National Parks

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The Magazine of The National Parks and Conservation Association

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1999

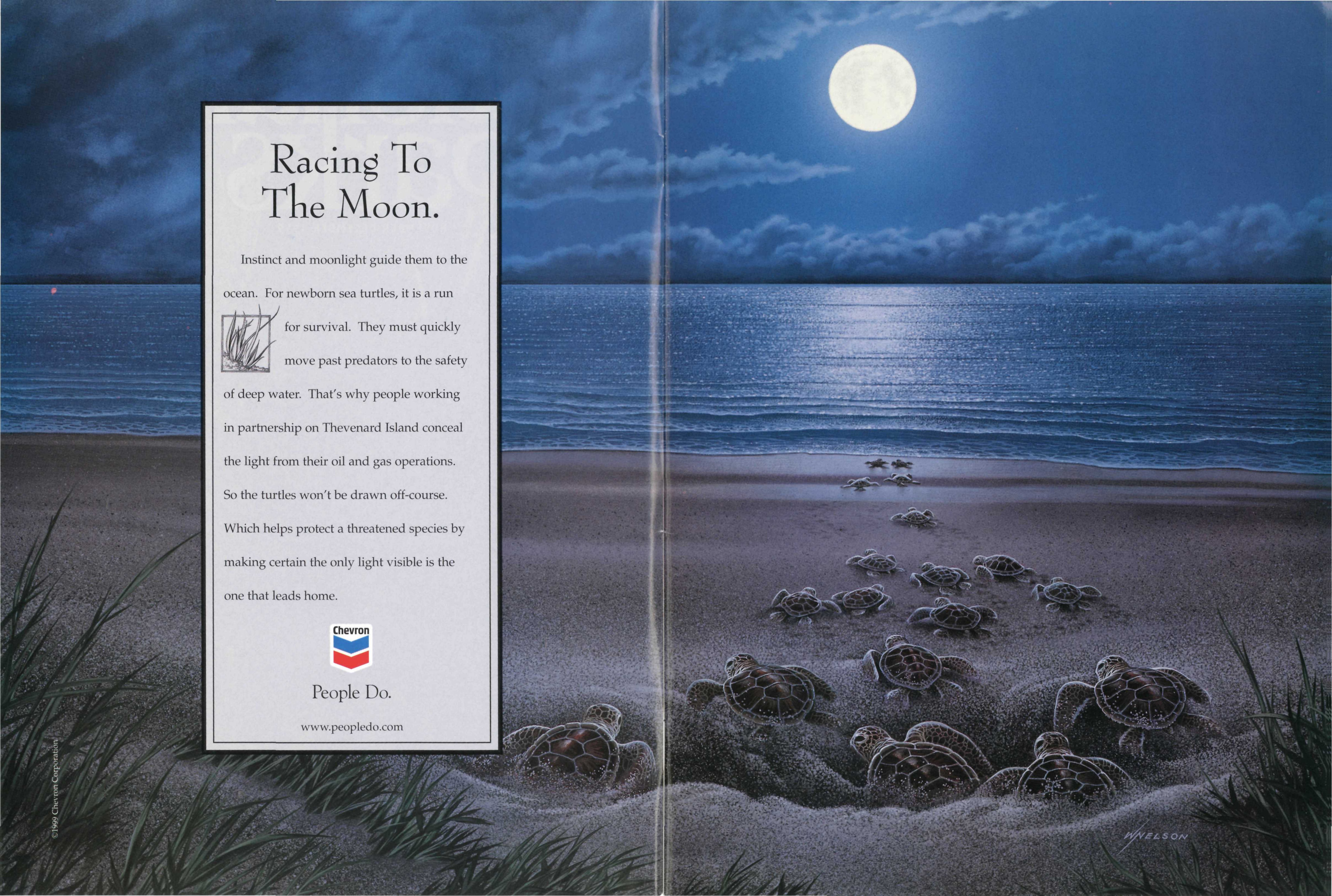
Saving Alaska

Rebuilding Ellis Island

Park Business Plans

20th Century Tour

Looking Ahead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National Parks

Vol. 74, No. 11-12
November/December 1999

The Magazine of the National Parks and Conservation Association

FEATURES

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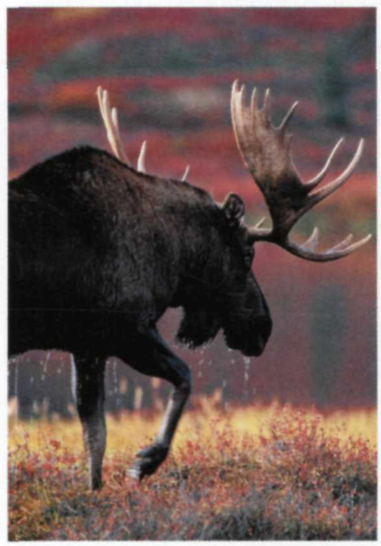

COVER: A wet bull moose walks through Denali National Park. More than 65 percent of national park acreage is in Alaska. Photo by Kim Heacox.

JEFF FOOTT

PAGE 30

DEPARTMENTS

OUTLOOK

The Last Frontier

NPCA's Alaska campaign seeks to make the parks of the 49th state a priority for all Americans.

THIS PAST SUMMER, I had the opportunity to explore Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, one of the least visited of Alaska's 15 national parks. You may not have heard of this 7.5-million-acre expanse that lies north of the Arctic Circle, but my first-hand experience of this vast, untouched wilderness strengthened my personal sense of purpose and will guide our near-term work at NPCA.

SCOTT SUCHMAN

My goal is somehow to translate my experience so that all of our members, and in fact, all Americans who care about our country's parks, will join NPCA in an all-out effort to ensure that these special places are available to our children and their children for decades to come.

Join me for a moment on a 2,000-foot vantage point on the North Slope in Gates of the Arctic. Turn around slowly. You see no evidence of the human hand on the landscape. Standing on that summit in the glow of a midnight sunset, you just know that NPCA, as an organization of people who love the parks, must make Alaska a priority for all Americans, and, frankly, for the members of Congress whom we elect to represent us.

It is up to Congress to ensure that unnecessary roads are not drilled through the kind of wilderness I had the opportunity to experience. It is also up to Congress to save visitors from the noisy and polluting snow machines and personal watercraft that may in fact be allowed with minimal regulation unless we take action now.

To ensure that these spectacular places are preserved, NPCA has identified a series of actions that must be taken. Providing appropriate access and transportation to these sites; protecting them from unregulated motorized use; and preserving the wilderness character for everyone to experience, just as I did, are all important aspects of our Alaska campaign.

Alaska is the last great frontier on the North American continent. The parks of Alaska should not be a venue for commerical development or economic gain. People should see these spectacular places, but not for the profit of a few or at the expense of the lands and wildlife. Some traditional uses are allowed in Alaska through legislation, but personal watercraft—a relatively recent invention—is not a traditional use by anyone's stretch of the language.

When President Jimmy Carter signed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act 19 years ago this December 2, he set in motion one of the greatest landmark conservation laws in this passing century. Let's not, in the next century, be noted as the generation that undid that spectacular and forward-thinking act. These vast wild places should be our gift to the next generation. And we should leave them as we found them.

Thomas C. Kiernan
President

National Parks

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ABOUT NPCA

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

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

WHAT WE STAND FOR: The mission of NPCA is to protect and enhance America's National Park System for present and future generations.

HOW TO JOIN: NPCA depends on contributions from members for the resources essential for an effective program. You can become a member by calling our Membership Department, extension 215. *National Parks* magazine is among the benefits you will receive. Of the $25 membership dues, $3 covers a one-year subscription to the magazine.

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

MAKE A DIFFERENCE: A critical component in NPCA's park protection programs is members who take the lead in defense of America's natural and cultural heritage. Park activists alert Congress and the administration to park threats; comment on park planning and adjacent land-use decisions; assist NPCA in developing partnerships; and educate the public and the media about park issues. For more information, contact our grassroots coordinator, extension 222.

HOW TO DONATE: NPCA's success also depends on the financial support of members. For more information on giving opportunities, such as Partners for the Parks (a monthly giving program), contact our Membership Department, extension 215. For information about Trustees for the Parks ($1,000 and above), bequests, planned gifts, and matching gifts, call our Development Department, extension 146 or 243. You can also donate by shopping online at www.npca.org, where 5 percent of your purchases are donated to NPCA at no extra cost to you.

HOW TO REACH US: We can be reached the following ways: National Parks and Conservation Association, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20036; by phone: 1-800-NAT-PARK; by e-mail: npca@npca.org; and www.npca.org.

NATIONAL PARKS AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
Est. 1919

EDITOR'S NOTE

Problem Solving

WHEN I WAS a college student, my parents sent cash on a regular basis to bolster my meager finances. Whenever I returned to the familial till, I was asked for an accounting of my spending. If I could not explain where the money went, my parents were, understandably, reluctant to send more cash.

In a much broader sense that is what Congress has asked the National Park Service to do: provide an accounting of its spending before additional funds will be forthcoming. In congressional hearings on the topic over the past five years, the Park Service was unable to provide clear answers to questions about its budget process. Through an initiative launched jointly by the Park Service and NPCA in 12 parks this summer, the explanation of where the money goes is becoming easier.

As Yellowstone Superintendent Mike Finley says in Todd Wilkinson's story beginning on page 30, "the business plan allows the American public, for the first time, to gain a comprehensive view of how federal funds are distributed and expended in national parks."

Another sort of funding solution is being explored at Ellis Island, part of Statue of Liberty National Monument in New York (see page 26). The Park Service needs more than $6 million simply to stabilize 29 buildings on Ellis Island's south side. A complete restoration could cost as much as $300 million.

Obtaining sufficient funds to maintain or restore historic buildings is a chronic problem facing the Park Service. But a public-private partnership—still in the early stages of development—may provide at least a portion of the answer.

These stories illustrate that creative solutions are needed to solve the complex problems facing the National Park Service.

Linda M. Rancourt
Editor-in-Chief

Fire Island, Night Skies, Thrill Seekers

Fire Island Erosion

Homes do not in any way cause Fire Island's erosion problem [News, July/August 1999]. The problem has been caused by government.

Ten years ago scientists concluded that the Westhampton groinfield and Moriches Inlet had combined to block fully 10 million cubic yards of sand from nourishing Fire Island. That amount of sand would have been enough to build a 100-foot-wide beach with a 16-foot-high dune the full length of Fire Island.

It was to preserve the island from the pell-mell development of the 1960s that a predecessor of the Fire Island Association (FIA) urged Congress to act. The immediate objective was to protect the island from Robert Moses' plan to build a four-lane highway down the center of it to connect the bridges he had planned for each end. And his plan called for development of whatever open space the highway didn't use.

The article states that Fire Island National Seashore (FINS) is "forced to deal with 30,000 residents" each summer. There are some 200 families that live on Fire Island year-round. There are, perhaps, 25,000 people on Fire Island on a sunny summer weekend, but most do not stay overnight. FINS and the Suffolk County police have few problems handling the "crowds," which are spread over 12 miles of beaches served by ferries and unconnected by roads.

While NPCA may feel there are too many people who want to use the seashore, it remains the only developed barrier island in the United States that does not have a formal road system. More important, thanks to the residents of 35 years ago, fully 100 percent of the beaches and 80 percent of the upland is today in public hands.

Fire Island National Seashore was created on the Cape Cod formula, where pre-existing communities continue to exist within the park boundaries. That will always be the case on Fire Island, and once the need to periodically renourish the beach is accepted, the communities and the park can surely work out an arrangement where an effective dune system can flourish between the homes and the beach itself.

Isn't it time to celebrate the fact that creating FINS saved from development 80 percent of a barrier island within 50 miles of New York City?

Gerard Stoddard
President, Fire Island Association
New York, NY

EDITORIAL REPLY: We stand by our article. We consulted many experts about the problems at Fire Island, all of whom said that continuing to allow building there is exacerbating erosion. The issue is not the number of people who visit, but rather the number who are building and rebuilding.

Vanishing Night Skies

"Vanishing Night Skies" [July/August 1999] reminded me of the first time my family and I went out West. In the article, the author wrote that Easterners were desensitized to light pollution.

I remember going for a walk late at night at Crater Lake National Park in Oregon. I looked up at the thousands of stars in the dark sky and asked my husband in all seriousness: "How did they get so many more stars in Oregon than in Philadelphia?" My husband said in disbelief: "They don't just roll them out for the tourists; they are back East too!" I never even knew there were so many stars. That walk was a lovely revelation.

L. Bangert
Philadelphia, PA

"Vanishing Night Skies" [July/August 1999] evoked memories of my youth. Even where I lived, within ten miles of Washington, D.C., in the 1920s and '30s, the beauty of and interest in the skies at night was truly great. I learned to identify all of the first magnitude stars visible from that latitude as well as the planets and the Milky Way.

I cannot now show my grandchildren any of this wonderful world since it is no longer visible because of light pollution and haze. In my retirement home in southeastern Virginia, I could no longer see more than a few of the brightest objects in the sky. Where I now live 25 miles east of Pittsburgh, I don't even try.

I know this may not change in my lifetime, but there is hope for sometime in the future. Keep up the pressure.

Charles F. Janes
Greensburg, PA

Eighty Years of Advocacy

I enjoyed the excellent article "Eighty Years of Advocacy" [May/June 1999].

However, I would like to point out that Sigurd Olson, cited as a member of NPCA, was actually vice president of the National Parks Association 1953-59, member of the Advisory Board of the National Park Service 1959-66, and consultant on wilderness and national park matters for Secretary of Interior Stewart Udall 1962-68.

I am Sigurd Olson's son and president of the Listening Point Foundation, which we have recently set up to preserve Listening Point and continue the Sigurd Olson legacy of wilderness education. One of the principal policies of the LPF will be to stress Sigurd Olson's commitment to parks for preservation.

Robert K. Olson
Hayward, WI

Thrill Seekers

It is with great interest that I read "Caught in a Free Fall" [July/August 1999], particularly the portions relating to BASE jumping. The article does not do BASE jumping justice. BASE jumping is an acronym for Building, Antenna, Span (bridge), Earth.

Despite what BASE jumping may have been in the early '80s, it is now a highly organized, internally regulated endeavor participated in by responsible individuals who take their sport and the mission of the Park Service seriously. I know this because I represent the BASE jumpers in their attempt to gain access to Park Service land.

BASE jumping is permitted on Bureau of Land Management property, and on Navajo Indian reservations.

