

IN SUMMARY, WE HAVE a job to do that is among the most complex, sometimes "touchy," and probably most worthy of any agency in government. The 12-Point Plan will help us, and so will this Half-Dozen. Each employee should figure out how they apply to his or her particular job. My office, for instance, will help several of these steps by instituting a column entitled "A Cook's Tour of the National Parks" to be featured throughout the Southwest, and I've noted that several park superintendents have already begun something similar. The people of America have given us an awesome responsibility to protect the jewels of our national inheritance. The challenge is sobering, but not frightening. We can do it.



COOK'S HALF DOZEN



Special thoughts for the Southwest Region
of the National Park Service

by
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WE WILL DO OUR JOB. That's been true since 1916, and it hasn't changed. We will preserve and protect the extraordinary national treasures entrusted to our care, to present them at the end of our trusteeship "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." The folks before us did a good job and handed them to us that way; and I'm determined that we will pass them on in even better shape.

In doing that, of course, outside circumstances change. Problems important in one generation fade, or maybe with good luck we actually solve some, while others grow and some become critical. Good management responds, and while the main core of our work marches on, there are needs for special emphases. That's what National Park Service Director Bill Mott saw in the summer of 1985 when he presented his now-famous 12-Point Plan. Each part of that plan is aimed at the grand old mission, "to preserve and protect." Here, tied to Bill Mott's plan and also to the special needs of the Southwest Region, are "Cook's Half Dozen," some special consideration for the next few years.

1. WE WILL MEET regional objectives which came from the March 1986 Regional Director's Meeting: A) Add representative natural units to the National Park System; B) Remove hazardous wastes from National Park Service areas; and C) Commemorate the 500th anniversary of Columbus' voyage. We have begun efforts in each of these areas already, and they will continue.

2. WE WILL MAKE progress on all of Bill Mott's 12 Points, and at the end of the year present an "annual report" showing the best progress of all regions in the Service.

3. WE WILL INCREASE and recognize the role of NPS employees as well as cooperating association people and concessioners in presenting park values to the public. This will include a regional awards program.

4. WE WILL INCREASE the awareness of the public, and especially of officials at all levels of government, of the significant role the National Park Service plays in protecting resources now and for future, and enhancing local economies.

5. WE WILL PARTICIPATE in high-profile administration and agency initiatives, such as Take Pride in America, Reform 88, and the passport program.

6. WE WILL INCREASE our own awareness of what the Park Service has done and is doing. The famous comment about "Park Service mystique" gives me no problem at all. I cherish that mystique, as did my Dad, who was in the Service, and my daughter, who serves now. All of us, from clerks to regional directors, have reason for pride. We just have to know more about ourselves.