National Parks

May/June/82

Commentary

Bedrock

The nation's course leads onto uncertain terrain. We are in quaking-bog country—political and economic muskeg. To keep from sinking, we have to move fast. But our mounts, once under disciplined restraint, have slipped their bridles and taken off. Our only hope, it appears, is to slog it out to firmer ground on our own two feet.

That, in bold outline, is how our national situation looked to me on a recent nine-week trip my wife and I took across the country—the first in many years.

We were astonished and dismayed with what has and is taking place. Beneath the shifting surfaces of the times, the features by which we had come to know the human landscape and learned to read its meanings, are disappearing. Places and objects, plural and diverse—fine homes, useful historic buildings, farmland, expanses of natural woodland and prairie—are being blotted out by an overlay of wall-to-wall, repetitious, jazzed-up schlock.

We drove rubble-bordered look-alike highways, linking sleazy look-alike towns to razzle-dazzle look-alike cities. We ate taste-alike food in look-alike restaurants and slept in huge, look-alike motel complexes—when, that is, we could sleep. Sleep does not come readily when, night and day, the incessant beat of machine civilization engulfs one—gutting the land, spawning boom-and-bust, mobile-home metropolises, pandering to instant wants, instant satisfaction—serving short-term goals.

Where, in all this, we wondered, was the ground on which people could secure their present faith and future hopes? Where were the underpinnings?

It was in the national parks that we found bedrock. In the great primeval areas we stood on unshakable foundations—on the outcroppings of that basic reality that grounds the universe and from which this and every nation derives its substance. Here, we were in the presence of primary America, timeless and enduring, where love of the land—this land—must first have been felt, growing into that love of country which our historic sites and monuments tangibly and so dramatically embody.

These places are a tribute to all Americans. They mark us. They mark how far we have come on humanity's journey into consciousness—how far we have developed a sense of earth and the miracle of being.

They mark, in strongest terms, the part of us represented in the National Park Service. The men and women who devote their lives to the care of these areas are more than just concerned; they are involved and struggling—and they face increasingly difficult times. Underfunded, understaffed, many of them working long hours on their own, they need your help. They need your understanding and cooperation.

NPCA is helping—with all stops open. Its Awards Program, conducted in close cooperation with park officials, seeks to bolster the sagging but crucially important interpretive services. A newly launched NPCA program is organizing citizen action at the local and regional park levels. An NPCA study is underway to determine visitor capacity within selected, sensitive park areas. A recent NPCA-sponsored field conference was concerned with the future of the parks—a matter never to be taken for granted. It calls for the perpetual vigilance and effort of all of us.

—Gilbert F. Stucker
Chairman of the Board

Editor's Note

Few people have visited the new national parks, preserves, and monuments in Alaska since Congress created them in 1980. Many of these parklands are remote, wild, and difficult to reach. That is their appeal. This issue of *National Parks* briefly describes each of the Alaskan parklands—old as well as new—provides information and cautions about visiting them, and outlines the tremendous problems of managing them.

In his commentary on this page NPCA chairman Gil Stucker recounts his reactions after a continent-spanning journey last year, where he found inspiration and our American heritage only in the national parks. Alaska *now* is the way our country was maybe two hundred years ago—vast, wild, unspoiled. There, too, is our American heritage preserved, and there is our inspiration. Perhaps few of us will ever see Alaska. Those who do will count themselves fortunate. Yet those of us who never will see Alaska's national parklands want them to remain as they are. Despairing of spreading cities and growing traffic, we want to know that a vast, wild, pristine land endures. We want to know that rugged peaks pierce the clouds and uncounted glaciers grind down the mountains, that millions of birds return each spring to the tundra to repopulate the skies, that salmon still struggle toward their destiny in the waters of their birth and that giant brown bears still wait for them, that the cries of wolves echo through the cold darkness and caribou, hearing them, huddle closer.

The rallying cry for the thousands of people who worked for the dream of unspoiled Alaskan parklands was "our last frontier!" Now all of us must make sure that the Alaskan dream will truly be "our lasting frontier."—*EHC*

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National Parks

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The magazine of the National Parks & Conservation Association

Commentary

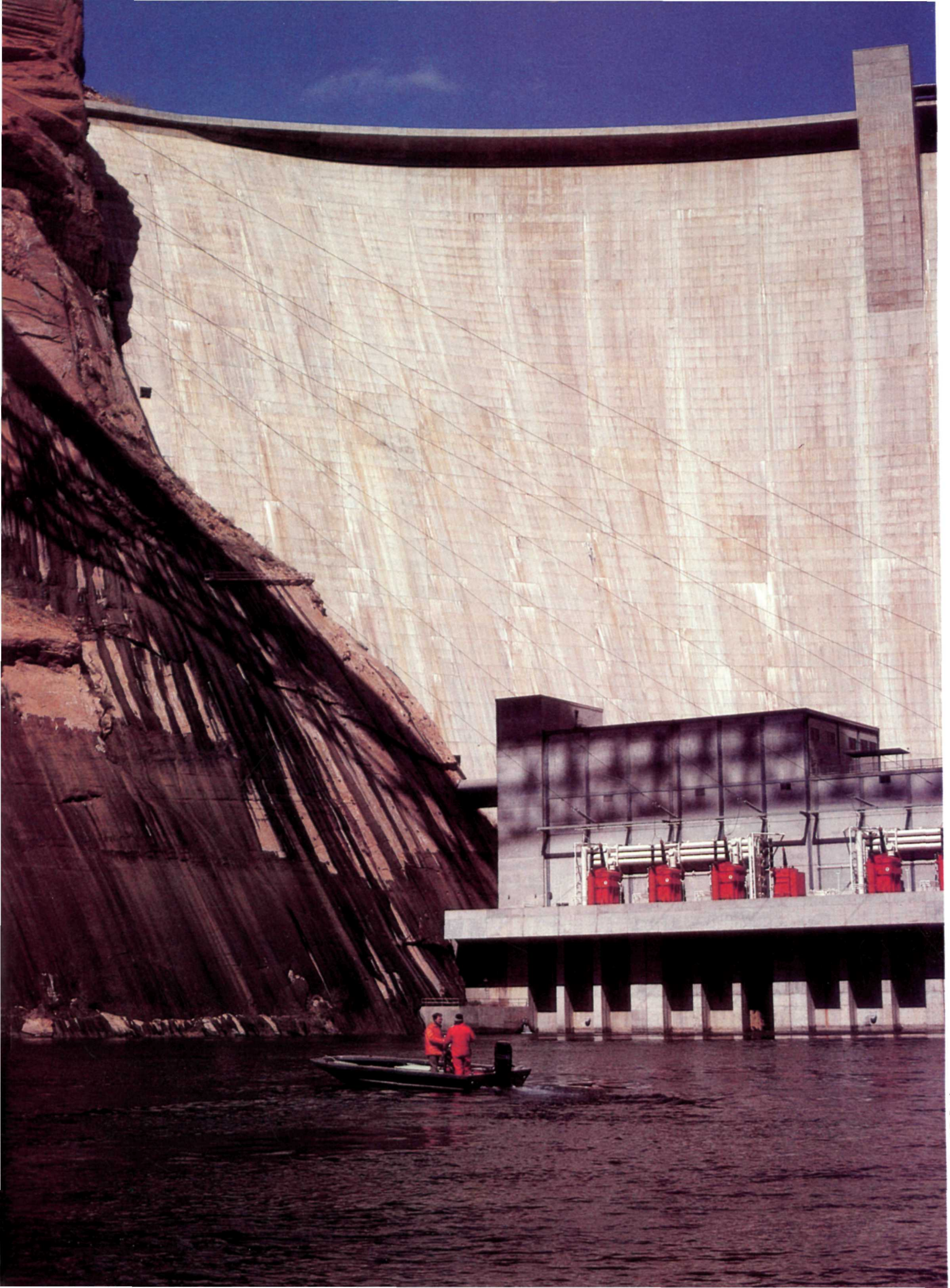
Features

Special Section: The National Parks of Alaska

Departments

COVERS Alaska closeup, by Steven C. Kaufman
Mention Alaska, and most of us think of dramatic vistas, but those who look closely appreciate the intimate details as well—a moment shared with a pair of Dall sheep, or a glimpse of a delicate plant *(Pedicularis capatata)* glowing in the morning sun amidst tangled reindeer moss.

National Parks & Conservation Association—established in 1919 by Robert Sterling Yard with the support of Stephen Mather, the first Director of the National Park Service—is an independent, private, nonprofit, public service organization, educational and scientific in character. Its responsibilities relate primarily to protecting, promoting, and enlarging the National Park System, in which it endeavors to cooperate with the National Park Service while functioning as a constructive critic. Life memberships are $1000. Annual membership dues, which include a $7 subscription to *National Parks*, are $150 Sustaining, $75 Supporting, $30 Contributing, $22 Cooperating, and $15 Associate. Student memberships are $10. Single copies are $3. Contributions and bequests are needed to carry on our work. Dues in excess of $7 and contributions are deductible from federal taxable incomes, and gifts and bequests are deductible for federal gift and estate tax purposes. Mail membership dues, correspondence concerning subscription or changes of address, and postmaster notices or undeliverable copies to National Parks & Conservation Association, 1701 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. When changing address, please allow six weeks' advance notice and send the address label from your latest issue along with new address. *National Parks* is published bimonthly. Contributed manuscripts and photographs are welcome on speculation. They should be addressed to the Editor at Association headquarters and should be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. No responsibility can be assumed for unsolicited material. Articles are published for educational purposes and do not necessarily reflect the views of this Association. Printed in the United States. Second-class postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at other offices.



Russell D. Butcher

NPCA Annual Report-1981

At best, 1981 was a tough year for the National Park Service (NPS). But NPCA, its members, trustees, and staff responded in unprecedented ways, rallying to the defense of the national parks.

Mitigation of park threats went virtually unfunded, unstaffed, unattended. The Administration proposed slashing the NPS budget for completing existing, authorized units of the National Park System; and some areas were proposed briefly for deauthorization. Cultural resources continued to deteriorate, and historic objects and artifacts were left uncared for. Wildlife—such as the endangered humpback whale, the grizzly bear, and the fabulous birds of the Everglades—continued their decline. Changes in policy resulted in increased use of airboats, snowmobiles, and oversand vehicles in a variety of parks. Efforts continued to weaken the Clean Air Act's protection for national parks and wilderness areas.

Although many of these threats to the natural and cultural resources of the National Park System's units are the cumulative result of many years of neglect or ignorance, many others arose only in 1981 and are the direct result of policy changes brought about by Interior Secretary James Watt.

To address these problems, NPCA organized a "State of the Parks" conference in September 1981 in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. More than fifty people—attorneys, writers, teachers, businessmen, and other leaders and advocates—examined specific and general problems, debated solutions, and devised principles and recommendations to guide national park managers and concerned citizens in protecting the national parks. NPCA later published details of the problems addressed, speeches presented, and final recommendations. (*National Parks in Crisis*, 1982, $20; $14 to members. Order from Information Dynamics, Inc., 111 Claybrook Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20902.)

Major Issues

Alaska: Since former President Carter signed the Alaska Lands Act (Public Law 96–487) on December 2, 1980, thus doubling the size of the National Park System, NPCA and other conservation organizations have had to fight the Reagan Administration for funds, staff, and resource protection for the new areas. NPCA also opposed major aspects of the Alaska regulations, which weakened standard NPS policies on vehicular access and the carrying of firearms and which have been applied to old park areas (Denali, Katmai, and Glacier Bay) as well as the new areas. In addition, the Administration has cut funds for the new Alaska areas so that these areas are neither fully operational nor adequately protected.

Deauthorization and Deletions: In the spring, NPCA was given a copy of a Department of the Interior memo indicating that the NPS had been ordered to build a case to deauthorize at least five National Park System units—Santa Monica Mountains, Cuyahoga, Indiana Dunes, Fire Island, and Sleeping Bear Dunes. NPCA opposes any and all such actions.

We released the memo to the press and to Congress. The proposal to deauthorize caused a huge outcry. NPCA's initiative led to oversight hearings in which Secretary Watt was forced to back down from his plan to deauthorize any parks.

In addition, NPCA contested proposals to delete significant areas from several National Park System units, including Voyageurs, Sleeping Bear Dunes, Olympic, and Pictured Rocks.

ORVs: NPCA questioned a decision by the NPS at Cape Cod National Seashore to continue off-road-vehicle (ORV) use of the beaches and dunes. After conducting five years of research at Cape Cod, the NPS concluded that ORV use is seriously damaging the seashore. Cape Lookout National Seashore has similar ORV damage, but North Carolina politicians and local opposition have fought NPCA efforts to get the National Park Service to ban these vehicles.

Teton Wilderness: NPCA and other organizations intervened in a lawsuit brought against the Interior Department by oil companies that sought access to the Teton Wilderness in Wyoming for oil and gas development. This area is an essential part of the greater Yellowstone ecosystem and is critical habitat to the endangered grizzly bear.

Clean Air: Congress must reauthorize the Clean Air Act. Industry and the Reagan Administration have targeted the Act for significant weakening, especially the provisions

NPCA president Paul C. Pritchard visited the Glen Canyon Dam in March 1981 to learn firsthand about the proposal to increase peaking power capacity there. NPCA fought the proposal because of the increased damage it would wreak downriver in the Grand Canyon.

Eugenia Horstman Connally

that protect air quality in the national parks. NPCA works as a member of the National Clean Air Coalition but focuses on two provisions of the Act—the so-called PSD (prevention of significant deterioration) section and the visibility protection section. In particular, NPCA led the fight to establish the concept of protecting "integral vistas" at the national parks.

Other Action

This past year NPCA involved itself with a number of other issues:

- Opposed Administration-endorsed proposals to allow snowmobiles in Yosemite, Sequoia/Kings Canyon, and Lassen Volcanic national parks, and ORVs on the wild beach of Assateague.
- Testified against the deletion of Black Bay from Voyageurs National Park.
- Worked for the Isle au Haut legislation for Acadia National Park.
- Testified on federal land acquisition policy.
- Filed a lawsuit with the Environmental Defense Fund against proposed pesticide application to Fire Island National Seashore.
- Submitted recommendations on the Shenandoah National Park General Management Plan.
- Fought Interior plans for increased peaking-power generation at Glen Canyon Dam.
- Supported amendments to the Geothermal Steam Act to protect parks from adjacent geothermal development.
- Challenged NPS plans to radically alter the final approved plan for Mammoth Cave National Park.
- Opposed commercial fishing, airboats, and new power-plant emissions in Everglades National Park.

NPCA would like to see a significant portion of the dwindling native tallgrass prairie preserved for future generations. To that end, NPCA has been examining strategies and alternatives through Steven Burr, our regional representative in Kansas. Ranchers have been included in discussions because many issues in the Flint and Osage hills concern them.

NPCA has been working on another issue that has a great deal of support in the rural community—agricultural land preservation. If areas can be held as agricultural-land preserves, some of the problems in preserving a tallgrass prairie would be solved. The idea also could buy more time for educating both the local and national public on the values of preserving prairies. It may also provide some legal options, such as a ranchland trust, that do not yet exist.

NPCA conducted a major campaign to raise private monies for its Threatened Park Facility Fund. We raised more than $50,000 toward a goal of $95,000 to help restore historic structures including the visitor center at Bandelier National Monument in New Mexico. NPCA's thirty-four-member Project Committee of prominent New Mexicans includes business leaders, historians, archeologists, architects, Native Americans, lawyers, and a member of the New Mexico State Supreme Court.

NPCA acted on many other issues in the West:

- Testified at NPS hearings on opening national parks in California to snowmobiling.
- Spoke out in support of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area at a symposium in Los Angeles.
- Worked against threats to southern Utah National Park System units—a nuclear waste disposal facility adjacent to Canyonlands, tar sands mining in Glen Canyon, grazing in Capitol Reef, and coal strip-mining adjacent to Bryce Canyon. Taken collectively, the National Park System units of southern Utah are the most threatened in the country.

Budget Problems

The Department of the Interior's budget, like those of many other agencies, was cut severely by the Administration. Through the long budgetary process NPCA fought to strengthen the financial underpinnings of the National Park System.

Secretary Watt recommended the deepest cuts for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which is used—in part—to purchase national parklands and also recommended cuts for the Youth Conservation Corps, the Historic Preservation Fund, and new areas study efforts.

Most of the money for the LWCF comes from payments oil companies make to the government for leases on the outer continental shelf. Even though $900 million per year is available, Congress actually has been appropriating about $500 million in recent years. Secretary Watt recommended appropriating only $40 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 1982 (which started in October 1981). He

Pam Butcher

In a workshop at NPCA's "State of the Parks" conference in September 1981 (left), Charlotte Read, president of Save the Dunes Council, describes the problems of local activists who are trying to combat the many threats to Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore on Lake Michigan. Listening to Charlotte are NPCA staff members Karen Raible (left) and Laura Beaty.

At right, John Hunter, superintendent of Bandelier National Monument, shows NPCA Southwest regional representative Russell D. Butcher one of the rotten beams on the roof of the monument's visitor center. Restoration of Bandelier's charming pueblo-style visitor facilities was the first project for NPCA's new Threatened Park Facility Fund in 1981.

also recommended that $250 million be taken back from appropriations already made in FY 1981.

In a stunning set of victories, NPCA and other conservationists defeated the Administration. Congress rescinded only $90 million of the requested $250 million and appropriated $149 million for the LWCF in FY 1982—more than three times the amount recommended by Secretary Watt.