Fred M. Morelli, Jr.
Aurora, IL

This is a note regarding "Caught in a Free Fall" [July/August 1999].

Tax dollars are already spent poorly in too many ways. To add the burden of rescuing "thrill seekers" is unacceptable.

I don't think public parks should allow these practices. It is anti-environmental and destructive, the exact opposite of what parks are intended for.

If they want these thrills, they can do it on private property and pay for it, including rescue. They put their lives in danger, not me. If rescuing endangers even more lives, are we really respectful of life to begin with?

Julia Gorczyca
Valparaiso, IN

I just finished reading "Caught in a Free Fall" [July/August 1999]. I believe that these thrill seekers are reducing our national parks to amusement park status.

Not only is it a question of safety and who pays for rescues, but it is also a question of aesthetics. Seeing some of these activities (Jet Skiing, mountain biking, snowmobiling, bungee jumping, hang gliding, or some other new extreme sports) occurring in the park takes away from the peace and quiet as well as the sense of majesty and beauty for which these areas were preserved. Most park visitors are not looking for sudden thrills, but tranquil, spiritual rejuvenation.

When I was at Glacier Point in Yosemite National Park last summer, I was admiring the beauty of the surroundings when a hang glider went off the edge. This took away from the beauty and tranquility of the landscape.

I hope that NPCA and the Park Service continue to fight against such activities in our parks.

Brother Ryszard Decowski
Mineola, NY

WRITE TO US

Send mail to: Letters, NPCA, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036. Letters can be sent via e-mail to npmag@npca.org. Letters should be no longer than 300 words and may be edited for length and clarity. Please include a telephone number for verification. We will notify you if your letter will be published and in which issue.

"YOU ARE HERE"

The name of one of this park's famous alpine meadows, Paradise, originates from the wife of James Longmire, who opened Mineral Spring Resort in Longmire, the park's oldest developed area, in 1884. When she first saw the meadow, she exclaimed, "This must be what paradise is like." The alpine meadows, glaciers, and snowfields in this park can be seen from different vantage points along the 93-mile Wonderland Trail that completely encircles the mountain.

Answer: Mount Rainier National Park, Washington

BY ELIZABETH G. DAERR

DEVELOPMENT

Canyon Forest Village Approved

Community sets precedent for development in national parks.

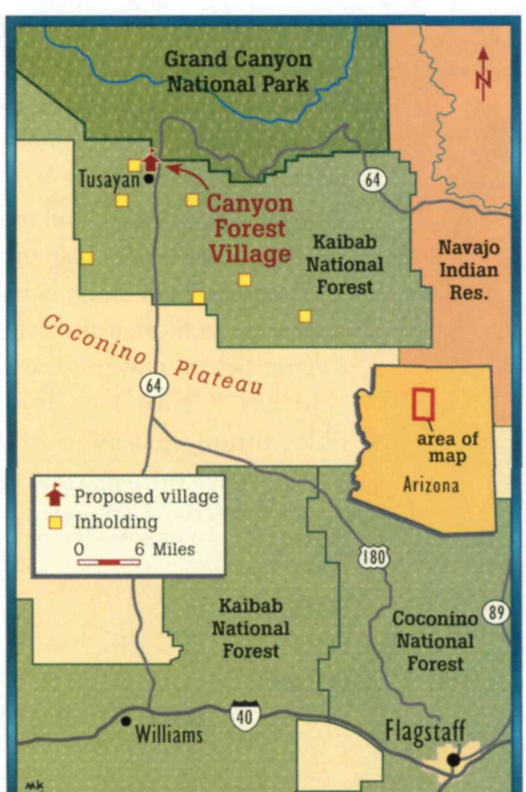
TUSAYAN, ARIZ.—The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has accepted a project that will change the way visitors experience Grand Canyon National Park.

In August, the agency finished an environmental impact statement that approved the proposed Canyon Forest Village (CFV) project, a new planned community that will accommodate the increasing number of visitors to the park while limiting their negative impacts on air, water, and natural resources. NPCA, which participated extensively in critiquing the evolving project, hailed the announcement as a major step forward for development standards within national parks.

In 1987, developers of CFV proposed trading 2,200 acres of privately owned land, or inholdings, within the Kaibab National Forest for 670 acres of USFS land near Tusayan, Arizona, the "gateway community" for the South Rim of Grand Canyon. If the land exchange did not occur, the village developers intended to build developments on several of the tracts within the forest.

Years of controversy ensued. CFV was designed as a large, for-profit commercial enterprise. The project also called for building facilities that would accommodate growing visitation and implement the park's 1985 general management plan. Opponents argued that the project would adversely affect the park and local businesses in Tusayan.

NPCA, working with conservation allies Grand Canyon Trust and Natural Resources Defense Council, helped shape the final development proposal—Alternative H—that promotes sensible development with environmental conservation in mind. "Some continuing development near Grand Canyon National Park was inevitable. We felt it was better to control it, set new standards for development next to parks, and protect groundwater," said Dave Simon, NPCA's Southwest regional director.



MATT KANIA

The $330-million Canyon Forest Village will incorporate high-density lodging, visitor services, sustainable energy practices, and mass transit options for some of the park's employees and its estimated 5 million annual visitors. Energy efficient technologies such as collecting water from rooftops, solar energy, and natural ventilation for heating and cooling are included in the design. "Once completed, this will raise the bar for development next to national parks," Simon said.

CFV building standards mandate that 20 percent of the materials be made within a 500-mile radius of the site, and local American Indian tribes will have an opportunity to sell goods at the Native American Market Place. "Too many visitors leave the Grand Canyon unaware that the Hopi and other native people lived here and built remarkable cultures long before John Wesley Powell traversed the Colorado River," said Hopi Chairman Wayne Taylor.

The tribes have enthusiastically endorsed the plan, which will give them opportunities to educate visitors about local cultures. Furthermore, a planned 1 percent sales tax within the community is estimated to generate $1.2 million annually for habitat restoration, purchasing environmentally sensitive lands, and environmental education.

The greatest source of contention over the plan has been how to provide the estimated 44 million gallons of water needed annually for the village. Conservationists, including NPCA, insisted that no groundwater be used. In the current plan, water from the Colorado River will be piped in or shipped via train to the village to protect the underground water that feeds the park's natural springs. In addition, 90 percent of the village's wastewater will be recycled. To alleviate concerns that groundwater would be tapped, a limit has been placed on the number of gallons that could be used in an emergency. NPCA and the developers will also sign an agreement that gives NPCA, other environmental groups, and the Havasupai tribe oversight responsibilities for enforcing the sustainability provisions and water use.

CFV must next get zoning approval from Coconino County, Arizona. Local business forces are still vowing a fight and may sue USFS over its decision.

GRAZING

Cattle at Tetons Tempt Grizzlies

Ranchers want grazing permits extended despite predator attacks.

JACKSON HOLE, WYO.—The killing of two calves by grizzly bears in Grand Teton National Park this summer has rekindled a debate about cattle grazing within park boundaries. As endangered species such as wolves and grizzlies expand their range southward from Yellowstone, environmentalists fear that the presence of cattle will unnecessarily entice the predators into more conflicts with the civilized world.

The National Park Service has been ordered by Congress to complete a three-year open space study, due April 2001, to determine the future of grazing in the park. The agency must decide how to balance the interests of conservation groups, which support the highest level of protection for wildlife and park habitat, and ranchers who say that being denied grazing rights may force them out of business, compelling them to sell their property adjacent to the park to developers.

With the skyrocketing price of land in the Jackson Hole area, the threat of development is real. But also real is the traditional method of handling problem predators—trapping and relocating them when they cause conflict and destroying them when they cannot be stopped from damaging private property. The problems in Grand Teton have been minor so far, but the temptation of easy prey has environmentalists concerned about how the Park Service will act as conflicts increase.

"It raises the question, should we be killing a grizzly bear inside of a national park where they are supposed to be protected?" asks NPCA Rocky Mountain Regional Director Mark Peterson.

The estimated 1,900 cattle in the park this year also compete with the deer, elk, bison, and other animals that depend on the park grass to survive. Grand Teton spokeswoman Joan Anzelmo says that the park has stated that it will not kill a wolf for predation but is less sure about the fate of grizzlies because they are more numerous and have been the only culprits. Only one wolf pack lives in the park—a female with five pups—and she has not yet been a threat to the cattle.

Ranching has occurred in the Grand Teton valley since the 1800s and continued after the area became a national monument in 1943. In 1950, when the monument was upgraded to a national park, which normally precludes grazing, some ranchers were allowed to keep grazing rights until the death of an immediate family member who was appointed at the time of the agreement. Three families run cattle in the park, but an untimely death of one of the appointed family members has prompted them to ask for an extension.

Little progress has been made in finding a compromise. According to Franz Camenzind, director of the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, the ranchers have not been receptive to suggestions of conservation easements, donations of hay to feed cattle, or help finding other grazing allotments. But Kelly Lockhart, spokesman for the Jackson Hole Hereford Ranch, says, "we've not had any excitement or lack of excitement on any of the options proposed at the meetings. But from our perspective, this (grazing in the park) is working." Peterson speculates that even if the report is delivered to Congress on time, ranching interests could delay action so grazing could continue indefinitely.

TAKE ACTION: Write to Grand Teton Superintendent Jack Neckels urging him to protect park wildlife over ranching interests. P.O. Drawer 170, Moose, WY 83012.

GEORGE WUERTHNER

The Park Service must decide how to manage the growing conflict between wildlife protection and the long history of ranching in Grand Teton.

VISITOR USE

C&O Canal Has Trash-free Policy

Trash cans removed to encourage environmental stewardship.

SHARPSBURG, MD.—Pack it in, pack it out. This mantra of backcountry hikers is spreading to day usage in national parks in an effort to limit litter and trim the cost of waste removal. One park that has adopted a trash-can-free policy is the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park.

On Earth Day 1999, park rangers began removing the 250 trash cans along the 185-mile hiking and biking trail that runs alongside the canal. Since mid-July, when the last of the cans were removed, visitors to C & O Canal have been picking up plastic bags at dispensers and removing their trash.

The goal of the new program is threefold: decrease costs for park clean-up, redirect rangers to other necessary work, and promote environmental thinking among park visitors. "The whole notion of being a trash-can-free park is sort of counterintuitive. However, from an environmental stewardship standpoint, we thought it was the right thing to do," said Kevin Brandt, assistant superintendent of the park.

In addition to beneficial environmental effects, money and park staff time will be saved because of the new program. Workers who formerly were responsible for unloading the trash cans will be redirected to do maintenance and construction along the canal, which, in 1996, sustained $65-million worth of damage after two floods of the Potomac River.

When questioned about whether the program was successful, Brandt answered that "the overall view is that it's been surprisingly successful." Brandt credits the success to visitors' new consideration for the environment.

NPS/C&O CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Trash bags are provided to visitors as part of the new trash-can-free policy.

"The success is largely due to the cultural change in the United States, the Don't Trash America campaign, and other campaigns that made [visitors] aware of their own responsibility for cleaning up the country."

NPCA's Senior Program Manager, Laura Loomis, agrees. "It has proven to be a successful management technique for reducing the impacts of trash, not to mention the cost," she said. "If parks have trash cans, even if they are overflowing, people will leave trash figuring someone will pick it up. What you end up having is trash dumps," she added.

In August, the trash volume at the park was down about 75 percent. Litter has also decreased in most areas. Over the next year, park staff hope to see an 80 percent to 90 percent reduction in the amount of trash.

However, the park has also faced a number of problems. Brandt noted that the remaining 25 percent is generally dumped in piles and comes mostly from large family gatherings or teenagers who "party" in the park and leave empty alcohol containers.

One problem area is near Fletcher's boathouse where the park is "having to confront different cultural values," according to Brandt. "A culturally diverse group visits there, some with large families who often leave bags of trash after a picnic," he said. "There has been somewhat of a learning curve in terms of the cultural issues."

Other questions, such as what to do with dog waste and baby diapers, which visitors tend not to want to carry home in their cars, have also been asked. In terms of dog waste, park staff is looking into installing short trash cans with small holes and signs stating that their use is limited to dog waste disposal. The park has not yet devised a strategy for disposing of baby diapers.

Problems also arose with the three concession areas in the park, to the point where "some people actually threw their trash back into the concession stands," according to Brandt. Concessioners are now taking the trash with a sign saying "concessions trash only," but simultaneously urging people to remove their own trash.

Other problems, including trash in portable toilets and at boat ramps, have been minor and mostly controlled.

—*William A. Updike*

RESOURCE PROTECTION

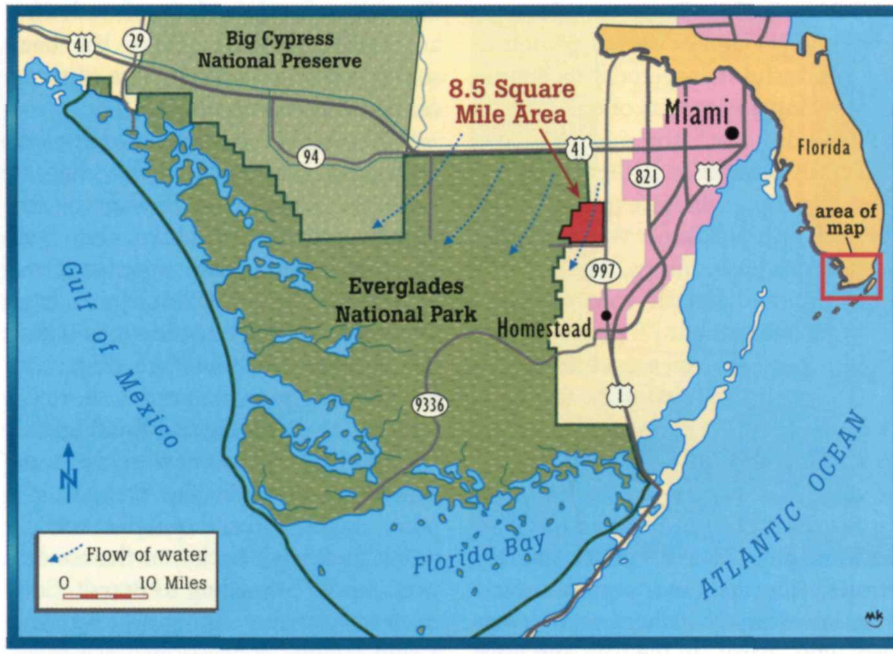
State Impedes Everglades Plan

Water district backs out of decision to buy adjacent land.

