

# National Parks

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The Magazine of  
The National Parks  
Conservation  
Association

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2000

The Culture Challenge  
Combating the Aliens  
The California Desert  
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# National parks

Vol. 74, No. 1-2  
January/February 2000

The Magazine of the National Parks  
Conservation Association

## FEATURES

**20 The Cultural Challenge**  
Making the parks relevant and welcoming to a broader constituency is a matter of survival and equity for the National Park System in the new millennium.  
**By Todd Wilkinson**

**24 Combating the Aliens**  
The Park Service plans to beef up its response in preventing new introductions of alien plants and controlling the spread of existing infestations that now extend to more than 1.5 million acres.  
**By Chris Fordney**

**28 Defending the Desert**  
Five years after passage of the California Desert Protection Act, progress has been made in ensuring the protection of 7 million acres of desert wilderness, but more work needs to be done.  
**By Wendy Mitman Clarke**



**COVER:** Pictographs of hands made circa 1000-1200 at Canyon de Chelly National Monument, Arizona. The park is one that celebrates diversity. Photo by George H.H. Huey.



**PAGE 28**

## DEPARTMENTS

**6 Outlook**  
NPCA has made slight changes to its name, logo, and slogan to clarify its mission and image.  
**By Thomas C. Kiernan**

**8 Editor's Note**

**10 Letters**

**12 NPCA Park News**  
Alaska lands act under attack; dam proposed for Buffalo River; more money for park system.

**32 Excursions**  
The National Park System offers some great destinations for adults traveling with children.  
**By Jim Paterson**

**36 Historic Highlights**  
The Pig War.  
**By William A. Updike**

**38 Rare & Endangered**  
The island fox.  
**By Elizabeth G. Daerr**

**39 Forum**  
The national parks are the centerpiece of a new program launched to showcase sustainable energy.  
**By Bill Richardson**

**40 EcoOpportunities**

**42 Notes**

**46 You Are Here**

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# Alaska at a Crossroads

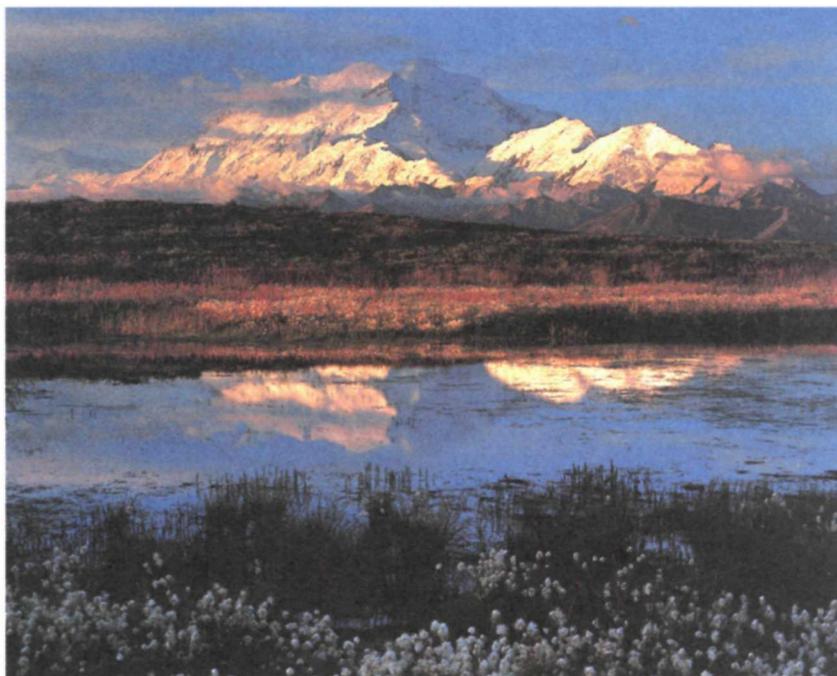
*NPCA launches a campaign to protect the national parks of Alaska and the landmark conservation act that set aside 104 million acres of the state's wild lands.*

BY WILLIAM J. CHANDLER

Once you have visited some of Alaska's great national parks, you are unlikely to forget them. Denali's snow-covered peaks and Katmai's feeding brown bears, a breaching humpback whale in Glacier Bay, and the untrammelled expanses of Wrangell-St. Elias and Gates of the Arctic.

The spectacular vistas remain etched in the mind for months and even years. You may even catch "Alaska Fever," characterized by a desire to return to Alaska again and again to experience America's last wild frontier. This was the promise of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980: that 104 million acres of Alaska's wild landscape, including 56 million acres of National Park System lands would be preserved in perpetuity.

This vision, however, is threatened today by a combination of forces. Since 1980, Alaska's population has grown 53 percent, and tourism is now the second most important industry (after oil). Meanwhile, visits to all of Alaska's national parks have increased 350



Mount McKinley and Cottongrass Pond, Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska

CARR CLIFTON

percent in the last 19 years.

It is all too easy for some to view the national parks of Alaska as economic development zones rather than natural areas that must be carefully managed to conserve the parks' primary features and purposes. Some of Alaska's best known national parks are increasingly threatened by a host of damaging commercial development propos-

als and pressure to turn the parks into playgrounds for motorized recreational vehicles.

Pro-development forces are knocking on the doors of the National Park Service, the courts, and the Congress to advance their proposals. In the political arena, Alaska's three-person congressional delegation occupies three of the four committee chairmanships that



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**NPCA is urging the Park Service to appeal a recent court decision permitting unlimited use of snowmobiles in Denali National Park.**

control park policy and budgets. Never before have the national parks in Alaska faced such development threats as they face today. Some examples:

- the proposed construction of a 40-acre commercial resort at Wonder Lake in Denali National Park, one of the most spectacular natural areas of the park, with access provided by a new 90-mile road or railroad which would cut through a proposed wilderness area;
- a proposal to allow helicopters to operate and land in designated wilderness areas in Alaska;
- the sabotage of the Park Service's re-development plan to improve visitor safety and access to grizzly bear viewing areas at Katmai National Park, one of the premier bear viewing areas in Alaska;
- demands for unlimited access to Denali and other national parks by snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle users;
- continued attempts to undermine an agreement that would phase out commercial fishing in Glacier Bay National Park, the

largest protected marine reserve in the United States, which was set aside primarily for scientific research and conservation purposes.

Conservationists must respond decisively to these threats or witness the unraveling of the Alaska lands act. In particular, we must educate and rally Americans in the other 49 states to ask their representatives and senators to protect the national parks of Alaska. Alaska is far away and its issues are complex. A lack of knowledge opens the door to the manipulation and misinterpretation of the Alaska lands act's goals and purposes.

To counter these threats, NPCA has launched the Alaska Campaign. The broad goal is to preserve the purposes, resources, and values of Alaska national parks, as mandated by ANILCA. It will be necessary to block ill-conceived and undesirable development projects and ensure that access to and use of the parks by all visitors is accomplished in ways that are compatible with the preservation of park resources and values.

Specific objectives of the campaign include:

- prohibiting unregulated and inappropriate use of all types of motorized recreational vehicles for non-traditional purposes; and developing reasonable regulations to allow compatible uses for traditional activities;
- blocking unnecessary and inappropriate commercial developments, roads, and railroads;
- maintaining the current ban on helicopter landings and regulating the time, place, and manner of air tours over parks to preserve natural sounds;
- preventing the development of

privately owned parcels within the National Park System;

- securing wilderness designations for an additional 17 million acres of land that the Park Service recommends for wilderness status.

NPCA will employ a mix of strategies and resources to accomplish its goals.

At the grassroots level, we intend to create a national network of people who want to defend Alaska parks and who will get involved in educating Congress.

In the parks, we will continue to provide expert technical assistance to the Park Service as they develop park master plans and use regulations. When necessary, we will file legal challenges to plans and regulations that we believe violate the standards and policies of the Alaska lands act and other park laws. Finally, we will continue to fight legislation that would harm the parks.

You can help by becoming a member of NPCA. Your contribution will help fund the Alaska Campaign and all that NPCA does to safeguard the national parks. Please call 1-800-NAT-PARK or visit [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org).

The parks in Alaska are at a crossroads. Down one road lies the conservation legacy of the Alaska lands act. Down the other lies a failed vision that includes too much commercial development in the wrong places, and the conversion of the parks to motorized recreation playgrounds.

It's up to us to make sure that when our children and grandchildren go to a national park in Alaska, they will experience America's last wilderness frontier in all its glory.

**William J. Chandler** is NPCA's Vice President for Conservation Policy.

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NPCA has established the Stephen Tyng Mather Society, named for the first Director of the National Park Service and a founder of NPCA, to recognize and honor those thoughtful individuals who care deeply about preserving our national parks for future generations.

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## OUTLOOK

# Simplicity, Clarity

NPCA has made slight changes to its name, logo,  
and slogan to clarify its mission and image.

RECENTLY ATTENDED a Stanford business school reunion during which many of my former classmates were clearly envious of my job.

Advocating for our national parks, traveling to remote places in our National Park System, and learning of our common heritage through the many historic and cultural sites stirred a hint of jealousy.

But appealing as these opportunities are, I didn't hesitate to share with my friends the fact that the most rewarding part of my job is listening to the concerns, visions, and values of our members, board, and staff.

I have had a chance to do that even more so than usual this past summer. We have conducted a member survey and a series of focus group-style meetings with members, and surveyed key allies on Capitol Hill and in the federal agencies to make sure that our words convey NPCA's mission. As a result of these dialogues, we have made several small but profound changes and are launching them in this issue of the magazine.

First, we have deleted the "and" in the name of our organization. By changing our name from National Parks and Conservation Association to National Parks Conservation Association, we have simplified and clarified who we are and what we do. That one little word gives the impression that our mis-



SCOTT SUCHMAN

sion is twofold—national parks as well as conservation—rather than the clear mandate it has always been: to protect and enhance the National Park System.

Along with the slight edit to our name, we have made some minor changes to our logo to give it a cleaner look and to make it easier to

reproduce.

Perhaps most important of all, we have adopted the slogan, "protecting parks for future generations," as the short hand for what we do and why we do it.

Although seemingly slight, these changes to clarify our image will increase the depth and impact of the important work that we do. You will read in this issue about a few of our key programs: protecting the biodiversity within our national parks against "non-native" species, continuing the work to protect California's desert parks that was begun with the passage five years ago of the California Desert Protection Act, and making the parks welcoming to and representative of the full diversity of the American public.

How we describe ourselves is a small matter; our work, fueled by our members' support, is what makes a difference where it matters most—in our beloved national parks.

**Thomas C. Kiernan**  
President

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# National parks

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## ABOUT NPCA

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

**WHAT WE DO:** NPCA protects national parks by identifying problems and generating support necessary to resolve them.

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

**HOW TO JOIN:** NPCA depends on contributions from members for the resources essential for an effective program. You can become a member by calling our Membership Department, extension 213. *National Parks* magazine is among the benefits you will receive. Of the \$25 membership dues, \$3 covers a one-year subscription to the magazine.

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

have concerns about the parks and want to know how they can help to protect them.

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

**HOW TO DONATE:** NPCA's success also depends on the financial support of members. For more information on Partners for the Parks (a monthly giving program), contact our Membership Department, extension 213. For information about Trustees for the Parks (\$1,000 and above), bequests, planned gifts, and matching gifts, call our Development Department, extension 145 or 146. You can also donate by shopping online at [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org), where 5 percent of your purchases are donated to NPCA at no extra cost to you.

**HOW TO REACH US:** We can be reached the following ways: National Parks Conservation Association, 1300 19th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036; by phone: 1-800-NAT-PARK; by e-mail: [npca@npca.org](mailto:npca@npca.org); and [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org).



## A Park Challenge

**T**HIS PAST SUMMER, I traveled to several Southwestern parks: Petrified Forest National Park to view the remains of once grand trees that stood in tropical swampland, the North Rim of the Grand Canyon to see the magnificent carvings left by nature, and Mesa Verde National Park to experience the handiwork of ancient people.

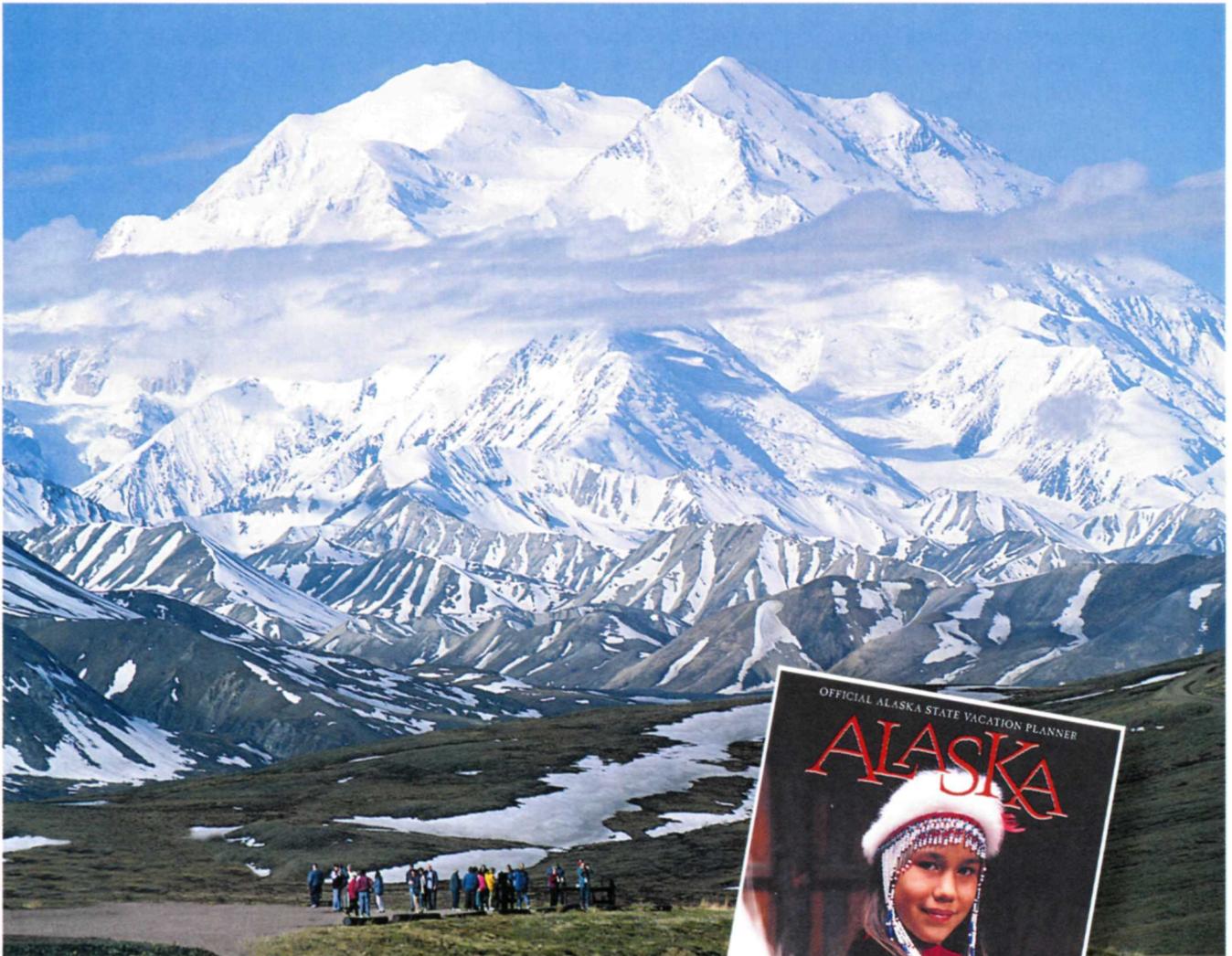
Besides being struck by the incredibly varied landscape, I also became aware that there was a distinct difference between the faces of the people who lived on the lands surrounding the parks and those of the visitors. Even though many of the people who live nearby are of American Indian or Hispanic descent, few visitors were people of color. And this is not an unusual phenomenon, as Todd Wilkinson explains in his story, "The Cultural Challenge," beginning on page 20.

Most park visitors and employees are white, a situation that Park Service Director Robert Stanton wants to change. Stanton, the agency's first African-American director, says, "The Park Service has not done a very good job of welcoming people of color into parks or encouraging non-white Americans to work in them."

