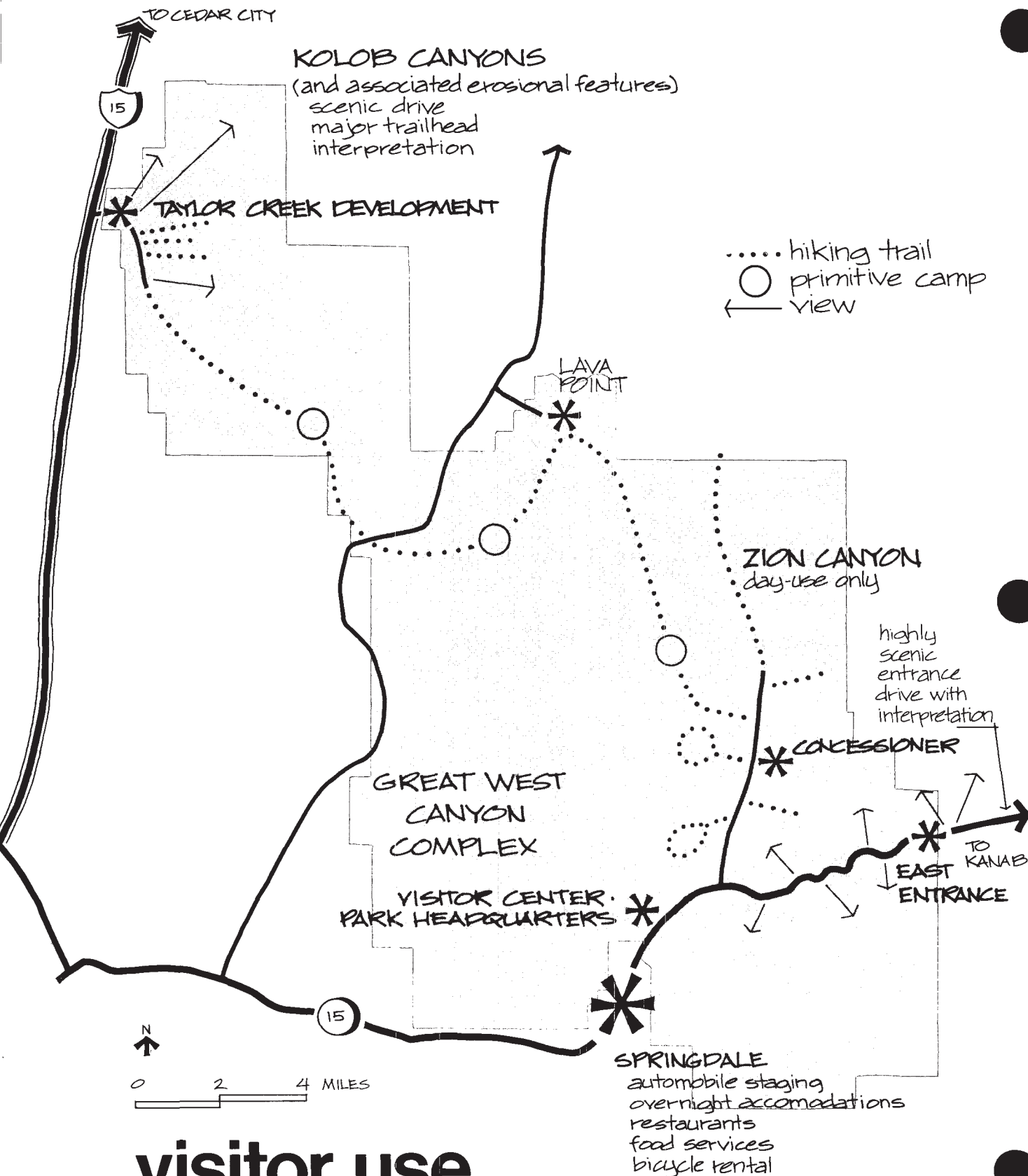


Of invaluable importance in assessing the total impact of the many environmental factors that affect the resource are the few inaccessible plateaus that have remained virtually untouched. Perhaps the least disturbed area in Zion Canyon is the Birch Creek drainage. Though the extent of damage in this drainage remains speculative, available information and the appearance of the resource suggest that there has been relatively light use of this area during the past half century. Three research areas, totaling 23,500 acres, have been designated within the park for study of the natural resource: the West Rim/Phantom Valley, Bighorn, and Kolob Mesa.

