

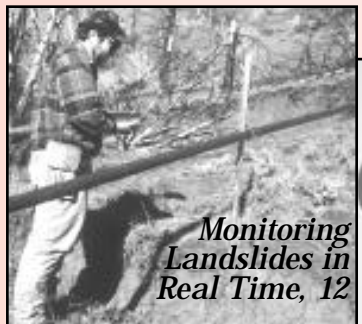
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

PEOPLE & LAND & WATER

April 1997 Volume 4, Number 4



Dyer's Gift, 2



*Monitoring
Landslides in
Real Time, 12*



*Winter
of
Fear, 5*



Grand Staircase-Escalante, 6, 16-17

THE INSIDE LINE

<i>Interior People</i>	<i>2-3</i>
<i>Around the Department</i>	<i>4-5</i>
<i>Working With America</i>	<i>6-7</i>
<i>U.S. Geological Survey</i>	<i>12-14</i>
<i>Office of Surface Mining</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Bureau of Indian Affairs</i>	<i>18-19</i>
<i>National Park Service</i>	<i>20-21</i>
<i>Fish and Wildlife Service</i>	<i>22-23</i>
<i>Minerals Management Service</i>	<i>24-25</i>
<i>Bureau of Reclamation</i>	<i>26-27</i>
<i>Bureau of Land Management</i>	<i>28-29</i>
<i>Office of Insular Affairs</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Information Technology</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>Viewpoint</i>	<i>32</i>

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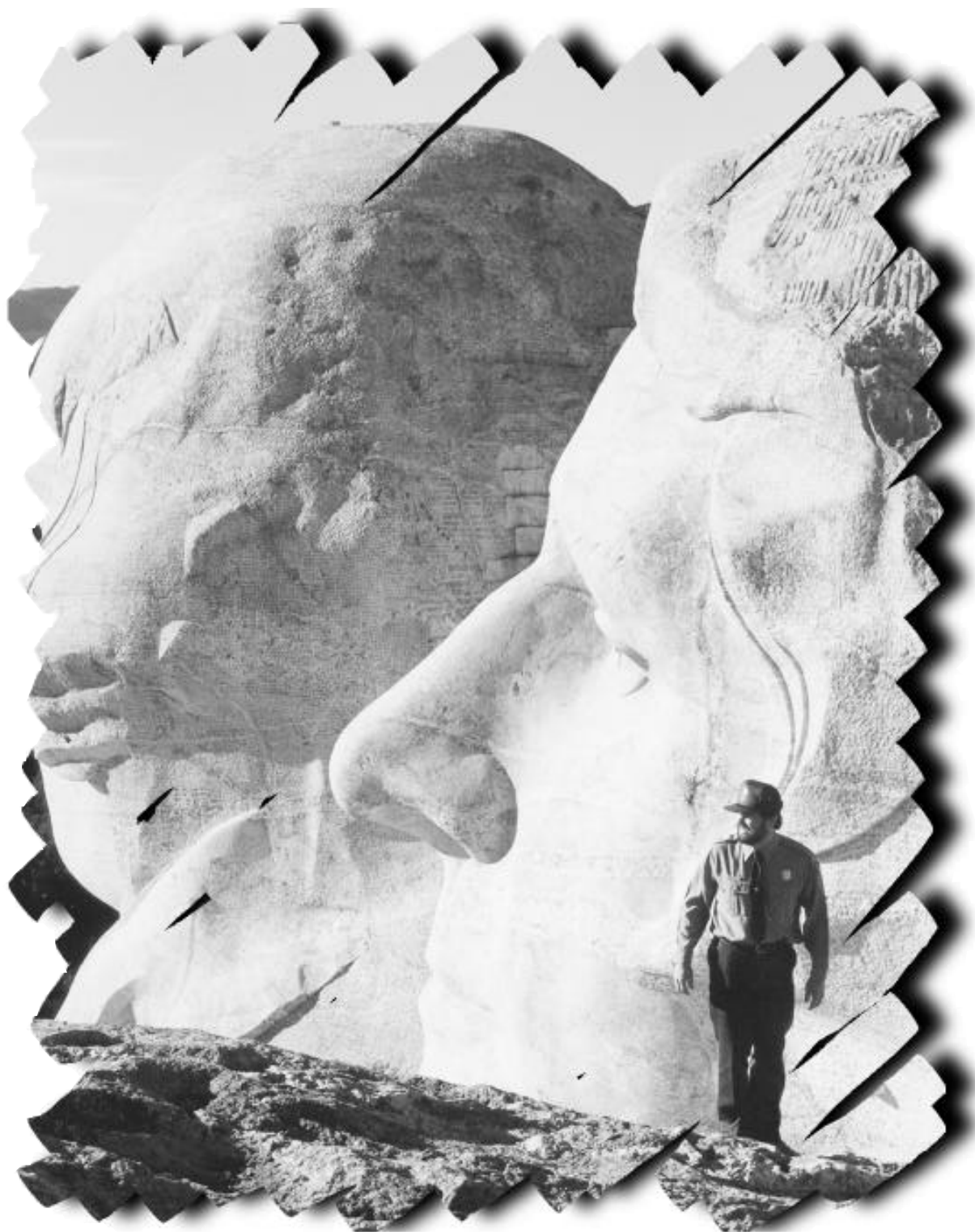


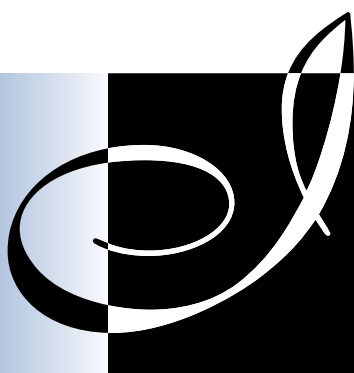
Photo by Greg Latza. Courtesy of the Argus Leader

Looking Back to the Future

Mike Pflaum, chief park ranger at Mount Rushmore National Monument, appears to be gazing into the future with Thomas Jefferson, whose image is carved on the monument behind Pflaum, during an inspection trip. As the National Park System marks the 125th anniversary of its birth, its leaders recall the vision, wisdom, and commitment that gave birth to 'one of the best ideas America ever had.' Pages 10-11. This issue also offers articles in the People, Around the Department, NPS News, and Viewpoint sections that focus on the creativity, dedication, and accomplishments of NPS workers as they draw strength from the past and support from their communities to face the challenges of preserving the nation's historic, natural, and cultural resources in the years ahead.



Pages 8-9



Interior People: A Look at Department Employees

DAS for Bob Lamb



Bob Lamb

Bob Lamb, the senior career executive in the Department, has been named deputy assistant secretary for Budget and Finance. A 20-year veteran at Interior, Lamb served as director of Fiscal Resources for the past four years. He will manage his current responsibilities while assuming new ones,

said **Bonnie Cohen**, assistant secretary for Policy, Management and Budget.

“Bob will assist me in providing leadership and direction for all of the financial aspects of the Department,” Cohen said. “Secretary Babbitt’s appointment recognizes Bob’s continuing contributions to the sound management of the Department’s varied programs and underscores the importance of these responsibilities to the Department’s continuing success at a time of increasing demands on limited financial resources.”

Cohen said that under Lamb’s direction, the Department has streamlined and improved financial operations, provided timely auditing of financial statements, improved the delivery of services, eliminated burdensome and obsolete regulations, installed new tools such as electronic commerce and the purchase card, provided e-mail capability to more than 57,000 Interior users, and worked collaboratively to integrate communications needs.

Claudia Schechter Honored

Claudia Schechter, the chief executive officer of Interior’s Service Center, received an award for her strong commitment and support of the Department’s Safety and Health Program. Interior’s Safety and Occupational Health Council made the presentation at its recent quarterly meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. Chairman of the Council **Gary Kramer**, U.S. Geological Survey, presented the award on behalf of the group, which is made up of bureau safety and health managers.



Claudia Schechter

Under Schechter’s leadership as safety and health official for the Department, the program has become more goal-oriented and focused on the promotion and enhancement of safe and healthful working conditions and practices at the field level. This is typified by the Departmental Safety and Occupational Health Strategic Plan, which provides a clear outline for improved program direction. The award is a commemorative plate featuring an engraving of DAWA, the Kachina Sun Dancer of Hopi and Pueblo Native Americans.

Correction: A page 3 article in the February issue on linking computers at San Juan National Historic Site into a network—*Hardwiring History*—was written by **Deborah Rehn**, architect at the historic site. The feature was mistakenly attributed to another contributor. Also on that page, the photograph of the 1812 Baltimore Clipper, *The Pride of Baltimore II*, was by Jim Setrell.

Officer Dyer’s Gift

Last April, U.S. Park Police officer **David Dyer** took an extra job. In addition to his normal work for the National Capital Parks East, the 18-year veteran became the environmental crimes control officer at the Anacostia Station in Washington, D.C. That made him responsible for investigating violations that had become so commonplace that many neighborhood park areas looked like commercial dumping sites.

Officer Dyer began his effort by introducing himself and a self-help message to the community. He attended Advisory Neighborhood Council meetings and explained the Park Service’s pollution awareness initiative. He walked the neighborhood streets, speaking with residents and passing out flyers, telling them what they could do to make a difference. He said that they did not have to accept a lower standard of living caused by the thoughtlessness and criminality of others. And he asked for their help.

With community support, Dyer created a citizen network and developed a stable cadre of credible witnesses who now willingly assist the Park Police in identifying and reporting illegal dumping activity as the acts occur. His successful investigation of eight violations led to projects that required the violators to clean up the pollution they had caused. The work was worth an estimated \$15,000 in restitution to the Park Service.

Dyer single-handedly has closed 55 percent of his 40 cases. His efforts also exposed a major dumping violation that had been carried out for the past 20 years, causing more than half a million dollars in damage. This case is with the U.S. Attorney’s office for prosecution.

“Officer Dyer’s efforts have raised the consciousness of everyone he touches,” says Park Police Captain **Ronald DeAngelo**. “He is not only rebeautifying our inner city national parks, but also is giving much needed hope to the residents of



U.S. Park Police Officer David Dyer brought a message of self-help and activism to park area communities plagued by illegal dumping.

Washington. The pollution awareness initiative that he and others are promoting is proving to residents that living near a national park—any national park, not just one of the nation’s Crown Jewels—is a wonderful benefit.”

Dyer’s ambitious crusade has not only changed the attitude of the community he serves but also that of his fellow officers who now view illegal dumping as a high priority, equal to illegal drug activity. Due to his efforts, patrols of areas where dumping occurred were stepped up, community participation increased, and the frequency of solid waste dumping has decreased in all targeted areas.

As a member of several area task forces, Dyer continues to spread the good word. He has joined the District of Columbia Nuisance Task Force, the Prince George’s County Environmental Crime Task Force, the Northern Virginia/District of Columbia Regional Task Force, and the Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee for the Federal District of Maryland. Through these groups, Dyer provides a valuable liaison on environmental protection issues between the NPS and many federal, state, and local law enforcement entities.

BLM Scout Partnership Celebrated

Stu Carlson, who served as special assistant for minerals information and education outreach to BLM’s Utah State Director, was commended recently at a retirement luncheon for his outstanding efforts at developing a partnership between BLM and the Boy Scouts of America’s Philmont Scout Ranch and the Sange de Cristo Girl Scout Council. The BLM program reaches out to thousands of young men and women each year by recruiting geologists, earth-science teachers, mineral-industry specialists, and other earth-resource professionals as volunteers for a week’s stay at scout camps in New Mexico.

Bill Wagner, a senior technical specialist at BLM’s Utah State Office, has been named BLM’s new national coordinator for minerals outreach to carry on Carlson’s responsibilities. Wagner, who has served as an adult scout leader for the past 35 years, is an active member of the Wasatch Mountain Men (Utah environmental leaders) and is a Leave No Trace master. Employees interested in joining the program should contact Wagner at BLM’s National Coordinator for Minerals Outreach, (801) 539-4062.

Steve Volz, a solid-minerals geologist from BLM’s Milwaukee District, participated in the earth science program last summer. “The interaction that I had with the crews trekking through the camp was deeply satisfying,” said Volz, who spent a week at Cypher’s Mine, one of the three historic mining sites at the Philmont Ranch. At the site, the staff re-enacted a 19th-century gold mining camp setting.



Above, Stu Carlson, left, displays a silver commemorative buckle he received from the BLM’s Utah State Director Bill Lamb, at right. Carlson also received a Letter of Appreciation for Outstanding Service from the BLM Director. At right, Bill Wagner instructs Philmont Scout Ranch training rangers in techniques of teaching environmental awareness. Photos by Mona Schermerhorn. Below, BLM geologist Steve Volz pauses in front of a 19th-century gold mine in the Cypher’s Mine area.



and Their Work



Overland Trail Exhibit at Interior Museum

Hikers on the Overland Trail, at left, walk toward Church Butte in Lincoln County, Wyoming. The photo by **Greg Mac Gregor** is from an exhibit, entitled *Retracing the Overland Trail to California*, on display at the Interior Museum in the Main Interior Building, Washington, D.C.

The Trail is a 2,000 mile-long trace across the country over which an estimated 300,000 to 500,000 people traveled west to search for gold and to settle in California between the 1840s and 1860s. The show contains 28 black and white contemporary views of the Trail along with maps and diary quotes that Mac Gregor collected.

In 1987 Mac Gregor set out on a seven-year project to record the trail. He took the photographs while either standing in the ruts of the trail or focusing directly at where they used to be. In one photograph the trail is buried beneath the University of Kansas Football Stadium. Modern highways have often found no batter route than those used by the Trail. In another, children in a 1990s jog-a-thon race by Sutters Fort where the trail ended in California.

The exhibit will be at Main Interior until July 31. Mac Gregor will present a slide lecture at the museum on May 16. Call **Debra Berke** at (202) 208-4743 for information. The museum is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for federal holidays.

Notable Quotable

"A is the grade I would give to the thousands of men and women of the Department of the Interior who work to protect our national parks and refuges, monitor floods, earthquakes, and volcanoes, fight wildfires, work on reservations, create healthy public range lands, and restore precious habitat for this nation's treasured diversity of wildlife, fish, and plant species. Each day their dedication and courage deserve high marks and the respect of all Americans who love this great land. **"**



Secretary Babbitt when informed that USA TODAY's editorial board had given him an A for his work, saying Babbitt "is one of the best and brightest...does such a good job...seldom gets ink or air time in the media...[and] has our environment in proper perspective...."



Remembering Rick Hutchinson

A gentle presence. Authentic. Extremely knowledgeable. Reliable as Old Faithful. A part of Yellowstone.

Those were some of the remembrances of Interior leaders who knew **Roderick (Rick) A. Hutchinson**, a research geologist at Yellowstone National Park. Hutchinson died in an avalanche in the Hart Lake area in southcentral Yellowstone in early March. His body was recovered March 6, after a three-day search.

"For more than a quarter of a century, Rick Hutchinson has been a Yellowstone institution," said **Michael Finley**, superintendent of Yellowstone. "He was one of those rare, authentic experts who can be counted on to help the many people, visitors and researchers alike, who come and go in a place like Yellowstone," said Finley, expressing his deep sorrow at Hutchinson's death.

"I've met few who shared their passion for geology with others so warmly, so eagerly, so openly," **Secretary Babbitt** said. "Rick embodied the twin duties of National Park rangers: to preserve and interpret the wonders of creation. My sympathies go out to his family, especially his wife, Jennifer Whipple, a skilled botanist who completed Rick's life in so many ways."

Hutchinson was known by scientists throughout the world for his deep familiarity with Yellowstone's geothermal resources and was the author of many publications, reports, and papers on the park's unique geological wonders.

"Rick unlocked Yellowstone's geothermal secrets, gave us all a deeper and more profound appreciation for what has been entrusted to our care," said Babbitt. "And he did so with a steady supply of enthusiasm, humility, hospitality, and accuracy that made him more reliable than Old Faithful itself."

The avalanche hit Hutchinson while he apparently was skiing westbound along the flank of Factory Hill (near Mount Sheridan),



Rick Hutchinson prepares to enter Yellowstone's Grand Prismatic Spring in the park's hot water boat, the Little Dipper, to take scientific measurements.

using his normal route up Witch Creek to visit a thermal feature. He had been escorting a visitor to the area and communicated by radio with park rangers at about 8 a.m. on Monday, March 3, arranging to meet them on Tuesday afternoon half way between Hart Lake and the trailhead. When rangers arrived at the rendezvous, they noticed several avalanches at the base of Factory Hill and began their search. The visitor's body was recovered a day after Hutchinson's was found.

Hutchinson began working for the National Park Service in Yellowstone as a Seasonal Interpretive Specialist in 1970. He received an appointment as a Geothermal Specialist in 1973 and was promoted to Geologist in 1976.

"It was almost as if he were a part of the park itself," Finley reflected. "A gentle presence that had always been there and would go on forever. Nobody loved Yellowstone more, or was more wholly devoted to embracing its spirit and caring for its wonders. Rick touched many lives here, and will not be forgotten."

Winter of Fear

*Nature, Brucellosis Fear Drive
Yellowstone's Bison to the Edge*

A severe winter and a harsh policy have killed more than a thousand bison in Yellowstone National Park and could threaten the integrity of the last free-ranging bison herd in the United States.

To avert a tragedy, Secretary Babbitt appealed to Montana state officials to stop shooting bison that wander out of the park in search of food, saying there is no credible evidence that free-ranging bison spread brucellosis to cattle in the wild. Babbitt also asked the National Academy of Science to bring its authoritative voice to the debate “to see if we can reduce the level of misunderstanding about brucellosis.”

“Between the ice and the snow and what’s left of the harsh winter, and the killing by Montana, there is cause for serious concern about the integrity of the herd,” Babbitt said at a March 17 news conference. “The bison population could drop to critical levels if continued shooting adds to the expected winter mortality. The needless and unnecessary shooting of Yellowstone bison must stop.”

National Park Service biologists estimated in early March that the original herd of up to 3500 animals had been reduced to 1,200-1,500 animals on park and adjacent National Forest land. An aerial survey on March 18 by biologist **Mary Meagher**, who has studied Yellowstone bison for decades, counted only 1,089. These survey estimates are approximations. On-the-ground verification can not be accomplished until winter abates in Yellowstone.

Of the original herd, more than 1,080 have either been sent to slaughter houses or killed by shooters from Montana’s Department of Livestock. And the extremely harsh winter conditions are expected to cause more natural mortality—winter kill—inside the park this year.

An early and heavy snowpack followed by a warm rainy spell and a return of frigid weather formed sheets of thick ice over winter forage for the bison in areas of the park, causing some of the animals to die of starvation and cold. The snowpack remained at 200 percent of its normal level through March, burying park ranges. Other bison migrated from the park highland to lower elevations of the Yellowstone ecosystem in search of food. These areas, mostly National Forest lands, historically served as the bison’s winter range.

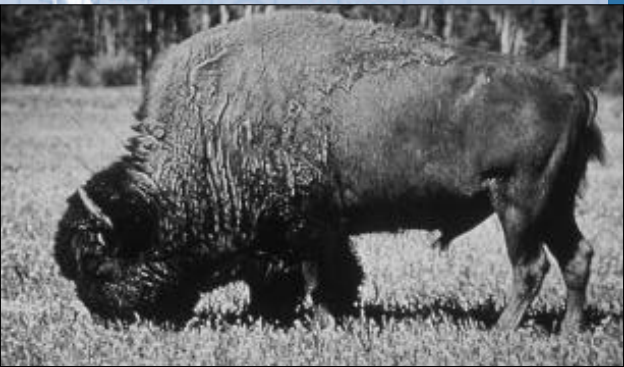
Fearing that brucellosis carried by some bison could infect the state’s cattle, Montana officials began



killing animals that wandered beyond the park’s borders onto National Forest or private land. Brucellosis bacteria carried in the reproductive track of the animal has little effect on bison but can cause cattle to abort their first calves and produce less milk. However, there is no evidence that the disease has ever spread from Yellowstone bison to cattle in the wild.

Montana officials even fear that the presence of Yellowstone buffalo on these public lands could cause the state to lose its brucellosis class-free status and hurt its cattle industry. But the U.S. Department of Agriculture assured the officials that the state would not lose that status if only those cattle commingling with bison were inspected for the disease. Nevertheless, the state is legally permitted to kill bison that wander out of the park. The Federal Government does not have the authority to compel Montana to stop the shooting, Babbitt said.

Under the Interim Bison Management Plan, Montana had sent 510 animals (including 462 captured by the NPS) to slaughter and shot another 563 by mid-March. NPS has destroyed seven additional bison due to injuries the animals sustained in capture or shooting operations. Since January 30, the NPS and the USDA had asked Montana to stop killing bison on National Forest land next to the park and to reduce the killing of bison on private lands in the area. During winter, no cattle graze on this land nor do cattle graze within miles of the area.



“I recognize that there are differences of opinion on this issue and that there are people of good will on both sides,” Babbitt emphasized, “but there is not a single documented case of brucellosis transmitted from wild bison to cattle under range conditions. You could shoot and slaughter the Yellowstone herd into extinction and still not eliminate brucellosis. It is carried in the wild by tens of thousands of elk, and is endemic in some areas in other wildlife. There is no need for this obsession with bison. Even in the most extreme scenario, this would not eradicate brucellosis.”

The issue needs to be dealt with in a rational, objective manner, Babbitt explained, saying the National Academy of Science, as an independent advisor to the Federal Government, can help allay unreasonable fears. The Academy can determine whether there is a real risk of brucellosis transmission from the wild bison to the cattle herds outside Yellowstone park, ways to combat the disease, and possibly help to develop an effective vaccine to prevent brucellosis. While cattle can be inoculated against brucellosis, there is no effective vaccine for bison and elk.

The six-month study would be equally funded by the National Park Service and the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey. Babbitt asked that the report be completed by October 1, before next winter sets in, so that the Department can work with public and private landowners in the Yellowstone ecosystem on a rational management plan for the herd—and avoid repeating this year’s slaughter. When Yellowstone’s winter abates by mid-April, it should be easy to move the bison back into the park, but until then Babbitt urged Montana officials to observe a moratorium on shooting the animals.

Bison Facts and Fancy

More than 30 million free-ranging bison (*Bison bison*) once roamed the West but were hunted to near extinction in the 19th century. Today an estimated 500,000 to 750,000 bison are in the United States, said **John Varley**, a naturalist and director of the Yellowstone Center for Resources. Most are privately owned and managed on private land. Fewer than 20,000 are maintained on public lands. The bison is not a threatened or endangered species.

By 1902 only 23 wild bison remained in Yellowstone National Park and bison were relocated to the park from private herds in Montana and Texas to form the nucleus of today’s herd. The park’s philosophy is to manage and allow ecosystem processes to regulate herd numbers. As free-ranging bison, they naturally migrate to lower elevations and retreat to thermal basins and geysers during harsh winters. They are not zoo animals to be penned. Up to 1994, the park had experienced 12 years of mild winters, during which the herd

grew to 3,900 animals. In recent years, the weather returned to normal or harsh winters.

Snowmobile trails for winter vacationers at Yellowstone have altered some bison movement patterns. Bison use these energy efficient pathways to move more easily around the park, especially in winter. That has contributed to the population increase. However, most of the migration out of the northern reaches of the park this winter took place along ancient routes that the bison use, Varley said. The natural die-off of bison is part of the dynamic equilibrium that regulates wildlife populations in the park, he explained. Black bears and grizzlies will feed on the carcasses as will magpies, ravens, golden eagles, coyotes, and foxes, increasing their populations.



Back to the Drawing Board

BLM Halts Action on Law Enforcement Rule

In response to public concerns, the Bureau of Land Management has halted action on a proposal to consolidate its law enforcement regulations.

