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DAVID MUENCH

Colorado Plateau, page 26

EDITOR'S NOTE

I have been at NPCA for nearly a decade, since the time of the James Watt circuses, and I have seen the mood of the country shift. In the early 1980s, people thought of environmentalists as tree huggers and myopic protectors of snail darters. Now a large percentage of the population would count themselves as sympathetic to the environment, if not outright environmentalists.

Over these years, I have also learned that nothing about ecological systems is simplistic. Saving trees may imply saving spotted owls, or black bears in the Smokies. Ecosystems are integrated, complex—and fascinating. My aim as editor has been to investigate the ecological clockwork rather than stand on a soapbox. Although I am returning to Colorado, I hope the stories we publish give you even a small measure of the insight and satisfaction they have given me.

NATIONAL PARKS

Editor: Michele Strutin
Associate Editor: Yvette La Pierre
News Editor: Elizabeth Hedstrom
Editorial Assistant: Lauren Young
Design Consultant: Impress

National Advertising Office

Catherine Freedman, Advertising Manager
1015 Thirty-first St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20007
(202) 944-8530

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NATIONAL Parks

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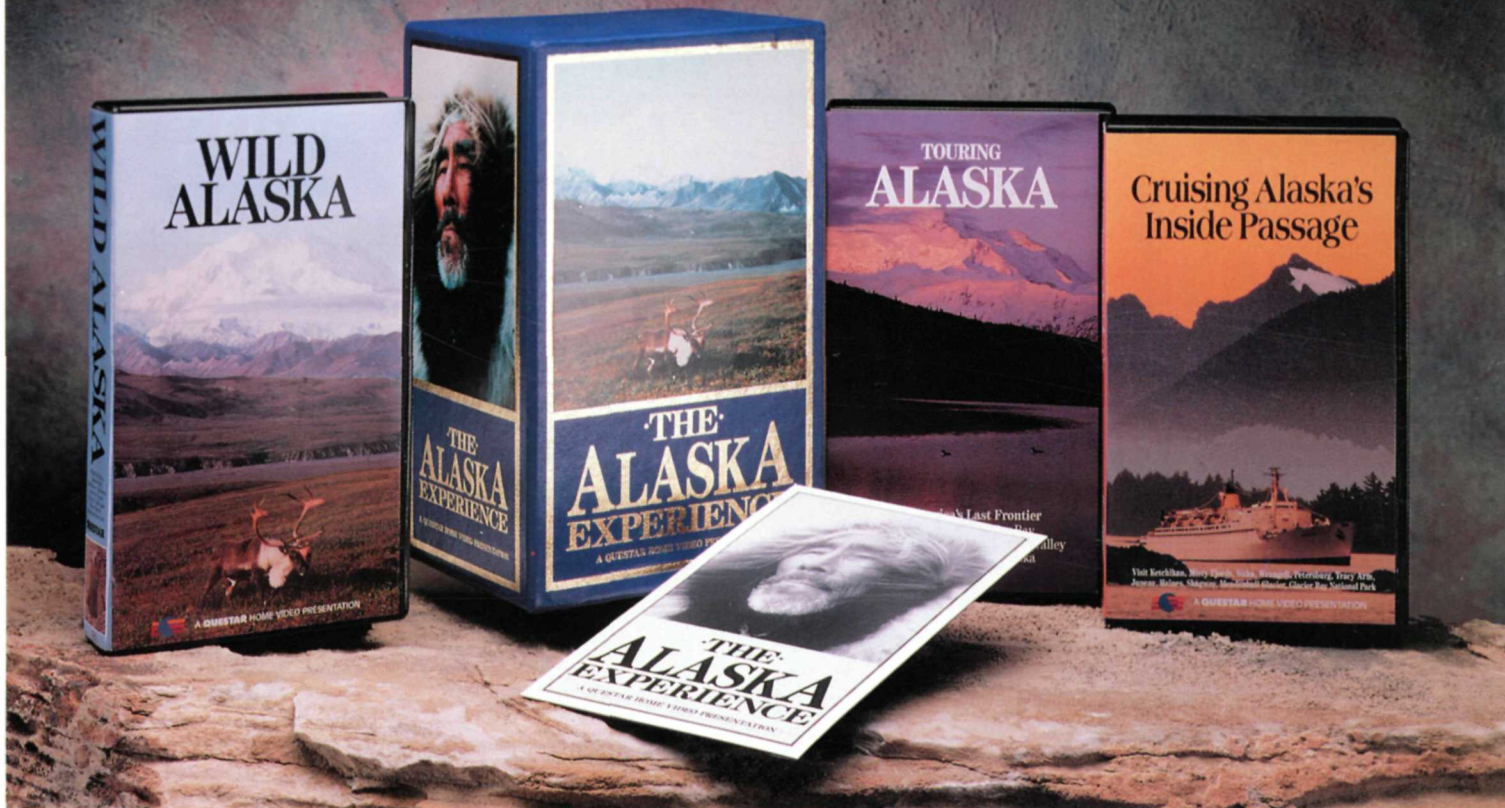
Cover: Everglades National Park, *by Carr Clifton*
After spending millions to drain the Everglades, the Army Corps of Engineers will spend millions more to undo some of the damage.

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Under New Management

WE HAVE NO PROBLEMS, just "exceptional opportunities," so my father advised me. Yet change of any type requires a sort of emotional process where one goes from recognition to reassessment, and then hopefully to understanding of the "opportunity."

So we have several "opportunities" on this Earth. First, at NPCA, our editor of nine years, Michele Strutin, is leaving for "new" family reasons to settle in Denver. Michele made an invaluable contribution to our basic *raison d'être*.

Michele joined in 1981 as a news editor and, since she became editor in 1985, she has instituted a series of improvements that have made *National Parks* a "keeper," a rare achievement for a magazine. The "opportunity" of her departure gave us no small challenge.

Fortunately, we found Sue Dodge, the editor of the prestigious *Nature Conservancy Magazine*, and she accepted the challenge to be the new editor of *National Parks*.

A second "exceptional opportunity" for the association is the dramatic increase in membership—from 60,000 two years ago to 190,000 and growing—and your responses to our membership survey. We are impressed by your concern and by your commitment, and we will report on these responses in an upcoming issue of the magazine.

Along with Earth Day and NPCA's Nature 2000 plan to save endangered species, these responses have helped us look to the future. We may need to reassess where we are going and how we are

going to get there. Because of this, your staff, your board, all of us across the nation will participate in an intensive review of our long-range plans.

Such rapid growth, however, often is accompanied by some awkwardness, and I apologize for any delay that any member has experienced. I promise that we will do everything we can to get the materials out, the questions answered, the address corrections made. We only ask for your patience and your continued commitment.

We have always felt that we must assure you, our members, that you can enjoy the wealth of resources the national parks have to offer.

That is why we put so much energy into and apply so much talent toward the magazine, our educational voice. That is why we created the Park Education Center—to make available in one place park books from every park. And that is why we have more staff devoting 100 percent of their time to national parks than all our sister environmental organizations combined.

A final point about change, and maybe the most important. If we are to bring about the needed changes in the way we share this planet with other species, we need more commitment than humanity has made in the past. We must bring the attitudes and actions of humanity under new management by using less energy, reusing more items, planting more trees, and saving more open space. Surely this is the most important, the most "exceptional opportunity" that we all share.

Paul C. Pritchard

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LETTERS

Thank You, Susan

As an American-Armenian, I was given a warm feeling when I read Susan Hanson had been involved in the emergency relief organizations that assisted Armenia after the tragic earthquake in December 1988. I thank her for all Armenians. I feel deeply for her husband and daughters and want to thank them for supporting Susan in her efforts to make this world a better place to live.

Mibran A. Aroian
Austin, Texas

Write Now

How about publishing a short section in your magazine specifically dedicated to encourage readers to write their legislators concerning national parks legislation? I would appreciate the service, and would write letters if I were better informed on specific legislation and your recommendations.

Jeff Saville
Tavares, Florida

Your wish is granted. See our new section, "Markup," on page 11.

—the Editors

Threat to Acadia

As a concerned Bucksport, Maine, citizen and member of NPCA, I am writing to you because Applied Energy Services plans to build a \$300-million, coal-burning, energy-generating plant on the banks of the Penobscot River in Bucksport. This plant would pose a serious threat to our air and water quality, especially at one of our nation's most beautiful national parks, Acadia, on Mount Desert Island, Maine.

For more information, please write: STOP, P.O. Box 1842, Bucksport, Maine 04416.

Jack Gibbons
Bucksport, Maine

The Paper Chase

The type of paper you are seeking would require extra preparation including

more chemical treatment and greater energy consumption for production. I would be willing to sacrifice reproduction quality in favor of recycled paper. While pictures in your magazine might not shine so brightly, I'll have some hope that the original subject may continue to shine in its natural environment, unthreatened by pollution and loss of habitat.

N.M. Smith
Cincinnati, Ohio

Your magazine is very interesting, but there is one problem. It's not printed on recycled paper. Could you print on paper that is newspaper-like and able to be recycled?

Rebecca Farmer
Sacramento, California

We were among a group of environmental editors who met recently to discuss the problem of finding recycled, coated paper stock suitable for four-color reproduction. Suppliers have been reluctant to enter this market. In accordance with the laws of supply and demand, we are working to make sure our demands will be met soon.

Although we have not converted our magazine to recycled stock yet, recycled paper is mandatory for NPCA business uses, and we recycle cans, newspapers, and glass.

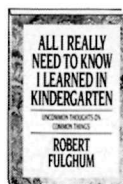
—the Editors

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

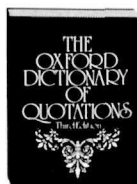
Road Query

Did you get your kicks on Route 66? We are looking for photos and short personal statements about travel along U.S. Route 66, America's Main Street, for an upcoming feature. For more information, write to the address above, Attention: Lauren Young.

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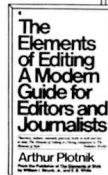
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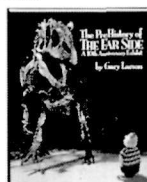
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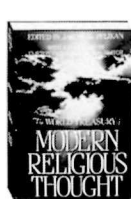


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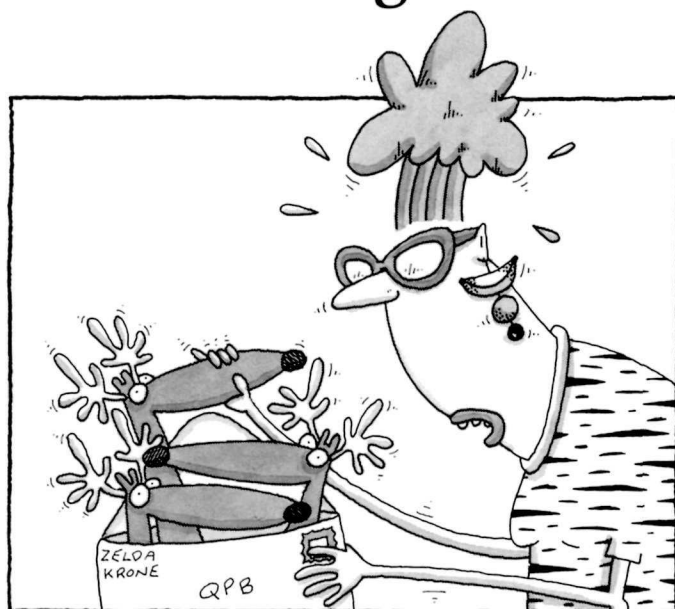
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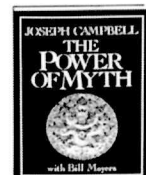
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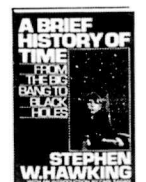
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NEWS

N P C A

RV PARK PLANNED WITHIN DENALI

A private landowner's plan to build a recreational vehicle campground within Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska poses a long-term threat to the park's wilderness character.

Dan Ashbrook, who owns 1,400 acres in the privately held Kantishna area at the end of the main park road, has declared plans to build a 200-site recreational vehicle campground there. Ashbrook also demanded that tourists be able to drive their own cars and trailers to the site. Currently, Denali visitors travel the road in tour and shuttle buses.

Ashbrook's demand may limit other public use of the road. Interior Department lawyers told Superintendent Russell Berry that the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act gives private landowners in the parks a right of unhindered access to their property that takes priority over public access.

Berry announced in June that RV traffic might make it necessary to reduce the number of vehicles on the road. To do so, he said, he would have to limit privately operated tour buses and park-run shuttle buses to the first 30 miles of the road.

For its last 58 miles, the winding, dirt-and-gravel road narrows, becoming, at times, a single lane with blind curves. Berry stated that heavier traffic would make the road dangerous and would se-

riously disrupt wildlife habitat. Studies show that increased activity on the road reduces wildlife sighting opportunities.

Berry's announcement has caused an uproar in Alaska, because it could eliminate access into the state's most popular park for everyone but visitors to Kantishna businesses. The road, which leads into the heart of the park, provides the best views of Mount McKinley, or Denali, "the great one." It is also the main

little additional traffic, and Berry has not banned any vehicles from the road.

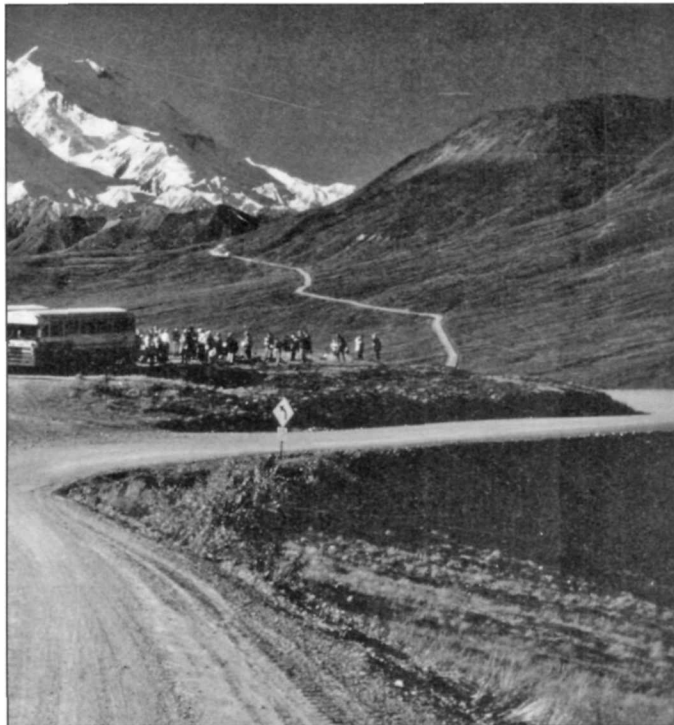
The park remains concerned that development of the RV area would bring dangerous traffic levels. "At some point we're assuming the demand will be there. We're still concerned," said John Quinley, NPS regional public affairs officer. Quinley noted that at season's end last fall, when Denali opened the entire road for two days to park visitors in private cars, 1,400 cars arrived the first morning.

