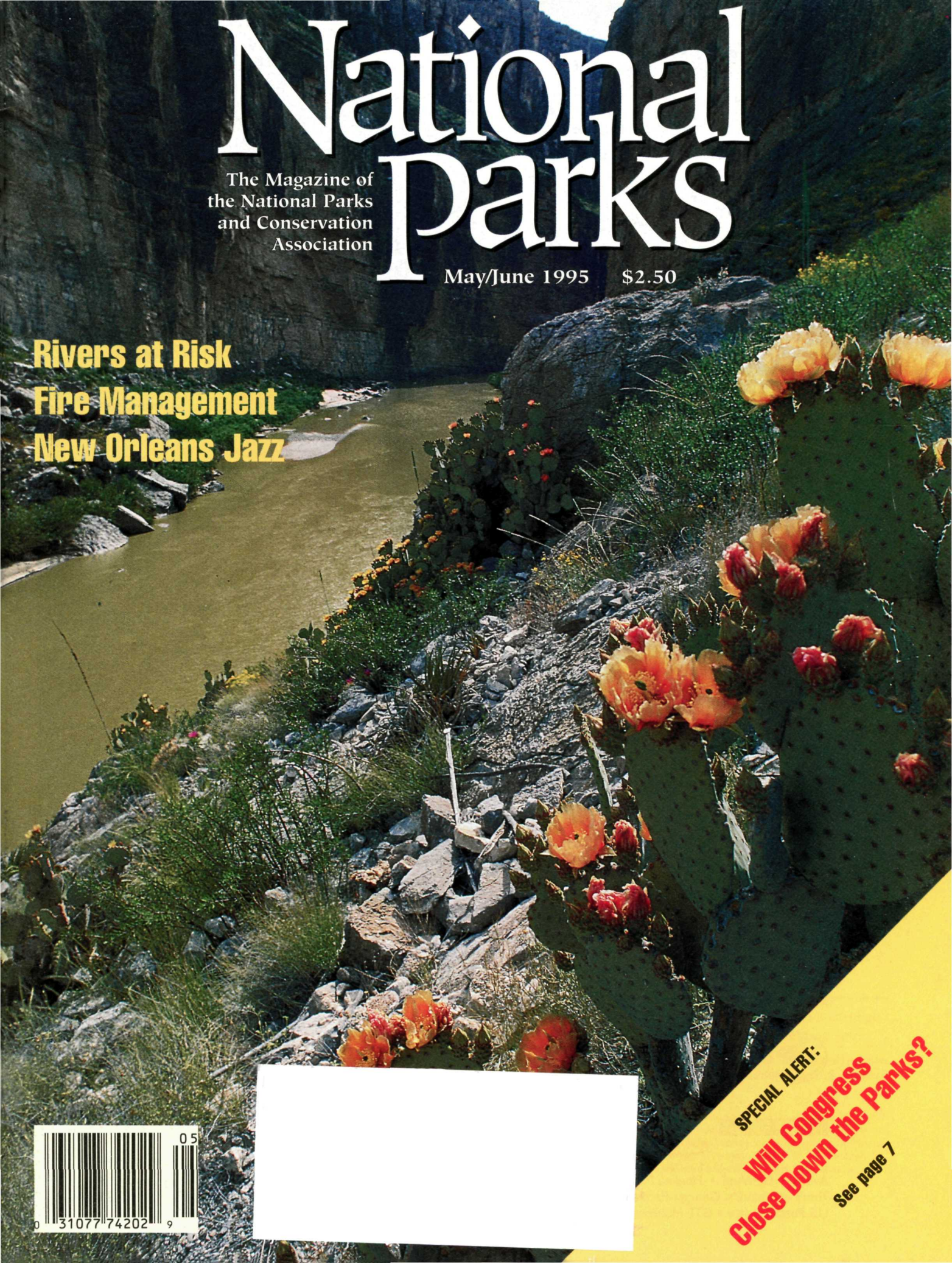

National Parks

The Magazine of the National Parks and Conservation Association

May/June 1995 $2.50

Rivers at Risk
Fire Management
New Orleans Jazz

SPECIAL ALERT:

Will Congress Close Down the Parks?

See page 7

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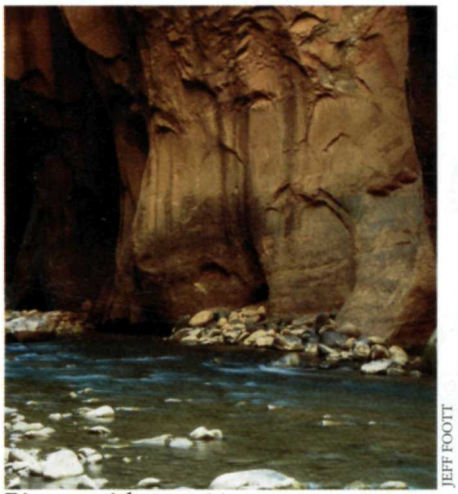

JEFF FOOTT

Rivers at risk, page 26

EDITOR'S NOTE

In this issue we look at some of America's most endangered rivers, especially those that flow through national parks. We examine the National Park Service's fire management policy and explore a new park unit, the New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park. But the most urgent story in this issue is about H.R. 260, the National Park System Reform Act. NPCA made every effort to work with Congress to craft the legislation so that it would promote a thoughtful review of the National Park System. However, NPCA is now mobilizing a nationwide grassroots campaign to defeat H.R. 260. Please turn to the News story on page 10 and the special alert on page 7 to find out how you can help stop the war on America's national parks.

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Editor: Sue E. Dodge
Associate Editor: Linda M. Rancourt
News Editor: Kim A. O'Connell
Editorial Assistant: M. Katherine Heinrich
Design Consultant: Icehouse Graphics

Nan Sincero, Advertising Manager
Gabrielle Kassel, Advertising Coordinator

National Parks and Conservation Association
1776 Mass. Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036
(202) 223-6722
natparks@aol.com

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National Parks

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Vol. 69, No. 5-6
May/June 1995
Paul C. Pritchard, Publisher

OUTLOOK

FEATURES

DEPARTMENTS

COVER: *The Rio Grande, by John Elk III. The 2,000-mile river, which flows through Big Bend National Park in Texas, is among the country's most endangered rivers.*

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

Life memberships are $1,000. Annual memberships: $250 Guarantor, $100 Supporter, $50 Defender, $35 Contributor, $25 Active, $22 Library, and $18 Student. Of membership dues, $3 covers a one-year subscription to *National Parks.* Dues and donations are deductible from federal taxable incomes; gifts and bequests are deductible for federal gift and estate tax purposes. Mail membership dues, contributions, and correspondence to NPCA, 1776 Mass. Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036. When changing address, please allow six weeks' advance notice and send address label from your latest issue plus your new address.

Forethought

DUPONT PHOTOGRAPHERS

MORE THAN 25 centuries ago, the Chinese philosopher and general Sun Tzu said: "If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle."

NPCA is planning in an age of change, a time when planning is difficult. The new role of government, a different order in Congress, the greater role of charities, the new world order, the resurgence of the family, the rights of the individual, the changing diversity of our population—all of these things are factors that will dramatically influence our national parks in the 21st century.

This year, to assure ourselves that we are carefully considering the viewpoints of all of our members on issues and on the future direction of NPCA, we have completed a magazine survey, telephone surveys, and some small group meetings around the country.

On the magazine survey alone, we heard from more than 40,000 of you and were gratified to see how many of you took the time to write in additional comments emphasizing support for NPCA and the parks.

We also recently completed a public opinion survey in conjunction with Colorado State University. The results will be released on May 18—in conjunction with NPCA's 76th anniversary on May 19. All of this information is helping us to better know ourselves and the environment in which we "do battle" for the parks.

Among other things, you told us that we should remain firmly focused on the national parks, that you want parks preserved to be enjoyed by future generations, and that we need to do more to educate children as well as others about the value of the parks. That kind of focus and commitment will be all-important in the battles we will be facing, as Congress moves to cut budgets and reduce federal land holdings (see Forum, page 24).

Planning is difficult to do, especially with so many other things changing form and function—all must be considered. Without knowing ourselves and without understanding the challenges we face, we will surely fail. It is our hope that we will be as successful in the next 75 years as we have been during the past 75 years in ensuring the preservation of the world's finest National Park System.

But as one member succinctly wrote in the recent *National Parks* magazine survey, the one thing we must (and will) do is "fight like a tiger for the national parks."

Paul C. Pritchard

President, NATIONAL PARKS AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

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The map to the wolves hidden in the woods

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LETTERS

Views on Mount Rushmore

Please do not waste any more of your time or money trying to protect Mount Rushmore [News, "Mount Rushmore Plan Found Deficient," September/October 1994]. It is already ruined and has been since the day it was completed. This "tribute to democracy and freedom" is nothing more than a desecration of the Black Hills and a slap in the face to the Lakota people. If you must do something for Mount Rushmore, I suggest sandblasting it until it resembles the mountain it used to be.

Pete Aniello
St. Louis, MO

Having just been to Mount Rushmore with my family, I couldn't be any more disenchanted with the National Park Service. The so-called Greco-Roman entrance is *awful*. The area used to be wooded and beautiful. After seeing the entrance and the poor condition of the presidents' faces, I had to wonder where NPS' priorities lie!

I do agree that more facilities such as rest rooms are needed, but a new amphitheater and concession building are not. I am very concerned about the real priority—the faces of the four presidents. George Washington's and Abraham Lincoln's faces are very cracked; the others have visible scars. What has happened to the most beautiful of national memorials?

Sue Bryhan
Madison, WI

Snow Job

In the January/February 1995 issue of *National Parks*, we were amazed to see photographs of snowmobilers challenging bison and lining up 40 deep for gas ["Snowed Under"]. We find the increasing arrogance of the snowmobile "constituency" both offensive and frightening. Snowmobiling is not a right, nor is it a sport. Snowmobiles, like ATVs and dirt bikes, are nothing more than motorized vehicles for couch potatoes; they have no place in any wilderness.

Parks are maintained with our tax dollars. The rest of us should vigorously protest this selfish, short-sighted despoiling of parks, which were established to protect and preserve our nation's magnificent wilderness and wildlife. We would be delighted to see these vehicles banned and the silence of winter restored to Yellowstone.

Peter F. Griffith
Barbara H. Bruce
Pittsburgh, PA

Todd Wilkinson's "propaganda" regarding winter use of Yellowstone National Park was laced with the very sorts of misleading statements and inaccuracies you whine about in "Wise Use Watch" [News, January/February 1995]. The truth is those of us who live in and around our first national park love it far more than you and your readers could imagine. None of us would intentionally jeopardize Yellowstone, and I deeply resent Wilkinson's reckless suggestion that we are not good stewards of this land.

The snowmobile industry has joined with the Park Service, the Forest Service, and the local chamber of commerce to actively work toward solving the issues of noise and emissions. We recognize that there is room for improvement. As good business people, we also know that tourism, like any other industry, must rely upon a quality product. We are pleased to report that each year more Americans are able to see and appreciate their national park in winter thanks to the advent of the snowmobile. A few people might mourn the loss of solitude, but let's be realistic.

Distances within Yellowstone make skiing or snowshoeing to see the sights difficult for the average person. Most of us who are unable to ski cross-country for 60 miles a day are delighted to catch a glimpse of the grandeur aboard a snowmobile. It is extremely arrogant to tell the thousands of snowmobile visitors who flock here each winter that their experience is somehow *inappropriate* because a few unhappy letters were received at park headquarters.

Viki B. Eggers
West Yellowstone, MT

The function of Yellowstone National Park is clearly stated at its north entrance, engraved in the Theodore Roosevelt Arch. It reads, "For the benefit and enjoyment of the people." After reading "Snowed Under," it seems to me that some people have taken this statement too far.

Yellowstone was the first national park established so that people could observe and enjoy the area in its natural state with as few alterations as possible. Ski resorts and snow parks are plentiful. The national parks should not be littered with the machinery, pollution, and crowding that ski resorts bring, nor should they be mazed with snowmobile trails and left with a haze of exhaust fumes.

We need to become more aware of why our national parks were established. They *are* for the benefit and enjoyment of the people and we should do our best to preserve them

Hallie L. Klipper
Tacoma, WA

Santa Rosa Island

I read with interest the piece on Santa Rosa Island in the January/February 1995 issue [News, "Channel Islands Cattle Harm Native Vegetation"]. I think your readers deserve a broader picture of the natural and human history of the Channel Islands.

Livestock, in the form of sheep and cattle, have been run on Santa Rosa Island since the middle of the 19th century. When John Vickers and Walter Vail bought Santa Rosa Island in 1902, they rested the island for a few years in order to restore the vegetation. The philosophy of management on Santa Rosa Island has been that every blade of grass left is insurance for next year. Apparently, this resulted in an island that was

SPECIAL ALERT
TO ALL NPCA MEMBERS:

Will Congress Close Down the Parks?

America's parks are under siege again. You are already aware that parks are threatened by air and water pollution, overcrowding, and encroaching development. But now the National Park System is facing a new and potentially more severe threat, perhaps the greatest since its creation in 1916: systematic closure of a number of park units around the country for phony budget reasons.

The House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands approved legislation known as the National Park System Reform Act (H.R. 260). Please turn to page 10 for more information on the bill.

Supporters of this bill believe America has too many parks and that eliminating some units would save federal dollars. They propose a "review" of the National Park System modeled on the base closures approach used by the Department of Defense. This is shortsighted and inappropriate. While changing national security needs may dictate fewer military bases, our increasingly urban society needs parks more than ever. The savings that might be achieved by closing down national parks are minimal compared to the intrinsic value Americans place on them.

NPCA has always supported a thoughtful look at the National Park System, but this bill creates a one-way street for special interests to advance their anti-park agendas. Representing more than 450,000 concerned members, NPCA has testified at congressional hearings; convened distinguished park experts and historians to discuss the bill; and worked with members of Congress and their staffs. NPCA sought a bill that would promote an objective and reasonable approach to protecting the National Park System for present and future generations. But H.R. 260 is not that bill.

At the center of NPCA's objections is a controversial proposal to create a relatively benign-sounding independent National Park "Review" Commission. Its sole mission would be to identify national parks for possible closure. NPCA believes that such a review commission is ill-conceived, costly, and unnecessary. Congress already has the authority to deauthorize units of the National Park System. Last year it removed the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts from the park system without controversy. Now, instead of using its existing authority to eliminate "unworthy" units, Congress wants to entrust the future of the parks to a politically appointed commission. It's time Congress takes responsibility for its actions against our national parks!

NPCA also strongly opposes the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) exemption in this bill. NEPA would ensure your right to participate in the park review process and would make certain that all relevant alternatives and consequences were explored before a decision is made to remove or transfer any of the 368 parks.

NPCA believes an objective of the bill is to delete parks with low visitation. This would be a direct threat to most of the national parks in Alaska as well as many smaller cultural and historical parks.

Another target of this bill is national parks in or near cities. These areas offer many Americans their only opportunity to visit a national park. We cannot afford to lose parks such as Golden Gate in California, Cuyahoga Valley in Ohio, and Chattahoochee River in Georgia.

Stop the War on National Parks!

Write or call your members of Congress and urge them to **vote against H.R. 260, the National Park System Reform Act**. Make the following points:

▲ This bill adds an unnecessary bureaucratic process because Congress already has the authority to remove areas that do not meet national park standards. A base closure approach is the wrong model for national parks.

▲ The legislation exempts the review process from NEPA. This exemption would not allow for full public participation or full analysis of the consequences of closing national parks.

▲ The bill is designed to eliminate parks from the system, especially those in or near cities or with low visitation. Tell your member of Congress that you value *all* of the national parks.

The addresses are:
Sen._____
U. S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Rep._____
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Congress switchboard: (202) 224-3121.

To join NPCA's grassroots campaign against H.R. 260, write to NPCA, Park Activist Network, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036. Send copies of all letters to the same address. NPCA will keep you informed about H.R. 260 on its World Wide Web page (http://www.npca.com/pub/npca/).

considered healthy enough for the Park Service to allow the Vail & Vickers Company to continue ranching for 25 years. If the current use of Santa Rosa Island is so detrimental, what is the source for baseline data on an activity that extends back for more than 150 years? The readers of *National Parks* also might be interested in what has happened on nearby Santa Cruz Island, where exotic plant species have taken over since the removal of sheep and cattle. They might also be interested to know that the data on snowy plovers indicate that Santa Rosa Island is one of the few places where the species is not only holding its own, but increasing.

Anyone familiar with the geomorphology of Santa Rosa Island is aware that the island is and always has been changing at a more significant rate than most of the mainland. So, perhaps Santa Rosa Island can be viewed as an ongoing, controlled demonstration of ranching as a form of land management, where people accept the responsibility for their original disturbance and continue a dynamic interaction with nature.

Tim Crawford
Bozeman, MT

The writer is the great-grandson of John Vickers.

—the Editors

Park Service Downsizing

Today I found out that I would lose my new job. I am a park ranger for the National Park Service: not a park cop, but one of the original breed of rangers, who interpret our nation's heritage for future generations. I had earned two degrees and worked many menial jobs before I finally got the opportunity to start my career last November. I waited through two years of a hiring freeze. I waited for the environment to become an important issue, so that people like myself could put our talents to use and help preserve it. Now Congress claims to speak for the American people by reducing government. I do not believe this is what the people wanted.

Americans do not have a cultural heritage, per se, to cling to. We are a relatively young country made up of many cultures. What, then, do we have to look back on and our children to look forward to? We have this land, perhaps our greatest asset. Our national parks preserve our magnificent lands as a heritage for our people. More than 4,000 Park Service jobs will be lost in the effort to reduce government. Visitor centers will be lost. Education about parks will dwindle, as will the parks' value.