NPCA, of course, was most concerned with that part of the LWCF used to buy land for *existing* units of the National Park System. That interest and the work of many of our members, who wrote letters to their senators and representatives, paid off. The National Park Service received critically needed land acquisition funding in FY 1982.

The National Park Service operating budget was also increased. NPCA recommended an increase of $50 million over FY 1981 levels ($535 million) to maintain park facilities and improve resource management. Congress appropriated approximately $70 million over FY 1981 levels.

The Administration had proposed using LWCF money for park facility maintenance, rather than for land acquisition as the fund is legally intended. NPCA opposed the proposed amendment because a huge backlog of authorized but unacquired lands exists, and much of the unacquired land is threatened by development.

Not every program fared so well as the Land and Water Conservation Fund. One that was severely crippled was the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), which gave young people work experience on conservation projects in parks and other federal areas. The YCC was one of the few federal programs that more than paid for itself in the amount of work performed. Cutting the program makes little sense. NPCA is supporting legislation to revive youth conservation employment. Representatives Seiberling (D-Ohio) and Moffett (D-Conn.) introduced the Public Lands Conservation, Rehabilitation, and Improvement Act (H.R. 4861). Initial House hearings were held in December. Further action is expected in 1982.

Grassroots Activities

NPCA created a new grassroots network, the National Park Action Project (NPAP), and the project is proving to be a key success. The goal of NPAP is to develop a locally based network of individuals or organizations to act as "protectors" or "watchdogs" for each National Park System unit. To date, more than 70 of the 333 units in the National Park System are covered.

NPCA members are getting more involved through the Contact program. Contacts are members who write letters and attend meetings in response to *NPCAlerts* on important issues. In 1981 the number of Contacts grew from 1,200 to more than 2,500.

Some of the issues the Contacts worked on during 1981 include regulations for the new Alaska parks, maintaining the Land and Water Conservation Fund, helping to strengthen the Clean Air Act, preventing adverse development on the boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield in Virginia, and deterring commercial fishing at Everglades National Park.

NPCA's cooperative program with local conservation organizations expanded in 1981, and now our Associated Organizations number nineteen.

NPCA created another grassroots link—this time with the Garden Club of America. Each Garden Club chapter nationwide has selected contacts who will work with NPCA, particularly on local national park problems.

Wildlife Issues

The Reagan Administration zealously desires to cut wildlife protection so NPCA has worked especially hard to uphold protection for wildlife, especially in the national parks.

NPCA successfully supported implementing vessel regulations for Glacier Bay National Park in Alaska. The regulations were designed to protect endangered humpback whales from harassment while they summer in Glacier Bay.

Seeking to take advantage of the sympathetic Reagan Administration, commercial fishermen petitioned the National Park Service to halt the phaseout of commercial fishing in Everglades National Park. The phaseout had been instituted because mullet and other fish basic to the survival of Florida Bay's ecosystem have declined dramatically in recent years. NPCA joined in a strong public protest against the fishermen's petition, and the park's superintendent did recommend that the petition be denied. Secretary Watt's final decision is pending.

Peter G. Sanchez, National Park Service

NPCA urges removal of non-native animals from national parks because they damage habitat of native species. In Death Valley, at right, for example, burros severely overgrazed the area in the foreground. In dramatic contrast, grasses grow lush inside the enclosure in the background, from which burros were excluded.

NPCA continued its involvement in exotic and endangered species problems. After removing the feral burro population from Grand Canyon National Park, the National Park Service issued a management plan for Death Valley National Monument that focuses on eliminating 2,500 burros there. Although NPCA supports the Park Service's intent to remove the burro because the animal causes extreme environmental damage, we found the proposed ten-year program too long. Instead, we have recommended that the National Park Service remove feral burros within three years.

NPCA also objected to the slow approach the Park Service is taking to remove the exotic mountain goat that damages Olympic National Park. The present three-year experimental program will relocate approximately 150 of the estimated 700 goats.

Carrying Capacity

In response to the problems created by escalating visitation to the national parks, NPCA embarked on a project to help determine carrying capacity for National Park System units. Recreational carrying capacity is the amount of use an area can withstand before resources are degraded and visitor experience diminished.

Working with a task force of recreation experts, NPCA will develop a method for measuring user impacts. This methodology will be tested in a variety of National Park System units. NPCA will then urge systemwide adoption and application of the methodology.

Cultural Allies

The cultural treasures of the National Park System received new citizen support during 1981. The reason for that support is the disclosure of threats to cultural, as well as natural, resources as identified in the "State of the Parks—1980" report.

NPCA, with the help and assistance of others, developed the Cultural Resources Coalition and sponsored two meetings in 1981. The meetings provided a forum for the Director of the Park Service and individuals concerned about cultural resources—historic and prehistoric sites, monuments, memorials, battlefields. The Coalition also made the Director more aware of the decline in professional National Park Service employees trained as archeologists, architects, historians, curators, and the like. To encourage high standards among NPS cultural-resource managers, the Coalition supports in-house training programs and the hiring of trained professionals.

Growing concern over the well-being of National Park System units in the Mid-Atlantic states (Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania) has resulted in the formation of an independent Mid-Atlantic Regional Council. During 1981 NPCA set out to find citizens who would be willing to help protect the parks in that region, address current threats, and identify potential threats. Because 23 of the 27 park units in the region are cultural parks (i.e. established because of their historical significance), the Council will focus on specific threats to these cultural parks.

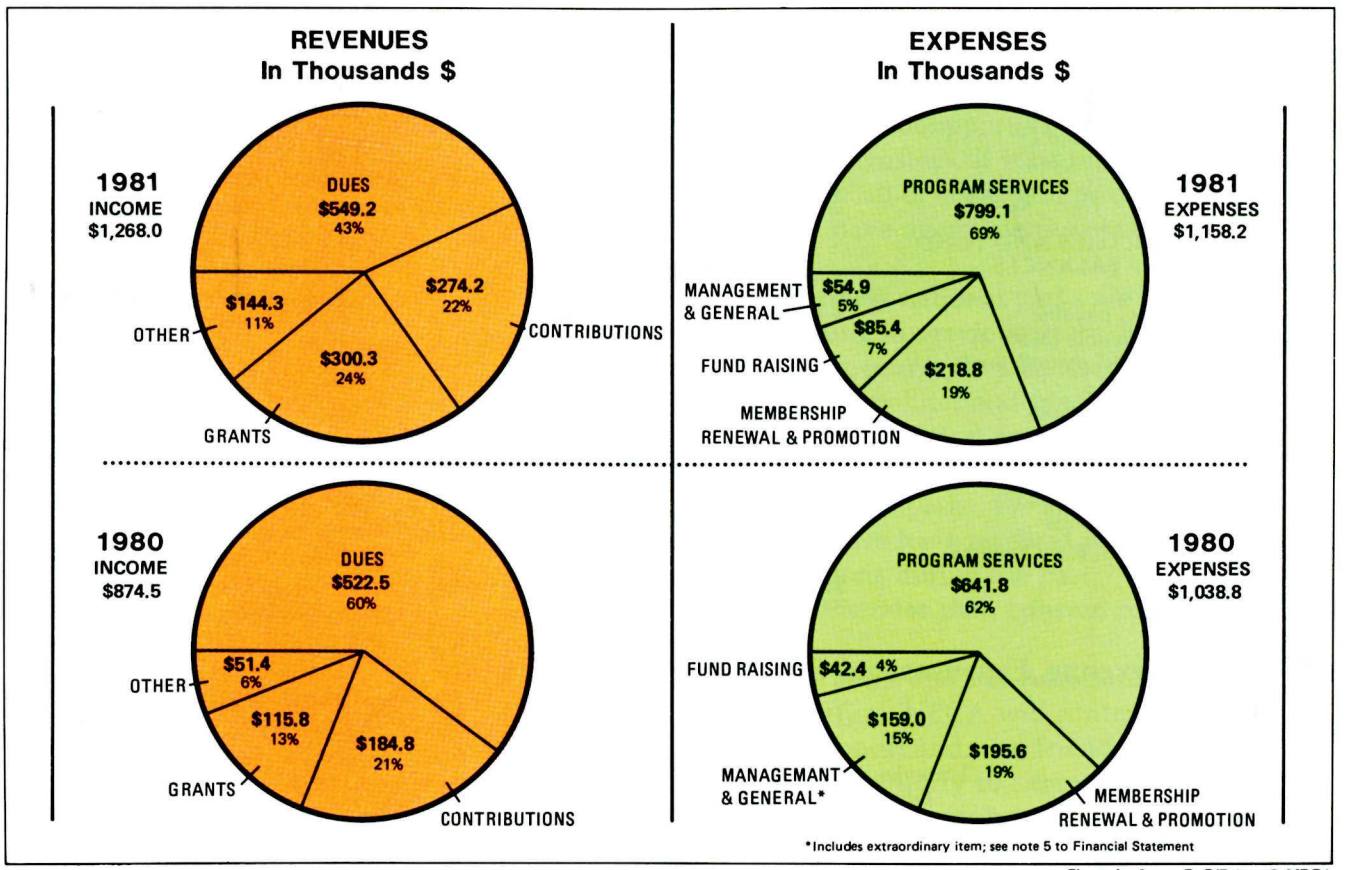
Through NPCA's National Park Action Project, park "protectors" represent historic sites, battlefields, and archeological sites as well as the natural resources within the National Park System. NPCA's commitment to the cultural parks was enhanced also by our close working relationship with the Council on America's Military Past (CAMP) and the Civil War Round Table Associates (CWRT).

In cooperation with the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union and other local associations, NPCA put together a management plan for Piscataway Park in Maryland. Established in 1961, the park preserves the historic scene from Mount Vernon (George Washington's home) and the remains of nearby Fort Washington.

NPCA's continuing association with organizations devoted to preserving our cultural and natural heritage ultimately will ensure that those resources receive the highest quality protection and interpretation.

With the help of our members, contributors, and allies, NPCA can continue to make a significant impact on the preservation of America's cherished cultural and natural national parks.

National Parks & Conservation Association Financial Report—1981



Charts by James F. O'Brien, © NPCA

Comments on NPCA's 1981 Financial Report

NPCA's 1981 income from contributions and grants increased by 48 percent and 159 percent, respectively, over 1980. Although unrestricted foundation and corporate grants accounted for part of this increase, grants for special projects were the primary source of the increase.

We received funds to work specifically on preservation of the tallgrass prairie; on expanding our work on cultural resources; on instituting the National Park Action Project; on means to determine carrying capacity of individual national park units; on the Threatened Park Facility Fund, with Bandelier National Monument as our pilot project; on the conference on the "State of the Parks"; and on an award program for national park interpreters.

NPCA began a Corporate Sponsor program, with six corporations (participating in 1981) providing support for the general operations of the Association.

Membership increased again this year, with a count of 33,135 for the period ending December 31, 1981, compared with 32,633 at the end of 1980. Although this increase was modest, it was achieved on a very tight budget with no additional funds. In addition, as is illustrated in the accompanying charts, we are spending an ever-increasing percentage of our funds on program services.

NATIONAL PARKS AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Financial Statements—December 31, 1981

Balance Sheet

ASSETS	December 31 1981	1980
Cash		
Checking account	$104,295	$ 52,105
Interest bearing accounts	202,400	155,210
Accounts receivable	13,555	23,154
Accrued interest receivable	3,713	-
Inventory	7,005	2,769
Investments—at book value (Note 1)	198,351	193,314
Prepaid expenses	9,490	16,442
Fixed assets (Note 2)	254,122	264,185
Other assets	11,969	12,172
TOTAL	$804,900	$719,351
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	$ 72,877	$ 93,244
Notes payable (Note 3)	499,467	503,294
Employees' payroll taxes withheld	1,513	1,395
Accrued expenses	4,500	4,682
Total liabilities	578,357	602,615
Fund balances		
Unrestricted fund	48,393	40,610
Restricted funds	178,150	76,126
Total fund balances	226,543	116,736
TOTAL	$804,900	$719,351

Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances

	Year Ended December 31			
	1981			1980
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	
Revenue				
Membership dues (Note 1)	$ 549,164	$ -	$ 549,164	$ 522,491
Other operating income	73,576	-	73,576	14,881
Investment income	58,588	-	58,588	8,626
Gain (loss) on sale of investments	(7)	-	(7)	8,557
Contributions, bequests and grants	347,548	239,165	586,713	319,896
Total revenues	1,028,869	239,165	1,268,034	874,451
Expenditures				
Program services				
Parks and conservation	165,149	124,974	290,123	162,005
Urban regional parks and land use planning	61,226	-	61,226	53,473
Immigration and population	31,078	12,167	43,245	55,870
Information services	404,523	-	404,523	370,417
Supporting services				
Management and general (Note 5)	54,872	-	54,872	158,954
Fund raising	85,435	-	85,435	42,412
Membership solicitation	218,803	-	218,803	195,624
Total expenditures	1,021,086	137,141	1,158,227	1,038,755
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	7,783	102,024	109,807	(164,304)
Fund balances January 1	40,610	76,126	116,736	281,040
Fund balances December 31	$ 48,393	$178,150	$ 226,543	$ 116,736

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DECEMBER 31, 1981

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Method of Accounting: Assets, liabilities, income and expenses are recognized on the accrual basis of accounting.

Investments: Investments are carried at cost or at market value on the date received from the donors. Fair market value at December 31, 1981 and 1980 was approximately $218,775 and $236,609, respectively.

Depreciation: Depreciation of fixed assets is computed on the straight-line method at rates calculated to prorate the cost of the applicable assets over their useful lives.

Membership Dues: Membership dues are recorded as income in the period received.

Note 2. Fixed Assets

Original cost and accumulated depreciation of fixed assets at December 31, 1981 and 1980 are as follows:

	1981	1980
Land	$ 66,470	$ 66,470
Office building	263,860	263,860
Office furniture and equipment	65,012	64,835
	328,872	328,695
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(141,220)	(130,980)
	187,652	197,715
Fixed assets—Depreciated cost	$254,122	$264,185

Depreciation charged to operations for the years ended December 31, 1981 and 1980 was $10,240 and $10,165, respectively.

Note 3. Notes Payable

Notes payable at December 31, 1981 were as follows:

Mortgage Note: Payable $6,307 per month, including interest at 14.75%, secured by a deed of trust on the Association's land and building **$497,739**

Equipment Note: Payable $144 per month, including interest **1,728**

Total: **$499,467**

Note 4. Pension Plan

The Association has a non-contributory pension plan covering all full-time employees and it is the Association's policy to fund the cost as it accrues, which was $18,259 and $29,653 for 1981 and 1980, respectively.

Note 5. Management and General Expenditures

Management and General expenditures for the year ended December 31, 1980 includes $100,000 for settlement of the former President and General Counsel's employment contract.

Report of Independent Certified Public Accountants

To the Board of Trustees of National Parks and Conservation Association

We have examined the balance sheet of National Parks and Conservation Association as of December 31, 1981 and 1980, and the related statements of revenue, expenses, and changes in fund balances and of functional expenditures for the years then ended. Our examinations were made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly the financial position of National Parks and Conservation Association at December 31, 1981 and 1980, and the results of its operations for the years then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a consistent basis.

Thomas Havey & Co.
Washington, D.C.
January 22, 1982

Statement of NPCA President

People are the parks. We at NPCA are grateful for the state of our finances, especially when we refer back to our previous financial situation at the end of 1980. More important, and unreflected in this report, is the great display of individual commitment by our members, by park supporters, by our staff, and by our Board of Trustees. If it had not been for the extra effort of all of these groups of people, NPCA could not have overcome the dramatic *deficit* of 1980.

This year the world's finest national parks are threatened beyond anything in previous years. We believe that preserving our country's natural and cultural heritage transcends politics and special interests and that therefore all political parties, all administrations, and all interests should support the goal of protecting our national parks. We are particularly pleased by the help we have received from foundations and corporations during the past year—support that demonstrates their concern for our American heritage.

Although the national parks and our Association face a very demanding future, NPCA will continue to seek new sources of support and new friends.

We wish to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to all who contributed to NPCA's efforts in 1981. Without the crucial help of our members and contributors, NPCA could not effectively accomplish its goal—the continued protection of America's natural and cultural heritage represented in her national parks.

—Paul C. Pritchard
President
National Parks & Conservation Association

Sitka waterfront with Russian blockhouse to the right, by Ed Cooper

SITKA
Russian Outpost in Alaska

Raisa Scriabine

Russian Orthodox icon in Sitka, by Raisa Scriabine

Southeast Alaska, with its fabulous fishing, endless fjords, and spruce-covered mountains, features a lively mix of cultures that enhance the area's natural attributes. Stout threads of past history weave a strong, complex pattern in the present-day cultural fabric of towns along the coast.

Today, Russian Orthodox churches dot the shoreline at Angoon, Hoonah, Juneau, and Sitka. An old Russian blockhouse stands on the Sitka waterfront. Serving flaming sourdough at the Wickersham House in Juneau, Ruth Allman tells the story of how her uncle Judge James Wickersham introduced the First Alaska Statehood Bill in 1916. In Juneau and Skagway, dance halls standing in the shadow of abandoned mines churn out the top ten tunes for the modern-day panners who have made it down the mountain with a bit to show for the day's effort.

I went to Alaska to study the Russian cultural and religious influence on Alaskan Native life. My first stop was Sitka, on Baranof Island, once the active nucleus of Russian America and now a bustling tourist town and the site of Sitka National Historical Park.

