

# *Rope Rescue Tactics in Alpine U.S. National Parks*

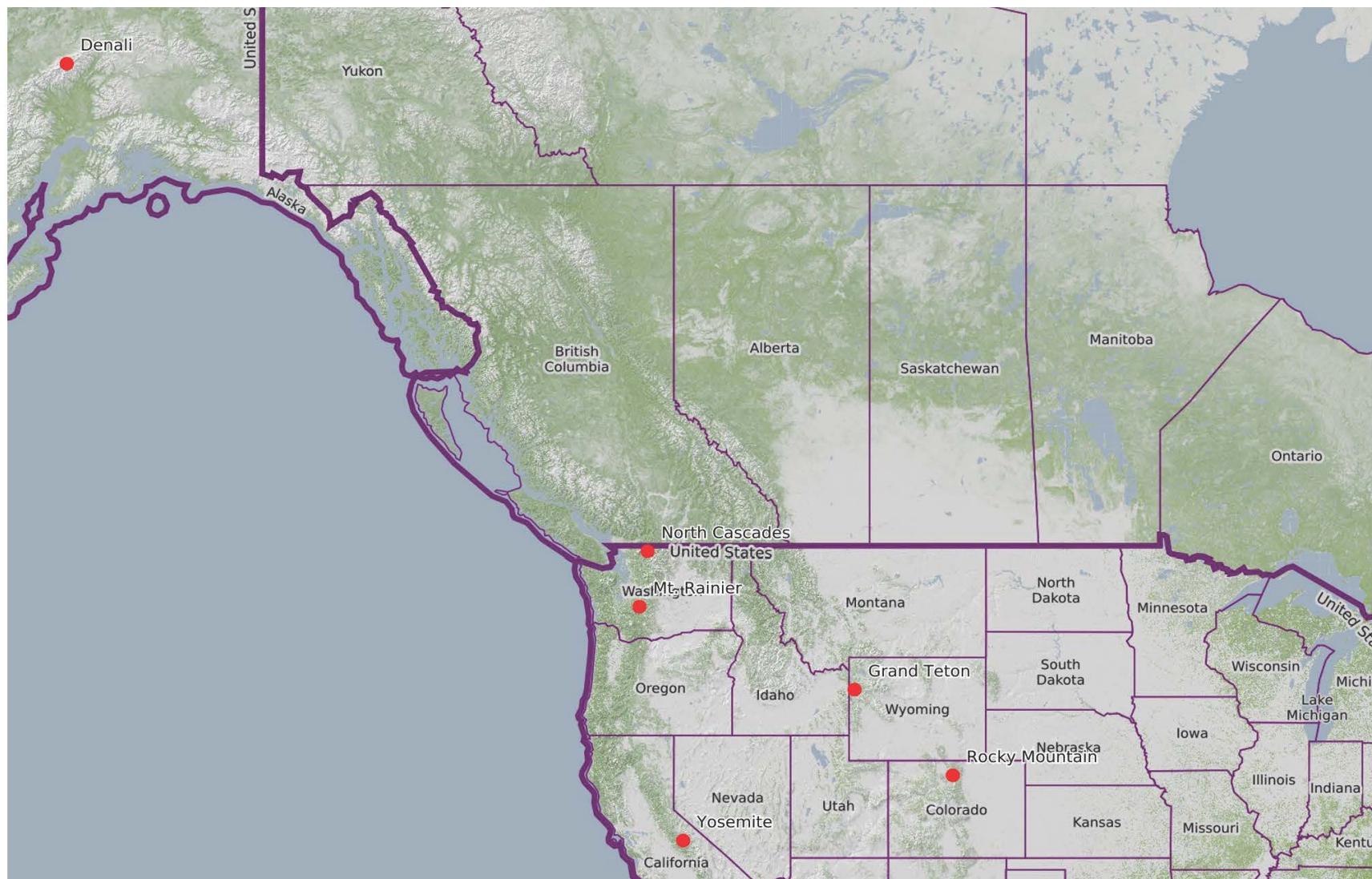
*Terrestrial Approaches to Diverse Mission Profiles*

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All featured parks maintain robust and specialized helicopter rescue programs. These operations are integral to overall response capability but will not be covered in this presentation, which is focused on terrestrial rescue tactics.





