National Parks

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The Magazine of The National Parks and Conservation Association

MARCH/APRIL 1998

Restoring Everglades

Plundering the Parks

Trumpeter Comeback

Washington, D.C., Parks

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National Parks
Vol. 72, No. 3-4
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The Magazine of the National Parks and Conservation Association

PAGE 34

THOMAS D. MANGELSON

FEATURES

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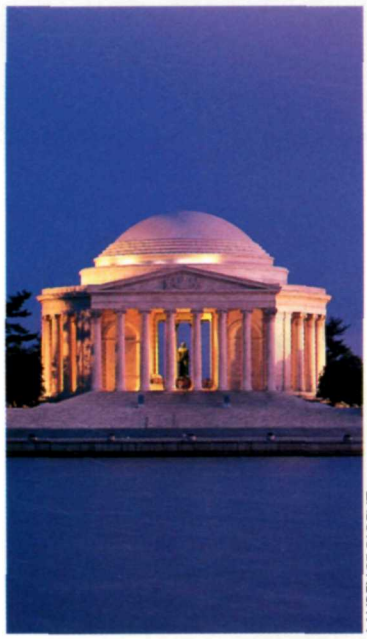
COVER: An American alligator glides through duckweed in the Everglades. The wetland ecosystem is the focus of a multi-billion dollar restoration effort. Photograph by Murry Sill/Index Stock Photography.



LAURENCE PARENT

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DEPARTMENTS

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Everglades Coalition

NPCA is working in partnership with 40 groups to restore the "river of grass."

IN JANUARY, NPCA hosted the 13th annual Everglades Coalition conference in Key Largo, Fla. This coalition of 40 local, regional, and national environmental groups has been working for more than a decade to create the knowledge and public support necessary to restore the Everglades ecosystem. I was pleased to host this three-day conference and to announce plans to open an office in south Florida—housed with our local partner, the Biscayne Bay Foundation—to expand NPCA's role in this critical restoration.

VICKI PARIS

The Everglades has deteriorated since becoming a park more than 50 years ago. The channeling of the previous "river of grass" to provide land for agriculture and water for the growing public has seriously impaired the entire ecosystem. The biological processes were undermined when we built more than 1,400 miles of canals, dikes, and pump stations in an effort to control the natural ebb and flow of water.

And while the damage to date is significant, the anticipated growth of the current 5 million population of south Florida by 40 percent by 2015 will compound the challenge. Serving this population is fueling such projects as the proposed redevelopment of the Homestead Air Reserve Base. While NPCA strongly supports economic developments, turning this air base into a commercial airport would harm the resources of both Everglades and Biscayne national parks.

What the Everglades Coalition is doing today provides a critical step forward. The coalition has been working to advocate for and design the restoration of the ecosystem. These groups, with whom we work closely and for whom we have high regard, are redesigning the systems that feed into the Everglades. This includes unchanneling the headwaters to the Everglades and buying lands or easements for future water storage and treatment.

The Everglades' resources are so distinctive that the park is listed as a Biosphere Reserve, yet we are still not living up to the mandate to protect parks unimpaired for future generations.

A priority for NPCA is to uphold the standards set by Congress and endorsed by nearly all Americans of protecting park resources unimpaired: not slightly impaired or partly degraded. This means restoring the wading bird population to historic levels—now at only 10 percent of those levels—and bringing the current 16 endangered species to viable populations. The challenge is enormous. While working with our local and national partners, it is NPCA's role to keep that goal of unimpaired resources clearly and firmly in the minds of all Americans and our governing officials. It is why I accepted this opportunity to lead NPCA and why I hope you will continue to support our work.

Thomas C. Kiernan
President

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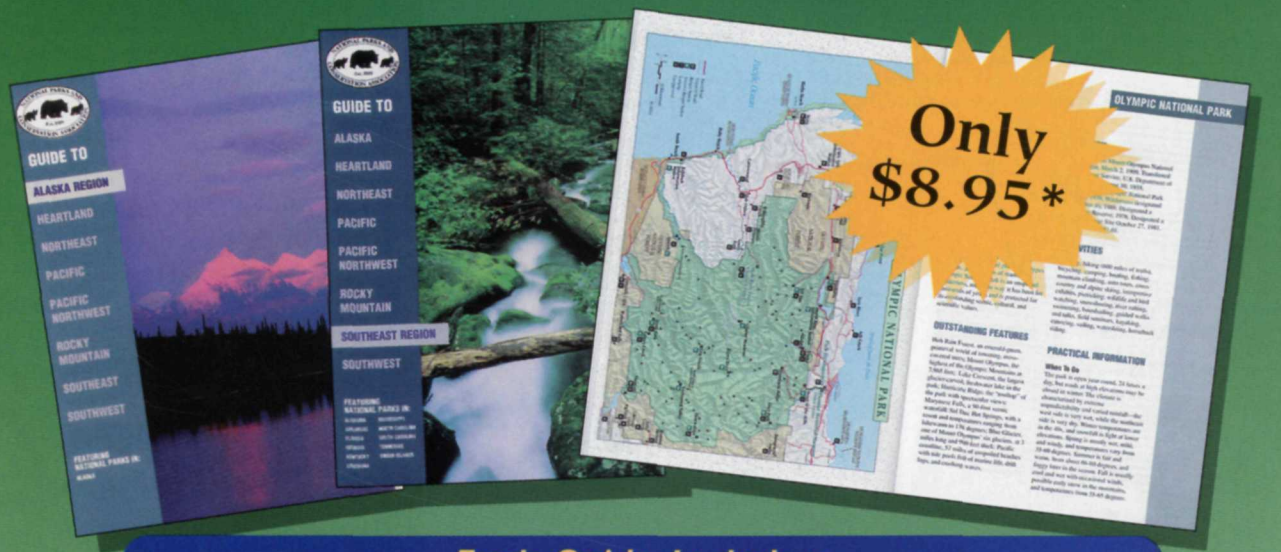

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ABOUT NPCA

WHO WE ARE: Established in 1919, the National Parks and Conservation Association is America's only private, nonprofit citizen organization dedicated solely to protecting, preserving, and enhancing the U.S. National Park System.

WHAT WE DO: NPCA protects national parks by identifying problems and generating support necessary to resolve them. Through its efforts, NPCA has developed a base of grassroots support that has increased effectiveness at local and national levels.

WHAT WE STAND FOR: NPCA's mission is to protect and improve the quality of our National Park System and to promote an understanding of, appreciation for, and sense of personal commitment to parklands.

HOW TO JOIN: NPCA depends almost entirely on contributions from our members for the resources essential for an effective program. You can become a member by calling our Member Services Department. The bimonthly *National Parks* magazine is among the benefits you will receive. Of the $25 membership dues, $3 covers a one-year subscription to the magazine.

EDITORIAL MISSION: The magazine is the only national publication focusing solely on national parks. The most important communication vehicle with our members, the magazine creates an awareness of the need to protect and properly manage the resources found within and adjacent to the parks. The magazine underscores the uniqueness of the national parks and encourages an appreciation for the scenery and the natural and historic treasures found in them, informing and inspiring individuals who have concerns about the parks and want to know how they can help to improve these irreplaceable resources.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE: A critical component in NPCA's park protection programs are members who take the lead in defense of America's natural and cultural heritage. Park activists alert Congress and the administration to park threats; comment on park planning and adjacent land-use decisions; assist NPCA in developing partnerships; and educate the public and the media about park issues. For more information on NPCA's park activist network, contact our Grassroots Department, extension 221.

HOW TO DONATE: NPCA's success also depends on the financial support of our members. For more information on special giving opportunities, such as Partners for the Parks (a monthly giving program), Trustees for the Parks ($1,000 and above), bequests, planned gifts, and matching gifts, call our Development Department, extensions 145 or 146.

HOW TO REACH US: We can be reached the following ways: by mail: National Parks and Conservation Association, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20036; by phone: 800-NAT-PARK; by e-mail: npca@npca.org; and http://www.npca.org/ on the World Wide Web.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Lost Legacy

Six years ago, when a man was caught leaving the Library of Congress with two rare maps under his sweater, I wondered who would do such a thing? Who would selfishly steal documents that rightfully belonged to the public for his own gain or enjoyment?

As the story unfolded, it became clear that this was not an isolated incident. Maps, illustrations, and rare books disappear from the Library of Congress every year.

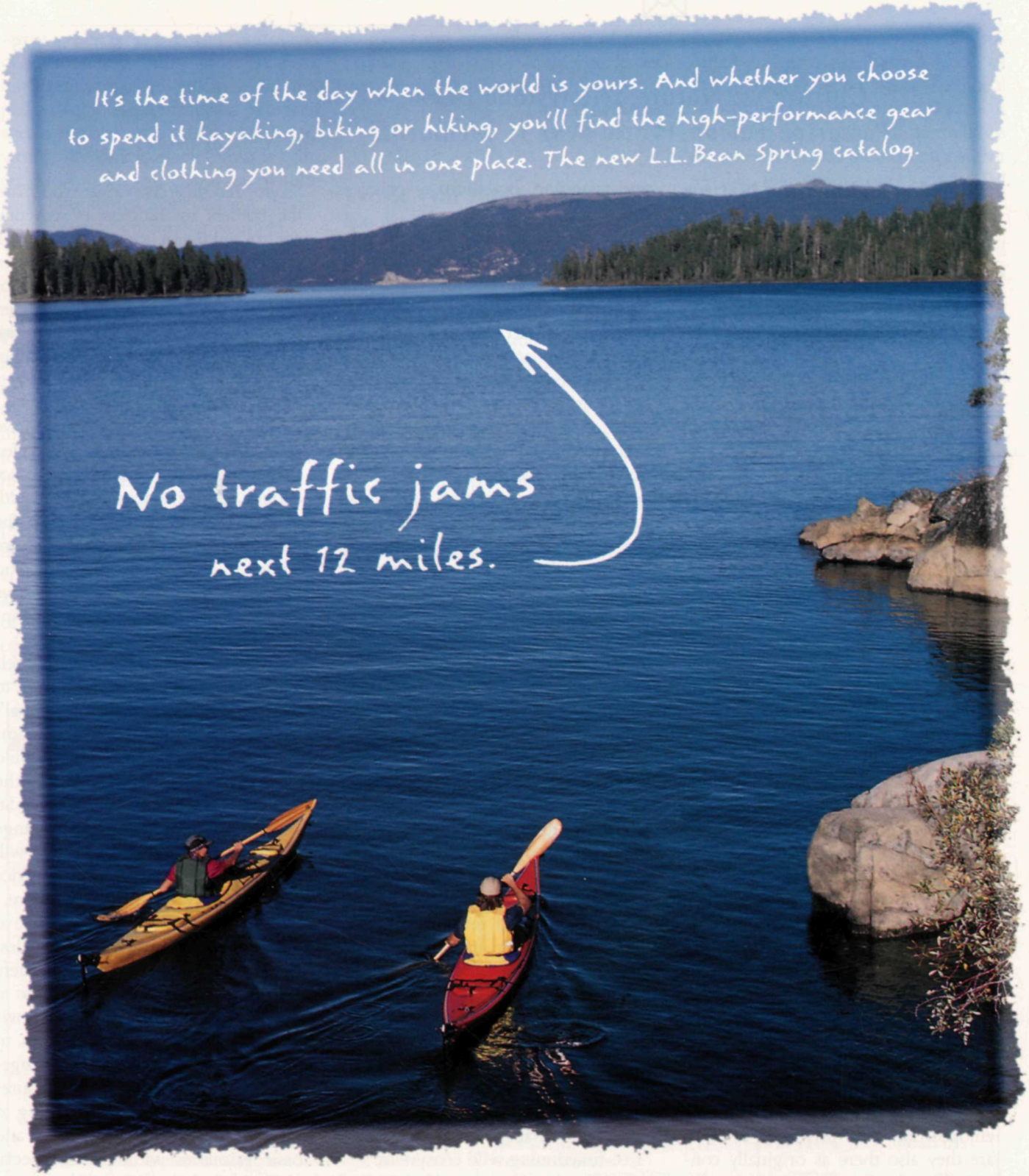
I was reminded of this episode after reading Wendy Mitman Clarke's story: "Plundering National Treasures." The story outlines the damage caused by people who purposely and, sometimes, inadvertently, pillage the parks. The harm goes beyond the object taken. Looters are stealing not just a Civil War era bullet or an Anasazi basket. They are robbing us of our common history.

Even though we believe the parks are sacrosanct, we are reminded that maintaining this requires constant vigilance.

If we want to preserve parks for the future, and retain the invaluable information contained within them, we must fight to preserve them. Whether that protection takes the form of stronger laws, a multi-billion dollar renewal effort to restore the Everglades, or ecosystem management to aid the trumpeter swan, we must recognize the uniqueness of the resources within the National Park System.

The words of 107-year-old activist Marjory Stoneman Douglass, that there is only one Everglades, could be just as aptly applied to all of the resources contained within the National Park System. The significance of parks behooves us to do all we can to preserve them. Responsibility and history demand nothing less.

Linda M. Rancourt
Acting Editor-in-Chief



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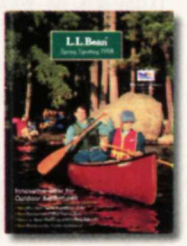

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Culture vs. Nature, Yellowstone Bison, Peregrine Falcon, World War II Memorial

Balancing Culture and Nature

It was refreshing to read the September/October issue with its emphasis on the historic and cultural aspects of our National Park System. Most hopeful was the statement in "The Taming of the View" that "the Park Service is beginning to recognize that landscapes shaped by humans — cultural landscapes — are as much a part of our country's rich heritage as natural ones."

Unfortunately, in the West it seems the traditional approach of phasing out existing historical uses still is the predominant practice. In a young land still struggling to build its culture and heritage, anything deemed old too often is considered undesirable. As quickly as lands are acquired by our Western parks, plans are made to tear out any evidence of past usage in order to facilitate attempts to return the landscape to long-lost quasi-wilderness status.

One example of the approach is the benign degradation of Yosemite's many historic sheep, cattle, and military trails and camps. Another is Sequoia National Park's planned destruction of the 134-year-old historic living community in California's alpine valley of Mineral King. Others include 1800s lumber camps, native ruins, and old mining and resort communities in a variety of our Western national parks. Outright destruction of these historic entities or planned deterioration of their existence continue to be park policy.

Are our Western parks primarily for wilderness experiences that can be enjoyed only by a privileged few? Or are they also there as originally conceived by the Organic Act to conserve historic as well as natural objects?

Someone needs to advise our Western parks superintendents that the history and heritage of their cultural resources are just as important to future generations as are natural landscapes. Only through retention of our cultural history can we build a basis for understanding our human practices and responsibilities.

Louise Jackson Snyder
Incline Village, NV

Yellowstone Bison

Everyone seems to agree that Yellowstone National Park lacks suitable winter forage to support bison ["Yellowstone's Bison War," November/December 1997].

If Yellowstone were functioning as a complete ecological unit, predator populations would keep the bison populations under control, and winter migration to lower elevations would give bison a chance to find food and Yellowstone's plants a chance to recover. However, misguided management in the 1920s and '30s has led to lack of predators, and civilization's encroachment has stifled migration. Because the bison population grows unchecked by predators and they find their only winter refuge in the park, the bison are actually threatening the health of the park. That leaves three alternatives: 1) find some safe winter refuge for the bison outside the park; 2) feed the bison in the park; or 3) get rid of the bison (which no one wants).

Unpalatable as it is for many of us to admit, the sad fact remains that until America is willing and able to vastly increase the size of Yellowstone, it cannot sustain all of the creatures that we want it to sustain. Until adequate winter range outside the park can be guaranteed, the bison population must be wisely controlled and fed. We must recognize that at this time, it is just not possible to manage Yellowstone as a "free-functioning wild ecosystem."

