

Rope Rescue Tactics in Alpine U.S. National Parks

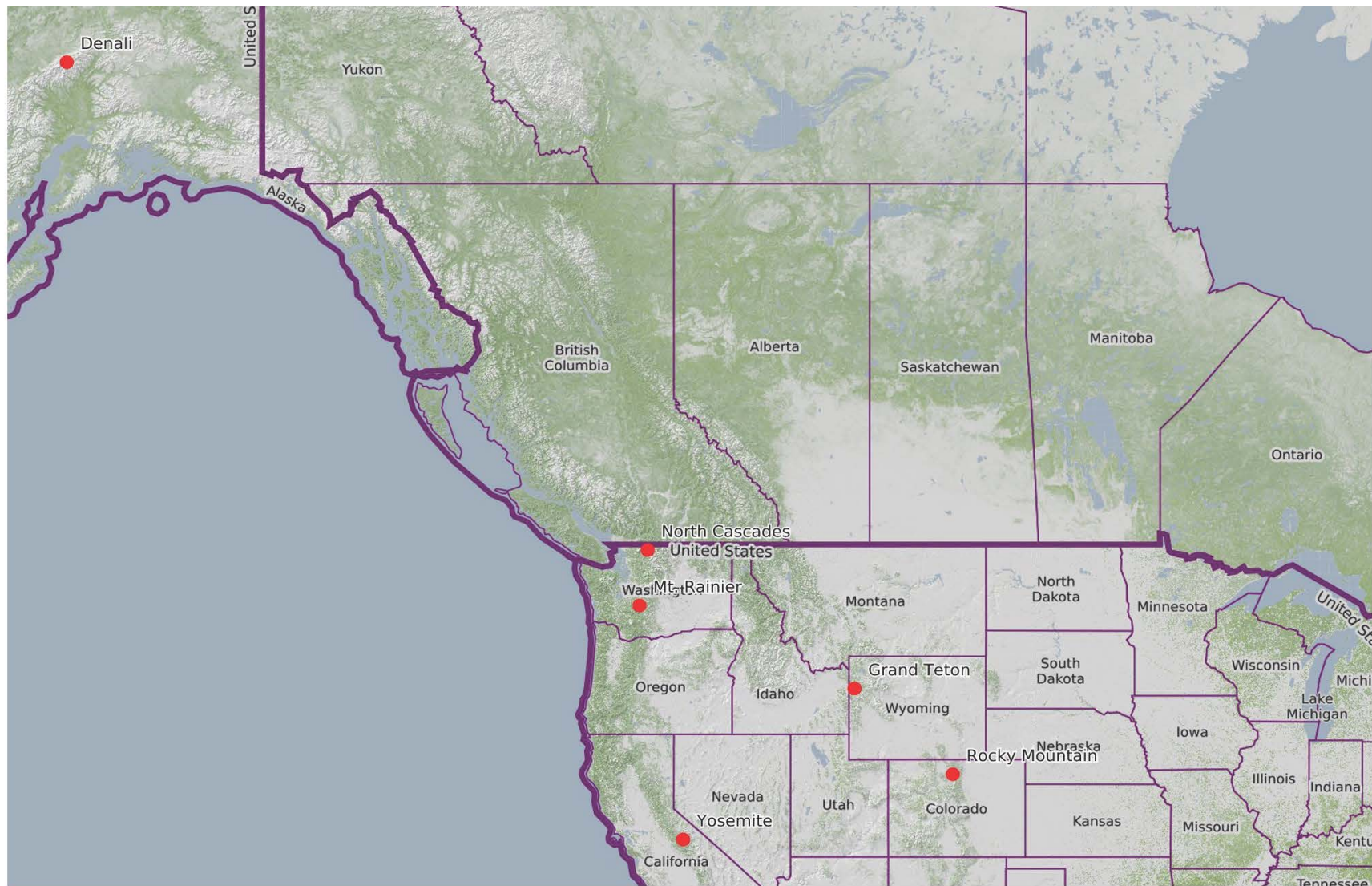
Terrestrial Approaches to Diverse Mission Profiles

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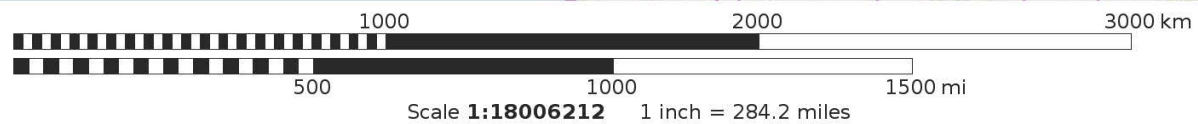


All featured parks maintain robust and specialized helicopter rescue programs. These operations are integral to overall response capability but will not be covered in this presentation, which is focused on terrestrial rescue tactics.





