
National
parks
Jan/Feb 84

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NPCA's Second Annual Art Exhibition Poster.

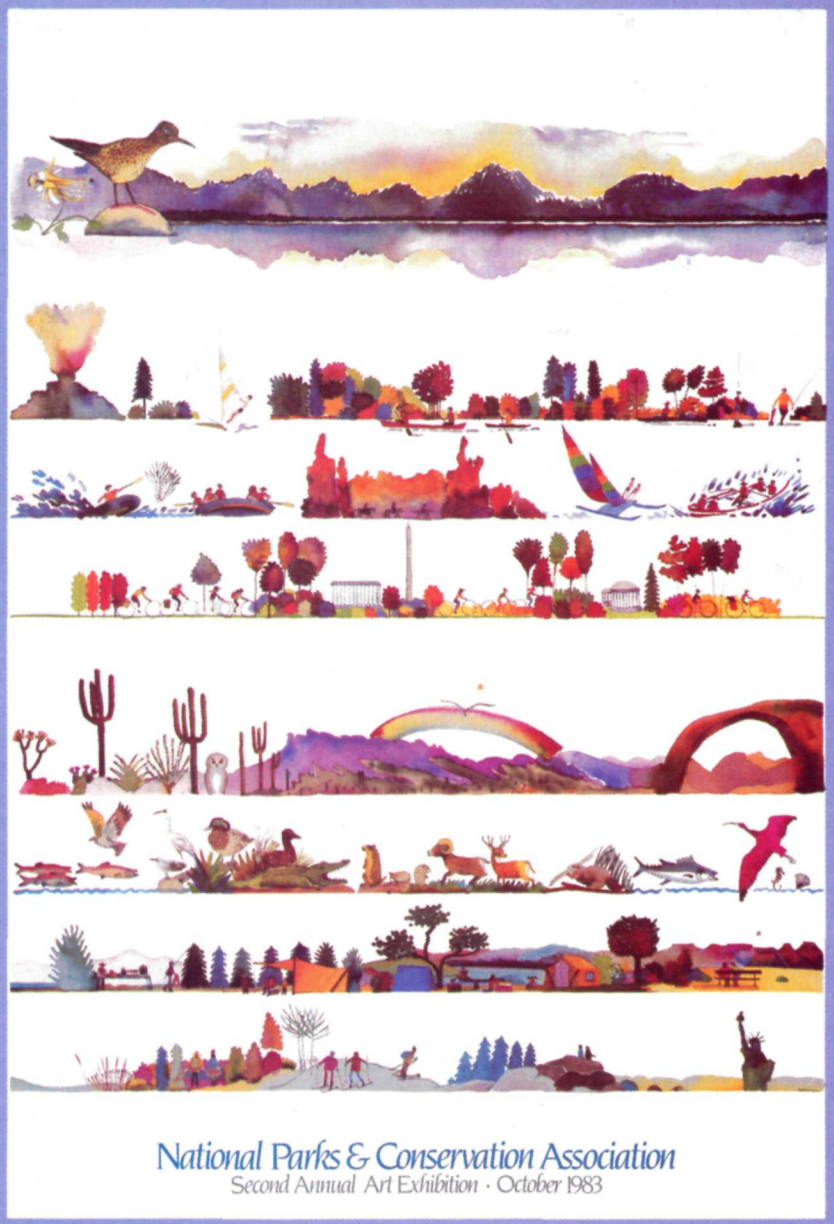
CELEBRATE WITH US.

Held during the month of October, NPCA's Second Annual Art Exhibition was a great success. You can share this event with us and make it even more successful by purchasing one of the brilliantly colored posters that commemorate the exhibition.

Washington, D.C., artist Susan Davis drew upon her talents and her deep love of our national parks to create for us a vibrant interpretation of this heritage that we all treasure. Susan Davis's fine artistic talents have highlighted an American Express calendar and covers of the *New Yorker* magazine, and it is a special treat for us to present this animated example of her work.

Entitled "Our National Parks," this striking poster is printed in luminous inks on quality glossy paper, and measures approximately 24 inches by 36 inches. This poster is guaranteed to brighten any room.

Join with us in celebrating our Second Annual Art Exhibition. Order your poster today. They also make excellent gifts.



Please send me ____ posters at $20.00 each; ____ posters signed by the artist at $40.00 each.

I have enclosed ____ as payment in full. I understand that shipping and handling are included, and that if I am not 100% satisfied, I can return the poster(s) in good condition for a full refund. I will allow four weeks for delivery.

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Commentary

Insularization of the National Parks

As one of my first functions as the new Chairman of the National Parks & Conservation Association, it is a privilege to write to the membership in this column. In the prior issue of this magazine, our retiring Chairman, Gil Stucker, wrote his final Commentary in his official capacity as Chairman. We hope he will continue to contribute to the magazine as the spirit moves him.

I would like to share some thoughts about Gil Stucker with you. Gil enjoyed a distinguished career in the field of paleontology. The majority of his career was spent with the American Museum of Natural History, but he also served several years as a seasonal ranger with the National Park Service. His breadth of experience, his dedication to the goals of conservation, his broad contacts, and his natural leadership made him the logical choice for Chairman of NPCA's Board of Trustees in 1976.

In addition, Gil's wife Alma has been of great support to him and to the other trustees. We have valued her presence, her interest, and her personal dedication to NPCA.

Gil served as Chairman through a difficult transition at NPCA, providing stability, a voice of moderation, and a quiet sense of purpose for which his fellow trustees are very grateful. He has been instrumental in helping to forge a stronger NPCA, and he and Paul Pritchard, our President, have been a most effective team. Gil has been a fine model for me to follow, and I look forward to his continuing counsel and guidance.

In 1919, when this organization was formed with the support of the first Director of the National Park Service, Stephen Mather—who I am proud to say was my grandfather—the mission of the founders was "to promote the understanding and the enjoyment, and to protect and to improve the quality of our national park units." This same statement still reflects NPCA's principal focus today. In order to accomplish this mission, a citizen group like ours—the only one so totally dedicated to our National Park System—must be stronger, larger, and more effective. First we need to increase the membership in NPCA, and I urge each member to encourage others to support our efforts by joining NPCA.

Second, I urge each member to participate in this organization. We need volunteers who can provide us with information on the status of parks in each region through our National Park Action Project. As dues-paying members, this is *your* association, and we want you to feel that your voice is heard.

As I evaluate NPCA and our ability to fulfill its mission, I am convinced that we can accomplish this through the dedicated and talented professionals who work at NPCA and the committed trustees who give their time and talent to this organization. Ahead of all of us will be the challenging, stimulating, and essential task of protecting and preserving a national system of parks that is the model for the world.

NPCA's many activities are brought to the attention of the membership through *National Parks* magazine. In addition, the *NPCA Alert,* an action-oriented bulletin, informs members about key legislative and administrative issues and is available free through the Contact program in our Washington office. In the future, you will read about the National Park Trust and legislative activities such as the Clean Air Act, the National Park Protection Act, and the Alaska sport-hunting bill.

The threats to the parks exist in many guises and forms. I urge you to help to be our eyes and ears and to communicate with us about park threats in your area. NPCA will be strengthened by a growing, aware, and participating membership; but benefiting the most will be the integrity of the National Park System itself.

—Stephen Mather McPherson
Chairman of the Board

Editor's Note

When I first came to NPCA in August 1969, I was enthusiastic that so many elements of my life would be joined in my daily work. A lifetime of caring about, and independent study of, wildlife and nature; love of outdoors and camping; memorable visits to national parks; and a background in publications management—these threads would help weave my work on NPCA's magazine.

Now, some fourteen years later, I am leaving NPCA to pursue these and other interests elsewhere, and I can report that my experience has not been disappointing. I have witnessed many changes in the organization over the years; I have met and worked with talented, fascinating, and dedicated people; and I have enjoyed the daily challenges and accomplishments of creating a significant and beautiful magazine.

No one who has not done it can imagine how many disparate elements go into creating a publication; how many places something can—and often does—go wrong; and the feeling of delight each time the newly printed issues, still smelling of ink, are delivered and our staff eagerly tears open the carton and pores over our new creation.

This first issue of 1984 celebrates wilderness, which was given official status twenty years ago come September 3, with the signing of the Wilderness Act. NPCA is honored to publish herewith an essay by the son of Howard Zahniser, the man credited with forging the Wilderness Act. By chance, 1984 brings another serendipitous closing of a circle, as the grandson of Stephen Tyng Mather—first Director of the National Park Service and first supporter of NPCA—assumes the Chairmanship of NPCA's Board of Trustees.

Many challenges lie ahead for proponents of a natural, harmonious world; but NPCA's creative and energetic staff and Board are more than equal to them. I shall cherish my years at NPCA and shall continue to wish the Association great good fortune. It has been a pleasure and an honor to participate in its mission.

—Eugenia Horstman Connally

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National Parks

Vol. 58, No. 1–2, January/February 1984

The magazine of the National Parks & Conservation Association

Commentary

Features

Special Issue: Wilderness

Departments

FRONT COVER: "Our National Parks," by Susan Davis
BACK COVER: Detail from "Our National Parks"
Created specifically for NPCA, this beautiful poster represents scenes from Everglades, Rainbow Bridge, and many other national parks and monuments.

National Parks & Conservation Association—established in 1919 by Robert Sterling Yard with the support of Stephen Mather, the first Director of the National Park Service—is an independent, private, nonprofit, public service organization, educational and scientific in character. Its responsibilities relate primarily to protecting, promoting, and enlarging the National Park System, in which it endeavors to cooperate with the National Park Service while functioning as a constructive critic. Life memberships are $1000. Annual membership dues, which include a $7 subscription to *National Parks*, are $200 Sustaining, $100 Supporting, $50 Contributing, $25 Cooperating, and $18 Associate. Student memberships are $13. Single copies are $3. Contributions and bequests are needed to carry on our work. Dues in excess of $7 and contributions are deductible from federal taxable incomes, and gifts and bequests are deductible for federal gift and estate tax purposes. Mail membership dues, correspondence concerning subscription or changes of address, and postmaster notices or undeliverable copies to National Parks & Conservation Association, 1701 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. When changing address, please allow six weeks' advance notice and send the address label from your latest issue along with new address. *National Parks* is published bimonthly. Contributed manuscripts and photographs are welcome on speculation. They should be addressed to the Editor at Association headquarters and should be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. No responsibility can be assumed for unsolicited material. Articles are published for educational purposes and do not necessarily reflect the views of this Association. Second-class postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional offices.

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Members Corner

Members to Tour With NPCA

Make your vacation plans for the new year with our NPCA Members' Tour Program. Join us for twelve days in the beautiful Pacific Northwest starting August 6; or, if you prefer, we will be spending fifteen days in the Hawaiian Islands October 18 to November 1.

NPCA tours are designed with you in mind. All accommodations are first class. Our interpretive guides provide detailed information on each area's geological history, plant and wildlife populations, and archeological resources. They are also available to answer any questions you may have en route.

NPCA tours are limited in size so that all participants receive personalized service and attention. You will have the opportunity to meet other NPCA members and share your interests and knowledge with the group. Each day takes us off the beaten track to unique national park areas not found on other, less specialized tours. The pace is active, but you won't return from one of our programs feeling overwhelmed.

The tour package includes all meals, first-class accommodations, and transportation. Taxes, gratuity, guides, educational presentations, and NPCA escorts are included.

Detailed itineraries are available from the NPCA Office of Public Affairs, 1701 18th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009. Send for information now; space is limited. We look forward to welcoming you to one of our programs soon.

Fifth Annual New River Trip

For the fifth year in a row NPCA will be hosting our annual benefit whitewater rafting adventure on the New River in West Virginia, Friday, May 25. Those of you who have joined us year after year don't need to be told what an enjoyable trip this is. Why don't the rest of you join us and discover the best whitewater experience on the entire East Coast?

The day-long trip on the river starts early and ends late. This excursion also includes a hearty lunch, guides, thrills, and the unique beauty of the majestic West Virginia mountains as seen from the oldest river in the hemisphere. Watch for the March/April issue for complete details.

In Other News . . .

Many thanks to all the members who joined us for our Fourth Annual Members' Reception and Dinner in November. The trustees and staff enjoyed the opportunity to meet you and hope to see you again soon at future NPCA events . . . the beautiful cover on this issue of the magazine is a reproduction of a poster NPCA commissioned artist Susan Davis to design in commemoration of the beauty of the national parks. The poster is available to interested members and friends; please see the advertisement on page three for details . . . a last word—NPCA is planning a tour to Alaska in 1985. Watch for details in upcoming issues of the magazine.

Feedback

We're interested in what you have to say. Write Feedback, 1701 18th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. (Letters may be edited for space considerations.)

Safari Club Takes Exception

As president-elect of the Safari Club International, I wish to convey my deep disappointment with the article "Gunning for the Alaska Lands Act" [July/August 1983].

According to the article, Mr. T. Destry Jarvis, the NPCA Director of Federal Activities, made a statement which claimed that the SCI attempted to introduce legislation last year which would have opened all national parks to sport hunting. This statement is wholly and uncategorically untrue.

The Safari Club International is inexorably opposed to hunting in national parks. We favor correcting the designation of certain lands in Alaska which had been traditionally open to sport hunting prior to the Alaska National Interest Conservation Act of 1980. Further, Safari Club International supported the amendment to S. 49 adopted by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources which ensures that land redesignations authorized by S. 49 will not be employed later by any interest group as a precedent to redesignate national parks in any other area of the U.S. We would be happy to lend our support to your efforts to ensure that our national parks are managed wisely.

Donald G. McMillan
Tucson, Arizona

Congressional sources informed National Parks & Conservation Association that Safari Club International sought support for the introduction of a bill that would have allowed hunting within the National Park System. In addition, the 1980 Alaska Lands Act was a consensus among all *concerned; and conservation groups conceded quite a bit. NPCA believes the Act should stand as is.* —*Editor*

ESP

During the early morning hours of September 24, 1983, I had a dream about Interior Secretary James Watt. On a beautiful autumn day with puffy white clouds sailing past an azure blue sky, an adult bald eagle glides low over the White House. The national bird proudly holds an American flag in its beak and tows a banner from its talons which proclaims "Watt Must Go."

Richard B. Peacock
Arlington, Virginia

Ras Muhammed Designated

We have received with pleasure your letter expressing your interest to assist us in making the ideas related to Ras Muhammed National Park a reality for both Egypt and the world [Latest Word, September/October 1983].

It is a pleasure to inform you that Law No. 102 (1983) concerning national parks has been issued. Ras Muhammed area will be the first designated natural reserve park in Egypt.

We look forward to working with National Parks & Conservation Association in our efforts to preserve our natural heritage.

Tawfik A. Ismail
Minister of Tourism & Civil Aviation
Cairo, Egypt

On behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, I wish to express our congratulations to the National Parks & Conservation Association and your trustee, Dr. Eugenie Clark, for the dedication and fellowship you have demonstrated for the Ras Muhammed National Park.

In Egypt, the people, the government, and the scientific community recognize the unique natural resources of our country and the international support shown by organizations such as the National Parks & Conservation Association in helping them protect an extremely beautiful and valuable resource.

The National Parks & Conservation Association has assisted leaders around the world to develop citizen leadership and create such places as Ras Muhammed National Park. We hope that the Association will continue to uphold this important mission through the United Nations and others.

Mostafa K. Tolba
Executive Director
United Nations Environment Programme

Channel Islands Litter

I thought the NPCA report concerning acquisition of segments of the Channel Islands in the September/October issue was both informative and timely. These islands offer a taste to the visitor of how California's mainland coast looked before man's influence became visible. If funding for this acquisition is approved by the Senate, it will be a great step in preserving an irreplaceable California wildland.

As recreational boat traffic has increased, so has the amount of flotsam in seemingly uninhabited coves. In addition, too many recreational divers take more game than legally allowed, depleting breeding stock of such fundamental species as abalone, rock scallop, and kelp bass. The former problem is due to thoughtlessness, the latter to greed. The acquisition will be a victory to those concerned with protecting precious wildlands.

Craig Anderson
Elsah, Illinois

Looks Can Be Deceiving

Regarding the Grand Canyon shot on the cover of the November/December 1983 issue of *National Parks*—it is super! As for the experience of going through the canyon these days with the mud and the vegetation on the banks—blecch.

Garth Marston
Boston, Massachusetts

CORRECTION

The photograph of the Florida panther that appeared on page 29 of *National Parks* November/December issue should have been credited to the Florida Fish and Game Commission rather than the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Photo Tips

by Ed Cooper

The work of Ed Cooper, who is considered one of the foremost scenic photographers in the United States, has appeared in more than 100 books. His most recent book is San Juan Islands.

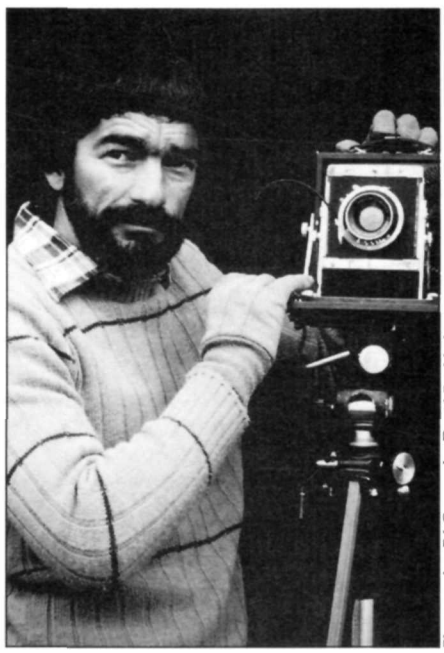
With such a wide variety of filters available, it is often difficult for a photographer, especially a beginner, to know which ones to use. I will try to simplify the matter, focusing on filters useful to photographers working with 35mm color film. There are basically two types of filters: one alters the color balance of the image or changes the density of a particular color or area; the second alters the image itself.

In the first category are skylight, ultraviolet, polarizer, red, orange, and other color filters, as well as light-balancing and color-compensating filters. Neutral density and dual density filters are also in this category, but require more complex application than can be discussed here.

In this first category, the most useful filter you can have, in my opinion, is the polarizer. I rarely shoot a scene without looking through a polarizer first, turning it to judge the optimum angle. With a single lens reflex camera, you can see the effect clearly through the viewfinder. A polarizer can improve color saturation, make skies bluer, make water clearer, and eliminate unwanted reflections.