After Ashbrook constructs the 200-space campground, he plans to lease it to his fiancée, Valerie Mundt, who would operate it. Ashbrook's ex-partner, Roberta Wilson, challenged his plans in court this summer. Wilson charged that Ashbrook was violating the terms of their parting settlement, in which he agreed not to use his land for tourism purposes.

At a hearing this summer, a judge ordered Ashbrook and Mundt to restructure their business relationship. When they have done so, Wilson's challenge will not prevent development of the site.

Tourist facilities have operated at Kantishna, a former mining district, since the 1950s. When Denali was expanded in 1980, Kantishna landowners

held on to their property, which fell within the park's borders. Since then, the area's five private lodges have kept development small scale and have had an informal agreement with the park that their guests would travel in by bus.



STEVE KAUFMAN

Private RV use on the Denali road could be hazardous.

route for wildlife watching and the starting point for trips into the backcountry.

Since July, private motorists have been able to drive to Kantishna if they can prove they have a business or tourism purpose there. So far, there has been

The arrangement protected wildlife by limiting traffic and gave all visitors a way into the heart of the park, while allowing for landowners' legal right to transport visitors. Ashbrook upset the balance, however, by demanding individual road access for his guests.

"This conflict is symptomatic of the problems that more than two million acres of privately owned land in the national parks can cause," said David Simon, NPCA natural resources coordinator. "Development of this sort in the middle of Denali will open the door to continued diminishment of wilderness and commercialization of the parks."

Berry recommends that the government buy Ashbrook's property. Ashbrook has indicated willingness to sell. NPCA is working for congressional allocation of funds for the purchase.

PLANS FOR FUTURE OF YELLOWSTONE RELEASED

The federal government released two preliminary plans for the future of the Yellowstone area this summer. One report maps out long-range goals for the area, and the second plans the way its parks will be managed in winter. Since Yellowstone was the first national park, plans for its future may be precedent-setting.

In the *Vision for the Future of the Greater Yellowstone Area* report, federal land management agencies for the first time collectively established their goals for the area, which consists of Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway linking them, and six surrounding national forests.

The plan states that its fundamental goals are to conserve the area's "sense of naturalness" and the integrity of its ecosystem, and to encourage biologically and economically sustainable uses of the land. To this end, the report says, the first consideration in any decision will be its environmental impact, and the agencies will work together from the perspective of "ecosystem management," treating the area as a single biological system. NPCA has encouraged NPS to manage parks

from this perspective.

Crucial to the future of Yellowstone and Grand Teton will be the kind of balance the plan achieves between conservation and sustainable development. The plan stresses that opportunities for recreation and development, including logging, grazing, and mining, will continue, but that these uses will be "designed in ways that are sensitive to other resource values and uses of the land."

"While the plan places the preservation of natural values as the foremost goal of management," said Terri Martin, NPCA Rocky Mountain regional director, "it still allows mining, drilling, grazing, and logging. The real issue is whether federal management of these activities will be consistent with the formal goal of preservation."

The draft report will be open to public comment until October 14. Please encourage the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee (Box 2556, Billings, MT 59103) to release a final version of the report, due later this winter, that keeps conservation as its chief goal.

The second report released this summer responds to the 500 percent increase in winter visitors to Yellowstone



TED WOOD

Since 1971, the number of winter visitors to Yellowstone has quintupled.

area parks since 1971. This new pressure led NPS to develop a "winter use plan" that will guide management of winter activities for the next ten to 15 years. The plan may be influential as other parks encounter more winter visitors.

The most contentious issue the plan addresses is the proposed 370-mile Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail,

NEWSUPDATE

▲ **Clean Air.** The clean air bills passed earlier this year by the House and Senate are now in conference, where differences between them will be resolved. It is not clear yet whether strong measures, including one to protect national parks from air pollution, will survive the process.

▲ **Ranger slain.** Gulf Islands National Seashore Ranger Robert L. McGhee, Jr., was killed May 31 while on duty. McGhee stopped two escaped convicts when they ran a stop sign in a stolen pickup truck. As McGhee approached the truck, one of the men fired six rounds at him, and the two fled the scene. Minutes later, they were apprehended, and McGhee was declared dead by a local coroner.

▲ **Battlefields.** In July, Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan announced a Civil War Battlefield Protection Initiative. The program will coordinate federal, state, local, and private efforts to preserve threatened battlefields.

▲ **Coastweeks.** COASTWEEKS, an annual series of events held to educate the public about the nation's coastlines, takes place September 15 to October 8. Contact the Coastal States Organization at (202) 628-9636 for more information.

▲ **Award.** Each year, the Public Lands Foundation gives its Outstanding Public Lands Professional Award to an active or recently active BLM employee. Send nominations by November 15 to Ed Zaidlicz, 724 Park Lane, Billings, MT 59102.

which would stretch from central Wyoming to northern Yellowstone. In the plan, the Park Service supports construction of a 40-mile-long "roadside" route through Grand Teton National Park. Conservationists have opposed the route because of its safety, environmental, and budget impacts.

"Placing snowmobilers on the shoulder of a highway is dangerous. It's almost inevitable that some will slide off the trail and collide with traffic," Martin said. She also cited the trail's cost—\$2-3 million for construction and \$250,000 yearly for maintenance—in a time of tight NPS budgets.

NPS faces intense political pressure over the issue. In May Senator Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.) accused it of stalling on the matter and stated that he would introduce legislation mandating construction of the trail through Grand Teton if NPS action was not forthcoming. He and other snowmobile boosters believe the trail would aid the local economy.

Martin applauded a proposal to close the "Potholes" area of Grand Teton to snowmobiling, where it has been permitted despite general NPS policy, and encouraged NPS to extend its process of evaluating visitor impacts on parks.

The Park Service held the winter use plan open for public comment this summer. It expects to release the final version by the end of the year.

SPOTTED OWL DECLARED THREATENED SPECIES

In June, the Interior Department formally declared the northern spotted owl a threatened species. The move means new protections for the embattled bird, which inhabits the last stands of old-growth forest in the Pacific Northwest, contained chiefly on Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service land.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the bird as threatened throughout its range in northern California, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. Starting in July, federal agencies must make sure that activities they authorize, fund, or carry out are not likely to jeopardize



ART WOLFE

The spotted owl inhabits the Pacific Northwest's remaining old-growth forest.

dize the owl's continued existence.

The owl has become symbolic of the battle over the remaining old-growth forest. Activists seek to prevent further logging of old-growth Forest Service lands, which make up 70 percent of the owl's remaining habitat. Beginning in 1991, the Forest Service will have to consult with Fish and Wildlife before leasing lands to timber companies, to ensure that the action will not jeopardize the species and that actions that would injure owls are modified.

Conservationists hope the listing will slow fragmentation of the owl's habitat. While Olympic, North Cascades, and Mount Rainier national parks in Washington and Crater Lake National Park in Oregon all contain protected owl habitat, the birds depend upon a much broader territory that includes the national forests and BLM land.

The disappearance of these forests means owls would become isolated in the parks, with neither enough range nor a large enough genetic pool. If too much neighboring old-growth is lost, according to the Fish and Wildlife report accompanying the listing decision, currently protected habitat will not insure the long-term survival of the owl.

An interagency scientific team, commissioned last fall to develop a strategy for

protecting the owl, recommended banning logging on three million additional acres. Because of administration opposition, however, BLM and the Forest Service will develop their own plans rather than implement the scientific findings.

Meanwhile, the National Park Trust, an independent organization established by NPCA, is working to acquire owl habitat at Olympic.

INTERIOR CRITICIZES CONCESSIONER DEALINGS

National park concessions have become a controversial issue recently. Many large concessioners make enormous profits from food, lodging, and other services they are licensed to provide within parks, but return little of that profit to the parks, say government officials.

Last spring, the Interior Department's Inspector General released a report showing that in 1988 concessioners sold \$490 million in goods and services, but paid only \$12.5 million in licensing fees to the government, an average of 2.5 percent. Fees are set in contracts that can run for as long as 30 years.

Inspector General James Richards outlined his findings before a House subcommittee in May and a Senate sub-

committee in July. He said that when contracts do come up for renewal, current concessioners are given renewal preference by law and there is little attempt to foster competition.

Richards also reported that the Park Service rents buildings to concessioners at rates well below fair-market value. Furthermore, he stated, parks often reduce licensing fees in exchange for concessioners' construction projects.

These projects generally benefit concessioner operations, however, rather than parks themselves. Because concessioners gain ownership rights in these projects, NPS must repay them for the cost of reconstruction, minus depreciation, if it terminates their contracts.

Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan, who called for the Inspector General's report and for an NPS task force on the issue, is proposing changes in the way the Park Service handles concessions. Lujan has said that he will raise licensing fees to as much as 22 percent of gross receipts and also promised that NPS would review fees more often, grant contracts for shorter periods of time, and reduce concessioner ownership of facilities.

In testimony before Congress, NPCA President Paul Pritchard recommended changes in the concessions system. Pritchard stated that fees need to be increased, with the proceeds going to the National Park System. At present, all concessions fees go to the U. S. general treasury. He also stated that there should be more competition for contracts.

Pritchard recommended that more consideration be given to placing concessions facilities at the edge of parks or in adjacent towns, rather than in ecologically sensitive areas of parks.

Members of Congress expressed concern over the concessions issue at the hearings. Because the current session of Congress is nearly over, however, no legislation addressing the issue is likely to be passed this year.

In its early years, the Park Service used favorable contracts to attract concessioners, with the hope that they would, in turn, attract visitors to the fledgling parks. Since World War II, visitors to the parks have increased 15-fold, providing a profitable market.

FOUNDATION GIVES LAND TO SEVEN PARK SITES

In the next year, the Richard King Mellon Foundation will give the Interior Department more than 100,000 acres of land, enabling it to expand seven national park sites. It is the largest such gift ever made to the government.

The first of the land transfers took place in July, when Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan accepted the deed to the Antietam cornfield. The cornfield, which will be added to Antietam National Battlefield in Maryland, was an important battle site in the bloodiest single day of the Civil War.

Later in the month, Lujan also formally accepted part of the Forked Lightning Ranch in New Mexico, purchased from actress Greer Garson. The land, which reflects the Southwest's Native American, Spanish, and frontier history, will create Pecos National Historical Park from a smaller national monument.

The Conservation Fund used \$21 million from the Mellon Foundation to purchase the properties, which also include new areas for three other Civil War parks: Gettysburg National Military Park, Petersburg National Battlefield, and Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania National Military Park. The donations will also expand Shenandoah National Park

MARKUP

KEY PARK LEGISLATION*

Bill	Purpose	Status
Petroglyph/Pecos H. R. 945, S. 286 H. R. 4235, S. 2254	Create Petroglyph National Monument to preserve ancient rock art, expand Pecos National Monument to national historical park.	Signed into law by President Bush in June.
Gettysburg H. R. 3248, S. 1594	Add sites connected with the battle's major actions.	Both bills have passed; awaits president's signature.
Selma-to-Montgomery trail H. R. 3834, S. 2067	Designate the route of the 1965 Selma-to-Montgomery voting rights march for study as a national historical trail.	Signed into law by President Bush in July.
American Heritage Trust Act H. R. 876, S. 370	Provide stable funding for national, state, and local parklands and recreation facilities. NPCA supports.	House Interior Committee approved H. R. 876 in 1989; S. 370 is in Senate subcommittee. Both have strong support, face stiff opposition.
Park Service re-organization H. R. 1484, S. 844	Reduce political manipulation of NPS. NPCA supports.	H. R. 1484 passed in 1989; S. 844 remains in Senate subcommittee.
California Desert H. R. 780, S. 11	Designate 8.5-million-acre wilderness, create Mojave National Park, and expand Death Valley, Joshua Tree national monuments to national parks. NPCA supports.	Stalled in subcommittees due to opposition from mining and ranching, and ORV users.
Park boundaries H. R. 3383	Instruct NPS to study boundaries of more than 25 parks and recommend changes. NPCA supports.	Approved by House Interior committee in May.
Glen Canyon Dam H. R. 4498	Require Interior to stabilize flow from dam within 90 days, to minimize damage to Grand Canyon. NPCA supports.	Passed by House in July. Senate bill is before Energy and Natural Resources Committee.
Niobrara Scenic River, Nebraska H. R. 3823, S. 280	Designate 76 miles of the Niobrara as scenic river and portions of the Missouri as recreational river. NPCA supports.	S. 280 passed in November and H. R. 3823 in June. Differences between them must now be resolved.

* NPCA is currently working on more than 80 bills.

and Rocky Mountain National Park, as well as two wildlife refuges in North Carolina and one in Maine.

In its 1988 *National Park System Plan*, NPCA specified virtually all the areas as crucial to preserving the natural and historical integrity of the parks. Several of the Civil War park sites, now surrounded by high-development areas, have been particularly threatened.

"We laud the Conservation Fund and the Mellon Foundation for the key difference they have made to the future of these national parks," NPCA President Paul Pritchard said.

Tight federal budgets have made land purchases by private groups an important conservation tool. Even when Congress passes legislation to expand a park, funds to purchase the land may not be available, as at Pecos. In other cases, private land purchases can preserve threatened land while expansion legislation is pending in Congress, as was the case at Gettysburg.

BOARD CONSIDERS LONGER RUNWAY IN PARK

When the final report on noise impact arrives this fall, the Jackson Hole Airport Board will decide whether to request an extension of the airport's runway within Grand Teton National Park. NPCA and other environmental groups are opposed to the plan because it would mean further encroachment on the park.

Two drafts of the study already released suggest that extending the runway 1,700 feet to the north will decrease noise levels in residential areas to the south but will increase noise in the park. The major reason for the noise increase is that aircraft would be flying lower as they make their north-south approach to the extended runway.

As the only airport within a national park, one condition of the Jackson Hole Airport's lease agreement with the Department of Interior was for the Airport Board to look at all possible means to

continually reduce noise impacts on the park.

Technology has worked in the park's favor, producing quieter planes that have reduced noise levels at the airport by two-thirds. Consequently, NPCA has recommended that the Interior Department adjust the current noise standards downward to reflect the availability of quieter aircraft.

Airport officials want to extend the runway for safety reasons. The Federal Aviation Administration, however, has declared the current airport runway length to be in full compliance with safety standards.

