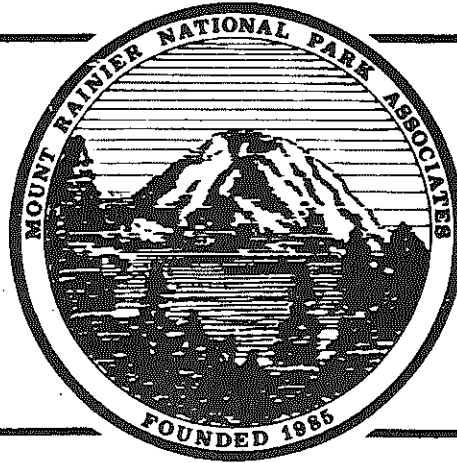


MRNPA



NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATES

FROM THE SUMMIT...

As we begin our fifth year as an organization, it is appropriate for us to review our goals and accomplishments and reflect on our future direction.

During this past year we have seen much of the park attain wilderness status which will provide added protection for the natural beauty that we know and love. We have continued to review and monitor the Forest Service plans for areas adjacent to the park -- work that needs to continue if we wish to more effectively protect the park habitat.

The future will offer new challenges -- what will be the impact of deteriorating air quality in the Puget Sound Basin? How will the heavy park traffic be managed? What actions need to be taken, if any, to prevent future damage to park meadows? (The Park Service estimates it could take 64 years to revegetate Paradise Meadow based on the work completed since 1986.) How can the park be maintained and improved when faced with federal budgetary restrictions?

Each of you can help us work on these issues. We are always looking for people to participate in work parties, review park management plans, write articles for the newsletter, etc. If you wish to become more involved or just express an idea or opinion, please contact any member of the board. Our board meetings are open to all members. We would love to see or hear from you! Now is the time to become involved.

Pat Smith

ARTICLES THIS ISSUE

From the Summit
Meet the President
Help Needed
Yellowstone: The Smoke Clears
Animal Tracks
Welcome...Welcome!!!
Partners in Parks
1988 Park Management Highlights
In the Park -- 100 Years Ago

MEET THE PRESIDENT

Let me introduce Pat Smith, the newly-elected President of Mt. Rainier National Park Associates. Pat lives with husband, George, and 4 1/2-year-old son, Brad, in Normandy Park.

She has been an interested member of our group since 1985. Anyone who had hiked and climbed and cross-country skied in Mt. Rainier Nat. Park as much as she had (prior to Brad) couldn't possibly resist membership in MRNPA. She and George consider themselves conservationists and share a deep concern about the future of the Park as well as all national parks in general.

When asked her concerns about the Park, Pat responded pragmatically based upon her experience with decreasing federal budgets. How can we impact in a positive way the Park's lack of adequate budget for

continued on next page

maintenance and improvement? What can we do to help the Park Service better meet the needs of visitors who want access to the Park? People want to enjoy the Park, but they don't want higher taxes to pay for that freedom. Pat would like to look at alternative methods to allow this. People should be allowed to see a return for their present tax dollars without negative impact. What are the alternatives besides raising taxes/entrance fees or closing parts of the Park to the public? If there are no other solutions, we can see the "writing on the wall".

Along with her pragmatic side Pat is a creative and positive thinker. She wants to work with the Park Service through MRNPA to create, to visualize, and to problem-solve. If anyone wants to join forces with our newly elected President of MRNPA, please call her or another member of the Board.

Margie Goulden

HELP NEEDED

Help! We need another typist and/or lay-out person for the newsletter staff. Time involved is 5 to 8 hours twice a year. Whether you live in Seattle or Tacoma areas, we can use your help. If interested, please call Margie at 863-3265 (Sumner).

WELCOME WELCOME WELCOME

An early thank-you to the 1989-90 MRNPA Board members elected at the Annual Meeting in May.

President: Pat Smith
Vice President: Jon Soest
Secretary: Roger Garrett
Treasurer: John Titland

Pat Smith served as Vice President for the past two years. And, as so often is the case, she "moved up a notch" to assume the leadership of MRNPA. We know she will do a good job, even though she is already balancing two full time jobs -- a mother in the home and an administrator out-of-the-home.