Mercator Projection
WGS84
UTM Zones 5S-16W
 SARTOPO



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 sheriff 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, 4th to low 5th class





Grand Teton National Park

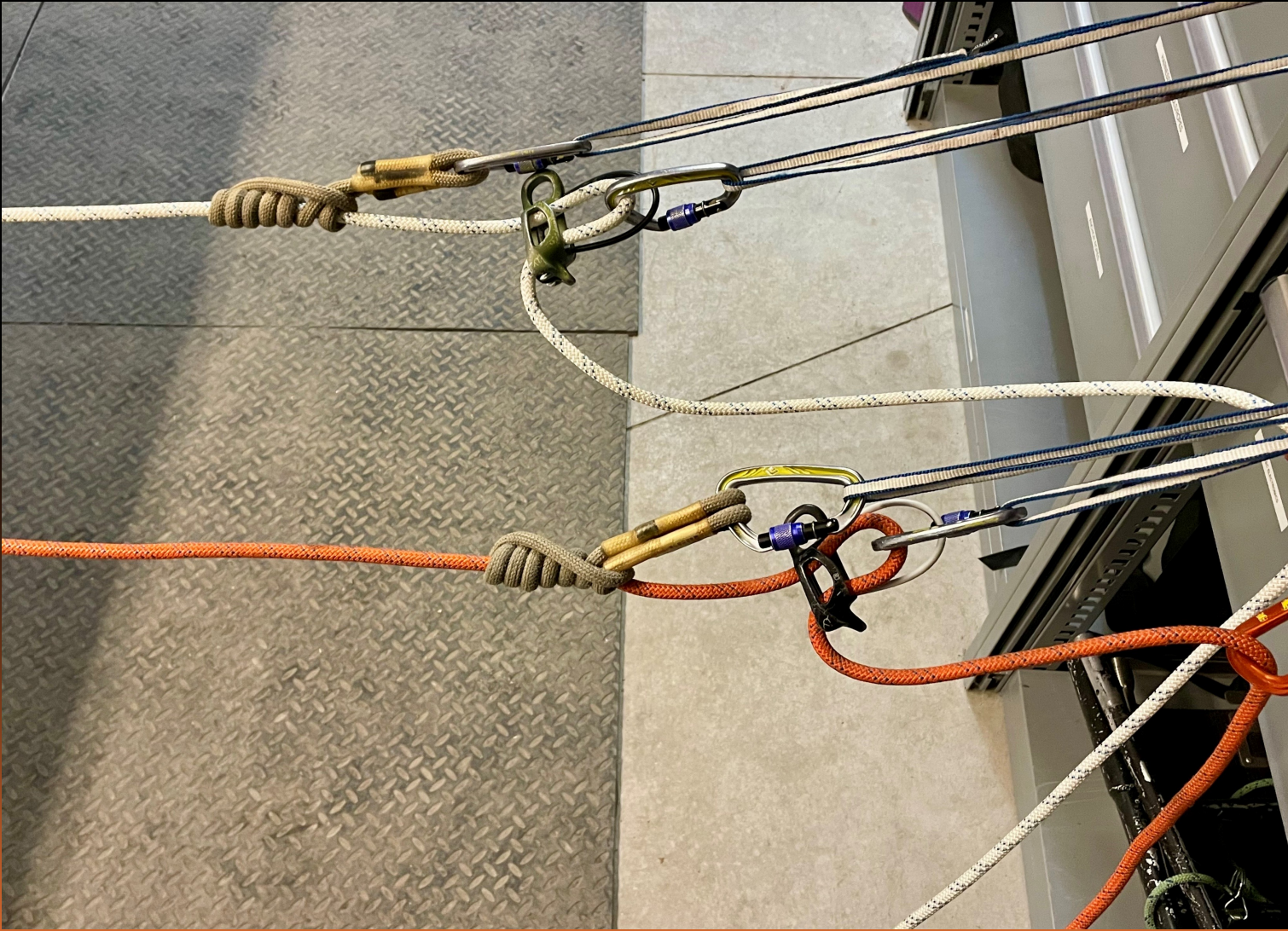
- 6700ft-13,775ft (2000m-4199m)
- Very young Fault Block mountain range with glacial shaping







- 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





Thank you!
Questions?