"A major motive for extending the runway is not safety," said Terri Martin, NPCA's Rocky Mountain regional director. "It is to allow aircraft to carry more passengers per plane." A longer runway also could accommodate larger, noisier planes.

If officially requested, approval of the extension will require amending the lease, which specifically disallows runway extension, and most likely a full environmental impact statement (EIS), said Marshall Gingery, assistant superintendent at Grand Teton.

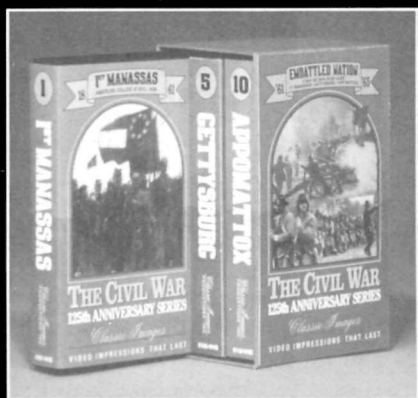
"Noise is not the only aspect to consider," he added. "An EIS would review impacts of wildlife and other environmental issues."

CANADIAN MINE POSES THREAT TO GLACIER BAY

Development of a copper mine in British Columbia is threatening one of North America's wildest and most majestic areas, including Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, located about 50 miles downstream from the project.

Despite strong opposition from local residents and conservation groups, Geddes Resources Limited, a Canadian-based mining development company, has begun exploration work to mine copper and other metals near the Alaska and Yukon borders. While the project could bring jobs and a multi-billion dollar industry to the region, local residents and conservation groups are alarmed that development will impose severe

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environmental hazards on the area.

The Tatshenshini and Alsek rivers are most vulnerable to the project, said Mary Grisco, NPCA's Alaska representative. The Tatshenshini's headwaters are located in the Yukon Territory and the river flows down through British Columbia toward Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. Farther south, it flows into the Alsek, which runs through the northern sliver of Glacier Bay.

To develop the mine in absolute wilderness, Geddes must construct a 70-mile highway that would sustain trucks carrying more than 500,000 tons of toxic ore and nearly 20 million gallons of fuel annually. The company also plans to excavate the 6,200-foot Windy Craggy mountain to build the mine pit.

"The move to mineralize the area is incredible," Grisco said. "The Geddes officials are talking about moving a mountain. This sounds like science fiction but it is real."

The scenic "Tat" is considered by American Rivers as one of the ten most endangered rivers in the United States. Grizzly bears, mountain goats, wolves, Dall sheep, and bald eagles populate its pristine river valley in record numbers.

The Windy-Craggy deposit is in de facto wilderness, which means the area around the site has not been designated for protection. However, Windy Craggy is surrounded by nearly 20 million acres of protected land and, if preserved, the territory would link parks in Alaska and Canada to form the world's largest international park. Conservation groups want the area protected, but no legislation has been introduced.

Environmentalists fear local ecosystems will be threatened by acid mine drainage and the flow of hazardous material, such as cyanide and fossil fuels, through the river area. At Glacier Bay, the project could disturb fish and wildlife habitats and disrupt recreational opportunities such as world-class rafting.

In July, the Canadian government rejected Geddes' development proposal because of overwhelming public opposition and problems with the mine drainage system. But the company already has installed a 5,000-foot air strip and a base camp currently is in operation.

NEW YORK PLANS BROAD CONSERVATION ACTION

The state of New York is considering two landmark conservation proposals. A commission on the state's Adirondack Park has made sweeping recommendations for the park's future. The state has also proposed an environmental bond act of nearly \$2 billion.

The land within Adirondack Park, the

largest natural area in the East, is 40 percent public, kept "forever wild," and 60 percent private, including small towns, timber land, and resort areas. Since the 1970s park land-use laws were written, pressure has grown for timber lands to be sold and developed.

The commission proposed increasing public land in the park by 650,000 acres and creating a new 400,000-acre wilderness area. It made plans to preserve pri-

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vately owned open space through strict limits on construction and conservation easements on sensitive areas.

At this writing, Governor Mario Cuomo had not decided what action he would take on the proposals.

The 21st Century Environmental Quality Bond Act will be before New York voters in November. Cuomo and state legislators have approved the \$1.975 billion bond issue. It provides \$800 million for land acquisition, including Adirondack land, and \$175 million for new parks and historic restoration projects in the 1990s. The New York Parks and Conservation Association is leading a campaign for the act.

"It addresses pressing needs," NYPCA Director Richard White-Smith said. "Without action soon, the opportunity will be lost forever to acquire and protect irreplaceable pieces of landscape."

WOLF RETURN STUDY PREDICTS FEW PROBLEMS

A recent study released by the National Park Service and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service concludes that wolves can be reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park with little damage to the park's other animal populations or to livestock

on nearby ranches.

The two-year "Wolves for Yellowstone?" study, mandated by Congress, has accelerated the movement to return the Rocky Mountain grey wolf to the park, from which it was eradicated more than 50 years ago.

Senator James McClure (R-Idaho) is sponsoring a bill that calls for the release of three pairs of wolves into Yellowstone within two years, and another three into central Idaho. Last year Representative Wayne Owens (D-Utah) introduced a bill calling for an environmental impact statement on returning wolves to the park.

The issue of reintroducing wolves to Yellowstone is highly controversial. Ranchers have long expressed concern that wolves would prey on their livestock. The study found that wolves would occasionally prey on livestock grazing near the park, but predicted the rate of such incidents to be low. It concluded that the area's plentiful elk and mule deer would be the primary food sources for wolves, and that other species would play only minor roles as prey.

Because of the high number of elk and deer, researchers say that it would be unlikely for wolves to pose a threat to the survival of any prey species. In fact, they believe that wolves would help stabilize

some prey populations, which go through cycles of overpopulation and starvation with natural predators gone.

The abundance of prey means that wolves would pose little competition for other predators, such as the threatened Yellowstone grizzly bear. It also means that curtailing sport hunting of elk and other species may not be necessary.

Researchers also concluded that, since wolves shy away from human contact, they would not threaten human visitors to Yellowstone or interfere significantly with recreation in or near the park.

The McClure and Owens bills propose reintroducing wolves as an experimental population. Red wolves have been successfully reintroduced to North Carolina on these terms. This status would give managers more flexibility in controlling nuisance animals.

Wolves would be considered recovered, or no longer endangered, in Yellowstone when there are ten pairs of wolves reproducing for three years in a row. The study stresses that it is unknown if a population of this size would be able to live entirely within the park or would need to extend its range onto adjacent, mostly Forest Service, lands.

McClure's bill has drawn criticism because it would limit the core recovery area to the park itself. It would also remove the wolf from the endangered species list when the initial pairs are introduced, rather than when a recovered population has been established.

Because of their fears of livestock predation, ranchers and many western members of Congress oppose wolf reintroduction. In 1989 NPS eliminated several education programs on the subject. Senators Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.) and Conrad Burns (R-Mont.) had charged that the programs were biased in favor of reintroduction. In April, NPS banned sales at Yellowstone and Glacier national parks of a poster depicting wolves in Yellowstone.

An important part of Yellowstone's original ecosystem, the park's wolves were exterminated as part of government policy in the early decades of this century. Alaska and Minnesota are presently the only states in which wolves are not an endangered species.



ERWIN AND PEGGY BAUER

Experts say returning grey wolves to Yellowstone would have few negative effects.

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An American Impression

***WEIR FARM, CENTER OF AMERICAN IMPRESSIONISM,
PROPOSED AS A HISTORICAL PARK***

BY SENATOR JOSEPH LIEBERMAN

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, American artist J. Alden Weir urged Theodore Robinson, a fellow artist and a friend, to “get acquainted with . . . grow up with” a particular place of his own.

For Weir, who was the central figure in the American Impressionist movement, his farm was not only home, but sanctuary. He was eager for his friends to know the inspiration of place, and he shared his own home freely.

An entire movement of American art may be said to have grown partly out of Weir’s vision and generosity. His New England farm became a home away from home and an inspiration to most of the great painters of the day. John Twachtman, Childe Hassam, John Singer Sargent, Albert Pinkham Ryder, Theodore Robinson, and many other artists visited and painted there.

Those who labor now to save Weir Farm seem imbued with the same spirit. Weir’s descendants, artists, the National Parks and Conservation Association, the Trust for Public Land, the Nature Conservancy, and I, among others, have been working to protect Weir’s legacy as a national historic landmark and part of the National Park System.

My bill, S. 2059, which passed the Senate and is pending in the House, would protect Weir Farm—the house, furnish-

ings, paintings, barns, and studios—and 62 acres of the New England landscapes that inspired these artists.

The American Impressionists sought to illuminate our everyday lives, using techniques of light and color developed by French Impressionists. J. Alden Weir, along with Childe Hassam and John Twachtman, formed a group that was known as “the Ten.” Not entirely in concord with the French Impressionists nor with the art establishment in America, these painters began exhibiting their unique blend of Impressionist techniques and American landscapes.

Their friendship was important to the

tory,” “The Border of the Farm”—even the titles of his paintings tell us something of the importance of place and our relationship to it. It is this clear sense of place that defines much of what the movement known as American Impressionism was all about.

It was a movement in American painting that pulled away from the grand and often-awed vision characteristic of the Hudson River School of painters. Weir and his colleagues may have shared with the Hudson River School a sense of nature as divine, but their paintings are not about the grand sweep of river or fearsome cliffs.

The rolling hills of Connecticut, the harbors, and old mill towns provide a more immediate and reciprocal view of our relationship to the natural world, a kind of negotiation, perhaps, that implies responsibility.

For these painters, many of them week-enders from New York, nature provided retreat. It was also something to be nurtured and cultivated. Thus, American Impressionist landscapes tend to include or imply boundaries—stone fences, neighbors, farmlands. Nature often is domesticated in scenes of cut flowers, a donkey ride, laundry suspended between two trees.

The American Impressionists portrayed each other’s children and themselves as well as their barns, ponds, houses, and gardens. But it would be a mistake to think them wholly tame or even wholly similar.

Weir’s farm became an inspiration to the great painters of the day.

development of the movement, and much of that friendship was nurtured at Weir’s farm in what is now Wilton and Ridgefield, Connecticut.

The paintings of J. Alden Weir (1852-1919) drew on the New England landscape, and his images may have helped to create the way most Americans think of that landscape. “The Laundry,” “Building a Dam,” “The Willimantic Thread Fac-

Bright color and movement and the visible strokes of a Childe Hassam painting suggest dance, a musical composition. Next to it, John Twachtman’s evocation of a frozen brook, a thin tree branch against the snow, the grey-white gauzy light of a New England winter suggests a subtle image in a poem.

In joint testimony supporting S. 2059, the National Parks and Conservation

Association and other conservation organizations said, "Today, arriving at Weir Farm is like entering a time warp. Stone walls, rustic picket fences, and fine old maple trees define the fertile fields."

"A cluster of picturesque barn-red clapboard buildings, the home and studio of one of America's most important artists, beckons visitors to enter. Inside his house and studio, visitors view the artist's tools and belongings and feel the spirit of place."

Weir acquired this farm in 1882. He commuted from New York City week-ends and summers until he moved there permanently. A great deal of the original Weir Farm, including the studios, barns, and houses, is still intact today.

When Weir died in 1919, his farm went to his daughter, Dorothy, who married painter and sculptor Mahonri Mackintosh Young, a great-grandson of Brigham Young. He built an additional studio on the farm, and plaster casts for his sculpture remain at Weir Farm today.

Young shared with the Impressionists a sense of place. In fact, one of his greatest achievements is the monument in Salt Lake City to the pioneers who settled Utah. The sculpture is titled "This is the Place."

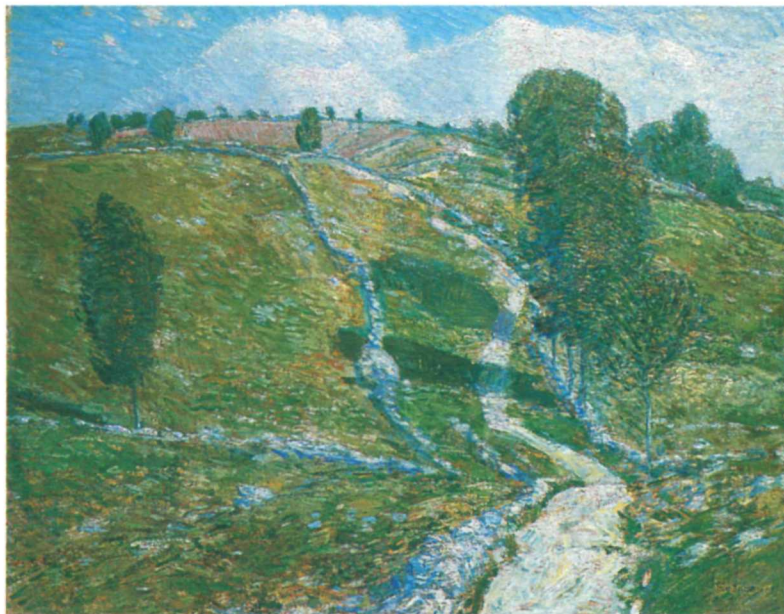
Young died in 1957 and the farm then went to Sperry and Doris Andrews, painters and friends of Young. They live there still.

Three generations of working artists and their families cared for and were inspired by Weir Farm, and the Andrews believe in the cultural value of this legacy. It was they who started the movement to permanently preserve the farm for the public.

In 1984, nearly a hundred years after Weir first acquired it, his farm was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Six years ago, the Andrews asked the Trust for Public Land to purchase what they could of the original

farm in cooperation with the descendants of Weir and Young. Simultaneously, local residents, selectmen, state legislators, conservationists, and art lovers formed what is now known as the Weir Farm Heritage Trust.

The Weir Farm Heritage Trust has been instrumental in protecting and managing the farm until a permanent administrator can be found for the farm. The Trust is also committed to continuing its fund-raising role so that a collection of art may be acquired and displayed at the site.



The Connecticut State Legislature was so moved by the special quality of this site that it put up approximately \$4.25 million to purchase 60 of the 62 acres of Weir Farm. Should my legislation pass, the farm's core two-acre parcel—containing Weir's house, barn, and studios—will be owned by the National Park Service.

With the adjacent Weir Preserve owned by the Nature Conservancy and a connected tract of protected open space owned by the town of Ridgefield, the site now covers close to 175 contiguous acres. This may not seem like much land to park lovers in the West, but to Connecticut, it is a significant amount of open space.