The gold panners and dance hall girls never made it to Sitka, but the Russian fur merchants did. Sitka, known then as New Archangel, was the colonial headquarters of the Russian-American Company, an Imperial-chartered trade organization dealing in furs, grains, lumber, and shipping. The Russian-American Company was the driving force behind the Czarist reach into North America.

At least 80,000 visitors come annually to sample the lingering vestiges of Alaska's Russian heritage displayed in this mist-covered city. Samovars, lacquered palekh boxes, and even recent vintage tea from Moscow can be found with the usual "Alaskana" for sale. Antique shops off the main streets carry more valuable treasures still—old religious icons and family relics from the time when this Southeast Alaskan town was indeed the heart of Russia's colonial domain. The Novoarkhangelsk dancers, a local group, perform flashy Russian folk dances for visitors to the Centennial Building near the marina. Walking through this popular tourist town, one realizes that where more than a century ago Russians capitalized on Alaska's natural resources, today that Russian heritage provides a livelihood for Alaskan entrepreneurs.

Sitka, in its time, was the cultural center of Russian America, a frontier-style St. Petersburg East. Where strains of spoken French could once be heard in the streets and silk ball gowns rustled in the wind, now tombs commemorating the past—the Baranof castle site, the Princess Maksoutoff grave, the reproduction Russian blockhouse, docksite, and saltery ruins—stand quietly in the face of active new construction.

Although Sitka's Russian heritage is the aspect most actively advertised, the cohabitation of three cultures makes this city by the sea Southeast Alaska's special gem. Russian, American, and Tlingit traditions have mingled and clashed; yet each group has emerged with its own distinct cultural integrity intact.

Sitka National Historical Park brings together the city's diverse cultural features in a 107-acre coastal setting that is visited by bald eagles, black-tailed deer, brown bear, and humpbacked whales. The park has three distinctive features: the Kiksadi Tlingit fort site; the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center; and the Russian Bishop's House.

"We're primarily an urban park," Chief Ranger Gary Candelaria pointed out. "The visitor center and cultural center are within easy walking distance from downtown Sitka, so for much of the year the park is a major recreation center for townspeople." Most of the park's acreage is wedged between downtown Sitka and the sea, with the Russian Bishop's House standing inside the town.

It is easy to forget the nearby town while strolling from the visitor center along a quarter-mile path studded with totem poles to the Kiksadi fort site at the edge of the

Continued on page 14

Spruce forest at Sitka NHP, by Ed Cooper

Opposite, boats nestle in the protected, misty harbor at Sitka while the solid Russian blockhouse stands guard. Magnificent icons, like the one shown at bottom, Our Lady, Joy of the Afflicted, attest to the time in Sitka's history when the Russian Orthodox Church was a powerful influence in the colony. Above, a path leads through the towering spruce forest at Sitka National Historical Park.

The Tlingits

The Tlingit people migrated to Southeast Alaska long before either Russians from across the Bering Strait or settlers from the Lower Forty-Eight arrived. They settled on the coast of the peninsula, developing an independent village on the island where Sitka now stands. Men, women, and children reaped the bounty of the land and sea around them, gathering berries and crabs, hunting birds and bear, and fishing for salmon and seals.

Tlingit children were taught to respect the spirits of animals and the cycles of nature with which their lives were entwined. The people developed a rich spiritual symbolism, based on their close relationship with nature, and they wove these symbols into baskets and carved them on house posts and panels. Carved into the totem poles that tower along the walkway in Sitka National Historical Park are legends and family histories from generations of Tlingit and Haida Indians of Southeast Alaska.

These totem poles were collected between 1901 and 1904 during the travels of Alaska territorial governor John G. Brady, who had a great interest in this Native culture. The past eighty years have taken their toll on the collection, however. Although many attempts have been made to restore the carved and painted cedar poles, only ten or so of the original collection remain in the park today. This display is supplemented, however, by the craftmanship of a new generation of Native artisans, working and teaching others in the Sitka National Historical Park Cultural Center.

Visitors to the cultural center this summer will have the opportunity to watch a reproduction carving project recreating one of the totem poles from the historic 1904 Brady collection.

Photo by National Park Service

Esther Littlefield, an instructor at the cultural center, works on a beaver design robe.

Continued from page 13

ocean. President Benjamin Harrison originally set aside the acreage for the park in 1890 to protect the site of the fort where, in 1804, the last major battle was fought between the Russian-American Company and the Kiksadi clan of the Tlingit Indians. Though the Russians eventually succeeded in burning Fort Shishkee-nu, the Kiksadis never surrendered. No peace treaty was ever signed between these Natives and the Russians.

The fort was never reconstructed. Its dimensions have been redrawn on the grassy knoll where the spruce log palisade once stood. A commemorative plaque marks the spot. The fort evokes a remembrance of things past, but the path to it, watched over by rows of hundred-year-old Tlingit and Haida totem poles, links the past to the present: pole-carving and other Southeast Alaskan Native crafts are a continuing tradition at the park's cultural center.

Operated by the Alaska Native Brotherhood, the cultural center encourages the perpetuation of traditional Native skills of all kinds. Here Tlingit craftsmen teach new generations the art of Indian beadwork, silver carving, and basketry. The fresh scent of cut cedar fills the air at the adjoining visitor center where an impressive collection of historic handicrafts on display includes Chilkat robes handwoven from mountain goat wool and dyed bright blue and yellow.

In town, the National Park Service is actively restoring a remnant of Sitka's Russian religious heritage—the Russian Bishop's House, one of the few historic downtown buildings not touched by the Sitka fire of 1966. The House, to be opened to the public on a limited basis this summer, was once home to Ivan Veniaminov, the first Russian Orthodox Bishop to serve Alaska, later canonized St. Innocent.

Throughout his life in Alaska, Veniaminov worked to close the gap between Native residents and Russian colonists. His contributions ranged from fostering literacy to pioneering conservation. Veniaminov translated part of the New Testament into Aleut, compiled a grammar of the Aleut language, and wrote an as yet untranslated history of the Aleutian Islands. He helped curb seal slaughter by studying the breeding cycle of fur seals and supporting strict harvesting limits.

The Russian Orthodox Church remains active in Sitka today. St. Michael's Cathedral houses the finest collection of Orthodox pictorial and liturgical art in Alaska, a sight not to be missed during a visit to Sitka. The priest at St. Michael's, Evgeny Burdukovsky, embodies the melding of cultures at Sitka perhaps more than any other person I met there. He is an Aleut with a Russian name working in a parish that consists primarily of Tlingit Indians. "I remember the beauty of my old wooden church in the Aleutians," he told me. "It made an incredible impression on me when I was small. While other children played at games, I played at giving communion." The first Russian missionaries came to the Aleutian Islands in 1794, and on these barren, windswept volcanic islands the Orthodox faith took its firmest

root in Alaska. Today, most Aleuts follow the Russian Orthodox faith, despite the fact that the colonial Russians decimated and virtually enslaved the Aleut population during the days of Russian America.

I left Sitka to visit Orthodox parishes in the Yukon-Kuskokwim, Kenai, Kodiak, and the Aleutian Islands. I found a wealth of evidence of Russian influence on Native life during my travels. For example, in the Yukon Delta, in the swampy Alaskan Southwest, I found that Yupik Eskimo words for imported objects such as hammer, bowl, bell, and bread have Slavic origin. On the Kenai Peninsula, I found a fusion of artistic styles in iconography: a wooden icon of the Mother of God adorned by native beadwork. Another icon portrayed the subject in Indian dress. In Nikolski, Alaska, a tiny village on an island in the Aleutian chain, an old Czarist bell still rings daily in the steeple of a small, white-washed frame structure known as St. Nicholas Church.

The colorful history of Russian America and the living spirit of Orthodoxy among the Natives of Alaska has brought numerous specialists from the Soviet Union to study Sitka. In August 1979 the first United States/Canadian/Soviet conference on Russian America was held to share scholarship on the history, anthropology, and geography of the Czarist colony. Four years earlier exiled Russian writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn had come to Sitka to find the roots of his heritage.

Yesterday, Sitka was the seat of a Russian mercantile colony. Today, Sitka National Historical Park interprets the mix of Russian, Tlingit, and American culture and history that is unique to this many-faceted gem set into the edge of a coastal island in rugged Southeast Alaska.

Raisa Scriabine is a former Interior Department coordinator for international environmental programs, currently Director of Public Affairs for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. *Her research in Sitka was made possible by Mr. and Mrs. Gerret van Sweringen Copeland of Greenville, Delaware, and the American Russian Heritage Association.*

Russian Bishop's House, circa 1885, National Park Service

The Russian Bishop's House

The Russian Bishop's House, now in the process of restoration, reveals a remarkable chapter in Sitka's colonial history. Built in 1843 by the Russian-American Company at the request of the Czar, the rambling spruce log house displays a rural style of Russian architecture adapted for the New World.

The house's first tenant was the remarkable Bishop Innocent, otherwise known as Father Veniaminov. After working extensively as a missionary among the Aleuts and Tlingits, Veniaminov served for six years as the bishop of the Russian Orthodox diocese of Alaska and the Bering Strait. Veniaminov has been remembered as something of a renaissance man, because, along with his conservation work, translations, writing, and church administrative duties, he occupied himself by building clocks, scientific instruments, and furniture.

During Veniaminov's tenure in Sitka, and for years afterward, the house was the center of church activity in the growing colonial community. Eventually, various other marks of an active religious community sprouted up: St. Michael's Cathedral, a seminary, and a school run by the church. To this day, many furnishings, elaborate icons, and books and papers remain to attest to the era when the bishop's house acted as the cultural link to the Motherland for Russian settlers far from home.

After the sale of Alaska to the United States in 1867, the economic and religious ties between the colony and its homeland were strained; and after the Russian revolution in 1917, those ties were severed. The spruce log structure that once symbolized those ties became soaked and rotted, unprotected from the wet climate by a foundation. The house was abandoned, but it alone of the historic Russian buildings survived the ravages of a town fire in 1966.

Realizing its value, the National Park Service acquired the property in 1972 and immediately began the task of cataloging, studying, and restoring the structure and artifacts within. During the past few years, the house has undergone a transformation from a sagging gray building to a striking landmark, freshly painted ochre with gray trim and a red roof. Old architectural plans and detailed documents unearthed from Russian-American Company records have proven invaluable to preservationists working to restore the building and its contents to precisely their original condition.

Park craftspeople will be busy this summer with interior restoration projects, and visitors may have a chance to watch the work as it progresses. Because of park budget cuts, however, tours of the house will be limited to twice weekly, at best, this summer, so call the park for specifics before visiting.

Visitors in search of Alaska have often sought an illusive quarry. Since the Danish explorer Vitus Bering sighted the westernmost shores of the New World in 1741, our understanding of "The Great Land" has consisted of a puzzling blend of history and surmise, wild exaggerations and mysterious blanks. Tales of the Klondike and of World War II battles fought on Alaskan soil focused on tiny fragments of a sprawling land mass one-fifth the size of the Lower Forty-Eight states. Even the discovery of oil at Prudhoe Bay in 1968 helped conjure a lopsided image of the state. Headlines spurred the notion of a vast and frozen wasteland whose sole redeeming value seemed to be an abundance of raw materials—minerals, timber, oil, and gas—resources that would help make life more livable elsewhere. But the prodigious giant has finally stirred, and its unexpectedly diverse features have captured the imagination of many Americans.

The new understanding and appreciation for our forty-ninth state derives largely from political developments in the 1970s. That decade witnessed the settlement of longstanding land entitlements to the 70,000 Native Eskimos, Aleuts, and Athapascan people and to the State of Alaska as a final step in the transition to statehood. These land settlements have proved to be the most generous in American history. When Congress studied remaining federal lands for possible addition to our national systems of parks, refuges, forests, and wild and scenic rivers, Alaska's incredibly diverse natural and cultural wonders came to light.

Even well-traveled visitors were astonished to learn of miles of rolling sand dunes with balmy summer temperatures north of the Arctic Circle. Rich archeological sites revealed thousands of years of human survival using subsistence techniques that form the very heart of today's Native cultures. Research uncovered even the faint footsteps of man's migration from the Old World to the New World at the close of the Ice Age. And pristine waterways featuring Alaska's matchless pageantry of scenic wonders and wildlife stirred visions of an earlier, untrammeled American frontier. Here, too, was the chance to give lasting protection to the finest recreational and scientific opportunities remaining in the public domain.

With congressional attention came increased media coverage and a heightened public perception of the real Alaska. It was not long before people started making discoveries of their own. Visitors sought out the proposed national park areas even before their boundaries were established, and they flocked to such longstanding parks as Sitka, Glacier Bay, Katmai, and Mount McKinley (now Denali). "The distances seem great," points out National Park Service Regional Director John Cook, "but Alaska parklands are a good deal more reachable than Yellowstone was back in 1872. The methods of travel are a bit different, and that's going to take some adjusting." The process has already begun.—*Ed.*

With careful planning, a trip to the national parks of Alaska can be an experience of a lifetime.

OUR LASTING FRONTIER

Traveling to the National Parks of Alaska

Nancy L. Simmerman

Arrigetch Peaks, Gates of the Arctic National Park, by Nancy Simmerman

A year after the celebrated Alaska Lands Act added ten new parklands to the National Park System and expanded three others, visiting those tantalizing peaks and rugged rivers has become an attainable dream. Before you start thinking about spending your summer vacation at Wrangell–St. Elias National Park and Preserve, however, heed the advice of someone who has lived and traveled in Alaska for more than twenty years. Traveling to and within the Alaskan parks is vastly different from visiting national parks in the "Lower Forty-Eight." Automobile travel, for example, is practically nonexistent in Alaska's wilder reaches; traveling by small plane is a way of life there. In many cases, a local charter boat, plane, or dog team will be your only means of access to a national park in Alaska.

Once you arrive at your vacation spot, you will likely be *completely* on your own. Don't count on a park ranger to bail you out of trouble—there are only about forty-seven rangers to serve *all* the new parklands. That comes to more than one million acres per ranger. In most new parks and preserves the only trails you'll find are those marked by caribou herds or grizzly bears. With few exceptions, these new parklands consist of vast wilderness areas. Therein lies both their appeal and their risk.

Planning a trip to an Alaskan national park is a major undertaking, then, requiring the guidance of experienced travelers, careful research of the area you wish to explore, and an appreciation for the Alaskan way of life and travel.

Kobuk Eskimo drying whitefish, by Robert Belous, NPS

The People

Wherever you go in Alaska, you'll meet fascinating people. Alaska's residents include gold panners, trappers, and businessmen; enterprising bush pilots and professional tour guides; Ph.D.s who've chosen life in the bush over academia; and those who choose to carry on a traditional lifestyle using ingenious survival techniques developed by Eskimo, Aleut, and other Native cultures centuries ago.

The subsistence culture of Alaskans living on park land was protected in the legislation along with natural features. As a visitor to these parks, you should observe certain rules of backcountry etiquette. Respect the longstanding, traditional hunting and fishing grounds of people you encounter. Ask permission before camping on land that may be privately owned. Don't intrude on the privacy of people who live in the bush. And, because supplies in the backcountry are hard to come by, try to give more than you take. If you follow these rules, you may gain an insight into the Alaskan way of life in the backcountry that will greatly enrich your visit.

Planning Your Route

Whether visiting the backcountry for an afternoon hike or for a three-week adventure, always carry U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps showing your route and the adjacent lands. Two useful sizes are published—the 1:250,000 scale (3.9 miles per inch) gives an overall view of the landscape and major features like mountain peaks and drainages; the 1:63,360 scale (one mile per inch) provides the rich detail necessary for selecting your route and for finding camping spots and drinking water.

Guided Trips

Whatever your interest and energy level, a rewarding visit to one of Alaska's national parklands is possible. If you are visiting Alaska for the first time, I highly recommend that you use one of the fine tour service companies to guide you on your trip. The tours these companies provide range from "luxury" cruises and sightseeing tours to rugged backcountry ventures.

Use resources like *Alaska* magazine and *The Worlds of Alaska,* the official publication of the state division of tourism, to find the right guide service for your needs (see "Bookshelf," page 39). The great advantage in using a guide service is that Alaskans with years of experience in getting around in their home state will research, plan, and guide your trip for you. These services can substantially reduce the risk of travel in unknown territory and can eliminate the worry of unexpected cost, leaving you free to enjoy your trip.

Tours can offer almost any combination of transportation: cruise ship, ferry, bus, airplane, railway, rental car, or—in season—dog sled and cross-country skis. With many plans you can arrange to "jump tour" to visit friends or explore independently. Some companies provide "custom tours" for groups so that you can choose an itinerary that exactly fits your group's needs. Costs per person depend on services provided, of course, and generally range from $100 to $200 per day for longer journeys down to $75 per day for two- or three-day trips.

Some tour services even provide itineraries that include all the comforts of home. You can arrange a day trip that encompasses a "wildlife watch" bus ride through Denali's foothills followed by an air taxi trip to dinner at one of Fairbanks' fine restaurants. Many tourists enjoy cruises in Southeast Alaska's Inside Passage, stopping at myriad coastal parks featuring natural drama and colorful history—including Sitka, Glacier Bay, and Klondike—a very special part of Alaska. These "luxury" tours are generally limited to the few more accessible parks, parks near towns, or those along the coastal ferry route—Alaska's Marine Highway. Whether you choose to explore this state from a floating hotel featuring fine cuisine, or in a kayak supplied with dehydrated stew, or any way in between, you will be constantly reminded that *you are in Alaska,* a wild land that commands special attention from visitors and demands special precautions as well. Read on for more tips.

Kayaker at Katmai, by George Wuerthner

Many of the remote parklands are mapped only in the less detailed scale at present.