Next most important, I believe, are a series of light-balancing filters such as the Decamired filter set, which includes four warm-up and four cool-down filters. The warm-up filters appear yellowish, and cool-down filters bluish. In practice, I find that the warm-up filters are the most useful. They are designed to be used with a Gossen color temperature meter; but with practice, I find that eyeballing the situation is sufficient.

For example, bright sunshine and deep blue sky—especially at higher altitudes—often create shadows that are far too blue. In such cases, you won't go wrong using the second strongest warm-up filter in the set. In the Tiffen Decamired set of filters, the R6 filter is the second strongest.



Photographer Ed Cooper, by David Buchholz

Ultraviolet and skylight filters are designed to compensate for the blueness at higher altitudes, but I find the warm-up filters more effective. You can also use warm-up filters to artificially alter the color balance to make a sunset warmer or add color to a fall foliage scene.

There is one other filter for color that I rarely use, but occasionally it is just the thing. If you have a sunset view where overcast has killed all color, leaving only the bright spot of the sun, an orange filter can sometimes save the photo. The scene must be primarily monochromatic to begin with—overcast sky, sun, water, and silhouetted objects—for this filter solution to work.

If you shoot in black and white, the yellow, orange, and red filters will make blue sky progressively darker. Combine them with a polarizer and you will get some really unusual effects, particularly with infrared film.

In the second category of filters are close-up, soft-focus, cross-star, multi-image, and a wide variety of other filters used for special photographic effects.

Personally, I do not use any of the filters in the second category. I feel that nature itself offers such a wide spectrum for creativity that I don't need to artificially alter the image. In some cases, special effects similar to those achieved with these filters can be obtained in other ways.

For example, the cross-star filter is designed to create a star-like image over the sun. A similar effect can be obtained without using a filter by shooting with a wide angle lens and stopping down as far as your lens permits.

A soft-focus or diffusion filter will give a pleasing effect on some scenes. A similar effect can be obtained, however, by smearing petroleum jelly over the lens.

I suppose that multi-image filters have their place, but I leave this kind of experimentation to others.

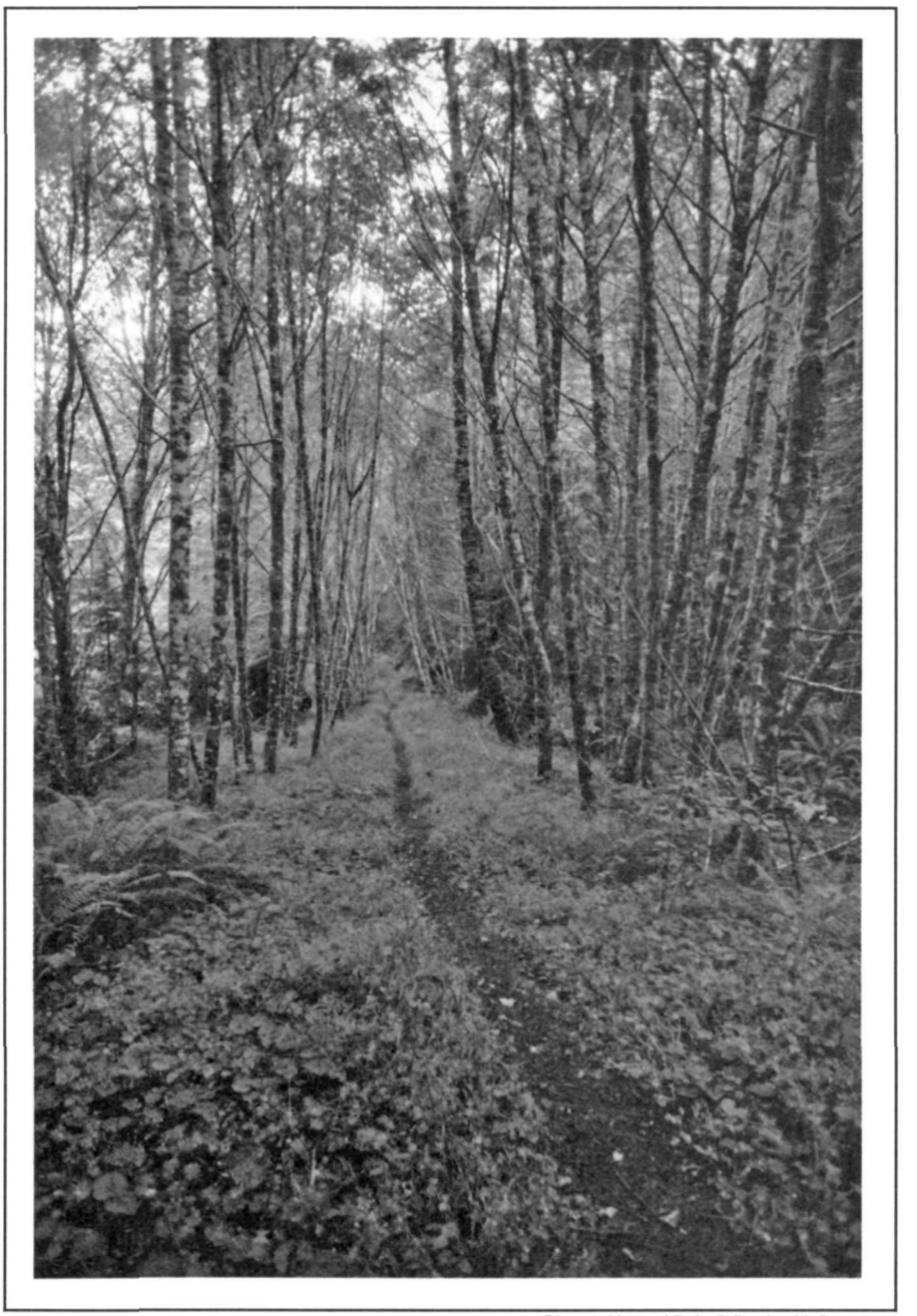
One of the practical problems when dealing with filters is to have your entire set—of whatever you choose—fit *all* your lenses. Good luck. This is practically impossible if you have a variety of lenses with different front-element diameters. You will probably find that you need a number of different diameter filter rings to fit your different lenses, plus some step-up or step-down rings to adapt to your set of filters.

If you are just starting to buy filters, you should get ones that will fit the largest lens you have, or plan to have. Then you won't have to buy the same filter in different sizes. If you can't find the right size filter holder for your lens, you can always use the time-honored method of holding the filter *carefully* over the lens with the fingertips while shooting. *Caution:* Filters are sometimes dropped and broken using this method, as I can testify.

I will conclude here by suggesting that you not load up on too many filters. Make sure *you* are the master of the accessories; don't let the accessories take control. Remember that filters are only an aid; they are not a substitute for good composition and camera technique.

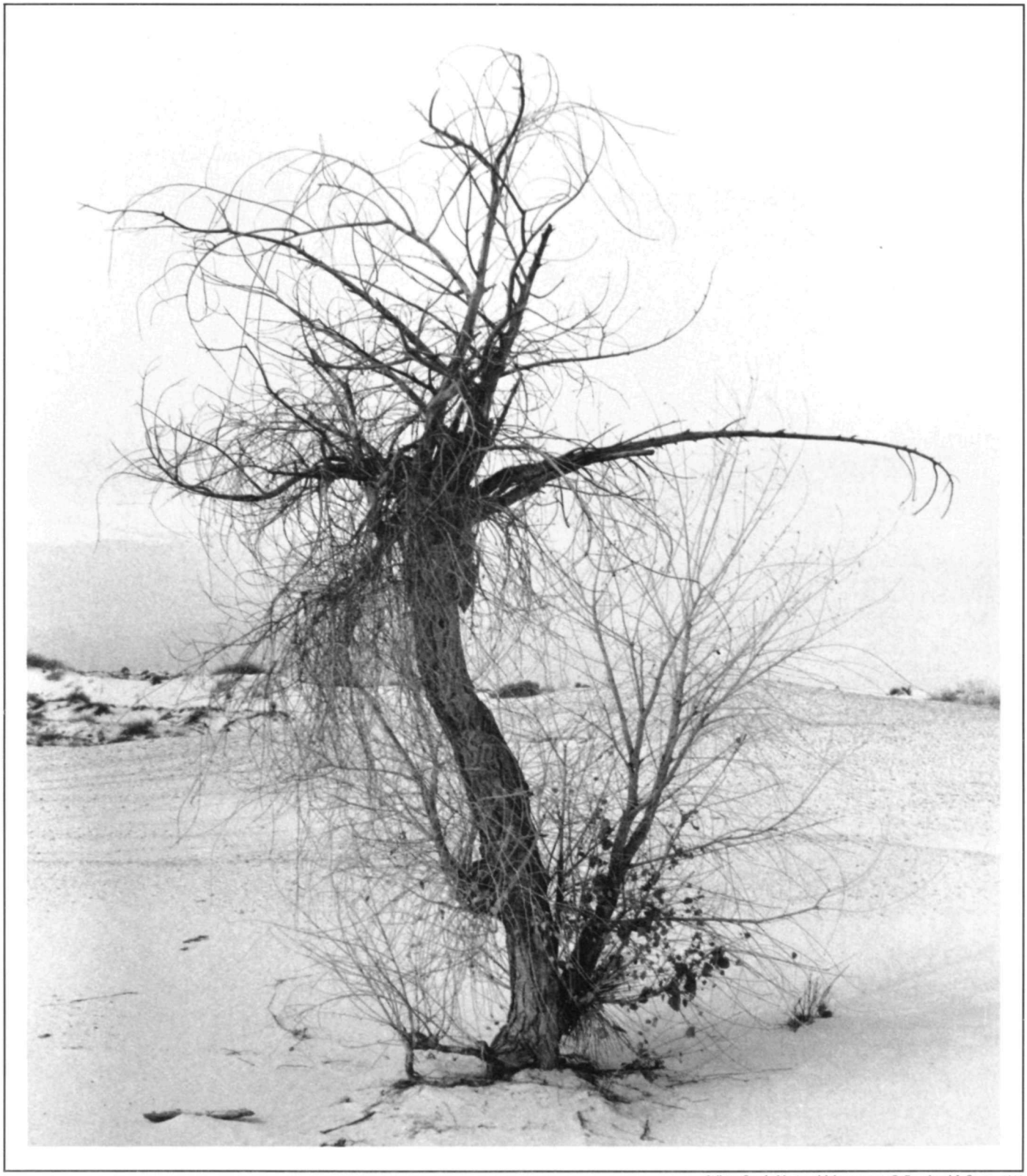
PORTRAITS OF WILDERNESS

Text by John Muir Photos by Bernhard J. Suess



Olympic National Park, © Bernhard J. Suess, 1983

. . . The tendency nowadays to wander in wildernesses is delightful to see. Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wildness is a necessity; and that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life. . . .



White Sands National Monument, © Bernhard J. Suess, 1983

. . . the great deserts in Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and New Mexico . . . which a few years ago pioneers were afraid of, as places of desolation and death, are now taken as pastures . . . and of course their plant treasures are passing away. . . . Only a few of the bitter, thorny, unbiteable shrubs are left, and the sturdy cactuses that defend themselves with bayonets and spears. . . .

Glacier National Park, © Bernhard J. Suess, 1983

. . . outspread over all the range like embroidery, their silvery branches interlacing on a thousand mountains, singing their way home to the sea: the small rills, with hard roads to travel, dropping from ledge to ledge, pool to pool, like chains of sweet-toned bells . . . giving life to all the landscape. . . .

Text excerpted from Our National Parks *by John Muir, published in 1901. Bernhard J. Suess' work has appeared in the* British Journal of Photography *and other publications.*

HOWARD ZAHNISER

Father of the Wilderness Act

Immediately after the 1956 defeat of Echo Park Dam [Dinosaur National Monument, Colorado], an elated Howard Zahniser dashed off a four-page draft of a plan for a national system of wilderness preservation. He circulated it to Robert Marshall's brother George, and then to a widening circle of friends and conservation colleagues. Finally Zahniser and other preservationists persuaded Senator Hubert Humphrey and Representative John P. Saylor to introduce bills to the Second Session of the Eighty-fourth Congress.

As written in large part by Zahniser, the bill stated that it was the intent of Congress "to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring reservoir of wilderness."

This original proposal was big and bold. Zahniser determined to capitalize on the momentum of the Echo Park decision even at the risk of engendering opposition that less ambitious proposals would have avoided.

The concept of a wilderness system marked an innovation in the history of the American preservation movement. It expressed, in the first place, a determination to take the offensive. Previous friends of the wilderness had been largely concerned with defending it against various forms of development. But the post-Echo Park mood was confident, encouraging a bold, positive gesture.

Second, the system meant support of wilderness in general rather than of a particular wild region. As a result, debate focused on the theoretical value of wilderness in the abstract, not on a local economic situation. Finally, a national wilderness preservation system would give an unprecedented degree of protection to wild country. . . .

Congress lavished more time and effort on the wilderness bill than on any measure in American conservation history. From June 1957 until May 1964 there were nine separate hearings on the proposal, collecting over six thousand pages of testimony. The bill itself was modified and rewritten or resubmitted sixty-six different times. . . .

Howard Zahniser attended every congressional hearing on the matter, including those conducted in various western states, making his final appearance on April 28, 1964, a week before his death. [*Editor's note: Less than six months later Congress passed the Wilderness Act.*]

by Roderick Nash

Howard Zahniser accepted the position as executive secretary and editor of the Wilderness Society in 1945. His wife Alice Hayden Zahniser was then pregnant with me, their fourth child. The new job meant leaving a successful and promising civil service career. Despite the inflated job title, he was—in fact—the only full-time paid staff person. Pragmatically, the job move was for Zahnie—as his friends and associates called him—ill-advised.

Zahnie, however, was a pragmatist only as a last resort. Fundamentally, he was an optimist: recall that in the mid-1940s there was no broad-based environmental movement. Few people had ever heard of conservation.

When asked what he did for a living during his early Wilderness Society years, Zahnie would say he was a conservationist. The response would be, "Yes I know. And I'm enjoying chatting with you, but what do you *do*?" My father would gently correct the misapprehension: he had not said conversationalist, but conservationist.

Zahnie inherited his optimism. His father, the Reverend Archibald H. M. Zahniser, made 227 pastoral calls during the first quarter of the year of his death due to heart trouble. My grandfather's optimism was rooted in his Christian faith that anyone could be saved from eternal punishment. Zahnie's faith, as it manifested in his wilderness advocacy, was that anyone could be persuaded that wilderness was of transcendent importance, that it was

Zahnie grew up in western Pennsylvania, and learned to love its Allegheny landscape early in life.

essential to the "eternity of the future."

Zahnie's philosophy held that without wilderness, humanity would find itself materially and spiritually impoverished. In 1964, the year of his own fatal heart attack just four months before the Wilderness Act became law, Zahnie also made his quota of "pastoral calls"—on Capitol Hill, in executive offices, newspapers, and the offices of his conservationist peers. What made him so effective?

A lifelong friend of my father's once wrote that nature was Zahnie's God. Nature may have been his foremost cathedral, but Zahnie's theology was Christian. True, his family's evangelical stream of Christianity did not become his path. But the tradition and example of commitment to a transcendent hope shored up his strength and will through grueling reversals and frustrations in that decade of struggle for the Wilderness Act.

Lobbying from a position of weakness, as Zahnie first did, requires the patience, the art, of listening. You can never write off the opponent. Zahnie's point of view was that you must envision how an opponent fits into the long-range purpose you espouse. You can get frustrated, but never angry.

Although Colorado Congressman Wayne N. Aspinall's political interests and legislative skill as a committee chairman constantly frustrated my father, Representative Aspinall always thought of Zahnie as a friend. My brother recalls only one time that our father resorted to *ad hominem* argument—when he said he did not think Barry Goldwater was fit to be President.

Zahnie grew up in western Pennsylvania, and learned to love its Allegheny landscape early in life. An elementary school teacher awakened in him a particular love of birds and bird-watching. His mother was descended from Mary Jemison, who was captured by the Seneca Tribe and chose to remain with them as an adult; and Zahnie was proud of his Seneca Indian heritage.

In 1930, after college and a year as a reporter for the *Pittsburgh Press*, Zahnie came to Washington, D.C., to take an editorial position at the Department of Commerce. The next year he went to the Department of Agriculture as assistant editor of the Bureau of Biological Survey, which later became the Fish and Wildlife Service under the Department of the Interior.

Here he came under the tutelage of naturalist Edward Alexander Preble, for whom I am named. Preble was the single most potent force impelling Zahnie toward a career in conservation.

Zahnie spent about ten years at the Survey/Service, and then transferred to the Bureau of Plant Industry as research writer and head of information. He stayed there until the end of World War II. His move to the Wilderness Society was inspired by a great urge to serve the cause of conservation, which had been building in him.

During the decade of struggle for the Wilderness Act, I remember family packtrips out West and canoe trips in the Boundary Waters country. But what first comes to mind is the beaming smile of a courtly tailor in the Georgetown section of Washington, D.C.—E. Sye Silas, I believe his name was.

Mr. Silas made the suits my father wore to work, and these curious garments might have come from the hilarious contract scene in the Marx Brothers' movie, *A Night at the Opera*. Instead of the endless contract streaming out of Chico's inside coat pocket, reams of wilderness propaganda would issue from my father's suit jackets.

Mr. Silas had crafted virtual fabric file cabinets inside those jackets. They stored sheaves of reprints of Scripps-Howard editorials, congres-

Zahnie's philosophy held that without wilderness, humanity would find itself materially and spiritually impoverished.

Mr. Silas made the suits my father wore to work, and these curious garments allowed reams of wilderness propaganda to issue from my father's suit jackets.

sional speeches, committee bill prints, and the *Congressional Record.*

As a youngster, I could barely lift one of those fully loaded coats. Mr. Silas—an unsung hero, or accomplice—in the Wilderness Bill effort, also managed to fabricate a small bookmobile inside those coats. My father generally stocked one to three volumes, including Henry David Thoreau, William Blake, and Dante Alighieri.

In what Zahnie called "the endless marble corridors" of Washington politics, this wilderness buff's dunnage produced both the ammunition for advances and the inspiration for retreats. The retreats were mostly impromptu; stolen moments on bus or streetcar rides to Capitol Hill, or in congressional offices, waiting for an appointment.