MRNPA OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Pat Smith 206-241-5704
Vice-Pres: Jon Soest 206-863-3507
Secretary: Roger Garrett 503-620-2533
Treasurer: John Titland 206-747-1698
Past Pres: Bob Aegerter 206-527-4492

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Nancy Baker	Paul Heilman
Bob Barger	Kathy Maurich
Larry Carreau	John Myatt
Shari Dowd	Van Perdue
Polly Dyer	Norm Winn

COMMITTEES

WILDERNESS: Jon Soest
WILDLIFE: Yolanda Thompson
MEMBERSHIP: Margie Goulden
TRAILS/OUTDOOR: Larry Carreau
VISITOR IMPACT: Roger Garrett

EDITORIAL STAFF

COORDINATOR: Margie Goulden
EDITOR: Ellen Ostern
TYPISTS: Peg Engel, Sally Soest
LAY-OUT: Peg Engel, Van Perdue
MAILING: Arlene Conde, Sally Soest
ARTICLES: Submitted by committee heads, board members, and members-at-large.

Jon Soest returns as Vice President, a job he assumed in Jan. of 1985 when the MRNPA was founded. A lesson to be learned in this, Jon -- once a decision-making member, always a decision-making member!

Roger Garrett and John Titland continue as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Roger has served as an executive committee member since January, 1985. That's commitment!

And welcome to our three new Board members: Bob Barger, Larry Carreau, and John Myatt. Let's work hard together and make a difference in our world.

Margie Goulden

"Paradise Regained" Continues

In response to Edith Goodman's article, **Paradise Regained**, in the last Newsletter, you might be interested in knowing that we will be using a button campaign at Paradise this summer as a means of further enticing people to stay on the trails. The campaign will feature a button stating "Don't Be A Meadow Stomper - stay on trails" with an illustration of a boot about to stomp a flower behind the international red slash. The buttons will be distributed by Park Interpreters during meadow roves and for a donation at the Henry M. Jackson Memorial Visitor Center.

William F. Dengler
Chief Park Interpreter



POETRY CORNER

I WALKED

I walked.
I walked in the Park.
My senses grew stark.
I left not a mark.

I dreamed of the dark
And lonely nights spent in the city.
I ASK FOR NO PITY.

When I was alone --
I wrote this poem...
And found a new life --
Deep within the Pacific Coast
Coniferous Forest Biome.

SHALOM.

Larry Carreau
MRNPA Trails/Outdoors

WORK PARTIES

How would you like to obtain free admission into the Park, gaze at Rainier's wild profusion of flowers, maintain an established trail, and enjoy an outdoor potluck dinner, ALL IN THE SAME DAY? If YES, please join me in the 5th Annual MRNPA Trail Work Party. The date of the work party is July 22nd, 1989, with camping beginning the previous day at Cougar Rock Campground. Our group will meet at the Cougar Rock Ranger Station at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, July 22nd. Bring a lunch, long-sleeved work clothes, boots, and gloves, when involved in Park trail work. All tools will be provided by the Park, and all trail work will be done under the auspices of an N.P.S. trail leader. Camping at Cougar Rock is at group site #1 (which is easy to remember, because it represents our #1 Trail Work Party reputation!) Hope to see you there. Thank you.

Larry Carreau

845-2364

MRNPA Trails/Outdoors

PARTNERS IN PARKS

A new non-profit organization, Partners in Parks, finds talented people to work in partnership with national parks on projects of mutual interest. A major focus is in the area of research and resource management. According to Sarah Bishop, President of Partners in Parks and a long time park-watcher, national parks are fabulous yet little used laboratories that offer numerous opportunities for individuals and groups to pursue their professional and advocational interests. Park managers have a great need for research based information with which to manage their resources as well as enrich their interpretation programs. Putting these two groups together in partnership offers strong incentives for resolving challenging problems as well as building park level capabilities in research and resource management. If you want to know more about Partners in Parks, write Sarah Bishop at 1855 Quarley Place, Henderson, Nevada 89014.

(From NPCA EXCHANGE)

IN THE PARK - 1889



What was happening at Mt. Rainier a hundred years ago? It did not become a National Park until ten years later.

