SPECIAL ISSUE: 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL Parks

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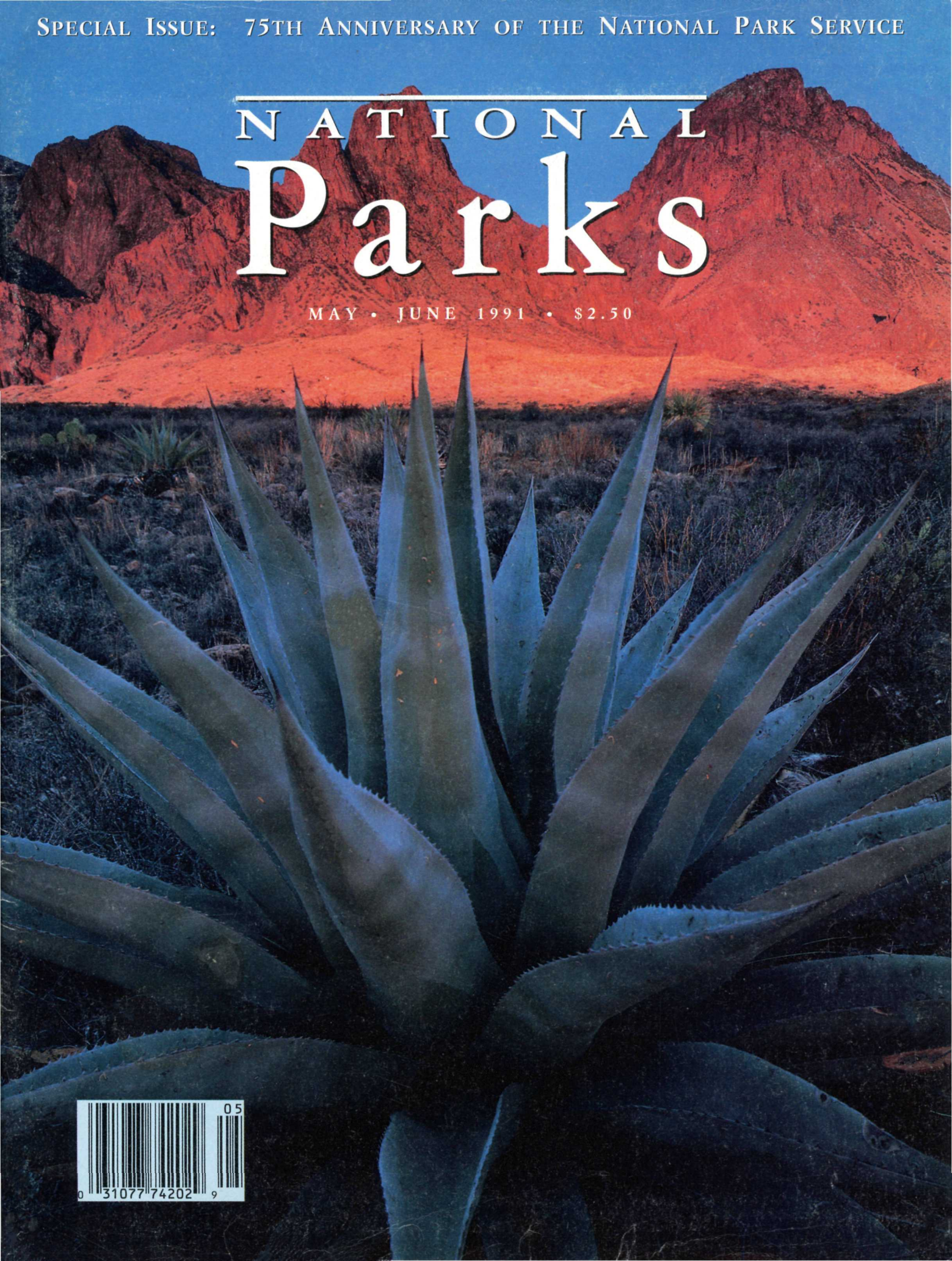

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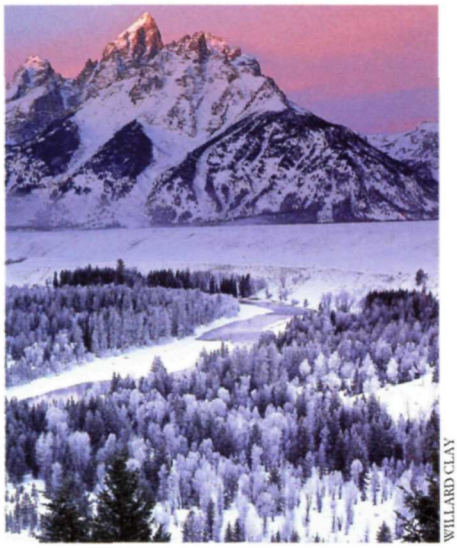

WILLARD CLAY

Grand Tetons, p. 29

EDITOR'S NOTE

With this issue, NPCA recognizes and celebrates the National Park Service's creation 75 years ago. As caretakers of our cherished national parks, NPS plays a vital role; how well it does its job is a matter of concern for most Americans because there is so much at stake.

In articles by NPS Director James Ridenour, historian Robin Winks, and NPCA staffer Bruce Craig, we look back at the first 75 years and forward to the coming decades. We examine directions of the past as well as priorities for the future. And, on the lighter side, Costa Dillon describes how the national parks have become an integral part of American pop culture.

Please join NPCA in wishing the National Park Service a happy 75th anniversary and best wishes for the future.

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NATIONAL Parks

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL PARKS AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Vol. 65, No. 5–6
May/June 1991
Paul C. Pritchard, Publisher

OUTLOOK

FEATURES

DEPARTMENTS

COVER: *Big Bend National Park, Texas, by Carr Clifton. Evening light glows on an agave beneath Vernon Bailey and Cartel Peaks in the Chisos Mountains.*

Established in 1919, the National Parks and Conservation Association is the only national, nonprofit, membership organization that focuses on defending, promoting, and improving our country's National Park System while educating the public about the parks.

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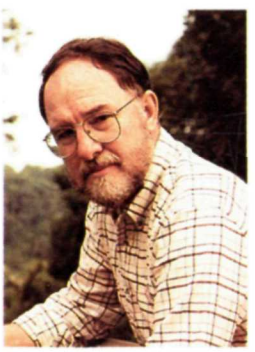
Priorities



As it celebrates its 75th anniversary, the National Park Service is hearing the call of the wild and the call of the city. And the Service must answer both in order to ensure its own survival as well as the survival of the irreplaceable resources under its charge.

In our cities, critics charge that national parks are the exclusive domain of those who have the time and money to travel to them. Inner city and suburban Americans are asking that parks—or at least park programs—be more accessible to their communities. They want to see the Park Service in their children's classrooms, at their fairs, on their public television programs, and through many other close-to-home opportunities. Taking the preservation message to these communities must be a principal mandate of the Service if the national park system is to survive politically as well as culturally and ecologically. Unfortunately, it is not clear at this time how the Park Service will accomplish this. But one great success is a curriculum, jointly developed by NPCA and NPS, on biological diversity. Amazingly, it's one of the few curriculums for schools on any aspect of the national parks.

Other critics point out that our parks were created to preserve spectacular scenery and not to preserve ecological systems. But at a time when unprotected lands are quickly falling victim to development, units of our national park system may provide the only remaining habitat for plants and animals that are unique to North America. Other countries throughout the world consider the primary function of parks to be habitat protection. We should do no less.

To protect habitat and species, it will no doubt be necessary to adjust boundaries. Park boundaries are established through a political process that ignores wildlife migration patterns and unique biotic communities that the parks should preserve. If our national park system is to represent more than just "pretty pictures," the Service must seriously reexamine its responsibility for biological diversity. In this regard, NPS should be as successful within its domain as the private land conservancies are outside the parks.

Fortunately, the Service now has the chance to address this concern with legislation passed under the guidance of Rep. Bruce Vento. The new law calls for the Service to develop criteria to evaluate boundary adjustments in terms of ecosystem protection and report back to Congress on the needs of every unit.

Without a doubt, the National Park Service gets high marks for preserving the resources under its charge during its first 75 years. But, as it moves into its next 75 years, these two objectives—connecting with communities outside the parks and preserving biodiversity—must be among the Service's top priorities for the future.

Paul C. Pritchard

Shown smaller than actual size of 8 1/4".

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Acclaimed worldwide for their stark power, Van Zyle's works have been exhibited at the Capitol Rotunda and Seattle's Frye Art Museum. And he is the official artist of Alaska's famed Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, the treacherous thousand-mile endurance test in which he has competed.

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LETTERS

The Endangered Ranger

Bernard Shanks' article, "The Endangered Ranger," [January/February 1991] was generally on the mark. I, too, worked for years as a national park ranger, feeling that I was doing meaningful work protecting our national treasures and expecting to spend the rest of my career with the National Park Service (NPS). Disillusionment prompted me to transfer to another federal agency for better-paying and more fulfilling employment.

While pay and working conditions are indeed lousy, I believe that "bad management" is just as much to blame for declining morale and the exodus of rangers. What rangers have not known or heard of uncaring managers, lack of recognition for good work, inadequate working equipment, political interference with law enforcement and resource-related incidents, tainted investigations, cover-ups, and the like?

I believe the solution is to detach the NPS from the rest of the Interior Department, overhaul management, upgrade most positions, and initiate programs to improve working conditions.

Ed Patrovsky
Morongo Valley, California

The plight of park rangers is similar to the plight of teachers in many states. As the public recognized the importance of teaching, salaries were increased, certification standards improved, and more [qualified] persons applied for teaching positions. We must recognize that high-quality park rangers are necessary to maintain and operate our national parks.

Seth M. Yarish
New London, Connecticut

From the president on down, the NPS and its supporters seem to receive lip service only. Members of Congress have said they can't survive on $100,000 per year, so how do they expect park rangers to survive on one-sixth of that? I'm sorry to say it's obvious where the priorities in this nation are.

David Kill
Flagstaff, Arizona

"The Endangered Ranger" failed to mention the problems involved with being a "seasonal" ranger. In interpretive, law enforcement, and administrative positions many, if not all, seasonals receive only GS-3 to GS-5 wages. No health insurance or retirement benefits are provided. The seasonal ranger often resides in substandard housing. Currently, NPS has no programs established to bring the seasonal employee into the permanent ranks.

For the public's sake, let Congress and NPS do more for the seasonal rangers.

Christopher K. Rumm
NPS Seasonal Ranger
San Francisco, California

I have been an NPS employee's wife for 18 years. I am not the wife of a ranger, superintendent, or interpreter. My husband belongs to the division you neglected to mention. He is chief of maintenance at Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona and will retire this year with 30 years service.

Our own immediate family group has resided as required occupancy (due to my husband's position) in many parks, side by side with ranger families. The same hardships and difficulties are prevalent among the children and families of the maintenance division.

The housing and busing, in particular, of Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado were appalling and *all* families bore the brunt of these hardships.

It would be nice to read of the dedicated employees housed in the maintenance division. These silent legions perform their duties diligently. Many add those "ranger attributes" to their litany of skills, including emergency medical training, fire fighting, rescue procedures, and more. Too often, their overall achievements and accomplishments go unrecognized.

Sylvia Clark
Holbrook, Arizona

Most of the problems experienced by Park Service people are common to many Forest Service employees as well. Six years ago (as a Forest Service ranger) at age 35, I took a good look at my life. I was living in a mobile home and driving a run-down 1978 Mustang. I needed dental work and new glasses but had no money for them. I was *still* a GS-6 Forestry Technician.

An oil company made me a job offer and I accepted.

[But] it's the strangest thing: often when I come across one of my old uniforms or a ranger contacts me up in Yellowstone, I feel a warm glow. . .a tug at the heart. It is a feeling of loss, I suspect, for the excitement, the sense of tradition, and the satisfaction which the job once offered me.

Harvey Dabling, Jr.
Big Piney, Wyoming

I believe that part of [NPS's] problems could be ameliorated by charging entrance fees to the national parks.

Fees would not create hardships but would help cover the cost of better pay for the rangers.

Joseph A. Bieke
Troy, Michigan

Over the years *National Parks* has published many outstanding articles. However, I am compelled to write concerning the recent January/February 1991 issue, which is outstanding on every count. Not only does the issue deal with the traditional subjects, but it addresses in extremely compelling terms the issues of mining in the parks, the heritage of African-Americans in the parks, and finally the tremendous threat to the endangered species known as the park ranger.

Unless and until we come to grips with the fact that we are turning our parks into plantations and our rangers into *braceros*, we can never expect to

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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In celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the National Park Service, the National Park Foundation has authorized the skilled cutlers of Schrade Cutlery to produce a collection of distinctive commemorative knives. Schrade Cutlery has also commissioned wildlife artist, Ken Hunter to create a striking 75th Anniversary limited edition art print and poster to commemorate this significant event. Your purchase of any of these commemorative products will assist funding and support of National Park Foundation programs that will help to insure the future of this treasured resource, America's National Parks.

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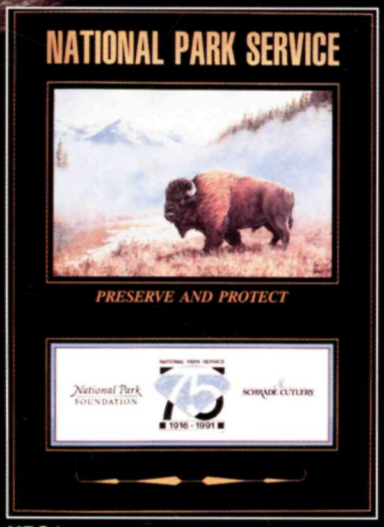

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- 75th Anniversary Commemorative Poster - Designed by wildlife artist Ken Hunter in cooperation with the National Park Foundation and Schrade Cutlery. Printed on heavy high quality coated paper stock in a dimension of 24" x 33".

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attract and keep the professional person that our national parks deserve.

Over a period of the last decade, our rangers have not only been taken for granted, they have been shamelessly exploited. Congratulations to you for pointing out not only the magnitude of this disgrace but also the importance of providing the financial needs for our endangered rangers.

Martin J. Rosen
President, The Trust for Public Land
Washington, D.C.

Readers concerned about ranger issues can write to Representative Sidney Yates, Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations, B 308 Rayburn Building, Washington, DC 20515 or RepresentativeWilliam Ford, Chairman, Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, 309 Cannon Building, Washington, DC 20515.

—the Editors

The Big Picture

I have read several articles regarding the development of a movie theater among the canyon walls of Springdale, Utah ["News," January/February 1991].

The movie theater would serve only to pervert priorities and pollute this very special milieu. Movie screens and concrete parking lots would be a devastating addition to this incomparable scenery.

Robyn Perlman
Bayside, New York

Addendum

I read with great interest William W. Gwaltney's article, "Black History in the Parks" ["Access," January/February 1991].

The article failed to mention Booker T. Washington National Monument — a site which focuses on interpreting slavery. The primary mission of this site is to share the sights, sounds, and smells of the period tobacco plantation into which Booker T. Washington was exposed as a slave the first nine years of his life. The impact of this experience is reflected in a number of his writings and contributed to his desire to seek a formal education and provide those opportunities to other black Americans.

The monument is located 25 minutes from the city of Roanoke. For more information, call (703) 721-2094.

Joseph H. Finan
Former Chief of Maintenance,
Booker T. Washington NM
Hardy, Virginia

Touring the Tundra

The pressures to expand snowmobiling at Voyageurs National Park in northern Minnesota ["News," January/February 1991] show parallels to the problems outlined by Todd Wilkinson in his article on winter tourism in Yellowstone

["Winter Paradox," November/December 1990].

Voyageurs Park Superintendent Ben Clary, who developed the snowmobiling plans for Yellowstone, is pushing a plan that will directly violate Park Service regulations and allow snowmobiling on the peninsula that makes up most of the land area of Voyageurs.

Voyageurs has a fraction of the visibility of Yellowstone, but the issues of park policy, wilderness preservation, and the huge costs of economically motivated development are the same.

Allan Davidson
Cold Spring, Minnesota

I don't know what I detest more, snowmobiles, trail bikes, or dune buggies. All are profanations of nature, and yet all three are obviously here to stay, as ineluctable as cockroaches.

Landis Gores
New Canaan, Connecticut

NPCA is a co-plaintiff with the Voyageurs Regional National Park Association in a suit to stop the snowmobile trail.

—the Editors

Bridge Over Troubled Waters

The value of a visit to Rainbow Bridge is greatly diminished for all by an overabundance of other visitors with attendant noise, litter, graffiti, and loss of serenity. The Park Service should seek means of *reducing* rather than increasing visitation to Rainbow Bridge ["News," January/February 1991].

NPCA supports a shuttle boat system. Though I am unfamiliar with the details of this proposal, it sounds like a step in the right direction, especially if the boat oar is powered by the visitor from a significant distance.

David E. Lamkin
Flagstaff, Arizona

New Zoo Revue

Jeff Cohn's article, "The New Breeding Ground," [January/February 1991] was hopeful and depressing at once.

Reading about programs in numerous zoos to breed the very last examples whose extinction appears certain *due to the disappearance of their habitats,* I am afraid we will end up with "just another (group) of domestic species" fit only to live in zoos because, unlike the red wolf, there is no longer a place "to test them against the environment."

Do we really want to perpetuate species which "have no where to go" except the Cincinnati Zoo?

Dave Bendler
Fort Lee, New Jersey

Write "Letters," National Parks, *1015 Thirty-first St., NW, Washington, DC 20007. Letters may be edited for space.*

Corrections

A few photographers in the March/April 1991 issue were not identified: pages 18-19, Grant Heilman, and page 30, Terrence Moore. In addition, the trading post on page 33 is not abandoned, as stated in the caption.

N • P • C • A
NEWS

Energy Plan Leaves Out Conservation

Releasing his National Energy Strategy in February, President Bush declared it "lays the foundation for a more efficient, less vulnerable, and environmentally sustainable energy future." Environmentalists charge the plan—which stresses increased production of fossil and nuclear fuels and deregulation of industry but pays little heed to conservation—does none of the above.