Margaret Bemis Klein
Henderson, NV

Write: Letters, NPCA, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036. Letters may be sent via e-mail to editorNP@aol.com. Or call 1-900-835-6344. Callers will be charged 89 cents a minute. Instructions will be given at time of call. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

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N • P • C • A
NEWS

Congress Takes Aim at National Parks

A national park reform bill now before Congress poses "the greatest threat to the National Park System since it was established in 1916," says NPCA President Paul C. Pritchard.

Widely referred to as the "park closure bill," the National Park System Reform Act, which was approved with some amendments March 29 by the House subcommittee on national parks, calls for a management review of the park system and reforms the process by which areas are considered for addition. Sponsored by Rep. Joel Hefley (R-Colo.), the bill establishes a process for recommending which national park units should be removed from the system. To do this, Congress is exploring the creation of a park closure commission similar to the base closure commission.

Supporters of the park closure approach say that the park system contains too many parks and needs to be scaled back to protect "legitimate" areas. "The question is not whether to close some parks but how to accomplish this goal," stated Rep. Jim Hansen (R-Colo.), chair of the House subcommittee on national parks, in a letter to his constituents. "It is imperative that...we act soon in order to save our park system."

Seeing an opportunity for a meaningful evaluation of the park system, NPCA unsuccessfully attempted to work with the bill's sponsors to establish a balanced and fair review process that would protect the integrity of the parks. Because the bill remains heavily focused on park closures, however, NPCA strongly opposes this legislation.

"We believe this bill is clearly biased toward closing national parks," Pritchard said. "Rather than protecting parks, this bill provides special interests with a one-way street toward advancing their own anti-park agendas."

NPCA objects to a proposal by Hefley and Hansen to give an independent review commission a key role in determining which parks to close. "The problem with the commission's role is that it replaces the judgment and expertise of the National Park Service," Pritchard said. "The need for this elaborate review process is questionable since Congress and NPS already possess the authority to transfer 'unworthy' parks."

NPCA also criticizes the bill for exempting the park system review process from the analysis required by the National Environmental Policy Act. This exemption would not allow for full public participation in the process or for a thorough study of the environmental consequences of closing selected parks.

In addition, the criteria for determining whether a park should be removed are vague and unsound, NPCA says. NPCA believes the criteria place certain parks in jeopardy, including most of the Alaska parks, smaller cultural sites, and national recreation areas such as Golden Gate in California and Chattahoochee River in Georgia.

Anti-park sentiment is also evident in a Virginia parks bill introduced by Rep. Thomas J. Bliley (R-Va.) that was approved in March by the House subcommittee on national parks. The bill shrinks the boundaries of Shenandoah National Park and Richmond National Battlefield Park to lands already in federal ownership because, as Bliley said recently, the parks "could expand without a fair consideration of

DEMBINSKY/TERRY DONNELLY

Congress is considering putting limits on the National Park System, including Shenandoah National Park in Virginia, shown above.

the local communities' concerns." Congress has already given NPS authorization to acquire nearby related areas, but only through donation.

NPCA believes that Bliley's bill would hamper resource protection at Shenandoah and Richmond. Currently, the Park Service is undertaking related land studies of both parks to determine what acreage they should ultimately encompass. These are management studies to determine which natural and cultural resources merit inclusion in the two parks. Bliley's bill would preempt these comprehensive studies.

"This bill undermines everything that NPS is trying to do in the right way," said Eileen Woodford, NPCA Northeast regional director. "To subvert that is to obstruct a management effort that should happen in other parks."

The General Accounting Office (GAO) is also undertaking a review of the park system. In March, GAO gave Congress a progress report on its study, due out in June. The study will examine 12 parks that GAO deems to have problems typical of those found in the park system. The parks being studied include Shenandoah, Denali National Park in Alaska, and Statue of Liberty National Monument in New York. NPCA says the progress report may have fueled the park closure agenda.

GAO will likely recommend that Congress find ways to generate more revenue within parks. NPCA says that Congress has overlooked an ideal way to generate revenue for parks—reforming the park concessions policy.

Concessions reform legislation has been reintroduced in both houses of Congress by Sen. Robert Bennett (R-Utah) and Rep. Jan Meyers (R-Kans.). Both houses passed similar legislation last year but did not resolve differences on the bill before Congress adjourned. NPCA has estimated that reform could generate up to $60 million annually for parks, once fully implemented. Neither Hansen nor Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska), chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, appears interested in passing last year's bill.

✍ *To help protect the national parks from the park closure bill, see page 7.*

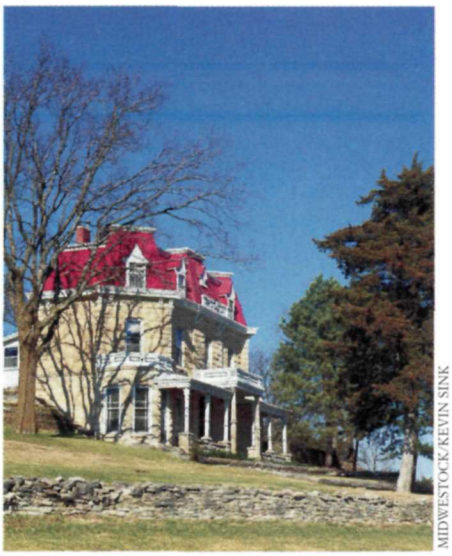
Tallgrass Prairie Bill Introduced in Congress

A bill to establish a portion of the once vast tallgrass prairie as a unit of the National Park System has been reintroduced in Congress.

Sponsored in both houses by members of the Kansas congressional delegation—Sens. Nancy Kassebaum (R) and Robert Dole (R) and Reps. Pat Roberts (R) and Jan Meyers (R), this legislation would create the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in the Flint Hills of Kansas. A nearly identical bill was introduced late in the last session of Congress but was not considered by the Senate because of time constraints. At the core of the new preserve would be the historic Z Bar Ranch, which was purchased last year in a cooperative effort between the National Park Trust and NPCA. The Trust now owns the 10,894-acre ranch.

Although Congress has expressed reluctance about considering new parks, many people agree that the tallgrass prairie is the most significant missing element of the National Park System. Even former National Park Service director Jim Ridenour, an advocate of reining in the park system, has said that tallgrass prairie is worthy of inclusion.

Of the 400,000 square miles of tallgrass prairie that once covered the North American continent, less than 1 percent remains, primarily in the Flint Hills. The ranch also includes a 19th-century mansion, a stone barn, and a one-room schoolhouse that preserve the area's pioneer and ranching history.



MIDWESTOCK/KEVIN SINK

The Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve would protect the historic Z Bar mansion.

The legislation would allow the federal government to acquire no more than 180 acres at the core of the Z Bar Ranch, including the historic buildings and sufficient land for parking and visitor services. The Trust is considering donating this central acreage to the Park Service. Although the Trust would retain ownership of the remainder of the tract, NPS would be charged with managing and interpreting the site.

NEWSUPDATE

▲ **Cougars released.** In early April, two cougars were released in south Florida as part of an interbreeding program to boost the genetic vitality of the endangered Florida panther. At press time, six more of the cougars, which were flown from Texas with help from a $12,000 gift from NPCA, were to be released soon. "The release of these cougars is one of the most important steps to save the Florida panther," said NPCA President Paul C. Pritchard.

▲ **Lodge reopens.** After years of planning, the historic lodge at Crater Lake National Park in Oregon will reopen May 20. Built in 1915, and thought to be one of the oldest original structures within a national park, Crater Lake Lodge was deteriorating. The National Park Service supported a study to determine whether to demolish the lodge or to renovate it. Bending to preservationists and public sentiment, NPS began rehabilitating the lodge in 1991.

The bill also establishes an advisory committee to counsel the secretary of the interior and the NPS director. This committee would consist of 13 members, including representatives of the Trust, local ranchers or other landowners, conservation groups, and others.

✍ *Write to your senators (U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510) and to your representative (U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515), urging them to cosponsor legislation to establish the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve. If you would like to help the effort to create the new park, write to NPCA, Park Activist Network, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036.*

Burr Trail Decision Protects Capitol Reef

For the first time, the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have issued a joint decision document outlining allowable future improvements on Utah's Burr Trail. Although the decision places strict limits on improvements within Capitol Reef National Park, NPCA believes it does not go far enough to preserve the pristine character of the region.

Also known as the Boulder-to-Bullfrog Road, the Burr Trail is a 66-mile backcountry road that crosses spectacular national parks and BLM wildlands, including Capitol Reef and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. For years, Utah's Garfield County has claimed a right-of-way under Revised Statute 2477 and has repeatedly sought to realign and pave the road. NPCA and other conservationists have fought a series of court battles to protect the natural, solitary, and primitive values of the road and the surrounding region.

However, Garfield County has proceeded with its road improvement agenda by laying down a thin layer of asphalt (called "chip-seal") on significant segments of the road. Currently, only the road segments through Capitol Reef and Glen Canyon remain dirt, as well as seven miles of road through BLM land to the east of Capitol Reef.

JOHN ELK III

NPS will allow the Burr Trail to remain a dirt road through Capitol Reef National Park.

In March 1993, NPS and BLM prepared an environmental assessment to determine the impacts of road improvements planned by Garfield County. When NPCA convinced them to rethink the assessment, NPS and BLM entered into year-long negotiations with the county. When the county rejected proposals designed to limit the impacts of road improvements, the agencies decided to issue a decision specifying allowable upgrades for each segment of the road.

The decision document prohibits paving within Capitol Reef but allows limited drainage work to maintain this segment of the road as an unpaved, low-speed, safe, all-weather road. In the Glen Canyon segment, near more developed areas, the road would be upgraded to a chip-seal surface. The remaining dirt segment east of Capitol Reef would be upgraded to an all-weather gravel surface. And the road segments already chip-sealed would remain as they are.

"We are pleased that the Interior Department has finally created a document that draws a line in the sand about how far Garfield County can go," said Terri Martin, NPCA Rocky Mountain regional director. "The good news is that Interior will prohibit paving in Capitol Reef National Park. The bad news is that other portions of the road will be graveled or chip-sealed."

"The fight over the Burr Trail is so important because what happens on the Trail is key to what happens to the future of the surrounding region," Martin added. "Paving the entire road would inevitably mean dramatic increases in traffic and demands for services and facilities, increased off-road vehicle damage, archaeological vandalism, trampling of vegetation, and loss of solitude. The now undeveloped, uncrowded, wild, and pristine parks and public lands surrounding the road would be unavoidably degraded."

Park Budget Increased As Cuts Are Considered

The Clinton Administration's fiscal year 1996 budget shows a commitment to national parks, while Congress threatens to cut up to $47 million from this year's park budget.

The president's budget request for the National Park Service calls for a $74-million net increase above 1995 levels, up to $1.55 billion. The proposal calls for a 2.4-percent increase in funding for each of the 368 national park units and additional monies for specific resource protection programs and ran-

ger housing. Overall, the Interior Department is seeking $7.7 billion in funding, a $256-million increase over 1995, with approximately one-third of that providing an increase for the Park Service. The administration also proposes legislation to raise park entrance and concessions fees and return the additional revenue to the national parks instead of the general treasury.

"We applaud the administration's focus on maintaining ranger services, streamlining NPS administration costs, and seeking additional revenues from visitor fees and park concessions contracts," said NPCA President Paul C. Pritchard.

Funds for park operations would be increased by $79.8 million, which the Park Service believes is sufficient to allow every park adequate operations funding and to help meet the most serious backlogs. Monies for resource stewardship, visitor services, maintenance, and park support activities would all be increased. The budget proposal also calls for, beginning in 1997, all new revenues generated by higher visitor and concessioner fees to go to a Park Renewal Fund, which would be available for park infrastructure improvements without further appropriations.

NPCA is especially pleased that funding to modify water delivery to the south Florida ecosystem, particularly Everglades National Park and Big Cypress National Preserve, will receive a boost. The proposed budget calls for $41.7 million for the Park Service's efforts, the lion's share of the $63.9-million total request for restoration. Other Interior agencies to receive funding for work in south Florida include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Unfortunately, as Congress began to consider the 1996 budget request, in March the U.S. House of Representatives approved by a 227-200 vote a bill to rescind $47 million from the fiscal 1995 NPS budget. At press time, the full Senate had begun debate on its version of the bill, which would cut $45 million out of NPS funds. (For more on rescissions, see page 24.)

Road Through Redwood Back to Drawing Board

Finding little support for its plan to reroute a section of U.S. Highway 101 through Redwood National Park and adjacent state parks, the California Department of Transportation met with NPCA and other groups in February to discuss alternatives to construction.

Last year the transportation department issued an environmental impact statement on the construction of a major realignment of Highway 101, which curves through the parks on its way down the northern California coast. The realignment would have involved cutting down some 200 old-growth redwood trees. The agency had planned to create a four-lane, 22-mile bypass that would be straighter, wider, and ostensibly safer than the existing stretch of road. This section of highway has one of the highest accident rates of any location between San Francisco and the Oregon border.

NPCA joined in coalition with the Sierra Club, Friends of California Parks, and the North Coast Environmental Center to oppose the construction. In addition, the World Heritage Committee, which designated Redwood a World Heritage Site in 1980, is solidly opposed to the plan.

JOHN ELK III

For now, Redwood National and State Parks have been spared from construction.

Since most of the letters it received were against the realignment, the transportation agency temporarily shelved the plan and called for the February meeting with NPCA, the other groups, and park managers. "Our coalition strongly reinforced that we cannot accept a project that results in the cutting

MARKUP

Key Park Legislation

Bill	Purpose	Status
National Park System Reform H.R. 260	Establishes a management review of the National Park System with a focus on closing selected parks. NPCA opposes.	H.R. 260 was approved by the House subcommittee on national parks on March 29.
Concessions Reform S. 309	Increases concessions fees and returns them to the parks; establishes competitive bidding for contracts; reforms possessory interest. NPCA supports.	S. 309 is before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and before the House Committee on Resources.
Virginia Parks H.R. 1091	Shrinks the boundaries of Shenandoah National Park and Richmond National Battlefield Park to lands already in federal ownership and preempts park studies being conducted by NPS. NPCA opposes.	H.R. 1091 was approved by the House subcommittee on national parks on March 29.
Presidio H.R. 1296 S. 594	Creates the Presidio Trust to lease the park's historic buildings and apply the revenue to operations at the Presidio. NPCA supports.	H.R. 1296 is before the House subcommittee on national parks. S. 594 is before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

NPCA is currently working on 30 bills.

of trees but that we are prepared to do whatever possible to support viable 'non-build' solutions to the problem of accidents," said Brian Huse, NPCA Pacific regional director.

NPCA and the other groups urged the agency to consider alternatives such as median barriers and vehicle pull-offs for slower traffic.

Currently participating with the state in a joint management program for the parks (now known officially as Redwood National and State Parks), the National Park Service also expressed its concern over the possible destruction of redwoods.

"We can't regrow in our lifetime, maybe not in ten lifetimes, a tree that is 700 or 1,000 years old," said John Wise, management assistant for the parks. "There are a number of alternatives [to the realignment]. It's not one we've put our pencils down on yet."

NPS, NPCA, and the other groups will continue to participate in the process to study low-impact options for improving safety within the existing road corridor.

Arts Center Planned Amid Park Wilderness

A plan to renovate a historic mansion at Cumberland Island National Seashore for use as an arts center must thoroughly consider effects on park wilderness, NPCA and other groups say.

The National Park Service is considering a draft agreement with the nonprofit Plum Orchard Center for the Arts on Cumberland Island to renovate century-old Plum Orchard mansion, once the home of American steel magnate George Carnegie and his wife. Located midway along Georgia's 16-mile-long Cumberland Island, the mansion would serve as a retreat for artists who would refine their crafts in the midst of a federally designated wilderness area. NPS has been looking for an adaptive use for the building that would provide for its restoration and maintenance.

NPCA has been working with the park superintendent to try to craft an acceptable agreement. However, NPCA has expressed concerns to NPS about the impacts on park wilderness that would result from the increased traffic and vehicles called for in the proposal. NPCA is working with the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society, and the Georgia Conservancy on this issue.

"To its credit, NPS is seeking to preserve a historic resource without diminution of the wilderness that surrounds it," said NPCA Southeast Regional Director Don Barger. "However, we believe that the agreement endangers the park's wilderness character for the next century." (The proposal calls for a 50-year lease for the mansion, with the option to renew for another 25 years.)

The plan allows for 30 artists-in-residence, with up to 300 additional guests for each of four special programs a year. These visitors would not be counted among the park's 300-person daily limit. NPCA contends that this proposal does not fully assess the impacts of the additional visitation and could set a dangerous precedent for allowable uses of park wilderness. Cumberland Island allows certain incompatible uses to continue that were in place at the time of the wilderness designation. Most of these agreements will terminate over time.


CONNIE TOOPS

A new use for Plum Orchard mansion on Cumberland Island could harm park wilderness.

Among NPCA's concerns are the potential for increased air traffic and development on private lands on Cumberland Island. Under the current draft of the agreement, the center could also keep and use two motor vehicles within the wilderness area of the park.

✍ *NPCA urges interested members to request a copy of the agreement and to submit comments on it to NPS. Write to Superintendent Rolland Swain, Cumberland Island National Seashore, P.O. Box 806, St. Marys, GA 31558.*

NPS Sidesteps Congress in Fort Vancouver Deal

Under an agreement with the city of Vancouver, Washington, the National Park Service may proceed with actions at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site for which it lacks authority.

The agreement, rendered in November 1994, outlines major actions regarding Fort Vancouver, the 19th-century fur-trade depot; Pearson Airpark, a commercial airfield partially located on park grounds; and other proposed developments. NPCA believes the agreement is imprecise, allowing for a wide range of interpretations that may result in detrimental impacts to the park.

Among other things, the agreement endorses the use and development of Pearson Airpark beyond 2002, the date its lease expires, although NPS must receive congressional approval to do this. NPCA has urged NPS to discontinue commercial operations in 2002 and restore the airpark to its historic appearance. Built in the 1920s, Pearson played an important role in aviation,

particularly during and between World Wars I and II. Last year, NPCA opposed legislation—which was rejected by Congress—to extend commercial airpark use until 2022.