Thoreau was his guru of wilderness, and he marveled at the pictures Blake and Dante painted of the cosmos. Perhaps he also saw a microcosm of Dante's *Divine Comedy* in all of the legislative maneuverings.

Our household mascot during the Wilderness Bill years was my sister's oversized Teddy bear, whose twin appellations were "Gladly, the Cross-eyed Bear" and "Wilderness Bill." The names reflected our father's wonderful humor and delight in wordplay. The first name parodied the evangelical Christian hymn, "Gladly the Cross I'd Bear."

Love of words informed Zahnie's exacting choice of language in drafting the definition of wilderness, as his search for the word "untrammeled" exemplifies. The Act's legislative historians have shown that "untrammeled" was *la mot juste.* It combined precision with the spaciousness needed to open new worlds of wilderness protected by federal statute, not by administrative whim.

David Brower, then head of the Sierra Club, eulogized my father as "the constant advocate" of wilderness preservation. Attempting to recapture what personality traits made Zahnie so effective as a lobbyist also leads me back to household memories.

The worst punishment in our house was to be made to "sit there quietly and think about what you just said." Or did. As we sat, initial fury would wind down to feelings of foolishness. In those moments of imposed self-examination, we learned patience. We encountered the order of our parents' universe by listening to the reverberation of our own flak.

My father could similarly sit—an active verb in this usage—with legislators and their aides, or with other conservation leaders whose will to continue the Wilderness Bill fight might be flagging. I saw this in the final years when we spent weekends lobbying on Capitol Hill. I overheard it in long-distance telephone conversations at home in the evenings. Inevitably the purpose, the cause of wilderness, would be shored up and envisioned anew for whomever was on the phone.

Toward the end of the legislative struggle, Zahnie wrote of the growing prospect of achieving enduring wilderness protection. The importance was not so much in this step we are taking, he said, but in the fact that so many of us are taking such a great step together. In the final legislative vote, there was but one dissent.

It was fitting that my mother attended the White House signing of the Wilderness Act, to represent both my father and herself. The Wilderness Bill had been, in many ways, their fifth offspring. And now it has a life of its own.

Ed Zahniser worked on conservation and labor magazines before he began writing books and pamphlets for the National Park Service in 1977. He and his wife Christine Hope Duewel live with their son Justin in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

The importance was not so much in this step we are taking, he said, but in the fact that so many of us are taking such a great step together.

Signatures in Snow

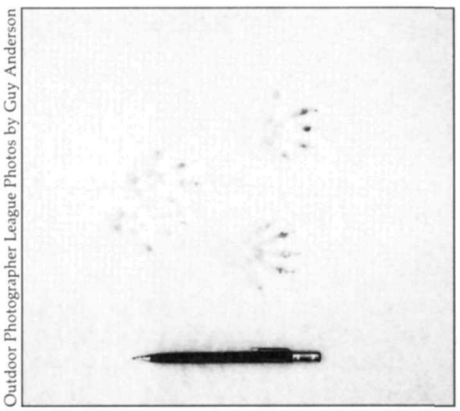
Coyote, pine marten, and weasel imprint their stories on the winter landscape, by Guy Anderson, Jr.

When the chill of winter finally sets in, a good book about the outdoors and a comfortable chair by the fireplace will help to reactivate those instincts that answer to the call of the wild and, for some, may eventually motivate a trip afield.

For the uninitiated, that first snow-time excursion may be disappointing. John Muir and other masters of observation saw the fields and forests teeming with life and adventure. But to the untrained eye, a snow-covered landscape may seem cold and unresponsive. There is at first a feeling of exclusion, because in the world of the wild, survival depends on stealth.

You can read a forest just as you'd read a book, but wildlife biographies are written in a different language. Until you understand that language well, winter landscapes will provide some of the most rewarding and enjoyable forest-reading.

In other seasons, the visual record of an animal's life is usually faint, fleeting, and well-camouflaged. But



Outdoor Photographer League Photos by Guy Anderson

Photo 1

consider the day after a snowstorm. A perfectly clean white page has been provided for the inscriptions of countless creatures. Each account carries the bold signature of its author in the size, shape, and depth of track; length and width of stride; type of gait; origin and destination. These clues will provide some idea of the size and weight of the animal, how it travels, its food preferences and sleeping habits, and what it fears.

In Photo 1, for example, the two hind feet (the larger prints) are parallel and are placed in front of the forepaws. Such a pattern is typical of animals that travel by bounding rather than walking or trotting. Fairly long toes are evident as well. From the snowprints I could see that this animal made short trips from tree to tree. Obviously, the animal is a tree climber and fears to expose himself too long in the open. The trail led to a pine cone that had been dug up from its winter cache and shredded to expose the seeds. Enough clues? These tracks belong to a squirrel. In this particular forest, it was almost certainly a Douglas squirrel, or chickaree.

Another set of bounding prints is seen in Photo 2. These are larger. The length of the bound is commonly three feet, occasionally much longer. Although the trail stayed close to cover, it never led to a large tree. Beneath a low bush, I saw a depression where the animal had lain, and in another place I found small, round droppings. The bounds, the pellets, and the habit of resting

Photo 2

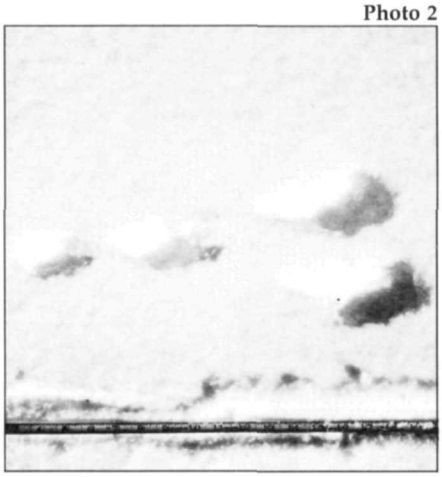


Photo 3

Photo 4

on the ground all point to a rabbit. The oversized hindpaw makes snowshoe hare a good possibility. The snowshoe, or varying hare, needs a big foot to keep him on top of the deep snows that cover his home territory each winter.

At a lower elevation, where the snowfall is much lighter, another type of rabbit track is observed. Photo 3 shows a firm, arrow-shaped rear paw print, with an occasional spread between the middle toes when a long bound was taken. Last night's snow partially filled the tracks, disclosing that this animal was foraging during the night—a common practice of rabbits. This fellow is a neighbor of mine, and I know him to be a black-tailed jackrabbit.

The tracks in Photo 4 should look familiar. The four toes and claw marks are typical of the dog family. No member of the cat family would have left the print, since cat claws are retractile. It is difficult to distinguish whether this track is coyote or domestic dog except by association with the surroundings. In wilderness, dog tracks without accompanying human prints are more likely coyote. The nature and direction of travel can also help. A pet dog in the woods is usually having a good time. His tracks are here, there, everywhere, as he takes in all there is to explore. But a coyote in the woods is at work. His trail is more direct and purposeful, following only the scents that will become his next meal.

Like the fox—whose prints would be smaller—in walking and trotting gaits the coyote places the hindfoot in the print left by the opposite forefoot. The result is an evenly spaced series of apparently single prints. However, in pursuit of prey or while fleeing the approach of an enemy, he will break into a gallop, shown by the tracks in Photo 5.

As you look closely at some tracks, you may begin to see the personality of the animal without knowing what it is. Photo 6 shows staggered pairs of prints with a 20-inch stride. Occasionally, there are breaks of stride where a group of three or four prints were made rather than a pair. This indicates that the animal traveled at an easy lope, with one forepaw placed slightly in front of the other and the hindpaws usually falling in the prints of the forefeet. The straight-line trail between objects of interest was that of a hungry predator rather than wary prey. Without firm snow to record details of the paw, it is sometimes helpful to refer to a local checklist of mammals and use a process of elimination based on clues gathered. In this case, the tracks are those of a pine marten.

Photo 7 also shows tracks that are difficult to identify. These tracks were made in fresh snow, but were very shallow. Firmer snow revealed that each print was actually made by two tiny paws, side by side. The trail obviously belonged to a hunter, searching through hollow logs and brushy thickets for a meal. By process of elimination, my guess was correct, but I was puzzled by the regularly alternating stride lengths: eight inches between two marks, then about 24 inches to the next. The trail resembled a coded message—two dots and a dash. A check with Olaus Murie's *Field Guide to Animal Tracks* confirmed that alternate long and short sets of tracks are characteristic of weasels.

A glimpse of a weasel is a rare sight, especially in the winter, when they are all white except for eyes, nose, and tip of tail. Their tracks, however, were common on the fresh snow that day, and I began to feel their little black eyes following me.

Indeed, as I headed back to the cabin at the end of the day, I could sense the presence of many animals in the quiet woods. Gliding along on a pair of cross-country skis, I wondered whether any of them were examining the narrow parallel tracks I had left behind, and what they would learn about me from their investigations. It was an interesting question to ponder, like the last chapter of a good book, while sitting in my armchair by the fire.

Freelance writer and photographer Guy Anderson, Jr., was formerly assistant chief naturalist at Lassen Volcanic National Park in California.

Photo 5

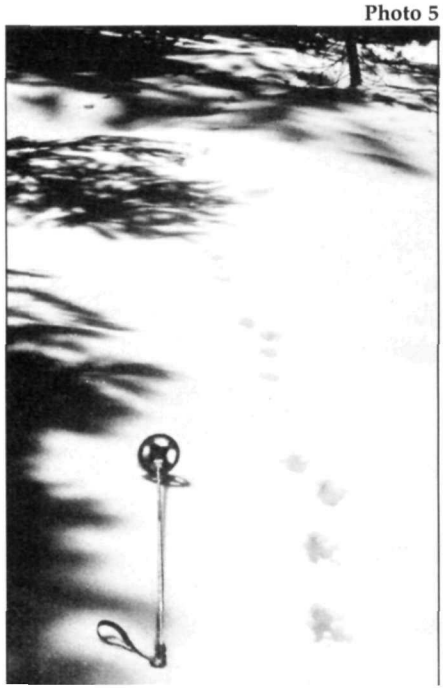


Photo 6

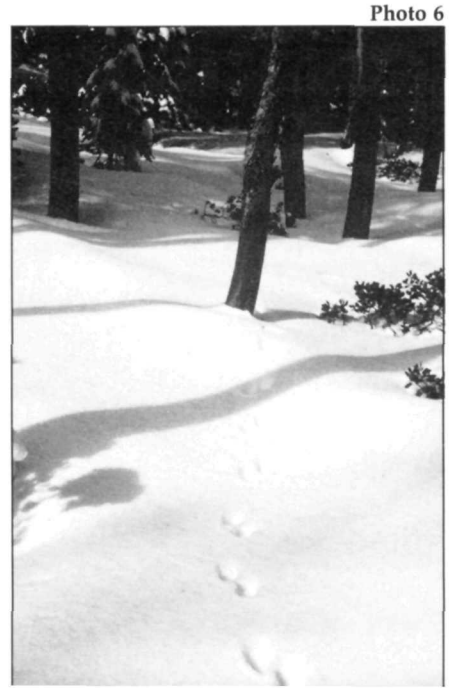
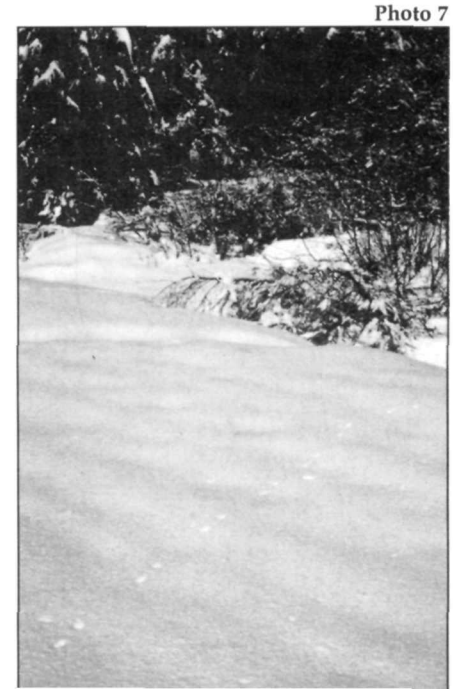


Photo 7



Great Smokies
NEW HOPE FOR AN OLD DREAM

by Marjorie Corbett

Great Smoky Mountains, by Paul A. Moore, Tennessee Conservation Department

In 1943, while the attention of the United States was turned to a war across the sea, an uncomplicated legal agreement was struck between a small county in North Carolina and the federal government. Forty years later, the agreement remains unfulfilled, a thorn in the side of the federal government, and a major stumbling block to wilderness advocates at Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

This year, for the first time, there are signs that Congress may formulate a legislative solution to forty years of disagreement, with the probable result that 89 percent of the park would come under protection of the Wilderness Act. If legislative proposals are successful, they would come at a particularly opportune time, as 1984 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the park and the twentieth anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

It all started with "the 1943 agreement," a document whose purpose was to settle land issues relating to the filling of Fontana Dam, a huge new impoundment on the southern border of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The Department of the Interior, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), the state of North Carolina, and Swain County were all party to this agreement.

Basically, the TVA promised to transfer to the park 44,000 acres of wilderness bought from Swain County, if the park would construct a road along the north shore of the reservoir to replace one that had been flooded by the dam. All this was to occur promptly as soon as federal funds were available after the war emergency.

The TVA did transfer the land to the park, and the park and the state began to fulfill their obligations in road construction, slowly, in fits and starts. By 1957, only bits and pieces of the route had been constructed, and the whole project seemed to languish for lack of interest. Transportation needs in the area had largely been met by upgrading other roads, and this particular road had become controversial.

Conservationists had begun to speak out against the road. They were beginning to see that building another road through the Smokies would only worsen car traffic. The North Shore Road's completion, they also argued, would degrade a particularly wild sector of the park, that same 44,000 acres the TVA had once held. Conservationists in both North Carolina and Tennessee, particularly the members of the venerable Great Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, spoke strongly in defense of that acreage.

But county commissioners in Bryson City were adamant. Meetings were held, the Park Service was asked to honor its agreement. Before new construction plans got very far, however, then-NPS Director George Hartzog surprised everybody in 1965 by making a quiet deal with Swain County's commissioners to build an entirely different road in place of the controversial North Shore Road. This new road would fulfill the Park Service's obligations and would benefit the county by cutting right through the heart of the park and directing a large portion of tourist traffic through Townsend, Tennessee, on the north border, down to Bryson City, county seat of Swain County. This road was dubbed "the Transmountain Road."

The Transmountain Road would have had obvious economic advantages for Swain County, whose commissioners envisioned the creation of another Gatlinburg—a "gateway to the Smokies"—within their hometown, with all its attendant development and tax revenue. Conservationists, including the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society, NPCA, and the Great Smokies Hiking Club, were aghast. This new road would, if anything, be even more destructive to an even greater area of the park.

By this time, the Wilderness Act had just passed, and the first wilderness hearings were about to be held for the Smokies. The new road proposal was put on hold, and conservationists eagerly anticipated the outcome of the hearings. Feelings for wilderness were running high, and they expected that some kind of compromise would be worked out favoring protection of the parkland.

But conservationists weren't counting on the Bryson City commissioners. Rejecting all compromise proposals, county officials

said they wanted either the original road or the Transmountain Road, or they would "take back" that 44,000-acre tract that was transferred as part of the agreement. The National Park Service scrambled to come up with studies, alternate proposals; over the course of the next five years, various Department of Interior Secretaries met with the commissioners.

Finally, in 1970, in a meeting between state, federal, and Bryson City officials, a cash payment was suggested for the first time as a kind of alternate settlement to the construction of new roads. Commissioners seemed amenable to the idea. An NPS proposal for a "Circle-the-Smokies-Drive" (now the Foothills Parkway) began to have more appeal to local communities as a way of directing tourist dollars to surrounding towns while keeping development outside the park. A major stumbling block in settling both the 1943 agreement and the fate of wilderness lands in the Smokies had disappeared.

Now the only obstacles that remained were ones of political process. Because of the nature of the original agreement and stipulations of the Wilderness Act, any solution had to be codified in federal law, and such a law would have to be supported by more than the commissioners of one small county in North Carolina.

In 1983, after a number of failed efforts over the years, all the pieces seemed to fall into place. A few kinks still need ironing out, but, as Leroy Fox, long-time activist in the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, remarks, "There's no other time that people can make so much political hay out of this as now."

The way Fox sees it, a "Great Smoky Mountains Wilderness Act" could be a great boon to political figures in both North Carolina and Tennessee, especially during a year when both states are gathering steam to celebrate the park's fiftieth anniversary, hoping to draw even more attention to the most visited national park in the country. At the same time, the Republican party is looking for some kind of action to give credibility to its conservation record during a presidential election year. To be able to settle a "local rights" issue *and* establish a long-awaited park wilderness area in one bold stroke would do the trick nicely.

Senators Jim Sasser (D) and Howard H. Baker, Jr. (R) of Tennessee have drafted and proposed legislation that would do just that. The bill provides for establishment of 467,000 acres of wilderness within park boundaries, or about 89 percent of the park. Conservationists, the Park Service, and political players more or less agree on this figure.

Rep. Jamie Clarke, (D-N.C.), whose district includes Swain County, has introduced a bill to compensate the county, without mention of the wilderness issue, but observers say he would not oppose wilderness designation. Governor Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, a Republican, was instrumental in pushing for the Baker–Sasser bill, and has been an enthusiastic supporter of most conservation measures in the state. North Carolina's Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. has also openly supported resolution of both the road issue and the wilderness issue.

The only political figures who have come out in opposition to proposed legislation are North Carolina's own Senator Jesse Helms (R) and his colleague, Senator John East (R). Helms, who faces a tough race against frontrunner Governor Hunt in his next re-election campaign, has raised quite a vocal opposition to the settlement proposals. Swain County constituents, looking forward to receiving the $9.5 million cash settlement, aren't exactly pleased with Senator Helms' obstruction of the bill. This issue will undoubtedly become a political football in the state during 1984.

Senator Helms' objections are based on the arguments of a fairly small group with a dubious gripe. The North Shore Cemetery Association emerged as a small but vocal force during draft management plan hearings for the park in the seventies. The group, sometimes referred to as "the cemetery crowd," says that the Park Service *must* build a passable road along the north shore of Fontana Reservoir in order to allow citizens easy passage to the gravesites of their ancestors.