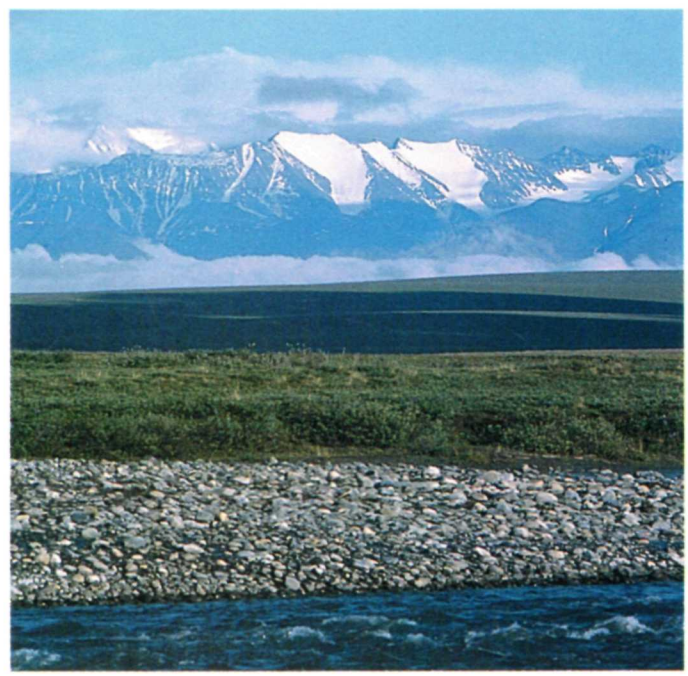
"The country needs a national energy strategy," NPCA President Paul Pritchard said, "but the priorities are skewed here. The strategy is not to use energy effectively but rather to sacrifice protected areas in order to extract more."

NPCA is concerned by the new push to extract energy from public land and by the dangers of reducing oversight, public review, and environmental compliance processes. National parks would be threatened by more oil and gas drilling near their borders, air pollution from new power plants, damming and draining of rivers, and water pollution from off-shore drilling.

In 1988 NPCA found that 99 national park units reported environmental damage from nearby energy development.

Bush has already threatened to veto any energy plan that does not permit oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge is the last complete and undisturbed arctic ecosystem in the United States. Its 1.5-million-acre coastal plain has been called the "Serengeti of America" because of its vast herds of caribou and its musk oxen, Dall sheep, wolves, and brown bears. The petroleum industry also calls the coastal plain the best prospect for a large new domestic oil strike.

The Department of Interior concluded in 1987 that the refuge had a one-in-five chance of providing an economically viable strike. It recently boosted this figure to 46 percent, based on proposed new drilling technologies but not on new data. Within this 46 percent, there is a mean estimate of 3.6 billion barrels of oil. At current national consumption of 17.4 million barrels a day, this would equal a 205-day supply.



KAREN JETTMAR

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is targeted for oil exploration.

For the refuge to be opened, Congress must give its express consent. Bills to lease the coastal plain and bills to protect it permanently as wilderness have come before each recent Congress, but none has passed. Currently on the Hill are H. R. 759 and S. 109, which would permit drilling, and two wilderness bills, H. R. 39 and S. 39.

What seals the Arctic refuge's fate in the end may be congressional deal-making. Senate Democrats have indicated they would give up the refuge in return for a mandated increase in corporate average fuel economy standards for automobiles. Bush opposes any such increase.

The energy strategy also calls for Outer Continental Shelf drilling along the East Coast, the Florida Panhandle, southern California, and much of Alaska.

While the administration has made opening the refuge and other new areas a political priority, these lands would play a limited role in its goal of boosting U. S. oil production. That goal, 3.8 million barrels a day above current projections for 2010, relies chiefly on new technology to recover more oil from existing wells. It includes only 500,000 barrels a day from the refuge and another 100,000 from new off-shore drilling.

In general, the strategy charts an ever-higher energy dependence for the U. S. and uses new domestic production rather than energy efficiency to keep oil imports at current levels.

The administration argues that conservation measures slow economic growth. U. S. energy use was essentially constant from 1973 to 1986, however, while gross national product rose 35 percent.

"Without such measures, the energy strategy will force Americans to keep pumping money into needless inefficiency," Pritchard said, "at the expense of the air they breathe, the atmosphere that shelters them, the oceans that surround them, and the land they lose to oil derricks a little more each year."

The energy strategy does propose incentives and research funds for energy efficiency, new technologies, and renewable energy sources and would increase alternative fuel use in government and commercial vehicles.

At the same time, it includes deregulation plans for utilities, oil and gas pipelines, and hydropower plants. It also expedites licensing for nuclear power plants, new dams, and gas pipelines by reducing review and public appeal processes. It gives a variety of new tax breaks to the oil and gas industries.

To develop the strategy, the Department of Energy held public hearings in 1989. It stated that "the loudest single message . . . was to increase energy efficiency . . . People in all parts of the country expressed concern about what energy production and consumption are doing to our air, water, and land."

The "option papers" given to the president put little emphasis on conservation, however. Further, they were kept from the public until a trade paper revealed that copies had been forwarded to the oil and gas industry. Supervised public review was then permitted at Energy's Washington office.

To become law, any energy strategy must be passed by Congress. Alternative bills have been introduced, some promoting domestic oil production and targeting the refuge, some aimed at reducing energy dependence.

✍ *To express concern about the Arctic refuge and the National Energy Strategy, write your members of Congress at the U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510 and the U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.*

1992 Park Service Budget Released

The Bush administration has released its National Park Service funding proposal for fiscal year 1992. While the budget includes more attention to basic needs of national parks and overall higher funding levels, it still leaves some serious shortfalls.

"It is a heartening change from budgets advanced during the Reagan years," said Bruce Craig, NPCA acting director of conservation programs. "But the parks have so much catching up to do that enormous problems are still addressed only in part."

The administration proposed a total of $1.3 billion for the parks. This is $86 million less than they received last year from Congress, which traditionally boosts NPS funding over administration requests. Those requests have been rising, however, up from $1 billion for 1991 and $900 million for 1990.

"Most of the increases and cuts proposed by the administration come in the right places," Craig said. This year's budget includes 13 percent and 21 percent more for park maintenance and resource management, respectively.

The backlog of NPS rehabilitation and replacement projects comes to nearly $2 billion, however. Last summer a historic building collapsed at Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site in Atlanta. The house had been decaying for years, but the park's budget contained insufficient funds for maintenance. "We have another structure that's almost in the same shape," said Superintendent Jerry Belson.

TOM TILL

The leaking roof of Independence Hall had to be repaired with emergency funds.

Last year at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, where the Declaration of Independence and Constitution were adopted, the roof of Independence Hall began leaking and

NEWSUPDATE

▲ **Arctic refuge.** To find out what you can do to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil exploration, call the Alaska Coalition hotline, (202) 675-2391.

▲ **Concessions.** Reshaping the national park concessions system remains a priority on Capitol Hill as well as for NPCA. NPCA supports comprehensive concessions reform bills, introduced by representatives Mike Synar (D-Okla.) and Frank Guarini (D-N. J.), which are moving forward in the House. Another reform bill is expected shortly from Senator Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.).

▲ **Symposium.** In honor of the 75th anniversary of the National Park Service, NPCA and the Park Service sponsored a day-long symposium March 22 in Washington, D. C. "Our National Park System: The Next 75 Years" featured remarks by National Park Service Director James Ridenour, Representative Bruce Vento (D-Minn.), and leading conservationists. NPCA Chair Norman Cohen presented Senator John Chafee (R-R. I.) with NPCA's Award of Honor for commitment to the environment and to establishment of the American Heritage Trust fund.

had to be repaired with emergency funds from Congress.

An increase from $140 million to $170 million came for resource management, the basic NPS task of conservation, research, and historic preservation. Ten million is earmarked for ten major parks with such vast needs they often siphon money from smaller parks.

Many programs nonetheless remain underfunded. There was no funding for studies of park air authorized under the new Clean Air Act. And NPS research continued to receive only a few percentage points of the agency's budget.

Land acquisition funds fell $14 million, to $84 million. There is $2 billion worth of land that Congress has designated as part of the park system but has never given NPS the money to purchase.

The budget does include $30 million for state programs through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. LWCF revenues, intended for federal, state, and local parks and open space, have not been requested for states since the Carter years.

Of the state funds, $6 million is for the American Battlefield Preservation Program, as well as $15 million from elsewhere in the budget. The initiative, an NPCA priority, seeks to protect Civil War battlefields through federal purchase of land interests and partnerships with local governments.

The largest cut, $155 million, was for construction. Craig called this appropriate in a time of limited funds.

The administration eliminated the rivers and trails program, which advises local governments and citizen groups developing river and trail corridors. NPCA will lobby for restored funding.

Old-Growth Logging Planned Near Mt. Rainier

The Forest Service has released plans to log old-growth forest bordering Mt. Rainier National Park in Washington.

"The proposed logging will devastate one of the most unusual microclimes, or mini-ecosystems, in the western Cascades," said Dale Crane, NPCA Pacific Northwest regional director.

Logging would occur in an expanse of old-growth hemlock and fir trees in Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, between Mt. Rainier and the Clearwater Wilderness area. Virgin forest extends north of the park to pristine Chenuis Creek and Chenuis Creek Road and up the wild, roadless western slope of Cayada Mountain. The forest provides habitat for the threatened northern spotted owl, elk, and possibly wolves.

CHARLES MAUZY

The Forest Service plans to log and clearcut old-growth forest just north of Mt. Rainier.

In a draft environmental impact statement, the Forest Service describes several logging plans for the forest. In its "preferred alternative," it would remove 50 to 60 percent of the trees from sections of the mountain's western slope. It would also cut 50 to 60 percent of the trees in patches along Chenuis Creek Road, and would clearcut areas between the road and Chenuis Creek. All together, it would log 176 acres of old-growth forest.

As well as eliminating wildlife habitat, the "preferred alternative" would destroy between one-third and one-half of established wildlife corridors between the park and Clearwater Wilderness.

There could also be damage to Chenius Creek, which arises within and returns to the park. The Forest Service plans to clearcut along the stretch that curves over into the national forest.

Finally, the areas to be logged and clearcut would be visible from prominent overlooks within Mt. Rainier.

Many of these points were made at public hearings in 1989 and are included in the plan, which "shows a clear understanding of the environmental damage that such logging would do and the public opposition to the further degradation of this remarkably outstanding area. Having that clear understanding, the preferred alternative to log part of this area defies all reasonable logic," Crane wrote the Forest Service.

The document also provides insufficient information on some important points. While the Forest Service says that some old growth near Cayada Mountain is 250 to 300 years old, and some along Chenuis Creek is as old as 650 years, it does not say how old the areas targeted for logging are.

Crane said the Forest Service also conducted an inadequate study of the area's plant and wildlife, including the probability of wolves in the area.

The Forest Service has collected public comments on the draft statement and will release a final version, and its decision, later this year.

✍ *Readers can send comments to the District Ranger, White River Ranger District, 857 Roosevelt Avenue East, Enumclaw, WA 98022.*

NPCA Opposes Land Swap at Santa Monica

A proposed land swap between comedian Bob Hope and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, near Los Angeles, would be a serious environmental compromise, says Russ Butcher, NPCA Pacific Southwest regional director. The trade will allow road construction at the mouth of a canyon currently within the park's boundaries.

Hope and developers Potomac Investment Associates have plans for 750 luxury homes and a tournament golf course on his Jordan Ranch property, which stretches along the park's border. As part of the development, Potomac wants to build an access road through part of the park's Cheeseboro Canyon unit. Hope has offered the National Park Service 864 acres of Jordan Ranch land in exchange for the necessary 59 acres of the canyon.

"It seems at first like a great deal for the Park Service," said Butcher, noting that the entire Jordan Ranch area falls within the park's master boundary and merits national park status. "But we just can't agree to the extent of environmental damage that cutting a road through Cheeseboro Canyon would create. And given the political pressure on the Park Service to agree to the swap, it could set a dangerous precedent." Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan and California governor Pete Wilson (R) both support the deal.

Of the canyons that lace the park's steep mountains, Cheeseboro Canyon stretches farthest north, making it an important corridor for foxes, coyotes, mule deer, and other wildlife. It is only a 15- to 20-minute drive from the Los Angeles Basin and is separated by Ventura Freeway from the rest of the park. But within the narrow canyon the sounds of traffic disappear, and the surrounding urban sprawl makes its open hills and ancient oak groves all the more remarkable.

In permitting development at Jordan Ranch, Ventura County would likely zone much of the 864 acres being offered to the park as dedicated open space. While this would not provide the same degree of protection as national park status, Butcher questioned the overall gain for Santa Monica Mountains if it sacrificed Cheeseboro Canyon for an area that might be preserved in any event.

The Park Service has prepared the first draft of a federally required environmental impact statement on the proposal. In its statement, the Park Service decided not to support the land trade, instead taking a neutral stance. It will make its decision in the final version of the environmental impact statement, for which no completion date has been announced.

Energy Leasing Planned Around Teddy Roosevelt

The Forest Service has announced plans to lease for oil and natural gas drilling the 1.3 million acres of spectacular North Dakota prairie and badlands that surround Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

NPCA believes the plans would strip away much of the park's scenic beauty by transforming it into an island surrounded by industrial development.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park consists of three small areas along the Little Missouri River in western North Dakota. It preserves what may be the only mixed-grass prairie in the park

MARKUP

Key Park Legislation

Bill	Purpose	Status
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge H. R. 759, S. 109 H. R. 39, S. 39	NPCA opposes the first two bills, to open the wildlife refuge's coastal plain to oil and gas exploration, and supports the second two bills, to designate it as wilderness.	H. R. 759 and H. R. 39 are before the House Interior subcommittee on water; S. 109 is before the Senate Energy Committee; S. 39 is before the Senate Environment Committee.
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge S. 344	Create Northern Yukon Arctic International Wildlife Refuge, spanning the Arctic refuge and an adjacent Canadian national park. NPCA supports.	S. 344 is before the Senate Environment Committee.
Concessions H. R. 571	Require competitive bidding process for concessions contracts and limit them to five years. NPCA supports.	H. R. 571 is before the House Interior subcommittee on national parks.
Concessions H. R. 943	Increase concessioners' franchise fees to 22.5 percent, require competitive bidding for contracts, and limit them to ten years. NPCA supports.	H. R. 943 is before the House Interior subcommittee on national parks.
Mining S. 433	Reform the Mining Act of 1872 to protect public lands. NPCA supports.	S. 433 is before the Senate Energy subcommittee on mineral resources development.
Saguaro National Monument H. R. 664, S. 292	Expand Saguaro by 3,540 acres to protect a dense, healthy stand of the disappearing cacti. NPCA supports.	H. R. 664 is before the House Interior subcommittee on national parks; S. 292 is before the Senate Energy subcommittee on public lands.
California Desert Protection Act S. 21	Create Mojave National Park; expand Death Valley and Joshua Tree national monuments and re-designate them as national parks; create 4.5 million acres of wilderness. NPCA supports.	S. 21 is before the Senate Energy subcommittee on public lands.

NPCA is currently working on more than 60 bills.

system and badland rock formations that Roosevelt called "barren, fantastic, and grimly picturesque." The Elkhorn Ranch, where Roosevelt lived, raised cattle, and hunted, is protected in the smallest and most unspoiled unit of the park. There, his surroundings shaped him into an ardent lifelong conservationist.

Views across the rolling prairie and low hills are central to the landscape at Teddy Roosevelt. The small size of the park's units means visitor enjoyment depends upon protecting views of surrounding lands from the park's roads and trails.

In a draft environmental impact statement released in March, the Forest Service proposed leasing all 1.3 million acres available in the Little Missouri National Grasslands, which surround the three park units. The Forest Service predicts 500 new oil and gas wells on these lands over the next ten years.

Already several oil and gas fields operate directly on the boundaries of the park's north and south units, encroaching on important park views.

"The south unit is nearly ringed by oil and gas wells already, with a few areas that are not developed yet but could be," said Jeff Bradybaugh, resources management specialist at the park.

A recently completed study by Colorado State University indicates that the proposed oil and gas leasing decisions will affect the local tourist economy as well as visitor experience. Researchers reproduced vistas from Teddy Roosevelt for park visitors, artificially adding or removing development. The study showed that the sight of development, especially oil and gas wells, decreased visitor satisfaction and diminished the amount of time and money visitors were willing to spend in the area. For example, when the number of oil wells visible from one viewpoint doubled during the study, visitor dissatisfaction ratings doubled.

"Oil and gas development in the park views would adversely affect the regional tourism economy as well as degrade the park," said Terri Martin, NPCA Rocky Mountain regional director. "The Forest Service should close to leasing all lands viewed from the Elkhorn Ranch

or visible from scenic viewpoints, roads, and trails within Teddy Roosevelt's north and south units."

The Forest Service plan allows oil and gas development in the "foreground" and "middleground" of views from Teddy Roosevelt, with stipulations meant to keep "human activities . . . subordinate to the characteristic landscape."

But the Forest Service has approved wells in the past over Park Service objections, claiming that painting oil and gas rigs brown and covering new roads with gray gravel kept these developments "subordinate."

Bradybaugh noted that these measures may help lessen the intrusiveness of the wells but that new wells can still be noticeable and diminish visitor enjoyment of the park.

"We don't know how much more development we can handle until there's such a cumulative impact that the viewshed is trashed," he stated.

Bradybaugh also said the Park Service is concerned about other effects of nearby energy development, such as air pollution, potential spills of toxic materials, and loss of habitat for animals who rely on areas both inside and outside the park.

✍ *The Forest Service will accept public comment on its draft plan until June 1, then begin the final version. Write Carl Fager, EIS Coordinator, Custer National Forest, 2602 First Avenue North, Billings, MT 59103.*

New Hotel Complex For Grand Canyon Opposed

Along with its dizzying size and grandeur, the Grand Canyon offers visitors another source of wonder. Congestion at Grand Canyon National Park, especially on its crowded, extensively developed South Rim, is often so severe it mars the natural splendor millions come to see.