The agreement also calls for planning and construction to be initiated immediately for the development of a Pearson Airpark Museum on park grounds, to be controlled by the city of Vancouver. Although NPS would have approval authority over any construction on parklands, the agreement states that NPS would not be involved in the "routine operation and management" of the museum. Also, no rent would be charged the city until January 1, 2003, which NPCA argues would deny proper financial returns for use of parklands in the meantime.

"This major development would occur on the grounds of the park, although such development has no relationship to the purpose for which the site was authorized," said Dale Crane, NPCA Pacific Northwest Regional Director.

Lakeside Drive Planned for Pictured Rocks

Basing its suggestions on a nearly 15-year-old management plan, the National Park Service is supporting the construction of a shoreline drive at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in Michigan.

In a recently released draft environmental impact statement for the plan, NPS endorsed a construction alternative that would place the road close to the shoreline amid "primitive" and "natural environment" subzones (NPS classifications). NPS would provide minimal maintenance of the road in the off-peak winter season, allowing concurrent snowmobiling, snowshoeing, and hiking in addition to vehicle use along the entire roadway. Both the park's 1981 general management plan and its 1966 authorizing legislation provide a basis for this construction.

Hugging the shore of Lake Superior for more than 40 miles, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore protects outstand-

Wise Use Watch

National Parks is tracking the activities of the Wise Use Movement, the self-proclaimed enemy of the environmental movement. The movement is a coalition of groups with an anti-conservation ethic.

The Wise Use Movement finds strength in underhanded propaganda and grassroots tactics. David Helvarg, author of *War Against the Greens*, has stated that what the movement lacks in numbers "it more than makes up for in militancy, through angry industry-backed demonstrations [and] phone and fax campaigns."

Recently, the Sahara Club, a wise use group on the radical fringe, encouraged such tactics against the staff of NPCA. In its newsletter, the group published one of NPCA's 800 numbers, urging the club's 5,000 members to flood the line because "it costs [NPCA] every time the phone rings." NPCA maintains toll-free lines so that its more than 450,000 members can find out how to save parks from the very threats—logging, mining, hunting, development—that the Wise Use Movement supports.

In addition to publishing newsletters, many wise use groups employ current technology to advance their agenda. Almost all of the larger organizations have fax networks. For example, the American Lands Rights Association (ALRA) has nine fax machines from which it sends weekly propaganda to its 14,000 activists. ALRA is also online, communicating with activists via the "politics" forum of CompuServe.

So, with the express goal of harassing NPCA and others working to protect parks and the public good, the Wise Use Movement now uses the methods and activism successfully used by the environmental movement for years. With millions of supporters nationwide, decades of experience on the wise users, and an agenda that benefits every U.S. citizen, environmental groups must mobilize their forces to fight back.

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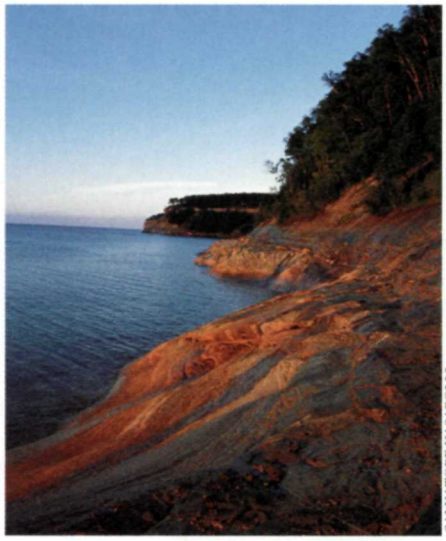


SALVATORE VASAPOLLI

NPCA is working to protect the scenery of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

ing rock formations. NPCA believes the road would detract from the visitor experience, may threaten visitor safety because of conflicting winter uses, and would affect wildlife and vegetation.

"A scenic road in the shoreline zone would bring the motorized vehicle user closer to this beautiful area, but it may destroy the experience for the visitors who wish to enjoy the more primitive character of the shoreline," said Lori Nelson, NPCA Heartland regional director. "Pictured Rocks has adequately served visitors without a shoreline drive for nearly 30 years. We strongly urge NPS to reevaluate this proposal."

NPCA believes the park is incorrect in basing its road proposal on the 1966 authorizing legislation, which does not comply with current park management policies and guidelines. In fact, NPS management policies issued in 1988 specifically support NPCA's position that the area proposed for the road should not be developed because of its primitive location and should be used only for nonmotorized activities. NPCA believes the Park Service must also consider legal factors that would indicate the shoreline drive is inappropriate.

As an alternative, NPCA recommends an upgrade of a county road outside the shoreline zone, with possible spur roads going into areas where scenic lookouts could be maintained, as well as an improvement of trails.

NPS Team Examines Denali Mining Claims

The National Park Service has put together a team to recommend ways to accelerate the acquisition of mining claims in Alaska's Denali National Park.

When the 1980 passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act resulted in the expansion of several national parks in Alaska, many claims in the historic Kantishna mining district were included within the new boundaries of Denali. As a result of a 1986 court decision, virtually all mining in Denali has ceased. After preparing an environmental impact statement in 1990, NPS decided to acquire these claims because development would threaten wilderness and streams.

NPCA has long advocated expediting and streamlining the current acquisition process, which has been lengthy and complicated. Since 1990, $12 million has been appropriated for purchase of claims, but NPS has spent much of that on background work. The process entails determining the willingness of

the claim holder to sell, the claim's title and validity, and its market value.

Frustrated with the sluggishness of the process, Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska) requested that an NPS team speed up acquisition. Murkowski reportedly may reintroduce a bill to expedite the process if the NPS team is not successful.

The Denali Task Force recently made acquiring claims and streamlining the process its first priority for Kantishna. "If NPS does not acquire these claims, at a time when people are pushing for increased access into Denali, the claims will be sold for commercial development," said Chip Dennerlein, NPCA Alaska regional director and member of the Denali Task Force.

Since 1988, NPS has purchased 24 patented claims and one unpatented (unregistered) claim. The agency estimates that about 14 patented claims and 4,300 acres of unpatented claims remain to be acquired. In March, the NPS team came to Alaska to study the outstanding claims and to meet with park officials and representatives of the mining industry. The team was expected to issue a report by late spring.

NPCA has encouraged the team to allow the careful use of condemnation as a means to acquire claims, which claim owners have supported. "If NPS knows it must acquire certain claims, but owners are distrustful of the agency, both the public and the owners would benefit from a condemnation process that allows the claim's value to be set by a court," Dennerlein said.

Although Congress wants to quicken the pace of claims acquisition, a budget rescissions bill that Congress is considering would hinder the process. If the bill is approved, $4.6 million in unobligated funds for acquisition would be cut, halting negotiations and leaving Denali's resources in jeopardy.

"We may be left with nothing to offer to our willing sellers," said Steve Carwile, a compliance officer at Denali. "Some of the properties we're ready to make offers on are very [vulnerable to being] turned into recreational lodge properties. Developers are already making offers."

Grand Canyon Plan Eyes 21st Century

The National Park Service has proposed a new management plan for Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona.

The Park Service released the draft plan in March, providing four alternatives to guide management actions well into the next century. Hosting 5 million visitors a year, the 76-year-old park has needed to reexamine its operations. Increasing visitation has caused congestion in all park areas, and NPS housing, interpretive facilities, and other structures need attention.

Overall, NPS proposes to emphasize regional cooperation in locating as many facilities as possible outside the park and hopes to educate visitors better before they reach the park. NPCA supports many objectives of the Park Service's preferred action, which would enhance the visitor experience.

DEMBINSKY/WILLARD CLAY

A new plan addresses issues at the Grand Canyon, which still suffers from overflights.

The proposed action recommends a visitor transportation system that includes shuttle buses operating from two new transit centers at the South Rim, the most developed and popular area of the park. These centers would occur at Desert View, at the eastern entrance to the park, and at Mather Point, near the southern entrance. Privately operated buses would provide access to points along the South Rim. Hiking and biking trails would also be upgraded.

NPS also endorses another staging area in Tusayan, the park's gateway community to the south. This proposal is complicated by a possible land exchange at nearby Kaibab National Forest. A developer wants to trade his scattered inholdings within the forest for a contiguous block of forest land, to be used for the transit center, employee housing, and commercial development. The scope of the proposal and water availability are major concerns since groundwater use could affect springs and seeps along the park's South Rim. If water concerns can be met, NPCA favors a transit center at Tusayan.

The plan also calls for the removal of two nonhistoric lodges at the South Rim, with the redesign of other hotels so that more rooms could be added. While supportive of these measures, NPCA recommends more restoration of the historic district and relocation or removal of the 11 shops within the park.

While predicting that overall visitation may hit 10 million by 2010, NPS states that visitation at the South Rim and on certain trails would not need to be limited any time soon and that visitation at the less congested North Rim would not be limited until 2005 or 2010. "We recommend the installation of a reservation system or day-use limitations much sooner than is called for in the plan," said NPCA Southwest Regional Director Dave Simon.

Plane Crash, New Rules Fuel Overflights Debate

A February airplane crash near Grand Canyon National Park killed eight people, returning safety issues to the forefront of the continuing debate about park overflights.

Although an official accident report will not be completed until later this year, it appears the plane suffered from engine failure shortly after takeoff from the Grand Canyon-Tusayan airport. The plane was returning park tourists to Las Vegas. The National Park Service contends that the accident could have occurred anywhere and was not related to park air tours as such. Still, NPCA notes that the 1987 National Overflights Act was enacted in part because of a 1986 mid-air collision at Grand Canyon.

"Of course NPS, FAA (the Federal Aviation Administration), and the air tour industry would like to see a zero accident rate," said Mike Ebersole, the park's air operations manager. "There is no other air operation situation like Grand Canyon anywhere in the world. There are 43 air tour companies offering tours out of five states. Safety is certainly something we need to work on, but in my opinion [Grand Canyon] has a good safety record."

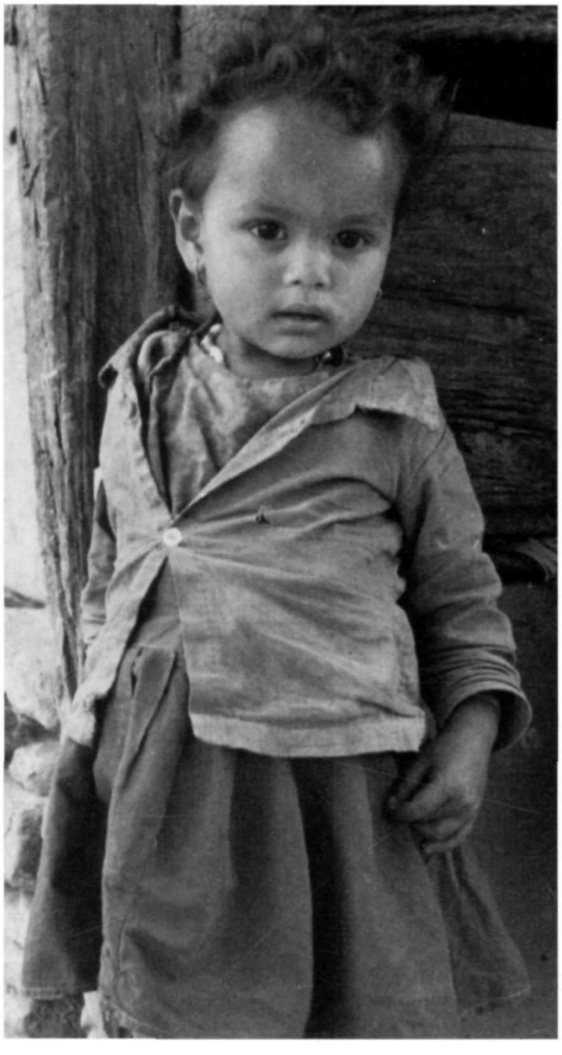
NPS and FAA began work on new overflights regulations more than a year ago, but none has been proposed yet because of bureaucratic delays. NPCA called for the new regulations to be issued soon and to emphasize both park protection and safety issues.

Ebersole also pointed out that a 1994 NPS report to Congress on overflights at Grand Canyon proposed strengthening overflights regulations, doubling the number of flight-free zones, reducing the number of commercial tour routes, and establishing no-fly times. None of the recommendations has been implemented, and NPCA urges immediate action on these measures.

On another front, NPCA applauds recent steps to protect natural quiet at Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee and North Carolina, which is becoming increasingly popular with the air tour industry.

In 1994 the state of Tennessee passed a law declaring it illegal to locate heliports within nine miles of a national park, including the Smokies. In a landmark opinion, FAA has concluded that since the statute regulates land use, not aircraft operations, it is not preempted by FAA jurisdiction and can stand.

On the eastern side of the Smokies, public outcry in North Carolina's Haywood County has resulted in the termination of plans to construct a new heliport near the park. "This action reflects the groundswell of public opposition to overflights and the noise and safety hazards that accompany them," said Don Barger, NPCA Southeast regional director.



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REGIONAL REPORT

News Briefs from NPCA's Regional Offices

ALASKA

Chip Dennerlein, Regional Director

NPCA is pleased that legislation ratifying an agreement between the National Park Service and Natives of Gates of the Arctic National Park has passed the House unanimously. The agreement calls for expanded Native use of all-terrain vehicles on certain parklands for subsistence hunting, reconfigures wilderness boundaries, and provides public access to many acres of Native land. The bill was approved by the Senate committee on natural resources.

◆

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council has invited Dennerlein to serve on a public advisory group that will work on a continuing restoration plan for the Gulf of Alaska coast. The 1989 *Exxon Valdez* disaster spilled 11 million gallons of crude oil into Prince William Sound, coating 400 miles of beaches along Katmai and Kenai Fjords national parks and Aniakchak National Monument. Dennerlein's participation "will contribute to the success of the overall restoration program," stated Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt.

HEARTLAND

Lori Nelson, Regional Director

A movement is afoot to deauthorize or change the status of Voyageurs National Park in Minnesota to allow greater recreational use, especially motorized activities such as snowmobiling. NPCA contends that this would destroy the park's primeval character, a chief reason for its establishment in 1975.

The effort is led by Minnesota State Sen. Bob Lessard (D), who testified before the U.S. House Committee on Resources in March. Lessard challenged NPS authority to impose restrictions upon motorized activities and said that Voyageurs has not realized its projected economic potential, luring only a quarter of the 1 million visitors projected in an NPS new area study done 20 years ago. NPCA strongly opposes the effort to downgrade Voyageurs, arguing that the future of a national park must not be decided solely by local interests or on economic terms.

Lessard is bolstered by U.S. Rep. Jim Oberstar (D-Minn.), who in March introduced a bill to greatly expand motorized recreation in the park. Oberstar has long been an advocate of local recreation interests, including snowmobiling on the park's Kabetogama Peninsula. NPS and NPCA have promoted the designation of the peninsula as a wilderness area. NPCA believes Oberstar's bill, which technically retains Voyageurs' national park status, in effect creates a national recreation area.

✍ *Urge the Minnesota congressional delegation to oppose the effort to change the status of Voyageurs to allow increased motorized recreation. Write to Sens. Paul Wellstone and Rod Grams (U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510) and to Oberstar (U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515).*

NORTHEAST

Eileen Woodford, Regional Director

Thanks to the number of letters received from NPCA members opposing a plan to widen Minute Man National Historical Park's renowned battle road, the Massachusetts secretary of transportation and construction has asked the state highway department to reexamine the issue. The department had proposed widening a portion of the road—over which American and British armies fought during the Revolutionary War—from two to five lanes. Concerned about unwanted congestion, NPCA supports the park's suggestion of a compromise with minimal expansion. The park is now working constructively with the town and the state to resolve the proposal in a way that protects the park.

PACIFIC

Brian Huse, Regional Director

In the face of a fiscally austere Congress that has targeted the Presidio and its operating costs, Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) has reintroduced a bill that calls for innovative financial solutions for the new park. The bill establishes the Presidio Trust to lease the Presidio's historic buildings and apply the revenue to park renovations and maintenance. Meanwhile, NPS continues to seek tenants for the available facilities at the Presidio. "We commend Congresswoman Pelosi's dedication to the Presidio and the Park Service's creative management efforts," Huse said. "This Congress continues to hammer away at the Presidio because of its short-term costs. NPCA is working to refocus the debate on the national significance of this unique park."

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Dale Crane, Regional Director

With funding from The Henry M. Jackson Foundation, NPCA has published *Nature Has No Borders*, a collection of the papers presented at the March 1994 "Conference on the Protection and Management of the Northern Cascades Ecosystem." In the book, biologists, economists, cultural representatives, and community leaders from the United States and Canada offer innovative views on protecting the resources found in this transborder ecosystem, which includes North Cascades National Park in Washington and Manning and Cathedral provincial parks in British Columbia. The book also focuses on the Cascades International Alliance, a coalition coordinated by NPCA that aims to establish an international park in the

Cascades. NPCA hopes the book will serve as an educational tool and as a springboard for future research and grassroots efforts. "Understanding the issues facing the North Cascades will allow protection of this resource for future generations," Crane said.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Terri Martin, Regional Director

None of the ten alternatives analyzed in a preliminary draft environmental assessment (EA) of the future of Jackson Hole Airport adequately protects Grand Teton National Park, NPCA says. The airport is entirely located within the southern boundary of the park. NPCA contends that the document is slanted toward extending the airport's runway to benefit airline profits. NPCA strongly opposes further extension of the airport's runway, which is already 6,300 feet long and accommodates jet aircraft.

Both NPS and NPCA criticized the EA for failing to properly assess the impacts of noise on the park or measures that would reduce such impacts. Despite widespread citizen requests, the EA also fails to consider restricting aircraft overflights at the park. The EA does consider constructing a control tower to enforce aircraft landings and takeoffs to the south, so that planes do not fly over the park.