The summer before Washington became a State included some intense interest in climbing Mt. Rainier. The most enthusiastic climber and explorer of the time was Major E.S. Ingraham, for whom the Seattle high school was named.

Ingraham's first climb of Rainier was in 1888 with the party which included John Muir. It was Ingraham who named Camp Muir -- a patch of pumice and gravel in a small saddle -- after John Muir had chosen it as a campsite.

By the next year, 1889, Ingraham was leading climbs and exploring the mountain parklands. He named the Gibraltar route which he helped pioneer. Ingraham Glacier was later named after him, which today is the most popular climbing route on the mountain.

In August, Ingraham joined a party of seven led by Rev. E. Smith, of Seattle, Pastor of the Unitarian Church. As the Seattle party was descending, a party of two left Tacoma by train for Yelm, and followed the Nisqually River on horseback, and on by foot to Camp Muir.

The two climbers were Charles H. Gove, a charter member of the Oregon Alpine Club, predating the Mazamas and The Mountaineers, and J. Nichols of Tacoma. They camped at Muir in an alpine-style tent, the first such used on Rainier. The two also slept in the crater at the summit, as had Ingraham's party. Gove's was a first ascent of The Mountain by a member of a mountaineering club, and Nichols was the first Tacoman to climb it. Gove met Ingraham on this climb, and subsequently explored the mountain's alpine zones with him. Probably Ingraham named the Carbon River area peak after Gove.

Nine-year-old Christine Van Trump, daughter of the P.B. Van Trump who had made the first ascent with Stevens in 1870, climbed to Camp Muir from Camp of the Clouds at Paradise

CENTENNIAL WALK

The mountain...hiking...people... and a good cause: all good reasons to join Honorary Chairman Lou Whittaker for the "Centennial Walk" from Longmire on July 29. This Washington-Pierce County Centennial Walk is a "Volkssporting Event", literally a "sport of the people", and all proceeds benefit the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition and Pierce County Parks Department Path Fund.

The walk begins at 7:00 a.m. Saturday, July 29, at the National Park Inn, and will finish no later than 5:00 p.m. See you there!

the same day as the Gove-Nichols climb. Her ambition was to some day reach the summit. She never realized her dream, however, as she developed a severe case of Huntington's Chorea (or St. Vitus Dance).

The year 1889 was also the year in which the Geographic Board in Washington, D.C. officially recognized the name of the mountain as "Mt. Rainier." Captain Vancouver had named it in 1792 after Admiral Peter Rainier of the British Navy. In its time, our mountain has been called Regnier, Tahoma, Tacoma, T'Koma, Takob, and many more Indian variations. Fierce verbal battles have raged for nearly 200 years over the name of our snowy mountain that dominates the Puget Sound country.

And finally, 1889 was the year of the great Seattle fire. Smoke reportedly circled all around Mt. Rainier and back to Seattle.

Sources:

"Mountain Fever, by Aubrey Haines
"Island In the Sky" by Paul Schullery

Edith Goodman,
Mountain Historian

MEMBERS' COMMENTS

BIKES EXCLUDED FROM SUNRISE ROAD?

I recently rode a motor-less (10-speed) bike along the Sunrise Road between the Summerland/Fryingpan Creek parking lot and Sunrise Park. I wouldn't have participated in this ride without a helmet. The route rises approximately 2000 feet in 12 inclining miles over a road that is not maintained for 10-speed bikes. I was very much inclined to do the Sunrise route -- firstly because I knew what the view would look like on a clear day; secondly because I had enlisted the help of a pedal-pushing professional (bike-rider); and thirdly because I had seen numerous riders on the route prior to my ride.

When my three pedal-pushing partners and I reached Sunrise Point (6100 ft.) for a short respite, one of my Park maintenance acquaintances (who has control over the gate before the opening Sunrise date) politely exclaimed, "Technically, you guys aren't supposed to be here on bikes." He went on to say, "Oh, by the way, the restrooms at Sunrise Park are open."

The question that arises in my helmeted head is, "Why is the Park maintaining a double standard instead of maintaining a beautiful Park road for bikes???" As the popularity of touring and mountain bikes rises, where is the Park road for us to ride on? I am referring to a place where pedal-pushers find pleasure without having to contend with an unending horde of motorized vehicles.