“We hear the users of the public lands and we will do all that we can to help them understand the legal authority of BLM under existing federal statutes,” said **Sylvia Baca**, acting director of the bureau. “BLM will go back to the drawing board, and any future attempt to improve existing regulations and make them more understandable to public land users will include better public education efforts to explain the BLM law enforcement program.”

The rule proposed by BLM attempted to revise, consolidate, and rewrite most of its law enforcement regulations—that are now scattered throughout the Code of Federal Regulations—in an effort to help the public understand the actions BLM officers may take to implement existing law enforcement authority.

The process began last November 7 when BLM published a notification in the Federal Register, announcing the proposal to consolidate existing regulations dealing with informing the public about lawful conduct on public lands.



“...[T]he BLM has provided cross references to existing rules from which it derives its authority; it did not conjure up the new rules out of thin air. It’s just that putting the existing regulations together in catechetical form has obviously alarmed many people in the West—a reaction which actually tends to support the BLM’s argument for the need for clarification...[R]evisiting the proposal might build the public understanding that the agency intended to develop.”

**The Salt Lake Tribune
March 15, 1997**

Ranchers, sportsmen, and western political leaders expressed concerns with the consolidation proposal, saying it appeared to be an expansion of the bureau’s authorities. BLM twice extended the public comment period to further explain the initiative, but many of the comments it received continued to show confusion and

misinformation about the regulations. The last 30-day comment period ended March 7.

Secretary Babbitt said the decision to stop further action on the proposal was based on this misunderstanding. “This action does not diminish the legal authority of BLM law enforcement officers on public land,” Babbitt said on March 11. “But it is very clear that we have not done a good job of clarifying regulations and communicating BLM’s legal authority to protect public

health, safety, and environmental resources on America’s public lands.”

“I’ve been contacted personally by Idaho **Governor Phil Batt** and several members of Congress, who have expressed the concerns of many,” Babbitt said. In a letter to Batt, Babbitt said BLM would reexamine the issue from the beginning and find ways to gain a higher level of acceptance before proceeding.

Greening of Federal Shoppers

Ken Naser, Environmental Policy and Compliance

Buying tables and benches made of recycled plastic. Or using re-refined oil for motor pool maintenance. Call it environmentally preferable, green procurement, or simply making wise shopping choices. Whatever label the effort is given, the goals of the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program are clear—to make environmental performance a factor in Federal Government purchasing decisions, along with product performance and cost.

And the benefits of the program, which will be a major feature of a July conference, can be significant. The program was created under Executive Order 12873, which is aimed at preventing waste whenever practical and feasible, recycling, and procuring recycled content and other environmentally preferable products.

The Department prevents waste by reusing, recycling, and remanufacturing rather than throwing spent products into a landfill or incinerator. The item that is recycled doesn’t become a valuable resource, however, unless there is a demand for its use—that’s called Closing the Circle. And government employees at every level in every career field can make a difference in this area.

When asking procurement personnel to obtain certain chemicals, products, or

materials, be aware not only of their content and origin but also of their life cycle: What will happen when you are finished with the product? Is there a waste associated with the product, and does that waste in itself become a problem?

Facility managers in particular must pay attention to what comes into their facility as part of their routine business because they are responsible for the ultimate disposal of the by-product of their activities. It makes sense to purchase a product that has a useful after-life (that is recyclable, for example), rather than a product that the facility manager might have to pay someone to treat or remove from the premises!

The Environmental Protection Agency has articles available to inform people about environmentally preferable products and assist them in making informed choices. The agency also is sponsoring a July 16-17 symposium with the U.S. Conference of Mayors that is intended to bring together the government purchasers and those who provide environmentally preferable goods and services.

The Greening of Federal Purchasing conference will be held at the Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel in Baltimore. For further information within the Department of the Interior, contact the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance on (202) 208-7877.



NPS Adds 45 Sites to User Fee Program

The National Park Service has begun the second phase of a Congressionally authorized three-year fee demonstration program aimed at helping NPS and other Interior land management agencies repair roads, bridges, buildings, and other facilities at parks, refuges and national recreation areas.

The test program authorizes federal land management agencies, including the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management to increase and retain entrance fees and user fees at up to 100 sites per agency.

Phase II, announced March 12, includes 45 additional NPS sites. Some locations will begin charging the new fees immediately, but the majority of sites will implement the new rates on May 23.

In Phase I, announced last November, the fee demonstration program went into effect at 48 NPS projects. Under the first phase, the NPS and the Department of Agriculture also announced in January that the Golden Eagle Passport would be increased from \$25 to \$50.

“Revenues derived from this test program will provide needed funds to begin fixing the badly deteriorated infrastructure of our aging park system,” said **NPS Director Roger Kennedy**, who cited an estimated \$5.6 billion backlog in repair and maintenance projects.

“These revenues also will fund visitor education and recreation programs, and resource protection efforts.”

In the past, fees were deposited into the U.S. Treasury and distributed by Congress back to the NPS through the appropriation process. In contrast, the fee demonstration program allows participating park sites to keep up to 80 percent of the new fee revenue on site and target the remaining 20 percent to other sites in the National Park System that are most in need. The program is expected to generate more than \$140 million for the NPS over the course of the three-year test.

A list of the NPS sites can be found at, http://www.nps.gov/pub_aff/press/2nd45.htm



NPS Director
Roger Kennedy

mark your calendar!

Partnership for the 21st Century: Greening Federal Purchasing

July 16th and 17th, 1997 • Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland

Who Should Attend Federal officials who wish to promote their purchase and use of products with environmentally preferable attributes. It includes those manufacturing environmentally preferable products (including federal facility & non-federal managers, federal acquisition & procurement policy managers & personnel, government environmental managers, environmental health & safety managers, & product manufacturers, suppliers, & designers).	Conference Objectives To present and promote a market for environmentally preferable products and services to the federal government.
Why? Federal agencies are required to buy and use "environmentally preferable" products under section 565 of Executive Order 12873. This is the first national conference which will highlight both the federal government's and the private sector's most up-to-date knowledge in this area. It will be an excellent opportunity to share information and discuss related demonstration or potential pilot projects.	About The Conference This symposium is intended to introduce manufacturers and federal acquisition and procurement personnel to principles of environmental preferability. These principles go beyond recycled content and energy efficient products and focus on multiple environmental attributes throughout a product's life cycle which together they promote better technical health and the environment. In order to make sound purchasing decisions, the symposium/workshops will address: • Use of Factors in the Environment or your Purchasing Operations... Case Studies • Critical Tips on Greening the Federal Marketplace with your Environmental Products... • Understanding Acquisition and Contracting Compliance with OMB • Environmentally Preferable Purchasing in Federal, State and Local Governments Around the World • The Role of Managing Systems of Environmentally Preferable Products... Case Studies

The cost is \$50 per attendee. For more information, contact: Law Subivicki, Office of the Federal Environmental Executive (202) 268-3297 John Shaul, EPA's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program (202) 260-1831 Richard Kochan, the U.S. Conference of Mayors (202) 822-9058	Registration Name _____ Title _____ Organization _____ Address _____ City/State/Zip _____ Telephone _____ Fax _____ How would you describe yourself? I am a representative of: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Procurement/Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Environmental <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Facility Management <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing _____ <input type="checkbox"/> M _____ <input type="checkbox"/> NGO (non-governmental) Please fax to (202) 429-0422, or mail to USGCM, 1620 Eye Street, NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20006.
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The rugged beauty of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument—a photo essay. Pages 16-17

Keeping A Commitment

The appointment of a special team to help develop the management plan for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah “is expected to help salve the wounds caused by the surprise creation last September of the newest national monument,” according to the **Salt Lake Tribune**, an influential Utah newspaper.

Utah Governor Mike Leavitt selected the five, whose appointment was jointly announced by Leavitt and **Secretary Babbitt** on March 18. The group includes four residents of Utah: **Ken Sizemore**, director of planning for the Five County Association of Governments, which covers southwestern Utah; **Robert Blackett**, a geologist with the Utah Geological Survey; **Alden Hamblin**, a paleontologist with the Utah Field House of Natural History in Vernal; **Clair Jensen**, manager of Utah state’s Division of Wildlife Resources Advisory Council program; and **Kathleen Truman**, a professor of environmental studies, on leave from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, who was born and raised in Cedar City, Utah.

When **President Clinton** created the monument in September, he made a commitment that Utah state leaders would be asked to actively participate in planning how the monument would be managed.

“This is precedent setting,” said **Ted Stewart**, director of Utah’s Department of Natural Resources.

“The most important part of this is that these people will be involved in drafting the plan instead of the state and the counties being in the usual position of sitting and watching while the feds write it and then ask us to respond.”

Leavitt said the planning team is “a chance for us to employ a new model for state and federal cooperation and to make this national monument a showcase of environmental management.” Secretary Babbitt also praised the appointments, saying Governor Leavitt’s selections were “an outstanding cadre of professionals. These five people add considerable technical expertise and knowledge.” **Brad Barber**, coordinator for Utah state planning, called the five new members “professionals without a particular point of view.”

The Bureau of Land Management, which will manage the monument, will convene a 15-member planning team for the 1.7 million-acre site. The team’s work will be conducted in Cedar City. The recently appointed members will be joined by BLM, U.S. Forest Service, and other federal experts in recreation, planning, botany, computers, real estate, and archaeology. The team will develop a management plan with an environmental impact statement. The three-year process will provide an opportunity for meaningful involvement to Utah citizens and others with an interest in the monument.

Courthouse Doors Widened for ESA Suits

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously on March 18 that people whose economic interests are affected by actions taken to protect endangered species may sue under the Endangered Species Act to stop what they view as overregulation.

The decision, written by **Justice Antonin Scalia**, overturned a federal appeals court ruling that said ranchers and two irrigation districts in Oregon did not fall within the zone of interest of the Endangered Species Act and, therefore, could not bring suit under the Act. Property owners affected by decisions made under the Act now can challenge in court under the Act whether those decisions were properly made and necessary to protect a species from extinction.

“The Supreme Court’s Endanger Species Act decision involves some highly technical legal arguments concerning how people go about challenging agency decisions under the Act,” said Interior **Solicitor John Lesly**. “We have always believed that our actions under the Act are and should be subject to court review, whether at the behest of environmentalists or other affected interests. In fact, we are defendants in numerous lawsuits brought under the Act by all sorts of interest groups.”

The court case was brought by landowners who claimed that they were harmed when the

Interior Department directed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reduce water flows from reservoirs of the Klamath Irrigation Project near the Oregon-California border to protect two species of endangered sucker fish. The suit alleges that the reductions violated the Act and that the loss of water caused \$75 million in damages to farmers and cattlemen.

Specifically, the plaintiffs asked the Supreme Court to overturn the lower court ruling that said only people with an interest in preserving endangered species have a right to sue under the Act’s citizen suit provision. U.S. attorneys argued that lawsuits could be brought under the Act only by those seeking more protection for a species. People who suffer economic harm as a result of efforts to protect endangered species do not have standing to sue under the Act but can sue under other federal laws, they said.

“The obvious purpose of the requirement that each agency ‘use the best scientific and commercial data available’ is to ensure that the ESA not be implemented haphazardly, on the basis of speculation or surmise. While this no doubt serves to advance the ESA’s overall goal of species preservation, we think it readily apparent that another objective (if not indeed the primary one) is to avoid needless economic dislocation produced by agency officials zealously but unintelligently pursuing their environmental objective.”

Justice Antonin Scalia



More than 950 species of U.S. animals and plants are close to extinction, including the red wolf of the Southeast, top, whose population numbers about 300, and the Wyoming toad, at left, whose population totals about 200. Photos courtesy of the National Geographic Society



“We sought to uphold the lower court’s decision dismissing this particular lawsuit because we believed the plaintiff water districts had not followed the correct legal path to the courthouse,” Lesly explained. “Although the court’s decision rejected our technical legal arguments, it reaffirmed that the courthouse doors are open to all affected interests to review our implementation of the Act—an outcome with which, broadly speaking, we agree.” Lesly said he did not anticipate that the Court’s decision will have any significant effect on the Department’s administration of the Endangered Species Act.

Some national editorials interpreted the ruling to be an opening of the flood gates and warned that numerous challenges to the Act from adversely affected property owners and opponents of habitat and species protection plans could be expected. Others, however, thought the ruling was a leveling of the legal playing field between environmentalists and property owners that was more likely to bring greater accountability to agency actions without a huge number of lawsuits.

Messenger of the Sun

Ines Rutkovskis, Peace Corps Volunteer, Ecuador

Standing in front of a gigantic snow-covered volcano, you are surrounded by the cold and windy *paramo*, high rolling tundra covered with alien looking flora. Wild horses, cattle, and llamas dot the landscape. Then a large black shadow skims across the *paramo* floor. The graceful, proud messenger of the sun, the king of all vultures, makes a rare fleeting appearance. The Andean Condor, *Vultur gryphus*, the largest flying bird in the world, is on the verge of disappearing forever from the face of the earth.

The Andean Condor's struggle for survival is particularly critical in Ecuador, where it is the national symbol. Where once several hundred graced the skies above Ecuador's high Andes, now less than a hundred and possibly as few as 40 remain. The condor is rapidly losing ground to habitat destruction, lack of food, and low reproductive rates. Some are poisoned by local residents. Every hazard that the bird faces is related to humans. Surveys carried out since 1990 suggest that the status of the condor in Ecuador has become very critical. If nothing is done now to protect the threatened species, a captive breeding program like that of the California Condor may be required.

Interior and the U.S. Peace Corps-Ecuador have joined Ecuadorians in a campaign to save the condor. The Department's efforts under the Partnership for Biodiversity project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development are coordinated through Interior's Office of International Affairs.

The Partnership activities in Ecuador began in early 1996. The campaign is led by the *Fundacion Ornitologica del Ecuador* (CECIA), whose executive director, **Alfredo Luna**, is the team leader for Project Condor. The team includes representatives from the *Instituto Ecuatoriano Forestal de Areas Naturales y Vida* (INEFAN), Ecuador's protected area management authority, Peace Corps, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the Department of the Interior.

Marc Weitzel, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service condor and protected areas expert, oversees the Department's technical assistance to the project. Weitzel, currently project leader at the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex in California, has experience in Latin America, the



Above, participants at a workshop at Cayambe reserve gather for a group portrait. At right, Dave Ledig, left, and Darrel Periman, right, teach monitoring techniques at a workshop session. Photos by David Clendenen

Caribbean, and the South Pacific, and is a former Peace Corps Volunteer in Colombia and Papua New Guinea.

The initiative's main objectives are 1) conducting intense monitoring and investigation of the condors in five protected areas, including four high-altitude reserves in the northern region of Ecuador; 2) providing environmental education in the communities surrounding these protected areas; 3) promoting ecotourism through income generating projects with the local people; and 4) strengthening the management of protected areas in the targeted reserves. Peace Corps Volunteers are working with each of these components. Their main efforts focus on environmental education and ecotourism.

Until now, there has been little or no data collected



At right, speaking into microphone, Louis Martinez, the chief of Ecuador's Cayambe/Coca reserve, urges students to protect their national symbol during Condor Day ceremonies last July.

on the threatened Andean condor and no systematic effort to precisely determine the cause of its decline or to monitor the species and its high Andean ecosystems. Reserve staff had not been properly equipped or trained to conduct basic monitoring in high altitude ecosystems. Little had been done in environmental education and outreach among high Andean communities. And there had been no regional collaboration on Andean condors and ecosystems.

A number of activities already have been accomplished. Project Condor has formed a network with other Ecuadorian institutions to assist in the monitoring and environmental educational efforts. Ecuadorian park guards and managers participate actively in the monitoring and environmental educational programs.

The Partnership trained 32 Ecuadorian and Colombian professionals in monitoring techniques and the use of monitoring equipment (Global

Positioning System receivers, computers, cameras, binoculars). **David Clendenen** and **David Ledig**, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, assisted CECIA and INEFAN in this effort. Clendenen is a senior wildlife biologist with the California Condor Recovery Program and Ledig is the manager of Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Nevada.

This small group of Ecuadorian professionals trained and equipped by the Partnership for Biodiversity project is now engaged in systematically collecting data in the reserves on condor roosting and nesting sites, population dynamics, food availability, and habitat disturbance. The group is assisted by a larger network of park guards, Ecuadorian volunteers and teachers, as well as Peace Corps Volunteers, who are collecting and submitting data on condor sightings. All data are analyzed and



A theater presentation featuring a giant condor helps Ecuadorian elementary school students learn about the threatened species during last year's National Condor Day. Peace Corps Volunteer Ines Rutkovskis stands next to the condor.

presented annually to Ecuadorian agencies in a format useful for decision-making. Ledig and **Jim Wiley** of the U.S. Geological Survey's Biological Resource Division, recently provided training in data management and analysis to key individuals involved in handling the data.

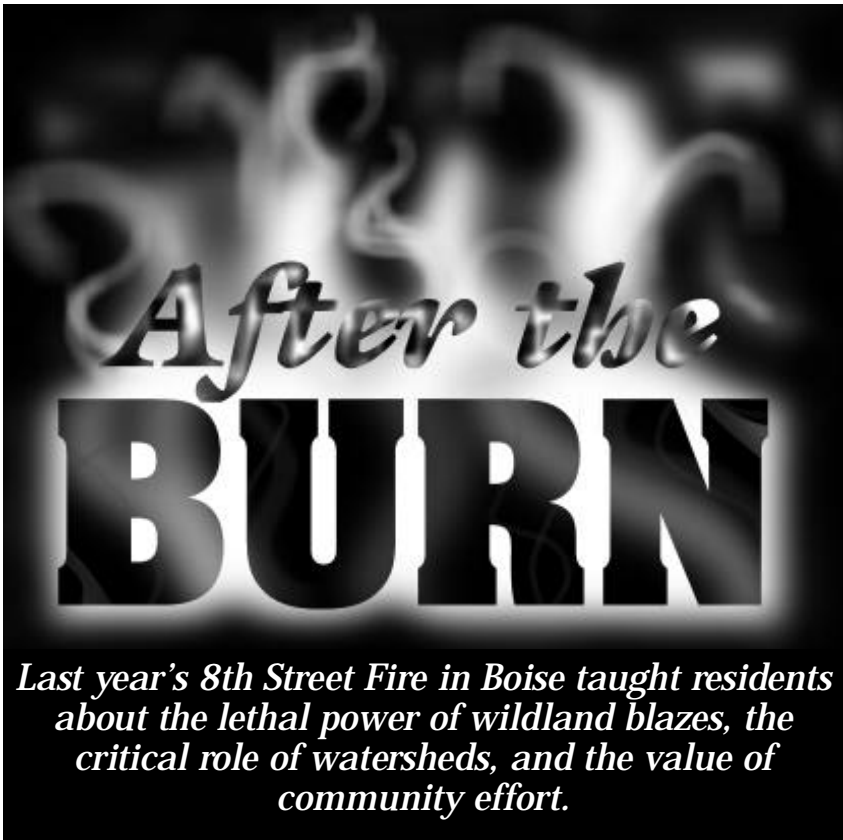
The project expanded Ecuador's National Week of the Condor educational activities. Condor Week celebrations included parades, puppet shows, art expositions, round table discussions, and children's drawing contests. More than 2,000 students from 18 schools participated in a march in the mountain city of Cayambe, displaying banners, flags, and large hand-made condors—all with the "Save the Condor" message.

An environmental education workshop trained more than 30 park guards, community leaders, and teachers from towns near the protected areas in the use of ecological games, puppets, and techniques of environmental interpretation. **Roy Simpson**, environmental interpreter at the National Historical Park in Tumacacori, Arizona, helped with this workshop. The Ecuadorians found the workshops exceptionally useful and have incorporated what they learned in their work.

In the targeted communities, environmental education efforts are geared toward reversing negative myths about the condor, and decreasing practices such as condor hunting and poisoning and paramo burning, all of which are harmful to the birds and their ecosystem. Small community-based, tourism-related income generating activities, consistent with the theme of condor conservation, also are being launched to help motivate targeted communities to conserve the condor and its habitat.

The design for a Condor Conservation Center in the national capital is underway. To be located in the metropolitan park of Quito, the Center would provide a base site for people from all areas of Ecuador to learn about the Andean Condor and its habitat. Public education is especially important because of the need to change current negative and unrealistic perceptions about the condor. Demonstrations using trained captive condors will be part of an educational program to teach the public about the beauty and importance of these birds in Ecuadorian ecosystems.

Feature Story



Last year’s 8th Street Fire in Boise taught residents about the lethal power of wildland blazes, the critical role of watersheds, and the value of community effort.

Pat Entwistle

From his observation aircraft, **Randy Eardley** had a panoramic view of the inferno: “Flames threatened homes at every turn, people filled the roads, fire engines tried to maneuver from place to place, and the radio traffic in my headset was feverish all afternoon. As the fire crested a ridge off Hulls Gulch, I could feel the intense heat even inside the airplane, which instantly became an oven.”

“It was frustrating at times,” recalls Eardley, the air tactical supervisor at the Bureau of Land Management’s Lower Snake River District in Idaho. “We were battling extreme fire behavior, trying to protect homes in the interface, and dealing with thousands of casual observers clogging narrow roadways, which hampered firefighters’ ability to get around. We even had to call off some retardant drops because there were too many people on the hillside and in the way.”

Boise’s 8th Street fire began around 2:30 p.m. on August 26, allegedly started by a tracer bullet fired in the Boise Police Association Reserve Firing Range at the northeast edge of town. The wildland fire raged all day and late into the evening, ultimately burning 15,300 acres. The flames consumed most of four watersheds and the backyard playground of thousands of Boiseans. Dozens of homes were threatened; only one was partially burned. Local, state, and federal forces fought the fire at a cost of \$3.5 million.

“All of the conditions here were ripe for this type of fire,” says Eardley. “We had an excess of fuel, a hot and dry day (104 degree temperature), very strong winds, and narrow drainages. And it happened in an interface area (where urban development meets wildlands) with people and homes everywhere. Given all the subdivisions that were threatened, it’s remarkable that we didn’t have greater damage or serious injuries.”

BLM officials believe most Boise residents now have a better understanding of the powerful threat posed by wildland fire, but are concerned that many homeowners and potential homeowners in interface areas may become complacent because of the successful protection provided by local, state, and federal firefighting resources.

Where Cities Meet Wildlands

The wildland-urban interface issues associated with this fire will be discussed for many years and can serve as an example in the review and implementation of national policies. The southern perimeter of the fire was lined with high-value homes, while the wildland area that burned is a valuable watershed containing crucial winter game range, rare and sensitive plants, and popular recreation trails, including a designated National Recreation Trail.



Above, local firefighters from Boise and surrounding communities joined federal forces to keep the fire from crossing a major highway. At left, Homeowners watched anxiously into the night as flames threatened dozens of high-value residences. Many homes were literally surrounded by the fire.

The fire was actually contained on September 2, although the majority of the damage was done the first afternoon and evening. On the second day of the fire, a 20-member rehabilitation team, representing 12 local, state, and federal agencies, began collecting data. By September 5, the first draft of the team’s report was completed, and rehabilitation efforts had begun by mid-September.

The fire burned 22 square miles of land situated above Boise. The Hulls Gulch and Crane Creek watersheds were destroyed from top to bottom, along with a huge chunk of Stewart Gulch to the west and Cottonwood Creek to the east. Recent soil surveys classify 90 percent of the foothills as highly erosive lake deposits and decomposed granite. Before the burn, scientists estimated about two tons of soil per acre eroded every year in the foothills; now those estimates have increased to thirteen tons per acre.