Finally, because it is a conceptual document, this master plan provides only the initial thrust for directing subsequent resource-management programs. Reference knowledge, involving not only the natural sciences, but also the behavioral sciences, history, landscape design, and sanitation, must be developed, and further data must be compiled, if the concepts stated in this plan are to be translated into a comprehensive management program. To this end, cooperation, coordination, and communication among the various regional agencies, and also with the academic community, must be expanded. The education and research missions can be augmented by the National Park Service research unit at Utah State University, and by establishing contacts and gathering information at Southern Utah State College in Cedar City and the proposed extension of Dixie College at Springdale. Only through this and other such cooperative efforts can flexible management programs be developed to protect the region's endangered wildlife, to better manage the ungulate populations, and to comprehensively plan for the perpetuation of natural resources in and around Zion National Park.

#### **COORDINATED VISITOR-USE PLANNING**

The ecological elements of this magnificent national park are closely linked with the semi-arid climate and the sharply contoured land. Associated with this setting are a rich and diverse flora and fauna. If these delicate and interdependent biotic communities were damaged or destroyed, opportunities for continuing public appreciation would be greatly diminished. Therefore, all planning for public use within the park must give priority to the preservation and maintenance of the



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natural resources for which Zion was established. Inherent in this concept is the basic need for regional planning to adequately provide for visitors coming to the area. A regional approach to visitor-use planning unquestionably challenges the traditional areas of responsibility, jurisdictionally divided along county, state, and federal lines. However, if the park's finite natural environment is to be perpetuated and the visitor is truly to be served, the common need to resolve today's complex problems must be recognized. Cooperation is essential in order to achieve a plan that will be mutually beneficial to regional entities.

If the visitor is to be better served, orientation within the region must also be improved and expanded. Travelers should be offered information at the strategic highway junctions within the region. The state could operate information centers in cooperation with local governments, chambers of commerce, the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, and the Park Service. The park would cooperate by providing literature, maps, and — where appropriate — exhibits.

In the critical areas of water distribution and waste disposal, Park Service cooperation and contribution is essential. Here again, if the visitor is to be served, the reality of limited space within the park dictates a regional approach toward resolving these two important problems. In particular, the Park Service should work with the town of Springdale (situated at the south entrance to the park) and with the state in developing a joint water-distribution and waste-disposal plan.

Through an amendment to an existing contractual agreement, the concessioner-operated overnight lodging facilities and food services will remain until December 31, 1982. Prior to the completion of the contract, a decision will be made as to the future type of concession operations in these facilities. This decision will include public involvement. The lodge cabins, sewer and water systems, and parking lots will be upgraded. Additional concessioner facilities are not planned for the park. Visitor use patterns are changing and there is an increasing use of the park during the winter, spring, and fall. Park concessioners here, as in many parks, cater to summer visitors. They staff their facilities with seasonal employees which are terminated at the end of the summer. In contrast, private business outside the park in the Zion region prefer, and

increasingly provide for, year around visitor use. The changing visitor use will shift the need for visitor services to a regional business community that appears quite capable of serving those needs, but it will not in any way relieve the Park Service of its basic obligation to provide for the enjoyment of the great natural wonders at Zion. In fact, the anticipated shift of the service base from within the park to towns adjacent to the park will require an even greater and broader Park Service commitment to the region, as well as to the visitor.