◆

Bending to extensive opposition from citizens and conservation groups, including NPCA, the U.S. Army has decided not to launch ballistic missiles from a site along Utah's Green River. These maneuvers would have involved dropping booster rockets near Canyonlands National Park and required the evacuation of park visitors.

SOUTHEAST

Don Barger, Regional Director

NPCA is celebrating a victory for Gulf Islands National Seashore in Florida and Mississippi. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has approved a redesigned plan for a housing development next to the park. NPCA, NPS, and other groups had opposed the initial plan, which would have created a five-foot drainage ditch along the park boundary. This ditch would have endangered the park's pine savannah by subjecting it to cyclical draining. The new plan places the ditches in an internal section of the property. Although pleased that the new plan protects park resources, NPCA criticized the Corps for not considering the impacts of the drainage ditch early on. "There's a lot of criticism these days about the costs of environmental regulations," Barger said. "If the Corps had done its job right at first, it would have saved us all, including the developer, a lot of time, money, and anguish."

SOUTHWEST

Dave Simon, Regional Director

NPCA, other groups, and Pueblo Indians were outraged to discover in March that a developer had begun road grading along the path of Paseo del Norte, a controversial highway proposed across Petroglyph National Monument in New Mexico. Ostensibly preparing land for a new subdivision next to the Paseo right-of-way, the company bulldozed the road bed according to the city of Albuquerque's grading plans for Paseo. A 1993 city council resolution forbade any construction on Paseo until all "credible legal barriers" to it were lifted, which has not occurred. The city claims the grading was routine. The developer has taken steps to reverse the damage. Meanwhile, the New Mexico congressional delegation may introduce a bill that would force road construction. Sen. Pete Domenici (R-N.Mex.) appears to have the most interest in the bill.

✍ *Write to Domenici, Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-N.Mex.), and Rep. Bill Richardson (D-N.Mex.), urging them not to introduce or support such a bill. See Heartland report for addresses.*

◆

After stating that he would not introduce a bill to expand Capulin Volcano National Monument in 1995, in March Rep. Bill Richardson (D-N.Mex.) urged the creation of an advisory committee to consider expansion issues at the New Mexico park. Richardson appointed Simon to the committee.

Rolling Back the Resource Fund

Congress is considering short-sighted legislation to eliminate the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

By Rep. David Skaggs (D–Colo.)

IN THE HEART of dense suburban development northwest of Denver, Canada geese and mallard ducks rest and feed on open water and nearby meadows, red foxes trot among tall grass and cattails, and ferruginous hawks soar over open prairie in search of prey. Little disturbed for most of the last century, this rolling terrain sustains a variety of plant life, from marsh grasses and cottonwoods to sagebrush and cactus.

Among the newer—and smaller—of America's refuges, the 40-acre Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge provides a contrast to the surrounding 100 miles of closely spaced houses, streets, and shopping centers. In addition to its inherent value as habitat for an array of wildlife and plants, Two Ponds affords a rare outdoor learning center for children from eight nearby schools.

These opportunities—for wildlife, for students, and for all citizens—would by now be lost to more houses and streets if it were not for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Two Ponds is an example of the magic played out in hundreds of unique places, thanks to this remarkable program.

Established by Congress in 1964, LWCF provides a mechanism to appropriate money to acquire lands for four federal agencies, as well as for state programs, where the funds are matched and used for open space, recreation, and recreation equipment. Most of the money at the federal level has been used to buy lands for national parks, forests, refuges, and Bureau of Land Management property. The money comes from federal royalties on oil and gas production on the outer continental shelf. Thus, LWCF uses some of the returns from that economic activity to preserve the natural world.

But like many programs taken for granted over the past few decades, this fund is in danger of being cut. The new Congress has shown itself to be no friend of the environment and wields a budget-cutting ax without precision. The good programs are being put on the chopping block along with the bad. LWCF is among the programs marked for elimination as part of a rescissions bill—legislation that will cut already approved programs to pay for items promoted by the Republicans' Contract with America. Despite positive results, the House of Representatives is proposing a $7.3 million cut of LWCF money for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and a $16.5 million cut for NPS land acquisition. The rescissions bill will thwart preservation projects around the country.

The new Congress has shown itself to be no friend of the environment. The good programs are being put on the chopping block along with the bad.

In the Everglades, LWCF monies, along with state funds, are being used for a plan to restore natural water flows to this vast wetland. LWCF money is being made available through the National Park Service (NPS) for this replumbing project that will benefit both the beleaguered south Florida ecosystem and the water supply for this heavily populated region.

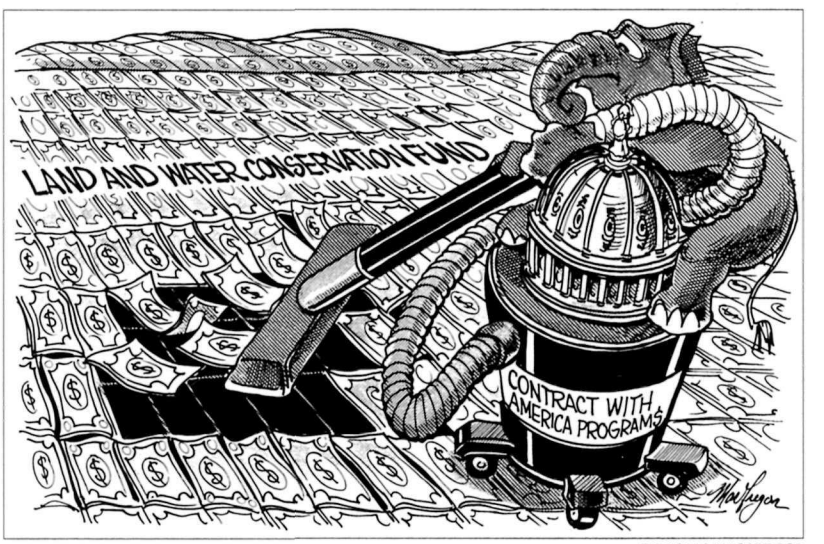
At St. Croix, Virgin Islands, the governor has signed a land protection plan, which will mean nothing for the Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve unless LWCF money is available. The money would enable the Park Service to buy land at Salt River Bay that a developer is eyeing for a resort.

Along the Obed Wild and Scenic River, logging could occur on a bluff overlooking the river. The Park Service says the activities would ruin the bluff and the scenic nature of the river. Money is available through LWCF to buy the timber rights as well as the land for public access; however, the Obed is on the list of rescissions.

These are just a few examples of how LWCF monies benefit the national parks. If we were to lose this valuable program, the potential for disaster becomes even more apparent when you realize that more than 323,000 acres of land (excluding Alaska and the new Mojave National Preserve in California) could be lost to the National Park System. (The total acreage would explode to more than 8 million if national parklands in Alaska are included.) These are lands already approved by Congress but not yet bought by the Park Service. Federal land management agencies have a backlog of several billion dollars worth of potential purchases of land, easements, and water rights. From wilderness inholdings in Colorado to wetlands in California's San Jacinto Valley and saguaro cactus forests in Arizona; from the prairie potholes of Nebraska to tall-

grass prairies in eastern Kansas and flood plains along the Missouri and Mississippi rivers; from the great northern forests of Maine to archaeological sites in Connecticut, beaches in North Carolina, and panther and crocodile habitat in Big Cypress, these important natural habitats deserve protection.

The Park Service is required by law to pay no more than the appraised value for a piece of property. Of the approximately $2.5 billion annually available for the LWCF, $900 million is authorized to be spent each year for conservation lands. Unfortunately, far less than $900 million is appropriated for actual land purchases in any given year. Since 1988, annual expenditures for all agencies have ranged from $171 million to $343 million, with NPS receiving about $50 million each year. The balance (on paper) remaining in the fund is used to reduce the apparent size of the federal deficit and for unrelated expenses.



DOUGLAS MACGREGOR

Few things are more tangible and satisfying in the effort to protect and to enhance the Earth's natural habitats and cycles than the acquisition and preservation of land and waterways. Yet, these opportunities are quickly slipping away. With population and development pressures at a scale never before witnessed in this country, our last remaining wild places are few and becoming fewer.

This results from some basic realities of our economy. Typically, wildlife habitat, open space, and clean water carry no obviously measurable market value, and their loss carries no obvious measurable expense. But the LWCF approach also respects basic economics. By selling important natural areas, landowners can realize the income they might expect from development while still allowing the land to be preserved.

Another creative aspect of the LWCF effort is its state grant program, through which federal funds are matched with state and local money for preservation of open space and recreation areas important to local communities. These matching grants multiply the funding efforts of all the participants. Perhaps more important, these grants support preservation projects that are based on the unique knowledge and experience of governments, organizations, and individual citizens who are close to the land. LWCF is a success. It would be a shame to abolish it.

In January, the House Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations, of which I am a member, began considering potential rescissions of LWCF funds. The package before Congress seeks to eliminate $17 billion in projects approved by the previous Congress, including nearly $30 million in land acquisition funding. Part of the reason behind the rescissions bill is to provide reserves for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, but also to pay for tax cuts contained in the Republican's so-called "Contract with America."

As part of a January congressional hearing, the appropriations subcommittee on the Interior (which has jurisdiction over a wide array of environmental initiatives) invited witnesses to present ideas about ways to cut the budget. Among those testifying were conservative groups such as the Heritage Foundation and the Cato Institute. Among the ideas proposed were:

▲ Turning over to the states "most of the land" now in national parks, national forests, national wildlife refuges, and wilderness areas;

▲ Turning all national forests over to private landowners;

▲ Eliminating funding for the Bureau of Land Management unless and until new legislation is passed to change the agency's mission;

▲ Turning over to energy industries ownership of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and all other federal lands that may contain energy resources;

▲ Stopping for five years all purchases of land for national parks, wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, etc.

These are a few of the proposals made that day and a chilling harbinger of the direction some in Congress would have us go. The House passed-rescissions bill, with its cuts in Land and Water Conservation Fund acquisitions, may be the first tangible step toward the radical anti-environmental agenda outlined in that January hearing. We will know more this spring, as Congress takes up the budget, with deeper cuts a real possibility.

The stakes are very high. Time is the enemy. If we wait too long, we lose forever hundreds of special opportunities to protect, piece by piece, the natural legacy that is so integral and critical a part of this nation's beauty and the health of its citizens.

Back at Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge, the winter sunset casts a deep blue tone across the homes of hibernating amphibians near the ponds, of hawks fluffed against the cold, and of neighboring humans whose daily life is enhanced by this preserve.

I will be doing all that I can to see that the fund that helped protect Two Ponds will continue to survive and spread its benefits throughout the land.

Democrat David Skaggs is a fifth-term congressman from Colorado.

RIVERS AT RISK

Of the ten most endangered waterways in the United States, four flow through national parks.

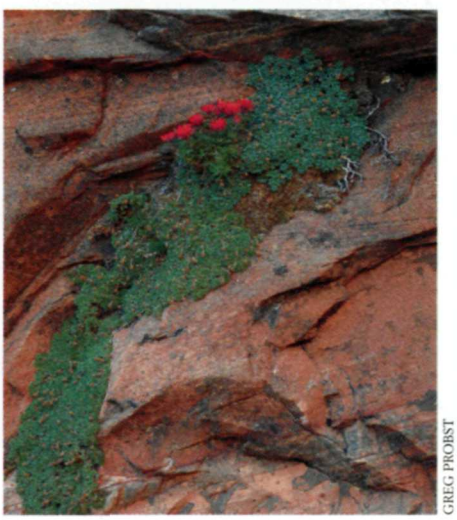
By Ebba Hierta

FROM ITS HEADWATERS in the mountains above Zion National Park in Utah to its terminus 200 miles downstream at Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Nevada, the Virgin River flows virtually unimpeded through an arid, fragile landscape.

One of the last predominately free-flowing rivers in the West, it sustains a remarkable variety of wildlife, including 139 special status species, considered rare or listed by federal and state governments as endangered or threatened. Among them are the bald eagle, Mexican spotted owl, peregrine falcon, desert tortoise, leopard frog, Virgin River chub, and woundfin minnow. The Virgin River's varying elevation, descending from 11,300 feet to 2,600 feet, contributes to this diversity. As it descends, the river passes through three distinct climatic zones, beginning with the cool subalpine Colorado Plateau, traversing the arid Mojave, and ending in the sweltering Sonoran.

Along the way, the river and its tributaries have carved an astonishing landscape of multihued canyons, monoliths, and arches. The canyons of Zion National Park tower 3,000 feet above the river bed, narrowing in some spots to serpentine passageways with walls just 18 feet apart. Exotic hanging gardens nourished by seeps and springs cling tenaciously to the sheer cliff walls. The canyon began forming about 10 million years ago, a process that continues today as each year the Virgin River washes more than a million tons of sediment toward the ocean.

GREG PROBST



GREG PROBST

The Virgin River has carved the landscape at Zion National Park for centuries. Above, paintbrush grows along a trail.

In some places along the Virgin River, such as at "The Narrows," left, canyon walls are only 18 feet apart.

But the natural processes that govern the river with its still relatively clean water are under constant threat. Water is a precious commodity in the arid West, and the Virgin River flows through three of the driest states in the country: Utah, Arizona, and Nevada. Fast-growing communities near the river's headwaters in Washington County, Utah, and at its end in Las Vegas, Nevada, are demanding more water for residential and industrial uses. And as the communities grow, so do threats to water quality from urban runoff and destruction of riparian habitat.

To conservationists, the Virgin, which has no existing mainstem dams or reservoirs, is a rare gem. To water development managers, the Virgin is an untapped resource. And with no interstate compact to guide them, the water managers in each state look at the river in a vacuum, considering only their needs and impacts. In many cases, the effects on natural resources of water diversion and dam building are considered secondary to human needs. Currently, the water rights claims made by the three states total more water than actually flows through the Virgin. If all of the claims were satisfied, the river would be destroyed.

"The protection of water rights is a critical issue for most Western national parks," says Owen Williams, chief of the water rights branch of the National Park Service (NPS) Water Resource Division in Fort Collins, Colorado. "Water rights at 49 park system units in seven Western states are either being litigated or in negotiation," Williams says, "...and only a handful have been settled." State courts have jurisdiction over water rights, and few legal precedents are available to guide their decisions concerning federal law-based rights.

"Water is a defining element in the West," says Terri Martin, Rocky Mountain regional director for the National Parks and Conservation Association (NPCA). "We have a limited amount and a growing population and demand. Those demands have and will come into conflict with protection of river flows in national parks. It requires constant vigilance on our part. New proposals are cropping up all the time. Any park that does not contain the headwaters of a stream is in jeopardy, and some face threats from downstream development, too."

Add to that the growing threats to water quality in a number of rivers that flow through national parks across the country and it becomes clear why conservationists are concerned. The Clean Water Act, a primary tool for river protection, is overdue for reauthorization and faces an uphill struggle in the Republican-dominated Congress. "The forces of darkness have mounted an [intense] effort to keep clean water legislation from happening," says Beth Norcross, vice president for conservation with the nonprofit group American Rivers. "Our rivers are in trouble." Of the 3.5 million miles of waterways in the United States, Norcross notes, more than 90 percent have been altered—by damming, draining, channeling, and logging downstream, which eliminates the buffer zone necessary to filter runoff and prevent erosion.

Besides the Virgin, three other rivers that flow through national park units are considered among the most threatened by American Rivers. The Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River is the only federal wild and scenic river in Wyoming and one of the wildest rivers outside of Alaska. A Canadian mining company has proposed a gold mine at the headwaters of the Clarks Fork tributary, just 2.5 miles north of Yellowstone National Park. The mine would generate 5.5 million tons of toxic tailings as a byproduct. If the proposed containment pond were to fail, as has happened at other sites, the result would be catastrophic to the Yellowstone ecosystem.

The Rio Grande, the heart and soul of Big Bend National Park in Texas, is a 2,000-mile river that forms the border between Texas and the Mexican states of Coahuila and Chihuahua. The river suffers from just about every type of pollution imaginable, including radioactive sediments, industrial toxins, mine wastes, agricultural runoff, erosion caused by mining and logging, and improperly treated sewage that causes outbreaks of disease among the human

The 2,000-mile Rio Grande, the heart and soul of Big Bend National Park, separates Texas and two Mexican states.

The peregrine falcon is just one of hundreds of endangered or threatened species that rely on waterways.

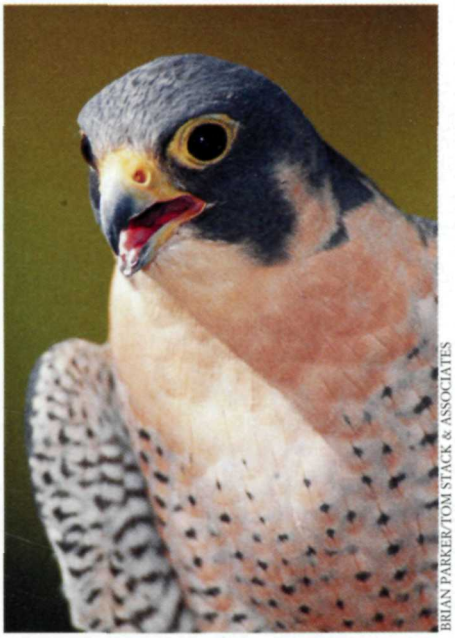
LAURENCE PARENT

population living along the border.

Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in Atlanta, Georgia, preserves one of the most unspoiled scenic and historic rivers within a major metropolitan area. But the river is increasingly overtaxed. Problems begin at the headwaters, where untreated waste is discharged into the river from a poultry enterprise with more than 250 million fowl. Downstream in Atlanta, a combined sewer system that receives both sanitary and storm drain waste regularly overflows during heavy rains, discharging up to 100 million gallons of untreated sewage in one day. Twenty-five percent of Georgia residents, most of them upstream of Atlanta's sewage treatment plant, draw their drinking water from the Chattahoochee; more than 250 million gallons a day are drawn in Atlanta alone.