HOMESTEAD, FLA.—The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) governing board has reversed its decision to purchase the 8.5 Square Mile Area—land east of Everglades National Park that is important to the restoration of the natural water flow through the park and into Florida Bay. Furthermore, the SFWMD does not plan to purchase the properties of willing sellers within the area despite overwhelming support from Congress, the Department of the Interior, local governments, environmental organizations, and editorial boards. Conservationists believe the area is vital to the Everglades

STUART PIMM

Natural water flow through the Everglades is essential for the survival of the Cape Sable seaside sparrow.



MATT KANIA

Restoration Plan, which is to be authorized by Congress in 2000 and requires the restoration of the natural water flows into Everglades National Park and Florida Bay.

Most landowners have fought the buyout for 20 years, advocating for governmental flood protection and increased density. The land is now zoned so that there may be only one dwelling per 40 acres, although the density is actually higher. Better flood protection and higher density zoning—to allow one dwelling per five acres—would force Miami-Dade County to provide costly infrastructure and services for residential zoning.

The cost of buying the properties is an estimated $115 million, while the cost of constructing levees and dams to give those homes added flood protection, as well as providing the necessary infrastructure if the land were further developed, could run as high as $400 million. "Purchasing private property always presents difficulties. The families should be fairly, generously compensated for their properties and relocation costs," said Kim Swatland, NPCA south Florida field representative. "But this is the most economically feasible and environmentally sustainable way to restore the ecosystem."

Last November, the board voted unanimously to purchase the 8.5 Square Mile Area contingent upon matching funds from the county and the federal government and agreed to pay homeowners 125 percent of the market value of their properties. Under these conditions, more than 300 of the 365 homeowners are willing to sell. However, when Gov. Jeb Bush took office in January, he appointed a new board that reversed the decision. "He basically dismantled 20 years of work in six months," Swatland said.

The National Park Service and Miami-Dade County, Florida, have bought much of the undeveloped property east of the park that surrounds the 8.5 Square Mile Area—its addition would complete the flow of water through the Shark River Slough, the primary path carrying water north to south in the park.

Historically, sheets of water released from Lake Okeechobee flooded the 1.5-million-acre park before emptying into Florida Bay, where the deluge of water is particularly important to the health of coral reefs and the marine ecosystem. In passing, the flow nourishes vegetation for wildlife habitat throughout the Everglades, including that of the endangered Cape Sable seaside sparrow. The bird is considered an indicator of the health of the ecosystem, and a recent study by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stated that the bird was in danger of extinction because of the low water levels through Shark River Slough. Consequently, the Natural Resources Defense Council has filed suit against the U.S. Corps of Engineers for not taking the necesssary steps to restore the sparrow's habitat.

The board has not scheduled any further decision on the buyout.

TAKE ACTION: Send a letter to the South Florida Water Management District asking the board to uphold its original decision to buy this piece of land critical to the Everglades' recovery. Write to: Mike Collins, P.O. Box 24680, West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680, or e-mail: mcollins@sfwmd.gov.

LAND ACQUISITION

Baca Ranch Purchase Likely

Groups push Congress to buy 100,000 acres in New Mexico.

Los Alamos, N. Mex.—The owners of the 100,000-acre Baca Ranch, located in New Mexico's Jemez Mountains adjacent to Bandelier National Monument, have announced that they are again interested in selling the property to the federal government after backing out of negotiations last January. Congress must now pass legislation to authorize the purchase and come up with the $101-million purchase price.

A coalition of conservation, recreation, business, and civic organizations, led by NPCA, have strongly endorsed purchasing Baca Ranch. The property has been sought for public ownership for more than 50 years because of its superb geologic, cultural, and natural resources. Wildlife, including mountain lions, golden eagles, threatened Jemez Mountain salamanders, and a free-ranging elk herd of 7,000 animals, thrives on the property. Twenty-seven miles of prime mountain streams cross the property.

The area is best known for the Valles Grande, the largest of seven valleys on the ranch, and the most-studied volcanic caldera in the world. The Valles Grande caldera resulted from a volcanic eruption 1.2 million years ago. Hot springs and other geologic features are evidence of the area's fiery past.

The Clinton Administration has named Baca Ranch "a top conservation priority" and worked with New Mexico Senators Pete Domenici (R) and Jeff Bingaman (D) to secure its purchase. The Fiscal Year 1999 Interior appropriations bill earmarked $40 million as a downpayment, but the owners of the ranch broke off purchase negotiations in January 1999, and last summer Congress made plans to rechannel those funds into other programs. Discussions between the owners and the administration continued over the summer, and put the deal back on track. A purchase agreement for $101 million was announced in September.

Congress must now come up with the purchase price and pass legislation establishing management guidelines for the area. At press time, spending bills being debated in Congress severely reduced what President Clinton requested for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)—money that would be used to buy Baca, along with other federal lands. The president has threatened a veto unless the LWCF funds are increased.

A management bill for Baca, to be called the Valles Caldera National Preserve, was introduced last year. The new preserve would be managed by a "Valles Caldera Trust," a quasi-governmental corporation that would be obligated to be financially self-sufficient and to continue to operate the area as a "working ranch."

A financial self-sufficiency mandate could create incentives that might negatively affect natural resources and potentially make it too expensive for the average citizen to visit Baca. NPCA is recommending that Baca legislation include a provision to expand Bandelier National Monument by 16,200 acres out of U.S. Forest Service land to protect its headwaters.

TAKE ACTION: Write to your Senators and Representatives urging them to support full funding to purchase Baca Ranch. Also tell them that Baca Ranch legislation should: contain a strong conservation mandate; not require the managing agency to be financially self-sufficient; and should expand Bandelier National Monument by 16,200 acres to protect its watershed. Visit NPCA's web site (www.npca.org) for more details and to send an electronic letter to Congress. Address: The Hon. _____, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 or U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

LAURENCE PARENT

Baca Ranch is known for its spectacular landscape. At left, golden aspens mark autumn in the Jemez Mountains.

RESOURCE PROTECTION

Alien Fish May Soon Swim in Acadia's Ponds

Maine officials try to stock non-native fish against NPS's wishes.

NEWS UPDATE

Legislative Update—The first step has been taken in a series to place a commercial airport in the Ivanpah Valley ten miles outside of Mojave National Preserve in California. The House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands passed H.R. 1695, a bill to approve the sale of Bureau of Land Management lands to Clark County, Nevada, for the construction of a large cargo/passenger airport serving Las Vegas. The airport facility, airplane traffic, and supporting infrastructure will have disastrous effects on Mojave's fragile desert ecosystem that is home to more than 700 plant species, the world's largest Joshua tree forest, and 200 animals, including the threatened desert tortoise. At press time, the bill was expected to move quickly to full committee for approval.

ACADIA N.P., MAINE—The state of Maine is citing a law dating back to the 1600s to assert its right to expand its practice of stocking fish in ponds at Acadia National Park to include non-native fish for the benefit of fishing enthusiasts. Despite the National Park Service's (NPS) opposition to the intentional introduction of alien species, which has caused damage in other national parks, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW) is prepared to begin stocking brown trout and splake, a hybrid of brook and lake trout, in two of the park's ponds.

The controversy, which has been steadily escalating over the last three years, is an example of the Park Service's difficult task of balancing relatively new environmental concerns with centuries' old cultural practices. When Maine was part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, colonists were given the right to "fish, fowl, and navigate" the Great Ponds—those ponds larger than ten surface acres—to sustain them through inhospitable winters. The state asserts that the language also makes hunting and trapping of animals at the ponds legal, although the park reports that the practice is limited. Maine citizens continue to use the ponds under state law even though the Park Service owns the land.

Both the Park Service and IFW say that they have authority to regulate activities on the waters at Acadia, and neither wants to become entangled in a drawn out lawsuit—the most effective way to solve the problem permanently. So for now, the IFW has agreed to stock only native brook trout in one of the ponds this fall and to postpone its decision to stock the other pond until spring.

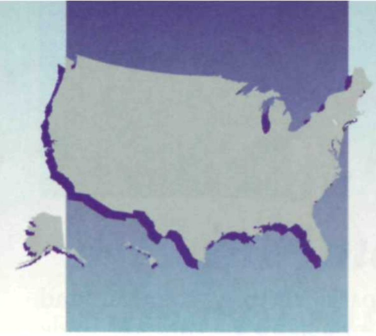
JEFF FOOTT

Although not targeted for non-native fish stocking, Jordon Pond, above, is one of Acadia's Great Ponds.

Ron Brokaw, regional fishery biologist for IFW, says that the agency is abiding by the law and merely trying to improve sportfishing at popular sites. Although not opposed to fishing, the Park Service is concerned that introducing brown trout and splake could cause environmental degradation to the aquatic ecosystem. Hot, dry summers over the last five years have warmed the pond waters, reducing the number of native brook trout, which depend on cold water. Brown trout survive at warmer temperatures, and splake grow larger than brook trout, increasing the chances that anglers will be able to take home a fish. No brook trout under 12 inches can be taken.

Acadia Chief Biologist David Manski says that the Park Service is trying to work out a cooperative agreement with IFW that would accommodate all concerns. "We're trying to focus on our objective to protect the park, not on jurisdictional issues," Manski said. But NPCA Northeast Regional Director Eileen Woodford says protecting the park would require the Park Service to assert its jurisdiction. "This is a national park, and to protect national park waters, NPS must adhere to park policy. Deliberate introduction of non-native species into park waters is not in accordance with those procedures."

TAKE ACTION: Write to IFW officials urging them to protect the aquatic ecosystem of Acadia's Great Ponds by keeping non-native fish out of park waters. Write to Commissioner Lee Perry, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, 284 State St., 41 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333. Send copies of the letter to Acadia Superintendent Paul Haertel, Acadia National Park, P.O. Box 177, Bar Harbor, ME 04609-0177.



REGIONAL REPORT

ON NPCA'S WORK IN THE PARKS

Text by Elizabeth G. Daerr

■ ALASKA

NPCA will appeal a decision made by a U.S. District Court judge in Alaska in favor of the National Park Service (NPS) regarding the agency's Vessel Management Plan. NPS increased the number of cruise ships and commercial motorboats in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve without developing an environmental impact statement (EIS). Without an EIS, the Park Service did not have sufficient data concerning the possible negative effects of a 72-percent increase in motorboat traffic on marine wildlife, particularly the endangered humpback whale and threatened Steller sea lion. Biological studies indicate that whales increase dive time and swim away from motor noise, causing the animals to expend critical energy reserves while simultaneously being pushed from food supplies; scientists suggest that similar effects occur for other marine animals. In a previous environmental assessment, which has lower standards, NPS admitted that it had no information on the possible negative impacts.

■ HEARTLAND:

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit has upheld an earlier decision giving the National Park Service jurisdiction over waters at Voyageurs National Park. The suit was filed against the National Park Service (NPS) by an individual asserting the right to run a boat tour operation without NPS's permission because the agency lacks authority to regulate the waters. Over the years, local boat enthusiasts have pushed to get more park waters open to motorboats and personal watercraft. Several years ago, the Minnesota legislature passed a law claiming that the state did not cede park waters when it transferred the land to the federal government for the establishment of the park in 1975. This law was the basis for the suit against the Park Service. Rick Duncan, an attorney with the Faegry and Benson law firm in Minneapolis and who is representing local environmental groups' interest in the case, said that he doubts that the U.S. Supreme Court will accept an appeal.

LES BLACKLOCK/LARRY ULRICH STOCK

Rainy Lake, Voyageurs National Park.

■ NORTHEAST:

A fleet of six propane-powered shuttle buses debuted at Acadia National Park this summer with rousing success. The new transit system, the first of its type in any national park, carried approximately 2,000 to 3,000 riders a day around the park from campgrounds, inns, and motels. The park projected 700 riders per day before the program started. About 3 million visitors tour Acadia each year, clogging its narrow, winding, two-lane roads with recreational vehicles, cars, and bicycles. Shuttle riders can take advantage of a free fare into the park and convenient delivery to trailheads; the buses are also equipped with bike racks to accommodate the park's many cyclists. Tom Crikelair, the designer of the system, said the public's response has been better than he imagined. "People at the park were actually thanking me for this system. I'm a transit consultant; I almost never get thanked."

ERWIN HARRISON

Acadia now offers free shuttles.

■ PACIFIC:

California's Mojave National Preserve, established in 1994, harbors spectacular landscapes, a rich diversity of plants and animals, and habitat critical to the recovery of the threatened desert tortoise. The majority of the preserve is also open to livestock grazing. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says that grazing can harm the desert tortoise and has advised preserve officials to regulate grazing to promote the tortoise's recovery. Yet, in October, the Park Service renewed all the grazing permits in the preserve without analyzing the impacts of grazing on the area's flora and fauna to develop an appropriate management strategy, as is required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

TAKE ACTION: Contact the superintendent and ask that she research and mitigate the destructive impacts of grazing on park resources, including the desert tortoise. Write: Superintendent Mary Martin, Mojave National Preserve, 222 E. Main St., Ste. 202, Barstow, CA 92311.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

NPCA is considering joining the Audubon Society in appealing the environmental impact statement for the development of the Park Junction resort, which fails to sufficiently address negative impacts to adjacent Mount Rainier National Park. The development would include a golf course, convention center, shopping mall, lodge, and hundreds of homes and condominiums in the gateway community of Park Junction. The National Park Service says it is ill-equipped to handle the anticipated influx of visitors and fears that the development will undermine the protection of park resources, especially in already crowded areas in the park.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

NPCA has filed a formal protest of the proposed management plan for the new Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in southern Utah. Among many issues of contention, NPCA argues that the plan's recommendation for 543 miles of all terrain vehicle (ATV) routes for the monument is unjustified. Also, natural sounds would not be protected with continued operations of the BLM-Forest Service airstrip in the monument, and grazing and hunting regulations need to be tightened. Furthermore, plans for additional road pullouts and signs along the Burr Trail, a historic gravel road that runs through the area into the southern portion of Capitol Reef National Park, could change the character of the road corridor and increase traffic congestion into the park.

Meanwhile, Congress passed legislation to redesignate Colorado's Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument to national park status and enlarge the park by nearly 7,000 acres. Unfortunately, the area's panoramic views have been placed in jeopardy by a real estate company, TDX Corporation. The company is selling three, 40-acre parcels within the park boundaries. "Development of these lands for homesites would scar the natural vistas from throughout the park that visitors now enjoy and shatter the feeling of isolation one can experience here," says Mark Peterson, NPCA's Rocky Mountain regional director.