This request has the Park Service a bit confused, because they have been providing free truck and barge access to these gravesites on a regular basis for years, and had heard no complaints before. In fact, it is written into the park's General Management Plan that the Park Service must provide such access, whether or not the land in question becomes designated wilderness. The "cemetery crowd," however, has filed a suit against the signatories of the 1943 agreement, claiming they had been denied access to their family burial sites.

One addendum to this story is that a relative of one of the group's leaders was arrested within the park for poaching near these burial sites. In response to his arrest, the poacher filed yet another suit, this one claiming that the 44,000-acre parcel—on which he was hunting—was never really part of the park, and should be removed from the park.

Despite these complications, all the planets seem to be lined up for resolution of these problems. And, finally, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park—a park that has been internationally celebrated as a Biosphere Reserve and a World Heritage Site—may enjoy protection within the National Wilderness Preservation System. Conservationists expect other parties, including Senator Helms, to produce their own versions of the 1983 Baker–Sasser bill, and that those bills will coalesce sometime this year into one legislative package that can find support in both the House and the Senate. As Leroy Fox would say, designating wilderness at the Smokies during the park's 50th anniversary year would be the "icing on the cake."

Marjorie Corbett is Features Editor of National Parks *magazine.*

A Walk In The Forest Primeval

In which the author discovers luxuriant wilderness in a forgotten corner of Shenandoah National Park, by Eileen Lambert

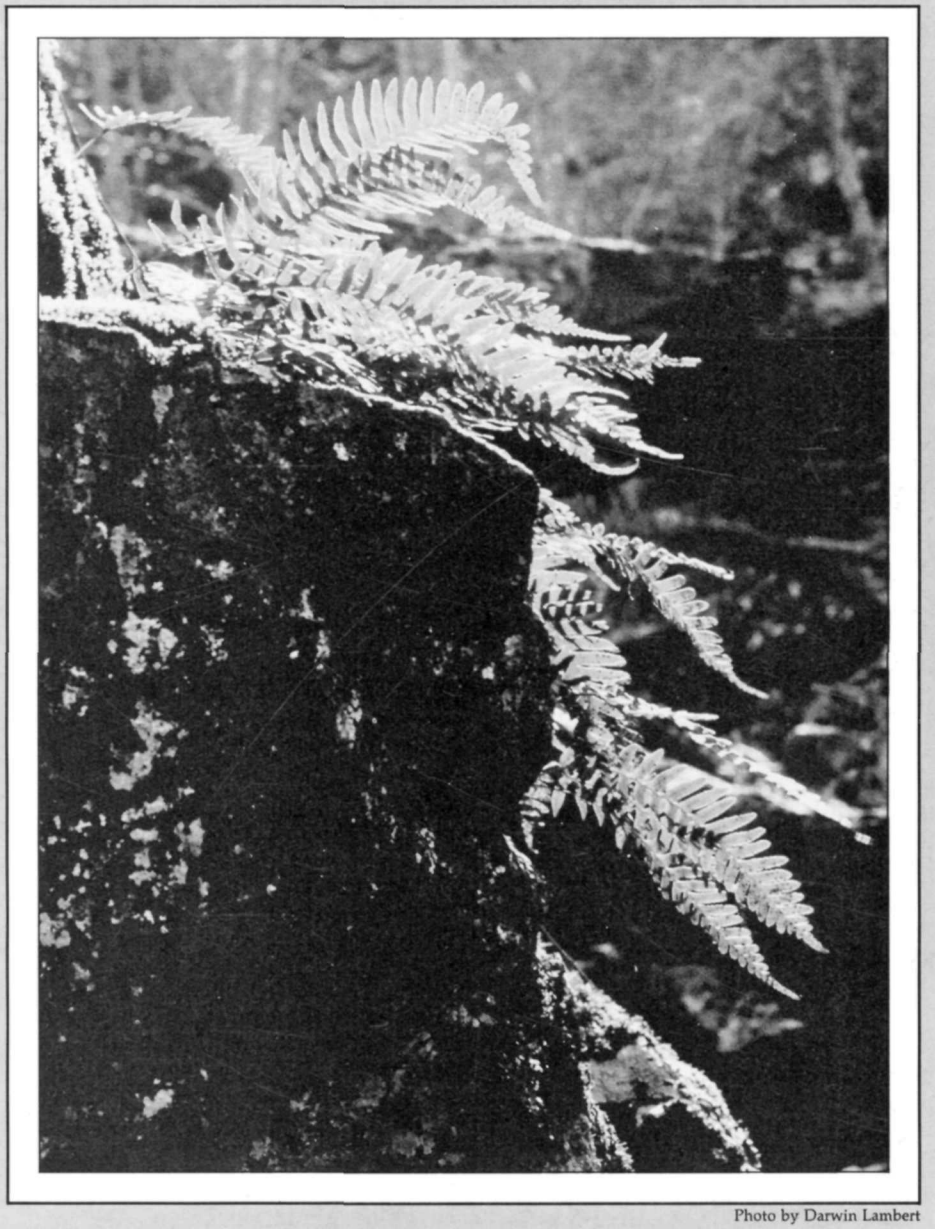


Photo by Darwin Lambert

Fern gardens entice you away from the beaten path in Shenandoah National Park's lost wilderness.

Misty shafts of sunlight filtered among living skyscrapers, barely illuminating the deeply shadowed forest floor. We glimpsed a hundred giants standing among generations of descendants.

While bushwhacking one foggy day in a remote part of Shenandoah National Park, my husband Darwin and I found we had wandered into the fringe of what looked like primeval forest. We knew we were near the headwaters of the Staunton River, but many previous explorations and the extensive research we had done in Shenandoah during the past two decades had given us no hint that such a primitive place existed in any section of that national park.

We were amazed by rugged old trees with trunks so large the two of us together could not reach around them. Massive giants lay on the ground covered by rich mantles of glowing mosses and multicolored fungi. Saplings sprouted from the reddish wood of decaying trees. In this unknown place mountain laurels grew twenty feet high—as big as young trees.

A young friend had accompanied us, and if it weren't for the compass he wore on his wrist, we would never have made our way back to known paths before dark. Yet we did so reluctantly, vowing to return if we could again find where we had been.

Not long after our trip the mystery of this area was augmented by two other puzzle pieces. A backpacking friend from Richmond, Virginia, wrote—all too briefly—that she had just hiked down the Staunton River and that we wouldn't know what we were missing until we had done likewise. And, in Tom Floyd's *Lost Trails and Forgotten People: the Story of Jones Mountain*, we came across brief references to "the Wilderness," where no structures had ever been built and no living trees ever cut. The area was supposed to be 1,000 acres, but no boundaries or exact descriptions were given.

Maybe this was our unknown forest. If such a primeval place actually existed, however, how could it have been left out when, in 1976, Congress added 125 square miles of Shenandoah's wild but not primeval land to the National Wilderness Preservation System?

To understand our perplexity, it must be explained that Shenandoah is unique among the nation's great natural parks in being almost entirely recycled from land that was privately owned. The park is composed of land that had been populated, farmed, grazed, mined, burned over, and logged for more than 200 years.

Imagine these mountains as they were in 1930 before Skyline Drive was built: several thousand residents with gardens, small farms, and home orchards; thirty-nine landowners grazing thousands of cattle on ridgecrest pastures; commercial apple orchards; moonshine stills. Much of the land had been badly eroded; yet the forest regenerates.

Now, after nearly five decades as a national park, the forest again covers almost all the land. Shenandoah clearly demonstrates that nature can recreate wilderness. Even before European explorers and settlers intervened, this regenerative cycle was going on. Great forests grew back in areas swept by lightning fires or by Indian fire hunts or where storm damage created the opportunity.

Not only the land Congress designated as wilderness, but virtually all the forest in Shenandoah is now beautifully wild—though occasional sections of stone fences, chimneys, or other ruins confess a human past. Wild creatures roam freely here—deer, bear, fox, bobcat, and almost certainly cougar. Recent-growth tulip trees exceed 100 feet in height in suitable soil, and many of their trunks are three feet across.

A few prewhite-man patriarchs remain, mostly oaks and hemlocks, nearly all in areas too remote and thus too expensive for loggers. George and Addie Pollock, who owned Skyland—a resort just off Skyline Drive that was built in the early part of the century and modernized since the park's establishment—paid a logger ten dollars a tree to spare 100 ancient trees in a nearby area called the Limberlost.

Yet a few, or even a hundred old trees, don't make a primeval wilderness. The Limberlost, for instance, is beautiful; but so many hikers visit the area via a short graded trail that it feels like a city park.

In search of the truly primeval, Darwin and I grabbed a day in July to seek what Tom Floyd's book called "the Wilderness." Since we had hiked up the lower Staunton River a number of times, we decided to go in from above. We parked just off Skyline Drive and started hiking.

The sounds of traffic soon faded. We heard a veery's echoing song—so characteristic of Shenandoah's high country. Stunted by their rocky location, trees on the ridgecrest looked like rugged survivors, bat-

Photo by Eileen Lambert

Bright mushrooms and shelf fungi give a colorful counterpoint to the rich green understory.

tered by wind, twisted by ice. As we dipped lower, the trees stood taller and straighter. Shenandoah's regrown forest pleases me always, whether designated as wilderness or not; and I wondered whether the Wilderness, if we reached it, would be noticeably more powerful in esthetic impact.

Soon we began finding giant mountain laurels, one with a ground-level circumference of six feet, three inches, and huge, branching limbs. We found splendid, extensive fern gardens. We watched juncos feeding their young, and spotted some bobcat scat. But our attention was continually drawn back to the massive trees.

We two together have an arm reach of eleven feet, eight inches, and when our fingertips can't touch around a Shenandoah tree we consider it a prewhite-man patriarch. We embraced a yellow birch larger than we had supposed the species grew—our reach plus three inches. A recently fallen red oak looked as thick as Darwin is tall. A sad sight in a way—but out of death comes life. Through the opening in the canopy sunshine had already coaxed lush plants. Seedlings would soon sprout.

Because of natural mortality, the giant trees were not everywhere, as we had let ourselves dream. We remembered that even John Lederer—who, back in 1669, was the first white man to explore these mountains—didn't report big trees everywhere. He found what he called "savannae," and his climb up the slopes often stalled in dense and viny young growth where the death of old trees called for successors.

A lavish display of reddish-brown shelf fungi on a mouldering log convinced us we should bushwhack and look for other treasures. We found a recently fallen hemlock whose gigantic root system thrust upward far higher than we could reach. With its hanging gardens of ferns, the massive roots suggested a surrealist woodcarver's master creation. Nearby, the tangled, moss-covered roots of live hemlocks writhed along the ground. Shiny water trickled beneath. An awesome place, far, far back in time.

We had reached the Wilderness and we talked in hushed tones, feeling that this hidden place was indeed more powerful than Shenandoah's beautiful designated wilderness. Misty shafts of sunlight filtered among living skyscrapers, barely illuminating the deeply shadowed forest floor. Before this first real penetration ended, we had glimpsed a hundred giants standing among generations of younger descendants.

The feel of the primeval is difficult to describe. Charles Darwin made an attempt when summing up his voyage around the world a century and a half ago: "Among the scenes which are deeply impressed on my mind, none exceed in sublimity the primeval forests undefaced by the hand of man. . . . [They] are temples filled with the varied production of the God of Nature. . . .

Photo by Eileen Lambert

The Staunton River and its tributaries feed the verdant undergrowth in the Wilderness. Fallen trees testify to the natural process of regeneration in this ancient woodland. Where such trees fall, sunlight may filter through to encourage the growth of young seedlings.

They bear the stamp of having lasted, as they are now, for ages, and there appears no limit to their duration through future time."

Our curiosity about the Wilderness led us to the park's land-acquisition files. Surveys, which were done by foresters to help set fair value for the land, provided a possible explanation for the wide spacing of the patriarchs. The appraisal of the 1,165-acre "Garth Spring" tract—located along the upper Staunton and most likely the Wilderness—says, "This tract formerly supported a very heavy stand of timber about 80 percent of which was chestnut."

All this chestnut had been killed by the blight following 1918, the appraisal said, and was thus assigned no money value. Of the remaining timber, 75 percent was listed as mixed oak, hickory, and ash and 25 percent hemlock. This remaining timber was said to be so "patchy" and so remote it "could not be operated at a profit."

The dead chestnut, we learned from other sources, had been taken out later by the National Park Service—mainly to reduce fire hazard. This human interference adds some confusion to the idea of wilderness; but if humans hadn't removed the trees, time and decay would have done the job eventually. Moreover, most naturalists estimate the actual proportion of chestnuts in such forests to have been between 30 and 60 percent.

Even with this information, there seemed no way to determine the exact location and boundaries of the Wilderness short of expensive surveying. A thousand-plus acres were far too much for our available time. We could only sample here and there, which we did again in March.

The leaves weren't out yet when we two and a couple of friends tried a penetration from the lower Staunton River. The roaring cascades, lovely pools, and huge gray-lichened boulders confirmed the Staunton as one of the park's most splendid streams. We found the season's first hepatica, bloodroot, Dutchman's breeches, and spicebush blooms. A woodcock shot off on whistling wings.

Though the trail we began on had once been a wagon road, this was all wild country now, with few signs of human activity. Visibility was excellent. As the river bed narrowed, we jumped across—abandoning even the trace trails—and bushwhacked, finding more old trees, shrubs, and vines than on earlier hikes. We discovered turkey scratchings, deer tracks, bear dung, and a giant grapevine two feet in girth.

Soon everywhere we turned we found massive trees. The forest clearly fit Charles Darwin's description of primeval, of having lasted for ages with no apparent limit on its future. I looked up at still-vital giants and felt certain some of them were growing as Columbus prepared to sail across the Atlantic or as Michelangelo adorned the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Our friends shared with us an overpowering sense of the age of this Wilderness in Shenandoah.

Yet much remains unknown. Why was what is almost certainly the only sizable assemblage of ancient trees in Shenandoah left out of the official wilderness? Several factors must have influenced the decision.

In the early days of the park, trails were marked and mapped in this section; but because of the gas and tire shortages during World War II, interest in remote places necessarily waned. Trails south and east of Camp Hoover faded from the land and from maps—lost in the Wilderness. And, for decades, bushwhackers failed to rediscover the area.

Our continued probing into the lost wilderness of Shenandoah is primarily an intriguing adventure for us. Yet, as our fondness grows for what we have found, we worry about its long-term future.

The whole Staunton-Rapidan section of the park sticks out like a sore thumb. Shenandoah legislation specifically forbids buying land, so the tendency has been to swap outlying parts of the park to fill in gaps close to the main body. Some Rapidan acreage once inside the park has already been swapped away to fill in gaps closer to Skyline Drive, and much larger parts of the thumb have been considered for swapping. As it has in the past, it is possible that the state of Virginia may again try to squeeze off the whole thumb to manage as a multiple-use area. Even now the Wilderness is pressed between Virginia wildlife areas.

The most basic defense is to have the support of a maximum number of people who care. Once more people know and appreciate the special values of this lost wilderness, they will be ready to fight dangers such as renewed interest in swapping or tendencies toward developing the area.

The Wilderness certainly meets the criteria for official wilderness. It is a place where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. High ridges and its remoteness protect the area from "civilized" influences and provide a place for solitude and for primitive recreation.

This primeval forest could be a magnificent centerpiece for a large designated wilderness area—a valuable addition to Shenandoah's official wilderness. But people must care about a place in order to fight for it.

Freelance writer Eileen Lambert is a naturalist who, with her husband Darwin, a former NPCA trustee, has lived next door to Shenandoah National Park since 1964.

To make sure the NPS never swaps this particular area, please write in support of "the Wilderness": Superintendent Robert Jacobsen, Shenandoah National Park, Route 4, Box 292, Luray, Virginia 22835.

PROMISED LAND

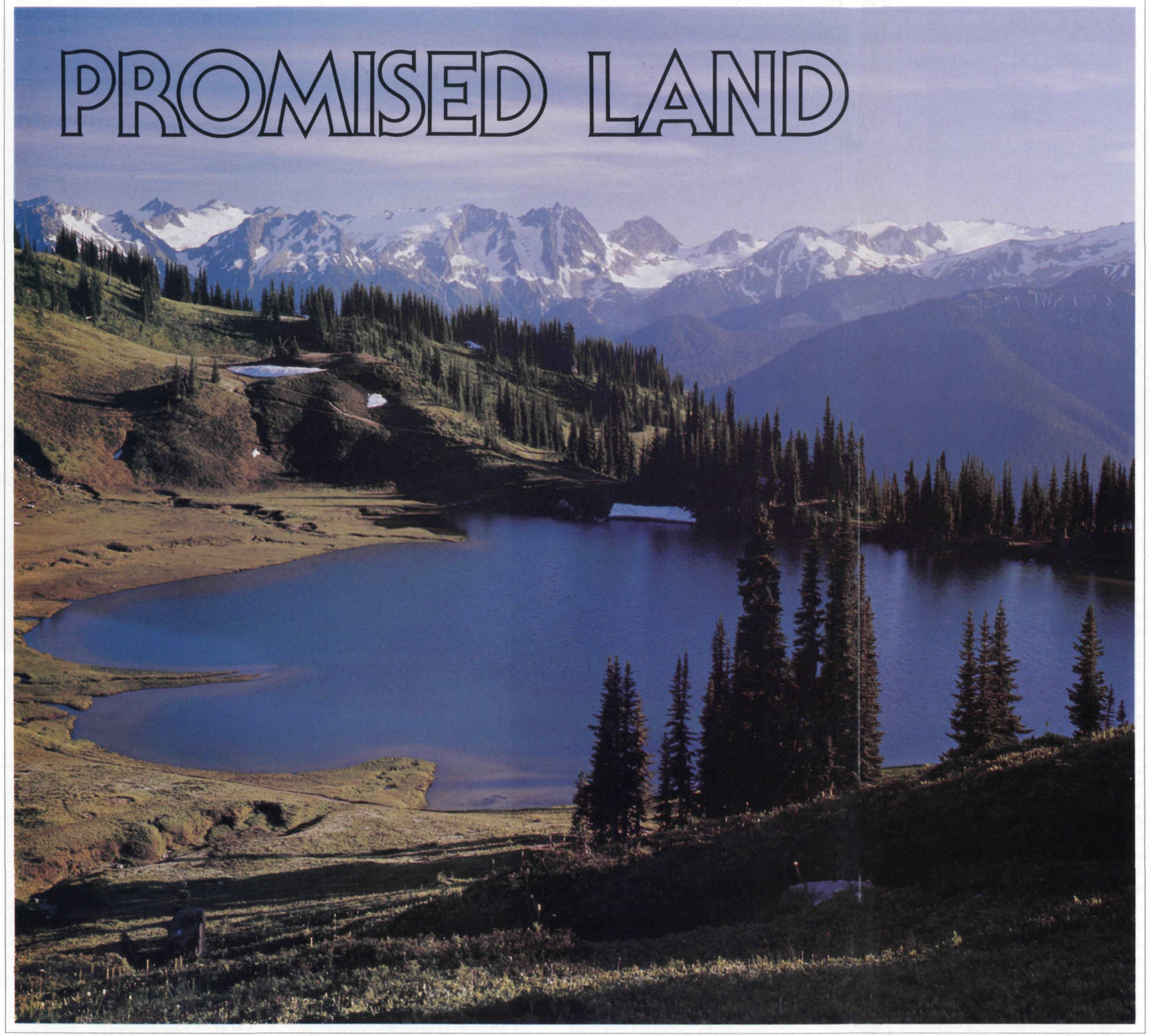


Photo by Ed Cooper

Twenty years after the Wilderness Act, the challenge passes to a new generation, by Michael Frome

The Rose Garden of the White House provided a fitting and symbolic touch of nature when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Wilderness Act on September 3, 1964. It was a joyous and historic event, for on that day the United States became the first country in the long record of civilization to proclaim through law a recognition of wilderness in its way of life, an appreciation of wild nature as part of its culture and its legacy to the future.