Today, an aerial view dramatically shows a huge black sandpile with dozens of drainages, large and small, funneling straight into the city. Long-time Boise residents recall all too clearly the 1959 floods and mud slides that inundated north-end neighborhoods. They were the result of a rainstorm that hit 17 days after a fire had burned most of the Cottonwood Creek drainage. Adjacent areas that had burned in 1957 and 1958 also contributed significantly to the flooding. But there wasn’t any flooding from adjacent watersheds that had not burned; if they actually received a similar amount of rainfall, they simply absorbed the moisture.



Martha Hahn, left BLM’s Idaho state director, and BLM investigator Keith Aller survey damaged areas.

The rehab team reviewed details of the 1959 event and other examples, including a 1995 debris torrent that moved the channel of the North Fork of the Boise River in the wake of a fire the year before.

The evidence was clear: even a year or two after a fire, a moderate rainstorm on a burned area can trigger a catastrophic event. It was also very clear that homes, schools, and hospitals would be damaged or destroyed if that were to occur now in Boise’s foothills. In addition to thousands of private residences, the at-risk area hosts three hospitals, 12 schools, 25 long-term care centers, 65 child-care facilities, and other public buildings.

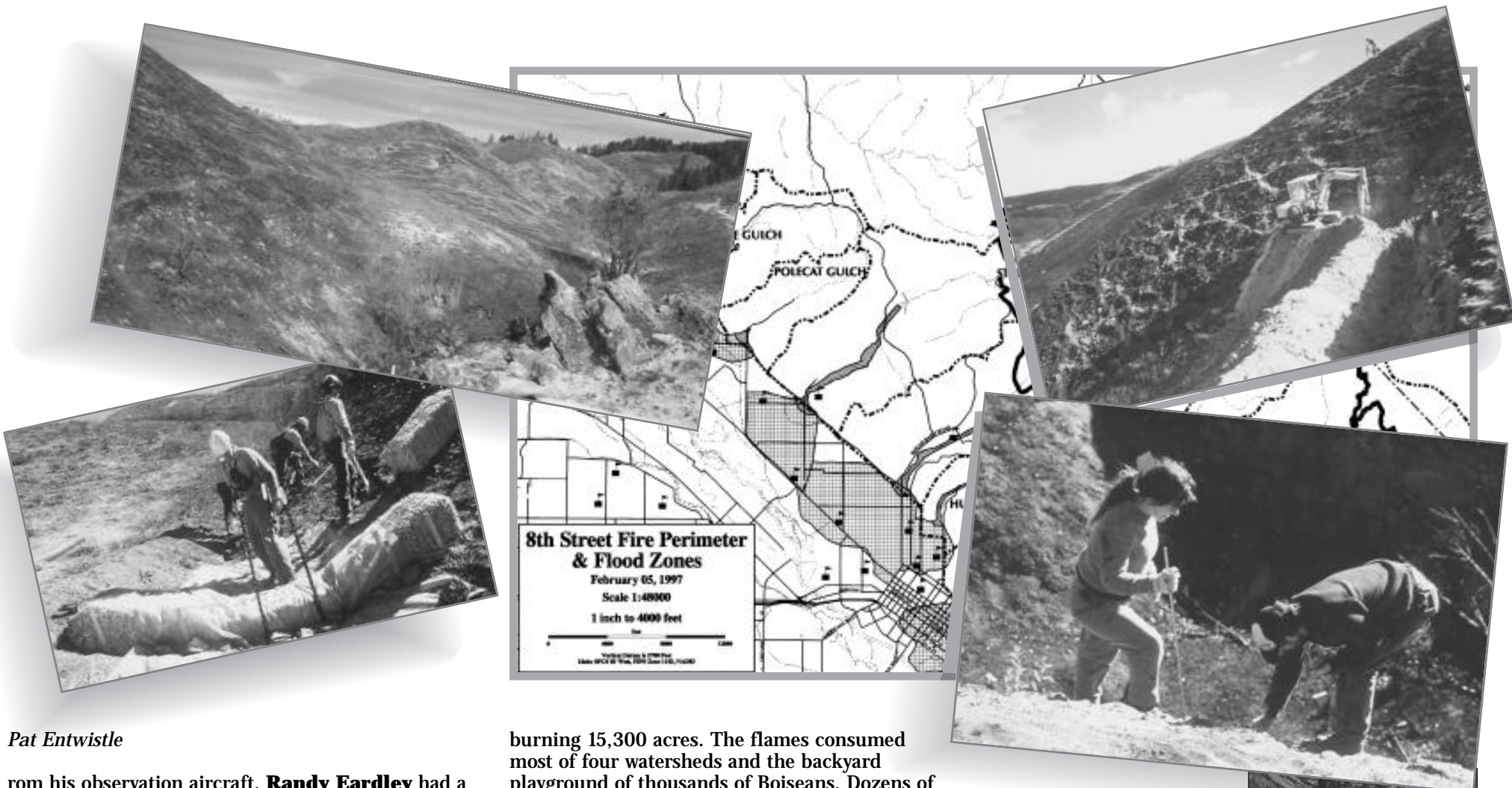
The team concluded that a storm capable of causing substantial mud flows and flooding in the burned area wouldn’t have to be very large. The trigger could be a two-to-five-year rainstorm that dropped half an inch of rain in one hour on the damaged watersheds. This means that in any given year there is a 50-50 chance of such a storm.

The team also estimated that a 2-to 5-year storm could now create twice the runoff of a 500-year storm under pre-burn conditions. Though these are projections based on numerous estimates and variables, they represent the professional judgment of Idaho’s best resource scientists. This was obviously a situation that called for immediate, scientifically sound action.

The Community Mobilizes

The team presented four proposals, including a no-action choice and alternatives for low, medium, and high levels of rehabilitation. Alternative 4, the highest level of rehabilitation, was selected because of the threat to the community. In the rehabilitation, as in the firefighting effort, the emphasis has been on the protection of life and property.

Flood-control and rehabilitation treatments that were included in the selected alternative and have now been completed include 1) contour felling of trees, hand and mechanical trenching, tilling, and the placement of straw wattles and straw-bale check dams to slow runoff and allow the ground to soak up rainfall; 2) seeding and replanting of grasses,



Pat Entwistle

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Where Cities Meet Wildlands

Clockwise from top left, straw bail check dams were constructed in drainages to slow runoff and store sediment. The fire destroyed bridges and other improvements to the Hulls Gulch Interpretive Trail system. Mini excavators were used to dig trenches to help stop erosion at the upper elevations. Volunteers donated more than 2,000 hours performing such tedious jobs as hand-planting bitterbrush seed. Remote Automatic Weather Stations provided by the National Interagency Fire Center transmit weather information to the National Weather Service to help in forecasting flood danger.



Watershed Rehabilitation Techniques

The wildland-urban interface issues associated with the 1997 Boise fire are discussed in this report.

Contour Felling: Burned trees 8-14 inches in diameter and 15 to 30 feet long were cut and laid horizontally on a total of 272 acres in Hulls Gulch and Upper Crane Creek. Log terraces will slow overland runoff, allow the moisture to soak into the ground, and reduce sediment bulking before it has a chance to become a mudslide.

Hand Trenches and Straw Wattles: About 1,600-1,700 acres of hill slopes were treated with hand trenches and straw wattles. Trenches were dug by hand using pulaskis and combi tools. They will slow overland runoff and give it a chance to soak into the ground. Wattles—straw logs wrapped in photodegradable mesh—work much the same as hand trenches. They are eight inches in diameter, 25 feet long, and weigh 35 pounds. They are laid horizontally in cup trenches on 30-50 percent slopes, and are held in place by wooden stakes. Wattles are placed in a checkerboard fashion to assist in interrupting overland runoff. This will help stabilize the hill slopes and capture sediment, reducing the loss of soil productivity and the threat of flooding.

Mechanical Contour Trenches: At the upper levels, about 1,000 acres were treated with about 40 miles of trenches constructed by mini-excavators. Trenches are 2-3 feet wide and 2-3 feet deep. They are spaced vertically about 75-120 feet apart on 40 to 65 percent slopes. As runoff and erosion occur, sediment will collect

in the trenches and the excavated soil will smooth out naturally and gradually over time.

Tilling: Nearly 3,000 acres have been tilled in a stripped or banded pattern across the slopes, with blades set about five feet apart and generally covering about 25-50 percent of each acre. This breaks up the water repellence and adds hill-slope storage, which slows runoff, increases infiltration, and provides a good seed bed. These areas will now be aerially seeded. Undisturbed strips allow existing vegetation to resprout.

Straw-Bale Check Dams: Straw bales were used to build 2,230 check dams across the smaller stream channels, higher in the stream systems where flood waters potentially would not yet have had a chance to build significant force. A series of straw bales are laid end-to-end, wrapped in chicken wire or photodegradable mesh, and positioned across the channel in a shallow trench. An erosion cloth is draped across the bales, which allows water to flow through while retaining the soil. These dams will help trap and temporarily store runoff of water and sediments, prevent down-cutting of the channel, and reduce peak flows by routing water through several small basins.

Seeding and Planting: Drill seeding, hand seeding, and aerial seeding have been done on thousands of acres. More than 200,000 bitterbrush seedlings will be planted over the next two years. As

root structures grow, they will help stabilize the hill slopes and will work together with other treatments to reduce the danger of flooding and debris flows. Seed mixes include bitterbrush, five varieties of wheatgrass, bluegrass, orchardgrass, small burnet, sweet clover, sagebrush, alfalfa, western yarrow, and Lewis flax.

Sediment Basins: Six small sediment basins have been constructed, on state and private land. The ponds are 40 to 70 feet in diameter and six to ten feet deep. They will slow overland flows and allow sediment to settle out as water, mud, and debris flow down the drainages.

Several times during the project, unexploded military munitions were discovered within and outside an old military training area. At one point, all rehabilitation operations were stopped for several days while military mine sweeping personnel cleared the area to help ensure the safety of project personnel.

The City of Boise is contemplating the construction of several large catchment basins and dams in strategic locations; however, that proposal must first be addressed through the city’s planning and public participation process.

Feature Story

Looking Back to the Future

Americans are full of good ideas—or at least we like to think we are. Looking back over our history, some historians say one of the best ideas America ever had was creating the national parks.

“The wisdom of those whose foresight protected the magnificent natural landscape of Yellowstone—those who advanced the national park idea— has endured, strengthened, and evolved over the last 125 years,” says **Roger G. Kennedy**, the former director of the National Park Service who four-years of service on March 28.

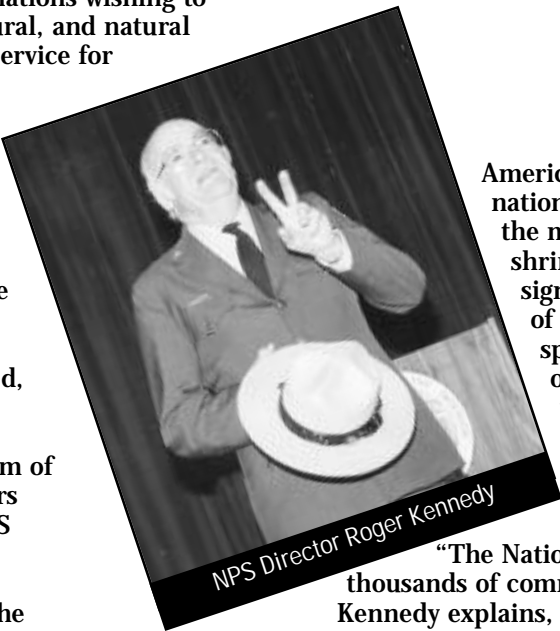
“Today our system of National Parks protects not only America’s unparalleled scenic wonders but our remembrances of those who shaped this land. In our national parks, America preserves both where we live and who we are—and that helps shape who we will become.”

This month, as the NPS and the nation celebrate the 125th anniversary of the establishment of Yellowstone as the first national park, they will see an American idea that has blossomed into 374 national parks, monuments, and historic sites, encompassing breathtaking beauty, the history of North America, and the cultural roots of its people.

This American idea also is increasingly imitated around the world, as many nations wishing to preserve their historic, cultural, and natural resources look to the Park Service for guidance and expertise.

And as the parks and the NPS’s mandate have evolved, the demands on those entrusted with the stewardship of these resources have become more complex and the skills required of the Park Service workforce more sophisticated, says Kennedy, who was the director of the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History for 14 years before he was appointed NPS director.

Indeed, in the last decade, the competing demands of reduced budgets and increased visitors have created the most turbulent period in history of the National Park Service. Yet the underfunded and sometimes understaffed national community of 20,000 dedicated NPS professionals has worked energetically and creatively to maintain the system’s integrity, preserve the precious natural and cultural resources entrusted to its care, and improve the quality of visitor experiences to these hallowed, historic sites.



NPS Director Roger Kennedy

Americans’ love affair with their national parks is expressed not only in the millions of annual visitors to these shrines but also—and perhaps more significantly—by the veritable army of volunteer workers that has sprung up to help rangers and other NPS career staffers meet the challenges. Neighboring communities also voluntarily and regularly support ‘their parks’ as the need arises.

“The National Park spirit thrives in thousands of communities around the country,” Kennedy explains, “where the National Park Service helps to create close-to-home recreational opportunities and honor local history through programs like Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance, the National Register of Historic Places, and National Historic Landmarks.”

Whether its helping to clean up flood damage at Yosemite in California, removing tornado debris from Homestead National Monument in Nebraska, or supporting an inter-park project to rebuild roads



Mike Pflaum, chief park ranger at Mount Rushmore National Monument, appears to be gazing into the future with Thomas Jefferson, whose image is carved on the monument behind Pflaum, during an inspection trip.

at the City of Rocks National Reserve in Idaho, volunteer battalions eagerly pitch in to sustain that great American idea. American corporate sponsors have increasingly joined the effort over the past few years, from Canon U.S.A. funding natural resource restoration and preservation to Dart, Inc. coordinating a multi-million dollar project to refurbish the Washington Monument.

But in the final analysis, as **Mike Finley**, superintendent of Yellowstone, reflects, “We are able to celebrate the park’s anniversary because of the vision of those who preceded us 125 years ago. We will need equal doses of their vision and wisdom to make sure that this beautiful, unusual park survives intact for future generations. How we meet the challenges of today will determine what we as a people will celebrate 125 years from now.”

And though Roger Kennedy won’t be in an NPS uniform, he intends to continue the struggle to preserve that quintessentially American idea. “I intend to join the fray by fighting for our parks as a private citizen,” he says. “In some ways you can be feistier outside the government than you can in it.”

The Volunteer Spirit

Neil Niiyama, at left, began designing and developing a ‘Happy Birthday Department of the Interior’ project two days before his last day as a seasonal park ranger at the USS Arizona Memorial in Honolulu, Hawaii. That was last November. He was so enthusiastic about the exhibit that he continued the work and completed it as a volunteer under the Volunter-In-Parks program. The exhibit was displayed at the Memorial from March 3-16, marking the 148 anniversary of the Department. It included a display board with photographs, posters, maps, and charts

representing the nine bureaus and many offices at Interior. The display also contained a table with brochures and other Department publications for the 3,000 visitors a day that came to the Memorial. Many took information home with them. Visitors also watched videos provided by NPS, OSM and the Office of the Secretary. The exhibit was well received by both visitors and park staff and will be displayed again next year. Niiyama would like to extend his Mahalo (Hawaiian for Thank You) to the people at Interior offices that provided information, brochures, memorabilia, and posters.



The City of Rocks Model

Jim Chambers, Olympic National Park

In a remote area of southern Idaho, the City of Rocks National Reserve was suffering from an all-too-common malady these days. Miles of roads and several parking areas at the Reserve were in poor condition and deteriorating; maintaining and repairing them with very limited equipment, manpower, and funding was a major problem that endangered this valuable resource.

“The money available for the repairs and improvements wouldn’t have put a dent in the work that needed to be done, if a private contractor had to be hired,” said **Gary Bickford**, the chief of maintenance at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. “The remoteness of the site and the travel time from a commercial gravel pit to the Reserve would make such a contract extremely expensive,” Bickford explained. City of Rocks is managed by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, which jointly funds the Reserve with the National Park Service.

An inter park solution began to take shape when the **Columbia Cascades Maintenance Advisory Committee** visited City of Rocks in the summer of 1996. The extent of the problem and the difficulty and expense of contracting out for the work led the Committee to decide that City of Rocks was a prime candidate for inter park sharing as well as an opportunity for training Reserve staff in equipment operation and gravel road construction and maintenance.

The Committee has held its quarterly meetings at different parks in the region to familiarize



members with the sites and projects that parks have submitted for funding. All parks in the Columbia Cascades Cluster were contacted and participants from **Fort Vancouver, Coulee Dam National Recreation Area, Crater Lake, North Cascades, Olympic, and Mount Rainier National Parks** responded with personnel and/or equipment.

Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks contributed operators and dump trucks. Montana State Department of Transportation sent an excellent grader operator and the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation responded with two operators and two dump trucks. All City of Rocks employees participated in one way or another. Twenty-three participants and ten pieces of equipment were brought in for the project.

Several additional pieces of equipment were needed to fully use the expertise of some of the volunteers.



Above, an NPS crew installs a culvert drainage pipe along a road at City of Rocks National Reserve as part of an inter park cooperative project. At left, NPS crews that worked on the City of Rocks road rebuilding project gather for a group photo. Their efforts saved \$100,000 in costs for road and parking area improvements at the park in southern Idaho. NPS photos by Wallace Keck

Though hauling the additional equipment from other parks was an option, the distance, time, and expensive were prohibitive. But the **Bureau of Land Management** in Burley was only 50 miles away, so the remainder of the needed equipment was rented from the agency. **Cassia County** cooperated by allowing the project to use crushed material from its gravel pit—only a few miles from the park.

Dina Easterday, the chief of administration at Hagerman Fossil Beds in Idaho, coordinated agreements with federal, state, county, and local partners on the project and provided support for budget matters. Some participants stayed in the homes of local citizens in the towns of Almo and Yost, while others stayed in commercial lodging in Albion. Because restaurants were not available in the area, arrangements were made with local residents to provide meals to the workers. Salaries were paid by employees’ home parks; overtime and holiday work was paid from project funds.

When the dust settled, 4,748 cubic yards of material had been hauled, graded, and compacted on five parking lots and three miles of park roads. Seventeen culverts were installed to correct major drainage problems in the parking lots and on the roads. The project was completed in ten consecutive working days at a cost of \$58,000. It is estimated that more than \$100,000 was saved by not contracting this work.

Employees of NPS and the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation also were trained how to operate backhoes, graders, dozers, and large trucks. Lines of communication between federal, state, and local agencies were established, and many friendships were formed.

“Inter park sharing requires sacrifices on the part of individual parks to contribute to the greater good,” said Bickford, who coordinated the project for the Columbia Cascades Cluster. “But the benefits of this project where tremendous, more than worth the effort. This example of inter park sharing definitely created a win-win situation. The resource at City of Rocks was protected and enhanced and participants in this project had only praise for the way it was conducted.”

Jim Chambers is chief of maintenance at Olympic National Park and chairman of the Columbia Cascades Cluster Maintenance Advisory Committee.

Community Pitches in to Help ‘Their Park’

The spring growth of the Nebraska prairie tallgrass (which would be four feet high by July) was underway, a sure sign that the busy summer season was about to begin. The staff at Homestead National Monument of America also had to start gearing up for the annual Homestead Days, scheduled for June 27-30, when more than 2,000 visitors were expected for the four-day special event.

Then from across the prairie came that ominous dark funnel cloud and train-like sound. The tornado hit on May 8, 1996, and by the time it finished, the monument grounds were strewn with debris—from huge tree trunks and limbs to brush, trash, and litter. The debris posed an immediate threat to the natural resources and to visitors using the monument trails.

It couldn’t have hit at a worse time. The monument’s permanent staff of only eight employees were faced with a huge clean-up at their busiest time of the year. Undaunted and knowing the depth and breadth of community support, they sent out appeals to volunteers through television, radio, and print media and began cleaning-up the debris.

Monument staff coordinated the activities of volunteers, secured supplies and materials, and oversaw all labor. Every volunteer received an orientation to the monument and a certificate of

appreciation for their work. In a further effort to assist the monument and help local citizens, the staff worked with the Nebraska Job Service to hire five temporary employees from among workers displaced from the damaged Pamida store in the town of Beatrice. This partnership not only resulted in hundreds of hours of work for the monument, but also allowed five people who would have otherwise been unemployed to earn income.

In seven weeks the clean-up was completed. The grounds were completely cleaned and safe for the public and the monument’s natural resources by June 28. Despite the inherent dangers of this material, not one volunteer or visitor suffered an injury.

Throughout the effort the monument staff continued to provide daily visitor services and planning for Homestead Days. Despite the time constraints and work demands created by the clean-up, the monument handled a 67 percent increase in visitation for the months of May and June compared to 1995, and executed a well-received Homestead Days event which had a 12 percent visitor increase over the previous year.

In recognition of their outstanding efforts, the Homestead staff has been awarded the Department of the Interior’s Unit Award for Excellence of

Community volunteers help clean-up Homestead National Monument after a May 8, 1996 tornado littered the grounds with tons of dangerous debris. NPS photos by Costa Dillon



Service—the highest honor presented to work units in the Department. **David Given**, NPS’s deputy field director for the Midwest, presented the award on behalf of **Secretary Babbitt**.

“The monument staff performed extraordinary work in responding to the tornado, said Homestead superintendent **Constantine J. Dillon** in receiving the award. “This award is a tribute to their many hours of effort to keep the monument open and serving the public,” Dillon added.

U.S. Geological Survey



Gordon P. Eaton, Director
Peter Lyttle and
Kathleen Gohn, Bureau Editors

USGS geologist Mark Reid checks a surface extensometer spanning several scarps on an active landslide above California Highway 50.



Monitoring California Landslides

In Real Time

Although the recent landslide blocking U.S. Highway 50 in northern California has been removed, other active landslides in the corridor between Placerville and South Lake Tahoe still threatened the road as of late March.

Two USGS scientists, **Mark Reid** and **Rick LaHusen**, with the assistance of Eldorado National Forest personnel, have installed measuring instruments that provide a real-time monitoring system on a large, active landslide potentially threatening Highway 50.

The newly instrumented landslide is similar to the large Mill Creek landslide that failed catastrophically on January 24, 1997, blocking Highway 50 and damming the American River. Both landslides showed numerous scarps (steep outer slopes) last spring and both moved several meters prior to the catastrophic failure of the Mill Creek landslide in January.

The Mill Creek landslide swept two vehicles into the river bed and destroyed three houses. Opening the highway required the removal of 35,000 truckloads of debris. State officials estimate that economic losses due to the highway's closure exceeded \$1 million per day. The USGS hopes to detect any pre-failure movement on the instrumented landslide, as well as monitor the rainfall and groundwater conditions leading to a possible catastrophic failure.

Instrumentation on the active landslide includes



two surface extensometers for measuring landslide movement, pore-water pressure sensors for monitoring groundwater conditions, sensors for monitoring ground vibrations associated with landslide movement, and a rain gage.

In many landslides, infiltrating rain or snowmelt can elevate groundwater pressures. These elevated pressures, in turn, induce downslope movement. The USGS is also assisting the California Department of Transportation with the development and installation of monitoring instruments at other landslides in the Highway 50 corridor.

Data from the USGS-monitored landslide are transmitted via radio link to a base station in Sacramento every 10 minutes and then downloaded

At left, two houses destroyed by large Mill Creek landslide that also blocked California Highway 50 and temporarily dammed the American River. Below, USGS scientist Rick LaHusen tests radio telemetry at a landslide monitoring site in the California Highway 50 corridor.



over the Internet. A web site has been developed for near real-time viewing of the incoming data via Internet access. The site address is <<http://vulcan.wr.usgs.gov/Projects/CalifLandslide/framework.html>>

25th Anniversary Marks Advances in Flood Forecasting

Since the devastating floods of 1972 that took nearly 500 lives, the human toll has declined in the United States, thanks in part to advances in science and technology as well as better partnerships among local, state, and federal agencies working together to provide advance warnings to citizens.