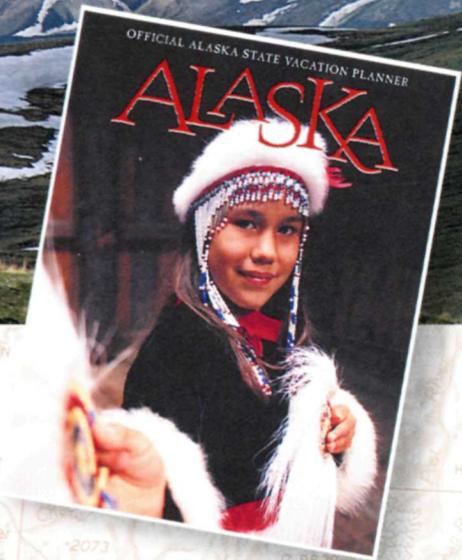
Experts suggest that unless people from different cultures become enthusiastic about the parks, the future of these lands could be in trouble, and both NPCA and the Park Service are working to change this. But the process takes time. The sooner these investments are made, the sooner they will yield results.

Our feature line-up includes a story about non-native plants, which invade an area the size of Delaware each year, and the five-year anniversary of the California Desert Protection Act. We invite adults who will be entertaining children this summer to glance at the Excursions piece, which offers some destination tips.

**Linda M. Rancourt**  
Editor-in-Chief



Mt. McKinley, Denali National Park & Preserve



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## Silence, Deer, Snakes, Senate Bill

### Call It Silence

Many thanks for the sensitive article by T.H. Watkins [Forum, September/October 1999] relating to human- and machine-generated noise in our wilderness areas.

Last week my husband and I spent four days in the Laguna mountains, which are just an hour's drive from San Diego, a city of 3 million people. One of the loveliest parts of our stay was the silence—punctuated only by the wind rustling in the trees and the tap-tap-tapping of the acorn woodpeckers.

Occasionally during our stay we would simultaneously stop dead, hold our breath, and just look at each other, very much aware of the precious quality of this wilderness quiet.

Following our trip, we were back at home again, with helicopters booming overhead, lawn mowers blasting, cars racing by, dogs barking, and radios blaring someone's favorite tunes. Fortunately, our little wilderness trip has lodged itself squarely into our hearts and souls. Our tolerance seems to have increased, simply because we know that such quiet places still exist, even in this high-tech, whine-filled world of ours.

**Phyllis Hordin**  
San Diego, CA

### White-tailed Deer

As a NPCA member, and as someone involved in suburban deer management over the last six years, I feel compelled to elaborate on your excellent article, "By Leaps and Bounds," about deer overpopulation in the national parks [September/October 1999].

For more than 20 years, the National Park Service (NPS) has failed to preserve and protect the natural resources of most eastern parks from the negative impacts of deer overpopulation, contrary to the advice of experts and guidance by its own management policies.

Valley Forge National Historical Park is a prime example of a failed NPS deer policy. Four years after Valley Forge State

Park became a national park, the superintendent reported to management in 1980 that he had deer problems. In 1999, 18 years later, the park's winter deer population reached 1,020. According to NPS, the park no longer had a deer problem! The stated reason was that the deer do not "interfere" with the park's historical mission.

However, NPS management policies state that "where compatible with cultural resource objectives, the policies for natural zones will be followed." Natural zone policies direct parks to "try to maintain...the natural abundance, diversity, and ecological integrity of the plants and animals."

Since Valley Forge NHP is a cultural park with about two square miles of woodlands, and, according to its own 1982 General Management Plan, is an area of "exceptional natural beauty," the need for deer control should be obvious from the available data.

The National Park Service Act of 1916 requires that parks be conserved for the "unimpaired" enjoyment of future generations. With deer destruction of biodiversity getting worse every year in more than 50 national parks, a national deer policy is needed.

NPS owes it to present and future generations to develop a national deer policy to protect biodiversity—now!

**James M. Morrisson**  
President

**Valley Forge Citizens for Deer Control**  
Valley Forge, PA

### Eastern Indigo Snake

In this age of computers and space shuttles, snakes [Rare & Endangered, September/October 1999] remain misunderstood by the average person. It is important to realize that humans are not born with a fear of snakes; it is a learned phobia. Our society has created a profusion of popular myths and misconceptions about snakes, and Western religions have both aggravated and perpetuated the situation.

Snakes play an invaluable role as the consummate destroyers of rodents. Consider this: We adore cute, lovable Mickey Mouse, yet mice and rats cause billions of dollars in damage each year!

As a former herpetologist in Florida, it has been my observation that any loss of population by "poaching" of Indigos for pets is negligible. Indeed, once this species was declared endangered in the early 1980s, my colleagues and I offered to breed and re-introduce young specimens into the wild. The state would not allow the re-introduction. The fact is, population loss of snakes of all kinds is the result of suburban sprawl, habitat destruction, and prejudiced people.

**John R. Vance**  
Bristol, TN

### National Parks Protection Act

In the first decade of the 20th century, President Theodore Roosevelt posed this challenge to the American people: "We must ask ourselves if we are leaving for future generations an environment that is as good, or better, than what we found." If the sad condition of parts of our National Park System (NPS) is any indication, the answer must be "no."

In 1999, I visited several national parks to assess the special challenges they face. In the last 50 years, nearly half of the original Florida Everglades has been drained or otherwise altered. The remaining ecosystem has been polluted by fertilizer run-off and plagued by mercury contamination. More than 30 buildings at Ellis Island have broken windows, leaky roofs, or peeling lead paint. At Bandelier National Monument in New Mexico, both erosion and human desecration threaten ancient Pueblo ruins.

Our unique system of national parks, which provides federal protection for more than 230 million acres, is reeling from decades of neglect and harmful manipulation. The deterioration of these exceptional resources is not irreversible, but it will require a major new

commitment by Congress to invest in the health of NPS.

Earlier this year, I introduced the National Parks Protection Act. This bipartisan legislation would annually use \$500 million to safeguard threatened or impaired ecosystems, protect critical habitats, and maintain other core resources within NPS. Thirty percent of these funds would be available for specific park problems—such as Yellowstone's dilapidated sewage system. The other 70 percent would help preserve resources threatened or impaired by outside influences.

As the United States enters a new century, members of Congress will be confronted with a critical moral question: is our generation prepared to be judged as to how we have answered President Roosevelt's challenge?

Through our actions toward the national parks we will determine whether or not the United States begins the 21st century as President Roosevelt began the last one—with a national commitment to the protection of environmental treasures.

I encourage NPCA's members to contact my colleagues in the Senate and urge them to support the National Parks Protection Act. Together we can build a park system that will continue to enrich future generations of Americans.

Senator Bob Graham (D-Fla.)  
Washington, DC

### Lucasfilm Digital Arts Center

In its opposition to Lucasfilm Digital Arts Center's plans for developing the Letterman Hospital Complex [Regional Report, September/October 1999], NPCA is forgetting a very important point: the Presidio must become self-supporting within a few years. To accomplish this it needs to lease the Letterman complex to a tenant who can afford to develop it and create a space in keeping with a national park.

The Lucasfilm proposal is far more in keeping with the overall needs of the Presidio than were the other proposals submitted. The other proposals would have isolated the complex from the rest of the Presidio and, in effect, cut it off from public use.

Christie Hochschild  
San Francisco, CA

### WRITE TO US

Send mail to: Letters, NPCA, 1300 19th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036. Letters can be sent via e-mail to [npmag@npca.org](mailto:npmag@npca.org). Letters should be no longer than 300 words and may be edited for length and clarity. Please include a telephone number for verification. We will notify you if your letter will be published and in which issue.

### CORRECTIONS

The National Women's Hall of Fame [Excursions, November/December 1999] is not run by the Park Service.

Two facts reported in a November/December news story about the 8.5 Square Mile Area were incorrect. There are about 1,000 total property owners, of which 336 have indicated a willingness to consider selling. The South Florida Water Management District has not agreed to pay homeowners 125 percent of the market value of their properties. This is one option being considered.

### "YOU ARE HERE"

A small portion of this park was originally set aside in 1890 as General Grant National Park. Wildlife in the park include mountain lions, pine martens, wolverines, marmots, pikas, gray fox, bobcats, ringtail cats, and rare mountain yellow-legged frogs.

Answer: Kings Canyon NP, California

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# Park News

BY ELIZABETH G. DAERR

## LEGISLATION

### Alaska Lands Act Under Attack

Senator moves to increase motorized access in Alaska's wilderness.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—In an ongoing effort to promote development within national parks and preserves in Alaska, Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska) has introduced a bill that would amend key provisions of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), which was passed in 1980 to protect more than 100 million acres of the state's wilderness.

The bill, S. 1683, has more than 25 measures that would allow a variety of motorized uses, such as landing helicopters in Tongass National Forest wilderness areas, and would make hunting and fishing a primary purpose of preserves and wildlife refuges.

"This legislation is a compilation of the worst legislative initiatives that have come out of Sen. Murkowski's office over the last decade," said Marcia Argust, NPCA's legislative representative for Alaska. Although Murkowski has tried to present the bill as simple "technical amendments" to the original legislation, the bill would facilitate major policy changes that undermine the public lands' protections built into ANILCA, a landmark piece of legislation when it was passed 20 years ago.

Other measures include:

▲ prohibiting federal land managers from implementing regulations of mo-



Proposed legislation to amend a conservation statute would allow increased motorized use, including snowmobiles and helicopters, in Alaska's wilderness.

torized uses on park and public lands until damage has already occurred;

▲ forcing federal land managers to consult with the state of Alaska before regulating motorized access on federal conservation parklands;

▲ prohibiting federal land officials from managing proposed park wilderness areas as designated wilderness, which is current policy;

▲ exempting owners of private land within parks from environmental reviews and alternative route standards that are considered when they request access to their property;

▲ and promoting the construction of year-round facilities to accommodate sportfishing and hunting instead of seeking to remove such structures from federal lands.

Proponents of the bill failed to get a Senate floor vote before adjourning in

November but are likely to take up the bill again when Congress reconvenes in January. During preliminary hearings, the Department of the Interior testified that it would strongly recommend to President Clinton that he veto the bill. Argust says the department's recommendation is encouraging, but with Murkowski's past record and determination to amend ANILCA, the legislation could be incorporated into a more comprehensive bill, making it far more difficult to veto.

**TAKE ACTION:** Write to your senators urging them to oppose any attempts to amend ANILCA, specifically S. 1683. Write to: The Honorable \_\_\_\_, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC, 20510. To find the e-mail address, go to NPCA's web site at [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org).

## Lawsuit Filed to Save Sparrow

Endangered sparrow's fate has implications for the Everglades.

MIAMI, FLA.—Eight environmental groups, led by the Natural Resources Defense Council and including NPCA, have filed suit against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers over the corps' failure to restore proper water levels through the habitat of the endangered Cape Sable seaside sparrow. A recent survey by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported that the sparrow faces almost certain extinction if the corps does not take action to reduce water levels flowing through the western half of Everglades National Park. Excessive water is flooding the grasses fundamental to this ground-nesting bird's existence.

To benefit farmers and suburban homeowners east of the Everglades, water that would naturally flow through the area has either been held back or redirected westward. The Park Service has been successful in purchasing much of the available land east of the park to remedy this problem; however, continuing controversy over one tract of land, known as the 8.5 Square Mile Area, has hampered efforts to restore water through Northeast Shark Slough.

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), which manages an extensive system of canals, levees, and pumps for the corps, has been providing flood protection to the residents of the 8.5 Square Mile Area even though it is not an authorized purpose of the project. Under the Endangered Species Act, no federal agency is permitted to take any action likely to jeopardize the continued existence of an endangered species or adversely modify designated critical habitat. The plaintiffs believe that the acquisition of the 8.5 Square Mile Area is essential to

restore waterflows through Everglades National Park and Florida Bay and give the sparrow a reasonable chance for survival.

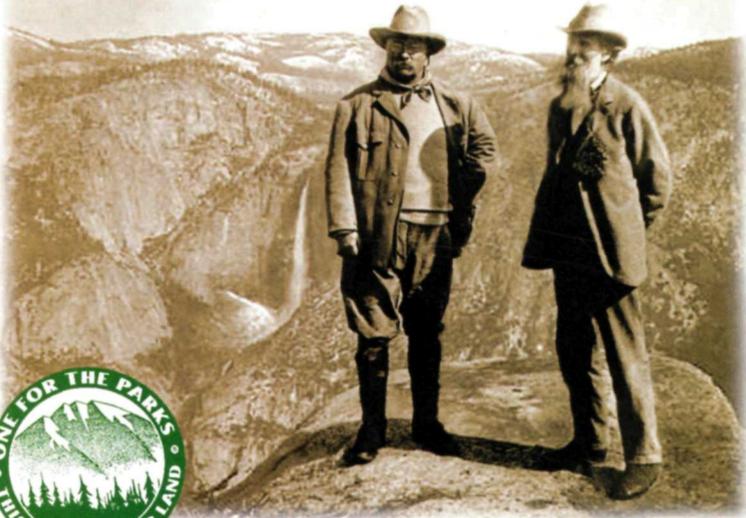
In October, extensive rains caused by Hurricane Irene inundated the 8.5 Square Mile Area and surrounding lands and caused extreme flooding conditions, resulting in a federal major disaster declaration for south Florida. The federal government and the state are considering offering affected landowners the opportunity to sell and move out of the disaster area. This would allow willing sellers in the 8.5 Square Mile Area to leave and make it possible to raise water levels on the east side of the park for restoration purposes.

The South Florida Water Management District voted unanimously in 1998 to initiate a buyout of all the properties in the 8.5 Square Mile Area. However, in 1999 the Miccosukee Tribe filed a lawsuit against SFWMD claiming that the board had violated the state's Sunshine Law by making the decision without proper public involvement. In

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order to settle the lawsuit, the district board put the buyout on hold. This decision was made by a board that included six new members appointed by recently elected Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. NPCA and other Florida and national environmental groups are concerned about the implications of the delay in acquisition.

SFWMD Executive Director Frank Finch says that the decision was a precautionary measure. "They [the board] felt that they had made a procedural error and wanted to take a step back," he said. Finch also stated that the board would not decide on future options until the corps completes an environmental impact statement (EIS) on alternatives for the area. The EIS is scheduled to be completed in April.

"We regard the final decision on the 8.5 Square Mile Area to be a serious test of the Bush Administration's commitment to Everglades restoration," said Ron Tipton, NPCA's vice president for park resource protection programs. "Full acquisition is clearly the best alternative for the park, for the sparrow, and for the taxpayer."

#### RESOURCE PROTECTION

## NPS Fights Dam on Buffalo River

*State study shows proposed dam is not most feasible solution.*

MARSHALL, ARK.—The controversy over a proposal to build a dam on a tributary of the Buffalo National River may greatly influence the future balance between protecting congressionally designated rivers and the need to provide water for swelling populations.

The Searcy County Regional Water District is demanding an impoundment on Bear Creek—a major tributary to the Buffalo River and an important contributor to its free-flowing nature—to provide water for industrial development

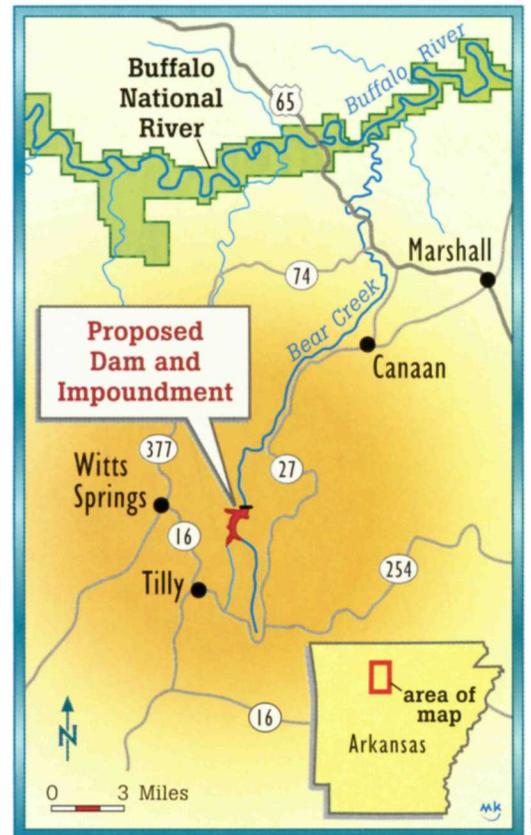
and an alternative water source to some public wells that are tainted with radium. While the National Park Service (NPS) is not disputing the community's need for safe drinking water, the agency says adequate steps have not been taken to ensure that a dam is the best way to provide that water.