So expect to see signs in the Park next summer stating, "NO BIKES ON THE SUNRISE ROAD". Until then, please wear a helmet, please don't go biking alone, and please watch out for wildlife darting in front of you on Park roads. After all, you are the visitor -- and the trail is to the hiker as the image is to the poem. Please enjoy our park.

Larry Carreau
MRNPA Trails/Outdoors
and Carbon River NPS
employee

The following "Letter to the Editor" appeared in the Tacoma News Tribune (6-9-98):

Nonsense About Spotted Owls

Let's stop all this nonsense about saving the spotted owl and give some thought to saving human lives instead, because that is what it amounts to in the loggers' homes. Use some common sense and do not be swayed by those who would put saving owls above saving people. Do we miss the dinosaurs? Do we right now miss the spotted owl? I have worked in the woods many years and I have never seen one. What difference does it make anyway? Just use some common sense.

And I still maintain that the crater of Mount St. Helens is the ideal place for our garbage. That would eliminate all the protests against the incinerators that are being built. Let's get on with it and use some common sense here too.

Hans R. Sjoboen
Tacoma

Rebuttal, currently sitting on the Tribune editor's desk:

Trees in the Balance

Hans R. Sjoboen's letter entitled "Nonsense About Spotted Owls" prompts my response.

To begin with, the Northern Spotted Owl is just a feather on Nature's side of the scale. Human beings are still standing on top of a biological ladder; but that ladder is increasingly being made of something "other than wood." I have worked in the woods for a long time, and I would like to see giant trees and wooden ladders remain.

Furthermore, I can honestly say that I DO miss the dinosaurs. You see, the dinosaurs did not level forests, exploit nature, or export timber -- the dinosaurs DID NOT have so great an impact on our environment (in so small a time span) as human beings do. And the dinosaurs were here for a really, really long time.

continued on next page

Finally, stuffing Mount St. Helens throat full of garbage would not put an end to our protests. If she were to spit it out, it would all end up in our backyards again anyway.

My concluding question is: "Is man willing to use the common sense necessary to maintain an EXISTENCE comparable to that of the dinosaurs?" The answer I'm hearing is "Well, I'll burn that bridge when I come to it!"

Well, Mr. Sjöboen, let's hope that bridge is still being made out of wood, and let's hope we can come up with some reasonable answers soon.

Lawrence W. Carreau
Puyallup

88 Park Management Highlights

From time to time we print summaries of significant projects and work accomplished by National Resource Planning Staff of MRNPark.

Wilderness & Backcountry Management

Impact inventories of backcountry and recently established Wilderness conducted since 1973 show that some damaged areas have been restored or are recovering. However the major problems apparent today include denuded areas from the development of numerous social trails and campsites in cross-country zones, improper human waste disposal, and shoreline erosion of lakes and streams. The effects of backcountry use on wildlife have not been explored. Additional research is needed to address sociological aspects of Wilderness management.

INVENTORY OF WILDERNESS TRAILSIDE CAMPS

Starting in 1985, campsite impacts in 15 Wilderness Trailside Camps were monitored in Mount Rainier National Park by obtaining bareground measurements (through radial transects) and establishing photographic and vegetation transects for fifty-nine campsites. Thirty-nine campsite impacts were documented and included mutilated trees, presence of severely eroded social trails, litter, illegal campfires,

Mt. Rainier News Briefs

GENERAL: June. Again, the park would like to remind the park visitor that with the National Park Inn closed until the summer of 1990, there is no food, lodging, or gift service available at Longmire. You will find these services available at this time in the Paradise area, however.

CAMPING

Sunshine Point Campground

Open! Pit-type toilets. Fee \$5 per night.

Cougar Rock Campground

Open! Fee \$6 per night.

Ohanapecosh Campground

Open! Fee \$6 per night.

White River Campground

Open! Fee \$6 per night.

Ipsut Creek Campground

Open! Water available. Pit-type toilets. Fee \$5 per night.

PICNIC AREAS. Picnic areas open are located at Sunshine Point, Cougar Rock and Box Canyon.