"We should not let our guard down," said **Robert Hirsch**, chief hydrologist of the U.S. Geological Survey. "Floods continue to cost the nation an average of \$3 billion in damages and about 95 lives every year. Although the 1993 Midwest flood and the flooding this past year on the West Coast have been devastating, the tragic loss of life has been reduced.

"This can be directly attributed to early and accurate river forecasts made possible by technological advances in the USGS cooperative network of stream gages in every state," Hirsch said.

In the midst of a flood, USGS hydrologists work around the clock to collect the data that emergency managers rely on as the basis for evacuation orders and use in the development of early warning systems.

Three major floods that occurred in 1972 were:

Buffalo Creek, West Virginia, February 26. This flood was caused by the collapse of a coal-waste dam that released 132 million gallons of water into Buffalo Creek valley. The flood destroyed the town of Saunders, as well as all or part of 16 other small communities or mining camps, and resulted in 125 deaths. The Buffalo Creek area is in the southeast corner of West Virginia, about 40 miles from Charleston. The USGS prepared a detailed report on the causes and effects of the dam failure.

Hurricane Agnes, West Virginia-Pennsylvania-New York, June and July. Although Agnes was one of the weakest hurricanes in history, the rains that accompanied it caused the worst natural disaster in Pennsylvania's history. Rainfall from Agnes ravaged twelve states and set many records for high water. The Susquehanna River and tributaries along the New York-Pennsylvania border region produced the most severe flooding since 1784.

Rapid City, South Dakota, June 9. A stationary group of thunderstorms that formed over the Black Hills produced nearly 15 inches of rain in six hours near Nemo, South Dakota. More than 10 inches of rain fell in a 60-square-mile area. The resulting floods were the most severe ever recorded in South Dakota. At the end of the day, 237 people were dead, more than 3,000 injured, and total damage exceeded \$160 million.



Water-Quality Data on CD-ROM

During the past 30 years, the USGS has operated two national stream water-quality networks, the Hydrologic Benchmark Network and National Stream Quality Accounting Network. Information from these networks, collected at 679 stations in the United States, is now available on a two-disc CD-ROM set.

Collectively, these data are referred to as Water-Quality Networks and provide national and regional descriptions of stream water-quality conditions and trends, while improving understanding of the effects of the natural environment and human activities on water quality.

Measurements are now available for 1962 to 1995 for the hydrologic network and for 1973 to 1995

for the stream quality network. The streamflow and water-quality data, supporting documentation, and quality-assurance information for the networks have been incorporated into the CD-ROMs in an easy-to-use format.

The retrieval tools and ancillary information on the CD-ROMs make it easier and quicker to use the data. On one disk, the data can be accessed from user-supplied software including Web browser (e.g., Mosaic, Netscape Navigator, or Microsoft Internet Explorer), spreadsheet, and word processor. A second disk—a DOS version—includes software capable of browsing text files and retrieving and printing data according to user-specified criteria. The discs (DDS-37) can be purchased for \$42 by contacting: USGS, Branch of Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, Colorado 80225-0286.

USGS Deploys GPS for U.S. Antarctic Program

Gordon Shupe

For four decades, the USGS has been surveying and mapping Antarctica in support of the U. S. interagency Antarctic Program. Administered by the National Science Foundation, the program sponsors and carries out a broad range of U.S. research activities on the continent, including biology, geology, glaciology, geodesy, geophysics, and global change.

Beginning in mid-April, U.S. scientists working in West Antarctica will have the latest in Global Positioning System (GPS) technology to accurately locate samples and map their studies. The USGS will be establishing a GPS Continuously Operating Reference Station at Palmer Station, the U.S. research base on the Antarctic Peninsula.

Palmer is the last of the three permanent American bases in Antarctic to receive a Reference Station system. USGS established these operations at McMurdo and Amundsen-Scott Stations in 1991. Last but not least, the Palmer system will offer a new capability, real-time differential corrections, enabling very precise geographic positioning without lengthy post-processing of data.

In addition to assisting local surveys, the continuous GPS observations recorded by the Palmer station will contribute to a global network of Reference Station data from other permanent GPS sites, known as the International GPS Service for Geodynamics.

Data from this global network, shared via Internet, is used for global geophysical studies such as crustal



At left, USGS cartographer Chris Baumann demonstrates the latest GPS technology to Director Gordon Eaton and his staff at Station Powell on the roof of the USGS National Center. Below, Chris Baumann tests GPS equipment at Station Powell.

motion monitoring, and determination of the global geodetic datum known as the International Terrestrial Reference Frame.

The Palmer GPS system recently completed testing at the Survey's Mapping Applications Center in Reston, Virginia, and is now on its long journey south to Palmer Station. Chris Baumann, a Denver-based cartographer with the USGS Rocky Mountain Mapping Center, will deploy the system at its permanent field site.

While in Reston for training, Baumann had the opportunity to demonstrate the system's surveying capabilities to USGS **Director Gordon Eaton** and members of his staff. Surveyors and non-surveyors alike were impressed by the real-time display of centimeter-level coordinates.



The desert tortoise makes its home in the Mojave, Colorado, and Sonoran deserts of the southwestern United States. In 1990, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the desert tortoise as a threatened species because of widespread population declines and overall habitat loss, deterioration, and fragmentation.

Tortoises Go Wild

Gail Keirn

Captive desert tortoises are getting a second chance to live and reproduce in the deserts of the Southwest, thanks to a unique partnership among state and federal agencies in Nevada. As part of the Desert Tortoise Translocation and Habitat Efficacy Study, captive desert tortoises are being released starting in March onto 20,000 acres of public land south of Las Vegas, Nevada.

The translocation project provides researchers with the opportunity to further monitor and observe this threatened species. About 700 healthy tortoises from the Bureau of Land Management's Desert Tortoise Conservation Center will be released in the translocation area during the next year. Forty tortoises will be outfitted with radio transmitters in each of four seasons to assist researchers with the monitoring of their movements and ability to survive.

The area is currently underpopulated with desert tortoises and should be able to sustain the addition of several hundred individuals. Although fencing will be required as a barrier to keep tortoises away from busy roads, public access and traditional recreational use of the area will not be affected.

As part of the release effort, scientists with the USGS Midcontinent Ecological Science Center will provide research expertise, as well as assistance in monitoring the movements of translocated tortoises.

New Evidence of Asteroid Impact

A 65 million-year old record of the asteroid impact that may have caused the extinction of the dinosaurs was recovered by an international team of scientists drilling off the coast of Florida and South Carolina on January 8 through February 4.

This core material may be the most complete deep-sea record ever recovered of the asteroid impact that ended the Cretaceous period, according to **Jean M. Self-Trail**, research scientist for the USGS. The extinction of more than 90 percent of microanimals and marine algae occurred at that time. Self-Trail was a participant aboard the Ocean Drilling Program cruise Leg 171B.

A complete record of this episode of worldwide oceanic extinction and subsequent repopulation will be invaluable in determining the long-term effect that extinction events, even minor ones, have on the Earth's ecosystem.

Self-Trail and 27 other scientists, representing eight countries, sailed aboard the JOIDES Resolution, the world's largest scientific research vessel. The objectives of the cruise included 1) obtaining a complete record of the Cretaceous/Tertiary boundary along an increasing depth transect, 2) studying the rate and mode of evolution of marine life, and 3) providing critically needed low-latitude sediments used to interpret tropical sea-surface temperature and climate cycles.

Of primary interest is the reconstruction of climatic and biological evolution prior to the asteroid impact and the evaluation of the

JOIDES Resolution, the world's largest scientific research vessel.

subsequent recovery of marine life following an extinction episode. The extinction event will be documented from both deep-sea and nearshore sections.

A corehole that was recently drilled by the USGS in Cannon Park—Charleston, South Carolina—contains what appears to be a fairly continuous Cretaceous/Tertiary boundary segment which correlates to the one drilled offshore. This onshore equivalent was deposited on the continental shelf and represents the shallow end-member of the deep-sea sediments drilled by the JOIDES Resolution. Comparing this onshore material with correlative offshore sections will help to determine depth-dependent changes in floating and bottom-dwelling marine communities across the extinction boundary in a low-latitude setting.

The translocation project will provide researchers and land managers with techniques for improving desert tortoise translocation efforts at other underpopulated sites.

The Desert Tortoise Conservation Center, near Las Vegas, Nevada, was established in 1990 to house desert tortoises left homeless because of human development or other land uses. Biologists have used many of the Center's tortoises to conduct research on tortoise nutrition and reproduction, as

well as Upper Respiratory Tract Disease which is suspected of being a major contributor to the decline of wild tortoise populations.

The translocation study is a partnership among the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, National Park Service, Nevada Division of Wildlife, University of Nevada, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

Using Watershed Ecosystem Studies Can Improve Natural Resources Management

Ray Herrmann

Since the 1920's, scientists have acknowledged the importance of long-term, ecosystem-level studies on watersheds. Initial research efforts evaluated the effects of vegetation changes on hydrology and the long-term structure and function of commercially important forest ecosystems. In the 1980s, the focus shifted to biogeochemical cycles and detecting changes in natural processes associated with watersheds.

This past February, a special symposium, entitled *Integrating Watershed Ecosystem Studies for Improved Natural Resource Management*, was presented by USGS researchers and cooperating universities at the annual meeting of the American Association for

the Advancement of Science. The symposium not only acknowledged the long history of watershed research but also suggested ways for improving natural resource management and policy development.

Examples of the benefits of long-term watershed research across the nation included studies of forested watersheds in the mountains of western Virginia that have proven useful in evaluating fish kills during storms and understanding the relatively transient effects of pest outbreaks.

On the Pacific coast, forest managers contrasted the responses of old-growth and managed young forests to nutrient and hydrologic cycles. In Tennessee and North Carolina, the responses of diverse forested ecosystems to the effects of harvesting, air pollution and fertilization are being monitored and modeled.

Many of the studies suggested that the same processes identified in small watersheds also can affect water quality in large basins.

Current results from these studies have also led to the development of a watershed ecosystem approach that incorporates multi-disciplinary methods and enhances the ability of researchers to study complex land and water use problems.

The conceptual model helps distinguish and quantify the effects of natural and human-made disturbances on watershed systems, including the impacts of air and water pollution, exotic species invasions, and climate change. A unique long-term database, developed from these studies, is available to scientists and resource managers for use in the assessment of ecosystem-level impacts.

100 MILLION PIECES

Improving USGS Inventory Management

Daniel Cavanaugh

The USGS manages about 130,000 different products including maps, books, CD-ROMs, general interest publications and fact sheets. Until recently these 130,000 titles contained more than 100 million individual pieces. Most of these items are distributed from the USGS warehouse facility in Denver, Colorado.

In addition to USGS products, the warehouse distributes some products for the Bureau of Land Management, National Imagery Management Agency (formerly Defense Mapping Agency), U.S. Forest Service, and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

The USGS also maintains a sales network of regional offices at some government facilities throughout the country and has partnerships with 2,800 private companies. Since November 1995, the USGS has been working hard to develop a customer-driven approach to information and product delivery. The focus has been on improving its inventory management program throughout the network of information outlets, the warehouse distribution facility and production centers.



Gene Rodgers counts a map product by weight in the warehouse.

In 1993 the warehouse and distribution network were selected to be a part of the National Performance Review. Based on the results of that review, the Inventory Assessment and Management project was formed to streamline inventory management processes, implement better business practices, and improve customer service. In November of 1995, a USGS team was formed to accurately inventory of all products and define optimal stock levels.



Rosanne Boes scans a bar code on a map product in the warehouse.

The project embarked on the monumental task of physically counting every item in stock. An innovative counting method that involves weighing stacks of items provided 99.9 percent accuracy. Demand was determined by looking at past sales history, the potential for future sales, the potential for future emergencies, and production capacity.

By using these criteria, the USGS developed a target stock level for every product in USGS's inventory. After the stock level was set, it did not take long to learn that we had far too many of some slow-moving products and not enough of the faster sellers. Scientific products with large excess stocks have been offered to numerous libraries and federal and state agencies.

To date, the Inventory Assessment and Management project has assessed more than 50,000 product titles, while donating and-or recycling more than 30 million individual items. Along with this huge stock reduction, we have reduced the number of out-of-stock items to less than three percent of all orders received, thus increasing customer services. Customer response cards from 1995-1996 identified out-of-stock items as one of the top reasons for dissatisfaction with obtaining products from USGS. Satisfying customers requires successfully and consistently managing inventory.

Plans for 1997 include completing the assessment of all remaining products, removing all excess stock from the warehouse, fully implementing more bar coding technology, and continuous improvements of all processes throughout the inventory management life cycle.

Donating Excess Products

Janis Wilson

The American Association of State Geologists has indicated that the state geological surveys would be interested in receiving excess thematic maps from the USGS. **Lee Allison** of the Utah State Geological Survey and **Don Hull** of the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries have been identified as the points of contact for coordinating the distribution of these products.

We have already worked with **Don Haney** and the Kentucky Geological Survey on the four-sheet Kentucky Geologic Map and the one-sheet Special Sesquicentennial Edition of the Kentucky Geologic Map. In December, the Kentucky Geological Survey received five skids of these maps for a total of 23,250 copies.

The USGS is currently ready to coordinate distribution of excess thematic maps for the

States of New Mexico, Nevada, Alaska, Kentucky, Arizona, and Colorado. Working with the American Association of State Geologists, the USGS will provide the states with title and quantity information. Initial distribution with those states should be completed by the end of April. Distribution to all other states will be completed by the end of August.

In addition to working with the Association, we have replaced damaged products in the USGS libraries, and donated more than 12,000 copies of the Indian Lands maps to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Several skids of excess thematic maps are staged in the USGS Denver warehouse for shipment to a good home.



Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation

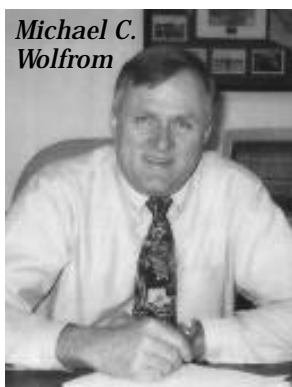


Katherine L. Henry, Acting Director
Peter M. DuFore, Bureau Editor

Field Office Directors Appointed



Andrew R. Gilmore



Michael C. Wolf from

The appointments of three new field office directors was recently announced by **Brent T. Wahlquist**, regional director of OSM's Mid-Continent Regional Coordinating Center.

Arthur W. Abbs will be taking charge as director of the Birmingham, Alabama, field office which handles OSM's activities in the coal regions of Alabama and Mississippi. His appointment becomes effective May 25. Abbs is presently chief of the Division of Regulatory Support at OSM headquarters in Washington, D.C.

He began his federal government career in 1966 with the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation-

Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service before joining OSM in July 1978 as a State Program Specialist. Abbs was also OSM's Abandoned Mined Land Administrator, Regulatory Program Administrator, and served in a temporary appointment as Director of the Albuquerque Field Office. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in forestry from Iowa State University, and attended graduate school at the University of Michigan.

Andrew R. Gilmore, currently the acting director

of the Birmingham office will become director of the Indianapolis, Indiana office, supervising the coal regions of Indiana and Illinois, effective May 25. Gilmore began his federal career in 1978 at OSM's District Office in Evansville, Indiana, and also worked in Terre Haute, and Indianapolis, before transferring to Birmingham in October 1985. Before joining OSM, he was employed by the State of Illinois Department of Mines and Minerals. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in forestry from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

Also on May 25, **Michael C. Wolf from** will take charge of the agency's field office in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He is currently a regulatory program specialist for OSM's mid-continent region in Alton, Illinois. His new duties will oversee the agency's activities in the coal regions of Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

Wolf from began his federal government career in 1978 at OSM's Offices in Kansas City, Missouri, and worked there in a progression of positions including district program manager, supervisory regulatory program specialist, and acting field office director, until moving to Alton in August 1995. Before joining OSM, he was employed by Consolidated Coal Company in Cadiz, Division of Reclamation, as an inspection officer. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in geography from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio.

OSM benefits greatly from the professional knowledge and managerial experience of these administrators, Wahlquist said, adding, "their appointment will ensure the customers and employees of the Birmingham, Indianapolis, and Tulsa Field Offices the continuing strong, dependable leadership they have come to rely upon."

reclamation in the county. The award recognizes on-the-ground achievement of the goals of the surface mining law.

Directors Award: A special award to a coal mining company from the OSM director for outstanding achievement in a specific area of reclamation. The award will recognize special dedication and commitment that results in reclamation and post-mining land use benefiting a local community.

Best-of the-Best Award: One operation will be selected from the National Award winners to recognize specific individuals (mine manager, reclamation specialist, state inspector, etc.) who were directly responsible for the outstanding accomplishment.

Reclamation Hall of Fame Award: A 20th anniversary award will be presented to one or more mining operations that won a previous national award. The one-time award will recognize the most outstanding past winners after the stand-out project has stood the test of time.

Nominations are due to the state regulatory authorities, or the OSM field office in non-primacy states by April 15 of this year. The best entries for both National Awards and the Director's Award will be forwarded to appropriate OSM field offices by May 1. Winners will be announced and awards presented on August 3. Information is available by Internet via the World Wide Web on OSM's homepage at: <http://www.osmre.gov> OSM's 24-hour Fax-on-Demand service also has the information at (202) 219-1703.



Katherine Henry

And the Nominees Are...

OSM is seeking nominations for the 20th Anniversary Excellence in Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Awards program.

"I am extremely pleased to announce that OSM is once again sponsoring a reclamation awards program," said OSM Acting Director **Kathrine L. Henry**. "The awards will be especially significant this year as we prepare to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act on August 3, 1997," Henry noted. OSM is resuming the awards after budget constraints forced it to forgo the program in 1996. The awards began in 1986.

Since the passage of the surface mining law, land reclamation in the United States has become a built-in component of surface coal mining, Henry said. In fact, successfully reclaimed land quickly begins to resemble its natural surroundings, with little about its finished appearance to suggest that it was even mined. The better a coal mine is reclaimed, the less there is to see.

OSM started the annual program to give well-earned public recognition to those responsible for the nation's most outstanding achievements in environmentally sound surface mining and land reclamation, Henry said. The awards also encourage more operators to strive for positive recognition by exceeding basic reclamation requirements. OSM will present four awards this year:

National Awards: Presented to coal mining companies for achieving the most exemplary mining and

OSM's 1996 Annual Report is First in Electronic Format

OSM's Fiscal Year 1996 Annual Report has been released on computer CD-ROM and is available via Internet on the World Wide Web. It also is available as a conventionally printed document.

The 53-page report, which describes OSM operations for the period October 1, 1995, through September 30, 1996 combines OSM's Annual Report to Congress with the agency's Annual Financial Report. This marks the third year OSM has combined the two reports to provide customers a better understanding of the agency's operations, and the first year OSM has issued the report electronically.

The report also describes the first steps toward including the requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act in the OSM annual report. OSM's 1997 report will be organized by business lines, and will be designed to meet all three of the statutory reporting requirements.

OSM Acting Director Henry said presenting the 1996 annual report in printed and electronic formats makes it more widely accessible to the general public. "The 1996 Annual Report is an example of a new direction for OSM," Henry said. "Electronic publishing expands the types of information that can be presented and makes information about implementation of the Surface Mining Law and about OSM operations available to a larger audience."

The CD-ROM included with the printed report contains a short video public service announcement on the dangers of abandoned mines, a citizens' introduction to OSM's Appalachian Clean Streams Initiative, and a short video program titled A Page In Time that describes how OSM implements the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act.

Included in the report is information about activities carried out under several parts of the Reclamation Act, including: Title IV, abandoned mine reclamation; Title V, control of the environmental impacts of surface mining; and Title VII, administrative and miscellaneous provisions.

Henry noted that the 1996 Annual Report contains updates to tabular data found in OSM annual reports since 1988. "This facilitates comparison of statistics from year to year," she said. Henry said that improvements in the 1996 report include a new reporting period for inspection data (part of a transition to fiscal-year reporting), plus statistics in both metric and conventional (English) units.

Finance and accounting information, which is presented in a format similar to traditional corporate annual reports, is contained in the financial review section. "The Inspector General's audit statement, which gives OSM a 'clean' audit opinion of its financial reporting for 1996, is included at the end of the financial section," Henry added. "This marks the fifth year in a row OSM received a 'clean audit'."

Copies of the annual report will be distributed to the public upon request. Contact: Office of Communications, Office of Surface Mining, 1951 Constitution Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240, Telephone (202) 208-2719, Fax (202) 501 0549, E-mail getinfo@osmre.gov The report is also available in Adobe Acrobat PDF format at OSM's web site, <http://www.osmre.gov>





Americ Wilderness

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

"Sometimes progress is measured in mastering frontiers, but sometimes we must measure progress in protecting frontiers for our children and all children to come...Today the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument becomes a great pillar in our bridge to tomorrow."

*President Bill Clinton
September 18, 1996*

The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument is a dramatic, red-rock landscape that is rich in natural and human history. Extending across 1.7 million acres of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, the monument represents a unique combination of archeological, paleontological, geological, and biological resources. These strikingly beautiful and scientifically important lands are divided into three distinct regions—the Canyons of the Escalante, the Kaiparowits Plateau, and the Grand Staircase.



can ness

Natural and Cultural Heritage

The Monument's vast and austere landscape embraces a spectacular array of scientific and historic resources. It preserves a geological treasure of clearly exposed stratigraphy and structures that offer an understanding of the processes that formed the earth. World-class paleontological sites, including those found in the Shinarump and Kaiparowits formations, contain one of the best records of Cretaceous terrestrial life in the world.

Hundreds of Native American cultural sites include rock art panels, occupation sites, campsites and granaries, and many undocumented sites for future study and appreciation. Relict vegetative areas such as the grasslands atop No Mans Mesa have evolved unaltered by man since the Pleistocene era. Wildlife habitat sustains mountain lion, bear, and desert bighorn sheep, as well as 200 species of birds, including the bald eagle and peregrine falcons.

On the Hole-in-the-Rock Trail, the Old Paria townsite, and other historic places, visitors can see how nature shaped human endeavors in the American West, where distance and aridity have been pitted against our dreams and courage.

Sustaining Our Western Heritage

The proclamation establishing the Monument offers a vision for the future. It directs the BLM not only to protect the land, but also to allow, within the proper conservation context, a number of traditional uses that will help keep people on the land and pass on our Western heritage. "Under the proclamation, families will be able to use the canyon as they always have—the land will remain open for multiple uses, including hunting, fishing, camping, and grazing," President Clinton said.





Ada E. Deer, Assistant Secretary
Ralph Gonzales, Bureau Editor

One of the more controversial sites on federal land that is sacred to Native Americans is this truncated mountain, known in English as Devil's Tower.



GOALS 2000 Grants to 78 BIA Schools

The Goals 2000 Panel of BIA's Office of Indian Education Programs has selected 78 BIA schools to receive \$25,000 in additional funding to assist their reform efforts. Priority was given to schools that had not previously received \$25,000 Goals 2000 grants. The Consolidated School Reform Plan developed at each school includes Title I, II, VII, IX, and Goals 2000 program information, plans, and benchmarks for the next four years. The Goals 2000 grant funds were awarded for implementing reform plans and providing staff development or pre-service teacher training.