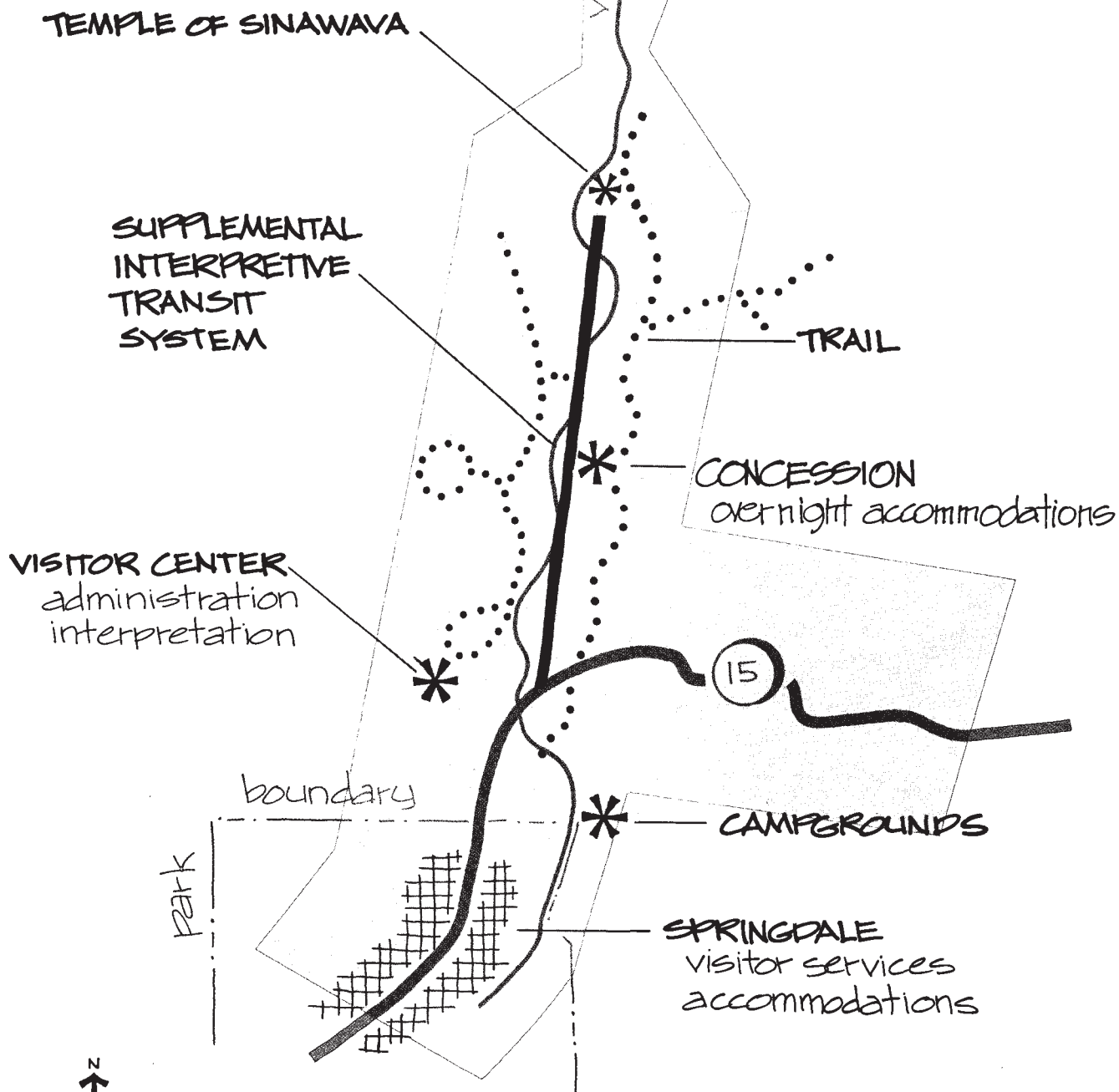
#### **EXPANDED INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

Interpretation and education programs can be expanded in Zion Canyon. However incentives must be developed that will encourage visitors to get out of their automobiles and explore the park. Visitors will be much more likely to appreciate the grandeur and beauty of the park if they are able to view Zion Canyon and the surrounding areas unhampered by automobile congestion and driving problems. The plan proposes to study alternatives for an interpretive transportation system and an upgraded and expanded canyon trail system to accommodate hikers and bicyclers, thus providing the means for a more meaningful visitor experience. The interpretive transportation system would also solve many of the congestion problems in Zion Canyon and would provide numerous opportunities for personal contact with park interpreters and other visitors, as well as greater exposure to the park itself. Although a transportation system on the floor of the canyon may require measures providing protection from the effects of river erosion, this 6-mile stretch of the Virgin River should remain in a natural-appearing, free-flowing condition.