Citing rising numbers of visitors, the National Park Service has made plans since the early 1980s to use the still-tranquil North Rim as the site for an expanded tourist complex.

NPCA wrote a letter of opposition to the Park Service this spring, stating that the latest version of the project was likely to worsen existing problems at the Grand Canyon. The letter was also signed by the National Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, and the Wilderness Society.

"It would be a tragedy to repeat on the North Rim the mistake made at the South Rim: to develop it until the beauty for which it is famous largely disappears," said Russ Butcher, NPCA Pacific Southwest regional director.

Ninety percent of the Grand Canyon's 3.7 million visitors last year spent their trips on the South Rim. Motels, gift shops, paved roads, and parking lots line the canyon's southern edge, and traffic jams are standard summer scenery.

On the other side of the canyon are the thick forests and natural tranquility of the North Rim. Development is limited to a historic 200-unit lodge and cabin area, campgrounds, and some employee housing.

NPS wants to add a new 100-unit hotel, restaurant, and parking lot complex to the North Rim and to expand the 83-unit North Rim campground by another 50 tent and recreational vehicle sites. This would increase the number of overnight rooms by 50 percent and the number of campsites by 60 percent.

The Park Service signed a contract with TW Recreational Services in 1984 agreeing to the project and selected a site in 1987. But it did not begin the public planning process required by law for such projects until 1988.

A federal district court ruled in 1989 that the Park Service had thereby violated the intent of the law and issued an injunction blocking construction.

Finding that NPS had not adequately considered alternatives to the project or its environmental consequences, the court ordered it to prepare a document that would do both.

The first draft, released in December, contains the latest plan for the hotel. While it gives more information and examines other options, NPCA stated that relevant concerns had been left out.

For instance, in Kaibab National Forest, five miles north of the park, plans are under way for a major resort. New overnight accommodations could

eliminate the need the Park Service has cited for more accommodations in Grand Canyon.

NPS also gave scant attention to the increase in traffic congestion, already developing on the North Rim's deadend roads, that would likely result from both the new development and an increase in day visitors from an enlarged Kaibab resort.

The NPCA letter suggests a shuttle system for the North Rim like those operating on the South Rim and at Yosemite National Park, while applauding a proposal within the document to ease congestion at the lodge by reconfiguring adjacent parking.

"Teddy Roosevelt said, 'Keep this great wonder of nature as it now is . . . man can only mar it.' That's what the park was established to do," Butcher said. "If you justify expanded development whenever visitor numbers go up, where does it end? What will you be left with?"

After public meetings held in March, the Park Service will issue a final decision on North Rim development.

Exxon Case Ends, But Not Effects Of Spill

The federal government, the state of Alaska, and the Exxon Corporation reached a settlement this spring in lawsuits arising from North America's largest oil spill.

Exxon agreed to a $1 billion payment that includes an immediate $100 million to settle criminal charges. It will pay the rest over ten years into a fund to monitor the long-term damage done in March 1989, when the *Exxon Valdez* spilled 10.9 million gallons of oil into Alaska's Prince William Sound, and to restore the Alaskan coastline.

The spill contaminated 300 miles of coastline in Katmai National Park and Preserve, 50 miles in Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve, and 40 miles in Kenai Fjords National Park.

Exxon also agreed to pay another $100 million in ten years if the damage discovered is greater than expected.

Environmentalists are not enthusiastic about the settlement. "It's Exxon saying, 'You don't want to spend 20 years in court. Here's the money and you can fight over it,'" said Mary Grisco, NPCA Alaska regional director.

KAREN JETTMAR

The Valdez spill's long-term effects on murres and other species could be devastating.

The settlement remained open for public comment until mid-April, and the state and federal governments will make a final decision in early May.

The settlement, most of which is tax-deductible, ends Exxon's financial responsibility for the spill. All cleanup costs beginning January 1 of this year will come out of the fund.

Since the payments will be made over ten years, the money will not earn interest. Its current-dollar value has been estimated to be between $500 million and $600 million.

One demand on Exxon's first payments will be federal and state litigation bills. Then, along with research and continuing cleanup costs, restoration projects will be created out of the fund. The official mechanism for deciding which projects are funded has not been announced.

"It's going to be a very competitive process," said Dan Hamson, head of the NPS Office of Oil Spill Coordination. "The concern that we have right now is what the Park Service's access and representation will be to the post-settlement organization."

Meanwhile, scientific studies on the spill's effects have been held from the public as legal evidence. While research supported by the state seems likely to remain held because of pending civil suits, at press time results of federal research had just been released in summary form. They indicate long-term, ongoing damage from the spill to bird and fish populations.

The research also documents serious harm done to at least 26 archeological sites, from both the oil spill itself and accidental trampling by cleanup crews.

Findings leaked to the press earlier this spring indicated that one species hit particularly hard was the murre, a large black-and-white diving bird that nests in colonies along high sea cliffs. Scientists reportedly found two years of total reproductive failure in murre colonies from which the births of 200,000 to 300,000 chicks would otherwise have been expected.

Other reported findings were reduced populations of rockfish, herring, shrimp, mussels, and clams, signs of exposure to oil among Dolly Varden trout, and evidence from pollack and salmon of oil in the food chain.

Studies leaked to the press in March estimated the "social cost" of the spill at $3 billion. Economists attempted to place a dollar value on the public's loss of wildlife and pristine natural beauty.

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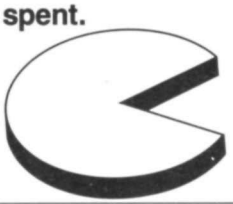

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NPS Personnel Moves Concern Observers

Proposals to restructure upper-level National Park Service positions have raised concerns, within Congress and NPCA and among former Park Service officials, of new potential for political interference in NPS management.

Department of Interior officials have proposed giving political appointees in the department power of approval over appointments and transfers of all NPS employees at the General Schedule (GS) grade 14 level—chiefly high-level regional and Washington staff—as well as all park superintendents.

At present, the director of the Park Service has final hiring authority for these positions, while Interior has authority over GS-15 positions.

The proposal stated concern for "increasing the representation of women and minorities in our work force." Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan has put emphasis on hiring, retaining, and promoting female and minority employees.

"We have no problems working within that memo," a high-ranking Park Service official said. The "concern was to ensure that we gave adequate consideration to minorities and females in our selection process and in followup promotions."

Critics suggest, however, that in this case Interior's concern for equal opportunity is being misused to gain political control of the Park Service.

Representative Bruce Vento (D-Minn.), chair of the House Interior subcommittee on national parks and public lands, wrote to Interior, "While I find the goal of improving equal opportunity for women and minorities in the National Park Service's work force highly commendable . . . I can find no connection between improved equal opportunity and submitting names for these personnel actions to the Assistant Secretary [for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks] for review."

Howard Chapman, former NPS western regional director, said, "It's a ludicrous reason, simply again to allow the political people in the department to gain more control over the people in the National Park Service."

"I think that anyone who looks at it can see right through it," said former Park Service Director George Hartzog. "It's a real tragedy, and I think it's a continuation of the politicization of the Park Service."

Several years ago, Reagan-era political appointees to the Interior Department attempted to gain control over transfers and promotions of NPS employees down to the GS-13 level.

Because the new proposal covers all superintendencies, which begin at GS-11, it reaches more deeply into the ranks of the Park Service than the previous proposal.

"Lujan is no James Watt, but who knows who could be at the helm making appointments in the future?" said Bruce Craig, NPCA acting director of conservation programs. "This change would leave the Park Service vulnerable now and in the future to the imposition of a political litmus test."

Vento's letter also stated concern over a recent initiative to place half the Park Service's deputy regional directors and seven superintendents of major parks into the Senior Executive Service (SES).

A late 1980s attempt to reclassify top superintendencies as SES positions caused an outcry and was withdrawn.

Since the series is meant to create experienced federal managers competent in any post, SES positions can be filled from outside agencies. Despite assurances to the contrary, observers believe that Interior could eventually move political appointees into these positions.

Chapman stated that "how they're going to come across politically" would become a concern for superintendents and deputy regional directors.

"The real issue is that in the SES the performance evaluation gets final approval from the political people in the department," he said.

In the past, performance reviews have been used to exert political pressure on Park Service employees in the SES series or to keep them in line.

"This is nothing but subterfuge to get political control into the organiza-

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tion from the department," Chapman said. "The real nub is the things that it allows political appointees to do to the professional cadre of people."

At a recent hearing, Vento expressed concern to the Park Service about another personnel matter. In its fiscal 1992 NPS budget request, the administration recommends, as a cost-saving measure, "filling vacant positions at an average of one grade lower than previously filled."

The administration also suggests savings "from taking into account an expected additional lapse of about 30 days before filling positions that become vacant in 1992." Together, the budget document says the two steps would save more than $3 million.

These steps could exacerbate existing problems for park rangers, however. Congressional hearings, surveys, and a recent *National Parks* article ["The Endangered Ranger," January/February 1991] have found rangers frustrated with low pay and limited chances to move up in grade. These are cited as causes of low morale and high turnover.

Shenandoah Coalition Forms at NPCA Meeting

A new coalition for Shenandoah National Park will take an innovative regional approach to the park's problems.

At an NPCA-sponsored meeting in February, representatives of more than 20 local and national groups agreed to cooperate on issues such as air pollution, lands surrounding the park, and improved National Park Service funding for Shenandoah.

"The fate of Shenandoah and the northern Blue Ridge region will be sealed within this decade," said David Simon, NPCA natural resources program manager. "Unless we act with great speed, we risk undermining the environmental health of the area."

One of the issues the Shenandoah Coalition will tackle first is air pollution at the park, which has reduced visibility by 50 percent in the last 40 years. Over the protests of the Park Service, Virginia has begun issuing permits to some of the 18 new coal- and oil-burning power plants proposed for the state.

Another pressing subject is preservation of lands adjoining the park. Development is rapidly spilling into the Shenandoah area from Washington, D. C., and surrounding Virginia cities. To protect ecologically important areas, the coalition hopes to foster agreements among the park, state and local authorities, and citizens.

Information will come from a study of adjacent lands in the eight counties around the park, to be conducted by the Park Service and the University of Virginia.

Finally, the coalition will press for funding for such efforts at the park as gypsy moth control and basic maintenance and research.

Local and regional organizations are already doing effective work to preserve the Shenandoah area. By building on their efforts, the Shenandoah Coalition hopes to repeat the success of groups like the Everglades Coalition, the Alaska Coalition, and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition.

NPCA Sponsors Second March for Parks

School groups, Girl Scouts, Rotarians, and members of Sierra and Appalachian Mountain clubs will participate May 4 and 5 in March for Parks–The Celebration of the Outdoors.

Nearly 200 marches, tree plantings, cleanup days, and other activities are planned nationwide for the NPCA-sponsored march, which this year has merged with the National Celebration of the Outdoors.

Groups throughout the continental United States, as well as one each in Alaska and Hawaii, have signed up as March Partners and agreed to mark the first weekend of May with an activity designed to draw attention to a chosen environmental concern.

Last year, more than 15,000 people participated in the inaugural March for Parks, a kick-off event for Earth Day 1990. Among the march activities were hikes, cross-country skiing, and bluegrass concerts.

March for Parks was launched by NPCA to raise awareness and funds for local environmental projects. Groups that sign on as March Partners are entitled to half the money raised through the march for their own efforts.

The remainder goes to NPCA for efforts to protect parks and open space at the federal level.

Last year, local groups used some of the funds to replant a section of a park in Laguna Beach, California, with native plants; build a signboard and map for a state park in Ridgefield, Connecticut; improve Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland; begin a recycling program in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee; and start a tree nursery for the city of Watertown, Wisconsin.

The types of projects that March for Parks is intended to support include:

- planting trees and shrubs;
- expanding the membership or staff of a citizen organization working to improve parks;
- and providing interpretive materials on special topics, such as global warming, endangered wildlife, or community heritage.

Building on a Legacy

The director of the National Park Service looks to the past to help prepare for the future.

By James Ridenour

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES said, "When I want to understand what is happening today or try to decide what will happen tomorrow, I look back." His words hold special meaning for me during this 75th anniversary year as I learn more about the history of the National Park Service and its evolution into the agency we know today.

As this century draws to a close, the Service's founding mission remains fresh and valid: "To conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife . . . and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

The System has grown extensively from 7.5 million acres when the Service was created in 1916 to more than 80 million acres in 357 areas across 49 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, Saipan, and the Virgin Islands.

The first sweeping expansion—and one of the most important events in this agency's history—occurred in 1933 when NPS Director Horace Albright convinced President Franklin D. Roosevelt to transfer the War Department's parks and monuments, 15 monuments run by the Forest Service, and the parklands of the nation's capital to the youthful Park Service.

The second major expansion—more than doubling the System's size by adding 40 million acres of land, much of which was wilderness—came with passage of the Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act of 1980.

Another type of expansion that is affecting the Service and the System—a growing American population and its increasing interest and impact in the parks. When the Service was founded, Stephen Mather and Horace Albright knew they had to attract the public if the parks and the Park Service were to prosper. These men could not have anticipated how visitation would explode from fewer than one-half million visitors in 1916 to close to 300 million recreation visits by the end of the 1980s. And the Service has struggled to keep up with the increasing demands such use creates.

The Park Service's founding mission remains fresh and valid.

In the past, directors such as Conrad Wirth, who launched Mission 66 to improve deteriorating park conditions, wrestled to maintain the integrity of the System as visitation soared. Today Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan and I face a similar situation on a larger scale. We are asking for substantial boosts in the 1992 budget request for repair and rehabilitation of facilities, including roads and parkways in the System. We were encouraged by President Bush's recent support of significant funding increases that will provide $78 million for resource protection with an emphasis on science and research—that's a $40.6 million increase over similar types of projects in FY 1991. We also have requested $117.6 million for land acquisition. These funding increases will help us better preserve park resources, increase our scientific research, and meet the public's recreational demands. And adequate funding is needed now more than ever to maintain park facilities that face accelerated deterioration with increased use.

The public also feels the pressure from crowded conditions in the parks. People hiking heavily used backcountry trails or being turned away from overbooked campgrounds aren't receiving the quality experience they deserve. We have had little resistance to new backcountry hiking permit and campground reservation systems. This leads us to wonder how the public would react if we tried to limit the number of visitors to some of our most popular parks. We may have to approach the public with this question in the future. For now, we are exploring other options. For instance, at Denali National Park in Alaska, we began using buses and a lottery system to help reduce the traffic volume going into the park and protect the wildlife.

Let me stress that though we are making every attempt to address visitor needs, we are not neglecting the cultural and natural resources entrusted to

our care. Sound scientific research has been and always will be the key to properly accomplishing the conservation side of our mission. A cornerstone of our programs since the days of George Wright in the 1920s, commitment to scientific research has been particularly strong since Aldo Leopold's famous report on wildlife management in 1963.

Our scientific efforts are getting a big boost this year because we've made our science program a centerpiece of the 1992 budget request. This funding deals with natural science programs Service-wide and will aid scientific research and resource management at the park level.

Involvement in President Bush's global change research program will bring additional funding. Under this effort, national parks will serve as laboratories where changes in the environment can be monitored.

The Park Service's research community also is working very hard to understand park ecosystems and cultural resources and develop restoration programs for them. We also try to educate the public and local and state governments about the need for their help in preserving these irreplaceable sites. We realize that education also is vital to helping our constituencies understand why we sometimes have scientifically sound, though controversial, initiatives, such as allowing fire in natural areas in the parks, reintroducing predators like wolves, and removing exotic species, even popular ones like wild horses.

The one thing I believe is missing—and it's my personal goal to see that it's added—is for the Service to create a scientifically generated database from which we can make more informed resource management decisions. The database I envision would enable us to choose facility locations scientifically, not through trial and error, so that vital resources are not degraded by construction of roads, campgrounds, or other developments.

Science is the cornerstone of another initiative in the 1992 budget request—the "Targeted Parks" program. This funding will help focus on the needs of ten parks with internationally recognized natural resources facing major threats. The Targeted Parks are not only outstanding in their own right, they represent a broad diversity of ecosystems found throughout the System.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Stephen T. Mather, Robert Sterling Yard, Acting Superintendent Trowbridge, the first NPS photographer, and Horace M. Albright at the 1915 dedication of Rocky Mountain National Park.

Because external problems don't stop at park borders, we cannot accomplish our goals by working alone. Once-remote parks, such as Yellowstone and Grand Canyon, are now the last vestiges of a primitive past with thriving communities replacing the uninhabited expanse that once surrounded them. Valuable historical sites in the East, once resting amid pastoral, rural settings, are being besieged by the steady march of suburban development. Parks also are affected by acid rain and other pollutants that are generated hundreds of miles away.

Partnerships will play a major role in managing issues that cross park borders. Funding in the 1992 budget request will help involve individuals, the private sector, and other nonfederal sources in accomplishing the Service's mission and goals. And partnerships, nurtured through the Secretary's American Battlefield Protection Program, also will help protect battlefields from development pressures. Out on the front lines, our superintendents will have to redouble their efforts to seek community support for our efforts.

I'd like to close with a concern that was expressed by Stephen Mather, the Service's first director, when the agency was founded. He said that "only nationally significant sites should be added to the System, so that the dignity and prestige of the System . . . may not be impaired." I don't want to see our "crown jewels" suffer further deterioration as we drain staffing and budget to support new parks that might more appropriately be managed by state and local governments or even developed privately by individuals and organizations. I don't oppose the System's expansion; I'm just saying that new areas should be examined rigorously before being added to the System.

The Service has had more than its share of dedicated, committed individuals. Visionaries such as Stephen Mather, Horace Albright, and George Wright foresaw many of the threats to the parks we now face. Our generation has a responsibility to build upon their legacy and leave the parks "unimpaired for future generations" as we were told to do so long ago. As we celebrate the Service's 75th year, let us prepare for the future through hindsight. This anniversary gives us a special opportunity to look back and use what we've learned from the past to move forward.

