

National parks

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The Magazine of
The National Parks
and Conservation
Association

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1995

Hollywood on Location
Murder, She Writes
NPS and the Policy Act
Rustic Cabin Retreats
The Science Stalemate



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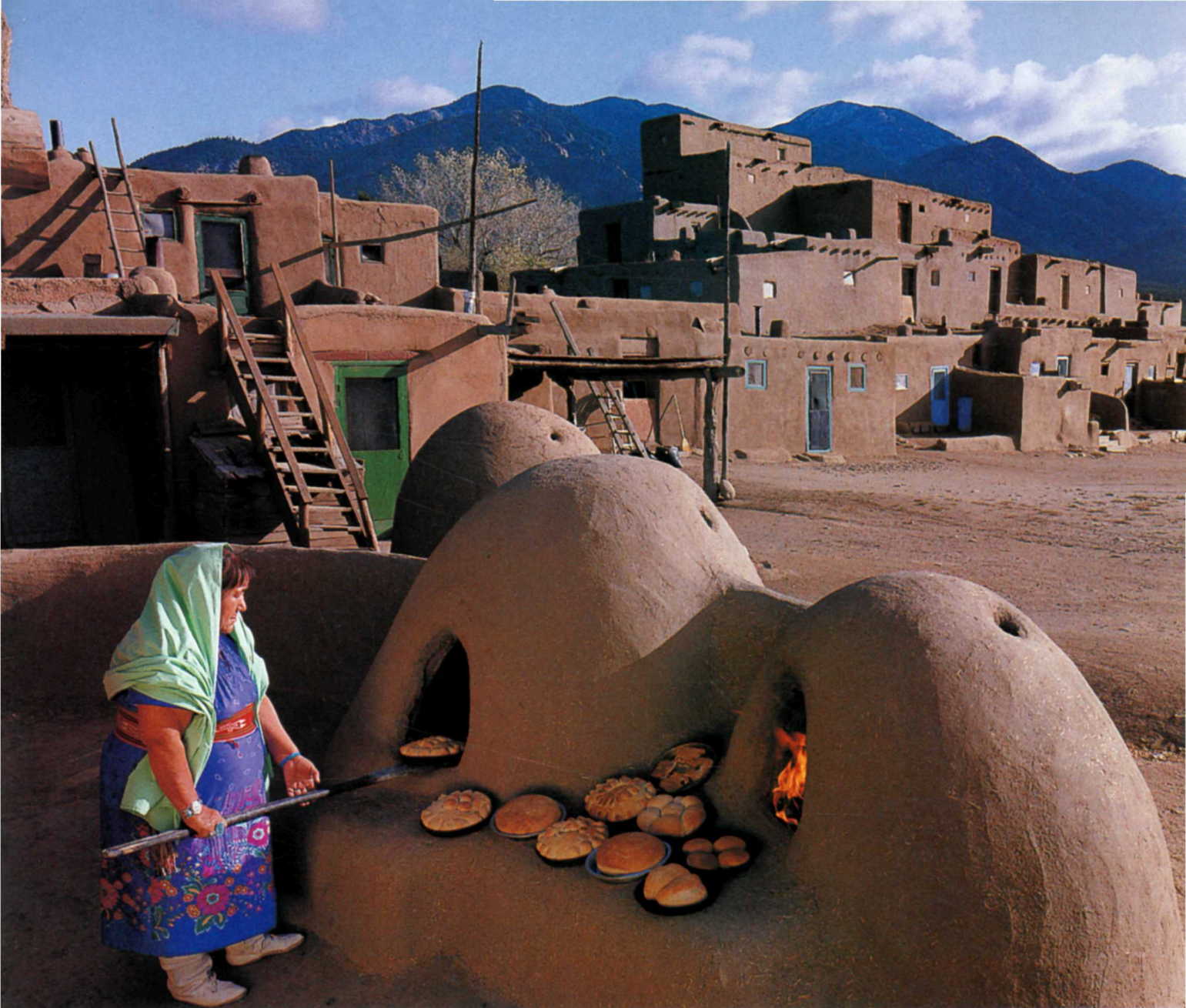


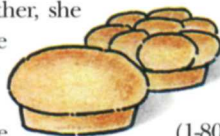
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National parks

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September/October 1995

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The Park Service's compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act has been neither consistent nor rigorously enforced. Unless a strict system for accountability is devised, park resources could suffer.
By Robert and Patricia Cahn

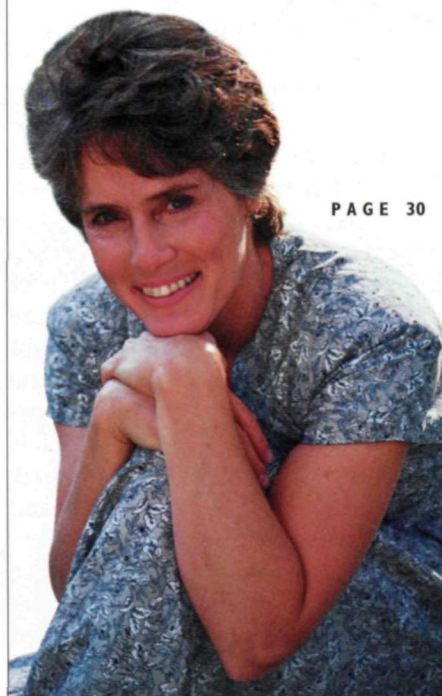


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DAVID MUENCH



COVER: Tuolumne Meadows and other scenes at Yosemite have inspired many filmmakers. Photo by Carr Clifton.



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BRAD MARKEL

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Shenandoah

Besieged from within and without, the park faces an uncertain future.

AS MY WIFE AND I looked out from the top of Stony Man Mountain in Shenandoah National Park, it was hard to see through the summer haze obscuring the valley and the horizon. We had come here to escape a ferocious summer heat wave and to examine firsthand some of the park's problems.

Shenandoah was added to the National Park System almost 60 years ago on July 3, 1936. At that time, the Commonwealth of Virginia acquired the land and gave it to the federal government to form the core of a national park that could include up to 521,000 acres. From an ecological standpoint, it was not as special a place as it is today. It had been heavily timbered, and many floods had ravaged its soil and periodically flooded the towns in the valleys below. In the 60 years since then, the woodland has fully regenerated, and the park has become a popular haven for hikers, campers, and others escaping the commotion of nearby cities.

Today, Shenandoah is besieged from within—for example, by too many visitors, a variety of destructive plant diseases and pests, and staffing shortages. And it is threatened from the outside by the current Congress, which is proposing to limit the size of the park to the 196,000 acres now owned and managed by the National Park Service—without giving the Park Service the chance to complete a study that Congress itself authorized and funded to determine where the boundaries



DUPONT PHOTOGRAPHERS

should be drawn in order to include important resource areas and viewsheds.

With Congress calling for park closures, wielding a heavy and far-reaching budget ax, and advancing a "dirty water bill," federal regulation caps, and other irrational measures, America's heritage is the victim.

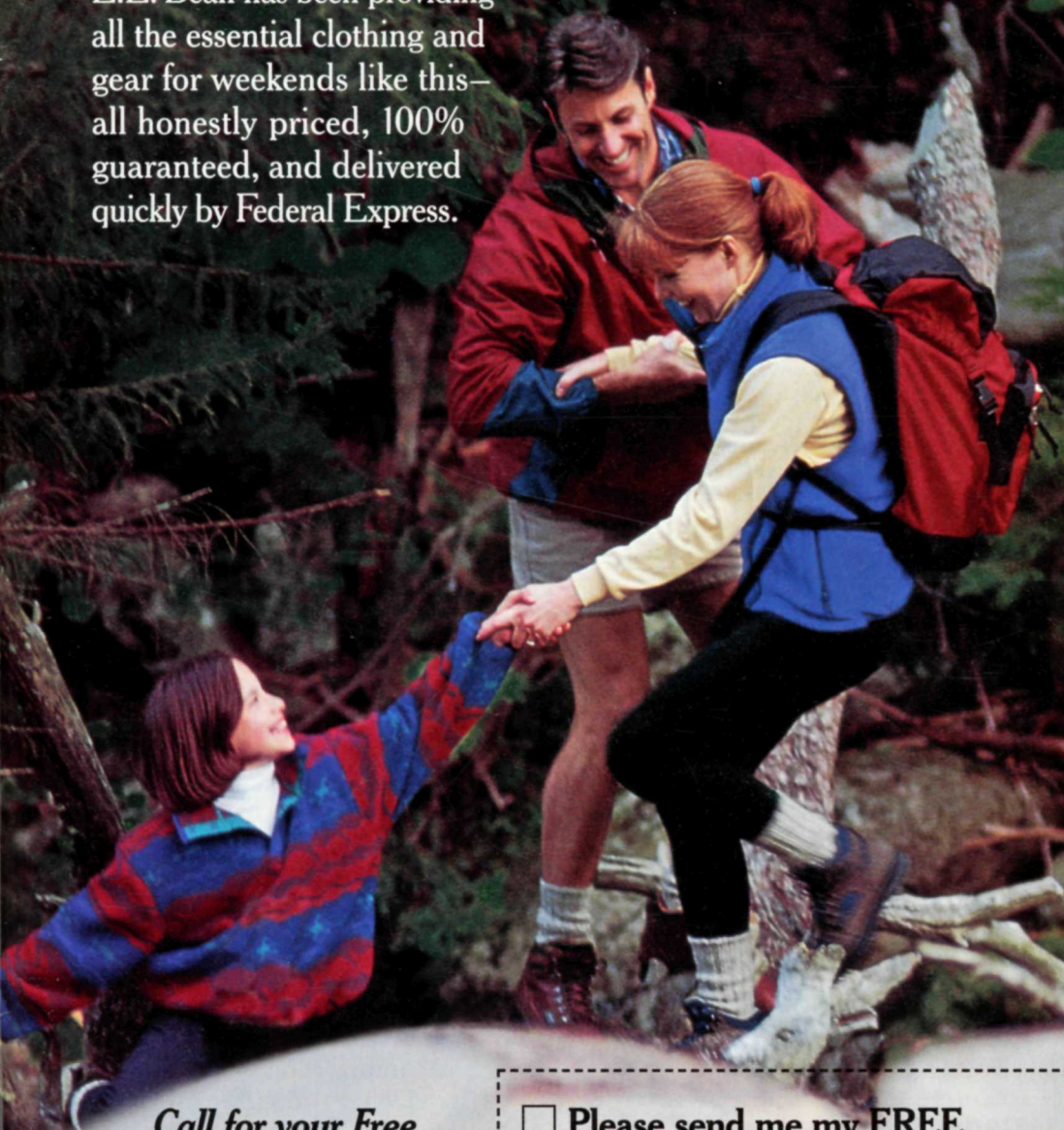
Even the state, once the proponent for Shenandoah, has in recent years opposed measures that would benefit the park. With more and more visitors entering the park each year, the state will not pass legislation to allow all of the eight counties surrounding the park to provide police services.

As we hiked in the solitude of Stony Man, we realized that a war is raging against this and other national parks—a war waged by people who apparently do not understand the importance of special places like Shenandoah.

Although we left the park feeling refreshed, we were also concerned about whether Shenandoah National Park would still be there for our children to enjoy as we had. It is a strange paradox to experience the calming effect of such a glorious and tranquil place and yet come away with apprehension about its protection for the future.

Paul C. Pritchard,
President, NPCA

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Facelift

WELCOME TO THE DEBUT OF our new design! *National Parks* has just had a facelift, resulting in a more contemporary, cohesive, and distinctive look.

Nearly a year ago, NPCA began the process of evaluating its communication tools, including *National Parks*. To determine readers' reactions to the magazine, we conducted a survey, which revealed that an overwhelming majority (85 percent) of NPCA members respond favorably to the magazine and value it as a source of information on park issues. The linkage between the magazine and the organization, however, was somewhat unclear, and some fine-tuning was in order.

Following the survey, we hired magazine consultants Brady & Paul Communications to redesign *National Parks* with an eye toward making it more reader-friendly, giving it more visual impact, and clarifying its connection with NPCA.

Among the changes are a more engaging table of contents page; a newsier looking News section, renamed NPCA Park News; the addition of a box with basic information about NPCA; and an easier-to-read design for NPCA Notes (formerly Notices). Access, the section about what to see and do in the parks, is now called Excursions and gives specific information about low-impact travel to the parks. The park quiz has a new name, You Are Here (and the answer is revealed on the Letters page—you no longer have to wait until the next issue to check your knowledge of the parks). And we will use more maps, not only in feature stories but in NPCA Park News and Excursions.

We hope you like our new look. Please send us your comments—we'd love to hear what you think.

Sue E. Dodge, Editor

ABOUT NPCA

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

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

WHAT WE STAND FOR:

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

HOW TO JOIN: NPCA depends almost entirely on contributions from our members for the resources essential for an effective program. You can become a member by calling our Member Services Department. The bimonthly *National Parks* magazine is among the benefits you will receive.

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

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

MAKE A DIFFERENCE: A critical component in NPCA's park protection programs are members who take the lead in defense of America's natural and cultural heritage. Park Activists alert Congress

and the administration to park threats; comment on park planning and adjacent land-use decisions; assist NPCA in developing partnerships; and educate the public and the media about park issues. The Park Activist Network is composed of three groups: park watchers, park activists, and park support groups. For more information on

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

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



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BRX/BR1/BR4



More on Snowmobiles, Another View on the Presidio, Reaction to Rivers

Snowmobiles Revisited

I have visited Yellowstone four times in the summer and once, by snowmobile, in the winter. We saw bison, bald eagles, coyotes, moose, and other wildlife that I never saw in the summer.

I did not experience any of the horror stories that Peter Griffith and Barbara Bruce wrote of [Letters, May/June 1995]. All of the snowmobilers were courteous, were aware of the "tread lightly" program, and did nothing to harm the ecosystem or the wildlife. As a matter of fact, I did not see any of the litter I have seen in the summer.

I cannot see how these people think a few thousand snowmobiles and people can possibly adversely impact the park as much as a million cars and millions of people.

Maybe the park should be shared by lottery to limit both the summer and winter visitors. To single out one specific group shows how narrow-minded some people can be. It's my park too.

Fred Lyell
Nashville, TN

I would like to take exception to the letter from Viki Eggers in your May/June 1995 issue. She implies that the only way to see Yellowstone in winter, other than by skiing or snowshoeing, is by snowmobile. This is untrue.

I think she has forgotten there are such things as snowcoaches—automobile-type vehicles that hold 10-12 people in comfort, each with his or her own window. Roof vents [allow passengers] to stand up and take photos. Snowcoaches also pollute much less and make a lot less noise.

There are more than "a few mourn-

ing the loss of solitude." There are quite a few, many of whom are snowmobilers. This is evidenced by the fact that the snowmobile manufacturers are willing to meet with the Park Service to try to solve the problem.

It is obvious that Eggers never has had to spend a day inhaling blue smoke or living with constant headaches and nausea like the rangers do. It is also obvious where her sympathies lie—not with the park.

Nan Parrent
West Yellowstone, MT

NPS constantly faces the unenviable challenge of balancing public access with the protection of fragile environmental resources. Though difficult to achieve, this balance has been obtained in some parks. Denali, which employs a shuttle bus system, is one successful example. The snowcoach concept used in Yellowstone also achieves this balance by providing low-impact, low-pollution access. The noise, air pollution, and overcrowding created by snowmobiles diminish the experiences of other park visitors and are inconsistent with the charter of our national parks. Snowmobiles should be banned from the parks permanently, or, at a minimum, until stringent restrictions are placed upon vehicle noise and polluting emissions and enforced.

Cary J. Juvonen
Longmont, CO

GOOD WORK!

NPS received more than 1,000 letters from NPCA members who read "Snowed Under" [Jan./Feb. 1995] and wrote expressing concern about the impact of snowmobiles at Yellowstone. NPS is preparing a document summarizing the views expressed in the letters, which will be used in the planning process.

Another View on the Presidio

I am an NPCA member and a volunteer at the Presidio. Many of NPCA's visions are in line with my own, but I question NPCA's support for Rep. Nancy Pelosi's (D-Calif.) bill. H.R. 1296 sets a precedent for our National Park System. Turning the Presidio over to a private corporation is a betrayal of NPS' mission. By introducing the notion that NPS areas should be as self-sufficient as possible, this legislative approach will start the process of privatization and commercialization of all national parks. Although it is presented as a public/private partnership, public resources will be exploited by private interests seeking profit.