A fourth river, the Columbia River/Snake River system, flows through the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area in Oregon. Although this area is managed by the U.S. Forest Service, many conservation groups including NPCA have pushed for national park status. In the past, the legendary salmon and steelhead fishery provided a livelihood for the indigenous people of the region. Now the rivers have been tamed by hydroelectric dams, and the fishery has declined by nearly 99 percent. Several species of salmon are listed as endangered, and the once-clear water runs a muddy brown in many stretches because of erosion caused by logging.

Even with this competition, the Virgin River is considered among the most endangered rivers in the country. In its 1993 report, *Park Waters in Peril*, NPCA used specific examples to illustrate the broader problems involving park waters. The report included 12 case studies, and Zion National Park was among the examples used. The case



BRIAN PARKER/TOM STACK & ASSOCIATES

studies represented just a sampling of the parks constituting the park system. But the "case studies reveal the magnitude, severity, and pervasiveness of threats to both water quantity and quality through the entire National Park System," says Terri Martin. One of the major problems identified at Zion was the threat of upstream dams, which "might well be avoided if the nearby expanding communities instituted conservation measures appropriate to their desert environment," NPCA's report states.

The Utah Division of Water Resources has identified 33 potential dam sites on the Virgin upstream of Zion National Park. Dams upstream of the park would deplete water flows, alter temperatures, impair habitat, and eliminate the flash floods that sculpt the canyons and nourish the riparian areas.

The Washington County Water Conservation District has applied for permits to build dams on the mainstems of both the river's East and North forks several miles outside of the park. Officials in Las Vegas, Nevada, have sought to divert 90,000 acre-feet per year from a point above Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

The Park Service has been working since 1987 to complete studies necessary to establish its right to relatively unimpeded stream flows through Zion National Park. Under the doctrine of Federal Reserved Water Rights, federal properties such as national parks have a right to the minimum amount of water necessary to preserve their intended purpose, preempted only by water users that predate the park's establishment. Together with the NPS Water Resources Division, Zion Superintendent Donald Falvey has been negotiating with Utah officials in an effort to resolve conflicts over the park's water rights claims out of court. Although NPS is prepared to present its case in court, chances are good that a negotiated agreement will be reached that protects the park, Falvey says.

The lengthy negotiating process began with about a dozen scientific studies to determine the exact nature and extent of Zion's water-dependent resources and the amount of water necessary to maintain them. "We had to have a science-based rationale to support our claims," says Williams, water rights branch chief. The Park Service seeks to retain the erratic nature of river flow—periodic floods followed by dry conditions—preserving not just the existing landscape but the ongoing process of canyon development. In its studies, NPS had researchers look at the Virgin's fish population, including two species listed as endangered and another proposed for listing; wildlife and vegetation in the adjacent riparian habitat; sediment loads; hydrology; changing river form or morphology; and the visual impact of the river.

Utah officials are mindful of the importance of preserving the park. With more than 2.5 million annual visitors, Zion has a considerable impact on the local economy. But they are also charged with finding a water supply for a burgeoning municipal population. Nearby St. George, Utah, is the fastest growing community in the state. Annual growth estimates range from 7 percent to 12 percent. St. George and surrounding Washington County have become a popular spot for retirees and second home buyers. St. George has nine golf courses and 35,000 residents.

The biggest threat is uncontrolled and unplanned development. "There

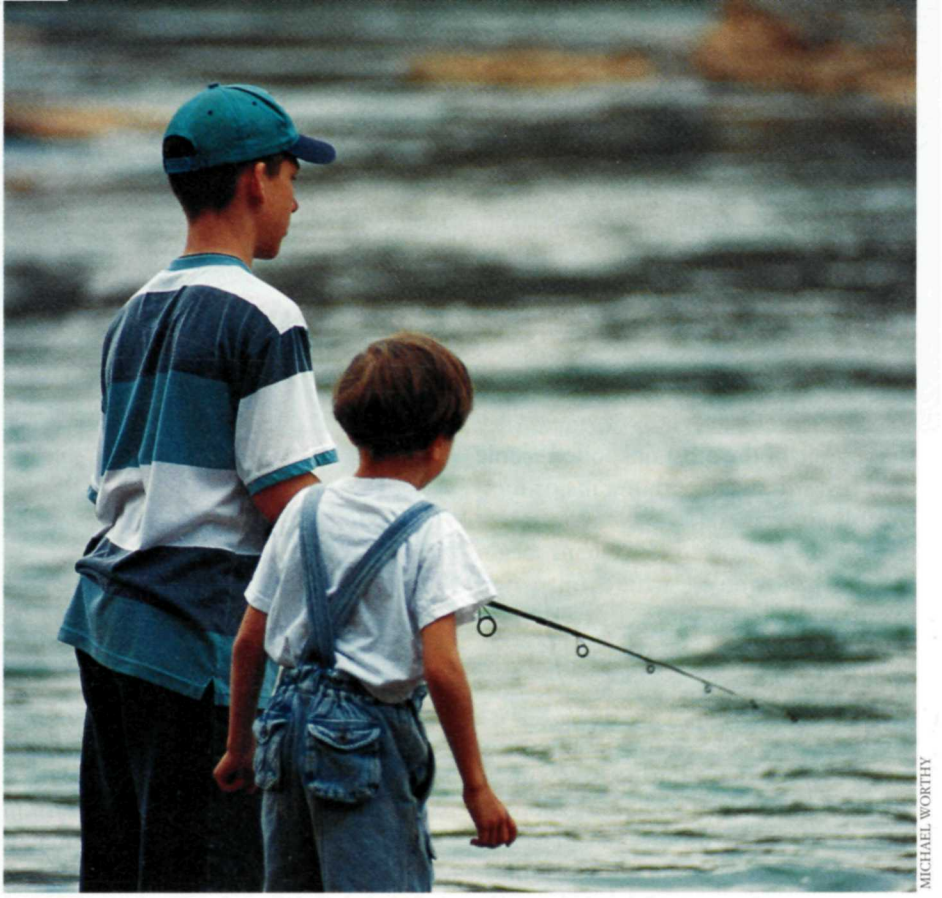
The Clean Water Act Needs Your Help

The Clean Water Act is one of the best tools available for river conservation both inside and outside of the National Park System. A proposed reauthorization that would have strengthened the act was delayed by political infighting in the 1994 Congress. Now many conservationists fear the Republicans' pledge to eliminate unfunded federal mandates will lead to passage of a weakened version of the act. Your help is needed.

"Grassroots support is essential for moving any environmental legislation in this Congress," says Beth Norcross, vice president for conservation for American Rivers, a nonprofit river protection group. "Successful legislation will come from the ground up, not the Beltway down. The best place to start is with your individual congressional representatives. Write to them and remind them that the Republican mandate was not an anti-environmental mandate. Let them know you care about clean water."

Now is not the time to become discouraged, Norcross says, noting that river legislation has always been supported by both political parties. Two proposals for National Wild and Scenic River status last year were led by Republicans, she says.

It would also be helpful to write to the heads of the committees that have jurisdiction over the Clean Water Act. Write to: Sen. John Chafee (R-R.I.), chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510; Rep. Bud Shuster (R-Pa.), chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.



MICHAEL WORTHY

Two boys fish in Georgia's Chattahoochee River, one of the most unspoiled scenic rivers within a major metropolitan area.

seems to be a sense here that the water district has the obligation to satisfy all comers, that we have no right to limit development based on water limitations," says Sarah Bates, Utah director for the Grand Canyon Trust.

St. George residents will get a chance in November to alter the pace of development. An adhoc group called Citizens for Moderate Growth is sponsoring a referendum that will hold the growth of new housing permits to 3 percent a year. "We're not anti-development," says group chairwoman Alison Bowcutt. "We just want to get a handle on the growth rate so we can plan. We need time to identify the resources we want to protect."

Ken Rait, issues coordinator for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA), believes an emphasis on water development and not conservation is not the way to protect the resource. SUWA believes any agreement with the water district should also mandate water conservation projects, instead of relying solely on development.

"There's too much at stake here," says Rait. "We have 37 threatened or endangered species in Washington County. The river is the lifeblood of a harsh desert ecosystem, and these species are a barometer for the health of the ecosystem. Things are very much out of balance."

The Park Service is hopeful that a negotiated water settlement will protect Zion's water flows. Any agreement would have to recognize water uses that predate the park, as a matter of law. The Park Service may accept the possibility of some additional diversion of limited quantities of water to settle the disputes, says Williams. On a positive note, Washington County has been looking at alternative water development options to meet its needs, including conservation and dam site development downstream of Zion.

"We are pleased that Washington County is willing to work with the Park Service to settle the water disputes. The county's challenge is to find ways to meet water needs in a water-scarce and environmentally fragile area. I think they realize that the local citizens do not want

JEFF FOOTT

A Canadian company has proposed a gold mine outside Yellowstone National Park, which would threaten the park's waters.

to harm the park," says Martin.

The county has proposed a draft management plan that officials hope will preclude listing the rare Virgin River spinedace as an endangered species, a move that would further impede the state's water development. While conservationists hold differing opinions on the merits of this idea, park officials believe a solution lies through compromise and negotiation.

"Negotiation solves a lot more than litigation," says Zion's Falvey. "When you go to court, you have very little control over the outcome. With this agreement, we make sure we have long-term protection, and we've developed some very good working relationships that will make it easier to settle issues as they arise in the future." If the talks continue on a positive note, he says, a final agreement could be forthcoming within a year.

Falvey is confident that any final agreement will contain mechanisms to ensure compliance. The small compromises made by the Park Service will lead to guarantees of future protection, he says.

And once the water rights issue is settled, park managers can focus more attention on other pressing issues, such as overcrowding, which leads to habitat destruction. Park attendance has nearly doubled in the last decade and continues to increase 10 percent a year. "Overcrowding is an issue at a lot of parks," Falvey says. "It's becoming a challenge to find ways to allow visitor use without destroying the resources. We need to put some controls in place now."

While Falvey is already looking beyond the water issue, others are focused on the precedent a negotiated settlement would set. It would pave the way for settlements at other park sites in Utah, says Owen Williams. And it avoids a potentially disastrous decision such as the Colorado Supreme Court's 1982 ruling that left Dinosaur National Monument with few water rights, he says. The state court ruled that the monument's primary purpose was the preservation of dinosaur bones, and therefore the Park Service was not entitled to water flows from the Green River that would protect the living natural resources. The water rights branch of the NPS Water Resources Division was established the following year in response to that decision.

Despite the optimism surrounding the potential negoiated settlement, the fate of Zion's waters is still uncertain and underscores the need for constant vigilance. The Virgin River is one of many streams facing a variety of demands and threats, especially in the water-starved West. A negotiated settlement may or may not lead, as Williams says, to a precedent-setting resolution, but it could pave the way for partnerships and other agreements that take the needs of both the public and the park into account. Creative water conservation programs in areas where water consumption threatens park resources can be a precursor and guide to the more comprehensive changes needed to protect our larger environment from insatiable and destructive demands on our water supplies.

Ebba Hierta, a writer who lives in Atlanta, Georgia, last wrote for National Parks *about coral reefs.*

FIRE POWER

After years of suppressing forest fires, the Park Service is realizing its policy does not necessarily benefit ecosystems that depend on intense blazes for regeneration.

By George Wuerthner

WHEN NAT STEPHENSON, an ecologist with the National Biological Service working in the Sierra Nevada forests of California, sees the charred boles and snags of burnt trees, he smiles. He takes it as "a sign that ecosystem processes are going along as they have in the past." Such an attitude toward fire is still not widely held by the American public. Ingrained with the Smokey Bear mantra that "only you can prevent forest fires," most people view fire as a destructive force that must be contained and suppressed.

The problem is that fire suppression is not a solution. Says Fred Bird, fire management officer at Rocky Mountain National Park, "Most people don't realize that we can't continue to suppress fires. As fuels accumulate, fires are getting bigger and hotter. We cannot throw enough fire fighters and tankers at them to effectively stop them."

Along with the increasing difficulty in containing or controlling fires is an ever-growing body of scientific evidence that suggests fire is critical to ecosystem function and to biodiversity preservation. Stephenson ticks off a litany of ecological functions performed by fire: "Fires thin forests, reducing competition for surviving trees, improving their vigor. Fires result in a rich legacy of snags that are important for cavity-nesting birds. They recycle nutrients bound up in dead litter. They can change soil properties, such as its ability to hold water. And they kill soil pathogens."

Other studies have shown that fires may be important for fisheries. Snags from fires fall into streams, providing habitat for fish as well as aquatic insects. The influx of nutrients from ash and debris can enrich nutrient-poor watersheds.

Many plant species also depend upon fires for successful regeneration on a site. Giant sequoias, for example, open their cones after being heated, and germination of the seeds requires the bare

A fire engulfs a forest at Rocky Mountain National Park. Growing evidence suggests that fire is critical to ecosystem function.

KENT AND DONNA DANNEN

JEFF HENRY

A bison wanders across a roadway, as fire fighters work to suppress a blaze at Yellowstone National Park.

mineral soil and lack of competition that exist after a blaze.

Fires can be regarded in the same manner as predators. Just as wolves maintain the fitness of a deer herd, fire helps to maintain the fitness of the forest ecosystem. However, most of our national parks are too small to maintain viable populations of large, wide-ranging predators such as wolves, mountain lions, wolverines, and bears. Similarly, most parks are too small to maintain a completely natural fire regime.

Fred Bird is acutely aware of the limitations of space. "There are 3 million people living along the foothills to the east of the park—and immediately adjacent to us are million-dollar condos and the entire town of Estes Park." Those houses and condos create a dilemma for Bird. Every hundred years or so, a wildfire roars down the Continental Divide like a runaway train, and nothing much can stop it. Bird knows it has been about a hundred years since the last major fire.

Historically, Rocky Mountain experienced very large, intense fires. And, Bird warns, "We are going to have them again. And under some conditions, you can't stop fires." The problem for Bird is maintaining fire as an ecosystem function without burning down someone's home—or worse yet, an entire town—in the process. Says Bird: "We are not naive [about] those issues. Rocky Mountain, as an ecosystem, is just too small to support a totally unmanaged wildfire program. We are not going to say that this is a natural area and let fire run wild. We have to be good neighbors."

One way the Park Service is attempting to be a good neighbor is to reduce fire hazard through "fuel reduction"—decreasing the amount of combustible material. According to Jeff Manley, resource manager at Kings Canyon-Sequoia National Park, the Park Service has a special fund specifically budgeted for prescribed burning, which is one method of fuel reduction. Fire managers can prepare a management plan for burning and obtain the funds to carry it out. In Sequoia National Park, fire suppression has resulted in fuel accumulation in the mid-elevation forests, where low-intensity fires burned frequently in prehistoric times. Manley says that most of his park's fuel reduction program is aimed at these areas. But such work is expensive and labor intensive. Even with an aggressive program, Manley says, Sequoia is not keeping up with fuel accumulation. "Analyzing the different forest communities and their fire cycles, we realize we are falling way behind the natural cycle by thousands of acres. We should be burning 5,000 acres or more a year just to keep up with current annual fuel accumulations, but we are lucky if we achieve 1,000 acres."

Even a prescribed burn has the potential of getting out of control. The presence of housing in areas bordering wildlands creates tremendous political pressure for fire suppression and even limits the ability to do prescribed burning. But as one fire manager said, suppression only delays the inevitable. "It's like borrowing on a credit card to pay off your bills. You still have the debt, and the interest is compounding."

Most parks have fire plans that zone the landscape into management prescriptions. For example, Yosemite National Park is divided into natural, conditional, and full-suppression zones. The Yosemite Valley, with its hotels, campgrounds, and other facilities, is a full-suppression area: no natural fires are permitted. However, according to Fire Management Officer Ed Duncan, there is a prescribed fire program designed to reduce fuel in the valley through burning as well as mechanical treatment—cutting down trees or piling fuels to facilitate burning.

Conditional zones are transitional. "We'll allow some fires to burn if it's after September and winter is on the way and we know we can contain them." A natural fire zone makes up 78 percent of the park. Here fires are monitored, but seldom suppressed. Nevertheless, says Duncan, even in a natural fire zone, not all fires are permitted to burn. If a fire threatens to exceed the ability of fire fighters to put it out, then the agency will attempt to suppress it.

Even in Alaska, where parks are millions of acres in size, fire suppression and fuel reduction are necessary in places. Tom Habecker, North District ranger at Denali National Park, says the employee housing, hotel, visitor center, and other facilities at the park's

KENT AND DONNA DANNEN

A fire fighter extinguishes a blaze along a line of controlled burn on Eagle Cliff at Rocky Mountain National Park.

main entrance are built in a forested canyon that is a prime area for a fire. Says Habecker, "It's all going to go up in flames someday." Denali is planning a fuel-reduction program in this area to create defensible borders around structures. In the remainder of the park, Habecker says, fires are monitored but usually not suppressed.

Though the goal of the National Park Service is to fully implement prescribed natural fires in as much of the landscape as possible, political and policy reality dictates otherwise. For example, lack of coordination with other land management agencies may hamper fire restoration efforts. Even if a park has an approved fire plan, the surrounding state and federal lands may not. In such situations, fires that threaten to burn beyond a park's boundaries are suppressed, even in designated wilderness.

Jeff Manley of Kings Canyon-Sequoia, says, "This past summer, we had to suppress five to seven lightning ignitions that were in our wilderness but adjacent to Forest Service wilderness areas where, at present, no natural fires are permitted." Manley says this could change soon, since an interagency fire plan for the entire southern Sierra is under way but not yet completed.

Kings Canyon-Sequoia is not the only park facing restrictions imposed by lack of interagency fire coordination. Fred Bird says a similar problem exists at Rocky Mountain National Park. "There are no prescribed fire zones surrounding the park. If a fire gets to the border, we have to implement a confine, contain, and control policy." Bird says the Forest and Park services are trying to work out an agreement whereby fires will be permitted to cross interagency boundaries, but this still would depend upon predicted fire behavior.