Data from the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission indicate that building a water pipeline to Marshall from an existing reservoir would be cheaper, and the commission stated in a report that "the total cost of impoundment development makes stream damming an unfeasible alternative."

Damming one of the river's major tributaries defies the 1972 legislation that established the Buffalo National River, the country's first national river. The law specifically prohibits the licensing of "any dam, water conduit, reservoir, powerhouse...or other project works... on or directly affecting the Buffalo National River." All wild and scenic rivers administered by NPS and other federal agencies are afforded similar protection, and if the Buffalo River falls victim to this dam, both the Park Service and NPCA fear that environmental safeguards will be overlooked on future projects.

More immediately, the Bear Creek dam could have devastating effects on the river's ecosystem. The dam would stop vital floodwater from cleansing the riparian area of old vegetation and scouring out silt along the riverbed. Fish, plants, and animals depend on the seasonal floods to provide aquatic habitat. Park hydrologist David Mott notes that the Buffalo River is one of a few large rivers in the Southeast with no major dams along its watershed. Approval of this dam would set a dangerous precedent, most likely initiating a chain of requests to build others.

Danielle Droitsch, NPCA's Southeast associate regional director, agrees. "With the population of the Southeast



growing so rapidly, this is just the beginning of requests to get water from these free-flowing rivers. The local water districts have got to find alternatives to dams to address the increasing need for water in the Southeast," she said.

The state of Arkansas has announced that it is in the process of issuing a permit for the project even though a technical assessment of the impacts of the dam has not been completed. For the project to proceed, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must issue a federal permit. At press time, the corps was conducting an environmental assessment. NPS argues that because federal money would be used to build the dam, a full environmental impact statement (EIS) is mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). An EIS carries stricter standards and requires that alternatives to the project be considered.

"The bottom line is that the law [NEPA] requires these types of projects to undergo specific scrutiny, including alternative analyses and scientifically based assessments of all the potential environmental impacts," Mott said.

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40	\$ 123	\$ 158	\$ 185	\$ 238	\$ 260
45	\$ 190	\$ 215	\$ 253	\$ 330	\$ 385
50	\$ 253	\$ 290	\$ 363	\$ 490	\$ 495
55	\$ 360	\$ 413	\$ 550	\$ 835	\$ 1,015
60	\$ 503	\$ 608	\$ 845	\$ 2,135	\$ 2,400
65	\$ 775	\$ 975	\$1,593	\$ 3,900	\$ 3,900
70	\$1,338	\$1,600	\$2,970	\$ 7,220	\$ 7,220
75	\$2,275	\$ 4,870	\$5,820	\$10,440	\$12,420

**Male Premiums**

Age	10 YEAR	15 YEAR	20 YEAR	25 YEAR	30 YEAR
35	\$ 123	\$ 138	\$ 165	\$ 223	\$ 253
40	\$ 148	\$ 183	\$ 225	\$ 288	\$ 335
45	\$ 225	\$ 300	\$ 360	\$ 450	\$ 513
50	\$ 338	\$ 455	\$ 525	\$ 730	\$ 828
55	\$ 500	\$ 670	\$ 768	\$ 1,638	\$ 2,330
60	\$ 783	\$ 990	\$1,265	\$ 3,630	\$ 3,630
65	\$1,330	\$ 1,650	\$2,693	\$ 5,250	\$ 5,250
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PARK FUNDING

# Park Budget for 2000 Increases

*National parks receive additional money for land acquisition.*

WASHINGTON, D. C. —After intense negotiations that extended the congressional session weeks beyond its intended recess, Congress passed a massive omnibus spending package that included \$1.4 billion for the operation of the National Park System. The Interior Appropriations bill included nearly full funding for the federal side of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which uses royalties from offshore gas and oil drilling to buy environmentally sensitive lands. In separate action, a House committee approved legislation that would provide full funding for LWCF on an automatic annual basis.

As part of the omnibus spending package, approximately \$440 million was made available for acquisition and protection of significant federal lands. This included \$101 million for the 100,000-acre Baca Ranch in New

Mexico, \$15 million to buy inholdings within Mojave National Preserve, and \$36 million to protect marine sanctuaries and coral reefs. In addition, states received \$40 million to purchase land for open space and outdoor recreation. This is the first time in several years that Congress has appropriated any money for the state LWCF program.

The parks' operating budget was increased by \$78 million over last year but still does not meet the Park Service's true needs. "Congress has tried to do better by the national parks," said Kevin Collins, NPCA's legislative representative, "but the increases get eaten away by rising costs. What the parks really need is a dedicated funding source to be used only for resource protection."

Congress made progress on providing full, permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund when the House Resources Committee approved a compromise version of the Conservation and Reinvestment Act. The bill would provide \$450 million annually to acquire lands slated for purchase inside national parks, forests, and refuges. The park system includes more than 1 million acres that are currently in private hands and unprotected. The cost of acquiring this land is estimated at more than \$1.3 billion.

## NEWS UPDATE .....

**Yellowstone Bison**—In a major step toward protecting Yellowstone bison, the federal government has completed a deal to purchase more than 9,000 acres of critical winter range north of the park. The Church Universal Triumphant agreed to accept \$13 million and 1,000 acres of federal land as payment for the Royal Teton Ranch outside of Gardiner, Montana. The land is deemed critical to providing additional winter range during the park's severe winters. Because of ranchers' fears that the bison spread brucellosis to cattle, state wildlife officials have been shooting them as they cross park boundaries.

**Gateway Tower**—The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has been given permission from the Department of the Interior to place a Doppler Radar Weather Tower within Gateway National Recreation Area, New York. The decision culminates a lengthy and fierce dispute between FAA and the Park Service. In return for permission to construct the tower, FAA has agreed to spend \$180,000 on landscaping to camouflage the 119-foot structure and to remove it in no more than 20 years. The FAA says that an early removal of the tower is one of its "highest priorities."

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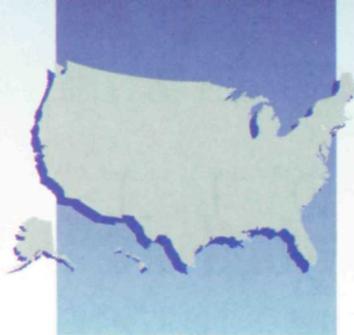
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# REGIONAL REPORT

## ON NPCA'S WORK IN THE PARKS

Text by Elizabeth G. Daerr

### ■ ALASKA

The National Park Service (NPS) has issued proposed regulations that would prohibit the use of snowmobiles in 2 million acres of designated wilderness in Denali National Park and Preserve. The regulations would for the first time define the term "traditional activities." The term was incorporated, though never explicitly defined, in the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act to protect the rights of residents and individuals who have historically lived off the land. The statute's language suggests that traditional activities meant subsistence hunting, berry-picking, fishing, and travel to and from villages, but snowmobile enthusiasts insist the term includes activities such as camping, hiking, and photography, and that snowmobiles should be permitted as a means to pursue these interests.

**TAKE ACTION:** Urge NPS to enact the proposed snowmobile regulations. Write to: Denali Superintendent, Denali National Park and Preserve, P.O. Box 9, Denali National Park, AK 99755. To send an electronic letter, go to NPCA's web site, [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org). The deadline is January 11.

### ■ CENTRAL ROCKIES

NPCA is asking the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to re-regulate waterflow of the Green River at Flaming Gorge Dam in Wyoming to replenish riparian ecosystems in Canyonlands National Park and Dinosaur National Monument below the dam. The diminished water supply is altering riparian vegetation and affecting several endangered fish. Power and water interests are actively opposing measures needed to improve wildlife habitat.

**TAKE ACTION:** Ask the agency to

re-regulate the flows of the Flaming Gorge Dam to protect the riparian ecosystems at Canyonlands and Dinosaur. Write to: Angela Kantola, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 25486, Denver, CO 80225.

### ■ HEARTLAND

NPCA supports a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) proposal that recommends Wild and Scenic designation for the Little Missouri River, which runs through Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Dakota. Through this designation, much of the 520-mile river would be protected from dams and other threats, such as a proposed bridge visible from the park's remote Elkhorn Unit. The bridge would be a convenience for local gas and oil interests. The recommendation is included in Alternative 4 of a draft environmental impact statement for management of USFS lands in the Northern Great Plains.

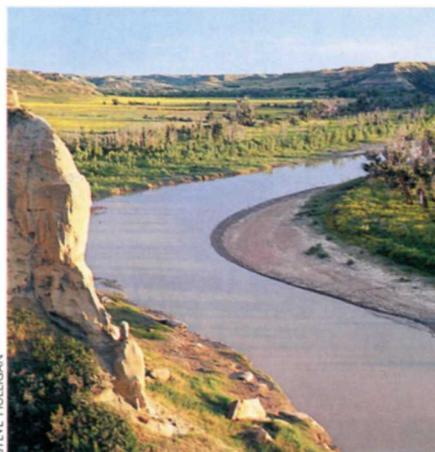
**TAKE ACTION:** Write to the Northern Great Plains Planning Team urging it to adopt Alternative 4. Address: USDA Forest Service, 125 North Main St., Chadron, NE 69337. The deadline for comments is January 12.

### ■ NORTHEAST

NPS has announced preliminary plans to establish the Ellis Island Institute, a convention center facility planned for the island that would fund the rehabilitation of the 29 dilapidated South Side buildings. Because Congress is not expected to fund the \$300 million to \$500 million needed to complete the rehabilitation, NPS has been forced to find funding for the project through partnerships with private entities—a practice that is becoming increasingly common systemwide. Although NPCA supports the park's efforts to find alternative financial support, it is concerned that the announcement was premature. Specific preservation goals need to be finalized before appropriate uses for the facility should be explored, says NPCA Northeast Regional Director Eileen Woodford.

### ■ NORTHERN ROCKIES

Congress has earmarked \$2.4 million to pave a nine-mile stretch of gravel road on the western border of Glacier National Park, and environmentalists fear that it will disrupt one of the few ecosystems in the lower 48 states that hosts the endangered grizzly bear, gray wolf, and the rare Canadian lynx. The North Fork Road lies in a 60-mile corridor that provides isolated habitat for the large carnivores to move between British Columbia and the U.S. Rocky Mountains. Only 80 to 90 residents currently live in the area, but discussions of paving the road have attracted the attention of developers and realtors who could profit from the private land adjacent to the road. Because the money was designated in the fiscal year 2000 transportation bill, the project is required to take place this year. But according to Ron Burnett of the Federal



STEVE MULLIGAN

The Little Missouri River

Highway Administration, because of local citizen opposition to the road and the North Fork area's significance to large carnivores, the project may encounter major obstacles.

## ■ PACIFIC

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit is questioning an environmental impact statement (EIS) concerning the possible runway expansion at Maui's Kahului Airport next to Haleakala National Park, Hawaii. NPCA and local environmental group Maui Malama Pono are contesting the EIS and asking the court to order the Federal Aviation Administration to conduct a more thorough study of the airport's potential impact on the park's native flora and fauna. Extending the runway, the groups argue, would allow larger jets from farther distances to land at the airport, thus increasing the risk of introducing nonnative species that can be transported via passengers, cargo, or even in the wheel wells of the plane. A final decision may take several months.

## ■ SOUTHEAST

An archaeological site in downtown Miami that predates the arrival of the Spanish explorers in Florida is coming closer to being permanently protected by the Park Service. The Senate has passed a bill introduced by Sen. Bob Graham (D-Fla.) that would permit a study of the feasibility of incorporating the Brickell Point site, more popularly known as the Miami Circle site, into Biscayne National Park. A prominent feature of the site is a 38-foot wide circle of holes carved into the limestone bedrock where the Miami River meets Biscayne Bay. According to Miami-Dade County Archaeologist John Ricisak, the circle likely represents the remains of an



The Brickell Point site in Miami.

important pre-Columbian aboriginal structure belonging to the now-extinct Tequesta Indians. Despite broad public support to protect the site, the circle's preservation is not assured because it was found on the private property of a developer who planned to build luxury high-rise apartments. Meanwhile, the county is looking for ways to raise the approximately \$12 million that would be combined with \$15 million the state has pledged to purchase the land from the developer.

## ■ SOUTHWEST

Owners of the coal-fired Mohave Power Plant have announced plans to install \$300 million worth of pollution control devices to drastically reduce emissions that obscure views and create poor air quality at Grand Canyon National Park, 75 miles to the east. The agreement was reached as the result of a lawsuit filed in 1998 by NPCA, the Grand Canyon Trust, and the Sierra Club against Southern California Edison and three other owners of the plant. Under the agreement, the plant will install dry scrubbers over the next three years to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions by 85 percent. Also added will be a giant fabric filter, called a baghouse, that will curb the plant's visible emissions and new burners that will reduce nitrous oxide emissions. The plant must complete the installations by the year 2005.

### NPCA REGIONAL DIRECTORS:

ALASKA: Chip Dennerlein

CENTRAL ROCKIES: Mark Peterson

HEARTLAND: Lori Nelson

NORTHEAST: Eileen Woodford

NORTHERN ROCKIES: Tony Jewett

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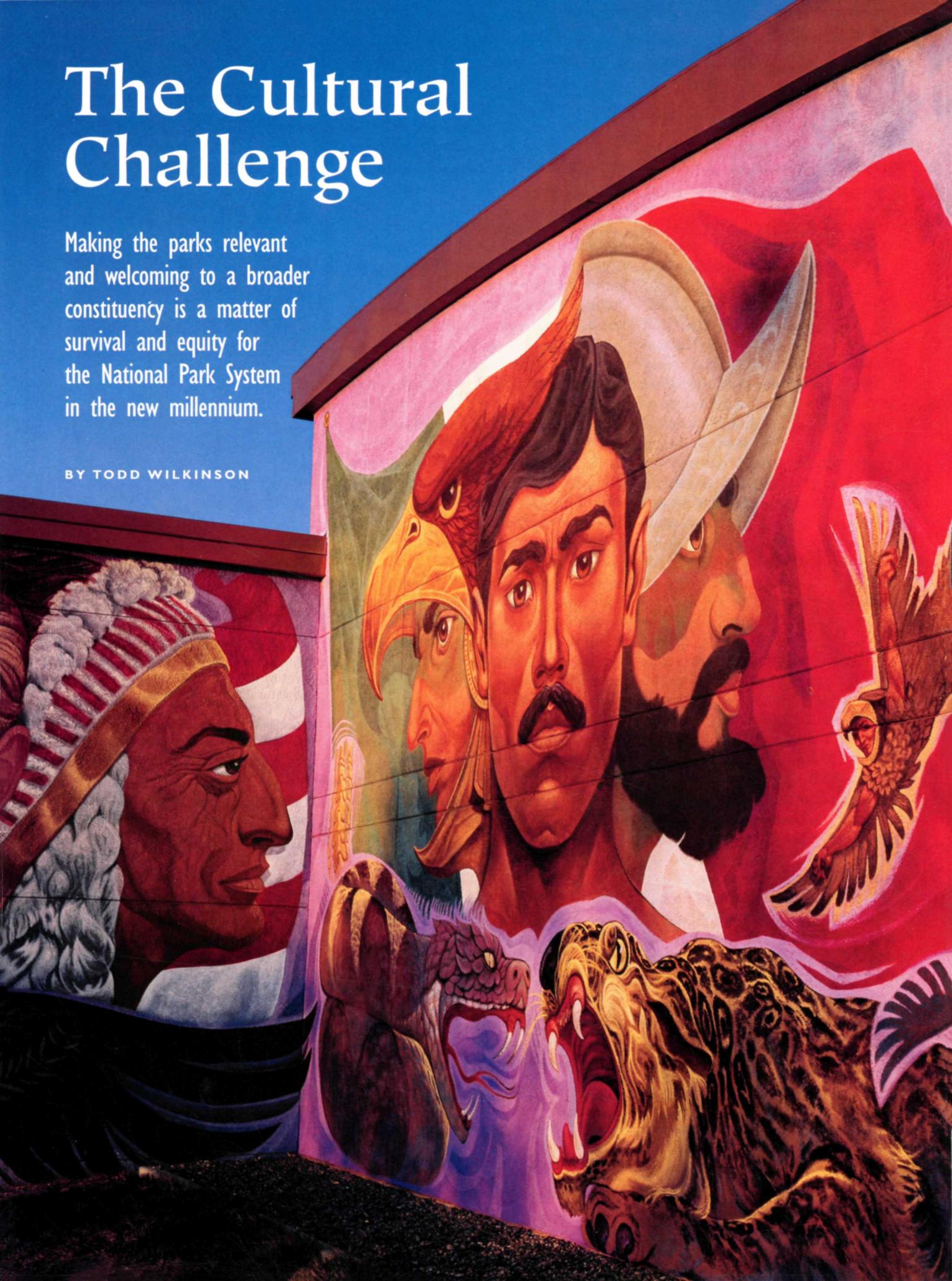
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# The Cultural Challenge

Making the parks relevant and welcoming to a broader constituency is a matter of survival and equity for the National Park System in the new millennium.