ROADS. All park roads are open except Westside Road, Mowich Lake Road (open to Paul Peak Trailhead), and the White River Road to Sunrise beyond the White River Campground Road Wye. The road to Sunrise was scheduled to open July 1st. The Westside road will be open to public use for approximately 3 miles (Dry Creek) on July 15. It will probably be fall before it is opened again to Round Pass.

PARK INFORMATION: (206) 569-2211, 7:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. daily, seven days a week, or (206) 569-2343 for a recorded message.

and human waste problems. Twenty-six out of these 59 campsites were located less than 100 ft. from lakes and/or streams with distances ranging from 1.4 meters to 29.0 meters. Source: Adapted from NPS report.

ANIMAL TRACKS

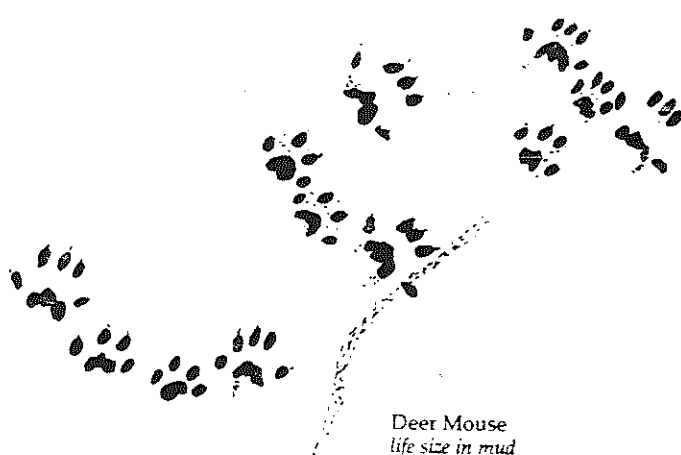
DEER MOUSE White-footed mouse

The native, wide-ranging and common deer mouse, with its long tail and pretty white undersides and feet, is primarily a mouse of the wilds, although it may nest in old buildings in the country and occasionally ventures into occupied dwellings. Active year-around, the deer mouse is a good climber and runner and is generally nocturnal. These tiny creatures make up the main diets of many carnivorous birds and mammals, but they are not totally defenseless. They can bite, as anyone who has tried to handle an injured mouse without gloves will tell you.

The deer mouse hardly ever moves slowly. It usually leaves a distinctive leaping four-print pattern, with the trail dragging only occasionally. The mouse is so small and light that its tracks are distinct only on rare occasions when surface conditions are perfect. More often you may find a line composed of groups of four tiny dimples in a mud or snow surface. The tracks could also be made by the ubiquitous house mouse (if in the vicinity of inhabited dwellings) or by the little pocket mouse, great basin pocket mouse, harvest mouse, canyon mouse, pinon mouse, and many others. Give or take an inch in length and a few ounces in weight, all Pacific Northwest mice are quite similar in appearance. A good pictorial field guide and some patient field work will be required for positive identification of each. Generally, mouse tracks can be distinguished from shrew tracks because the track clusters are wider than the shrew's and because the mouse's tail drag marks are either erratic or absent while the shrew's are prominent.

Order: Rodentia. Family: Crecetidae (New World rats and mice). Range: common throughout the Pacific Northwest. Habitat: all areas at all altitude; most common in woodlands and adjoining area, occasionally around abandoned buildings; prefers country to inhabited areas. Size and weight: seven inches; one ounce. Diet: omnivorous, including seeds, plant greens, mushrooms, insects, grubs, caterpillars, carrion. Sounds: faint bird-like trills and chattering squeaks.

Source: Animal Tracks of the Pacific Northwest, by Karen Pandell and Chris Stall.



POETRY CORNER

Red Cedar at Dawn

And I shall teach you tolerance,
As the corridor fills with a light
That reveals our Sylvan Silence.

You have seen--
You have wiped our substrate clean.

And as the spider spins another
For another's heart --
Why we shall rot
Beneath Nature's New Beginning???

Trees More Valuable Than Wood

Trees! Trees! Trees! - in the
ground --
Intimate life-lines -- beneath my
frown.
"You see, some trees live and some
trees die."
Trees! Trees! Trees!

For you and I.