Some of the powers to be held by the proposed corporation include reducing the role of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Advisory Commission and NPS to a liaison function; bypassing the congressional appropriations process for expenditures; and exempting itself from all California, city, and county taxes.

Pelosi shows no foresight or social and ecological context in this legislation. I urge NPCA to change its position and work toward a viable alternative where the public is involved in the decision-making process.

Peter Brastow
San Francisco, CA

EDITORIAL REPLY: While many people would prefer total NPS control of the Presidio, the political and financial realities of the 104th Congress and the budget deficit combine to negate such an approach. NPCA is aware of the precedent-setting nature of this legislation and is committed to working with congressional leaders to provide the proper management tools. However, NPCA will hold both NPS and the Presidio Trust accountable to ensure that national park standards are upheld.

ANSWER TO "YOU ARE HERE"

Answers to the July/August quiz: 1. Fort McHenry
Acadia National Park, Maine
2. National Monument and Historic Shrine, Maryland
3. Boston National Historical Park, Massachusetts
Independence National Historical Park, Pennsylvania

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Rivers at Risk

I enjoyed reading "Rivers at Risk" [May/June 1995]. Ebba Hierta did a great job in researching this topic and effectively presenting the water resource issues we are dealing with at Zion National Park. In addition to Owen Williams and his staff at the NPS Water Resource Office, we need to mention the significant contributions being made by Andy Walch and his staff from the U.S. Justice Department and Scott Loveless of the Department of the Interior Solicitor's Office. These "water guys" and a team of scientists have invested much of their personal and professional lives in protecting the resources of this park. This team approach has led to a better appreciation of the impacts of water development projects upstream from the park and is expected to result in successful negotiations with the state of Utah to secure a settlement that would maintain

the park's resources unimpaired for future generations.

Thanks Ebba, and to the editors of *National Parks*, for your fine work.

Donald A. Falvey
Superintendent,
Zion National Park
Springdale, UT

"Rivers at Risk" left out one of the most significant contributions NPCA has made in the protection of the Virgin River. Under the direction of Terri Martin, NPCA Rocky Mountain regional director, the Utah Wilderness Coalition has developed a proposal to designate as wilderness many of the canyons that enter Zion National Park. This proposal, introduced in Congress as H.R. 1500, would remove the threat of dams on BLM lands in Deep Creek, Orderville Canyon, and Parunuweap Canyon.

As we know, we have entered a new

era in Congress, and the Utah congressional delegation has assembled its own wilderness bill, which does not protect these upstream canyons from the threat of dams.

James Catlin
Berkeley, CA

EDITORIAL REPLY: See the News story on Utah wilderness on page 11.

CORRECTION

The answers to the May/June Park Pursuit quiz should have stated that the Blue Ridge Parkway is located in Virginia and North Carolina.

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

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LARRY ULRICH

Park News

BY KIM A. O'CONNELL

WILDERNESS

Minimalist Measure Imperils Utah Lands

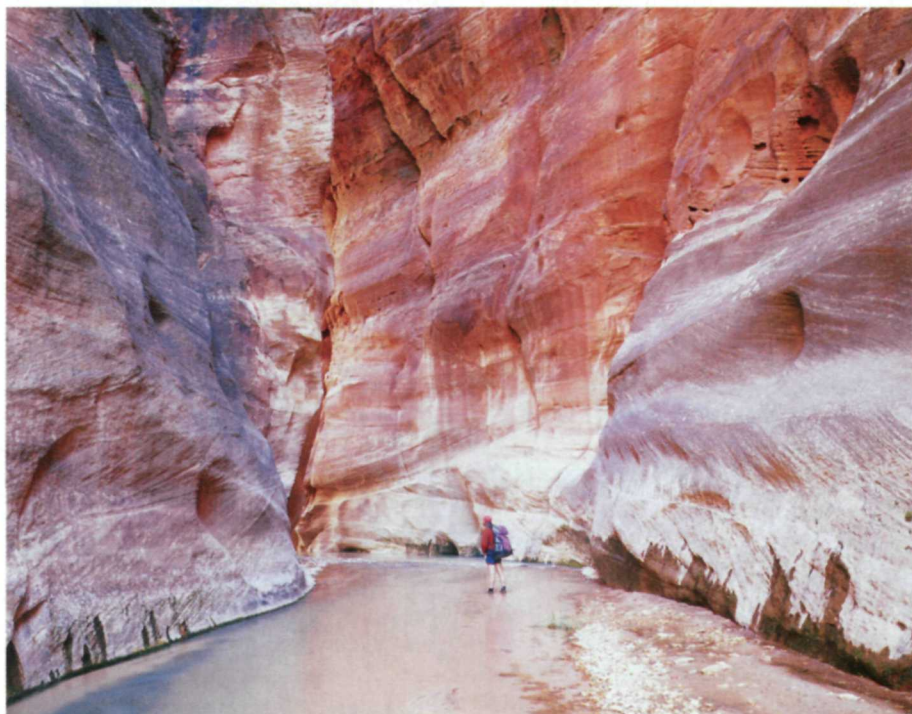
Delegation ignores citizens' proposal for redrock wilderness.

On June 6, despite overwhelming opposition from Utah citizens and conservationists nationwide, the Utah congressional delegation introduced a bill that would open the state's wild redrock canyon country to development and extractive industries.

Sponsored by Utah's Republican Sens. Orrin Hatch and Robert Bennett and Reps. James Hansen and Enid Greene Waldholtz, the Utah Public Lands Management Act (S. 884, H.R. 1745) would designate as wilderness 1.8 million acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands. The bill makes special provisions for certain Utah constituencies and industries, allowing new dams, reservoirs, pipelines, roads, and towers to be built in designated "wilderness" areas.

This bill falls far short of the citizens' proposal to designate 5.7 million acres of wilderness, which the environmental community and the majority of Utahns support. Acting as the standard-bearer, Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-N.Y.) introduced a bill—H.R. 1500, America's Redrock Wilderness Act—in April that would protect this larger acreage. A founding member of the Utah Wilderness Coalition, NPCA supports Hinchey's bill.

"Utah's redrock canyon country is unlike anything else on Earth," said Terri Martin, NPCA Rocky Mountain



TOM TILL

If a minimalist wilderness bill passes, Parunuweap Canyon will be dammed.

regional director. "It is a land that inspires awe and amazement, but it is also terribly vulnerable to development and exploitation. Protection of BLM wildlands is an integral part of preserving and enhancing the national parks and their surrounding ecosystems."

Utah's wildlands include canyons, slickrock narrows, vast tablelands, cliffs, mountain ranges, and wild rivers. Nearly 40 percent of the 5.7 million acres are adjacent to national parks. These lands surround or share borders with Arches, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef, and Zion national parks; Dinosaur and Natural Bridges national monuments; and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

The national parks, Utah writer and naturalist Terry Tempest Williams says, are "as close as anything we have to

sacred lands, and wilderness is an extension of that." Wildlife such as bighorn sheep and mountain lions ranges from the parks to the BLM lands, and visitors to popular park viewpoints are often looking at proposed wilderness.

"The Utah Public Lands Management Act really undermines the Wilderness Act of 1964," Williams said, critical of the bill's insufficient acreage and its harsh treatment of the excluded wildlands. "They have included hard release language, which means that 4 million acres [of BLM lands not included in the delegation's bill] will be released back into the public domain for multiple uses—oil and gas, coal mining, logging, dams, water projects. They're also saying that those lands can never be under consideration for wilderness or national park status."

The inclusion of hard release language, as well as the bill's minimalist acreage and provisions for development, led the Interior Department to testify against the bill at a June 29 hearing of the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands. If the bill is presented to the president in its current form, Deputy Assistant Secretary Sylvia Baca said, Secretary Bruce Babbitt would recommend a veto.

Former Rep. John Seiberling (D-Ohio) spoke for the Utah Wilderness Coalition at the hearing. "The release language in H.R. 1745 is unprecedented and unacceptable," Seiberling said. "All prior wilderness bills have released undesigned lands to multiple-use management but have expressly permitted federal land managers to review the wilderness qualities of released lands....The language in H.R. 1745 deviates entirely from that rational approach."

The Senate subcommittee on forests and public lands held its own wilderness hearing on July 13, and both houses are expected to act quickly on the delegation's measure. NPCA and others have criticized the delegation's fast-track approach as unbalanced.

Utah legislative staff met privately this spring with rural county commissioners to seek suggestions on the draft bill. They did not solicit similar input from the urban counties where nearly 90 percent of Utahns live, and county hearings were held hundreds of miles away from population centers.

Despite this, hundreds of Utahns spoke in favor of the 5.7-million-acre citizens' proposal at the regional hearings. At a Salt Lake City hearing in May, supporters of Hinchey's bill outnumbered opponents nine to one.

"These are public lands that belong to all Americans," Williams said. "This may be the great American ideal—wilderness preservation."

TAKE ACTION: Write to your senators (U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510) and to your representative (U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515), urging them to support H.R. 1500 and to oppose H.R. 1745/S. 884.



The new Mojave National Preserve is under siege by a California lawmaker.

FUNDING

Severe Cuts Starve Mojave Preserve

Legislative "college prank" would undo desert protections.

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The National Park Service will have \$1 to manage Mojave National Preserve in California, if Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-Calif.) has his way.

On July 18, the House approved the fiscal year 1996 Interior appropriations bill (H.R. 1977), which includes a draconian rider by Lewis that prevents NPS from managing one of the newest units of the park system. The measure caps funding for the 1.5-million-acre preserve at \$600,000 and diverts all but \$1 of that amount from NPS to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Lewis mistakenly believes this will allow BLM-sanctioned multiple uses—such as mining, grazing, and off-road-vehicle use—to occur on national parkland. An attempt by Rep. Vic Fazio (D-Calif.) to overturn the proposal was

rejected July 14 by the House Appropriations Committee.

The Riverside Press-Enterprise, a California newspaper, opined that Lewis' measure "reduces lawmaking...to the level of the college prank." NPCA says the amendment would stymie park management and subvert the California Desert Protection Act, which was approved last October by the 103rd Congress. The act expanded and upgraded Death Valley and Joshua Tree national parks and established a new park unit in the former East Mojave National Scenic Area, shifting its custody from BLM to the Park Service.

"Lewis is seeking to starve the Mojave of the resources it needs," said Tom Adams, an NPCA Washington representative. "His action will not allow NPS to provide visitor services and other administrative functions. It's a loss for park enthusiasts, nearby communities, and the multi-use constituency Lewis thinks he is satisfying."

Passage of the desert act culminated an eight-year fight to protect the fragile southeastern California ecosystem, which includes the world's largest Joshua tree forest, archaeological resources, and habitat for the endangered desert tortoise and 300 other species. One of the act's chief opponents, Lewis claimed that NPS could not afford to manage the new parks and implied that they were not of the same caliber as Yellowstone or Grand Canyon.

This year Lewis called NPS's budget request for Mojave exorbitant (\$1.75 million for fiscal 1996), falsely stating that BLM had operated the preserve on \$600,000. In actuality, this was the amount BLM turned over to NPS at the time of the transfer, and federal reports show that BLM's fiscal 1994 operating expenses for Mojave were closer to \$1.7 million.

Also, the transfer of funds does not negate the Park Service's statutory mandate to protect parks for the enjoyment of this and future generations. In fact, Lewis' measure will result in less public use. NPS says the cutback will eliminate visitor services, force closure of certain areas, and severely limit maintenance activities.

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Public outcry has already begun. Several area chambers of commerce have written to Lewis that the Mojave preserve has brought in tourism dollars and boosted local economies. Gerald Freeman, a business owner in Nipton, a town inside the park's border, wrote to Lewis: "In contrast to [the] indifferent presence of the Bureau of Land Management over the last 35 years, the National Park Service seems genuinely concerned with the welfare of the region."

TAKE ACTION: At press time, the Senate had begun consideration of H.R. 1977. Write to your members of Congress (U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510; U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515), telling them to ensure adequate funding for Mojave National Preserve.

ADJACENT LANDS

Mining Project Comes Under Fire

NPCA speaks out against Cumberland Gap proposal.

MIDDLESBORO, KY. — The prospect of strip mining next to Cumberland Gap National Historical Park—located at the junction of Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia—was widely opposed at a public hearing here in June.

At the hearing NPCA and Middlesboro representatives defended a petition they filed last July to declare lands on the Kentucky side of Fern Lake, a scenic body of water on the Tennessee-Kentucky

border less than a mile from Cumberland Gap, unsuitable for mining. The two groups had filed a similar petition for the Tennessee side in February 1994, the same month that Appolo Fuels, Inc., applied for a permit to mine 214 acres of land near the lake. The application will not be considered until the petitions are resolved.

Cumberland Gap encompasses more than 20,000 acres of wild forests, streams, and ridges and preserves the route through the Appalachians used by Native Americans and early settlers heading west. Nearby Fern Lake is visible from the park's most popular landmark, Pinnacle Overlook. The lake and its watershed supply water to Middlesboro, which lies in a region where mining has polluted many other lakes and streams. NPCA says that mining could contaminate the lake with acids and heavy metals and would denude surrounding forests, detracting from park views.

"We believe that a careful evaluation of the allegations in the petition will show that the exploitation of this watershed for surface mining would irretrievably damage its higher value as a magnet of tourism and as one of the highest quality water sources in this region," said Don Barger, NPCA Southeast regional director, at the hearing.

The federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) in Knoxville, Tennessee, is currently evaluating the petition and preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) on mining in the Fern Lake watershed. The draft EIS was likely to be released in mid-August, with another hearing in Middlesboro in September.

"We've dealt with allegations [in the petition]



DAVID MUENCH

Threatened Fern Lake is visible from Cumberland Gap's Pinnacle Overlook.

WISE USE WATCH

WISE USE GROUPS LOBBY AGAINST SPECIES ACT

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

In June, the Wise Use group Alliance for America sent about 300 activists to Washington, D.C., to urge Congress to gut the Endangered Species Act, which is up for reauthorization. The lobbying effort was part of the Fly-in for Freedom, a week of political back scratching by wise users.

Soon after the fly-in, the Supreme Court ruled that the federal government has the authority to regulate the habitat of endangered or threatened species even when it occurs on private land. Although hailed by environmentalists, the ruling may force legislative "reform" of the act this year.

Sens. Dirk Kempthorne (R-Idaho) and Slade Gorton (R-Wash.), as well as Reps. Don Young (R-Alaska) and Richard Pombo (R-Calif.), have crafted bills asserting that habitat destruction is not within the definition of harming species. These legislators also want to ensure that landowners are well-compensated for protecting habitat.

In a utopian world, some incentives for landowners could lead to increased protections. But in today's political climate, where Rep. Helen Chenoweth (R-Idaho) can hold derisive "endangered salmon bakes," or where the magnanimous-sounding Grassroots Endangered Species Act Coalition includes a Wise Use group that tried to block the return of endangered wolves to Yellowstone, the act is in serious danger.

having to do with flooding, because if any contamination were to occur, it would affect waters downstream [from the watershed]," said OSM's Gary Tucker. "There's also been an allegation that has to do with incompatibility with existing land-use plans or programs, such as impacts on Cumberland Gap National Historical Park."

The Kentucky Department for Surface Mining is also evaluating the petition but is likely to base its conclusions on OSM's findings. "Tennessee's watershed is much larger and has minable coal in the area," said Mike Wilborn, the office's branch manager. "I would imagine we would wait until Tennessee makes its decision."

TAKE ACTION: Ask for and comment on the draft EIS, recommending that the Fern Lake watershed be designated unsuitable for mining. Write to the U.S. Office of Surface Mining, Attention: Willis Gainer, 530 Gay Street S.W., Suite 500, Knoxville, TN 37902.

LEGISLATION

Concessions Bills Differ over Reform

NPCA testifies against bill "to rearrange the status quo."

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Picking up where it left off last fall, Congress is again considering reform of national parks concessions policy.

On July 25, the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands held a hearing to consider two reform bills: the Federal Land Management Agency Concessions Reform Act (H.R. 2028), authored by Rep. James Hansen (R-Utah), and the National Park Service Concessions Policy Reform Act (H.R. 773), introduced by Rep. Jan Meyers (R-Kans.). Bill Chandler, NPCA vice president for conservation policy, testified in favor of the Meyers bill at the hearing.

"NPCA recommends passage of the

NEWS UPDATE

► **PEACE AT LITTLE BIGHORN:** In a ground-breaking demonstration of amity and goodwill, members of the Crow, Arikara, Cheyenne, Lakota, and Arapaho tribes came together this June to commemorate the 119th anniversary of the 1876 battle of Little Bighorn.