BY TODD WILKINSON



**I**F THE U.S. National Park System were an artist's palette, its rich, raw tableau of color and engaging textures would reflect every hue under the sun.

Chartreuse could be found in the rhyolite cliffs of Yellowstone; soothing shades of red in the mesas of Grand Canyon, Bryce, and Zion; blue and gray in the battle uniforms preserved at Gettysburg; jet black in the recesses of Carlsbad and Mammoth Cave; aquamarine in the waves rolling in at Isle Royale and Padre Island; soothing pastels in the riots of wildflowers in Yosemite and the Great Smokies. Enough different pigments could be found in the forests, mountains, plants, animals, brick, and mortar in more than 350 other preserves to fill a super box of Crayolas.

But among the millions of people who visit national parks, including the thousands of dedicated civil servants who work in them, one color still dominates the face of the system after 84 years: lily white.

While the National Park Service (NPS) is considered one of the proudest, most progressive, and well-liked agencies in the federal government, it has lagged behind when it comes to mirroring America.

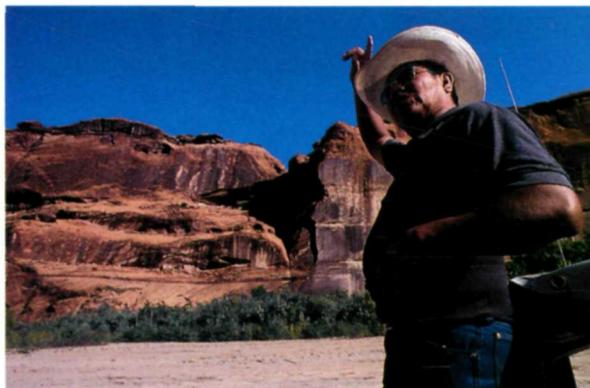
"Every day you pick up a newspaper and read about the latest threats to national parks, whether it is the crumbling highway system, commercial air tours buzzing over the Grand Canyon, the killing of Yellowstone bison, or the complexity of water issues at Everglades," says Iantha Gantt-Wright, NPCA's cultural diversity manager.

"While responding to these concerns is important," Gantt-Wright says, "the absence of cultural and racial diversity in national parks looms as one of the greatest threats of all because it means parks can lose the very constituents who will be in a position to save them in 50 or 100 years."

Demographers say that, within three decades, white Americans raised on the

tradition of spending summer vacations in national parks will no longer represent the dominant voting block. Emerging in its place will be a new plurality composed of Asian, Hispanic, and African Americans. Nine of every ten people added to the population by 2050 will be nonwhite.

"It's already difficult to convince Congress to adequately fund the parks we have, but what will the tenor of the debate be in, say, half a century, if parks are fighting for scarce dollars?" Gantt-Wright asks. "If parks are not relevant to people, then how relevant will they be to the lawmakers those people elect?"



**At Canyon de Chelly NM, visitors must hire a Navajo tour guide to hike on most of the park's trails.**

Experts say that, unless people from different cultures become enthusiastic, the future of national parks in this country could be in trouble. Consider Yellowstone, where the make-up of its 3 million tourists is indicative of many large national parks.

A survey in 1997 revealed that 90 percent of Yellowstone's visitors were white, 4.1 percent were of Asian descent, 1.5 percent were African American, 1 percent Hispanic, and .5 percent American Indian or Eskimo. During the 1990s, more visitors at Yellowstone were from Japan, Hong Kong, and Taiwan than the number of African, Hispanic, and American Indians combined. Further, the employee roles in Yellowstone are even whiter.

"The welcome mat has not been out [for Americans of color]," says Roger Rivera, founder of the National Hispanic Environmental Council, which is based in Alexandria, Virginia.

Rivera says that national parks have an elitist reputation in many nonwhite

communities, where people have neither visited local units of the park system nor come in contact with park rangers.

"There's an interesting notion out there that public lands and protected areas have been the domain of middle-class whites," Rivera says. "But I think it has more to do with culture than economics. There are many middle-class Hispanics, Blacks, and Asians who have the money to travel to parks, but they don't do it." At the same time, even white Americans who hail from poorer income levels, he argues, know that national parks are part of their birthright.

No one is better acquainted with the challenge than Robert Stanton, the agency's first African-American director and a man who began his Park Service career several decades ago as a seasonal ranger in Grand Teton National Park. "The fact is, the National Park Service has not done a very good job of welcoming people of color into parks or encouraging nonwhite Americans to work in them," Stanton says. "It is my chief goal as head of this agency to make sure we start looking like the rest of America."

It was this recognition that led NPS and NPCA to sponsor an unprecedented conference on diversity in parks last year in San Francisco titled, "America's Parks—America's People. A Mosaic in Motion: Breaking Barriers of Race and Diversity in Our National Parks."

"I think the conference proved to be eye-opening for the Park Service," says NPCA's Gantt-Wright, a key conference organizer. "Here you had 650 people, many of them from communities not usually associated with the conservation movement. For the first time ever, they had a stage to express their anger at literally being ignored. I think the Park Service itself left feeling humbled but empowered."

"These people weren't there because they wanted to bash the Park Service," she says. "They were there because they care about the future of parks and the role they play in the lives of their kids and grandchildren."

Professor Myron Floyd of Texas A&M

**The 18-by-120-foot mural at Chamizal NM represents the blending of United States and Mexican cultures.**

STEVE MULLIGAN

University noted in a scientific paper, "Race, Ethnicity and Use of the National Park System," that the Park Service suffers from an inability to connect with people beyond its traditional constituents and has no effective way of establishing a dialogue.

The fundamental struggle is reaching out to populations with the message that adopting an awareness of parks is akin to learning a new language. Using the conference as a springboard, Stanton unveiled three priorities:

■ **Expand diversity within the NPS workforce by hiring more minorities.**

The Park Service has been accused of being among the slowest federal agencies to break out of its white male image. Stanton notes that because the Park Service moves career employees slowly up the ranks, advancing minorities into management positions will take time.

Already, however, Stanton has ordered a heavy emphasis on increasing hiring at the seasonal ranger level, which is where most agency employees begin. During the summer of 1999, "minority" hiring increased 40 percent over the previous year alone.

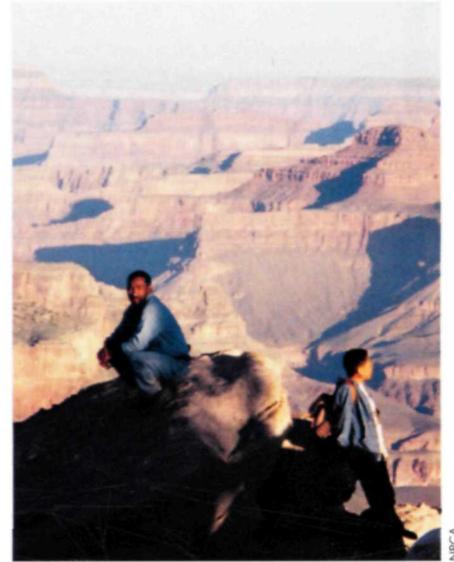
To ensure the momentum carries on after he leaves the service, Stanton ordered that a Diversity Action Plan be distributed, which allows senior managers to hold individual park superintendents accountable for their record of hiring minorities.

■ **Increase diversity by reaching out to urban communities, especially grade schools, and inviting kids to think about how they might shape the park system when they become adults.**

Gantt-Wright herself is a national park late bloomer but proof, she maintains, that it is never too late to tap into the latent love that all people feel for wild places and history. As an African American growing up in Baltimore, Maryland, Gantt-Wright never visited a national park when she was a child because it wasn't something people from her neighborhood did.



Although the Park Service is adding more diverse sites, such as Kaloko-Honokohau, only a small number of visitors are people of color.



"We had a little hill down the street, and this was our idea of wildness," she says. "I didn't come to work at NPCA until I was 40 years old. Although I had heard about Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon, I didn't think they were real or open to me. Now I try to tell everyone I know that national parks are available for them as they are for anyone else."

She says a keen sense of parks begins with personal contact. "If people aren't able to see others like themselves in parks, it is more challenging to see parks as friendly places that give them either solace or an opportunity to find meaningful employment."

■ **Add more parks and cultural sites that reflect a wider range of ethnic interests. In addition, sensitize white visitors to important cultural touchstones and achievements of others in their community.**

Gantt-Wright says strides have been made. Brochures and web sites for several parks are now bi-, tri-, or quadrilingual. Recent legislation designed to celebrate the Underground Railroad established a network of sites scattered across the country that played a role in the effort to aid enslaved Africans to freedom. The Park Service has also established cooperative arrangements, such as recruiting American Indian guides and managers to help oversee parks that lie inside the boundaries of Indian reservations.

Working with Congress to build a true multicultural system, the Park Service has added such sites as Chamizal

National Memorial, which marks the peaceful settlement of a 99-year boundary dispute with Mexico; the Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park, which preserves Hawaiian settlements that existed before the arrival of Europeans; Chaco Culture National Historical Park, which highlights pre-Columbian Pueblo culture; Manzanar National Historic Site, one of ten relocation camps used to hold Japanese-Americans during World War II; Cape Krusenstern National Monument, which features archaeological sites of Eskimo communities dating back 4,000 years; Golden Spike National Historic Site, which marks the role of Chinese immigrants in completing the transcontinental railroad; and the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site, which honors Bethune's leadership in the black women's rights movement.

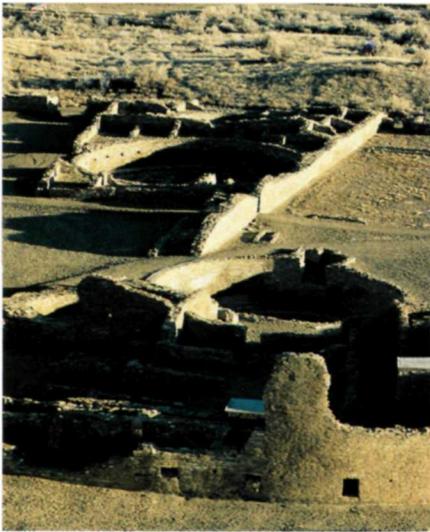
Critics have accused the Park Service of engaging in token rhetoric and commemorating sites only set against a backdrop of white culture. The symbolism of places like Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, they say, rings hollow. The park system must instead transcend its traditional role as museum curator protecting pieces of antiquity, history, and ecological processes deemed important to white people and take on a more organic function.

Indeed, it's not enough merely to set aside parks for the sake of political correctness. Gantt-Wright notes that even after the addition of the Rev. Martin Lu-

FRED HIRSCHMANN



WILLARD CLAY



FRED HIRSCHMANN

**Cape Krusenstern NM in Alaska (top left), Chaco Culture NHP in New Mexico (bottom left), and Manzanar NHS in California (above).**

ther King, Jr.'s birthplace and gravesite to the system, the majority of current visitors are not African American, but white. The same holds true for the people who pass through the entrance gate at Mesa Verde National Park, Canyon de Chelly National Monument, and Coronado National Memorial. Still, she believes it is important to be patient. Building diversity from one generation to the next is a process through which investments today will produce dividends tomorrow.

Trying to convince different cultures to adopt the 20th-century attitude toward parks is wrong and doomed to fail, says Jack Shu, a cultural diversity expert with the California state parks department. Quotas are not the answer if the goal is engendering support for national parks among the largest possible population.

"There are some people who believe the answer to promoting diversity is to bring more, quote, 'minorities' into parks like Yellowstone," Shu says. "To the extent that local communities find their own way to enjoy Yellowstone, that's good. But instead of expecting people from far away to travel to northwest Wyoming, which isn't likely, I believe it is better to bring Yellowstone to them."

What Shu has in mind isn't radical. It involves small steps. For example, in the past the Park Service has prepared "discovery chests" filled with objects from various parks that are sent on loan to classrooms around the country. Shu says that kids and others in the community would develop a more personal connection with a given park—and thus become stronger advocates for its protection—if the discovery chest were accompanied by a park ranger.

Shu isn't naive about the monetary costs of such a program, but he says the alternative of doing nothing means that future generations will suffer a disconnection. The ideology driving the National Park Service needs to shift from being "park-centric," in which surrounding communities respond to a rigid definition of what a park is, to "community-centric," in which the park remains committed to its purpose but allows itself to be flexible in meeting community needs.

What if certain parks located near Indian reservations were made available more often for Indian youth embarking upon vision quests? What if weekend excursions to parks were promoted as ways to enhance family values? What if the leaders of teen centers in the inner cities, confronting problems such as drug use and teen pregnancy, had access to parks for teaching young people self-reliance and building their self-esteem? What if local Park Service cultural sites became fulcrums for neighborhood empowerment?

Based on personal experience, Shu says the investments can be minimal but long lasting. A few years ago in southern California he helped organize an annual pilgrimage of Japanese-American senior citizens into the desert to witness the bloom of natural poppies. A similar event had been a cultural tradition in their homeland, but by giving the experience an American context, the event gave the pilgrims a reason to care about parks.

"Frederick Law Olmsted pioneered the idea of parks being antidotes for the social ills of society," Shu says.

"Broadening the way that society thinks about parks and making them more accessible to a wider range of people doesn't mean you retreat from the principles upon which the parks were created. If anything, making parks more relevant only makes them more sacred."

Celebrating diversity means more than promoting racial diversity, says Laura Loomis, an NPCA policy specialist based in Washington, D.C. It also means broadening the ideas of what a park is. Remembering the 20th century, future Congresses may want to honor a sports stadium like Chicago's Wrigley Field, the skyscraper architects who designed modern cities, the origins of the Internet, the studio of a poet, or maybe even a back lot set in Hollywood.

Rivera says there is no prerequisite for falling in love with the idea of the park system, which is as relevant today as it was in 1872, when Yellowstone was placed on the map. "We need to inculcate everyone with a sense of the grandeur and splendor that is America," he said.

"When you talk about the crown jewels and cultural landmarks, there isn't any American, regardless of his or her background, who upon seeing them for the first time, isn't overwhelmed. Our job is to ensure that when they look at the system, they see a part of themselves reflected back."

TODD WILKINSON lives in Bozeman, Montana, and is a regular contributor to National Parks.

# Combating THE Aliens

The Park Service plans to beef up its response in preventing new introductions of alien plants and controlling the spread of existing infestations that now extend to more than 1.5 million acres.

BY CHRIS FORDNEY



LAURENCE PARENT

**T**WO YEARS AGO, Mel Poole noticed an unfamiliar grass along the roadsides in Catoctin Mountain Park in Maryland as he made his first rounds as the new superintendent. Now he sees the grass everywhere in the 6,000-acre national park, which encompasses the presidential retreat at Camp David, and he's researching the best way to fight it. In the meantime, he says, "It's eating us alive."

The plant is *Microstegium vinenum*, also called Japanese stiltgrass or bamboo grass, and it can quickly form dense stands that crowd out native plants. First discovered in Tennessee in 1919, *Microstegium vinenum* is believed to have entered the United States as packing material for Chinese porcelain. Now it's found in every state east of the Mississippi River.