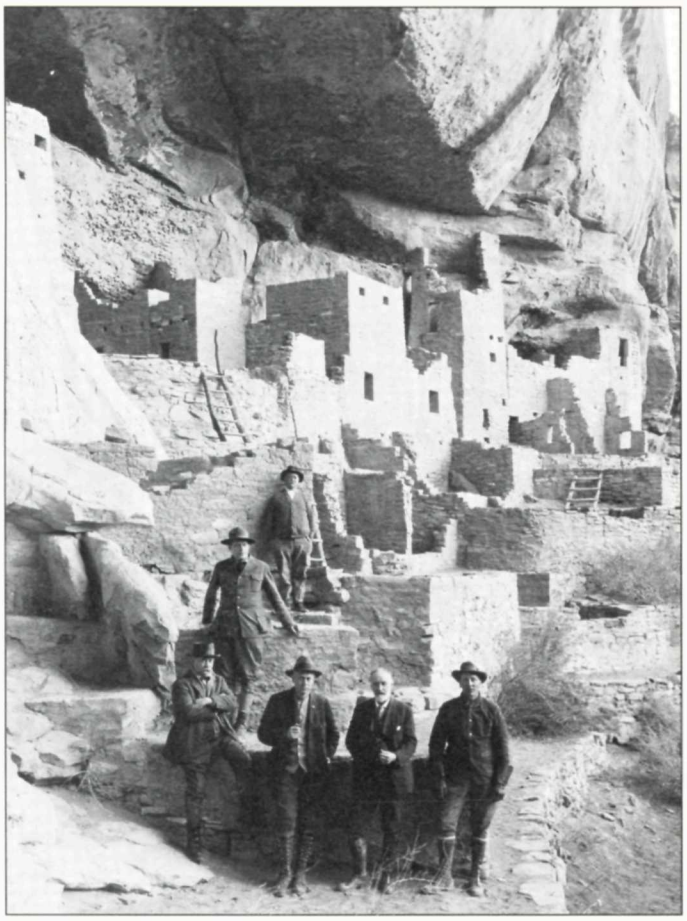
James Ridenour is the director of the National Park Service.

AN AMERICAN IDEA

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

An entrance arch to Mt. McKinley (now Denali) National Park, Alaska, 1939.

On August 21, 1870, an expedition set out to document and explore the wonders of the Yellowstone country. Around a campfire, the men discussed what to do with the land. By law they could have claimed it for themselves. Instead, they envisioned a permanent preserve for the enjoyment of all. Two years later Congress established Yellowstone as the first national park. In 1916, with the addition of more parks, a new federal agency—the National Park Service—was created to oversee the first system of national parks. The national park idea is seen by many to be one of America's greatest gifts to its citizens and to the whole world. The following photographs and words reflect the great pride Americans take in their national parks.



GEORGE L. BEAM

A group at Cliff Palace, Mesa Verde NP, Colorado, included Stephen Mather, second from left, foreground, first NPS director. At right, Freida B. Nelson of the temporary force of rangers, 1926, shows off her suspenders.

The parks belong to everyone — now and always.

—Stephen Mather, founding father of the National Parks and Conservation Association and first director of the National Park Service

NAT'L PARK SERVICE

Our national parks system is a national museum. Its purpose is to preserve forever. . .certain areas of the extraordinary scenic magnificence in a condition of primitive nature. Its recreational value is also very great, but recreation is not distinctive of the system. The function which alone distinguishes the national parks. . .is the museum function made possible only by the parks' complete conservation.

—Robert Sterling Yard, a founding father of the National Park Service and the National Parks and Conservation Association

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

A line of motor equipment in front of a rangers' dorm at Crater Lake National Park, Oregon, in the summer of 1941.

I see an America whose rivers and valleys and lakes, hills and streams and plains, the mountains over our land and nature's wealth deep under the earth, are protected as the rightful heritage of all the people.

—Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 32nd president of the U.S.

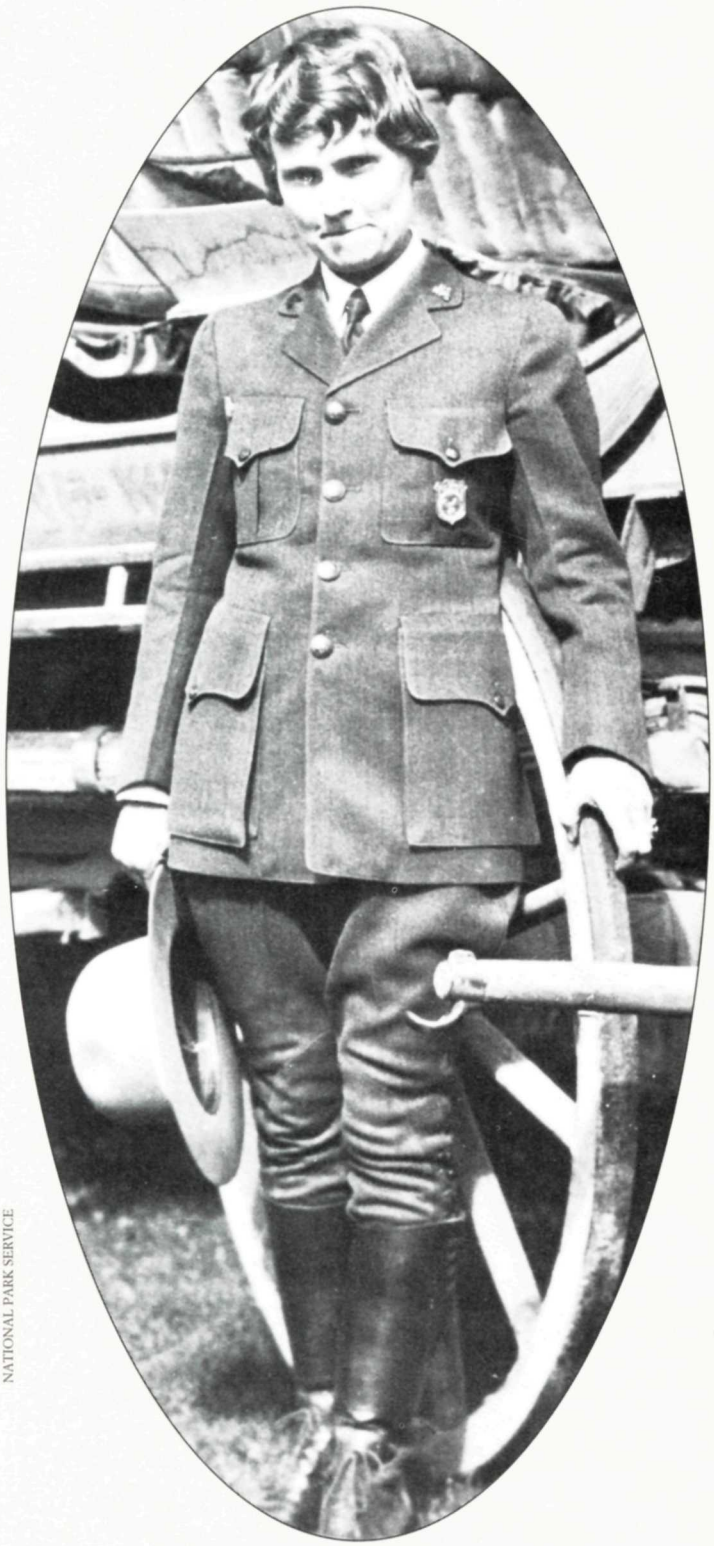
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Above, a fireguard at Rocky Mountain NP, Colorado, 1933. At right, rangers at Yosemite NP, California, c. 1929.

I like my job. . . .The fringe benefits are priceless: clean air to breathe (after spring sandstorms), stillness, solitude and space, an unobstructed view every day and night of sun, sky, stars, clouds, mountains, moon, cliffrock and canyons, a sense of time enough to let thought and feeling range from here to the end of the world and back; the discovery of something intimate — though impossible to name — in the remote.

—Edward Abbey, on being a park ranger at Arches National Monument in Utah

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Perhaps the most important resources of our national parks are the park service professionals. The future of our parks lies in their hands, and we must do everything possible to ensure they have the resources necessary to properly protect and care for our national treasures.

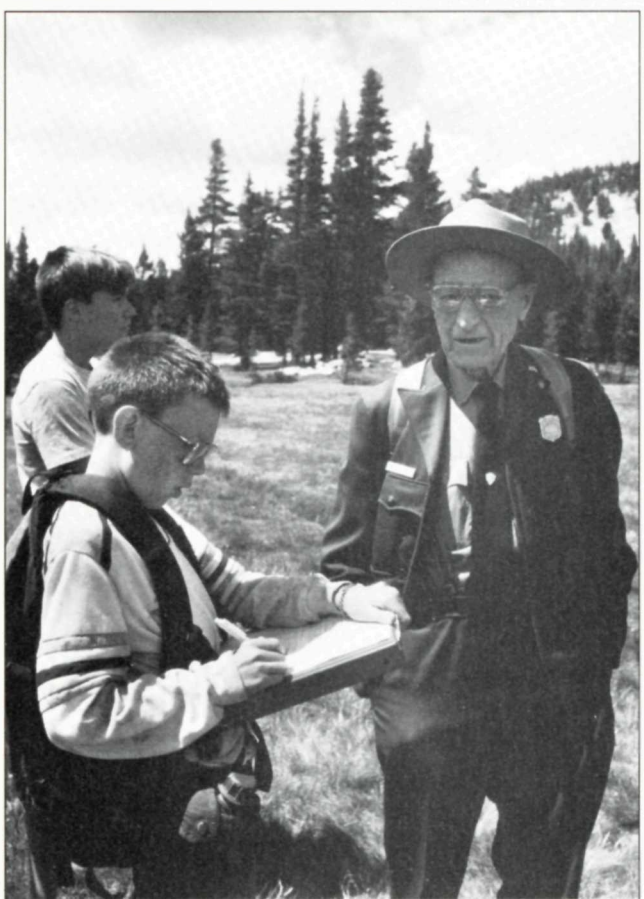
— Representative Bruce Vento (D-Minn.), chairman, National Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Above, an auto bus stops to feed a Yellowstone bear; left, Herma Albertson Baggley, the park's first female ranger, 1923.

My first summer on the job in Yosemite was in 1931. Being a park ranger is in my blood — I just do it. Interpretation is a very necessary function of a park ranger. What would the poor dear visitors do unless they were led to see what is in our parks, to try to understand it, and call attention to things they may not see with their own eyes? This is how I can inculcate a love for the parks, everything that's in them, and everything they represent.

—Carl Sharsmith (shown below), in his 60th year as a Yosemite park ranger



MARY A. MATHER

Flowering dogwood, Little Pigeon River, Great Smoky Mountains NP, Tennessee.

LARRY ULRICH

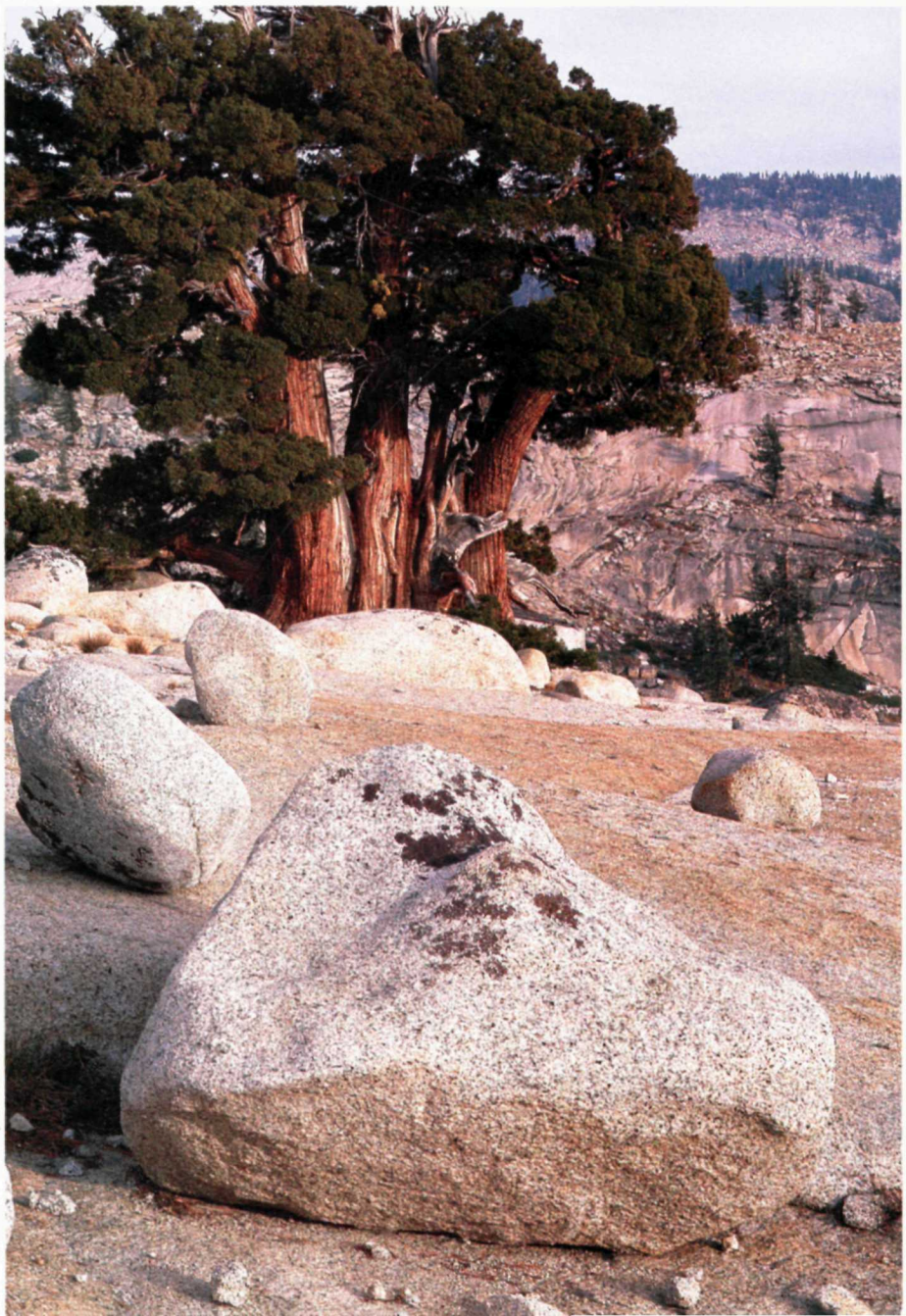
Some experience the parks in person. Others are content to keep the parks in their mind's eye, as reminders of what our world once was, and as promises of what can be preserved for our future.

—Anne Castellina, Superintendent, Kenai Fjords National Park, Alaska

FRED HIRSCHMANN

Ice cave, Glacier Bay NP, Alaska.

WILLARD CLAY



JEFF GNASS

The views of nature held by any people determine all its institutions.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson, writer/philosopher

DAVID MUENCH

Top left, sunrise at Snake River overlook, Grand Teton NP, Wyoming; above, birch and maples, Voyageurs NP, Minnesota; bottom left, Olmsted Point, Yosemite NP, California.

The long fight to save wild beauty represents democracy at its best. It requires citizens to practice the hardest of virtues — self restraint.

—Edwin Way Teale,
Circle of Seasons

[The National Park System] was the beginning of an idea for the whole world, and I wonder if it is not the best idea the U. S. ever gave the world.

—Margaret E. (Mardy) Murie, conservationist

Within national parks there is room — glorious room — in which to find ourselves, in which to think and hope, to dream and plan, to rest and resolve.

—Enos Mills, "Father of Rocky Mountain National Park"

Do not let the Service become 'just another Government bureau.' Keep it youthful, vigorous, clean and strong.

—Horace Albright, second director of the National Park Service

JEFF GNASS

Palm grove, right, Pu'uhonua o Honaunau National Historic Park, Hawaii. Below, prickly pear cactus, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Arizona.

DAVID MUENCH

Fortunately for the Everglades, there is . . .a balance in human nature, one which has set our courage, our will, and our ability to learn and work against our greed, inertia, and foolishness. Perhaps even now the vast, magnificent, subtle, and unique region of the Everglades may not be lost.

—Marjorie Stoneman Douglas, conservationist

DAVID MUENCH

Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wilderness is a necessity, and that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life.

—John Muir, literary naturalist

CARR CLIFTON

WILLARD CLAY

In 75 years the National Park Service has come to define the concept of public service and our pride in the American heritage.