Mercator Projection

WGS84

UTM Zones 5S-16W



MN  
14.9°



# Role of U.S. National Park Service in technical mountain rescue

- FEMA is the Federal Emergency Management Agency
- The National Response Framework (NRF) is a guide to how the nation responds to all types of disasters and emergencies
- NPS is responsible for land SAR on federally managed incidents
- Most western states the law dictates that the county sherrif is responsible for SAR
- Due to factors like the alpine terrain, ebb and flow of financial stability, and large park visitation, NPS climbing ranger programs have evolved into the default rescue resource in these iconic landscapes

## Mission Profile:

- Varying techniques due to different mission type, terrain/environment, visitation.
- Team structure, incident duration, and geographic isolation drive decisions
- Equipment and technique flexibility supported by internal training cultures
- Although 2 rope systems are the standard, single rope guiding/partner rescue techniques for ambulatory subjects are becoming more widely used

# Denali National Park

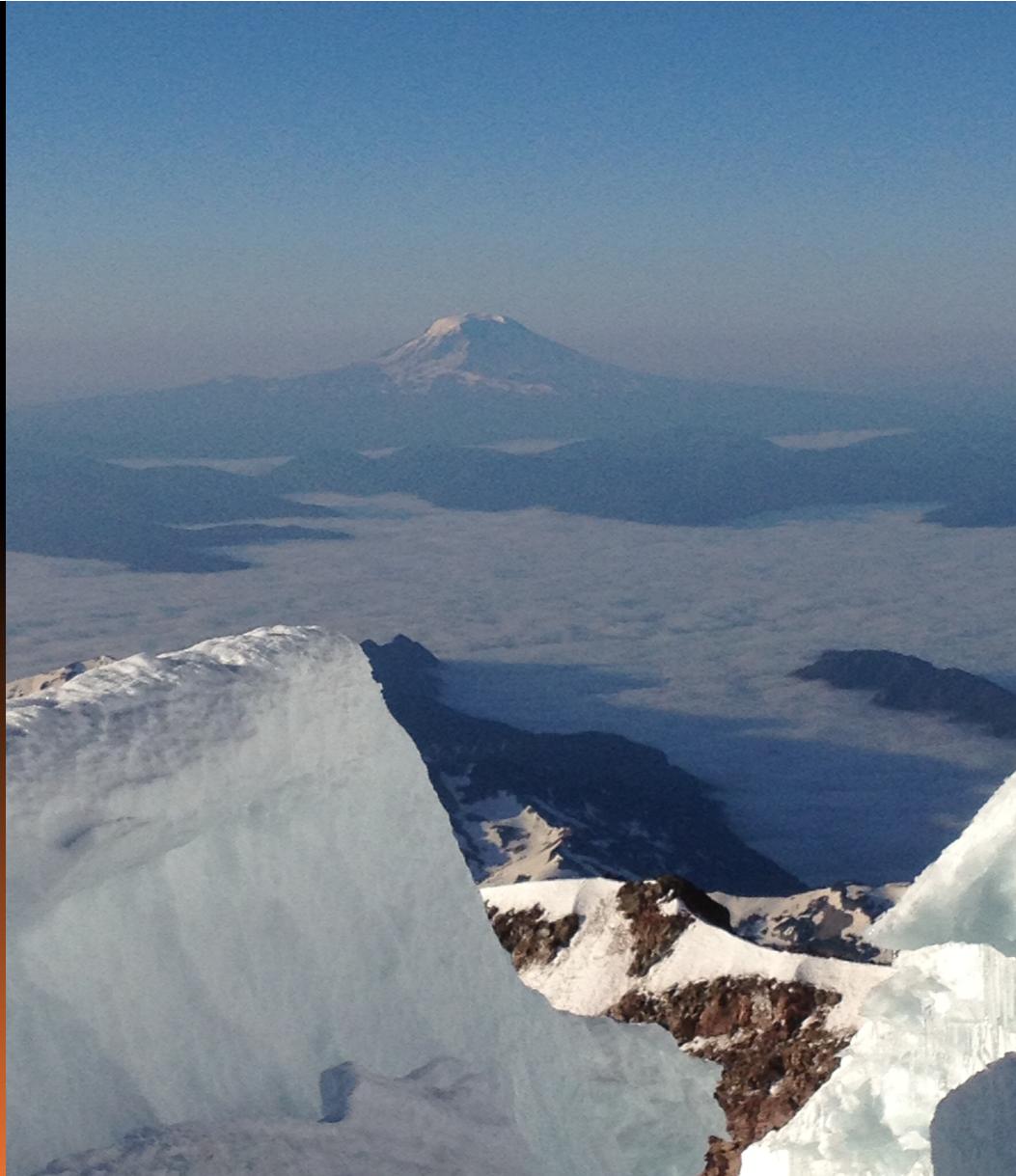
- 20,310 ft (6190 m)
- Heavy seasonal traffic  
April-July
- Northern latitude and  
high altitude





# Mount Rainier National Park

- 14,411 ft (4392 m)
- Stratovolcano
- Heavy seasonal traffic  
April-July
- Strong maritime  
weather influence





AMGA single discipline  
certifications

Support for IFMGA



# Yosemite National Park

- Big Walls and Alpine Peaks









# Rocky Mountain National Park

- 7860 ft to 14,259 ft
- 2395 m to 4346 m
- Longs Peak and the Diamond (East Face)