The ceremonies took place at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument in Montana and included tribal presentations and talks on the ill-fated 7th Cavalry and its leader, Lt. Col. George A. Custer.

In 1876, the Crow and Arikara, whom the U.S. Army had enlisted as scouts against other plains tribes, were the bitter enemies of the Lakota and Cheyenne. The five-day anniversary began with a pipe ceremony among the four tribes. "It was the first time that all the tribes

were invited to the battlefield, including the scouting tribes," said Superintendent Gerard Baker. "There's been some animosity, and they all smoked together here."

A member of the Mandan-Hidatsa tribe, Baker says the event goes far toward achieving interpretive balance at the park. "As an Indian superintendent, I am trying to change the one-sidedness that was once here," he said.

► **WOLF PLAN SIDETRACKED:** The Senate has included an amendment in the fiscal 1996 Interior spending bill that diverts \$200,000 from the wolf reintroduction program in Yellowstone National Park. The House did not include the provision in its version of the bill. NPCA will work to defeat the Senate language.

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REGIONAL REPORT

News Briefs from NPCA's Regional Offices

ALASKA **Chip Dennerlein, Regional Director**

► Since the November elections, the Alaska congressional delegation—Rep. Don Young, Sen. Frank Murkowski, and Sen. Ted Stevens, all Republicans—has launched an anti-park assault that includes plans to remove coastal lands from Lake Clark National Park and to deauthorize wilderness in Glacier Bay National Park for development. Despite this, NPCA continues to work to protect these and other parks. Most recently, Alaska Gov. Tony Knowles (D) appointed Dennerlein to a committee to evaluate state tourism.

HEARTLAND **Lori Nelson, Regional Director**

► Rep. Bart Stupak (D-Mich.) has introduced a bill to extend “reservations of use” at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Michigan. The existing reservations allow citizens who live in the park to remain for a term of years. When the leases end, the properties are to be transferred to NPS. Stupak’s bill would extend the leases for 99 years after the terms expire. NPCA says that the bill nullifies contracts negotiated in good faith and that the properties could be used for National Park Service facilities.

► In July, the Interior Department rejected a plan for a casino near St. Croix National Scenic Riverway on the Minnesota-Wisconsin border. Officials cited widespread opposition from NPCA, Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson (R), and local citizens.

NORTHEAST **Eileen Woodford, Regional Director**

► With help from the Mid-Atlantic Council, NPS hopes to expand the visitor center exhibit at Booker T. Washington National Monument in Virginia. The monument reconstructs the farm where the 19th-century black leader spent his childhood as a slave. In cooperation with NPS, the council—comprising NPCA and advocates of mid-Atlantic states—will provide assistance and guidance for the project. “All Americans should be aware of Washington’s message of self-determination for African Americans,” Woodford said.

PACIFIC **Brian Huse, Regional Director**

► NPS has released a study of transportation modes for Yosemite National Park. The study analyzes traffic congestion and evaluates the needs of the park’s ever-increasing number of visitors. NPCA is concerned by the plan’s limited scope and the lack of emphasis on resource protection. Analysis of the park’s carrying capacity is scant. “Transportation planning should be done with a larger Visitor Experience and Resource Protection [VERP] plan,” Huse said. (For more on VERP, see the July/August 1995 issue of *National Parks*.)

✍ **TAKE ACTION:** To comment on the study, write to Superintendent B. J. Griffin, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389.

continued

Meyers bill,” Chandler said. “[It] effectively addresses all of the problems identified with current park concessions policy. In contrast, H.R. 2028 principally appears to rearrange the status quo to the specific benefit of incumbent concessioners.”

NPCA has long fought to reform the outdated 1965 law governing businesses that provide food, lodging, and other concessions in the national parks. In 1993, these companies had revenues of more than \$657 million but paid only 2.8 percent to the federal government in franchise fees. The national parks saw none of this money, since all fee revenue is returned to the general treasury.

Last year, the Concessions Policy Reform Act passed both houses of Congress by a ten-to-one margin, but time ran out before both sides could work out minor differences in the bill. The legislation would have repealed the 1965 law, required competitive bidding for contracts, increased franchise fees, terminated the practice of paying inflated prices to concessioners for improvements they make on structures, and ensured that some revenue was returned to the parks. Passage of the Meyers bill, Chandler said, could return \$45-\$60 million a year to the parks when fully implemented.

Hansen’s bill runs counter to Meyers’ on several points. Among other things, the Hansen measure would maintain an effective right of preference for incumbent concessioners to renew their contracts, would limit fees for smaller concessions licenses to no more than what would cover the National Park Service’s administrative costs, and would force NPS to accept compensation other than franchise fees, such as payments made for structures and improvements. The bill would also allow concessioners to set prices for goods and services, eliminating Park Service authority to ensure reasonable prices in parks.

“There is no reform here,” Chandler testified at the hearing. “The Hansen bill is clearly a gift to the special-interest monopolies that operate in our national parks.”

Gettysburg Plans Defy Controversy

NPS contends with deer, land swap, and new museum.

GETTYSBURG, PA. — The National Park Service has issued its final say on a divisive plan to control Gettysburg National Military Park's overpopulation of white-tailed deer. In addition, the park has concluded a five-year-old land exchange dispute and begun planning for a new Gettysburg Museum of the Civil War.

After reviewing more than 200 comments from individuals and organizations, NPS stood by its proposal to reduce the park's deer herd. The deer destroy crop fields and woodlots that re-create the battlefield's 1863 appearance. Under the plan, NPS or other authorized personnel will reduce the herd within the park while the local game commission and private landowners will hunt deer outside the park. Deer shot within the park will be distributed to the needy.

Although supportive of the plan, NPCA does not condone opening the park to public hunting, which was suggested by the National Rifle Association and many others. However, many animal rights groups opposed the "mass slaughter" of deer and may file suit to prevent implementation.

Ending another dispute, NPS has decided to use landscaping methods to mitigate the destruction of historic areas that resulted from a 1990 land exchange with Gettysburg College. In return for the donation to NPS of a 47-acre conservation easement, the college received 7.5 acres at the base of Oak Ridge—which saw fighting in 1863—to reroute a section of railroad that ran through the campus.

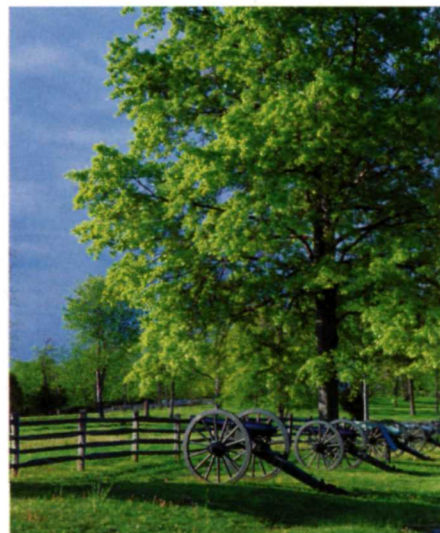
Subsequent construction destroyed a portion of Oak Ridge and other areas, causing an uproar among preservationists. NPCA urged the Park Service to completely restore the ridge and re-

move some rail facilities. Because of budget constraints, NPS will instead do some planting and painting to "re-green" the area.

Budget shortfalls have also forced NPS to be creative in its planning for a comprehensive Gettysburg Museum of the Civil War. The park currently displays only 8 percent of its 35,000-item collection of artifacts, with the remainder inadequately stored and susceptible to damage. The new plan proposes the creation of a partnership to finance the project.

The museum complex, proposed to be situated in a previously developed, tree-covered portion of the battlefield, would display the artifacts and include a wide-format theater. A new Cyclo-rama building (which would house the famous *High Tide of the Confederacy* painting) would also be built at this location. The existing facilities now on the historic Union battle line would be removed and the area rehabilitated or restored.

"We support the Park Service's efforts to advance this worthy project but



TERRY DONNELLY/DEBINSKY PHOTO ASSOC.

New plans will map the future of Gettysburg National Military Park.

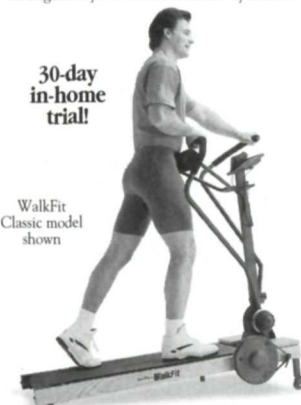
are concerned that the plan does not outline all the terms of the partnership," said NPCA Northeast Regional Director Eileen Woodford.

The project calls for a three-way partnership among the park, an unnamed nonprofit organization, and the Monahan Group, a for-profit developer.

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REGIONAL REPORT *continued***PACIFIC NORTHWEST** Terri Pauly, Act. Regional Director

► A proposal for an aviation museum at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site is contrary to the authorized purpose of the park, NPCA recently told NPS. The site was established to preserve a 19th-century trading post but also includes a 1920s airport. NPCA faulted the assessment for failing to identify adequately the environmental impacts of construction on historic resources.

► After five years as regional director of NPCA's Pacific Northwest office, Dale Crane retired in July. Crane fought to protect parks on many fronts, including working to create an international park in the North Cascades. A native of Washington State, Crane enjoyed a long career that included 13 years working on park issues and legislation on Capitol Hill. NPCA wishes him well.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN Terri Martin, Regional Director


► NPCA recently told the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that it must use NPS methodology to assess noise impacts associated with airports affecting national parks. NPCA challenged FAA's use of outdated and inappropriate methodology to measure the effects of the Halls Crossing Airport next to Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in Utah and the Jackson Hole Airport in Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park. Currently FAA dilutes the impact of individual events by averaging the amount of noise during 24-hour periods. NPCA and the Park Service have demanded that FAA use instead the new NPS Grand Canyon Aircraft Overflight methodology to update noise control plans to protect these two parks.

SOUTHEAST Don Barger, Regional Director

► In response to input from NPCA, its members, and the general public, NPS has redrafted its proposal for an arts center on Cumberland Island National Seashore in Georgia. The initial plan allowed the center—to be housed in the island's Plum Orchard mansion—almost unlimited use of two vehicles within wilderness areas. Also, opportunities for other park visitors to see the mansion could have been extremely limited. Superintendent Rolland Swain has assured NPCA that the new plan will guarantee public access and restrict automobile use. NPCA thanks the Georgia Conservancy and the Georgia chapter of the Sierra Club for their efforts.

SOUTHWEST David Simon, Regional Director

► The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has released a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) on the reintroduction of the endangered Mexican wolf to areas in the Southwest. The wolf would eventually be returned to the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area in eastern Arizona and to the White Sands Wolf Recovery Area in New Mexico. Big Bend National Park in Texas is a candidate for natural wolf recolonization but not for active reintroduction.

 **TAKE ACTION:** To submit comments, write to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103.

NPCA urges the Park Service to scrutinize the partnership carefully so that these entrepreneurial developments will not compromise historic resources or the visitor experience.

TOURISM

More Cruise Ships To Traverse Glacier Bay

Increase in large vessels could threaten humpback whales.

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA — The National Park Service has unveiled a new vessel management plan that may allow a 72-percent increase in cruise ships to Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve in southeast Alaska.

Last fall, under heavy lobbying by influential Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska), Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt ordered NPS to prepare a plan to allow more cruise ships to enter Glacier Bay—the largest marine area in the National Park System. The resultant plan evaluates alternatives for managing vessel traffic in the park and examines potential effects on park resources. The proposed action calls for a 72-percent increase in the number of cruise ships allowed to enter the bay from June 1 to August 31, bringing the number of boats per season from 107 to 184. No more than two entries a day would be allowed.

NPCA is concerned that the plan is based on an inconclusive and incomplete National Marine Fisheries Service biological opinion, which states that an increase in cruise ships will have a negligible effect on the entire north Pacific humpback whale population, currently estimated to be between 1,000 and 1,200 animals. The opinion does convey concerns about the potential decline in use of Glacier Bay by whales.

“Even if the increase in cruise ships



MARC MUENCH

Magnificent Glacier Bay may soon be host to a marked increase in cruise ships.

would not adversely affect humpback whales on a regional level," NPCA President Paul C. Pritchard said, "can we say with any certainty that such actions would not impair the resources of the national park, including whales and other marine species? Certainly, we would never allow a species to be driven out of a national park simply because it existed elsewhere and its global health was not in danger."

In a letter to the *Washington Post* regarding a January 24 article on the proposed increase, Murkowski asserted that the most "environmentally sensitive" way to see Glacier Bay is "aboard a few large ships, rather than in hundreds of smaller, noisy unregulated vessels that might harass the whales." Despite Murkowski's implication, more cruise ships would join, not replace, the hundreds of tour, charter, and private boats on the bay per season.

NPCA is also concerned about stack emissions from cruise ships hurting the park's already declining air quality. NPS acknowledges that it has received complaints from park visitors about cruise ship emissions and the haze they leave behind.

"The more ships you're going to have, the more air pollution you're going to have," said Kevin Apgar, Glacier Bay's management specialist. "The smoke from cruise ships levels off and hangs in the air and is trapped there."

According to NPCA Alaska Regional Director Chip Dennerlein, the plan needs a lot of work. "NPS proposed this plan at the very moment the U.S. Coast Guard began investigating an alarming increase in cruise ship accidents in Alaska," Dennerlein said. "The plan has no air quality monitoring system for the park and no firm program for limiting ship emissions. The two whale studies called for by the National Marine Fisheries Service are not funded. The two basic issues in this plan are cruise ship numbers and basic stewardship of park resources. The plan fails on both counts."

At six public meetings in Alaska this summer, citizens have shown overwhelming support for decreasing the number of cruise ships and for protecting the park's resources, including whales. The state of Alaska has requested an extension of the plan's comment period until this fall.

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NPCA PARK NEWS

RECREATION

Congress Debates Use of Voyageurs

Hearing called "unfairly biased" toward snowmobile interests.

At press time, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee planned to hold a joint congressional hearing August 18 on the future management of Voyageurs National Park, located on Minnesota's Canadian border.

Sen. Rod Grams (R-Minn.) requested the hearing to discuss "concerns about federal land-use restrictions" at the park, such as those that limit snowmobiling. The hearing, which also involves the House Committee on Resources, will take place in the nearby town of International Falls and feature panels of local government officials, Minnesotans (primarily those who live near the park), and the envi-

ronmental community. NPCA has requested to testify and will strongly support current park management, which limits motorized use in the park's wild areas.

Many locals are opposed to restrictions on their use of the park and to a National Park Service recommendation—required by the park's enabling legislation—to designate much of the park as wilderness. Yielding to local pressure, Rep. Jim Oberstar (D-Minn.) introduced legislation (H.R. 1310) in March that would forbid any wilderness designations for the park and allow motorized recreation at unprecedented levels for a national park. H.R. 1310 would lift virtually all restrictions on snowmobiles, resorts, houseboats, and float planes, even in proposed wilderness areas.

NPCA contends that, by locating the hearing nearly 300 miles from Minneapolis-St. Paul, where more than half of Minnesotans live, hearing organizers show a partiality toward these local interests. At press time, the House

MARKUP

Key Park Legislation

BILL

Utah Wilderness
H.R. 1745 / S. 884

PURPOSE

Designates as wilderness 1.8 million acres of Utah lands; allows development in wilderness areas; forbids another 4 million acres from ever being considered for wilderness. NPCA opposes.

STATUS

The House subcommittee on national parks approved H.R. 1745 July 18, and the House Committee on Resources approved the bill by a 23-8 vote on August 2.

Utah Wilderness
H.R. 1500

Designates 5.7 million acres of Utah lands as wilderness. NPCA supports.

H.R. 1500 was debated in a House hearing on June 29 and in a Senate hearing on July 13.

Concessions Reform
H.R. 773

Increases concessions fees and returns them to the park system; establishes competitive bidding for contracts; reforms possessory interest. NPCA supports.

H.R. 773 was debated in a July 25 hearing before the House subcommittee on national parks.

R.S. 2477
H.R. 2081

Allows virtually every traveled route to qualify as R.S. 2477 rights-of-way across parks and public lands; shifts burden of proof for claims to federal government. NPCA opposes.

H.R. 2081 is before the House resources and judiciary committees. The House subcommittee on national parks held a hearing on the bill on July 27.

NPCA is currently working on 30 bills.

Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands had appeared to bow to pressure from NPCA and Minnesota legislators Rep. Bruce Vento (D), Rep. Martin Olav Sabo (D), and Sen. Paul Wellstone (D) and agreed to hold a Twin Cities hearing, although no date has been set.