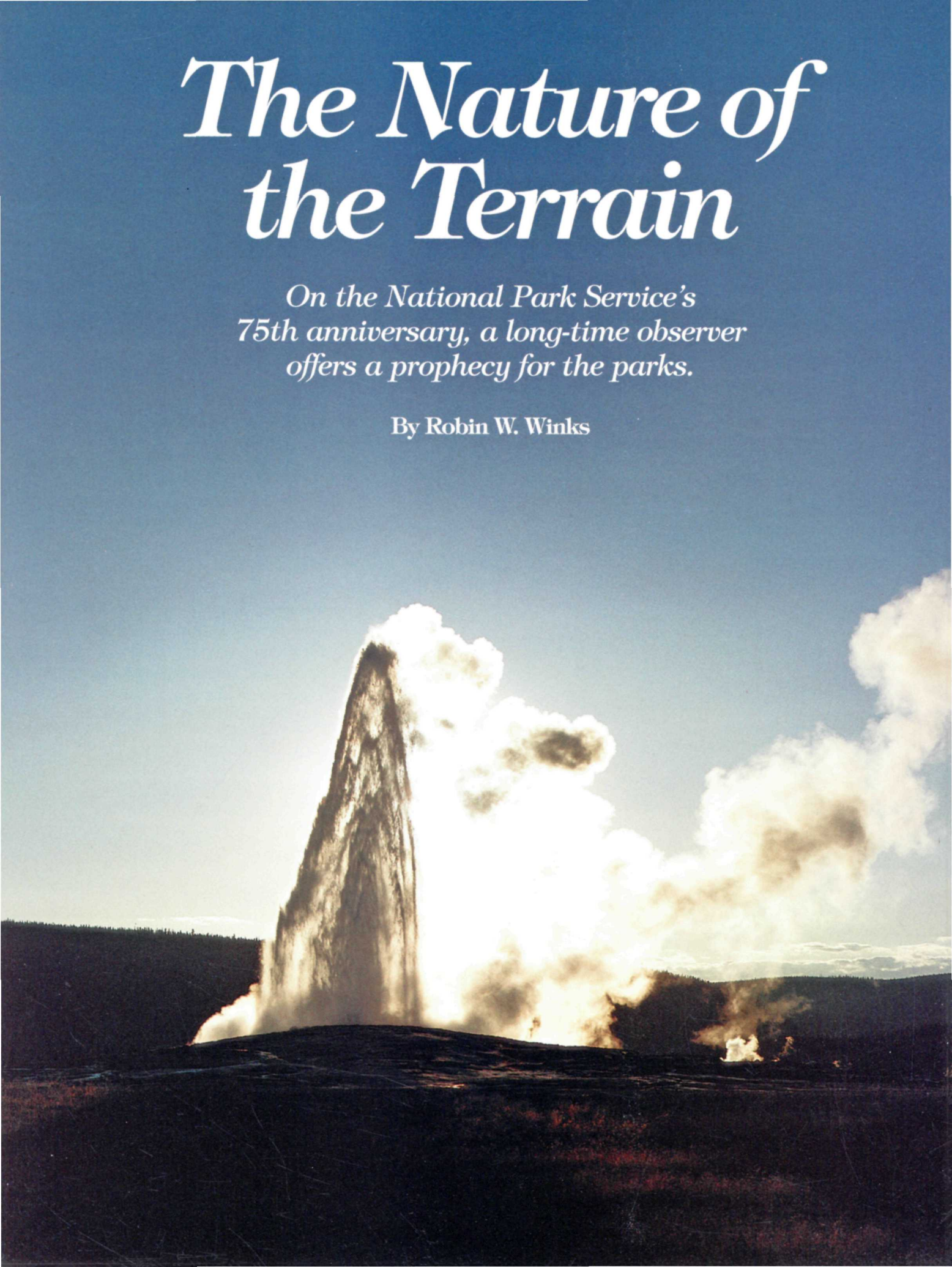
—Manuel Lujan, Secretary of the Interior

Top, Florida Bay, Everglades NP; middle, Beargrass, Mt. Rainier NP, Washington; bottom, Acadia NP, Maine.

The Nature of the Terrain

On the National Park Service's 75th anniversary, a long-time observer offers a prophecy for the parks.

By Robin W. Winks



THIS YEAR THE NATIONAL PARK Service celebrates its 75th anniversary. It is indicative of the strength of that Service, of the high regard felt for it by the American people, and of the broad affection Americans hold for their national parks, that somehow it seems the Park Service has been around longer than that. Many fans of the parks would guess that the Service began with Yellowstone National Park, or even with the creation of Yosemite in 1864; few, one suspects, would recognize the relative youth of the Service, or that it is younger than several of our politicians who seek to protect it and, sometimes, to abuse it. Certainly it stands high abroad, recognized as the most professional, most extensive, and indeed the oldest national park service and system in the world.

A time of celebration tends to be long on retrospection and short on prospection. But, like New Year's Day, an anniversary is also a good time to look ahead, to see whether one may not do better, and to calculate the nature of the terrain (and the problems that terrain will produce) over the next decades. As a long-time observer of the National Park Service, I have some worries about the future that may not be the most obvious, that go beyond whether the Park Service will receive the necessary political support to eliminate polluting haze over the Grand Canyon, to protect the wider Yellowstone ecosystem, or to interpret accurately sometimes controversial historic sites. These are obvious problems, and great ones; and though one must never forget the intensity of environmental challenges faced by the Park Service, one must see those problems within a larger frame.

Let me, as a historian, confess to be an interested party. I view the units of the National Park System in this, and in any nation, as indicators of how a nation feels about itself. One may learn much about a nation's values, about how a people perceive themselves, from examining those places they consciously choose to protect and preserve. Very few units of the Park System were acquired by accident; some few may be undeserving, the product of political pressure, but even they tell us much about the workings of American democracy. All collectively reveal how we feel about our landscapes, our historical triumphs (and far less often, failures), and by extension, what we hope for the future. In this sense, each unit of the Park System has a unique mission. While there may be an appearance of modest duplication, when one looks to a unit closely that duplication disappears. Do we have too many battlefield parks? I don't think so. Too many caverns? Too many birthplace homes? Too many units associated with U. S. presidents? Again, I believe not.

One may learn much about a nation's values from examining those places it consciously chooses to protect and preserve.

I also see the National Park System as the world's largest university, each unit a branch campus of one of the most potent educational forces in the world. In interpretation, I see it as profoundly important that each unit show both its relationship to a larger whole and its precise, unique mission, so that no visitors, however casual, go away without an enhanced understanding of the nation and of themselves. For this reason I see no conflict between so-called natural units and so-called historical units, for the landscapes of Yellowstone or the Everglades are historical as well. There is much to be learned about nature from a visit to the wharf at Salem Maritime National Historic Site or from walking through the grassy slopes of Pipestone National Monument.

Given these perspectives, what are the likely problems for the Park Service, and thus for the parks, in the future?

The greatest problem will continue to be public ignorance. Many individuals who consider themselves conservation activists do not know which agency is charged with the protection of which part of the nation's environment. One thinks of those travelers who believe Pikes Peak to be a national park or Monticello to be under government protection; more subtly, many are the people who cannot draw a distinction between Sawtooth National Recreational Area (administered by the Forest Service) and Amistad Recreational Area (administered by the Park Service). Ignorance also divides those who would protect our environment, natural and historic, to the point that there continues to be agitation for a separate federal authority to administer historic sites. This must not come to pass, for the bricks-and-mortar people need the tall-trees rangers, as the latter need the former. Fragmentation of the public support system—by which individuals support financially particular types of units rather than all national park units—lays the system, and the individual units as well, open to attack by commercial and other interests. One longs for a united band concerned with a livable environment in the fullest sense of the word.

The Service, and the System, are also threatened by rather too much talk about "special interests." Such language smacks of arrogance, as though one's own interests had nothing special about them while all others are suspect. Perhaps there cannot again be a productive alliance between the forces of commerce and the forces of conservation, as there was in the 19th century, but for each of these two communities of interest to view the other automatically and invariably with suspicion will produce problems, not solutions, for the future. Park promotion is itself a special interest. So too is higher education. They are my special interests, and most likely yours, and we must fight for them, but we gain nothing by a rhetoric that suggests those who do not share such interests are inherently unconcerned about the future of the nation.

These problems confront agencies

DAVID MUENCH

Old Faithful is just one of the natural wonders found in the world's largest "university" — the National Park System.

other than the Park Service, but my gravest concern is for park professionals. With vast, indeed revolutionary, demographic changes in the United States, the Service will have to adjust to fresh perspectives on interpretation—that is, on how it explains the significance of a unit and the desirability of its protection in perpetuity. To return to the image of the university, each park represents an endowment: will future generations wish to endow the same places as the present and past generations have done? Almost certainly not.

Increasingly there will be a vocal American population, fully entitled to be heard, that may declare that the American Revolution was not their revolution, that the Civil War was not their war, that the women's rights struggle as commemorated at Seneca Falls was not their struggle. There is not likely to be a demographic challenge to park units that celebrate a technological achievement—the Wright Brothers Memorial, for example—for all may recognize and share in the benefits of such an achievement. But those park units that subtly speak to a value system that is rapidly changing may not be the places of veneration that they are today.

The Park Service is meeting this challenge in some measure through its hiring policies. It will need to continue to do so. But it must look beyond personnel to practice, beyond those who interpret to what it is that they interpret. Is it not time to speak the truth at Wounded Knee? Is it not time to admit to a far greater need for bilingual interpretive markers in many units? More important, is it not time for serious projections concerning where people will live, who those people will be, and what it is that they will wish to visit, commemorate, and protect by the time the Park Service celebrates its bicentennial?

Among the demographic changes is an ever-growing urbanization. The Park Service has moved to recognize this fact by the creation of urban parks, usually designated recreation areas, a move that was politically astute and culturally necessary. But dealing fully with the realities of an essentially city-bred population, a population frightened by what it may find under a stone rather than intrigued by what may lie there, will require far more than simply bringing parks to the people. If this remains the primary goal, there will be a temptation to create units almost purely recreational in purpose, units unworthy of the name "national park." Ignorance would then be enhanced, not lessened, since it would be reasonable for a visitor to a park that consists solely of a marina, or a ravaged beach, to conclude that some place far distant (Isle Royale National Park, perhaps?) is also really nothing special.

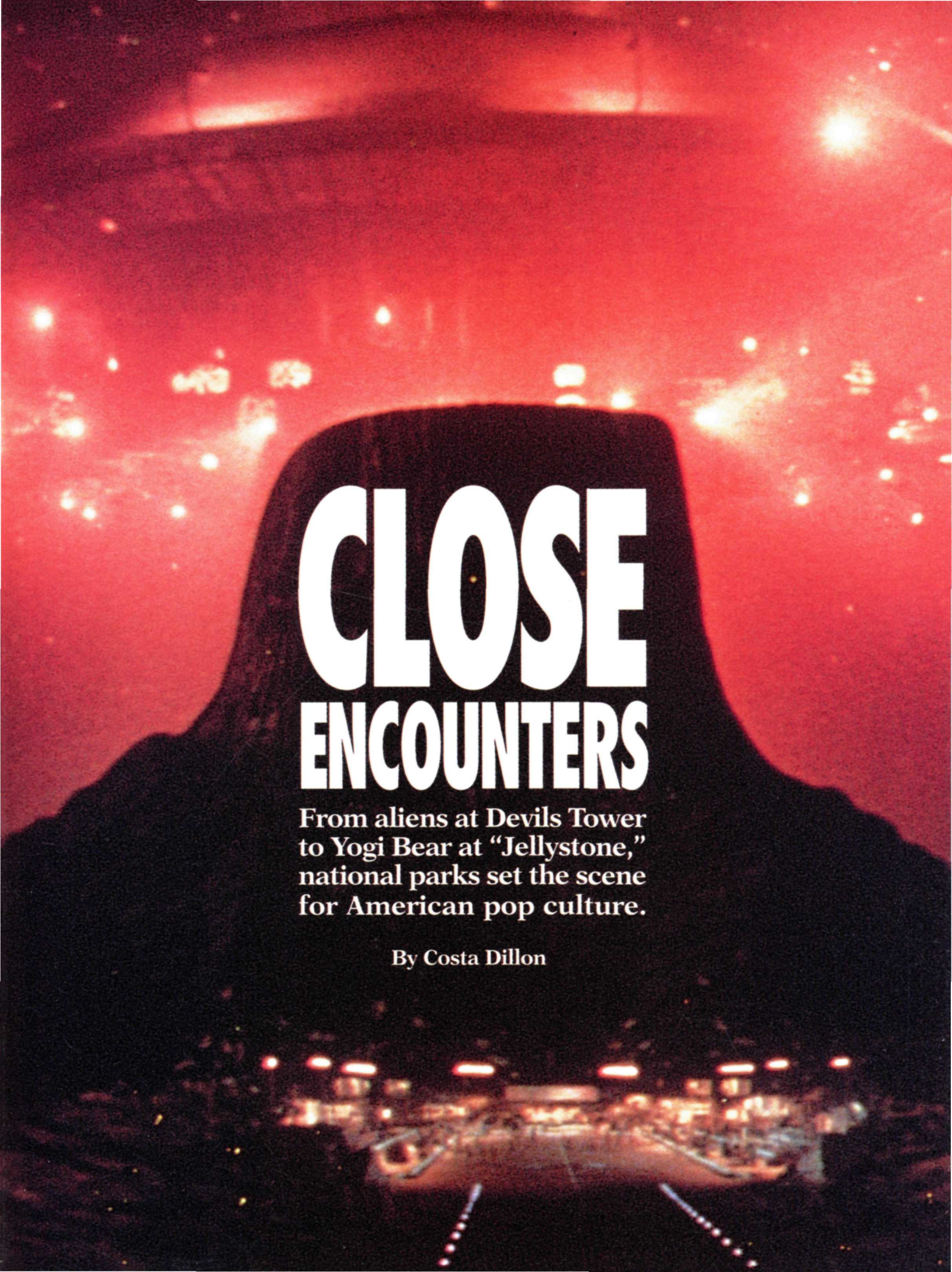
There will be a temptation to create units almost purely recreational in purpose, units unworthy of the name "national park."

The Park Service will need to take the lead, as it did in the 1930s and continues to do in some specialized arenas, in both promoting and educating the public on the nation's multitiered park systems. The national parks cannot thrive without the safety valve of attractive state and local parks, places that may well lack national significance but which nonetheless must satisfy the ever-pressuring needs for green spaces, for playing fields, and even for places to ride sand buggies and snowmobiles across the terrain. Closer cooperation and a sense of national urgency at all levels will be necessary if the units of the National Park System are to be buffered adequately against the massive demands of an urban population in search of places to play. Ski lifts are not evil, they simply do not belong in national parks; but one suspects that much of the public, while prepared to agree, does not fully understand why.

There is a pressing need to upgrade the Park Service in all those ways that Americans use to indicate how they show their pride. Again the analogy of education is appropriate. Park Service personnel, like teachers, tend to be paid in inverse proportion to the respect in which their professions are said to be held. Housing is very poor, pay risible, mobility sometimes limited, and research horizons inadequate. Yet people continue to apply to work for the Park Service, out of their own dedication, their fascination for our national heritage, their desire to be usefully rather than merely practically employed. The Park Service is, domestically, the elite equivalent of the Foreign Service. Ways must be found to retain the many dedicated individuals for whom the reward system is increasingly inadequate. At $16,000 a year, some rangers' pay is not so far above the poverty level as to reflect the pride in which we hold our national parks.

Finally, in the future the U.S. National Park System will need to be even more of a beacon to other nations. Some few park systems—in Canada, in New Zealand, perhaps in Australia—are well entrenched in the affections of their people. Many park systems appear irrelevant to the great mass of their population—in India, or South Africa, or in parts of South America—and require inspiration and leadership from outside their borders. As a historian I have observed that nations tend to fall into three rough groupings: those that have defined national goals and remain dynamic in their pursuit of those goals; those that in their struggle to fashion a sense of national unity borrow their goals from other nations; and those that once defined vibrant goals but, having achieved them, fall into a defensive posture in protection of that achievement, unable to define new goals. The United States, and as its mirror the National Park Service, must show themselves to belong to that first group. Where the United States goes a quarter-century hence, so will the Park Service go: that is the greatest challenge of all.

Robin W. Winks is Townsend Professor of History at Yale University. A member of NPCA's board of trustees, he is currently at work on a book about the National Park System.



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

From aliens at Devils Tower to Yogi Bear at "Jellystone," national parks set the scene for American pop culture.

By Costa Dillon

WHEN YOU THINK OF AMERICA, what comes to mind? The Statue of Liberty? Alaska's spectacular landscapes? Maybe the White House? Each of these is a symbol of America. And each is a reflection of how the national parks have become an important part of the nation's image in popular culture.

From the very beginning, national parks have shaped and reflected the image of America and Americans: vast open spaces, unlimited wealth, and unique resources. Indeed, the very establishment of national parks open to everyone is an expression of our egalitarian ideals. As Wallace Stegner wrote: "Absolutely America, absolutely democratic, [national parks] reflect us at our best rather than our worst."

The connection between parks and popular culture was immediate. The flourishing Hudson River school of art, fathered by Thomas Cole, spun off a generation of artists who sought out the West for new subjects to cover their canvases. Parks not only inspire paintings, but parks, in turn, are inspired by art. Thomas Moran's watercolors became an important element in Yellowstone's establishment, and people still marvel at Albert Bierstadt's overwhelming panoramas of the Sierra Nevada made before Yosemite or Sequoia became national parks. These paintings influenced the first generation of visitors to the parks and led to increasing protection for these and other areas.

National parks and icons of American culture often form an inseparable bond. Many parks can trace their existence to the fact that they preserve some feature or event that is an integral part of the American experience. Ellis Island, the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial, and Gettysburg touch a personal and profound chord in past, present, and future generations. The "massacre" of the 7th cavalry was directly responsible for the establishment of the Custer Battlefield National Monument in Montana. Certainly there are many other sites of the Indian wars equally worth commemorating, but none struck the image that the Battle of Little Big Horn did on the American psyche in 1876. Yet today, as our historical perspectives have become more evenhanded, the preservation of this battlefield is becoming a focal point for recognizing both sides of this unpleasant era of U.S. history. It is ironic that a site originally dedicated to enshrine Custer's image is partly responsible for much undoing of that image. Popular culture changes over time; parklands themselves do not. Yet, it is only because the area was preserved that it can now become a study in prejudicial history.