It's hard to believe that twenty years have passed. It seems rather like yesterday, perhaps because passage of the Act opened an age of environmental awareness and activism that is still far from finished. Many of the principal players, heroic personalities instrumental in defining the wilderness creed, are gone; yet the tension, the challenge, and the exultation derived from the battle to save our few remaining shreds of the original America are as manifest now as ever.

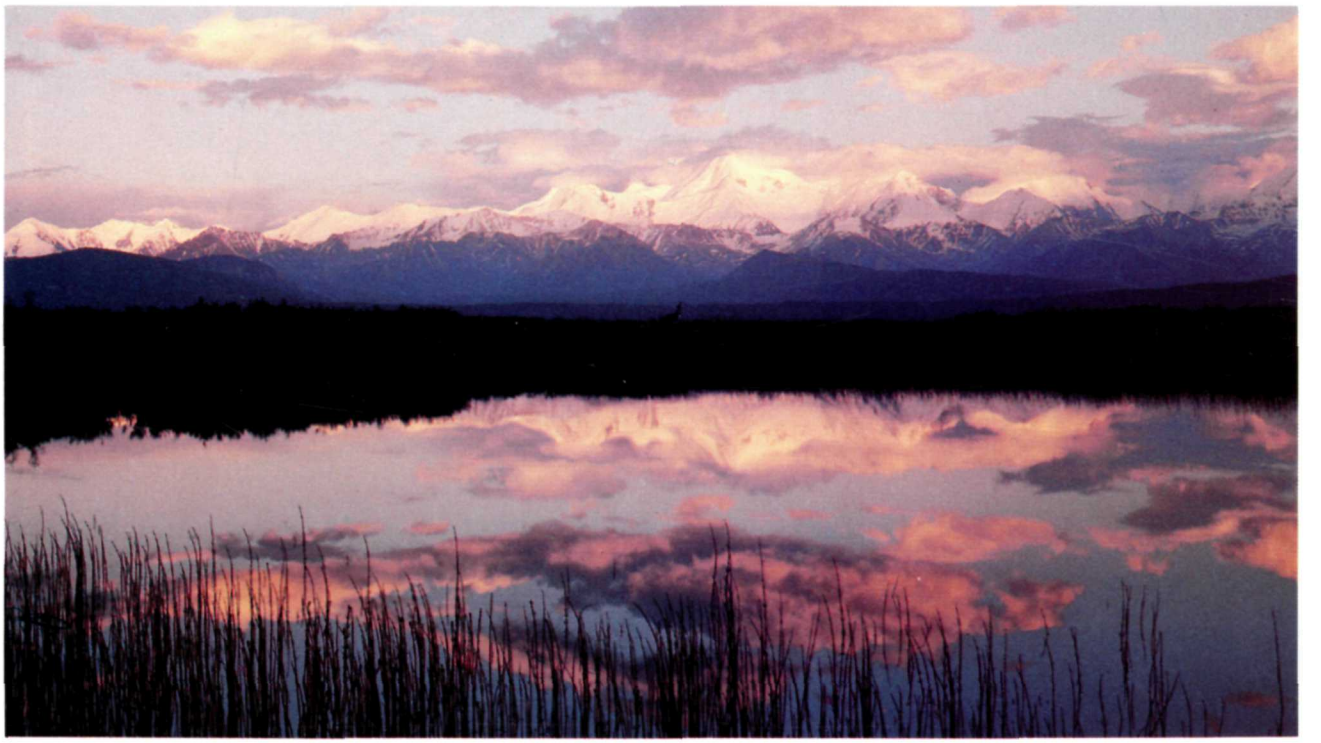
The struggle to pass the Act had been long. Fruition of enactment came after eight years of discussion and debate by the United States Senate and House of Representatives and after eighteen separate public hearings conducted by congressional committees in Washington and around the country. The Wilderness Bill had been written and rewritten time and again; it had been passed in the Senate, then bottled up in the House. It had been aggressively fought by the timber industry and by the oil, grazing, and mining industries, all insisting that resources are meant to be "used"—that is, for sheer materialism and profit—rather than to be admired, or respected, for their own sake.

Two of the federal agencies principally involved, the National Park Service and the Forest Service, had opposed the Act, too, when it was first introduced, and there wasn't much feeling for it in the Fish and Wildlife Service, either. The attitude of these agencies was that the Act would impinge on management prerogatives, though agency personnel know better now: provisions of the Wilderness Act enhance protection and administration of federal lands in the interest of the people.

The Act was passed, nevertheless, establishing both a definition of wilderness in law and a National Wilderness Preservation System in fact. The very effort surrounding passage makes the law more impressive to me as a statement of national philosophy than as a formula or compendium of rules and regulations. For it plainly evoked the upwelling of passion among countless individuals throughout the country—and likely throughout the world—who would speak for wilderness and who would say that natural "islands" are critical to the spirit of humankind adrift in the sea of supercivilization.

This was the point that Howard Zahniser made when he spoke before the Sierra Club's Second Biennial Wilderness Conference in San Francisco in 1951. "Zahnie," then-

Washington's Cascade Range hides any number of breathtaking wild lands, such as Image Lake (left), which rests on a saddle of Glacier Peak Wilderness.



Photos by Ed Cooper

executive director of the Wilderness Society, was studious, soft-spoken, and patient, both persuasive and persistent. "How Much Wilderness Can We Afford to Lose?" was the subject of his 1951 talk. It became the question he and others raised repeatedly. Their efforts led to introduction of the first Wilderness Bill in 1956 by one Democratic senator, Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota, with nine cosponsors, and one Republican House member, John P. Saylor of Pennsylvania, who led the long hard effort to gain passage of the House bill.

The point of it all was that America the Beautiful following World War II was rapidly becoming America the Ugly and Synthetic. As recently as 1901, at the dawn of the twentieth century, John Muir had commented, with a measure of satisfaction: "When, like a merchant taking a list of his goods, we take stock of our wilderness, we are glad to see how much of even the most destructible kind is still unspoiled." Then, again, in 1926 the Forest Service conducted a survey of the country's roadless units. Based on a minimum of 230,400 acres to each, it identified 74 such units totaling 55 million acres. But by the late 1940s and early 1950s the great depletion had set in and it hasn't stopped since.

A 1961 study by the University of California Wildland Research Center showed that the large areas had become scarce. The sum of 100,000 acres was now predetermined as the minimum size of calculable wilderness. There was little in the East—only 10 percent of the total—while wilderness in the West was essentially composed of mountain peaks, deserts, sand dunes, lava flows, and rock slides. The lush timberlands and grasslands and the bays, lakes, and riverways had been allocated almost entirely for commodity production of one kind or another.

Much of the country's wildlands had been in the national forests, safeguarded through the influence of men like Arthur Carhart, Aldo Leopold, Ferdinand Silcox, and Robert Marshall. By the postwar period, however, these men had been succeeded by a new breed intent on instituting "management," a euphemism for road building and timber cutting. Or as a cynic even now might say, "A 'roadless area' by definition is an area in need of a road."

The national parks were no more secure, despite the sanctity seemingly assured by law. Timbermen lusted after the virgin Douglas fir and spruce of Olympic National Park in the far Northwest, which they lamented was "locked up" and "unmanaged." The National Park Service itself implanted a small city named Canyon Village in the heart of the wild country of Yellowstone. But then, as the saying went, "Parks are for people," and that kind of thinking would eventually lead to the ill-conceived syndrome of the "motor nature trail."

During the 1950s the Bureau of Reclamation, an agency of the Interior Department with potent funding and political power, proposed to erect a dam across the deep, narrow gorge of the Green River at Echo Park, in Dinosaur National Monu-

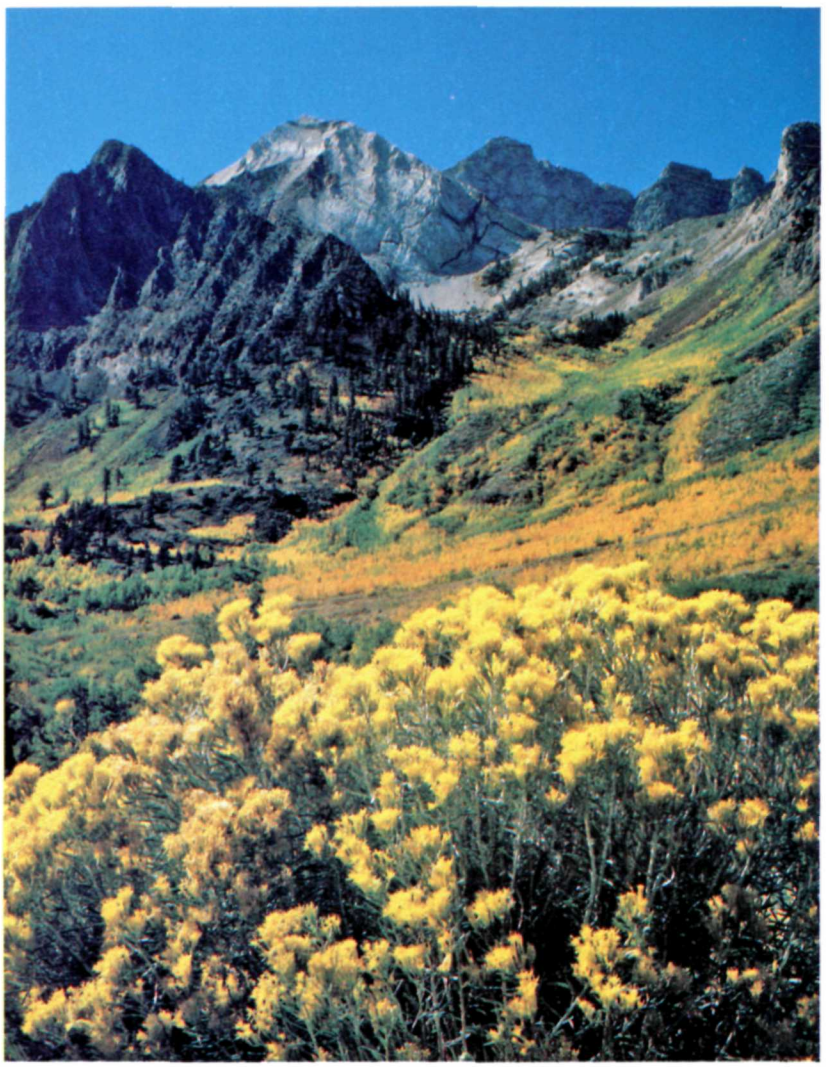
ment, Colorado. It was to be one of ten dams in the billion-dollar Colorado River Storage Project. A lot of good organizations, like the National Parks Association (now NPCA), and good people, headed by the team of Howard Zahniser and David Brower, executive director of the Sierra Club, battled against it; for it was plainly a test of the integrity of the entire National Park System.

Such resistance to the Bureau of Reclamation was then unknown. BuRec was considered too big, too powerful, a steamroller propelled by porkbarrel western politics. The fight cost Newton B. Drury, director of the National Park Service, his job; but Dinosaur was saved. There was no respite, however, from such pressure against the parks. In the 1960s the Bureau pressed another scheme: to build two dams in the heart of the Grand Canyon. Raising the water level of the Colorado River, it was argued, would improve upon the natural beauty of the canyon and make it accessible to more people. Thus, yet another vigorous nationwide campaign was necessary, this time to convince Congress that the Grand Canyon, as God or Nature made it, needs no improvement.

What next? Harnessing Yellowstone geysers—or Yosemite Falls—to generate electric power? Or possibly cutting the granite in Half Dome for building blocks? Unbelievably, such schemes have been serious proposals at one time or another—and occasionally are still advanced. The Wilderness Bill was designed to deal with broad principle rather than continued fighting of issue by issue.

I recall an editorial in the *Seattle Times* during the sixties, deriding the proponents of wilderness as "a powerful lobby of extreme conservationists." Maybe so, but this struck me as the kind of thing to expect from the media in a region where the forest-products industry had long been king. I prefer to think it was the upsurge of the little people, without any dream of profit for themselves, that overcame indifference and antipathy of congressional leadership to push the Wilderness Bill through.

Wilderness is defined in the Act as a place where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man



The national parks in Alaska encompass much of the approximately 56 million acres of wilderness in that state, including this area within Denali National Park (opposite); the view of McGee Creek Valley (above) in California's Sierra is not within the National Park System. In fact, many wilderness areas are managed by the Forest Service, the Fish & Wildlife Service, and other federal agencies.

Photo by Ed Cooper

Verily, it was the same "powerful lobby" that saved the Grand Canyon from being flooded, that rescued the last stands of virgin California redwoods by means of a new national park, and that has given spark and spirit to the cause of resource protection free of greed and corruption.

When the Wilderness Act was passed, it defined wilderness as "an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." It gave federal land agencies clear direction and legal foundation "to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness."

With passage of the law, a little more than nine million acres, which had been set aside administratively by the Forest Service, were at once protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Additional areas, classified by the Forest Service as "primitive," were to be reviewed, as were unclassified roadless areas, the "de facto wilderness," covering extensive portions of the national forests as well as qualifying portions of national parks and national wildlife refuges. Areas administered by the Bureau of Land Management were not eligible at first, but passage of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 brought them under review for the Wilderness System. These lands included extensive deserts, grasslands, and forests—distinctive and valuable potential additions.

America's ability to establish a National Wilderness Preservation System signifies an antidote to pessimism, a stimulus for hope. As long as a nation preserves the beauty and grandeur of its primitive scenery, wilderness will remain a powerful influence in shaping the character of its people. Since passage of the Act, I've heard and read powerful, moving statements by Americans speaking their piece with sense and sensitivity. Provisions of the Wilderness Act stipulated a role for the public in decisionmaking. The Act dealt the people in, and the people have been heard. It is only through public participation that we have gained wilderness protection for millions of acres during the past twenty years.

I remember, for instance, the 1966 hearings in North Carolina and Tennessee relative to the Great Smoky Mountains. It was the first step toward implementing the policy of scheduled wilderness reviews in the National Park System. The National Park Service had offered a weak and poorly drawn document, with a major bisecting transmountain road plus corridors for additional inner loops. Less than half the park was offered for wilderness, and not in one contiguous unit, but in six separate blocks. Scientists pleaded for large expanses of primeval land for biological, botanical, and ecological studies. "No road on earth," warned one, "is important enough to destroy the values inherent in these mountains."

People spoke eloquently of the joys of wilderness, the spiritual exhilaration, the threats of the multimillion-dollar road-building boondoggle. They identified with love of land, with idealism, representing the qualitative experience that must be the essence of our national parks. And by so doing they sent the road-building plan to the scrap heap.

I remember also the December 1966 hearings at Morristown, New Jersey, on the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, a fragment of forest, marsh, and meadow only fifteen miles from downtown Newark and thirty miles from Times Square. The hearings marked the first proposal for a wilderness of less than 5,000 acres. Spokespersons for nine colleges and universities accented the importance of preserving a living

The North Sister rises above South Matteu Lake in Oregon's Three Sisters Wilderness, managed by the U.S. Forest Service.

laboratory. A representative of the Staten Island Greenbelt Preservation League said: "Our wilderness is gone. We need the Great Swamp and to know it is there." Almost all regarded the official proposal of 2,400 acres as inadequate; they insisted on 1,000 more, which Congress in due course granted.

Wilderness is never "single-use" land. It provides watershed protection, habitat for wildlife and fish (especially the rare and endangered species found nowhere else), opportunities for hiking and quality recreation in solitude away from congestion. Innumerable laws of nature can never be understood without some access to conditions of the primeval.

Little wonder that Americans, from all levels of society, speak as forcefully and eloquently as they do, correcting government officials when they need correction, and calling Congress to heed when its attention is turned otherwise.

I think of the words of Martin Litton, the river runner, at 1969 hearings on proposals to dam the Snake River in Idaho: "It would be laughable, if it weren't so tragic, to hear people speaking of increasing the opportunities for recreation when they are wiping out the opportunities for the very highest and most ennobling kind of recreation, the contemplation of creation."

Or those of Justice William O. Douglas in 1967: "It gives me the heebie-jeebies to imagine that the Park Service in a few years will be proposing to do to the Cascades what it is now proposing to do to the Smokies—that is, 'develop' half of it and leave half of it wild. With the tremendous population which we are going to have, all of our 'development' should be on the perimeter of these areas, leaving them for generations unborn to explore."

Or those of Joseph Wood Krutch, the late, eminent literary critic and naturalist, in 1970, touching the soul of humankind and our need for wilderness preservation: "Without the glad appreciation of our relationship to nature, without the idea of living with nature, not merely upon nature, we must end sooner or later living—or I think more properly dying—in a world where man has paid the penalty for doing what he cannot do successfully; namely, think only of himself."