Goals 2000 is a federally-funded education reform program authorized under the Educate America Act. The Goals 2000 Panel for BIA is made up of educators and community representatives from Native American Tribes and educational institutions.

New Native Education Directory Available

The 1997 edition of the Native Education Directory published by Educational Resources Information Clearinghouse (ERIC) includes listings of organizations involved in advocacy, reform, publishing, broadcasting, funding, youth leadership, research and many other aspects of American Indian and Alaska Native education.

The publication lists contact persons for more than 500 organizations, agencies, publishers, and colleges and universities, with current addresses, phone numbers, and when available, e-mail, and World Wide Web addresses. These are people who can help educators locate scholarships for students, join forces with others to influence Native education policy or funding, answer questions about regulations and requirements, locate curriculum materials, or give advice on how to set up a Native language program. For instance, the directory lists more than 50 American Indian and Alaska Native languages that can be studied at colleges and universities across North America.

To request a copy, contact ERIC on 1-800-624-9120 or by e-mail on lanhamb@ael.org. Or write to ERIC at P.O. Box 1348, Charleston, WV 25352-1348. The cost is \$12 cost plus shipping and handling. The new directory is 102 pages and fully indexed.

BIA Education Dates to Remember

April 20-22—Family Literacy: The Power and the Promise is the theme of the 6th Annual National Conference on Family Literacy sponsored by the National Center for Family Literacy. It will be held at the Galt House Tower and Galt House East in Louisville, KY. Call 502-584-1133 for information.

May 15-16—Better Education is Everybody's Business is sponsored by the U.S. Dept. of Education, John Hancock Inc., Southern California Edison, Hewlett-Packard Co., United Airlines, IBM, Pizza Hut, and Mattel Corp. It will be held in Boston, MA at the Swissotel. For information call 212-339-0345.

May 16-18—National Teen Summit is sponsored by the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. It will be held at Xavier University in New Orleans, LA. Contact Tom Donaldson of NOFAS for more information on 202-785-4585.

Consultations on Protecting Sacred Sites

The BIA has completed three formal rounds of consultations with representatives of Indian Tribes and other federal agencies aimed at developing policies and procedures for carrying out President Clinton's Executive Order on the protection of Indian sacred sites.

BIA, which also has been receiving written comments from concerned Native Americans and other interested parties throughout the process, will now begin developing those policies and procedures to implement the order, which calls for the protection of scared areas on federal lands and assurances that American Indians and Alaskan Natives have access to these sites.

The federal-tribal discussions were held in Washington, D.C. (April 3-4), Portland, Oregon (March 12-13), and Denver, Colorado (March 19-20). Discussion topics included protecting the physical integrity of sacred sites; the confidentiality of these areas; providing access; dispute resolution; and meaningful government-to-government coordination. Representatives from the Departments of Justice, Energy, and Agriculture also attended the sessions. Tribes unable to send representatives to the consultations may submit written comments to the BIA.

"All Americans have a stake in seeing that the religious freedom of their fellow citizens is preserved and protected," the President said last May 24 when he issued the order.

The Executive Order, No. 13007, calls for the development of policies and procedures according to the following guidelines: Each executive branch agency with responsibility for the management of land shall, to the extent practicable, permitted by law, and not clearly inconsistent with essential agency functions, accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners. These agencies also must avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of the sacred sites and, where appropriate, shall maintain the confidentiality of the areas.

Under the order, a sacred site means any specific, discrete, narrowly delineated location on federal land that is identified by an Indian tribe, or Indian individual determined to be an appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion. The site's sacred character is evaluated by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion; provided that the tribe or appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion has informed the agency of the site's existence.

In implementing their policies and procedures, federal agencies must comply with the Executive memorandum of April 29, 1994—*Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments*. By May 26 of this year, under the order, the head of each executive branch agency with federal land management authority shall report to the President, through the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, on the implementation of this order.

Native Alaskan Land Allotment Proposal

About 1,800 applications for legal title to Native Alaskan lands could be approved if a proposal by Secretary Babbitt is implemented. The Secretary has proposed allowing the statutory approval of Alaska Native allotment applications in cases where protests against such actions have been withdrawn.

A notice requesting comment on the proposal was published in the February 14 Federal Register (62 Fed Reg 7033). The proposed action would overrule an Interior Board of Land Appeals interpretation of Section 905 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).

In Section 905 of ANILCA, Congress provided for the approval of pending allotment applications as long as certain conditions are met and unless a timely and sufficient protest is filed. The 1906 Alaska Native Allotment Act was intended to give individuals the opportunity to obtain legal title to lands they used and occupied.

Section 905 of the ANILCA was enacted to expedite the approval of allotment applications and to fulfill the commitments of the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), which repealed the 1906 Alaska Native Allotment Act. Section 905 was enacted in 1980 to facilitate the approval of allotment applications that were pending on or before ANCSA was passed.

The Interior Board of Land Appeals has ruled that allotment applications must be adjudicated even when the protesting party has dismissed its protest. The Secretary has requested a legal opinion from the Interior Department Solicitor on this matter.

Interested persons and organizations may submit comments regarding the Secretary's proposal to lift this bar to statutory approval of uncontested allotment applications. Written comments must be received by April 11. Comments should be mailed to the Bureau of Land Management, Administrative Record, Room 401LS, 1849 C Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

Comments may also be hand-delivered to the Bureau of Land Management, Administrative Record, Room 401, 1620 L Street, Washington, D.C. Comments may also be transmitted electronically, via the Internet to WOCComments@wo.blm.gov. Please include "Attn: Secretarial Decision," and your name and address in the message. If you do not receive a confirmation that your Internet message has been received, contact that office directly at (202) 452-5030.



Students at the Sante Fe Indian School developed a multimedia database—Four Corners: The Past Meets the Present—to interpret their culture for non-Native Americans. The Bureau of Land Management-supported project provided the students technical training in computer exhibits and enriched educational opportunities. For information on the project and the CD, contact BLM's New Mexico State Office at (505) 761-8700.



Indian Affairs on the Eve of the Millennium

Ada Deer

I will soon turn the reins over to a new assistant secretary for Indian Affairs—the person who will steer Indian Affairs into the new millennium. I urge each of you to give that person your fullest cooperation and support—I know that I will.

This is a position of great trust to our native peoples and I would not trade my service for anything. It has been, as they say, a great ride—although at times more like a roller-coaster than a carousel and frequently like the bumper cars.

The most rewarding part of the job for me has been the opportunity to travel throughout Indian Country and get a first hand view of the deep and enduring spirit of our Indian people. From Makah to Miccosukee, from Arctic Village to Pine Ridge, I have met and worked with some of the most brilliant and inspiring minds of our times.

When I first began as assistant secretary in July of 1993, I found a Bureau of Indian Affairs hungry for direction. My task was to oversee its transition from paternalistic landlord to true partner on a government-to-government basis with American Indian Tribes and ...I am happy to now add...Alaska Native Tribal Governments.

From day one, I have promoted tribal sovereignty, self-governance, and self-determination. These are the hallmarks of the Clinton Administration's Indian policy. I testified in favor of the 1994 amendments to the self-governance and self-determination statutes and advocated negotiated rulemaking as the new way for the Interior Department to develop substantive rules for Indian programs. I took Vice-President Gore's words to heart: "Negotiate, don't dictate."

I have urged other government agencies to build on this model. Negotiated rulemaking works, especially when there is strong tribal leadership driving the process such as we had on the 638 and self-governance teams. My special thanks go to the tribal co-chairs of those efforts: **Buford Bolin, Julia Davis, Kathy Grosdidier, Ed Mouss, Ron Allen, and Bernida Churchill.** I also want to thank Deputy Assistant Secretary **Michael Anderson** and Director of the office of American Indian Trust **Elizabeth Homer** for their leadership in these efforts.

But I have been equally committed to making sure that those Tribes that wish to retain direct services from the Bureau can continue to exercise that choice. I agree with the warnings of my good friends Oglala Chairman **John Yellow Bird Steele** and **Frank Ducheneaux**—we must continue to protect the Tribes' right of access to BIA services.



At a 1996 news conference, Assistant Secretary Ada Deer and Secretary Babbitt explain new Interior initiatives to improve educational opportunities for Indian school children. Photo by Tami Heilemann, ISC

I confronted many challenges during my term, including efforts to reduce or eliminate tribal tax immunity, gaming rights, Indian child welfare, land acquisitions, environmental jurisdiction, and even the core tribal budgets. Individual tribes came under fire. I know how hard **Henry Cagey** and **Randy Noka** had to fight for their tribes. And believe me the fight isn't over.

One of the weapons of the assistant secretary is the bully pulpit and I spent the summer and fall of 1995 on it. I spent weeks on the road traveling from city to city, conducting scores of editorial board meetings, press conferences, and talk radio interviews because I wanted mainstream America to hear our message.

I'll never forget the fall of 1995 when we stood together on the steps of the U.S. Capitol to rally for



Members of Interior's Indian Minerals Steering Committee that helped improve communication between the Department and tribal members with mineral leases includes, from right, Elizabeth Homer, Director of the Office of American Indian Trust; Dianne Shaughnessy, POB; Terry Virdin, BIA; Ed Cohen, Deputy Solicitor; Horn Tipton, BLM; and Greg Smith, MMS. Photo by Tami Heilemann

sovereignty and urge the new Congress to honor its treaty commitments. Some of you may remember that during the budget crisis I, along with many of the Clinton Administration's Indian appointees, signed a letter to the President, urging a veto of the 1996 Interior budget.

We were able to do this because we were confident that this action would receive support from Indian Country and the President, who later vetoed it in large part because of the Indian cuts. This demonstrates how powerful we can be when the Indian Affairs office and the Tribes are working together to protect our common good. We also learned that the assistant secretary can and must be a powerful voice for tribal sovereignty. The assistant secretary serves as the conscience of the Federal Government for Indian people.

The assistant secretary wears many hats. The Congress expects the assistant secretary to execute its Indian policy and direct the Bureau. The Department expects a loyal team player. The staff expects a defender, and Indian Country expects an advocate. When these roles collide, the assistant secretary must have the support of Indian Country in order to have the power it takes to advocate successfully for Indian people.

What happens in Washington D.C. is about power and power is based on perception. But, it is important to understand that we are not always in control of how we are perceived. The actions of some can be reflected back onto others, justly and unjustly. It has been my experience that when things go wrong in Indian Affairs, both the Tribes and the BIA share the blame, regardless of who did or did not do what. Outside of those who work in Indian Affairs, few possess the time, interest, or understanding to find the truth.

Most people don't know a whole lot about Indians. Some care, but lack understanding and some have or serve interests that conflict with ours. All three branches of the Federal Government contain people fitting into one of these categories and it is up to the assistant secretary for Indian Affairs to convince them that they have a legal and moral duty to defer to tribal sovereignty and carry out treaty obligations. Making sure that the trust responsibility is carried out in due deference to tribal sovereignty is perhaps the assistant secretary's most important function.

Then there is the subject of the BIA—the paradox of paradoxes. The Bureau is perhaps the most maligned agency in the Federal Government. It is the Rodney Dangerfield of the Executive Branch. Unlike the football that Charlie Brown tries to kick and always misses, nobody misses a kick at the BIA.

In reality, though, the Bureau is the scapegoat for the failures of U.S. policy to right the wrongs done to the First Americans. The services and resources that it provides are crucial to tribal governments, communities, and members. What people really want from the BIA is better, more responsive performance; active cooperation; respect for tribal sovereignty; fulfillment of trust obligations; appropriate assistance; prompt action and advocacy on behalf of Indian interests.

But let me tell you, friends, the BIA is a tough sell to a deficit-slashing Congress, especially given the scope and vehemence of the criticism directed at the Bureau. As we head into the new millennium, we're going to have to wrap up the business of the 20th century and lay the foundation for the future. The new assistant secretary will be responsible for getting BIA ready for the challenges that the new century will present. This will require taking a hard look at the BIA and how it operates. Change for the BIA is inevitable, but to paraphrase President Clinton—we need to "mend it, not end it."

In closing, I would urge everyone to take personal responsibility for improving the lives of Indian people. We do a great job of talking about the importance of our actions on the seventh generation, but we need to do more.

This article was excerpted and adapted from an address that Assistant Secretary Ada Deer gave to the National Congress of American Indians on January 23, 1997.

Top Challenges in Indian Affairs

In addition to re-shaping the BIA, Interior's new assistant secretary for Indian Affairs will face at least ten other major challenges. First, advancing tribal sovereignty by transferring regulatory and management authority to tribal governments through self-governance compacts, 638 contracts, co-management agreements, and other inter-governmental instruments. The implementation of President Clinton's sacred sites, trust, and government-to-government policies also are important tasks.

Second, fighting for the Indian budget. As Secretary Babbitt has said, the administration is on our side, but we will have to bring Congress along. The new assistant secretary is going to need sharp political skills and tribal support. Remember, the BIA budget is more the tribes' budget than it is a federal agency budget. Contrary to popular myth, 90 percent of the money budgeted for the BIA actually goes to Tribes.

Third, the assistant secretary must keep education as a top priority, implementing the President's Executive Order and leveraging more funds for tribal colleges will be one of the first tasks. I also think that school construction starts should be increased as well as funds for school improvements.

Fourth, I would like to see a fair resolution to the trust funds issues for tribal and individual Indian moneys account holders. Fifth, gaming and economic development initiatives must continue. Existing gaming compacts must be renewed on favorable terms and the right of all tribes to commence class III gaming operations must be supported. Efforts must be made to protect loan guarantee programs and expand business development initiatives.

Sixth, the right of Tribes to acquire trust lands must be protected from both congressional and judicial attacks. Seventh, the backlog of legitimate petitions for federal recognition of tribal groups must be eliminated. Eighth, the assistant secretary must champion the expansion of the number of Indian policy makers outside of the BIA. Why not an Indian as counselor to the secretary?

Ninth, continuing support for litigation of tribal claims in the federal district courts, appellate courts, and the supreme court as well as the negotiations for water rights' settlements. Tenth, ensuring that U.S. policy reflects the highest standards for the protect on of indigenous rights in the international community.



Roger G. Kennedy, Bureau Director
Ricardo Lewis, Bureau Editor

Remembering FDR

The dedication of **Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Park**, the newest memorial in



Washington, D.C., will be held Friday, May 2, with special events throughout the period of May 1-3. The 7-acre park, designed by landscape architect **Lawrence Halprin** of San Francisco, California, depicts Roosevelt’s four terms as President in four landscaped open-air “rooms” filled with sculpture and quotations. The \$19.2 million contract

to construct the memorial on the south side of the Tidal Basin was awarded in 1994. The memorial was authorized by Congress in 1982. Contact the FDR Memorial Commission at (202) 228-2491 for information.

They Bloomed a Little Early

The 1997 National Cherry Blossom Festival was held from March 30 through April 13 at various locations in Washington, D.C., but the blossoms themselves couldn’t wait and bloomed earlier. Celebrating Washington’s famous cherry trees which surround the Tidal Basin in East and West Potomac Parks, the festival included the traditional Parade, on Saturday, April 12, and the lighting of the 300-year-old Japanese lantern. Dignitaries attending the ceremonies included the Japanese Ambassador, top federal and District of Columbia officials, and festival princesses.



Maynard Hudson, a member of the National Capital Parks-Central tree crew that cares for the cherry trees, checks blossoms at the Tidal Basin near the Jefferson Memorial

Underground Railroad Initiative

The Archeology and Ethnography Program of the National Park Service has begun to coordinate an archeological initiative for the National Historic Landmarks’ Underground Railroad Theme Study. The Underground Railroad was the name given to the network of people and places used by African-Americans who fled slavery.

The purpose of the Theme Study Archeological Initiative is to assemble archeological information about the Underground Railroad, identify the range of archeological property types associated with its history, and nominate nationally significant places as National Historic Landmarks.

The Initiative is a multi-year partnership project among African-American groups, preservationists, and archeologists. An additional initiative will focus on ethnography because of the importance of oral tradition to interpretations about this important period of American history.

For additional information, contact **Richard C. Waldbauer**, NPS Archeology and Ethnography Program, at (202) 343-1252.

The Best Idea America Ever Had

When **President Ulysses S. Grant** preserved more than 3,300 square miles of park land by signing the Yellowstone Park Act on March 1, 1872, no one foresaw the worldwide rippling effect of his action. The signing of that legislation was the start of the best idea America ever had—our National Parks.

In the United States today there are 374 unique places where our nation preserves its cultural and natural diversity and heritage. And, the national park idea has spread to more than 140 other nations that have modeled their own national park systems after ours.

National Park Week 1997, April 21-27, will celebrate the evolution that began 125 years ago this month with the establishment of Yellowstone National Park (in parts of Wyoming, Montana, Idaho) and the evolution of the National Park System. This much emulated Park System now contains great natural wonders, historic battlefields, urban beaches, ruins of ancient civilizations, monuments to those who shaped this nation, and other pieces of America’s historical, cultural, natural, and recreational heritage.

National Park Week 1997 also will highlight the Service’s diverse professions, including everything from Search and Rescue specialists who save lives to curators skilled in preserving rare artifacts. Many services and programs provided by the agency also will be profiled, including the responsibility for managing the National Register of Historic Places; a separate tax credit program to help preserve historic buildings; and the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, which helps



towns and cities create close-to-home recreation opportunities.

National Park Week will be celebrated with events at parks all around the country, and an award ceremony, April 23, in Washington, D.C., to present the Harry Yount National Park Ranger Award, and Partnership-Leadership Awards, which recognize the contributions of private and public citizens and organizations in advancing the Service’s mission. For more information, the program contact is **Sue Waldron** at (202) 208-5477.

The Yellowstone Vision

Each year, more than 3 million visitors are awestruck by the beauty within Yellowstone National Park, from geysers and hot springs to waterfalls and wildlife. As we celebrate Yellowstone’s 125th anniversary, we are reminded of the vision of those early park supporters who believed that Yellowstone’s resources should be preserved not for their economic value but for their intrinsic natural beauty.

“We are able to celebrate Yellowstone’s anniversary because of the vision of those who preceded us 125 years ago,” said park superintendent **Mike Finley**. “How we meet the

challenges today will determine what we as a people will celebrate 125 years from now,” he said.

Several 125th anniversary events have been planned throughout the year, including a birthday celebration, the dedication of the Bison Exhibit at Canyon Visitor Center, Military Appreciation Day, and special National Park Week events. For more information, contact **Marsha Karle** or **Cheryl Matthews**, Yellowstone National Park Public Affairs, at (307) 344-2015 or 2010.

Nominations Sought for Shenandoah Battlefields District Commission

The Department of the Interior is seeking nominations for members to serve on the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District Commission. The Commission was established on November 12, 1996, when **President Clinton** signed the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 into law. The Commission’s primary focus is to develop a management plan to protect the natural, cultural, and historic resources of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District (Virginia).

The Commission will also help encourage the protection of those resources by landowners, local governments, organizations, and businesses. The law requires the Secretary to appoint 19 members to the Commission. One member will be appointed to represent property owners from within each of the ten battlefield units with the District. Another five members will represent local governments of the communities in the vicinity of the District.

Of the remaining four members, one will be the Governor of Virginia or the Governor’s designee, one will be the Director of the National Park Service or the Director’s designee, and two will have expertise in historic preservation and Civil War history. The Secretary asks that nominations to represent property owners within the District be sent before May 15 to Secretary of the Interior, Main Interior Building, Mail Stop 7229, Washington, DC, 20240.

Each nomination should include a home and business address and telephone number, education, and work experience, which of the 10 battlefield units they would represent, and information about why the individual is qualified to serve on the commission. The Secretary will also be requesting local governments of communities in the vicinity of the District to send him their recommendations for the five members who will represent them. For information, contact **Sandy Rives** at (540) 999-3400 or (804) 985-7293.

Vanishing Treasures Initiative

Unique and perishable masonry ruins that are important to our national heritage are deteriorating at a rate which far exceeds the NPS effort to maintain them. The treasures are located in 41 national parks in the arid West. These tangible symbols of America's heritage are slowly vanishing due to weathering and erosion.

In an effort to provide a level of care for these ruins that will inspire their preservation, the NPS has developed a Vanishing Treasures Initiative. The park sites with these ruins include Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado, Chaco Culture National Historical Park in New Mexico, and the Fort Laramie National Historic Site in Wyoming. Other sites are in Utah, Texas, and Arizona.

The aim of the 10-year program is to bring NPS capability and the prehistoric and historic structures to a condition in which they will be preserved by routine preservation maintenance activities. The Initiative



includes: immediate emergency actions to be carried out over the 10-year period; a focus on skilled maintenance expert development and training; and provisions for appropriate expertise in other disciplines to make the program successful.

The President's FY98 budget requests \$3.5 million to fund stabilizing efforts in the first year of the program. The public affairs contact is **Cecilia Matic** (505) 988-6014.

Examples of unique heritage sites in need of assistance are at Chaco Culture National Historic Park, which has 500,000 square feet of exposed wall. Masonry structures dating from the 12th century include, from left, the Great House at Pueblo del Arroyo, flooring in del Arroyo, and New Alto, with rooms of uniform size around a central kiva.

Great American Landmarks

A new home page feature on the National Park Service's Links to the Past web site is **The Great American Landmarks Adventure** (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/pad/adventure/landmark.htm>)

For kids, families, and teachers, the site highlights 43 National Historic Landmarks representing an overall tribute to our nation's achievements and potential. Each Landmark was carefully selected to show what We the People have done in the past, how it has affected our present and will shape our future, and emphasize the contributions of America's diverse peoples.

Eight landmarks will be presented each week, beginning with a prehistoric cave painting, and moving forward chronologically in time until the series ends with America's blast-off to the moon in 1969. Each drawing can be downloaded, and colored with crayons, pencils, or pens. Children are encouraged to send their finished products back to the NPS where selections will be posted in a special gallery, and the names of everyone who sends us a colored drawing will be listed.

Originally published as a book, **The Great American Landmarks Adventure** received funding support from The American Architectural Foundation and the Legacy Resources Management Program. The web site

NPS On the Web



was designed in partnership with The History Channel Online.

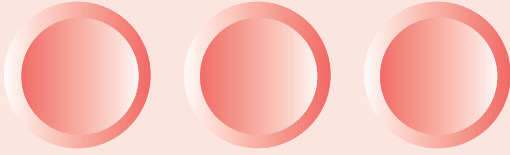
A companion Teacher's Guide has been prepared to promote lively discussion of the issues suggested by the landmarks included in the adventure book. The ultimate goal of **The Great American Landmarks Adventure** is to stimulate children's interest in their environment—to encourage them to look around and see themselves as both keepers and creators of this nation's history. At the end of the time travel, kids are asked to select a landmark they believe is historically important and should be preserved for future generations.

Themes of National Significance

Interested in learning about the Civil War, immigration, performing arts, or education? There are NPS sites relating to all of those themes and many more. If you find a particular topic fascinating, you'll now be able to start your research by viewing the NPS web page called: **Categories of National Significance and Parks that Illustrate Them.**

More than 50 theme categories are listed with related park sites. For example, if you want to write about science, you'll find Edison National Historical Site (New Jersey) and Dinosaur National Monument (Colorado), among others, listed under that theme heading.

The list was compiled by the Park History unit of the National Register, History, and Education Program of the National Center for Cultural Resources Stewardship and Partnership Programs. From agriculture to women's history, the NPS can help provide a fuller understanding of our nation's past. The site can be found at: www.nps.gov/crweb1/history/catsig.htm.