*Microstegium vinenum* is one of 4,000 nonnative plant species that are spreading throughout the country, with about 350 considered threats to native

species. The Nature Conservancy estimates that in the 20th century, just 79 introduced plant and animal species have cost the U.S. economy \$97 billion in losses to such industries as forestry, ranching, fisheries, tourism, and utilities, which have spent tens of millions of dollars removing zebra mussels from water intakes. A recent study by Cornell University set the damage figure from all 30,000 nonnative plant and animal species at \$123 billion a year. Invasive species have set off wide-ranging changes in fragile ecosystems, causing a form of biological pollution that is believed to be a factor in the decline of 42 percent of threatened and endangered species. Perhaps the most famous loss so far has been the American chestnut, which once made up a quarter of the trees in eastern deciduous forests before it was all but wiped out by a fungal chestnut blight accidentally introduced from China in the early 1900s.

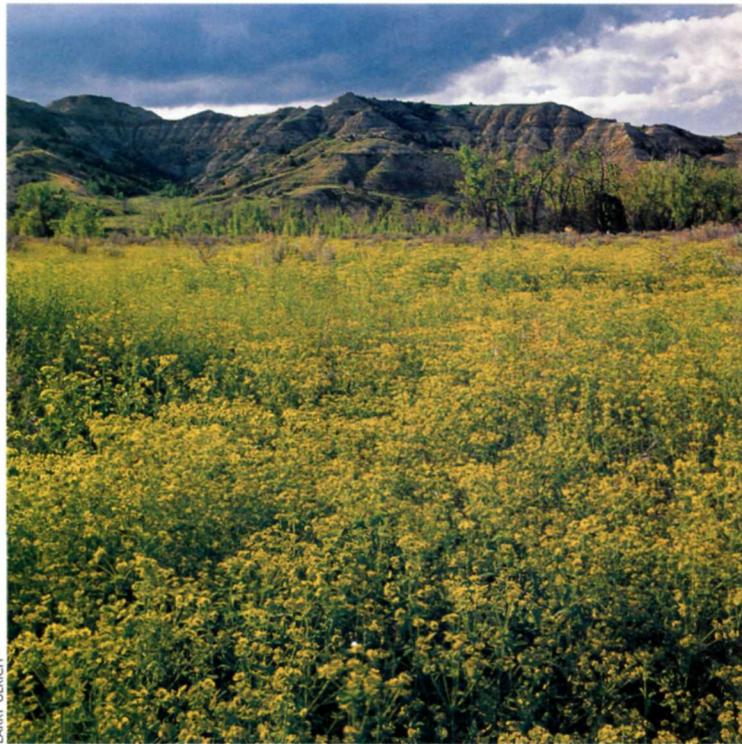
Nonnative species have been recognized as a problem for decades, but

only recently has the issue begun to receive top-level attention from the federal government under growing pressure from scientists, conservationists, and land managers. "In the past it...was much easier for an individual, a state, a federal agency to dismiss this invasion as someone else's problem," Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt told a symposium in Denver in April 1998. "We can no longer turn our backs on it."

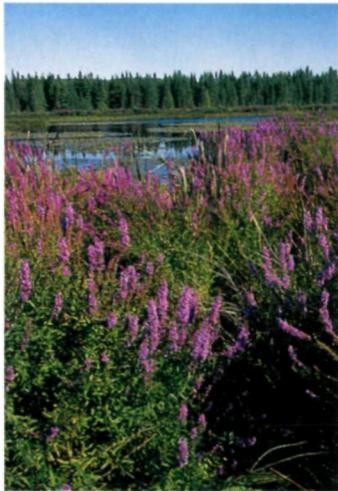
In February 1999, President Clinton issued an executive order creating the Invasive Species Council, an interagency task force intended to pull together the efforts of federal agencies dealing with the problem. The council will help unite "a highly fragmented governmental response so far," says Peter Jenkins, an environmental consultant who has advised Congress on the issue. The key agency, he said, is the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the Department of Agriculture, which inspects a tiny fraction of imported goods, the main entry route for nonna-



JOHN ELK III



LARRY ULRICH



ERWIN & PEGGY BAUER



CONNIE TOOPIS

**The estimated 30,000 nonnative plant and animal species in the country cause approximately \$123 billion of damage yearly. Nonnative examples include: kahili ginger (opposite page), the tamarisk shrub (top left), purple loosestrife (far left), the melaleuca tree (left), and leafy spurge (above).**

tive species. With random inspections and the administration's emphasis on free trade, "there's every reason to believe more bad stuff is going to come in," Jenkins says.

The fight against invasive species is part of a National Park Service (NPS) plan to double its natural resources protection, starting with a proposed \$20 million increase in fiscal year 2000. Announced in August 1999, the proposal includes \$2.7 million for several rapid response teams to attack outbreaks of invasive weeds before they get out of control. The teams can serve parks that don't have the resources to deal with the problem. Another \$1.3 million will be used to develop biological technical assistance in other resource management areas for park staffs.

These measures, while welcomed as an important step, are not expected to make much of a dent in infestations that now extend into more than 1.5 million acres of the parks and are spreading into 4,600 acres of federal

land each day. That's an area the size of Delaware each year.

"This will help," says Bob Krumenaker, deputy assistant director of the Northeast Region of the Park Service. "I don't think it will make a tremendous difference... Unless we get a big influx of people and money, the best we can do is a holding action."

The battle against invasive species is "hamstrung by an abject lack of money," says Dave Simon, NPCA's Southwest regional director and head of NPCA's biodiversity program, which will implement strategies to protect national park biodiversity by addressing such issues as invasive species management. "It's like telling the Park Service to go empty the ocean with a thimble."

The rapid response teams will be modeled after one based at Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Nevada and Arizona, where it has attacked tamarisk, also known as saltcedar, a shrub that has taken over many rare spring habitats and river and stream banks in the

desert. Brought to the United States from Asia in the early 1800s as an ornamental plant and stream bank stabilizer, saltcedar can be found west of the Great Plains from Montana to northwestern Mexico. Tamarisk sucks up the little water in arid environments and has been blamed for changing or eliminating the habitat of such rare species as yellow-billed cuckoos, desert pupfish, and elf owls as well as some salamanders and butterflies.

The ten-member Lake Mead team uses a variety of methods, including fire, herbicides, and chainsaws, and has made some headway against tamarisk and other plants with 104 projects in 16 parks over three years, said Jennifer Haley, vegetation management branch chief at Lake Mead. "The scope of this problem is just becoming clear to us," Haley says. "It's huge. I don't think you can underestimate it."

The team's tactics are based on the principles of "integrated pest management" (IPM), which took form in the

## ALIENS Continued

late 1970s. The idea is to take advantage of the latest research into the ecology and biology of a pest and attack it with a variety of tools, using herbicides as the weapon of last resort. Goats and insects, for example, might be used against leafy spurge, which has been a



NPS/TED RODRIGUES

**The feral pig (above) and the banana poka cause damage in Haleakala and Hawaii Volcanoes national parks.**

plague on cattle ranches in the West, while prescribed fires could be adjusted to wipe out a weed during a vulnerable point in its cycle. Regional IPM coordinators have been the main source of advice for park managers until now; but the coordinators deal with all kinds of pest issues—from yellow jackets to rats—and their numbers have dropped to fewer than ten because of an NPS reorganization several years ago. “The amount of time being spent on IPM at the regional level has probably decreased,” says Terry Cacek, an IPM specialist based in Fort Collins, Colorado.

The use of herbicides remains controversial, and to some critics “chemophobes” among environmentalists and within the Park Service have become another ally of invasive weeds, which can present a greater threat to the environment than the chemicals. Sometimes, “the far greater risk is to not use the chemicals,” Cacek says.

In addition to the technical advice from IPM coordinators, the Park Service has helped organize regional invasive pest plant councils to link the efforts of governments, private groups, and universities. But frequently individual su-

perintendents decide how much of their resources to devote to a problem they have viewed with varying levels of concern. Funding has also been an issue, with park units competing for “soft money” that can disappear, preventing the kind of followup that’s vital to controlling noxious weeds.

“You have to constantly monitor and



NPS/HALEAKALA NATIONAL PARK

be on the lookout for invasive species,” says Gary H. Johnston, a Park Service biologist and co-chair of the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds.

Before the new initiative was announced, the Park Service was devoting between \$2 million and \$3 million a year in soft money and discretionary funds to the problem, Johnston says. However, as part of the Natural Resources Challenge, NPS has proposed a permanent source of funding to address this problem and under its plan to beef up natural resources protection, the new funding for fiscal year 2000 is only the first step. Future proposals for additional teams and park funding to combat nonnative species are planned.

Public awareness has also been an obstacle. Education, as well as partnerships with outside groups, was a major thrust of a strategic plan for invasive species management issued by the Park Service in 1996. Many alien species ride into parks on tire treads, shoes, or boat trailers, and the typical visitor can have a hard time understanding the threat

when the invasive species appears to be just another plant in the forest.

“It’s hard to sell the fact that even though the forest is green, it’s not healthy,” says Carol DiSalvo, an IPM specialist in Washington, D.C.

Although traffic into and out of the parks has helped spread invasive species, surrounding communities have also helped contain them. Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota is working with a coalition of volunteer groups, businesses, and the state government to fight an infestation of leafy spurge, which was found in 32 acres of the park in 1970 but now covers more than 5,000 acres of the vulnerable Badlands ecosystem. In North Dakota alone, leafy spurge has caused \$23 million in losses per year for the cattle industry through lost grazing capacity. The economic toll—both in lost livestock production and associated jobs—from the deep-rooted herb in the Dakotas, Wyoming, and Montana has been estimated at \$129 million.

A promising tool against leafy spurge and other noxious weeds has been beneficial insects, although they must be carefully screened to make sure they don’t also attack a native or threatened species. Leafy spurge has been found on about half of the 1,347 acres of Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming, and the park has made headway with beetles that devour the plant. “We have millions of bugs on leafy spurge,” says Todd Suess, the park’s chief of resource management. Even a small park like Devils Tower is dealing with 56 alien plants, of which 12 are noxious weeds, he says.

Partnerships have been vital in controlling other invasives. In Hawaii, a major public awareness campaign was launched when the staff at Haleakala National Park saw that miconia, the “green cancer of Tahiti,” had appeared on the island of Maui. Many reports were called in by people who had seen articles in the local press. Knowing that miconia, native to tropical forests in Central America, has brought nearly half of the 107 native plant species on Tahiti to the brink of extinction, a coalition of federal and state agencies and private volunteers has removed the

plant from tens of thousands of acres on Maui. Aerial spot spraying has been used against thick stands of the green and purple plant, and long-term control programs are being developed.

"We're cautiously optimistic that we can control it on Maui," says Lloyd Loope, a research scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey. But now miconia is becoming a problem on the much larger island of Hawaii, he says.

All the Hawaiian Islands, in fact, face special problems. The islands saw about one new plant species every 35,000 years before the arrival of Polynesians in the 4th century. Over the past 200 years the islands have been invaded by an average of 40 species per year, a total of more than 8,000 introduced species, of which about 90 are considered threats to the archipelago's ecosystems. Many of these, including strawberry guava, banana poka, and kahili ginger, are spread by another alien species, the feral pig, which is an efficient gardener for the invasives by rooting in the soil and leaving behind seed-filled droppings. Haleakala and Hawaii Volcanoes national parks face an onslaught of invasive species, particularly in tropical rainforests.

"These ecosystems have developed in isolation for thousands of years," says Brian Huse, NPCA Pacific regional director. "Then you introduce a new species which in many cases can outcompete the endemic species and drive them to extinction."

A regional partnership in Florida has been key to fighting melaleuca, a hardy tree that reached the East Coast from its native Australia and Papua New Guinea in 1906. A threat to the Everglades, melaleuca has been beaten back through the efforts of the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council. Its South Florida Melaleuca Management Plan is considered a national model, particularly in its careful spending and avoidance of duplication of effort among several agencies.

Some parks have developed their own sophisticated programs for dealing with invasive species. Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee and North Carolina, for instance, has been fighting kudzu for decades, ever since the job was a sec-

ondary duty for firefighters. "When things were slow, they'd go out and hit a lick on kudzu," says Kristine Johnson, the park's supervisory natural resources specialist. In the early 1980s, the park launched an exotic management program that now keeps track of 30 species that present a threat there. The problem is "nothing new," Johnson said. "It's just that people are having to face up to it." Cataloguing invasive species is an important part of the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory at Great Smoky Mountains National Park currently under way.

Some of the new money going into invasive species management will survey invasive species in the parks, but officials say what's going on outside the parks will be as important. While parks devote scarce resources to fighting a plant such as purple loosestrife, for example, it's still available in some nurseries and is even planted in some road-

### How You Can Help

Visitors to national parks are an important part of the fight to control invasive plant species. Seeds often hitch rides into natural areas on hiking boots, car tires, and boat trailers.

The first step is to become informed. The National Park Service has a web site that includes information about invasive species management, as well as links to other related sites, at <http://www1.nature.nps.gov/ww/>.

Here are a few tips to help stop the spread of invasive species:

- ▲ when hiking or visiting the parks, take special care to avoid disturbing natural areas;
- ▲ use only native or noninvasive ornamental plants in landscaping, and encourage nurseries to do the same;
- ▲ make sure that any plants you order by mail are not an alien or invasive species in your state; <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/>;
- ▲ clean hiking boots and camping gear before leaving on a trip to a national park, and do the same before returning home;
- ▲ remove any plants from boats and their trailers before moving to another body of water;
- ▲ don't bring any plants from abroad into the United States;
- ▲ participate in volunteer efforts to fight invasive species; and
- ▲ spread the word to others about the problem of invasive species.

side beautification projects because it's an attractive plant.

Brought to the United States from Europe in the early 1800s, purple loosestrife now grows wild in wetlands in 42 states, often choking out half of the native plants and in some cases overwhelming a marsh or stream bank and eliminating native habitats. Half the states have prohibited its sale.

Even the nation's capital isn't immune to the scourge of invasive plants. English ivy, a common garden ground cover, is creating a huge headache for parks in the National Capital Region, spreading out of yards adjacent to Rock Creek Park in Washington, D.C. The fast-growing vine, one of 50 invasive plants in the capital region, has large leaves that block light from reaching the soil and prevent native seeds from germinating. "It's just trashing that park," says Jil Swearingen, a Park Service entomologist and IPM coordinator.

One obstacle in the fight against English ivy has been the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service, which still dispenses advice on how to grow the vine and has been reluctant to recognize it as a pest, Swearingen says. Ellen Nibali, a horticultural consultant with the extension service, said her agency is aware of the dangers of invasive species, but feels that English ivy is safe as long as it isn't planted next to a wild area where it can escape. She acknowledged that her state's agencies have sometimes been agents in the spread of invasives, including road crews who were planting Russian olive trees along median strips until a few years ago. "The word has not really filtered down," she says.

Most people involved with alien species agree that current efforts to control them are the first steps in a long fight. "Exotic plants are just an awful challenge," says Wayne Millington, a Park Service IPM coordinator stationed at the University of Pennsylvania. "There is an overwhelming effort ahead of us."

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CHRIS FORDNEY lives in Winchester, Virginia, and last wrote for National Parks about a mining threat at Cumberland Gap National Historical Park.



**The California Desert Protection Act expanded and redesignated Death Valley as a national park.**



DAVID HUBENCH

CARR CLIFTON

# DEFENDING *the* DESERT

Five years after passage of the California Desert Protection Act, progress has been made in ensuring the protection of 7 million acres of desert wilderness, but more work needs to be done.

BY WENDY MITMAN CLARKE

**F**IVE YEARS AGO, President Clinton made land protection history by signing legislation that set aside more than 7 million acres of desert wilderness on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and National Park Service (NPS) lands in southeastern California. The California Desert Protection Act expanded Joshua Tree and Death Valley national monuments, redesignating them

national parks, and created a third park: Mojave National Preserve. These lands encompass volcanic lava flows, sweeping sand dunes, high mountain ranges, and unusual creatures, such as the Mojave fringe-toed lizard and threatened desert tortoise. Three desert ecosystems can be found here, as well as the lowest and one of the hottest places on Earth.

The passage of the act was the culmi-

nation of more than a decade of determination and provided unprecedented protection. Yet, it was clear that the protection act needed to be accompanied by continued activism to ensure that these special lands would remain protected in the future.

Just one year after the signing, in a clear attempt to trivialize the new desert protection, Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-Calif.) tried to convince Congress to allocate only one dollar to protect Mojave National Preserve. Although his tactic failed, his action diverted attention from resource protection efforts for more than a year.