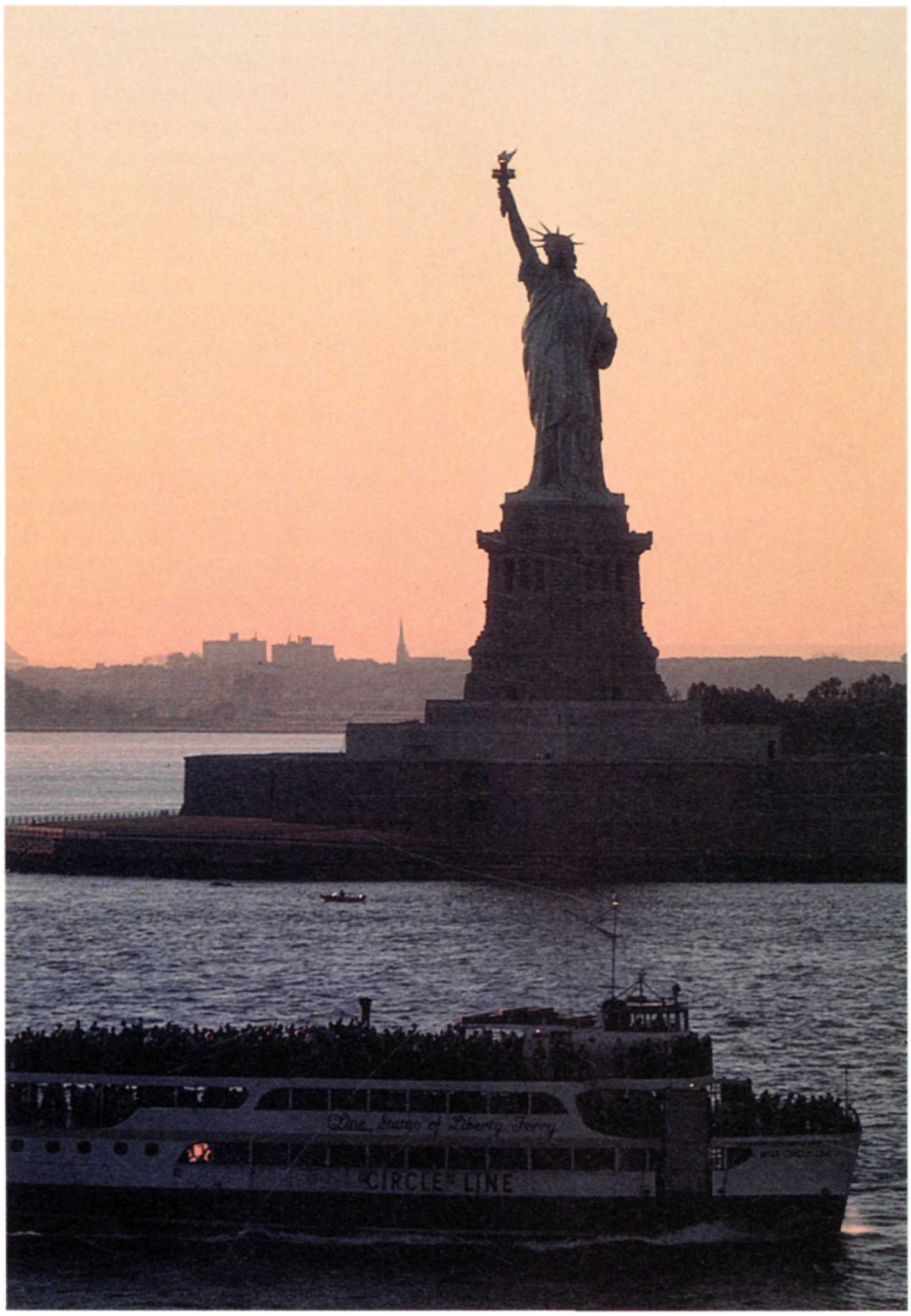
Parks and the American Outdoor Ethic

Ruggedness and outdoor life have long figured prominently in American culture, and national parks have often been the playing field. The motor home and backpacking craze of the '70s was preceded by the car camping of the '50s and the "sagebrushers" and "dudes" of the '30s.

Thanks to Park Service directives of preservation and safety, we have been spared the sight of people trying to ne-

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION. LENT BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Thomas Moran's *Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, 1872,* **is one of many paintings inspired by the parks. In turn, art has inspired generations of park visitors.**



CARL PURCELL

The Statue of Liberty, an integral part of the American experience, is recognized worldwide as a symbol for the nation.

gotiate Vernal Falls in a barrel or Evel Knievel attempting to jump over the Frederick Douglass Home. However, national parks have seen their share of popular derring-do. Seventy years ago, visitors clamored to have their photos taken in apparent death-defying poses atop Overhanging Rock in Yosemite. Before the recent age of environmental enlightenment, parks provided visitors with such photographic opportunities as driving through holes in redwood trees, pushing burning embers off Glacier Point for the firefall at Yosemite, and feeding bears at Yellowstone. But as the public perception of what parks should be changed, so did their management. By the 1970s, parks had established wilderness areas, and the public had become more vocal in demanding controls on the development of facilities.

National Parks and Cartoons

National parks are so ingrained in the American culture that they frequently appear as elements of humor. This is itself a certification of parks as an integral part of our culture, for no entity can be lampooned unless it is well known. Gary Larson has made parks, bears, and deer recurring themes in his Far Side cartoons. Phil Franks' Farley cartoons receive much of their bite from his experience working at Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Of course, if rangers had not started the infamous "don't feed the bears," there would be no Yogi Bear, arguably the most famous of all mythical park dwellers.

Driving through the spectacular scenery at Utah's Bryce Canyon or Arches national parks, one can almost expect to see Wiley Coyote burst from the roadside in pursuit of the Roadrunner. Though Smokey Bear was from a national forest, his image is now equally associated with national parks. "Smokey" has even become a popular nickname for park rangers.

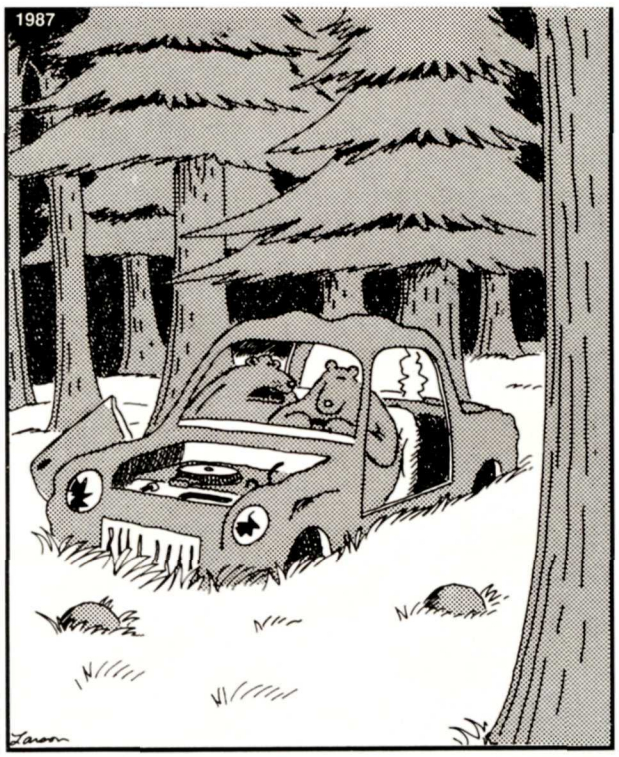
Cartoon characters such as Yogi, Bambi, Pogo, and Bullwinkle represent some aspect of the wildlife found in parks. Simple though they are, these images may be a person's first introduction to the wildlife that inhabits parks. This basic understanding of parks as homes for animals can be built upon to interpret the complex nature of ecosystem management. Without the connection afforded by popular images, interpretation for urban visitors may have no starting point.

National Parks in Advertising

Recent issues of *Advertising Age* contained three advertisements for magazines. *U.S. News and World Report* used a photo of the Washington Monument to symbolize clout; *Money* magazine used Canyon de Chelly National Monument as an image of finding discoveries off the beaten track; *California* magazine used the Statue of Liberty (what else?) to portray its excellence as an American publication. Michael Marsden of Bowling Green State University, Ohio, said in the same issue that "advertising itself cannot create values but relies on those already present in the culture. . . . "

What better source exists for advertisers than well-known park landmarks? Railroads hit upon this idea early; they not only used parks as symbols of their systems, but helped build the hotels and other facilities in a number of parks. Today's airlines are no different: next time you are in an airport, take a look at the posters advertising destinations. You'll be surprised to see how many depict national parks.

And what would New York City be without the Statue of Liberty? In the minds of many Americans, and much of the world, it is the symbol of the city—and the entire nation. In fact, national parks have become the symbol for many U.S. cities and regions. The Gateway Arch in Jefferson Expansion National Memorial is St. Louis' premier image. Philadelphia has the Liberty Bell, and San Diego commonly uses the lighthouse at Cabrillo National Monument in its civic promotion. Any image of Washington, D.C., includes the many monuments and buildings managed by the National Park Service. Even the Golden Gate Bridge lies inside California's Golden Gate National Recreation Area.



"Think about it, Murray.... If we could get this baby runnin', we could run over hikers, pick up females, chase down mule deer — man, we'd be the grizzlies from hell."

Cartoonist Gary Larson often uses park scenes as a backdrop for his illustrations. Bear and deer are recurring themes.

Parks and the Performing Arts

In the early days of Hollywood, the sound stage and backlot were the realms of the filmmaker. Shooting on location was expensive and difficult, given the unwieldy equipment and technology of the time. But as cameras got lighter and the public began demanding more realism in the movies, Hollywood went on location. Often this location was a national park site; indeed, some park locations have become synonymous with the films that featured them. Undoubtedly, more people learned of Devils Tower National Monument in 1978 from *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* than in the monument's previous 72 years of existence. And no one who has seen *Splash* forgets the Statue of Liberty scene.

Songs and music have their place as well. The familiar Ferde Grofe score of the Grand Canyon Suite has evolved to the present-day sounds of Tangerine Dream and Mannheim Steamroller, who have performed music dedicated to parks. Songs such as "America the Beautiful" and "This Land Is My Land" reflect the values found in parks, and many others, including "The Battle of New Orleans" and any number of John Denver songs, actually name places in parks. Even California's Malibu beaches, which the Beach Boys sang about and which were made famous by Gidget, Frankie, and Annette, are now part of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

The National Park Service as an Icon

As the National Park Service celebrates its 75th anniversary, we recognize that the agency itself has become part of the popular culture. The national park ranger image has established its own niche in Americana. A battery commercial a few years ago featured a ranger in a cave describing the product's virtues in keeping her flashlight lit. A current car commercial shows a ranger admiring a sports car. These are actors, of course, but the uniform has developed an image of such magnitude that it carries with it a sense of trust and dependability.

One need look no further than the ranger's stetson to see a symbol of America. When visitors come to parks, it is usually that flat hat they look for to seek information, help, or a reassuring word. How many times have you seen a park visitor wearing a ranger's hat, posing for the camera? So many visitors ask for hats that rangers joke they could earn a second income selling them. When National Park Service rangers travel to foreign countries on cooperative assignments, it is customary to take a stetson as a gift. As a result, U.S. park ranger hats are now found on display in parks from Thailand to Zambia.

Popular Culture and Park Preservation

In many ways, popular culture is simply an extension of the parks beyond their boundaries. If you decide to decorate your apartment in Iowa with an Eliot Porter photograph of Great Sand Dunes National Monument, are you not enjoying the park? For if the park did not exist, neither could the photograph. Reading this magazine so you can learn more about places like Black Canyon of the Gunnison is just as valid a use of the park as hiking in it. For every visitor who comes to a park, there are many more who will never physically visit. Yet, all Americans benefit from national parks through their extension in the media. Movies, television, paintings, sculptures, songs, books, all reach out to every household in the country with images of parks.

Serious concerns and debates are occurring—rightfully so—on whether we are loving the parks to death. But it's also true that a park with public support is in a better position than one

without such support. Would the debate regarding oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge have the same tone if the area were a national park? Possibly not. And popular culture can take much of the credit for the attitude difference.

Countless areas are administered by other federal agencies as well as states and local governments. Many receive appropriate acclaim and public support. Yet, few have achieved the level of mystique and fervor for protection a unit does once it comes into the National Park System. Suddenly the area appears in *National Geographic* articles; travel writers extol its virtues; and photographers and artists flood in to produce calendars, posters, books, and videotapes. Changing the management or status of a state park is sure to raise a local tumult. But tampering with a national park area raises a national and sometimes international argument. Recent issues regarding management of Yellowstone and threats to the Everglades are examples. Would such debates occur if it were not for the millions of images of Old Faithful on posters and postcards?

Only a few years ago, fierce controversies raged regarding the preservation of Civil War battlefields and threats from development. Recently, Congress passed legislation to expand some Civil War parks and study other sites for possible protection. All this came about as the motion picture *Glory* reached the top of box office charts, reenactment groups participated in battle anniversaries, and PBS presented a series on the Civil War. Coincidence or correlation?

From their inception, national parks have reflected who Americans think they are. Neither Stephen Mather nor Horace Albright had any qualms about enshrining the parks in popular culture; they advocated automobile access, courted magazine writers, and conducted tour junkets for influential supporters. Mather even approved the use of Yellowstone in ads for a tire company. Today, national parks continue to shape—and be shaped—by America's self-image. Through the elements of popular culture, parks have become wholly the property of every individual American. If we want to put pictures of parks on placemats, it's our right; we own them. And few people willingly destroy something they own.

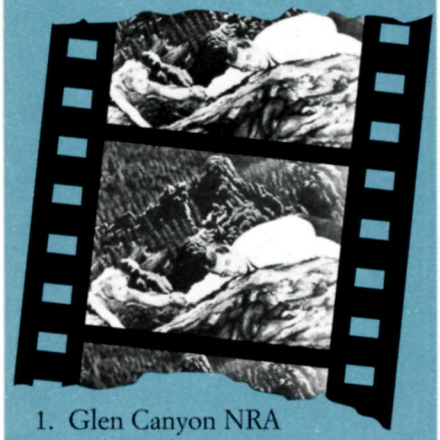
So put on that "Go Climb a Glacier" T-shirt, get a cup of cocoa in your Badlands mug, and sit back and watch a Yogi Bear cartoon. You're contributing to a good cause—helping to preserve your National Park System.

Costa Dillon is chief of interpretation at Santa Monica NRA and creator/author of the Attack of the Killer Tomatoes *movie series.*

Ranger Smith and Yogi Bear are among the park denizens portrayed in cartoons.

POP QUIZ

Although national parks have provided the scenery in many popular movies, most park locations are not as obvious as Devils Tower in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. See if you can match these parks with the films in which they appeared.



SPRINGER/BETTMANN FILM ARCHIVE

1. Glen Canyon NRA
2. Independence NHP
3. Death Valley NM
4. Carlsbad Caverns NP
5. Lake Mead NRA
6. Mount Rushmore NM
7. Grand Teton NP
8. Golden Gate NRA

A. *North by Northwest*
B. *Shane*
C. *Planet of the Apes*
D. *The Return of the Jedi*
E. *Escape From Alcatraz*
F. *Rocky II*
G. *Journey to the Center of the Earth*
H. *Superman*

Answers: 1C, 2F, 3D, 4G, 5H, 6A, 7B, 8E

Diamonds & Rust

NPCA examines the emerging trends that will shape the future of our parks

By Bruce Craig

SEVENTY-FIVE years ago the National Park Service became a reality when a handful of visionaries convinced Congress of the need to set aside fragments of the American landscape into a system of national parks. Historians consider the national park idea—the notion that a government agency should conserve and preserve scenery, wildlife, and aspects of our historic heritage for the enjoyment of future generations—to be one of America's most important contributions to world culture. Since that mid-summer day in 1916 when President Woodrow Wilson signed the Organic Act, thus creating the world's first National Park Service, more than 120 nations have adopted some form of our vision as theirs.

Yet the world of Woodrow Wilson is not ours. Vast areas of the American continent are no longer wilderness. Alaska is no longer perceived as a wasteland, and a majority of Americans no longer reside in rural communities. But neither will our world be that of future generations. According to a recent National Park Service report, should current patterns continue as a result of accelerated changes in the earth's climate, we can expect vast changes to our national landscape and our parks. Destruction of wildlife habitat and species extinction are expected to escalate exponentially as world population grows and consumption increases. And despite the passage of new amendments to the Clean Air Act last year, acid rain, pollution, and toxic and nuclear waste will degrade our environment for decades to come.

As we celebrate the diamond anniversary of the National Park Service, we have reason to be proud of the job done by the master jewelers—the employees of the Park Service—for the care they have given our nation's crown

JEFF FOOTT

DAVID MUENCH

The parks preserve scenery in the Grand Tetons, left, and mountain lions in Montana, above, for generations to come.

jewels. But we also have reason for concern. The 357 jewels are still intact, but the crown is beginning to rust. To ensure that future generations will be able to celebrate another 75 years of the National Park Service, we must recognize and address the emerging trends and real issues that have an impact on our cherished national parks.

Loving Our Parks to Death

Of all the threats to the parks, many believe the greatest is the one posed by visitors. National parks, which preserve unique and delicate ecosystems and fragile historic treasures, are not able to withstand the daily assault of thousands upon thousands of visitors without experiencing change or degradation. The sheer volume of visitation to our parks, by some estimates, is expected to double in 20 years. Today the question is not if, but when, this increased visitation will occur. Also, demand for increased creature comforts and gourmet services is increasing as evidenced by several recent battles among environmentalists, Park Service officials, and concessioners who are ever vigilant to press for more visitor facilities. In response to both trends, NPCA's recent *Visitor Impact Management: A Review of Research* sets out a general framework for evaluating and managing future visitor use in national parks.

Ecosystem Management

Of all the challenges confronting the National Park Service, issues relating to land preservation are politically the most sensitive. Currently there is a backlog of more than $2 billion worth of national park lands that Congress has authorized for purchase, but it has yet to appropriate the necessary funds. But even if all of these lands were acquired, NPCA's 1988 study *The National Park System Plan* documents that an additional 69 percent of all natural and 41 percent of all cultural/historical parks need to be expanded in order to best preserve them for posterity.

But the single most important trend relating to land management is the growing realization that national parks are not ecological islands. Their health, in many instances, depends on the protection of land within an established boundary *and* related land that falls outside the boundary. For many, the best hope to preserve the integrity of the parks is embodied in this concept of ecosystem management.

CONNIE TOOPS

National parks draw millions of visitors each year. The numbers may be more than some of the delicate ecosystems can bear.

Federal land management policy, let alone public law, has yet to fully embrace the trend toward ecosystem management. The Park Service and Forest Service, however, are beginning to experiment with this new management model in the Greater Yellowstone Area of Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho. Environmentalists and government scientists have realized that the only rational way to protect the wildlife and natural resources of Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks and the seven national forests in the area is to manage them as one ecosystem.