Alfred Fordiani
Sudbury, MA

In "Yellowstone's Bison War" [November/December 1997], Mr. Schubert contends that "The border of Yellowstone National Park is now being rendered meaningless." I tend to agree with the statement, but believe that it is the Park Service and their supporters who make the borders meaningless by coveting control and use of lands outside of park boundaries as they see fit, when they see fit, and for what they see fit regardless of land ownership or land use. However, the opposite does not apply—the Park Service exercises an iron fist within Yellowstone boundaries whether their actions make sense or not.

Superintendent Finley may have been ashamed when bison were killed as they moved out of the park, but not enough to take actions that he could, such as feeding the bison within the park during the extraordinarily severe winter to mitigate the suffering and killing. The Park Service did not have the will to relieve the suffering last winter. Will they in the future?

Bison are not indigenous to Yellowstone Park. Bison were brought to the park from the plains, the animal's historical natural habitat. Left completely alone, Yellowstone bison would reproduce and move down the Yellowstone River, all the way to St. Louis and beyond. How much range is enough? Any additional range will soon be filled, and the Park Service and supporters will then want more.

While many of us think we'd like to return to the 18th and 19th centuries, that just isn't going to happen. There are more than 267 million people in this country, and the number is growing daily. The Park Service needs to become more realistic in its management of the great national treasures entrusted to their care. Continuing to mismanage the wildlife, plants, and basic resources within these special places is resulting in their destruction.

Regardless of how special Yellowstone National Park is, the world does not revolve around it. The park's current management objective

ANSWER TO "YOU ARE HERE"
Boston National Historical Park (Old State House)

seems to be to take over and control use of surrounding lands rather than to intelligently manage and maintain the park. Decisions often appear arrogant and arbitrary, and when things go wrong, the park is quick to blame others. More often the blame lies within park boundaries. The ongoing bison controversy is just another example.

John Morrison, Jr.
Lakewood, CO

Peregrine Falcon

As a member of NPCA and the Peregrine Fund, I have been following the progress of the peregrine for many years. One of the great rewards for people is knowing that they have made a difference.

People have made a difference for the peregrine falcon. This last year I read that the falcon may be removed from the endangered species list. I for one applaud and thank all the efforts of all the people of governmental and environmental organizations that are participating in the return of this magnificent bird of prey. Let's keep up the great work for we know that our work will never be done.

Dana Hawthorne
La Canada, CA

World War II Memorial

You object to the location of the World War II Memorial [November/December 1997]. This location was approved in 1993, and the site is perfect for the memorial, which is long overdue. It is people and organizations such as yours that can delay even longer a project that should have been completed years ago. World War II veterans are dying at a rapid pace. By the time this memorial is built, not many of us will be around to see it. Most importantly, it will honor those who gave their lives to keep our freedoms alive. Objections like yours can only hurt or delay. Those of us who are left want to see the memorial erected on the present site as soon as possible.

Louis Meyer
Hauppauge, NY

In regards to an article on the so-called controversial "sacred vista" of the proposed World War II Memorial [November/December, 1997]: If it wasn't for the sacrifices of the millions of men who served their country in that terrible maelstrom, our sacred Mall wouldn't be there.

The nonsense written in that article struck a sad note for my husband and his service. He was awarded a silver star for his endeavors, and now he has to worry about a helicopter landing area for visiting foreign dignitaries—who would not be here if not for the American servicemen. I have been a member for a number of years, but this kind of viewpoint cancels all of my interest in the National Parks and Conservation Association.

Perhaps the planned memorial is a little elaborate. But the chosen site is perfect. Washington, Lincoln, and veterans—they all served our nation.

Nanette Walsh
Toms River, NJ

BY KATURAH MACKAY

SCIENCE

Smokies Offer Setting for Study

Biologists to inventory every living organism inside the park.

GATLINBURG, TENN.—In an unparalleled endeavor, scientists at Great Smoky Mountains National Park are about to embark on an All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI), a lengthy process that will inventory all living species found in the park.

"This effort will construct the first natural monument of the information age," says Don Barger, NPCA's southeast regional director.

More than 100 scientists from around the world gathered recently at the park to discuss the possibilities and goals of the inventory. Estimated to take roughly 15 years to complete, the ATBI has never before been accomplished in the world. An attempt was made in 1992 to inventory all of the species found in the Area de Conservacion Guanacaste in Costa Rica, but funds were redirected and the project was eventually abandoned.

According to Keith Langdon, inventory and monitoring coordinator at Great Smoky Mountains, the more than half-million-acre park was chosen for the study because of its outstanding biological diversity and central location in the eastern United States. "The forest is succumbing to increased fragmentation, chemical pollution, and alien species," says Langdon. "We're losing our ability to understand all that's there. The park is an ark, and the ATBI will help us protect it infinitely better."

ADAM JONES/DEMBINSKY PHOTO ASSOCIATES

Red cheeked salamanders are an endangered species found in the park.

Langdon says scientists could potentially document 100,000 different species of living organisms in the park, including an unknown number of life forms yet to be discovered.

"Great Smoky Mountains is at least as diverse as the tropics, if not more so, if we consider parasitic organisms alone," says Langdon, "and it is certainly one of the most diverse places in all of the United States."

Not only will the results of the ATBI benefit other parks by serving as a future inventory model, but it will also promote research in other branches of science. Working in the murky pools of untrodden Lechuguilla Cave near Carlsbad Caverns National Park in New Mexico, scientists have discovered two new symbiotic microbes, one of which appears to prefer a diet of cancer cells. Examples such as these indicate that the national parks are teeming with undiscovered life forms and processes that, when studied in non-detrimental ways rather than extracted and depleted, may benefit human health and society as a whole.

"You can identify what's in the park and then be able to better protect it, or you can run what I believe is a greater risk and lose species by not knowing what's there," says Barger.

The Park Service will partner with universities, nonprofit associations, and volunteers to tackle the monumental project. Promoting the study as an exemplary educational tool, Langdon hopes the ATBI will attract schools, youth groups, and graduate students interested in pursuing biological science. While the National Park Foundation financially supports many large-scale projects such as this one, much of the ATBI's funding burden will be eased by volunteer involvement, professional scientists who redirect their work focus, and National Park Service employees adding ATBI tasks to their regular duties.

Dan Janzen, a biologist with the University of Pennsylvania and an advisor on the project, foresees multiple benefits from the ATBI at Great Smokies, among them a "broadened bioliteracy" that would be reflected in ecosystem management decisions both inside the National Park Service and in other land and natural resource agencies. "We are still in kindergarten when it comes to market penetration for wildland biodiversity and ecosystem development," says Janzen.

"We must convey the importance of this study to the world," says NPCA's Barger, "and recognize the vast amount of information held in ecosystems like our national parks."

WILDLIFE

Court Ruling May Spell Doom for Park Wolves

Complex case threatens restored biodiveristy in Yellowstone.

CASPER, WYO. — Wolves in the greater Yellowstone region are running for their lives once again because a federal judge in Wyoming ruled recently to eliminate more than 150 canines from the park and parts of central Idaho. Other than some livestock owners and the American Farm Bureau, very few are celebrating the judge's decision.

The basis for Judge William Downes' complex ruling is the Endangered Species Act and the environmental impact statement (EIS) prepared in 1995 that examines wolf recovery efforts for Yellowstone and Idaho. Prior to reintroduction, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a rule that wolves introduced to Yellowstone and central Idaho would be given "experimental-nonessential" status as opposed to being fully protected as an endangered species. This approach was taken to address ranchers' concerns: they wanted the authority to shoot any wolves that preyed on livestock.

There is evidence that some wolves have migrated from Canada into northwestern Montana. These wolves normally would be classified as endangered but may have mixed with Idaho wolves that were reintroduced. The judge's concern was that these naturally occurring wolves would then be mistaken for "experimental-nonessential" wolves and run the risk of being shot. Downes found that potential confusion between the two types of wolves could undermine the protections that naturally occurring wolves should receive, and he ordered the removal of the "experimental-nonessential" wolves.

To adhere to the order of the district judge, biologists must relocate all of the wolves to other areas, an option that is not viable. Two more breeding seasons will have passed by the time the appeal is settled, and by then, biologists may face capturing as many as 300 wolves—a daunting and nearly impossible task.

Canada cannot accept the wolves back because they would disrupt established packs. Olympic National Park in Washington could be considered, but in other parks, such as Isle Royale National Park in Michigan and Voyageurs National Park in Minnesota, aggressively territorial timber wolf packs would likely kill any newcomers, especially those of a different sub-species. With few options available for relocation, the park could be forced to kill hundreds of wolves to fulfill the order. Fortunately, the judge has ordered a stay on wolf removal until the appeal from environmental groups and the Interior Department is heard.

Absent from Yellowstone for more than 60 years, gray wolves were the only known species missing from the park's historic ecosystem. Today Yellowstone hosts approximately 90 wolves in seven packs—a remarkable wildlife success. According to park officials and to Mark Peterson, NPCA's Rocky Mountain regional director, wolves have replaced grizzly bears in the last two years as the park's number one wildlife attraction. (For more information, see "The Music of the Woods," January/February, 1998.)

JEFF AND ALEXA HENRY

A captured gray wolf awaits transport in a holding pen.

Despite federal protections, wolves in some areas still suffer from human assault. Recently, an injured timber wolf, still alive but unable to walk, was found in northeastern Minnesota, a victim of hit-and-run snowmobilers. According to conservation officers on the scene, the tracks indicate that the snowmobilers hit the wolf once, circled back, and hit it again in the head as it tried to crawl away. Extensive damage to the wolf's head and legs left it maimed beyond recovery and the animal was shot by game wardens. Incidents such as this indicate that wolves require every measure of federal protection.

The fear among members of the ranching community that wolves regularly attack their herds is deeply ingrained but lightly supported by facts. There have been fewer interactions between wolves and livestock outside of Yellowstone—only nine since reintroduction—than were expected by the federal EIS completed for the 1995 wolf release. According to Deb Guernsey, assistant on the Yellowstone gray wolf restoration project, scientists have found that most wolves prefer wild game as their food source rather than domestic livestock. One theory is that wolves kill what they are taught to kill as pups.

Ben Cunningham, a fourth-generation rancher living 20 miles north of Yellowstone, helped the wolf project in 1995 by hauling meat to the animals in acclimation pens. "The wolf is the real victim here," says Cunningham. "Yellowstone just isn't big enough." Although Cunningham does not necessarily agree with a compensation fund for lost livestock, he also says, "You can't put a price on finding a wolf and her pups outside their den in the wild. There just isn't a prettier picture than that."

TAKE ACTION: Sign up for Yellowstone's Park Watcher Network for the latest information on wolf activities in the park. Call 1-800-NAT-PARK, ext. 229, or e-mail Stephany Seay at sseay@npca.org.

LEGISLATION

Bills Threaten Glacier Bay NP

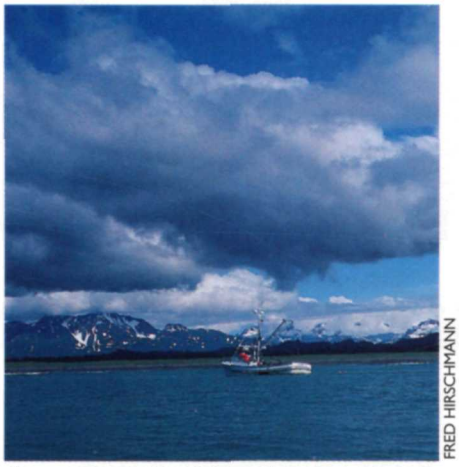
Pending legislation invites continued resource extraction.

GUSTAVUS, ALASKA—Two pieces of legislation have been introduced that would perpetuate and expand commercial fishing in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve (NPP). At the same time, the Park Service plans to release regulations that would inhibit the harmful legislation.

Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska) has submitted two bills to Congress that could negate efforts to preserve the largest marine ecosystem in the National Park System. One bill, S. 1064, would authorize widespread commercial fishing in both the inner bay of the park and along the outer coastline interminably. The bill preempts ongoing NPS and public involvement to develop fair commercial fishing regulations. It also trumps science and research by unilaterally declaring fishing compatible with park purposes—even while state of Alaska fishery managers are working to restrict certain fisheries to protect sensitive species, such as rockfish and sablefish.

"Around the world, fisheries are in stress," says Chip Dennerlein, NPCA's Alaska regional director. "The time has come for Glacier Bay National Park to fulfill its purpose and value as a place where naturally functioning aquatic ecosystems will be preserved unimpaired in perpetuity."

The National Park Service has proposed separate regulations to phase out commercial fishing in Glacier Bay NPP over the next 15 years. Among other provisions, these regulations would allow fishermen to continue harvesting certain species during the 15-year period, if they can demonstrate proof of fishing in the bay for six of the last ten years. Beginning in 1998, the proposed rule would prohibit all commercial fishing in five designated wilderness areas in the park so that motorized fishing and tour boats would not disturb the park's wilderness solitude.



FRED HIRSCHMANN

A commercial crabbing boat anchors off the coast of Glacier Bay NP.

At an NPCA briefing on the issue, concerns were discussed about the future of the fishermen who make a living in Glacier Bay.

"These are wonderful people who typically care about the environment and the park," says Molly Ross, special assistant to the assistant secretary for fish and wildlife and parks with the Department of the Interior. "Many are the equivalent of the old-fashioned family farm, but they don't see what harm commercial fishing represents to the purposes and values of Glacier Bay National Park."

A working group convened by the state of Alaska and composed of NPCA, community fishing groups, biologists, fisheries managers, and others is attempting to develop a consensus agreement, including a cooperative conservation agreement between the Alaska department of fish and game and the Park Service. Dennerlein says it is possible to allow some fishing to continue long-term in certain areas, particularly on the outer coast where salmon and halibut migrate in and out of park boundaries.

Nevertheless, NPCA also insists on a number of immediate actions for both the inner and outer waters. "A meaningful agreement and regulation must establish Glacier Bay as a protected marine ecosystem *now*, not simply offer the promise of protection at some point ten or 15 years in the future," says Dennerlein.

Recently, 1,600 top marine scientists from 65 countries appealed to Congress to increase marine conservation efforts, including the establishment of a "no take" concept for 20 percent of the world's oceans by the year 2020 as control areas for the study of an unfished, untrawled ecosystem. A press secretary from Murkowski's office says, "There are far better places in southeast Alaska to set up nurseries. That just makes no sense. Looking at the 1880s until now, there is no indication of harm from the few people who fish in Glacier Bay."

Statistics say otherwise. NPCA asserts that 20 years ago, the southeast Alaska tanner crab season operated year-round; in 1997, the fleet harvested its entire allocation for extraction in just eight days—much of that harvested inside park boundaries. Equally harmful to park waters are scallop trawling vessels, whose equipment drags along the floor of the ocean and damages underwater habitat along the outer coastline.

According to the Center for Marine Conservation (CMC), limited information on commercial fisheries in the inner bay suggests that fisheries annually remove approximately 150-200 tons of halibut, roughly 2,000 tons of salmon and other fin fish, and six species of crab, scallops, and shrimp.

"Such extractions are likely impacting the Glacier Bay ecosystem, but to what degree is uncertain," says Jack Sobel, director of ecosystem protection at CMC. "Among the benefits of 'no take' areas are to keep a portion of the marine world intact to appreciate it, to better understand these human impacts, and to improve management elsewhere."

Murkowski has also introduced S. 967, a bill that outlines amendments to the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). The amendments would further open Glacier Bay NPP to subsistence hunting, mining, fishing, and trapping, thereby threatening the wilderness character of the biologically complex park.

TAKE ACTION: Public comments on the NPS proposed rule for commercial fishing in Glacier Bay will be accepted until May 15. Send coments to: Superintendent James Brady, Glacier Bay NPP, P.O. Box 140, Gustavus, AK 99826. Urge Murkowski to withdraw his legislation to preserve the bay's resources unimpaired. Address: Sen. Frank H. Murkowski, 322 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510; e-mail: email@murkowski.senate.gov.