And politicians have not been the only hindrance. A proposal to create one of the world's largest landfills near Joshua Tree National Park—fought for

that the act was a real achievement and that the desert lands are better off than they were before it was passed.

Perhaps the most significant change has been the growing understanding that deserts are not the wastelands they were imagined to be a hundred years ago, but living, breathing ecosystems that offer beauty, spiritual renewal, and a homeland for a vast collection of plants and animals. "In our culture, desert is often equated with wasteland," says Riedy. "The act raised awareness of the historic, natural, and cultural resources."

This intangible benefit translates into real results when the Park Service works with local governments and gateway communities. Many locals initially opposed the protection act, fearing it would restrict or eliminate access to the desert and destroy local businesses such as ranching and mining. That attitude has largely changed, many say because of Park Service efforts in reaching out to communities and local leaders.

At Mojave, for example, park interpreters routinely publish articles on park resources in local media, and more than 15 percent of the park's programs are offered at local schools and organizations, says Superintendent Mary Martin. "Five years ago it was very contentious," Martin says, "but they've seen the impact of people visiting from Europe and all over the country, and the local businesses and communities are taking notice."

With implementation clearly less than perfect, it's hard to challenge longtime desert activist Nobby Riedy when he emphasizes, "You don't win on a permanent basis." Riedy, now executive director of Wild Spaces, a project focused on the state's open spaces and wilderness protection, says, "Getting the legislation passed is a significant step. But it's just a step."

Nevertheless, no one disputes the fact

for "multiple uses," including mining and grazing, whereas the Park Service mission is to preserve lands "unimpaired for the use and enjoyment of future generations."

"The National Park Service has done, in some cases, a yeoman's job of making sure the practices of the BLM past management are turned around, and that the public understands we're talking about national parks," says NPCA's Pacific Regional Director Brian Huse.

Wilderness areas—where the goal is to limit the human footprint—are a good example. The protection act established nearly 4 million acres of wilderness in the three parks and mandated clear mapping and management. Though much of the mapping remains unfinished, the parks have already begun protecting wilderness areas. In Death Valley, for instance, more than 120 informal motorized routes have been restored to only foot or horseback use, says Superintendent Dick Martin. Similarly, Joshua Tree in 1996 began closing wilderness roads, in some cases installing physical barriers.

Both Death Valley and Mojave also have taken steps to rid the parks of feral burros, a species introduced by miners a century ago for use as pack animals that now taxes the fragile landscape and competes with native species for forage and water. Mojave has removed about 1,700 burros since 1997 using a live capture and adoption program, according to Mary Martin, while the Fund for Animals will place another 300 burros a year at the Black Beauty Ranch in



JOHN GERLACH/TOM STACK & ASSOC.

**Proposals for an airport near Mojave and a landfill near Joshua Tree could negatively affect the threatened desert tortoise.**

## DESERT *Continued*

Texas. Likewise, Death Valley has been engaged in burro removal for 15 years, says Dick Martin, including rounding up for adoption 500 animals on newly added land.

Burros are just one of several problems the parks inherited with the act. Two major issues during the ten-year legislative battle were grazing and mining. In both cases, existing grazing allotments and mining claims—as long-time practices on BLM-managed lands—were allowed to continue on parklands. But how to reconcile them in what was now a national park and, in some cases, wilderness areas?

In Death Valley, where about 138,500 acres are grazed under four allotments, the Park Service solution was to eliminate the two smallest (about 1,500 acres total) and is working to stop grazing on a 49,000-acre allotment.

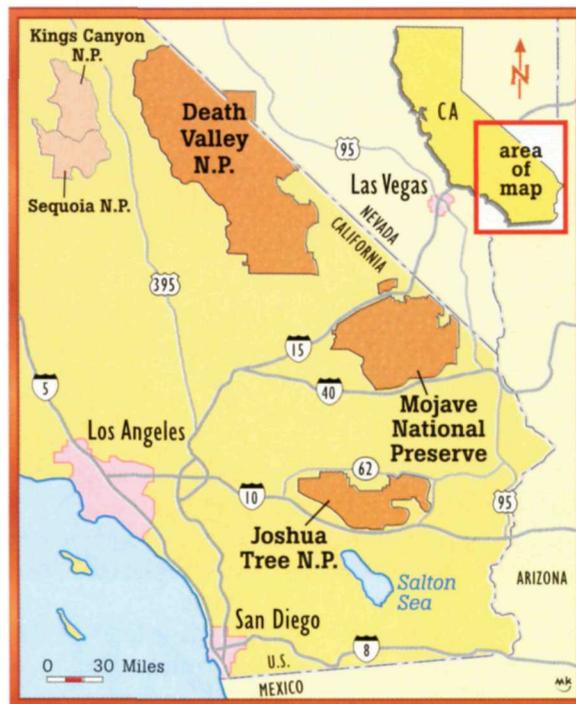
“We fenced off some springs [and] one sensitive species plant habitat,” says Dick Martin. “We think from a sensitivity standpoint there have been significant improvements to that allotment since it was added to the park.” Nevertheless, NPS has told the rancher it wants him to stop grazing cattle in the allotment. “It’s our view there’s insufficient forage there,” Martin says.

Mining can be even more contentious. Most people are surprised to learn that mining occurs in national parks, thanks to an antiquated mining law from 1872 that allows pre-existing claims to remain valid. Claimants, who may gain title to the lands for a mere \$5 an acre, have removed billions of dollars’ worth of minerals from such claims. Mojave National Preserve has more than 400 inactive, unreclaimed mining sites and about 600 claims.

The National Park Service has the responsibility to regulate mining to protect the resources, and the agency has had some successes. At the proposed Rainbow Talc Mine in Death Valley, for example, NPS required the owner to submit an operations review so the park could do an environmental assessment.

After two years, NPS determined more factors needed to be examined, and rather than submit, the miner decided to sell his claim to the park.

Because Mojave National Preserve inherited two active mines when lands were transferred from BLM, the Park Service permitted the mines to continue as long as the operations complied with NPS regulations. But because repeated attempts to bring the Cima Cinder Mine into compliance failed, NPCA exerted pressure on the Park Service to fully regulate the mine. The Park Service



subsequently shut down the mine, which had been operating since the 1940s in an area that was part of a National Natural Landmark.

Another site, the Molycorp Mountain Pass Mine, is located outside of the park, but wastewater from the site has repeatedly leaked heavy metals and radioactive waste onto desert tortoise habitat in the park. NPS is working with various agencies to map the extent of the pollution and clean it up.

To aid with the overwhelming task of identifying the claims within the preserve, Mojave has hired two mineral examiners as the preserve’s mining “validity team.”

In spite of these signs of progress, many challenges remain. Perhaps the most profound threat to the parks exists

not within them but close by. Threats take many forms, whether from a proposed airport for Las Vegas just ten miles from Mojave’s border, from one of the world’s largest landfills proposed next to Joshua Tree, or from encroaching development and its attendant golf courses and lawns that require the same precious water that feeds the desert’s springs and aquifers.

“It’s becoming one of the most serious concerns—development along the park boundary,” says Joshua Tree Superintendent Ernie Quintana. “We used to be removed from the urban influences. Planned communities and other developments are coming closer and closer to the park boundaries.”

With Los Angeles and Las Vegas two of the fastest growing areas in the country, the deserts will continue to be squeezed from both sides.

A good example is the proposed airport for Las Vegas. Mary Martin says the airport would create enormous light and noise pollution in the park and encourage private developers to buy every bit of land nearby, as well as private land within the park itself. Last summer, NPCA testified before a House subcommittee against a bill that would allow BLM to transfer some of its land to Clark County, Nevada, for the airport—despite the Park Service’s contentions that the airport will drastically affect Mojave.

Perhaps the most egregious example of this conflict between agencies is at Joshua Tree. A company has proposed building the Eagle Mountain Landfill to reclaim an area damaged by previous iron mining. The dump would be bordered on three sides by Joshua Tree and would be about a quarter-mile deep and as big as 1,500 football fields. Park management is staunchly opposed to the landfill, and NPCA has been fighting it in court. But the developer has received a helping hand from BLM, which agreed to exchange 3,217 acres of desert canyon lands, to make the landfill big enough to be economically viable. Additionally, BLM has given the company rights-of-way to carry gar-

# Celebrating a Landmark: Five Years Later

To mark the five-year anniversary of the passage of the California Desert Protection Act, NPCA released *Defending the Desert*, a report that reviews in detail each park's achievements and challenges.

Overall, the report says, the lands placed under National Park Service (NPS) management have benefited from the protection, yet the desert parks continue to struggle for sufficient funding and face complex management challenges.

"While funding has increased at all three parks," the report states, "they still lack the resources they need to fully meet basic park functions, including public education, restoration of damaged areas, and research to develop a funda-

mental understanding of their natural and cultural resources."

Some of the management challenges facing the parks include:

- ▲ proximity to two of the fastest-growing regions in the country: southern California and Las Vegas;
- ▲ increasing demand for recreational opportunities; and
- ▲ a changing demographic that may require improving accessibility and relevance to the American public.

The report outlines NPCA's priorities for the next five years, which will include:

- ▲ fighting development projects such as the Eagle Mountain landfill and the Ivanpah airport;

- ▲ regulating grazing and eliminating feral burros;
- ▲ protecting park water supplies;
- ▲ improving the working relationship between the Bureau of Land Management and NPS to strengthen desert protection;
- ▲ fighting mining developments that undermine park protection; and
- ▲ encouraging public involvement to maintain the integrity of the protection act.

The report can be viewed on NPCA's web site at [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org), or a copy can be requested through the member services department, 1-800-628-7275, extension 213.

CARR CLIFTON

bage by train through public lands and critical desert tortoise habitat.

"It's clearly a situation where we have agencies at odds with each other, partly because of their mandate and partly because of the bigger problem with the Department of Interior," says Huse. "Clearly leadership is not coming from the Department of Interior so these issues can be resolved."

Though its mandate includes resource protection, BLM also allows "consumptive uses" such as mining, hunting, grazing, and logging on the 264 million acres it controls, mostly in the West. The Park Service, on the other hand, is primarily concerned with resource protection. So though the two agencies fall under the same boss—the Interior Department—they have wrestled over conflicting missions for decades, and the desert protection act did not put an end to that fight.

And BLM and NPS are not the only federal agencies at odds. Recently, the Park Service refused to support a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposal designed to protect two endangered plants at Death Valley National Park by banning sandboarding and horseback riding on the dunes.

Even though Superintendent

Dick Martin believes "the plants are wonderfully well protected under the current use levels," NPCA maintains that the park should err on the side of resource protection until more is known instead of waiting until more plants are lost.

Although the desert protection act capped more than 30 years of work on

the part of volunteers, legislators, and conservationists, no one would disagree that more could be done. But no one would say either that this monumental effort was not worth it. The desert, after all, is a land that contains Joshua trees, technically giant lilies, windswept sand dunes that stand 700 feet high, groves of bristlecone pines that were alive before the Roman Empire fell, and more than 1,200 species of plants.

Edward Abbey, a naturalist who spent a great many years in the desert, described the lands this way: "Here you may find the elemental freedom to breathe deep of unpoisoned air, to experiment with solitude and stillness, to gaze through a hundred miles of untrammelled atmosphere...to make the discovery of self in its proud sufficiency which is not isolation but an irreplaceable part of the mystery of the whole."

The California Desert Protection Act was a giant step toward saving these special places, but many steps remain to ensure their protection in perpetuity.

WENDY MITMAN CLARKE lives in Maryland and is a frequent contributor to National Parks. She last wrote about restoration efforts at Ellis Island.



FRED HIRSCHMANN

**Sandboarding threatens the native evening primrose at Death Valley National Park.**



# Vacations for Kids

The National Park System offers some great destinations for children traveling with adults.

BY JIM PATERSON

**E**VER SINCE THE AUTOMOBILE gave our society greater mobility, the national parks have been a popular destination for family vacations. Some of the activities have changed in the parks—large bonfires are no longer encouraged as a source of entertainment, and bears are not purposely drawn to park garbage dumps for a visitor's viewing pleasure—but much has remained comfortingly familiar.

The fantastic dioramas that depict life in the park, animal and otherwise, the spectacular views of river-worn and weather-shaped rock forms, and the ancient fossils and life-styles of people long gone are still enjoyed by millions of visitors each year.

But the parks also offer a new focus for today's family visitor: the Junior Ranger program. This program is designed to make the park visit a learning experience for both children and the adults who accompany them. The program encourages an appreciation of the parks by allowing youngsters to earn a badge and certificate if they successfully complete a series of questions by absorbing information from interpretive talks and displays and completing a series of activities, such as viewing landmarks and studying plants and animals.

"This is the next generation of park supporters," says Will Morris, chief of interpretation at Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado. "If we want to preserve our national parks, we've got to

JIM PATERSON is a writer and illustrator who lives in Olney, Maryland.

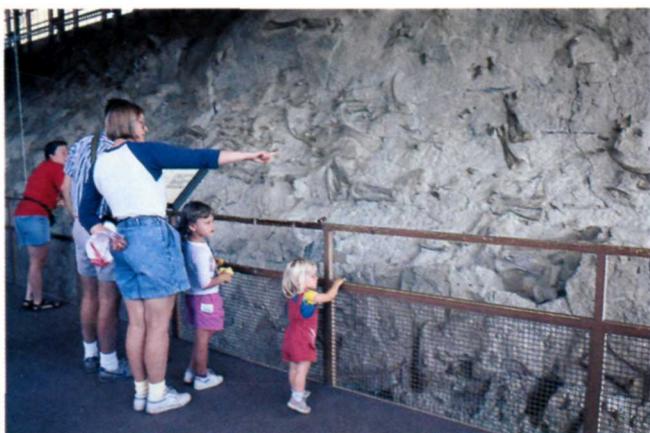
think about the people who will protect them down the road."

Many parks also offer special talks, movies, hikes, and educational materials about specific themes with children as the targeted audience.

Classroom-based park programs that now reach 4 million students make staff aware of young visitors and better prepared to offer them special programs. And the traditional campfire talk by rangers is something children continue to enjoy.

"A lot of us have a real attachment to these talks, for the same reasons we're attached to the parks," says Morris. "In an age of Powerpoint presentations, glitzy media, and MTV, the park is a place where you can see the real stuff, and there is an interaction between people and a place. That's important."

As you map out a vacation this season, be sure to keep the younger members of the group in mind. Here is a series of parks that could be toured as part of a ten-day to two-week vacation. Both Arches and Mesa Verde national parks are part of the Grand Circle, the largest concentration in the world of national parks, monuments, and other types of park sites. The 900-mile loop located primarily in northern Arizona,



A family at Dinosaur National Monument's quarry building, and a close-up (right) of some of the bones.

southern Utah, and southwestern Colorado includes seven national parks, eight national monuments, one national recreation area, an American Indian tribal park, and a number of national forests and state parks. Be sure to find out about these other sites as time allows.

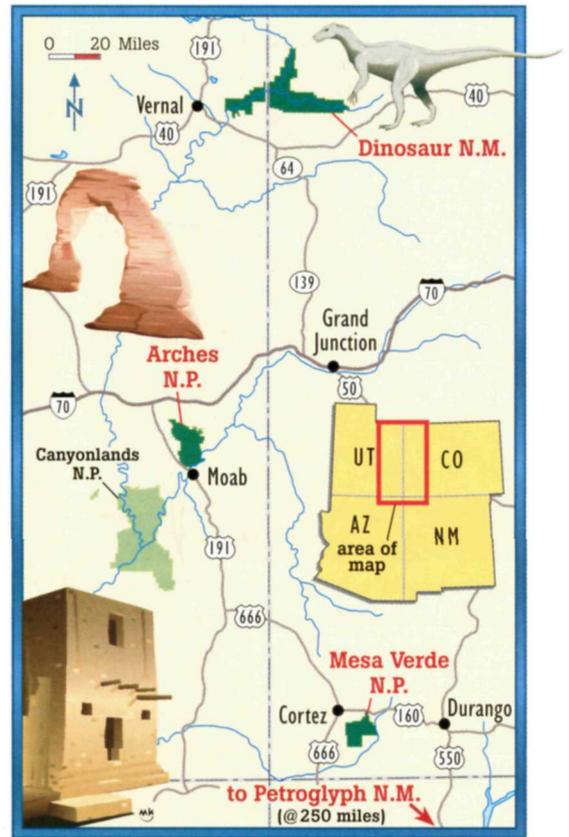
## Dinosaur National Monument

Its name alone is enough to attract youngsters, and its world-class collection of dinosaur bones will not disappoint those who choose to visit. Dinosaur National Monument, which spans the Utah and Colorado border, has only one spot where visitors can see bones—Dinosaur Quarry—but it is one of the best places in the world to see them.

