

# National Parks

The Magazine of  
The National Parks  
and Conservation  
Association

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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1995

**Utah's Wildlands**

**Bill Clinton on Parks**

**Recalling Kalaupapa**

**The Battle Over Bison**

**Nordic Skiing Getaways**





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Vol. 69, No. 11-12  
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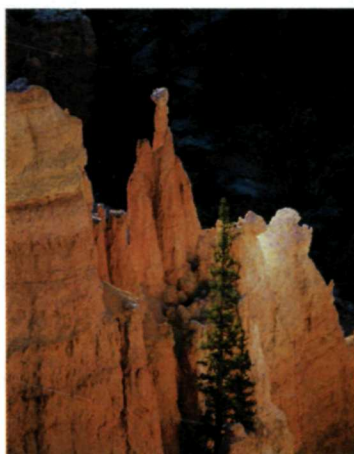
BRIAN PARKER/TOM STACK & ASSOCIATES

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RALPH ALSWANG/THE WHITE HOUSE

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O U T L O O K

# The Park Vendetta

What looked like a victory for parks quickly turned into defeat at the hands of a small cadre with its own agenda.

**O**N SEPTEMBER 19, the parks and the American people were victims of politics at its worst.

Hours after the House of Representatives had defeated H. R. 260 (the park closure bill) by a bipartisan vote of 231 to 180, members of the House Resources Committee resurrected the bill by voting to attach it to the Interior Department's budget reconciliation bill.

This action captures the anti-park, anti-environment vendetta that was first seen during the beginning days of the current congressional session. The bill was introduced as "the park planning bill for the 21st century," but the rhetoric of Rep. Joel Hefley (R-Colo.) and his committee chairman, Rep. James Hansen (R-Utah), soon made it clear that its real purpose was to take the first step toward dismantling the park system.

The righteousness of these legislators—their assumption that they know more than all the past members of Congress who approved the parks we have, all the citizens who testified for these parks, all the Park Service studies that were carefully presented—ignores the values of all these people, who believed that today's Congress would give the same care to preserving America's heritage as past Congresses.

After all, the parks are an "American invention," created first by President Lincoln in the midst of the Civil War and later by Congress, when it established Yellowstone in 1872. Yellowstone was the world's first national



DUPONT PHOTOGRAPHERS

park and the cornerstone of America's National Park System, which today is regarded as a model by more than 120 nations.

Since Yellowstone, parks have been established with extensive deliberation by Congress. Now hundreds of parks—369, to be exact—reflect the historic events

and protect the landscapes that define us as a nation.

Members of the current Congress who call for closing a number of our national parks as if they were obsolete military bases seem to have little understanding of this history. They cite as evidence a handful of areas they say should be dropped from the park system as justification for eliminating potentially scores of parks.

Other justifications for closing parks also ring hollow. Federal budget savings? These would be negligible, since total National Park Service expenditures amount to only one-tenth of one percent of the federal budget. And Congress does not need more power to eliminate parks. Over the years, 23 parks have been dropped from the system—proof that park closure legislation is not needed.

A war is being waged on the national parks, with no concern for the natural and cultural heritage that will be lost. The losers of this war will be our children and the generations after them.

Paul C. Pritchard,  
President, NPCA



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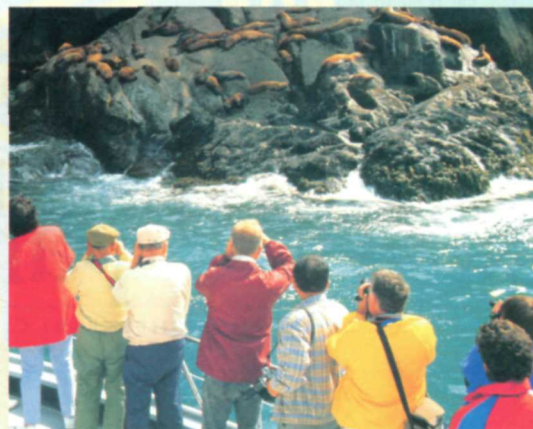


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## ABOUT NPCA

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

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

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

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

**EDITORIAL MISSION:** The magazine is the only national publication focusing solely on national parks. The most important communication vehicle with our members, the magazine creates an awareness of the need to protect and properly manage the resources found within and adjacent to the national parks. The magazine underscores the uniqueness of

the national parks and encourages an appreciation for the scenery and the natural and historic treasures found in them, informing and inspiring individuals who have concerns about the parks and want to know how they can help bring about improvements to these irreplaceable resources.

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE:** A critical component in NPCA's park protection programs are members who take the lead in defense of America's natural and cultural heritage. Park Activists alert Congress and the administration to park threats; comment on park planning and adjacent land-use decisions; assist NPCA in developing partnerships; and educate the public and the media about park issues. The Park Activist Network is composed of three groups: park watchers, park activists, and park support groups.

For more information on the activist network, contact our Grassroots Department, ext. 221. NPCA's success also depends on the financial support of our members. For more information on special giving opportunities, such as Partners for the Parks (a monthly giving program), Trustees for the Parks (\$1,000 and above), bequests, planned gifts, and matching gifts, call our Development Department, ext. 131.

**HOW TO REACH US:** By mail: National Parks and Conservation Association, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20036; by phone: 1-800-NAT-PARK; by e-mail: natparks@aol.com or npca@npca.org.

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## Yellowstone

**W**HEN WE THINK of national parks, Yellowstone is often the first one that comes to mind. The park is usually described in superlatives—the oldest, the best known, the most spectacular. And it is the national park most people want to see. When people were asked in a recent NPCA survey what park they most want to visit, an overwhelming majority named Yellowstone. Unfortunately, it is also one of our most endangered parks.

Although we did not deliberately set out to feature Yellowstone in this issue, the park appears in nearly every section of the magazine. The stories reflect the interest in and complexity of Yellowstone:

► The lead story in NPCA Park News (page 11) deals with a major threat to Yellowstone—the New World Mine, a proposed gold mine that would pollute the park's waters. NPCA is working to have Yellowstone, which is a World Heritage Site, officially designated as a World Heritage Site in Danger because of the mine's potentially disastrous impact on the park.

► In a feature story (page 36), George Wuerthner examines a hot dispute over Yellowstone bison, which are being slaughtered when they wander out of the park because of unproven claims that they transmit disease to cattle.

► Yellowstone is one of several national park units recommended by Connie Toops (Excursions, page 41) for cross-country ski treks.

► And on page 44, we present President Clinton's recent radio address on the value of national parks, given when he and his family were vacationing in Wyoming. His remarks were inspired by his visits to Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks.

Sue E. Dodge, Editor



# MARCH FOR PARKS CELEBRATES 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY

*Volunteers needed to organize events in  
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**N**PCA's SEVENTH ANNUAL March for Parks will be the nation's largest walking event for parks and open spaces. Held in conjunction with Earth Day, March for Parks raises awareness of park problems and funds for park projects across the country. More than 1,000 marches are expected to be organized to help celebrate the 26th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, 1996.

NPCA encourages people with an interest in preserving or restoring a park in their community to organize a march sometime on Earth Day weekend, April 19–22, 1996. One hundred percent of



the proceeds from each march will stay in the local community, to be donated to a national, state, or local park.

To support each march, NPCA will provide, free of charge:

- ▲ A comprehensive guidebook on how to organize a local march;
- ▲ A Teacher's Guide for events focused on children;
- ▲ A sample brochure/pledge form for walkers;
- ▲ March for Parks posters and signs;
- ▲ Sample press releases, PSAs, and logo sheets;
- ▲ Certificates of Appreciation for walkers;
- ▲ A toll-free number for advice and answers to your questions.

For free March for Parks materials, fax a signed copy of this form to: 202-659-0650. Or mail to NPCA, March for Parks, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036. For more information, call 1-800-NAT-PARK (x225). E-mail: [mrchparks@aol.com](mailto:mrchparks@aol.com).

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_





## Schoolhouse on the Prairie, Cat Attack, Revolutionary Trivia

### Schoolhouse on the Prairie

I am a rural mail carrier and only just learned of NPCA when I delivered the March/April 1995 issue of your magazine. The cover photo [of Fox Creek School at the Z Bar Ranch in the Flint Hills of Kansas] caught my eye because it is the school where my mother began her teaching career around 1926. She boarded at the ranch house of what is now the Z Bar Ranch and there met my father. The ranch was in his family's possession from around 1905 until the bank foreclosed in the 1930s.

**Florence L. Fulgham  
Ackerman, MS**

**EDITORIAL REPLY:** See the Notes item on the Z Bar Ranch on page 46.

### Where Ferrets Come From

Your beautiful article "Back to the Badlands" [November/December 1994] could have been a bit more complete if it had mentioned that the captive-raised black-footed ferrets came from a number of U.S. zoos, which increasingly play a major role in U.S. and worldwide conservation efforts.

Too often zoos and aquaria are stereotyped as places of entertainment that don't merit the attention of serious wildlife and conservation organizations.

**Warren J. Iliff  
Executive Director,  
The Phoenix Zoo**

### Rock of Ages

Reading Yvette La Pierre's survey of active volcanoes in your January/February 1995 issue ["Hot Spots"] recalled several events, one really going back a piece. In the summer of 1930, I was driving up what is now Inter-



**Atop Mount Lassen, Armand Singer displays rock formed a few months after his birth.**

state 5 near Red Bluff, California, only to notice far to the east dense smoke rising above the trees. Local inquiries confirmed that I was watching Mount Lassen perform, some 40 miles away. Years passed. I joined the National Parks Association [NPCA's predecessor] and turned out five or so articles for the legendary Devereux Butcher [editor of *National Parks* in the 1940s and 1950s].

When my wife and I passed through Lassen Volcanic National Park a few years ago, we were taken with its pristine beauty and relatively benign neglect. It remains on the primitive side, a reticent jewel, far from the madding crowds of the Sequoia-Yosemite area. Summer before last, I decided it was high time to climb the peak itself. I found I had reached the summit too late to join others enjoying a ranger's talk. My informant, noting my white Vandyke, mentioned that the ranger had been hunting, without much success, for a hiker born on the day of the May 1915 eruption that created the very rock on which we were standing. He wanted a pictorial hook on which

to hang his lecture. I confess to posing for this close-if-not-exact match, as a sort of overachiever. Here I am, holding a piece of the 1915 rock, formed a few months after I first looked out on this world, November 30, 1914. Lassen had already erupted in 1914, continuing its activity until 1921, but May 1915 represents its really spectacular display.

**Armand E. Singer  
Morgantown, WV**

### Cat Attack

As an avid admirer of big cats, I enjoyed your article "Cats of One Color" [July/August 1995]. Unfortunately, on July 19, Dateline NBC ran a very biased report against mountain lions. In the segment, mountain lions were referred to as "killer cats,....soft and cuddly only when dead." The journalist emphasized the deaths of a jogger and a schoolteacher in 1994, dubbed "the year of the cat." Emotionally charged phrases such as "eat our children" and "kill you whenever they want" were used throughout the segment.

Opponents of protecting the cats were given ample time; people [in favor] were given less time. The segment [perpetuated] a sense of fear toward mountain lions, deepening the ignorance about them. How can we hope to preserve these beautiful creatures when television, a source of information to which more and more people are turning, allows such prejudicial reporting?

**Cheryl McCombs  
Pinson, AL**

### Contradictory Objectives

I recently enjoyed my first issue of *National Parks*, but I was surprised by the incongruity of two items. A News Update [July/August 1995] cited increased tourism revenue as a justification for reintroducing wolves into

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Yellowstone. Yet, a feature article discussed overcrowding at many parks. Yellowstone certainly has the reputation of being crowded, and the concept of increased tourism revenues implies attracting more tourists.

It is difficult, at best, to argue for increased park tourism while [advocating] limits on access to some parks.

**Andrew P. Wynn**  
Farmington, ME

### Misunderstandings

I disagree with the rationale of Tom Ribe's letter [July/August 1995]. He bemoans the fact that scientists have been taken away from the National Park Service and placed in an independent National Biological Service.

NPS is, at heart, a tourist agency. Its bureaucratic destiny relies solely on visitation. Whether NPCA or the Park Service admits it or not, NPS may talk the talk of science, land management, and historic research, but since these have low budget priorities, the bureaucrats hide them under visitor center development and traffic management.

By contrast, ecological research is the sole product of the National Biological Service. Finally there is an agency that is solely science driven and not site specific, like the U.S. Geological Survey. Now that we have the administrative structure right, how much money or staff it receives will be a separate political question.

**George Childs**  
South Miami, FL

I feel deceived. When I started supporting NPCA, I thought it was a group that used its funds to purchase property for all the public to enjoy and use. Instead, I've found it to be a highly partisan group that pays people to lobby in Washington, D.C. I'm beginning to wonder when your tree-spiking issue will come out.

Interest groups such as yours are dead wrong. What the 104th Congress is attempting is heroic. People such as Tom Adams [an NPCA Washington rep-

resentative and author of "Parks Under Siege," *Forum*, July/August 1995] would do better to try to work with Congress rather than writing slanderous articles. The parks are not under siege as Adams would have all of America believe. In fact, some of the parks would be better taken care of by the states than they are by NPS. I've lived and worked in Grand Teton National Park and spent time in many of our other parks. Even if federal funding were pulled by Congress, there is no way those mountains will fall over or suddenly become dumping grounds. Some common sense is in order here. If we continue to spend our children's inheritance, who knows what money will be left for things such as roads and programs for disadvantaged and disabled people.

You could learn a lot from *National Geographic*. Positive, informative articles would do more to attract a following. Please stick to these rather than ugly political propaganda.

**Paul Gallaher**  
Bellevue, NE

**TOM ADAMS REPLIES:** The purchase of land for resource protection is not part of NPCA's core mission. NPCA is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan citizen organization that works to protect, preserve, and enhance the National Park System.

At the beginning of the 104th Congress, NPCA engaged in dialogue with the sponsors of H.R. 260, legislation that would establish a commission to review the park system and turn some units over to be managed by states or private entities. NPCA attempted to reach common ground on the bill because we believed that it had potential to benefit the park system, but as the legislation evolved, it became focused on park closures rather than solutions to improve the parks.

### Minding Your Diet

The July/August 1995 issue touches the tip of the iceberg when it reminds

us of the damage to the Everglades by sugar growers ["Everglades To Benefit from Sugar Reform Bill," *News*]. But the ecological damage caused by the sugar industry is trivial compared to that caused by the animal foods industry in general and cattle ranching in particular.

There is a direct relationship between the health of our environment and the health of our human population. I have to wonder how serious any environmental organization is when it is silent on this issue.

There is little chance that sugar subsidies, or any other agricultural subsidies, will end as long as it is legal to return a portion of these funds to our elected representatives in the form of campaign contributions.

But there is a more direct way to attack these practices, and that is to stop eating the products supported by these subsidies. And the benefits to the land are minuscule compared to the benefits in terms of human health.

**Robert G. Huenemann**  
La Honda, CA

### Revolutionary Trivia

On page 55 of your July/August 1995 issue [Park Pursuit, "The Formative Years"] is a picture of the spire of the building known today as the Old North Church [part of Boston National Historical Park]. This building stood on its present site in 1775, at which time it was known as Christ Church. There was another church in the neighborhood known as Old North. It was torn down by the British because it "harbored a nest of traitors." It was in this no longer extant church that the lanterns were hung. These are the facts. Let us leave it to the tour guides to perpetuate the legend.

**C. A. Philippe von Hemert**  
Friendship, ME

Write: Letters, NPCA, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036. Letters may be sent via e-mail to [editornp@aol.com](mailto:editornp@aol.com). Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



# Park News

BY KIM A. O'CONNELL

## PRESERVATION

### International Team Studies Yellowstone

**"Eyes of the world" focus on New World Mine threats.**

**YELLOWSTONE N.P., WYO.** — In an unprecedented visit organized by NPCA, members of the World Heritage Committee gathered here in September to investigate the myriad grave threats to Yellowstone, primarily the proposed New World Mine. The world's first national park, Yellowstone was named a World Heritage Site in 1978.