Ideally, the proposed transport system would originate from a facility near the south campground, would proceed up the floor of Zion Canyon to the Temple of Sinawava at the northern end, and would return, via the existing visitor center, to the starting point. The feasibility of a connecting transport to serve the town of Springdale should be included in an interpretive transportation study.

Initially, the interpretive transportation system would operate only during summer and peak periods, leaving the canyon road accessible to private automobiles at other times. East-west





# interpretive concept - ZION CANYON

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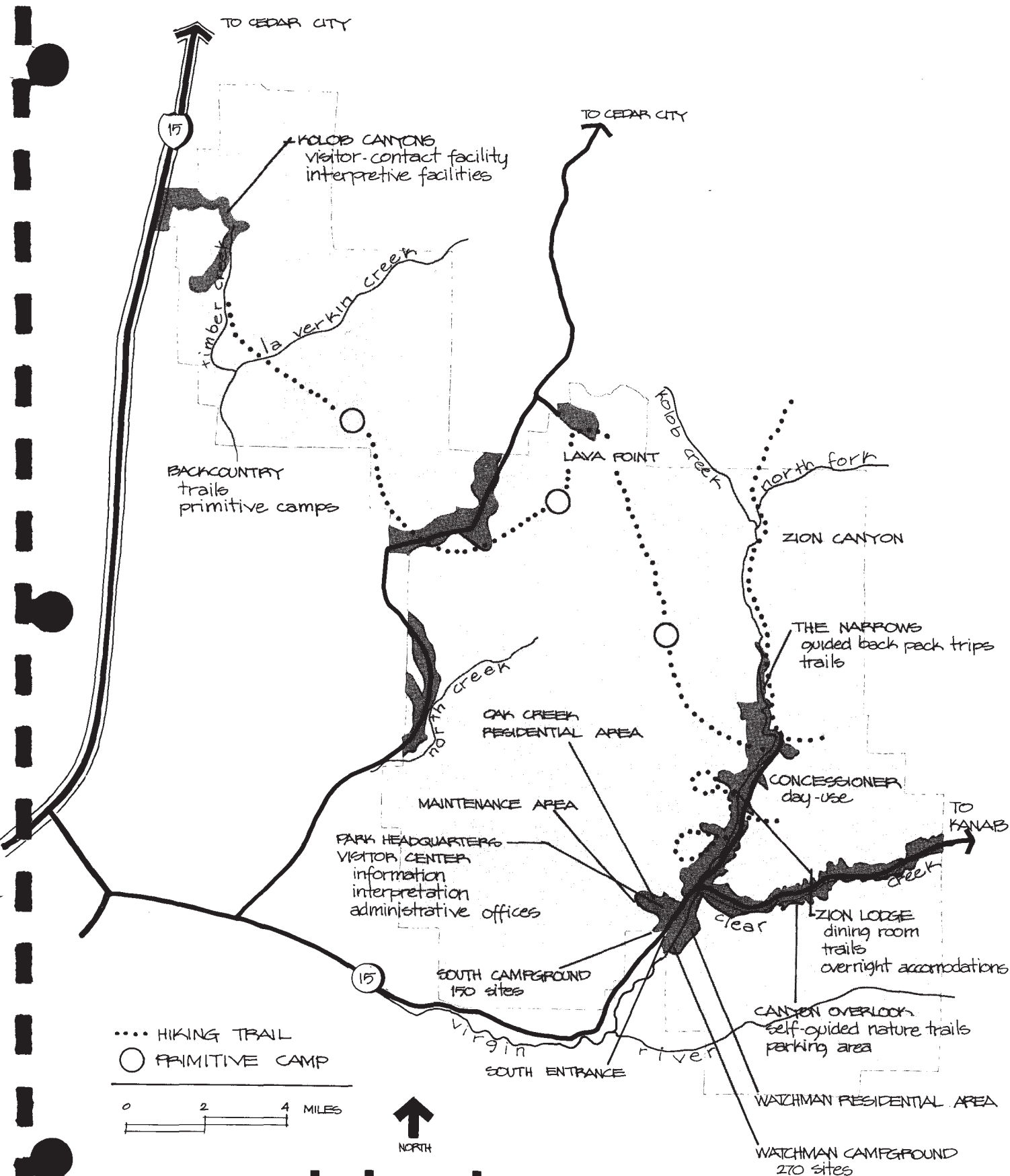
traffic on Utah State Highway 15 would not be interrupted by the operation of the transportation system.