Exotic Plant Control

Big Cypress National Park, Florida, and Dade County officials have agreed on a program to control and monitor an exotic pest tree from Australia, *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, in more than 2,000 acres of mixed prairie and cypress stands in the park. The initial treatment, the first of three phases, has been completed; the second phase, which is re-treatment, will begin in late spring. The third and final phase will involve long-term monitoring. Non-native or exotic weeds, such as Melaleuca, can crowd out native plants, harm animal habitats, and increase erosion. The County is engaging in the project to mitigate wetland impacts which resulted from the construction of a correctional facility. The program contact is **Tony Pernas**, who can be reached at (941) 695-4111.

Monitoring UV-B

The National Park Service and the Environmental Protection Agency signed an interagency agreement to develop a long-term environmental monitoring program, known as the Demonstration Intensive Site Network (DISPro). The first activity under DISPro will be to install UV-B monitors in twelve National Park Service units by the end of 1997: **Denali**, Alaska; **Sequoia**, California; **Olympic**, Washington; **Big Bend**, Texas; **Everglades**,

Florida; **Virgin Islands**; **Acadia**, Maine; **Shenandoah**, Virginia; **Great Smoky Mountains**, Tennessee; **Rocky Mountain**, Colorado; **Glacier**, Montana; and **Canyonlands**, Utah. This monitoring



network will enhance the existing air and deposition monitoring coordinated by the NPS Air Resources Division. **Kathy Tonnessen**, the program contact, can be reached at (303) 969-2738.

Standing Ready

From March to July, the town of Talkeetna, Alaska (population 800) becomes the international jumping off point for people climbing Mount McKinley, the tallest peak (20,320 feet) in North America. About 1,100 people will try, half will succeed, and several will get into life-threatening trouble. A small group of **Denali National Park** rangers and volunteers, and a very small helicopter, stand ready to try for a rescue in the most dramatic of settings. One ranger recently received an international award in Italy for his life-saving teamwork. For additional information call public affairs contact, **John Quinley** at (907) 257-2696.

Termites in the Tropics

A significant threat to the cultural resources of **San Juan National Historic Site**, Puerto Rico, has been discovered. Active infestations of the subterranean termite (*Coptotermes havilandi*) have been identified in two areas in San Cristobal and El Moro. *Coptotermes havilandi*, found primarily in tropical regions, is considered the most destructive termite species wherever it occurs. Monitoring plans are being implemented to locate termite colonies, and a management plan utilizing baiting technology is being devised. For more information, contact **Chris Furqueron** at (404) 562-3113.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



John G. Rogers, Acting Director
Janet L. Carroll, Bureau Editor

Operation Green Stripe Goes National

Steve Kufrin

The Fish and Wildlife Service's Great Lakes Big-Rivers Region has expanded a regional conservation initiative into a national agreement with the Monsanto Company. At the request of Monsanto, this program will be conducted in all of the Service's regions. Partners include **Monsanto**, the Service, the **Future Farmers of America Foundation**, **Pheasants Forever**, and **local agricultural cooperatives**.

The conservation program, known as Operation Green Stripe, was originally conceived by the Monsanto Company to involve Future Farmers of America chapters and farmers-landowners in a cooperative joint venture. It was designed to restore wildlife habitat, reduce soil erosion, and improve water quality by creating or restoring riparian areas between cropped fields and rivers, streams, ditches, and lakes.

Operation Green Stripe uses a financial and educational incentive to encourage farmers and landowners to voluntarily protect historically altered drainages in the Upper Midwest. Unlike most incentive programs, Operation Green Stripe does not offer direct cash to farmers or landowners. Rather, the program provides a \$100 incentive to Future Farmers of America chapters for each farmer enrolled up to a maximum of five.

The farmers are enrolled as soil and water stewards to plant and maintain a Green Stripe adjacent to a perennial drainage system on their properties for no less than three years. The minimum requirement for a stripe is that it be at least one rod (16.5 feet) wide and 27.5 rods (453.75 feet) long. Seed is provided free of charge through an agreement between Monsanto and the agricultural cooperatives.

To build upon this unique conservation project, the Service increases the funding incentive to Future Farmers of America chapters \$100 per participant for the completion of five additional stripes above those allowed by Monsanto. Pheasants Forever provides technical assistance and seeds. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service and local soil and water conservation districts have also provided technical assistance at the request of some Future Farmers of America chapters.

To date, 56 Green Stripes—an area of approximately 60 acres and a total maximum length of 31 miles—have been taken out of production and planted to grassy buffer stripes in the Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region.



Kemp's ridley sea turtle
lays eggs, hatchlings
head for the surf.



Florida Receives \$500,000 to Protect Nesting Area of Endangered Sea Turtle

Vicki Boatwright

As part of the first pilot program to help states acquire lands that support habitat conservation plans, the Fish and Wildlife Service has awarded \$500,000 to the State of Florida to protect the nesting habitat of endangered sea turtles. The money awarded to the state will be used by **Volusia County** to augment a habitat conservation plan, approved in November 1996, to increase beach nesting areas for the turtles.

"We are delighted to have been selected for this grant award," said Volusia County Manager **Lawrence Arrington**. "This is a testimonial to the soundness of Volusia County's habitat conservation plan and our efforts to protect the environment. This money will be a tremendous help as we address future off-beach parking needs."

Historically, Volusia County's wide, hard-packed beaches have been used for driving and auto racing. To minimize the number of turtles that might be lost because of beach driving, Volusia County has prohibited vehicular traffic on nine miles of beach most heavily used by nesting sea turtles. With implementation of the plan came criticism that, by eliminating on-beach parking with no firm plans to increase off-beach parking adjacent to closed areas, authorities were unfairly restricting public beach access.

The pilot program, established under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act, provides that money

may be obligated to appropriate state agencies but ensures that the funds are used for specific land acquisitions that support Habitat Conservation Plans where either states or territories are involved as partners. The funds do not supplant private-sector or local government responsibilities required for mitigation during the implementation of Habitat Conservation Plans.

Southeast Regional Director **Noreen Clough** said that by helping Volusia County buy land to develop off-beach parking areas, the Service is, in effect, purchasing beach habitat used by five species of sea turtles for nesting. "Each parking space created will remove a car from the beach, cumulatively reducing impacts of vehicular driving and parking, making the habitat far better for sea turtles," she said.

SPECIES UPDATES

Pelican Die-off at Salton Sea

Fish and Wildlife Service staff at Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge near Calipatria, California, report that about 10 percent of the 4,000 brown and white pelicans currently at Salton Sea are beginning to exhibit symptoms of avian botulism. Brown pelicans are an endangered species.



Refuge staff have begun daily airboat patrols to pick up sick and dead birds, reactivated the refuge bird hospital, and contacted Pacific Wildlife Project to arrange for rehabilitation of sick pelicans. Dead specimens have been sent to the National Wildlife Health Center for necropsy.

Florida Panther Deaths



Both male Florida panthers released into Big Cypress National Preserve January 30 have died. Male #203 died February 26 in the field while being prepared for emergency transport to medical facilities.

Male #201 died March 11 at White Oak Conservation Center after being taken from the wild the preceding afternoon. Both were experiencing respiratory problems. Based on initial necropsy findings, cause of death was likely hemorrhagic pneumonia. It will be several months before it is known whether either of the animals mated with any of the resident females.

Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse

The proposed rule to list the Preble's meadow jumping mouse as an endangered species was published in the March 25 Federal Register. The small nocturnal rodent inhabits wet meadows and riparian habitats along the eastern edge of the Colorado Front Range below 7,400 feet in elevation and similar habitats in southeastern Wyoming. Surveys conducted during the past five years have found very few individuals of this subspecies in Wyoming and failed to find it at many historical locations in Colorado. Unprecedented development along the Front Range urban corridor threatens the Preble's meadow jumping mouse.



Mexican Wolf

The Record of Decision on the *Final Environmental Impact Statement for Reintroduction of the Mexican Wolf Within its Historic Range* has been signed by the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army. The record of decision documents the selection of the preferred alternative in the final environmental impact statement, which calls for reintroduction of Mexican wolves in the Blue Range Recovery Area of Arizona-New Mexico. The White Sands Wolf Recovery Area in New Mexico will be used later as a back-up release site if needed. A final rule designating non-essential experimental population status will be published within the next few months. Wolf releases in eastern Arizona are expected within a year.



Service Employees, Volunteers Honored

William C. (Chuck) Hunter, Vernon G. Ricker, Lou Hinds, Jack Jeffrey, Judy Dryja, and Bill Buchanan received special awards at the 62nd annual North American Wildlife and Natural Resources conference held March 14-17 in Washington, D.C.

Biologist Named Outstanding Leader

Partners in Flight presented its 1996 award for leadership to Chuck Hunter, a biologist in the Atlanta Regional office. A number of these prestigious awards are presented each year to individuals who have made significant contributions to the organization's goal of protecting migratory birds and their habitats. Hunter received two separate nominations for the award and was named the only winner in the leadership category.

Well-known for his dedication to the long-term conservation of neotropical migratory birds, Hunter has been the Southeast Regional Coordinator for Partners In Flight since 1995 and is cited as, "... the primary force to get Partners In Flight in the Southeast up and running and to continue its progress in many areas." While he is serving a 3-year detail with the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the State of Georgia Wildlife Resources Division, he continues to work closely with Service personnel.

Hunter credits his success to the strong support he received from his supervisors along with the valuable assistance of his colleagues who represent many agencies, organizations, and universities across the Southeast.

Maryland Officer Earns Guy Bradley Award

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation honored Vernon Ricker with its Guy Bradley Award as the outstanding conservation law enforcement officer of the year. Ricker, a special agent in Salisbury, Maryland, earned the award for 27 years of dedicated conservation law enforcement. Throughout his career, Ricker has repeatedly risked his life in the line of duty, often pursuing armed poachers alone to make an arrest. He is renowned for his meticulous preparation and high conviction percentage when he appears in court. Established in 1988, the Guy Bradley Award recognizes a conservation law enforcement officer whose dedication to the protection of natural resources has advanced the cause of wildlife conservation. The Foundation gives the award each year in honor of Guy Bradley, an Audubon game warden killed in the line of duty in 1905.

Employees Receive Kudos

The National Wildlife Refuge Association and **The National Audubon Society** presented Lou Hinds, manager of J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge in Sanibel, Florida, with the Paul



From left, Acting Service Director John Rogers joins award recipients Vernon Ricker (Guy Bradley Award), Judy Dryja (Volunteer of the Year), Bill Buchanan (Volunteer of the year), Jack Jeffrey (Employee of the Year), and Lou Hinds (Manager of the Year). Photo by Tami Heilemann, ISC

Kroegel Award for dedication and effectiveness as a refuge manager. The award is given annually in honor and memory of the refuge system's first manager, Paul Kroegel, appointed by President Theodore Roosevelt to be "protector" of Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge in Florida in 1903.

Hinds was cited for his effective public outreach programs, natural resources management, and personnel management skills. At Ding Darling Refuge, Hinds has recruited a trained corps of volunteers who guide natural history and birding tours. He has overseen installation of equipment for two radio stations, enabling the refuge to provide interpretive information for drivers along the wildlife trail; introduced guided tram tours of the refuge, which, along with canoe and kayak tours, reduced the number of cars along the wildlife drive; and spearheaded efforts to establish cooperating associations of citizens, or "Friends" groups, at Ding Darling and other refuges.

The two groups also named Jack Jeffrey, a wildlife biologist at Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge in Hilo, Hawaii, Refuge Employee of the Year. Jeffrey received his award for excellence in interpersonal relations and teamwork. Jeffrey is working to establish a "Friends" group at Hakalau and is partly responsible for the refuge's volunteer tree planting and weed control programs. He also gives lectures, briefings, field tours, and slide presentations on a wide variety of topics and lends his own photographs to other Service offices and government agencies for publications and exhibits. His knowledge of native forest birds and bird survey methods makes him a popular speaker in Hawaii. He frequently participates in forest bird surveys as part of the Hawaii Forest Bird Recovery Team.

Volunteers Honored

The National Wildlife Refuge Association and **National Audubon Society** honored Judy Dryja, a volunteer at Merritt Island refuge in Titusville, Florida, and Bill Buchanan, a volunteer at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as Refuge Volunteers of the Year.

Dryja has volunteered at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge since 1989. She provides interpretive programs to refuge visitors and also off the refuge. Her "Going Wild in Your Backyard" program about attracting wildlife through landscaping has received rave reviews in the local community. Dryja also provides support for the refuge's environmental education program and assists at the visitor information desk in the absence of regular volunteers.

Dryja is also a member of the Merritt Island Wildlife Association Board of Directors, a nonprofit organization promoting awareness of the refuge and providing financial support for its programs. As a member of the local chapter of the National Audubon Society, she helps refuge staff coordinate the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count each year at the John F. Kennedy Space Center.

Buchanan's volunteer work at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge includes writing and photography. A former medical technician now on disability, Buchanan is an independent photojournalist committed to increasing public awareness of all public lands. He has written scores of articles about events and issues at the refuge. These articles, supplemented by his photographs, have been published in newspapers and magazines in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. He also has written extensively about other national wildlife refuges and other Service programs and conducted photography workshops at the refuge.



Niagara River Corridor Designated North America's First Globally Significant Bird Area



Fred Caslick, New York Field Office

Niagara Falls, traditionally a popular honeymoon destination, is now slated to become an equally important destination for eco-tourists and birding enthusiasts. This popular area of thundering water lies within the 37-mile-long Niagara River Corridor linking Lakes Erie and Ontario in the United States and Canada. The corridor was named the first internationally sponsored **Globally Significant Important Bird Area** in North America at a recent ceremony.

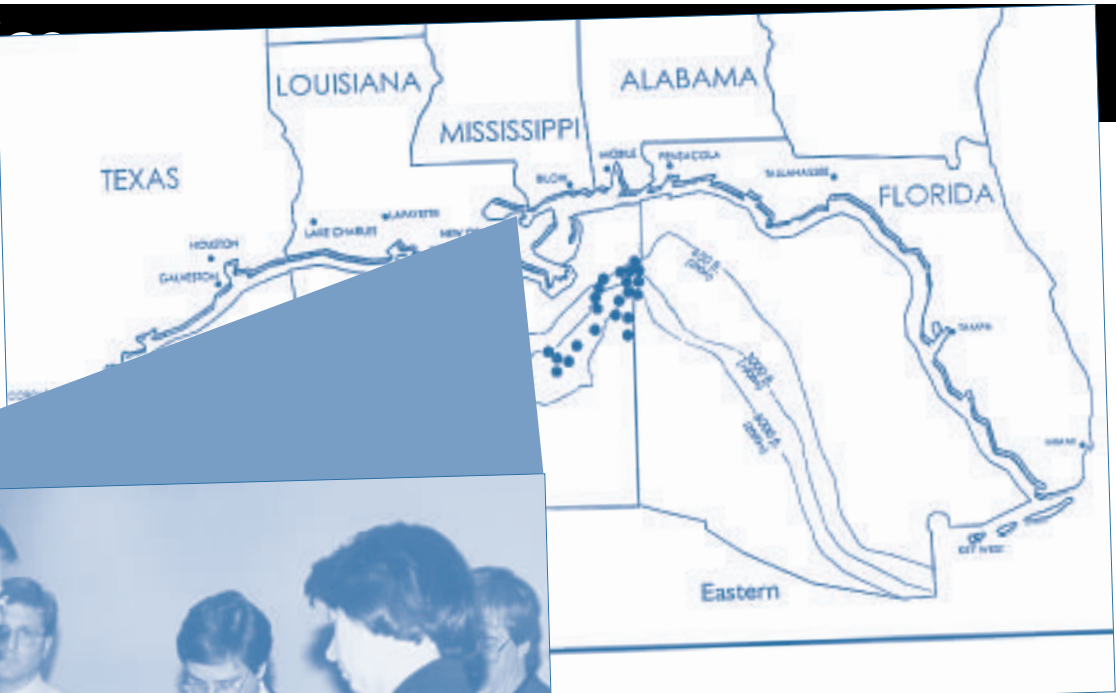
The Niagara River Corridor is best known for the unusual diversity and abundance of gulls that feed there as they migrate from their Canadian breeding grounds to their wintering areas in the United States and Mexico. It is especially important for

Bonaparte's gulls. Sightings of 50,000, or 10 percent of the world's population, have been made in a single day. The area also hosts thousands of wintering waterfowl and a great variety of migrating songbirds.

As a major conservation initiative of Birdlife International and the National Audubon Society, the goal of the Important Bird Areas program is to identify and protect a worldwide network of sites necessary to ensure the long-term viability of naturally occurring bird populations. The Canadian Nature Federation, Bird Studies Canada, The Commission for Environmental Cooperation, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and Canadian Wildlife Service also participated in this event. **Sherry Morgan**, New York Ecological Services Field Office supervisor, represented the Service.



Cynthia Quarterman, Director
Suzanne Melancon, Bureau Editor



Around MMS

Patrick Mulcahey reports from the MMS Denver Compliance Office that Auditor Helene Baker has been accepted as a member of the Association of Government Accountants.

The general trend of retirements and other departures from MMS that began late last year culminated in March with a last-minute flurry of luncheons, parties, and roasts for the many MMS employees who took advantage of the buy-out to end their federal careers.

With the help of Elaine Brock (Alaska), Herta Fondren (MMS's Southern Administrative Service Center), Lenna Gerwing (Denver), and Margie Krom (Headquarters), we have compiled the following list of employees who have recently left MMS. If we neglected anyone, it was inadvertent.

From Alaska: Brian Schoof, Ronald Turner, and Brunhilde O'Brien. From the Southern Administrative Service Area, which includes the Gulf of Mexico area: Theodore Bomba, Donald Giroir, Leona Lajaunie, John Wade, Clifford Kirkpatrick, William Neal, Douglas McIntosh, and Mary Coats.

From Denver: Gail Pagano, Roslin Klockentager, Ann Woolums, Theodore Hodkowski, James Mikelson, Alice Lutz, Gale Lutz, Roy Williams, Linda Bell, Barbara Nather, Erich Groess, James Dawson, Alejandro DeHerrera, Walter Gehrke, Edna Gusdorf-Carmichael, Joyce Mellott, Joseph Bland, Ronald Day, Jack Dresser, Robert Paul, Keith Yahn, Don Jones, Marvin Shaver, George Jee, Joann Golden, Janet Lauback, Philip Wilson, Vesta Schwartz, Henry Loeb, Starr Gee, William Boyer, Shelby Garnham, Beverly Girard, Beulah Jones, Barbara Kelley, Andrei Kibbe, Rose Mary Larimore, Jean Lilley, Jacob Meyer, Norman Pember, Ronald Pennington, Barbara Peterson, Julia Shaw, Lloyd Anderson, Jeanette Ballentine, Michael Bloese, Robert Casey, Christella Cordova, Martha Fancher, Miguel Villarreal, Sammy Wilson, and Rolland Bell.

From Headquarters: Vincent Arostegui, Hank Bartholomew, Francis Certo, Tom DeRocco, Edward Dixon, Edythe Ferguson, Lawrence Hannon, Charles McKinney, Suzanne Melancon, John Pierce, Tony Raspolic, Gerald Rhodes, Mario Rivero-Hernandez, Beverley Sahami, Idell Smith-Harrison, Burton Taubman, and Norm Weaver.



After Sale 166 Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Bob Armstrong, left, answers questions from a cadre of reporters.

Central Gulf Of Mexico Sale A Record-Breaker

The room was packed, the stage was set, the players were in place, and the sale began with Regional Director **Chris Oynes** welcoming the audience of 800 plus. After Assistant Secretary **Bob Armstrong** added his greetings, Oynes took the stage again, and then he did it.

He donned the red jacket, much to the delight of the crowd. No director had dared to wear a red jacket, the traditional signal for a big sale, during the past dozen years. But it turned out that his confidence was well founded.

Central Gulf Sale 166, held March 5, recorded all time highs in both the number of bids submitted and the number of blocks bid on by oil companies. MMS received 1,790 bids totaling \$1,241,942,374 from 103 companies. Those bids were submitted on 1,032 blocks off the coasts of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

The sum of high bids was \$824,055,489. To put the sale in perspective, this \$824 million in high bids represents four times MMS's entire annual budget nationwide. Another way to look at it is that each of MMS's 2,000 employees, by way of planning, processing, and maintaining Sale 166 leases to be issued, is responsible for \$41,200 going to the U.S. Treasury, just in association with the high bid bonuses from Sale 166.

The economic benefits of this lease sale to coastal residents of the Gulf of Mexico Region are noteworthy. For example, 27 percent of the revenues of this sale generated in the 8(g) zones (the areas 3-6 miles offshore) of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi will be paid directly to those states by MMS.

In bonuses alone, this means that up to \$8.7 million will be paid to the states (the final total being dependent on the result of MMS bid evaluation decisions). Add to that amount, 27 percent of all future revenues such as anticipated royalties associated with Sale 166 leases, as well as the employment value of jobs maintained and generated by this sale, and the widespread economic benefits of this historic sale become truly impressive.

The results of this sale, coupled with last year's two record breaking sales, clearly signal continued growth in the Gulf.



Behind the scenes at Sale 166, MMS employees enter bid data into a new lease sales tracking system.

Celebrating Black History Month



Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Bernette Johnson receives a commemorative plaque from Gulf of Mexico Regional Director Chris Oynes after her address to MMS employees.

The Gulf of Mexico Regional Office commemorated Black History Month with special activities on February 27. Louisiana Supreme Court Justice **Bernette Johnson** was the keynote speaker. Her talk was based on this year's Black History Month theme: *African Americans and Civil Rights: A Reappraisal*.

Her comments to the crowd of more than 200 regional office employees focused on uniting the local community. She said she hoped people would work together to move forward, instead of looking back, and fighting the same tired old battles. Enthusiastic applause seemed to indicate that the audience agreed.

Justice Johnson, elected to the Louisiana Supreme Court in 1994, is the first African American woman to serve on the court. In 1984 she was the first woman elected to the Civil District Court in New Orleans; she was elected Chief Judge of the Civil District Court in 1994.

Justice Johnson's professional achievements and affiliations and community involvement are a testimony to her dedicated public service. She has spent most of her legal career working for the poor and disadvantaged.

MMS, Cherokee Nation Begin Mineral Royalty Training Program

MMS Director **Cynthia Quarterman** and Cherokee Nation Councilman **Chuck Hoskin** have launched a special training program designed exclusively for Indian tribes with mineral resources. The signing ceremony took place on February 20.

Through an Intergovernmental Personnel Act Agreement, Cherokee Nation employee **Jeri Elliott** became the first participant in the Royalty Internship Program, where she's learning first-hand how MMS collects, accounts for, and distributes mineral royalties for Indian tribes.

The Royalty Internship Program is designed to help Indian tribes better understand the processes MMS uses to provide them with the revenues associated with mineral leases on their lands.

While it will be good for any mineral-producing tribe to learn more about MMS's royalty management functions and activities, it will be especially helpful for mineral-producing tribes considering self-governance or self-determination contracts. "MMS is committed to providing tribes with greater opportunities for managing or monitoring their own affairs regarding mineral revenues," said Director Quarterman. "It's not only the law, it's good business."

Until the advent of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, responsibility for overseeing mineral revenue activities was shared by the MMS and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Tribes may now choose to manage their own mineral royalties.

The Royalty Internship Program offers training in all of the program's royalty and production accounting operations, including lease, agreement, well, and payor data bases; payment application and revenue distribution; debt collection, appeals, and enforcement; royalty valuation; exception resolution; Indian outreach and royalty assistance; and payor and reporter training.

Previously, only employees of tribes with Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act audit agreements could be trained by MMS in mineral valuation and audit methods.



From left, Data Management Analyst **Sinda Scroggs**, Program Analyst **Bill Douglas**, royalty intern **Jeri Elliott**, and Data Management Analyst **Andy Sandoval** worked closely during the first two weeks of the royalty internship program.