Larry Carreau

Poet's comment: In year 1230 A.D., a forest fire burned over 60,000 acres of the area now known as Mount Rainier National Park.

The trees that grew up since that fire are now approximately 760 years old, and are found in the "protected valleys" of the Park.

Ref.: The Forest Communities of Mt. Rainier National Park, Jerry F. Franklin, Dept. of Interior Press, 1988.

Yellowstone: The Smoke Clears

Fire is Part of the Park's Natural Cycle

By Superintendent Robert Barbee
and Paul Schullery

From National Parks March/April 1989

In the mythology of ancient Egypt there was a large, gloriously colored bird called the phoenix. Some sources suggest that the bird was unique (the ultimate in endangerment). The phoenix lived for 500 years and then constructed a funeral pyre and immolated itself. From the cooling ashes emerged the new phoenix, which then lived on.

The most common portrayal of Yellowstone's present ecological state resembles the phoenix myth. We who care about the national park frequently say that Yellowstone, burned in the summer of 1988, will be reborn in the spring of 1989.

The rebirth of Yellowstone is a powerful, seductive, and immensely appealing image, especially in a time when optimistic images are much in demand. Yet this image, for all its attractions, is inaccurate, and will almost certainly backfire on those who use it.

Rebirth implies death. Though many individual life forms--plants, birds, mammals, invertebrates--certainly died in the fires, Yellowstone National Park did not.

Yellowstone, as an ecological whole, cannot die or be reborn. It cranks along, an elegantly complex assortment of processes and states. Its ecological systems and its geological foundations can vary due to many influences, including those of man.

So, at the same time that the National Park Service and its friends reassure people that the animals are fine and that natural revegetation is underway, we talk grandly about Yellowstone "coming back to life," as if it's in its grave. The images conflict, and the message that reaches the public is muddled: Yellowstone the undead.

Public education in matters of ecology seems destined to advance by increments smaller than are necessary to understand an entire issue. For instance, it was a wonderful step for people to realize that predators could be important in the balance of deer and elk populations. The lesson, however, was taught so simplistically that some people now believe that predators are

always the controlling factor in deer and elk population dynamics.

It was progress when people began to hear of serotinous pine cones, and to realize that such cones are only opened by fire, thus facilitating the spread of seeds. But the lesson was once again simplistic, and now many people believe that all lodgepole pines require fires in order to reproduce.

Similarly, the rhetoric of rebirth sets up Yellowstone and its visitors for learning something that will have to be unlearned later. If, as we now believe, Yellowstone's most powerful lessons involve ecosystem processes, we may be hindering efforts to bring those lessons home when we imply that the whole park can die.

Perhaps worse, we succumb to just the sort of overstatement that has ruined so much press coverage of the fires: We imply that Yellowstone National Park was killed or was destroyed, that the "devastation" we hear so much about on TV was exactly that.

In our culture, death is evil. In the rhetoric of rebirth, Yellowstone has been killed by fires that must, by implication, have been evil, too.

There seem to be hardly any unloaded words left to us. A forest is described by commercial foresters as "healthy" when they really mean that it is satisfying human needs at a high rate. Most often this "health" is achieved through the maintenance of some artificial state that bears little resemblance to a wild forest, where human notions of good health do not apply.

We even refer to a fire that we hoped would occur--one that burns through a stand of trees that seems ecologically due for burning--as a "good" fire, as in "Boy, what this area needs is a good fire," or, "We had a good fire back in 1981." Even at our most enlightened, we're still applying our values to natural processes.

In the 117-year history of the national parks, we have become better and better at using scientific principles to direct their management. The accumulated body of legislation and policy now supporting and guiding the national parks balances scientific knowledge against cultural values.

The result is a sometimes uneasy truce between what science tells us is possible and what our value system tells us is appropriate. Little wonder that it's hard to discuss such complex subjects in neutral language.

continued on next page

The Yellowstone fires have revealed the extent to which the most thoughtful, intelligent writers and park supporters can become mired down in this rhetorical swamp. Writers, attempting to reassure their audience about the fires, will say, "It really wasn't that bad. It'll all come back."