Since an important objective of the interpretive transit system is to lure drivers from their cars, service should be frequent, and there should be no charge to ride on the vehicle. As envisioned, interpretive vehicles would be comprised of modular units in which families could remain grouped together. Embarking and debarking should be simple and rapid, and vehicles should be quiet, attractive, and suitable for scenic viewing. There would be numerous stops along the route. The stops would be located near principal attractions, such as trailheads, scenic viewpoints, and important natural and historic features. Audio stations, exhibits, or park personnel at these stops could interpret specific themes, features, and activities. Visitors would be encouraged to debark along the route, to spend some time walking and leisurely enjoying the park's magnificent inner canyon, and to continue the park tour aboard a later vehicle.

If the transportation system is to serve the projected numbers of visitors to Zion, only brief introductory interpretations should be provided on the vehicles and at associated facilities. At various sites served by the transportation system, periodic programs might develop specific themes, such as photography, geology, early settlement, wildflower displays, and night tours. Publications and other in-depth materials and services would be available at the visitor center for those visitors interested in furthering their knowledge of a particular subject.

At Zion there are excellent opportunities to present a meaningful story of man in this region, including the fascinating history of early Mormon settlement in the Virgin River Valley. To develop this story, and in compliance with Executive Order 11593, a historic sites study and an archeological survey should be completed for the entire park.

Interpretation will be environment-oriented, and will describe resource preservation and management at Zion National Park as an application of environmental ethics. In cooperation with



# general development

ZION NATIONAL PARK

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area school systems, park staff will develop special environmental-education programs.

If the park is to meet these many challenges, a transportation study will be necessary. To implement increased programs, additional manpower will be required on the inner canyon trails and at major park attractions, as well as on the vehicles of the interpretive transit system. Personnel will help to advise and inform visitors, and it is hoped that these face-to-face personal services will soon evolve as the backbone of Zion's interpretive program.

#### **IMMEDIATE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS**

The development framework at Zion has been essentially sound during the past 60 years, because it has evolved in response to changing times. However, the unprecedented mobility, affluence, and leisure time afforded Americans since World War II have set in motion a pattern of ever-increasing visitor use of the park, and unless the present numbers of visitors can be properly channeled and/or dispersed, their impact could ultimately threaten the fragile canyon resources, which this unique national park was set aside to preserve. To this end, the following modifications in the development base within the park's principal visitor-use areas should be considered.

##### **■ Zion Canyon Corridor**

Zion Canyon is a superb natural wonder and justifiably provides the focal scenic attraction for visitors to the area. Because Zion Canyon is limited in space and resources, and both are needed to accommodate an expanded visitor service base, alternatives for reducing overcrowding in the canyon corridor between the Virgin River Bridge and the Temple of Sinawava need to be studied and implemented. No further development is planned within the canyon corridor until the transportation study is completed.

##### **■ East Entrance**

Travelers not planning to stop at Zion can now bypass the park on a paved highway (Arizona 389/Utah 59) to the south.





Thus, a greater proportion of the motorists using the east entrance road (Utah 15) are bona-fide park visitors. Increased onsite interpretation should be provided along the east entrance road, and, wherever suitable terrain is available at potential interpretive sites, areas for parking near the roadway should be designated. A complete orientation to the park, as well as a specific introduction to Zion's upland rock formations, should be available at the east entrance station.