TAKE ACTION: Write to Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, U.S. Senate, 380 Russell Office Building, Washington, DC 20510. Urge him to work to protect the park from development. Send copies of your letter to Sen. Wayne Allard, 513 Senate Hart Office Building, Washington, DC 20510 and Rep. Scott McInnis, 320 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515.

NPCA REGIONAL DIRECTORS:

Alaska: Chip Dennerlein

Heartland: Lori Nelson

Northeast: Eileen Woodford

Pacific: Brian Huse

Rocky Mountain: Mark Peterson

Southeast: Don Barger

Southwest: Dave Simon

SOUTHEAST

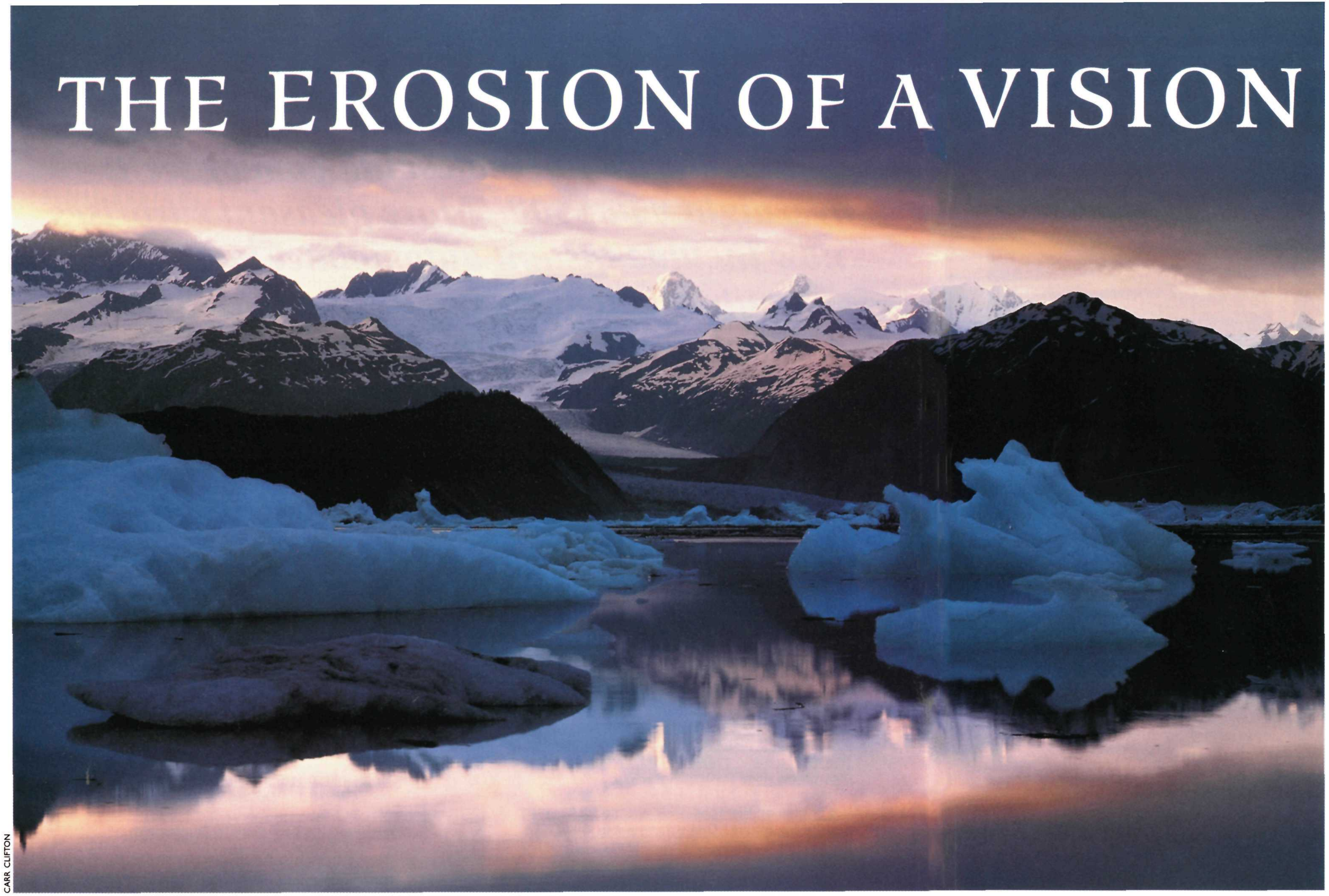
Big Cypress National Preserve has released its draft Off Road Vehicle (ORV) plan, which will determine future recreation uses in the preserve. NPCA believes that the plan does not adequately balance resource protection with recreation and is asking the Park Service to implement designated trails and limited areas for the variety of users in the park. Hikers, kayakers, and cyclists damage the park as well as airboats, swamp buggies, and ORVs—the most common modes of transportation among park visitors, hunters, and anglers. Throughout the park, the study documented nearly 29,000 miles of user trails that displace soil, alter vegetation, and fragment wildlife habitat. Furthermore, the analysis indicates that park vegetation has not recovered as quickly from recreational uses as the Park Service originally estimated, said Kim Swatland, NPCA's south Florida field representative. The park is scheduled to end public comment on the draft November 11.

TAKE ACTION Write to Big Cypress Superintendent Wallace Hibbard urging him to protect the park's resources more effectively by establishing designated trails and controlled access for all motorized vehicles. Send to Big Cypress National Preserve, H.C.R. 61 Box 110, Ochopee, FL 34141 or wallace_hibbard@nps.gov. Send a copy of the letters to National Park Service Southeast Regional Director Jerry Belson, 100 Alabama St., S.W., Atlanta, GA 30303 or jerry_belson@nps.gov.

SOUTHWEST

The National Park Service (NPS) has completed acquisition of a 10,123-acre addition to the west side of Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Texas. NPCA worked to support the expansion of the park when it was authorized by Congress in 1988. The area, known as the Salt Basin Dunes, contains an impressive white gypsum dune field—a natural feature found at only one other location in the United States, White Sands National Monument, New Mexico. The area also contains red quartz sand dunes, archaeological sites, portions of the historic Butterfield Overland State Route, and offers dramatic views of the western escarpment of the Guadalupe Mountains. NPS is developing an interim visitor-use plan that would permit day-use only at the Salt Basin Dunes. The plan would also limit visitors to a six-car parking lot, a proposal that NPCA supports.

THE EROSION OF A VISION



CARR CLIFTON

No sooner had the fight to create one of the landmark conservation laws of the century ended than another one began, and the battle to subvert the nearly 20-year-old Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act in favor of development has reached a fever pitch.

BY KIM HEACOX

NATIONAL PARKS are paradoxical places. They offer us freedom, yet require our restraint. They are best explored deeply, yet lightly. They demand new sensibilities if we are to leave them as we found them, unimpaired, where bird song prevails over bush plane. They belong to everyone and to no one, and that's the rub.

Nowhere do these paradoxes seem to create more irritation than in Alaska, where national parks and the National Park Service are viewed as a nuisance by those who bristle at limits and see nothing wrong with a harvest-minded approach to the natural world.

When Don Young (R), Alaska's lone member of the House of Representatives, mailed a spring 1999 constituent update pointing out that Alaska contains "over 80 percent of America's Wildlife Refuge acreage," "over 65 percent of America's National Park System acreage," and "over 60 percent of America's wilderness acreage," he wasn't boasting. He was complaining.

When Republicans won a majority in the House in 1994, Young became chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, which he renamed the Resources Committee, and set about to upend the wilderness conservation cart in Alaska. Now in his 14th term, Young forms one-third of Alaska's powerful congressional delegation, together with Sen. Ted Stevens (R), chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and Sen. Frank Murkowski (R), chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

"Never before in American history have members of Congress from one state controlled three of the four committees most critical to our national parks," says Chip Dennerlein, NPCA's Alaska regional director. "The phenomenon will not last forever and may never be repeated. But over the next several years, the combination of chairmanships and seniority places the Alaska delegation at the zenith of their power over public lands—especially the national parks of Alaska.

Alaska's congressional delegation has tried to block efforts to regulate commercial fishing in Glacier Bay.

"Over the past few years, they have used their power in Congress to block efforts to regulate cruise ships and commercial fishing in Glacier Bay. They are attempting to force construction of a major new road or railroad into Denali, and create thousands of miles of highway rights-of-way through Wrangell-St. Elias and other parks, and authorize virtually unrestricted use of motorized vehicles and helicopters in park wilderness."

These actions are, in many ways, the current stage of a 20-year attempt to undermine the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), the so-called greatest conservation vote of the century. Nearly 20 years ago, on December 2, 1980, four weeks after losing his bid for a second term to Ronald Reagan, President Jimmy Carter ended a long and bitter fight in Congress when he signed the act. With the stroke of his pen, Alaska gained more than 100 million acres in new or expanded national parks, preserves, monuments, and wildlife refuges. Two years earlier, Carter had established many of these same lands as national monuments, using presidential proclamation via the 1906 Antiquities Act. The State of Alaska filed suit against the federal government, and many Alaskans expressed their anger at Carter's action. A National Park Service plane was torched in Glennallen, outside the proposed Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. Protesters took to the streets of Seward, next to the proposed Kenai Fjords National Park. The *Anchorage Times* and the *Fairbanks Daily News Miner*, two newspapers that 20 years earlier had supported Project Chariot—the detonation of six atomic bombs to create a new harbor on the northwest coast of Alaska—excoriated the federal government for "locking up" so much of the state.

As part of that protest, park rangers were ostracized in Eagle, the anti-authoritarian town profiled by John McPhee in his landmark book, *Coming into the Country.* "There is something of the rebel in everyone here," McPhee wrote, "and a varying ratio between what attracts them to this country and what repels them in places behind." That's how many Alaskans see Alaska—as a "country," a place to exercise freedom, do whatever they like, and curry their talk with a little secessionism or at least humor themselves about it.

By the very nature of its creation, ANILCA was a child of compromise. Yet as the fight to create it ended in 1980, another soon began: the fight to interpret it and subvert it in favor of development, one that has again reached a fever pitch.

The Alaska congressional delegation, who accuse the National Park Service of limiting access to the national parks, tend to base their position in this fight on two favorite issues: transportation and development.

The delegation has attempted to use an 1866 law, Revised Statute 2477, which was designed to encourage settlement of the American West following the Civil War, to turn hundreds of thousands of miles of old dogsled and mining trails in Alaska into 100-foot-wide state highways.

"Despite judicial opinions," says Dennerlein, "they [the delegation] have continued to block reasonable administrative regulations and sought to impose their interpretation through amendments to legislation."

In Denali National Park, a road already runs 90 miles through the park to its heart at Wonder Lake and offers visitors memorable views of bears, caribou, and Mount McKinley. Nevertheless, Murkowski wants to build another road or railroad to the same place, at a cost of $100 million to $200 million to the taxpayer, respectively.

When asked about this second road, a staffer in Murkowski's office said it would "relieve pressure on the existing road and the wildlife along it."

But would traffic on the existing road truly be reduced and rerouted?

Opponents, including NPCA, say it would not. Traffic would almost certainly remain the same on the existing road. The second route, which offers less rewarding views of wildlife and scenery, would simply create a new access route that could unleash potential commercial development on private inholdings in the interior of the park.

KIM HEACOX (2)

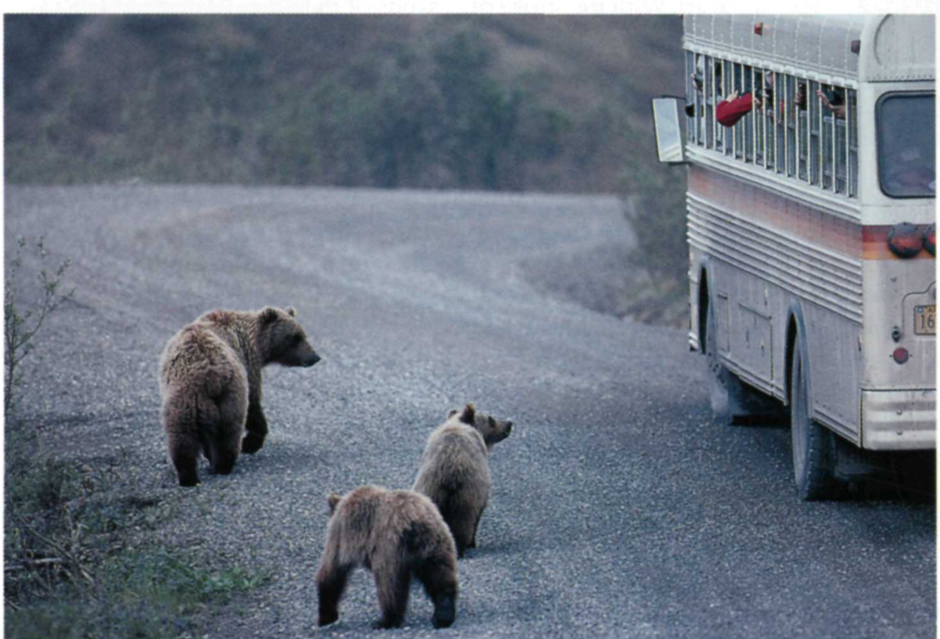
Sounds of nature, such as the cracking antlers of sparring caribou (above) and the call of the ptarmigan (right), prevail in Alaska's parks.

Denali National Park, the most accessible subarctic park and preserve in the world, would have more people, more vehicles, and more dissected habitat. The new road would not mitigate impact, it would increase it. And so would a railroad. To make a railroad commercially viable, a private developer wants to build a 40-acre commercial resort at Wonder Lake.

Fifty years ago, this same fallacious argument to build another road to help wildlife prompted Aldo Leopold, father of the modern science of wildlife management, to conclude that "Recreational development is a job not of building roads into lovely country, but of building receptivity into the still unlovely human mind." Of accepting reasonable limits.

Murkowski also points out that only half a million visitors are able to get into Denali each summer, a small fraction of the millions who annually enjoy other parks such as Yellowstone. Even though he uses this spatial comparison, his opponents use a temporal one. They compare Denali this year with Denali last year, and the year before that, and find disturbing erosion of the park's peace and quiet. Indeed, visitors today are charmed by a vastness that will always be wilder than California or Connecticut. But they do not find a wildness as deep as that which existed ten years ago. And ten years from now, unless things change, they will not find what exists today: a silence so profound it is more of a presence than an absence, a lone wolf howl, the sudden thunder of running caribou, a hundred wilderness epiphanies that can pierce a soul and change a life.