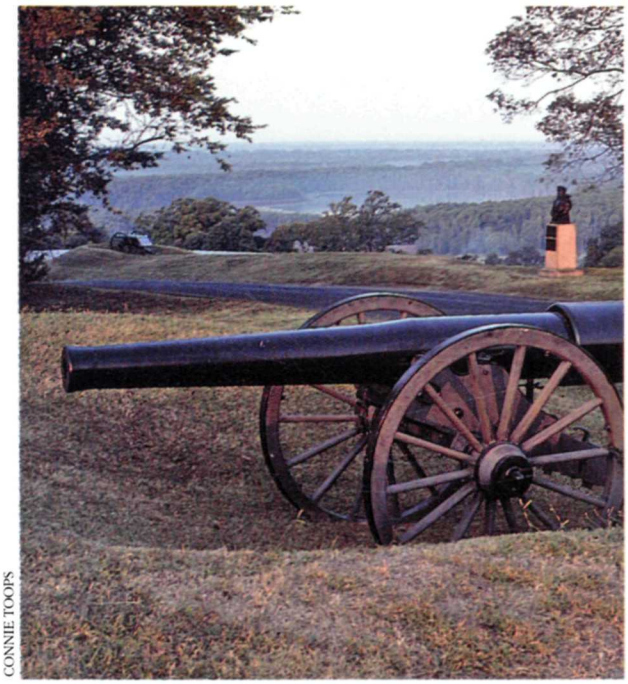
While the trend toward ecosystem management eventually will affect land management practices and policy at perhaps every large natural-area park, cultural resource managers believe that a similar management strategy is necessary for historic areas as well. Most preservationists agree that the question of how best to protect the historic qualities of our Civil War parks must be addressed in the next decade if they are to retain their integrity. Recognizing this, Congress in 1990 established a Civil War Battlefield Commission, which is charged with finding solutions to the growing number of threats to the battlefields. The recommendations of the commission very well may set the direction for historic land preservation for battlefield parks as well as other historic properties for decades to come.

Interagency Coordination

For more than a century, contrasting management philosophies have differentiated the missions of the various agencies. Traditionally, the National Park Service has been viewed as *the* federal land management agency, heir to the preservationist vision of John Muir and Stephen Mather. On the other hand, the Agriculture Department's Forest Service is more closely associated with the multiple-use philosophy of its founder, Gifford Pinchot. Today, these simplistic distinctions no longer universally hold true. In practice, the National Park Service, the Forest Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and even the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) use similar land management strategies.

In the coming decades, the blurring of agencies' philosophical differences and land management strategies will continue. For the Park Service, this trend has broad implications, threatening the notion that parks are places for "preservation" while other federal lands are places for "conservation." For example, hunting, which is permitted in designated areas of national forests and on BLM lands but generally not permitted in national parks unless specifically authorized by Congress, today occurs in one national park; several of the national riverways, seashores, and trails; and all the national preserves administered by the Park Service.

The conflict between recreationists' demands for opening more lands for multiple use and preservationists' call for ecosystem management, which is often hindered by artificial agency boundaries, may serve as the focal point for bureaucratic reorganization of the federal land management agencies to promote greater interagency coordination. NPCA would support such a reorganization provided that the integrity of the National Park System is preserved and enhanced.



CONNIE TOOPS

Preservationists must decide how best to protect the nation's Civil War battlefields.

Park Decay

When Ronald Reagan took office, programs focusing on the environment comprised about three percent of the total federal budget. By the end of the so-called "Reagan Legacy," funding was down to 1.9 percent, and today it stands at about one percent. The National Park Service responded to these massive cuts by putting limited funds into visitor service programs and maintenance of facilities. In all too many instances, money previously reserved for preventative maintenance programs was rechanneled into other program areas, in some cases to keep the doors of visitor centers open or to fill potholes in decaying park roads.

As a consequence of years of neglect, problems associated with infrastructure decay will present significant challenges to already strained NPS budgets in the coming decades. The Park Service estimates a maintenance backlog of more than $2 billion and, soon, still more half-century-old bridges and quarter-century-old water systems will wear out. In 1990, NPCA documented that a Park Service-owned historic structure just two doors down from the Martin Luther King birthplace in Atlanta literally collapsed because of inadequate preservation funds. Also last year, at Independence National Historic Park, park managers had to seek emergency Congressional funding to keep a watertight roof over Independence Hall, where the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were adopted. Sadly, these examples are but the tip of the iceberg.

In order to address problems associated with infrastructure decay, the national park funding crisis must be addressed. Either Congress will raise appropriation levels for the National Park Service, or the Service will be compelled to follow the course set by many state park systems: cut back services and programs, selectively close units, and aggressively seek more fee money and nongovernmental support from the private sector.

Profiteering in the Parks

Private sector involvement in national parks is almost as old as the park system itself. Since the early days of the National Park System, concessioners have enjoyed monopolistic preferential business advantages when operating souvenir, food, lodging, and other visitor service facilities deemed "necessary and appropriate" by the National Park Service. The question at the heart of the concessions controversy is: To what degree should private companies "profit" from the parks? Some critics argue that some concession operations should be run by nonprofit groups for the benefit of the parks' resources and the general public rather than just to line the pockets of private companies' stockholders. Others charge that private commerce, whether or not for profit, has no business in national parks.

Battle lines are drawn and, no doubt, concessions reform cannot be far behind. Senator Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.) and Representative Bruce Vento (D-Minn.), both key chairmen of their respective Senate and House national park committees, have agreed to conduct hearings this congressional session on the concessions issue. There, in the halls of Congress, voices will rise in heated debate in an effort to determine to what degree private industry should serve the public interest in parks.

Leadership Crisis

The National Park Service has enjoyed the highest public approval rating of all government agencies. Because of the professional attitude of NPS personnel and their commitment to protecting the parks, visitors are often surprised to learn that there is disenchantment in the ranger ranks. But across the System, rangers complain of low morale, low pay, and poor housing conditions. Superintendents and managers report difficulties in recruiting and retaining qualified personnel, and all complain about the proliferation of bureaucratic paperwork. In the words of one ranger,

Educating the public about the importance of the national parks is a task carried out by a committed staff of park rangers.

RICHARD DAY

"the procedural tail is wagging the operational dog."

Recent surveys of the work force demonstrate that morale problems are more than Park Service problems; they are directly tied to the big picture of federal service. Job satisfaction generally is higher in the Park Service than in government as a whole, yet it is lower than in the rest of the Interior Department. There simply is too much work, too little support, too little pay, and poor career potential.

For many Service employees, these problems boil down to a crisis in leadership. Management is perceived as not understanding or caring about the mission of the Park Service as much as about the current political climate, and the Service fails to plan for long-term career growth of its employees. In fact, although managers are being trained, leaders are not being developed. And with the projected retirement of up to 40 percent of the existing NPS professional and supervisory work force between the years 2005 and 2010, the organizational structure of the Service may be revolutionized out of necessity.

Park Education

If parks are to survive ecologically and if visitors are to retain some integrity of a "national park experience" in the future, it may be necessary to turn away large numbers of people from the gates of our biggest and most popular national parks during the peak visitor season. As a consequence, the National Park Service will be confronted with an enormous challenge: how will it educate the public about parks that they may not even be able to visit?

The challenge is being met at some but all too few national parks. At Channel Islands National Park and National Marine Sanctuary in California, visitor access to the islands that constitute the park is strictly limited for the protection of the resource. As recommended in NPCA's recent study, *Visitor Impact Management: The Planning Framework*, visitation is not allowed to exceed scientifically established resource and visitor carrying capacities. But to bring the story of the park to a larger audience, a visitor center was established on the mainland. Here, park staff describe the dynamics of island ecosystems and explain to visitors that although they may not be able to visit each and every island, the American people are much richer for having these special areas preserved and protected as units of the National Park System.

According to NPCA's *National Parks: From Vignettes to a Global View*, the goal of management should be to provide a broad educational experience while preserving resources. With this goal in mind, the Service must continue to strive to maintain the highest quality programs in our parks consistent with funding levels. In addition, there is a trend to promote a strong environmental education and "heritage" outreach program. NPCA has responded to this trend by developing a curriculum guide for teachers and interpreters entitled *Biological Diversity Makes a World of Difference*.

With all the threats to our global environment, there is desperate need for a vibrant and vital three-tier environmental education program in the parks. It must focus on the promotion of scientific thinking; teach the public about natural, historical, and cultural processes; and, most important, advance a comprehensive approach to promoting a national land ethic.

Charting a Future Course

Charting a course for the future is no easy task. The leadership at the helm of the National Park Service needs to hear the ideas and views of all Americans who care about our national parks. This is not the time to visualize the future National Park Service as an institution forever committed to doing "more with less." On this, the 75th anniversary of the founding of the National Park Service, we should actively seek to address the challenges of the National Park System with flexibility and foresight. Otherwise, as stated by Director Ridenour, "the future will simply overtake us, forcing us to become the passive victims of a situation we might have shaped or avoided."

Bruce Craig, a former park ranger, is acting director of conservation programs for NPCA.

Anniversary Calendar

A highlight of special events for the 75th anniversary of the National Park Service

On August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the "Organic Act," establishing an official government agency to protect America's "crown jewels"—the national parks. Now, 75 years and some 357 park units later, the National Park Service will celebrate its diamond anniversary with special events highlighting the historical, contemporary, and future roles of the federal organization.

Commemorative events are planned for many parks throughout the year. The following is a partial listing; please note that dates and times are subject to change.

For the Glory

A 300-pound United States flag will be on the road again for venues at key park celebrations. This huge symbol of America will be unfurled for the 50th anniversary of Mammoth Cave National Park on **June 29.** The biggest "Old Glory" ever, the flag is 90 feet by 45 feet and flies from a crane with a 100-ton test rope.

From **July 3-5**, the flag will be on display at Mount Rushmore in South Dakota. Two days later the flag will travel to North Dakota for another viewing at Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Summer Sunday in the Park

All NPS employees and retirees are invited to the national Founders Day Picnic in Washington, DC, on **August 25**. The buffet-style picnic will be south of the Lincoln Memorial reflecting pool.

The evening will be capped off with a reenactment of the signing of the Organic Act followed by fireworks at 9 p.m.

Ranger Museum Dedication

One of the most important anniversary events is the dedication of the National Park Ranger Museum at Yellowstone NP on **August 25**. Housed in the rustic Old Norris Soldier Station, exhibits and audiovisual programs will display the colorful history of Park Service employees. The National Parks and Conservation Association and Conoco donated funds to establish the museum.

In addition, the Imagine Yellowstone Arts Festival will provide a forum for young artists to examine "park art" through dance, music, visual arts, and drama.

Partnerships in Parks

Cooperative strategies are producing parks that can combine privately owned residential and commercial properties and federal, state, and locally held lands. A national conference on Partnerships in Parks and Preservation, **September 9-12** in Albany, New York, will examine this new concept in preservation. Sponsored by NPS, NPCA, and other organizations, the conference will assist in setting the direction and future development of partnership parks throughout America.

International Symposium

To confront increasingly complex and critical issues, NPS will conduct an international symposium in Vail, Colorado, **October 7-10**, to reexamine its institutional capability, structure, programs, and policies.

The symposium, "Protecting Our National Parks: Challenges and Strategies for the 21st Century," will focus on organizational renewal, resource stewardship, park use and enjoyment, and environmental leadership.

Other special 75th anniversary events are listed below.

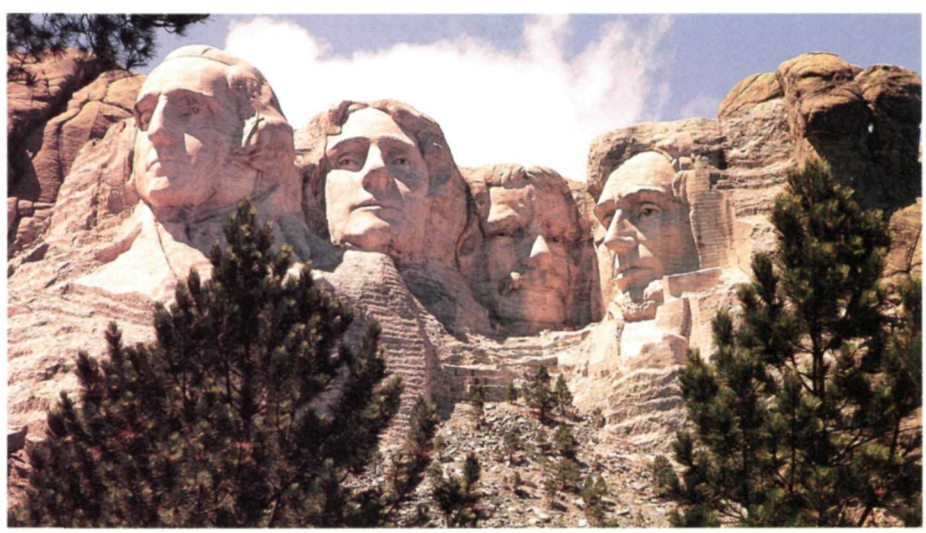
May

May 21
Yellowstone NP, Wyo. Gala celebration for Lake Hotel Centennial.

May 24
Colorado NM, Colo. 80th Anniversary mini-jamboree. Dedication of new audiovisual program.

May 29
Acadia NP, Maine. 3rd Annual Junior Ranger Field Day. Local third-grade students will be sworn in as junior rangers.

The chiseled features of Mount Rushmore are celebrated on July 4.



DAVID MUENCH

June

June 1-30
John Muir NHS, Calif. A retrospective of women in the NPS will be on display.

June 8
Acadia NP, Maine. Rededication ceremonies, tours, and a park headquarters open-house for dual 75th anniversaries.

July

July 4
Chickamauga and Chattanooga NMP, Ga. "Pops in the Park" concert. The program will feature the Chattanooga Symphony playing a series of songs linked to the national parks.

July 4
Fort Davis NHS, Tex. A celebration with the local Chamber of Commerce.

July 4
National Mall, D.C. All-day events and special salute to the men and women of Operation Desert Storm.

July 13-14
Abraham Lincoln Birthplace NHS, Ky. Founders Day celebration.

July 14
George Washington Carver NM, Mo. Carver Day alumni/staff reunion.

July 20
Women's Rights NHP, N.Y. Convention Day celebration, and a parade of women's uniforms.

August

August 4
Pecos NM, N.Mex. Feast Day — a celebration for the local community.

August 24-25
Founders Day Weekend

Call the local parks for more specific times and locations.

Acadia NP, Maine. Sunrise ceremony on Cadillac Mountain — the first national park to greet the sun. Free fee day.

Apostle Islands NL, Wis. Work with concessionaire and Chamber of Commerce for discount boat use.

Bandelier NM, N.Mex. Arts and crafts fair.

Big Hole NB, Mont. Former superintendents and management assistants to present a series of talks about the park.

Big South Fork NR and RA, Tenn. Reduced rates for train ride.

Buffalo NR, Ark. Evening programs, amphitheaters at Buffalo Point and Tyler Bend.

Colorado NM, Colo. Dedication of a commemorative tablet for Stephen Mather, the first director of NPS, followed by a free concert of the Grand Junction Symphony.

Cuyahoga Valley NRA, Ohio. State NPS Day. Events include a historical play.

El Morro NM, N.Mex. Ramah Senior Citizens demonstrating pioneer quilting; Zuni silversmithing and dancing; and Navajo me-

The Mather Society

The Mather Society involves dedicated members and friends of NPCA who, by their annual general contribution of $1,000 or more, continue to ensure the thoughtful stewardship of our national park system through their leadership and activism. We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals whose generous support enables us to continue the fine tradition of Stephen Tyng Mather, the first director of the National Park Service and one of the founders of NPCA.

Harold Allen
Paul W. Allen
Mrs. Russell M. Arundel
Katherine D. Bachman, M.D.
Gordon T. Beaham III
Joan and Bert Berkley
W. E. Bierer
Clarita H. Bright
Eugene D. Brown
Helen W. Buckner
Rev. and Mrs. C. Frederick Buechner
Ronald L. Chaput
Mark D. Clements
Melvin and Ryna Cohen
Norman G. Cohen
Mr. and Mrs. Edward N. Dayton
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Harry A. Dyson
Dan and Lori Efroymson
Anne P. Frame
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In Memory of Harriet C. Graham
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Dr. John Mather Street
Mark and Joan Strobel
Lowell Thomas, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Timmons
Martha Tolman
Stuart S. Wright
Anonymous donors

dicinal plant talk and rug weaving; local Spanish musicians.

Fort Larned NHS, Kans. Dedication of local Santa Fe Trail site.

Fort Pulaski NM, Ga. Civil War encampment at fort.

Gates of the Arctic NP, Alaska. Barbecue and picnic.

Grand Teton NP, Wyo. Dedication of new Jenny Lake visitor complex.

Guadalupe Mountains NP, Tex. Hike to the top of Guadalupe Peak.

JFK Center for the Performing Arts, D.C. A 75th Anniversary concert with the National Symphony Orchestra.

San Francisco Maritime NHP, Calif. Diamond Jubilee Maritime Day. Watch the historic sail of the "Alma."

White Sands NM, N.Mex. Formal dedication of visitor facilities in the Heart of Dunes.

Yellowstone NP, Wyo. NPS birthday celebration and annual employee "Christmas in August" celebration.

September

September 27-28
Carl Sandburg Home NHS, N.C. Carl Sandburg music festival.

October

October 12
Knife River Indian Villages NHS, N.Dak. Visitor center dedication.

October 14
Fort Larned NHS, Kans. 25th Anniversary celebration.

November

November 6-10
Death Valley NM, Calif. 42nd '49ers encampment.

December

All Month
Mammoth Cave NP, Ky. Christmas sing in cave.

For more information, contact the individual parks or call the NPS Office of Inquiries at (202) 208-4747.