The thought of a historical site that is devoted to a painter and interpreted by his own paintings has excited everyone

who has been involved with the effort to preserve Weir Farm. Because Weir was so successful during his lifetime, he did not have to sell many of his paintings and, thus, his family still owns a large collection of his work.

The Weir and Young families, which have been critical to the success of saving Weir Farm thus far, have also begun to donate important works of art to the Weir Farm Historical Trust. These works of art would be displayed at the farm.

At present, only one National Park System site is dedicated to an American artist, the sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens' home in New Hampshire. The J. Alden Weir Farm would be the only site in the country to commemorate an American painter.

The preservation and interpretation of Weir Farm provide us with a rare opportunity to study the development of a movement in American art that may have forever defined New England to most of America.

That American Impressionism was a movement that was based in

generosity and nurtured in friendship is all to the good.

By honoring the vision of J. Alden Weir and the land he loved so well, we commemorate some of our own best instincts toward our cultural heritage and the natural world.

As Young's son, Mahonri Sharp Young, said, "This particular spot in Ridgefield is one of the most important places in the history of American art. . . the Farm is the landscape of American Impressionism. . . . It was life in art, and the actual scene is still there, absolutely unchanged. . . . It is the Great Good Place."

Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) serves on the Environment and Public Works Committee. As attorney general of Connecticut, he made environmental enforcement the cornerstone of his office.

Branchville, the neighborhood surrounding Weir's 238-acre farm, was central to Weir's artistic vision and provided the subject matter for many of his pioneering landscapes.

An American Impression



THE LAUNDRY, BRANCHVILLE, J. ALDEN WEIR, c.1884. PRIVATE COLLECTION



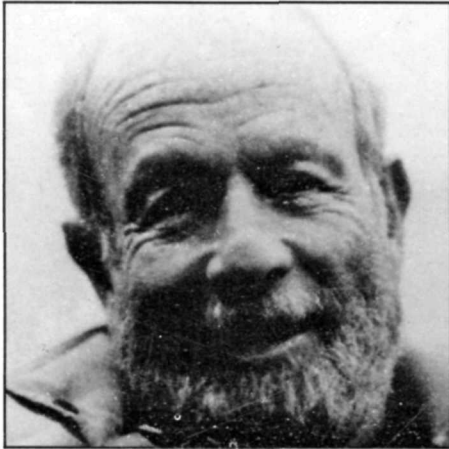
MIDDAY REST IN NEW ENGLAND, J. ALDEN WEIR, 1897. COURTESY OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF THE FINE ARTS, PHILADELPHIA

The hills, meadows, stonewalls, woodlands, and wetlands surrounding Weir Farm inspired many painters, including Childe Hassam, John Twachtman, and John Singer Sargent.

TRIBUTE TO EXCELLENCE

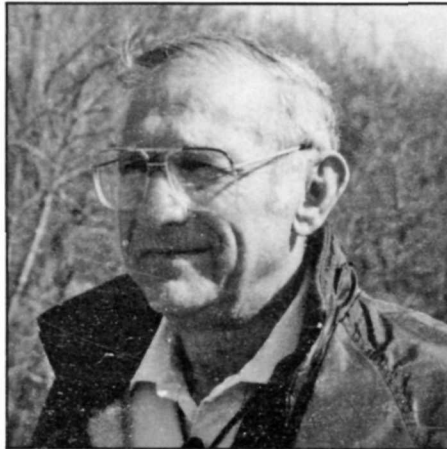
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award

The Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award is presented by the National Parks and Conservation Association and the Bon Ami Co. to recognize an individual for an outstanding effort that results in protection of a unit or a proposed unit of the National Park System. The award is named in honor of Marjory Stoneman Douglas for her many years of dedication to preserving the fragile ecosystem of the Florida Everglades.



1987 RECIPIENT

DR. EDGAR WAYBURN. For forty years, Dr. Wayburn has been a leading environmentalist. He was the principal conservation architect for the establishment of Redwood National Park and Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and for the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.



1988 RECIPIENT

ROBERT CAHN. A Pulitzer Prize winner for his Christian Science Monitor series on the state of the national parks, Mr. Cahn has also served on seminal environmental councils and, through numerous books and articles, furthered the cause of conservation.



1989 RECIPIENT

POLLY DYER. For decades, Mrs. Dyer has led the fight to protect and preserve Olympic National Park. Her activism at Olympic began in the 1950s, when she headed the effort to block logging and a coast road slated for the park. Mrs. Dyer continues her work as president of the Olympic Park Associates.

The Faultless Starch/Bon Ami Co. wishes to congratulate the recipient of this award and thank them for the excellent contribution they have made to the protection of our environment.

The Bon Ami Co. has actively supported the efforts of organizations such as National Parks and Conservation Association for over 100 years and will continue to work toward the goal of preserving our natural resources for future generations.





NATIONAL Parks CONTROL *of the* WILD

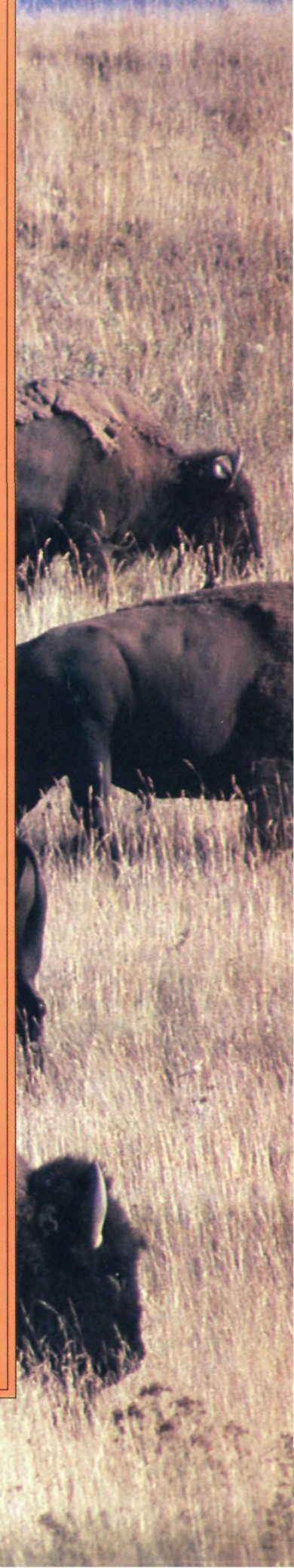
**WITHOUT
ENOUGH
LAND OR
PREDATORS,
PARK ANIMALS
MUST BE
FENCED, SHOT,
AND OTHER-
WISE MANAGED**

**BY
JOHN KENNEY**

ON A BRISK DAY last March near the town of West Yellowstone, Montana, three hunters sized up their quarry—a herd of 18 bison that had wandered out of Yellowstone National Park, six miles to the east. Each man was allotted one of the large, shaggy-headed animals slowly foraging the ground in front of them.

The bison were easy targets, but the hunters held their fire as a group of 11 animal-rights activists tried in vain to herd the creatures back toward the park, and sanctuary. While state game wardens removed protesters from the field of fire, tensions mounted. Activists implored the hunters to spare the bison, tried to block their fire, and harassed the hunters in protest, jabbing one with a ski pole.

But state officials prevailed. Each hunter took down his animal. After the kill, a protester smeared blood of a downed bison on the face of the man who shot it.



Emotions run high over the fate of Yellowstone's bison, the nation's last free-roaming herd. Each winter, the park's bison leave Yellowstone's upper meadows and deep snows to forage in wide valleys at lower elevations. Some years, a number of these respond to migratory urges and, indifferent to man-made boundaries, leave the park and enter adjacent Forest Service and private lands.

Under present policies, bison, like elk that stray from Yellowstone in winter, are fair game for hunters. For now, park officials tacitly sanction the state-run hunts, and allow that the hunts provide an acceptable curb on the population of ungulates—hoofed mammals—that thrive on the northern range of the national park.

Park managers at Yellowstone and elsewhere would prefer to leave nature to its own devices and allow natural processes, such as climatic elements, predation, and fire, to mold animal populations. But many parks have become virtual islands, isolated within miles of human-altered habitat.

Parks are fenced in by buildings and roads and surrounded by oil drilling, logging, and private lands grazed by domestic livestock. Humans have destroyed or reduced the numbers of large predators so that animal populations are often out of balance.

Because of these alterations, active, aggressive wildlife manipulation is practiced in many areas of the National Park System. Park animals across the country are fenced, trapped, poisoned, shot, and otherwise controlled.

EARLY THIS SPRING, bands of bison, a dozen to 20 in a group, meandered through the wide, grassy valleys of Yellowstone's northern range. Slowly, the dark animals moved down out of the snowy highlands. Their massive brown heads swayed from side to side, selecting choice grasses, chewing a mouthful, moving on.

Hunted to near-extinction in the last century, by the 1940s Yellowstone bison herds were husbanded back to health in the protected confines of the park. The herd numbers varied from year to year,

but the northern herd, which numbered in the hundreds, began migrating out of the park.

NPS sharpshooters culled herds to keep bison numbers manageable until 1966, when the park decided to allow natural processes, such as winter mortality, to determine numbers. The bison population slowly increased and, by 1988, they numbered about 2,700.

Local ranchers, many of whom graze livestock on public land just north of the park, feared the bison would transmit brucellosis to domestic livestock. About half the park's bison are thought to carry

lishing a public hunt of bison crossing the park boundary.

Hunters shot relatively few bison during the first few years of the hunt. During the 1987-1988 winter, for example, 39 bison were killed.

The hunt attracted national attention in January 1989 when unprecedented numbers of bison left the park. Seven previous mild winters had allowed bison numbers to swell, bringing the northern herd to about 1,000. That year, a harsh winter and heavy snows helped drive 800 bison over the national park's northern border.



In the winter, bison that stray from Yellowstone are fair game for hunters.

the disease, which causes cattle to abort their young.

Although biologists consider bison-to-cattle transmission unlikely and no cases have been documented, beginning in 1976 NPS attempted to prevent bison from leaving the park. Rangers tried herding, fences, helicopters, even recorded wolf calls to deter the animals from crossing park borders, but were largely unsuccessful. The persistent animals swam rivers to get around barriers, jumped cattle guards, and ignored hazing helicopters.

Bison that crossed the line were shot by Montana game wardens to prevent the spread of brucellosis. Then, in 1985, hunting groups secured legislation estab-

Hunters killed 569—a little more than half—of the celebrated northern herd. Yellowstone bison now number approximately 2,400, with more than 500 on the northern range; and, according to park biologists, they are in no danger of disappearing.

Although any bison that wanders past national park boundaries may be shot, park managers and the state have agreed to keep the northern herd from dipping below a core of 200 animals. According to the park, that is the approximate number the northern herd's range will comfortably hold.

Animal-rights groups consider the bison hunt unethical, and other critics consider it unsporting. But NPS deems well-

controlled public hunts a relatively humane method of reducing wildlife populations.

Critics maintain the case illustrates the arbitrary nature of national park borders, which often ignore natural boundaries, such as ridgelines and watersheds, and slice through animal habitat, such as the territorial range of the grizzly—or the bison.

"The bison execution is a threat to the concept of ecosystem management," said George Wuerthner, a spokesman for the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, a local environmental group.

"There is no reason why those animals shouldn't be permitted to winter on public land."

Wuerthner charges that a whole range of options has not been examined. For instance, ranchers who graze livestock on public lands could inoculate their animals against brucellosis. Or Yellowstone National Park could ship excess bison to

reduced to less than two percent of its original range, the prairie dog, a foot-long, light-colored burrowing rodent, is still a prolific animal.

Where prairie dogs exist, biological diversity often increases. Many plants eaten by prairie dogs respond with increased growth. Also, prairie dogs provide abundant prey for badger, fox, and coyote. The highly endangered black-footed ferret, which is no longer found in the park, fed almost exclusively on prairie dogs.

But ranchers herding livestock on private and public lands adjacent to the two parks consider the animal a nuisance. Prairie dogs compete with cattle for grasses and leave the ground riddled with holes in which livestock can stumble and break their legs.

To prevent prairie dogs from colonizing adjacent ranches and Forest Service lands, park managers control prairie dog numbers within park borders. When

ered sterilization and other methods to reduce prairie dog numbers, these have not been well-enough researched and are not as cost effective. Reintroducing black-footed ferrets from captive-breeding programs is a distant possibility.

In addition, NPS studies show that the poison does not harm coyotes and other scavengers that feed on prairie dog carcasses. Since prairie dogs repopulate treated areas quickly, Badlands repeats the poisoning process every three years.

LIKE THE PRAIRIE DOG, the white-tailed deer is a prolific native species that has forced a strong response from park wildlife managers. In many areas of the northeastern United States, populations of white-tailed deer have been steadily increasing since the 1950s.

"Some biologists believe the deer are adapting to changing land-use patterns," said John Karish, chief scientist of the

HUNTERS KILLED 569 BISON—MORE THAN HALF THE NORTHERN HERD—IN 1989.

Native American groups and others, as do managers at Wind Cave and Badlands national parks.

"The root of the problem here is that we have taken away the bison's winter range," said Terri Martin, NPCA's Rocky Mountain regional director. "We should now be working to restore it."

Stu Coleman, Yellowstone National Park's resource management specialist, points out, "The park is drawn on political boundaries, not ecological ones. We don't own all of the pasture on the northern range. That's shared with the Forest Service and Montana's Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. There isn't any easier way to get into conflict than to have different management mandates on the same herd."

The Park Service, Forest Service, and the state of Montana are now developing a regional plan to manage park bison. Initial documents should be released for public review this year.

Managers at both Badlands and Wind Cave national parks take stronger action on another native species, the black-tailed prairie dog. Though it has been

prairie dog "towns" at Badlands appear ready to expand into adjacent lands, rangers poison the creatures with zinc phosphide, baiting the entrance to prairie-dog holes with less than an ounce of poison-coated oats. Last year, managers at Badlands National Park treated about 500 of its 3,000 acres of prairie dog towns with the substance.

Officials at Wind Cave attempt to keep prairie dog populations at about 600 to 700 acres, each acre containing 15 to 50 active holes, with several prairie dogs inhabiting each. Research shows this is the size they were when Europeans first settled the area in the late nineteenth century.

Black-footed ferrets, which used to keep prairie dogs in check, have been driven to near-extinction by the use of agricultural pesticides. So, when prairie dog numbers exceed that target, Wind Cave rangers also use zinc phosphide to poison the creatures. As at Badlands, managers concentrate their efforts on the park's edges to prevent colonization of adjacent lands.

Although the Park Service has consid-

NPS Mid-Atlantic region. "The foods they are eating now, such as corn and milo, are grown by humans and are probably not what they originally ate."