In response to a February request by NPCA and 13 other conservation groups, four representatives of the international panel came to determine whether Yellowstone should be added to the "World Heritage in Danger" list. Such a listing brings worldwide attention to an area and helps to address threats and avoid dangers to its internationally significant values. The team toured the proposed mine site and listened to presentations from NPCA and others.

Nationwide opposition has been building against the massive New World gold mine, which would be located on U.S. Forest Service land 2.5 miles upstream from the park. Mining threatens to dewater and pollute rivers flowing into Yellowstone and would destroy critical wildlife habitat. In addition, the project includes a 75-acre impoundment to store 5.5 million tons of toxic waste, which could devastate water quality in the Yellowstone River if it were to leak or fail. Depending on where the impoundment is located,



CARR CLIFTON

**An international team investigated the New World Mine's risk to Yellowstone.**

pollution would flow into the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone or the park's Lamar River, harming aquatic and animal life.

Objection to the mine has been expressed at the highest levels of government, business, education, and the arts. On the first day of the panel's tour, historian and NPCA trustee Al Runte presented a letter signed by 37 American leaders urging "international recognition of the jeopardy to Yellowstone." Former President Jimmy Carter, former Ambassador L. W. "Bill" Lane, actors Robert Redford and Harrison Ford, and former Interior Secretary Stewart Udall were among the signatories.

"America must now choose: Yellowstone or the mine," Runte told the committee. "America may not choose properly unless the world is also watching. Watch us, please."

President Clinton has also reiterated his concern about the mine. During his August vacation to Wyoming, Clinton toured the mine site by helicopter before declaring a moratorium on mining activity on 19,100 acres of federal land surrounding the site. Although his action will not stop the New World Mine, it helps to curtail potential expansion of the mine and sends a strong message of disapproval to Crown Butte Inc., the project's developer.

As expected, Crown Butte defended its mine proposal, which the company says poses no serious threat to Yellowstone. In addition, Sen. Conrad Burns (R-Mont.) falsely accused the committee of seeking to bias the environmental impact statement currently being prepared for the project.

"Crown Butte's contention that mining presents no significant risk relies



upon a God-like confidence that the company can eliminate all meaningful risk through technological fixes," said Terri Martin, NPCA Rocky Mountain regional director. "Experience around the world demonstrates that mining involves serious, unanticipated, and sometimes unpredictable risks. The question is not whether something will go wrong, but when."

Martin pointed to an August mining disaster in Guyana, which sent 4 billion liters of cyanide-laced waste water into two major rivers.

In December, the panel will present its findings to the full World Heritage Committee, which will then decide whether Yellowstone will be listed as a World Heritage Site in Danger.

"The eyes of the world are now focused on Yellowstone National Park, as they should be," Martin said. "In establishing Yellowstone as a national park in 1872 and as a World Heritage Site in 1978, America made a commitment to 'do everything we can' to protect the park for future generations. We hope the scrutiny of the World Heritage Committee will help us live up to these solemn promises."

#### LEGISLATION

## NPCA Inaugurates Campaign for Parks

Spotlight is on the anti-park agenda in Congress.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — NPCA has kicked off an extensive campaign to defeat the anti-park agenda in Congress.

In the last year, congressional leaders have crafted legislation to close parks, to open public lands to development, and to slash budgets, while ignoring sound measures that would ensure park protection. Following are updates on some of the legislation on which NPCA will focus in its campaign.

### THE "PARK CLOSURE" BILL

Rep. Joel Hefley (R-Colo.), sponsor of the National Park System Reform Act

(H.R. 260) known as the "park closure" bill, and Rep. James Hansen (R-Utah), chair of the House subcommittee on national parks, have attempted to bulldoze this controversial bill through Congress. The bill creates a review commission to consider which of 315 national park units (exempting the 54 "national parks") should be removed from the system. Surprisingly, traditional park supporters Reps. Bruce Vento (D-Minn.) and George Miller (D-Calif.) are in favor of this bill.

On September 19, the House rejected the measure by a 231-180 vote, but the victory for parks was short-lived. Less than ten hours later, Hansen succeeded in offering it as an amendment to the House Resource Committee's budget reconciliation package.

House leaders have failed to act on an alternative to H.R. 260 offered by Rep. Bill Richardson (D-N.Mex.), the Common Sense National Park System Reform Act (H.R. 2181), which focuses on improving park planning and raising additional revenue for parks.

### CONCESSIONS AND FEE REFORM

Hansen, Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), and Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska) have stonewalled concessions reform legislation—H.R. 773, sponsored by Rep. Jan Meyers (R-Kans.), and S. 309, sponsored by Sen. Robert Bennett (R-Utah)—that would require park concessioners to compete for contracts and return a fair portion of their profits to the national parks.

Instead, these men have crafted legislation that would perpetuate concessioner monopolies and continue costly taxpayer subsidies to the industry. Hansen also included this language in the reconciliation package.

Murkowski's National Park Service Enhancement Act (S. 1144) contains similar language. The bill would also raise park entrance fees. Although supportive of reform of park fee structures, NPCA believes that the public should be asked to pay more only after concessioners pay their fair share.

### VIRGINIA PARKS

On September 19, the House approved by a 377-30 vote a bill (H.R. 1091), authored by Rep. Thomas Bliley (R-

#### WISE USE WATCH

## WISE USERS RALLY AGAINST LIMITS AT VOYAGEURS

National Parks is tracking the activities of the Wise Use Movement, a consortium working to roll back environmental protections.

The movement, best known for its anti-government antics farther West, has come to northern Minnesota. In August, two groups—the Greater Northland Coalition and Conservationists with Common Sense—rallied local residents at a congressional hearing held in International Falls, Minnesota, on the future management of nearby Voyageurs National Park. These locals want the National Park Service to lift restrictions at the park, such as those that limit motorized recreation in certain areas, or turn the park over to local governments.

Echoing the inflammatory rhetoric used by Wise Use groups, the Greater Northland Coalition distributed a flyer before the hearing stating falsely that NPS is "an armed federal police force used by preservation groups to enforce management of [Voyageurs] as a wilderness area."

The group asked supporters to line the streets with trailered boats and snowmobiles, farm equipment, and logging trucks, ostensibly to show the strength of local interests. This demonstration never materialized, however, bolstering NPCA's assertion that most Minnesotans want the park protected.

A recent public opinion poll—conducted for NPCA by St. Cloud State University—showed that 82 percent of Minnesotans believe that wilderness protection at Voyageurs should be increased or the current balance between preservation and recreation maintained.



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# REGIONAL REPORT


News Briefs from NPCA's Regional Offices

## ALASKA Chip Dennerlein, Regional Director

► NPCA is working to alter a National Park Service vessel management plan that calls for a 72-percent increase in cruise ships to Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. Dennerlein has talked with the cruise ship industry, local citizens, and the state of Alaska and believes that "various interests could agree on a plan to improve opportunities for visitors, while maintaining good stewardship of the park." NPCA will pursue any action necessary to ensure the protection of Glacier Bay.

## HEARTLAND Lori Nelson, Regional Director

► Missouri citizens are wrangling with the Park Service and NPCA over a herd of non-native wild horses that are causing resource damage at Ozark National Scenic Riverways. NPCA supports the humane relocation of the horses. The local community, however, considers the horses a tourist attraction and has enlisted the help of Rep. Bill Emerson (R-Mo.), who introduced a bill (H.R. 238) in May that bars removal of the horses.


 **TAKE ACTION:** Urge your representative to vote against this legislation (U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515).

## NORTHEAST Eileen Woodford, Regional Director

► Richmond National Battlefield Park in Virginia has issued a draft general management plan outlining its land protection strategy, which calls for NPS to acquire additional land to bring the park to a total of 7,500 acres. This proposal is based on the congressionally mandated and highly acclaimed findings of the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission. NPCA notes that the plan is a sharp contrast to current legislation (H.R. 1091) by Rep. Thomas Bliley, Jr., (R-Va.), which limits the park to the 763 acres NPS now owns.


## PACIFIC Brian Huse, Regional Director

► NPCA is concerned that NPS is considering a plan to stabilize and improve the Manzanita Lake dam at Lassen Volcanic National Park in California. Built before the park was established, the earthen dam raised the lake level by three feet. NPCA believes that no justifiable grounds exist upon which to recommend improvement of any kind. Furthermore, the plan does not consider the impacts on the ecosystem, particularly the bald eagle population. Shelved a year and a half ago, this proposal has been reintroduced in response to a possible 100-year flood. NPCA supports a managed breach of the dam to allow for a return to a natural lake system.

 **TAKE ACTION:** To express concern about the proposed construction, write to Superintendent Gil Blinn, Lassen Volcanic National Park, P.O. Box 100, Mineral, CA 96063.

continued

Va.), that reduces the authorized boundaries of Richmond National Battlefield Park and Shenandoah National Park. The bill also preempts two ongoing studies to determine the appropriate boundaries of these parks and threatens to leave historical and natural resources open to development.

 **TAKE ACTION:** Write to your members of Congress, urging them to oppose the anti-park measures and to support the commonsense ones described above. Addresses: U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515; U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510.

## LEGISLATION

# House Approves Presidio Trust

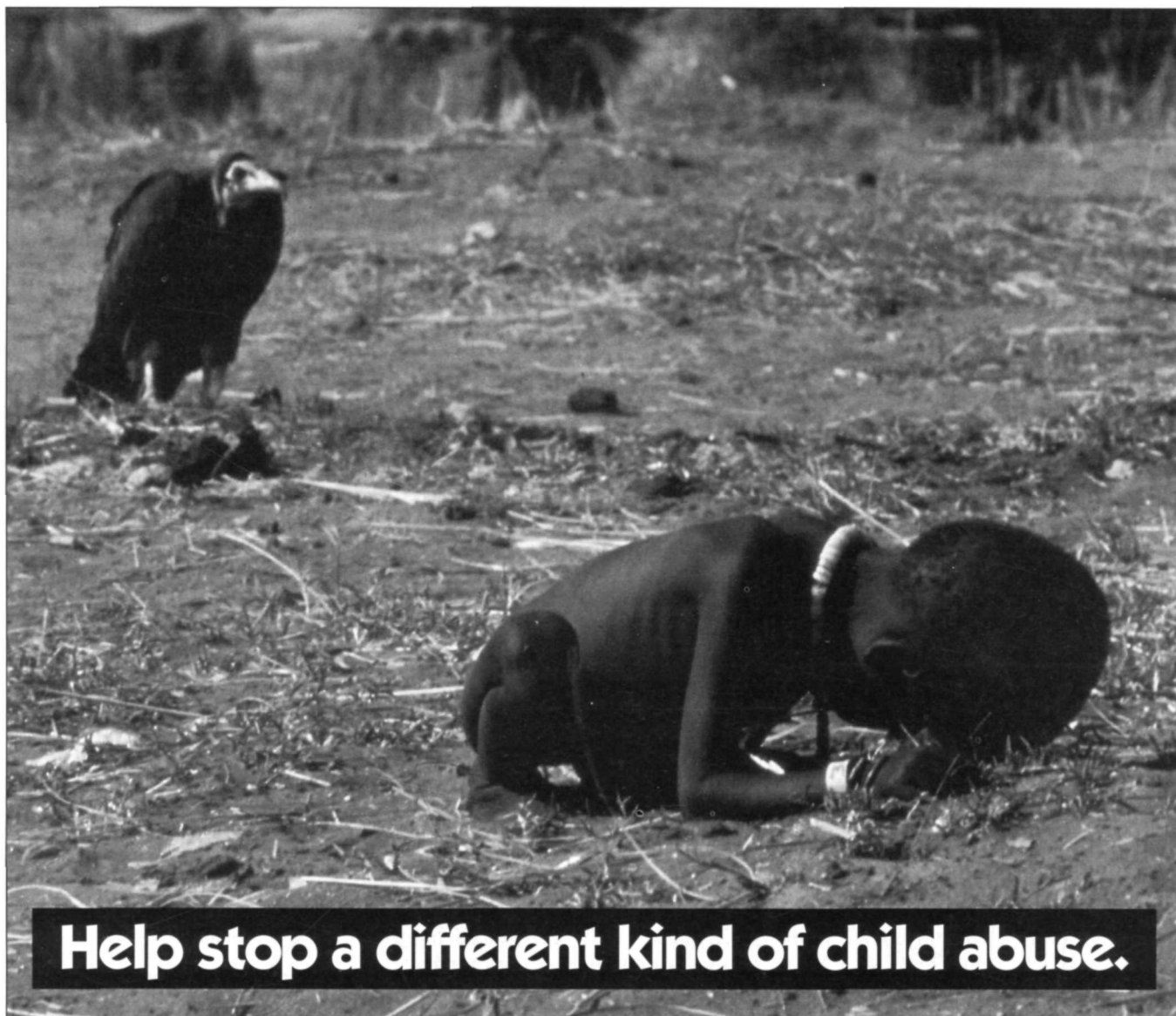
*If the trust fails, Presidio could return to Defense Department.*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On September 19, the House passed legislation to create a government trust to manage the Presidio, the former military base now part of Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA).

The bill (H.R. 1296) passed by a 317-101 vote, reflecting "bipartisan support for urban parks [and for] GGNRA," according to the bill's sponsor, Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.). The bill establishes the Presidio Trust as a stand-alone government corporation that would manage the leasing, maintenance, and repair of the hundreds of historic structures at the Presidio. The trust would be charged with reducing the site's operating costs and reliance on federal funding.

Pelosi's bill contains substitute language that was offered as an amendment by Rep. James Hansen (R-Utah) and approved by the House Resources Committee in late June. This language significantly alters the original intent of the trust. It sets strict deadlines for the Presidio's self-sufficiency and virtually eliminates the National Park





Kevin Carter

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REGIONAL REPORT *continued***PACIFIC NORTHWEST** Terri Pauly, Acting Reg. Director


► "Climbing on rocks of historic significance at City of Rocks National Reserve in Idaho should not conflict with resource protection," Pauly stated in comments on the park's recently released draft climbing management plan. For hundreds of years, Native Americans subsisted in this area, and thousands of gold-seekers en route to California in the mid-19th century often painted their names on the rocks. NPCA says increased protection for these historic rocks is needed and that implementing a permit system would burden the already understaffed park.

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN** Terri Martin, Regional Director

► In a historic event marking his vacation to Wyoming, President Clinton met with regional conservationists, including Martin, in Yellowstone National Park to discuss environmental issues in the West. Martin emphasized to Clinton that when he chose to visit Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, he "walked in the footsteps of millions of Americans" who seek inspiration from national parks and want to see them protected, not degraded. Because of their universal appeal, parks offer the president an opportunity for environmental leadership, she continued. Clinton was receptive.


**SOUTHEAST** Don Barger, Regional Director

► The route from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, marched by advocates for African-American voting rights in 1965, may become a national historic trail, under a bill (H.R. 1129) introduced by Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.). In the 1960s, most African-Americans in the South were prevented from voting. In protest, civil rights leaders organized a peaceful march for March 7, 1965, that turned violent. Then-Alabama Gov. George Wallace prohibited the march, which resulted in state troopers beating marchers, including Lewis. A march staged later in the month was shadowed by a deadly Ku Klux Klan attack. These events outraged the nation, and the Voting Rights Act was signed five months later by President Johnson.

 **TAKE ACTION:** Write to your members of Congress in support of H.R. 1129 and its Senate companion, S. 1049. Addresses: U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515; U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510.

**SOUTHWEST** David Simon, Regional Director

► Navajo tour guides at Canyon de Chelly National Monument in Arizona recently received a boost from NPCA and a special supporter. NPCA arranged for a \$1,200 donation from celebrated author Tony Hillerman to the Canyon de Chelly Guides Association, which will be used to furnish uniforms for the guides. Hillerman, who uses the Navajo Nation as a backdrop for his novels, hopes others will contribute to NPCA's efforts to assist the guides.

 **TAKE ACTION:** For more information, contact Simon at 823 Gold Avenue, Albuquerque, NM 87102.

Service's role in park management.