Even in areas with a tremendous wildlands buffer, such as the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, fire suppression may be the norm. According to Phil Perkins, fire management officer for Yellowstone National Park, a number of fires were suppressed this past summer, even though conditions (such as wind, humidity, and fire-fighting power) were appropriate for letting them burn. The fires were suppressed because they threatened to burn into adjacent national forest wilderness areas without approved fire plans.

Concerns about air quality are yet another restriction upon restoration of fires. Smog is a major health concern in California's Central Valley, and smoke from fires can add to the pollution problem. Ed Duncan at Yosemite National Park says that the park "can't have too many fires going at the same time because of smoke."

National preparedness levels are a consideration as well. Interagency fire organizations have a 1-to-5 scale that relates to fire-fighting capabilities. If there is no competition for fire-fighting resources and fire hazard is low, preparedness is rated 1. In dry summers, when many fires are burning, national preparedness reaches 4 or 5. Under these conditions, new fires, even in designated natural fire zones, are usually suppressed. Fire preparedness reached level 5 this past summer, automatically triggering full suppression of all natural fires throughout the country.

Not all restrictions are imposed from outside. Many parks must live with preexisting constraints. For instance, Al Augustine, fire officer for Oregon Caves National Monument, says the monument's historic Chateau limits fire management options. "It's a historic hotel that is built of western red cedar with the bark still on it, built directly in the most likely pathway for a fire to burn."

Even if managed fire programs could keep up with fuel accumulations and approved fire plans are in place, Yosemite's Ed Duncan says that "under some conditions, wildfires are unstoppable."

That is exactly what happened at Yellowstone in 1988. After mid-July, all fires were attacked under a full-suppression mode, but fire fighters had little success. It was snowfall on September 10, not human efforts, that finally halted the Yellowstone fires.

The inability to control all fires was aptly demonstrated during the summer of 1994, when wildfires burned approximately 3.3 million acres of the Western United States—despite full suppression efforts. Most media accounts called it a "disastrous summer," but from an ecological perspective, the acreage burned was not nearly enough. Intense and wide-ranging fires at times may in fact

JEFF HENRY

Many plant species depend on fire for successful regeneration. Here, a plant sprouts up after a fire at Yellowstone.

be necessary for ecosystem health and forest regeneration.

Across the West, the vast majority of acreage burned in any one year is burned in a handful of large, "stand-replacement" blazes—those in which most of the big trees are killed, allowing the forest to regenerate itself. Linda Mutch, a fire ecologist with the National Biological Service in California, found that "sequoia seedling establishment was directly proportional to fire severity." Her findings suggest that low-intensity burns may not be enough.

Manley says the idea of "friendly flame" or "small fires creeping about the underbrush" was promoted as the answer to fuel buildups. However, research by Mutch and other scientists is calling into question such policies, Manley says. "If we are serious about maintaining sequoia groves, we are going to have to accept that there are going to be high-intensity burns—at least on a local level. That means burning down some sequoias once in a while."

This leads to a critical policy problem. The only time hot, intense blazes necessary for rapid fuel removal, as well as maintenance of some ecosystem processes, occur is when severe conditions prevail. Yet, as a matter of policy, most agencies call for fire suppression under these "extreme" conditions.

This is the situation at Rocky Mountain. According to fire manager Bird, "When conditions at Rocky Mountain are finally dry enough for high-elevation forests to burn, the low elevations are on fire, and we are likely to be in a full-suppression mode already."

A similar situation exists at Yellowstone. Computer modeling by fire researcher James Brown has shown that by the time Yellowstone dries out enough to carry a fire, it is dangerously close to a situation where a blaze may grow beyond control into a large conflagration. In other words, permitting fires to burn only when they can be confined to small areas is essentially removing fire as a potent ecological force. "Friendly flame" may be appropriate in some ecosystems, but in others it is clear that only large, stand-replacement fires provide for ecosystem maintenance.

One unexpected consequence of the 1988 Yellowstone fires was the establishment of aspen in areas where it had never been known to grow. Aspen seeds require bare mineral soil and abundant water throughout the growing season. However, most sites moist enough to support aspen seedlings, such as wet meadows, already have vegetation growing there. Only under extreme drought conditions are fires hot enough and wet meadows dry enough for a fire to remove the existing vegetation.

Large fires have always been a part of the Yellowstone ecosystem, according to paleo-biogeographer Cathy Whitlock. Whitlock's studies of charcoal deposits from lake sediments confirm that Yellowstone has experienced recurring large fires periodically for thousands of years.

Even areas such as the Sierra Nevada mid-elevation forests, which tend to have repeated low-intensity fires at frequent intervals, occasionally experience widespread stand-replacement fires. Tony Caprio, a National Biological Service fire ecologist currently working in the Sierra Nevada, says that "fire scars up and down the Sierra record a major fire event in 1297." Says Caprio, "There was a really long dry period between 1292 and 1299 and a number of big fires. The fire record seems to indicate that the fire [or fires] was really

JEFF HENRY

Above, a bull elk stands amid a charred forest. Large fires have always been part of the ecosystem at Yellowstone.

Wildflower seeds, carried by birds or the wind, are among the first to regenerate after a fire such as the one at Yellowstone.

hot and widespread. It killed most of the sequoia trees and was followed by a marked growth...in the surviving trees."

Dennis Glick, with the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, an environmental group that oversees the Yellowstone region, says, "At present our attitudes about fire are something like those that surrounded wolves three or four decades ago, when the only good wolf was a dead one. Only recently has a large majority of the public come to see wolves and other large predators as desirable and even necessary for ecosystem functions." He adds, "Biodiversity preservation involves more than species protection; it includes maintaining historic ecological processes as well."

Clearly, we are taking only some initial halting steps toward properly managing the ecological process of fire. The more difficult challenge ahead will be restoring ecologically significant natural events such as fire into a landscape dominated and manipulated by humans.

George Wuerthner is an ecologist, freelance writer, and photographer with 15 published books largely devoted to natural history and resource topics.

JEFF FOOTT

Crescent City Cadence

To commemorate the history of jazz, a uniquely American musical form, Congress established the New Orleans Jazz National Historic Park in the city of its birth.

By John McDonough

ARTHUR BEDOU/HOGAN JAZZ ARCHIVE/TULANE UNIVERSITY

The Superior Orchestra, an early New Orleans jazz band, played "polite dance music" in places such as Francs Amis Hall, the Creole dance hall where local bands entertained.

AN APPRECIATION of history is derived from equal parts of scholarship and imagination. The first feeds on the rules of evidence; the second, on the power of metaphysics. Scholarship, alas, is for the few. But anyone can stand at the Civil War battlefield in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, or at the USS *Arizona* Memorial at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, conjure up an image of the moment in history that has made these places significant, and feel in the presence of ghosts. That is the metaphysics of history. And to hear jazz in New Orleans, even today, and especially coursing through narrow streets and shallow canyons of the old French architecture, is to hear the mournful howls of many ghosts.

This is precisely what the National Park Service wants visitors to experience at New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park. In one of its last acts before adjourning an otherwise lackluster session last year, the 103rd Congress created the historical park to foster preservation, education, and interpretation of jazz as it evolved in New Orleans. A visitor center is proposed, but the park would likely be more programmatic than land based.

Sen. J. Bennett Johnston (D-La.) was a key mover behind the unusual legislation establishing the park, which provides for a commission to guide its formation. Former Congresswoman Lindy Boggs and Ellis Marsalis, head of the famous jazz family, are among those involved with the commission. The legislation calls for a landmark study to be completed within 18 months that will evaluate sites associated with jazz in and around New Orleans to determine their significance to the origins and development of the music. In legislation establishing the historical park, Congress called jazz "a rare and invaluable national treasure of international importance" that is the "most widely recognized indigenous art form" in the United States. The park will be administered in conjunction with Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, an established unit in and around the city of New Orleans.

Although not everyone would agree that now is a good time to add units—when Congress is reviewing the National Park System in a way it did military bases several years ago—few would sug-

LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM

gest that jazz is an unworthy subject for the collection of sites that represent the superlatives of our natural and cultural heritage. And if jazz is to be recognized, then New Orleans, the city associated with the music's birth, is the place to do it.

"For this strongly indigenous music not only may be said to have originated in one city," jazz historian Charles Edward Smith wrote in 1955, "but until half a century ago was largely confined to that city. This single city claim has been questioned, but as yet no one has upset the basic historical pattern."

Yet, of the 100 New Orleans properties currently on the National Register of Historic Places, not a single one is cited for its association with jazz, the city's most famous world export. And other sites that could be interpreted as part of the New Orleans jazz park programs are not on the register at all, such as:

▲ Perseverance Hall on Villere Street, where some of the city's earliest jazz was played. (Although the hall is not on the register, it is part of the Congo Historic District.);

Cornetist Joe "King" Oliver, who led popular bands in New Orleans, established the trend-setting Creole Jazz Band in Chicago in 1922. King Oliver is considered one of the pioneers of jazz.

▲ Francs Amis Hall on North Robertson, the Creole dance hall where local bands entertained;

▲ Odd Fellows and Masonic Dance Hall/Eagle Saloon where Buddy Bolden played; the first floor was apparently the Eagle Saloon;

▲ The Red Onion, named in Clarence Williams' 1923 "Red Onion Blues" and across the street from the Illinois Central Station, gateway for the northern exodus;

▲ The Iroquois Theater, the local black vaudeville center, where Jelly Roll Morton likely played;

▲ Frank Early's Saloon on Bienville Avenue, which employed early jazz piano players such as Tony Jackson;

▲ The Tango Belt along North Rampart Street, where Tom Brown, the Original Dixieland Jazz Band, and the New Orleans Rhythm Kings all played before heading north. (Although it is not on the historic register, the Tango Belt is contained entirely within a historic district, which is a National Historic Landmark.)

One reason for this lack of historic recognition is surely timing. The music of New Orleans reached its prime just ahead of the recording industry that might have documented it. But it did not become famous, and thus worthy of recording, until after it left town. Why did the musicians leave New Orleans? Not because the whorehouses closed, as myth tells us. They left because they were part of the same Great Migration that uprooted thousands of other blacks (and many whites) in the greatest population transfer in American history—a migration driven by the availability of factory jobs in the North, a 1915 plague of boll weevils, and a succession of floods in the Delta that destroyed cotton crops in the South. And jazz did not really come north on the Mississippi River. Musicians took the Illinois Central, whose tracks began in New Orleans and ended 1,000 miles due north, near the south side of Chicago. Anyone could ride the trains for

about $8 one way, and thousands did.

The coordinates of art and technology would meet in Richmond, Indiana, where the earliest examples of authentic New Orleans jazz were inscribed between 1917 and 1923. Recordings were made by musicians who had left the city behind for points north, carrying with them the mature polyphonic forms of classic New Orleans jazz. The early evolution and development of the music in New Orleans left no recordings, no paper trail of score sheets, and no financial records. It all lay largely lost and neglected behind an unbreachable wall of historic silence.

A generation would pass before anyone would regard early New Orleans history as significant and begin to reconstruct the web of social, political, and musical elements that fed into the earliest jazz. This was because between America's entry into World War I and the end of the Great Depression, jazz met and married the genius of the American popular song and evolved into big band (and big business) swing. For the first—and last—time, jazz became the locus of American popular music. Understandably, people were curious about the origins of jazz. But by then the only trails leading to answers about its origins were conjecture and the fallible and often opportunistic memories of the early New Orleans witnesses.

Besides Louis Armstrong, who was blessed with an ingratiating showmanship and sagacious management, few of the founding pioneers had been able to ride the bumpy 15 years from the last heyday of New Orleans to the organized perfection of swing. King Oliver, Armstrong's mentor, was dead. Clarinetist Sidney Bechet was a sideman in a commercial dance band. Leon Ropollo, composer of "Tin Roof Blues," landed in a psychiatric hospital. Jelly Roll Morton, who had fallen from semi-stardom to bitter obscurity, boasted that he invented jazz. So did Nick LaRocca, the long-forgotten trumpeter who made the first jazz records in 1917 as leader of the Original Dixieland Jazz Band. He called himself the "Columbus of jazz." Anyone could claim anything, knowing that no recorded evidence could prove the claims wrong.

LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM

Among the most famous of New Orleans' musicians, Louis Armstrong led the development of the soloist's art.

Bunk Johnson, an early member of the turn-of-the-century New Orleans period, had remained in the Delta and let history pass him like a speeding Zephyr. He was not discovered and recorded until the early 1940s, when early jazz folklorists began to excavate regional evidence. By then Johnson seemed a primeval figure, a Rip Van Winkle who had nodded off with the demise of the cake walk and awakened untouched by the virtuosity of swing in a jitterbugging world bracing for bebop.

At a time when the oldest of those who had actually grown famous playing jazz were barely older than 40, Johnson claimed to be in his late 60s. So his frail but emotion-filled technique was assigned to old age. Youth is naive about age, of course, and jazz was still too young to know better (or imagine that Benny Goodman, Benny Carter, and Dizzy Gillespie would one day be master virtuosos into their 70s and beyond). Johnson probably sounded the same in 1910. But in a young man's music, he was a living voice from an age thought lost. His discoverers, like the scientists in Jurassic Park, were convinced they had found the DNA of the earliest true jazz. They set out to capture it, then to clone it. Johnson and contemporaries George Lewis and Jim Robinson became the matrix for the Preservation Hall aesthetic, where old New Orleans becomes a kind of living theater.

If Johnson was born when he said he was, 1879 (though scholars now believe he added a decade to cash in on his

LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM

The Original Dixieland Jazz Band cut the first commercial jazz recording in 1917 while playing in New York City. The Victor release was an unexpected hit, and suddenly jazz was a national craze.

pioneer claims), he did indeed come from the far age frontier of the documented founders. Buddy Bolden, born around 1878, survives only in photograph and legend, proxy for all of the lost musicians who came before and had played during the prehistory of jazz. The earliest generation that would be documented on recordings was born more or less between 1880 and 1905 and included Kid Ory (1886), Freddie Keppard (1890), Johnny Dodds (1892), Tony Parenti (1900), George Brunies, Leon Ropollo (1902), and Wingy Manone (1904). All would leave New Orleans to record in the first rush of jazz recording after 1917. Most of those who stayed, however, such as Johnson and clarinetist Alphonese Picou (born in 1878), would be old before they could be located and inscribed.

It was not until March 1924 that labels such as Okeh, Vocalion, and Columbia actually reached New Orleans with portable equipment to record bands within the city. Few of the records were heard outside the region or reached serious collectors in the North, who would become jazz's first historiographers. The records were soon forgotten along with most of the musicians who made them—Sam Morgan, Johnny DeDroit, Johnny Bayersdorffer. Only when scholars gained access to recording company archives in the 1950s and 1960s were the records discovered.

Today, they are like the Dead Sea Scrolls of American music. Although not substantially different from the New Orleans bands that had recorded in Chicago and New York (e.g., King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band, which included Louis Armstrong on second cornet, and the New Orleans Rhythm Kings), they carry us back through time to the earliest audible frontiers of New Orleans jazz in its original habitat. Behind these records lie a root system of culture and history that plunges deep and wide into the fiber of American civilization, back to 1803 when the French flag came down and the American one was hoisted over the diverse city called New Orleans.

WILLIAM RUSSELL/HOGAN JAZZ ARCHIVE/TULANE UNIVERSITY

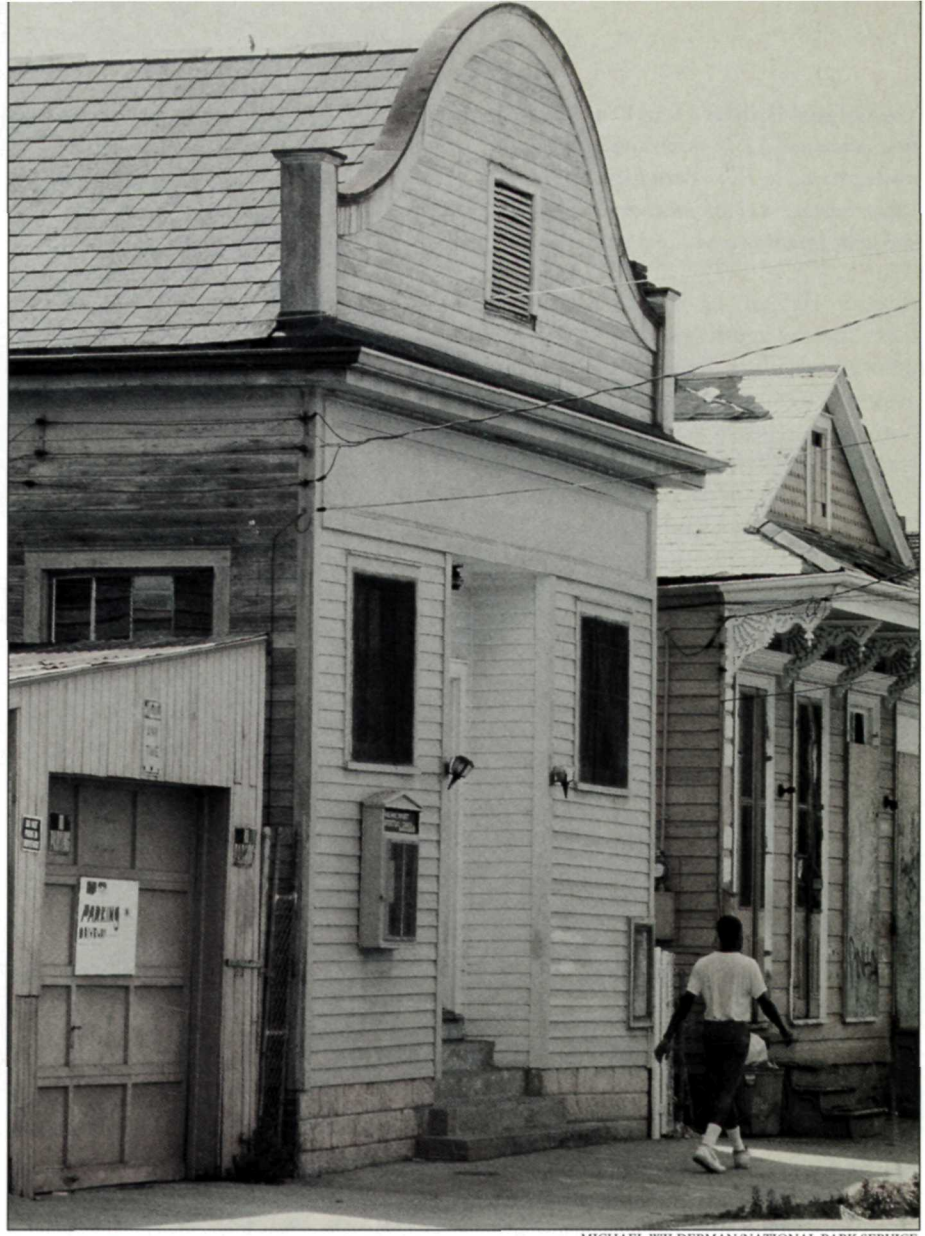
The Union Son's Hall, also called Funky Butt Hall, was frequented by many early jazz musicians.