"Until Congress moves forward with a Twin Cities hearing, these proceedings will remain unfairly biased," said Lori Nelson, NPCA Heartland regional director. "By excluding half of the Minnesota population, the hearing, as it is currently structured, will create a false impression that those locals 'directly affected' by NPS regulations are unanimous on the future of Voyageurs. However, all American citizens are 'directly affected' by this debate and have a vested interest in the outcome of the hearing and the continued protection of Voyageurs National Park."

The noise and exhaust from snowmobiles are among the most disruptive and dangerous of any vehicle. One study shows that 1,000 snowmobiles emit the same amount of nitrous oxide and other pollutants as 1.7 million automobiles.

The park already has approximately 100 miles of snowmobile trails, and more than 500 such trails surround the park. Oberstar's bill would expand snowmobile access to about 90 percent of the park, including the Kabetogama Peninsula, a spectacular 100,000-acre tract of land that the National Park Service has recommended for wilderness designation.

Voyageurs Superintendent Barbara West, who plans to testify at the hearing, says the push for motorized recreation is part of a larger backlash against government restrictions. She has been working with locals to balance their needs with the park's.

"There's more than just local interests at stake; the people of the United States need to be represented," West said. "This park provides a balanced spectrum of recreational opportunities. We want to tailor this so local people can use the park, but people from the outside can also get a national park experience."

POLLUTION

New Study Traces Padre Island Trash to Shrimpers

Park Service report draws from seven years of research.

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX. — The National Park Service has released a report linking the majority of the marine debris at Padre Island National Seashore to the shrimping industry. The finding may help curtail the debris, which Superintendent Charles R. Farabee considers the park's pivotal resource issue.

A five-year NPS study completed in 1993 showed that Padre Island had more trash washing up on its beaches than any of the other nine seashores in the National Park System. Based on that research, resource management staff at Padre Island designed a follow-up study to move toward a solution. "We realized that the only way to stop the garbage washing up on the shore is to identify point sources," said John Miller, the park's chief of resources management.

Between March 1994 and February 1995, 40,580 debris items were collected in a daily sweep of a 16-mile study area along the coast of Padre Island. Shrimping industry items, including wood disks used on shrimp nets, accounted for 65 percent of the objects. Onion sacks that contained shrimping paraphernalia—rubber gloves, wood disks, and salt bags—were a common find.

Statistical analysis correlated the incidence of debris items with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) data on the fluctuating level of local shrimping activity. The study proved that the shrimping industry was directly responsible for 30 percent of the garbage and suspected of contributing an additional 35 percent. During the peak of the legal shrimping season, the

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amount of debris washing up on the beach was more than five times the level in months with little or no shrimping activity.

Beyond the issues of aesthetics and the hazard posed by toxic chemicals and medical waste, ocean dumping imperils marine wildlife. About 90 percent of the trash washing in from the waters off Padre Island is plastic—bags, sheeting, containers—that may entangle or be ingested by marine mammals, reptiles, and birds. During the daily survey at Padre Island, scientists recorded the number of items marked with the distinctive diamond-shaped bites of sea turtles. Ninety-five percent of these were shrimping industry items.

Although the shrimping industry has in the past responded with what he calls “delay and deny tactics,” Miller hopes that education efforts will bring the shrimping industry into voluntary compliance with state, federal, and international laws prohibiting ocean dumping.

An aggressive enforcement cam-



LAURENCE PARENT

The shrimping industry has been proven responsible for trash on Padre Island.

paign is also under way. The U.S. Coast Guard, the primary enforcement agency, recently completed a joint undercover operation, recording violators with sophisticated surveillance and photographic equipment operated

from aircraft, patrol boats, and four-wheel-drive vehicles. NPS, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and state agencies are participating in the operation, which will be repeated.

According to Miller, NPS plans to

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use the current data as a baseline for a new five-year study to determine whether the education and enforcement efforts are effective at abating debris. The Environmental Protection Agency and NMFS are considering conducting research similar to the Padre Island study at other locations.

"This is an excellent example of how good science can quantify park resource problems and point toward solutions," said Dave Simon, NPCA Southwest regional director.

—M. Katherine Heinrich

LEGISLATION

R.S. 2477 Claims Given Free Rein

Bill paves way for highways across national parks.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — If approved, legislation offered by Rep. James Hansen (R-Utah) will allow states, counties, and individuals to bulldoze roads across national parks and public lands.

The Revised Statute 2477 Rights-of-Way Settlement Act (H.R. 2081) would overturn proposed regulations governing the settlement of rights-of-way claims. R.S. 2477 is a Civil War-era law that granted rights-of-way for the construction of highways across federal lands not reserved for other public uses. The statute was repealed in 1976, but since then claims of preexisting rights-of-way have soared.

On July 27, NPCA Counsel Elizabeth Fayad testified on H.R. 2081 in a hearing before the House subcommittee on national parks. "The bill reflects a complete lack of concern for the preservation and management of the National Park System," Fayad said. "If it succeeds, it will give state and county governments a blank check to claim highway rights-of-way across our national parks and other federal lands."

The proposal would allow virtually every traveled route—including footpaths, vehicle tracks, or even dogsled

trails—to qualify as preexisting rights-of-way. This could eventually result in a tangle of paved highways across parks and public lands. Hansen's home state of Utah has claimed more than 5,000 routes. In Alaska, state officials have identified more than 1,700 paths and trails as potential rights-of-way, including 200 that traverse 13 of the state's 16 park units, particularly Denali and Wrangell-St. Elias national parks.

NPCA faults the bill's lack of meaningful proof requirements. Claimants must only file a "simple notice" with the secretary of the Interior that contains a map and a general description of the asserted right-of-way. The secretary would then have two years to review the claim; if the secretary decided to challenge the claim, he or she would have to do so in court.

"I can think of no other scheme where the burden lies so heavily upon the federal government," Fayad testified. "Social security applicants have to provide much more evidence than an R.S. 2477 claimant."

The claims process would also be exempted from the National Environmental Policy Act. This would allow rights-of-way to be granted without public input and consideration of the environmental consequences.

Hansen's bill is the latest in a series of legislative attempts to facilitate a road grab on federal land. This summer, the Senate amended the National Highway System Designation Act to include a moratorium until December 1995 that forbids the Clinton Administration from taking further steps to establish R.S. 2477 regulations. Both houses included a similar moratorium, effective through next fall, in the fiscal year 1996 Interior spending bill. NPCA asserts that the regulations—released in draft form in July 1994—are needed to protect parks from invalid claims.

TAKE ACTION: Write to Hansen and to your senators and representative, strongly opposing H.R. 2081 and urging support for R.S. 2477 regulations. Addresses: U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510; U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

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The spectacular landscapes in the national parks are a favorite setting of filmmakers. The Park Service is working on ways to better manage this use.

On Location

BY TODD WILKINSON



A Japanese film crew shoots a commercial at White Sands National Monument, a popular backdrop.

PHOTO BY LAURENCE PARENT

IN HIS HAND, the director clutched a script calling for Mister Spock to beam down to planet Vulcan. But a logistical problem loomed for the technical crew of the *Star Trek* motion picture: Where to find a backdrop that would convey the essence of a fictional planet?

As moviemakers had done many times before, the director turned to the national parks. Vulcan was simulated by a terrace of geothermal hot springs at Yellowstone National Park. The priceless setting cost less than \$300, the fee for a film permit.

Inspired by the scenery in Yellowstone, the filmmakers looked to another park for a sequel, which features Captain James T. Kirk being rescued after a free-fall from Yosemite's legendary El Capitan.

Although the *Starship Enterprise* may boldly go where no one has gone before, the terrain appearing in the two movies bears the footprints of many a filmmaker. At this moment, as many as half of the 368 units composing the National Park System are being shot for a motion picture, nature documentary, or advertisement.

"National parks represent the finest collection of spectacular backdrops in the country. And they're inexpensive," says Charlotte Obergh, management assistant at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, one of the premier locations for film projects in the country. Four years ago, Obergh drafted a film plan that is used as a model, primarily in the Western parks.

The relationship between Hollywood and national parks is long and storied. From *Forrest Gump* to *Robinson Crusoe on Mars*, parks have provided the setting for both blockbusters and forgettable B movies. At National Park Service (NPS) headquarters in Washington, D.C., a 23-page document lists hundreds of full-length feature films that used parks for at least some scenes, including *Indiana Jones*, *Thelma and Louise*, *Dances with Wolves*, and *Shane*.

In recent decades, that long-term relationship has shown signs of strain. The parks have been inundated with a record number of requests while enduring crippling funding cuts. Critics say that some film crews have taken advantage of parks to the detriment of

the resources. Compounding the situation is a federal policy that has made parks among the cheapest places in the country to do business.

Before the end of this year, NPS's Office of Policy is scheduled to release new film guidelines, which have not seen significant modifications since the late 1970s, even though the number of special permit requests has grown exponentially.

"The general tenor in Washington these days is one that urges government agencies [such as] the Park Service to become more entrepreneurial and start thinking in a businesslike manner. That means charging equitable

Compounding the situation is a federal policy that has made parks among the cheapest places in the country to do business.

fees," says Chick Fagan, with the Office of Policy. "Some people—and I don't dispute their contention—believe that we have poorly valued the services offered by government, including recovering our own costs."

The problem is not that filmmakers have been unwilling to pay higher fees. But through existing Department of Interior regulations, NPS cannot charge a fee for filming. Through its own regulations, NPS can recoup only actual expenses, such as utility charges. NPS can also recover other expenses associated with monitoring individual film permits and assess small fees, ranging from \$300 to \$600, to process them. Elsewhere, location fees run from \$1,500 to \$3,000 a day. For big Western parks and those in the National Capitol Region, which receive hundreds of requests each year, a potential windfall could be in the offing if the rules are changed and parks can retain control of additional revenue.

"Our parks are undervalued in terms of the money they receive from film companies," says Mike Finley, su-

perintendent at Yellowstone. "I've had producers tell me they would be willing to pay more and should pay more but that our fee structures are inconsistent with the services they get."

The new filming guidelines for parks will include recommendations to secure authority either through Congress or internal channels to charge location fees, which could generate thousands of dollars annually for cash-strapped parks. While most of the parks coping with large volumes of filming requests recoup direct expenses, the revenue is a pittance compared with fees collected by private landowners and other federal agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management.

Filmmakers, too, have voiced frustration with the lack of a central point of contact or a uniform policy. They say decisions to approve or deny a permit are often arbitrary rather than based on particular criteria. Environmentalists also are not satisfied, saying that a system of public review does not exist to determine whether a film project is potentially harmful.

Although no one doubts that big film companies could pay higher fees, park officials worry about small independent companies and still photographers. Higher fees could eliminate them altogether. To prevent this, the proponents of competitive fees say these would be charged only if a project surpasses a certain threshold that has yet to be determined. Fagan, in the Office of Policy, says given the flood of requests, it may be prudent to place a priority on projects based on their educational value, likely resource impacts, and disruption to normal visitation patterns.

Before joining NPCA as senior vice president, Carol Aten was chief of the NPS Office of Policy. During her tenure there, she began drafting the film guidelines, participating in meetings with conservation groups, other government officials, and film industry representatives.

Emphasizing the need for close monitoring, Aten recalled a horror story on U.S. Forest Service land. To simulate a snow scene in the middle of summer, a film company sprayed billions of Styrofoam pieces across a forested area, never considering the

mess it would create or the harm it could cause to wildlife. Aten says higher fees, including a bond posted on large projects, would keep film companies accountable. "I think the Park Service has to be firm, especially on the issue of recovering costs and charging location fees," she says.

TWO EPISODES with filming companies changed forever the way the Park Service approaches large ventures. The first occurred during the late 1960s when producers of *Sierra*, the short-lived, made-for-TV series based on the true life adventures of park rangers, wanted to paint rock walls at Yosemite a shade of gray vivid enough for the camera. They were stopped before they could finish the job. Conservationists eventually forced the Park Service to agree to demand a bond and assign rangers to monitor the project.

Another incident occurred in 1979 amid filming of the box-office bomb *Heaven's Gate* in Glacier National Park, where a meadow around Two Medicine campground was ruined by heavy machinery. Glacier spokeswoman Amy Vanderbilt, who has overseen the film offices in both Glacier and Yellowstone, says the *Heaven's Gate* debacle sent a sobering message that Park Service officials and the film industry are heeding: national parks are special places that require special care. NPCA's Carol Aten says, "The resources found in the parks cannot be duplicated. I think Hollywood appreciates that."

Film and advertising executives know that the prestige of their products is enhanced through association with national parks. The Park Service understands that movies and advertising can

help expand awareness of the parks. But a fine line exists between celebrating a park and exploiting it. "What is the line that separates shrewd partnerships from prostitution of the resources?" asks Alice Allen, the filming coordinator at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, a wildland complex in the Los Angeles metropolitan area.

Because of its long-standing ties to tinseltown, Santa Monica Mountains has been dubbed "Hollywood's national park." Since the late 1920s, the recreation area has been home to the famous Paramount Ranch, which has churned out a number of "Westerns" including the current television series *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman*. The 20th Century Ranch, which provided the set for *M.A.S.H.*, is on the edge of the recreation area, and the opening credits for *The Andy Griffith Show* were filmed at the nearby Franklin Reservoir.

"Filming is as much a part of our

As the battle of Gettysburg was refought for film, an army of rangers watched over the historic park.

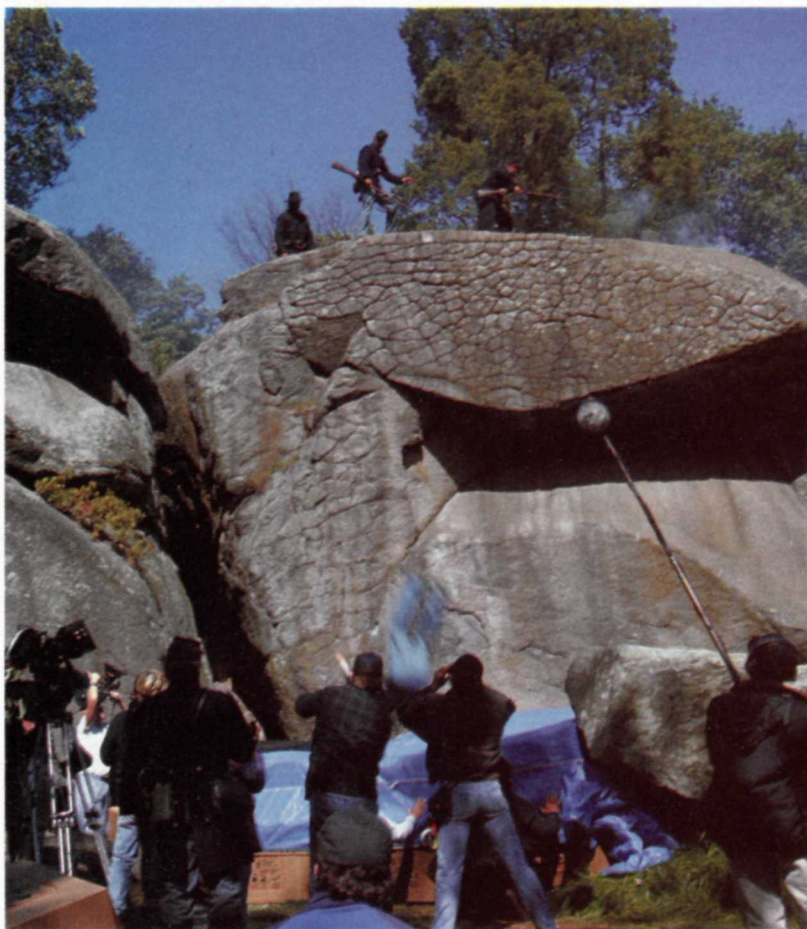
management as running a campground is in other parks," says Allen, who for several years has been the NPS film guru. She is both respectful and leery of the film industry and its ability to woo star-crazed public officials.

When Allen was called upon as a Park Service advisor for the making of *Gettysburg*, the politics of filming became apparent. She says the governor of Pennsylvania threatened to fire the state's film commissioners if the movie was not shot in his state. "Obviously, [the state] had a big stake, and they applied pressure when they approached the Park Service to have the movie made at Gettysburg." The movie, released in October 1993, was eventually shot at the Civil War battlefield, with an army of rangers on hand to ensure that the park's resources were protected.

Carol Aten says her greatest fear is that in an era of severe budget cuts, superintendents may be tempted to view film projects as cash cows and ignore resource protection.

Yellowstone's Finley says Aten's fear has validity, but the Park Service can plan for it. "I think you can put enough criteria in new filming guidelines that set a framework so even the most adventurous park manager will stay within the realm of reasonableness."