NPCA Gift Items and Park Publications

In Care of our wildlife: NPCA's new t-shirt and jewelry collections

JEWELRY is sterling silver. Each $12.50.*
Wolf earrings (pierced only, not returnable), WE101
Wolf keychain, WK102
Elephant bolo tie (leather cord with sterling silver tips), EB101
Elephant pendant (13" sterling chain), EP102
***order now, quantities limited**

T-SHIRTS are U.S.-made, 100% cotton, adult sizes S, M, L, XL. Each $15.25.

Bald eagle, N138. Navy
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Horned puffin, N144. Royal blue
Loon, N145. White
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NPCA LUGGAGE: Made of sturdy high-density cotton canvas.
•**Luggage bag:** Main compartment measures 22"W x 12-1/2"H with padded handles and heavy-duty top zipper. One large outside accessory pocket with top zipper measures 16" x 21". Navy with taupe trim. N131, $45.89. (Note: bag shown is sample only; actual bag will not have design shown).
•**Garment bag:** Main compartment measures 23"W x 42"H x 3"D. Two outside compartments measure 11" x 13" to hold extras. Adjustable strap can be used with Luggage bag. Navy with taupe trim. N132, $59.39.
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NPCA tote bag: 18" x 24" with double-stitched handles, a 7" bottom gusset, top snap closure, and open front pocket. Sturdy cotton canvas. N130, $13.65. Natural w/ navy trim.

NPCA fanny pack: Made of durable water-repellent material. Adjustable strap. Measures 10"W x 5"H x 4"D. N134, $9.85.

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Native American culture in the parks

NPCA North Coast Indian Art tote bag: Made of sturdy cotton canvas, each tote depicts a collection of traditionalTlingit sculpture displayed in beautiful colors using puff printing. N137, $17.95. Natural or black.

NPCA North Coast Indian Art t-shirt: 100% cotton, same design as tote bag. N136, $15.95. Black.

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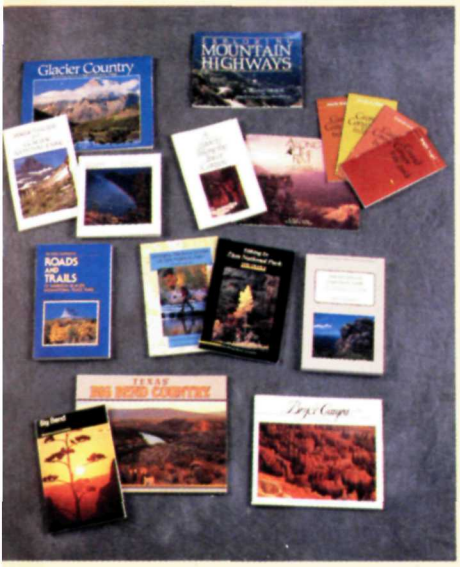
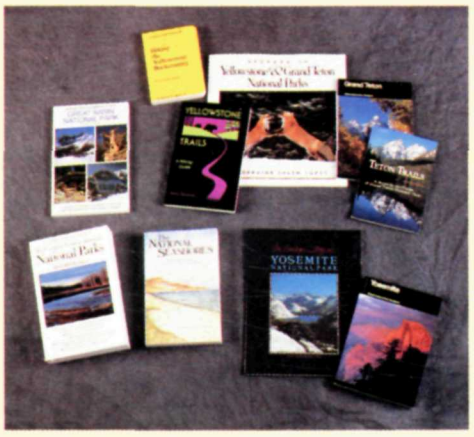
•**Land of the Cliff Dwellers,** D198, $10.95.
•**Pecos–Gateway to Pueblos & Plains,** D145, $19.95.
•**Those Who Came Before: Southwestern Archaeology in the National Park System,** D126, $12.95.
•**Voices in the Canyon**, D127, $9.95.

Guidebooks and Maps to the Great Outdoors





GLACIER
- **Glacier Country: Montana's Glacier National Park**, C163, $16.15.
- **Hiker's Guide to Glacier National Park**, C122, $10.75.
- **Many Storied Mountains: The Life of Glacier National Park: Official National Park Handbook**, C123, $10.75.
- **Roads and Trails of Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park**, C124, $10.75.

SEQUOIA

Exploring Mountain Highways: A Road Guide to Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, B147, $5.15.

SHENANDOAH

Shenandoah National Park: An Interpretive Guide, G126, $16.15.

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Hiking & Climbing in Great Basin National Park, B167, $11.65.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDES
- **The Complete Guide to America's National Parks: 1990-91 Edition**, W115, $11.95
- **The National Seashores: Complete Guide to America's Scenic Coastal Parks**, W102, $9.95.

GRAND CANYON
- **A Guide to Hiking the Inner Canyon**, B118, $5.15.
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Yosemite National Park: Official National Park Handbook, F123, $7.15.

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Bryce Canyon Auto & Hiking Guide, C104, $5.15.

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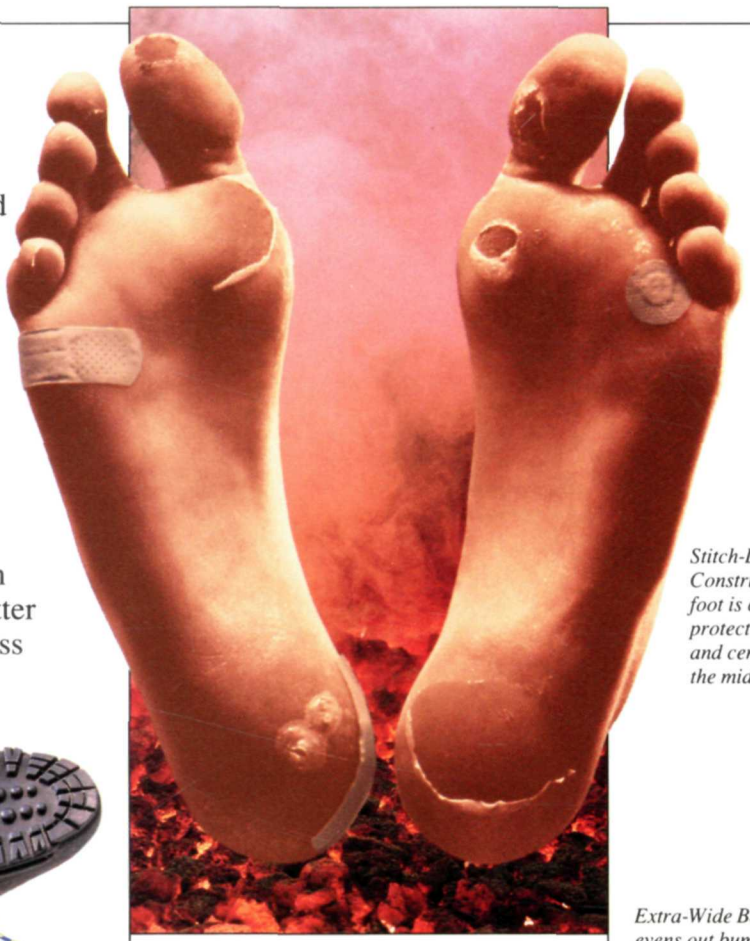

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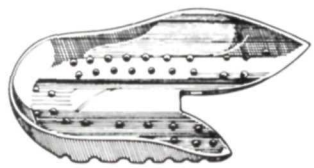

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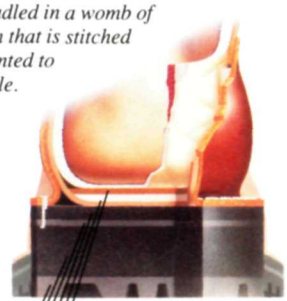

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Under Siege

WORKS ON THE LEGACY of our national parks and other public lands enrich this year—the 75th anniversary of the National Park Service and the 100th anniversary of the first national forest reserve.

The contributions emerge as the parks are increasingly beset by environmental ills, resource conflicts, and social stresses. For its anniversary, the Park Service offers a book that highlights the men and women who played key roles in forming the federal agency.

A more somber work focuses on the vast, wild canyon country of southern Utah. In *Islands Under Siege: National Parks and the Politics of External Threats,* John C. Freemuth, political science professor at Boise State University, has polished his doctoral dissertation into a concise book. This well-written, perceptive work is notable for its insights into the shifting, high-stakes contests in which irreversible damage to parks is often only a political appointee away. Freemuth uses two case studies to demonstrate threats to the parks from activities beyond their boundaries. The subjects—tar sands (energy) development and visibility impairment—are unfortunate symptoms of a system viewed as "islands surrounded by a rising tide of civilization."

The tar sands episode involved the potential development of Utah's Orange Cliffs area, which is within Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (GCNRA) and adjacent to Canyonlands National Park. Established in 1972, GCNRA included the Orange Cliffs with the stipulation that energy development would occur there only if the two parks were not adversely affected. The Park Service sided with conservationists against development interests and the Bureau of Land Management, which retained authority over issuing hydrocarbon leases in GCNRA. In 1986, after years of debate, Secretary of the Interior Donald Hodel effectively punted. He declined to issue new leases but failed to permanently protect the park units.

In his second example, Freemuth again exposes the power wielded by the "administrative presidency"—players besides agency officials—in implementing laws. In this case, the Department of the Interior and Environmental Protection Agency fail to clean up sources affecting visibility. Freemuth points out that 14 years after visibility amendments became law, not one polluter has been forced to comply with the provisions provided in the Clean Air Act amendments of 1977.

Political coalitions, Freemuth says, are a must to ensure the success of park protection legislation. Perhaps his most challenging idea, though treated lightly here, is the prospect of the NPS applying its skills to areas outside the parks.

Freemuth suggests that effective coordination mechanisms are a must, science and natural resource professionals are vital, and a strong research effort is crucial to resolving external threats and succeeding in ecosystem management.

Preserving Our Past

NPS has a role to play in leading America and the world toward ecological sustainability, and the Service's 75th anniversary is clearly an opportunity for progress. To date, NPS's contribution during 1991 is a brief but warm and tidy retrospective on the first 75 years of the federal agency. Editor William Sontag has fashioned *The First 75 Years: Preserving Our Past for the Future,* a smooth combination of NPS historian Barry Mackintosh's narrative with 36 biographical vignettes. The book includes not only the familiar cast of heroes and dynamic personalities—Muir, Mather, Albright—but also some of the "forgotten giants": Harry Yount, the first park "ranger"; Capt. Charles Young of the 9th Cavalry, the son of former slaves who became the first black superintendent of a national park; Herma Albertson Baggley, the first permanent female park naturalist in Wyoming; Isabelle Story, Albright's talented secretary, a crucial publicist and a member of the team in the Park Service's formative years; Josh Barkin, who influenced and inspired hundreds of NPS interpreters; and Liz Titus, founder of the Student Conservation Association.

To its credit, NPS even breaks a little ground by acknowledging its political allies and influences, among them the late Rep. Phillip Burton of California. As chairman of the House subcommittee on national parks, Burton set an unprecedented record for establishing and protecting parks, wilderness areas, trails, and wild and scenic rivers.

Burton's National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 has been called one of the most sweeping pieces of environmental legislation ever to pass Congress.

In celebrating its history, the agency somewhat predictably has chosen to look more backward than forward. One would hope that at future anniversaries, some of the new NPS heroes will be those who translate Freemuth's lessons into more effective strategies—ones that will keep faith with nature and with a commitment to preserve our wilderness heritage.

Islands Under Siege: National Parks and the Politics of External Threats, by John C. Freemuth; 186 pages; published by the University Press of Kansas, available in cloth; $25. *The First 75 Years: Preserving Our Past for the Future,* edited by William Sontag; 65 pages; published by Eastern National Park and Monument Association; $5.95.

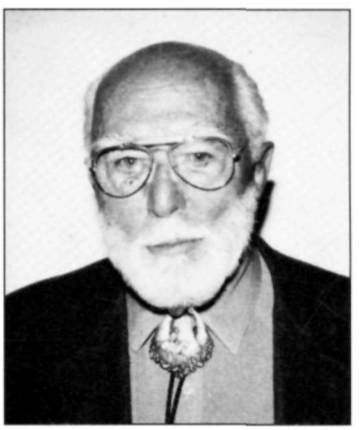
—Dave Simon, NPCA's natural resources program manager

TRIBUTE TO EXCELLENCE

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award

Presented by NPCA and the Faultless Starch/Bon Ami Co., this award recognizes outstanding efforts resulting in protection of a unit or a proposed unit of the National Park System. The award is named in honor of Marjory Stoneman Douglas, who devoted many years to preserving the fragile ecosystem of the Florida Everglades.

FRANK E. MASLAND, JR. , the 1990 recipient, has been a leader in preserving national and state parklands for more than 50 years. His tireless efforts helped establish many parks, including Gulf Islands, Padre Island, Canyonlands, and the Everglades, as units in the National Park System.

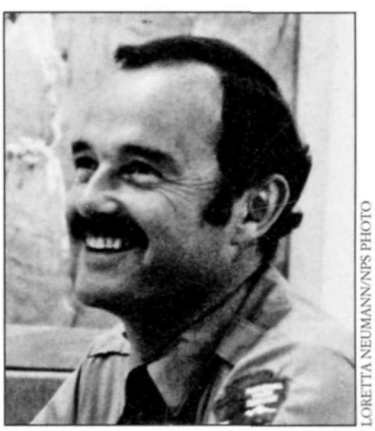


Frank E. Masland, Jr.

Stephen Tyng Mather Award

The Stephen Tyng Mather Award, named for the first director of the National Park Service, is presented by NPCA and the Faultless Starch/Bon Ami Co. in recognition of a Park Service employee who has risked his or her job or career for the principles and practices of good stewardship.

The 1990 recipient is **BOYD EVISON**, regional director of the National Park Service in Alaska. As the Exxon Valdez oil spill of 1989 threatened Alaska's fragile coastline, he took immediate action to minimize damage despite political pressures to avoid involvement.



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Boyd Evison

The Faultless Starch/Bon Ami Company wishes to congratulate the recipients of these awards and thank them for the excellent contribution they have made to the protection of our environment.

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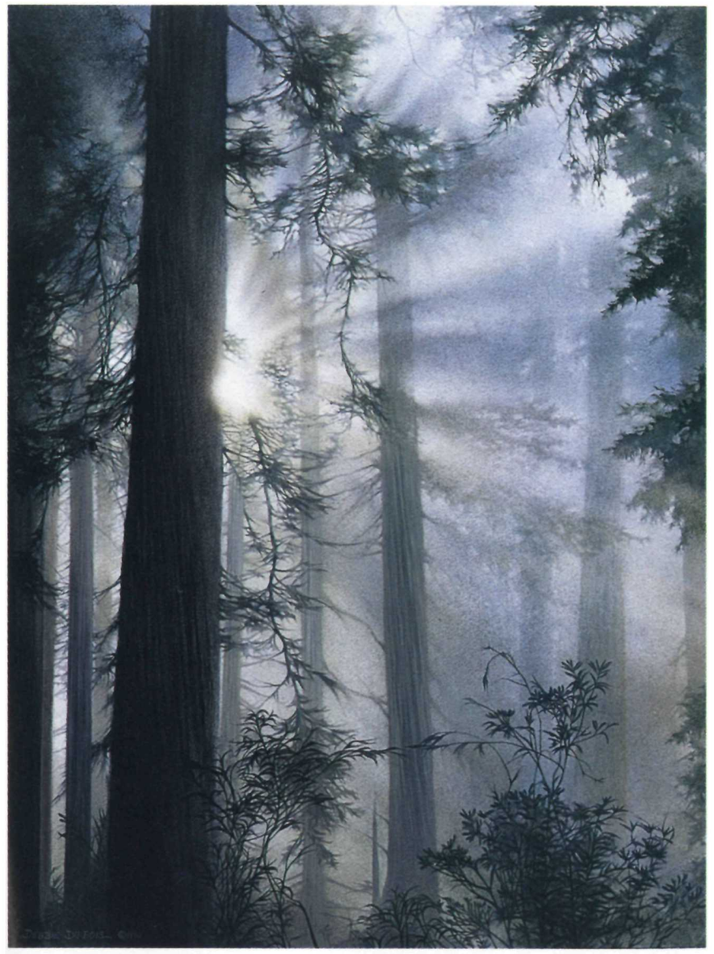
Arts for the Parks

INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT of pioneer American landscape artists like Thomas Moran, Carl Rungius, and Albert Bierstadt, the Arts for the Parks program presents the beauty and grandeur of our parks as portrayed by some of today's leading artists. The program, sponsored by the National Park Academy for the Arts, was designed to celebrate American and Canadian artists, to enhance public awareness of the national parks, and to contribute to programs benefiting the National Park System. It is an annual competition that honors the artists of the top 100 paintings that have best captured the spirit of our National Park System.

Even before the establishment of national parks, America's greatest artists traveled into these untouched territories, preserving their beauty and aesthetic qualities on paper and canvas. Finding inspiration in wonders both large and small, today's artists continue this tradition through the Arts for the Parks program. Artist Cheyenne McAfee, for instance, was "inspired by the spirit and magic that reside in Bandelier—the feeling that unusual things could happen, including a lizard that catches shooting stars."

This year the fifth annual competition will complement the 75th anniversary of the National Park Service. The program increases our personal knowledge of national parks and enhances public awareness of the artistic beauty of these sites. It also reminds us of the necessary stewardship it takes to maintain these pristine qualities.

Highlighted here are four winners from the 4th annual competition. A catalog reproducing in color all 100 winners from the 1990 competition is available from the National Park Academy of the Arts. For the catalog or information about entering the competition, contact Arts for the Parks, P.O. Box 1158, Jackson Hole, WY 83001; (307) 733-ARTS(2787).



Clockwise from left: An Inspiration for Earth Day, Redwood National Park, mixed media, by Debbie DuBois; Desert Music, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, oil, by Jay J. Johnson; Southern Sunset, Cabrillo National Monument, mixed media, by Arillyn Moran-Lawrence; Lizard Leaps for a Shooting Star, Bandelier National Monument, gouache, by Cheyenne McAfee.

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