New Orleans was the original multicultural city, and jazz would become perhaps the first enduring monument to genuine American multiculturalism. No race, language, or nationality holds true title, emotional or otherwise, to the creation of jazz. Though the preponderance of its masters surely have been African American, jazz's roots are entangled in the fusion of black, white, and Creole; African, European, and American; spirituals, rhythm, and melody.

"My whole study of New Orleans," says jazz historian Richard M. Sudhalter, "has left me with the sense that it wasn't a matter of white imitators feeding off of black progenitors. That idea came later. Before 1917, the music we know as jazz was pretty much common cultural coin throughout the city among both black and white."

Jazz has reached a point in its history where it is much beloved, widely respected, and, like other historical treasures, seldom enjoyed. Some worry that if the New Orleans origins of jazz are to become a ward of the Park Service today, can punk, rap, grunge, and Graceland be far behind?

The present proposal to create a New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park has drawn the attention of Rep. Joel Hefley (R-Colo.). Hefley and Rep. Bruce Vento (D-Minn.) have sponsored legis-



MICHAEL WILDERMAN/NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Social halls, such as Perseverance, played an important role in the development of jazz. Many early jazz musicians, including Buddy Bolden, played here.

lation to review the National Park System, what is right with it, what is wrong with it, and "to get the pork out," says Hefley. Fundamental to this evaluation is the question of whether art and culture are the proper business of an agency whose traditional role has been caretaker to nature, military history, and presidential sites.

At first glance it seems eminently logical to extend the park mandate, given that American history and culture are effectively indivisible. And surely a park devoted to jazz in the place of its birth would seem an ideal candidate to join existing cultural park projects canonizing American impressionist art at Weir Farm in Connecticut as well as literature at a variety of sites, including those devoted to Carl Sandburg and Edgar Allen Poe.

"Last year, I tried to amend out the mountain music project on the Blue Ridge Parkway," says Hefley. "It's not what the role of the Park Service really is. Neither is the jazz park in New Orleans. I would not say the Park Service has absolutely no role to play in culture. But not while the jewels of our park system, such as Yellowstone, with its infrastructure problems, have to go begging because we've included every cockamamie thing you can imagine under the Park Service."

Yet, those who feel that the Park Service should confine itself to prairies and nature preserves may be missing an important point. Culture is not a renewable resource. Its shrines live on the kindnesses of posterity. The marketplace has been good to Elvis, as the crowds at Graceland prove, and certainly rock in its various incarnations needs no life support initiatives from the Park Service. It is well able to erect its own shrine in Cleveland. But there is a reason for this. The generation that first hailed rock and roll 40 years ago is barely 50 today. Its numbers along with the bonding power of nostalgia remain a potent force in the market place.

But the generation that experienced the first New Orleans jazz in the early days of the 20th century has long vanished. The death of living memories has pushed the music across the line in time that separates nostalgia from history. It is a passage that has cut two ways, stripping jazz of the protections of sentiment while at the same time placing it on the pedestal of heritage.

"This is why the park system has a 50-year rule," says Bruce Craig, executive director of the Conference of National Park Cooperating Associations. "It requires that the national importance of any site, with few exceptions, be based on a half-century perspective. Thus, the importance of any proposed rock and roll sites or Elvis properties would not be considered until the generation that grew up on that music would be greatly diminished."

In the end, the park system must remain flexible. Over the years, it has evolved to reflect those things that are important to the American people, as expressed through Congress. First, it was the big national parks. Then in the 1930s, it started looking after our historic sites as well. Today, our art, music, and literature are as much a part of our heritage as our military and presidential past.

John McDonough, who lives in Chicago, Illinois, writes about music for the Wall Street Journal *and* Downbeat.

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For Cross and Crown

Remains of Catholic missions are found in parks across the Southwest, preserving a chapter of colonial history.

By M. Katherine Heinrich

FEWER THAN 50 years after Christopher Columbus claimed a corner of the New World in the name of the Spanish crown, the conquistadors mounted expeditions to explore and claim lands across Mexico and from present-day Maine to Florida and California.

In search of Cíbola, one of the legendary cities of gold, Coronado set forth in 1540 for New Spain's northern frontier with a 1,200-man army and five Franciscan friars. Coronado's expedition traveled as far as the Grand Canyon and across the central plains to Kansas before retreating to Mexico without finding a trace of gold.

By the turn of the century, Spain's objectives in the New World had become more practical. In 1598 Don Juan de Oñate, who had been appointed governor of the territory of New Mexico, set out with a party of 500 colonists, including ten Franciscans, to establish Spanish settlements along New Spain's frontier. Oñate's colonial effort faltered. He returned to Mexico in disgrace, but not before assigning one of the Franciscans to Pecos, the most powerful of the native pueblos.

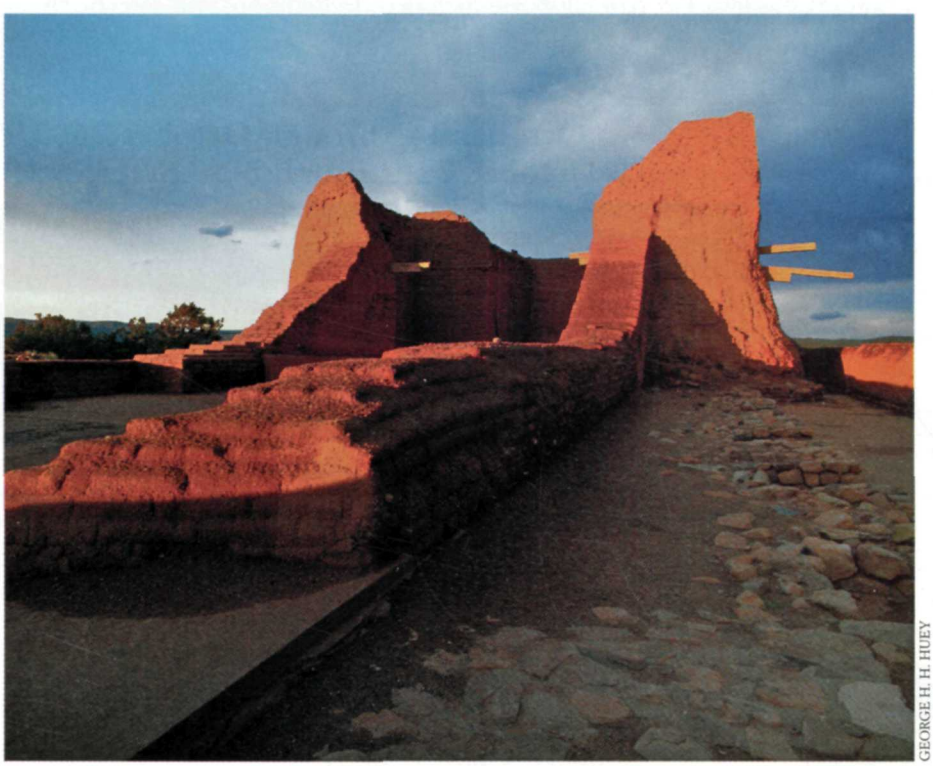
When the territory failed to yield riches or lasting colonies, the Franciscans, reluctant to abandon the Indians they had baptized, persuaded King Philip II to maintain the missionary effort, largely at the expense of the crown. The chain of missions in New Spain established the Spanish presence on the frontier, at a time when other European powers sought to claim and colonize territory in the New World. As representatives of the crown, missionary priests were charged with inducting Indians into the Catholic faith, securing their loyalty to the Spanish crown, and acquiring access to their lands for future settlements.

Missions were often established among civilizations that had flourished for centuries before European contact. This gave the crown access to the fertile lands, cultivated terraces, and irrigation systems developed by sophisticated agricultural communities. The Spaniards introduced livestock and new crops and gave instruction in European crafts and trades. With the help of the Indians, a church and *convento* were built to house the mission. But as the missionaries sought to transform pueblos into Spanish villages—to replace spiritual, economic, political, and social customs—they found the Indians reluctant to abandon their native traditions.

Mission life was regulated from dawn to dark by the ringing of bells—summoning the neophytes to mass, to meals, and to work. Indians learned Spanish, recited prayers in Latin, and made the sign of the cross, yet the priests were horrified to learn that native ceremonial practices continued in secret.

At several mission sites in the National Park System, the archaeological

Fifteenth-century Pecos pueblo ruins at Pecos National Historical Park in New Mexico.



GEORGE H. H. HUEY

GEORGE H. H. HUEY

Ruins of Las Humanas pueblo and a Spanish mission are preserved at the Gran Quivira unit of Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument in New Mexico.

record—the charred rubble of churches and ceremonial kiva chambers—demonstrates the clash between priest and pueblo throughout the life of the mission. The remains of 11 Spanish missions are preserved in the park system across the Southwest.

Pecos

At the time of the Coronado expedition, the Pecos pueblo was at its peak. After hearing of the defeat of the Zuni at the hands the Spaniards, Pecos sent two emissaries to the Coronado encampment to make peace and invite the Spaniards to their pueblo. It stood atop a high rock—a rectangular fortress around a central plaza with rooms for its 2,000 residents stacked four and five stories high. Spanish accounts note the dominance of Pecos among the pueblos and its proficiency in agriculture—one of Coronado's men estimated that the Pecos granaries held a three-year supply of corn.

Members of the Coronado expedition, disappointed that the legends of riches at the Zuni pueblos of Cíbola proved false, were eager to set out for Quivira, a city rich with gold described by an Indian guide at Pecos. The expedition set out across the plains to Quivira in the spring, led by the guide—whom the Spaniards dubbed El Turco, "The Turk." Months passed as they crossed the rivers and prairie of present-day Oklahoma and Kansas. When a party of soldiers finally reached Quivira, it held no more gold than Cíbola. After confessing that he had led the Spaniards astray on the plains to die, El Turco was executed. Coronado withdrew and the Pecos pueblo had little contact with the Spanish until the arrival of the Franciscan friar Fray Francisco de San Miguel in 1598 began the 240-year history of the mission at Pecos.

Today, a trail winds through unexcavated mounds to the 15th-century Pecos pueblo ruins and the remains of two mission churches, built in the 17th and 18th centuries. Food and supplies are available in the village of Pecos. Other accommodations can be found in Santa Fe. For more information, contact Pecos National Historical Park, P.O. Drawer 418, Pecos, NM 87552, 505-757-6414.

Salinas Pueblo Missions

In the 1600s, Quarai, one of several pueblo missions in the Salinas Valley, stood at the center of a three-way conflict involving the Pueblo Indians' native religious practices.

Pueblo spiritual customs centered on masked Kachina dances and the kiva, a semi-subterranean circular chamber that symbolized the Pueblo Indians' connection to the underworld, where spirits resided and from which the Indians' ancestors had sprung.

Missionary priests discouraged what they considered pagan idolatry; some smashed Kachina masks and destroyed kivas. At Quarai, the Franciscans' efforts were undermined by representatives of the Spanish civil authority.

Under a system known as *encomienda*, the Quarai mission received protection from the *encomendero,* a Spanish colonist who, in return, received tribute in goods from the mission Indians. Abuse of this arrangement was common, and no authority but the mission priest would intervene on behalf of the Indians. Enmity between priest and civil authority escalated until the Franciscans brought the *alcalde mayor* of Salinas before the Inquisition for encouraging the Kachina dances.

Drought, famine, and epidemics of European diseases plagued the pueblos in the 1660s. By the 1670s—within 50 years of the arrival of the Franciscans—the Salinas pueblos were abandoned.

Resentment over the suppression of native beliefs provoked the mass Pueblo Revolt across New Mexico in 1680, which ended in the destruction of missionary churches, the martyrdom of several Franciscans, and the retreat of the Spaniards to El Paso, in present-day Texas. After the missions were restored beginning in 1692, the Franciscans tolerated the practice of native rituals along with Catholicism, but the change came too late for the Salinas pueblos.

The ruins of the mission at Quarai and its sister missions at the pueblos of Abó and Las Humanas, now known as Gran Quivira, are strung along the Salinas Valley. At Gran Quivira, the southernmost site, the gray limestone ruins of two churches and excavated pueblo structures can be found. Abó, 34 miles north by road, features an unexcavated pueblo and the remains of a red sand-

stone mission church. Quarai, another 17 miles north, offers the best-preserved example of a mission church at the Salinas pueblos.

Food, supplies, and lodging are available in the town of Mountainair. For more information, contact Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument, P.O. Box 496, Mountainair, NM 87036, 505-847-2585.

Tumacácori

While Franciscans toiled in the territory of New Mexico, Jesuit missionaries advanced the Catholic faith and the Spanish cause along New Spain's west coast, including Baja California and the Sonoran desert. By the 1690s, the Jesuits had performed tens of thousands of baptisms in the region.

In 1691, Father Eusebio Kino entered the O'odham village of Tumacácori. The O'odham, known to the Spaniards as Pimas or Sobaípuris, had heard of Kino's generosity with seeds and livestock and sent messengers to invite the Jesuits to their village. Kino established the mission San Cayetano de Tumacácori and, the following day, Mission San Gabriel in the nearby village of Guevavi. Tumacácori became a *visita*, or satellite parish of Guevavi and would operate without a resident missionary for nearly 80 years.

King Carlos III expelled the Jesuits from all reaches of his empire in 1767, and Franciscans were assigned to continue the missionary effort in the region known as the Pimería Alta.

The park includes the Franciscans' nearly completed mission church at Tumacácori and its *convento*, the nearby mission at Guevavi, and the later *visita* parish of Calabazas. Twice yearly, a historic High Mass in the traditional style of the 17th and 18th centuries is celebrated at Tumacácori. Weekends bring artisans from both sides of the U.S.-Mexican border to demonstrate traditional local crafts.

Food, supplies, lodging, and other services are available in Tucson and in smaller communities closer to the park on both sides of the border. For more information, contact Tumacácori National Historical Park, P.O. Box 67, Tumacácori, AZ 85640, 602-398-2341.

JOHN ELK III

Mission San José at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park in Texas. San José was the largest of the Texas missions.

San Antonio Missions

In response to French exploration along the Mississippi River Valley, Spanish friars established six missions along New Spain's eastern frontier in 1690. The missions' isolation—a three-month journey from the capital in Mexico City—left them vulnerable. Mission San Antonio de Valero, now known as the Alamo, was established as a way station on the San Antonio River in 1718.

The following year the French forced the Spaniards to abandon the east Texas missions, and the missionaries took refuge at Mission San Antonio. By 1731 a chain of five missions, three of them relocated from east Texas, operated along the San Antonio River—populated by native recruits representing 150 cultural groups.

Mission San José, founded in 1720, quickly grew prosperous and became the largest of the Texas missions. An *acequia* irrigation system boosted agricultural production, and the mission sold the surplus to the growing settlements around the military *presidio* and *villa* of San Antonio. The mission's holdings included El Rancho Atascoso, about 30 miles to the south, where Indian *vaqueros*, or cowboys, tended to 1,500 cattle, 5,000 sheep and goats, and herds of mules and horses.

After Mexico won independence from Spain in 1821, Texas became a Mexican province, and the San Antonio missions were fully secularized—the parishes turned over to the local clergy, their lands and property divided among their residents, and the remainder sold.

The mission churches of San José, Concepción, Espada, and San Juan remain active today. Their spartan limestone facades were once brilliantly frescoed with geometric designs; visitors can view original interior paintings at Concepción. The park also preserves a reconstructed mission compound at San José, sections of the mission fields, or *labores*, and the remains of the 15-mile *acequia* system that provides irrigation to local farmers to this day. The Alamo, which is not part of the park system, is nearby.

Camping, lodging, food, and supplies are available in the city of San Antonio. For more information, contact San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, 2202 Roosevelt Ave., San Antonio, TX 78210, 210-229-5701.

M. Katherine Heinrich is editorial assistant for National Parks.

Guardians of the Parks

Guardians of the Parks, a history of NPCA's first 75 years, will be published in May. In the book, park historian John C. Miles chronicles NPCA's development from its origin as the National Parks Association in 1919 through decades of its battles to shape and defend the National Park System.

Guardians of the Parks traces NPCA's history of cooperation and confrontation with the National Park Service, recording the association's triumphs and frustrations in its never-ending mission to preserve the best of the nation's natural, cultural, and historic resources.

NPCA members can order a copy of the book—which will retail for $29.95—at a discount price of $19.95, plus shipping. To order, call Susan Hawley at 1-800-NAT-PARK, extension 215.

Exploring Our National Parks...