A new generation can be glad to face the next twenty years with the opportunity to save what wild country still remains . . .

The twenty years of Wilderness Act history and precedent have compelled us as individuals and as a social order to consider these issues. Public concern so abundantly expressed in 1964 hardly stopped there. One federal law led to others, extending protection to rare and endangered wildlife and plant species, wild and scenic rivers, trails, the quality of air and water, and ultimately, through the National Environmental Policy Act, to encompass the broad environment.

The Wilderness Act represents a beginning. The National Wilderness Preservation System as of January 1983 consisted of 79.93 million acres of land and water in national parks, national forests, and national wildlife refuges. That figure may sound impressive, yet it's only a number, and a misleading one at that. The National Park Service, for instance, administers the largest share—35.3 million acres—but all of it except 2.9 million acres is in Alaska. Now recommendations to Congress cover 10.2 million acres, large and significant tracts in such major parks and monuments as Yellowstone, Yosemite, Glacier, Olympic, Sequoia–Kings Canyon, Big Bend, Death Valley, and the Great Smokies (after seventeen years, still awaiting its wilderness designation). In addition, studies are in progress covering 28.6 million acres in thirty-one other national park units across the nation.

How much of this parkland will be set aside? How many of the 65.7 million acres of national forest roadless areas with wilderness potential will be opened to commodity production and lost to wilderness forever? Who is watching out for the wilderness on the BLM lands and the national wildlife refuges?

Besides these questions, an entirely new set of issues needs attention: questions of understanding, interpreting, and using wilderness properly without abusing it; questions of finding and saving wilderness on lands administered by states and local communities; and questions of threats to wilderness and how to cope with them.

In other words, while the twentieth anniversary of the Wilderness Act may be a time for celebration, it is hardly a signal for rest. Aldo Leopold once allowed that he was glad to be young when wild country was still plentiful. On the other hand, a new generation can be glad to face the next twenty years with the opportunity to save what wild country still remains. And who can tell, with enlightenment we may yet find it possible to restore some wild country a foolish, older generation paved over or plowed under.

Michael Frome has been called "the voice of the wilderness." In October he delivered the keynote address at the First National Wilderness Management Workshop at the University of Idaho, where he currently is Visiting Associate Professor. His book, Battle for the Wilderness, *will be reissued in 1984 by Westview Press.*

NPCA Report

Caves Form a Network Of Underground Wilderness

We have found any number of ways to safeguard our surface lands. But the phantasms of our "underworld"—the caves, grottoes, and natural tunnels that striate sections of our country—remain without specific means of protection.

NPCA and caving organizations such as the National Speleological Society and the Cave Research Foundation want to change that situation and have advocated the concept of "underground wilderness." Karst systems in the Mammoth Cave region of Kentucky and in the Guadalupe Escarpment of New Mexico are especially in need of this designation.

NPCA believes the twentieth anniversary of the Wilderness Act is an appropriate time to consider legislation that would designate our first underground wilderness. And the Association said as much in its September 26 letter to Richard Wengert, forest supervisor at Daniel Boone National Forest in Kentucky.

"Underground wilderness proposals have been the unwanted stepchild of the Wilderness Preservation System," said T. Destry Jarvis, NPCA Director of Federal Activities. "NPCA supports the designation of the Cave Creek Cave as an underground wilderness. Known for its lengthy system of passages and chambers, Cave Creek Cave received the second highest rating of the 115 roadless areas in the original RARE II process for the Forest Service's Southeast Region."

Cave systems throughout the country need protection for their geological, archeological, and biological resources. Jim Goodbar, a speleologist who works for the Bureau of Land Management in Carlsbad, New Mexico, says cave protections are most easily obtained if there are threats to an endangered species, such as Indiana bats and Mammoth Cave blind shrimp.

NPCA believes, however, that an "underground wilderness" designation would be the best and most complete form of protection. Mammoth Cave National Park, for instance, includes more than 293 miles of continuous passages and many areas off the tourist routes would benefit from safeguards.

As Jim Goodbar points out, "Impacts on surface areas are covered relatively quickly by the forces of nature—wind, rain, falling leaves, and such. But impacts on a cave are all cumulative."

The caves in the Guadalupe Escarpment—"part of the world's largest and best-exposed fossil barrier reef"—preserve a wide variety of valuable material: delicate gypsum "blooms," rare epsomite crystals, and major bone deposits. Some of these deposits are as much as 35,000 years old and include the bones and bone fragments of long extinct animals.

Cave researchers have found Paleo-Indian stoneware, sandals, awls, and paintings. Even footprints of these ancient people have been preserved in one cave. Charcoal remains from the torches they carried into the cave have been carbondated at between 5,000 and 6,000 years old.

Yet, without protection, valuable resources are fast disappearing in some of the more heavily visited caves. John Brooks, an architect and a caver who has explored many of the caves in the Guadalupe Escarpment, says that Cottonwood Cave, one of the largest and most spec-

Assateague Researcher Pushes Limits on OSV Use

A decade after dune-buggy races and airplane landings were halted at the Fox Levels area of Assateague Island National Seashore, the dune grasses are beginning to grow back. NPCA wants to ensure continued regeneration on Assateague Island and has written to the National Park Service (NPS) to protest the use of oversand vehicles (OSVs).

The Association does not argue with the importance of the falcon research that Dr. F. Prescott Ward is conducting. NPCA does take exception to his use of OSVs in the Fox Levels, however, especially since the park management plan excludes even NPS vehicles from the area.

In addition, the NPS is conducting studies to measure regrowth in the Fox Levels, and Dr. Ward's use of OSVs may compromise that work.

Assateague Island is a major stopover for peregrine falcons along their north-south flyway; and Dr. Ward has been studying their populations for more than a decade. This autumn he employed a team of twenty-one people using two or three vehicles.

Dr. Ward insisted that he use the vehicles in the cabled-off Fox Levels area even though NPCA says, "It is our understanding that only 20 percent of Dr. Ward's sightings occur in the Fox Levels." Other scientists conduct research concerning deer, ponies, and currents; but none are allowed in the cabled-off area.

"The hard-won gains of proper OSV regulation are being casually discarded for the convenience of one person," says NPCA. "In the interest of scientific research and resource protection, we urge you . . . to keep the Fox Levels closed to *all* oversand vehicles."

Black Bay Deletion Comes Back to Haunt NPS

A year ago, when President Reagan signed the bill that relinquished Black Bay in Voyageurs National Park, Minnesota, to the state, environmentalists warned that the decision was unsound. On October 18 NPCA sent a letter to Assistant Secretary of the Interior G. Ray Arnett—whose office had pushed for the Black Bay transfer—protesting the plan to allow commercial trapping in Black Bay.

The House and Senate committees that handled the legislation to transfer Black Bay had concurred in their reports that the purpose of the deletion was to settle a long-standing dispute over duck hunting in the area. Congress believed it was addressing the problem of duck hunting alone, yet the recently published state plan for the management of

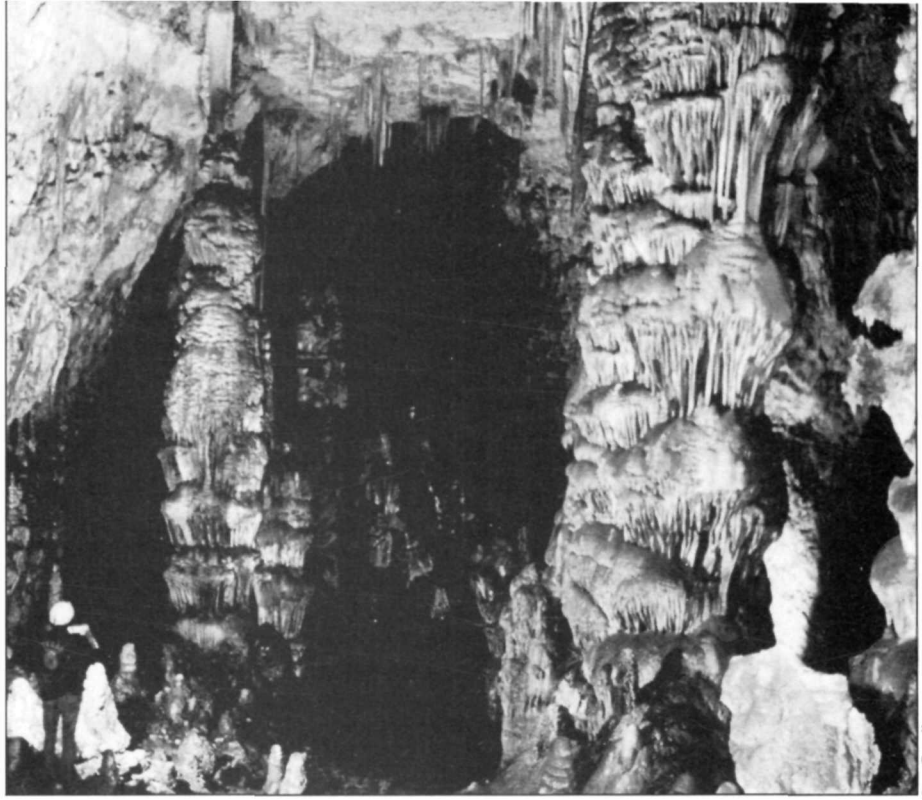
tacular, has been 99 percent vandalized.

According to Brooks, much of the cave "popcorn," which grows on the walls and floors of Cottonwood Cave, has been destroyed because of visitor traffic. Mineral hunters have been bold enough to cart off rare sulfur and gypsum crystals in burlap sacks.

To prevent vandalism, conservation-minded speleologists have gated cave entrances in the Guadalupe. But the Forest Service had to replace a few of those gates with stronger ones because vandals had dynamited gates to gain entrance.

Besides overuse and vandalism, the other big threat to caves comes from surface disturbances: drilling, plus the seepage and pollution caused by poor agricultural practices, over-grazing, and timber cutting.

In its underground wilderness recommendation for Cave Creek Cave, NPCA specifically mentioned that the heavily forested surface areas be managed to preserve water quality in the miles of pristine subterranean passages. In the Guadalupe Escarpment the Forest Service has halted oil and gas exploration until a full study of the caves in the area can be completed. It is estimated that this study will take approximately two years to complete, so the halt in exploration is merely a stopgap.



Jim Goodbar

The caver at left is dwarfed by a cavernous hall in one of the largest caves in the Guadalupe Escarpment of New Mexico. The giant stalagmites in this hundred-foot-high chamber are streaked with sulfur and other minerals.

As underground wilderness, caves fit the requirements of the Wilderness Act in that they have defined management boundaries. With such designation, says NPCA's T. Destry Jarvis, "We would all benefit by leaving some of our wild caves untrammeled for future generations."

Black Bay's natural resources allows commercial trapping.

Voyageurs National Park Superintendent Russell Berry, Jr., said that "Congress did not intend to allow trapping at Black Bay when it approved the transfer of land to the state."

The legislation was passed with a provisional clause that says the land would revert back to the NPS if Black Bay were used for anything other than a wildlife management area. Apparently the Interior Department believes commercial trapping falls within the realm of wildlife management because the Department has approved Minnesota's plan.

In his letter to Assistant Secretary Arnett, NPCA President Paul Pritchard said, "The shock and dismay with which we react to the capricious and wholly unwarranted decision of the Interior Department is justifiably compounded by the many other serious management threats that the Department and the NPS have consistently failed to address. . . . NPCA will take whatever steps are necessary to fight this abrogation of the public trust."

Mary Kenny, executive director of the Voyageurs National Park Association and a National Park Action Project representative, cautions that the boundary lines between Black Bay and the park are not always clear. "Who's to say those traps won't be on park land? A lot of monitoring will be needed and the state can't be there at all times. So, people may encroach."

The Voyageurs-Black Bay area is also critical habitat for the threatened gray wolf. The more trapping that occurs, the less prey species will be available for the wolf.

Home of Georgia O'Keeffe Withdrawn as Historic Site

In 1980 Congress authorized the Abiquiu, New Mexico, home of internationally renowned artist Georgia O'Keeffe as a national historic site. Ms. O'Keeffe, now 96, had agreed to the distinction, but had not bargained for all it entailed. Three years after authorization, Georgia O'Keeffe is adamant about withdrawing her home from designation as a national historic site.

As stipulated in enabling legislation, the Abiquiu home is Ms. O'Keeffe's property for as long as she lives. Congressional authorization called for a general management plan, however, and the National Park Service (NPS), which would eventually manage the historic site, set about putting the plan together.

Although the enabling legislation specified that the NPS should de-

NPCA Favors Park Area In Nevada's Great Basin

In early October, NPCA invited more than twenty-five interested individuals to a meeting at Wheeler Peak, in the eastern Nevada portion of the Great Basin. The purpose of the gathering was to discuss how this scenically outstanding area of Humboldt National Forest could receive better protection for its high peaks, alpine lakes, and ancient bristlecone pines.

These bristlecones, which grow far above the vast high desert valleys that surround Wheeler Peak, are between 4,000 and 5,000 years old, the oldest living things on earth. Yet bristlecone pines—found in only two western states—are still not represented in the National Park System.

Several alternatives were outlined: University of Utah geography professor Robert S. Waite argued for a 125,000-acre Great Basin National Park; NPCA's Southwest/California Representative Russell D. Butcher suggested an approximately 30,000-acre Bristlecone Pines National Monument; Sierra Club representative Dennis Ghiglieri explained on-going efforts toward a 110,000-acre national forest wilderness proposal as part of a statewide Nevada wilderness plan; and local resident and former National Park Service (NPS) and Forest Service employee Joseph F. Griggs, Jr., urged a no-change alternative from current national forest management.

A national park for the Wheeler Peak area has been proposed a number of times during the past sixty years, but has always been defeated by Nevada mining and grazing interests. The group acknowledged that current Nevada politics seem no more encouraging for a major national park.

Several of the meeting's participants expressed support for a national forest wilderness area—a designation that would bar further road building and filing of additional mining claims, but would allow continued livestock grazing and existing mining. Yet, this alternative also seems to offer little likelihood of achieving political success. Neither

Russell D. Butcher

NPCA program coordinators T. Destry Jarvis (left) and Laura Loomis take a break to admire the scenery during the October conference in the Wheeler Peak area of Nevada. NPCA and others had met to discuss protection for the area, which could include a national monument in conjunction with nearby Lehman Caves.

velop a general management plan that would not put undue burden on the quiet community of Abiquiu, the process of collecting information for that plan, with all the concomitant comings and goings of the NPS, was probably unsettling to Ms. O'Keeffe. Understandably so, according to NPCA.

The Association believes that Congress and the NPS can glean a lesson from these events. If Congress enacts legislation under similar circumstances, work on the general management plan should not begin until the property conveys to the NPS.

NPCA reiterated its support for the Georgia O'Keeffe National Historic Site before the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water on October 6. NPCA's Laura Beaty said of the hearing, "We felt someone should be there to express disappointment at the loss of this important historic site."

Senate Confirms Clark As New Interior Secretary

At initial hearings on November 2 to confirm William P. Clark as the new Secretary of the Interior, Clark and the senators of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee steered warily around each other. All parties tried to avoid the Roman Circus atmosphere engendered by former Interior Secretary James Watt in his confrontations with the Committee.

For the most part, questions were

the Nevada congressional delegation nor the Forest Service appears to favor a South Snake Range Wilderness.

The Wheeler Peak group—including local residents—did agree that the more modest Bristlecone Pines National Monument idea has merit and deserves further study. The monument proposal would take in the spectacular high peaks of the South Snake Range, the array of exquisite alpine lakes, and two groves of bristlecone pines.

Monument boundaries could approximate those of the existing "Wheeler Peak Scenic Area," which is administered by the Forest Service. The NPS would logically administer any such national monument in conjunction with Lehman Caves National Monument at the eastern foot of Wheeler Peak.

Possible advantages of a national monument are that it would offer enhanced protection to the bristlecones and their fragile alpine habitat (under current Forest Service management there have been repeated instances of bristlecones being cut up for firewood); because of the area's limited size, virtually no conflict with mining and grazing interests would exist; and the monument could be established either by an act of Congress or by presidential proclamation.

"There is no question," says Russ Butcher, "that the national monument option for Wheeler Peak offers an absolutely superb and worthy addition to the national park and monument system of this country; an option that just may prove politically achievable as well."

carefully phrased and cautiously answered; and the Committee voted 16 to 4 to confirm Clark.

On November 18 the full Senate confirmed Clark's nomination 71 to 18, even though a bipartisan group of more than forty senators had wanted to include a resolution that would clearly state a change of course from Watt's policies.

Senators Paul Tsongas (D-Mass.), Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.), and a few other Committee members questioned Clark closely during initial hearings. When pressed on the possibility that he might adhere to Watt's policies, Clark answered, "Priorities may be reviewed. The President's mandate is to review policy, personnel, and process."

When questioned about issues such as parkland purchases, multiple use of federal lands, and wilderness concerns, Clark responded a number of times with the promise to review policy. Although he indicated that he may support additional funds for parkland acquisition and urban recreation, Clark closed further discussion by saying that he was "not prepared to announce any policy changes."

He did say, in response to a question from Senator Bill Bradley (D-N.J.), that he thought it appropriate for the NPS to manage urban parks—a clear break from former Secretary Watt on this point.

In response to Senator John Melcher's (D-Mont.) concerns about geothermal leasing in the vicinity of national parks, Clark admitted, "As another source of fuel it is of interest, but I am unaware of the geothermal issue inside Lassen [Volcanic National Park] and no better informed on the issue outside the park." Again, Clark promised to review the situation "on a case by case basis."

Environmentalists know this Administration has not proposed a candidate for Secretary of the Interior who will veer sharply from previous policies. In their testimonies before the Senate Committee, NPCA and other organizations reminded Clark of the myriad decisions made by Watt that compromised and degraded the environment.

They did, however, express the hope that Clark would be more amenable to the concerns of all citizens and groups and that disagreements would not constantly reach flash point, as happened so often during Watt's tenure.

In his testimony before the Committee, NPCA President Paul Pritchard said, "Mr. Clark should replace those who are intent on carrying out Mr. Watt's failed policies. At no time in recent history—and possibly since the establishment of the National Park Service—has morale among employees been so low.