Pelosi's original measure placed the trust under the Interior Department and maintained NPS control over the open spaces surrounding the Presidio's buildings. The trust is now independent of Interior, accountable only to Congress, and responsible for the open space, which it may lease back to NPS if it deems it appropriate.

Although supportive of a trust to manage the Presidio, NPCA feels that some of Hansen's provisions are too severe. Within one year of establishment, the trust must submit to Congress a schedule of annually decreasing federal funding, to result in total self-sufficiency within 12 fiscal years.

Perhaps most alarming is the condition that if the trust fails to fulfill any of the act's provisions, the Presidio will revert to the Department of Defense, subject to the base closure program.

"We are pleased that the House approved this legislation, because it means that we can continue moving toward permanent protection of the Presidio," said NPCA Pacific Regional Director Brian Huse. "However, the Senate needs to restore the flexibility of the original Pelosi bill to allow the Presidio to succeed."

## TRANSPORTATION

**Four-lane Bridge To Span St. Croix**

*Mile-long crossing deemed unnecessary and harmful.*

STILLWATER, MINN. — Several conservation groups, including NPCA, are engaged in a last-ditch battle to prevent the construction of a new bridge across St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, which forms part of the border between Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Transportation officials have approved the final environmental impact statement for the \$85-million, four-lane, mile-long river crossing, which has been under consideration for a de-



cade. Chosen from a field of alternatives, the project includes an upgrade of Minnesota Highway 36, which leads east from nearby Minneapolis-St. Paul to the river-side town of Stillwater, and an upgrade of Wisconsin Highway 64, which leads into the rural west-central part of that state.

The bridge is designed to relieve congestion on a two-lane lift bridge that has been the "symbol of Stillwater" for

64 years. This structure will be removed ten years after the new bridge's completion, not expected before 2000. NPCA, the Sierra Club, and others take issue with the delay in removal and with the rejection of an alternative that placed the new bridge along the same corridor as the old one.

"Federal regulations require that if you build a new bridge, you take the old one down, so you don't end up with a cluster of bridges across the river," said Tom Clarke, local activist and former chair of the St. Croix Valley Interstate chapter of the Sierra Club.

Conservationists also contend that the bridge is unnecessary. Two other bridges now serve the Twin Cities area: the five-lane Interstate 94 bridge, located five miles south of the proposed Stillwater bridge, and a river crossing near Prescott, Wisconsin, 15 miles farther south. The I-94 bridge is currently being expanded to eight lanes.

Also, rural areas in Wisconsin may be adversely affected by the proposal. "The bridge will encourage development in western Wisconsin, and what we'll see is urban sprawl like you'd see around Washington, D.C., or New York City, or the Twin Cities," Clarke said.



**An unnecessary bridge would destroy untouched areas of St. Croix Riverway.**

"[A] significant impact on [St. Croix's endangered species of] mussels is the urban sprawl. Another major impact is the decline in water quality because of the continued development of the watershed."

Both NPCA and the Sierra Club say the bridge proposal should be postponed until a plan for regional land use and transportation is developed. "In the meantime, NPCA's members

should be vocal in their opposition to this bridge," said NPCA Heartland Regional Director Lori Nelson.

**TAKE ACTION:** To oppose the new bridge, write to Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20240; Gov. Tommy Thompson, State Capitol, Madison, WI 53707; and Gov. Arne Carlson, State Capitol, St. Paul, MN 55155.

#### PARTNERSHIPS

## NPS Releases Plan for Independence

*Proposal balances role of Park Service and private partners.*

PHILADELPHIA, PA. — A new plan to rejuvenate Independence National Historical Park balances the preservation of historic resources with private partnerships and development.

Independence commemorates events and places involved in the founding of the nation and includes Independence Hall, the World Heritage

CANTRELL



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DAVID MUENCH

### A new plan for Independence would help protect the famous Liberty Bell.

Site (designated in 1979) where the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were created, and the world-famous Liberty Bell. The National Park Service released the draft master plan for the park in August.

NPCA is pleased that NPS rejected an option calling for the \$200-million private National Constitution Center (NCC) to tell the story of the park and to display the Liberty Bell. The NCC would have been located close to Independence Hall and could have overshadowed the historic building. Instead, the Park Service will retain its role as chief steward and interpreter.

"The NCC has an appropriate place as a partner, but the primary focus of the park must always be the historic resources," said NPCA Northeast Regional Director Eileen Woodford. "This plan strongly promotes the role of Independence's wealth of partners, while upholding the Park Service's mandate to protect the resources, as Congress intended. These partners have shown an extraordinary willingness to make the plan's broad vision a reality."

If the plan is adopted, a new three-block Independence Mall would be developed as a locus for the park and the city. A regional visitor orientation center located at the center of the mall would serve as the starting point for touring the park.

The Pew Charitable Trusts, a local

organization, will support the establishment of the center. "The center would combine the drawing power of the park with that of the other unique attractions of our region," said Rebecca Rimel, president and chief executive officer of the Pew Charitable Trusts.

The NCC—given an important but less obtrusive role—would raise money for a new museum, programs, and activities about the Constitution. The Independence Park Institute, set up by the Friends of Independence, would also offer educational programs. In addition, park visitors would have access to two open spaces: the Constitution Plaza, a new area for demonstrations and festivals, and Washington Square, which would become a place for interpretation of the 18th-century African-American experience.

As for the park's signature structures, the Liberty Bell Pavilion would be redesigned to offer better interpretation and protection of the symbol of freedom. Rehabilitation of Independence Hall is already under way.

#### FUNDING

## Congress Slashes Interior Spending

**President may veto bill that  
takes "dead aim" at resources.**

WASHINGTON, D. C. — At press time, a House and Senate conference committee was giving its final consideration to the fiscal year 1996 Interior appropriations bill.

The bill gives \$12 billion in appropriations for the Department of the Interior and its agencies such as the National Park Service. This amount is 8 percent lower than funding levels enacted for fiscal year 1995 and \$1.7 billion less than President Clinton's budget request. Differences in the House and Senate versions of the legislation were resolved in September by a conference committee, which sent the bill back to both houses for approval. How-



ever, the House recommitted the legislation to the committee for further consideration.

NPCA and other conservationists are outraged at the measure, which would increase mining, grazing, and logging on public lands and would impose a moratorium on the federal listing of endangered species. Arguably most flagrant is a provision that limits NPS spending on the new Mojave National Preserve in California to \$1. Because of these and other measures, Clinton threatened to veto the bill.

"If Congress sends the president [this bill], he will veto it," Vice President Al Gore vowed in a prepared statement from the White House. "This bill takes dead aim on this nation's most cherished natural resources and will benefit special interests at the expense of taxpayers."

The bill provides \$1.08 billion for the Park Service, which is \$171 million below the president's budget request. However, the bill includes more than \$30 million for construction projects that either have a low NPS priority or were not requested by the agency at all.

In a move orchestrated by Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-Calif.), the bill caps funding for Mojave at \$600,000 (substantially less than the \$1.7-million request) but gives only \$1 to NPS and the rest to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which has no statutory authority to manage the preserve. Lewis has written a letter to Clinton asking him to reverse his veto threat.

"The mandate of National Park Service management of the Mojave, a nationally significant resource, is crystal clear," said Tom Adams, an NPCA Washington representative. "Lewis apparently does not wish to abide by the California Desert Protection Act."

The bill also includes funding for a study of a new north road into Denali National Park in Alaska, which NPCA says will affect wildlife populations. In addition, \$200,000 will be diverted from the gray wolf reintroduction program at Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming to study disease in trout.

On the plus side, the bill appropriates \$49.1 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which Congress had threatened to eliminate in the budget resolution released last spring.

## NEWS UPDATE

► **COAL MINE APPEALED:** NPCA, along with the Sierra Club, has filed an appeal of a permit granted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a proposed coal mine in Eagle Pass, Texas. The groups contend that the proposal lacks sufficient mitigative measures for the mine, which would disrupt the habitat of two species of endangered wildcats, the ocelot and the jaguarundi. Also, it is likely that most of the coal would be shipped to nearby Mexican power plants known as Carbon I and II.

Carbon II recently became operational, and together the two plants will emit about 230,000 tons of haze-inducing sulfur dioxide annually. As a result, visibility at Texas' Big Bend National Park may be reduced by as much as 60 percent. At

press time, EPA had not yet scheduled a hearing on the appeal.

► **POLES IN PARKS?:** Federal agencies have cause for concern in the Telecommunications Act of 1995. The House version of the bill (H.R. 1555), approved in August, mandates that agencies make all federal properties, including national parks, available to the wireless telecommunication industry for the construction of 150-foot steel antennae known as monopoles. To oppose construction, an agency must prove it has "an unavoidable conflict of mission" with the industry. NPCA is urging Congress to support an August presidential memorandum requiring that plans to use federal property for this purpose consider the protection of national parks.

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## Vancouver Plan Renews Debate

*New reserve would extend lease of controversial airport.*

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Rep. Linda Smith (R-Wash.) has reintroduced legislation—long championed by former Rep. Jolene Unsoeld, whom Smith succeeded—to create a new Vancouver National Historic Reserve.

The 366-acre reserve would include Fort Vancouver National Historic Site; Vancouver Barracks, a historic Army post established in 1849; and Pearson Airpark, a 1920s-era airfield located partially on parkland that is still in commercial operation. The reserve would be managed through a partnership among the city of Vancouver, the National Park Service, the Army, the state of Washington, and a local citizen.

At the center of the years-old de-

bate over the legislation is the lease of Pearson Airpark, which currently expires in 2002. Smith's bill would extend commercial operation of the airfield until 2022, with the stipulation that during that time Congress could choose to extend the lease further. NPCA believes that commercial airpark operations contradict the purposes for which the park was established.

"We want a study of Fort Vancouver's cultural and archaeological resources conducted before any decision is made on the lease of Pearson Airpark," said Terri Pauly, acting regional director for NPCA's Pacific Northwest office. "If it is determined that the airpark will be used to interpret historic aviation, we expect it to be configured to reflect its historic character. This would include the discontinuation of general aviation, use of historic aircraft, and reversion to a grass runway."

Fort Vancouver was the trading hub of the Hudson's Bay Company's Northwest region and was established as a national park unit in 1948. NPS purchased part of the airpark in 1972, with

the agreement that the city would pay the government a \$1 annual fee to manage the airport for a 30-year lease. During this time, the city was to develop a replacement airport facility, which it no longer wants to do.

Robert S. Chase, president of the board of the Friends of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site and an interpreter at the park, believes that the city's support of a historic reserve is driven by simple economics: the city wants to continue to receive income from the airport while paying a low rent to the Park Service.

"The compromise is to either make Pearson Airpark completely historic or if they want to keep it commercial, then the city should buy back that strip of property," Chase said. "Pearson Airpark is a historic place, and I have no objection to it remaining a historic place. But historically they didn't fly twin-engine Cessnas in and out of it."

Fort Vancouver Ranger Rick Edwards said the park supports the legislation and could not speculate about any plans for a resource study.

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For a copy of our booklet, "Taking Stock...and Giving It," or to make a donation, please write or call:

Jessie Brinkley ■ National Parks and Conservation Association  
1776 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. ■ Washington, DC 20036

(800)628-7275, ext. 130



**TAKE ACTION:** Sen. Slade Gorton (R-Wash.) has introduced this legislation in the Senate. Write to your members of Congress at U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515 and U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510, urging them to oppose the bill (H.R. 2172/S. 1127) and to support a study of the park's resources.

#### MANAGEMENT

## Solutions Needed for Grand Canyon

Park is at a "watershed point," NPCA testifies at hearing.

GRAND CANYON, ARIZ. — Visitor management, overflights, and air quality have been the dominant topics at the Grand Canyon this summer. NPCA addressed these issues at a special Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing here on August 28 to discuss ways to pay for and implement the park's new \$325-million general management plan (GMP).

NPCA testified that effective implementation of the plan would require reform of national park concessions and fee laws, which would result in increased revenue for all 369 park units.

"Grand Canyon National Park certainly faces a watershed point," NPCA Southwest Regional Director David Simon testified. "It is NPCA's hope that in considering solutions to meet the special needs of Grand Canyon, Congress will...put not only Grand Canyon National Park but the entire National Park System on a solid course for the 21st century."

Discussion of visitation limits dominated the hearing. Although NPCA generally supports the GMP, it criticizes the overarching assumption that park visitation—currently at 5 million and expected to double by 2010—does not need to be limited anytime soon.

NPCA argued that day-use limitations or a reservation system is needed now, but both Arizona legislators in attendance, Sen. Jon Kyl (R) and Rep.

John Shadegg (R), flatly rejected these proposals. Shadegg suggested that rather than limit visitation, more areas of the park (such as the relatively undeveloped North Rim) should be opened. NPCA pointed out that a recent NPCA-commissioned survey showed that 75 percent of Americans favor limits on visitation at peak times.

NPCA also pushed for immediate steps to be taken to restore natural quiet at the canyon, required by the National Park System Overflights Act of 1987. At a joint NPS-Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) hearing on August 30 in nearby Flagstaff, Simon questioned why FAA had not acted on 1994 NPS recommendations to further limit overflights at the park.

Studies show that no part of the park is totally free of aircraft noise. The NPS proposal would restore approximately 65 percent of the park to a state of natural quiet. Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), author of the overflights law, criticized FAA's foot-dragging. "FAA's role is to implement the Park Service's overflight



CARR CLIFTON

**Visibility and quiet are endangered resources at the Grand Canyon.**

plan and to modify it only for safety considerations," McCain said.

NPCA pointed out that the plan—which gives the air tour industry 15 years to phase in "quiet technology," allows noise levels that are twice the lowest grade at which aircraft can be

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heard, and requires this level only 75 percent of the time—is largely a compromise the industry should accept.

Another endangered resource at the park is visibility, NPCA says. The Grand Canyon Visibility Transport Commission will sponsor a series of public hearings in the West in November and December to present several proposals for protecting air quality throughout the Colorado Plateau.

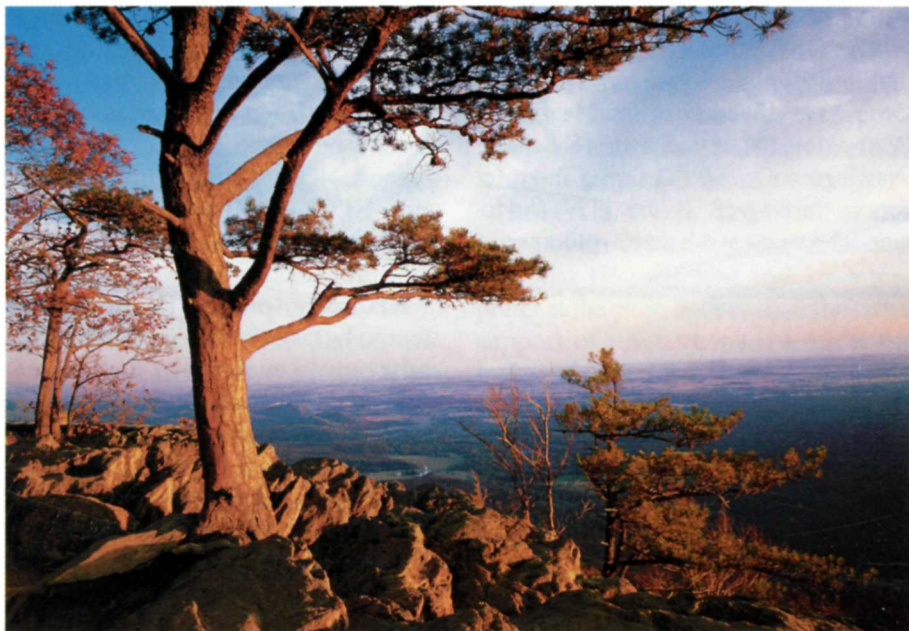
**TAKE ACTION:** Call 800-659-5858 to participate in the public hearings.

## ADJACENT LANDS

# Coalition Works for Blue Ridge Views

Cooperative efforts mark parkway's 60th birthday.