MMS Director **Cynthia Quarterman** and Cherokee Nation Councilman **Chuck Hoskin** at signing ceremony for the special training program.



Now, from an inventory of Royalty Management Program functions, participating tribes can develop a specific training plan. While most of the work will be in the form of hands-on work assignments, some classroom training and meeting observations may also be involved. Ultimately, a tribal intern should be able to work independently after returning to the tribe.

Intern **Jeri Elliott**, a Minerals Technician for the Cherokee Nation's Real Estate Services office, is involved with distribution of royalty payments to individual Cherokee mineral owners. She is scheduled to spend several months, alternating two-week periods between MMS offices in Denver,

Colorado, and her job in Oklahoma. In her first two-week session, she learned how to set up reference data bases using information from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and royalty payors.

Elliott said she is impressed with the Royalty Management Program's reference data operation and is eager to experience other aspects of royalty management work. "We are delighted to have **Jeri Elliot** as our first intern," said **Bill Douglas**, who is coordinating the training program. "She truly appreciates this opportunity for herself and her tribe."

Alaska OCS Judges Science Fair

On March 19 judges from MMS arrived at Campbell Elementary School in Anchorage, Alaska, to judge the annual science fair. To their surprise, they were greeted with 152 entries. This year's projects ranged from a home-made fire alarm to a night light for hamsters. Volcanoes were very popular this year, with vinegar eruptions occurring regularly throughout the day.

By the end of the day, 72 students had been recognized for outstanding projects. First, second, and third place prizes, as well as honorable mentions, were awarded for each grade level. Judges then selected the best exhibit, best family project, best abstract or report, and the best of fair. Campbell Elementary School science fair winners for 1997 are as follows:

Kindergarten: First Place, **Alison Faulk** (the Solar System); Second Place, **Tristian Michaels** (Glaciers); Third Place, **Andrea Nutty** (Exercise); Honorable Mention, **Ethan Harlan** and **J.V. Bergamaschi**.

First Grade: First Place, **Corby Garrick** (Marble Sorter); Second Place, **Andrea Morrow** (Apples and Color); Third Place, **Ashley Noonan** (Birds and Bird Feeders); Honorable Mention, **Hyun Jin Park**, **Ivy Cerdena**, **Geoffry Brewer**, and **Taryn Bergamaschi**.

Second Grade: First Place, **Samantha Sitton**, **Julie Wassman**, and **Julia Bennett** (Fish and Volcanos); Second Place **Meghan Pinchbeck** (Fire Alarm); Third Place, **Lindsay Underwood** (Fossils); Honorable Mention **Arnold Harder**.

Third Grade: First Place, **Jennifer Flannagan** (Volcanos); Second Place **Shadi Obedi** (Static Electricity); Third Place, **Jennifer Trimpay** (Solar System); Honorable Mention, **Rebecca Street**, **Christi Flannagan**, **Adam Bryant**, **Sterling Speight**, **Ben Bates**, and **Nate Bates**.

Fourth Grade: First Place, **Erica Ferguson** (How Airplanes Fly); Second Place, **Anishia Pedroza**, **Ashley Coates**, **Whitney Carvalho** (Horses); Third Place, **Amber Jenkins** (Volcanos); Honorable Mention, **Kenny Test**, **Jordan Michaels**, **Matthew Martone**, **Michael Martone**, **Joshua Branstetter**, **Joseph Arns**, **Chris Hestes**, **Kayla King**, **Heather Reeves**, **Richard Regacho**, **Jermaine Jackson**, and **Jonathon Afatia**.

Fifth Grade: First Place, **Caitlin Burr** (Wiggle and Flare); Second Place, **David Cacy** (Is the World Truly Upside-Down?); Third Place, **Kim Kofoid** (Air Freshener Test); Honorable Mention, **Kimberly Slifer**, **Rachel Smart**, and **Michael Simms**.

Sixth Grade: First Place, **Chris Castle** and **Ashley Castle** (Hamster Night Light); Second Place,

Christina Masalunga (Acid Rain); Third Place, **Melissa Grieve** (Seed Germination); Honorable Mention, **Ray Reeves**, **Jay Bartko**, **Caloe Cornwall**, **Eric Volz**, **B.J. Aafedi**, **Aaron Dinger**, **Ward Blair**, **John Talbot**, **Luke Adams**, **Gilbert Repose, Jr.**, **Tiffany Burzinski**, **Sarah Duff**, **Jasmine Withrow**, **Jonathon Branstettler**, **Samantha Lewis**, **Eric Carpenter**, **Erin Agre**, and **Brandon Benedict**.

Best Exhibit: Acid Rain by **Christina Masalunga**; Best Family Project: Lungs by **Eric Volz**; Best Abstract or Report: Hamster Night Light by **Chris Castle** and **Ashley Castle**; Best of Fair: Wiggle and Flare by **Caitlin Burr**.

MMS's Alaska Region has been involved in a School-Business Partnership with Campbell Elementary School since 1993.

The School-Business Partnership program is sponsored by the Anchorage Borough School District and the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce. Each year, in cooperation with the Campbell Elementary PTA, MMS sponsors the annual science fair and provides judges. The goal of the fair is to improve young peoples' understanding of science and its importance in their daily lives.



Eluid Martinez, Commissioner
Carrie C. Kemper, Bureau Editor

Randle Named Reclamation’s Engineer of the Year

Theresa Taylor and C. Ted Yang

Timothy J. Randle, a hydraulic engineer for the Technical Service Center in Denver, Colorado, is Reclamation’s Engineer of the Year. Technical Service Center Director **Felix Cook** presented Randle his award at the National Society of Professional Engineers Awards Luncheon on February 21. Randle, who was accompanied at the luncheon presentation by his wife Kathy, also is one of the 10 finalists for the National Society of Professional Engineers’ Federal Engineer of the Year Award.

Randle has been recognized for his management of the interdisciplinary, interagency team that produced the environmental impact statement for the operation of Glen Canyon Dam and its impacts on the river-related ecosystem of the Grand Canyon. Randle also managed the interagency team investigating sediment management alternatives for the Elwha River Restoration Project in Olympic National Park, Washington.

Interior is proposing to purchase and remove two privately-owned hydroelectric dams on the Elwha River in order to restore the river’s ecosystem and famous salmon runs. Randle



1996 Reclamation Engineer of the Year Tim Randle, seated with his wife, Kathy, and flanked by supervisor C. Ted Yang.

conducted a study showing that sediment management costs associated with removing the dams and the nearly 18 million cubic yards of sediment trapped behind them would be only \$2 million compared with previous estimates of \$50 million to \$200 million.

Denver Awards Ceremony Honors Bureau Standouts

Jim Malila, Reclamation Service Center Director, welcomed **Commissioner Eluid Martinez** to the Denver Awards Ceremony held on March 12. The Commissioner kicked off the ceremony by thanking Reclamation employees for the work they do every day and reminding everyone of how important it is to find a balance in one’s work life and personal life.

Dam Safety Office Chief **Dave Achterberg** presented an award to **Mark Baker** for his work on the Dam Safety Peer Review process of the other Department agencies and his work with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. **Jan Henry**, disaster response program manager for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, presented awards to Team Leader **Jeff Hart**, **Jerry Sharman**, **Fred Tan**, and **Bob Davis** for their work in New York for FEMA.



Environmental Education Program Coordinator Kathie Marsh receives a Quality Award from Austin Burke, left, while Commissioner Martinez looks on.

Austin Burke, director of Program Analysis, presented awards to the following people who worked on the Environmental Impact Statement for the Reclamation Reform Act: **Bob Black**, **Roger Burnett**, **Richard Crysdale**, **Darrell Dyke**, **Robert George**, **Christine Pfaff**, **Richard Gaines**, **Val Rohde**, **Rusty Schuster**, and **Al Kashinski** of the Solicitor’s Office.

Awards also went to **Joe Brummer**, **Les Haussler**, **Kate Puckett**, and **Don Treasure**. **Joy Nelson** received an award for her outstanding performance as a secretary in the Environmental Group, **Dave Morrow** for his work on the Western Rivers Aquatic Ecosystems in the Reclamation Report, and **Kathy Marsh** for initiating and implementing the Curb Stencil Program.

Margaret Sibley, the director of Human Resources presented Women in Science awards to **Christi Young**, **Paula Makar**, **Cassie Klumpp**, and **Trudy Germann**. Awards also went to **Alice Comer**, **Billy Cummins**, and **Jan Oliver** who were not present.

The Commissioner closed the program by again thanking everyone for their dedication to Reclamation’s future. “Keep up the good work.” he said, “It makes my job a lot easier.”

Engineers Cheer as Bridges Collapse

Bob Bell, Reclamation Service Center

Hundreds cheered as the intricately constructed bridges succumbed to mounting pressure and crumpled under the strain. Even the designers and builders, who put in many hours of hard work on their spans, applauded.

More than 100 high school students applied their math and physics skills to compete in the 30th Annual Colorado High School Bridge Building Contest. The Grand Prize winner was **Jacob Ely**, who attends Cheyenne Mountain High School in Colorado Springs. His mighty 28.40 gram (1 ounce) bridge withstood 175.12 kilograms of pressure from a Bureau of Reclamation hydraulic press, for an efficiency rating of 6166.30 times its own weight.

This year’s top winner from Region 1 was **Chad Meyers** from Ponderosa High School. His bridge, weighing only 26.71 grams (less than an ounce), was able to withstand 144.32 kilograms (about 319 pounds), or 5403.37 times its own weight before it buckled.

For the past 30 years during National Engineer’s Week, students have come together to compete in this annual event hosted by the Bureau of Reclamation, Professional Engineers of Colorado, and the Colorado Department of Education. The purpose of the contest is to encourage students to pursue careers in the engineering field. Finalists from individual school competitions came to Reclamation’s Research Laboratory on February 22 to compete in the statewide competition.

This year the specifications called for a model of a pedestrian bridge, weighing no more than 30 grams (equal to the weight of about 6 nickels). The students were allowed to use only bass wood, glue, and non-metallic cables. The top three winners from each school competition were eligible to compete in the state competition. More than 120 students competed from 54 high schools throughout Colorado, with the top two winners from each region eligible to compete in the national competition in Chicago in May.



Civil Engineer Jack Touseull presents the first place trophy to high school student Chad Meyers. Photo by Bonnie Harper

Upon arrival at the contest site, the students had to register, weigh, measure and, if necessary, make minor modifications and repairs to their bridges before starting the competition. Then the bridges were placed in a hydraulic press and crushed, with their efficiency measured by computer. Maximum efficiency is calculated by the maximum load carrying capacity compared to the weight of the bridge.

...And Try Their Luck in Nevada

Steve Belew, Lower Colorado Region

The best bridge in the eighth annual Southern Nevada Student Model Bridge Building Contest was constructed by a student from Basic High School. The 12-inch, one ounce structure had an efficiency rating of 4972 and supported 261 pounds.

The contest, held at the University of Nevada—Las Vegas on February 22, was sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers and supported by Reclamation, the Clark County School District, the University, and several local engineering firms. **Paul Matuska** of the River Operations Group was co-chairperson of the event along with **Wendy Fenner** of a local engineering consulting firm.

This year, 14 high schools, 11 middle schools and 13 elementary schools competed for prizes and trophies in their respective divisions with a total of 209 bridges entered. The annual contest gives students an opportunity to apply science theories learned in the classroom by planning, designing, and constructing a project to given specifications. Using materials from an official kit, students must design and construct a wooden bridge that is 300 millimeters (11.81 inches) in length and weighs no more than 25 grams (less than one ounce). On the day of the competition, the bridges were weighed, tested to failure under a load, and rated by their efficiency, which is the load carried divided by bridge weight.



The diving platform in the foreground provided life support to divers while they installed the temperature control device under water at Shasta Dam. On the left are the low-level intake structures. The three steel frames to their right are part of the shutter structure.



The efforts of key Phoenix Area Office staff to maintain good relations between the National Federation of Federal Employees and management during a major reorganization earned the runner-up award from the Labor-Management Partnership Council. From left, Employee Relations Specialist Charlotte Crawford (retired March 30), President NFFE Local Union 376 Jerry Mantzey, Area Manager Dennis Schroeder, former Assistant Area Manager Larry Morton, and former Resources Management Specialist Eileen Nistetter.

Shasta Dam Improvements Save Salmon, Money

Louisa Beld, Reclamation Service Center, and Richard LaFond, Mid-Pacific Region

A Reclamation team that designed a dam improvement as tall as the Statue of Liberty and as heavy as three World War II destroyers was recently recognized by Mid-Pacific Deputy Regional Director **Kirk Rodgers** for its engineering achievements. The team, from Reclamation's Technical Service Center, designed the Shasta Dam Temperature Control Device—a massive structure that allows cooler water from Shasta Reservoir to be sent down the Sacramento River for the benefit of the chinook salmon.

The steel framework, which weighs 7,935 tons, encloses the dam's five powerplant penstock intakes, permitting selective level withdrawal of reservoir water. That gives dam operators the flexibility to provide cooler water temperatures without bypassing the powerplant.

The two major components of the framework—a shutter structure and low-level intake structure—are attached to the upstream face of Shasta Dam. The shutter design is a larger scale adaptation of a concept used at the Flaming Gorge Dam in Utah.

Shasta Dam and Reservoir, located in northern California, are 15 miles north of Redding. The primary area influenced by the Shasta water releases into the Sacramento River is between Keswick Dam and Red Bluff Diversion Dam, a distance of about 60 river miles.

All runs of chinook salmon in the Sacramento River have declined because of several factors, including warm water temperatures in the upper reaches of the river. Since 1987, Reclamation has bypassed the Shasta powerplant to provide cooler water for the fish. The cost of replacing power lost by that diversion is more than \$35 million over seven years.

Despite the diversion, the winter run chinook salmon was listed as a protected species in 1989. Three years later, the Central Valley Project Improvement Act—Public Law 102—575-directed Reclamation to install and operate a Temperature Control Device at Shasta Dam to reduce the loss of salmon. Reclamation engineers had worked on the design since 1988. After assessing several alternatives, the team recommended the shutter-type device.

High level withdrawal from the reservoir is controlled by the 250-foot-wide by 300-foot-high shutter structure that projects about 50 feet upstream. The structure is open between shutter units to permit cross-flow in front of the existing trashrack frames. Three openings with hoist operated gates and trashracks on the front of each shutter unit allow selection of the reservoir withdrawal level.

To the left of the shutter is the low-level intake structure, which is 125 feet wide by 170 feet high and also projects about 50 feet upstream. It acts as a conduit extension to access the deeper, colder water near the center of the dam.

The Flaming Gorge Dam construction used a float and sink technique, but because of the huge scale of the Shasta Temperature Control Device, the contractor decided to build the device piece by piece.

For the shutter, three individual steel structures were constructed above the water and lowered into place. After these units were attached to the dam, structural members, cladding, gates, and trashracks were installed.

Because the construction called for a large amount of deep underwater work, the subcontractor used saturation diving. The divers spent up to 25 days working and living in pressurized environments. The 4-diver system required a 29-member crew to support the divers, who worked eight-hour shifts, seven days a week. The support crew worked two 12-hour shifts, seven days a week.

One diver would work four hours out of the bell, while another tended the working diver from inside the bell. Then they would switch. After eight hours the bell would be recovered and docked to the pressurized living quarters located on a barge.

The divers would then trade places with two other divers who were spending their time resting and eating their meals in the cramped living quarters. This cycle continued for 25 days. It took three days to decompress the divers before they could breathe fresh air.

Reclamation Engineers Win Dam Patent, Cash Awards

Louisa Beld and Tracy Vermeyen, Reclamation Service Center

Kathleen Frizell, Brent Mefford, and Tracy Vermeyen, and Douglas Morris recently were granted a patent from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for a dam spillway system to protect an embankment dam from overtopping flows.

Frizell, Mefford and Vermeyen are hydraulic engineers at Reclamation's Technical Service Center. Morris is with the Electric Power Research Institute. In accordance with Interior regulations, each received a Patent Award of \$800.

The spillway system, known as concrete step embankment protection, is comprised of a layer of free-draining gravel filter material and rows of overlapping, tapered, concrete blocks that

are assembled over the filter material in a shingle-like fashion. The rows extend from the toe of the dam to its crest.

The spillway system is designed principally to provide erosion protection from high velocity water flows for embankment dams that may be subject to overtopping. Providing protection for an embankment dam is challenging because earth materials are extremely susceptible to erosion.

The block shape of the spillway system uses hydraulic forces to enhance the spillway's stability, thereby greatly improving the overtopping protection.

The concrete blocks were designed and tested in Reclamation's Water Resources Research Laboratory and large-scale tests were performed at Colorado State University's Engineering Research Center.



Hydraulic engineers, from left, Tracy Vermeyen, Kathleen Frizell, and Brent Mefford shown with a concrete block component from their recently patented dam spillway system designed to protect an embankment dam from overtopping.

Bureau of Land Management



Sylvia Baca, Interim Director
Patrice Junius, Bureau Editor

BLM employees and volunteers install the first of three water catchments for wildlife in the BLM s Devil's Backbone Wilderness Study Area in New Mexico. Photo by Rem Hawes

Endangered Bighorn Reintroduced in New Mexico Under Grants to BLM



Rem Hawes, New Mexico State Office

BLM To Amend Hardrock Mining Regulations

Tom Gorey, Washington, D.C.

The BLM has resumed an effort begun in the late 1980s to update its hardrock mining regulations on BLM-managed public lands.

Secretary Babbitt recently directed the BLM to revise and update its 3809 hardrock regulations to ensure better protection for public lands affected by hardrock mining activities. In response to this directive, BLM Interim Director **Sylvia Baca** has established a task force composed of BLM and Interior Department personnel who are familiar with hardrock mining issues. The task force will develop a timeline and proposal for completing the new rule.

In announcing the action, Baca cited a January 6, 1997, memorandum of Secretary Babbitt, who said that the time has come to resume the process of modernizing the 3809 regulations first promised at the end of the Carter Administration and begun at

the end of the Reagan Administration.

The task force will address: 1) the use of best available technologies to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation of public lands; 2) performance standards for the conduct of mining and reclamation activities; 3) alternatives to the current exemption from reclamation standards for mining operations of five acres or less; and 4) ways to improve coordination between the BLM and state regulatory programs.



Sylvia Baca

“Given the significant public interest we expect in this proposal, especially from the mining industry and environmental community, we want meaningful public input,” Baca said. The effort will likely require the BLM to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. The timeframe for completing this task will be determined by procedures set forth in the National Environmental Policy Act.

Dinosaur Skin Fossil Touts New Mexico’s World Class Sites

Mike O'Neill, Paleontologist, Albuquerque District

The recent discovery of dinosaur skin impressions has again put New Mexico on the map of world class fossil sites, making it one of only 14 other localities known to science where dinosaur skin impressions have been found.

More significantly, the skin impressions were discovered in association with dinosaur skeletal elements making it a rare find. This specimen—a type of duckbilled dinosaur—was recovered from the Ringbone Formation on BLM land in southwestern New Mexico and is dated from the Late Cretaceous Period—70 million years ago.

Geologic evidence at the site suggests that the dinosaur died in the shallows of a quiet tropical lakeshore. A fossil of this kind, which preserves evidence that a dinosaur was present without actually being a piece of the dinosaur itself, is called a trace fossil. All of the material will be curated at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The majority of the specimen will be displayed in an exhibit while some small portions will be taken back to the Mesa Southwest Museum of Natural History in Phoenix, Arizona, for detailed laboratory analysis to determine the exact taxonomy of the specimen.



Excavating rare dinosaur fossils on BLM land in the Southwest has made the bureau one of the most knowledgeable and skilled federal agencies in the management of fossil beds and some of the bureau’s land world class fossil sites.

Currant Creek, Little Mountain Rehabilitation

Above, Currant Creek as it flowed through Jane’s Meadow in 1989. At right, the same section of Currant Creek in 1995 after riparian habitat improvements created an enhanced trout habitat.

Public meetings this spring will hear comments on the proposed opening of Currant Creek for fishing next year. The creek, which has undergone extensive rehabilitation in the past several years under an area partnership, flows westerly off Little Mountain, about 35 miles south of Rock Springs, Wyoming, and empties into Flaming Gorge Reservoir.

Proposed regulations would allow the use of only artificial lures and flies. Brook trout could be kept, but the sensitive Colorado River Cutthroat Trout would be managed on a “catch and release” basis under the proposed regulations.

Currant Creek and Little Mountain were nominated as the Wyoming Showcase Habitat Management Plan in 1990. This watershed and ecosystem project has incorporated intensive management of more than 200,000 acres of public lands administered by the BLM. To date more than 42 logover structures and stream revetment structures have been built along Currant and Trout Creeks, and more than 30,000 acres of various vegetative communities have been treated with prescribed fire.

These improvements have enhanced trout habitat by stabilizing streambanks, deepening and narrowing the stream channel, developing spawning habitat and wintering areas, cooling water temperatures, creating overhanging banks, and encouraging new growth of willows along the banks. Colorado River Cutthroat Trout numbers have increased from eight per mile in 1989 to 400 per mile in 1995. Beaver reintroduction is beginning in some locations of the project area.

A grant from the **Foundation for North American Sheep** is developing water sources to make possible the reintroduction of endangered desert bighorn sheep in southern New Mexico. The first of three water catchments was installed in the Devil’s Backbone Wilderness Study Area in New Mexico’s BLM Socorro Resource Area, February 22-23.

The **New Mexico Department of Game and Fish** identified the Devil’s Backbone area as a reintroduction site for state endangered desert bighorn sheep in 1994. However, the state’s evaluation also identified the need for additional water sources in the area in the form of rainwater catchments.

In 1996, the BLM received a grant of \$9,000 from the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep for construction of three catchments. **Wildlife Forever**, a hunting and conservation group, matched the donation with an additional \$9,000. The grants were used to purchase and transport the catchments to the necessary sites in the area. Members of the **New Mexico Wild Sheep Foundation**, local outdoor enthusiasts, and hunters volunteered their labor for the project.

In addition to constructing water catchments, the BLM exchanged approximately 13,000 acres of land with the State of New Mexico in 1996 to consolidate and enhance public land bighorn sheep habitat. A fourth site, identified by the state as needing a catchment, was acquired by the BLM in the exchange. That water catchment will be constructed in 1998.

The Little Mountain area also is important to citizens of southwest Wyoming for wildlife habitat. The most sought-after elk tags in the state are within this area. The prescribed burns carried out during the past six years on the Little Mountain ecosystem have improved forage for elk, deer, and antelope, as well as livestock.

In burned-over areas, there has been a dramatic new growth of grasses, forbs, and shrubs such as mountain mahogany, bitterbrush, and serviceberry. Aspen, chokecherry, and cottonwoods are also doing well. In fact, elk gravitate to aspen sprouts likes kids to a candy store. Deer are using the mountain shrubs, especially as snow covers the ground. In the areas where sagebrush was burned, antelope are finding forbs and grasses to their liking, and sage grouse also have been seen there.

The rehabilitation of Little Mountain watershed and riparian (streamside) habitat along Currant Creek were accomplished through the cooperative efforts of the Bureau of Land Management, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Trout Unlimited, the Bowhunters of Wyoming, the Sweetwater Wildlife Association, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Wyoming State Grazing Board, and the grazing permit holders in the vicinity. Through consensus agreements, the habitats for fish, big game, and livestock were improved.

Eastern States Office Promotes Education Partnerships

Work with Elementary School Nurtures Resource Stewardships

Charles Bush, Eastern States Partnership Coordinator

With the announcement of the President's Summit for America's Future scheduled for April 27-29 in Philadelphia, federal agencies have begun to reexamine their involvement in local communities. Agencies that want a prototype of how to proceed need look no further than BLM's Eastern States Office.