MANAGEMENT

Changes Needed at El Malpais

NPCA's report cites room for improvement and expansion.

GRANTS, N. MEX.—In a report on the present condition and future needs of the ten-year-old El Malpais National Monument, NPCA is advocating the acquisition of 5,200 collective acres of private inholdings.

The proposed acquisition includes the Candelaria property, a six-square-mile, family-owned tract in the northwest corner of the monument that hosts the Bandera Crater—an unusual cinder cone—and other remarkable subterranean ice caves and volcanic features. The monument overall is rich in ancient Pueblo Indian history and hosts a 17-mile lava tube system.

"Now is the time for Congress, the agencies, and the American public to renew their commitment to the Malpais and make it the great protected area it should be," says Dave Simon, NPCA's southwest regional director.

In 1987, President Reagan signed a bill establishing a 114,000-acre national monument, managed by the National Park Service (NPS), and the surrounding 262,000-acre national conservation area (NCA) managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). But NPS and BLM have "an unfinished agenda," particularly in terms of land acquisition and adequate resource protection, says Simon.

NPS and BLM have made progress

over the last ten years. Natural and cultural resource protection has been improved by land acquisition, ranger patrols, and better law enforcement. As outlined in the 1987 law, cattle grazing ended within the national monument on December 31, 1997. New trails, parking, and interpretive programs have improved visitor services. The two areas now see more than 100,000 visitors per year and are collaborating on a "multi-agency center" that will combine BLM, NPS, U.S. Forest Service, and Native American participation.

"We're happy to be working with our sister agency, the National Park Service," says Charna Lefton, public affairs representative for BLM, "and we're pleased to continue our efforts for the Malpais with our delegates in Congress, the local community, volunteer groups, and NPCA."

But NPCA also found poor planning and proposals for excessive development, failures in inter-agency cooperation, problems with grazing management, and—more importantly—serious budget shortfalls for land acquisition and agency operations. These problems are compounded by the projections that visitation to both areas is expected to double in the next ten years.

"Our approach is to make El Malpais an integral part of the Colorado Plateau visitor experience," says Ken Mabery, management assistant at the monument. "Other parks in the area have experienced a rise in visitation, and we're trying to be ready with the developments called for in the general management plan."

El Malpais NM receives far less funding than other NPS units of similar size and visitation. Denied specific project funding by Congress, NPS has been forced to dip into the monument's operational budget to complete resource protection and visitor service projects. Ten years after establishment, the BLM has still not completed a general management plan for the NCA, as the first plan was successfully challenged in court. Eight of the 12 grazing allotments on the NCA are classified "in unacceptable ecological condition and/or have significant resource conflicts," but BLM is working hard to improve them. Only 2 percent of the monument and 2.5 percent of the NCA have been inventoried for cultural resources, according to NPCA's report. Yet such small samples have revealed several homesteads and more than 82 documented archaeological sites, one with an artifact density comparable to Chaco Canyon to the north.

NPCA also recommended several other goals, including: designation of 97,000 acres within the monument and 18,300 acres in the NCA as wilderness; completion of a BLM management plan; co-location of NPS and BLM offices; increased cooperation and involvement with Native Americans; and increased local support from area residents and businesses.

NEWS UPDATE

▶ **BIRD ON THE BRINK:** Found in only three distinct populations in Big Cypress National Preserve and Everglades National Park, the Cape Sable seaside sparrow will be extinct in two decades if water management practices for the Everglades ecosystem are not changed. The medium-sized, non-migratory sparrow has the most restricted range of any bird in North America. Rangewide populations have declined 40 percent since 1981. Western areas of the sparrow's range may be inundated as the Army Corps of Engineers alters water flow to protect a nearby area where a number of houses and businesses have been built without zoning permits. ✍ **TAKE ACTION:** Write to the Army Corps of Engineers and demand that they halt flooding of the endangered sparrow's habitat for the benefit of those not legally entitled to federal flood protection. Address: Colonel Joe Miller, District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019; e-mail: joe.r.miller@sha02.usace.army.mil; Samuel E. Poole, III, Executive Director, South Florida Water Management District, P.O. Box 24680, West Palm Beach, FL 33416; e-mail: samuel.poole@sfwmd.gov.

▶ **WINTER USE WATCH:** The National Park Service has announced that it will keep the Hayden Valley and Gibbon River road segments open in Yellowstone National Park for the next two winter seasons. The park will continue its research and monitoring of wildlife ranges and their use of groomed trails throughout the park. Researchers will be able to construct a model of bison movements and visitor data to assist in evaluating possible management actions. At NPCA's recommendation, the Park Service called for Congress to approve $1.5 million in funding for the studies, which will also reveal how winter use affects other park users, noise, air quality, and the local economy.

RESOURCES

Cumberland Gap Views Protected

Decision recognizes historical significance of mountain pass.

MIDDLESBORO, KY.—An administrative law judge ruled in favor of NPCA, Cumberland Gap National Historical Park (NHP), and the city of Middlesboro, Ky., by recommending the withdrawal of a mining permit held by Appolo Fuels, Inc., for surface and underground mining just outside the park. The state of Kentucky did not consider the adverse effects of mining on the viewshed of the park and did not engage the National Park Service (NPS) in consultation and joint approval for the permit.

"This is a step forward in the protection of parks from the impacts of mining beyond their boundaries," says Don Barger, NPCA's southeast regional director. "To my knowledge, this is the first time that a visual impact has been determined to be an adverse effect on a

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REGIONAL REPORT

News Briefs from NPCA's Regional Offices

ALASKA Chip Dennerlein, Regional Director

▶ NPCA is working with other conservation groups to oppose legislation that would facilitate the construction of a 30-mile highway between King Cove and Cold Bay, ten miles of which cut through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. The legislation sets a dangerous precedent for roads to traverse any federal lands set aside for the protection of natural resources. Not only is the road estimated to cost approximately $40 million, but the proposal avoids compliance with critical federal environmental laws. ✍ **TAKE ACTION:** Write to your representatives urging them to oppose H.R. 2259/S. 1092. Address: U.S. House or U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20515 or 20510, respectively.

HEARTLAND Lori Nelson, Regional Director

▶Timber wolf numbers in Minnesota have met the state recovery plan's target. The question is whether to manage this increasing number or to reduce the wolf count to a number sufficient to sustain the recovered population. The state's department of natural resources is interested in adopting the wolf management plan to ensure long-term survival, if and when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service delists the timber wolf from endangered status. NPCA hopes to protect those wolves that roam in and out of Voyageurs National Park as well. The Park Service has asked to participate in drafting a wolf management plan. ✍ **TAKE ACTION:** Send comments on timber wolf management to: Commissioner Rodney Sando, Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155, or call 612-296-2549.

NORTHEAST Eileen Woodford, Regional Director

▶ NPCA is assisting Friends of Acadia in an initiative to pass state legislation (L.D. 1730) banning personal watercraft (PWCs) from seven of the Great Ponds of Mount Desert Island in Acadia National Park. Ponds that are partially surrounded by the park and partially or entirely surrounded by private lands would be protected from PWCs under a separate amendment that has been submitted with the legislation. ✍ **TAKE ACTION:** Write to your Maine state legislators to express your support for the sections of L.D. 1730 that will protect Mount Desert Island's ponds from PWCs. Address: State House, #2 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333.

PACIFIC Brian Huse, Regional Director

▶ The 1,500-acre Eagle Mountain landfill proposed to be located adjacent to Joshua Tree National Park has been tentatively rejected by a California superior court ruling. The judge cited the proponent's failure to analyze the impacts of the mega-landfill on park wilderness, the ecosystem, and the threatened desert tortoise. A final ruling on the lawsuit will be out in late winter.

continued

park under this provision of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977."

Cumberland Gap NHP is listed on the National Register of Historic Places because of its importance throughout American history. Daniel Boone helped to expedite America's westward expansion by leading groups of pioneers through the gap into Kentucky territory from approximately 1775 to 1830. Union and Confederate forces alternately occupied the gap and the surrounding area during the Civil War.

The overlook above the gap, called the Pinnacle, is one of the most visited and panoramic places in the park. Only one segment of the view remains that resembles the landscape as seen by early pioneers and Civil War soldiers, and this tract is where Appolo Fuels held its mining permit.

"The judge's decision demonstrates a genuine understanding of the historical and natural values of Cumberland Gap, and applies a broad, commonsense definition to the term 'adversely affect,'" says Barger.

Congress did not define the term "adverse affect" when it passed the 1977 surface mining law, which allowed mining regulators to decide themselves whether a proposed mine would have detrimental effects on a park. The National Park Service was rarely given joint approval authority, which is required by law if a mine will harm a park's resources.

Furthermore, Judge Vanessa Mullins supported her decision with an earlier case in which NPCA and the city of Middlesboro petitioned that the Fern Lake watershed, where Appolo planned to mine, would have also threatened Middlesboro's drinking water supply. The Fern Lake area was found unsuitable for mining.

A final decision on the rescindment of Appolo's permit rests with Kentucky's natural resources and environmental protection cabinet secretary.

"We are very appreciative of all the support from NPCA and the surrounding community for rallying around the resources and aesthetic values of this significant park," says Mark Woods, superintendent at Cumberland Gap.

PLANNING

Gettysburg to Have Improved Visitor Facilities

Proposal offers restoration of battlefield and new services.

GETTYSBURG, PA.—NPCA is supporting the concept of using a public/private partnership to build a new museum and visitor center at Gettysburg National Military Park. However, it is reserving final judgment on the current proposal until all the components of the project are made available to the public.

"The plan is highly untraditional and requires very close scrutiny," says Eileen Woodford, NPCA's Northeast regional director. "NPCA will involve itself at every juncture to ensure that this proposal does not diminish or undermine the integrity of Gettysburg or the National Park System in anyway."

The proposal will replace the existing visitor center and cyclorama center, both of which lie on what was the Union line on the last day of the Gettysburg battle. The plan involves restoring this area, known as Pickett's Charge and considered one of the most significant points of the battle, to its 1863 appearance.

Built in the early 20th century as a private residence, the current visitor center houses the park's extensive collection of soldiers' uniforms, swords, saddles, and photographs in the basement. Because of poor conditions, the collection has fallen victim to mold, rust, and rot. Park managers report that a leaky roof in the cyclorama center has marred the painting of Pickett's charge.

NPS intends for the new facility to include quality storage for the park's extensive artifact and archive collection, a library, and a museum; a new gallery to display the cyclorama painting and the electric battlefield map; and an expanded book store operated by

REGIONAL REPORT *continued*

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

▶ Glacier National Park in Montana faces a potentially serious mining threat: Canada's largest mining company, Fording Coal, Ltd., has purchased four coal site leases across the border in British Columbia and has begun sampling ore. Mining on the site could greatly pollute headwaters of the North Fork of the Flathead River, which forms Glacier's western boundary after it enters the United States. If studies prove mining worthwhile, the company could begin to extract coal over the next ten to 15 years.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN **Mark Peterson, Regional Director**

▶ Planning for the country's newest monument—the 1.7-million-acre Grand Satircase-Escalante in south central Utah—will begin this year. Bureau of Land Management scenarios will be presented in April and a draft management plan will be issued this fall. All major aspects of monument management will be decided by next year, including such important elements as access, transportation systems, visitor facilities, research, and resource protection. ✍ **TAKE ACTION:** To receive periodic alerts and other pertinent information on how you can help shape future plans for the monument, contact Stephany Seay, NPCA grassroots assistant, at 1-800-NAT-PARK, ext. 229; e-mail: sseay@npca.org.

SOUTHEAST **Don Barger, Regional Director**

▶ Three streams in Great Smoky Mountains National Park and one in the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area have been designated as outstanding national resource waters by the state of Tennessee. Sections of the Obed River and Clear Creek within the Obed Wild and Scenic River area were also nominated, but their designation was deferred pending a water supply feasibility study in the headwaters of the Obed River on the Cumberland County plateau. NPCA will pursue the designation again in October when the feasibility study is completed.

SOUTHWEST **Dave Simon, Regional Director**

▶ NPCA is concerned about lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service adjacent to Walnut Canyon National Monument in Arizona. NPCA advocated a 6,700-acre expansion of the monument in 1988, but Congress approved only a 1,300-acre expansion in 1996. The Forest Service promised to manage the remaining lands near Walnut Canyon with a focus on recreation but has not met all of its commitments to limit incompatible activities. The Forest Service is now proposing to eliminate the recreation area designation for some lands adjacent to the monument ✍ **TAKE ACTION:** Write to the U.S. Forest Service and urge the protection and compatible management of lands near Walnut Canyon National Monument. Address: Bruce Greco, Acting Peaks District Ranger, Coconino National Forest, 5075 N. Highway 89, Flagstaff, AZ 86004.

the Eastern National Parks and Monuments Association.

At present, the Park Service pays the association for operations and maintenance at the existing visitor center. Debt for the new facility will be retired through money raised at the various components of the complex. The association will then turn the land and buildings over to the Park Service. All related uses would then become concessions and would continue to underwrite operations in the new center.

The selected cooperator, Kinsley Equities of York, Pa., has proposed including a large-screen theater that would show a movie about the battle; a gift store, tour bus center, and a food service area. Kinsley proposes to build the complex on a privately owned parcel within the park's boundary.

Exact location of the facility depends upon thorough archaeological and environmental studies. Final design proposals, including internal exhibit designs, are subject to public comment, further negotiations, and approval by the National Park Service.

Although NPCA and other concerned citizens would rather see funds for the new center come from Congress, federal money has been elusive. Under the Kinsley proposal, the $40.4 million needed to acquire the land and construct the center would come from a combination of commercial loans, grants, and a fundraising campaign.

Initial concerns about the partnership centered on the potential for commercialization of the battlefield. The Park Service has emphasized that the selection of the proposal is only the first step toward a final agreement.

Many issues are still under negotiation, such as appropriateness of the chosen site, the types and scale of the proposed uses, and fees to be charged to the public. NPCA is working with NPS to try to ensure that facilities do not include any inappropriate or unnecessary uses and will retain the dignity of the battlefield.

"This proposal has the potential to be a model for other parks needing to protect and interpret irreplaceable collections," says Woodford. "We're giving it a tough test."

MANAGEMENT

Island Livestock to be Removed

Long-awaited decision renders protection of endangered species.

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.—A long-running dispute and eventual lawsuit has finally been settled over the management and protection of Santa Rosa Island in Channel Islands National Park. NPCA and the Santa Barbara-based Environmental Defense Center reached an agreement in mid-January with the National Park Service and the Vail and Vickers Company, a livestock and land corporation that formerly owned the island.

"For the first time this century, Santa Rosa Island's threatened and endangered species will be afforded a chance to thrive due to reduced impacts from non-native herbivores," said Brian Huse, NPCA's Pacific regional director. "NPCA has set a precedent for resource preservation in Channel Islands National Park. We hope this is a new trend in Park Service management."

Trouble for the island began over a century ago with the introduction of non-native livestock, such as cattle and sheep, that overgrazed delicate vegetation, polluted riparian habitats, and aided the spread of alien species throughout the fragile ecosystem.

The Vail and Vickers Company used the island for many years as a commercial cattle ranch and a big game hunting operation for deer and elk. NPS purchased the island in 1986, but allowed Vail and Vickers to continue these activities under a succession of five-year special use permits.

In 1996, NPCA filed a 13-count lawsuit contending that the Park Service's issuance of these permits to Vail and Vickers violated the NPS Organic, Clean Water, Endangered Species, National Historic Preservation, and Coastal Management acts, as well as NPS's own regulations. The Park Service produced a revised management plan for the island in response to NPCA's lawsuit, to which Vail and Vickers filed separate litigation.

The company claimed that the new management plan did not honor the original deal worked out by Congress when the island was sold in 1986, and that their company would ultimately be forced out of business.