These opposing views force us to ask, at a very elemental level, what national parks are about. By comparing parks in Alaska to parks in California, one can always argue for more development. Yet by comparing Alaska today with the Alaska of yesterday, one can always say "enough is enough."



HENRY H. HOLDSWORTH

A second road in Denali National Park, proposed by Sen. Murkowski, would offer less rewarding views of wildlife and scenery than the existing road (above), and could lead to commercial development deep in the interior of the park.

In arguing for snowmobile access in Denali, Murkowski points to all the acreage in the park not open to the machines and their riders. NPCA meanwhile points to 4 million acres within Denali National Preserve and the hundreds of millions of acres outside the park that are open. As long as a handful of Alaska recreationists lobby Congress, Alaska will have a politician to sympathize with them, to carry their banners of freedom and tradition, and help them destroy the wildness they love.

The other favorite argument of the Alaska delegation centers around its own special definition of what constitutes "traditional activities." The land act recognizes the right of Alaskans to pursue traditional activities in some federal areas. Glacier Bay has provided the focal point in an ongoing struggle over traditional use and commercial fishing. "What's going on here?" asked Murkowski. "For more than 9,000 years, according to scientists, Natives have hunted and fished in Glacier Bay....Commercial fishermen for the past 125 years have fished for Dungeness and tanner crab from the bay. In all this time, there has never been a complaint that any species has been overharvested. So why now, nearly 20 years after the passage of the Alaska land act, is the National Park Service doing everything from cracking down on Native sea gull egg takes to forcing an end to commercial fishing?"

One thing that's going on is the dissemination of incorrect information by Murkowski and Stevens. During a House-Senate conference committee in May, conferees listened to Murkowski put forth his ingenuous argument for nearly an hour, late at night, in an attempt to persuade them to accept a Glacier Bay commercial fishing provision on a $16-billion Kosovo emergency appropriations relief bill. Murkowski himself was not a conferee, but was invited to speak by his colleague, Ted Stevens.

"This is a change of policy that is destroying the lives of people who depend on the sea," Stevens said. "The Park Service is going on their boats and telling them to get out of waters where they've been fishing for a long time."

In fact, many of the fisherfolk in Glacier Bay didn't begin fishing there until after 1980, when the area became a national park. And park waters outside the bay proper—where 80 percent of the harvest occurs—will remain open to commercial fishing. If anything, reluctance on the part of the Park Service to address an illegal enterprise—commercial crabbing in the park's designated wilderness waters—led to over-caution and complicity, and exacerbated the situation.

In another instance of creative interpretation, Murkowski recently held up a photograph and told fellow members of Congress it was a village that "no longer exists. The National Park Service eliminated it. The Park Service burned several Indian houses and smokehouses like this in the 70s."

The photograph was in fact of an abandoned turn-of-the-century salmon cannery. "It was not a traditional Native village," says Chip Dennerlein. "It was not in the park, and was not destroyed by the NPS." Nevertheless, Murkowski's pitch advanced his bill.

Sorting out the issues is a challenge even for those who are sympathetic to the conservation message. "Every year we get seven or eight nonappropriations issues that relate to Alaska," said Rep. David Obey (D-Wisc.), who listened to Murkowski past midnight in conference committee. "We spend an inordinate amount of time here not because we want to, but because we are forced to."

In the last 20 years, a positive evolution has occurred regarding the way in which Alaskans see and value the parks. The congressional delegation, however, continues to take advice from a core of Alaskans who simply want no restraint, or who want the parks to serve solely as a venue for their personal schemes or new commercial development.

It will take tremendous courage and vision by the Park Service and conservation organizations to immunize Alaska from the virus of irresponsible growth. Many Alaskans have dedicated themselves to conserving their wild home; they played a valuable role in the creation and passage of ANILCA, and have since parlayed one attack after another by Murkowski and Young. Stevens, the senior member of the three, has shown glimpses of clear vision, supporting, for example, the NPS acquisition of mining claims in Denali, and the need to mitigate tourism impacts on bears in Katmai.

FRED HIRSCHMANN

Tourism is Alaska's second largest industry. Visits to parks, such as Kenai Fjords, have increased significantly.

Times change. The city of Seward recently hosted a gateway communities conference and voted unanimously to help NPS acquire Native inholdings in nearby Kenai Fjords National Park, the park the city once opposed. From a lemon they made lemonade, and everybody wants a drink. Tourism is the second largest industry in Alaska (after oil), and if the scenery and wildness remain, if people can exercise both freedom and restraint—the paradox of a desirable place—then Alaska will always be the Africa of America, prized by humanity long after the oil wells are dry. National parks remind us of Jacob Bronowski's observation in *The Ascent of Man* that civilization has been our longest childhood, and will be until we learn to accept limits and close some doors in front of us. Not all doors certainly. We should always explore and invent and create, and nurture strong values in our children.

But what if those children someday have no place to slow down? What if every place becomes grist to the consumer mill? A playground to test our newest machines? Should not some places be sacred, where we go to live, rather than to make a living?

KIM HEACOX *is a writer and photographer who lives in Alaska.*

More than 12 million immigrants landed at Ellis Island, the first stop in the New World, yet for 45 years, the island's south side has been neglected. Now, the Park Service has a $6.6-million plan to stabilize the south side's buildings—the first step toward bringing the island's heritage back to life.

BY WENDY MITMAN CLARKE

LARRY RACIOPPO

ISLAND OF HOPE

IF THE SOUTH SIDE of Ellis Island were one of the thousands of immigrants cared for in its hospital wards, the diagnosis might go something like this: advanced decrepitude. And the prognosis? Terminal, if not treated immediately.

For 45 years, Ellis Island's "sad side" has been nearly entirely neglected. A huge hospital complex built between 1902 and 1908, where immigrants received free, state-of-the-art medical care, sits virtually abandoned. While the island's north side (with the exception of one major building) underwent a $200-million restoration in the late 1980s and now sees nearly 2 million visitors a year, the south side remains fenced off, posted with danger signs, and left to its history and the ravages of the elements.

Roofs leak; windows are broken or altogether gone; plaster, asbestos, and decades of bird droppings mire every horizontal surface; acres of poison ivy and weeds creep through the buildings; steel framing rusts and buckles; and water drips down collapsing stairways and crumbling stucco walls.

"Forty-five years is a circuitous route to decay," says Richard Wells, director of planning and development for the Statue of Liberty National Monument, of which Ellis Island is a part. "They're basically wide open to the elements."

It has been an ignominious and lonely fate for what many deem a fundamental part of our nation's cultural history, but it's also a fate that may, at last, be changing. A $6.6-million plan to stabilize the south side's 29 buildings, which the National Park Service (NPS) estimates will give them another ten to 15 years on life support, began this spring. The New Ferry Building, built by the Works Progress Administration in 1934, has received a $1.1-million preservation grant from the Save America's Treasures program.

The New Jersey Governor's Advisory Committee on the Preservation and Use of Ellis Island is raising matching money, and restoration should be under way next year. Meantime, the Park Service is working on a financial feasibility study to help find a long-term cure and use for the buildings.

"The immediate challenge on Ellis Island is to construct a public-private partnership that honors the integrity of the park and upholds its purpose while being financially feasible," says Eileen Woodford, NPCA's Northeast regional director. Located just off the New Jersey coast within the Statue of Liberty's shadow, Ellis Island is really a combination of three islands created largely by fill in the late 1800s and early 1900s, connected by a thin strip of land on their western edge. The original island (last privately owned in the 1770s by one Samuel Ellis) was about 3.3 acres. After serving as a military fort and harbor defense in the 1800s, Ellis in 1892 became the country's main ingress for immigrants. Between 1890 and 1906, the original island (the north side) was expanded, and two islands (the south side) were added. Two ferry slips separated the three rectangular peninsulas, though in the 1920s the government filled the second slip between islands two and three to create "the great lawn," a broad grassy park for immigrants staying in the south side's hospital wards. In 1934, more fill was added on the western edge, and the Recreation Hall, New Ferry Building, and Immigrant Building were built. In this final configuration, Ellis grew to 27.5 acres.

All immigrants arrived at Ellis' Main Building on the north side, where they underwent brief medical inspections. The U.S. Public Health and Marine Hospital Service was charged with screening to exclude "idiots, insane persons, paupers, or persons likely to become public charges, [and] persons suffering from loathsome or dangerous contagious diseases." If someone needed a more thorough check, the doctor would chalk the immigrant's chest or back with a letter signifying the suspected problem: a circled X for definite signs of mental disease; C for conjunctivitis; H for a heart ailment; L for lameness; PG for pregnant.

If deemed curable, the immigrants were treated at the south side's hospital complex. About 20 percent of the 12 million people who came to Ellis spent time in its hospitals. More than 355 babies were born there. An estimated 3,500 people died there, within sight of the New World they would never reach.

Even by today's standards, the hospital complex was huge, with a staff of 700 and more than 750 beds. Connected by corridors, the buildings include about 234,000 square feet of space. Fully electrified, they boasted state-of-the-art medical features such as a giant autoclave for sterilizing mattresses, a morgue with amphitheater where doctors studied cadavers for clues and cures of rare diseases, and enormous windows and porches to promote air circulation. The Contagious Diseases Hospital consisted of 16 buildings jutting off either side of a 1,000-foot-long, two-story hallway. The design permitted light and fresh air to enter the wards where people were treated for everything from measles to typhoid fever. Built in 1906 in the Mission style, that hospital has low, sloping, red-tiled roofs, stucco walls, and red brick trim. Across the great lawn and built between 1902 and 1908, the Main Hospital, Administration Building, and New Hospital Extension (all three stories and connected by huge, three-story corridors) are of French Renaissance style, with red brick, limestone trim, and red-tiled roofs.

CAROL M. HIGHSMITH

Decay plagues the buildings on the south side of Ellis Island (top), which, after land modification in the 1920s, now appears as two islands separated by a ferry slip.

During both of the world wars, the hospital buildings housed wounded soldiers and also detained some suspected "alien" enemies. In 1954, the immigration station was closed and Ellis Island declared surplus federal property. In 1965, the island was transferred to the National Park Service and became part of Statue of Liberty National Monument. With no funds to maintain the island's buildings, the Park Service for years did little more than provide security. In the 1970s, Congress allowed the Park Service to take some leftover money from Bicentennial funds to do some repairs on the Main and Hospital Administration buildings.

In a 1982 general management plan, the Park Service decided that the Main Building on Ellis' north side would be big enough for park operations and visitors. In 1984, the agency joined forces with the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation and began a $200-million, publicly funded restoration (the largest in the country) of the north side. All but the Oil Storage and Baggage and Dormitory buildings were restored, opening in 1990. (Built in 1908, the Baggage and Dormitory Building provided overnight accommodations for immigrants who couldn't be processed in one day. About 150,000 square feet and three stories tall, it's in horrible shape, largely due to its flat roof and water damage. The foundation, which wants to move its American Family Immigration History Center there, has estimated it will cost $80 million to restore it, though no firm plan has been set.)

In the meantime, the south side's prognosis grew bleaker. In 1988, the secretary of the Interior signed off on a private developer's plan that would have demolished ten buildings and built a new hotel to create an international conference center.

"As you can well imagine, the historic preservation community went ballistic," says Wells. Plans to develop the island had been largely pushed by New Jersey, which now holds jurisdiction over 80 percent of the 27.5-acre island as a result of a 1998 ruling by the Supreme Court.

An 1834 compact gave New York rights to three original acres of the island, but New Jersey was given claim to the water-covered portions west of central harbor. These submerged acres have been filled in during the last century, creating an unclaimed piece of property that New York officials assumed was theirs. Although the Supreme Court ruled in New Jersey's favor, the Park Service continues to manage the island and its interpretation as part of the Statue of Liberty.

"The Supreme Court case was putting a cloudy title on the property," says Michael Adlerstein, associate regional director for the NPS Northeast region and project director for the north side's restoration. State pension funds, a primary source of large-scale construction financing, were unwilling to invest in the project because it wasn't clear which state would end up with jurisdiction, he says.


NATIONAL PARK SERVICE/STATUE OF LIBERTY NATIONAL MONUMENT

Doctors inspected and chalk marked immigrants with health problems in mere seconds at the Main Building.

Ellis Island's south side became a poster child for a chronic problem facing the National Park Service: lack of funding for maintenance or restoration of historic buildings.

"Sadly, the deplorable condition of many of Ellis Island's buildings represents the deteriorated state of thousands of historic resources within our underfunded National Park System," says Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which in 1997 put Ellis at the top of its annual list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places.

"It's a disgrace that the federal government, which should have cared, allowed it to get to this stage," says Finn Caspersen, chairman of the New Jersey Governor's Advisory Committee on the Preservation and Use of Ellis Island. "To let that history go by the wayside verges on criminal."

The Park Service has about 9,500 historic buildings among its 25,000 historic and prehistoric structures, says Randy Biallis, the Park Service's chief historical architect. Overall, the agency has a $1-billion backlog of repairs and treatment to those structures. About 70 percent of that is for buildings alone. Every year, the Park Service submits about $100 million for all construction, and about a third to half of that goes to historic structures.

"That varies depending upon management's interests in any one year and what the administration will accept," he says. "So we're not getting very much a year in relation to our total need."

Biallis says restorations are relatively rare (one a year system-wide is a lot, he says) mainly because they are extremely expensive, and help from public-private partnerships, like that for Ellis' north side, is unusual. Park administrators, always trying to stretch dollars, will instead choose less intensive treatments like stabilization. Another part of the equation is whether a building has an actual use.

"Management isn't just looking at what's culturally significant," Biallis says. "If they need a visitor center and they have a historic building, then they will restore that building to be used as a visitor center. Management tends to put money where there is a real need for a use.... For the south buildings [at Ellis], if you don't have a use, it's hard to justify putting that money into them, and there would be ongoing maintenance costs. What are you going to do, heat an empty building?"

Wells says plenty of uses have been suggested for the south side over the years, among them an artists' colony, ethnic culture museums, and a public health and medical history museum. What eventually happens there will depend in part on the results of a $330,000 financial feasibility study being funded by the foundation and the New Jersey Governor's Advisory Committee that's to be finished this fall. The study is using three criteria to help define what uses are acceptable: one, to preserve the resource; two, to be compatible with other historic and interpretive activities at Ellis; and three, to be financially self-sustaining.