At the same time, more and more private land has been closed to hunting, as urban commuters and second-home owners have partially replaced more traditional uses, such as agriculture, with wide lawns and shrubbery. Opportunistic deer have moved in to take advantage of this plentiful and unprotected food source.

The bumper crop of deer is forcing hard choices at NPS cultural parks, battlefields, and recreation areas across the East.

Fire Island National Seashore, a 32-mile-long barrier island just off the south shore of Long Island, is located in the midst of a heavily developed area. Despite its proximity to New York City, the park contains 1,400 acres of designated wilderness and shelters a variety of animals and plants, including white-tailed deer.

Managers suspected a problem when studies of the park's deer, begun in the

early 1980s, showed a threefold population increase—from 150 to 450—in just five years.

During that period, the deer became smaller and leaner and the incidence of deformities increased—all signs of an eroding food source. Park vegetation showed evidence of overbrowsing, and complaints from neighboring communities mounted, as deer munched flowers and other ornamental vegetation.

To reduce deer numbers, park officials decided to conduct a public hunt at the seashore. (Unlike most national park areas, Fire Island's enabling legislation specifically allows hunting.)

In cooperation with the state of New York, several public hunts were scheduled between December 1988 and January 1989. In all, hunters took 60 Fire Island deer of both sexes and of varying ages.

Noel Pachta, Fire Island's superintendent, called it a controlled hunt. NPS al-

local hunting season in late fall.

"It appears as if the deer know where to go to escape hunters," said Bob Davidson, who is assistant superintendent at Gettysburg.

"This deer overpopulation is particularly damaging to the historic woodlands we have been mandated to preserve," said Acting Superintendent Frank Deckert.

Deer consume almost all new shoots and saplings in some areas, thwarting the regeneration of woods important to the parks' historic scene.

The Penn State researchers recommended that NPS marksmen immediately reduce the herd to a core of 85 to 100 animals. Although other options were considered, the other options also presented problems.

Live trap-and-transfer, for example, would be extremely costly—perhaps as high as \$3,000 per animal. Another option, the introduction of predators, such

that livestock owners from the mainland grazed stock on Assateague to duck taxation, and a few of these ponies escaped their owners, giving rise to the present population. In any case, feral ponies have had the run of Assateague since the mid-1800s.

Although NPS policies generally call for reducing species introduced by humans, the ponies are considered a living cultural resource. When the park was established in 1965, about 20 ponies inhabited the island.

In 1972, an NPS study concluded that Assateague Island could accommodate 120 to 150 ponies. Protected by the National Park Service, their numbers now hover at the top of that range and seem to be increasing.

To limit the pony population, managers decided to investigate fertility control. Researchers with the five-year-old study, funded in part by the Humane Society of America, have treated an experi-

LIKE ROTOTILLERS ON LEGS, NONNATIVE HOGS ROOT UP SOIL AT GREAT SMOKIES.

lowed about a quarter the number of hunters the state would have permitted and collected samples of organs and body parts for further research.

"Though some saw the hunt as cruelty, death by starvation is also very cruel," said Pachta.

Fire Island is now drawing up long-range plans for managing the deer herd and the vegetation upon which it feeds. Besides the hunt, options include capturing and transferring the animals.

Gettysburg National Military Park, in Pennsylvania, faces a similar situation. In January, park officials released the results of a three-year deer study at Gettysburg and the adjacent Eisenhower National Historic Site.

The study, conducted by Pennsylvania State University scientists, found approximately 1,400 animals on the parks' 4,500 acres. Pennsylvania's Game Commission recommends 65 to 70 deer for habitat of that type and size.

Fifteen years ago, 400 deer resided in the two parks. In addition, some evidence suggests that the parks' deer herds also increase up to 50 percent during the

as bobcat and coyote, would reduce the deer population, but not sufficiently.

Hunting and agriculture—as well as predators—served as historical controls on the deer's population, so new ways of controlling the population must be considered. Officials have decided to take no action on the deer until a formal environmental impact statement is completed and reviewed by the public.

RESEARCHERS AT ANOTHER PARK area are now investigating a method of population control more palatable to the public than hunting or shooting. At Assateague Island National Seashore in Maryland, researchers have developed a promising method of fertility control that could help keep the island's wild ponies in check.

"The ponies are not actually wild, but feral," explained Gordon Olson, resources management specialist at Assateague. "They are descended from domestic stock. According to legend, a herd was released to the island off a Spanish ship centuries ago."

The more likely answer, said Olson, is

mental group of 29 mares with an immuno-contraceptive. The substance, which causes the females' immune system to reject sperm, has proven highly successful in preventing conception in mares for a one-year period.

Scientists use a standard dart gun to inoculate free-ranging mares, thus eliminating the costly and disruptive step of capturing the animals. Although this research is exclusively equine, the inoculation process may be applicable to other species.

Another nonnative species—a type of European wild boar—is destroying the native ecosystem in Great Smoky Mountains National Park and, in this case, the Park Service is trying to eradicate the animal. These stocky, fierce, tusked hogs escaped from a North Carolina game preserve in the early 1920s and came to flourish in the Great Smoky Mountains.

By the 1940s they had become a menace at the park. They compete with native species such as black bears for food, especially acorns and nuts in the winter. And, like Rototillers on legs, the wild hogs root up soil, destroying vegetation.

Since 1977, managers have tried to rid the park of the pernicious boars through a combination of trap-and-transfer and shooting. At low elevations, rangers trap the animals and ship them to hunting reserves in North Carolina. At higher elevations, difficult terrain makes trapping and transporting the animals impossible, so park-trained marksmen shoot the boars.

Though the animals are prolific, these controls seem to be working. At one time, more than 1,000 wild boars ranged through 75 percent of Great Smoky National Park. During the program's 13

"There is hope for saving some of original Hawaii," said Don Reeser, superintendent of Haleakala National Park on Maui. "But it takes more than just designating an area. It takes active, aggressive management."

Officials at Haleakala have built a five-foot-high fence around the entire 28,000-acre park to keep out feral goats and pigs. The wire fence bristles with barbed wire at top and bottom to prevent jumping and burrowing.

Through a campaign begun in the 1930s, but stepped up in 1983, park managers have all but eliminated feral goats

marksmen. Since 1983, more than 7,000 goats have been eliminated from the park and fewer than 20 remain.

Haleakala officials say the silver-sword is beginning to make a comeback. Down to perilously low numbers 20 years ago, approximately 50,000 of the plants now flourish within the national park.

Fences, however, do not keep out feral cats, rats, and mongooses, and rangers have set traps for these predators near nesting sites of rare birds, such as the Hawaiian goose.

Similarly, Canyonlands National Park in Utah must keep its near-relict herd of desert bighorn safe from disease-bearing domestic animals on park borders. Park biologist Tim Graham wonders if it is possible to have a natural herd with so much of its habitat changed.

"What is the best way to ensure the health of the herd?" he asks. "Can we *not* actively manage? And if we have to, what is the best way? These are things we need to know."

These questions can be asked of wildlife populations throughout the National Park System. Though the Park Service prefers to allow natural processes to reign, officials are forced, more and more, to intervene.

"I'm not sure anything can be done, on a nationwide basis, short of some massive changes of thinking," said John Varley, chief researcher at Yellowstone. "If you truly wanted to prevent that, you would assure that there were green corridors connecting these places."

Park advocates point to cooperative ecosystem management as one tool for alleviating the parks' increasing isolation. Though resolving conflicting land interests can be extremely difficult, to do nothing could turn the parks into green islands, mere zoos without walls.

"I spent time in Europe recently," said Michael Ruggiero, chief of NPS wildlife and vegetation division. "Many of the parks there are tiny, postage-stamp areas containing relict species. I thought, 'This could be us 50 years down the line.'"

John Kenney, former news editor at National Parks, last wrote for the magazine on the eight most crucial environmental issues.



Wild boars compete with native Great Smoky species for food.

years, approximately 6,000 boars have been removed. And now managers estimate the park's boar population to be only several hundred.

REDUCTION OF NONNATIVE species and reintroduction of native ones is particularly important at national parks in Hawaii. Native animals and plants there evolved in isolation, and so are particularly vulnerable to disruption by nonnatives.

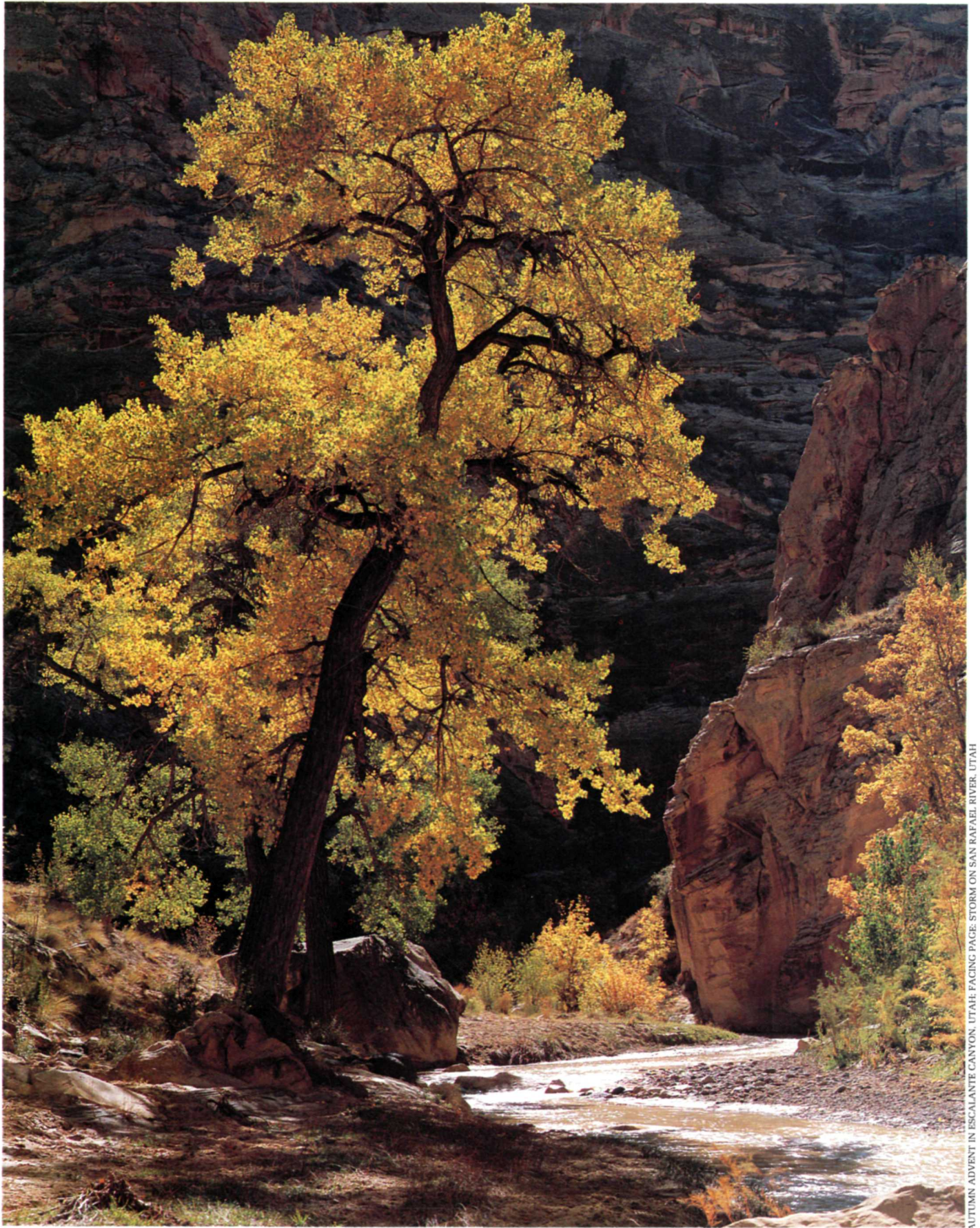
The islands' plants, for example, developed in the absence of large herbivores and so are without defenses, such as thorns. Early explorers and colonists introduced several species that park managers are attempting to drive out.

from the park, and have reduced feral pig populations to low numbers.

"At one time goats were so numerous that they had stripped heavily forested areas to bare ground," said Ted Rodriguez, of the park's resource management staff.

At particular risk was the Haleakala silversword, a rare plant that consists of dozens of thin, silver-colored leaves jutting in all directions from a short, thick stalk. The plant lives five to 20 years, flowers once, then dies. Originally abundant on Maui, feral goats grazed the plant nearly to extinction.

Managers trapped and removed both goats and pigs, but the majority were shot by NPS rangers and deputized



AUTUMN ADVENT IN ESCALANTE CANYON, UTAH; FACING PAGE: STORM ON SAN RAFAEL RIVER, UTAH

Colorado

SPRAWLING ACROSS SOUTHEASTERN UTAH, northern Arizona, northwestern New Mexico, and western Colorado, the canyon lands of the Colorado Plateau are one of the most intricate landscapes on Earth. Hidden in basins and canyons, the biota of the Colorado Plateau is as diverse and singular as the landscape itself, hosting, among others, nearly 80 species of fish and 340 species of plants found nowhere else.

For every acre of this country protected as national parkland, Utah has four equally glorious acres controlled by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Yet, these publicly owned wild lands, which surround the parks, are open to development, such as mining, grazing, and building. Conservationists are now fighting to keep these areas forever wild.

For the past decade, BLM officials in Utah have been trying to decide how much of the land merits wilderness protection. Of the 22 million acres it oversees, BLM could only find 1.9 million deserving acres.

Galvanized by BLM's decimation of roadless areas, conservationists answered with their own wilderness proposal. The Utah Wilderness Coalition (UWC), which includes NPCA, identified 5.1 million acres of BLM wild lands that deserve protection, nearly two million more than the agency had even studied. In

March 1989 Utah Congressman Wayne Owens (D) introduced H. R. 1500, which endorses the UWC's proposal for Utah.

Unlike the Bureau's fragmented and insular approach, Owens' bill would protect landforms, critical wildlife habitat, and river systems as an entire ecosystem. Preserving lands adjacent to Arches, Zion, Bryce, Capitol Reef, and Canyonlands would protect these national parks from the visual, acoustic, and air pollution that threaten them.

Renowned western author Wallace Stegner writes of this land: "The Utah deserts and plateaus and canyons are incomparable for contemplation, meditation, solitude, quiet, awe, piece of mind and body. We were born of wilderness, and we respond to it more than we sometimes realize. We depend upon it increasingly for relief from the termite life we have created. Factories, power plants, resorts, we can make anywhere. Wilderness, once we have given it up, is beyond our reconstruction."^{*}

In the pages that follow is a sampling of images from the Colorado Plateau by photographer David Muench. Some of these wild areas have already received protection. Others are in danger of being lost forever.