Before becoming superintendent of Yellowstone, Finley held the post at Yosemite. Under his leadership, Yosemite became the first park to establish a "blackout" period, which prohibits major films from being shot during the busy summer season. "It was inconsistent in my mind to be implementing visitor use restrictions and be concerned about the oversubscription of use in Yosemite while at the same time permitting a commercial use such



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FILMING Continued

as filmmaking," he says.

Park managers support Finley's action, saying that film companies do not always seem to understand that the Park Service's mission is to preserve the resource. Nancy Wizner, chief ranger at White Sands National Monument in New Mexico, says, "We're here to protect the resources first, then provide for the visitors, and then for things like filming. But the filmmakers don't like being a third priority. Sometimes I feel as though they forget they are in a national park."

Wizner says some companies have not observed the park regulations to keep the dunes free of motorized disturbance. One company sought permission to parachute a recreational vehicle through restricted airspace (a military base adjoins White Sands) into the dunes and to drive the vehicle across them. The request was denied.

ON A FILM-BY-FILM BASIS, parks often review permit requests from motion picture makers with a subjective eye, but they can do little to police still photographers. Mount Rushmore National Memorial has been lampooned more than any other landmark in the National Park System. Many of the liberties taken with the four presidents' faces have been in jest, such as the company that superimposed profiles of the smurfs or the herbicide commercial showing a park employee spraying Jefferson's nose. But when Rush Limbaugh placed his own mug on a picture of the shrine during his television show, the NPS switchboards lit up with calls of protest.

Elaine Sevy, a spokeswoman for the Park Service's national office, says that citizens normally have a high tolerance for poking fun at Mount Rushmore. But the flak generated by Limbaugh was surpassed only by the controversy that erupted when a tobacco company portrayed the Statue of Liberty holding a cigarette.

"We can prevent people from defacing resources when they are in the

park, but if they take a photograph they can alter the image all they want. We can't control good taste," Sevy says.

At Yellowstone, a company used a picture of Old Faithful—the park's

The Park Service understands that movies and advertising can help expand citizen awareness of the parks. But a fine line exists between celebrating a park and exploiting it.

most recognizable feature—to promote a new brand of condoms. Also at Yellowstone, an Italian film company shot footage of an actor portraying a park ranger high atop a fire lookout. Only later did embarrassed park officials find out it was used as part of a pornographic film.

In the absence of a national policy directive, individual parks in the Western and Rocky Mountain regions have



Old Faithful, Yellowstone's most recognizable feature, was used to promote a new brand of condoms.

developed their own standards. The guidelines drafted at Glen Canyon are shaping the national directive. In 1994 Obergh's office at Glen Canyon issued 40 permits from a total of 65 requests. Up to 200 hours of staff time can be spent overseeing a large film project. "Anytime you're dealing with especially large crews in 70-ton vehicles out on location, you are going to have resource damage unless something is done to guard against it. Plus you have to continually remind people that it isn't okay if you bring in that pet lion, nor is it acceptable if you trample that cactus."

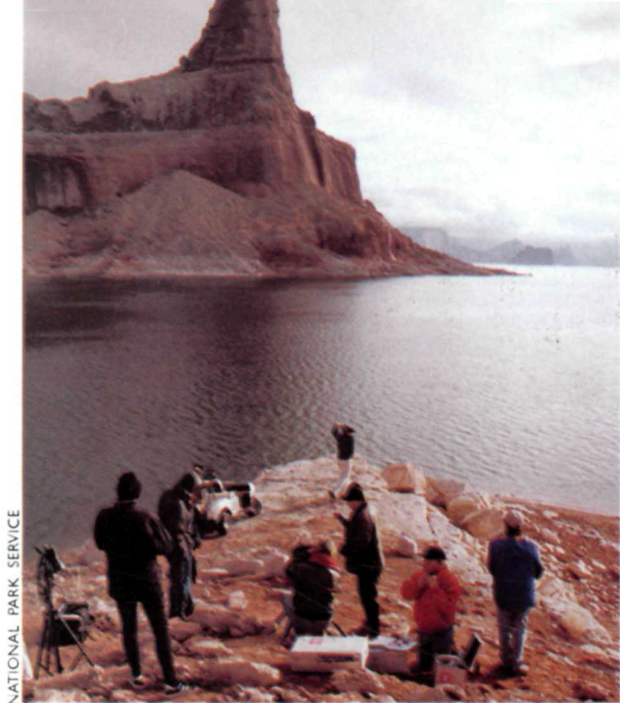
With that in mind, Obergh hired park ranger Eileen Martinez to coordinate film permits. Her salary is paid by expenses recovered directly from film companies. Martinez wears her ranger uniform on location to establish a visual presence.

Standing tough does not necessarily mean saying no. It just demands vigilance and innovation. Obergh says creative partnerships were forged in 1993 when a crew spent four months in Glen Canyon filming the motion picture *Maverick*. Initially, producers wanted to build the fictional town of Crystal River in a sensitive part of the preserve overlooking Lake Powell. After

negotiating with park resource experts, the film crew agreed to erect its town on a plain below the reservoir's high water mark. When filming was complete, the town was dismantled, and any evidence remaining was eliminated when the water level rose later because of releases at the dam. As part of the permit, the crew also offered in-kind restoration work that left portions of the park in better shape than they were found.

"You don't need to rely on donations or seek special legislation to get an equitable return from filming companies," says Obergh. "You just need to be clear up front that you intend to cover all of your expenses."

Merna Winters, Obergh's counterpart at Death Valley, says some past movies would never meet today's standards. "I would shudder to think about the impact of a major motion picture out here now," she



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ABOVE: The *Maverick* film crew erected the town of Crystal River below the high water mark at Glen Canyon, so when filming ended, the town disappeared. **TOP LEFT:** Pro golfer Tom Lehman poses for a commercial at Lake Powell, Glen Canyon.



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Scenes from Glen Canyon's Romana Mesa were among those featured in singer Michael Bolton's music video "I said I loved you, but I lied."

says, because of the potential damage to the fragile desert crust. She ticks off the names of such classics as *Twenty Mule Team Borax* (1940), *Spartacus* (1960), *The Greatest Story Ever Told* (1965), and *Star Wars* (1977), which all were filmed there.

Although films today may represent an added burden to park management, one day they may have another purpose, says Fagan of the Office of Policy. "It isn't that I believe films should be a replacement for the actual park experience, but I can see motion pictures and interactive media alleviating some pressure in the future," he says.

Perhaps, the best insight of what it means over the long run comes from Santa Monica's Allen. "What does it mean when the director says 'Action!' in our national parks?" she asks. "In the short term, it may mean 15 minutes worth of fame, but we don't need the publicity or the attention because what we have to offer are the true classics. Our parks are bigger and more enduring than any film will ever be."

TODD WILKINSON last wrote for National Parks about a pilot program at Arches National Park to control visitation.

Murder, She Writes

Law enforcement ranger Nevada Barr uses the national parks as a backdrop for her mystery novels.

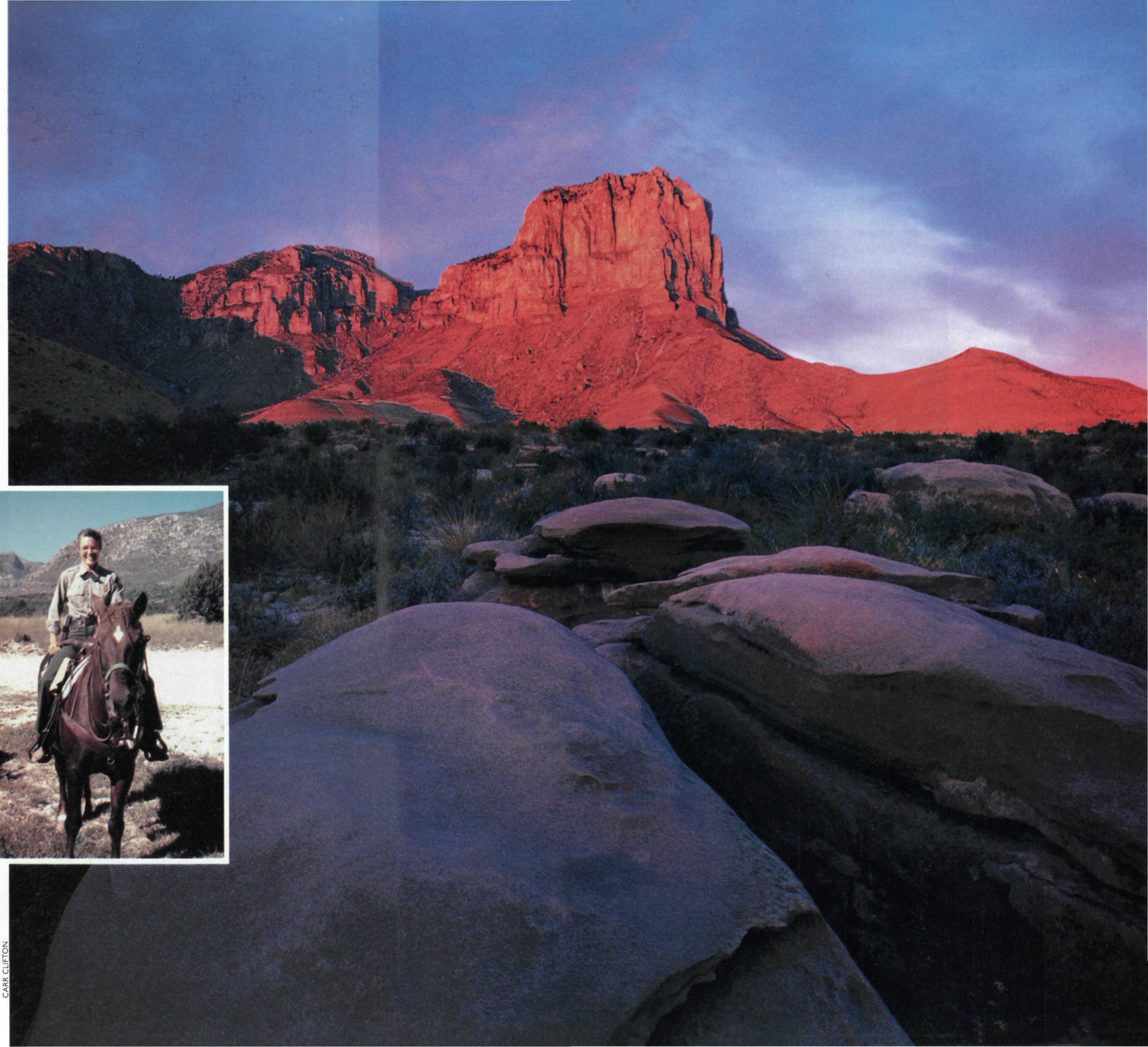
BY LINDA M. RANCOURT

WHILE HIKING the backcountry at Guadalupe Mountains National Park in Texas several years ago, Nevada Barr thought generally about the myriad ways a person could die there and specifically about some people she thought would be better off dead.

Out of this macabre thinking came Barr's first mystery novel, *Track of the Cat*. Set in Guadalupe Mountains, the book introduces Anna Pigeon, a wine-drinking, tough-talking law enforcement ranger who ran away from Manhattan to join the National Park Service. As the story unfolds, Pigeon finds something she did not bargain for during a walk in the backcountry: a fellow ranger's body, seemingly pawed to death by a mountain lion. Nagging doubt and persistent investigation lead the dogged Anna to a different conclusion.

Since *Track of the Cat*, which won both the 1994 Agatha and Anthony awards for best first novel of 1993, Barr

AT RIGHT: Guadalupe National Park in Texas, setting of Barr's first novel. INSET: Barr on duty at Guadalupe.



CARR CLIFTON

has written two more mysteries set in national parks. In *Superior Death*, Anna Pigeon is relocated from the desert with its "star scraped skies" to Isle Royale National Park in Michigan, an island park in the middle of Lake Superior, where—even though the lake water is just two degrees warmer than a block of ice—divers come looking for adventure. In this story, at least one diver finds more than he bargained for among the park's world-renowned sunken ships.

In Barr's recently released third novel, *Ill Wind*, Pigeon finally gets warm and dry again among the Anasazi ruins at Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado, where a contractor is putting in a water line despite protests from archaeologists and other conservationists. A story of life, love, and death among the ruins, *Ill Wind* puts Ranger Pigeon in harm's way when she discovers a fellow ranger dead, seemingly by his own hand, with hat and shoes at his side.

The *Library Journal* says that Barr's books contain "spectacular descriptions, psychological insight, and a refreshingly independent heroine." And *The New York Times Book Review* states that "Ms. Barr's sternly beautiful style is best displayed in natural settings like her eerie underwater landscapes of sunken ships and floating corpses—where life makes itself scarce."

Her novels show a regard for the landscape, stunning descriptions that only a nature lover could paint, but also reflect Barr's strong opinions about the National Park Service. The books include a heavy sprinkling of grievances about the federal agency: the low pay and morale, the deadly red tape gen-

erated by Washington, D.C., the politics of a large bureaucracy, and the tensions between seasonal and permanent employees.

In *Track of the Cat*, Barr writes: "Everyone pretended there was no wall between permanent National Park Service employees and the seasonals. And everyone knew there was. A veritable bureaucratic Jericho with no Joshua in sight. Everyone was transient. Sea-

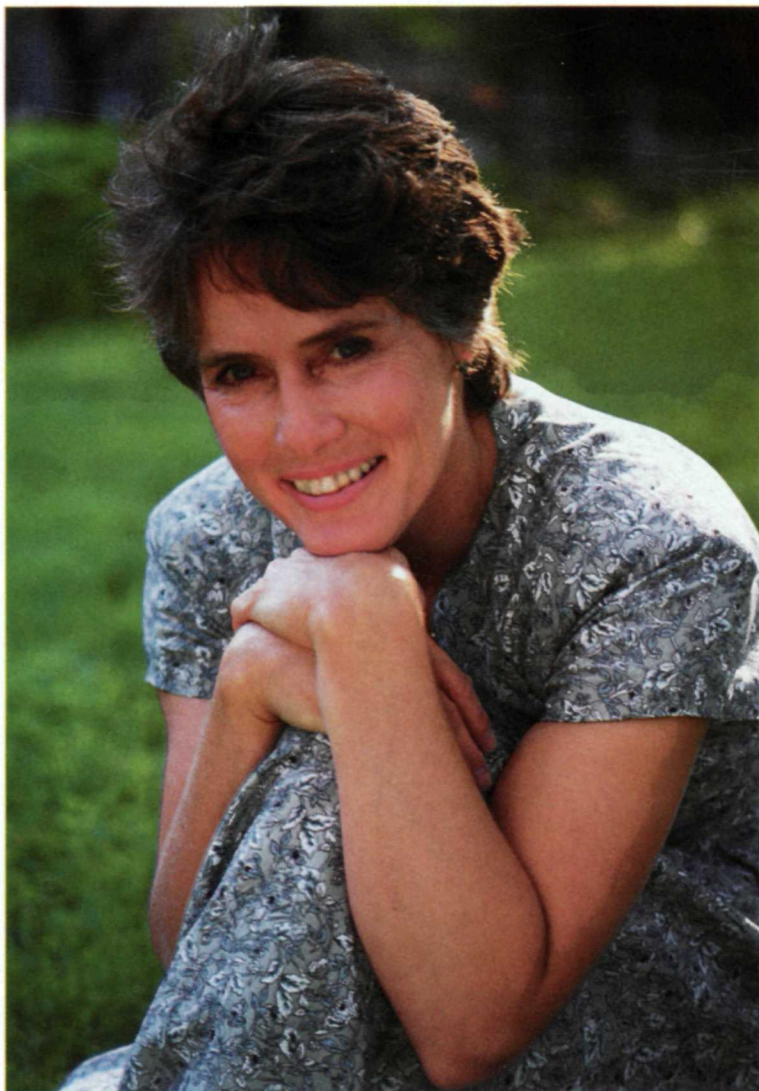
The NPS didn't care for that. It made people less tractable, less willing to follow the party line dictated from half a continent away."

It is descriptions such as these that some Park Service staffers believe demonstrate a disregard for both the agency and the people who work in the parks depicted. But Barr says the main purpose behind the novels is not to criticize, educate, nor facilitate change, but rather to entertain.

"I want people to love the parks," says Barr. "I point out the problems with the Park Service because I write about what I know, and what is true. I want the public still to believe that we're heroes, because I think everybody needs heroes. Why not let them be us? But I do think [the Park Service] needs to be deglamorized to the point that people realize that there are needs."