Lay out each day's mileage on the map, being ultra-conservative when estimating the distances to be covered. Wilderness cross-country travel by foot or skis can be frustratingly slow if you encounter large fields of tussock grass, deep snow, or many miles of brush. On the other hand, excellent trails created by wild animals can speed you on your way. Near river headwaters, boaters can encounter low water conditions requiring laborious lining of boats or extensive portaging through heavy brush.

Plan to spend one day in camp for every four or five on the trail. If you don't need this "time cushion" to make up for unexpectedly slow traveling, you'll invariably want to explore an inviting side valley, picnic on a peak, or sleep through a rainy day. Likewise, plan no route mileage for your drop-off or pick-up days if park access requires extensive air taxi or charter boat travel. Weather or the emergency needs of other clients might even delay your drop-off a day or two. A similar delay can occur on your pick-up day, so carry extra food.

If your trip plans move like clockwork, rejoice and add the "found" hours to your time cushion. Be on time for your charter connections, and cooperate fully with the air taxi pilot or boat skipper. They know the country intimately, so accept their judgment about safe flying or boating weather, landing and pick-up sites, and how much cargo they can carry.

Guided wilderness trips are an excellent way to, quite literally, "get your feet wet" in the Alaskan parks. They range from easy floats down placid rivers to strenuous backpacking treks and demanding climbs up glaciated peaks. What better way to learn how to cross a glacial stream, ward off Alaska's legendary mosquitoes, stalk Dall sheep with your camera, identify wild edible plants, or handle your first face-to-face encounter with one of Alaska's oversized grizzlies?

Wilderness guides in Alaska are highly qualified; many are specially trained in first aid and natural history as well as in outdoor travel. Prices for these trips depend on the extent of air travel and specialized equipment supplied (rafts, kayaks, climbing gear).

Your Own Wilderness Trip

Unless you are experienced in *Alaskan* wilderness travel, don't attempt a trip without consulting someone who knows the area firsthand. National Park Service officials warn that although you should leave your itinerary with park rangers, park budgets and manpower are so constrained that rescue missions in the vast new parks are not a certainty for campers in distress. "People go out in the backcountry all the time, and we may not hear from them for six months. There's not much we can do but hope they got home okay," remarks one ranger.

In planning your own trip to a park, you can arrange with a charter pilot to be dropped off, set up a permanent camp, explore the immediate area on day hikes, and be picked up later at the same spot. Or you can make an extensive cross-country trip between two access points, your route limited only by your imagination and stamina. Be conservative when estimating your party's skills and physical condition, and select a destination and route well within your abilities. Write to the park superintendent, of course, for detailed information about the area you'll be visiting and the conditions you can expect. (See page 20.)

Read in advance about the general area, its history and culture. Your appreciation for the land and its human and animal inhabitants will grow, and you'll learn useful route and survival information as well. (See "Bookshelf," page 39, for suggested reading.) For centuries Eskimos, Aleuts, and other Native Americans have successfully lived in harmony with Alaska's land and wildlife. With proper preparation, you can enjoy that harmony.

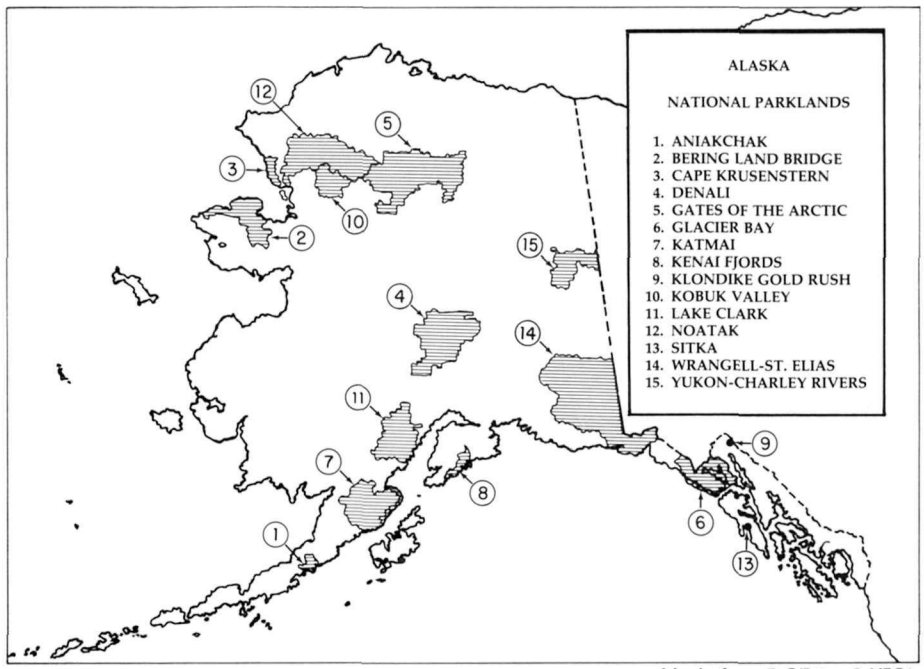
Other Tips

Most visitors to Alaska find June through September the most hospitable months for either backcountry travel or cruise trips. Skiers tend to prefer the clean, deep snow, clear air, and long, sunny days of March and April. "Break-up," that ignoble period of slush and mud, hits Southcentral and Interior Alaska in May and is best left to locals, who rediscover each spring the dubious treasures hidden by the preceding seven months of snow cover.

A visit to an Alaskan wilderness park is not to be undertaken lightly—very real dangers exist—but backcountry travel has a way of challenging you and revealing strengths you didn't know you possessed. A person visiting the Alaskan wilderness for the first time can expect to face new, unsettling anxieties, a normal reaction for those accustomed to city or rural living in the Lower Forty-Eight where help—medical or otherwise—is often just minutes away.

TAKE NO RISKS; be sure the odds for safety and a successful trip are overwhelmingly in your party's favor. Choose your companions and your guides carefully, for your life may depend on their judgment.

With careful preparation and reasonable caution, your visit to an Alaskan wilderness park can be one of the finest experiences of your lifetime.



Map by James F. O'Brien, © NPCA

Alaska Parklands Reference List

Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve
P.O. Box 7, King Salmon, AK 99613
(907) 246-3305

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve
P.O. Box 220, Nome, AK 99762
(907) 443-2007

Cape Krusenstern National Monument
P.O. Box 287, Kotzebue, AK 99752
(907) 442-3890

Denali National Park and Preserve
P.O. Box 9, McKinley Park, AK 99755
(907) 683-2294

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve
P.O. Box 74680, Fairbanks, AK 99707
(907) 452-5363

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve
P.O. Box 1089, Juneau, AK 99802
(907) 586-7137

Katmai National Park and Preserve
P.O. Box 7, King Salmon, AK 99613
(907) 246-3305

Kenai Fjords National Park
P.O. Box 1727, Seward, AK 99664
(907) 224-3874

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park
P.O. Box 517, Skagway, AK 99840
(907) 983-2299

Kobuk Valley National Park
P.O. Box 287, Kotzebue, AK 99752
(907) 442-3890

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
P.O. Box 61, Anchorage, AK 99513
(907) 271-3751

Noatak National Preserve
P.O. Box 287, Kotzebue, AK 99752
(907) 442-3890

Sitka National Historical Park
P.O. Box 738, Sitka, AK 99835
(907) 747-6281

Wrangell–St. Elias National Park and Preserve
P.O. Box 29, Glennallen, AK 99588
(907) 822-5235

Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve
P.O. Box 64, Eagle, AK 99738
(907) 459-8001

Other Sources of Information:

Parks and Forests Information Center
540 West Fifth Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 271-4243

U.S. Geological Survey (for maps)
P.O. Box 25286, Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225
or
P.O. Box 12, New Federal Building
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Aniakchak Crater, by Keith Trexler, NPS

Maar Crater, Bering Land Bridge, by NPS

Cape Krusenstern, by Robert Belous, NPS

Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve

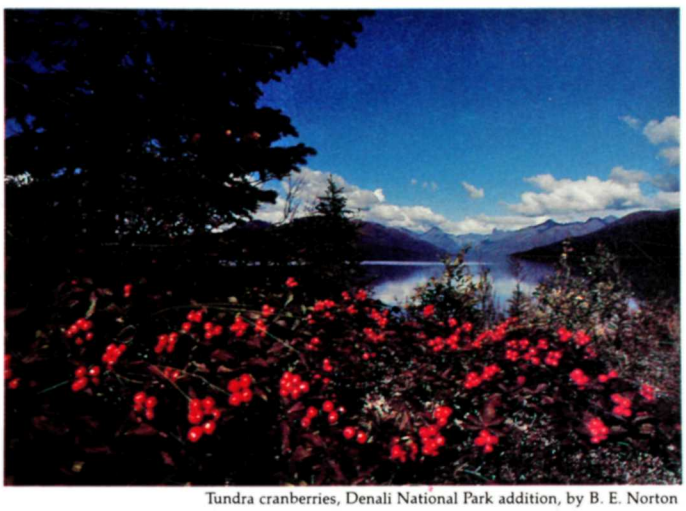
One of the largest calderas in the world, rugged Aniakchak stretches six miles from rim to rim and reaches forty-four hundred feet above lush coastal grasslands, the Gulf of Alaska, and the Bering Sea. Stormy northern waters create unstable weather on the volcano slopes and in the caldera, with violent, gusting winds, heavy precipitation, and a nearly permanent cloud cover at fifteen hundred feet, flowing over the edges of the caldera in spectacular "cloud niagaras." Aniakchak National Wild River heads at turquoise-blue Surprise Lake inside the caldera and cascades through a two-thousand-foot-deep cleft in the crater rim. This remote area can be reached by air taxi from the town of King Salmon, a scheduled airline stop from Anchorage.

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve

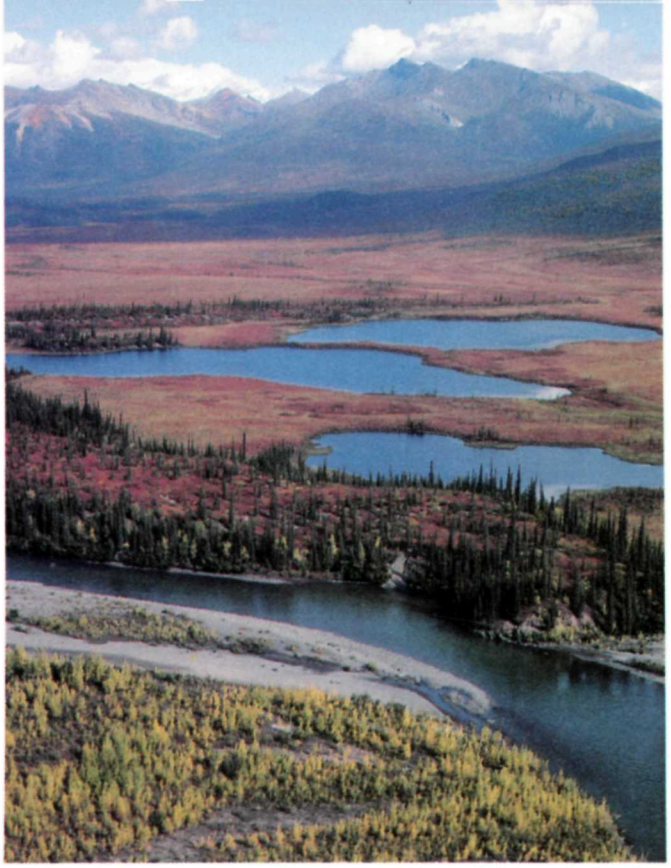
More than ten thousand years ago, hunters followed migrating game herds to North America from Asia across the 900-mile-wide Bering Land Bridge, now inundated by the Bering and Chukchi seas. The preserve protects important archeological and paleontological sites and provides hunting and fishing grounds for local Eskimos. Great flocks of migratory ducks, geese, sandhill cranes, and swans inhabit this vast treeless region of wet tundra flatlands and rolling hills. Seals, walruses, and Beluga whales swim the icy waters of the nearby Bering Sea. Expect cool, foggy weather in the summer with constant, coastal winds. The preserve contains no Park Service facilities, nor development of any kind; but several Eskimo villages lie just outside the boundaries. The preserve can be reached by air taxi from Kotzebue or Nome.

Cape Krusenstern National Monument

Gracefully curving along the Chukchi Sea, one hundred fourteen beach ridges hide a wealth of archeological treasures. The ridges contain artifacts from every major period of Eskimo occupation of North America dating back at least 6,000 years. Local Eskimos continue to hunt marine mammals from the shores of the cape—known locally as "Sealing Point." Near the coast, countless small lakes dot the flat tundra wetlands; rolling low hills farther inland feature great expanses of tussock grass, discouraging all but the hardiest foot traveler. Musk oxen, once exterminated in the region, now thrive there along with caribou, moose, brown bears, and wolves. Expect cool, overcast, foggy weather in the summer with constant, strong winds. No facilities are available for visitors. Access to the monument is by air taxi or charter boat from Kotzebue.



Tundra cranberries, Denali National Park addition, by B. E. Norton



Gates of the Arctic National Park, by George Wuerthner

Denali National Park and Preserve
Almost four million acres were added to Mt. McKinley National Park and the whole area was renamed Denali, the mountain's original Athapascan name. New sections include the southern slopes of the Alaska Range with immense, winding glaciers flowing from Mount McKinley and Mount Foraker, and the precipitous granite Cathedral Spires to the southwest. A northern addition features boreal-forested flatlands and the rolling Kantishna Hills, important habitat for caribou, moose, brown bears, and wolves. Summer weather is pleasant, often warm and dry in the lowlands, with cooler temperatures and more precipitation in the mountains. This is the most developed of the Alaskan parks. Excellent visitors' facilities are found at the park entrance, including a hotel and campgrounds. Check the park brochure for details. The northern addition can be reached via the park road or by air taxi. Access to the southern addition is by foot from the end of a primitive dirt road or by air taxi from Talkeetna.

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve
A vast, remote wilderness straddling the Arctic Divide in the Central Brooks Range, this area was first explored by Robert Marshall in 1929 and eloquently described in his book, *Alaska Wilderness.* The "Gates of the Arctic"—Boreal Mountain and Frigid Crags—stand as sentinels along the North Fork of the Koyukuk River one hundred miles north of the Arctic Circle. An excellent wilderness park for extended trips by backpackers, river runners, or skiers, the Arctic tundra offers easy walking, and its rivers flow clear and gentle. The entire area supports thriving populations of bear, moose, wolves, and caribou. Slopes north of the divide are treeless, but river valleys on the south side are forested. Geography determines weather as well, with warm, dry summers in the lowlands south of the range; cooler weather with more precipitation and clouds in the mountains; and cool, dry summers north of the divide. The park is most commonly reached by air taxi from Bettles (Evansville).

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve
Fifty-seven thousand remote acres along the Gulf of Alaska coast, from Cape Fairweather north to the Alsek River were added to the park to protect important fish and wildlife habitat. Famous for its massive tidewater glaciers and ice-choked fjords, Glacier Bay should be on the itinerary of every visitor to Alaska. Cruise ship passengers, backpackers, and boaters brave the frequent cold rains and overcast weather to view the awesome rivers of ice as they tumble huge chunks into the bay. Humpback whales sounding and lunge-feeding in the bay provide another rare experience for visitors. Bartlett Cove in Glacier Bay provides food, lodging, and interpretive programs. The park is accessible by scheduled air service to Gustavus from Juneau or by commercial cruise ships and sightseeing boats. Concessioner-operated tour boats make daily cruises to the glaciers and will drop off backpackers and kayakers.

Seals gathering at Kenai Fjords, by NPS

Katmai bear, by R. Osternick, NPS

Muir Inlet, Glacier Bay, by George Wuerthner

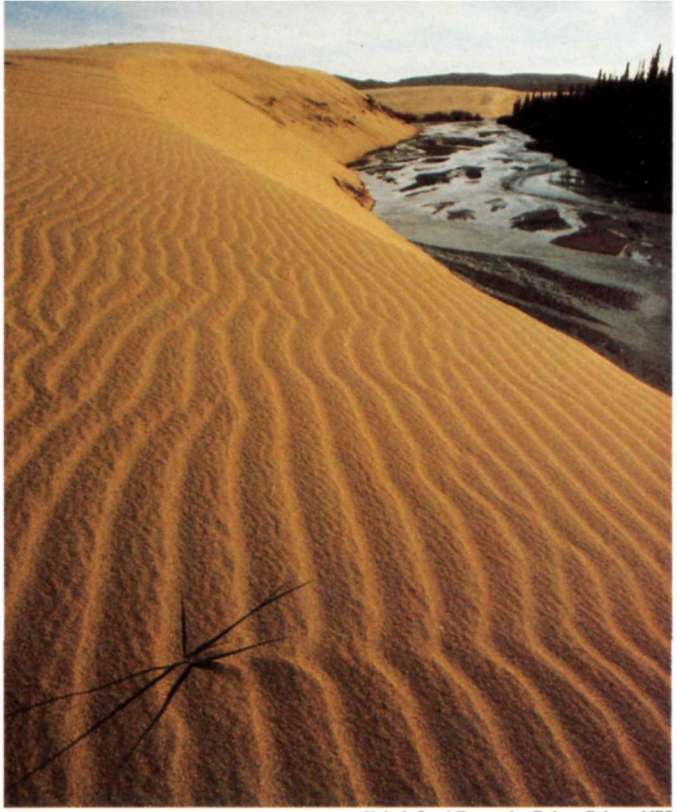
Katmai National Park and Preserve
Rolling hills in the north part of the park provide brown bear habitat and sockeye salmon spawning grounds. Originally established in 1918 to preserve the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes, aftermath of the explosive eruption of Mt. Katmai in 1912, the park is equally famous for its especially abundant, huge brown bears. Not so well known, but deserving of a nature lover's attention, are the scenic and intricate bays of the remote southeastern part of the park bordering the Pacific Ocean. Frequent rain and strong winds characterize the weather in this park, but periods of breathtakingly clear weather make every raindrop worthwhile. A concessioner operates several small wilderness lodges and daily van tours to the Valley. The National Park Service provides a campground and ranger station with interpretive programs at Brooks Camp. Scheduled amphibious charter planes serve the lodges from the town of King Salmon (reached from Anchorage via daily scheduled air service). Air taxi service is also available at King Salmon.