"The problem exists because the professionals believe, and rightly so, that the leadership in the Department is not really concerned with protecting the natural and cultural resources the parks were established to preserve."

Pritchard said that one of the first issues Clark must address if confirmed is the problem of parkland purchases. According to NPCA, Watt made a point of not requesting acquisition funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, whose purpose is to provide such monies.

As a result, parkland that was authorized but never purchased has been lost to development. And those lands awaiting purchase are continually increasing in price.

In his address to the Committee, Clark spoke about his previous positions with the Reagan Administration—as national security advisor and as deputy secretary of state—and his judicial duties in California. He mentioned that both his father and his grandfather worked for the Forest Service (his father helped settle the Los Angeles water disputes in the early part of the century), and he talked about his ranch. He has installed alternative energy sources on the ranch—a windmill and solar heating panels—and says, "We take no game and allow none to be taken."

Texas Pressures NPS To Defend Big Thicket

"The Big Thicket is a storehouse of unexplored genetic information. There is no telling how much it may do for us, if its remarkable diversity can receive permanent protection."

These words of A.Y. Gunter in his book, *The Big Thicket, a Challenge for Conservation*, must be underscored when one speaks of the Big Thicket National Preserve in east Texas. Since the mid-nineteenth century, long before sections of the Big Thicket came under the protection of the National Park Service (NPS), it has been the center of controversy concerning the develop-

ment of its timber and oil resources. Because the Interior Department is now encouraging development on multiple-use NPS land, the controversy has reached a new pitch.

When the Big Thicket was designated as the first national preserve in 1974, only surface rights were acquired. Oil and gas interests retained their mineral rights. The latest controversy involves permits approved this past June for oil and gas exploration within the preserve.

Texas Attorney General Jim Mattox's office of environmental protection, led by Assistant Attorney General Ken Cross, threatened to file suit against the NPS if the agency continues its "piecemeal" approach to evaluating the permit requests. The Texas attorney general's office asked that the NPS evaluate permits on a cumulative basis, which would provide a more realistic picture of the effects of such activity.

Previous exploration shows that each site will cause the destruction of three to six acres, plus the acreage necessary for the construction of access roads. If a well is productive, permanent roads and pipelines will be built.

At stake in the Big Thicket are its other resources, which are not as tangible or marketable. An area of critical speciation, the Big Thicket contains eight distinct ecosystems, which provide homes for at least two endangered species—the ivory-billed woodpecker and the red-cockaded woodpecker—and numerous waterfowl whose habitats do not exist anywhere else.

The Big Thicket's singularity as a biological crossroads of the North, East, South, and West has been recognized by UNESCO as a World Biosphere Reserve. There are 160 wells in the preserve itself, however, as well as "tens of thousands" of wells in the adjoining areas, according to Tom Lubbert, Big Thicket superintendent. Yet, with all the existing data, no study has been initiated to gauge the impacts.

Lubbert defends the NPS policy of individual evaluations because he says there is no way to judge the cumulative impact of drilling activities until they are completed. In response, the Texas attorney general's office has cited violations of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the NPS's own Mineral Management Regulations.

Recent reports from the Big Thicket are encouraging, however. Newly drilled wells have proved dry, which might make other lease holders think twice before they attempt to drill.

—Joseph Pistorio, NPCA intern

Safeway Plans Intrude On Civil War Historic Park

Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania National Military Park, Virginia, preserves the historic hilltop where President Lincoln reviewed troops who were on the leading edge of the Union Army during the Civil War. Fredericksburg Superintendent Jim Zinck is worried, however, that soon visitors to the Chatham Manor site will be seeing cars stuffed with gro-

Park Protection Bill Passes House 321 to 82—Now on to the Senate

The final House vote for the Park Protection bill, taken on October 4, showed that an overwhelming number of representatives—321 to 82—support the bill. The bill would require a biennial "State of the Parks" report; a review by the Interior Secretary of any federal action—either inside or outside park boundaries—that would threaten a particular unit of the park system; and cooperative efforts with local jurisdictions for park protections. Representative James Hansen (R-Utah) did offer an amendment designed to weaken the bill, but that amendment was defeated 245 to 160. Representatives listed as "ayes" below voted to weaken Park Protection. NPCA hopes the Senate will move on the bill before the end of the Ninety-eighth Congress next December.

AYES

Anthony
Archer
Barnard
Bartlett
Bateman
Bevill
Bilirakis
Bliley
Bosco
Breaux
Broomfield
Brown (CO)
Burton (IN)
Campbell
Carney
Chandler
Chappell
Chappie
Cheney
Clinger
Coats
Coleman (MO)
Conable
Craig
Crane, Daniel
Crane, Philip
Daniel
Dannemeyer
Daub
Davis
DeWine
Dickinson
Dorgan
Dreier
Duncan
Dyson
Edwards (OK)
Emerson
English
Erlenborn
Fiedler
Fields
Flippo
Forsythe
Franklin
Frensel
Gekas
Gingrich
Goodling
Gradison
Gramm
Gregg
Gunderson
Hall, Ralph
Hall, Sam
Hammerschmidt
Hance
Hansen (ID)
Hansen (UT)
Hartnett
Hightower
Hiler
Hillis
Holt
Hopkins
Hubbard
Huckaby
Hunter
Hyde
Jenkins
Jones (OK)
Kasich
Kindness
Kogovsek
Kramer
Lagomarsino
Latta
Leath
Lent
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (FL)
Livingston
Lloyd
Loeffler
Lott
Lowery (CA)
Lujan
Lungren
Madigan
Marlenee
Marriott
Martin (NY)
McCain
McCandless
McCollum
McCurdy
Michel
Miller (OH)
Mollohan
Montgomery
Moore
Moorhead
Morrison (WA)
Myers
Natcher
Nielson
Olin
Ortiz
Oxley
Packard
Pashayan
Patman
Paul
Petri
Pursell
Quillen
Rahall
Reid
Ritter
Roberts
Robinson
Rogers
Roth
Rowland
Rudd
Schaefer
Schulze
Shaw
Shelby
Shumway
Shuster
Siljander
Skeen
Smith (NE)
Smith, Denny
Smith, Robert
Snyder
Solomon
Spence
Stangeland
Stenholm
Stump
Sundquist
Tauzin
Taylor
Thomas (CA)
Thomas (GA)
Vander Jagt
Vandergriff
Vucanovich
Walker
Watkins
Whittaker
Whitten
Wilson
Winn
Wolf
Wortley
Young (AK)
Zschau

NOT VOTING

Badham
Boggs
Brooks
Burton (CA)
D'Amours
Daschle
Dingell
Fascell
Ford (TN)
Hall (OH)
Hawkins
Heftel
Levitas
Martin (IL)
McGrath
McNulty
Miller (CA)
O'Brien
Parris
Pepper
Pritchard
Rose
Simon
Solarz
Whitehurst
Wirth
Young (FL)
Zablocki

cery bags from Safeway rather than imagining Lincoln reviewing the troops.

Local developers are building a shopping center adjacent to Chatham Manor, and Safeway—the shopping center's "anchor" store—will be cheek by jowl with the park. The historic scene—basically unchanged since the Civil War—will be degraded unless protective measures are taken.

NPCA and the NPS protested to Safeway; and the parent company in Oakland, California, agreed to establish a buffer between store and park. At a loss of eighteen parking spaces, Safeway will plant a screen of trees along a twenty-five-foot strip on its side of the common boundary line. This measure will solve part of the problem, says Zinck, but there is still the road.

As part of its deal with the developer, Safeway had paid a substantial sum for the right to put in a private access road that would also front on the historic property. Even though the shopping center will have two other, wider roads leading into the parking lot, so far Safeway has refused to relinquish any part of its right of way.

Alternatives have been suggested. The most promising idea is to divide the forty-foot-wide access, making half a one-way road and planting the remaining strip with trees.

In his letter to Safeway, NPCA President Paul Pritchard praised the company's decision regarding the parking lot, but added that the integrity of the national battlefield would be just as damaged if Safeway did not screen the access road.

Bill Saves View, Adds Mesas To Black Canyon Park

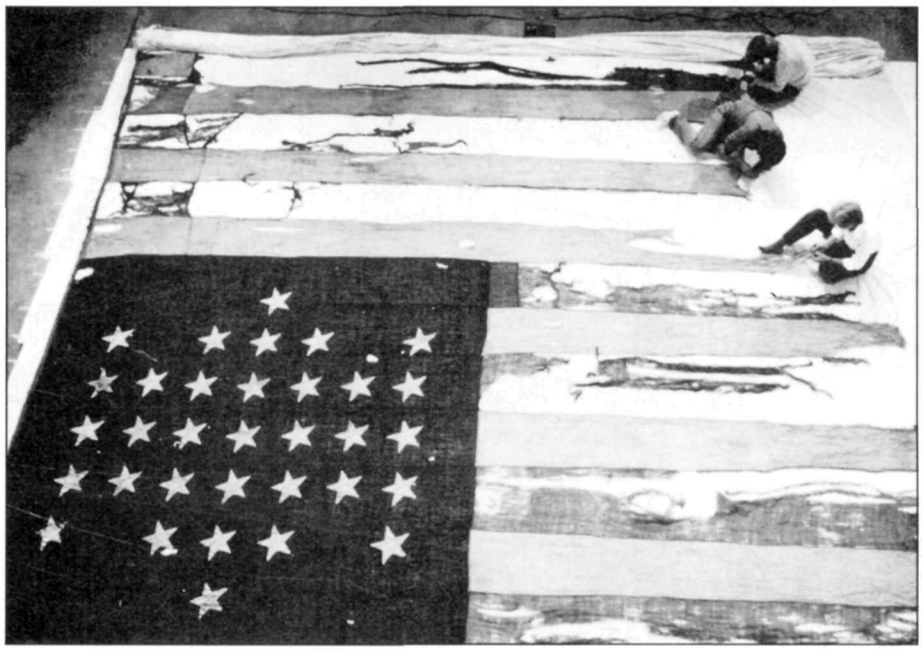
President Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed the Black Canyon of the Gunnison River in Colorado a national monument fifty years ago. In October 18 testimony on the bill to expand the monument, NPCA Director of Federal Activities T. Destry Jarvis said, "In those days, boundaries were often drawn to encompass the significant resource and none or little of the surrounding land.

"We support H.R. 3825 for its laudable attempt to protect the environs of the Black Canyon so that future visitors will not have to restrict their appreciation of the monument solely to a downward gaze into the canyon."

Representative Ray Kogovsek's (D-Colo.) bill would protect the canyon's north rim from view-destroying development by adding 7,000 acres to the monument's present 13,000 acres. National Park Action Project representative Sally Cole says, "The potential for development on both sides is obvious." Although the bill does not include any real expansion on the south rim, NPCA recommended amending the bill to include the south rim areas as well.

In addition to the potential for developing resort communities on the mesas overlooking the precipitous and majestic Black Canyon, NPCA is also concerned about the problems caused by grazing. Jarvis says that "grazing *can be* compatible with the western rural scene of the monument," but recommends including an amendment in H.R. 3825 saying that "grazing should be managed entirely by the National Park Service [NPS], rather than the Bureau of Land Management."

NPCA believes that the NPS can best coordinate grazing practices that do not destroy the resources of the monument. The Association thinks that Bureau of Land Management (BLM) officials who now manage grazing on the canyon rims do not have the interests of monument resources at heart. In fact, the recently appointed manager for BLM lands in that area of Colorado was quoted in local papers as saying that he is mainly interested in developing minerals.



National Park Service

NPCA, in conjunction with General William Westmoreland, is leading a drive to restore the historic flags of Fort Sumter, South Carolina. The three flags are in the possession of the National Park Service, but $300,000 will be needed to preserve the fragile fabrics and display them in an airtight case at Fort Sumter National Monument. Above, NPS employees work on the immense garrison flag, which measured eighteen by twenty-four feet when Union forces raised the banner over Fort Sumter at the start of the first battle of the Civil War. The torn garrison flag was later replaced by a smaller storm flag. The events tied to this storm flag, the garrison flag, and the stylized palmetto standard carried by the South Carolina Palmetto Guard trace Civil War history and should be afforded an honored place at Fort Sumter. Donations to "Save the Flags" should be sent to NPCA, 1701 18th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009.

NPCA Keynote Speech Highlights Ranger Meeting

Each year the Association of National Park Rangers holds what it calls a Ranger Rendezvous. The four-day convention allows park rangers to share perceptions and problems—everything from law enforcement in the parks to the advantages of using microcomputers in managing park resources. At this year's Rendezvous, held October 9–12, NPCA's Laura Loomis led a workshop on carrying capacity and T. Destry Jarvis, NPCA's Director of Federal Activities, presented one of the three keynote speeches.

In his wide-ranging address Jarvis stated:

"If our national security depends on our national defense, then I believe that our national sanity depends on the national parks.

"The spiritual value of the national parks is all too often forgotten by those of us who work on park matters in our daily lives or those of you who are living and working in the parks. Yet this facet is perhaps the most important of all. . . .

"One of my convictions is that the National Park System contains the single most important collection of our national heritage. Another of my convictions is that the National Park System is inseparable from the National Park Service.

"Taking these two convictions together, it follows naturally that when the resources of the System face the cumulative impact of countless thousands of threats from outside park boundaries, coupled with the politicization and demoralization of the professionals of the Park Service, a crisis is at hand.

"I believe such a crisis faces the National Park System in 1983. Anyone who says that the national parks are in better shape today than five, ten, or twenty years ago is either monumentally ignorant, attempting an artful deception, or engaged in the most destructive sort of demagoguery."

Jarvis attributed this crisis to five principal factors:

- A burgeoning population and concomitant development are jeopardizing park ecosystems at every level;
- The National Park System has grown enormously in size without an equivalent growth in the size of the National Park Service (NPS), which manages the System;
- The NPS does not have enough resource management specialists on staff;
- The parks have seen a tremendous growth in the number of visitors, and the NPS must actively address the problems of visitor impact;
- The NPS is now facing the most serious politicization of any governmental agency. This, Jarvis said, may be the most pressing problem of all.

Legal Battles Heat Up Over Hawaii Volcanoes NP

The attempts to develop geothermal energy next to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is now heating up legally. The Volcano Community Association has filed an appeal to overturn the state's decision to allow exploratory drilling on the boundaries of the park's ecologically delicate rain forest. NPCA, which is pushing for Congress to protect all geothermally sensitive national parks, has intervened in this case on behalf of the Volcano Association.

The Campbell Estate, in conjunction with True/Mid-Pacific Geothermal Venture, wants to explore for and then develop geothermal resources it finds in the Kahauale'a area bordering ten miles of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. The much more urban island of Oahu needs readily available energy supplies and True/Mid-Pacific would like to provide that energy.

The Hawaii Board of Land and Natural Resources had no objection, even though Kahauale'a is zoned as a conservation area and other, equally feasible—but less environmentally hazardous—sites exist.

In his brief, NPCA attorney Charles Sloan pointed out that "this permit is in blatant violation of . . . the Board's own administrative rules."

Mark Kaminsky

NPCA President Paul Pritchard (right) and Chairman Stephen McPherson present Representative John F. Seiberling with the Conservationist of the Year award. The ceremony took place at the opening of NPCA's second annual art exhibition.

Sloan further argued that the required Environmental Impact Statement is inadequate, being "little more than an explanation of why the geothermal developers want this piece of property and provides no evidence of concern . . . for the effect of the proposed project on the park."

Environmentalists say the Campbell Estate and True/Mid-Pacific would wreak havoc in an area that is considered to be the last pristine rain forest on the island of Hawaii. Plans include fifty- to sixty-five-foot drill rigs and cooling towers that could be seen from the national park; venting of hydrogen sulfide gas—with its "rotten egg" odor—that would harm park vegetation and disturb park visitors (more than two million visit the park each year); roads and cleared land that would promote the spread of exotic species of plants; and a meterological station and other buildings. The noise pollution alone—high-decibel blasts and hisses that result from drilling and venting—would be enormous.

In addition, the access road and half of the drill sites, pipelines, and power plants envisioned for the geothermal project would be located on land that Congress has authorized—but not yet acquired—for Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

All this activity would take place within view of the park, which UNESCO designated as one of only thirty-six International Biospheres in the United States. And Hawaii Volcanoes Superintendent David Ames says the geothermal exploration and development will further threaten the Hawaiian hen and the Adeneophous fern—both listed as endangered species.

Because the Hawaiian Islands are the most geographically isolated in the world, Dr. F. Raymond Fosberg, curator of botany at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, said in a 1975 *National Parks* article:

". . . biologists estimate that only some 275 flowering plants and 150 insect colonists were successful during all the geological history of the island chain. In other words, one new plant and insect arrived about every 20,000 to 30,000 years."

With 70 percent of Hawaiian flora in danger of disappearance, the state is still intent upon rezoning the Kahauale'a area; and this redesignation will become de facto if exploration does indeed begin. It is NPCA's intent to keep the geothermal drilling from happening.

Summer Park Jobs Open For Rangers and Volunteers

Edward Abbey's most famous book, *Desert Solitaire*, was based on his work as a seasonal ranger at Arches National Park. Each year about this time, thousands of other people begin daydreaming of a summer spent outside, working in the national parks.

It can be done. The National Park Service (NPS) fills a little less than 5,000 positions each summer season. The seasonal jobs are graded as park aide, for a beginning park employee; technician, which includes interpretive and general NPS work; and ranger, a position that includes law enforcement responsibilities.

The three areas of interest are interpretive, law enforcement, and general. Interpretive work includes organizing programs and talks on natural and cultural resources; law enforcement rangers patrol roads and visitor areas and provide for visitor safety; and general work includes such duties as tour guide and fee collection. (People interested in seasonal maintenance work should contact the particular region or park that interests them.)

Applications and information are available from the National Park Service, Seasonal Employment Unit, 18th & C Streets NW, Room 2227, Washington, D.C. 20240, (202) 323-6901. The deadline for all applications is January 15; if you're interested, contact the NPS right away.

If you want to do volunteer work, you can apply to the Volunteers in the Parks (VIP) program by contacting any national park superintendent directly. Mention the skills you have—from typing and carpentry to

public relations and campground host—and how these skills might be tied to park work.