Asheville, N.C.—In this western Carolina city some 85 miles from the



CARR CLIFTON

The Coalition for the Blue Ridge Parkway was formed to protect scenic vistas.

southern terminus of the Blue Ridge Parkway, a large group of citizen leaders gathered to celebrate the 60th birthday of "America's favorite scenic drive." They also learned how to protect its unparalleled vistas.

The Coalition for the Blue Ridge Parkway, a multi-state network of public and private organizations including NPCA, hosted the September 20 celebration as part of a community workshop. This gathering was the latest in a

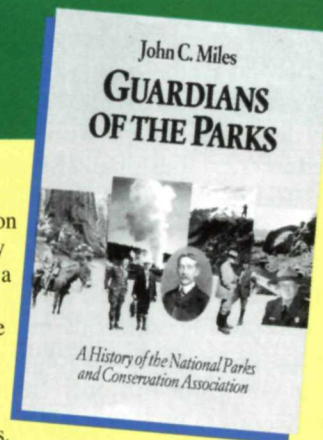
# LEARN THE HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL PARKS AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

## Guardians of the Parks: A History of the NPCA

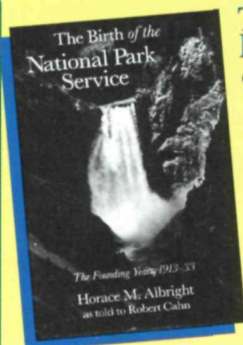
The National Parks and Conservation Association has a history of keeping the National Park Service focused on preserving our nation's natural splendor. Now you can read that 75-year history in **Guardians of the Parks** by John C. Miles, noted environmental professor and scholar. Preservation of our national parks has always been a titanic struggle between those who want to preserve and those who want to exploit. This book chronicles NPCA's efforts — from its founding concurrently with the National Park Service to today — to ensure that the National Park Service remains true to its original purpose: to preserve these wild spaces as "virtually the only places where humans could seek and find answers to questions about nature and their relation to it."

**Guardians of the Parks** is a fascinating story of not only that struggle, but the evolution of America's environmental consciousness. It should be read by everyone with a concern for the future of our national parks.

Available for \$29.95, \$19.95 to NPCA members.



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**The Birth of the National Park Service** makes an excellent companion piece to **Guardians of the Parks**. It is the story of Horace Albright, one of the National Park Service's key founding fathers, and covers the early history of the National Park Service.

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JA95



series of coalition-sponsored events aimed at raising awareness of the economic value of designing development with the park's viewsheds in mind.

About 4,000 property owners live next to the 470-mile parkway, which stretches along the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia and North Carolina and attracts more than 20 million visitors a year. Historically, conflict has erupted between those who want to ensure that the parkway corridor retains its rural character and those who value these lands for housing and commercial uses. The coalition was formed two years ago to start a dialogue between these seemingly divergent interests.

Among the presenters at the Asheville meeting was Carlton Abbott, a renowned architect and son of Stanley Abbott, the parkway's first landscape architect. He spoke passionately of how design concepts incorporating color, texture, and building materials can be chosen to blend with parkway views.

"In an area of the country that is exceptionally religious, Carlton can talk about a haystack with reverence, and people make the connection between what the parkway represents and something deep inside themselves," said Don Barger, NPCA Southeast regional director. "When that connection is made, these people become advocates."

Wayne Strickland, of Virginia's fifth planning district, recently announced that the National Association of Development Organizations had recognized the coalition with an award for a 1994 workshop it held in Roanoke, Virginia, where a proposed development had spurred an acrimonious battle. For three days, the coalition, local developers, and regional and park planners crafted a new design that caused the least disturbance to parkway views.

Vera Guise, NPCA grassroots field representative and a coalition executive board member, credits much of the group's success to former Virginia Rep. Jim Olin and former North Carolina Rep. Jamie Clarke, co-chairs of the coalition. "We want to save the beauty of the Blue Ridge Parkway, and we believe a cooperative approach can do it," Clarke said.

## MARKUP

### Key Park Legislation

#### BILL

**National Park System Reform  
H.R. 260**

**National Park System Reform  
H.R. 2181**

**Concessions and Fee Reform  
S. 1144**

**Virginia Parks  
H.R. 1091**

#### PURPOSE

Establishes a review commission to consider which national park units should be removed from the system. NPCA opposes.

Focuses on improving park planning and on raising additional revenue for parks. NPCA supports.

Perpetuates national park concessioner monopolies and taxpayer subsidies to the industry. Raises entrance fees without making concessioners pay their fair share. NPCA opposes.

Reduces the authorized boundaries of Richmond National Battlefield Park and Shenandoah National Park. Preempts ongoing studies to determine appropriate boundaries. NPCA opposes.

#### STATUS

The House rejected H.R. 260 by a 231-180 vote on September 19, but it was added hours later to a budget reconciliation bill.

H.R. 2181 is awaiting action before the House subcommittee on national parks.

S. 1144 was debated in a hearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on September 15. Similar concessions language was added to the budget reconciliation bill.

The House approved H.R. 1091 by a 377-30 vote on September 19.

NPCA is currently working on 30 bills.

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# A Cry for Wilderness

BY TERRY TEMPEST WILLIAMS

W

HENEVER I CLOSE MY EYES, it is the desert's beauty I see. Images of Utah's redrock canyons rising upward like praying hands send me dreaming. And when I awake, eyes open, I know a world that is silent, pristine, and wild awaits me, holds my spirit, until I can return flesh to slickrock and feel the bedrock of creation beneath my feet.

A citizens' proposal to protect Utah's redrock wilderness has been ignored by the state's delegation, which proposes instead to open these lands to development and extractive industry.

These lands are unsurpassed in the world, and include canyons, slickrock narrows, vast table-lands, cliffs, mountain ranges, and wild rivers. Wildlife, such as big-horn sheep and mountain lions, ranges from national parklands to lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Only a few generations ago, Utah was settled on spiritual grounds. It is ironic that now Utah must be protected on spiritual grounds for generations to come.

The Utah Public Lands Management Act of 1995, presented to Congress last summer by Utah Republicans Sen. Orrin Hatch and Rep. Jim Hansen, designates as

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**AT RIGHT:** Utah wildlands are unsurpassed in the world and include slickrock narrows, table-lands, mountain ranges, and rivers.







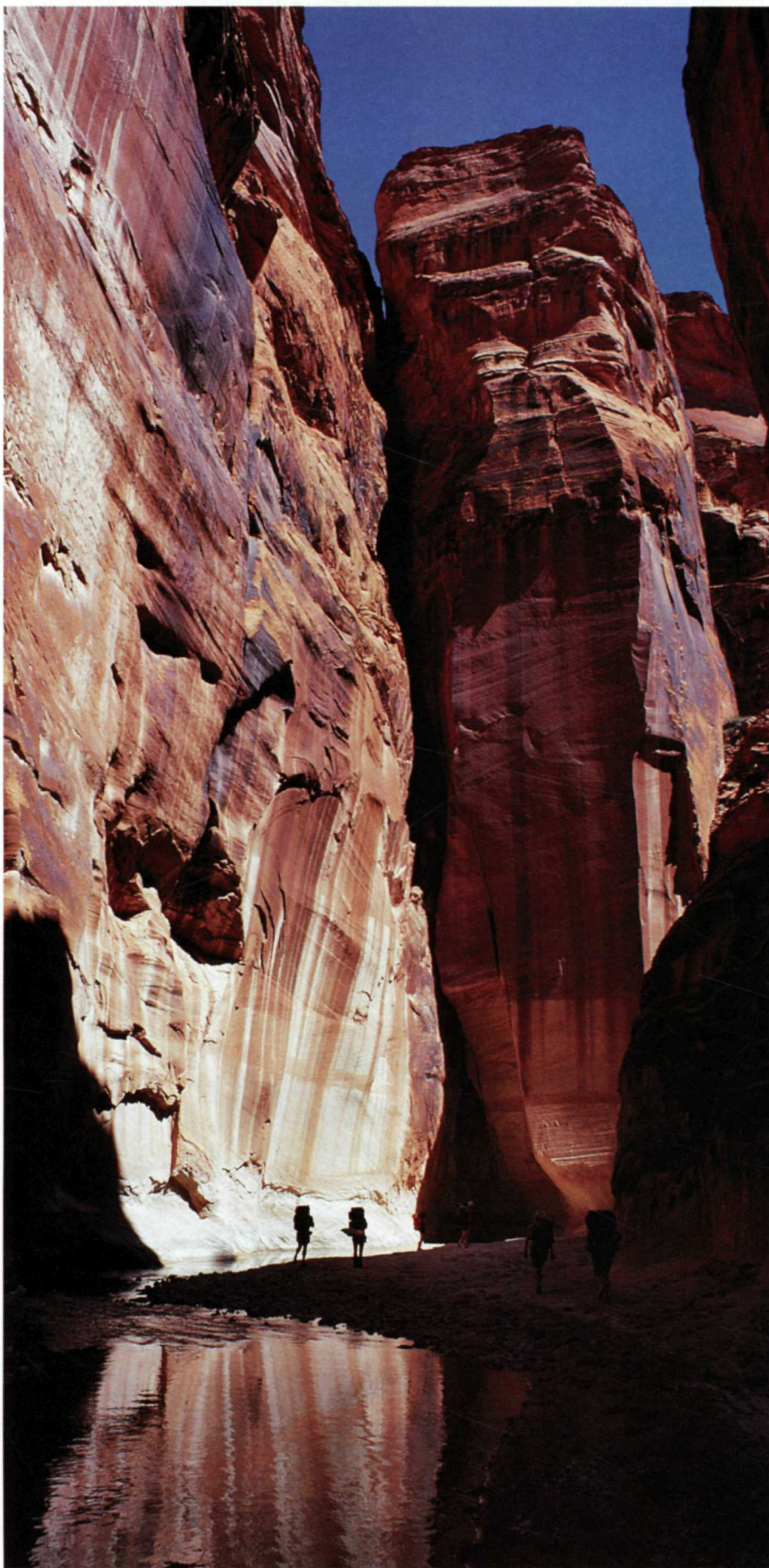
wilderness only 1.8 million of the 22 million acres currently managed by BLM. Both the Senate and the House bills, S. 884 and H.R. 1745, promise to open up an area twice the size of Rhode Island, 1.4 million acres, to oil and gas exploration, coal and uranium mining, off-road vehicles, communication towers, and the possibility of dams. What we have been offered is not a wilderness bill at all but a federal zoning act.

The Utah Public Lands Management Act also seeks to eliminate the chance for any future protection of wildlands in Utah by directing BLM to manage for development all lands not designated as wilderness. Hatch explains, "We have included language that releases all of BLM's lands, with a few minor exceptions listed in the bill, from any further study of management for wilderness characters or values and returns them to the full range of nonwilderness multiple uses."

**All public lands in the state of Utah become vulnerable to human greed in the name of economic growth and development.**

This is the "hard release" language that closes the door on any further protection of wilderness in Utah. And it opens the door to coal mining on the Kaipairowits Plateau, oil drilling rigs and tar sands development along the Dirty Devil River, and the logging of pinyon and juniper forests on top of Cedar Mesa, an area rich with the delicate ruins of Anasazi life, cliff dwellings and kivas, archaeological sites that date from 500 to 1250 A.D. Quite simply, the areas not included in the bill, specifically "all public lands in the state of Utah," become vulnerable to human greed in the name of economic growth and development.

Testifying before the House Resources Committee on June 29, Sylvia Baca, deputy assistant secretary of Land



STEPHEN TRIMBLE

Places such as Paria Canyon may be developed if proposed legislation is passed.



and Minerals Management, the U.S. Department of Interior, pointed out that “‘the hard release’ provisions would forever remove the protection now being provided to the wilderness study areas....Such a total and permanent release of all lands not designated within this bill is unprecedented and inappropriate.”

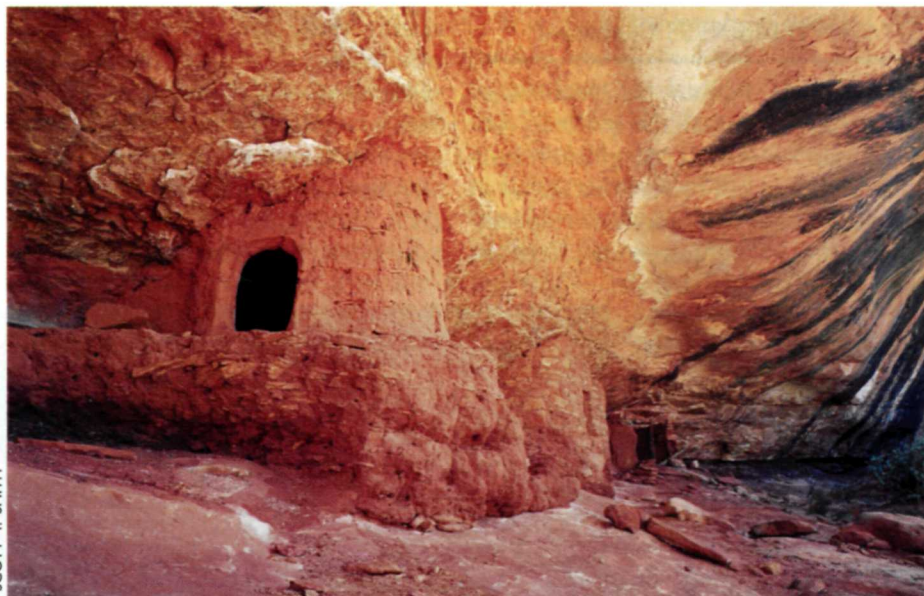
Utah’s wildlands are a national treasure, the nation’s “crown jewels”, and rival Utah’s national parks in scenic splendor and ecological significance. Terri Martin, NPCA’s Rocky Mountain regional director, says “Utah’s national parks may be considered the state’s crown jewels, but the BLM wildlands are the setting that surrounds them and holds them ecologically.”

Nearly 40 percent of the 5.7 million acres are adjacent to national parks. These lands surround or share borders with Arches, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, Capital Reef, and Zion national parks; Dinosaur and Natural Bridges national monuments; and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. These lands would be greatly compromised should this anti-wilderness bill be adopted by Congress. With the proposed development surrounding these national parks, we would lose the vistas that inspire awe and humility. Bears, mountain lions, eagles, and elk would be hard pressed to find safe passage from one area to another.

“Utah’s redrock canyon country is unlike anything else on Earth,” says Martin. “It is a land that inspires awe and amazement, but it is also terribly vulnerable to development and exploitation. Protection of BLM wildlands is an integral part of preserving and enhancing the national parks and their surrounding ecosystems.”

During one of the regional hearings held in Salt Lake City last May, William Newmark, research curator at the Utah Museum of Natural History and an expert on island biogeography (a branch of biology that deals with the geographical distribution of animals and plants), voiced his concern over the devastating effects this bill could have on the national parks in Utah.

He made five points about the bill: it does not protect large contiguous areas for mammals that need wide expansive tracts of land; it does a poor



SCOTT T. SMITH



JOHN ELK III

job of enlarging existing areas of wild country, such as the national parks and monuments; it reduces the likelihood that biotic communities would re-establish for survival; it does not connect existing wild areas with corridors for the movement and migration of animals; and through its ratio of edge and interior habitat, the legislation favors the intrusion of exotic species at the peril of native flora and fauna.

Diane Davidson, professor of conservation biology at the University of Utah, supports Newmark’s findings and cites the Utah Public Lands Management Act as “a piecemeal approach to wilderness that will do little to assure the long-term persistence of species with large area requirements.” She points out that “biodiversity hot spots” such as Beaver Dam Wash in the Mojave Desert and the White River in the Uintah Basin have been ignored. “These are the fragile streamside sanctuaries that are the lifeblood to an otherwise harsh desert climate.”

And botanist Michael Windham, curator of the herbarium at the University of Utah, cites more than a dozen endemic plant species in the White River ecosystem, which is adjacent to Dinosaur National Monu-

**The Utah wildlands include sites such as Cedar Mesa, an area rich with the ruins of Anasazi life. Some of the cliff dwellings, kivas, and petroglyphs date from 500 to 1250 A.D.**

ment. “There are plants here that are found nowhere else. They are specific to the Green River Shale Formation. If oil shale development were to occur as planned, these species would become threatened.”