#### ■ Kolob Canyons

When the interstate highway system is completed in southern Utah, increasing numbers of visitors will have opportunities to view the spectacular scenery in the Kolob Canyons section of Zion National Park. The Taylor Creek spur road presently provides easy access to a Kolob Canyons wilderness threshold, used both by day visitors and backcountry explorers. An increase in both of these uses is expected and suggests that minimal, but essential, services are required in the area.

As a means for improving the protection and interpretation functions in the Kolob Canyons area, a staffed visitor-contact facility with appropriate housing — located where the spur road enters the Taylor Creek area — should be considered. A picnic area and some interpretation would be appropriate on the Taylor Creek Road.

#### ■ Lava Point

Growing recreational use — including summer-home development — of the area just north of Lava Point, as well as the strategic location of a wilderness threshold that provides access both to Zion Canyon and the Great West Canyon complex, suggests that Park Service presence is also required at this critical gateway to the park's backcountry. A staffed visitor-contact and protection facility with appropriate housing should be provided.

#### ■ Backcountry

Zion's backcountry is a land of sun-drenched, sculptured rock, its massive cliffs fringed by forests on the mesa tops and canyon floors. Stark contrasts, the sheer mass and variety of the rock forms, and the feeling of isolation combine to create distinct moods and to offer enormously appealing experiences for backcountry enthusiasts. Backcountry use is increasing. Nationwide interest in primitive-area experiences is growing, both because of changing philosophical attitudes on the part of the public and because of the convenience of lightweight modern equipment and trail foods. Visitors —

mostly from southern California — seem to find Zion's backcountry a relief from their everyday urban environments and a refreshing change from the other wilderness areas available to them.

Zion's wilderness resource is limited. Only 65 miles of trails are maintained in the backcountry, and large sections of the park are presently inaccessible. Existing trails are not adequate to handle the anticipated volume of backcountry users. Monitoring and analysis of backcountry use patterns are proposed in the resource-management section of this plan, and, in conjunction with these studies, a backcountry use plan should be developed. This plan should be tailored to resource capabilities, but it should also be responsive to the varied experiences sought by users. For instance, some backcountry areas should be left without trails to provide opportunities for more primitive experiences; however, it is anticipated that the plan will also propose locations for new and different types of trails.