She also admits that her characters are composites of people she has met during her tenure as a law enforcement ranger. She joined the Park Service seven years ago, when she was 36, after pursuing an acting career for 18 years. She performed in off-Broadway plays with the Classic Stage Company as well as in corporate training films. Since joining the Park Service, she has worked at a variety of parks. Most, not coincidentally, have become backdrops for her mysteries.

Besides Guadalupe Mountains, Barr has served at Isle Royale and Mesa Verde. Currently at Natchez Trace Parkway, the author says readers should not look for an Anna Pigeon adventure at the Mississippi parkway. "I'd like to write one about the Trace, because I love the country, the animals, and the people. But it's a road, and a road doesn't hold any mystery for me," she says.



BRAD MARKEL

Like Anna Pigeon, the protagonist in her books, Barr is a law enforcement ranger for the National Park Service.

sonals came and went like stray cats. Even permanent employees seldom stayed in one place more than a few years, not if they wanted to advance their careers. People who 'homesteaded'—stayed in one park too long—tended to come to think of the place as theirs; they developed their own ideas of how it should be run.

BARR, an attractive, pixieish woman, followed her then-husband from the theater into the Park Service, not only to be with him, but to be in the parks. “We were both interested in the environmental movement, and he just decided he could not be in theater anymore,” she says. With a masters degree in acting, Barr says interpretation seemed an obvious choice. But “I thought that’s like being an underpaid actor, and I don’t want to do that. And also I don’t know enough to be an interpreter.” She turned to law enforcement, because they “got to do all the good stuff: the emergency medicine, search and rescue, all that stuff. I like the work. You get to strap on your car and your gun and go pester folks,” she jokes

Her first job was boat patrol at Isle Royale, where, like Anna Pigeon in *Superior Death*, she patrolled solo in a power boat “and drove like a puppy dog with my head out the window and the chart on the windshield.” Like Anna, Barr kept her gun in her briefcase, because dying of the cold was

more likely than getting shot, she says.

In addition to working boat patrol at the island park, Barr shares other characteristics with protagonist Anna Pigeon. Like Pigeon, Barr is a law enforcement ranger in her early 40s who worked as a seasonal for a time and

Her novels show a regard for the landscape, stunning descriptions that only a nature lover could paint, but also reflect Barr’s strong opinions about the National Park Service.

has a sister named Molly. Unlike Pigeon, Barr is divorced, not widowed; and her sister is an airline pilot for USAir, not a psychologist in Manhat-

tan. And Barr says most of her working hours are spent writing tickets and saving visitors from themselves, not solving murders.

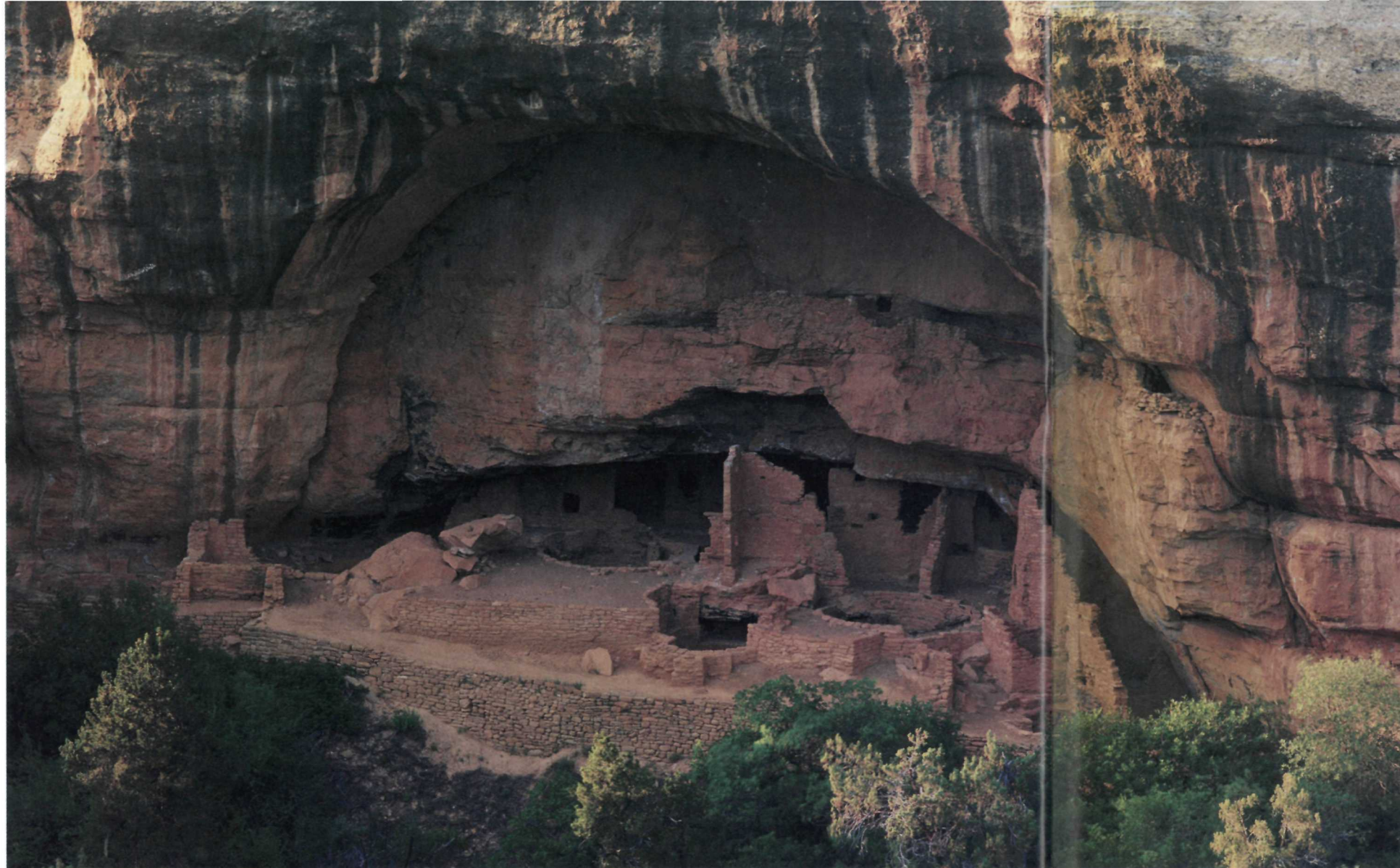
“Obviously, I have done a lot of the same things as Anna, but not all of them,” says Barr. She has not, for instance, done any diving in the frigid waters of Lake Superior. The realistic, spine-tingling descriptions in *Superior Death* came with the help of Dan Lenihan, chief of the NPS Submerged Cultural Resources Unit. For his help, Lenihan earned a note of special thanks at the beginning of the book.

“She can really get into someone’s head when she is trying to create a scene in something she is not familiar with,” says Lenihan. “She has a facility for opening up and listening. It came across that she really knew what she was talking about. The way she put it together was remarkable.”

Barr began to pursue writing seriously in 1978—well before she joined the Park Service. Among her motivations for writing was a desire for “women to do more, to move along the plot more, because all the women



Isle Royale National Park in Michigan, site of Barr’s first ranger job and of her second mystery novel, *Superior Death*.



LAURENCE PARENT

In Barr's third novel, *Ill Wind*, a murder mystery unfolds among the Anasazi ruins at Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado.

NEVADA BARR Continued

I knew were movers and doers. I decided I would write a book, so I could star in the movie," she says, laughing.

Described by one of her colleagues at Isle Royale, Anna Pigeon is someone with a "heart of gold, body of iron, and nerves of steel." For a fast-thinking, strong-minded woman with an insatiable curiosity, Anna does manage to get herself into and out of a heap of trouble. Barr says the women in her life provided strong role models as heroines.

She grew up in Susanville, California, 80 miles northwest of Reno at a small mountain airport where both her parents were pilots. Her mother, who was also a mechanic and a carpenter, still has a ranch in the area, which is on the eastern side of the Sierras and

on the edge of the Smoke Creek desert. Besides her mother, Barr mentions her Aunt Peggy, who taught third grade in a New York City public school, and her grandmother, a "fighting Quaker Democrat" and globe-trotting missionary. "These women did not come in at the second act to fluff up the pillows and leave," says Barr.

ALTHOUGH BARR began writing seriously nearly 20 years ago, she earned little income from it until the Anna Pigeon series, which is published by G.P. Putnam's Sons in New York City. Before the mysteries, Barr wrote historical novels, only one of which has been published so far.

The books in the Anna Pigeon series have sold well here and abroad,

finding their way onto bookstore shelves in Britain, Japan, Germany, Denmark, and the Netherlands. Although the National Park System is considered one of the United States' greatest exports, some within the Park Service are not as keen to have Barr's image of the agency going overseas. Even so, most critics recognize and accept the stories for what they are: fiction.

Sarah Craighead, assistant chief of interpretation and visitor services and also public information officer at Mesa Verde, says she enjoys the mysteries, but the books are hard for her to read. "In general, I enjoy the stories, but some of the cynicism about the Park Service makes me feel like I'm at work," says Craighead, who has been with the Park Service for 16 years. She has not yet read *Ill Wind*, although a

copy is making its way around Mesa Verde. Craighead says Barr's latest mystery "is not really a topic of discussion. We have other things to worry about...like a 10-percent budget cut."

At Guadalupe Mountains, Larry Henderson, who has served as superintendent of the park for five years, remembers Barr from his first summer there in 1990. He enjoys Barr's stories and says he does not fault the author for taking license with her descriptions of the Park Service. "Some people are ultra-sensitive about things, but you have to remember what it is. It is a mystery novel," says Henderson. "She took a core of information that was basically true, and expanded it and manipulated it. She was not reluctant to use pieces of real people and then lump them with other pieces to create something."

Henderson would not say whose pieces he recognized in the books, but

added: "We're going through some tough times now—we've gone through some tough times before—but the parks are not sacred places that people cannot take a pen to."

Barr has many fans among current and former Park Service employees who believe the author pulls no punches and gives an accurate description of what it is like to work for the federal agency. Carol Aten, senior vice president of NPCA and a Park Service employee for 21 years, says Barr "really captures the culture and the essence of the Park Service in her books. She also captures the real affection or passion...that Park Service people feel about the resources."

Barr has many fans among current and former Park Service employees who believe the author pulls no punches and gives an accurate description of what it is like to work for the federal agency.

Barr says she has a "tremendous amount of respect for the hierarchy in the Park Service. And if I had any hope for these books delivering a message, it would be to help them tap back into what the rank and file are doing."

If the books are any indication, the rank and file love working in the parks but could do with a little less interference from Washington. Lenihan says: "I think she paints a realistic and appealing picture of park rangers. They have one of the more glorious jobs in the world, but being able to see the seams, to me, makes it even more intriguing."

Besides opinions about the frustrations of working for a large agency, Barr weaves opinions into her stories about big and little concessioners and sportfishing.

On concessions: Barr writes in *Ill Wind*, "Anna often wondered how much money the hapless taxpayers had forked out in overtime so fully armed rangers could shoo mice out of the Hostess Twinkies. With the monies concessions pulled in they could easily afford Pinkertons."

Barr does not equate big concessions with the smaller businesses, similar to the diving operation run by twins

Hawk and Holly in *Superior Death*. These small operations provide a service that NPS cannot. But, she says, referring to the big businesses in the parks, "There should be some recompense to pay for the crime that concessions bring in and

the midnight forays to chase the mice out of the Twinkies."

And sportfishing, Barr says, is not something that should be allowed in the parks, just as hunting is prohibited, except where allowed through legislation. In *Superior Death*, Barr writes: "Despite Tinker and Damien's wishes, [Isle Royale] simply was not a hotbed of crime. The only deaths were those of innocent fishes and that was deemed not only legal but admirable."

So much so, it surprised Anna that it was not written into every ranger's job description that he or she was to ooh and ah over the corpses of what had once been flashing silver jewels enlivening the deep."

BARR'S FOURTH Anna Pigeon book will be released next spring and finds the law enforcement ranger on assignment in northern California at a fire camp on U.S. Forest Service land near Lassen Volcanic National Park. Descriptions of life in the camp will be fashioned after those experienced by Barr while she was based at the Horsefly fire camp in Idaho.

The National Park System will no doubt continue to provide fodder for Barr's books. She says she plans to stay, perhaps, until retirement. And, if she has worn out her welcome at any of the four sites where she already has served, she still has another 364 park units from which to choose—although if the current Congress has its way and park closures are authorized, her choices may be narrowed somewhat.

LINDA M. RANCOURT is associate editor of *National Parks* magazine.



Policing THE Policy

The Park Service's compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act has been neither consistent nor rigorously enforced. Unless a strict system for accountability is devised, park resources could suffer.

BY ROBERT AND PATRICIA CAHN

MORE THAN THREE YEARS AGO, Tennessee's Obed Wild and Scenic River, a unit of the National Park System, was under assault. A local utility district sought to build a dam and a 100-acre lake on a tributary of the river.

Dr. Liane Russell, an NPCA park watcher, alerted Don Barger, NPCA's Southeast regional director, to the proposal by the federal Rural Utilities Service. Although the dam would withdraw 1.5 million gallons a day from the Obed River, an environmental impact statement (EIS) was not planned, and the park superintendent had not been consulted. As a result of protests from NPCA and the park watcher group formed by Russell, the Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, the utility district agreed to prepare a full impact statement. With assistance from the Tennessee Valley Authority, the study team is now considering the water needs of the entire region in-

stead of only the demands of the local utility district.

This is just one of many cases demonstrating the importance of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Signed into law 25 years ago by then-President Nixon, NEPA was designed to make all government agencies think twice before harming the environment. The environmental impact statement is the law's most powerful instrument. Before undertaking any major action that could significantly affect the quality of the environment, the responsible federal official must prepare a detailed statement on its impact, consider less harmful alternatives, and give the public ample information and opportunity for comment. Many agencies did not welcome the new responsibilities that came with this revolutionary provision, but the law produced some basic changes in the way agencies do business.

When NEPA went into effect in 1970, it was assumed that the National Park Service (NPS) would become a leader in ensuring that environmental concerns would be given the highest priority before any major actions were taken. For a while, the Park Service

AT LEFT: Before larger buses could enter Denali, NPCA insisted that an environmental review take place.

DARRELL GULIN/DEMINSKY PHOTO ASSOC.

NEPA Continued

complied fairly well, at least compared with the Federal Highway Administration and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which tried to ignore the policy.

Although the majority of Park Service managers believe in the EIS process, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), which is responsible for overseeing NEPA implementation, noticed early on that certain tendencies were developing.

"Some employees in a few agencies like the Park Service have suffered from the 'White Knight' syndrome," says Dinah Bear, CEQ general counsel. "They feel that NEPA is mostly for the bad guys, the wetlands destroyers or the highway and dam builders, and doesn't really apply to them."

University of Utah Law Professor William Lockhart, an expert on the legal aspects of NEPA, says that many park superintendents, like too many other government decision makers, are driven by budgetary or other considerations. "Park managers may approach NEPA grudgingly with the intent merely of going through the hoops or even avoiding the hoops, partly because they may not recognize how useful and important compliance can be to their mission," says Lockhart. "Also, NPS comments on other agencies' EISs are far too timid when relating to potential park impacts, and park superintendents should realize that, despite its procedural role, the NEPA process can have a critical impact on substantive protection of the park."

Department and Park Service regulations now require that full EISs be prepared for all park General Management Plans. For other decisions, managers are given some latitude in deciding to substitute the shorter and less complete Environmental Assessment (EA), which often results in an accompanying Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Managers can also declare a "Categorical Exclusion" (CE), meaning that certain decisions that clearly have no significant impact can be exempted from NEPA.

NEPA oversight and compliance within the Park Service have been inconsistent, with few if any provisions for checking on park superintendents

who have issued EAs or FONSI with-out public involvement, used a categorical exclusion for a controversial action, or ignored the EIS requirement. Traditionally, Park Service regional offices have reviewed all impact statements and assessments but rarely checked on exclusions to verify whether the project qualified for that action.

"Our regulations demand that park

When NEPA went into effect, it was assumed that the National Park Service would become a leader in ensuring that environmental concerns would be given the highest priority.

managers consider the intensity and context of any planned development," says Jacob Hoogland, head of the NPS Environmental Quality Division. "Putting 30 houses in Denver might not be a major action. But if you put them on the rim of the Grand Canyon or in Denali National Park, it would be a major decision."