- Proximity to 5 million people
- No dedicated aviation resource





# North Cascades National Park

- 6000ft-9000ft (1800m-2750m)
- Mixed alpine terrain including glaciers, 4<sup>th</sup> to low 5<sup>th</sup> class





# Grand Teton National Park

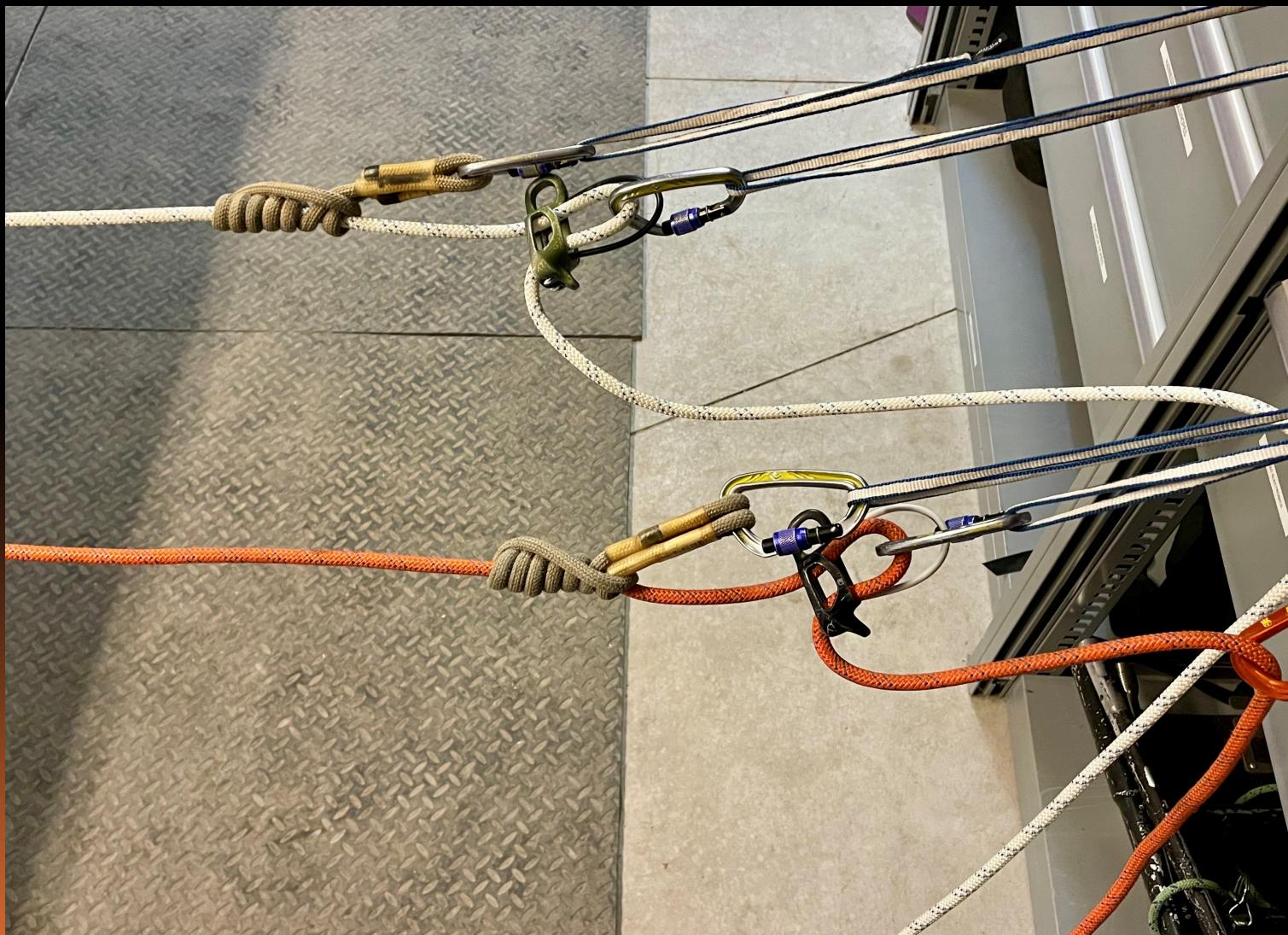
- 6700ft-13,775ft  
(2000m-4199m)
- Very young Fault  
Block mountain  
range with glacial  
shaping







- The NPS has not mandated or standardized any of our operation.
- 10 years ago all our programs had significant differences in how we rigged.
- The programs have evolved independently and found strong similarities in our component-based systems and equipment selection.
- All these programs strongly benefit from active climbing programs



A scenic road leads towards the Grand Teton Mountains at sunset. The sky is filled with vibrant orange and yellow hues, transitioning into a darker blue. The mountains are silhouetted against the bright sky. A road sign on the right side of the road reads "TOMORROW CENTER LEFT TURN".

Thank you!  
Questions?