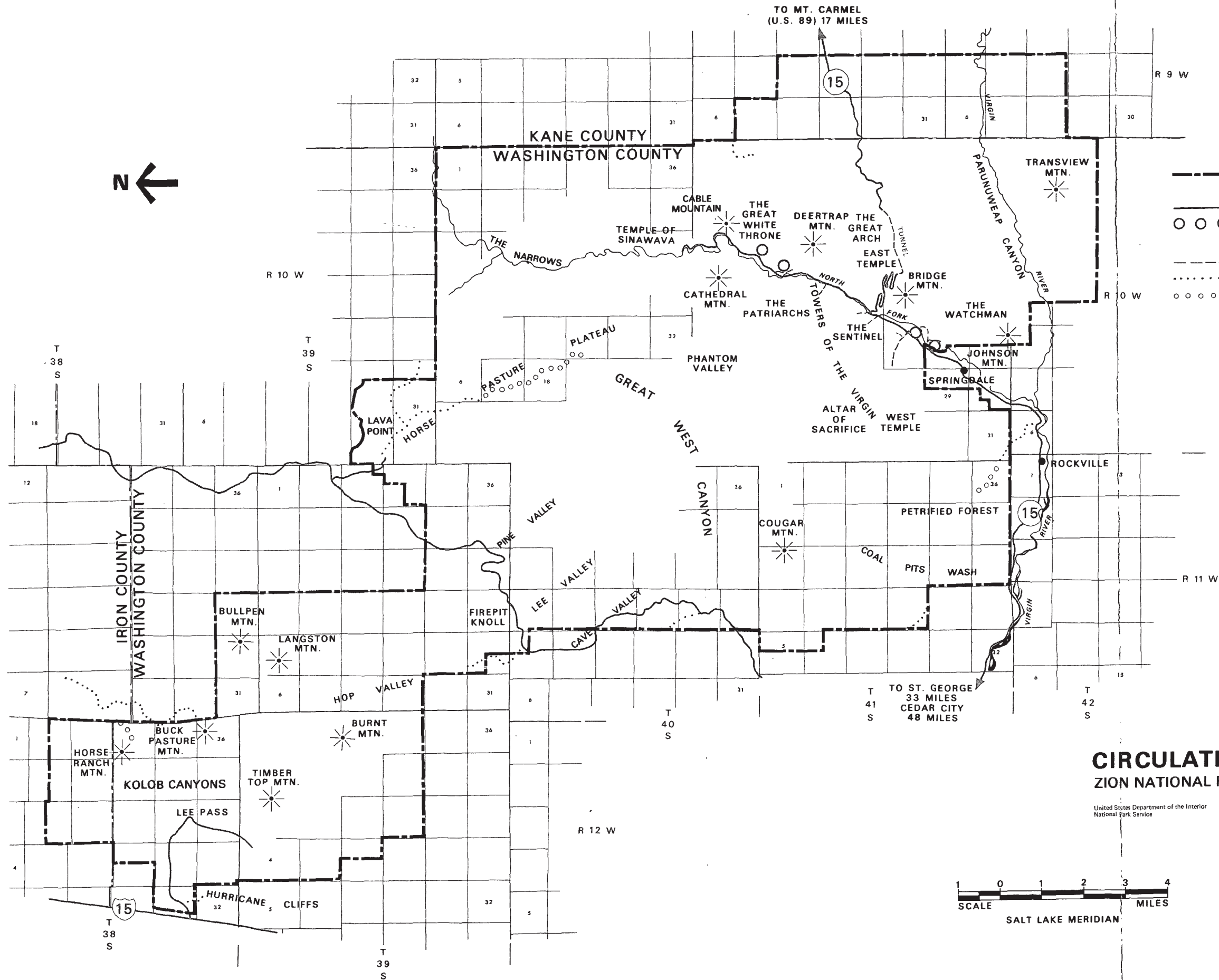
Because Zion's backcountry is a special feature, it will be interpreted as a concept to all visitors and as an experience to active backcountry users. Informational and interpretive devices should be compatible with the various sites; for instance, signed exhibits are suitable for roadsides, but become progressively less compatible in increasingly primitive areas.

#### **BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS**

A 2.39-acre parcel of land near the south entrance at Springdale should be acquired from the Zion Natural History Association in order to preserve the integrity of the natural resource in the entrance corridor.

An 8.13-acre parcel of land in the southwest corner of section 34, T41S, R11W, is proposed for deletion from the park. This area, which has no scenic or scientific park values, includes the right-of-way for Utah 15 where it crosses the corner of the park.

The Narrows Trail on the North Fork of the Virgin River affords a unique wilderness experience for the many visitors who hike this popular route. Some of this scenic canyon lies outside the northeastern park boundary, and the east end of the route is on private property. Appropriate land-acquisition legislation should be prepared, after a study is completed to determine the bounds of the area needing protection.



TO MT. CARMEL  
(U.S. 89) 17 MILES

R 9 W

KANE COUNTY  
WASHINGTON COUNTY

R 10 W

T 39 S

T 38 S



### LEGEND

- NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY
- PUBLIC USE ROADS
- PRIMARY AND SECONDARY
- ○ ○ DEVELOPED AREAS
- MANAGEMENT ROADS
- PARK OPERATIONS
- ... INHOLDING ACCESS
- ○ ○ ○ TO BE CLOSED

IRON COUNTY  
WASHINGTON COUNTY

12

BULLPEN MTN.

LANGSTON MTN.

BURNT MTN.

TIMBER TOP MTN.

HORSE RANCH MTN.

KOLOB CANYONS

LEE PASS

15

T 38 S

T 39 S

T 40 S

R 12 W

FIREPIT KNOLL

HOP VALLEY

PIKE VALLEY

LEE VALLEY

CAVE VALLEY

GREAT WEST CANYON

PLATEAU

PASTURE

LAVA POINT

HORSE

CATHEDRAL MTN.