At the quarry building, visitors can enjoy displays, twice-daily interpretive programs for children, and a bookstore. But the highlight is the quarry building



WILLARD CLAY; MAP, MATT KANIA



wall through which you can see some of the site's 1,500 bones in their natural setting. The quarry was the reason for the park's designation as a national monument in 1915, about six years after paleontologist Earl Douglas discovered the bones of the huge reptiles here. The beautiful nearby canyons of the Green and Yampa rivers were added to the original park in 1938.

Elsewhere in the park, visitors also can see Indian rock art and historic cabins from early European settlers, along with interesting rock formations, unique plant and animal life, and beautiful and dramatic canyons and rivers.

Exploration of the quarry is covered in the most challenging segment of a three-part Junior Ranger program, which also includes sections on people and ecosystems and can take nearly two days to complete. Ranger status also is awarded to children who complete just one of the exploration routes, and a simpler program is in the works.

Visitors are also directed to the Tour of the Tilted Rocks, an auto tour running from just east of the quarry to the historic Josie Morris cabin, where they can learn about the owner and her outlaw family. The route also passes Indian

rock art and the entrance to the two-mile Desert Voices Trail, which highlights the park's biodiversity and features signs by kids for kids.

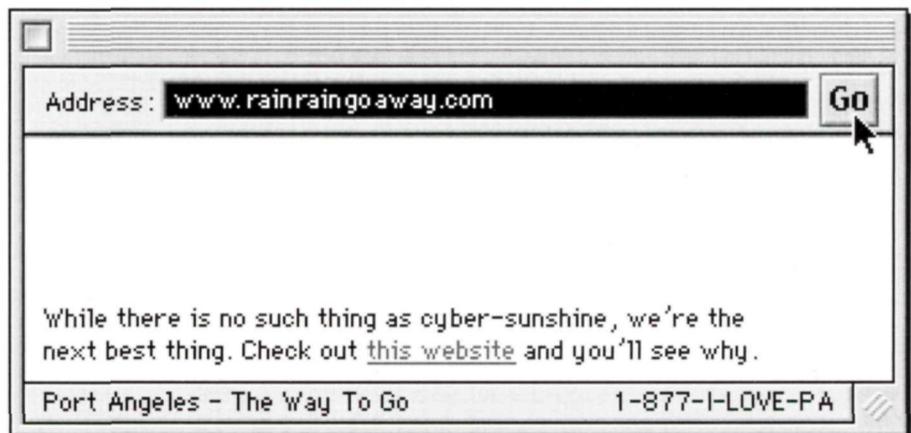
Of the many trails, the Hog and Box canyons trails (each less than a mile) near the Morris cabin and the Cold Desert and Plug Hat trails (0.25 miles each) near the monument entrance are recommended for children. Park officials like to say the best way to see the desert at the park is by boat, on a trip along the Yampa or Green rivers. Children should be about age eight and able to swim.

The park offers two developed and

about four primitive campgrounds on a first-come, first-served basis, with openings most of the year except for holidays. The greatest selection of motels is in Vernal, Utah. Others are available in Rangley and Craig, Colorado. Park officials recommend calling in advance for motel reservations. For more information, contact the park at 4545 E. Highway 40, Dinosaur, CO 81610, 970-374-3000, or [www.nps.gov/dino](http://www.nps.gov/dino).

### Arches National Park

Arches is another popular spot for children. "Here you can go stand under an





arch. You can pick up a piece of sandstone and watch it crumble. You can get involved in the geology of this place. And kids just have fun here," says Diane Allen, chief of interpretation at the park.

Extraordinary products of erosion, the arches and spectacular windows, pinnacles, and pedestals were what first drew attention to this park. It became a national monument in 1929 and was redesignated a national park in 1971.

The most popular stop is Sand Dune Arch, which is reminiscent of a beach. The walk is a comfortable 0.3 miles but can be extended to about 1.5 miles by visiting Broken Arch.

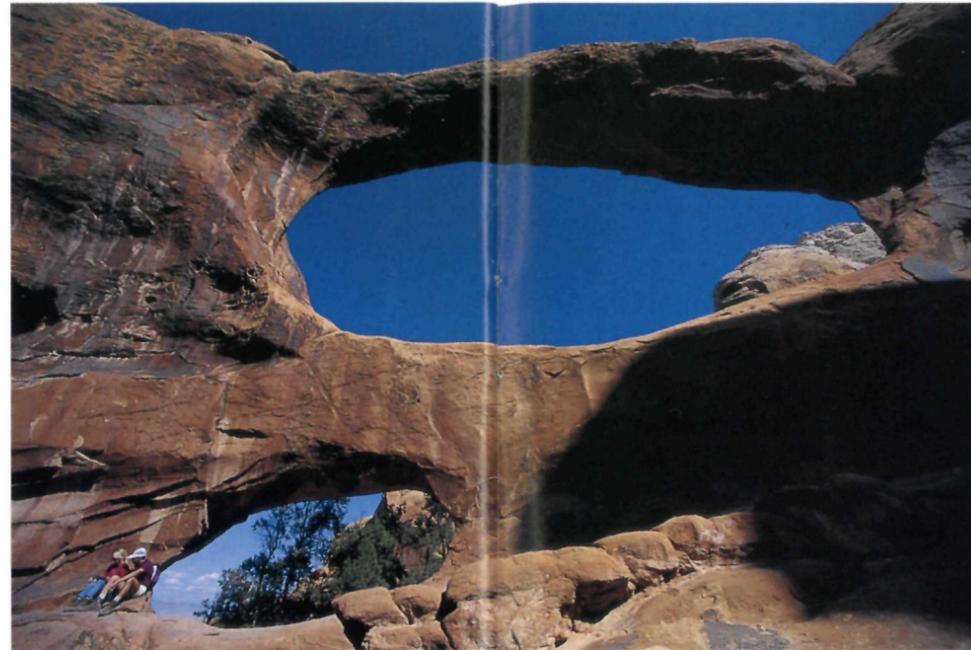
Another popular spot is the two- to three-hour guided Fiery Furnace walk, just south of Sand Dune Arch, where hikers must squeeze through narrow cracks and along ledges. Allen also recommends the 0.3-mile Balanced Rock Trail and the Windows (one mile) and Double Arch (0.5 miles round-trip) walks. A short, self-guided desert nature

trail can be found near the visitor center in the southern end of the park. A Junior Ranger program is available for children ages six to 12.

Devil's Garden, the park's only campground, is located about 18 miles from the park entrance and fills daily, often by 9 a.m. Sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Group camping is available. If camping is not an option, visitors can find motels in Moab, five miles south of the park's entrance. For more information, contact the park at P.O. Box 907, Moab, UT 84532, 435-259-8161, or [www.nps.gov/arch](http://www.nps.gov/arch).

### Mesa Verde National Park

This park is known best for its cliff dwellings and other Native American ruins. Mesa Verde National Park is the largest archaeological preserve in the United States and contains the greatest number of cliff dwellings ever found. The park's dwellings trace life in the area from A.D. 550 to 1250.



The park also contains pithouses, a type of dwelling that precedes the cliff dwellings.

In addition to the ruins, children enjoy the park's unusual topography, where "desert turns to mountains." Park officials recommend two hikes to view the topography, both of which begin in the Moorfield Campground at the north end of the park. On the seven-mile (you can do less) Prater Ridge Trail, youngsters can see striking vistas, and along the 1.5-mile, nearly level Knife Edge Trail nearby, hikers may spot hummingbirds, peregrine falcons, or a golden eagle. On a good day from some lookouts, visitors can see for distances of 100 miles.

At the southern end of the park (a 45-minute ride from its entrance), visitors can find three of its best-known cliff dwellings: Spruce Tree House, Cliff Palace, and Balcony House. Balcony House and Cliff Palace can be seen only on guided tours for a nominal fee. Park officials note that the tours are sometimes strenuous and involve climbing ladders and steps. Spruce Tree House can be reached by way of a trail that descends 100 feet over the course of a quarter-mile. This same trail must be ascended on the way out. Morris says children enjoy Balcony House, where they can climb up a 30-foot ladder, crawl through a tunnel, and ascend a cliff face using a metal chain.

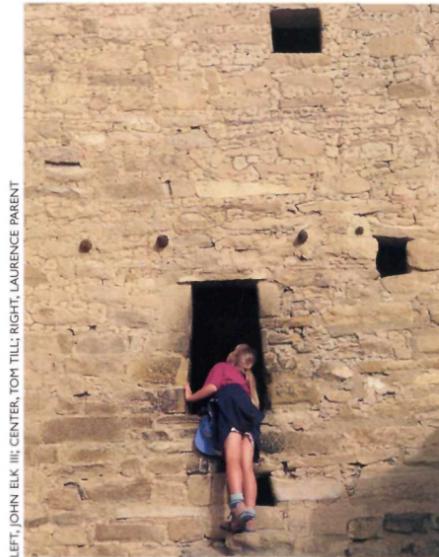
Spruce Tree House has a restored kiva (an underground room), which people can climb into using a ladder. The nearby Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum offers dioramas that interpret the lives of the early residents. Talks just for children are held here twice a day during the summer.

A Junior Ranger program focuses on the people who lived in the cliffs, and a visit to the museum is a must to complete the questions. Ranger talks are scheduled for every evening at the Morefield Campground during the summer.

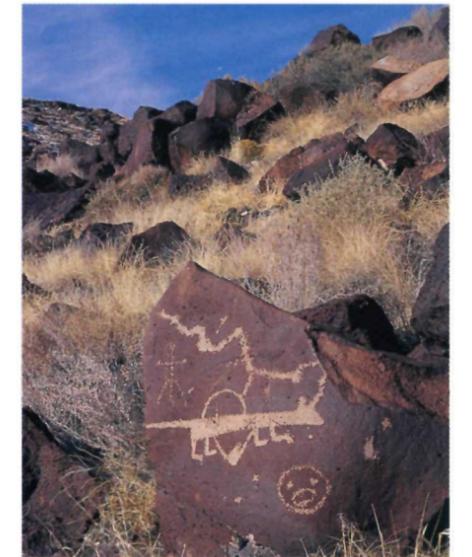
The 400-site Morefield Campground is open from late April until mid-October, and sites are usually available. Reservations for the park's Far View Lodge should be made in advance. Other accommodations are available in the nearby towns of Cortez, Dolores, and Mancos. Lodging also can be found in Durago, which is 36 miles east of the park. For more information, contact the park at P.O. Box 8, Mesa Verde National Park, CO 81330, 970-529-4465, or [www.nps.gov/meve](http://www.nps.gov/meve).

### Petroglyph National Monument

Children are fascinated by petroglyphs and enjoy spotting them in the rocks. One of the best places to see this aspect of American Indian and Hispanic culture is Petroglyph National Monument,



Children enjoy exploring the natural structures found at Arches (left) as well as the cliff dwellings at Mesa Verde (center) and examples of American Indian and Hispanic culture at Petroglyph.



which lies within the boundaries of the City of Albuquerque. The park, which was established as a national monument in 1990, contains more than 20,000 petroglyphs, a few of which date as far back as 1000 B.C. Most date from around A.D. 1300 to 1650.

Many of the more recent carvings portray masked and plumed ceremonial figures; the flute-playing fertility figure, Kokopelli; and images of animals such as deer, mountain lions, birds, lizards, and snakes. The images are found on the 17-mile black, basalt escarpment at the park.

Junior Ranger programs aimed at two age groups (kindergarten through first graders and second through fifth) are centered around three hikes to see the petroglyphs in the park's enclosed

Boca Negra Canyon area. Together, the hikes take about an hour. The program focuses on American Indian culture, desert creatures, and the volcanic activity that formed the black drawing board for artists long ago.

Other, more challenging trails lead hikers to one of the park's five volcanic cones, where a final burst of activity spewed the lava that formed the escarpment and into Rinconada Canyon, where visitors can see a high concentration of well-preserved petroglyphs. The park contains no lodging, but a variety of camping sites and motels can be found in the Albuquerque area.

For more information, contact the park at 6001 Unser Blvd., N.W., Albuquerque, NM 87120, 505-899-0205, or [www.nps.gov/petr](http://www.nps.gov/petr).

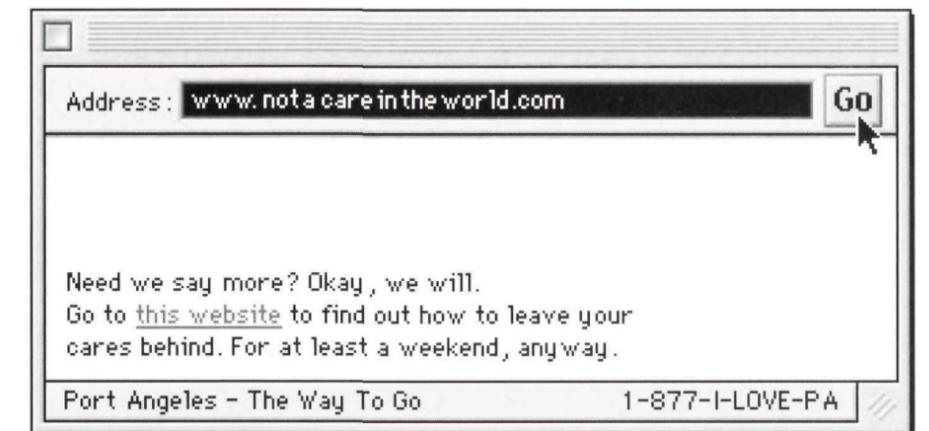
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# The Pig War

A site in the Pacific Northwest celebrates the peaceful resolution to the threat of international war.

BY WILLIAM A. UPDIKE

**W**ARS HAVE BEEN fought for many reasons: oil, economic and social philosophies, totalitarianism, racial and ethnic hatred, property, money, and a pig. Yes, a pig. The death of a pig on San Juan Island on June 15, 1859, is perhaps one of the most perplexing motivations for the threat of war. The conflict, which is interpreted by park employees at San Juan Island National Historical Park, authorized in 1966, was the final land dispute between England and the United States in the new world.

The so-called Pig War had its roots in pre-Civil War tensions between England and the upstart United States that originated in competing claims of ownership of the Oregon Country, as well as in America's imperialistic belief in the conquest of the West, first referred to as "manifest destiny" by writer John L. O'Sullivan in the 1840s.

In the mid-1800s, frustrations intensified as the English, represented by the Hudson's Bay Company, were uncomfortable with the flood of U.S. emigrants. America's belief in manifest destiny conflicted with former land claims and treaties with the English over the Oregon Country, which included the present states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, and parts of Montana, Wyoming, and the Canadian province, British Columbia. Tensions reached a fever pitch.

Then, in June of 1846, the Oregon

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



**A British and an American boat ride at anchor across from San Juan Village during the crisis.**

Lyman Cutler shot and killed a pig owned by the Hudson's Bay Company because it was rummaging through his garden.

British authorities threatened to arrest Cutler. In response, the Americans requested the defense of the U.S. military. The commander of the Department of Oregon, Brig. Gen. William S. Harney, sent a company of the 9th U.S. Infantry. The 66-man unit, which landed on the island on July 27, was led by Capt. George E. Pickett, who later achieved Civil War fame.

James Douglas, governor of the crown colony of British Columbia, sent three warships to dislodge Pickett and his men. Pickett refused to withdraw, and the escalation continued. By the end of August, 461 Americans prepared for a war against approximately 600 armed English men, about 400 of whom were trained "bluejackets"—members of the British Royal Marines—stationed on five British warships with 167 mounted guns.

Word of the confrontation reached President James Buchanan, who sent Gen. Winfield Scott, commanding general of the Army. Eventually, a pact between the countries stated that the U.S. and the British would have joint military occupation of the island. That agreement lasted until October 21, 1872, when Kaiser Wilhelm I of Germany, who had been asked to mitigate the San Juan question, set up a commission that established the boundary line through Haro Strait, making the island U.S. property.