"That's really the challenge, to find uses that fit all three," Wells says. "The financial feasibility study will look at the full range of alternatives, and if any of them makes it through the sieves but can't be self-sustaining, then the study will look for other means of subsidizing those activities, whether that's museum membership, fundraising, congressional subsidy, or another foundation."

Based on restoration costs of the north side, Wells has estimated that a complete restoration of the south side would cost up to $300 million. Knowing that kind of money will not just fall out of congressional or public pockets, the Park Service and the New York Landmarks Conservancy teamed up in 1997 to conduct a demonstration project on the Office and Laboratory Building. Using low-tech, inexpensive fixes, such as clearing moisture-trapping vegetation, covering windows and doors with louvered plywood to keep water out but let light and air in, installing temporary asphalt shingles where tile roofs had failed, and using a paint-on filler to plug the hundreds of holes in the copper gutters, they stabilized the building for $39,000 (not including some pro bono materials and labor).

"It was a last-ditch effort to convince Congress to do what it had failed to do for half a century, which is provide adequate funds to maintain them," says Roger Lang, the conservancy's director of community programs.

The demonstration program succeeded. Congress in 1998 approved $2 million to start the program this year. One million dollars are in the fiscal 2000 budget, though New York and New Jersey's congressional delegations are pushing for another $1 million, and New Jersey has pledged to match any additional funding from Congress to meet the $2-million goal for fiscal 2000. The final money should come in fiscal 2001.

LARRY RACIOPPO

Incoming immigrants marked with a circled X at the arrival inspection were sent to the Psychopathic Ward to be further screened or treated if deemed curable.

The plan has five main elements: removing hazardous materials inside the buildings; repairing and enclosing windows and doors; repairing roofs; removing weeds, ivy, and all vegetation not historic to the site; and stabilizing the structures. New Jersey corrections inmates cleared vegetation this summer and fall, and by the end of the year, work will be well under way on the three buildings in the worst shape: the Main Hospital, Administration Building, and New Hospital Extension.

During a recent visit to Ellis Island, NPCA's Woodford described for the association's Board of Trustees the complexity of the problems facing the Park Service as it prepares to tackle what could be one of the largest restoration plans. The complexity comes not only from the sheer magnitude of the work involved in restoring the historic buildings, but from the partnership required to finance the work.

"It's a new frontier," says NPCA's President Thomas C. Kiernan. "What a partnership should do or how it should be organized still is not defined. How much control should the National Park Service surrender, and how we can ensure that the public still has its say? There are many questions to ask as we move forward."

Whatever the answers may prove to be, it is hoped that the Park Service will have enough time to cure Ellis Island's south side of its terminal status, once and for all.

WENDY MITMAN CLARKE *is a regular contributor to* National Parks *and last wrote about vanishing night skies.*

JEFF FOOTT

The National Parks Business Plan Initiative began in Yellowstone, America's oldest national park.

Taking the INITIATIVE

Working with the National Park Service, NPCA has helped to pioneer a new way of doing business in the parks. The pilot program offers a comprehensive view of how federal funds are distributed and spent in the national parks—a process that will aid the Park Service in future requests for appropriations.

BY TODD WILKINSON

EVERY WORKING DAY in this country, private business owners and corporations go into banks asking for money. Whether they need the cash for business expansion or repairs on their buildings, few reputable lending institutions will offer them a loan without first seeing a business plan that identifies how the money will be spent.

In the high-stakes world of park management, by contrast, the National Park Service's ability to articulate how tax dollars are spent has been at best an obscure annual exercise. This year, Congress will be asked to appropriate roughly $2 billion to operate the nation's parks. Yet for most Americans and lawmakers on Capitol Hill, deciphering how the money flows through the system remains as mysterious as how the subterranean water spouts forth from Yellowstone's Old Faithful geyser.

Fortunately, a new era of public accountability may be emerging with the arrival of a novel experiment called the National Parks Business Plan Initiative, a pilot program crafted by NPCA in conjunction with the National Park Service (NPS), a handful of private foundations, and the nation's premier business and management schools. Auspiciously, the initiative has won the blessing from key members of Congress on both sides of the political aisle.

Last summer, graduate students from Dartmouth, Duke, Harvard, Stanford, Yale, the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Michigan, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Texas at Austin descended on half a dozen parks with an unprecedented mission: to help superintendents write business plans.

"The focus is not on the issue of fiscal accountability, per se, because the Park Service books have always been clean and open to the public," says Phil Voorhees, NPCA's director of funding and management and co-architect of the business plan initiative. "The point of this is refining the way Congress and the public understand what park operations are all about."

The business plan initiative comes at a pivotal time in the agency's 83-year history. The Park Service is coping with a $3.54-billion backlog in infrastructure maintenance, controversy over agency spending, declining employee morale, and growing concern about insufficient funding to assess the status of imperiled wildlife and plants. In at least a dozen hearings over the last five years, Congress has asked Park Service officials to explain why more money is needed for programs, and in nearly every instance the agency was unable to offer a clear answer, Voorhees says. That's why a principal aim of the initiative, he says, is to communicate the dynamics of national park operations in lay terms.

The program began in America's oldest national park amid a contentious debate that echoed across the country. Three years ago, a high-stakes political stand-off occurred when Yellowstone Superintendent Mike Finley threatened to close down some services if Congress did not authorize necessary funds for maintenance and repair. Finley was accused of grandstanding to win the sympathies of the American public.

For a brief period, members of Congress stood their ground, incredulous that every year Yellowstone's budget increased and yet the park claimed that it was slipping farther and farther behind. Rep. Barbara Cubin, a Republican from Wyoming, a state that encompasses most of Yellowstone, went on a fact-finding mission into the park's accounting practices.

Reaching a truce with Finley, both Cubin and Sen. Craig Thomas (R-Wyo.), the chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation, confessed afterward that Yellowstone's problems were far more complex than they had realized. Cubin, who had questioned budget increases, admitted: "I was misinformed. Yellowstone does need additional funding."

In his own moment of reflection, Finley acknowledged the National Park Service's need to explain its budget better. Searching for a way out of the perennial morass, Finley approached Yellowstone comptroller Don Striker, an alumnus of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business, and asked, Striker recalls, "What if we went to the top business and management schools in the country and invited stu-

AMY LEWIS

Business and management students work to translate park management into understandable language.

dents to help us translate park management into a language that members of Congress and the public can understand?"

The Henry P. Kendall Foundation came forward with a grant to develop a prototype business plan for Yellowstone. The following year, Voorhees and Park Service Comptroller Bruce Sheaffer were enlisted to apply the experiment to a broader range of parks by bringing in some of the brightest young students with specific training in financial management and planning.

"Congress has asked us for years to explain what we do with the money," says Finley. "This business plan, which will be the centerpiece of a state of the park report, answers that question. Until now, there was no single document that told the public what was happening with bears, maintenance operations, fisheries, or the roads. The frosting on the cake here is that the business plan allows the American public, for the first time, to gain a comprehensive view of how federal funds are distributed and expended in the national parks."

Compiling business plans isn't simply a matter of tracking how money is spent. At every park, students have worked from dawn until dusk interviewing managers and field personnel to assess how well employees are meeting the missions of the individual parks as well as the demands of their jobs.

A true believer in the business plan concept for both internal and external reasons is Rocky Mountain National Park Superintendent Randy Jones. "We have not done a good job of relating how things have changed," Jones says. He does not see the business plan as a magic bullet but rather as a critical element in establishing an ongoing dialogue with the public: "These plans enable us to have a better understanding with our staff. Interpreters will be able to understand and appreciate what the maintenance division is doing. Those in law enforcement will see what the concerns are of our researchers. What this does is it hearkens us back to the original mission of our parks and forces us to ask ourselves if the money we are spending accomplishes that mission."

For Ed Barker, a student at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, being assigned to Rocky Mountain was eye-opening. Barker suggests it isn't a matter of park employees being uncommitted to meeting the challenges; rather, it's an issue of setting priorities in an environment where there often is not enough money or staffing to go around.

"What blows me away is the amount of work the Park Service folks here are able to accomplish," says Barker. "In Rocky Mountain, the maintenance division is getting blood from a stone."

A relatively small Western park, Rocky Mountain is inundated with 3.3 million visitors each year. It maintains 110 miles of aging roads that cross some of the most difficult high-elevation environments in the system. Its antiquated buildings are subjected to heavy snows and lashing winds. The status of its wildlife is poorly understood because little money exists for research.

Consequently, at Rocky Mountain, Barker says, everyone recognized the value of the relatively new fee demonstration program, through which the park keeps a portion of the entrance fees instead of sending the entire amount to the U.S. Treasury. Over the last two years, about $5 million in fee demonstration money has been generated. "That's real money for a park with a base allocation of about $8 million," he says. "The managers here have put it to good use in high-visibility projects that capture public attention, not simply in bricks and mortar that the average park visitor will never see."

And yet, Barker notes, this too is part of a dangerous cycle that many parks have fallen into. When parks receive new money from Congress, managers often opt for projects that can be easily recognized by lawmakers. Similarly, NPS historically has approached spending on a regional level, requiring that all parks within a region compete for limited funds and thus creating a chaotic "rob Peter to pay Paul" predicament.

Congress has, in addition, been very attentive to funding requests for projects that resonate with the public, such as new buildings and interpretive displays, but it has been less willing to confront the agency's eroding infrastructure. "The National Park Service has long been very good at holding ribbon-cutting ceremonies for new buildings but very bad at maintaining existing structures," says NPCA's Voorhees.

Other spending requirements have been generated, over the past three decades, by dozens of new laws requir-

JOHN ELK III

Challenges facing Rocky Mountain NP (left), a business plan initiative site, include not enough money to deal with the 3.3 million visitors who annually travel the park's aging roads (above).

ing that parks make their visitor centers accessible to wheelchairs and bring ancient buildings up to code, to providing cost of living adjustments for underpaid rangers and ensuring that sewage systems meet provisions of the Clean Water Act.

Those requirements are important but cost money to implement and, to comply, park managers have had to divert money from other programs. Yellowstone, for instance, is now struggling with an estimated $716 million in infrastructure backlog, including a $300-million backlog in deferred highway maintenance and another $30-million tab to repair its ailing sewage treatment systems that have failed several times in the last few years, earning the nation's first park a slot on NPCA's Ten Most Endangered Parks list.

"When you start shorting a park's operation year after year, quietly eroding it, you're forcing the park to dig a hole," Voorhees says. "By the time you identify the need to adequately fund operations, you still have to fill the hole, which makes it increasingly difficult for park managers to deal with problems as they emerge."

In Olympic National Park, for example, assigning a maintenance worker to fill potholes that are breaking the wheel axles of tourist vehicles might mean fewer interpretive programs. At Gettysburg National Military Park, protecting artifacts from the effects of weathering might mean less money for ranger-led walks. In Yosemite National Park, providing adequate living conditions for park employees might force managers to skimp on the number of shuttle buses ferrying hikers to trailheads.

Brooks Mendell, of the University of California at Berkeley, spent last summer at Point Reyes National Seashore near San Francisco. Mendell brings a different perspective from many of his colleagues because before graduate school, he worked for a logging company in the South.

"What the National Park Service does with resources and what private industry does are fundamentally different," he says. "Like most people living in the Bay Area, I didn't realize all the issues the park faces until I arrived here." Studying the budget at Point Reyes National Seashore, Mendell identified the tendency of parks to follow short-term funding sources at the expense of long-term priorities.

Part of the impetus is the ephemeral nature of park staffing and congressional funding, but Mendell realizes that in times of funding scarcity, managers must scramble for any money they can get. After the 1995 Vision Forest Fire swept through Point Reyes, a temporary pool of research funds flooded the park to enable scientists to study post-fire effects, but it did not result in increased staffing. So park employees assigned to gather fire-related information were forced to abandon other projects, including work on some of Point Reyes' 22 endangered and threatened species.

"The trade-offs are even more prevalent when you're dealing with infrastructure questions," Mendell adds. "It [the choices] all comes down to potholes versus nature."

At Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park in Woodstock, Vermont, Christina Smith from the University of Michigan is probing challenges of a different sort. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller, one of the newest additions to the National Park System, represents a divergence from parks of the past because about 65 percent of its funding comes from Congress and the rest is made available through a private foundation. "This is a park of grand ideas rather than a park of physical landscape," Smith says.

Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller celebrates conservation themes and the stewardship of working landscapes with a combination of historic farm buildings and a managed forest in which logging is allowed. Working closely with park Superintendent Rolf Diamant, Smith drafted a business plan to help managers identify and avoid problems plaguing other parks.

As steps like these are being taken at parks across the country, observers in Congress are hailing the business plan initiative as an important first step in resolving the fiscal and management crises afflicting the entire system.

"We cannot expect parks to make changes in the way they develop budgets and plans for the future unless the Park Service is willing to have personnel with expertise on these matters," says Wyoming's Sen. Craig Thomas, the 1998 winner of NPCA's William Penn Mott, Jr., Park Leadership Award. "I strongly support the National Parks Business Plan Initiative and believe it can be a valuable tool to help us start making real changes in the way the Park Service budgets and allocates its funds based on need."

Thomas says the business plans build on recent successes in Congress aimed at reforming the National Park System and, in turn, will make lawmakers controlling the purse strings more sympathetic to future funding.

"Making constructive changes in the way the National Park System operates isn't a partisan issue," he says. "Together, with the help of NPCA programs like this, we can accomplish what is required and expected of us to bring the National Park Service into the 21st century, alive, vibrant, and efficient."

TODD WILKINSON *of Bozeman, Montana, is a regular contributor to* National Parks *and author of* Science Under Siege: The Politicians' War on Nature and Truth.

20th Century Tour

Scores of national park sites chronicle the people, events, and institutions that have shaped America.

BY YVETTE LA PIERRE

DURING THE PAST 100 years, humans learned to fly, the Constitution was amended to be more inclusive of women and people of color, and two world wars were fought. The automobile became the most popular mode of transportation, people walked on the moon, and personal computers found their way into every aspect of American life. The century has given us the Industrial and Post-Industrial Revolutions, the Lost Generation, the Jazz Age, the Nuclear Age, Hippies, Yippies, Yuppies, the Me Generation, and Generation X.

Change defines this century, culturally, historically, and environmentally. The National Park System charts the changes of the 20th century, its accomplishments and failures, its beauty and monstrosity, its past and present. Scores of sites chronicle the great people, events, and institutions that have shaped America. In fact, the National Park System itself is one of this passing century's greatest gifts.

A workspace at the "invention factory" preserved by Edison NHS.

As many as 5,000 people per day were registered at Ellis Island.