Representative Jim Hansen’s response? “Wilderness has nothing to do with biology.”

**T**HE BIOLOGISTS’ VOICES have been ignored and so have these lands. Listen to the names of some of these forgotten places: Labyrinth Canyon, Arch Canyon, Comb Ridge, Owl and Fish Creek, Paria, Parunuweap, Moquith Mountain, Wahweap, Nipple Bench, Burning Hills, and the San Rafael Swell. To walk in this country is to live inside poetry. Native grace. We are brought back to our senses as “nature’s favors” wash over us. A canyon wren sings. We listen. How have we strayed so far away?

Redrock wilderness is both the bedrock lands of southern Utah and a metaphor of unlimited possibility. Something in the world can remain untamed. These questions must be asked: “How can we cut ourselves off from the very source of our creation? And can we truly survive the worship of our own destructiveness?”

As a citizen of Utah and of these



## UTAH WILDERNESS *Continued*

United States, I do not believe this is a wilderness bill that the majority of Utahns or Americans recognize, want, or desire. I do not believe that this is a wilderness bill that honors or respects the natural laws required for a healthy environment. And I do not believe this is a wilderness bill that takes an empathetic stance toward our future.

In the name of political expediency and with eyes capable of seeing only through the lens of greed and economics, our public lands in Utah, which belong to all Americans, are being sacrificed.

What is it that we can wish for? To be whole. To be complete. Wilderness reminds us what it means to be human, what we are connected to rather than what we are separate from.

"Our troubles," the Pulitzer-prize winning scientist, E.O. Wilson, writes, "arise from the fact that we do not know what we are and cannot agree on what we want to be.... Humanity is part of nature, a species that evolved among other species. The more closely we identify ourselves with the rest of life, the more quickly we will be able to discover the source of human sensibility and acquire knowledge on which an enduring ethic, a sense of preferred direction, can be built."

When we look at the undermining of our public lands, whether it is wilderness in Utah or our national parks and forests, we must realize the debate over Utah wilderness is not about economics. This debate is not about "taking back the West," as the proponents of the Wise Use Movement would have us believe. It is about putting ourselves in accordance with nature, of conse-

crating these lands by remembering our relationships to them. A strong wilderness bill as recommended by Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-N.Y.) is an act of such consecration.

America's Redrock Wilderness Act (H.R. 1500) is the "citizens' proposal," a proposal that recommends protec-

edge gleaned from the ground itself. They walked these boundaries and created their own inventory, what they saw as a fair representation of wilderness in Utah. The result was a wilderness proposal for 5.7 million acres, which was then adopted by the Utah Wilderness Coalition, an organization of state, regional, and national conservation groups, including NPCA.

Nearly 70 percent of those individuals who responded to the Governor's Office of Budget and Planning during the wilderness review last spring were in favor of America's Redrock Wilderness Act. A majority of Utahns wanted 5.7 million acres of wilderness, not less. Rep. Jim Hansen says this legislation is dead. So what happened?

Quite simply, the Utah congressional delegation turned its backs on its constituents. Karen Shepherd, a former congressional representative from Utah, states, "Never in my memory have so many had so little influence on their own elected representatives. Never has the democratic process not been heard, and never has our precious sense of community been more at risk."

Tom Lyon, a Utah citizen, stood before one of the wilderness hearings in Salt Lake City and said, "We stand at a fork in the road. One road offers full protection of the wildlands we love. The other road gives us what the Utah congressional delegation didn't want anyway.... The real bottom line is the diversity and health of the world before us."

Hatch's response: "We have reached a Madisonian compromise." He has told the American people that this is not a democracy but a representative



DAVID MUENCH

**Some portions of the San Rafael Desert are among lands being ignored by the Utah delegation's legislation now before Congress.**

tion for 5.7 million acres of Utah's wildlands. It was drafted by local citizens after they became frustrated by the politics coloring BLM's process for recommending what wilderness should be set aside for protection. After sitting around kitchen tables with maps and pencils, these individuals chose areas they knew and set out in a labor of love to document the state of the wild, to create a vision from both their hearts and their intellects, and then come back together with knowl-



government, and that we must trust his judgment.

Who can say how much nature can be destroyed without consequence? Who can say how much land can be used for extractive purposes until it is rendered barren forever? And who can say what the human spirit will be crying out for 100 years from now? Two hundred years from now?

This past summer, Yosemite Valley in Yosemite National Park had to be closed for six consecutive weekends.

Who can say how much  
nature can be destroyed  
without consequence?  
Who can say how much  
land can be used for  
extractive purposes  
until it is rendered  
barren forever?

The park was overcrowded. A few weeks later, Yellowstone National Park reported traffic jams in the Lamar Valley. The gridlock was caused by carloads of families with the wish of seeing a wolf. Once extirpated from the nation's first park, the wolf has been reintroduced. Did our country's lawmakers, who held the vision of national parks in the 19th century, dream of this kind of hunger? In the same vein, can our lawmakers today toward the end of the 20th century, imagine what the sanctity of wilderness in Utah might hold for us as a people at the turn of the 21st century?

Without a philosophy of wildness and the recognition of its inherent spiritual values, we will, as E.O. Wilson reminds us, "descend farther from heaven's air if we forget how much the natural world means to us."

For those of us who so love these lands in Utah, who recognize America's redrock wilderness as a sanctuary for the preservation of our souls, the Utah Public Lands Management Act of 1995 is the beginning of this forgetting, a forgetting we may never be able to reclaim.

My eyes close.

There is a woman who is a tailor. She lives in Green River, Utah, and makes her livelihood performing alterations, taking a few inches here, letting out a few inches there, basting in hems, then finishing them with a feather stitch.

While hiking in the San Rafael Swell, this woman was raped, thrown down face first on the sand. She never saw the face of her assailant. What she knew was this: that in that act of violence she lost her voice. She could not cry out for help. He left her, violated and raw.

The woman returned home and told no one of her experience. Instead, she grabbed a large spool of red thread, a pair of scissors and returned to the Swell.

The woman cut pieces of thread and placed them on the desert. Six inches. Three inches. Twelve inches. She saw them as bloodlines, remembering the fetishes of Zuni that draw the heart down. She thought of rabbit, lizard, and rattlesnake. She continued to cut lines in memory of animals she had known, seen, and spent time with in these canyons; deer, mountain lion, flicker, and raven. And on one occasion, she recalled watching a bear amble down Crack Canyon. For this creature, she left a line of red thread three feet long. She cut one inch threads for frogs and left them inside potholes to wriggle in the rain when the basins would inevitably fill.

Time and space shift, the woman is now walking along the banks of the Colorado River. She takes her spool of red thread, ties one end to a juniper, and then walks with the river, following each bend, each curve, her red thread trailing behind her for miles.

It is spring, the woman is standing in the deep heat of the desert beside a large boulder known by locals as "the birthing rock." Tiny feet the size of an index finger are etched on stone. Ten toes of hope point to figures of women bearing down, legs spread, with the heads of children coming forth. She recognizes them as two beings seen as one.

The woman picks up an obsidian chip that has been worked by ancient hands, the flaked edge is razor sharp. She holds it between her fingers like a pencil, opens her left hand, and traces her own lifeline from beginning to end. The crescent moon below her thumb turns red. She places her palm on the boulder and screams.

**B**LOODLINES. Lifelines. These wildlands are on the verge of violation. Utah wilderness becomes a bellwether for public lands issues at the close of the 20th century. What will we choose to embrace, and what will we choose to destroy? In the midst of the hard-core politics before us, I think of the woman in the San Rafael Swell and her spool of red thread basting memories back into the land.

Emily Dickinson writes, "Life is a spell so exquisite that everything conspires to break it."

How can we not respond?

TERRY TEMPEST WILLIAMS is a Utah naturalist and writer. Her most recent books are *An Unspoken Hunger* and *Desert Quartet*, which was released this fall. Williams is also a naturalist in residence at the Utah Museum of Natural History.

## A Call to Action

**U**TAH'S NATIONAL and international treasure is her wildlands—the slickrock deserts, the high mountain peaks—and they deserve to be protected: our children and grandchildren deserve nothing less.

The House Resources Committee passed the Utah Public Lands Management Act (H.R. 1745) by a vote of 28 to 3. We need your help to defeat this bill, in the full House and the Senate.

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 oppose H.R. 1745 in the House and S. 884 in the Senate. Also write to President Clinton (The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20500), urging him to veto the Utah Public Lands Management Act of 1995.



# Remembering the TIME of SEPARATION

Kalaupapa, once a place of banishment for Hawaiians with leprosy, is now a peaceful memorial to those who suffered and those who cared for them.

BY SALLY-JO BOWMAN

**K**ALAUAPAPA. The wind-ravaged peninsula juts into wild seas on the rugged north coast of Molokai in the Hawaiian Islands, a national historical park that weeps with a century of sorrow and cradles the souls of the sainted and the damned. A few people still live here, the last of some 8,000 condemned here for life. The first "shipments" came in 1866, sometimes having to swim through the surf when the sea ran too high for a boat to land. Their sentence: to die in banishment. Their crime: leprosy.

Though leprosy now is easily treated with modern sulfone antibiotics, the name still provokes hysteria. Today it is often called Hansen's disease. But leprosy is what it was called in 1873, when a young Belgian priest serving in Hawaii volunteered for permanent assignment to the ill-funded government-decreed settlement of 600 people, where food and medicine were scarce, shelter makeshift, and drink and crime were common. Father Damien DeVeuster was 33.

Last June, in glorious ceremonies at Koelkelberg Basilica in Brussels, Pope John Paul II beatified Damien. The Roman Catholic Church had taken exactly 100 years to accept a miracle attributed to Damien six years after his death, the cure of a mortally ill French nun who prayed in his name for her life. For the Catholic church, beatification is just one step short of sainthood—and Island Catholics are looking for the one more provable miracle that would make Damien a saint.

**AT RIGHT:** Kalaupapa, a peninsula on the north coast of Molokai, was the site of a settlement where Hawaiians suffering from leprosy were quarantined.

DOUGLAS PEEBLES





HAWAII STATE ARCHIVES



PHOTO RESOURCE HAWAII / FRANCO SALMOIRAGHI

**Father Damien DeVeuster, a Roman Catholic priest, volunteered for permanent assignment to Kalaupapa in 1866. His church, St. Philomena's, was part of the original settlement at Kalawao. It is one of two buildings still standing there.**

Yet, when Damien served at Kalaupapa, where he died in 1889 of complications of the leprosy he contracted after 12 years in the settlement, the short, stocky onetime farm boy was considered headstrong. "Blessed Damien" is his official Catholic title now, but at the time his bishop called him tempestuous and ill-bred.

Damien believed he was just doing his duty, convinced the exceptional circumstances warranted exceptional solutions. He held forth from Kalawao, the original settlement on the wetter and windier east side of the peninsula. At the time, the west side, where the present-day village of Kalaupapa lies between cliff and shoreline, was still occupied by Hawaiians who had lived there for generations. The last moved away just before the turn of the century, not long after the patient population peaked at 1,213 in 1890.

Beginning then, the settlement at Kalawao gradually moved to the better climate a few miles away, dismantling the buildings to use the salvage. By 1930, no one lived at Kalawao. Where nearly 400 structures stood in

1888, now all that is left of Kalawao is Damien's St. Philomena's Church and its Protestant counterpart, Siloama, where the toilet outside is still marked on one side "patients" and, on the other, "kokua."

**To native Hawaiians, the government isolation policy as the answer to the leprosy epidemic was worse than the disease itself.**

Kokua means help in Hawaiian. To native Hawaiians, who by far made up the majority of those who contracted Hansen's disease, family and physical proximity are paramount. To them, the government isolation policy as the answer to the leprosy epidemic that started with a few cases in the 1840s was worse than the disease itself. When police rounded up a person for leprosy—or a bounty hunter collected

\$10 for turning someone in—often a family member would accompany the patient as a *kokua*, knowing it meant exile for both. In the early days, the settlement population had nearly as many *kokua* as patients. Besides native Hawaiians, those island residents banished to the settlement included people from all of Hawaii's immigrant groups such as Chinese, Caucasian, and Japanese. Just like every other ailment carried to the islands by Europeans or Asians, leprosy afflicted the natives far more often than anyone else because of a lack of immunity to all diseases.

In Damien's time, the natural prison peninsula, guarded by the world's tallest seacliffs, ranging up to 3,500 feet, teemed with as many as 1,000 patients. Damien took up pipe smoking to mask the obnoxious odor of infected flesh. He scrounged lumber and built housing and an infirmary—when he was not constructing coffins and digging graves, a hundred in his first year. By 1887 the graves numbered 3,000.

The graves he dug now lie unmarked under the rolling grass around St. Philomena's, a lawn the size of a



football field. Damien was buried there too, by his own request. But his body was exhumed in 1936, when Belgium decided Damien's remains should be buried in his homeland, much to the chagrin of Hawaiians and other Islanders, Catholic and non-Catholic alike. Now Damien's St. Philomena grave contains what the Catholic Church calls a relic, the bones of his right hand, reburied following beatification.

Now, the graves number at least 8,000. Fewer than 70 patients remain, sent to Kalaupapa in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s. Medical science has long since treated them successfully, and they are free to live wherever they want. Once doomed to isolation, to lifetime quarantine, they now choose Kalaupapa, for despite history, the land and the sea—what Hawaiians call the 'āina, the total environment—pulse with peace and serenity that are at a premium in today's world. The fragrance of plumeria perfumes the air; the sharp bark of an Axis deer punctuates a night that breathes almost audibly with the rhythm of the surf.

Visitors are always struck by the tranquility, says Henry Law, the first superintendent of this national park site, serving from 1984 to 1988. "It's like stepping back 50 years, where the pace slows, like visiting the Amish country of Ohio." Yet, Law says, "nothing like Kalaupapa exists anywhere else."

**T**HE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS) shares administration with the state Department of Health and deals with landowners, including the state Department of Hawaiian Homelands, which holds title to about 1,200 acres of the Kalaupapa town site. It is a situation requiring more than the usual bureaucratic cooperation.

At Kalaupapa, the Park Service mandate to preserve, protect, and interpret focuses on providing for remaining patients and on the history of Hawaii's leprosy settlement. "I don't think there's a soul around who doesn't want Kalaupapa remembered," says Law.

"Kalaupapa was the best and the worst of how man treats his fellow man," he says. "The best were people like Damien. The worst was the atti-

tude 'out of sight, out of mind.' There's a lot to be learned from how we treated fellow human beings. If we don't learn, we're doomed to repeat this history with future diseases, like AIDS."

Law points out that the peninsula also is home to rare and endangered plant species and is laced with hundreds of archaeological sites. The park has just begun to inventory the stone platforms of temples, retaining walls of agricultural terraces, and rock windbreaks for sweet potatoes. A few yards from St. Philomena's lies an ancient fishing shrine. On the slopes of 400-foot Kauhako Crater is a stone-paved sled track, once covered with slick

grasses to form the Hawaiian version of a toboggan run, used for both competition and recreation. Not far from the lighthouse on Kalaupapa's point are a stone canoe launch and a rocky hummock of burial platforms.

"It may take time even for the rest of the Park Service to realize the significance of this place," Law says. "It's a world class site. Every park person who's ever been there is overwhelmed by it."

As a national historical park, Kalaupapa is still in the planning stages.

For the present, the public visits Kalaupapa on day tours guided by one of the patients, bumping in a van or



MONTY COSTA

The roots of a banyan tree engulf one of the 8,000 graves at Kalaupapa.



## KALAUPAPA Continued

bus along the dirt road from Kalaupapa to Kalawao, back to the time of Damien.

Father Damien's name then was a household word, and it remains so today. In 1969, long before beatification seemed likely, Hawaii chose Damien to be one of the state's two likenesses in Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol. The other is the unifier of the Islands, King Kamehameha I.