Decisions involving concession activities have given the Park Service some special compliance problems. At Denali last year, the superintendent negotiated changes in a transportation contract allowing the concessioner to use larger buses on the road through the park and to build a maintenance facility within the park.

NPCA Alaska Regional Director Chip Dennerlein protested that an environmental assessment on the project had been issued nearly two months after a contract had been signed, without public involvement or discussion of alternatives. Dennerlein charged that the proposed larger buses could prove unsuitable for certain sections of the park road and might, in turn, require substantial reconstruction of the road-

bed. This, he said, could result in a sequence of events affecting wildlife and the primitive character of the park. He suggested that the future of the entire visitor transportation system in the park needed to be addressed before the bus size was changed or a new maintenance facility built. He also said the proposed actions represented a closed process that circumvented the letter and intent of NEPA.

The EA was withdrawn and a new one issued after a public comment period. Despite a number of meaningful improvements to the new EA (e.g., changes to the bus specifications, better monitoring of the contract) and the hiring of several personnel to write a clear Statement for Management, the park still lacks a comprehensive plan to guide future decisions about transportation, resource protection, and visitor enjoyment of Denali's front-country and the road corridor. Dennerlein is pushing the Park Service to work with NPCA and other public groups, local citizens, and the concessioner to develop such a plan.

Dennerlein and NPCA President Paul C. Pritchard also protested a proposal put forth by Alaska members of Congress that would permit more cruise ships in Glacier Bay National Park. The Park Service has not done an impact statement on the request or made a further study of the potential harm increased cruise ship use could cause to the endangered Pacific humpback whales and other wildlife.

In a recent letter to Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, Pritchard took issue with Alaska Sen. Frank Murkowski's statement to the press that viewing Glacier over the rail of a cruise ship is the best way to see the park. He urged Secretary Babbitt to ensure that additional scientific studies are made and that a full EIS be prepared.

"Even though the EIS process can be tedious, costly, and cumbersome, the National Park System must adhere to the highest standards of environmental decision-making in our nation, and the decisions must be founded on the enduring principles of the park

AT RIGHT: NPCA protested a push to increase the number of cruise ships in Glacier Bay without a review.



NEPA Continued

system itself," says Pritchard. "If the magnificent landscape of Glacier Bay is being considered for increased accessibility by luxury liners, there should also be an enhanced opportunity for those who seek to experience the primeval nature of the park on its own terms away from the crowds, conveniences, and machines of our often too hectic world."

SIMILAR INSTANCES of inadequate or nonexistent NEPA compliance continue in national park units elsewhere in the country. In most cases, shortcuts result in more hassle than if a proper impact statement had been done in the first place.

In 1993 at Yellowstone National Park, the superintendent proposed to cut down some old-growth trees and build several large cement foundations at Undine Falls as part of upgrading a rope tow for a skiing area. He believed this action to be a categorical exclusion and did not prepare an EIS. NPCA Rocky Mountain Regional Director

Terri Martin protested, and the project was stopped.

On another occasion at Yellowstone, nearby ranchers complained about bison wandering beyond the park boundaries and potentially spreading brucellosis, a disease that causes pregnant cattle to abort. The park prepared a plan for rangers to shoot some of the animals within the park so they could be tested for the disease. The superintendent relied on an earlier environmental assessment prepared for an-

**In most cases, shortcuts
result in more hassle
than if a proper impact
statement had been done
in the first place.**

other bison hunt, and prepared a supplemental assessment and FONSI with no public involvement or review. The Fund for Animals stopped the hunt through court action, and the Park Ser-

vice then withdrew the plan.

One of the most pressing current problems being addressed through NEPA concerns how to protect Yellowstone from the effects of the Noranda company's proposed "New World" mine. Located within a national forest in Montana, the mine is less than three miles from the northeast corner of the park. NPCA's Martin and other conservationists want to ensure that the Forest Service does not allow toxic mine tailings to pollute streams that flow to the park, and that the EIS will analyze the harm that would come to the park from mine roads, work camps, and power lines. The Canadian mine owners, sitting on an estimated \$800 million in gold, are also trying to weaken state water quality regulations, claiming that treating the water to avoid harming park resources would cost too much.

NEPA does not provide direct authority for addressing the substantive issue of whether a mine should be permitted on the border of the oldest national park. The U.S. Forest Service and the state of Montana both claim they have no legal authority to deny the



LAURENCE PARENT

One problem being addressed through NEPA is how to protect Yellowstone from a proposed mine outside its boundary.

mine permit outright. Nevertheless, both have substantial authority to impose protective conditions to limit harm to park natural resources.

Park Service administrators in Washington, D.C., also were charged recently with violating NEPA when they made a decision to transfer Children's Island in the Anacostia River to the District of Columbia for a proposed theme park. NPCA, the Sierra Club, and the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund along with two District of Columbia organizations went to court to challenge the land transfer, alleging that NPS used an environmental assessment and a Finding of No Significant Impact instead of an EIS, without any prior public review. Last December, a federal district court judge ruled that the Park Service had to comply with NEPA and consider the establishment of a minimally developed public park at the site. The Park Service has appealed the court ruling.

Despite the difficulties presented by compliance with NEPA, the Park Service has found the process useful in bringing public involvement into park planning decisions at an early stage. The hearings and comments often help managers avoid harmful decisions, steering them toward more beneficial alternatives.

Yosemite National Park's 1992 EIS for a new concession management plan produced heavily attended public hearings in California's four largest cities, and the draft impact statement brought more than 4,000 written comments. In response to the public comments, the Park Service adopted 11 specific changes in the plan, for instance, choosing economy cabins and cottages rather than motel units for replacement lodging, and opting against new lodging at Wawona.

Hearings under NEPA can sometimes build public support nationally for issues that may be locally controversial. In the case of wolf reintroduction, the Park Service held hearings in Salt Lake City, Washington, D.C., and

Denver as well as in towns near Yellowstone National Park, where the wolves were to be released.

Without NEPA and its EIS requirement, countless other agency actions



GEORGE WUERTHNER

Through hearings under NEPA, a plan to release gray wolves in Yellowstone received national support.

would have gone unchallenged. Extensive public hearings last year and well-attended workshops for citizens to air their views on the planning for the Presidio at Golden Gate National Recreation Area in San Francisco led to several changes in the EIS for the general management plan. Bowing to public opinion, the Park Service's concept for turning historic Crissy Field into a manicured urban waterfront was changed to balance recreational uses such as jogging, walking, and board sailing with restoration of natural systems such as dunes and wetlands.

AT A TIME when NPS is just beginning to implement a massive reorganization plan, the agency is also preparing an extensive overhaul of regulations for NEPA compliance. In the restructuring, decisions about whether to prepare EISs, as well as responsibility for signing off on the documents, will be left entirely to the discretion of the park superintendent. Unless a strict system for accountability is devised—the lack of which has been a long-time weakness of NPS—park resources could suffer.

In sending NPCA's official comments to the Park Service on the proposed overhaul of NEPA regulations, Pritchard said better policy decisions will result in improved resource protection, fewer incidents of conflict and litigation, and better interaction with the public. NPCA recommended that the Park Service improve its accountability system for NEPA compliance, strengthen the use of NEPA in commenting on other agency actions, allow increased citizen access to decision making, and provide better information gathering in the parks to assist in assessing impacts of proposed actions or alternatives.

All of these proposals for better compliance may have little impact, however, if Congress goes forward with legislation now pending. Although the Clinton Administration has reversed its proposal to abolish the Council on Environmental Quality and has actually brought it back to life with a dozen new positions and added funding, the Senate and House are trying to weaken the environmental impact statement process. House and Senate proposals originally attached to the 1995 recissions bill directed the U.S. Forest Service to increase significantly its logging of salvage timber, which could harm national parks adjacent to national forests. The proposal would exempt the Forest Service from complying with NEPA and many other environmental laws and would deny citizens the right to go to court to enforce those laws.

"NEPA should be mandated for these reports, not exempted," says NPCA's President Pritchard. "Compliance with NEPA may cause delays, but the public interest is best served not by the speed by which the recommendations...are made, but by the thoughtfulness, fairness, and thoroughness of the process and the recommendations."

BOB AND PATRICIA CAHN last wrote for National Parks about the U.S. park system as a model for countries worldwide.



Rustic Retreats

For an overnight adventure in the national parks, stay at one of the many cabins ranging from primitive to deluxe.

BY YVETTE LA PIERRE

I AM A CONFIRMED camper. With each trip to a national park, I happily pack, unpack, and repack my tent, ground cover, sleeping bags, lantern, stove, fuel, pots and pans, and jugs of water. I enjoy sleeping in the wilderness and, as a trade-off, carry my dishes to a communal spigot and wander about in the middle of the night looking for the bathroom. Usually. One fall, however, I had the chance to stay in a cabin in a national park. Though I felt a little guilty each time I stepped into the private shower or washed the dishes in a sink of hot sudsy water, the combination of the comforts of home in a wilderness setting was a treat.

If you are looking for an alternative to your usual camping vacation or are not the camping type but find motels uninspiring, try a cabin vacation in a national park. More than 30 national parks across the country offer cabins for rent. Cabins run the gamut from deluxe places with kitchens and bathrooms to little more than a lean-to. Some offer solitude in a secluded spot, while others are connected and attractive to large groups and families. Cabins in national parks are limited, so plan ahead and make reservations.

While enjoying your cabin, do not neglect to get out and explore the park. If you have time before you travel, write to the park you are visiting for more information about what to see and do there. Many parks have information sheets listing schedules and locations of ranger-guided interpretive

walks and talks and other park activities. You can also get a basic park travel planning kit by writing the National Park Service office of Public Inquiries at P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127. When you arrive at the park, check out the visitor center first for information to help plan your stay.

Voyageurs National Park

At Voyageurs National Park, you can stay along the historic Voyageurs Highway, where centuries ago, French Canadians paddled 16 hours a day or more and on long portages carried their canoes and hundreds of pounds of goods.

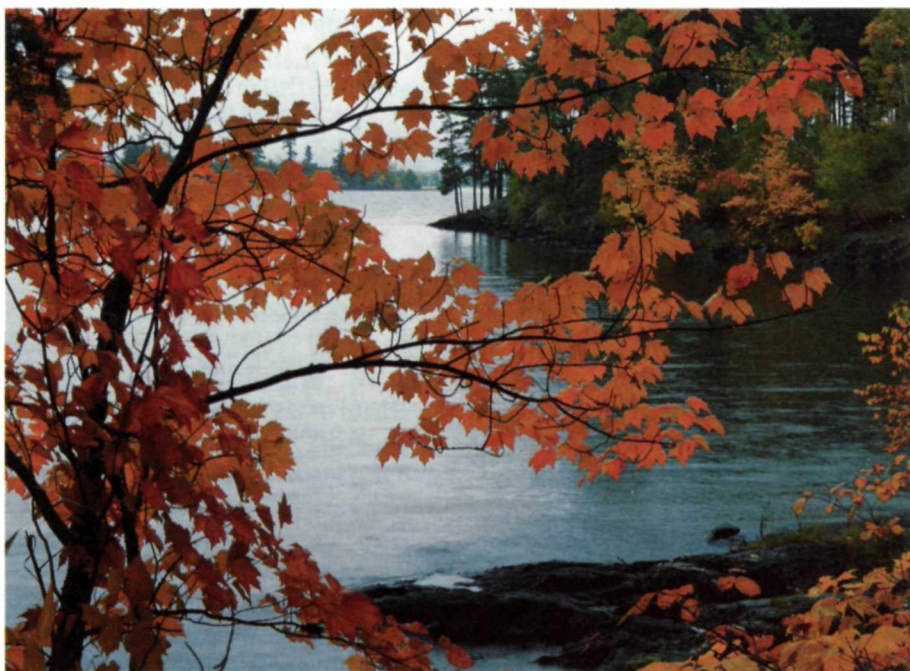
Voyageurs remains a place to be enjoyed by water—visitors tour the park's more than 30 lakes by motorboat, houseboat, and canoe. Fishing is popu-

lar, as is wildlife watching (look for eagles, black bear, and wolves) and hiking. Spectacular color and lack of mosquitoes make fall a great time to visit.

About one-half mile from historic Kettle Falls Hotel are separate cabins or "villas" for rent. The hotel was built between 1910 and 1913 to provide meals and lodging for the men working in the area, and the wooden floors of the hotel's dining room are still marked by the spikes of loggers' boots.

The villas are only about four years old, but they retain some of the rustic look of the area with cedar siding and shingles. On a point overlooking Rainy Lake, the villas offer one of the few

Visitors can enjoy spectacular fall color along the historic waterways at Voyageurs National Park.



DAVID MUENCH

YVETTE LA PIERRE, who lives in Grand Forks, Montana, last wrote about volcanoes for NATIONAL PARKS.

places where you can look south into Canada. There are three units of four cabins, for a total of 12 rental units that sleep from four to six people. You can also open a door between rooms and make a suite that sleeps eight, or rent an entire unit and sleep 18.

All rooms have a bathroom with shower; some of the rooms have a fully equipped kitchen, including coffee pot, toaster, and dishes. Bedding, towels, and cleaning service are included. A ferry serves Kettle Falls, and transportation is available to the villas.

Rates range from \$100 to \$250 per room per night. The villas are closed from mid-October to mid-May. For reservations, contact Kettle Falls Hotel, Ash River Trail, Orr, MN 55771; 715-246-3174 or 800-322-0886.

North Cascades Complex

Rugged peaks, lush forests, and pristine lakes make North Cascades a hiking and fishing paradise. The complex, which includes North Cascades National Park and Ross Lake and Lake Chelan national recreation areas, is adjacent to more than 2 million acres of U.S. Forest Service wilderness area and British Columbia parks, making it one of the most intact wild areas in the United States. In the fall, when salmon begin returning from the ocean to Skagit River, bald eagles come to the park to feed.

Ross Lake Resort has ten cabins and three bunkhouses, all on floating log rafts along the steep shoreline. Modern cabins have cooking stoves, refrigerators, showers, and wood-burning fireplaces. The rustic cabins have wood-burning stoves for cooking and heating and shared baths. Towels, bedding, and pots and pans are provided, but you must bring food. You can either hike in (two miles) or arrange to be picked up by boat. While there, you can rent boats, kayaks, or canoes, and tie up right outside your cabin.

Rates are \$81 a night for two for the modern cabins, \$54 a night for two in the little cabins; each additional person is extra. The bunkhouse, which holds a maximum of eight to ten, is \$104 a night.

The resort is open June 16 through



North Cascades offers a variety of overnight accommodations at Ross Lake and in Stehekin Valley, including cabins such as the one, left, at Stehekin Valley Ranch.

portation to the ranch and range from \$55 a night per adult to \$15 a night for young children. The ranch is open June through early October.

The ranch offers horseback riding, rafting, fishing, and mountain bike tours. For reservations and more information, contact Stehekin Valley Ranch, Box 36, Stehekin, WA 98852; 509-682-4677.

North Cascades Stehekin Lodge on Lake Chelan has seven cabins that are open year-round. The fully equipped cabins sleep two to eight people and have kitchen facilities and either a forest or lake view. Rates are from \$80 to \$95 a night, based on two guests per unit; special rates are available in the off-season.

The lodge has a restaurant, boat moorage, paddle boats, and cross-country ski trails and offers for rent

October 31. For reservations, contact Ross Lake Resort, Rockport, WA 98283; 206-386-4437.

Nine miles up Stehekin Valley is Stehekin Valley Ranch, where you can stay in simple tent cabins. These rustic accommodations do not have plumbing or electricity, but kerosene lamps are provided and bathroom facilities are nearby. Bedding and towels are included, but if you bring your own, you can save \$5.

Fees for tent cabins, which sleep 25 to 30 people, include meals and trans-



EXCURSIONS *continued*

fishing boats, bicycles, and snowshoes.

For reservations, contact the lodge at P.O. Box 457, Chelan, WA 98816; 509-682-4494.

Haleakala

Haleakala offers the unique opportunity to camp within a volcano wilderness. Stark lava scenery, rare plants, and birds delight visitors who come to hike in this once-active volcano.

Within the wilderness area are three cabins, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, that are accessible by hiking four to 10 miles of trails. Kapalaoa and Holua cabins sit in grassy areas surrounded by volcanic terrain, while Paliku cabin is surrounded by lush ferns and forest. The cabins, which sleep up to 12 people, have wood-burning stoves, cooking utensils and dishes, padded bunks, pit toilets, and limited nonpotable water and firewood. Visitors should bring sleeping bags, warm clothing, fire starter, candles, and something to treat the water.