Advances in science and technology were unprecedented in the 20th century. Perhaps no site better represents the evolution in the study of science than the Edison National Historic Site in West Orange, New Jersey, where Thomas Alva Edison set up his "invention factory" in 1887. Edison helped lead America into the age of electricity and invented the phonograph, fluoroscope, and was a pioneer in developing the movie camera. By the time he died in 1931, he held more than 1,000 patents.

Technological advances began almost as soon as the century did. The Wright Brothers National Memorial on the Outer Banks in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, marks the site where, on December 17, 1903, Wilbur and Orville first successfully sustained flight for 12 seconds over a distance of 120 feet in a heavier-than-air, motorized machine. The Dayton Aviation National Historical Park in Ohio includes the Wright Cycle Company building, where the Wrights first worked on the problem of powered flight, and the Huffman Prairie Flying Field, where they trained more than a hundred aviators.

In addition to advances in technology and science—the 20th century saw massive social change—women earned the right to vote after advocating for it for centuries; and the Supreme Court ruled that separate inherently meant unequal. Among the parks that commemorate these events are Women's Rights, and Eleanor Roosevelt, Brown

YVETTE LA PIERRE *lives in Madison, Wisconsin, and last wrote for* National Parks *about the Lewis and Clark Trail.*


ARCHIVE PHOTOS

Visitors see a replica of the 1902 glider at Wright Brothers visitor center.

vs. Board of Education, and Martin Luther King, Jr., national historic sites.

The parks add pages to the story of our brief historical moment, our portion of the life of the world and humanity. As Clive Pointing once noted in the magazine *Environment*: "To give an accurate chronological account of human history in 30 minutes, one would have to spend 29 minutes and 51 seconds on gathering and hunting groups, a little more than eight seconds describing settled agricultural societies, and a fraction of a second considering the problems of the modern industrial world." It is during that fraction of a second that the National Park System was initiated, and that fraction of a second will make all the difference for the future.

Following are some sites you can visit to reflect on the achievements and significant events of the passing century.

Statue of Liberty

Between 1892 and 1954, some 12 million immigrants, whose descendants account for nearly 40 percent of the country's population, sailed past the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor. Their first stop on the way to becoming Americans was the immigration center at Ellis Island, where, on peak days, as many as 5,000 people would be examined and processed. The immigrants' massive contribution to the history and culture of 20th century America is recognized at the monument that preserves these two significant sites.

The Statue of Liberty is one of the country's most visited monuments. A trip to the Lady's crown can mean a several-hour wait in line and a strenuous climb. The monument, however, has other attractions, including a museum and exhibit in the pedestal where visitors can learn more about immigration, democratic principles, and the story behind the statue. The promenade, colonnade, and top levels of the pedestal offer spectacular views of New York Harbor, including Ellis Island.

The Ellis Island Immigration Museum is housed in the beautifully refurbished Great Hall. Visitors can climb the stairs to the Registry Room, as the immigrants did, and see the place where doctors determined in less than ten seconds whether an immigrant was healthy enough to proceed. The old railroad ticket office now houses an exhibition that traces immigration before and after Ellis Island, and the "Treasures from Home" exhibit displays artifacts that immigrants brought from home, including jewelry, clothes, and toys.

Castle Clinton in Battery Park is the main visitor center for the national parks in New York City and the ticket office for ferries to the Statue and Ellis Island. For more information: 212-363-3200; www.nps.gov/stli.

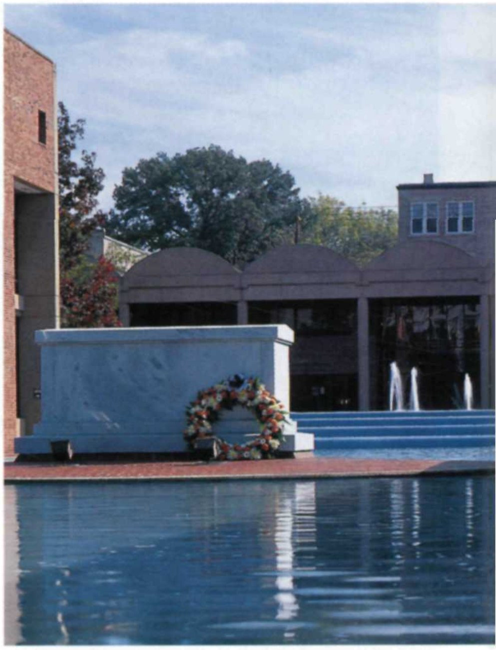
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Civil rights have made significant gains since the turn of the century. One important site in the Park Service commemorating the Civil Rights Movement is the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site. King, an inspirational public speaker and political activist, advocated social change through nonviolent action and was eventually awarded a Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts on behalf of racial justice.

His words moved a generation of people to become active in opposing racial inequity. He challenged all of America to "refuse to accept the idea that the 'isness' of man's present nature makes him morally incapable of reaching up for the 'oughtness' that forever confronts him" and to "live in a nation where [people] will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

King was influenced by the close-knit Atlanta neighborhood in which he grew up. The park preserves a ten-block stretch of Auburn Street, a main thoroughfare of a prosperous black area of the city, including King's boyhood home, Ebenezer Baptist Church, where King was associate pastor, and several other homes and businesses significant in King's life.

When King was assassinated in 1968, his body was brought home to Auburn Street for burial. Some sites are privately owned and not open to the public, but the boyhood home and church are. For more information: 404-331-5190; www.nps.gov/malu.

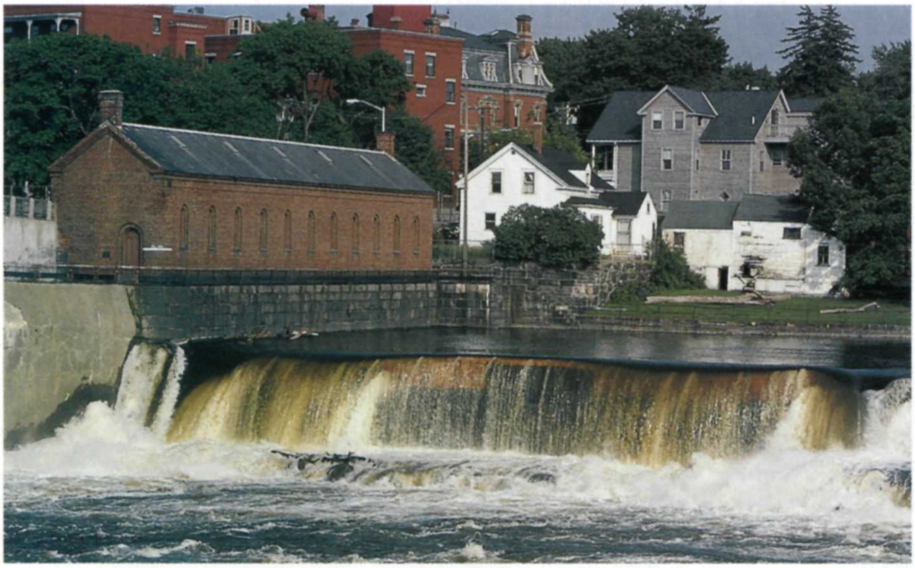


Lowell

Immigration history is directly related to the racial, cultural, and economic history of America's Industrial Revolution. One site that comments on industry in America is Lowell National Historical Park in Massachusetts. Visitors to Lowell, which is often considered America's first great industrial city, learn about the development of industry and labor practices during the 19th and early 20th centuries—a time when labor foment led to massive changes in child labor laws, workplace health and safety, and the institution of a minimum wage and a standard work week.

Attempting to sidestep the social problems found in the British textile industry, the founders of Lowell wanted to avoid dissent from factory workers, most of whom were women. For a time, the owners of the textile mills were successful. However, mill workers eventually became disenchanted by the 14-hour days, the hot, sealed workrooms full of lint, the mandatory church attendance, and the restrictive company-run boardinghouses where women were required to rent rooms if they did not live in family homes.

The park encompasses 5.6 miles of



LEFT: DAVID MEUNCH; ELIOT COHEN; RIGHT: MARK E. GIBSON

Sites that help visitors understand the 20th century include Martin Luther King NHS (left), Lowell NHP (above), and Women's Rights NHP (right).

canals, operating gatehouses, a working power loom, and boardinghouses. Park rangers offer a variety of walking tours in the winter, examining the history, architecture, and technology of the mill. In the summer, visitors can take trolley and barge tours.

For more information: 978-970-5000; www.nps.gov/lowe.

Women's Rights

Despite the gains that women made at Lowell, female mill workers were paid only half as much as their male counterparts in the early part of this century. Women have struggled throughout the 20th century for treatment and respect equal to that afforded men. The Women's Rights National Historical Park commemorates the beginning of the women's rights movement in Seneca Falls, New York. It preserves the remains of the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, the site of the 1848 Women's Rights Convention, the home and office of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and sites related to other notable early women's rights activists.

With the passage in 1920 of the Constitutional Amendment granting women the right to vote, women took the first step toward achieving the main goal of the original 1848 Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal."

Before beginning your tour of Seneca Falls, stop at the visitor center, 136 Fall Street, for a schedule of activities. The center also has exhibits and an orientation film. For more information: 315-568-2991; www.nps.gov/wori.

Canaveral

Along with the great strides toward equality, other inspirational developments occurred in the 1950s and 1960s, most notably space flight. Less than a century after people first took to the air in a powered flying machine, the age of space exploration began. From the flight of the Wright brothers in 1903 to Neil Armstrong's "one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind," in 1969, phenomenal change occurred, both scientifically and socially. Although King was tragically struck down before men landed on the moon, perhaps he would have been inspired by the use of technology not for destruction, but for exploration.

In addition to the Kennedy Space Center, Canaveral National Seashore protects 25 miles of undeveloped barrier island, including natural beach, dune, marsh, and lagoon habitats for myriad wildlife. The space center occupies the southern end of the island; temporary closures of the park are possible because of launch-related activities. To learn more about space exploration, visit the Spaceport USA visitor center. Or you can explore a different kind of space, the secluded beaches and tropical forests of the park and nearby Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. For more information: 407-267-1110; www.nps.gov/cana.

Additional research and writing by William A. Updike, editorial assistant.

Your Huddled Masses

A Manhattan, New York, site commemorates tenement living at the beginning of the century.

BY WILLIAM A. UPDIKE

"Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

THESE FAMOUS WORDS, engraved on the Statue of Liberty, greeted immigrants arriving in boats headed to Ellis Island in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. But what happened to immigrants after they left Ellis and arrived on the crowded island of Manhattan? The real story of immigrant experience, of the reality that met the mythical search for the American dream, is a tale not often told—and in Manhattan it is a tale of two cities.

BRUCE BUCK

The simplicity and dignity of the Gumpertz apartment's small front room is shown above.

Enter the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, designated as a National Historic Area in November 1998, which explains where many of the "huddled masses" went after they first arrived. The museum, founded in 1988, is housed in a renovated tenement building at 97 Orchard Street on the Lower East Side. It is administered by the National Park Service as an affiliated area.

As told by museum staff, difficult living conditions awaited immigrants leaving Ellis Island. Circa 1900, as many as 240,000 people per square acre huddled together on the Lower East Side, making it the most densely populated place on the planet. Nearly 70 percent of those people lived in tenements.

At 97 Orchard Street, a 325-square-foot unit, which included three rooms, cost between $8 and $15 a month. Originally intended for single family row houses, the 25 X 88-foot lot was divided into 20 separate units. About 7,000 people from 20 countries lived in those apartments during the 72 years (1863-1935) that the building functioned as a tenement. Gas lines were installed after the 1890s, cold water after 1895. Before 1905, the 20 units shared six outdoor toilets. After that, a toilet was installed indoors for every two apartments. Eventually a 1929 law requiring toilets in each apartment, and a law changing fire codes, spelled death to the tenement.

Life for new immigrants was difficult, but it was not all a Dickensian tale of woe and suffering. The museum has documented the dignity as well as the difficulty of tenement living. "We talk about the conditions, but we also tell the personal stories, about real human beings and all of their ups and downs," said Katherine Snider, the museum's spokesperson.

Attempts at maintaining "house pride" are documented in the four restored apartments at the museum. One display explains how the Rogarshevsky family changed their wallpaper every two years, which, as discovered in documents of the early 1900s, angered social workers who thought decorating was a luxury. The display shows a scene at the Rogarshevsky household in July 1918 when the family sat shiva, a Jewish mourning tradition, for the father Abraham, who died of tuberculosis. The museum tour also describes how nine people lived in the family's unit: the four boys slept in the front room with their heads on the couch and their legs on chairs, the two girls slept on a twin bed in the cooking area, the parents slept in the interior bedroom. Museum staff guess that the ninth person, a female boarder, slept on a board on top of the unit's kitchen sink.

The other restored apartments illustrate the lives of the Baldizzi family, stowaways from Palermo, Italy, in 1935, the Gumpertz family, German Jews, in the 1870s, and the Confino family, who were Sephardic Jews from Kastoria, Greece.

The museum staff do not simplify the story of tenement living by either removing the dignity to show the disgust, nor by glossing over the difficulty to ignore the reality. They help to infuse some truth back into the challenges that immigrants faced and continue to face in that hopeful and frustrating search for the American dream.

WILLIAM A. UPDIKE *is editorial assistant for* National Parks *magazine.*

Reaching New Heights

Haleakala biologists have been successful at increasing the number of petrels, but protections are still needed.

BY ELIZABETH G. DAERR

IN OCTOBER AND November on the Hawaiian Island of Maui, dark-rumped petrels, native seabirds, fall from the sky. Each year the birds plummet to the ground when they become exhausted after flying for hours in circles. It is not the bird's poor navigation skills that drive it to this point, but confusion created by growing light pollution in the bird's habitat. Wildlife biologists at Haleakala National Park have begun a conservation program that not only studies and protects the endangered birds inside the park but also educates the public about its role in protecting the species outside.

Dark-rumped petrels are thought to navigate by stars, which help them locate expanses of ocean where they spend days at a time feeding on fish, crustaceans, and, particularly, squid, before returning in the darkness to their nests. As condominiums, hotels, and utility towers rise from the beaches, the lights that illuminate them draw the birds to land. The birds slam into unseen buildings or, when confused, simply circle the lights desperately searching for water until they plummet. Most survive the fall, but without the necessary wind currents to become airborne, and dazed and tired from the flight, they become easy prey to feral and pet cats and dogs, rats, and mongooses that populate the island.