A revised and expanded version of *Exploring Our National Parks and Monuments* will be released in June by NPCA in cooperation with Roberts Rinehart Publishers. First published in 1947, the book was written by the late Devereux Butcher, executive secretary of the National Parks Association and editor of *National Parks* in the 1940s and 1950s.

Exploring Our National Parks and Monuments has been updated by NPCA Fellow Russ Butcher, Dev Butcher's son. The new edition features more than 300 black and white photographs and descriptive details about the National Park System, including all national parks, the natural and archaeological monuments, and new units added to the system in recent years. Entries describe each park's physical features and offer information on access, roads and trails, supplies and accommodations, and contacts for further information. Check with your local bookstore, or call 1-800-352-1985 to order a copy.

NPCA would like to thank the national agencies and organizations whose support helped to make 1995 the most successful year yet for March for Parks:

America the Beautiful Fund
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National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Association of State Park Directors
National Park Service
National Recreation and Park Association
National Tree Trust
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Scenic America
U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce

National Park Week

The National Park Service invites the public to join in the celebration of National Park Week May 22–28, 1995. This year National Park Week emphasizes the educational value of the National Park System. Park units nationwide are planning special events to involve visitors and the local community.

Recreation Trends Symposium

NPCA and the National Park Service, along with other federal and state agencies and nonprofit organizations, have signed on to cosponsor the 4th International Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Trends Symposium, to be held May 14–17 in St. Paul, Minnesota. Every five years since 1980, this series of symposia has brought together public and private land managers with researchers, planners, and business people to explore current trends in tourism and outdoor recreation.

Through plenary sessions, workshops, and field excursions, participants in the symposium will address the implications of recreation trends for policy, management, and planning for the future. For information about participating in the conference, call 1-800-367-5363.

It's a Bird, It's a Plane!

With a grant from the Lyndhurst Foundation, NPCA's Southeast Regional Office has launched a public awareness campaign on aircraft overflights at Great Smoky Mountains National Park. "Educating the public about the effects of sightseeing overflights is the first step in resolving this issue," said NPCA Southeast Regional Director Don Barger.

As part of the campaign, a fact sheet detailing the effects of overflights on the Smokies is being distributed along with the park's aircraft observation report forms. According to Barger, hikers often grumble about aircraft intruding on their visit to the park, but few know how to file an official complaint.

Correction

Page 27 of NPCA's 1994 Annual Report incorrectly identified the Southern Appalachian Mountain Initiative (SAMI) as an organization established by NPCA and a coalition of 20 other conservation and public health groups. SAMI is an eight-state regional air quality initiative established by the Environmental Protection Agency. NPCA is part of a coalition to push for positive action from SAMI.

Thanks for the Feedback

NPCA offers its thanks to more than 40,000 members who took the time to complete and return the survey attached to the January/February 1995 issue of *National Parks*. NPCA initiated the survey as part of its long-term strategic planning; the strong response will help guide the association in planning for park protection into the 21st century.

During the past two years, 83 percent of respondents have visited at least one unit of the National Park System. Although members enjoy visiting and supporting the parks, more than half of the survey participants—52 percent—believe that in the future, the national parks will not enjoy the protected status they do today. Nevertheless, NPCA members are prepared to put their money where their mouth is for the parks: 69 percent of respondents would add a dollar to their federal tax payment if a check-off for the parks were available on the tax form. An even larger majority—82 percent—would willingly pay higher park entrance fees if the funds stayed either in the individual park units or within the Park Service.

Good Credit

NPCA MasterCard and VISA Gold cardholders should note that their accounts are now being serviced by First Fidelity Bank, N.A. First Fidelity purchased the Bank of Baltimore, which originally issued the NPCA credit card. There are no changes in the terms and conditions of your card. Please call 1-800-252-9002 if you have any comments or questions regarding your account.

To apply for an NPCA credit card, with an image of grizzly bears, a Civil War cannon, or Arches National Park, call the number above. Please specify that you would like to apply for the NPCA credit card and your choice of images. When you receive your card, please make sure that it carries the image you requested. Look for the NPCA name to ensure that you received the only credit card that supports NPCA's park protection efforts. Remember, last year NPCA cardholders helped generate $140,000 to help our national parks.

NPCA Online

NPCA Opens Web Site

NPCA has opened a World Wide Web site on the Internet. The NPCA Web site provides access to information about NPCA and the national parks, selected articles from *National Parks* and *The ParkWatcher,* and current NPCA press releases. If you have a Web browser, you can find NPCA at: **http://www.npca.com/pub/npca/.**

NPCA is also posting press releases and other park-related information on the newsgroup **talk.environment.**

NPCA continues its presence on CompuServe, America Online, and Prodigy.

CompuServe: Type GO NPCA at any CompuServe prompt. NPCA members are eligible for a free introductory CompuServe membership. Call 1-800-524-3388, representative 156.

America Online: NPCA maintains message boards on Network Earth and Time Online (National Affairs).

Prodigy: Look for NPCA on the Science and Environment BB or use Prodigy's Web browser to reach the NPCA Web site.

For more information about NPCA Online, send e-mail to:
natparks@aol.com
or call 202-223-6722 and ask for Michael McCoy at extension 119 or Davinder Khanna at extension 110.

NPCA urges members with e-mail addresses to send them to us at **natparks@aol.com.**

Next Issue...

The July/August issue will feature stories on big cats, the Visitor Experience and Resource Protection Program at Zion National Park, and a scientific study at Crater Lake National Park. "Access" will look at parks with sand dunes.

ADT

THE AMERICAN Discovery Trail Explorer's Guide is sort of like the yellow pages of the telephone book: chock-full of information, but not something you would want to curl up with for a good, long read.

The guide explores the 6,357-mile American Discovery Trail (ADT)—now under consideration by Congress as a National Scenic Trail—from its start at Cape Henlopen State Park in Delaware to its end just north of Point Reyes National Seashore in California.

Reese Lukei, listed as general editor, is also the national coordinator for the ADT, which links the Appalachian and Pacific Crest trails and the North Country and Continental Divide trails.

The book is full of historical and cultural tidbits as well as information about where to find the best ice cream or where to camp or bed down for the night after a long hike along the roadways, pathways, trails, and sidewalks that make up the coast-to-coast trail.

The state-by-state breakdowns include tips about crossing certain highways and bridges, such as hitching a ride across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge in Maryland because it prohibits pedestrians and bicyclists, or securing your belongings before venturing across the windy Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, California.

The ADT "provides the opportunity to travel parts of the routes used by [those] who settled our country and links these immigrant and commerce trails into a nationwide system—a system of 'Trails for all Americans.'"

American Discovery Trail Explorer's Guide, paperback, $14.95; published by Johnson Books, Boulder, Colorado; 303-443-1679.

—Linda M. Rancourt

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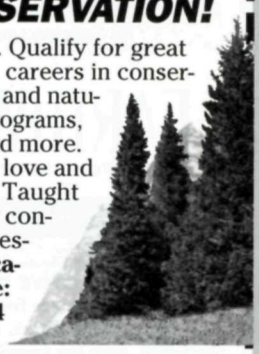

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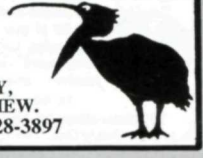

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Park Overpasses

PARK PURSUIT tests your knowledge of the history and the natural resources represented within the National Park System. Clues can be found in past issues of the magazine, in books, or in literature about the parks.

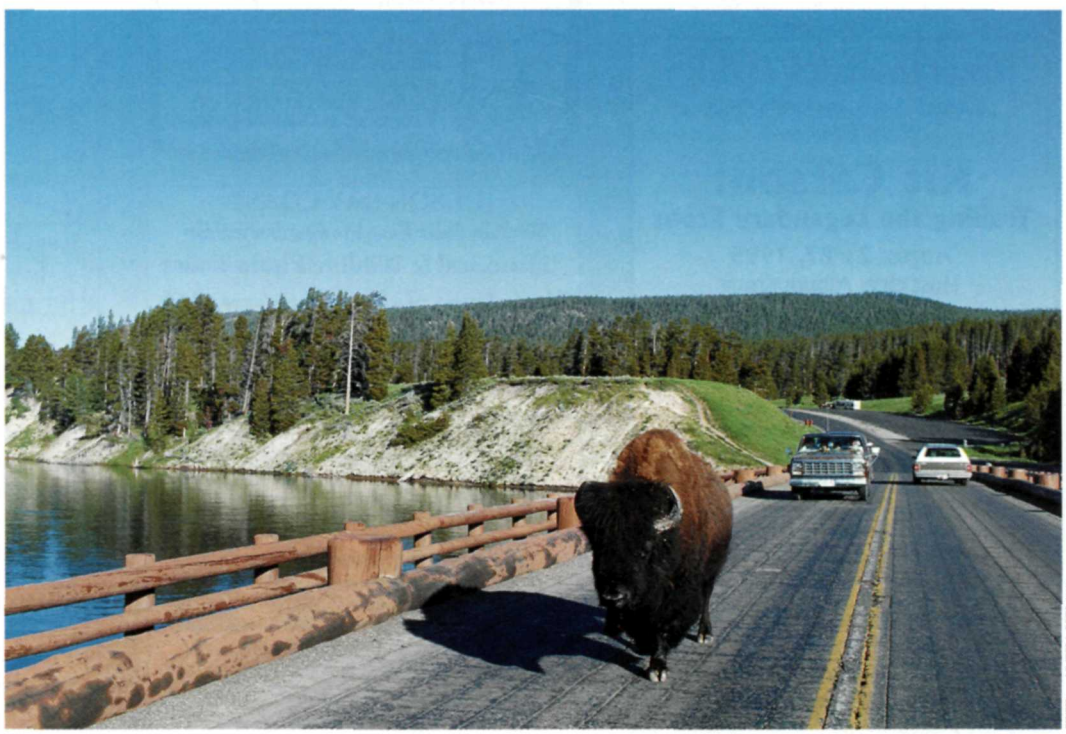
The May/June quiz focuses on bridges found within the units of the National Park System, and information has been provided to aid you in identifying the places depicted. The national parks contain a variety of historic highways and bridges, the focus of a Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) exhibit at the Department of Interior building in Washington, D.C., this past spring.

Last year marked the 25th anniversary of the HAER of the National Park Service (NPS). HAER was established in 1969 under a three-way agreement involving NPS, the American Society of Construction Engineers, and the Library of Congress. HAER's purpose is to survey and document America's historic, industrial, engineering, and transportation resources through measured and interpretive drawings as well as other means. Many of the historic structures inventoried by HAER are in the National Park System.

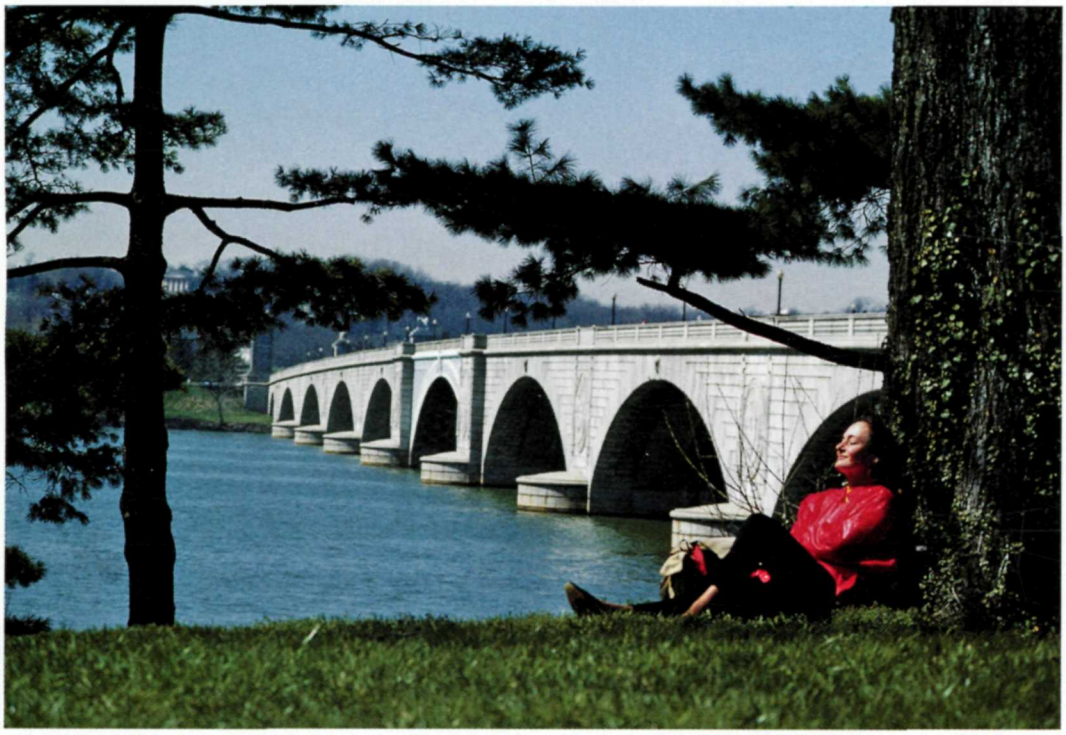
Before the introduction of the autos, many national parks were inaccessible except to the hardiest of adventurers. Along with automobiles came the need for roads and bridges to carry visitors into the parks. Although in recent years the influx of traffic traveling these highways has become a hardship for some parks, many of the bridges and roadways are awesome feats of engineering and architecture. Some roadways were built using only manual labor, and some bridges are works of art. While the traffic jams may not be appreciated, the effort and creativity that went into designing and executing these construction feats should be.

If you are unable to wait until the next issue for the answers, call our 900 number from a touch-tone phone (see page 8). Answers to the March/April quiz are: 1. Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Missouri; 2. Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, Maryland; 3. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway, Wyoming.

1. At one time, park visitors could fish from this timber trestle bridge. But cutthroat trout spawn in the gravelly area beneath it, and fishing is no longer allowed. The bridge spans a river with the same name as the park. What is the name of the bridge, and what national park site is this?

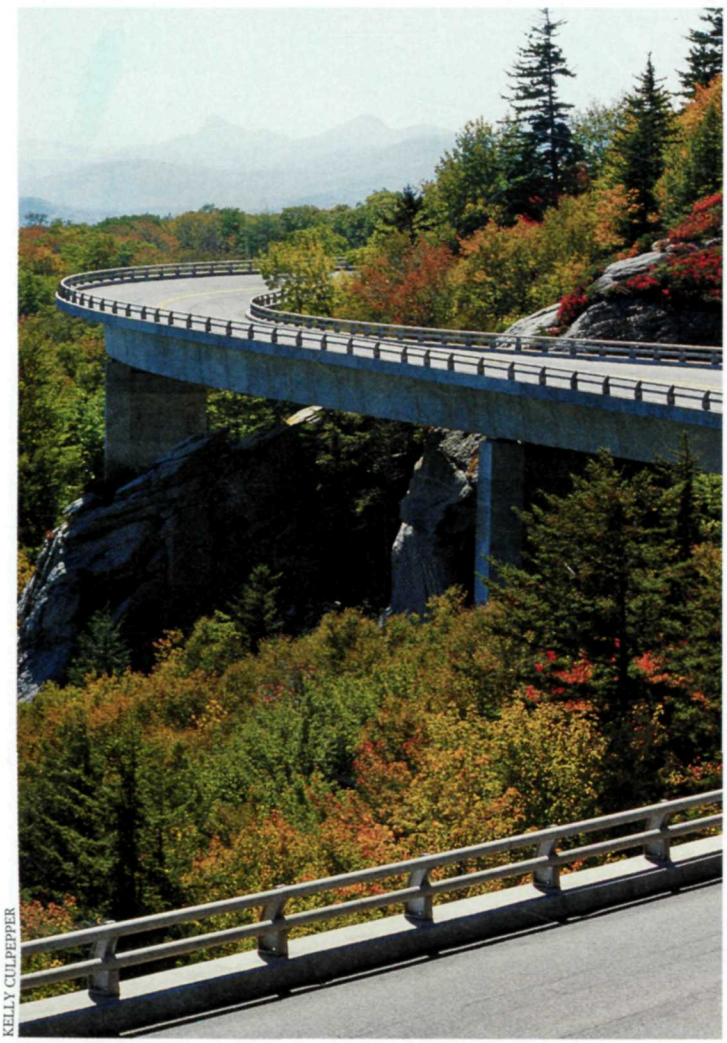


JEFF & ALEXA HENRY



CARL PURCELL

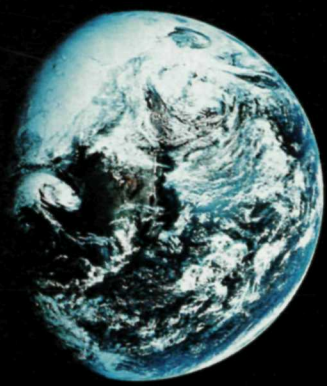
2. This Neoclassical bridge provides a monumental connection between two national park units. The bridge also links two national parkways that today are used as commuter routes to and from this busy Eastern city. What is the name of the bridge?



KELLY CULPEPPER

3. This viaduct is a famous feat of civil engineering. Much care was taken to sculpt both the parkway and the viaduct into the surrounding landscape. The goal was to leave the impression of a park without borders. Rather than just providing spectacular mountain views, the parkway was intended to expose visitors to a variety of rural scenes. What is the name of the viaduct, and what national park site is this?

Cleanser



Cleanse Her

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Our cleanser is formulated from a biodegradable detergent that cuts grease and dissolves surface dirt. With just enough abrasive muscle to move residue and tough buildup, Bon Ami is gentle enough for fiberglass yet tough on stains and grease.

The Faultless Starch / Bon Ami Company also believes in supporting efforts which benefit the environment. That's why we have sponsored annual awards with The National Parks and Conservation Association since 1985. The awards recognize individuals who have achieved positive results through environmental activism, preserving and protecting America's National Parks.

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