The cabin fee for one to six people is \$40 a night for the group; a group of seven to 12 people is \$80 a night. Cabins are rented to only one group per night and are available by advance reservation only, granted by a monthly

lottery. To enter each lottery, a legibly written request must be received two months prior to the first day of the month for which you are requesting a reservation. Phone and fax requests are not accepted.

To better your chances, mail reservations early and consider coming at off-peak times—most requests are for weekend or holiday nights, and summer is the busiest season. If you choose the fall, come prepared for a mixture of weather, from hot and sunny to cool, wet, and windy.

Mail reservation requests to Haleakala National Park, Attn: Cabins, P.O. Box 369, Makawao, HI 96768. Only one request per group is accepted.

Cape Lookout

Unlike the rest of North Carolina's Outer Banks, the narrow islands of Cape Lookout remain undeveloped and can be reached only by boat or ferry. But the remote beaches, superb ocean fishing, and remnants of maritime history are worth the effort. A self-guiding tour takes visitors through quiet Portsmouth Village, established in




DAVID MUENCH

The remote beaches of Cape Lookout can be reached only by boat but are worth the effort.

1753 and once an integral part of the area's shipping industry. Cape Lookout Lighthouse, completed in 1859, has survived hurricanes and the Civil War.

Each island has 20 to 30 cabins for rent. The cabins have bathrooms, hot and cold running water, and gas stoves. There is no electricity, but propane lanterns are provided. You must bring your own supplies, including linens, towels, cooking utensils, and food.

Cabins sleep between two and 12 people, and rates range from \$33 to \$133 a night, depending on the party's size. Reservations are recommended, especially during the fall, which is fishing season. Call 919-225-4261.

For more information about the park, contact Cape Lookout at 131 Charles Street, Harkers Island, NC 28531; 919-728-2250. 

A volcanic landscape awaits the visitor who reserves a cabin at Haleakala National Park in Hawaii.



STAN OSOLINSKI/DEMBINSKY PHOTO ASSOC.

The Science Stalemate

A bold plan to take stock of the nation's natural resources has faltered at the hands of Congress, and science in the parks continues to suffer.

BY GEORGE WUERTHNER

WHEN SECRETARY of the Interior Bruce Babbitt first proposed creating the National Biological Service (NBS), his plan was greeted enthusiastically by park supporters and federal employees. It was considered a positive step toward greater scientific understanding of our public lands.

As initially envisioned, NBS would, among other things, undertake a systematic inventory of the nation's biological resources. Modeled after the U.S. Geological Survey, NBS was to provide a scientific foundation to support the management and the conservation of America's ecosystems. The underlying premise was that you cannot manage what you do not know and understand.

NBS could have filled and can still fill a critical role for the underfunded, understaffed National Park Service (NPS). But because of congressional maneuvering, the National Biological Service has not been allowed to operate as originally envisioned. An appalling lack of information about the resources protected within the National Park System

makes it imperative that science become a priority in the parks.

Because parks serve as the country's natural laboratories, one might presume that park science and scientists are well funded and well supported. Unfortunately, outside of a few of the

U.S. Forest Service's annual budget and 8.7 percent of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's budget. Such figures confirm findings by the National Academy of Sciences. A report issued by the academy two years ago stated that most national parks do not have a science

program at all. In far too many parks, funding for scientists and scientific research takes a back seat to what may seem like more pressing needs such as fixing the potholes in the roads and putting a fresh coat of paint on the outhouses.

One recent study found that only 30 of 252 park units with significant natural areas had species lists that were 95 percent complete for ANY major plant or animal group such as vascular plants or birds—never mind the less glamorous groups such as lichens, fungi, or amphibians.

Even though national parks are often considered among the most studied natural areas in the country, within the past ten years more than 3,000 plant and animal species have been added to the species lists of park units just within the Park Service's four-state Western region: California, Hawaii, Nevada, and most of Arizona. That so many new listings could be discovered suggests that large gaps exist even in the most fun-



ANDREW TOOS

larger parks such as Kings Canyon-Sequoia, Yellowstone, Glacier, and Yosemite, NPS has had almost no scientists on staff. And funding for long-term scientific monitoring and inventory is generally nonexistent.

In 1987, for example, only 2.4 percent of the Park Service budget was spent on research and scientific support, compared with 5.6 percent of the

GEORGE WUERTHNER, a former wildlife biologist and botanist, worked on federal lands throughout the West.



damental knowledge of our parks. And these lists do not even begin to address questions about species distribution or population trends.

It was gaps such as these that NBS was established to correct. But the original optimism that greeted its formation has soured. Some even believe NBS jeopardizes the limited scientific research and monitoring that once occurred in the national parks.

Not all of the blame can be assigned to Babbitt. As originally conceived, NBS was to be a separate agency with its own funding and staff. But when the current Congress balked at funding a new agency, Babbitt reassigned 1,900 scientists from existing land management agencies to NBS.

In terms of the Park Service, nearly all of its scientists—about 100 people—are now employed by NBS. This has left many park areas without biologists to review planning documents or respond to the immediate needs of individual park units. And as one reassigned NPS biologist said, a lot of scientific information was passed on to park managers during coffee breaks, drives to the field, or meetings. The close working association between scientists and other park staff is not easy to qualify, but many believe it helped to provide scientific understanding for park management decisions.

The loss of staff biologists is not the only effect of NBS on park science. Ongoing studies now compete against a nationwide agenda and priorities. For example, researcher Dr. Robert Crabtree began studying social and population dynamics of coyotes in Yellowstone National Park five years ago. He undertook his study partly in anticipation of the wolves' return to Yellowstone. Now that wolves are in the park, presenting a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to study their effect on the existing coyote populations, Crabtree's research funding is disappearing—a victim of NBS reorganization.

Many observers feel NBS is being held hostage by congressional foes of

the Endangered Species Act (ESA) who fear that an inventory will unearth more species worthy of concern and attention. Their operating motto appears to be "ignorance is bliss." If you do not know a species exists, then you will not have to worry about its extinction. Using a backdoor approach, ESA opponents seek to cripple the federal government's information-collect-

In far too many parks, funding for scientists and scientific research takes a back seat to what may seem like more pressing needs such as fixing pot holes and putting a fresh coat of paint on the outhouses.

ing ability as a means of reducing or eliminating what they perceive to be unnecessary federal regulation. NBS is caught in the crossfire of this debate.

With all the disappointment expressed concerning NBS, not everyone is disenchanted. Even scientists who felt NBS was off to a bad start admitted that it has promise.

Already there is better coordination of information gathering and methodologies. Often in the past, a standardized method or data collection process did not exist. Before the service's formation, no two California national parks used the same classification scheme to monitor birds. As a result, it is virtually impossible to compare the status of birds between parks. One

of the goals of NBS is to provide unified standards for all biological census and collection methods.

NBS also seeks to prevent any "future ecological train wrecks." Rather than wait for species to slip to the brink of extinction, Babbitt's goal is to know the trend and status of species well in advance.

Another benefit resulting from the formation of NBS may be the quality of the science produced. In the past, much of park scientific research lacked peer review. That does not mean it was done poorly, but the quality control guaranteed by peer review of research proposals as well as publications under NBS ensures that research done in parks will be of a high caliber. Indeed, the new director of NBS, Ron Pulliam, demands that researchers publish their findings in top scientific journals, with pay and advancement partially based on a publication record, just as it is in academia.

So, what is the future of parks? A lot depends on how Congress reacts to NBS. Whether NBS prospers or founders, our parks need a greater commitment to science and scientific research. We need to encourage more biological inventories before we make more picnic tables. We need more permanent and seasonal biologists before we need more road crews or campground attendants. Even in these lean budgetary times, it is still a matter of priorities.

Park managers must fund science programs well, even if this comes at the expense of long-term maintenance of infrastructure. After all, you can always rebuild a picnic table or repave a road, but you cannot bring back a species from extinction or re-create an ecosystem that has ceased to function.

If we need to cut corners, it should not be done at the expense of the biological resources we hold in trust for future generations. With or without NBS, the National Park Service needs to increase its support and funding for scientific research. ■

NPCA Notes



BY M. KATHERINE HEINRICH

Allies for Parks

► NPCA President Paul C. Pritchard presented the association's first international award to British Columbia's Premier Michael Harcourt in Vancouver, B.C., this summer. The award recognizes Harcourt's unprecedented efforts to establish protected areas in the Canadian province. Since taking office in the fall of 1991, Harcourt has overseen the designation of 101 new protected areas totaling 6,719,001 acres. The new areas include Tatshenshini-Alsek Provincial Park, which protects the mile-wide Tatshenshini River. Creation of the park established a link between Canada's Kluane National Park and Glacier Bay and Wrangell-St. Elias national parks in Alaska, creating the largest international protected area in the world.

"NPCA is pleased to have such a strong international ally for parks," Pritchard said.

NPCA Reaches Out

► NPCA welcomes Iantha Gantt, who was recruited to organize cultural diversity activities for the

association. Gantt comes to NPCA with nine years of experience in public education and community organizing with Clean Water Action. As coordinator of NPCA's new effort, Gantt is developing strategies to increase the involvement of citizens from diverse communities in park issues.

"Our goal," Gantt said, "is to assist communities in their efforts to protect their parks."

Although the project is still in the planning stages, it will emphasize education and outreach, focusing on schoolchildren and college students. Another priority is building relationships with community leaders and political representatives.

NPCA would like to hear your ideas for diversifying the parks constituency. Send comments to Iantha Gantt at NPCA, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

Checks with a Message

► Help spread the message of national park preservation with every check you write. NPCA's new message checks will show that you care about our national

parks. Featuring the NPCA logo and spectacular color images of Yellowstone, Yosemite, and Arches national parks, these checks make the task of check writing more enjoyable while you spread the word about NPCA's mission.

NPCA checks are a simple way to help the parks every day. Fifteen percent of every new order will benefit NPCA's park protection programs, plus the checks are printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink.

Turn to page 23 for more information about ordering NPCA checks.

Giving at Work

► September 15 marks the kickoff of the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), featuring Earth Share and other workplace giving federations. NPCA is a founding member of Earth Share, which allows government, corporate, and institutional employees to donate to NPCA and 42 other environmental groups. Last year's campaign yielded nearly \$400,000 for NPCA.

Federal employees can donate to NPCA through CFC by designating NPCA (agency #0910) on their



Earth ShareSM

pledge forms. The following states have also included NPCA and Earth Share in their workplace giving campaigns: Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin. Cities, counties, universities, and corporations also sponsor campaigns with Earth Share.

Contact Diane Clifford at 1-800-NAT-PARK, extension 131, for a complete listing of Earth Share workplace campaigns or for information on including Earth Share in your employer's workplace giving campaign.

Calling Grand Canyon

► Planning a visit to Grand Canyon National Park? Plan to call a new 900 number that places information

MARCH FOR PARKS CELEBRATES 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY

*Volunteers needed to organize events in
national, state, and city parks—FREE materials available!*

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

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



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

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

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

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

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Name of Park: _____ Type: _____ # marchers planned: _____

\$ Goal: _____ Funds will be used to _____

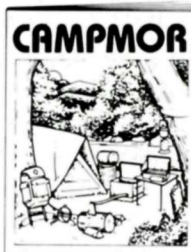
Date of March: ☐ April 19 ☐ April 20 ☐ April 21 ☐ April 22

"I agree to hold a March for Parks on Earth Day weekend (April 19–22, 1996), using the official March for Parks logo and all national sponsor logos on all printed materials. I will accept local sponsorship only from companies that are not in conflict with national sponsors. I will donate all of the net proceeds from my march to the public park of my choice. I will send results, photos, and other information to NPCA after my event is completed."

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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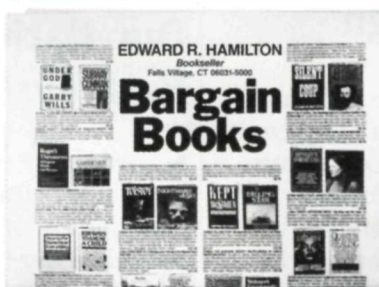
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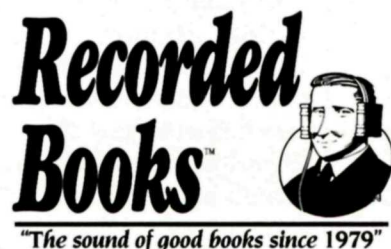
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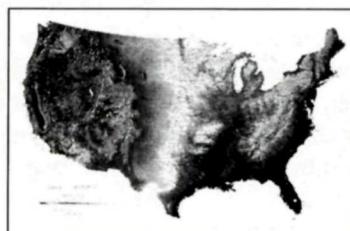
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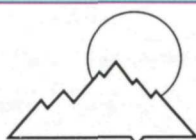
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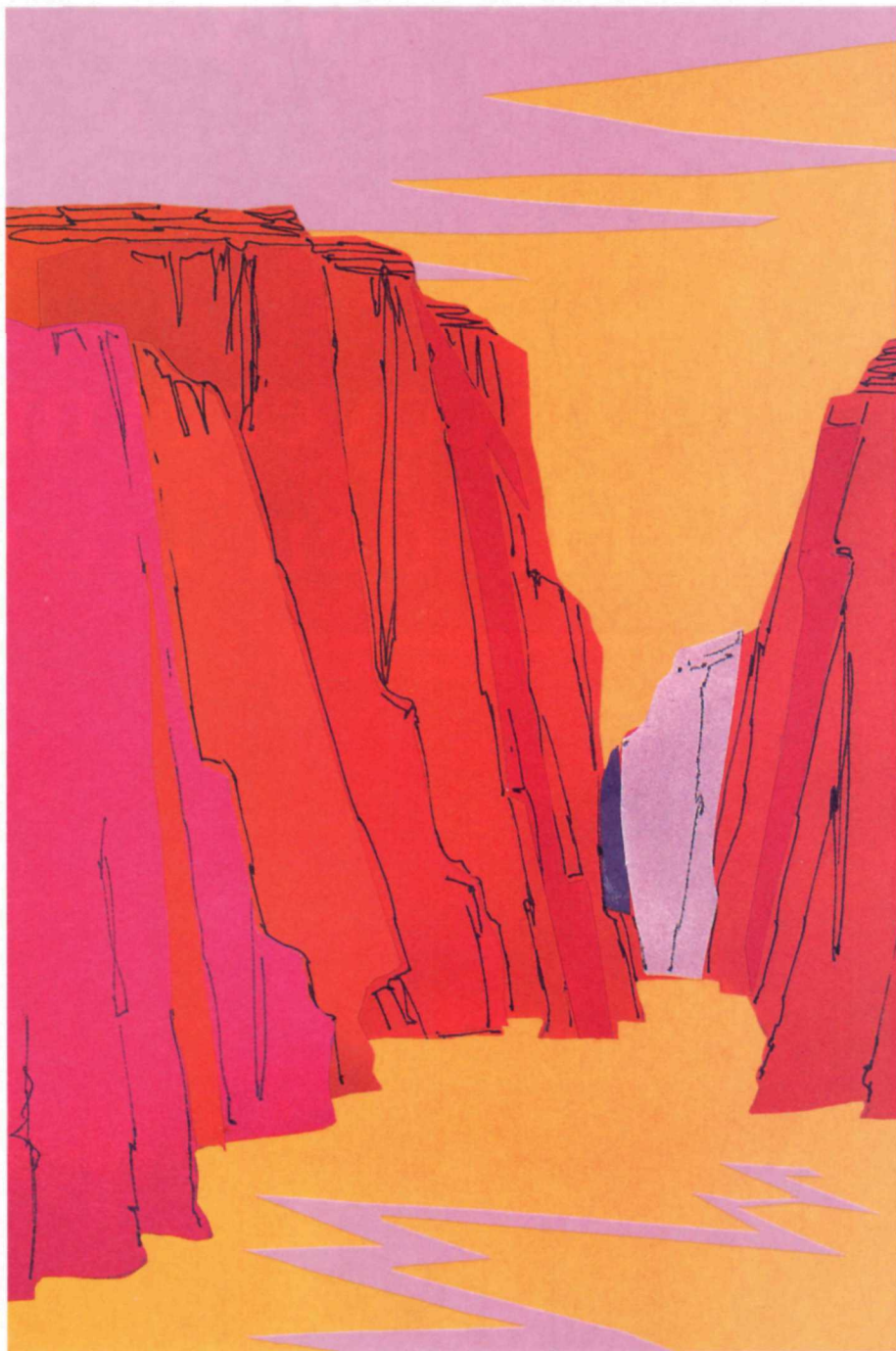
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