The settlement requires that all cattle be removed from the island by the end of 1998. The numbers of deer and elk will be reduced by half by the year 2000, with further reductions made if endangered plants, streams, and riparian habitat have not recovered. By 2011, all non-native livestock will be removed from the island, allowing it to return to its natural state. Existing archaeological sites will be preserved.

The recent settlement requires that the Park Service must issue an environmental impact statement and describe its management changes for Santa Rosa Island. The document will be open to public comment for 60 days, after which implementation of the settlement can begin.

DESTRUCTION *to* RECONSTRUCTION:

Restoring the Everglades

More than 50 years ago, the Army Corps of Engineers undertook a flood control project that drastically altered this distinctive ecosystem. Today, Congress has ordered that same agency to undo the damage.

BY DAVID HELVARG

THE WATCHFUL EYES of alligators, the slither of snakes, the startling break of snowy egrets taking wing from a hardwood hammock, the struggle of a black-feathered anhinga to swallow a fish half its size and then collapsing on its belly, a victim of its own gluttony. These images are more than Kodak moments. They are reminders of the unique wetland ecosystem that is now so at-risk that the 1.5-million-acre Everglades National Park has been called the most endangered national park in America. As

CONNIE TOOPS

The same year Congress established Everglades National Park, it directed the Army Corps to complete a massive flood control project.

LARRY ULRICH

the park in southwest Florida marked its 50th anniversary in 1997, the Everglades' problems abound: disrupted water flow, increased water pollution, a 90-percent decline in the wading bird population, invasion of exotic plant and animal species, shrinking habitat for the Florida panther, wood stork, Cape Sable seaside sparrow, manatee, and other creatures facing extinction, along with the effects of encroaching growth and development. These problems endanger not only the Everglades, but also Big Cypress National Preserve, Biscayne National Park, Florida Bay, and Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Yet there is reason for hope.

For, in a collaboration as distinctive as the natural area it seeks to save, the federal government, the state of Florida, a sovereign Indian tribe, and environmental activists are embarking on an unprecedented ten-to-15 year, $3 billion to $5 billion effort at ecological recovery of the Everglades—the largest environmental restoration project in the history of humankind.

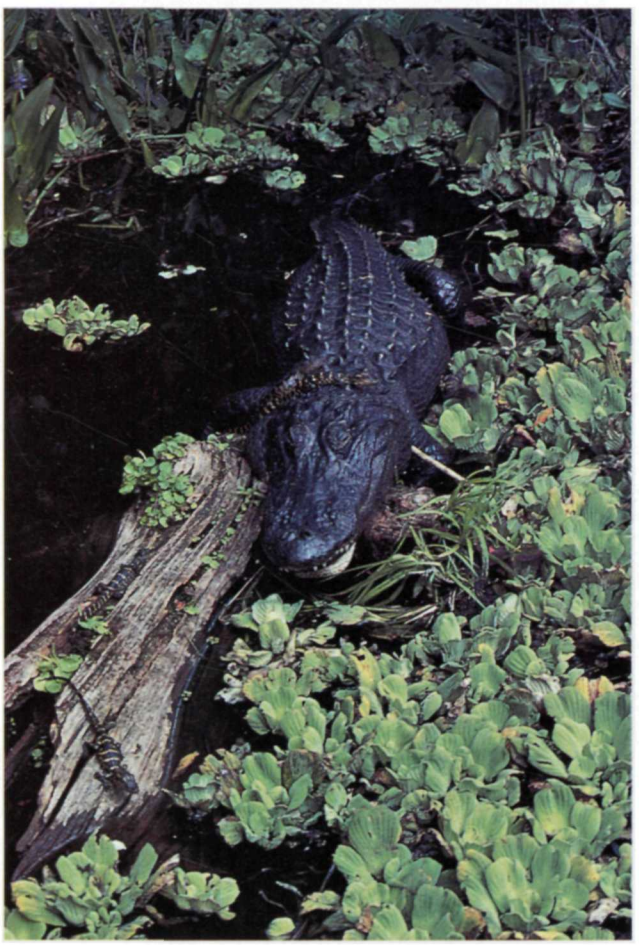
"Nothing begins to approach the complexity of this project," says NPCA's Southeast Regional Director Don Barger. "To look at an entire ecosystem in collapse and try to undo what we've done is bold and absolutely essential."

Bold and unprecedented measures are exactly what is needed, for already less than half of the Everglades' original ecosystem remains. Initially, the Everglades covered about 4 million acres of south Florida. During the rainy season, the Kissimmee River would overfill Lake Okeechobee, resulting in a great sheet of water 50 miles wide but rarely more than two feet deep, coursing slowly down the peninsula and eventually draining into Florida Bay. A nutrient-poor environment, the Everglades "river of grass" (as conservationist-author Marjory Stoneman Douglas has called it) nonetheless created a unique wetland ecosystem—a soggy, big-sky landscape better suited to alligators, panthers, large-mouth bass, and bugs than land-hungry settlers.

To drain what turn-of-the-century Florida Gov. Napoleon Bonaparte Broward called "that abominable, pestilence-ridden swamp," residents planted water-hungry Australian melaleuca trees, built drainage and "muck canals," and constructed the Tamiami Trail from Miami to Naples effectively compartmentalizing the river. At the same time, real-estate speculators were busily selling out-of-staters "homesites in paradise" deep in the swamp.

Bold and unprecedented measures are exactly what is needed, for already less than half of the Everglades' original ecosystem remains.

The major destruction of the Everglades ecosystem got under way in 1947, ironically the same year the park was established, when Congress directed the Army Corps of Engineers to carry out a massive flood control project for south Florida. Over the next 25 years, the corps built some 1,400 miles of canals, levees, dikes, and pump stations that, while reducing urban flood damage, also diverted much of the flow of fresh water by "taking it out to tide" (i.e., dumping it into the ocean). Corps engineers also converted the 102-mile Kissimmee River into a 56-mile canal and drained 1,100 square miles of wetlands south of Okeechobee, converting that into the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA), where sugar cane and other crops now grow. The corps' motto at the time was "Dike it, dam it, divert it, and drain it!"



R. TODD DAVIS

Alligators—once endangered—abound in the Everglades. Other species, such as the manatee and Cape Sable seaside sparrow, are not faring as well.

The Army Corps of Engineers has been named the lead agency in the South Florida Everglades Restoration Project and, under a 1992 congressional mandate, must produce a final restoration plan by July 1, 1999. "We have people who worked on the original draining of the Everglades and who now, at the end of their careers, are seeing our work turn around 180 degrees," says Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Mike Davis, who is also a biologist. "If you look at the corps' history, our traditional mission was flood control and navigation, but really it's always been problem solving. Today society is demanding the corps do different things, not only for protection but also restoration of the environment."

Other agencies participating in the five-part project include the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, various Florida state agencies, and the Miccosukee Indian

CONNIE TOOPS

Nutrient-laden water is being pumped into the canal system that flows into Lake Okeechobee. Nutrient pollution affects the Everglades as well as Biscayne National Park and Big Cypress National Preserve.

tribe. Dozens of environmental groups, including NPCA, the National Audubon Society, and Friends of the Everglades are actively engaged in coming up with solutions.

WATER MANAGEMENT is one of the critical problems the collaborative project must address; and reaching consensus on this most technologically complex restoration activity is key to its success. The Army Corps of Engineers has already begun a dozen efforts aimed at reestablishing the natural flow of water through the Everglades. These include:

▶ restoring habitat on Kissimmee River by redirecting water into its original meanders and oxbows and reestablishing 29,000 acres of riverside wetlands;

▶ purchasing and developing water conservation areas, including marshes, lakes, and reservoirs that will store rather than dump fresh water during the rainy season; and

▶ restructuring the C-111 Canal, the last link between the state's flood control system and Florida Bay, to reestablish delivery of fresh water to the bay, which is suffering from algae blooms.

To restore the health of the Everglades' ecosystem, the natural wet and dry cycles of the seasons must be reestablished. But rather than allowing the system to function as freely as possible, the corps prefers to rely on a series of timed mechanical releases. "We've got a fairly good natural system model of pre-drainage flows that we'll use in our work, but you have to understand the system has been irrevocably altered," explains Stu Appelbaum, chief of ecosystem restoration for the corps in Florida. "You've lost 50 percent of the [Everglades] system: 50 percent of the spatial extent of the original is gone, so the patient is always going to have to be on a respirator."

Even though the corps believes the Everglades will always need artificial support, environmentalists say this is in part because the corps' job is to build not to tear down. "We want to return the health to the patient so it can breathe on its own," says Barger. "The job of the corps is to build, not to remove. Not surprisingly, they want to build to fix the problem."

Water quality is another critical problem area, primarily because of nutrient pollution, the effects of which extend beyond the Everglades itself. "The nutrient levels coming down from the Everglades are scary. We've

seen a 554 percent increase in coral disease in the last year," reports Craig Quirilo of Reef Relief, one of several conservation and science groups fighting to protect the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, which encompasses a rare North American coral reef system. The living reef, like the Everglades wetlands, is a naturally nutrient-poor environment that suffers when too many phosphates, nitrates, pesticides, or other pollutants reach it. Although there is debate over whether Florida Bay's dying fisheries and stagnant waters are simply a result of lack of freshwater flow from the Everglades or also reflect growing nutrient pollution, there is no question that agricultural runoff (primarily from big sugar plantations in the EAA, but also tomato and other farms) has dumped huge quantities of nutrients into the Everglades. Cattails displacing sawgrass habitat are another sign of nutrient overload.

The government plans to build 63 square miles of stormwater treatment areas (STAs) or filtering marshes along the edge of the agricultural lands to absorb some of the excess nutrients, but environmentalists aren't completely happy with that solution. "Why should taxpayers be made to pay a billion dollars to clean up after big sugar, just because the [government] agencies don't have the will to enforce the Clean Water Act and make the polluters pay?" asks Joette Lorion, president of Friends of the Everglades.

In addition, the 400-member Miccosukee Tribe, whose reservation is south of the EAA, is focusing on the problem. As a legally sovereign power, the tribe is in the process of setting its own water quality standards for water flowing into their 75,000-acre reservation. Their standard of ten parts per billion of phosphorus in the water would reflect the natural background levels within the Everglades ecosystem and be well below the 50 parts per billion the STAs would create after filtering fertilizer runoff. Of course, to meet the Miccosukee standards, some sugar cane fields would probably have to be taken out of production, a move that the politically powerful, federally subsidized industry has fought hard to avoid.

BRIAN KENNEY

A third critical area involves south Florida's population growth and accompanying development. "You start with what you've got, and what we've got is a lot of people with many more to come," says former south Florida Congressman Dante Fascell, who during his time in office from 1955 to 1993 helped to establish the Everglades' boundaries. With a population that has grown from 700,000 to 5.2 million since the park was established and is expected to increase another 40 percent by 2015, south Florida is in a boom period, with all the development that implies.

BRIAN KENNEY

MANY PEOPLE OF south Florida, however, generally have a strong commitment to placing limits on growth, controlling urban sprawl, and maintaining the open space essential to protect the Everglades—although that popular will is now being tested in a fight over a new airport.

Following the devastation of Hurricane Andrew in 1992 (in which much of the damage was attributed to shoddy housing construction), the Clinton Administration encouraged the Pentagon to turn Homestead Air Reserve Base over to Dade County in order to help in the area's economic recovery. Dade County, in turn, working with a well-connected development group called Homestead Air Base Developers, began planning for a huge new international airport with offices, businesses, hotels, and restaurants. The development could eventually cover 30,000 acres of adjacent farm land that constitutes the last open space east of the park. Recently the president's Council on Environmental Quality agreed to a supplemental environmental impact statement, which NPCA and other environmentalists had supported. NPCA and others also are pushing for an economic development study that would review possible development alternatives to the massive airport.

Located just two miles west of Biscayne National Park and 12 miles east of the Everglades, the multibillion-dollar airport, with a projected 245,000 flights a year, also represents a significant noise-pollution threat because of overflights on take-offs and landings.

In spite of the conflicting positions on the new Homestead airport, an astounding level of bipartisan political support has evolved for protecting this

ART WOLFE

BRIAN KENNEY

The Everglades ecosystem is home to a variety of wildlife, including clockwise from top left, the endangered wood stork and the Florida panther, the dusky pigmy rattlesnake, and the Atala butterfly.

huge wetland, especially in light of a highly organized campaign by developers and agribusiness to undermine provisions of the Clean Water Act that protect America's other wetlands. Protecting the Everglades has long been highly popular with Florida voters, as patriotic a cause in this important electoral state as motherhood and Key lime pie. So it was that, during the 1996 presidential campaign, Vice President Al Gore and Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt visited the park to announce a federal commitment of at least $1.5 billion to saving the Everglades (with an equal amount to come from the state). Candidate Bob Dole responded by freeing up $200 million from the 1996 Farm Bill for Everglades land acquisition (after the sugar industry was exempted from subsidy reforms). A short time later, Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich was in the Everglades patting an alligator. In this year's federal budget, Everglades restoration appears as a separate line item, and it includes a $231 million down payment toward the area's hoped-for recovery.

While $3 billion to $5 billion over the next decade may seem like a lot of money, it represents only a third of what the General Accounting Office estimates consumers will pay as a result of federal price supports for the sugar industry, a major source of Everglades pollution. And, in terms of infrastructure improvements, it is less than half of what is being spent to place several miles of a Boston freeway underground. The Everglades Restoration Project is also seen as a good local investment in water resources and recreation when balanced against the risk south Florida's $14-billion-a-year tourism industry faces should the Everglades, Florida Bay, Biscayne Bay, and the Keys continue to deteriorate.

The long-term political will to carry out this massive restoration cannot be guaranteed without ongoing popular support. "It will demand many years of hard work and a rock solid commitment...to salvage the Everglades," notes Interior Secretary Babbitt. One has only to look at the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund to realize the risk. Since 1969, some $900 million a year generated by offshore oil and gas revenues was supposed to be used to purchase and protect endangered natural habitats throughout America. But in recent years, Congress has instead directed $11 billion of that money into paying off the deficit (thus protecting endangered Wall Street bond traders).

Nevertheless, people involved in the Everglades restoration project remain optimistic about the future of this historic undertaking. "This is the major test of our country's resolve about living in harmony with the Earth," says NPCA's Barger. "This may be our last chance. Either we do it—or we don't—now." Lorion of Friends of the Everglades agrees: "People who live here care about their quality of life. If we can win anywhere, it'll be here with the Everglades." After all, as Marjory Stoneman Douglas, now at the age of 107, continues to remind us: "There is only one Everglades."