If you apply to a park far from where you live, you may be offered a campsite for the summer or suggestions for housing outside the park because housing for regular staff is extremely limited. For more information, write the National Park Service, Volunteers in the Parks, Washington, D.C. 20240.

The nonprofit Student Conservation Association (SCA) also provides two programs for volunteers. This year the SCA expects to fill 1,500 positions in 250 federally administered areas. Volunteers will assist conservation professionals in biological and archeological research, interpretation, backcountry construction, and wildlife habitat restoration.

The High School Program offers positions to young adults between the ages of sixteen and eighteen. Each project lasts three to five weeks. The Park-Forest Resource Assistant Program is available to anyone eighteen years of age or older. These positions last ten to twelve weeks; and transportation, expenses, and housing are provided.

For applications and information, write the Student Conservation Association, Box 550H, Charlestown, New Hampshire 03603.

Park Service Fares Well In FY 1984 Budget

On November 4 President Reagan signed the appropriations bill for the Department of the Interior. The National Park Service fared relatively well in large part because Congress added funds—as it has done for each Interior budget during this Administration—above those requested by former Secretary Watt.

Several national park areas for which the Administration requested no funding did receive land acquisition funding in the bill. These areas include the Appalachian National Scenic Trail ($8.5 million), Chaco Culture National Historical Park ($.5 million), Manassas National Battlefield Park ($3 million), and Obed Wild and Scenic River ($1 million).

The bill also includes increased funds for studies that address threats to park resources: $750,000 for regional science programs; $100,000 to expand studies of threats to geothermal resources; and $150,000 for studies at Everglades National Park, such as those designed to analyze water flow through the park.

As of this writing, Congress is also considering a supplemental appropriations bill that includes $25 million for land acquisition at Congaree Swamp National Monument and $500,000 for Saratoga National Historical Park. In addition, the bill authorizes the Army Corps of Engineers to carry out the work of redirecting water deliveries to correct sheet flow at Everglades National Park.

Overall, Congress again has provided much-needed additional funding to help preserve the National Park System. NPCA especially appreciates the support shown by members of the House and Senate Interior Appropriations subcommittees.

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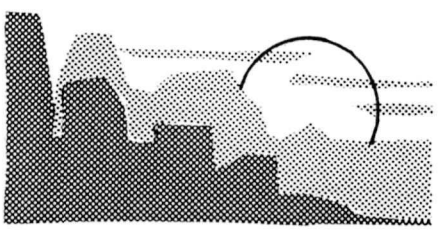

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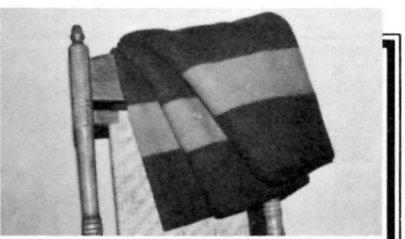

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Miscellaneous

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MONSTER TALES

Have been as busy as a fox in a hen house with your Monster Maul. Have been splitting tough red elm which could be some of Minnesota's toughest wood. Can now split without a crew. The winter of '78 and '79 sold 300 loads with a pickup truck. Come May, 1983, I will be 74 years old and enjoy splitting with the Monster Maul. Have been heating our home with wood the last three winters. Do like to heat with wood it is such a welcome heat. The good thing about this Maul, you can stand it on end and will stay upright. My good friend "Leonard" may you find a bass under every lily pad.

Math Reimer, Long Lake, MN

DOCTOR REPORTS!

I recently purchased your "Monster Maul". It is gratifying to find a mail order item that is exactly as advertised. I split knotty, live oak with little difficulty. The most amazing thing to me is that compared to all the other systems, I have ever used, the Monster never gets stuck. Also, the newspaper that accompanies the maul is full of useful information. Being on the receiving end of many work-related injuries, I appreciate the emphasis on safety as well.

Ira B. Fishman, M.D., King City, CA

NEIGHBORLY LESSON

I visited my neighbor last week to find his son and son-in-law struggling to lift heavy cross-sections of oak and hickory onto a tractor-powered hydraulic splitter. I pulled the Monster Maul out of the back of my pickup and went to work. After 15 minutes with aching backs, they and their 80 hp fuel-eating rig had split about 2/3 of what I and the Monster had, and I was just getting loosened up. The first question they asked was where they could buy such a maul.

Bill Dieckman, Letts, IA

"BEAMING"

Two years ago I ordered my husband a Sotz Maul. We threw away the wooden handled maul, wedges, etc., and he "beamed" everytime he raised the Sotz and sent a blow splitting the toughest pitch log! He likes it so much he wants a back-up, just in case! Thank you for a quality product and for the unique "lower price"! Those two factors have sold another Sotz Maul.

Margaret E. Dejmek, Edgemont, SD

UNDOUBTEDLY THE BEST!

I have one of your Monster Mauls and it's the greatest splitter I have ever used. I split 3 cords of oak in 1 day; approximately 2 hours per cord. The oak was 16"x 18" and the maul split it with ease in just one and two shots. Enclosed is $15.95 for a set of your woodstove tools. I have no doubts that it will be as good a product as your monster maul. Thank you for prompt delivery. P.S. Please send me one of your up-to-date newspapers, I really enjoy reading it. Thanks.

Louis A. Colasante, Hatboro, PA

The Latest Word

AMAX COAL TO PULL OUT OF CAPITOL REEF AREA

Amax Coal Company and its subsidiary, Meadowlark Farms, recently announced the decision to abandon plans to mine coal near Capitol Reef National Park. Amax and Meadowlark Farms had figured on developing their noncompetitive coal lease applications on Bureau of Land Management acreage by the Henry Mountains, but they chose to pull out because of "an economically depressed market combined with high capital costs."

The proposed Cave Flat and Swap Mesa mining sites, which lie between the Henry Mountains and Capitol Reef, and the Wildcat Mesa site all would have been visible from some of the most popular overlooks in the park.

NPCA DINNER HIGH POINT OF ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

Three days of meetings--to discuss NPCA's future plans and to renew acquaintances--as well as a celebratory annual dinner came to an end November 18. This past year saw the position of chairman of the board transfer from Gilbert Stucker to Stephen Mather McPherson.

NPCA board members and staff expressed their appreciation for Gil Stucker's leadership; and, in his address, Stephen McPherson said, "Gil Stucker was here when NPCA required a leader with vision and a philosopher with tact and wisdom."

Bruce Craig of Channel Islands National Park received the Freeman Tilden Award for best National Park Service interpreter of 1983. And NPCA honored the memory of Senator Henry M. Jackson.

NPCA presented Mrs. Jackson with an exhibit print of Lake Ann and Maple Pass in North Cascades National Park. Senator Jackson led the fight to create North Cascades and Mrs. Jackson said that the Lake Ann area was one of her husband's favorites.

Michael Harvey, who worked for the senator and is now Democratic staff director of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, enumerated some of the conservation work--such as the seminal National Environmental Policy Act--for which Senator Jackson is respected.

He was known for his tough stands. Nevertheless, Harvey said, "Senator Jackson never considered civility a sign of weakness." Harvey also said that Senator Jackson inspired great loyalty among his staff, in part, because he held steadfast to his own principles.

During the annual events NPCA also welcomed new trustees Kathleen Shea Abrams; Gordon T. Beaham, III; Charles J. Brink; Dorman L. Commons; John Kauffmann; Orin Lehman; and William B. Wiener, Jr.

GREENLINE PARKS BOOK PUBLISHED BY NPCA

NPCA announces publication of its book, Greenline Parks: Land Conservation Trends for the Eighties and Beyond, the first book devoted to this increasingly important aspect of land protection. Using a combination of techniques--such as zoning regulations and easements--plus local, state, and federal involvement, concerned citizens can plan for sensible stewardship of large scenic landscapes.

Greenline Parks, edited by Marjorie Corbett and first presented as a report at an international conference in Germany last June, is a collection of essays by experts in the field that explains how the greenline process works. Using Columbia Gorge in Washington and Jackson Hole, Wyoming, as prime examples, the book pinpoints fifteen other areas of the country that could benefit from greenline protections. Greenline Parks also includes advice on how the lay person can organize a greenline planning group.

CONTRACTING SCHEME FOISTED ON NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The Interior Department is playing the numbers game again with National Park Service (NPS) jobs. The NPS was asked to come up with a number of jobs at selected parks that could be contracted out to private companies. NPCA believes that this course makes economic sense in certain cases, but also believes that Interior's new tack may be counterproductive and may unwittingly damage park resources.

Interior Assistant Secretary G. Ray Arnett recently instructed the director

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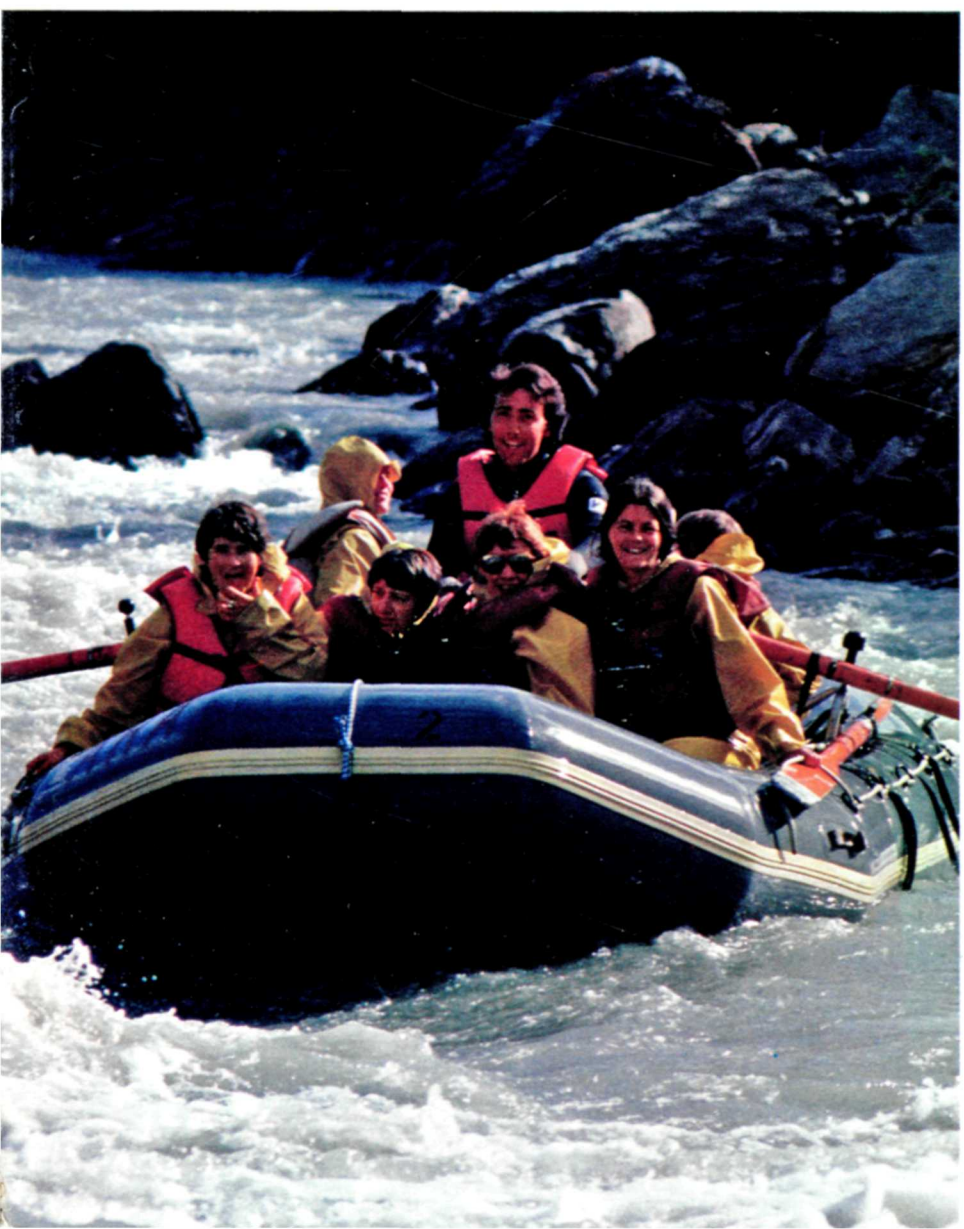

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of the NPS to prepare a list of forty activities--four from each of the ten regions--that could be contracted out to private companies. The rub is that if more than 50 percent of the jobs in any category would be more cost effective by contracting them out, all the activities in that group would be contracted out.

In fact, all the jobs in that category throughout the entire NPS would be contracted out on the basis of that minute survey. So, according to Interior's directive, if four of the seven general maintenance jobs selected in the survey would be more cost effective in private hands, all general maintenance jobs in the NPS requiring ten or fewer full-time employees would be contracted out.

"This sort of mathematics absolutely certifies that cost efficiency is not the driving force behind this rage of contracting," says NPCA's Laura Beaty, "but, rather, this Administration's efforts to reduce personnel at any cost. Unfortunately, if such a program continues, the loss of dedicated NPS personnel may follow--plus a loss of natural and cultural resources through mistreatment."

Historic park administration buildings could be maltreated by private building maintenance crews not schooled in resource protection. Grounds crews who know nothing about the problems of erosion, wildlife habitat, or archeological sites could inadvertently jeopardize park areas.

NPCA believes contracting out makes sense--but only on a case-by-case basis.

SENATE PASSES HABS RESOLUTION AND OUTDOOR RECREATION BILL In the closing days of November, just before the congressional recess, the Senate approved a joint resolution commending the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS). During the Depression, HABS provided jobs for hundreds of unemployed architects, photographers, draftsmen, and others.

Since that time, HABS has surveyed and documented approximately 16,000 historically significant American buildings, bridges, and other structures--many of which now exist only in HABS archives.

The resolution (S.J.Res. 173), which was introduced by Senator Bennett Johnston (D-La.)--and cosponsored by eight other senators--to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of HABS, will now go to the House Interior Committee.

The Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Committee (ORRRC) bill passed the full Senate in mid-November and the House will probably hold hearings on the bill early this year.

The first ORRRC was instrumental in establishing landmark legislation such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund. NPCA believes that with the phenomenal rise in outdoor recreation in the last decade, a second committee is not only desirable but necessary.

MATHER AWARD NOMINATIONS OPEN THROUGH FEBRUARY Nominations for NPCA's first Stephen Mather Award will be accepted through February. The award was created to recognize outstanding personal commitment to protecting and promoting the environment.

NPCA believes that those who follow in the footsteps of Stephen Mather, the first director of the National Park Service and an ardent conservationist, should be honored and rewarded for putting their principles before personal gain. To this end, NPCA, which Mather helped found, will present the winner of the award with $1,000.

Nominees can be any natural or cultural resource professional employed during 1983 by either federal, state, or local government. Send nominations to NPCA Mather Award, 1701 18th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009.

HOUSE MEMBERS MOVE TO BLOCK DELETIONS AT CAPE HATTERAS Opposition to deleting a portion of Cape Hatteras National Seashore in order to benefit the North Carolina fishing industry has found a champion in Representative Silvio Conte (R-Mass.).

Conte, who is ranking minority member of the House Appropriations Committee, recently sent a letter signed by a bipartisan group of more than twenty-five representatives to Congressman Morris Udall (D-Ariz.) asking Udall to delete the Oregon Inlet land-transfer proposal from the wetlands bill. The House Interior Commmit-

tee, of which Udall is chairman, is expected to act on the bill early this year.

The plan to delete land from both Cape Hatteras and Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge in order to allow the Army Corps of Engineers to build two miles of jetties was attached as a rider to the wetlands bill. North Carolina Representative Walter B. Jones (D) and senators Jesse Helms (R) and John East (R) insist the jetties are needed to keep Oregon Inlet open and the state fishing industry alive.

Opponents reply that the plan would waste hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars, would further degrade the environment of Oregon Inlet, and would set a bad precedent by deauthorizing parkland. Moreover, say opponents, most of the benefits of the proposed project can be obtained from an improved dredging program.

NPCA OPPOSES LOGGING NEXT TO REDWOOD NP

NPCA has joined with Save the Redwoods League and others to protest the U.S. Forest Service's planned Myrtle Creek timber sale. A small but unspoiled tributary of the Smith River, Myrtle Creek is adjacent to Redwood National Park and Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park in California.

NPCA contends that Myrtle Creek, which boasts a wide variety of native flora, including some old-growth redwoods, is an outstanding example of the transition zone between the coast redwood belt and the drier mixed forests that lie inland.

"Up to now," wrote NPCA's Southwest and California Representative Russ Butcher in a letter to the regional forester, "the Forest Service has performed an absolutely commendable job of managing Myrtle Creek watershed.

"We strongly urge, therefore, that the Forest Service continue to manage Myrtle Creek [so it can] remain a major natural asset of the Smith River region."

INTERIOR PUSHES TO ALLOW MORE TRAPPING IN PARKS

Special regulations that would permit trapping in eleven units of the National Park System are anticipated in the latter part of December, as of this writing. These special regulations will amend a larger body of regulations--finalized last summer--that denies trapping in park system units unless specifically authorized by their enabling legislation. These regulations govern National Park System management and, until the special regulations are approved, the entire body of regulations will be held up.

Trapping is presently unauthorized in the eleven units addressed in the special regulations, and NPCA believes it would be illegal to issue regulations to allow this activity. Besides what NPCA sees as the blatant illegality of the proposed special regulations, trapping destroys park wildlife and is an inappropriate commercial activity.

The units where trapping would be permitted include Assateague National Seashore, Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, Buffalo National River, Cape Cod National Seashore, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway, New River Gorge National River, Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, and Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

To protest these proposed regulations, write to Director Russell Dickenson, National Park Service, Interior Department, Washington, D.C. 20240. Comments are due by the third week in January.

SOUTH DAKOTA SEEKS MANAGEMENT OF WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK

South Dakota wants to assume management of Wind Cave National Park, and state officials scheduled a December meeting with Wind Cave managers to discuss the subject. In 1981 the state proposed managing Wind Cave in conjunction with its adjoining Custer State Park, and it has been steadily increasing the pressure for this transfer.

The National Park Service (NPS) has resisted any such proposal so far--for good reason, say environmentalists. Wind Cave has a substantial elk population and, if South Dakota managed the park according to its own standards, hunters could gain access to that herd. In addition, NPS officials say any change in the management of Wind Cave National Park would require congressional approval.