**T**HE TOUR GUIDE—perhaps it will be Richard Marks, sheriff of Kalawao County, owner of Damien Tours, and champion of the Park Service, without which “Kalaupapa would be covered in Christmas berry bushes”—tells the story of the settlement and his own story.

“They came for me in 1951,” Marks says. He had run away as a merchant seaman, after nearly his entire family had been rounded up and shipped to Kalaupapa—grandmother, father, and his four siblings. “They came, and they locked me up.” He was 20. “They dumped my baby sister here as a suspect,” he says. “The Board of Health wished it [leprosy] on her. And that was the 1940s, not the 1840s.”

Over the years, Marks has mellowed, immersed himself in the history of the place that he now chooses as home, met the Pope, and participated in Father Damien's beatification.

“You can't blame people for being afraid if they don't understand,” he says. “Misunderstandings do more damage than the disease.” Like many of Kalaupapa's current patients, he believes that is true now with AIDS. “AIDS is worse and more dangerous than Hansen's disease,” he says. “But don't treat people like this.” He pauses, contemplating “Sometimes on the tour I can see people are really listening. And sometimes they come up to me at the end and they

say, ‘Thank you for bringing this up. Our kid has AIDS.’” Marks pauses again, and finishes: “I think if people can understand one life, the world would be a better place.”

The disease that brought Marks to Kalaupapa not only has been treatable for nearly 50 years, it is one of the least contagious of communicable diseases.

**“AIDS is worse and more dangerous than Hansen's disease,” he says. “But don't treat people like this.”**

Hansen's disease is a chronic bacterial infection occurring mainly in the tropics that becomes noncontagious within a few weeks of treatment. Untreated, it usually affects nerves, skin, and eyes, often causing loss of feeling and crippling hands and feet as blood vessels and nerves change.

Hawaii's isolation laws, begun in 1865, remained in force until 1969, although patients who passed skin tests following sulfone treatment were “paroled” by the system that persisted in

using prison terminology for a medical situation.

Henry Nalaeielua was one of them. In 1949, at 23, he was released. He had been a patient more of his life than not, first for five years at Kalihi Hospital, a quarantined leprosy treatment station in Honolulu, where he was sent at age 10. In 1941 the teenage Henry was deemed medically hopeless and shipped to Kalaupapa. Within a few years, sulfone drugs became available. By 1949 Nalaeielua was clinically ready to leave Kalaupapa's Baldwin Home for Boys.

But his readiness ended with the parole paper. “I had not a suitcase to my name,” he remembers. “I threw my things in a sheet and tied the four corners in a knot. I've got to admit, I was scared as hell, going to the outside, people looking down, what are they thinking?”

But he remained in Honolulu for eight years, living with his oldest brother, and working for the electric company. When Hansen's disease flared up again, he moved back to Kalaupapa for treatment, and later underwent corrective surgery on his feet at the National Hansen's Disease Center at Carville, Louisiana, staying to work at the center until 1980. And then he came home.

Kalaupapa is smaller, quieter than when he first arrived in 1941. “That was the Time of Separation,” Nalaeielua says. The still-standing 1930-vintage visiting building then was bisected by a prison-style floor-to-ceiling chain-link fence to keep patients and visitors apart. Yet the system broke down at the Baldwin Home, where Nalaeielua lived with about 40 other boys and young men. The 30 who were able-bodied and some of the young Catholic brothers serving as cooks and nurses simply ignored the prohibitions on touching, eating together, playing cards.

“Those Brothers and us, we did all kinds of things together,” Nalaeielua says.



PHOTO RESOURCE HAWAII | FRANCO SALMOIRAGHI

**Once banished to the Kalaupapa peninsula with his family, Richard Marks now runs tours at the site he still calls home.**





MONTE COSTA

**Henry Nalaielua speaks at Iolani Palace in a ceremony honoring Father Damien.**

"On Catholic holidays we'd grind [make] ice cream. The Brothers rode around on a truck with us—strictly prohibited. We got away with murder." With Brother Patrick, who painted in oils in his off-duty hours, Nalaielua developed his natural artistic talent.

After Nalaielua had been "outside" and come back, he roamed the newer Kalaupapa cemeteries once again in the early 1960s, pausing among beachside gravestones knocked askew by the mammoth tsunami of 1946. He had passed these graves almost daily in his years at the settlement. But this time he saw something he had never noticed before: a marker chiseled "Joseph Nalaielua."

"My first thought was, 'Who's this? Did I have another brother named Joseph?' I wrote to my father and asked. He told me, for the first time, Joseph was not my brother, but his, the youngest. Joseph came to Kalaupapa about 1904. He must have been about four years old. He died in 1909." Nalaielua looks over that same graveyard today, pondering how his family, like many others, kept leprosy a secret.

Nalaielua has since made it his business to help the world understand the

secret. Some days he leads groups for Damien Tours, knowledgeable about history, affable about himself. In 1988 he spoke at the International Leprosy Congress in Holland. Last June he sat catching cold in the Belgian rain to witness Damien's beatification. Nalaielua had no official role but took it upon himself to represent patients who could not attend.

Recently at Kalaupapa, Nalaielua

A guide is required for visitors to Kalaupapa National Historical Park. Standard driving tour is 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with an eight-hour option available. Travelers may fly from Honolulu or Molokai, or hike the three-mile Pali Trail down the 1,664-foot cliffside, or walk in and and fly out. Airfare from Honolulu is about \$80; tour fee is about \$30. Visitors must bring a lunch; food and beverages are not sold at Kalaupapa. A trail mule ride may be available. Visitors must be at least 16 years old. For information and reservations, contact Damien Tours, P.O. Box 1, Kalaupapa, Molokai, HI 96742, telephone 808-567-6171.

asked a visitor, "Do you carry time?" His visitor looked at her watch, and announced the hour. "I live here," he said. "So I don't need time."

Nalaielua likes the irrelevance of time, treasures the peace, the serenity. He sits in the late afternoon pondering the beatification that has called so much attention to spirit triumphing over despair, to caring winning over callousness. Behind him the *pali*, the cliffs at the back of the peninsula, look like enormous green and black velvet curtains closing on the last act in a century-long tragedy.

Not far from where he sits a plaque on the bell at the Protestant Kanaana Hou—Church of New Canaan—quotes Isaiah 61:1. "Proclaim liberty to the captives." The fuller text is, "He hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound."

It brings to mind Damien. Nalaielua speaks of the man as if he had known him. Not a hint of rancor comes through in his gentle, rolling voice as he remembers his own long Time of Separation. "Fifty years ago, I thought I would never be able to leave," he says. "But today we just jump on a plane and go." The smile that lights his face clearly comes from deep inside. "You know, I'm still the same person."

SALLY-JO BOWMAN is a writer who divides her time between her residence in Oregon and her homeland, Hawaii.

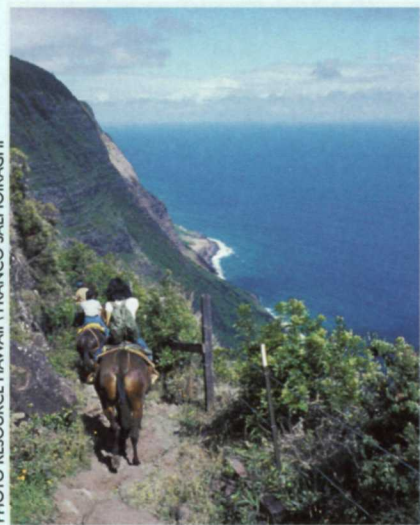


PHOTO RESOURCE HAWAII | FRANCO SALVOIRAGHI







Because of a widespread but strongly disputed claim  
that bison transmit disease to cattle,  
Yellowstone's free-roaming herds are subject to slaughter  
when they wander beyond park boundaries.

# *The* BATTLE over BISON

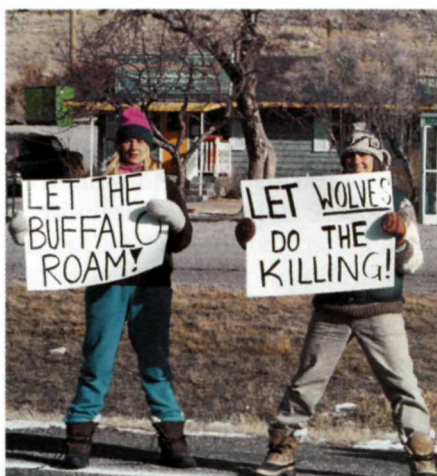
BY GEORGE WUERTHNER

**M**ORE THAN 60 MILLION bison once roamed the grasslands of North America. They had long been important to the Native American tribes of the Great Plains and were an integral part of the landscape when European settlers first explored the region. Valued for their meat and hides, bison were heavily exploited, and by the late 1800s, fewer than 1,000 remained.

A few native bison found sanctuary in the newly established Yellowstone National Park. From an estimated 25 individuals in 1900, the herd has grown to more than 4,000 animals and is today the largest continuously free-roaming herd of bison found in the United States.

Another 225 bison roam in Grand Teton National Park, part of the 18-million-acre Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. These bison herds are one of the ecosystem's unique wildlife assets.

Yet, Greater Yellowstone's herds are threatened more today than at any time in this century. Since 1985 more than 1,500 Yellowstone bison have been killed after wandering from the park. Although some have been shot on private lands, many have been killed on



Local protestors oppose the bison kill.

public lands that were set aside for wildlife management. The animals are being slaughtered to appease regional livestock industry officials, who claim that bison could transmit the disease brucellosis to domestic livestock.

The destruction of bison has ignited a nationwide furor and appears to pit the livestock industry, and the state of Montana in particular, against the National Park Service (NPS). Depending on the outcome, the bison-brucellosis issue may jeopardize NPS control of wildlife within park units and threaten free-roaming wildlife everywhere.

The focus of the controversy is *Brucella abortus*, a bacterium that can cause abortions in cattle, particularly with first-time pregnancy. It can, on occa-

sion, infect humans as well, where it is called undulant fever for the varying intensity of symptoms. Besides domestic livestock, the disease is known to be carried by many wildlife species, although it appears to have little effect on them.

No one disputes that some bison and elk carry the disease, but the risk of transmission to domestic animals is extremely remote. Dr. Margaret Meyer, a brucellosis specialist at the University of California's Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, and Mary Meagher, a biologist with the National Biological Service, points out that there is a vast difference between infected and infectious. Most brucellosis testing involves looking for antibodies. But the presence of antibodies is not a good indicator of active brucella infection in bison; it merely means that at some point in its life the bison was exposed to brucellosis.

The actual culture of brucella bacteria from bison organs is the only reliable measure of infection rate, says Meagher. But culturing bacteria is a much more expensive and time-consuming test, and it is seldom done. Although the national and local media regularly report that 50 percent of Yellowstone's bison "test positive" for brucellosis, what this really means is that 50 percent have antibodies to the disease. In reality, a much smaller per-

**AT LEFT: Bison are an integral part of the visitor experience and the ecology at Yellowstone National Park.**



## BISON Continued

centage actually carry active brucella bacteria.

A key assertion of Meagher is that the brucella bacterium behaves differently in bison than in cattle. She claims that assumptions about its transmission pathways, based on studies of domestic livestock, may be invalid. Meyer and Meagher theorize that bison calves are inoculated with brucella bacteria through their mother's milk. Gradually young bison acquire antibodies, and hence resistance, to the disease. This may explain why brucellosis does not appear to cause abortions in mature free-ranging bison cows.

Countering Meyer and Meagher is Dr. Clarence Siroky, Montana State Veterinarian, who cites an experiment done in Texas where brucellosis inoculated into captive bison was successfully transferred to cattle. That study, however, was debunked by Meagher and Meyer. They argue that laboratory experiments do not mimic field conditions. For example, the bison were given a very large dose of brucella, which Meagher and Meyer suggest

caused "distortion and magnification" of results. Furthermore, under field conditions, brucellosis transmission between animals is done orally, and the Texas experiment used a different transfer method. Without field testing, Meagher and Meyer believe conclusions about brucellosis transmission

**There is no evidence  
that wild free-roaming  
bison can transmit  
brucellosis to cattle.**

risk are more theoretical than real.

A "field test" of the degree of risk, albeit an unplanned one, occurred in the winter of 1989. More than 900 bison migrated out of Yellowstone and scattered among cattle north of the park. The state of Montana later tested 20 cattle herds for brucellosis and found no evidence of the disease. "The state is saying this is a grave threat, and here you had all these bison come out of the park to mingle with livestock

and nothing happened," says John Mack, an NPS wildlife biologist working on the bison-brucellosis issue. "This comes back to the basic question being asked: what is the real risk?"

Risk is limited by a number of factors. For physiological and anatomical reasons, bison bulls cannot transmit the disease to domestic animals.

And a surprisingly few female bison can potentially transmit the disease. The major mechanism for transmission between animals is by contact with birth fluids of infected females, typically when or immediately after it aborts a fetus. A female bison cannot transmit the bacteria, even active ones, unless they are located in her reproductive organs. The odds that cattle would have an opportunity to come upon an infected fetus are remote to begin with; scavenging animals make quick work of any aborted calves. But central to the issue is the fact that there is virtually no documented evidence that free-roaming bison respond to brucellosis infection by aborting.

This brings bison proponents back to the question of risk. Even if free-roaming bison can transmit brucellosis



Since 1985, more than 1,500 bison have been shot after wandering beyond the sanctuary of Yellowstone's boundaries.



to cattle—as yet an unproven assertion—how likely is it to occur?

Some idea of the risk can be assessed by noting that of 218 bison killed outside of Yellowstone in 1991-92 and culture tested for the presence of brucellosis, only 27 actually carried the disease. But 19 were bulls and unable to pass the disease on to domestic animals. Of the eight females that tested positive, only one—a yearling, too young to reproduce—had the brucella bacteria present in the reproductive tract. Thus, out of 218 bison killed, none was capable of transmitting the disease to livestock.

Statistics such as these suggest that the risk of brucellosis transmission from bison is extremely small, if it exists at all. According to Mack, “There is no evidence of wild free-roaming bison transmitting brucellosis to cattle.”

ONE PERSPECTIVE ON the brucellosis conflict is that it may mask a deeper philosophical debate about who controls the West. Some livestock producers may be trying to assert control over wildlife to prevent native herbivores from competing with their herds for public forage and space.

One Wyoming Game and Fish official close to the issue who asked not to be named says, “If the public gets used to the idea that bison, like elk and deer, should be free to roam on federal lands managed by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, then it may lead to a reduction in the amount of public lands forage allotted to livestock. That’s what the ranchers really fear,” he says.

The evidence to support such a view is circumstantial but abundant. This past winter, for example, the Montana legislature (dominated by agricultural interests) removed bison from the management authority of the state’s department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and transferred it to the Department of Livestock, which has since indicated an unwillingness to let any wild bison enter the state, especially west of Yellowstone. The Department of Livestock has killed nearly all bison that



JEFF HENRY

**Snowmobile trails interfere with natural processes by increasing bison herds’ mobility and winter survival.**

have wandered west of Yellowstone and many that have wandered north—more than 400 animals this year alone.

Coinciding with the state’s stepped-up bison slaughter policy, Sen. Conrad Burns (R-Mont.) introduced a bill that requires the year-round capture of Yellowstone bison. The animals will be tested for brucellosis, with those testing positive slaughtered or neutered. The bill also requires NPS to significantly reduce its bison herds—whether or not brucellosis is detected—to a yet-to-be-determined number.

Even though the Park Service is currently working on a bison management plan, the state of Montana filed a suit against the federal departments of interior and agriculture, alleging that NPS was ignoring the threat to livestock posed by bison and that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) was threatening loss of the state’s brucellosis-free status. At the end of July, NPS and APHIS proposed an out-of-court settlement to the suit that, among other things, would have required some testing and slaughter of animals. But it also permitted bison not posing any immediate threat to domestic livestock to roam on some public lands outside of the park. The state rejected the proposal.