DAVID HELVARG, *lives in Washington, D.C., and last wrote for* National Parks *about the Wise Use Movement.*

TOM TILL

PLUNDERING NATIONAL TREASURES

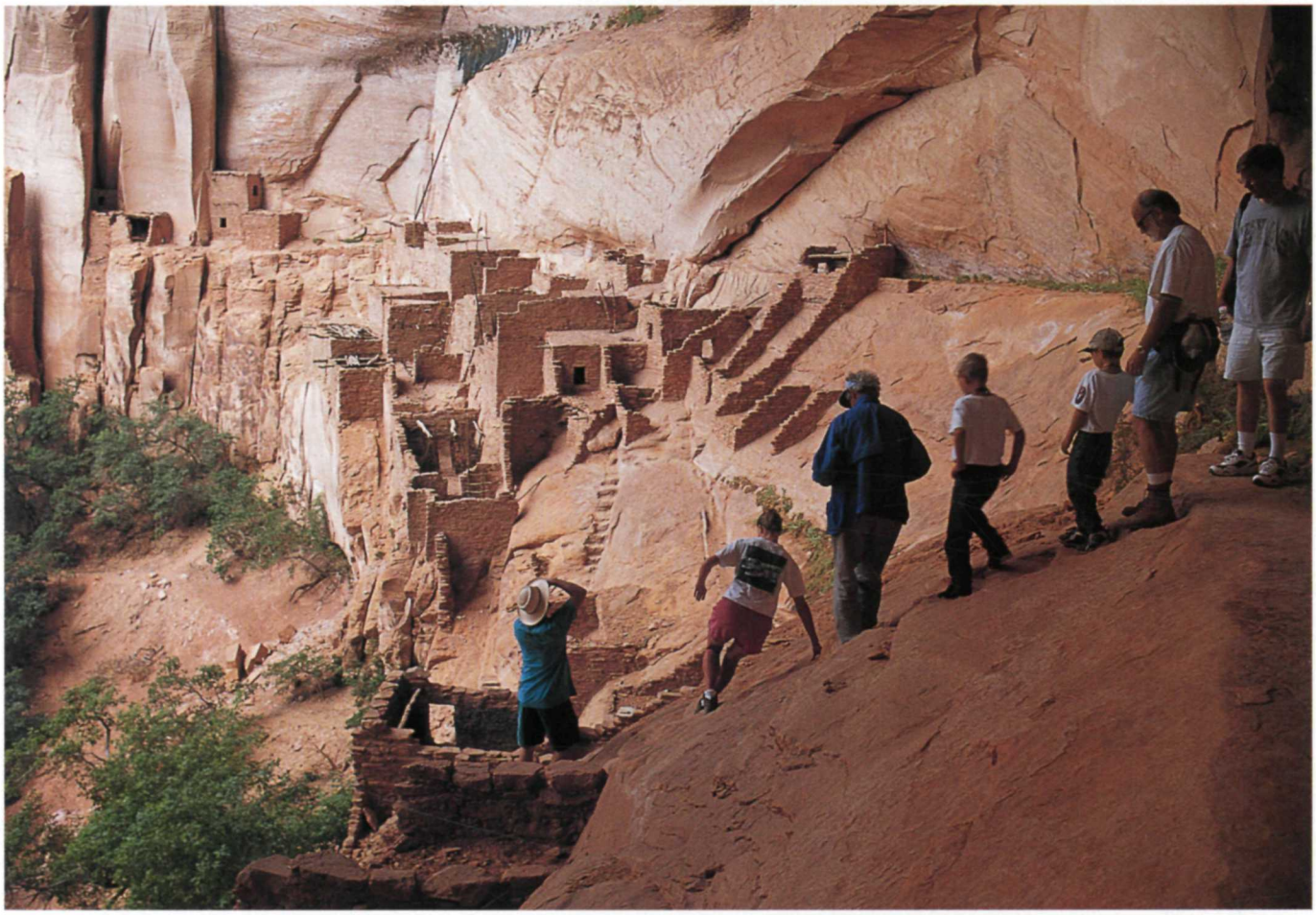
Hard-core and inadvertent looters as well as hobbyists are marring the fabric of America's cultural heritage by stripping parks of irreplaceable artifacts.

BY WENDY MITMAN CLARKE

AT CANYONLANDS National Park in Utah, a man robs the ancient grave of an Anasazi child, stealing the infant's burial blanket and scattering its remains to the wind. In Katmai National Park and Preserve in Alaska, a thief excavates historic caches of ivory. And in Virginia, two men sneak into Petersburg National Battlefield Park night after night, digging holes and taking away hundreds of Civil War artifacts from bullets to buttons.

Most park visitors have history on their minds, or maybe hiking, diving, or sightseeing. Stealing is not on the itinerary. So it may come as a surprise to learn that looting is a reality as vast as the nation's parklands; an enormous drain on National Park Service money, staff, and resources, which could be spent on education or other programs; and a problem fueled by a multimillion-dollar global industry that blurs the line between artifact and art. Driven by an overzealous love for history, ignorance, or just plain greed, people visit national parks daily across the country to steal from them, ultimately robbing us all of our common heritage.

The ancient Anasazi ruins in Canyonlands National Park were the target of one looter who hired a helicopter to drop him into the park.

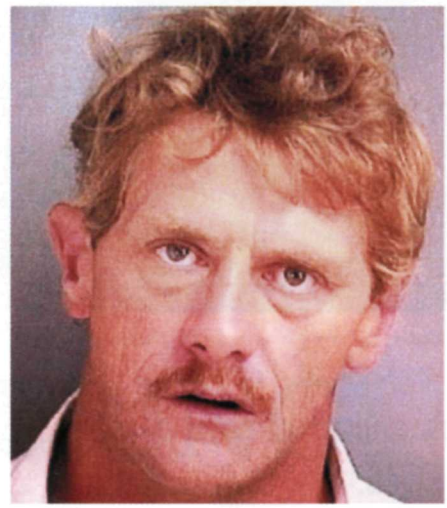


BRUCE CLENDENNING

Visitors to parks sometimes inadvertently harm resources when they explore areas that the Park Service considers off limits. Visitors also sometimes take artifacts out of parks, perhaps not realizing the action violates the law.

It is tough to get a handle on how big the problem is, for most Park Service officials and archaeologists say it is impossible to quantify. Every year, however, the Park Service's regional archaeologists must provide Congress with estimates on how many cases they encounter and prosecute under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) or under federal laws prohibiting theft of government property. In 1996 (the most recent statistics), the report documents a total of 630 violations, 22 arrests, and 55 citations. Of 35 prosecutions, 11 resulted in ARPA misdemeanor convictions and one ended in a second ARPA conviction—an automatic felony. Prosecutors won 32 convictions under non-ARPA laws. By region, the report shows that the Intermountain region, which includes the desert Southwest, reported the most violations (390), followed by the Southeast (89) and the Northeast (83).

The numbers are useful, but according to Park Service officials, the data do not come close to revealing how much theft is really going on. NPS investigators and managers say it happens everywhere and includes the obvious, such as Civil War or American Indian artifacts, to the unexpected, such as pieces of shipwrecks or objects from old mining camps. And the damage goes beyond stealing the object. Another loss is "the context in which it was found," says David Tarler, a lawyer and archaeologist with the NPS Archaeology and Ethnography Program. "It's the information it can give us, not only about itself but about the site at which it was found. It takes on much more meaning than it does just as a piece of art."



Earl Shumway has been convicted twice in separate incidents for stealing artifacts from parks.

THOSE WHO STEAL fall into three categories. Opportunists stumble upon something and pocket it as a souvenir, perhaps unaware it's illegal to do so. Hobbyists know it's wrong, yet are so eager to own a piece of history they'll take steps to find items, including using metal detectors and digging. "For the most part, they keep it for themselves and that's a tragedy be-

cause it goes into a shoe box, and when grandpa moves on to his next reward, the shoe box becomes a pain in the neck and it gets thrown out," says Richard Waldbauer, the resources conservation team leader for the NPS Archaeology and Ethnography Program.

> **The data do not come close to revealing how much theft is really going on.**

Hard-core looters, the third type, take elaborate steps to find their booty and then sell it on the lucrative artifact market. They range from people who steal to supplement other illegal forms of income to locals whose families have dug on national lands for generations as part of their perceived birthright, to professionals who use high-tech surveillance equipment, airborne metal detectors, and heavy machinery.

"The fact is, the looter probably knows more about where sites are located than we do," says Martin McAllister, an archaeologist who teaches Park Service staff how to identify artifact theft. "They've seen more archaeological resources than we have."

A prime example of the professional is Earl Shumway, whose five-year, three-month prison term is the toughest sentence ever imposed for an ARPA conviction. Shumway, 40, who says his family has dug on public lands for generations, was convicted in 1986 of stealing 35 American Indian baskets worth an estimated $500,000 to $1 million from Manti-LaSal National Forest in Utah. But since he was serving time for an unrelated burglary charge, he got a two-year suspended sentence for stealing the baskets. It did not slow him down.

In December 1991, he hired a helicopter to drop him and a cohort into Dop-Ki Cave in Canyonlands National Park. He dug up an Anasazi infant's grave, stole the ceremonial blanket in which the body was wrapped, and scattered the child's remains. Then he flew to a Forest Service site and looted some more. A jury convicted him of seven felonies. Judge David K. Winder, appalled at Shumway's callous treatment of the child's remains, exceeded ARPA's sentencing standards. Shumway initially was sentenced to six-and-a-half years, which was reduced on appeal to five years and three months.

FRED HIRSCHMANN

FRED HIRSCHMANN

Pieces of art and artifacts, including ivory, are among the favored targets in Alaska, where ivory sells for as much as $100 a pound.

Although Shumway received a relatively stiff sentence, few looters do, and the damage they cause can be extensive.

A recent case in Virginia reveals the vast damage looters can do. In the largest case involving theft of Civil War artifacts since Congress passed ARPA in 1979, Jeffrey S. Blevins, 33, and John N. Walker, 33, sneaked into Petersburg National Battlefield Park in Virginia at night and used metal detectors and tools to dig more than 240 holes, excavating more than 1,000 artifacts. Both pleaded guilty. A judge last October sentenced Blevins to five months, Walker to four, and ordered each to pay $25,467 in restitution. In other cases, thieves have used saws to cut petroglyphs off canyon walls and backhoes to dig into American Indian mounds.

Still, many officials say the big-time looters do less damage overall than the hobbyists, simply because of numbers. McAllister estimates that there may be several thousand full-time looters versus several hundred thousand hobbyists. And while full-time looters may do intensive damage at a single site, hob-

byists affect a much larger area.

Simple numbers also explain why so many cases go undetected. "The Park Service has about one commissioned officer for about one million acres" in the Alaska region, for example, says Susan Morton, an archaeologist turned special agent for NPS. "There's a very small law enforcement presence up here. We really don't have the resources to deal with the problem properly."

Morton says the hottest draw for thieves in her region is ivory, whether in artifact form or in caches of what's called fossil ivory, which natives buried before working it into tools, knife handles, or figurines. Fossil ivory sells for up to $100 a pound, Morton says, and a two-inch ivory figurine can bring as much as $30,000.

"If you're in a subsistence economy and don't have lots of cash, it's pretty tempting," she says. With two-thirds of the land (55 million acres) in the entire park system under the Alaska region's domain, Morton's law enforcement situation is extreme. But throughout the country, the story is the same: huge tracts of land, too few officers, and too little money to address the problem. And it may get worse.

"From my perspective, the parks aren't being hit or looted nearly as badly as some of the lands around us, like BLM [Bureau of Land Management] lands or Forest Service lands, especially out west here," says Phil Young, an NPS special agent based in Santa Fe, N.M. "But unfortunately, a lot of these looters are aware there's a rich treasure trove of archaeological resources still protected in national parklands, and I've actually heard some of them say in undercover contacts, 'I never dug on Mesa Verde yet, but I look at it as my bank for the future.' "

Completely outnumbered, the Park Service is trying a variety of solutions to beat the looters: enlisting the public's help, developing inter-agency strategies, and training and educating officials from park rangers to prosecutors how to identify, investigate, and prosecute theft of resources. "We try to train anybody who might be out on

Investigators recovered bullets, below, and other artifacts, right, believed stolen by Jeffrey Blevins, top, and John Walker, from Petersburg National Battlefield Park.

PHOTOS COURTESY PETERSBURG NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK

the land who can help us with this.... We realize without the public's help, quite frankly we don't have much of a chance," says George Smith, chief of the investigation and evaluation section of the NPS's Southeast Archaeological Center. "All the ARPA cases in the Civil War battlefields in the Southeast have been reported to park rangers from neighbors."

The Park Service publishes brochures that tell visitors about theft and how to report suspicious activities. One brochure, *Our Fragile Legacy* describes the importance of archaeological protection. (It is available in limited quantities from NPS's Santa Fe office: 505-988-6015.) And volunteers can provide extra eyes and ears. After a 50-percent increase in vandalism at Gettysburg National Military Park, for example, Park Service officials have trained 12 area residents to patrol the park.

The Park Service's Archaeology and Ethnography Program has also developed a historic resources curriculum now offered to students at three major law schools. Dan Haas, a program archaeologist, says the training seems to be helping: "The percentage of convictions is near the 85 percent range, and it used to be more like 50 percent."

The Justice Department prosecutes ARPA cases, and although the agency has a separate arm for wildlife cases it does not for archaeological resources—a situation NPCA would like to see change.

But you still have to find the crime and the criminal and gather the evidence to make a case. That's where the Archaeological Resources Protection Training Program comes in. At sites across the country, Park Service rangers, archaeologists, state and local law enforcement officers, and others take the 40-hour course, offered through the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Georgia, that teaches how to detect, apprehend, investigate, and prosecute looters. McAllister teaches the archaeology aspect, class coordinator Woody Jones teaches the criminal investigation end, and a U.S. attorney with ARPA prosecuting experience covers the legal parts. More than 2,600 participants have taken the course since its first offering in 1983.

It all helps. But as long as the market exists for artifacts, no one deludes themselves that the problem will go away. "The people instigating it are art dealers from the outside," says Morton of Alaska's ivory trade. "They fly into villages with a bag of cash and buy the artifacts up."

Tarler says people's attitudes must change about buying and selling what really is everyone's shared heritage. "You can't come onto public lands thinking everything is there for the taking," agrees Roger Kelly, NPS archaeologist for the Pacific West region. "It belongs to everyone."

WENDY MITMAN CLARKE, *of Stevensville, Maryland, last wrote for* National Parks *about appropriations.*

Putting teeth in looting laws

Archaeologists and National Park Service staff credit the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) with helping make some headway against the problem of looting in national parks. Passed in 1979, largely in response to a hemorrhage of artifacts from the Southwest, most agree the law was pretty toothless until 1988 when Congress passed amendments stiffening penalties. Until ARPA, the only laws prosecutors could use to pinch looters were statutes prohibiting theft or destruction of government property. They also could use the 1906 Antiquities Act, under which looters could be fined only up to $500 and sentenced to 90 days in prison, says Martin McAllister, an archaeologist who teaches Park Service staff how to detect and prosecute archaeological theft.

ARPA covers looted items more than 100 years old. Though the act excludes surface finds such as arrowheads, coins, and bullets, those items still may fall under the theft of government property laws.

A misdemeanor conviction can get a looter a fine up to $100,000 or a year in prison. A first offense felony can bring a $250,000 fine or two years in jail. A second ARPA violation is an automatic felony. In a criminal ARPA case, prosecutors must prove their case beyond a reasonable doubt, says David Tarler, a lawyer and archaeologist with the NPS Archaeology and Ethnography Program. The act also provides the option of a civil charge to recover the value of artifacts and the cost of restoring the resource that need only be proven by a preponderance of evidence. Citizens who help nab looters convicted under ARPA are eligible for a reward up to half of the imposed fine or $500, whichever is less.

Though everyone agrees ARPA is helping, there are still serious problems. For one, officials must prove the artifacts came off federal land, says Phil Young, an NPS special agent in Santa Fe, N.M. "Something can be looted today off of federal land, taken home, washed off, someone signs an affidavit saying it came off their Uncle Joe's ranch tonight and it's incumbent upon us to prove [otherwise]," he says. "Quite often that takes a long time, and sometimes it doesn't happen."

In addition, Roger Kelly, an NPS archaeologist in the Pacific West region, says the 100-year date is easy to prove for prehistoric items such as American Indian artifacts, but tougher when it comes to objects such as wagon wheels or bottles.

And maybe the biggest hurdle ARPA faces is a predictable one: money. It costs big bucks to investigate a criminal ARPA case. Some Park Service managers may be reluctant to assign such large portions of their budgets to pursuits that may not be successful.

Money should not be an issue, says McAllister, because "number one, it's the law, and number two, the National Park Service is sort of the keeper of the cultural and natural heritage of the nation. So, in terms of prioritizing, we also have to be concerned about protecting the resource base, and a huge, important part of that is cultural resources."

—WMC

Gaining Ground: *A Swan's Song*

Although the trumpeter swan's attachment to Yellowstone saved them decades ago, today this same attribute is causing some other challenges for one of North America's largest birds.