Kenai Fjords National Park
Fronting on the stormy Gulf of Alaska, steep-walled fjords incise the glaciated Kenai Mountains. Valley glaciers draining from the Harding Icefield drop icebergs into tidewater; dense conifer rainforests rim the mountainsides. The steep terrain limits hiking opportunities. Expect to see mountain goats, all kinds of seabirds, and herds of seals and sea lions, and glimpses of engaging sea otters. The maritime climate makes for cool weather, heavy rainfall, and overcast skies throughout much of the summer. Boaters should be extremely cautious in the hazardous waters. The park is accessible from Seward by floatplane and by both sail and powerboat charters. Sailing between Seward and Kodiak, the Alaska state ferry provides offshore views of the park but does not stop there.

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park
An enduring memorial to the frenzied Gold Rush days of 1898, this park ranges from an interpretive center in Seattle's Pioneer Square to precipitous mountain passes on the Alaska-British Columbia border. Ghosts of those hardy pioneers still walk the barrens of the Chilkoot Trail in the Alaskan section of the park. Expect persistent rain, strong winds, and several miles of residual snowfields along the trail in summer. The railway is a popular visitor attraction, so reservations for both passengers and vehicles are necessary. Skagway, offering the amenities of civilization, is serviced by the Alaska state ferry and scheduled air service and is a port of call for most cruise ships to Southeastern Alaska.

Noatak River Sunset, by John Kauffmann, NPS

Lake Clark, by Keith Trexler, NPS



Kobuk Sand Dunes, by Robert Belous, NPS

Kobuk Valley National Park

Nestled between the Baird and Waring mountains on the southern slopes of the gentle western Brooks Range, this park encompasses the unexpected Great Kobuk Sand Dunes, a representative section of the broad Kobuk River valley, and the entire watersheds of several Arctic rivers, including the Salmon National Wild River. One of North America's most extensive archeological sites, Onion Portage, lies in the eastern section of the park. Comprised of more than thirty distinct layers of middens and other artifacts, the site reveals signs of human occupation as long as 12,500 years ago. Uplands contain important migration routes and winter ranges of the large western Arctic caribou herd as well as moose, brown and black bears, and wolves; and the wetlands of the Kobuk River valley attract a variety of migrating waterfowl. Summer weather is often warm and dry, although long periods of cool drizzle can dampen spirits. Temperatures over 100°F have been recorded on the sand dunes. Access is by chartered boat from Kiana or Ambler or by scheduled air service or air taxi from Kotzebue.

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

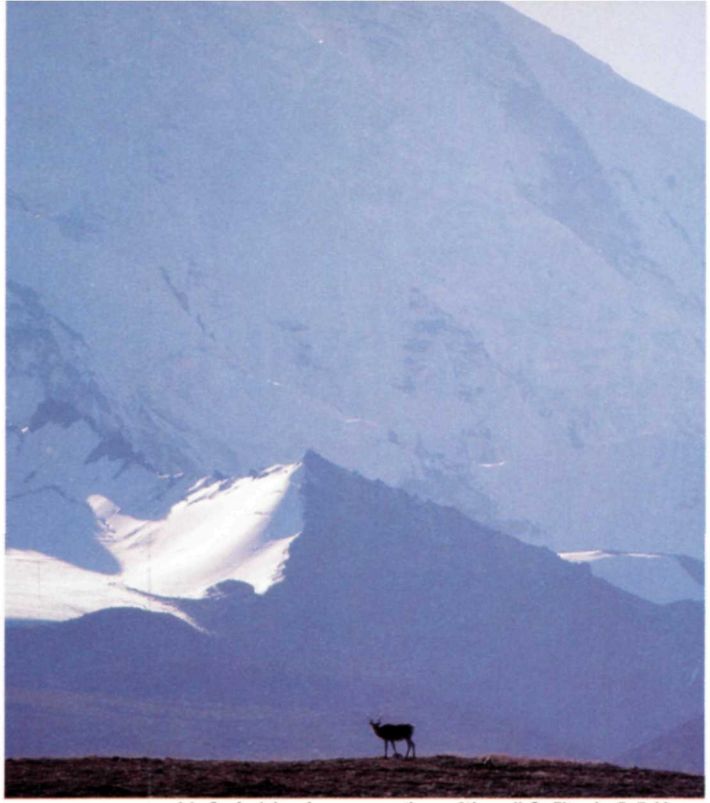
Granite spires, steaming volcanoes, turquoise lakes, gleaming glaciers, restless seashores, and abundant wildlife—Lake Clark National Park is a masterpiece. Astride a major earth fault in the Alaska Range, the park reaches from tidewater on Cook Inlet to the top of 10,197-foot Mount Redoubt volcano, which erupted in 1966, spewing ash over Anchorage. Moose and black bears wander the forested valleys; caribou and brown bears roam the tundra-covered foothills; Dall sheep scramble on the peaks; and abundant waterfowl nest in the coastal marshes. Bald eagles thrive throughout the park. Summers can be cool in the mountains, with overcast skies and frequent precipitation near the coast, drier and sunnier inland. A ranger station at Port Alsworth on Lake Clark is the only NPS development at present, although accommodations are available at privately owned lodges located within the park. The park is most easily reached by air taxi from Anchorage, Kenai, or Homer, or via scheduled air service to Iliamna.

Noatak National Preserve

One of the finest large wilderness areas remaining in the world, the treeless sweep of gentle mountains emphasizes the moods of the Arctic sky; the endless summer days of the high latitudes create a tranquil pace of life. The Noatak National Wild River drains westward through a broad, gently sloping valley in the Brooks Range to empty into the Chukchi Sea near Kotzebue. Although this is one of the more remote parklands, it attracts many boaters and hikers. Wildlife populations, abundant by Arctic standards, are limited by the slow-growing northern vegetation. Watch for the western Arctic caribou herd enroute between its wintering grounds south of the Kobuk River and summer calving areas north of the Brooks Range. Brown bears, moose, wolves, wolverine, and Dall sheep commonly reside in the preserve. Summer weather can be clear, still, and 85°F, or windy, rainy, and as cold as 30°F. Access is via air taxi from Bettles (Evansville) or Kotzebue.

Charley River, by B. E. Norton

Sitka carving, by Tom Offutt



Mt. Sanford dwarfs a young caribou at Wrangell-St. Elias, by B. E. Norton

Sitka National Historical Park

Set among the park's towering hemlocks, exquisitely carved Tlingit and Haida totem poles seem to have been released by the spirits of the stately conifers. In this quiet forest refuge, site of the 1804 "Battle of Sitka," where the Tlingit Indians offered their last major resistance to Russian fur-trader domination, you can watch reproduction totem poles being carved by Indian artisans. Not far from downtown Sitka, the park is a "must" for every traveler to the area. The Park Service provides excellent interpretive programs and a picnic area. Downtown Sitka, its spires standing in the shadow of a dormant volcano, offers everything a traveler might desire—fine lodging and restaurants, historic and cultural attractions, all set against a stunning seascape backdrop. The Alaska state ferry, most cruise ships, and scheduled airlines stop in Sitka.

Wrangell–St. Elias National Park and Preserve

Alaska's most extensive and rugged glaciated wilderness, Wrangell–St. Elias is "braggin' country," featuring some of North America's highest peaks, including snowy Mount St. Elias at 18,008 feet. The spectacular Malaspina Glacier extends nearly one and a half the times the size of the state of Delaware; the massive Bagley Icefield stretches eighty-five miles long, four thousand feet thick. The weather can be cool and rainy, with severe winds on the mountain peaks. Mountain goats and Dall sheep claim the cliffsides; and caribou, moose, black and brown bears, and wolves roam the lowlands. The old buildings of Kennecott Copper Company, built in the early 1900s to exploit the rich copper deposits, continue to be a popular visitor attraction. Air taxis operate from Cordova, Gulkana, Glennallen, Northway, Valdez, and Yakutat.

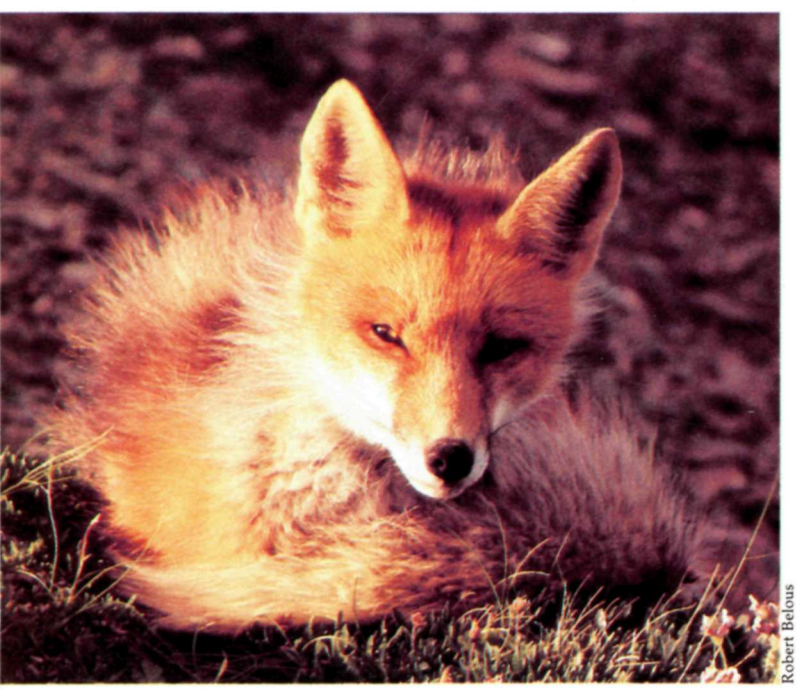
Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve

A pleasant, undisturbed wilderness of low, forested mountains extends on either side of the placid Yukon River. The Fortymile caribou herd migrates through the preserve, moose and bear occupy the lowlands, and Dall sheep graze high on the mountain slopes. Other than boaters traveling on the Yukon, few people visit the preserve. One primitive airstrip near the headwaters provides river-runners access to Charley National Wild River. Most visitors come to see the sleepy, historic towns of Eagle and Circle, once major supply points for gold seekers at the turn of the century. The preserve is easily reached by charter boat from either of the towns where limited accommodations and services are available. The area enjoys the warm, dry, sunny summers typical of the subarctic interior climate.

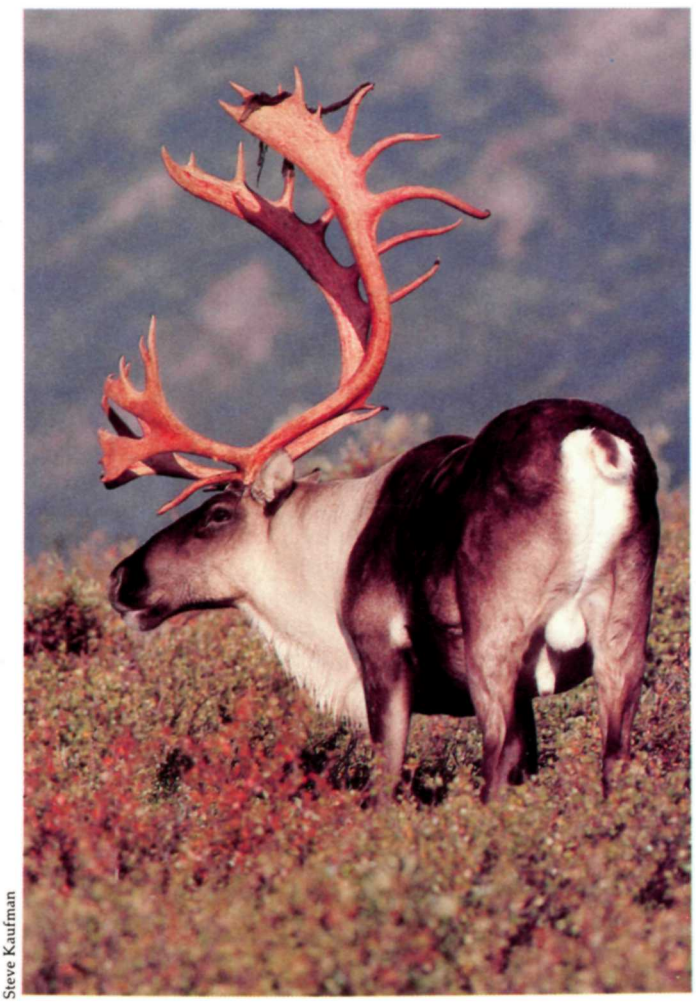
Nancy L. Simmerman, a freelance photographer and writer and resident of Alaska since 1959, co-authored 55 Ways to the Wilderness in Southcentral Alaska, *a hiking, canoeing, and ski-touring guidebook. She is currently completing a comprehensive book called* Alaska's Parklands, *to be published in 1982 by The Mountaineers (Seattle), describing one hundred eleven protected lands in Alaska, both state and federal.*

Alaskan Wildlife Portfolio

A strong appeal of the national parklands in Alaska is their wealth of wildlife. Here thrive many animals that are scarce elsewhere in our country—grizzly bears, wolves, bald eagles, trumpeter swans, wolverines—as well as others unique to the Northland, like caribou and Dall sheep, and still others common elsewhere. Here in Alaska are summer breeding grounds of marine mammals and myriads of waterfowl, shorebirds, and songbirds. The Alaska Lands Act added 43.6 million acres to the National Park System, 53.8 million acres to the National Wildlife Refuge System, and 3.4 million acres to the National Forest System. That vast amount of land is hard to imagine, but in Alaska animals must range over huge territories to find enough nourishing food to sustain life.



Robert Belous



Steve Kaufman

The largest land predator on earth, the Alaskan brown bear (right), is lord of the Alaskan wilderness. Katmai National Park provides the last sanctuary anywhere for a large population of *unhunted* brown bears. The antlers of the bull caribou above are still bloody from the loss of their velvet covering. At left, a vixen blinks sleepily as she awakens at sunrise at 3:00 a.m. in the north addition to Denali National Park.

Robert Belous

Robert Belous

Robert Belous

A spunky golden eagle fledgling (above) seems quite capable of defending himself and his nest-mate. At right, a mountain goat surveys his lofty kingdom in the Wrangells, one of the few places in the world noted for both Dall sheep and mountain goats. Below, a seal pup in Glacier Bay sunbathes on an ice floe while its mother forages nearby.

George Wuerthner

Alaska Land Scramble

So you thought the Alaska Lands Act settled everything? Read on . . .

Michele Strutin

"Parks are rarely perfect when the ink dries on the legislation." That sentiment, expressed by conservationists and federal land managers alike, is especially true for Alaska lands. In December 1980, at the eleventh hour of the Carter Administration, it made more sense to get an act passed with compromises than to wait for the incoming Reagan Administration to block the act.

The question now is how do we protect those 100-million-plus acres of parklands, wildlife refuges, and national forest wilderness from the flanking actions of the Reagan Administration and from skirmishes among federal, state, and Native Alaskan agencies?

In Alaska the rules are different than in the Lower 48. You can drive a snowmobile in designated national forest wilderness, even build a fish hatchery. An airplane is a legal means of transportation on any federal land in Alaska. A large portion of what the National Park Service (NPS) administers fits a land designation called "preserve," where sport hunting is legal. Subsistence hunting is even allowed within *national park* boundaries.

Subsistence hunting and fishing, which accommodates all people who live off the land and allows Alaskan Natives to continue a centuries-old way of life, was a wise provision to the Alaska Lands Act. Unfortunately, the bare-bones 1982 NPS budget allows for only one fulltime park ranger per 1.9 million acres; so illegal hunters don't even need to be wily.

Because the Act required much compromise to pass at all, the original intention to include entire ecosystems didn't work out. And Interior Secretary James Watt is trying his best to open up as much land as possible to exploration and development. Moreover, Watt has halted studies that could provide for new Bureau of Land Management (BLM) wilderness areas.

One of Watt's most outrageous actions was his attempt to make the U.S. Geologic Survey the lead agency in studying the effects of oil and gas exploration on wildlife in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This is the job of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages the refuge. A U.S. district court has ruled in favor of conservationists and Alaskan Natives, who sued Watt over the issue: The action is bad conservation *and* illegal. Interior is still appealing.

Sport hunters and the Administration are even gearing up to push more national parkland into the "preserve" category and thus open up more land for "pleasure shooting."