THE PATRIARCHS

DEERTRAP MTN.

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE

TEMPLE OF SINAWAVA

CABLE MOUNTAIN

THE GREAT ARCH

EAST TEMPLE

BRIDGE MTN.

TUNNEL

THE SENTINEL

SPRINGDALE

JOHNSON MTN.

THE WATCHMAN

ALTAR OF SACRIFICE

WEST TEMPLE

TRANSVIEW MTN.

PARUNWEAP CANYON

RIVER

ROCKVILLE

PETRIFIED FOREST

COAL

PITS

WASH

COUGAR MTN.

TO ST. GEORGE  
33 MILES  
CEDAR CITY  
48 MILES

T 41 S

T 42 S

R 11 W

## CIRCULATION MAP ZION NATIONAL PARK

United States Department of the Interior  
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# Appendixes

## A: MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The following statement by the superintendent of Zion National Park reflects park management's needs and goals relative to this master plan.

### ■ General Management

The park will be managed by a resident superintendent and staff, headquartered in the visitor center at the south entrance (Springdale, Utah).

The park will be operated on a year-round basis, 7 days per week, with the exception of the Kolob Terrace, Kolob Canyons, and the east entrance, which will operate on a seasonal basis determined by weather conditions.

Entrance and user fees will be collected.

All concession facilities in Zion Canyon will be studied with a view toward eliminating those incompatible or non-essential.

Private development of overnight accommodations and other services will be encouraged outside the park.

Adequate housing for park personnel will be maintained to ensure area protection.

A vigorous public-relations program will be carried out to coordinate the objectives of park management with the plans of community leaders.

State-retained mineral rights will be secured as soon as possible.

■ **Resource Management**

All privately owned lands and associated water rights within the exterior boundary of the park will be acquired, and adverse uses attendant thereto — mostly grazing — will be eliminated.

All sources and potential sources of potable water will be given adequate protection to prevent misappropriation and contamination.

The soil and moisture programs will be limited to those directed toward correcting man-caused erosion.

Studies of the Zion deer herds will be conducted in cooperation with state and federal agencies to determine the carrying capacity of the range, and management needs.

In cooperation with the appropriate state and federal agencies, bighorn sheep and Gambel's quail will be reestablished in the park.

A park-oriented research program will be developed to provide ecological, historical, archeological, and sociological

information to support visitor-use, resource-management, and general park-management programs. Consideration will be given to the establishment of a research station in cooperation with an appropriate educational institution.

The three research natural areas of the park will be retained and utilized.

Historic resources will be studied for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, and for historic restoration where needed. All historic resources that meet the National Register criteria will be preserved unless a contrary course of action is decided upon in consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

■ Visitor Use

Visitor-use programs and activities will be developed in conjunction with regional plans developed by local, state, and federal agencies. Visitor-use activities in the park will complement those in the Zion region.

The existing and proposed road systems will be studied with a view toward recommending desirable changes, including obliteration of those portions no longer required for management or visitor-use purposes. This study will include alternate transportation systems.

Wilderness camps or "high-hut" facilities may need to be considered in the future to lessen the impact of backcountry use.

A meaningful and progressive onsite and offsite interpretive program will be provided based on the full range of park values, including natural history, human history, esthetics, and the environment. The interpretive program will amplify and give meaning to the emotional impressions induced by the visual and tactile characteristics of the resource.

Facilities will not be constructed in draws or drainages, and all roads should have large culvert systems.

Visitor-use facilities will be provided at the east entrance and in the Lava Point and Kolob Canyons areas of the park. Consideration will be given to picnic areas, campgrounds, interpretive trails, overlooks, contact stations, and other facilities that will enhance the experience of each visitor.

**B: PLANNING TEAM**

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As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities to protect and conserve our land and water, energy and minerals, fish and wildlife, parks and recreation areas, and to ensure the wise use of all these resources. The Department also has major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

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