Under the guidance of State Director, '**Pete**' **Culp**, the Eastern States has nurtured a healthy array of mission-based relationships with the local community. For example:

A wild horse & burro adoption was conducted in Herndon, Virginia;

Office volunteers have participated in the annual Northern Virginia and the National Kids Fishing Day events;

Clothing and gifts are donated annually to the Northern Virginia Training School;

The office represents BLM in the D.C. Urban Tree House, a community-based environmental education center in Anacostia Park in a traditionally under-served section of Washington, D.C. BLM has provided the Project Manager, on detail from Eastern States, to the Tree House. In this role, Eastern States has been responsible for much of the success of the Tree House during the past year.

However, the crown jewel of Eastern States' community partnerships is its 3-year old association with **Miner Elementary School**, which is located near the Anacostia section of Washington, D.C. The two organizations became partners in 1995 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by State Director Carson Culp and Principal **Angela Tilghman**.

Since then, their collaboration has blossomed into a unique and rewarding relationship involving a wide variety of activities aimed at promoting responsible environmental stewardship and increasing student awareness and appreciation of natural resources.

In late April, sixty students from Miner will join office volunteers for the annual Eastern States Kids Fishing Day. The event, co-sponsored by Virginia Bass Anglers Sportsmen's Society (B.A.S.S.) and the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, affords the students an opportunity to learn about aquatic habitats and sustainable recreation practices such as "Catch and Release."

Other cooperative activities stemming from the Miner Elementary School partnership include, Bring-A-Child-To-Work Day, a visit to a Wild Horse & Burro Adoption, Career Day, and joint celebration of Special Emphasis Programs.

However, the highlight of this partnership involves weekly tutorial sessions conducted by Eastern States volunteers for Miner students. Last year the volunteers helped fifth graders prepare for the Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills. This year the tutors have focused on accelerating the reading skills of a select group of first graders.

Especially effective in improving reading skills has been the use of BLM natural resource activity books that impart an awareness of natural resource issues. This year's tutors from Eastern States include **Tim Best, Charles Bush, Ed Cooper, Ronnye Mayes, Tony Mayfield, Patricia Tyler, and Theresa Walls**. Eastern States has also donated computers to the school and will assist in the wiring of the school's network.

In the culminating event of this year's activities, two Miner Elementary students will attend Eastern

University of Maine Agreement Enriches Career Experience

Stephen Kopach, Deputy State Director, Cadastral Survey and General Land Office Records, Eastern States

BLM's **Kenneth D. Roy** successfully defended his Master's thesis in surveying before his academic advisory committee, BLM officials, colleagues, family, and friends in February 1997. Roy's thesis, entitled *Automation of Cadastral Survey Field Notes Within The Cadastral Measurement Management Survey System*, is the latest of five such theses to emerge from the partnership between BLM and the University of Maine, Orono.

Roy completed his dissertation while employed by the BLM under the **Student Education Employment Program** (formerly referred to as the CO-OP Education Program). Under the ongoing BLM-University of Maine Cooperative Agreement, students in the Survey Engineering Department can choose to focus their research on enhancing the automated handling of land and surveying information in support of resource management.

When he decided to return to the University to pursue his Master of Science degree in Surveying Engineering, Roy resigned his permanent position as Cadastral Surveyor for the BLM Eastern States. After more than a year as a full-time student, he was able to continue his research and re-establish student-employee status with BLM, Eastern States through the Student Education Employment Program.

His field assignments included conducting cadastral surveys for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Penobscot Nation on the Alder Stream Township near Stratton, Maine. Using his previous BLM survey experience and insights gained on the job, Roy developed a key link in BLM's Cadastral Survey field to finish automation efforts. His applied research has significantly improved the efficiency and accuracy with which a surveyor collects and reports field data.

The partnership between BLM and the University of Maine has been exceptionally fruitful. Being strong proponents of BLM's student employment program, Faculty-Advisors at the University encourage their survey students to pursue opportunities in cadastral survey. Over the span of the partnership, BLM, Eastern States has employed several undergraduates from the University of Maine for summer survey crews. And after graduation, Roy will again join the ranks of BLM with the Eastern States Division of Cadastral Survey and General Land Office Records in Springfield, Virginia.

Community Involvement Models



Surrounding one of the computers donated through the Partners in Education alliance are, at left, Pete Culp, State Director for Eastern States, and Angela Tilghman, Miner Elementary School Principal, third from left. Also pictured are Miner Elementary Student Council representatives Tatiana Anderson, Steve Minor, Joshua Ross, Roderick Griggs, Krystle Grier, and Stefan Wormley with Veronica Cotton, Student Council Advisor, and Charles Bush, from BLM Eastern States.



Ken Roy prepares for his orals with Corky Rodine, left, BLM cadastral surveyor, and Dr. Ray Hintz, right, from the University of Maine Surveying Engineering Department.

States' Environmental Education Camp this July at the Piney Woods School just outside of Jackson, Mississippi. Upon their return, they will make environmental education presentations on behalf of BLM at the D.C. Urban Tree House.

Both State Director Culp and Miner Principal Tilghman have expressed immense satisfaction with the mutual benefits of this alliance and its effectiveness in helping each partner accomplish a part of its mission.

BLM Halts Rewrite of
Law Enforcement
Regulations Page 5



Allen P. Stayman, Director
Stephen Sander, Bureau Editor

Allen P. Stayman,
Director, Office of
Insular Affairs



Stayman Makes the Case for Federal Minimum Wage in Northern Marianas.

The Administration believes that Congress should enact legislation that would gradually phase in the federal minimum wage for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, OIA Director **Allen P. Stayman** told a Senate oversight committee. The proposed legislation is a crucial first step to the long-term resolution of islands’ immigration and labor problems.

The recommendation reiterates proposals the Administration made in 1995 and last year. The Senate Energy Committee last year deferred action on the recommendation, pending receipt of a report on wage rates from the Northern Marianas government. The study was to have been completed by January 1997.

Stayman said officials in the Departments of Labor and Interior are firmly convinced that a gradual increase in the local wage rate and eventual full application of the Fair Labor Standards Act would benefit the islands’ economy. In fact, he pointed out, application of the federal minimum wage is essential to permit Northern Marianas citizens to enjoy an American standard of living, which was the goal of the U.S. Covenant that established the former UN trust islands as a U.S. insular commonwealth.

In 1995, the islands’ legislature passed, and the Governor, signed a law raising the islands’ minimum wage in stages to reach the then federal level of \$4.25 per hour in the year 2000, Stayman pointed out. “Since then, the legislature first delayed, then canceled, the increase from \$2.75 to \$3.05 per hour scheduled for January 1996,” Stayman said. “Later, the legislature raised the overall minimum to \$3.05, except for the foreign labor dominated garment and construction industries, which account for the bulk of those affected by minimum wage rates, who received only

Made in the USA

The Northern Marianas’ garment-assembly industry has been the most vociferous, in fact the only, opponent to the application of the federal minimum wage, Stayman told the Senate oversight committee.

“That industry has pressed the view that Northern Marianas-assembled garments could not compete with those from low-wage Asian countries or Mexico, if wages were increased,” he said. “But Northern Marianas garments do not compete with Asian garments because all major Asian producers are constrained by quotas; without the quotas, there would be no Northern Marianas garment industry.”

The islands’ garments, which carry the “Made in the USA” label, compete directly with other garments made in the 50 states but they are

produced with duty-free foreign materials, and foreign labor that is almost entirely from mainland China. “Each time the islands’ minimum wage has been increased, its garment industry has increased, not decreased, sales,” Stayman said.

Currently, the islands’ garment industry contributes a 3.5 percent “use tax”. The industry is exempt from gross receipt taxes and receives a rebate of more than half of its income tax payments. There is concern that the industry may be a net drain on the economy. By paying higher wages to its workers, the garment industry could become a benefit to the Northern Marianas and its people, Stayman said.

a 15 cent per hour raise to \$2.90 per hour.” All future scheduled annual increases were canceled.

With the phenomenal economic growth of the 1980s, the Northern Marianas’ mean household income, measured by the census, increased from \$22,341 in 1979 (1980 census data) to \$34,713 in 1989 (1990 census). But by 1994, mean household income had declined to \$30,301. At the same time, many social and economic problems continued to grow: tap water quality worsened, beaches became polluted, dump fires got out of control, and crime rates rose, including publicized and unsolved cases of murder and rape.

Coincidentally, all of these problems worsened while other economic growth indicators continued to expand dramatically. Tourist arrivals increased over 50 percent, from 438,454 in 1990 to 676,161 in 1995; garment exports increased from \$163 million to \$419 million in the same period; and government revenue went up 70 percent from \$111 million to \$190 million.

There are two classical arguments against raising minimum wages: that an increase in wages increases unemployment and that it makes industries less competitive. These arguments have absolutely nothing to do with the islands’ economy today, Stayman said. The Northern Marianas has a dual economy and a dual society.

Wages below the U.S. minimum wage are paid almost exclusively to non-resident alien workers, who constitute most of the private sector work force. Nearly all local residents earn more than the federal minimum wage, most working for the government.

In 1995, according to the census of that year, 3,347 of the 6,006 employed persons born in the islands were employed by government; 24,254 of the 24,840 Asia-born workers were employed in the private sector. The apparel industry employed 6,710 of these Asian workers, 5,560 of whom were from mainland China. (Employment of Chinese in the apparel industry has increased substantially since the 1995 census.)

Census data also reveal an anomaly regarding unemployment; although overall unemployment in the Northern Marianas was 7.1 percent, the rate among the native population was double that at 14.2 percent, while the unemployment rate among the 27,779 Asian born workers was 4.5 percent. Clearly,

workers are being imported to take jobs that would otherwise go to local residents. Even some alien workers are unemployed—including 7.9 percent of Chinese workers.

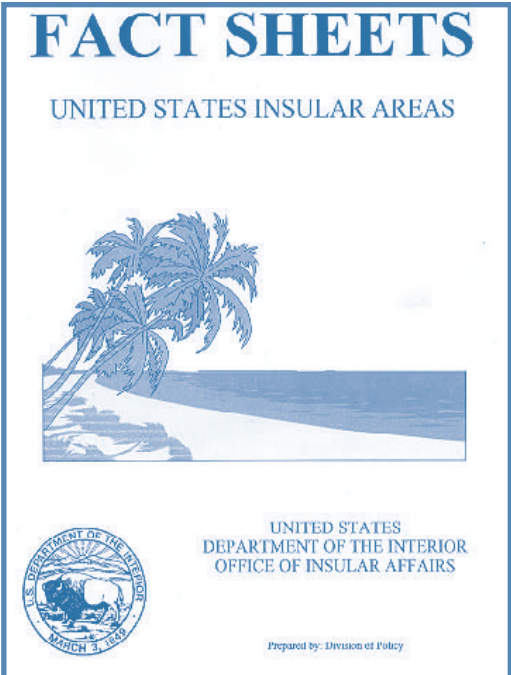
Instead of causing unemployment, an increase in the minimum wage would open up job opportunities for local residents, who now have little incentive to work in the private sector. Employers could reduce their recruiting of alien workers, even sending some of them home, thus lowering the stress on infrastructure and government services. Meanwhile, those alien workers who remain would earn more, spend more in the local economy, and pay more taxes to the local government.

The argument that raising the minimum wage would make the islands’ industries of tourism and garment manufacturing less competitive and less viable also is false, Stayman said. The Northern Marianas’ tourist industry is virtually a carbon copy of the Guam tourist industry, with the same market, the same attractions, and even the same hotel chains, ownership, and management.

The difference is that Guam is subject to the federal minimum wage and federal immigration control, while the Northern Marianas has greater access to low-wage alien workers and thus has more incentive to employ them in preference to local residents. When the Northern Marianas tourism industry was new and developing, there was an argument for a competitive advantage over Guam, but that time is now past and, most significantly, the industry itself does not oppose a higher minimum wage.

“While we continue to have many concerns about labor, immigration, and law enforcement issues in the Northern Marianas, we consider full application of the Fair Labor Standards Act to be a significant step in dealing with these problems,” said Stayman. “It would increase private sector employment opportunities for U.S. citizens; increase incomes, spending, and revenues; and it would decrease the need for imported workers, particularly in the lowest paid occupations most vulnerable to abuse.”

“The Northern Marianas will be dependent on alien guest workers for many years to come,” he said. “Our proposal is designed to open up the better private sector jobs to local residents, to curb abuses among the lower paid foreign workers, and to turn the alien workers into a positive influence on the economy.”



The Office of Insular Affairs has published a Fact Sheet on the U.S. Insular Areas. The 70-page publication contains economic, demographic, and political summaries of the islands’ status as well as descriptions and information on all of the uninhabited U.S. insular areas in the Pacific and Caribbean. Copies can be obtained by calling 208-6816.



Focus on Information Technology:

THE INTERACTIVE WORLD

The last issue of *People Land & Water* discussed the basic nature of interactive multimedia and some considerations to keep in mind when deciding what media to use for conveying information effectively to your targeted audience—employees, stakeholders, clients. The nature of that audience, the nature of the information you want to convey, and the intended delivery method are the major considerations. This article will briefly review technical developments that are making interactive multimedia programs increasingly feasible, practical, and effective.

Methods of conveying your information interactively to your selected audience include laser disc, floppy disc, hard drive, and CD-ROM. Soon they may also include cable systems, digital video discs, and direct broadcast satellite systems. Even if some of the noteworthy developments in these systems don't affect your immediate plans, it's helpful to see the direction in which interactive multimedia is heading.

A host of technical developments are contributing to the possibility of using interactive multimedia programs successfully—for just about any purpose you may have in mind. In the last few years, there has been a rapid transition from keyboard entry to windows. Processor speed has doubled about every 18 months and for the foreseeable future will continue to double at that rate. That phenomenal growth makes possible calculations and activities that were *impossible* just a few years before—calculations like real-time conversion of analog video to digital video and full-screen, real-time compression and decompression of video.

But other developments are just as important, especially improved bus design and capacity (data transmission technology), and the precipitous drop in the price of Random Access Memory (RAM) and hard drives, making them more widely available. RAM capacity in desk-top computers has jumped from a few megabytes to hundreds of megabytes. It was a breakthrough when computers could have 16 colors instead of black and white; now they can have *16 million or more*.

The expansion of storage space and the increased speed of hard drives have made them active parts of sound and video operations. Sound boards capable of CD-quality, video boards, graphics boards, CD-ROMs—all have made computers true multimedia centers. And now virtual reality recording and playing is possible for anyone.

Game Dynamics, Chip Speed, and Disk Capacity

All of these developments help to make computer-based interactive multimedia more feasible and more entertaining, satisfying, useful, and informative. And the speed of change is not abating. Much of this interactive technical development is being inspired by the desire to improve the dynamics (graphics, realism, response time) of games, including games on special platforms, like Nintendo, Sega, and Sony Play Stations.

All of these are, really, very specialized computers. But, although technological developments may start there, they don't end there, and we all can take advantage of the giant strides in technological wizardry that may first show up on games and apply them to our own information programs.

And, of course, there's more. Intel is already making available for PCs a modified processor chip that will act like parallel processors and will make every computer a multimedia, graphics, and 3D machine. Other chip manufacturers are expected to follow soon. And Microsoft is altering its operating

system to accommodate 3D modeling and real-time, full-screen video on all computers.

On another front, CD-ROM technology holds the promise of vastly increased capacity of CD-ROM discs through improved laser mastering, layering, and writing on both sides of the disc. And digital video discs (DVD) are threatening to supplant CD-ROMS, with vastly increased capacity, making possible hours of high-quality video or millions of pages of text, or graphics, or photos.

These developments and potential developments increase the feasibility and capability of interactive multimedia programs, making them faster, improving information capacity, and increasing the kinds and complexity of the media that can be included in a program.

If you are contemplating an interactive multimedia program for the near future, your method of delivery will probably be

AVC



laser disc or CD-ROM. But your programs don't have to be limited to disc delivery. If you have a simple program, there's the Internet to consider, too. There's plenty of interactivity on the Internet. Always has been. It's basically an interactive medium—from e-mail to chat rooms, to research and live video.

At present, there is a no-man's land with regard to interactivity: While focus is shifting to the World Wide Web for interactive programs, that shift is slow and tentative. Yet production of CD-ROMS is suffering, because it's easier, cheaper, and faster to publish/distribute programs on WWW than it is on CD-ROM.

But one of the big problems today, especially when complex graphics or video is involved, is the capacity of POTS (Plain Old Telephone Service),

which for Internet communication converts computer signals to audio tones through modems. The capacity of telephone copper wires is pushed to the limit with graphics and video, and downloading files can be very slow.

New Lines for Old

One current solution is ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) lines, which involves using two existing wires of a telephone connection and transmitting digital signals (not audio tones, as modems do), thereby basically quadrupling the capacity/speed of the transmission of complex data. This is, assuredly, better than the service most Internet users enjoy today, but it will probably not suffice for effective interactive multimedia on the Internet.

A more promising way to improve the capacity/speed of internet transmissions is ADSL (Asynchronous Digital Subscriber Line), a procedure in which information is transmitted in compressed digital blocks, staccato-like and interspersed with other transmissions sent in the available transmission spaces. This procedure increases the capacity of lines tremendously and makes even full-screen, full-motion video possible on the Internet.

Other possible systems include cable modems, using existing cable television lines, and direct satellite services or DBS (Digital Broadcast Satellite services)—both of which could provide extremely high-capacity/high-speed information, at least from information source to user.

A major adjustment is inevitable in the months and years ahead as content and programs are made more available on the Web. But here's something else to consider: Even now there are hybrid systems, called Internet CDs, in which automatic connections are embedded in CD-ROMS to make contact with home pages on the Internet in order to obtain more up-to-date information.

Almost all CD-ROM games in the works today include a multiplayer Internet component. (Some were available for the last Christmas season.) So, if you really want to make your interactive multimedia program both widely available and continually up-to-date, you could create a CD-ROM with a connection to your agency home page that can provide unlimited supplementary, continually updated information.

But what does all this technical stuff mean to you? If you have wide-ranging information that you want to convey to a varied audience, and interactive multimedia seems like the way to do it, then there are a lot of ways for you to get your program out there. And the possibility of doing it effectively is expanding at an explosive rate.

All of the developments noted above help make possible complex, real-time interactive multimedia programs that can impart the information you want to get out to your audience or to induce a response you want to achieve. And your method of delivery can be laser discs, floppy discs, CD-ROMS, and/or the Internet. And soon, you'll be able to take advantage of digital video discs and probably cable modems and direct satellite broadcast systems.

*In the next issue of People Land & Water, the AudioVisual Center will provide a specific example—a case study—of how an agency's educational communication needs were met by a tailor-made diagnostic program and media product. For information on how the AudioVisual Center can help you with your program, contact **Liz Shugrue** at (303) 236-200; fax to (303) 236-2005. Mail to at P.O. Box 280982, Lakewood, CO, 80228.*

Viewpoints:

Encouraging Unions and Law Suits

I briefly wanted to say that I agree 100 percent with Edward Chamberlin's letter in the Readers Write section of the February 1997 issue of PLW. Volunteers are replacing paid employees not only in the Park Service, but also in other agencies. A continuation of this trend will encourage unions and lawsuits. I think the agencies need to look long term and tell Congress that we either need more money to do what they want us to do, or Congress needs to adjust its expectations of what the agencies can accomplish.

Bill Taylor, BLM, Roswell, New Mexico

Talent and Time To Volunteer

This is in regard to Mr. Edward Chamberlin's comments headed "Volunteers Nothing to Brag About." My wife and I are volunteers for the USFWS. We have over 1000 hours each. We live in our R.V., are on our third refuge, and are looking forward to more. We visit every refuge possible in our travels and get the same story at every one—money is tight, budget cuts, retirees not being replaced, equipment wearing out, etc.

I agree with Mr. Chamberlin that it's sad that so much is not being done by FTEs. I hope he will agree that someone must keep our National Park System and National Wildlife Refuge System open for people to enjoy. We have not volunteered for the



National Park System and if Mr. Chamberlin's feelings are widespread throughout the NPS, I'm glad we haven't.

If Mr. Chamberlin would do a little research, he would find that a lot of volunteers are like us, retired business people, engineers, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, teachers, etc.—none of whom are looking for full-time jobs. He almost insinuated that our kind should not be in a position to handle money, as at a Fee Station in a National Park, or to do anything with responsibility. I am wondering what kind of menial labor he would have us do? Personally, I do not clean toilets.

Chuck Satterfield, Crawfordsville, Iowa.

Cry Harder Without Them

In response to the letter concerning the NPS's use of volunteers, I would cry harder without them. I would not be where I am today, a GS-9 Park Ranger, working in Interpretation, without the volunteer program. As coordinator for volunteers at my park, I appreciate and admire all people who volunteer. Much of the work we do would not get done if we did not have volunteers.

In Interpretation, about 60 volunteers work four to eight hours a week during the year. They staff the Information Center and the Entrance Station, lead or assist with our off-site, special emphasis, and environmental education programs. They clear trails, pick up trash on the beach, and build picnic tables and benches. They help with the park library, perform data entry, and support our Interpretive staff in many other ways. Another group of about 60 volunteers works with a staff of one, plus a temporary employee in Resource Management. During the summer months, they place screens over the nests of 4,000 loggerhead sea turtles to protect them from raccoons, which have destroyed 80 percent of the eggs in the past. The volunteers, who collect data as they work, screen about 90 percent of the nests, saving the eggs of the threatened turtle.

Volunteers are great morale builders and help us accomplish tasks that we are mandated to do without our becoming overworked and stressed out. For me, the stress comes when their work is not appreciated and people feel threatened by them. Volunteers are people who look for a way to help out, keep active, keep learning, and find enjoyment in working with people, teaching others about an area that is dear to their heart. Who is better qualified to work in the

National Parks and help take care of them than the people who love them and own them?

In these days of cutbacks, do I really believe that the park is going to get all the employees we need to do the job we are mandated to do? NO. Do I really believe that our volunteers are keeping someone from getting a job? NO. Using an estimate of 1,600 FTEs and considering there are about 365 parks in the System, that would mean hiring four to five new FTEs per park. Do I really believe that is going to happen and would I want it to? NO. Do I believe that the government has a big cash fund out there to pay for those extra employees? YES, its called the taxpayer. I just happen to be a taxpayer, too. Do I want to work longer to pay more taxes? You bet I don't. I work hard enough to accomplish what we do with the volunteers.

I realize many people feel threatened by volunteers and feel they are taking jobs that should be done by a paid employee. Our volunteers are not taking our jobs, they are saving us medical bills for stress-related illness and taxes. We need to realize that it is a privilege, not a right, to work for the U.S. Government. Volunteers are helping the U. S. Government balance the budget. If other government agencies used volunteers at the same level the National Park Service does, would we see a decrease in the National Debt?

I think it is a crime that in some areas Interpretive programs deteriorate because some refuse to let the people who live in their area share with the public

their love for special features and opportunities of their park site. They depend on staff who are overworked, have insufficient training, whose priority is in other areas, and whose heart is not in interpretation.

Our country was founded on volunteers. Where would we be without them—the Red Cross, the Boy and Girl Scouts, Habitat for Humanity. That is why I am proud of the National Park Service and its volunteers. Let's work together to make the Park Service the leading government agency to accomplish its task with the fewest tax dollars. I challenge other Interior agencies to match our NPS volunteer ranks

and get GREAT things done for our Park, our Service, our Department, and our Government. Team up and work for our Country, for ourselves, and our fellow taxpayers. The next time you see National Park Service Volunteers, shake their hand and say thank you. They are saving you money in more ways than you can imagine.

Sandra Hines, Titusville, Florida

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