The most promising way of solving the complex land management mess legislated by Congress is by land exchange. Ideally, land exchanges could shape consistent and integral land patterns. The Interior Department, however, ordered the National Park Service to use only other parklands as trading stock to "improve" park boundaries, instead of less environmentally sensitive BLM land. Interior is even eyeing designated wilderness areas as exchange stock. Secretary Watt's maneuvering subverts any benefits and protections that land exchanges could provide. But land exchanges bear watching because they can set precedents and shape the future of Alaska lands:

- McCarthy Exchange. The state of Alaska owns some 20,000 acres in the middle of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. Because the state favors selling its land (for possible subdivision), conservationists advocate exchange of these lands with available BLM acreage. Watt does not. The NPS has been forced to offer up for sacrifice acreage in four other national parks.
- Chugach Exchange. To comply with the Act, the Administration is looking for acreage that would improve some Chugach Native lands and improve conservation units. Somehow, the Administration has included for Chugach Natives, Inc., pristine lands of the Bremner River Valley in Wrangell-St. Elias—one of the most remote areas in all Alaska. This deal doesn't look like improvement to conservationists. Chugach Natives, Inc., doesn't even want this property, but the Administration leaves them no choice.
- St. Matthew Island Exchange. Native corporations want to trade some of their holdings for 2,560 acres of wildlife refuge wilderness on St. Matthew Island. The corporations would then lease the island to ARCO for oil exploration/development. When ARCO completes its work, the corporations would give the land back: no longer wilderness, but oil-company refuse.
- Kurupa Lake Exchange. The exchange of BLM Petroleum Reserve land for Kurupa Lake, a Native holding, added the lake to Gates of the Arctic National Park and is the only completed exchange as of this writing. Though small, the scenic Kurupa Lake parcel provides key access to Gates of the Arctic.

NPCA would like to see more exchanges like this one. Whatever the results of land exchange, though, the boundary lines on Alaska maps will change again—and again.

You can help. Ask to be put on the mailing list for draft planning documents, then send your comments. Write: John E. Cook, Director; NPS Regional Office; 540 W. 5th Ave., Rm. 202; Anchorage, AK 99501.

Most of us have heard the slogan, "Take only pictures, leave only footprints." For those of us who seek out the backcountry when we visit national parks, low-impact camping has become an important skill. Our footprints, however, are not always as innocuous as the slogan implies. Footprints can erode trails, destroy plants, and disturb ecosystems. Without realizing it, we humans can damage the very wild places we pledge to preserve. . . .

WALKING LIGHTLY

by Sam Curtis

New studies have revealed that certain kinds of habitats are more susceptible to damage from hiking and camping than was previously recognized. Factors such as soil moisture, steepness of incline, and kind of plant cover must be taken into account by backcountry visitors. For example, wet areas around lakes and streams, in meadows, near snowbanks and swamps—in fact any ground thoroughly dampened by rain or snow—become considerably softened and thus more fragile. Heavy footsteps in these places make deep impressions that tear up the roots of low ground cover and act as small holding areas for water. Years of continuous use may result in the formation of bogs along trails in some types of habitat and deep furrows in trails in other habitats.

According to a three-year investigation on footgear design funded by the National Park Service and L. L. Bean Company, among others, lug-soled boots, in particular, can damage moist earth. The study found that "during wet summers or in the spring and fall when moisture conditions are usually high . . . imprints left by hikers wearing lug-soled boots would significantly contribute to greater trail rutting and degradation."

Steep slopes covered with loose rock or soil are also susceptible to damage by hikers' footsteps. Hillsides composed of sand, gravel, and scree tend to shift under the pressure of footsteps. Walking on these slopes disturbs the natural cohesion in soil surfaces and pulls out the plants that would normally help prevent erosion.

A recent study performed by David Cole, research ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service, casts doubts on the validity of some hiking and camping practices that were, until recently, considered low-impact. Research in the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area of Oregon found that less damage results from hiking in meadows and open forests than from hiking in densely forested areas. This conclusion has been supported by similar findings in Yosemite, the Madison Range of Montana, and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

Cole also questions the practice of camping in "areas with no signs of previous use" as a way to keep damage to the environment to a minimum. He points to a number of studies that show that even light use can severely damage a site. One such study conducted in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area found that "heavily used campsites (those occupied 61 to 90 days per season) had lost 87 percent of their ground cover, while lightly used sites (0 to 30 days per season) had lost 80 percent."

Cole concludes that the best way for backcountry campers to keep from disturbing wilderness habitat is to use campsites that already exist. This rule may be especially useful in alpine areas, where researchers estimate that complete recovery of disturbed sites can take as long as a thousand years.

Long-term research on this complex issue is essential to our complete understanding of how to enjoy and protect fragile wild habitats. In the meantime, the tips listed here can help us tread more lightly in park wildlands.

Sam Curtis is a freelance writer living in Bozeman, Montana.

On the Trail

- Don't take short-cuts or cut across switchbacks.
- Avoid walking on trail shoulders or parallel to the main trail.
- If remaining on a muddy or obstructed trail proves difficult or dangerous, make a wide detour, walking far off the trail in a path that others are unlikely to follow.
- At the end of your trip, notify the agency responsible for maintaining the trail of any obstacles or hazardous conditions that exist.

Off the Trail

- Walk abreast instead of single file.
- Skirt around damp and boggy areas.
- Walk on snow and rocks whenever you can do so safely.
- In mountainous areas, follow the backbones of gradual ridges instead of cutting down steep side slopes.
- If you must hike on a steep slope, make your own switchback as you ascend and descend.
- Do not glissade down gravel or scree slopes.
- Avoid the use of deeply treaded hiking boots except where safety demands their use.

In Camp

- Wherever existing campsites are available, use them.
- When no campsites exist, select a location at least 100 feet from open water, avoiding moist areas.
- If you have a choice, camp in a dry meadow or open forest rather than in a dense forest.
- To avoid damaging plants, make your camp on snow, sand, or rock when possible.
- Use a large-capacity, collapsible water container to reduce wear and tear caused by repeated trips to your water source.
- Wear soft, smooth-soled moccasins or tennis shoes around camp.
- Spend no more than one or two nights at any one campsite.

Note

Many of the national parks have developed their own special policies for camping in backcountry areas. Follow specific park guidelines and regulations, where given.

A Quick Checklist for Travelers

PARK TIPS

Much information exists to help travelers plan vacations to the national parks. This list of publications and tips includes some of the most useful general information.

Orders and inquiries concerning Government Printing Office (GPO) publications should be sent to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Include the title, stock number, and full payment by check or money order.

Additional information concerning the national parks may be obtained by writing to the superintendent of the park you are interested in visiting; or write to the Office of Public Inquiries, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Park Prices

In 1982, 63 parks (out of 333) are charging *entrance fees*, ranging from 50¢ for people on bicycles or with tours to $1–$3 per private passenger vehicle.

Entrance fees will remain stable for at least the next few months, but *special-use fees* have increased and fees for campsites now range between $4 and $6 per night.

Save Money

1982 Golden Eagle Passport. For persons under sixty-two years of age. Good for one calendar year. Costs $10 and admits the purchaser and all traveling with that person in a private, noncommercial vehicle to all National Park System entrance-fee areas at no charge. Does *not* cover special-use fees. Apply in person or write National Park Service, 18th & C Sts., N.W., Room 1013, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Golden Age Passport. Free to citizens or permanent U.S. residents who are sixty-two years of age or older. Good for lifetime of holder. Provides the same admission privileges as the Golden Eagle pass plus a 50 percent discount on camping and other use fees. Apply in person with proof of age.

Golden Access Passport. For people who are physically disabled or blind. This passport provides the same privileges as the Golden Age pass. Apply in person and bring some proof of eligibility for federal disability programs.

All three types of passports may be obtained at any park that charges an entrance fee.

Backcountry Camping

In order to protect fragile areas and provide a measure of solitude, the Park Service issues free permits to limit the number of persons permitted in certain sections of backcountry at one time. Most areas issue permits on a first-come, first-served basis; however, when one area is closed, backpackers usually will find that another area in the same park is available. For information on permits and backcountry regulations, write to the superintendent of the park of your choice.

Read All About It

National Parks of the United States: Guide and Map. Handy pocket fold-out map of the nation shows all units of the National Park System. Guide includes a chart that lists the activities, facilities, and services of each park, from guided tours to campgrounds. 1980 edition. GPO Stock #024-005-00771-7. $2.00.

Complete Guide to America's National Parks. New 336-page trip-planning directory provides descriptions, maps, and directions to each park plus information on activities, accommodations, and more. $7.95 plus $1.30 postage and handling per copy (D.C. residents add $.40 sales tax each). Send check or money order to National Park Foundation, Department PA, Box 57473, Washington, D.C. 20037.

Access National Parks, A Guide for Handicapped Visitors. Describes park facilities for disabled persons. GPO Stock #024-005-00691-5. $4.00.

Visitor Accommodations. 1980–81 edition of booklet that lists lodgings, places to eat, and other services run by concessioners within the parks. GPO Stock #024-005-00777-6. $4.25.

Guide to Lesser-Known Areas of the National Park System. Lists more than 160 of the less-frequented parks; includes information on accommodations and available activities. 1981 edition. GPO Stock #024-005-00794-6. $4.00.

Index of the National Park System and Related Areas. New 1982 edition of hundred-page booklet with alphabetical listing, state-by-state descriptions and much useful information on more than 330 parks. GPO Stock #024-005-00763-6. $3.75.

Reserve a Spot

Computerized campground reservations can be obtained for 3,000 campsites in seven parks during the 1982 season. The national parks involved are Yosemite and Sequoia/Kings Canyon (Calif.), Grand Canyon (Ariz.), Rocky Mountain (Colo.), Shenandoah (Va.), Great Smoky Mountains (Tenn.-N.C.), and Cape Hatteras National Seashore (N.C.).

Reservations may be made at more than 600 Ticketron outlets nationwide, by mail or in person (but not by phone). You can make reservations no more than eight weeks in advance. The mailing address is Ticketron Reservation Office, Box 2715, San Francisco, CA 94126. Reservation forms may be obtained by writing Ticketron or the Office of Public Inquiries at the National Park Service. Mention your Golden Age or Access pass when making reservations. The charge for reservations is $2 plus the prepaid cost of the campsites ($4–$6 per night).

Check with the superintendent of the park you want to visit to find out if campsite reservations (including group and hike-in campsites) are required.

NPCA Report

Two Dam Projects Stopped at Dinosaur

The waters of the Green and Yampa rivers, which flow through Dinosaur National Monument, are safe from dams—for the time being. According to NPCA's Southwest Representative Russ Butcher, the principal source of money for two proposed dams on Colorado's free-flowing Yampa River has backed out.

Colorado Ute, a public power utility serving northwestern Colorado, cited greatly increased cost estimates as its reason for withdrawing financial backing for the long-proposed dams on the Yampa River (as much as $300 million for actual construction costs plus several times that figure for financing).

Cross Mountain Dam would be only nine miles upstream from Dinosaur National Monument, and Juniper Dam would be twenty-five miles farther upstream. As of this writing, the dam proposals have *not* been canceled, however. The application is still pending before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; but the commission *could* dismiss the licensing application unless other financing and a show of need are forthcoming.

These developments give hope to those who cherish the free-flowing Yampa River. The Yampa, which winds though magnificent Yampa Canyon in Dinosaur, is the last undammed major tributary of the Colorado River.

Ben Harding, National Park Action Project representative and executive director of the Friends of the Yampa, says, "We're happy to see that Colorado Ute now recognizes the economic infeasibility of the proposed dams. But we feel any celebration now is premature. This project has been promoted as far back as 1905."

Another dam proposal that threatens Dinosaur has been postponed until the latter half of the 1980s. The Bureau of Reclamation (BuRec) is postponing the addition of another generator and the rewinding and uprating of the three existing generators at Flaming Gorge Dam until results of a similar project at Glen Canyon Dam become available. The additional generating power would increase flow capacity by 50 percent, seriously affecting riparian habitat downstream on the Green River.

The Provo, Utah, BuRec office points out that demand for electricity has dropped substantially. It is also true that the BuRec faces a stiff fight with environmentalists over the lack of a promised regional environmental impact study.

These dam postponements are good news for some twelve thousand visitors per year who run the Yampa and Green rivers and for all who care about the protection of Dinosaur National Monument. But, as Russ Butcher points out, park proponents will need to watch these threats in the years ahead.

Seiberling Stands Firm for Parks

In the wake of testimony that revealed the breadth and depth of abuses to our national parks, Representative John Seiberling (D-Ohio) introduced a new park protection bill. Seiberling, chairman of the

Continued on page 35

Death Valley: from Pick and Shovel Prospectors to Mile-wide Strip Mines

Mining activities in Death Valley National Monument, though still extensive, have been declining during the past forty-nine years. Representative James Santini (D-Nev.) has called for the General Accounting Office (GAO) study entitled "Mining on National Park Service Lands—What Is at Stake?"

Although Santini states he does not support opening up our national parks to mining, he feels that "substantial mineral deposits" in Death Valley National Monument could be vital to our nation's future energy supply. If legislation results from this GAO study, the monument will be seriously endangered by renewed mining.

Despite the decline in mining, the monument is already one of the most thoroughly prospected areas in the West. Death Valley National Monument was established in 1933 to protect the dramatic but extremely friable landscape of the Mojave Desert. Only four months later, mineral prospecting was authorized in the monument to accommodate the traditional pick-and-shovel prospector who enhances the pioneer atmosphere of the place. That authorization took place before the time of big strip-mine operations.

Then, in 1976, Congress passed a moratorium on opening new surface mines and halted all new mineral claims. The moratorium on surface disturbance expired September 1980.

Recently, talc and gold-mine operations in Death Valley National Monument have been approved, but both have yet to start production. Many mines in the monument, such as some owned by the U.S. Borax and Chemical Corporation, which has approximately 3,000 acres of patented claims, have been closed for more than twenty years. Other mining companies have increased production since passage of the 1976 Mining in the Parks Act.

It is ironic that any mine expansion is even contemplated for the monument. Borate and talc are the main minerals extracted from Death Valley (and what is mined of those minerals in the monument represents an insignificant amount). Both are exported; neither mineral mined in the monument is *nationally* significant. Yet "national significance" is the tag Representative Santini wants to pin on Death Valley mining.

Present mining activities in the monument are allowed by law. But NPCA advocates acquisition of *all* claims not yet in production, especially those in the popular and highly visible Furnace Creek Wash area, site of the famous Zabriskie Point and Manly Beacon landmarks. Only then will the austere beauty of Death Valley National Monument be protected.

—Scott Barringer, NPCA intern

Grassroots Park Protectors State Their Case

The National Park Action Project (NPAP) held its organizational meeting February 3, 1982, at NPCA headquarters in Washington, D.C. The goal of the meeting was how to accomplish NPAP's own version of the "new federalism"; that is, how can local groups better protect their region's national parks?

To this end, NPCA's President Paul Pritchard suggested identifying the problems individual parks face and finding common threads. People mentioned external threats, such as industrial, mineral, and residential development; neutralizing the antagonism of antienvironmental local residents; alternate methods of protection and land acquisition; encroachment on wildlife; the National Park Service (NPS) itself, which some representatives faulted for holding back on protecting the parks; the ORV controversy. . . .

NPAP representatives were as varied a lot as the list of park problems. The parks they represent range from the historical monuments within the nation's capital to the vast natural reserves a continent away on the Olympic Peninsula in the State of Washington. Some representatives described themselves as born conservationists, some grew into the position, and some were forced to become conservationists by events around them.

Willis Peterson is in the third category. He describes himself as a former engineer who became a protector of Manassas National Battlefield when he bought a house near the park and was told that the Marriott Corporation was going to build a huge theme park fifty feet from his front window. He became an environmental activist.

Terri Martin has a windblown, southwestern look, and a precise way of explaining the land problems in the Four Corners region. Starting in 1973 at Glen Canyon NRA, she worked as a seasonal ranger with the Park Service over a seven-year period, growing more and more disturbed by the accumulating degradations. Now Terri and other southwestern representatives such as Jane Whalen try to quell environmental brush fires that break out near their region's national parks—Bryce, Arches, Canyonlands, Zion.

NPAP representative Edward Towle used to work as a curator for the Smithsonian Institution. One assignment took him to the Virgin Islands and he liked the place so much he never left. He is helping to preserve the Virgin Islands as the pristine place he chose to make his home.

Many other activists attended the conference: Martin Litton, river runner, president of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, and all-around environmental activist, looks as much like a Shakespearean actor as he does an outdoorsman; Norma Schaeffer, who was on the Glacier fire patrol before outdoors was "in," now keeps her eye on the integrity of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore as a member of the Save the Dunes Council; Father Barry Hagan, who includes among his duties that of protecting Fort Clatsop National Memorial, the historic site on the Oregon coast that marks the westernmost point of the Lewis and Clark Expedition; Dama Rice and Judy Johnson, recipients of NPCA's 1981 Park Conservationist Award.

In addition to outlining specific and general park problems, the NPAP sought ways to communicate effectively: through local media and with each other via NPAP's Washington, D.C., coordinator Jim Welsh.

Park Hearings

During three days succeeding the conference, NPAP representatives testified at the oversight hearings on threats to the natural and cultural resources of the National Park System. The House Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks is chaired by Representative John Seiberling (D-Ohio), who made it clear, right off, how the situation stands.

Seiberling said, "For the cost of one nuclear aircraft carrier, we could clear up all land acquisition problems."

In the opinion of Representative Bruce Vento (D-Minn.), vacationing in the National Park System is a "recreation bargain," but he cautioned

NPAP representatives at House hearings (left to right): Hooper Brooks (Gateway NRA), Dave Startzell (Appalachian Trail), and Joe Zysman (Fire Island).

Laura Beaty

that "the greatest threat [to the System] is buffer-zone infringement."