—Yvette La Pierre



CONSERVATIONISTS

FIGHT TO KEEP

5.1 MILLION ACRES

FREE FROM

MINING, GRAZING,

AND OTHER

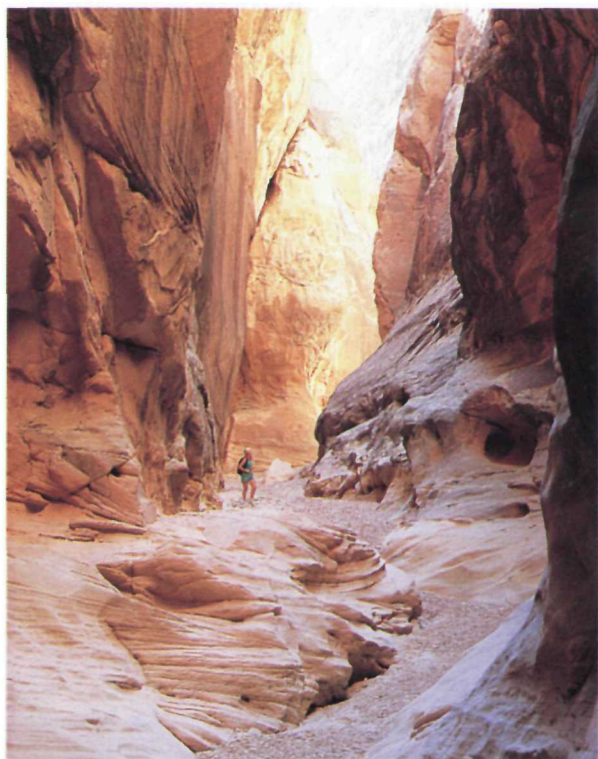
DEVELOPMENT

*EXCERPTED FROM WALLACE STEGNER'S INTRODUCTION TO *WILDERNESS AT THE EDGE: A CITIZEN PROPOSAL TO PROTECT UTAH'S CANYONS AND DESERTS*. AVAILABLE IN OCTOBER FROM UTAH WILDERNESS COALITION, P.O. BOX 11446, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84147; \$20 PLUS \$3 SHIPPING AND HANDLING.

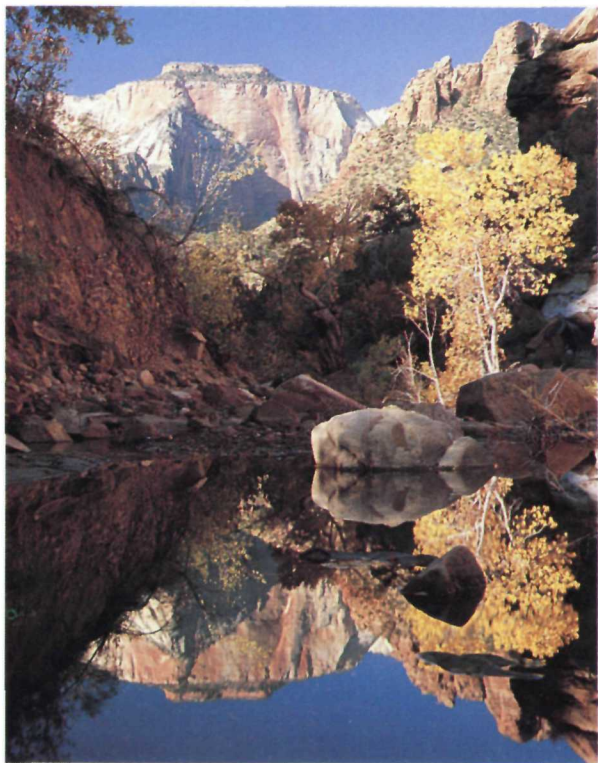
Plateau

PHOTOGRAPHS by DAVID MUENCH

The Coalition proposes 650,000 acres of wilderness for the San Rafael Swell area (top). For many of those acres, BLM places a higher value on mining and ORV accessibility. The UWC plan also includes 14 parcels of BLM land adjacent to Zion National Park (bottom), encompassing sculpted canyons, the Mojave Desert, and portions of the Great Basin.



San Rafael Swell
UTAH



Zion National Park
UTAH

Rainbow Bridge
UTAH



Of Utah's remaining wildlands, the best known, such as Rainbow Bridge National Monument, are protected within the National Park System. Other areas are jeopardized by the BLM inventory process as officials have delayed, juggled boundaries, made recommendations on the basis of a helicopter flight, and arbitrarily eliminated areas of wilderness because of development opportunities.

This pictograph in Grand Gulch, one of the biggest roadless areas, is one of thousands of remains of the Anasazi culture tucked away in the wilderness of southern Utah. Designation of the San Juan Anasazi Wilderness, including Grand Gulch, would protect archaeological treasures by keeping vandals' vehicles away from remote sites.

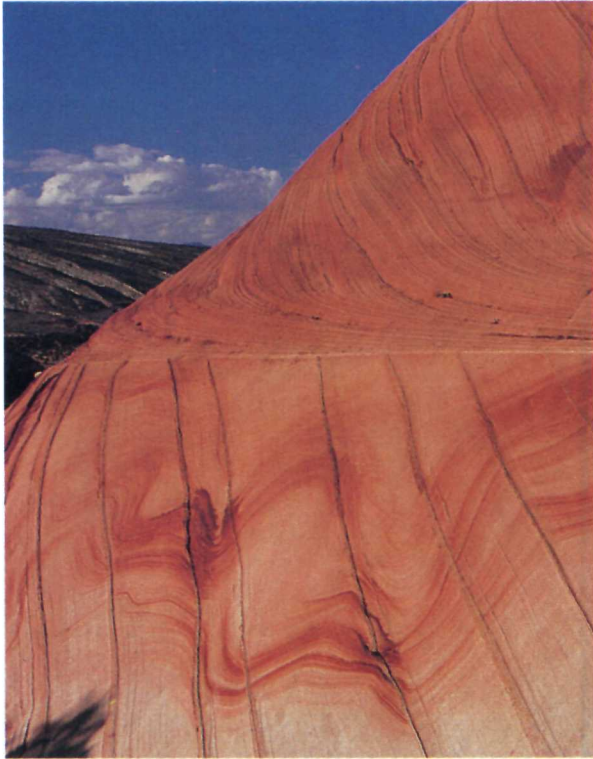


Grand Gulch
UTAH

Calf Creek Falls
UTAH



Paria
UTAH



Phipps-Death Hollow Wilderness Study Area (top, at Calf Creek Falls) lies in the heart of Utah canyonlands along the Escalante River. A few miles from the area, exploration for carbon dioxide has begun. A relatively unknown gem, the Paria Country (bottom) is one of the larger wilderness study areas. BLM has deleted parts of it, citing a coal rail-haul route; 20,000 acres of chainings, plowings, and burning; and uranium production.

ENGINEERING **THE** EVERGLADES

The Army Corps begins to undo its own damage

THERE IS AN OLD MOVIE, now hidden away in the archives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, that the Corps used in years past to explain its mission. In it, the Army Engineers point with pride to the bridges and other engineering achievements they built overseas to aid fighting men in all of the nation's wars.

As the film switches to scenes of flooded rivers and the music swells, the announcer explains the Corps' domestic role. "At home," he says, "the enemy is nature." To combat the enemy, the 1936 Flood Control Act gave the Corps responsibility for federal flood protection and immediately authorized some 250 projects.

Now, as the Corps begins to restyle itself as a protector of the environment, nature is no longer seen as a foe but as an opportunity for the engineers to expand their mission. Chief of Engineers General Henry Hatch has made the rounds of the Army Corps' 36 districts promoting an ambitious environmental agenda.

"Embracing and promoting our environmental ethic will change the way we do our traditional business," he says, as the agency strives to become "the environmental engineers of the future."

Dan Mauldin, who is the Army Corps of Engineers' chief of planning and director of civil works, says, "We see this as a big shift in how engineers will be used. There are a lot of environmental problems and not any of them are going to be

solved without an engineer. So it is a big push on our part." In southern Florida the Corps has embraced plans to restore natural water flows to Everglades National Park, to fill in canals, and tear down levees. It is the first time that the Army Engineers have undertaken an environmental restoration project of this magnitude and the first time they have ever acknowledged that at least some of what they built caused more harm than good.

"We have messed up nature, it's no doubt," says Richard Bonner, the deputy district engineer in Jacksonville. "Now we've got to use all of our skills to put things right. Our natural environment is diminishing, and we've got to protect it."

The drainage system built by the Corps—some 1,500 miles of canals and levees—made it possible to farm what was once Everglades swamp. And the system opened the way for urban development.

But it also left Florida with a legacy of polluted and declining water supplies

By Vicki Monks





SUNNY 16/KAREN LANZER



BRIEN CULHANE

The canal provides water and, like the C-111 below, flood protection for crops.

The original meandering flow directed polluted water into purifying marshes. With the "Kissimmee Ditch," city sewage and pasture runoff torpedoed into Lake Okeechobee, raising phosphorous levels and lowering levels of dissolved oxygen. As a result, algae blooms in the lake and the aquatic residents suffocate. Con-

sequently, the wading birds that once populated the Kissimmee's banks all but disappeared.

State officials have concluded that restoration of the Kissimmee is essential to protecting the future of the water supply and the ecology in southern Florida. So, at the request of the state, the Army Corps has agreed to demolish levees and fill in large sections of the canal to force water into the Kissimmee's historical channel.

The plans to restore the Kissimmee, which must still get final authorization and funding from Congress and the state, call for spending close to \$280 million. It had cost only \$35 million to build the canal originally.

It does not bother Mauldin that soon the Corps will begin to dismantle a project that he helped to engineer. "In that time we certainly didn't have anywhere near the environmental awareness that we have today," he says.

He is not admitting that the Kissimmee was a mistake, exactly. After all, from an engineering standpoint, it worked perfectly. It provided flood protection for pasture land and drained the wetlands north of Lake Okeechobee as dry as Kansas prairie, and that was exactly what Florida had asked the Corps to do. But attitudes have changed, Mauldin says, in the nation and in the Corps of Engineers.

"I think we all have an understanding and an awareness of the value of our wetlands that we couldn't have possibly had 30 years ago," he says.

The southern Florida water projects were designed to benefit agriculture and urban dwellers. Through the years the park has suffered from bombardments of water during times of flood and in dry weather from no water at all.

Even a revised water delivery schedule, set up to mimic natural rainfall patterns, has left the park with too little water. When the engineers set up the schedule, they based it on flows into the park during a 15-year period that included three of the most severe droughts on record.

Concern now is focused on the specific designs for restoration of natural water flows in the Shark River Slough and the Taylor Slough, the two main sources of water for the national park.

Last year, Congress approved legislation expanding the park by 107,000 acres to include all of the Shark River Slough. The Corps was directed to re-engineer the water supply to provide some close approximation of natural patterns.

BEFORE SOUTHERN FLORIDA was crisscrossed with a labyrinth of dikes and ditches, when summer rains fell, the water eased southward from Lake Okeechobee in a shallow river 20 miles wide. Narrowing at the southern end into the Shark River Slough, it was a river of sawgrass that played host to a multitude of species and brought a gentle, dispersed flow into what is now Everglades National Park.

The Shark River Slough was such an important source of water it originally was to have been included within the

and a dying ecosystem in Everglades National Park. Now, having spent hundreds of millions to drain the Everglades, the Corps has enthusiastically agreed to spend hundreds of millions more to undo some of the damage. "What's good for the environment is good for us," Mauldin says.

In the 1960s and early 1970s, during the height of the Corps' construction activity in southern Florida, Mauldin was a young engineer stationed in Jacksonville. He cut his teeth on the channelization of the Kissimmee River, a project that turned a hundred-mile river into a razor-straight canal half that length.

The violence that the channel had done to nature was obvious even before the project was complete. Where once the river had sluiced through wetlands in wide and graceful oxbows, the canal rushed water swiftly into Lake Okeechobee. With it came a load of sediment and pollution.

park's boundaries. But when the park boundaries were drawn, compromises were made and half of the Shark River Slough was lost.

The park ended up with half of the slough, and Dade County kept the rest for future development. An engineer in the Jacksonville office says he has researched the question and cannot fathom why such an illogical split of the slough was ever negotiated.

The land in the Dade County half of the Shark River Slough was sold off by would-be developers in what became one of the great swampland scams. More than 8,000 individual owners of these swampland plots have been identified. They are scattered throughout the nation and the world, and there are most likely many more. Only a few scattered homes were ever built in the area. The muck land, even when dried out, was an unseemly environment in which to take up residence.

It was still private property though, and the Corps decided to give it flood protection. A series of dikes and canals were built that cut the Shark River Slough down the middle.

The canals unnaturally forced water out of the deeper marshes of the slough and up onto higher ground on the western flanks of Everglades National Park. Because the soil is more porous there, much of the water is lost to evaporation and seepage. The distribution and timing of the water supply also has been disrupted, and as a result, wildlife communities have collapsed. For example, the irregular water flow drowned half of all alligator eggs in the Shark River Slough in 1988.

To the south of Shark River, the headwaters of Taylor Slough was turned almost to desert by the C-111 canal, built by the Corps so that enormous rocket parts could be ferried to the ocean from an Aerojet General plant that, to this day, has never opened for business. The dried-out land drew farmers though, whose flood protection depends upon the canal.

When floods threaten, an earthen plug at the bottom end of the C-111 is bulldozed away, and a shocking slug of fresh water pounds into the salt water

estuary of Manatee Bay. It happened last in the fall of 1988 and, for 20 square miles, crustaceans and fish could be seen floating belly up.

The results can be even more destructive when the plug is left in place. Flood waters lapping over the western rim of the C-111 shoot toward Florida Bay, the nesting ground of roseate spoonbills.

"When you start changing the drying patterns of this country you are changing the timing that food is available to spoonbills," says park biologist John Ogden. "There may be the same amount of fish in there as before, but if we delay drying so that the food concentrations don't occur, spoonbills miss their oppor-

tunity to nest." Throughout the past eight years, Ogden says, spoonbill colonies have dropped by half.

THE CORPS HAS AGREED to bulldoze the levees and fill in the Shark River canal, the L-67, but it has not considered that option for the C-111. Instead the Corps prefers to enlarge the upper end of the canal and siphon water into the Taylor Slough through pumps so that less fresh water jets through C-111.

The Corps has also ignored other options for restoration in both areas, according to several conservation groups, such as creating terraces to slow down



MAP BY DAVE MERRILL

the fresh water headed toward the estuary when the plug in C-111 is removed. NPCA and other conservation groups advocate including all the swampland around the canal into the park and restoring natural water flows.