According to Wyoming Game and

Fish veterinarian Tom Thorne, two things appear to be driving the issue: the recent attainment of brucellosis-free status by states surrounding Yellowstone and the growth of wildlife populations in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Brucellosis-free status has economic implications. It permits cattle producers to transport animals freely across borders, without the need for brucellosis testing. These states now seek to maintain that status, and officials there fear that it could be jeopardized by the presence of brucellosis among wildlife.

The second reason for the controversy, according to Thorne, is the growth of wildlife populations throughout the Yellowstone ecosystem, which increases the likelihood that wildlife and livestock will come in contact.

Expansion of Yellowstone’s bison herd to record numbers is attributable to several factors. First, mild winters for the past decade have led to greater winter survival and higher calf production. At the same time, winter snowmobile use has also increased. Some think a connection exists between the snow-packed trails created by snowmobiles and the bison herd’s newfound mobility and growth.

Travel on snow-packed roads saves bison a tremendous amount of energy, according to Meagher. Ultimately this not only results in greater winter survival but also facilitates movement within park borders and beyond, where snow depths are typically lower than in the park. Unfortunately for many park bison, the winter migration is often a one-way journey. When the shaggy beasts travel beyond the protection of Yellowstone’s borders, most are killed by state officials.

When asked about the contribution of snowmobiles to the problem, Siroky dismissed the argument as invalid. The problem is bison, he insisted.

LIVESTOCK INTERESTS feel their position is justified. After all, they point out, since the USDA began its brucellosis eradication program in the 1930s, more than \$3 billion of taxpayer funds have been spent trying to



## BISON Continued

eliminate the disease from the nation's cattle herds. Originally, the expenditure was justified by human health concerns. Most people contracted brucellosis or undulant fever from drinking raw milk; however, milk pasteurization largely eliminated this source of infection in the 1940s. Even though human health risks are minimal today, the program has continued to enjoy taxpayer support. D.J. Schubert of the Fund for Animals notes that this support amounts to a huge taxpayer subsidy to the livestock industry because it is aimed at reducing the loss of calves to abortion—a real economic cost to cattle producers, but hardly a concern to most citizens.

But Siroky claims that the human

## Taking Action

**T**erri Martin, NPCA's Rocky Mountain regional director, says, "Free-roaming bison are central parts of the visitor experience and ecology of the Greater Yellowstone. The testing and slaughter proposals are outrageous attacks on our national parks as wildlife sanctuaries." NPCA is working to defeat the plan to slaughter thousands of bison in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, and you can help.

Write to the governors of Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho. Urge them to abandon the goal of eradicating brucellosis in wildlife through massive slaughter of bison. Recommend that they pursue more reasonable measures, such as vaccinating cattle and temporarily keeping them off bison winter ranges and calving areas on public lands.

Gov. Jim Geringer  
State Capitol  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Gov. Marc Racicot  
State Capitol  
Helena, MT 59620

Gov. Phil Batt  
State House  
Boise, ID 83720

health issue is still the key factor. "If brucellosis did not cause a [human] health problem, it would not be a problem," he says. Sen. Burns echoed this point in an editorial in the *Bozeman Chronicle* suggesting that people visiting Yellowstone might get the disease.

Thorne says the health threat to tourists or anyone else is "pretty low, almost negligible." The only way a tourist could contract the disease, says Thorne, is by contact with an aborted fetus that also happened to have active brucella bacteria—an extremely unlikely occurrence. Contracting the disease from meat is also unlikely since the bacteria are destroyed in the cooking process. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, no more than 100 cases of undulant fever are reported each year in the United States—most occurring among slaughterhouse workers. The disease, which can cause painful arthritis, inflammation, and fever, is readily treated with antibiotics.

Joe Bohne, a biologist with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department,

**Unfortunately for many park bison, the winter migration is a one-way journey.**

points out that more than 40 percent of the elk in Jackson reportedly carry brucellosis, and last year 4,300 were killed by hunters. "Most of us around here are gutting our animals without gloves—don't you think if brucellosis transmission were as great a risk as implied, the USDA would have health warnings for elk hunters?" he asks.

Moreover, despite the fact that so many elk wintering in the Jackson area carry the disease, they are not a target of the livestock industry's ire. According to one state biologist, this is because elk have many supporters among hunters and outfitters—again suggesting that control of disease transmission is not the primary goal.

Siroky has a different explanation. He believes that park bison are the source of elk infections. "Once we control the disease among bison, elk won't get it anymore," he asserts. This is one

of the key premises underlying the Burns bill's focus on bison.

**C**ONTROLLING BRUCELLOSIS among free-roaming animals spread over an 18-million-acre ecosystem may not be possible, but preventive measures are available.

First, vaccination of all livestock against brucellosis could be made mandatory, not discretionary as it is now. Even though the vaccine is not 100 percent effective, it would still significantly reduce any risk to livestock.

Second, keeping cattle off winter ranges and spring calving areas of bison and elk could largely halt any potential for transmission.

Third, closure of Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks to snowmobile use would eliminate snow-packed passageways that aid bison in leaving the parks and would restore winter mortality of bison to natural levels. If natural processes are allowed to control bison populations, artificial measures such as shooting become unnecessary.

In addition to all these measures, some movement toward control, if not outright eradication, of brucellosis among wildlife is under way. Researchers hope to develop an oral vaccine that could be scattered on elk and bison winter ranges. Currently, no effective vaccine exists for bison.

And in Wyoming, the Game and Fish Department has experimented with a vaccine aimed at elk concentrated at winter feed grounds. According to Thorne, elk at one Wyoming feeding ground showed a decline in infection from 46 percent to 9 percent as a result of the vaccine.

All of these measures, taken together, should significantly allay livestock producers' fears of economic hardship—if that is the real concern. But if brucellosis is nothing more than an excuse to control public lands and limit wildlife, then no solution is likely to satisfy livestock advocates, and the threat to Yellowstone's wildlife is far greater than most people imagine.

**GEORGE WUERTHNER** is a wildlife biologist, freelance writer, and photographer based in Oregon.





# Nordic Treks

*A winter snowfall in a national park should no longer deter a visitor. Just put on your cross-country skis.*

BY CONNIE TOOPS

**W**INTER IS A MAGICAL season in many national parks. Evergreen boughs droop under a cool blanket of snow, and plunging waterfalls are transformed into storybook ice sculptures. This is a time of solitude, when deer wander through serene meadows, and the haunting chants of ravens drift across the mountains. Traditionally, winter scapes in many national parks were witnessed by only the heartiest of visitors, but the increasing popularity of cross-country skiing is bringing newcomers to cool-season getaways.

Cross-country skiers often find the best snow in the high country, although unpredictable weather poses a concern. Unlike well-tended resorts, most ski trails in national parks are not groomed and may not be frequently patrolled. Strong winds and blizzard conditions can strike with little warning. Regardless of the intended length of a trip, well-prepared skiers carry extra layerable clothing, a map and compass, matches, flashlight, high-energy food, water, and a small emergency kit. Rangers advise skiing with a companion and always leaving an itinerary with someone who will call for help if you do not return on schedule.

## Yellowstone

Yellowstone is famous for its winter activities. The road from Gardiner to Cooke City, Montana, is plowed in winter, allowing vehicle access to

Mammoth. From mid-December to mid-March, the concessioner operates snow coaches that shuttle visitors among Mammoth, West Yellowstone, Flagg Ranch, and Old Faithful. Most visitors use lodges at Old Faithful or Mammoth as a base during their stays. Snowfall varies from 13 feet per year at West Yellowstone to 6.5 feet at Mammoth, and daytime temperatures reach 20 to 30 degrees Fahrenheit on frequent sunny days. Nighttime temperatures can drop to -40 degrees.

Mammoth offers six trails in varying terrain. Lessons are conducted on the Upper Terrace Loop, which is machine groomed and served by a free shuttle bus from the hotel. Deer and elk often feed near the steaming limestone terraces, and on many mornings the surrounding trees are robed in glittering frost crystals. Skilled skiers

may try the Bighorn Loop (5 miles), which parallels Indian Creek and affords spectacular views of the Gallatin Range, or Snow Pass (4.2 miles) for access to telemark slopes. Shuttle service to these trailheads may be arranged at the hotel.

Yellowstone in winter is epitomized by the spouting geysers and abundant wildlife of the Old Faithful area. Eleven trails, several interconnecting, are accessible from the lodge. The terrain is flatter than at Mammoth, but the thermal features create some challenging icy spots. Biscuit Basin Trail (5.5 miles) begins at Old Faithful Geyser, passes Morning Glory Pool, and returns along the Firehole River. Geese may congregate here; bison and

**Cross-country skiers stand silhouetted against steam rising from Biscuit Basin at Yellowstone.**



JEFF AND ALEXA HENRY

CONNIE TOOPS, a photojournalist and former park ranger, last wrote for NATIONAL PARKS about American lions.





## EXCURSIONS *continued*

elk sometimes warm themselves near steam vents. Fairy Falls Trail (5 miles) passes Midway Geyser Basin and ends at a 100-foot frozen waterfall. A shuttle bus from the lodge serves this trailhead.

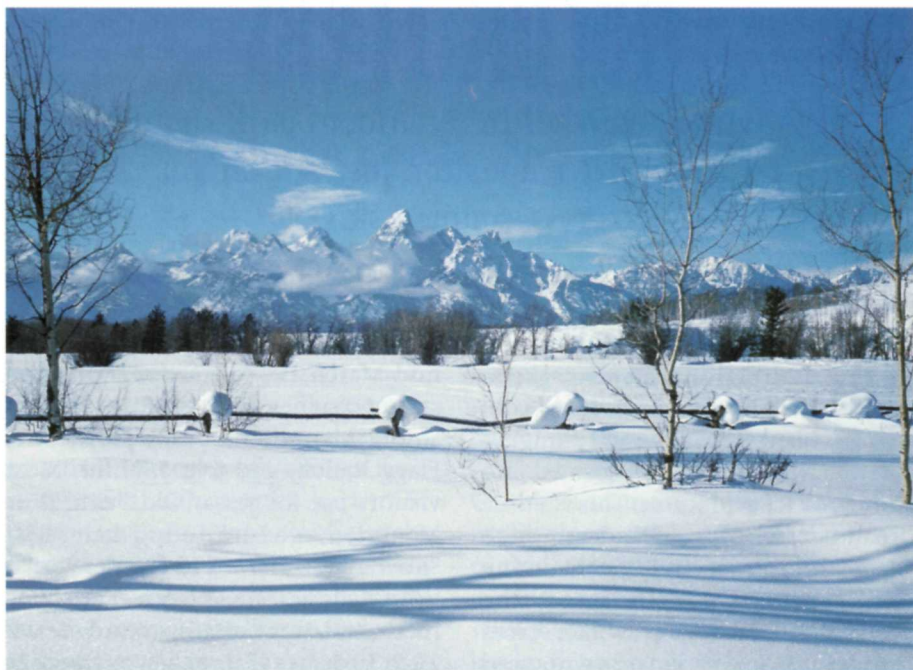
Shuttles also deliver skiers to more distant trailheads, such as those in the Canyon Area, including Canyon Rim Trail (4.5 miles). It has several steep grades, but views of the colorful Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone dusted with snow are worth the climb. Areas west of the Canyon-Washburn Hills road appeal to advanced skiers because of the steep slopes for telemark skiing. Climbing skins and avalanche transmitters are advisable. Check with the ranger at the canyon warming hut about avalanche danger before venturing into this area.

For information on lodging, transportation, and equipment rental within Yellowstone National Park, call TW Services at 307-344-7311. For lodging at Flagg Ranch, call 307-543-2861. For more information, write to the park, Box 168, Yellowstone, WY 82190; or call 307-344-7381.

### Grand Teton

While Jackson Hole draws numerous alpine skiers to its winter resorts, neighboring Grand Teton National Park is seldom crowded with cross-country skiers. On average during the long winter, four feet of snow blanket the valley. Sunny days usually warm into the mid-20s in December, January, and February, but nighttime temperatures drop to -25 degrees Fahrenheit or colder. The road from Jackson to Flagg Ranch on John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway is cleared throughout the winter, but none of the Tetons' trails is groomed for cross-country skiers, and several are used by snowmobiles.

The terrain along the Jenny Lake Trail (9 miles) is fairly level as it crosses large meadows frequented by moose, coyotes, and snowshoe hares. Near the end, it climbs a glacial moraine for a panoramic view of the lake with its



GEORGE WUERTHNER



**Grand Teton, which annually gets an average of four feet of snow, is seldom crowded with skiers.**

ago. Signal Mountain Trail (10 miles) follows an unplowed road to the 7,593-foot summit of Signal Mountain, from which skiers have an excellent view of the Teton Range and Jackson Hole. The return run is downhill on moderate grades through coniferous forests.

Within the park, Moosely Seconds (307-733-7176) rents ski equipment, and many outfitters are based in Jackson. For more information, write to the park, Drawer 170, Moose, WY 83012; or call 307-739-3600.

### Sequoia and Kings Canyon

The best snow conditions in the Sierra Nevada Mountains usually occur from December through March above 6,000 feet. Roads are plowed from Visalia into the Giant Forest and Lodgepole areas of Sequoia and from Fresno into Grant Grove in Kings Canyon. These areas receive about 16 feet of snow annually. Temperatures dip into the mid-teens at night but rise to about 35 degrees Fahrenheit in the afternoon. Since the snow is often wet and heavy,

stunning mountain backdrop. Skiers gain access to the trail from Taggart Lake trailhead near Moose visitor center. The Taggart Lake-Beaver Creek Loop (4 miles) also begins here, and although shorter, the trail is more difficult because of steep, icy downhill sections through a forest that burned a decade



skiing is optimal in the morning.

One of the most popular cross-country ski trails threads through Giant Forest, a sequoia grove that hosts the world's largest trees. The route follows Crescent Meadow Road, unplowed in winter, for 1.2 miles to Moro Rock junction. Here skiers may decide to take a 1-mile loop to the promontory or continue 1.3 miles to Crescent Meadow. Grades are gentle, and the sequoias are awe inspiring. More advanced skiers use the Trail of the Sequoias (3 miles) and Crescent Trail (2.5 miles) to make a loop through Giant Forest.

Intermediate skiers enjoy the Panoramic Point Trail, which begins at Grant Village. An unplowed road gains a thousand feet in 2.5 miles as it passes through a white and red fir forest, where Douglas squirrels and pine martens are active. The terminus of the trail offers an expansive mountain view. The 6-mile trail from Wolverton (near Lodgepole Village) to Pear Lake is a favorite of advanced skiers, crossing The Hump (9,400 feet) and passing Heather and Aster lakes en route to Pear Lake ski hut (available by re-



JOHN DITTLI

servation; 209-565-3782). Skiing in the highcountry is recommended only for those skilled in arctic survival. Check avalanche conditions before departing. Wilderness permits are required for overnight stays.

Ski equipment may be rented at Grant Grove Ski Touring Center (209-335-2314) or Sequoia Ski Touring

### **A skier climbs Cloud Canyon at Sequoia and Kings Canyon.**

Center at Wolverton (209-565-3435). For weather and road conditions, call 209-565-3351. For more information, write to the parks, Three Rivers, CA 93271; or call 209-565-3134.

### **Crater Lake**

In a normal winter, 14 feet of snow may blanket the ground at Crater Lake National Park headquarters, while 20-foot depths are common at Rim Village. One-quarter of the park's visitors arrive in winter, and many are cross-country skiers.

Discovery Point Trail is fairly easy and very scenic. From Rim Village, it leads west for 2 miles over gently rolling terrain, offering breathtaking views of the deep blue lake in its snow-covered caldera. Inexperienced and infrequent skiers should beware of the 7,000-foot altitude and the cold winds that frequently whip across the subalpine landscape. Do not venture to the edge of the rim; overhanging snow cornices may break away without warning, dashing visitors onto the steep icy cliffs below.

Winter enthusiasts seeking solitude may continue completely around the lake on a 33-mile route that follows the unplowed Rim Drive. Allow two or three days to complete this loop in good weather. A backcountry permit is required, and you may encounter snowmobiles at North Junction, where snow vehicle access is permitted. When the road between headquarters and Rim Village is closed by storms, skiers can view the lake by following the unplowed Rim Drive 5 miles east from headquarters to Sun Notch.