BY DREW ROSS

THOMAS D. MANGELSEN

ON THE SERENE and placid Madison River, near Yellowstone National Park's west entrance, two trumpeter swans inspect their nest. Below the purple, volcanic cliffs, in the time-honored chore of nesting, they begin to raise gray cygnets to brilliant-white swans.

But the scene is not quite as idyllic as it seems.

"The trumpeter swans in the Greater Yellowstone [the tri-state area of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming] are in bad shape," says Terry McEneaney, the ornithologist for Yellowstone National Park. About 30 years ago, Yellowstone had 60 trumpeter swans and was the proud cornerstone of the trumpeter swan's recovery from near-extinction. Today, with only 18 adults in Yellowstone National Park, the numbers resemble those seen in the 1930s. "Basically we are back where we were before we did any conservation on them," he laments.

The trumpeter swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) is the largest species of North American waterfowl. Like the whooping crane and the condor, it is at the evolutionary limits of flight—which it attains after a 100-yard sprint and some fervent flapping of its eight-foot wingspan. Weighing up to 27 pounds, this bird would be flightless if it were any larger.

"The trumpeter swan is the bison of the bird world," says Ruth Shea, president of the Trumpeter Swan Society. Historically, these swans were abundant in Alaska, Canada, and much of the continental United States, but the 20th century found them depleted by the fur traders and European settlers who prized their feathers and skin. Catching swans, like hunting bison, was easy work because "they are the bigger, slower moving, highly vulnerable animal," says Shea.

With the enactment of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, the trumpeter swan hunt was closed and the conservation effort began. The recovery of a trumpeter population is initially a slow process, for theirs is the biology of a long-lived species. They have only one brood per year of four to six eggs. The cygnets creep into maturity: Though they may pair bond for life as early as 20 months of age, they don't breed until they are four to seven years old. Once established on a territory, they breed annually and can live 24 years or more.

Their reproductive success is highly susceptible to wet, cold weather and high water levels. They must also survive such other threats as predation, poaching, contaminants, lead poisoning from shot and fishing sinkers, and nest disturbances from photographers, anglers, and bird watchers.

Yet none of these threats can be overcome without secure winter habitat. It is in the winter congregations where these highly social birds interact, pair bond, and subsequently are able to out-

The trumpeter swan is the largest waterfowl in North America. Weighing up to 27 pounds, the bird needs a long take-off to become airborne.

ART WOLFE

produce their threats. Once they find good undisturbed habitat, they can proliferate.

The warm waters of Centennial Valley, just west of Yellowstone National Park, offered good winter habitat to the last flock of 33 birds, which biologists found in the early 1930s. It was a perfect hideaway: It had accessible forage, shallow, stable levels of fresh water, emergent vegetation, muskrat houses and islands for nest sites, and low human disturbances.

Though Canada and Alaska harbored unrecorded flocks, these were the last known swans. They had found refuge on the remote waters of the Greater Yellowstone area, where the heat from the geothermal springs keeps the waters open through the bitter winters.

In 1935, the area was designated as the Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, and biologists built dikes to augment the habitat. In an attempt to further protect the birds, managers provided food in winter, using wheat and poultry feed. Swans primarily eat the leaves, stems, roots, and tubers of submerged, floating, and emergent plants. Slowly, the flock grew.

On a cold winter morning, say in the 1960s, when their winter numbers were above 300, the gregarious trumpeters at Red Rock Lakes could be heard from miles away. They are very expressive, making calls of aggression, excitement, alarm, and decoy. Their typical call—a brassy, sonorous honk (usually a two-note oh-OH!)—lends them their common name and is one of the few ways to distinguish them from their close relatives in the vocal genus Cygnus: the Eurasian whooper and mute, and the North American and European whistling swan (known as the tundra or Beckwick's swan).

Today, the trumpeter swan is considered one of the classic conservation success stories.

Today, the trumpeter swan is considered one of the classic conservation success stories. "Looking at the continental population, they are doing fine," says McEneaney. North America has three distinct populations of trumpeters. The Pacific coast population has some 16,000 breeding in Alaska and wintering on the Pacific coast north of the Columbia River. The inland population has about 1,000 birds in restored flocks in South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Ontario.

ART WOLFE

Trumpeter swans produce one brood each year. Each nest may contain from four to six eggs. Trumpeter cygnets receive extensive care for nearly a full year after hatching, learning, among other things, migration routes.

The Yellowstone flock is part of the Rocky Mountain population, which numbers about 3,000 and has a breeding range that extends from the Yukon and Northwest territories south through the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem. It also includes some restored flocks in Oregon and Nevada. At this level it "isn't doing too bad either, because it is highly influenced by Canadian birds," says McEneaney.

However, he cautions, "On the smaller scale, [within] the Greater Yellowstone and inside Yellowstone, there are some problems developing." Nesting attempts in the park are down to four or five nests per year.

How could the trumpeter recover elsewhere and still be at risk where it made its comeback? The answer lies in a learned behavior known as "site fidelity," the compass that guides these birds through their migration and back to their nesting site.

In most bird species, the young instinctively find migration routes without their parents. Trumpeter cygnets, however, receive extensive care for nearly a full year, learning the whole migration route: where to rest, eat, and locate secure winter waters.

Even in the first few years of life, juvenile trumpeters will rejoin their parents, who by then have another brood, creating a "super family" for migration. This strategy increases chances for survival and it ingrains site fidelity. Eventually, the parents chase off the young and they become nonbreeding satellites. When a territory becomes vacant, other birds known as "recruitments" fill the void. When these recruits are the progeny from within the super family, the birds are more tolerated and successful.

Most of the Greater Yellowstone flock, however, is sedentary: They survive the winter by flying among the mosaic of open waters throughout their own ecosystem. Beyond that, they don't have to migrate, so their site fidelity is deeply ingrained. Most everyone agrees that year-round residency is okay for these birds, but problems can arise because nature is rarely static and is known to exploit weakness.

Change came about for the Greater

THOMAS D. MANGELSEN

Yellowstone swans when the Canadian contingent, which had previously been around 150 birds, blossomed to 2,600 in less than 20 years. The explosion was a result of those birds finding better habitat.

The Canadian trumpeters were a welcome sight—but they knew only one migration route. "Biologists call this 'winter limited,' " explains Shea. "Instead of flowing through, the Canadians stop here." The Canadian swans' success decreased the habitat available to the resident flock and threatened the birds' productivity.

In the dark years, the swans' attachment to Yellowstone had saved them, but with a burgeoning population, site fidelity translated into an overcrowding problem, jeopardizing the health of both flocks. In

JEFF FOOTT

The reproductive success of trumpeter swans is susceptible to wet, cold weather, predation, and poaching.

such conditions, they can suffer physical stress, exhausted forage, and catastrophic disease outbreaks. Their energy is slowly sapped, and if it doesn't kill them, it results in poor reproduction.

The overcrowded birds wintering in the Greater Yellowstone were near their limit when the brutal winter of 1989 froze essential waters. True to their ways, the swans stayed put. "There were substantial numbers that died," says Shea, quoting estimates of about 20 percent.

As a result of that disaster, Shea, working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, began an ag-

THOMAS D. MANGELSEN

gressive trapping and hazing program, using helicopters and boats to move the birds. Each fall, "we grab [the Canadians] as soon as they arrive and force them down the flyway," she says. To discourage the trumpeters from wintering locally, the habitat at Red Rock Lakes was scaled back to its pre-1930s condition and the feeding program was stopped.

"I see this as the third chapter of the recovery," she continues. "We're getting them out of intensive care and rebuilding the distribution. The first two chapters were about saving numbers. The dilemma now is we have increasing numbers with highly damaged distribution." Shea perceives the sedentary trumpeters as unnatural and feels an urgency to move the swans to new territories. While this intervention disturbs the social winter congregations and limits pair bonding, her larger objective is to reduce the possibility of another concentrated die-off.

BILL SILLIKER, JR.

Trumpeter swans tip bottoms up to feed on the leaves, stems, and roots of water plants. Only 18 swans are found in Yellowstone.

The success of the dispersal program, which will be continued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has prompted the occasional Canadian migrant to leave the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. They have been observed, albeit not in substantial family groups, in southern Idaho, Oregon, California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona.

Overall, McEneaney says, "The news from Yellowstone is both encouraging and discouraging. I'm not worried about the local population's survival. Populations can't operate at a static number," a phenomenon that he notes is natural in wild populations. Yellowstone's 18 birds, however, are still on a downward trend and need to be monitored. "Years ago we had recruitment of swans because there was a surplus of birds. Now, we're getting zero recruitment."

THOMAS D. MANGELSEN

Swans, which pair for life, can live to be 24 years or more. The birds do not breed until they reach four to seven years of age. But once they are established on a territory, they breed annually.

The answer may lie a bit farther away. "If we can't get recruitment from [Red Rock Lakes], then we'll get them from Paradise Valley," McEneaney says, referring to the wide drainage of the Yellowstone River, north of the park between Gardiner and Livingston, Montana. This project was initiated in the 1960s when a Paradise Valley resident introduced exotic mute swans. The mutes proliferated to 120 by the 1970s and threatened the trumpeters' habitat. "We worked with the owner and set up a swan fund, then substituted the mute swans with trumpeter swans," he says.

The idea caught on with other ranchers, who were willing to protect captive trumpeters with clipped wings. As this population reproduces, its free-flying young will become the new recruits for the park vacancies. Though 1997 was a dismal year when only three cygnets survived, McEneaney hopes that eight fledglings per year will create a surplus.

A similar captive breeding program is effectively diversifying the park's residential population near Jackson, Wyoming. Initiated by Bill Long of Wyoming Game & Fish, the program produces "pink-wings," cygnets whose wings are painted pink to aid in identification and protect them until their first molt. The cygnets are hatched by captive parents and fledged on the Green River Lakes near the Wind River Mountains.

In seeking winter habitat these Wyoming birds use the natural geographic route along the Green River corridor. While the majority of the 30 birds winter in Seedskadee National Wildlife Refuge in southwestern Wyoming, last year three birds wintered further downstream in Grand Canyon National Park. In the spring, they return to their release sites and claim nesting territories. "If we can teach our resident birds to migrate, then we will start mixing populations," says Long. "It's going to take some time. Establishing new traditions takes time." It may even require artificial feeding and habitat enhancement.

With that hope for the long-term future, the Yellowstone flock still faces some special short-term problems. The increasing human population and subsequent development around the park creates more and more pressure on wildlife. And the park can provide just so much protection to species such as the trumpeter swan, the bison, the grizzly bear, and the wolf.

Yet those committed to ensuring the trumpeter swans' recovery in Yellowstone are vigilant. "We see Yellowstone as a safe and secure place, but swans and other species are vulnerable," concludes McEneaney. "It doesn't take long to lose something that looks so secure. We need to manipulate things to favor the birds."

DREW ROSS, *of Salt Lake City, Utah, edits* Sports Guide, *an outdoor recreation magazine based in Salt Lake City.*

A Capital Vacation

Spring, when cherry trees are in bloom, is one of the best times to enjoy Washington, D.C.'s historic sites.

BY BESS ZARAFONITIS STROH

IF IT'S SPRING IN Washington, D.C., the cherry trees are blooming. Their lightly scented petals dress the city in shades of pink and white and herald an annual awakening.

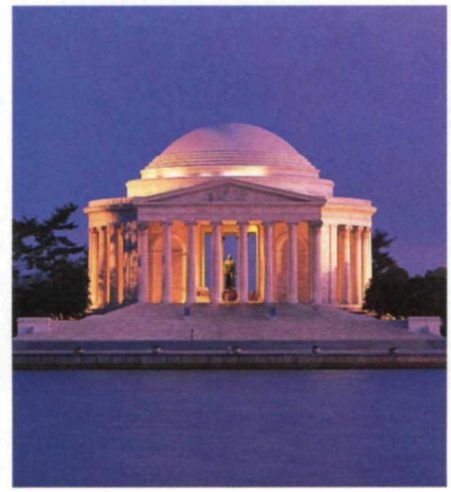
Crowds of people begin to pour into the downtown in celebration. There is a National Cherry Blossom Festival to enjoy, a parade to attend, a ten-mile race to cheer. Sailboats will race on the Potomac, tournaments will test sporting talents, and someone will be crowned Cherry Blossom princess.

Blooms on more than 3,000 cherry trees around the District slowly unfold in late March or early April. And though festivities continue from March 29 through April 12 this year, the trees peak in their beauty for only several days. But the flowering has become a Washington symbol, marking an enchanting new season in a city that thrives as much on recreation as it does on guiding a nation.

Note the activity on the National Mall, Washington's three-mile town green, where sports enthusiasts and joggers, kite flyers and picnickers revel in the same spaces in which hundreds of thousands have rallied for political causes. See the people streaming out of the Smithsonian Institution museums and the tourists flocking to the Mall's west end, toward the capital's most recognized symbol and salute to the country's first president, the Washington Monument.

This is a place to which people come to enjoy symbols—whether those symbols are tree blossoms or powerful houses of democracy or the multitude of monuments that remind us of those who fought for freedom.

As with every Washington symbol, the cherry trees have a history: Their presence is a gift from the Japanese, who first, unsuspectingly, sent a batch of tainted trees that had to be destroyed. Gentle diplomacy yielded replacement trees, the first of which



LAURENCE PARENT

CAROL M. HIGHSMITH

The tidal basin and Jefferson Memorial are good places to view blossoms.

BESS ZARAFONITIS STROH *lives in Gales Ferry, Connecticut, and last wrote for* National Parks *about rivers.*

were planted in 1912 by First Lady Helen Taft and the wife of the Japanese ambassador.

The blossoming plants still serve to solidify relations between Japan and the United States. Each year, dignitaries from both nations join in lighting a 300-year-old Japanese lantern on the north shore of the Tidal Basin, the quiet pond in West and East Potomac Parks. Other festival activities bring the countries together in social, cultural, and sporting events.

The Tidal Basin, which is surrounded by cherry trees, is a prime place to enjoy the blossoms and is close to many of Washington's greatest monuments. The Thomas Jefferson Memorial is on the south bank, paying tribute to the principal author of the Declaration of Independence and the nation's third president. Jefferson's words line the walls around a 19-foot bronze likeness in the domed columned structure.

Nearby in West Potomac Park is the newest monument to a U.S. president, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. Dedicated last May, the memorial honors Roosevelt's four terms in office through outdoor galleries outlined by red South Dakota granite walls and colorful plantings. Sculptures and inscriptions in the garden-like structure convey the spirit of the man who led the country through the Great Depression and World War II.

One of Washington's newest memorials, the Korean War Veterans Memorial sits in the upper part of West Potomac Park. A squad on patrol is depicted in sculpture, reflecting ground troops' experience in Korea. A granite curb lists the 22 countries that defended South Korea in the first United Nations conflict, and a black granite mural recalls those who supported ground troops. The monument includes a quiet area near a Pool of Remembrance and a stone bearing statistics of war.

In close view is the majestic Lincoln Memorial, a white marble monument with a column for each one of the 36 states in the Union at the time of Lincoln's death. Lincoln sits at the center in a 19-foot sculpture gazing over the Reflecting Pool. Magnificent when it is lit at night, the monument bears murals of events in Lincoln's life and inscriptions of his Gettysburg and Second Inaugural addresses.

CAROL M. HIGHSMITH

CAROL M. HIGHSMITH

The White House and Korean War Veterans Memorial are important stops on most tours of the city.

The Washington Monument to the east presides over the entire Mall and Tidal Basin and indeed the whole District. It re-opens to visitors this spring after internal repairs and this summer will be cast in blue as scaffolding covers its towering 555-foot outline while restoration takes place.

More symbols are to be found a short distance from the Mall, each providing insight into America's history and the people who shaped it.

The White House

Though sometimes referred to as the people's house, the White House does not feel exactly like home. A visitor's sense of awe is likely to grow on a walk among its palatial rooms in which great historical events have occurred and powerful world figures have roamed.