Along with making people aware of how to identify and help stranded birds, park biologists encourage people to control the bird's overwhelming number of predators by sterilizing pets and taking unwanted animals to the Humane Society rather than releasing them in the woods. Petrels historically were found at all elevations of the Hawaiian Islands, but as non-native predators moved in, only the birds that nested at the highest elevations survived; they are now found only above 8,000 feet. Haleakala's volcano serves as a home for about 600 nesting pairs, which mate for life and produce only one egg a year. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the overall population could range from a few thousand to 34,000 birds scattered among three islands.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE/C.S.N. HODGES

Haleakala's volcano provides nesting sites for 600 pairs of dark-rumped petrels.

In the volcanic terrain and subalpine habitat, the birds create nests by excavating crevices using their beaks, wings, and feet. The nests have only one entrance. Chicks are particularly vulnerable because they are left on their own for days at a stretch while both parents gather food at sea. Four months of feeding produce chicks that are nearly double the weight of an adult bird when they are abandoned. After a month on their own without food, the young birds emerge at a normal adult weight to spend the next three to six years at sea.

Cathleen Hodges, a wildlife biologist at Haleakala, says that the park's petrel conservation program has been tremendously successful. "Since we've fenced off the park and controlled predators, we've found new nests every year. But if we don't find some other populations elsewhere, they may disappear," Hodges said, indicating the vulnerability of one population to be wiped out by disease or natural disaster. Nearly 1,000 nests have been located at the park, and the number has been increasing.

Dark-rumped petrels are also found at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, but biologists have a hard time getting accurate counts because vast, roadless territory makes backcountry research difficult and expensive. Although the park has addressed the feral cat problem with a predator control program and the bird's habitat is intact, monitoring indicates that the population is steadily declining, says Hawaii Volcanoes Superintendent Jim Martin. "They are not going to be there if we don't do something." Next year, the park has $90,000 generated from entrance fees to put toward surveying potential habitat for petrels and implementing a more aggressive and sustained predator control program.

ELIZABETH G. DAERR *is news editor for* National Parks *magazine.*

Dreaming and Defending

We must both identify parks that could be added and care for those we already have.

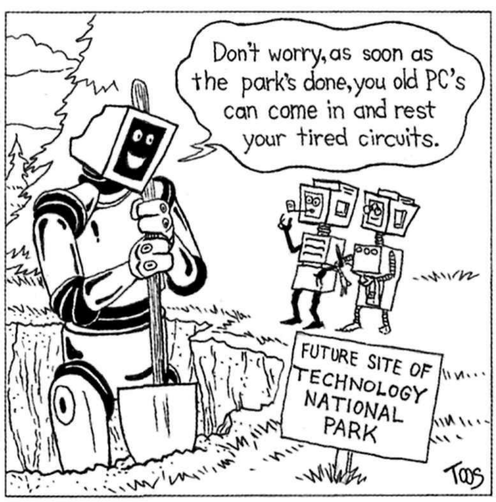
BY ROBIN W. WINKS

AT THE END OF this millennium nearly any objective observer with comparative experience would agree that the U.S. National Park System is the world's largest, best managed, and most intellectually challenging. The "national park idea" was born in the United States in 1916, the second country to create an elite, professional agency. (Canada was the first, in 1915). The Park Service often has led the way worldwide in developing a coherent management policy.

In 1972, the United States was at the forefront of the nations that created the World Heritage Convention, by which the park ideal was internationalized, leading to the designation of more than 500 World Heritage Sites. The 20th century has been a good one for national parks and for the people who launched, sustained, and defended the park ideal. At the end of the millennium, we have reason to be grateful to the dreamers and defenders (to use Douglas Strong's words) of American conservation and environmental policies.

But parks are not fixed in time, and the policies by which they are created and protected evolve. How may the park ethic evolve, then, in the 21st century? The parks will—or must—reflect the values of the people, revealing a sense of themselves. But the parks must also transcend that sense of self, must provide leadership, must display and protect the visible symbols of our often invisible past. The Park Service will of necessity adjust to the nation's changes and will, surely, reflect the nation with greater clarity than at the end of the 20th century. Or the national parks will not, over the next century, survive.

The great natural parks will continue to be protected and yet will come under ever-greater pressure from population growth, increased mobility, and commercial developments. The Park Service will need to do even more than it does now to explain to the American people that the first goal of a national park is protection of the resource for which the park was created: not "use." Yet, to maintain and broaden the political constituency for the park movement, the service also will have to provide access to the resource that is informative, contextual, inspiring, and yet leaves the resource unimpaired. To do this, the Park Service will have to call a halt to creeping commercialism, to destructive and irrelevant modes of access, to compromises with interest groups that see the parks as intended for organized recreation. To hold this line, the Park Service must work more closely with state park systems and with other federal agencies, which have as their missions the delivery of recreational opportunities to the American people. And to do this, the Park Service must take the lead in launching a nationwide inventory of future recreational needs modeled in some measure on the Outdoor Recreation Resources Re-view Commission of 1957 to 1962. Additional national parks are also needed, most obviously in the Maine North Woods, the Sonoran Desert, and the Arctic Lowlands of Alaska.



THE TOOS STUDIO

Education—of Congress, of the American people, of educators—will be the key in a more complex information age, to winning public support, and for defending the magnificent parks that already exist and daily face attacks stemming as much from ignorance of the purpose and value of the parks as from greed. This education will need to adjust to the ob-vious demographic changes: an aging population less able to penetrate to the interior of the great natural parks, and a younger population among ethnic communities that clearly prefer urban amenities and often appear to fear the wilderness. These demographic changes will have an even greater impact on the historical and cultural units of the National Park System.

ROBIN W. WINKS *is Townsend Professor of History at Yale University. He is the first recipient of NPCA's Robin W. Winks Award for Enhancing Public Understanding of Parks.*

Of the 378 units, more than a third commemorate a historical development and seek to interpret it in a way that will make it meaningful and relevant to the American people. Future ethnic communities may feel less of a stake in units devoted to the American Civil War or the American Revolution, for without education, they may argue that these conflicts are not part of their heritage. The system must address issues of cultural diversity, to broaden our understanding of what is historically significant, and to whom, without damaging the high standards of significance that each unit must reflect.

The park system will never be "rounded out" especially with respect to units of historical significance, since history marches steadily before us; and equally, since these events often lead us to reinterpret the importance of the past. Certainly there must be parks that will help us to understand the Nuclear Age, the Cold War, the great conflicts in Korea and Vietnam. But how are these units to be created, given the ever-present controversies about the meaning of the past and public contention over who owns history? (The answer is that no one owns history, but reminding interest groups of this, including professors of history, is not easy.) Should we have a unit to Sen. Joseph McCarthy? Are memorials in our nation's capital sufficient to our needs to assimilate to our memory events in Korea and Vietnam? We must come to understand that a war can be interpreted at a place other than the battlefield, or we cannot expect to interpret World Wars I and II effectively within the park system.

What of the technological and information revolutions, as great and transformative as the commercial and industrial revolutions? Where is a unit to the automobile? To the computer? To the camera? Thirty park units help us to understand the nation's Westward movement. Surely it is time to declare that Jonas Salk and others who helped to free us from fear of polio and a range of crippling diseases are as significant to the nation as a frontier fort can be?

What of popular culture? Is it not time to recognize that Elvis Presley and Walt Disney have had greater impact on making us who we are today than many U.S. presidents? If the young of the future are to care about parks, ought we not to recognize that television and the internet are far more influential in their lives than John and John Quincy Adams can ever be shown to be? We must celebrate both: presidents of the United States, but not all (Millard Fillmore? Chester Arthur? Surely not!); and, as well, the Frank Sinatras and George Gershwins and Robert Frosts through whom we all have dreamed.

Must parks invariably be celebratory, patriotic, triumphant? Defeat is part of the national experience. So, too, is injustice, slavery, and catastrophic human error. The park system has turned the corner away from purely patriotic celebrations, for there are units to Japanese-American resettlement camp experience, to the devastating Johnston flood, to the Battle of Little Big Horn. We must have the maturity, honesty, and courage to create more such units, by which we can learn from our past mistakes.

Still, our greatest mistake today, one which must be corrected for the next century, is the underfunding of our national parks. The entire backlog in maintenance could be paid for with the cost of one Stealth bomber. What kind of people will the 21st century think us to have been if we fail even to maintain the heritage we pass to them, quite apart from their duty to create new parks?

The greatest risk to this magnificent, evolving park system is that people will cease to care, and by ceasing, will half-consciously allow the purpose of the parks to become more intensely recreational rather than protective, will allow more compromises with the high standards that all park units must meet, standards of integrity, objectivity, and accuracy. Organizations like NPCA are at the forefront, working with the Park Service and other organizations and agencies, to enhance American, and worldwide, awareness of the national park ethic. But an entire new generation, indeed a century, even a millennium, of dreamers and defenders is needed if this ethic is to retain its vitality. First comes dreaming, then comes action.

Eco Opportunities

NPCA Notes

BY WILLIAM A. UPDIKE

Angel Island Focus of Study

▶A bill is being considered by Congress that will fund the continuation of a feasibility study for a proposed West Coast immigration museum. The bill was sponsored by Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii) and supported by Sens. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.).

Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation, an NPCA Community Partner in the San Francisco area, will play a key role in developing and implementing a plan to preserve the Angel Island Immigration Station and in developing educational programs that link the museum with activities on the island.

The story of Angel Island helps explain the broader U.S. immigration experience. According to Felicia Lowe, president of the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation, "Angel Island is the bookend to Ellis Island."

Just as in the case of the south side of Ellis Island, Angel Island is in desperate need of funds for repair. "The buildings on the island need to be stabilized and restored," said Lowe.

Angel Island, referred to by Lowe as Chinese and other Asian Americans' "Plymouth Rock," focuses on the experience of Asian immigrants.

Approximately 1 million immigrants were processed at the Immigration Station, 175,000 to 200,000 of whom were of Chinese descent. Chinese immigrants were often held as long as two years and perhaps longer on the island, which was operating as an immigration station from 1910 to 1940.

Many of the Chinese who were detained because of the Chinese Exclusion Acts left behind poems, either written in ink or carved onto the walls of the barracks, that tell tales of emotional suffering caused by detention on the island.

Recently, the Foundation received a $10,000 matching grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which has listed Angel Island as one of its 11 most endangered sites, to recover as many of the poems as possible.

More than 100 poems were estimated to have been written on the walls, many of which were painted over or otherwise covered up during the century.

Congress originally granted $100,000 to begin the feasibility study. Akaka is asking for an additional $300,000 this year.

Congressional Awards List Available Online

▶NPCA distributed 231 awards to members of Congress deemed "Friends of the National Parks" for their pro-park voting record during the 105th Congress. The award, distributed this fall, was presented to 190 Representatives and 41 Senators.

The award is a framed reproduction of the Works Progress Administration era poster of Yellowstone National Park. A plate embedded within the matte carries the inscription: "Friend of the National Parks, 105th Congress."

A complete list of the award winners can be found on NPCA's web site at www.npca.org.

Acadia Receives $5-Million Gift

▶Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park announced, on July 29, the most extensive private-public trails project ever undertaken in the country. Also participating in the joint announcement were Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt and National Park Service (NPS) Director Robert Stanton.

The campaign, called Acadia Trails Forever, which has a total price tag of $13 million, was sparked by a $5-million gift from Tristram and Ruth Colket, one of the largest cash gifts by living individuals to a park friends group. Acadia Trails Forever intends to rehabilitate the entire 130-mile foot trail system, restore 11 miles of unmarked trails, develop five "village connector" trails, and establish a permanent endowment at Friends of Acadia to maintain the restored system annually.

Acadia has made national park history by becoming the first in the 378-unit park system to have a privately endowed trail system.

Support NPCA Through Earth Share

▶Support your national parks by choosing NPCA in your workplace's charitable giving campaign. NPCA participates in the Combined Federal Campaign (#0910) and in many other payroll deduction campaigns through Earth Share.

Earth Share is an alliance of the country's leading nonprofit environmental and conservation organizations that promotes public education and charitable giving through workplace fund-raising campaigns. For more information about donating to NPCA through Earth Share, please visit NPCA's web site at www.npca.org/joinus/givworkplace.html, or contact Jennifer Bonnette at 800-NAT-PARK, ext. 243.

1999 Congress to Consider Visitors' Effects

▶How many visitors is too many? What types of recreation are acceptable? These are some of the questions that the 1999 Congress on Recreation and Resource Capacity hopes to answer in its four-day conference from November 29 through December 2, 1999.

NPCA is cosponsoring the Congress, which will be held at Snowmass Village in Aspen, Colorado. The goals are threefold:

▲To stimulate national awareness and dialogue among the public, private, and non-governmental sectors about the potential drain on parks' natural resources caused by overvisitation;

▲To exchange and critique the process by which decisions are made in the public and private sectors regarding recreational issues;

▲To develop resource materials that help to explain the issues related to visitation and natural resources in parks.

Interested parties can visit the Congress web site at www.cnr.colostate.edu/nrrt/capacity, or contact Coordinator Susan Scott Lundquist at 970-491-4865 or e-mail at susanlun@lamar.colostate.edu for more information.

Online Options for NPCA Members

▶Nearly 50 percent of NPCA members are currently connected to the World Wide Web and able to take advantage of various online opportunities.

Members and other interested parties can sign up for *National Park Lines*, a publication of NPCA's Park Activist Network. The goals of *National Park Lines* are to keep members and others apprised of important political activities related to the park system and provide them with the information they need to contact key decision makers. To learn how you and your friends can become more involved, visit www.npca.org or contact our grassroots staff at TakeAction@npca.org.

Members connected to the Web can also order goods by going through www.npca.org to get to www.greatergood.com, an online marketing partner that donates 5 percent of every dollar you spend to NPCA. Scores of retailers are available on the GreaterGood web site.

Glacier Covered Peaks

Part of a chain of volcanoes in the Pacific Northwest, the mountain that gives this park its name is around 1 million years old.

FRED HIRSCHMANN

THIS VOLCANO COULD erupt at any moment. One famous mountain in the vicinity erupted nearly 20 years ago. Among the wildlife seen along the more than 300 miles of trails are chickarees, marmots, pika, Steller's and gray jays, Clark's nutcrackers, elk, black bear, and mountain goats. The last national park to be dedicated in the 19th century, 100 years ago, this park boasts old-growth Douglas fir, western red cedar, and western hemlock trees comparable to the mammoth redwoods and sequoias in California. [ANSWER ON PAGE 11.]

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