At one point this spring, the Corps' reluctance to consider alternative plans brought a threat from state officials to do the project on their own without the help of the Army Engineers. The South Florida Water Management District is already proceeding with an interim plan to build culverts on the canal that would

allow "pulses" of fresh water to reach the saltwater estuary. According to Theresa Woody of the southeast region of the Sierra Club, the public money spent on this project may be negated as soon as the Corps comes up with their own plan.

"The ball is clearly in the hands of the Corps of Engineers, and when we see what they come up with, we will know whether they are up to the confidence that's been placed in them," says Nathaniel Reed. Reed, a former assistant secretary of Interior and Florida water board member, has done battle with the Engineers over environmental issues for more than 20 years.

"This is an opportunity of a lifetime," Reed says. "The thought that both of these systems could be rewatered rather rapidly is mindboggling. It's like Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary; that's the kind of sur-

prise it is. This is no time for faint hearts to say, 'Jeez, we've got a schedule to meet and therefore we can't look at bright options.' That's nonsense!"

The task of rewatering the dried and reconfigured swamp is unlike any other the Corps has ever attempted, and it has taken some surprising turns. The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has objected to plans for redirecting water into Shark River Slough from a water conservation area north of the park. FWS believes that taking water from the conservation area will threaten the snail kite, an endangered bird that has relocated there.

The Park Service, however, is on record with an objection to the objection. "What I don't understand," says biologist Ogden, "is if you manage the area for snail kites, you degrade it for wood storks. Both are endangered species. The only way to keep all the animals in the same system is to reestablish that old natural variability that provided some of what all these animals needed."

It may take years before all of the disputes are settled and years more before

Continued on page 44



FRANK S. BALITIS

Great blue heron in Everglades. The channelized Kissimmee River, below, contrasts sharply with its original oxbows.



BRIEN CULHANE

ACCESS

On the Road

*THE BEST SCENIC DRIVES THROUGH
AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS*

BY DOUGLAS FULMER

DRIVING FOR PLEASURE has endured as one of the nation's favorite pastimes since Americans first began their love affair with the automobile in the early part of the century. Generations of parents have packed their children into the family car on Sunday afternoon and headed out for an auto tour of the local countryside.

As Americans began to take auto vacations the federal government recognized a need for roadways especially designed for vacationing motorists. The first parkways, constructed in the early days of the century, were designed to preserve the beauty of their surroundings and provide driving pleasure for travelers.

Today, the National Park System offers a variety of two-lane scenic roads and parkways, each showcasing its region's best qualities. Motorists can catch windshield glimpses of natural, historical, and geological attractions without ever leaving their cars. For those who want a more in-depth look, hiking trails, campgrounds, and other facilities are close at hand.

Blue Ridge Parkway

Meandering through mountains, dipping into river valleys, and winding through farmlands, the Blue Ridge Parkway has been meticulously designed to reveal

the natural beauty of the southern Appalachian Mountains. Its 469 miles of picturesque roadway connects Shenandoah National Park in Virginia with Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina and Tennessee.

Funded during the Depression by the Public Works Administration, the Blue

Ridge Parkway was built by out-of-work farmers and laborers participating in the Civilian Conservation Corps. The sinuous parkway begins in George Washington National Forest and then winds south into Virginia's Roanoke Valley where the Blue Ridge Mountains meet the Alleghenies.

The terrain eventually smooths into a plateau with meadows of bluegrass scattered among the forests. Along the way are remnants of human undertakings including a fully operational water-powered grist mill. In use during the early 1900s, Mabry Mill lies six miles south of Rocky Knob visitors center.

Not to be missed is Groundhog Mountain where visitors can climb an old observation tower for a 360-degree view of the mountains beyond the Plateau. Another highlight is the Linville Gorge Wilderness Area, where the river cascades through a series of waterfalls into rocky pools encircled by cliffs and dense forest.

The parkway is renowned for its spectacular display of fall color, but flowering shrubs put on a springtime show that may even surpass the autumn splendor. The great range in elevation along the

Snow-covered peaks of the Rocky Mountains rise above Trail Ridge Road.



EDWARD McMAHON

Blue Ridge Parkway, which rises from 649 to 6,053 feet, causes peak blooming to occur at different times in different locations.

A wide variety of wildflowers and flowering shrubs, such as flaming azalea, mountain laurel, and dense thickets of purple catawba rhododendron bloom variously from April through June.

Most national park services are available from May 1 through October. Limited campground facilities do remain open during the winter months, but sections of the parkway may be closed due to snow and ice.

The northern end of the parkway connects directly to scenic Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park. It can be reached on U.S. 250 and I-64. The southern end of the parkway intersects with U.S. 44 in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

For additional parkway information, contact Blue Ridge Parkway, 700 Northwestern Plaza, Asheville, NC 28801, (704) 259-0718.

Natchez Trace Parkway

The old Natchez Trace was originally used by Natchez, Chickasaw, and Choctaw Indians to transverse swamps and forests as they followed hunting routes from the Mississippi to the Tennessee River Valley. Farmers developed the route in the latter part of the eighteenth century and, by 1810, the trace (old French for "footpath") had become an important road through the American wilderness.

The Natchez Trace Parkway follows the route of this historic trail. Another Depression-era project, the parkway received \$1.3 million from Congress in 1934, and was constructed by the Bureau of Public Roads, now the Federal Highway Administration. The parkway was dedicated as a unit of the National Park System in 1938.

Beginning south of Nashville, the two-lane roadway curves approximately 400 miles through rolling farmlands, over streams, and through woods that border the road with wildflowers and cypress. The parkway rolls briefly through Alabama and makes its way deep into the heart of Mississippi, passing through ex-



The Natchez Trace Parkway follows old Indian hunting routes.

tensive pine and white oak forests.

The old trace is still there, dipping in and out of sight of the parkway and crossing the modern road at 21 marked locations. At some spots the old trace is a wide path through the woods, while at others it becomes a narrow, shaded ravine almost disappearing in dense thickets. Archeological sites, historic landmarks, and signs along the parkway tell the story of the old trace.

Natchez Trace crosses near many historic sights, including Tupelo National Battlefield, scene of a bloody Civil War encounter. In addition, numerous Indian burial mounds, dating back to the first century A.D., border the parkway. These

include Emerald Mound, which covers nearly eight acres and is the second largest of its type in the country. Campgrounds, picnic areas, and nature trails also line the highway.

For additional parkway information, contact Natchez Trace Parkway, Rural Route 1, NT-143, Tupelo, MS 38801, (601) 842-1572.

Trail Ridge Road

The tundra of Rocky Mountain National Park is fragile enough that even a single footprint can damage it for hundreds of years. Trail Ridge Road, billed as the highest, most continuous road in North America, takes the traveler through this alpine wilderness. Trail Ridge crosses 11 miles of tundra and reaches a peak of 12,183 feet above sea level.

The snow-covered peaks of the Rocky Mountains rise majestically above the road, lush alpine valleys, and glacial lakes. Fully one-third of Rocky Mountain National Park is above tree line and, in this harsh yet fragile tundra, more than one-quarter of the plants are varieties that can be found in the Arctic.

Views of flower-covered alpine meadows and glacial landscapes greet motorists on every side. For a better look, stop and walk to the Forest Canyon Overlook or take a half-hour hike down the Tundra Trail.

At lower levels, ponderosa pine and juniper blanket the sun-drenched slopes, and Douglas fir covers the cooler north slopes. Streamsides abound with blue spruce and lodgepole pines and occasional groves of aspen. Scattered among

the trees are jewel-like wildflower gardens, dominated by the delicate blue Colorado columbine.

Trail Ridge Road is usually open from Memorial Day to mid-October, depending on snowfall. Allow three or four hours to travel the road's 50 miles and plenty of time to stop and enjoy the majestic scenery of the Rockies. Since most of the park's three million annual visitors come during the summer, autumn may be a better season to visit. Temperatures are cool during autumn, and aspens color the mountains golden.

Rocky Mountain National Park is located in north-central Colorado. From the east, it can be reached on U.S. 34, U.S. 36, and Colorado 7. From the west it can be reached on U.S. 40. For additional information, contact Rocky Mountain Na-

tional Park, Estes Park, CO 80517, (303) 586-2371.

Going-to-the-Sun Road

Winding across Glacier National Park in northern Montana, Going-to-the-Sun Road passes from seemingly endless prairies into glacial terrain, remnants of the last ice age. The road, which was completed in 1932, was a marvel of engineering. Harsh winters meant most of the work had to be done during the short summer seasons. Workers strained to move huge boulders and blasted with dynamite to cut the roadway through steep mountains.

After turning off U.S. 89 onto the Sun Road and entering Glacier National Park from the east, the motorist first arrives at St. Mary Lake. The road follows the shores of the long and narrow lake through a prairie transition zone of grasses, flowers, and white-bark aspen. Stop at Sun Point, a high, rocky exposure that offers a grand panorama of St. Mary Lake.

At the center of the park is Logan Pass where the road crosses the Continental Divide at 6,680 feet. Logan Pass presents vistas of the national park's western slopes, where the landscape is less barren and the hills are covered with thick forest.

Toward the west end of the park, Lake McDonald nestles at the foot of the imposing Lewis Range. The roadway closely follows the lakeshore for nine miles, passing through forests of hemlock, cedar, and larch. A profusion of wildflowers blossoms along streams that spill down from the ridgelines.

During autumn, park visitors may catch a rare view of bald eagles feeding on spawning salmon in Lake McDonald.

Going-to-the-Sun Road can be reached from U.S. 89 to the east and U.S. 2 from the west. The road is generally open from the second week in June until late October.

For additional information, contact Glacier National Park, West Glacier, MT 59936, (406) 888-5441.

Douglas Fulmer, now at the National Space Society, was director of state and local activities at Scenic America.

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NOTICES

15,000 Marched for Parks

Last March was the month for marching.

Close to 15,000 people participated in NPCA's first annual March for Parks. The March Partners included school-children, nuns, skiers, and celebrities such as Dick Van Dyke. When the marching ended, the event raised nearly \$400,000 in contributions and services for parks nationwide.

"The greatest benefit of the march is the visibility and awareness we raised at the national and local level about park and open-space issues," said Vicki Hatch, March for Parks manager.

A kick-off event for Earth Day 1990, march activities around the country included hikes, bluegrass concerts, and crosscountry skiing. Funds raised from the event will be used to purchase land, plant trees, rehabilitate historic sites, and provide educational support in more than 170 communities nationwide.

In New York, concerned citizens marched at Oyster Bay on Long Island, raising funds to repair President Theodore Roosevelt's home. At Mount de Chantal Visitation Academy in Wheeling, West Virginia, students, sisters, and community members organized a nature walk to promote the school's historical heritage.

Sister Joanne Gonter said the march

at Mount de Chantal raised awareness about environmental issues. "It's God's world. We are messing it up. We have to get it back in shape," Gonter said.

"We didn't start planning this event until last August, but all the March Partners ended up doing a fantastic job," Hatch said. Many of the march groups already have promised to participate next May 4 and 5 in the second Annual March for Parks, she added.

NPCA Credit Card

A new affinity credit card will allow NPCA members to support the parks through card use. The credit card, issued through the Bank of Baltimore, permits members to choose the park-related issue they want to support: wildlife protection, conservation education, or park protection. The Bank of Baltimore donates funds directly to the designated issue each time the card is used. The credit card will be available in October.

Party Time

Join us for dinner and dancing at NPCA's eleventh annual members reception and dinner on Thursday, November 15, at the Westin Hotel in Washington, D. C. For more information, contact Tom Zakim, NPCA, 1015 Thirty-first St., NW, Washington, D. C., 20007.

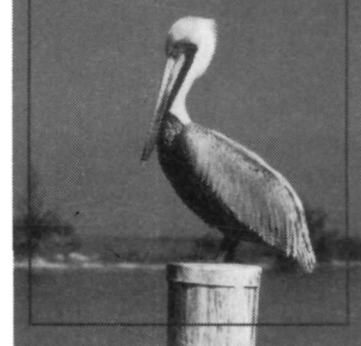


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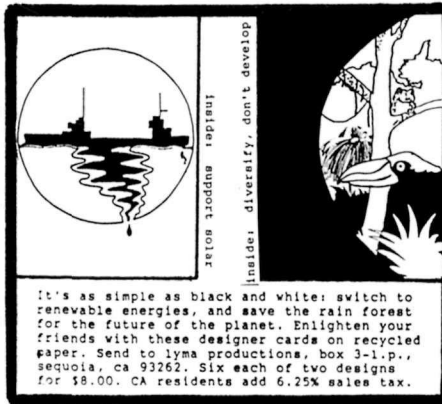
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Great Walks

Civil War Series

A POWERFUL NEW historical series, "The Civil War," scheduled to kick off the Public Broadcasting System's 1990-91 prime-time season, begins Sunday, September 23, and continues for the next five nights.

Produced and directed by Ken Burns in association with WETA in Washington, D.C., this monumental television series has been five years in the making. By the time it airs, the series will have been in production longer than it took to fight the entire Civil War.

"The Civil War" is touted by the producers as "the most ambitious, comprehensive, and definitive history of the war ever put on film." And there are no better words to describe it—it is an awesome achievement.

Interspersed throughout the 11-hour series are the comments of a blue-ribbon collection of Civil War historians, including James McPherson (author of the best-selling *The Battle Cry of Freedom*) and National Park Service Chief Historian Edwin Bearss. In addition, more than 40 familiar voices, such as actors Sam Waterston, Julie Harris, and Jason

Robards, read approximately 900 first-person quotes from Civil War-era letters, diaries, memoirs, and newspapers.

Scores of well-known personalities, including Morgan Freeman, Garrison Keillor, Arthur Miller, and Kurt Vonnegut, were enlisted to help make the series a stellar production. Guiding viewers through the series is author-historian David McCullough.

What really makes the series hold together, though, is the photographic material that has been culled from more than 80 archival sources. I found myself caught up by thousands of photographic images as well as paintings, lithographs, and actual turn-of-the-century newsreel footage of Civil War veterans. It is this marriage of word and image that enables producer Ken Burns to bring this pivotal era of our history to life.

"The Civil War" does not focus so much on battle tactics or the words and actions of prominent figures. Rather, it is the experiences of countless ordinary people—soldiers of the North and South, whites, blacks, women, the young, the old. Their moving accounts of those

terrifying years makes this series capture the entire sweep of the war.