The President's Palace, as it was first called, has been home and workplace to every president except Washington. And though it has undergone changes, burning by the British and rebuilding, it resembles the original structure, designed after the country houses of the British Isles.

Begin a self-guided tour at the East Wing lobby, and view the Library, the Vermeil Room, with its extensive collection of gilded silver, and the China Room, the showplace for pieces of china used by presidents. On the State Floor, visit the East Room, the receptions and ceremony room in which seven presidents have lain in state; the Green Room, once Thomas Jefferson's dining room; the Blue Room, with furnishings ordered by James Monroe; the Red Room, where President Rutherford B. Hayes took his oath of office in 1877; and the State Dining Room.

Self-guided tours are free, starting every ten minutes from 10 a.m. to noon, Tuesdays through Fridays. But getting tickets takes planning. During peak season, tourists begin to line up at

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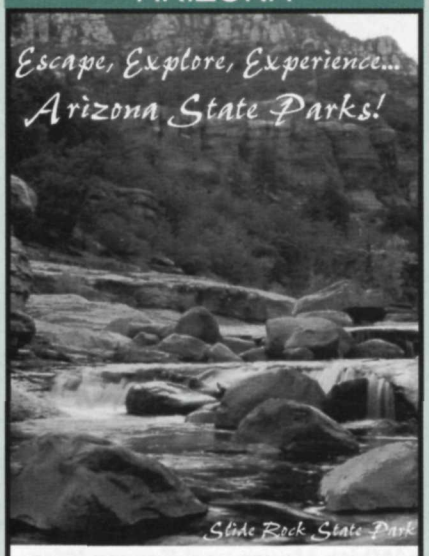

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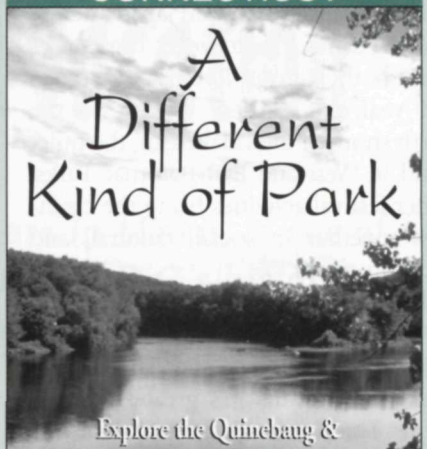

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5 a.m. at the Visitor Center, at the north end of the Department of Commerce building, 1450 Pennsylvania Ave., South. With each person able to collect up to four tickets, a day's allocation may be dispensed minutes after doors open at 7:30 a.m. (People with mobility disabilities may enter the White House on the northeast side without tickets in parties of up to six.)

Tickets are timed and holders are advised to arrive ten minutes early to wait on the Ellipse, the circular, grassy area left of the center. The Ellipse also offers protection from weather, public restrooms, concession food stands, a gift shop, and sometimes musical entertainment.

A sure way to get into the White House without waiting is to write to your representative or senator, asking for tickets to special reserved tours. These are held from 7:30 to 9 a.m., and are narrated by Secret Service agents, who take visitors into the Diplomatic Reception Room in addition to rooms in the self-guided tour.

Those lucky enough to be in Washington on the right April or October weekend can get into the White House on a special garden tour, in which unlimited visitors without tickets also may wander the grounds. On Easter Monday, adults bring small children to the traditional Easter Egg Roll on the South Lawn, but tickets are required. For more on special events, call 202-456-7041.

Ford's Theatre

A visit to Ford's Theatre immerses you in one of the most dramatic moments in American history. The balcony box to the right is the location where Abraham Lincoln met with the bullet that claimed his life. The replicated theater box is decorated as it was that Good Friday in 1865, an American flag draped over its railing and the original engraving of George Washington hanging beneath it.

Lincoln came to a performance in celebration of a Union preserved in the aftermath of horrible war. He sat with his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, and their guests when John Wilkes Booth, an actor and a Southern sympathizer, entered the box and fired. Booth jumped, got tangled in the decorations as he leaped to the stage, and broke his leg on landing. He hobbled to a back alley, where he escaped on horseback.

The Ford's Theatre historic site at 511 10th St., N.W., includes a downstairs museum that preserves the derringer used by Booth, his diary, and other artifacts connected with the assassination conspiracy. Also to be seen are Lincoln's coats, a lock of his hair, and even the tools used to seal his coffin.

The site continues across the street, in the brick row house owned at the time by tailor William Petersen, where a bleeding and unconscious Lincoln was carried and tended by nearly a dozen doctors. Mrs. Lincoln and her eldest son, Capt. Robert Todd Lincoln, spent most of the night in the front parlor. In the back parlor, Edwin Stanton, the secretary of war, began his investigation into the shooting. Lincoln died in the back bedroom at 7:22 the next morning, April 15.

Ford's Theatre shut down after the shooting and underwent other uses before restoration in the 1960s. It again became a center of performance under The Ford's Theatre Society, and each winter the current U.S. president sits in the front row for a theater benefit gala.

Theatrical performances are held mostly in the evenings. The theater-museum and Petersen House are open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free. Visitors may sit in on talks and a film on Lincoln's assassination and the theater's history. For details, call 202-426-6927.

CAROL M. HIGHSMITH

Cedar Hill is Frederick Douglass' home in Anacostia.

Frederick Douglass

Tours through the Frederick Douglass home in Anacostia offer a glimpse of how the most famous African-American of the 19th century lived.

Douglass, who was born a slave but escaped to the North and freedom, purchased the brick Victorian-style mansion in 1877, after his years of advancing the abolitionist movement as an orator and editor. He also had served as a major stationmaster on the underground railroad, ushering hundreds of African-American slaves to freedom.

The Anacostia home, which he named Cedar Hill, looks as it did during the last 17 years of Douglass' life. During that period, he became U.S. Marshal to the District of Columbia and U.S. ambassador to Haiti and worked to promote the rights of African-Americans and women.

Most of the artifacts in the 21-room

CAROL M. HIGHSMITH

The changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns is a draw at Arlington Memorial Cemetery.

house at 1411 W Street, S.E., are authentic, including Abraham Lincoln's cane, given to him by Mrs. Lincoln after the assassination. Douglass' extensive library, where he spent much of his time reading about politics, philosophy, and law, has been preserved.

It's wise to make a reservation to see Cedar Hill, located on the second highest point on the east side of the Anacostia River and offering great views of downtown Washington. Tours are hourly from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., except at noon. Cost is $3 for adults, $1.50 for seniors. Children under six tour free.

The visitors center includes exhibits and a film of Douglass' life and items relating to Douglass and African-American culture. Call 202-426-5961.

Arlington House

While enjoying the grand vistas of Washington from the Robert E. Lee memorial, Arlington House, you may hear the wafting tone of a lone trumpet or the clap of rifle fire saluting the dead in Arlington National Cemetery.

Lee's home sits on a hill facing

BRIAN PARKER/TOM STACK&ASSOC.

Lincoln's Memorial and above the rows of stark, white headstones on graves of more than 175,000 individuals who served in the military as far back as the American Revolution.

The white marble Tomb of the Unknowns memorializes soldiers who could not be identified after World War I, World War II, and the Korean and Vietnam wars. The cemetery also holds the remains of some of America's presidents and cherished heroes, including the crew of the doomed space shuttle

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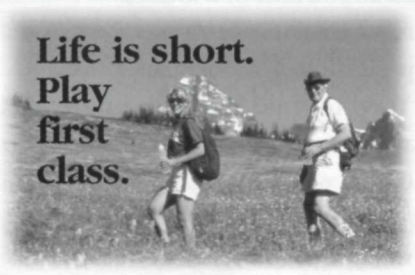

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Challenger. The Eternal Flame burns over John F. Kennedy's resting place. Close by are graves of President Kennedy's widow, Jacqueline, and Robert Kennedy.

Lee enjoyed his years at Arlington House before he left to accept command of Virginia's military forces in the Civil War and before a portion of the sprawling, wooded hills on the estate was designated a military cemetery.

The plantation house was built by Martha Washington's grandson by her first marriage as a memorial to the first president, and some of Washington's heirlooms were collected there. Lee made it his home for 30 years after marrying Washington's descendant-by-marriage, Mary Anna Randolph Custis.

The Washington family possessions were sent away during the Civil War, when the home became Union military headquarters, but Arlington House has been restored as closely as possible to the Lee years. It is open daily in summer from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. For guided tours, call 703-557-0613.

Visitor Information

Accommodations

Choices of where to stay in the metro region are plentiful and varied, but be sure to make reservations in advance of travel. The Washington, D.C., Convention and Visitors Association, 202-789-7000, can provide a guide to lodgings and alert callers to seasonal rate discounts.

Tent camping and trailer facilities are available at national park sites at Assateague Island National Seashore in Maryland and Virginia, 410-641-1441; Catoctin Mountain Park in Thurmont, Md., 301-663-0330; Greenbelt Park in Greenbelt, Md., 301-344-3948; C&O Canal, 301-739-4200; and Prince William Forest Park in Triangle, Va, (tents, 703-221-7181 and trailers, 703-221-2474).

Getting Around

Visitors who want to avoid headaches of traffic and parking while in the capital city have viable public transportation options.

Washington's Metro bus and rail system, the Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, is among the safest and cleanest in the country. Trains run daily until midnight. Some buses run in evening hours. General information and timetables are available by calling 202-637-7000 and 202-637-1328.

Guided tours also are available, including the National Park Service-authorized Tourmobile Sightseeing service to downtown sites, Arlington National Cemetery, George Washington's home at Mount Vernon, and the Frederick Douglass Home. Tickets may be bought in advance from drivers of the blue and white trams. Call 202-554-5100 or 1-888-868-7707 for details.

For information on Old Town Trolley Tours, call 202-832-9800, and for Grey Line bus tours, 301-386-8300. Other tour information is dispensed by the Convention and Visitors Association.

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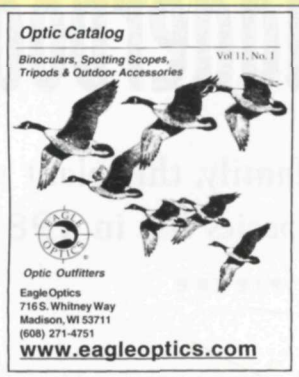

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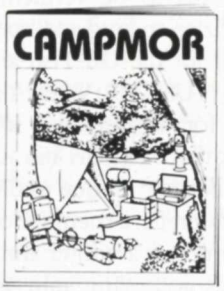

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A member of the mustard family, this plant was placed on the endangered species list in 1987.

BY YVETTE LA PIERRE

UNTIL RECENTLY, the Missouri bladderpod (*Lesquerella filiformis*) was found only in four southwestern Missouri counties. Two populations recently have been discovered in Arkansas, though one site still needs to be verified, says Paul McKenzie, endangered species coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). While this is good news for Lesquerella, ironically it means that Missouri has just lost the only endemic unique to the state.

Lesquerella, a member of the mustard family, is a winter annual. It germinates following rain in the fall, overwinters as a small rosette, and sends out flowering stems and produces yellow flowers in the spring. Then it sets seed and dies before the hot, dry conditions of summer. The seeds can lay dormant for several years, so if improper conditions cause a die-off of the plant, there are seeds waiting for a more favorable year.

Lesquerella grows in shallow soil in open limestone glades with other prairie species. In the mid-1980s, it was discovered growing in Wilson's Creek National Battlefield near Springfield, Missouri. Four populations of the plant are found in the park, says Gary Sullivan, chief of resources management.

Though it's generally believed Lesquerella never had a huge population or range, habitat loss resulted in the plant being placed on the endangered species list in 1987.

YVETTE LA PIERRE *is a writer living in Madison, Wisconsin.*

WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

The endangered Missouri bladderpod is found in Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.

"There aren't many glades in this part of Missouri that aren't either grazed or developed," Sullivan says. Grazing disturbs the fragile prairie communities of the glades and allows exotic grasses to become established, outcompeting Lesquerella.

The only Lesquerella populations growing on federally protected land are on the battlefield. But even there, exotics are a threat. Another problem is encroachment by trees. There are dramatically more trees than in the last century due to suppression of fire, a natural occurrence in presettlement times, and perhaps due to less grazing.

"The park has a prescribed fire program, but we only burn up to Lesquerella habitat right now," Sullivan says. "It's hard to burn the habitat without harming the plant."

The Park Service is concentrating instead on controlling exotic species and thinning out trees. It may not be prudent to remove all trees, as Lesquerella under the shade of trees fares better during drought years.

Though the park has been monitoring Lesquerella for ten years, it's hard to tell if the management practices are helping. The plant's population fluctuates dramatically depending on the weather.

"In this ten-year period, we've had two years of no plants at all. Also, we've had a year of over 300,000 plants," says Lisa Potter Thomas, an ecologist for the National Park Service. Drought during the fall or spring and mild winter conditions are hard on the plant. If winter temperatures stay near freezing, the shallow glade soils constantly freeze and thaw, resulting in higher mortality of Lesquerella plants.

"Even though ten years of data is unique for an endangered species, it's not near enough in this case," Thomas says. "We need at least twice that to know if the population is stable, so we intend to keep monitoring."

Despite this uncertainty, the fate of Lesquerella looks much better than it did when the Missouri Bladderpod Recovery Plan was written in 1988. At that time there were only 11 known populations; now there are more than 70, says McKenzie. According to him, most of the recovery criteria have been met, and the USFWS has plans to begin paperwork in the upcoming year to reclassify Lesquerella from endangered to threatened.

Taking PWCs to Task

The head of the largest independent powerboat manufacturer in the world believes personal watercraft are giving boating a bad name.

BY IRWIN L. JACOBS

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Genmar Holdings, Inc., based in Minneapolis, Minn., is the largest independent manufacturer of powerboats in the world. Its boat brands are Aquasport, Carver, Crestliner, Glastron, Larson, Lund, Hatteras, Ranger, Trojan, and Wellcraft. Recently Irwin L. Jacobs, Genmar's founder and chairman, shocked the marine industry by announcing that his companies were resigning from the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) over the issue of personal watercraft (PWC). National Parks invited Jacobs to give his reasons for resigning and share his views on the growing controversy over PWCs.*

FOR THE LAST 20 YEARS, Genmar Holdings, Inc., the largest independent manufacturer of powerboats in the world, has been working to expand the popularity of recreational boating in the United States. The success of our company and the prosperity of our 1,000 independent Genmar retailers depend on it. Unfortunately, the controversial growth of personal watercraft, and the many users who operate them irresponsibly, has caused a negative backlash among boaters. Just as, I am told, PWCs have spoiled a day on the water or at the beach for many national park visitors.

When something happens that threatens to make the activity less attractive to current boaters or less inviting to potential boaters, and when something negates our efforts to portray boating as the world's best family recreation, I have to stand up and take action.

Consequently, last fall I announced the resignation of Genmar's ten boat lines from the National Marine Manufacturers Association, a national trade organization.

Genmar has been part of NMMA since it was formed many years ago, and we regret that the company will no longer contribute to many of the positive aspects of the association. However, Genmar strongly disagrees with NMMA's policy of offering membership to personal watercraft (PWC) companies, in part, because inclusion helps to promote legislative and public acceptance of these controversial products. Genmar no longer wants a part, even indirectly, of promoting a product the company believes is making our waterways—including those in national parks—less enjoyable.

ANDREW TOOS

Our action followed considerable thought and contemplation of the negative profile PWCs are creating on our lakes and rivers. I have tried to understand why the boating industry has not grown during the past years, particularly since all of the consumer barometers (interest rates, stock market, employment, and consumer confidence) are at the most positive levels they have been in my many years with the industry. Despite the health of the economy, the popularity of boating has actually declined, a fact that suggests a powerful counterforce has been at work.