Skis may be rented at Rim Village (503-594-2255). Visitors seeking more information may write to the park, Box 7, Crater Lake, OR 97604; or call 503-594-2211.

## **Don't Overlook Eastern Parks**

**A**lthough heavy snowfall is less predictable in the East, winter storms periodically provide cross-country skiing opportunities. When weather closes the Blue Ridge Parkway to vehicles, the unplowed roadway is available for skiing, snowshoeing, and sledding. Soco Gap on U.S. 19 near Maggie, North Carolina, serves as a popular ski access at the southern end of the parkway. Nearby Balsam Mountain spur (9 miles), which winds into the Great Smokies, offers great views from elevations of 5,000 to 6,000 feet. Call 704-271-4779 for information.

In Great Smoky Mountains National

Park, the unplowed road to Clingmans Dome (7 miles) offers a route that climbs to the highest point in the park. Access is from Newfound Gap on U.S. 441, although this main road through the park may close during severe weather. Call 615-436-1200 for road reports.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal towpath stretches for 184.5 miles from Cumberland, Maryland, to Washington, D.C. After heavy snows, it is an ideal, and nearly undiscovered, place to cross-country ski. Scenic Oldtown, southeast of Cumberland, has some of the best conditions. Call 301-739-4200 for details.



# On Common Ground

In a recent radio broadcast, President Clinton spoke about needed reforms to ensure the protection of the national parks.

This summer, President Clinton spent his vacation in two of our most popular national parks: Yellowstone and Grand Teton. He gained a greater appreciation for the parks and the problems confronting them. He used the parks as the focus of a radio address, August 26. Before the broadcast, from Wyoming, the president met with Terri Martin, NPCA's Rocky Mountain regional director, and 13 other conservationists to talk about the parks. Many park system reforms suggested by President Clinton are proposals championed by NPCA. Here is a transcript of the broadcast.

**T**HERE'S AN old Native American saying that goes: In all our deliberations we must take into account the well-being of the seventh generation to follow. The wisdom of those words has come alive to me during my family's Wyoming vacation.

During the past week and a half, Chelsea, Hillary, and I have been vacationing in two of our nation's most spectacular treasures, Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks. We have been hiking, horseback riding, rafting on the Snake River. We have seen Old Faithful and the young wolves that are being reintroduced into Yellowstone. We have seen buffalo, moose, elk, eagles, osprey, hawks. We have seen mountains, lakes, streams, and meadows. And all of this belongs to you, the American people, for all time to come.

I have also seen lots of Americans, young, old, and in-between, from all over our country.... Mostly I have seen families—hard-working families who can afford these wonders of the world because these parks belong to them. So I am more grateful than ever that those who came before us saw fit to preserve

recreation areas] Golden Gate in California, Cuyahoga in Ohio, and Gateway in New York. They came to big parks and to smaller ones, like the one in my hometown, Hot Springs National Park.

Our 369 national parks are not simply aesthetically pleasing, they are also important to the economies of their communities. For example, in 1994 visitors to Yellowstone, the world's first national park, pumped more than \$543 million into the local economy, creating more than 12,000 jobs. Visitors to Big Bend National Park, along the Texas-Mexican border, spent more than \$77 million while creating 1,544 local jobs.

But while the parks have been good for local economies, many of them have fallen into disrepair. So, if we want them to be there for our children in the 21st century, we have got to turn this around. But there is a right way and a wrong way to do it. The wrong way is to say that this is an investment no

longer worth making, to close the parks and sell them off to the highest bidder. Some people want to do that, but it would not be in faith with the kind of common-sense values that have made our country great and the kind of common ground we have had over our national parks throughout the 20th century.

That is why I strongly oppose the budget cuts proposed earlier this year by the congressional majority. They



RALPH ALSWANG/THE WHITE HOUSE

this land for the enjoyment of future generations of Americans.

That was the intent of Congress when it established the National Park Service 79 years ago. I can think of few things that mean more to the life of our country than our national parks.

Last year, more than 270 million visitors made their way to places such as Yellowstone, Grand Teton, and Grand Canyon national parks; and to urban treasures such as [national rec-



could have forced the closing of more than 200 national park units. The right way to help our parks is through the kind of sensible reforms our administration has proposed.

First, we have to put our parks on sound financial footing by keeping park visitor fees in the parks. Most visitors to our parks believe that their fees are used for park improvements, but they are not. That will change under our reforms. Many visitors tell us they want their money to stay in the parks, and they would even pay a little more if they knew that was the case. Well, that is what we proposed to do—keep the fees in the parks.

The second thing we want to do is make it easier for our parks to form partnerships with people in the private sector who want to invest money to preserve our natural heritage, not to destroy it. And third, we want to change the out-of-date contracting policies that keep the concession fees paid by businesses operating in the parks unreasonably low. We have got to change that, because those who make a profit from the private businesses in our parks should pay a fair amount for the privilege so that they can make a profit and help us to maintain our parks.


I am also concerned about activities on land that belongs to the American people that is being used for profit in ways that could damage our national parks. For example, just two and a half miles from Yellowstone there is a proposal to build a big gold mine. Before that mine can be approved it must meet the highest standards in an environmental impact statement. And yesterday I declared a two-year moratorium on any new mining claims in the area near the northeast corner of Yellowstone.

We are still burdened with an 1872 mining law that allows these claims to be mined, while giving virtually nothing back to the American people. We have to do everything we can to protect parks like Yellowstone. They are more priceless than gold.

Finally, if we want to maintain our national heritage for our children and our grandchildren, we have to do more than preserve our national parks; we have got to preserve our environment. Right now we face a lot of pressure to pollute the environment and to go back on our commitment to keep it safe and clean and healthy. The House recently voted to gut environmental and public health protections in the name of regulatory reform. Some in the Senate tried to do the same. They were willing to put at risk the safety of our air, our food, our drinking water, the water we fish and swim in for short-term financial gains for a few.

The budget bill the House passed would cut environmental enforcement by 50 percent, virtually bringing to a halt federal enforcement of the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act, and it would stop toxic waste clean-ups. This would be a terrible mistake, and I am determined to fight it with vetoes if necessary.

For a long time now, the American people have stood together on common ground to preserve our environment. At the beginning of this century, Theodore Roosevelt, a Republican, began a fervent call for conservation. In 1905 he said, "There can be nothing in the world more beautiful than a Yosemite, the groves of giant Sequoias and Redwoods, the Canyon of the Colorado, the Canyon of Yellowstone, its three Tetons. And our people should see to it that they are preserved for their children and their children's children forever."

Well, I second that emotion. And after spending the last week in Wyoming, I have an even deeper commitment to fulfilling it. So let's end this century by meeting the challenge Teddy Roosevelt set for us at the beginning. We have made a lot of progress in the protection of our environment and our national heritage. But the future can be even brighter. Do we need reforms? Yes. Should we reverse course? Not on your life. It is up to us. 

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# NPCA Notes



BY M. KATHERINE HEINRICH

## Alaska Director Honored

► Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt appointed Chip Dennerlein, NPCA Alaska regional director, to the National Park System Advisory Board this summer. The board advises NPS Director Roger Kennedy on Park Service policy and programs.

Dennerlein also was honored with the 1995 Partnership Leadership Award, presented by NPS and the National Park Foundation (NPF). The award recognizes Dennerlein's "unflagging and effective assistance in developing partnerships to protect resources and serve visitors in the national parks in Alaska." The Park Service and NPF cited Dennerlein's efforts to engage citizens, state officials, native interests, and NPS representatives in the planning process for Alaska parks.

## March for Parks to Kick Off Park Week

► NPCA's March for Parks, the nation's largest walking event for parks and open spaces, will launch festivities for National Park Week

1996, rescheduled to coincide with the celebration of Earth Day. The seventh annual March for Parks, to be held April 19–22, is expected to include more than 1,000 marches nationwide. For more information about March for Parks, turn to page 7.

The National Park Service will continue the celebration of National Park Week with national and local events scheduled for the week of April 22–28.

## NPCA Board Supports Arctic Refuge

► At its summer meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, NPCA's board of trustees adopted a resolution advocating protection of Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Congressional action threatens to open 1.5 million acres of the refuge to oil and gas development. Citing its nationally and internationally significant natural and cultural resources, the board urged President Clinton to protect the refuge by designating it a national monument to be managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The White House has announced that Clinton

will veto legislation that includes language to open the arctic refuge to oil and gas development.

## Park Summit

► Representatives from NPCA, the National Park Service, and a dozen other national and local park organizations including the National Park Foundation and the Conference of National Park Cooperating Associations gathered in Washington, D.C., in October for a Park Summit. The gathering was designed as a forum for park agencies and organizations to discuss common goals, identify individual resources and skills, and develop a unified vision.

Park Summit participants established lines of communication and fostered a new spirit of cooperation to eliminate duplicate efforts and build a long-term structure to support park issues and advocacy.

## A Stroll on the Prairie

► The National Park Trust (NPT) has opened a nature trail, enabling visitors to enjoy the tallgrass prairie at the Z Bar/Spring Hill Ranch, located two miles

north of Strong City in the Flint Hills of Kansas. NPCA assisted NPT with the purchase of the 10,894-acre ranch, which will be held in trust as efforts proceed to establish a Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve.

The Southwind Nature Trail starts just north of the 19th-century limestone ranch house, crosses a spring-fed stream, and climbs toward the one-room schoolhouse. Hikers on the 1.75-mile loop trail encounter grasses such as big bluestem and switchgrass, seasonal wildflowers, and possibly a coyote or a red-tailed hawk.

For more information, contact Barbara Zurhellen at 316-273-8494.

## National Survey Results

► More than 810,000 citizens have taken the time to complete NPCA's national survey on national park issues. The results indicate that respondents place a high priority on the parks. On a scale of one to ten—with ten being the most important—preservation of our national parks for future generations was rated a ten by 65.5 percent of respondents.



More than 43 percent of respondents have visited Yellowstone, the world's first national park, and 93.5 percent support legislation to protect the park's geysers, such as Old Faithful, and other geothermal features.

Within the past two years, 63 percent of those surveyed have visited a national park unit; 79 percent would be willing to pay additional user fees for the privilege of visiting the parks as long as the funds were used to maintain park resources.

## Parks at Your Own Pace

► Visitors to Yellowstone National Park and Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument can

customize their own tours with TourGuide. Available for rental within both parks, TourGuide is a portable system that allows visitors to select among dozens of audio programs while touring the sites they choose.

Yellowstone's TourGuide, awarded first place in the National Association for Interpretation's media award competition, features five hours of selections with 70 segments describing the park's history, natural resources, and wildlife. Colorful legends, songs, and the sounds of wildlife bring the park to life.

The Little Bighorn program features 28 selections recounting the battle and offering perspectives on the lives of those who fought there and the

circumstances that brought them together.

For more information about TourGuide, call 1-800-247-1213.

## NPCA Online

► NPCA's World Wide Web site now provides two easy ways for members to get more involved in protecting the parks.

Join the Park Activist Network. Go to The ParkWatcher page and select the first article, "NPCA Kicks Off Save Our National Parks Campaign." Use the registration form at the end of the article.

Get involved in March for Parks, NPCA's annual Earth Day event. Through the web site you can sign up to hold a march in your community. Go to the

March for Parks page and look for the link to the registration form.

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# For Future Generations

Since 1919, NPCA has worked tirelessly to preserve priceless and irreplaceable treasures within the National Park System. One of NPCA's founders, Stephen Mather, and others of his generation had the foresight more than 75 years ago to take action to help save these sites that we all enjoy today.

When NPCA considers the task of preserving the parks for future generations, we know that charitable bequests from wills and other individual estate plans will play a vital role in future funding.

Perhaps you are giving all you feel you can afford on an annual basis but would like to do something extraordinary for your children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. If so, we encourage you to take the time to make a will and include a bequest for NPCA among your other charitable interests.

By remembering NPCA in your will or trust, you can leave a legacy that lasts far beyond your lifetime, enriching the lives of future generations of park lovers.



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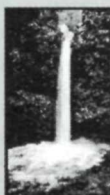
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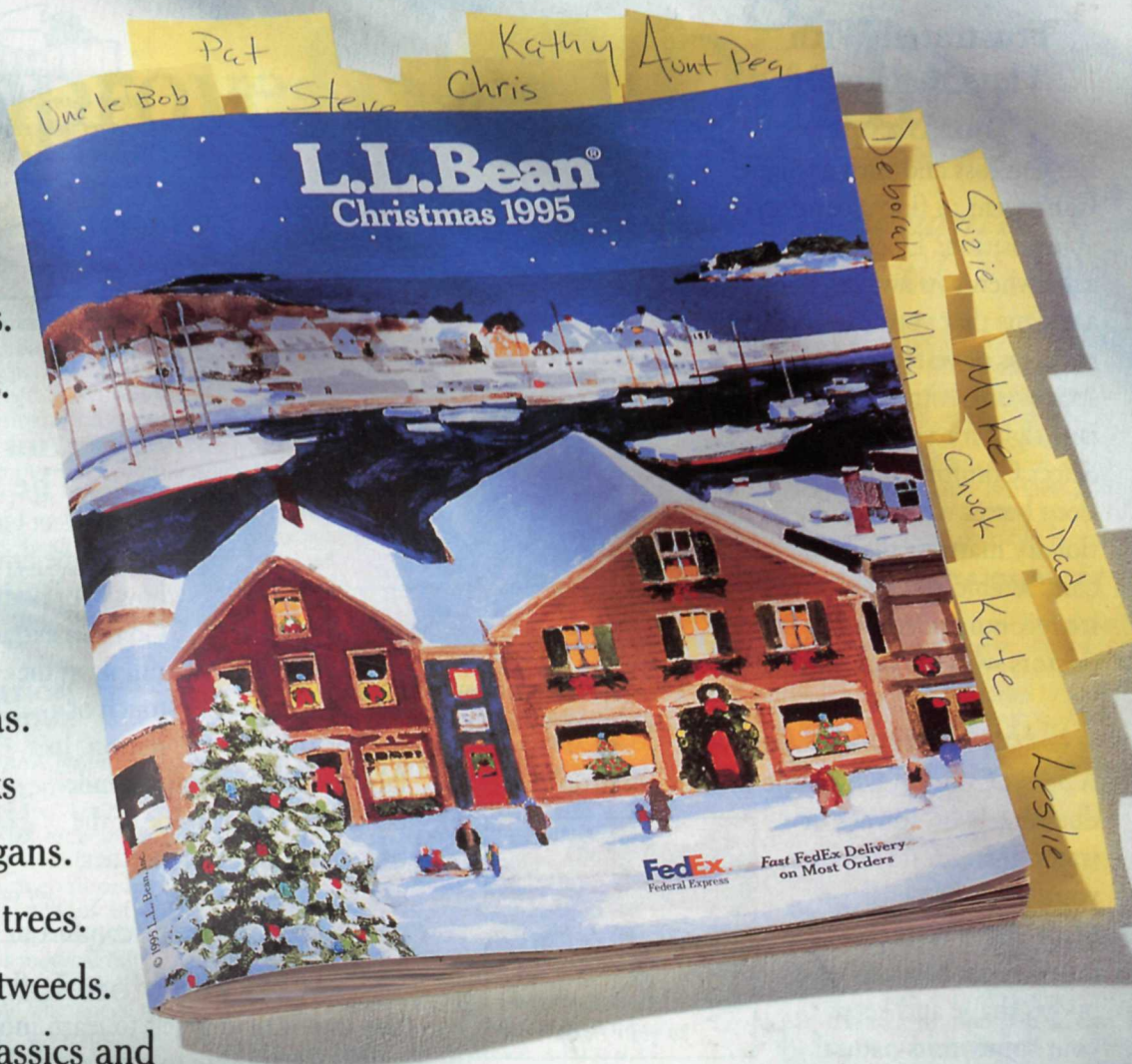
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