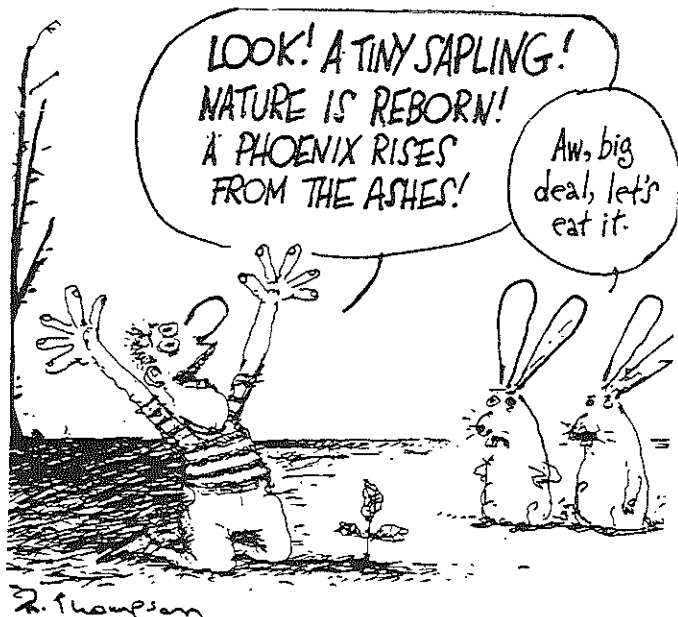
This implies, again, that the burns were bad in the first place, and that only forests in some late successional stage, forests that have fully "come back," are good forests. The height of a forest's trees or the photogenic quality of a vista may be very important to some humans, but it's all the same to the ecological setting.

Here in Yellowstone National Park, when we speak of recovery we're talking about the rebuilding and restoration of visitor facilities, such as trails, picnic areas, campground facilities, and other structures destroyed by the fires.

We are not speaking here of the natural setting. The natural setting is merely in a different state of its ongoing life processes. The natural setting does not need "recovering."

But our neighbors in the national forests, where much land was also burned, mean something else when they speak of recovery. Except on lands classified as wilderness, they mean planting trees and seeding native or non-native grasses and other aggressive land husbandry techniques that are suited to their multiple-use mandate.

The distinction between the mission of the National Park Service and the mission of the Forest Service is lost on most of the public. Thus, Yellowstone National Park is perceived as a place trying to recover from damage.



Developing an acceptable and meaningful language is one of the greatest challenges we face in explaining national parks to our public. The Yellowstone fires demonstrate the complexity of this challenge.

Consider, for example, animal mortality, a reality in any wilderness. The fires that killed elk in Yellowstone were just doing what fires have done in Yellowstone for thousands of years. Elk and fire have shared the Yellowstone Plateau for a long time.

But most of the elk killed in last year's fires were killed by human-caused fires (amounting to roughly half of the acreage burned in the park). Once started, these fires behaved just like the naturally caused ones, burning vegetation in the same mosaic, creating the same variety of habitat types. The most skilled ecologists on earth could not distinguish the effects of one fire from another.

How do we respond to such a thing? Do we point to some of our burns and call them "good" and point to others and call them "bad"?

How do we discern ecological processes that are set in motion by natural burns from the violation of park principles that is represented by human-caused burns? How do we sort out all of our cultural expectations and legal definitions when nature so obstinately refuses to cooperate with us?

What we have here, and what Yellowstone's fires suggest in so many ways, is much more than just a rhetorical problem. What we really have here are many unanswered questions about human perceptions of wild lands and their management.

In the so-called age of ecology we have acquired a veneer of enlightenment that allows us to feel good about our awareness of nature. But scratch through the veneer and we still react with visceral, simplistic emotions, and we still try to apply our value system to natural processes that simply will not accept the application.

The fires of Yellowstone should remind us just how valuable the national parks are in helping to shape and stretch the national consciousness. As much as we have to learn about the natural world, we have just as much to learn about our own feelings and attitudes.

Nature is not always a gentle hostess, but she never fails to be an inspiring teacher.

Robert Barbee has been superintendent of Yellowstone National Park since 1983. Paul Schullery is a technical writer with the research division of Yellowstone.

RENEW MEMBERSHIP TODAY

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