PWCs are not boats in my opinion because they are not designed to transport people on long trips across the water, and their sales should not be used to mask the true state of affairs for the marine industry.

PWCs are designed for one or two riders who do not venture far from the point of embarkation unless the surface water conditions are such that a more thrill-seeking adventure can be found elsewhere. When in use, they do not, by design or practice, follow the rules of navigation. They are capable of making rapid speed surges and sharp high speed turns. They also become airborne when crossing wakes, which increases their noise. Since sound travels more readily over water than land, this characteristic is particularly annoying to others using our water resources. In fact, it is these

IRWIN L. JACOBS *is the founder and chairman of the Minneapolis-based Genmar Holdings, Inc.*

characteristics that are almost solely responsible for the disruption of enjoyment of other water users. Essentially, PWCs belong in their own special recreational product category, like snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). Furthermore, PWCs are advertised extensively as thrill-seeking, high-speed vehicles, which further promotes their misuse.

Moreover, I believe the unregulated proliferation of these devices is in large part the cause of the industry down turn in sales. There can be little question that the estimated 1,000,000 PWCs on U.S. waters and 200,000 units sold last year came at the expense of boats. The careless operation of PWCs has diminished the enjoyment of our waters for many and further pushed people away from boating. The trade association to which I want to dedicate my financial and personal resources must squarely recognize this reality, work to remedy the problem, and champion the specific needs and requirements of boats. It should not spend its resources attempting to influence various government and private authorities to limit regulation of PWCs, in part, because aggressive regulation of this activity is needed.

PWC's operating characteristics, coupled with the fact that users are often inexperienced and young, pose an unusually high risk of injury to both the PWC operators and others using our waterways. The U.S. Coast Guard reports that in 1996 personal watercraft accounted for just 5 percent of all watercraft but were involved in 31 percent of all accidents. The PWC industry has said that it is not opposed to reasonable regulation, but when this regulation goes to the very essence of the experience being offered by use of the device, it is hard to believe the PWC industry can allow itself to embrace it.

Genmar also has an interest in how regulation of our waterways is made throughout the country. In part the company's interest is to ensure that boats are not caught up in anti-personal watercraft sentiment. In addition, Genmar is interested in working with regulators to promote the safe use of boats on our waterways. However, promoting safe operation of boats is different in kind and intensity than the type of regulation needed for PWCs.

Genmar's position on PWCs is based on the business issues that relate to the health of our company and its retail dealers, but beyond that I certainly have a problem personally with the abuses of our waterways by many PWC riders.

I am sure there is a place for these kinds of water toys, but I think it must be under controlled conditions and away from other boaters. They must also be kept away from people on shore who can be disturbed by their high-pitched sound.

> *PWCs are advertised extensively as thrill-seeking, high-speed vehicles, which further promotes their misuse.*

I am not familiar with the waterways at all of our national parks, but I think in general the activity of riding a PWC, or observing them being driven, does not seem consistent with the experience most visitors would seek at a national park. On the other hand, I feel that a real boat, operated courteously, can add another dimension to the visitors' experience of the park and allow them to explore waterways in a way that does not disrupt the enjoyment by others on shore. Again, it clearly illustrates the need for PWCs to be considered separately when it comes to regulations for use.

NOTE: At presstime, Canyonlands National Park became the latest unit of the National Park System to ban PWCs from its waters because the vehicles are deemed an inappropriate use for a park. The list includes Everglades, Glacier, and Yellowstone national parks.

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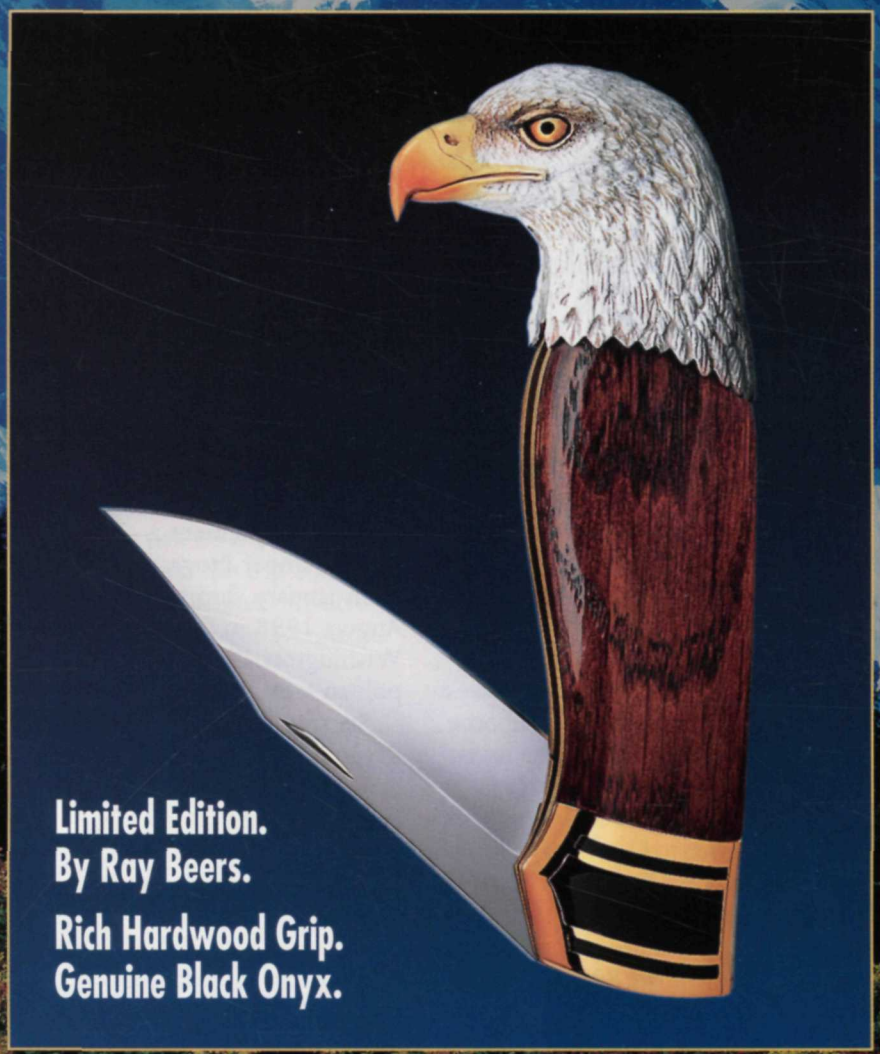

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NPCA Notes

Homestead Air Reserve Base

► Thanks to persistent NPCA lobbying, the White House announced that a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) will be required before approving plans to build a major airport at the former Homestead Air Reserve Base near Biscayne and Everglades national parks.

The announcement, which came just before the holidays, is a major victory for NPCA, indeed for the whole environmental community. NPCA had pushed for the SEIS for more than a year because of fears that the proposed commercial airport would harm resources at Biscayne and Everglades national parks.

Don Barger, NPCA's Southeast regional director, said it is possible to have economic development in Homestead that will benefit the local community without sacrificing park resources to do so.

The Air Force said that the SEIS would study only the potential impact of a one-runway airport, but NPCA believes the study should evaluate all possible environmental impacts that would occur if additional runways were added in the future.

In an NPCA press release, Barger said that the key to finding a balance between commerce and the environment is for everyone to work together.

March for Parks

► In Joliet, Ill., park lovers are marching to raise funds to rehabilitate a special sensory trail at the Pilcher Park Nature Center for people with disabilities. Volunteers in Orange, Tex., are marching to raise money to make a "butterfly trail" in Claiborne West Park. And in Peninsula, Ohio, volunteers plan to donate the money from their march to Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area's junior ranger program.

These are just a few of more than 800 marches planned for NPCA's ninth annual March for Parks, which will take place April 18-26. Held in conjunction with Earth Day, March for Parks enables people from across the country to raise awareness and funds for parks and open spaces.

NPCA wishes to thank its 1998 corporate sponsor:

First USA

All money raised goes to support park projects identified by local organizers. Please join NPCA in supporting March for Parks. For more information, contact the park nearest you or call 800-NAT-PARK, ext. 225.

Junior Rangers

► NPCA is gearing up to launch its first youth educational outreach program. Teaming up with the Student Conservation Association (SCA), NPCA hopes to implement a Junior Ranger Program from January through August 1998 in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.

Spearheaded by NPCA's Diversity Outreach intern Francisco Morales-Bermudez and Cultural Outreach Manager Iantha Gantt-Wright, the program will serve a minimum of 24 participants, ages ten to 14. The primary focus of the program will be to "meet the environmental education needs of the middle school participants."

The program will acquaint students with conservation and environmental management in relation to the national parks by offering field trips and conservation projects that explore environmental issues. Suggested trips and projects include the Youth Service Jamboree at Prince William Forest National Park in Virginia, educational boating trips on the Chesapeake Bay and Anacostia and Potomac rivers, trail improvement projects, and river and park cleanups.

"We wanted to start [educational outreach] where there is more need, and where is there more need than in our urban communities?" said Morales-Bermudez, who with SCA workers accompanied 20 teenagers from Washington, D.C., to Prince William Forest National Park in late December as a precursor to the program.

The Junior Rangers Program aims to have a minimum of 32 participants in 1999. Gantt-Wright and Morales-Bermudez hopes that once the program takes root in Washington, it will slowly expand to become a nationwide project.

For more information, please contact Morales-Bermudez at 800-NAT-PARK, ext. 258.

Everglades Coalition

► NPCA's renewed involvment with the Everglades Coalition was "welcomed enthusiastically," according to Legislative Representative Kevin Collins. NPCA hosted the Everglades Coalition's 13th annual conference in Key Largo, Fla., January15-18.

The coalition, a consortium of more than 35 local, state, and national organiza-

tions including NPCA, issued a five-part comprehensive plan detailing their goals for the Everglades restoration process:

▲ **Restoration of Historic Flows**: Returning the water flow of the Everglades back to its natural state by reconfiguring water control systems.

▲ **Water Storage**: Putting water back in the system in the right amount, at the right time, and in the right place.

▲ **Water Quality**: Cleaning up phosphorus-enriched water now entering the system and preventing other sources of contamination.

▲ **Multispecies Recovery**: Restoring wildife populations by reclaiming natural habitat.

▲ **Land Acquisition**: Obtaining more land to store water, cleanse water, and allow water to flow freely.

The next step, Collins said, is for all the organizations to promote the restoration goals as widely as possible. "Congress has ordered the Corps of Engineers to undertake 'environmental' restoration of the Everglades. We need to focus on achieving the goals that will accomplish that," he said.

The day after the coalition conference concluded, NPCA sponsored a trip for 35 members into Everglades National Park to learn more about the problems facing that unique ecosystem. Collins said the trip was a success, but that the real test will be if those who attended the trip continue to increase their involvement with the Everglades restoration process. "Citizens need to be clamoring for a healthy Everglades," Collins said.

Annual Report

► NPCA has released its 1997 Annual Report, which details its achievements, strategies, and financial statements for the fiscal year. Executive Officer William Watson and Chairman G. Robert Kerr wrote in their annual letter about the past year being marked by "significant achievement" and "great change."

"A transition such as this one is filled with opportunities and challenges. It affords a time to lay the groundwork for the future by identifying what is best in us and finding the most effective ways to move ahead," Watson and Kerr wrote.

Achievements for NPCA included the launch of our Bison Belong campaign and the Federal Aviation Administration-imposed two-year ban on overflights in Rocky Mountain National Park—a ban that NPCA and its Rocky Mountain regional office strongly backed.

According to financial statements in the report, developing and maintaining programs make up 73 percent of NPCA's expenses. For a free copy of the Annual Report, write to: NPCA, Member Service-AR, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

Enduring Legacy

This national park includes 16 sites that mark key events in America's history.

FRED HIRSCHMANN

THE ENDURING NATURE of this building, nestled among steel and glass high-rises, symbolizes the spirit of the park to which it belongs. One of the first public readings of the Declaration of Independence occurred on the balcony. Afterwards, the statues of a lion and a unicorn—symbols of the British Crown—were plucked from its roof, tossed into the street, and burned. Replicas of those statues now grace the building. The park encompasses 15 other sites that recall the spirit of democracy. Have you seen this building? Do you know this park? [ANSWER ON PAGE 10.]

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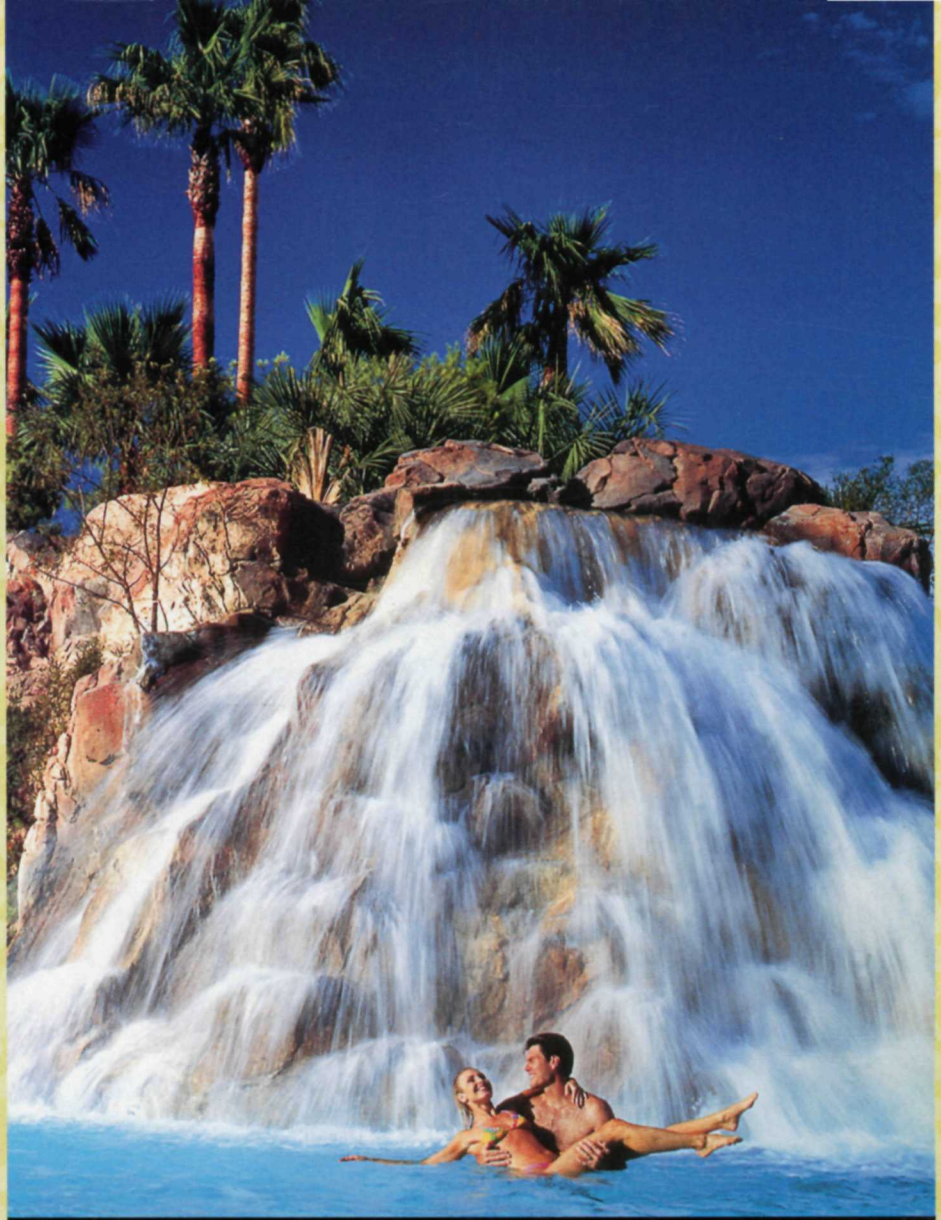

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