Teachers will appreciate that a companion book has been published by Alfred A. Knopf, *The Civil War: an Illustrated History*. PBS also has produced a telecourse version of the Civil War series, which may be purchased through PBS Video, 1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314; (800) 424-7963.

—Bruce Craig

NPCA cultural resources coordinator

Program for the Planet

The "Save the Planet" personal computer program blends environmental education with political action in an interesting and accessible format.

The program presents illustrated information on ozone-destroying CFCs, atmospheric chemistry, and climate-change modeling, along with customized word-processing software to make writing letters to politicians easy. The program also allows users to compare the environmental voting records of all members of Congress for the 1989 legislative session.

The software is available for IBM-compatible computers in 3.5- and 5.25-inch disk formats and for Macintosh in the form of a Hypercard stack. The \$15 software package, which includes the current version and a free update to be released soon, is available from Save the Planet Shareware, Box 45, Pitkin, CO 81241; (303) 641-5035.

Green Consumer Newsletter

If the thought of learning 101 ways to save the Earth seems a bit daunting, a short newsletter on environmental consumerism may be more reasonable.

The eight-page monthly newsletter, *The Green Consumer Letter*, covers the latest news and product information and is meant to be a companion to the best-seller *The Green Consumer*. In addition, each issue will cover other important issues, such as pending legislation, interviews with experts, emerging trends, and money- and environment-saving tips.

Year subscriptions are \$27 and are available from Tilden Press Inc., 1526 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036; (800) 955-GREEN.

First Connecticut Heavy Artillery defends Washington, D.C., in the Civil War.



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EVERGLADES

Continued from page 36

the projects will be complete. At best, five or six years will go by before natural water flows are moving into the park, and no one is sure whether it can be done in time to assure the survival of the ecosystem there.

Wading birds in the Everglades, whose numbers have declined by 95 percent since the 1930s, have suffered additional serious setbacks in the past few years. As recently as the late 1970s, wood storks could be found in colonies of 1,500 or more. This year there were only 115 wood stork nests in all of the park.

When marshes dried out early last April—the result of a two-year drought combined with continuing water management problems—alligator courtship was disrupted and few offspring were produced. Every species that depends upon fresh water is under stress.

"No one knows when you have reached into the heart of the ecosystem and killed it," says Jim Webb of the Wilderness Society. No one knows how long Everglades National Park can hold out.

Ogden remains confident that wild-

life will recover once natural water flows are restored. These days, he is willing to praise the Corps of Engineers for doing all it can to make that possible.

"Now that they are on board, they are pushing as hard as the Park Service to move this forward," he says. "Maybe it's because they are looking for ways of improving their image. In any case, they have been genuinely supportive on the Shark Slough restoration plan."

Libby Fayad, staff attorney at NPCA, says, "It will be terrific to finally have the whole federal government committed to one goal: the protection and preservation of Everglades. That is the only chance we have for saving the park."

Skepticism of the Corps' intentions, however, is nearly universal among conservation groups. The history of the relationship between the Corps of Engineers and Everglades National Park has not been one to engender trust. The Corps' policies traditionally have favored economic and political factors at the expense of the environment.

"What they are saying sounds good," says Woody, "but we are waiting to see what they actually do."

Furthermore, while the Everglades is

being restored, rivers elsewhere continue to be widened and straightened. According to Joe Podgor of Friends of the Everglades, the Corps has continued to grant permits for the filling in of wetlands for inappropriate development.

While the leadership of the Corps may be promoting the interests of the environment in all sincerity, there are undoubtedly many among the Corps' 28,000 employees who would prefer business as usual.

"They still have an awful lot of these people with what I'd call an edifice complex," says David Campbell of the National Wildlife Federation. "The Corps needs to be hiring biologists and others with the skills to implement their environmental goals."

A strong institutional history must be overcome if the Corps is to truly reverse course. The control, the taming of nature was, after all, a big part of the Corps' mission for much of its more than 200-year history. But the fact that the engineers are admitting mistakes and seem willing to correct them is a major step.

Freelance writer Vicki Monks has won awards for her investigative reporting.

Stephen Tyng Mather Society



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The Stephen Tyng Mather Society was created to involve dedicated NPCA members and friends who, by their annual contributions of \$1,000 or more, continue to ensure the thoughtful stewardship of our National Park System. Today's Mather Society members are distinguished among the growing network of conservation-minded individuals who recognize the importance of preserving our natural and cultural heritage for future generations.

We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals whose generous support enables us to continue the fine tradition of Stephen Tyng Mather, the first director of the National Park Service, and founder of NPCA.

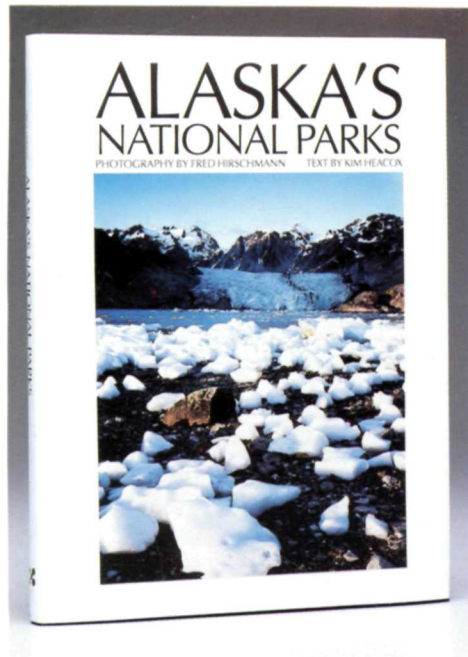
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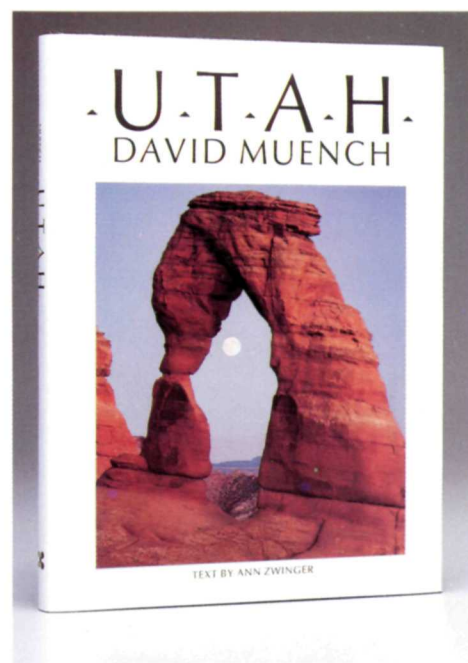
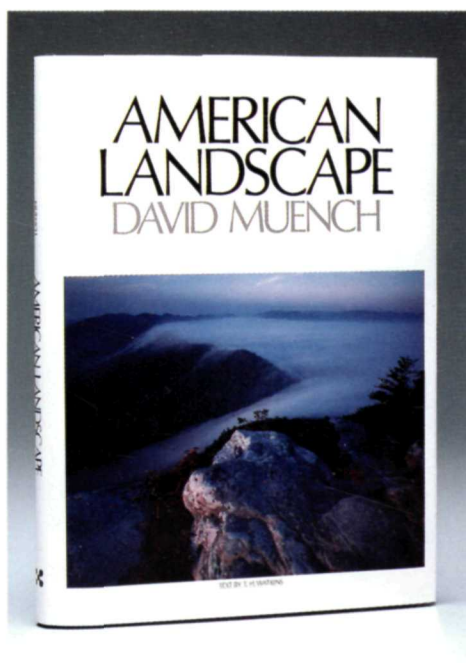
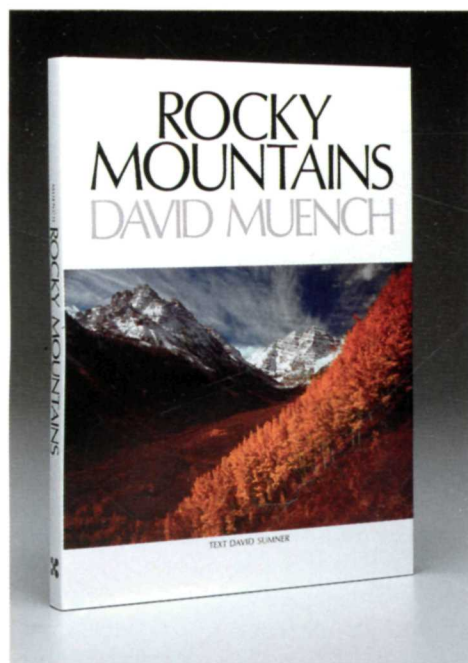
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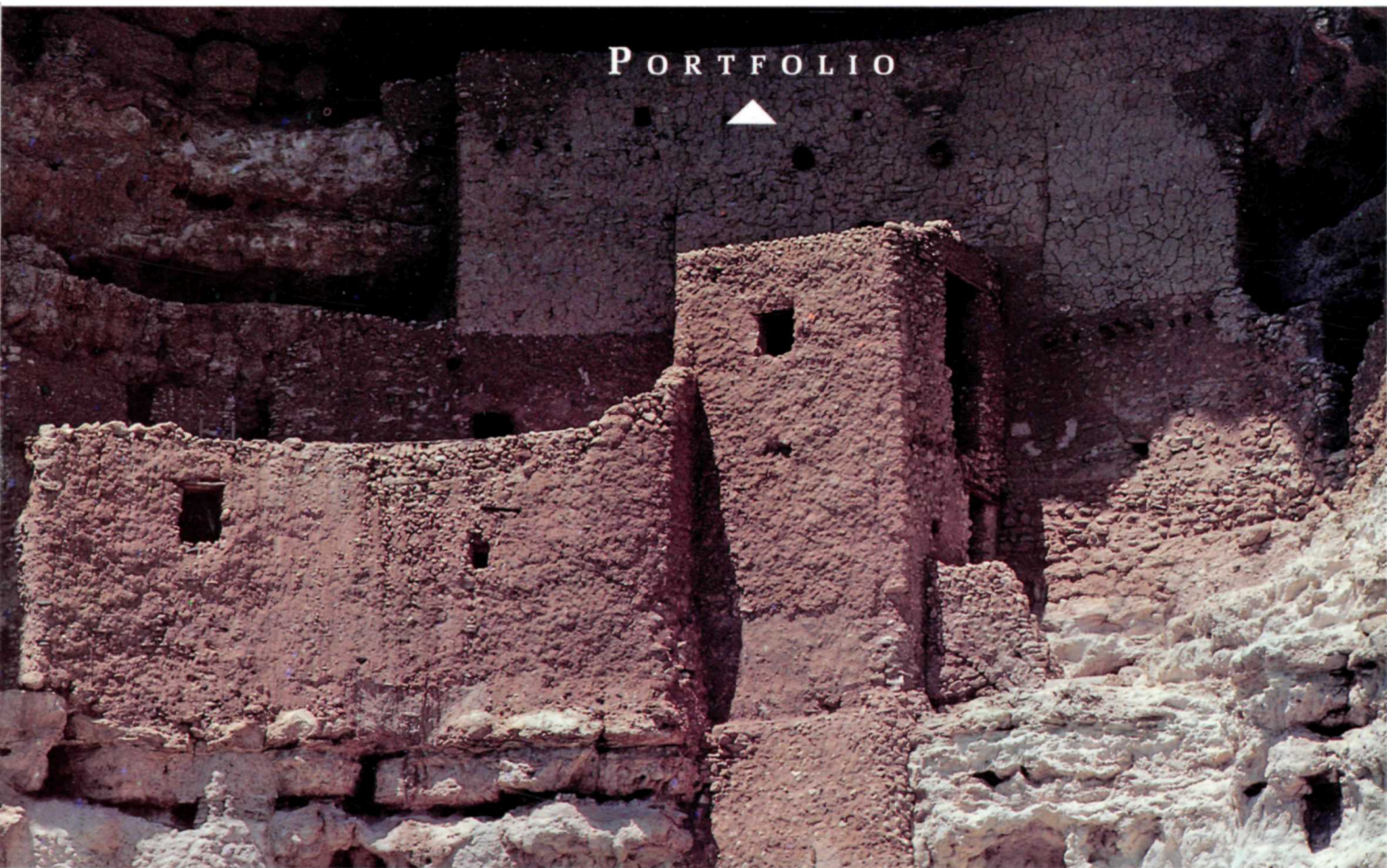
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PHOTOS BY GEORGE H. H. HUEY

Ruins Along the River

THE VERDE RIVER [in Arizona] differed little a thousand years ago. Even then, when Europeans had not yet fully triumphed over the Dark Ages, this place throbbed with human endeavor. Farmers in the Verde Valley already coaxed the waters of the river and its constellation of tributaries onto fields to till crops.

They had come as nomads, living precariously off the land and sleeping in caves or little more than covered trenches. Then they learned to husband beans, corns and squash, to grow and spin cotton and to construct cities of stone. Some, like Montezuma Castle, which broods above Beaver Creek, were fitted into the sheltering alcoves of cliffs. Others commanded ridge-tops, as at Tu-

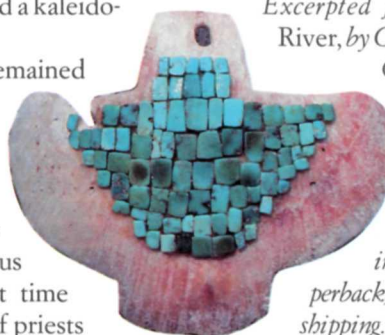
zigoot, beside the river itself.

Weapons and utensils were fashioned from materials at hand. Nature granted wild animals for meat and wild plants for food and medicines, but also fearsome disasters that drove away entire communities. The resulting tides of migration turned the Valley into a melting pot of disparate peoples, and a kaleidoscope of ideas.

Although survival remained a constant challenge, the Valley people not only endured, they created. An agrarian, sedentary society brought leisure and thus permitted for the first time the role of specialists, of priests

and artisans. The artisans crafted elaborate jewelry, much of it from gemstones mined nearby, that evokes the envy of modern-day designers.

Commerce was brisk. Salt, cotton and other Valley goods were exchanged for parrots from tropical Mexico, seashells from the Gulf of California, and painted pottery from the mesas to the northeast. Timed to the seasons and fueled by trade and rituals, the cycles of the stone cities persisted for more than four centuries. But now there are only ruins.



Excerpted from Ruins Along The River, by Carle Hodge, photography by George H.H. Huey; Southwest Parks and Monuments Association. Available from NPCA Park Education Center, 1015 31st St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20007; 48 pp; paperback, color; \$4.95 + \$2.50 for shipping.



Clockwise from top left: Montezuma Castle; common T-shaped doorway at the castle; petroglyphs; Montezuma Well; eagle-shaped pendant found in a grave.



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