NPCA President Paul Pritchard, who led the list of NPAP's thirty witnesses, suggested the need for regular State of the Parks reports. The one report that was done (in 1980) listed more than 4,000 individual threats to the System's 333 units; and, as has been pointed out, resolution of these threats is more likely if the issues are kept before the public.

Pritchard noted that the "biosphere reserves are triply threatened." Biosphere sites, such as Olympic and Virgin Islands national parks, are chosen by the United Nations as especially representative of specific ecosystems, and Pritchard insisted that the reserves must serve "as biological benchmarks for the state of the environment in general."

Using graphics to illustrate his point, NPCA's Federal Activities Director T. Destry Jarvis dramatically revealed the situation that exists at some of our national parks. Photographs of the gaping, open-pit Boraxo Mine at Death Valley National Monument and the landscape decimated by burros at the same monument prompted Representative Seiberling to contrast the eyesores with his impression of the place:

"We were impressed by the threats that mining constitutes to the park, and were overwhelmed by the beauty of that environment. As Neil Armstrong said of the moon, 'it is a magnificent desolation.' "

The NPAP witnesses were divided into regional panels, and each person presented testimony relating to individual park problems. Some of the topics covered included acid rain and a potential excess of World's Fair visitors in the Great Smoky Mountains; possible boundary deletions at Voyageurs; the gradually disappearing Hopewell Earthworks at Mound City in Ohio; the proposed nuclear waste dump site next to Canyonlands.

Despite the extent of park problems, the consensus was that now the lines of communication are open and NPAP representatives can work from a position of grassroots strength.

—Michele Strutin

NPCA Recommends New Ways to Keep Parks Healthy

In testimony representing NPCA, Paul Pritchard indicated ways in which the National Park Service (NPS) should be given the authority to more fully protect our parks.

"Without such new authority and direction from the Congress, the park resources will be doomed," said Pritchard.

NPCA's Legislative Proposals

- Prohibit any federal action that leads to development inconsistent with the integrity of any park land, unless no alternative exists.
- Authorize NPS superintendents to make small grants and provide technical assistance to local government to help prepare plans for private lands surrounding parks.
- Authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish zones on private lands around parks where regulations are needed to protect these parks from incompatible activities (and compensate land owners when necessary).
- Acquire *interests* in land where incompatible uses exist, which would not require full-fee acquisition or NPS management of the land.
- Require the NPS director to submit an annual "State of the Parks" report to Congress.
- Require a comprehensive report (to be completed within three years) on the current legislative boundary of each park including recommendations as to boundary additions.
- Authorize and appropriate annual funds for mitigating "Significant Resource Problems" of great magnitude.

Administrative Proposals

- Upgrade the NPS Natural Resources Management Division; and hire thirty additional resource managers/trainees and assign them to highly threatened parks.
- Update all management plans to address threats specified in the "State of the Parks—1980" report.
- Allocate up to 10 percent of each park unit's annual funds for a complete inventory of its natural and cultural resources.
- Monitor Biosphere Reserves for biological change and submit data with recommendations to Congress every five years.
- Implement immediately the NPS recommendation to establish "SWAT" teams specifically trained to help resolve major park threats.

Continued from page 32
House Public Lands and National Parks Subcommittee, proposed the National Parks Protection Act of 1982 (H.R. 5552) at oversight hearings on February 22, 1982.

A strong defender of public lands, Seiberling said, "Graphic evidence of imminent dangers to the parks has been brought to our attention."

Secretary of the Interior James Watt was present at the hearings to make clear the Administration's position on park problems and the budget for the parks. Because the hearings took place the day after his explosive and misleading wilderness pronouncement on "Meet the Press," Watt answered questions on that policy as well as expected questions on park fee increases.

In response to the way Watt has been exercising his responsibilities as steward of the parks, Seiberling dressed down the secretary.

"I have been particularly disturbed by some of the recent decisions of the Secretary, which will have the effect of making it much more difficult for [Congress] to obtain detailed information about the activities of the Department of the Interior," said Seiberling. "I believe that we cannot take lightly any such efforts to interfere with the discharge of our own duties on behalf of the American people. It is not my intention to permit such policies to stand in our way."

The Park Protection Act would be one way that Congress could discharge its duty on behalf of the people. To some extent, the specific points of H.R. 5552 parallel the comments NPCA has made on park protection: report regularly to Congress on the State of the Parks, use federal lands adjacent to parks in ways consistent with park protection, help local governments plan wisely for areas adjacent to the parks.

NPCA's Paul Pritchard praised the bill, saying "it finally gives the National Park System the protection that Congress intended when the areas were first established. With this bill the parks can truly be preserved for future generations."

Write to your representative and ask him or her to support H.R. 5552.

EPA Seeks to Dump Ban on Coyote Poison

The coyote is called "trickster" by the Navajos, "killer" by sheep ranchers, and "survivor" by those who appreciate the species' tenacity. If the Interior Department and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) get their way, whole local populations of coyotes may be called "terminated."

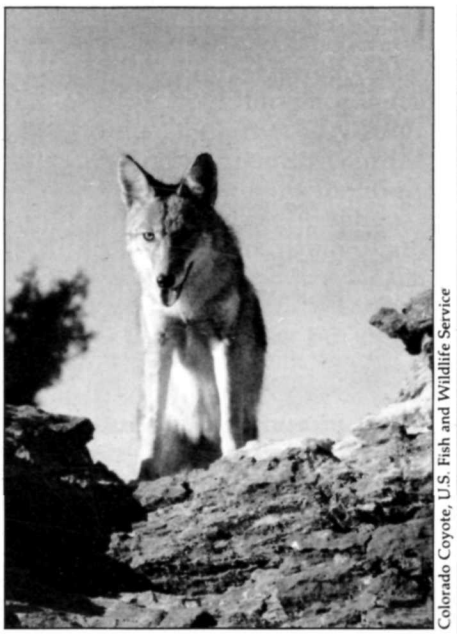
The reason: the Fish and Wildlife Service's drive to reregister Compound 1080, the lethal poison that former President Nixon banned in 1972 as a solution to predator control.

Compound 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) was banned because it is dangerous, not only to coyote populations, but also to the whole food chain, including humans: A total of thirteen people have died accidentally from the effects of Compound 1080 poisoning.

In concert with Defenders of Wildlife, National Audubon Society, and other conservation organizations, NPCA has submitted testimony against reregistration to the Environmental Protection Agency's hearings on Compound 1080.

In a sense, the coyote problem is a human problem. We have killed off wolves, bears, and mountain lions that help control the coyote population by competing with coyotes for prey. Also, herding techniques (vigilant sheepherders and guard dogs) that used to control sheep killers have waned in a society that encourages mechanical and chemical solutions to predation.

The studies that led to the 1972 ban on Compound 1080 showed that wide use of the poison not only was dangerous; it was actually an ineffective way to control coyote predation of sheep. Poisoned bait does kill coyotes, but unless one targets the sheep killers in particular, the indiscriminate killing of coyotes has been shown to have little effect on the predation problem. (This criticism applies to another practice the Fish and Wildlife Service would like to reinstate: "denning," that is, exterminating litters of coyote pups in their dens.) If coyote populations are greatly reduced in an area because of indiscriminate killing, the rodent population goes up and farmers' crops suffer. And many other animals—dozens of mountain lions and bears, hundreds of dogs, and thousands of foxes—have died from eating the poisoned bait meant for coyotes.



Colorado Coyote, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Coyotes—survive too well.

Ranchers would like to get to the root of their problem by using 1080 in sheep collars so that predators, when they go for the throat, will consume the poison, not the sheep. The problem with this method—in fact with any use of Compound 1080—is that the poison kills slowly and deteriorates slowly; secondary poisoning can and does occur. For instance, bald eagles, which are scavengers, would be poisoned by eating the carcass of a coyote that died from Compound 1080.

The EPA has hampered the coalition that is fighting reregistration of Compound 1080 by obstructing access to background information in its supposedly open files. In the end, though, the burden of proof lies with the agencies seeking reregistration, not with environmentalists.

The basis for claiming that Compound 1080 is safe enough to reregister is research data compiled by Dr. Ernest Kun, a biochemist at the University of California. The EPA has

quoted Dr. Kun's research as new evidence for 1080. The agency has assumed that the research proves far more than Dr. Kun says it does, however. Both he and the university's legal department have protested, stating that the EPA has distorted and misrepresented his work.

Huey Johnson, secretary of the California Resources Agency, summed up the situation succinctly: "Secretary Watt's new predator control policies are no more based on scientific evidence than the Salem witch trials."

Parks for People, Not Profits

Interior Secretary James Watt's proposal to charge park visitors additional user fees has fallen flat. So far. Though the national parks will not be turned into "natural" amusement parks—with tickets to touch a redwood, passes to view the geysers—Watt would like the parks to pay off in profits by including new user fees, such as for parking lots and backcountry camping.

The mandate of park managers is to protect park resources and provide for the visitor. "Selling" the parks is not part of a superintendent's job description. Yet, in a memo to National Park Service (NPS) Director Russell Dickenson, Watt stated that he would like to "base senior executive service and merit pay actions and promotions in part on financial performance." Because no definite criteria exist for measuring park managers' performance in protecting resources and accommodating visitors, NPCA believes that measuring performance by what the park balance sheet says could too easily become the standard by which NPS employees would be judged.

Opponents of Watt's proposal do not quibble with charging reasonable entrance and campsite fees. Adding fees for every sort of park recreation would make parks too expensive for much of the tax-paying public, however, and our public parks could become the domain of the monied elite. Commenting on this proposal in a press statement, NPCA President Paul Pritchard said, "Parks are for people, not for profits."

Because entrance-fee raises must be approved by Congress and user-fee raises do not, Secretary Watt has ordered park managers to raise existing recreational-use fees. Visitors to the national parks will notice those increased fees this summer. Watt also proposed new kinds of user fees: boat launch fees, parking lot fees, horse trail fees, backcountry camping fees. Charging tolls for highways on park property, such as George Washington Memorial Parkway (a major Washington, D.C., commuting corridor), was even in the plans until the idea was dropped as impractical.

In his statement, Pritchard also noted that backcountry camping fees are also an impractical idea. Much of the money the National Park Service would make in fees would be lost in salaries for collecting the fees. Even now many of the parks' entrance stations are not fully staffed because the administrative costs outweigh the additional entrance fee income.

Before howls of protest forced Secretary Watt to withdraw his bill for rewriting, his fee program even went so far as to include a federal fee permit for hunting and fishing on public lands.

Everglades Dedicated as Subtropic Heritage Site

Everglades National Park was officially dedicated as a World Heritage Site April 6, 1982. The United Nations recognizes the park as such because it is an outstanding example of a subtropical environment.

Everglades also has more than thirty protected animal species, including North American crocodiles, panthers, and the largest number of bald eagle breeding pairs on the East Coast.

Although Everglades faces many threats from the surrounding urban environment (such as depletion of the water table), Superintendent Jack Morehead believes that the park's World Heritage distinction helps advertise the fact that this park is a significant, critical habitat.

Park Briefs

A disease that has contributed to the deaths of fifty bighorn sheep in Yellowstone National Park is being allowed to run its course. A form of conjunctivitis, the disease that has blinded the bighorns occurs naturally and should run its course relatively soon, according to park biologist Mary Meagher.

The Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) works as an adjunct to the National Park Service (NPS) documenting the historic structures on NPS property. Fortunately, the HABS had recorded the vital statistics of Marshall House and F.D.R.'s birthplace, both of which were damaged by fire this past year. The Park Service supports strengthening the HABS program so that the group can complete documentation of NPS historic structures (less than 25 percent have been documented).

June 5 marks the U.N. Environment Programme's (UNEP) World Environment Day. In addition to a May conference in Nairobi, Kenya, an awards ceremony, and a children's poster contest, UNEP is encouraging religious groups to dedicate the June 5th weekend as sabbath for Stewardship of the Earth.

National Park Service

In Alaska, the National Park Service is making a point of hiring Native Alaskans who have extensive knowledge of land and wildlife management issues.

Above: In the waters of the Kobuk River in northwest Alaska, NPS Regional Director John Cook (left) meets with rangers Bud Rice and Gladys Komack, an Eskimo whose family has lived in the Kobuk Valley for generations.

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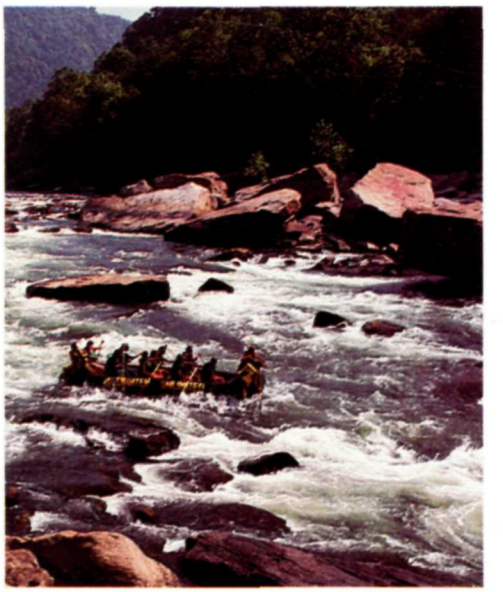
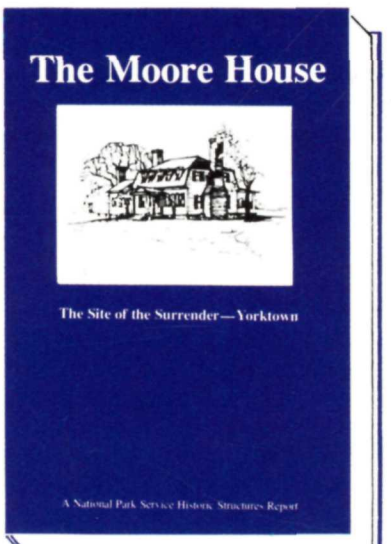


NEW! from NPCA—The Moore House



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Feedback

Pictograph Moderne

My attention was captured by your picture of the Navajo pictograph in Canyon del Muerte [September/October, page 13]. Seeing the actual pictograph was interesting, but the photograph gave me the necessary information to do my own translation—a prize-winning water color of the cliff. [See below.]

Helen Reeder
Balboa Island, California

Helen Reeder

Toeing the Line

After reading "Toeing the Line" [March/April, page 27] by Owen Hoffman, I am outraged. The idea that Park Service personnel cannot voice opposition to management decisions is archaically absurd.

It is disheartening to learn that even in our own government, with valuable properties like our recreation areas at stake, employee intimidation is being used to control operations.

It seems that Park Service employees must unite in their opposition and speak out against management policies that they find inappropriate. After all, it is the employees, not the administration, who work directly with the public and the parks and are most knowledgeable when issues concerning the visitor arise.

It is easy to see how personnel morale can suffer under such stress. What can the citizen do? I feel the breakdown of morale is *the* most important issue concerning the future of our parks.

David Petronic
Seattle, Washington

Fees and Facts

I wholeheartedly agree with President Reagan—government is too big. I also wholeheartedly believe in the value of protecting our wilderness. Horns of the dilemma. Perhaps our park system needs to charge to make a profit, which can be used to buy new parks.

I, who wish to preserve, seldom visit the parks, am an armchair rooter. But people who do visit would seem to have a personal interest and should pay more for the system than those who remain at home. Lower taxes, but higher entrance fees would even out.

Eleanor Schmidt
Jackson Heights, New York

Actually, fees bring in less than 7 percent of the approximately $700 million it costs to run the National Park System (see "People, Not Profits," page 36, this issue).

—Editor

Natural Wonder

Over the past two years I have lived and worked in Yellowstone National Park, so I really appreciated the January/February issue.

As far as the Island Park Geothermal Area goes, I am totally against it. Yellowstone geothermal areas are in a delicate balance and usually the slightest underground disturbance greatly affects them. I realize the search for energy is a never-ending task, but why destroy one of the few wonders this world has left?

David C. Lich
Pocatello, Idaho

Gone But Not Forgotten

I must call your attention to a factual error: "No unit has been cut out of the National Park System." [January/February, page 8.] This is simply not so. Sullys Hill National Park was disestablished, as were four national monuments (Shoshone Cavern, Lewis and Clark Cavern, Fossil Cycad, and Vernedrye). It would be unfortunate if Watt and Arnett find out about this, and twist the facts to suit their objectives.

David E. Dobak
Beaverton, Oregon

Bookshelf

The Common Sense Medical Guide and Reference, by Newell Breyfogle (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1981), 414 pages, $6.95 softcover. This clear and concise guide to emergency first aid covers medical emergencies from snake bites to shock and explains clearly each step of the care process. The handy size and waterproof, washable cover make it an ideal companion for the outdoorsperson.

Nature Photography: A guide to better outdoor pictures, by Stan Osolinski (Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1981), 175 pages, $29.95 hardcover. Stan Osolinski gives the amateur photographer/naturalist professional advice on how to take better nature photographs. His step-by-step, illustrated, nontechnical approach is helpful.

Gorp, Glop & Glue Stew, by Yvonne Prater and Ruth Dyar Mendenhall (Seattle: The Mountaineers, 1982), 204 pages, $6.95 paperback. Recipes galore from 165 outdoor experts, gathered by Yvonne Prater and Ruth Dyar Mendenhall, who have also included anecdotes and valuable tips on outdoor cooking from the contributors.

Rand McNally National Park Guide, by Michael Frome (New York: Rand McNally & Company, 1982), 200 pages, $7.95 paperback. In this fully revised and updated sixteenth edition of the *Rand McNally National Park Guide,* author Michael Frome offers practical information and tips on traveling in the national parks. Mr. Frome gives a short description of each park and lists highlights and activities, accommodations, and seasonal events.

Alaskan National Parklands: This Last Treasure, by William E. Brown (Anchorage: Alaska Natural History Association and the National Park Service, 1982), 112 pages, $10.95 hardcover. William E. Brown takes a look at the beauty and grandeur of the new Alaska parklands in this handsome, full-color book. The book is divided into three geographical-historical sections: the Pacific Rim, the Interior, and the Far North. For each section the author describes individual parklands, then gives historical background. A seven-year veteran of the Alaska office of the National Park Service, Mr. Brown shows a clear understanding of and love for Alaska.

Alaska National Interest Lands, by Celia Hunter (Anchorage: Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, 1981), 242 pages, $14.95 softcover. From the Alaska Geographic Society comes this handsomely illustrated, complete guide to the Alaska lands former President Jimmy Carter signed into the National Park System in December 1980. Includes information on location, size, access, flora and fauna, recreational opportunities, and human use of each park.

The Worlds of Alaska (Juneau: Alaska State Division of Tourism, 1982). *Worlds of Alaska,* revised and published yearly, is a compilation of useful travel information and attractions of the state. For a free copy, write the Alaska State Division of Tourism office, Juneau, AK 99811.

The Milepost 1982 (Anchorage: Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, 1982), 500 pages, $9.95 softcover. One of the most accurate and comprehensive travel guides to Alaska and the North. *The Milepost* includes mile-by-mile logs of all major roads and access routes, plus how-to information on air, rail, and water travel.

Carved History, by Marilyn Knapp (Anchorage: Alaska Natural History Association, 1980), 28 pages, $1.25 paperback. *Carved History* examines the fascinating history of Sitka National Historical Park's totem poles and house posts. After a brief overview of totemic art, Marilyn Knapp takes a closer look at individual Sitka poles and house posts and the legends behind them.

Alaska's Native People, by Lael Morgan (Anchorage: Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, 1979), 304 pages, $19.95 softcover. A comprehensive work on the social, cultural, and historical background of Alaska's native people. Well illustrated with color photographs and language/locator maps.

National Parks
May/June 1982 issue

Reader Interest Survey

We want to know how interesting readers found each item in this month's issue of the magazine. Please circle the number in the column to the right of each title that best describes your reaction. You may enclose comments or suggestions if you wish. Please mail the form to **Editor, National Parks, 1701 18th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009.**

	Very Interesting	*Somewhat Interesting*	*Not Interesting*
COMMENTARY *(inside front)*	1	2	3
EDITOR'S NOTE *(inside front)*	1	2	3
ANNUAL REPORT *(p. 4)*	1	2	3
SITKA NHP *(p. 12)*	1	2	3
AK TRAVEL *(p. 16)*	1	2	3
AK PORTFOLIO *(p. 26)*	1	2	3
AK PROBLEMS *(p. 29)*	1	2	3
WALKING LIGHTLY *(p. 30)*	1	2	3
PARK TIPS *(p. 31)*	1	2	3
NPCA REPORT *(pp. 32–36)*	1	2	3
Dinosaur NM	1	2	3
Seiberling Bill	1	2	3
Death Valley	1	2	3
NPAP	1	2	3
Coyotes	1	2	3
NP Fees	1	2	3
Everglades NP	1	2	3
Park Briefs	1	2	3
FEEDBACK *(p. 38)*	1	2	3
BOOKSHELF *(p. 39)*	1	2	3
THE LATEST WORD *(p. 45)*	1	2	3

	Excellent	*Good*	*Fair*	*Poor*
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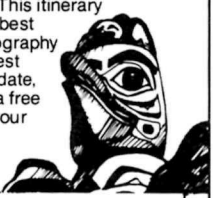

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LOS PINOS RANCH, Cowles, New Mexico, near Santa Fe, Peco Wilderness. Accommodates 16 in relaxed atmosphere. June to October. No poisonous snakes, scorpions, mosquitoes. Magnificent riding, trips, trout, excellent food. Address: 13 Craig Road, Morristown, NJ 07960, May to September, Rt. 3, Box 8, Tererro, NM 87583.

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Worlds Fair Smoky Mountain Visitors, Bed and Breakfast Asheville, N.C. provides accommodations in fine homes. Meet and enjoy locals $35.00 per night. 217 Merrimon Ave., Asheville, N.C. 28801 (704) 258-9537.

SANIBEL ISLAND, FLORIDA: Lovely 2-bedroom condo on Gulf. Pool, tennis, birding, shelling. Minimum rental 2 weeks, special rates monthly or seasonal. (312) 858-5525—Wesley, 62 Forest Ave., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137.

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"I LIKE IT WILD. . . ." Enjoy, promote conservation awareness and/or raise funds with wilderness/wildlife posters, note cards, T-shirts, slide sets. WILDERNESS DREAMS, Box 4455—NPCA, Shawnee Mission, KS 66204.

CALIFORNIA CLAY WORKS—unique earthen figurines from natural red clay, also lighter colors available. Specializing in Pre-Columbian replicas. You commission artist—send description and/or picture with size and color specifications. 6" kiln fired figure, $24.00. 8" kiln fired figure, $27.00. Prices include postage, handling, sales tax. Send check or money order, allow six weeks for delivery. CALIFORNIA CLAY WORKS, 14116 Quinnault Road, Apple Valley, CA 92307, 714/247-9831. Money back guarantee. If not satisfied, send purchase back and we'll refund your money.

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FEP'S FLY DOPE. BLACK FLY REPELLENT. Free sample. Send $1.00 for catalog. Farrington and Farrington, Box 2163, Sarasota, Florida 33578. Dealers Inquire.

TRAIL FOODS—SURVIVAL FOODS. Discount catalogs, $1. Chuck Wagon Foods, 908 Howard Avenue, Billings, Montana 59102.

Publications

PLAN PARK TRIP AROUND WEATHER. Guidebook describes week-by-week climate normally associated with forty-one national parks, monuments, other popular locations. Fourteen western states. Recommend best week(s), weatherwise, to visit favorite area. $3.95 ppd. RECREATION WEATHER, P.O. Box 971-NP, Deer Park, WA 99006.

HUMMINGBIRDS are WILD VISITORS. LEARN to ATTRACT them. "ATTRACTING & FEEDING HUMMINGBIRDS," 16 pg. PHOTO-ILLUSTRATED BKLT., $1.00 ppd. WOODSWORLD, 218 BUENA VISTA AVE., SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062.

Travel, Adventure, and Exploration books. The usual and the unusual. Free catalog from The Armchair Explorer, Dept. NP, 333 Bellam Blvd., San Rafael, CA 94901.

HOW TO GET TO THE WILDERNESS WITHOUT A CAR. New 200 page book details how to visit Alaska's glaciers, Yellowstone, Canadian Rockies, redwoods, and 80 other areas in Western North America using public transportation. $7.95 postpaid. Returnable if dissatisfied. Lee Cooper, Box 80584-A, Fairbanks, Alaska 99708.

Conservation

HISTORIC PRESERVATION of Civil War sites is our main concern. If you're interested in the preservation of our Civil War heritage, join Civil War Round Table Associates—$10 a year for monthly *Digest,* annual Congress of CWRT's. Box 7388N, Little Rock, AR 72217.

Protect Mother Earth by joining a hardline, no-compromise, radical environmental group! Membership $10/year. Earth First! P.O. Box 26221, Salt Lake City, UT 84126.

Schools

SMOKY MOUNTAIN FIELD SCHOOL. Experience the wildlife and beauty of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Intensive 5-day and weekend workshops include Wild Mammals, Wildflower Identification, Birds, Outdoor Photography, Kayaking and more. Co-sponsored by Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the University of Tennessee Division of Continuing Education, SMOKY MOUNTAIN FIELD SCHOOL, 2016 Lake Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37996-3515, (615) 974-6688.

NPCA Reminders

Help NPCA protect the parks with your photos and slides of the natural beauty of and threats to our National Parks. Send donated photos to Office of Public Affairs, NPCA, 1701 18th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

The Latest Word

NATIONAL AQUARIUM GETS A SECOND CHANCE

The National Aquarium story remained a cliff hanger for months: Would the aquarium close, would it remain open, and if so, how? Congress had not allocated any funds for the aquarium in its 1982 budget.

Just when it seemed the aquarium would have to close its doors, the National Aquarium Society was formed to take over responsibility of the 622 specimens from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Chaired by Mrs. Malcolm Baldrige, wife of the Secretary of Commerce, the private, nonprofit organization is charging admission ($1 for adults, 50¢ for children) and raising other monies through memberships, donations, and an "Adopt a Fish" program to cover aquarium expenses and to make capital improvements.

The National Aquarium, which was founded in 1873, will remain at its present location in the U.S. Commerce Building in Washington, D.C.

WATT IN THE WILDERNESS

The March hearings on Interior Secretary James Watt's highly controversial Wilderness Protection Act of 1982 (H.R. 5603) produced little substantive debate. The hearings did produce much vituperation and great theater because the participants knew the specifics of Watt's bill and had already chosen sides.

Watt, who prides himself on his determination never to compromise, threw in an ad lib at the end of his testimony that was meant as evidence of his concern. With a dozen or so TV cameras focused on him, Watt intoned, "[This bill] is a compromise; we think a wise compromise."

Later, Representative Phillip Burton, whose own Wilderness Protection bill (H.R. 5282) would provide the protections that Watt's bill lacks, questioned Secretary Watt closely on the differences between the two proposals. In a jocular vein, Watt suggested that combination of the bills would "make an interesting marriage." Representative Burton looked down over his spectacles and answered, "Let's just make it a date."

Conservationists are incensed by H.R. 5603. They say that Watt's intent for wilderness areas is duplicitous and his legislation would devastate these wild places. Specifically:

- The present Wilderness Act allows for mineral development in wilderness areas through December 31, 1983; after that date wilderness areas would be closed--permanently protected from development. Watt's bill would protect wilderness areas until the year 2000; then all wilderness areas --including those in national parks--could be opened to mineral development.
- A caveat in Watt's bill would allow the President to withdraw any area from the wilderness system for an undefined "urgent national need." The Congress would have only sixty days to propose specific legislation to check the President's move.
- H.R. 5603 would wreck chances for potential wilderness areas by ordering Congress to include these "further planning" areas in the wilderness system in a limited amount of time. If Congress missed the deadline, the public would miss out on additional wilderness: The areas would become immediately available for development. Right now these areas are fully protected unless Congress acts to bar them from inclusion in the wilderness system.

PARK SERVICE AGREES TO KILLING COUGARS

Bowing to pressure from local sheep ranchers and the New Mexico Department of Natural Resources, the National Park Service (NPS) has decided to allow state agents to pursue mountain lions into Carlsbad Caverns National Park--and kill them. If Texas goes along with this program of killing cougars in national parks, agents could also destroy mountain lions in Guadalupe Mountains National Park, which is right across the state border from Carlsbad.

The sheep ranchers allege that mountain lions are responsible for destroying large numbers of livestock. The Park Service admits that little is known about the population and distribution of mountain lions in the Carlsbad area and apparently it has decided that the protection of the ranchers' interests takes precedence over protection of park wildlife.

Recently, the Park Service has been reluctant to contest the taking of predators. In 1979 NPS personnel found five illegal traps in Guadalupe that belonged to the Game and Fish Department of New Mexico; yet the Park Service barely protested.

This attitude is a throwback to the early 1900s when even park managers believed the only good predator was a dead one. Over the decades the Park Service had changed its attitude toward mountain lions and other native predators. Realizing the important role predators play in the balance of an ecosystem, the Park Service ordered a ban on killing them in the parks; that is, until now.

The Carlsbad decision also opens the door for residents adjacent to other parks who seek permission to kill predators. If killing predators is allowed in one national park, this untenable precedent may be applied to all the parks.

How you can help: Protest the Park Service's decision to allow the hunting of mountain lions in Carlsbad National Park by writing to the Hon. G. Ray Arnett, Assistant Secretary; Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; U.S. Dept. of Interior; Washington, D.C. 20240.

CONSERVATIONISTS PROPOSE SMART BUDGET FOR EPA

Year by year the Reagan Administration has hacked away at the budget for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This drive to emasculate the agency could put a virtual halt to the EPA's ability to fight against polluted air and water, toxic wastes, and all the problems it should be involved in.

NPCA and ten other environmental groups have come up with an alternate budget that makes sense. The plan would cut monies for nuclear development and dam and highway construction projects; eliminate certain tax breaks for companies involved in oil exploration; and collect more royalties from companies that mine for hard-rock minerals.

The money saved would upgrade energy conservation and mass transit programs; be used to buy park land; and, above all else, allow the EPA to protect our environment.

NPCA PUBLISHES GUIDE TO PROTECT SEASHORES

Dune buggies and the like wreak havoc on our national seashores. NPCA's Citizen's Action Guide to Over-sand Vehicles in the National Seashores, published this spring, explains how these vehicles affect wildlife, visitor enjoyment, the very substance of barrier islands such as Cape Lookout National Seashore. The booklet also tells what you can do to help.

To order a copy, send a check or money order for $2.50 to NPCA, 1701 18th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

PARK SERVICE STONEWALLS ON CULTURAL PARKS REPORT

When Congress received the "State of the Parks Report" in 1980, it became obvious that the parks' cultural resources were neglected. In November 1980 word went out to all park managers to complete a survey of the cultural resources--including artifacts, ships, buildings, earthworks--in their respective parks. Most surveys were returned to National Park Service (NPS) headquarters in January 1981.

The Park Service has had a year and a half to compile and publish these reports. NPS Director Russell Dickenson promised the House Interior Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks that they would see the report by February 1982. The subcommittee is still waiting.

The incident at Franklin D. Roosevelt's home is a pertinent example of what can happen when protection or even acknowledgement of hazards is put off. The report from the F.D.R. Historic Site stated: "Years of deferred maintenance have resulted in severely deteriorated and unsafe conditions (e.g. the electrical system at the home of Franklin D. Roosevelt constitutes a fire hazard)." This report was in the hands of Park Service administrators in Washington, D.C., by January 1981. The fire predicted in the report occurred in February 1982.

This incident typifies the problems caused by inadequate maintenance. Because of minimal funding and a lack of trained personnel, the future existence of ten million objects, artifacts, and journals (a collection second only to the Smithsonian's) is at stake. If the NPS doesn't

have even basic data on archeological and historical sites (and in many cases it doesn't), the visitor is cheated out of an accurate picture of our history.

The National Park Service was created to protect America's heritage. The individual reports of damage and danger to our cultural resources are alarming. And yet the Park Service keeps putting off publication of its report, and its responsibility to our cultural parks.

CLEAN AIR ISSUES FOGGED BY FIGHTING

Reauthorization of the Clean Air Act has turned into one of the hardest fought legislative battles this year. Despite the undisputed fact that most Americans, regardless of their political persuasion, want clean air--cleaner air--both House and Senate could be leaning heavily toward bills that would do just the opposite. It is imperative that people who want clean air make their opinions known.

The Senate Environment Committee, by vote of 16 to 0, proposed weakening protection for the clean air sections of this country. The proposal fails to adequately protect parks or park additions included in the National Park System since 1977. It would also degrade air quality protections for Alaska's national parks and related areas. Fortunately, this proposal would allow protection for "integral vistas," those spectacular views that are actually outside park boundaries.

Senators Byrd (D-W.Va.), Eagleton (D-Mo.), and Ford (D-Ky.) have introduced legislation that could virtually destroy the pristine air that is left in this country. On a given number of days each year, polluters could choke Class I (pristine air) areas with as much as 15 times the amount of pollution now allowed.

The Clean Air Act provisions that prevent deterioration of clean air would be stripped totally from all parks and park additions created since 1977 and from all monuments, wildlife refuges, Wild and Scenic rivers, preserves, seashores, and primitive areas. Byrd's bill downgrades the goals of the visibility protection program and specifically prohibits protection for "integral vistas." Write your senator: Condemn the Byrd bill.

In the House, clean air standards continue to be threatened by H.R. 5252, which would erode visibility protections and allow five times more pollution in our parks. H.R. 5252 would also eliminate Prevention of Significant Deterioration provisions from all parks established since 1977 and from most nationally protected areas regardless of when they were established. Write your representative: Clean air and H.R. 5252 don't mix.

HIGHWAYS TIGHTEN THE NOOSE AROUND GLACIER

One highway proposal wasn't enough. The Forest Service and the Federal Highway Administration are trying to upgrade yet another road on the boundaries of Glacier National Park.

For safety reasons, it is necessary to widen U.S. Highway 2, a narrow two-lane access corridor to Glacier. Although a widened two-lane would more than meet the projected traffic needs, the state highway department of Montana wants to expand the road to a four-lane highway.

Now the Forest Service and the Federal Highway Administration plan to pave the North Fork Road, which winds along the northwest boundary of Glacier. In comments on the plan, NPCA objected to the paving because "it will unnecessarily sacrifice the outstanding and increasingly rare resources and wilderness character of nearby Glacier National Park for the convenience of high-speed travel."

According to conservationists, the Park Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the dirt road does need spot improvements. But paving it would encourage both high-speed traffic and increased human activity in an area now freely traveled by grizzlies and grey wolves.

Joe Shellenberger, an NPS administrator at Glacier, says buffer-zone infringements, such as improved roadways, are affecting wildlife and "making an island out of the park."

Because a paved road would threaten both the grizzly and the grey wolf, the Fish and Wildlife Service has issued a jeopardy opinion under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act. The Highway Administration chooses to defy the Act and continues to push for paving the road.