Treaty was signed, bringing temporary peace to the region. The treaty gave the United States possession of lands in the Pacific Northwest south of the 49th parallel and "to the middle of the channel which separates the continent from Vancouver's Island; and thence southerly through the middle of the said channel, and of Fuca's straits to the Pacific Ocean." Everything to the north of the 49th parallel became English property.

Unfortunately, the semantics of the treaty left the ownership of San Juan Island unclear. Although the treaty refers to "the middle of said channel," there were two channels surrounding the island: the Rosario Strait on the eastern side and the Haro Strait on the western side. Americans claimed that the treaty meant the Haro Strait, leaving them possession of the island; the English maintained the opposite.

Once again, tensions rose and a crisis became inevitable. An unfortunate pig stepped into the fray.

On June 15, 1859, American settler

# Announcing the first National Parks Photo Contest.

**Who** The competition is open to all amateur and aspiring professional photographers except employees of the National Parks Conservation Association and their immediate families. Your entry to the contest constitutes an agreement to allow photographs to be published in **National Parks** as contest winners, along with promotional use. We also ask that if you would like to donate your photographs to NPCA for possible future use in a variety of venues, calendars, booklets, etc., please check the appropriate box in the coupon provided below and return the coupon with your entry. All photos will be credited by name with each use. If you choose not to donate your photographs, you retain all other rights to future use of your winning photographs. Full-time professional nature photographers (those whose primary income is from nature photography) are asked not to enter this contest.

**What** We are looking for striking images of any of the national parks, preserves, monuments, memorials, historic sites, seashores, or battlefield parks that are included within the 378-unit National Park System. These images may depict natural, cultural, or historic national park scenes or buildings, creatures on national parkland, or beneath the water in a national park. Please do not include photographs of pets or domestic animals. Previously published material may be entered; however, please include information describing when and where the photo appeared. Images will be judged on originality, technical excellence, composition, color, action, drama, and overall impact. We also may give greater weight to those photographs taken in parks that are considered lesser known. A list of these parks

can be found through our web site ([www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org)).

**When** All entries must be postmarked no later than July 12, 2000. Receipt of packages will not be acknowledged. Finalists only will be notified during the month of August. All properly prepared entries will be returned by November.

**Why** A grand prize of two companion, coach class airline tickets anywhere in the contiguous 48 states (some restrictions) and \$500 will be given (tickets generously donated by Weco Travel). Second prize is of a 28-200 Tamron camera lens valued at \$525 (choice of Canon, Minolta, Nikon, or Pentax mount). Third prize is a \$250 cash award; and three honorable mentions: a complete set of NPCA's eight regional guides for each. Winning photos will appear in the November/December 2000 issue of **National Parks**.

**How** A total of up to five photographs may be submitted. Entries must be either color transparencies or color prints. Please do not send digital images. Prints should not be mounted.

Each photograph must bear the photographer's name, address, phone number, and entry number (1 through 5). Repeat this information one time on a separate, single sheet of paper; include your occupation, and provide a brief description of where, when, and how the photograph was taken. Please do not send a cover letter.

All entries must be sent in one package. Place slides in a plastic slide sheet, sandwich photos between cardboard, wrap with a rubber band, and enclose in a mailing envelope. Do not use tape, slide boxes, or glass-mounted slides. Include a separate, self-addressed envelope of the proper size with sufficient postage affixed, or entries will not be returned. **National Parks** will not be responsible for entries.

**Where** Send entries to National Parks Photo Contest, 1300 19th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036.



For more information, visit NPCA's web site: [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org)



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I would like my photographs returned to me in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope.

(Entries will not be returned if a separate, self-addressed stamped envelope with the proper postage is not included.)



# Imperiled Island Fox

*A new program at Channel Islands aims to restore the natural balance of predator and prey.*

BY ELIZABETH G. DAERR

**T**he island foxes at Channel Islands National Park are being treated to a feast of chicken, frozen quail, and steak these days. According to park biologist Tim Coonan, that is the level of enticement necessary to lure these clever animals into traps for the National Park Service's new captive breeding program, which aims to reverse a 90-percent decline in the species' population over the last four years. As a result, the agency has filed a petition with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service asking the agency to list the island fox under the Endangered Species Act.

Located off the coast of Southern California, the five islands that make up this national park have for hundreds of years attracted American Indians, Spanish explorers, and westward expansionists because of their lucrative opportunities for fishing, hunting, and ranching. But years of heavy grazing combined with the introduction of nonnative animals have disrupted the natural balance of species that evolved over thousands of years in isolation. The island fox is one such casualty.

The island fox is a descendant of the larger mainland gray fox, which scientists believe haphazardly landed on the islands almost 20,000 years ago. Slightly

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



LARRY ULRICH

**The island fox population at the Channel Islands has dropped 90 percent over the last four years. Only 30 island foxes were found on San Miguel Island recently.**

larger than a domestic cat, the island fox is the largest native mammal on the islands and eats an extensive diet of insects, deer mice, birds, and fruits of various plants.

Biologists became alarmed last summer when routine monitoring found as few as 30 foxes on San Miguel Island, one of three northern islands that have severely declining populations. High mortality rates were found to be the result of an unfortunate combination. Predatory golden eagles were drawn to the islands because of an abundant food supply of feral pigs—remnants of the ranching era—and to fill a vacuum created when DDT eradicated the islands' population of bald eagles, which do not prey on island foxes. To compound the problem, years of sheep grazing have eliminated the vegetation that provides

cover for the animals, and because the foxes have not historically had natural enemies, they are naive to the danger of aerial predators.

Although golden eagle predation is the main cause of fox mortality, other factors have exacerbated the decline. Necropsies of dead foxes have found heartworm disease spreading through the population, another legacy of humans' habitation with their domestic dogs. And small litters, usually two pups per season, impede a rapid recovery.

To reverse the numerous factors working against the

foxes' perpetuation, the Channel Islands staff launched a program on San Miguel Island to capture the remaining foxes, establish new litters, and relocate the island's nonnative predators and feral pigs. The Park Service has pledged \$415,000 to fund a recovery program for the next three years, but park biologist Coonan says he envisions at least a five-year program that would cost at least \$1.5 million. Simply removing pigs from neighboring Santa Catalina Island is costing \$3 million. The park staff has also enlisted the Santa Rosa Predatory Bird Research Group to capture the eagles and move them as far away as Denver to ensure that they will not return. No plans have been designed yet to reestablish bald eagles, a step necessary, Coonan says, to restore balance to this island ecosystem. 

# Green Energy

The national parks are the centerpiece of a new program launched to showcase sustainable energy.

BY BILL RICHARDSON

**T**HE GLOBAL USE OF ENERGY—resource removal and production, electricity generation, and transportation—has a great impact on the planet. Clearly we have a tremendous challenge before us: How can we meet our nation's energy needs, while leaving the Earth a better place for generations to come? The answer lies in taking steps to improve how we use energy in all parts of our lives.

With this challenge in mind, the departments of Energy and Interior have launched a new program, "Green Energy Parks: Making the National Parks a Showcase for a Sustainable Energy Future." The program's goals are twofold: reduce the amount of energy and water used by implementing clean energy projects in our parks, and teach visitors how efficient and renewable technologies can help attain that goal.

Installing energy- and water-efficient and renewable technologies in park facilities, as well as using better insulation materials, can help to reduce the amount of energy used as well as the cost; and clean energy options can make a big difference in some of our parks' more remote locations.

Located far from a utility source, many parks use noisy diesel generators to produce the power they need. Non-polluting, renewable energy sources—such as solar, wind, and fuel cells—either alone or in hybrid systems—can be cost-effective substitutes for diesel generators.

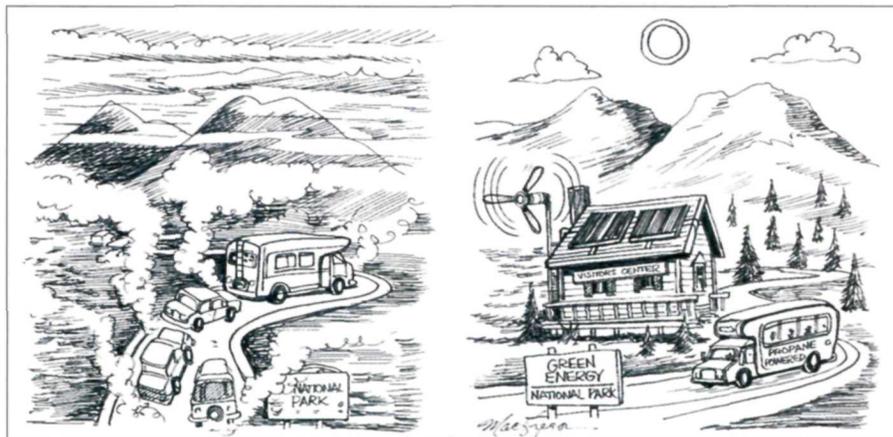
At Joshua Tree National Park and Mo-

jave National Preserve in California, for example, the Park Service recently substituted solar power for diesel generators. This substitution will significantly reduce onsite emissions and has returned one of the parks' most cherished attributes: natural silence.

In our less remote parks, vehicular traffic—from both visitors and park

riders into and around the park last summer, which translated into 43,000 fewer cars driving through the park. The new transit system is the first of its type in any national park.

Several other parks plan to use alternative fuels in vehicles. Yellowstone, for example, has tested a blend of biodiesel and regular diesel in winter vehi-



DOUGLAS MACGREGOR

personnel—contributes to air pollution problems and traffic congestion. Last year, the 378-unit National Park System recorded more than 280 million visits. Most of the people coming to the parks arrived by automobile. Using alternatively fueled vehicles and more effective and efficient transit systems can significantly reduce pollution and contribute to a better visitor experience.

One successful initiative is under way at Acadia National Park in Maine. About 3 million visitors tour Acadia each year, clogging its narrow, winding, two-lane roads with recreational vehicles and cars. A fleet of eight, 28-seat propane buses carried approximately 142,000

cles. With financial support from the Department of Energy, the park is also testing the use of cleaner, quieter electric snowmobiles as substitutes for the traditional gas models. An estimated 100,000 snowmobilers use Yellowstone during the winter months, when the amount of pollution emitted from traditional gasoline-driven machines exceeds—in a single day—the pollution generated by other vehicles during the entire summer.

Being smart about energy means not only protecting our environment but saving on energy bills. With the support of the Department of Energy, for example, the Presidio, a former military base

BILL RICHARDSON is Secretary of Energy.

that is now part of Golden Gate National Recreation Area in California, is using renewable energy technologies in building renovation and operation and has become one of the leaders in energy efficiency. The technology and system improvements at the Presidio will save taxpayers an estimated \$6 million over a ten-year period.

Although we formally launched this program only nine months ago, the Department of Energy and the National Park Service have already committed significant resources—both financial and technical—to implementing innovative, renewable, and efficient energy technologies at parks throughout the National Park System.

In 20 parks around the country, the Park Service committed \$500,000 in fiscal year 1999 to implement sustainable energy projects that range from energy efficiency improvements to installation of solar and other renewable technologies. For fiscal year 2000, the Department of Interior has committed \$2 mil-

lion to fund sustainable energy projects.

The Department of Energy provided nearly \$1 million in fiscal year 1999, which includes more than \$800,000 for nearly 60 projects related to increasing the use of alternative fuels and alternatively fueled vehicles and/or park transit projects. In addition, the Department of Energy, through its Federal Energy Management Program, provided assistance to various parks across the country to identify projects and then support their planning and implementation.

Two years ago, the Department of Energy and the National Park Service jointly sponsored a pilot project of "Energy Partnerships" along with the Alliance to Save Energy, James Madison University, and Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. Students, under the direction and guidance of a professor, conducted facility audits, developed utility tracking software, and made recommendations on appropriate facility upgrades. This year, the pilot partnership

will be expanded to complete ten audits for the National Park Service.

We will jointly work to develop a model education program showcasing a national park unit on energy issues and technologies. The program model and materials can be modified and replicated for use throughout the National Park System.

Americans love the national parks, but we need to take steps to ensure that the parks can be models of sustainability so that our children, and our children's children, can enjoy them as we do today. The Green Energy Parks concept is one that can and should be adopted and fostered by every state, county, and city park in the country, as well as parks abroad. This effort, on a global scale, will enrich the quality of life for all the world's citizens and reach far into the future for generations to come. The Green Energy Parks program is a significant and important step in this direction, and I ask you to join me in supporting these efforts. 

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BY WILLIAM A. UPDIKE



## Black Canyon Designation

►The Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument was redesignated as America's newest national park on October 21, 1999. After nearly 14 years of legislative struggles by Colorado lawmakers, President Clinton signed the enabling legislation sponsored by Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-Colo.) and Rep. Scott McInnis (R-Colo.).

"If ever there were a property in Colorado deserving of this special privilege, it would be the Black Canyon," said McInnis.

The Black Canyon, which features spectacular gorges—nearly 3,000 feet deep in one spot—that were carved out ages ago by the Gunnison River, became the 55th national park and the first since 1994.

NPCA asks that members send letters of support to

Campbell and McInnis, thanking them for their backing of the legislation. Members can send electronic letters from [www.npca.org/takeaction/alert\\_blackcanyon.html](http://www.npca.org/takeaction/alert_blackcanyon.html).

## Freeman Tilden Award Winner Announced

►Robert E. Woody, a park ranger at Cape Hatteras National Seashore, received NPCA's National Freeman Tilden Award on October 18, 1999.

Woody won the award for his work on the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Project. He developed and implemented a multimedia outreach program, titled, "Heritage Preservation and the Mission: Moving the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse," in an effort to explain all of the facets of the past summer's successful lighthouse move. The program used media outlets, public meetings, web site postings, volunteer input, and regular access to information for all interested parties.

"The lighthouse has always stirred people's emotions," said Woody. "We kept that in mind when developing the outreach program. The size of the effort to provide public information had

to match the size of the 15-year-old issues surrounding the project itself."

The efforts produced a 60-minute video documentary, more than 6,000 archival images, a web site that was added to Earthcam's Top Ten list, and a coffee table book to be published in 2000.

The Freeman Tilden Award, named for the NPS "father of interpretation," is given annually to a Park Service employee for her or his outstanding and innovative interpretive or educational program.

## New Northern Rockies Office Announced

►With Tony Jewett's acceptance as NPCA's newest regional director, the organization recently opened an office for work in the Northern Rockies region.

Jewett comes to NPCA from the Montana Wildlife Federation, the state's largest conservation organization, where he served as executive director. Previously, he worked as the executive director of the state Democratic Party and as Sen. Max Baucus' (D-Mont.) special projects coordinator.

"The parks and monuments of Wyoming, Idaho,

and Montana are some of the crown jewels of our national system," said Jewett.

"By opening this regional office, NPCA is signaling its commitment to making sure these and other national treasures are preserved for all generations. I am looking forward to realizing that goal," he added.

## Peirce Mill Restoration Begins

►As part of the "Partnership for Parks" program, a joint venture between the Georgia-Pacific Corporation and NPCA, the restoration of the last remaining mill in the District of Columbia will receive a \$48,800 boost.

Peirce Mill, which resides in Rock Creek Park, the largest urban park administered by the National Park Service, broke down in 1993 and, while still open to the public, has lost its ability to demonstrate early milling practices. Repairs planned include restoring all of the mill's windows, replacing joists and flooring, and removing temporary bracing from a previous restoration effort.

Under the program, Friends of Peirce Mill, a local park friends group, will receive a grant of \$34,000 as well as \$14,800 in materials.

# NPCA TRAVEL PLANNER

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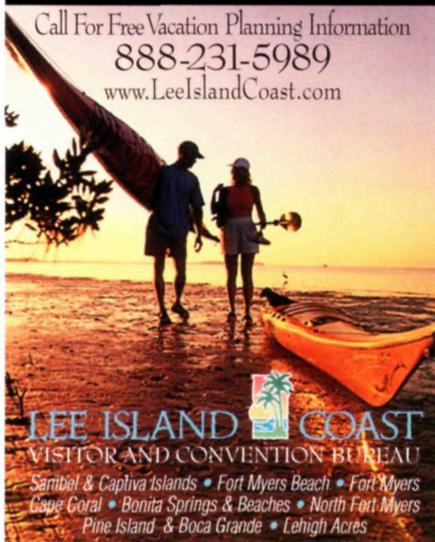
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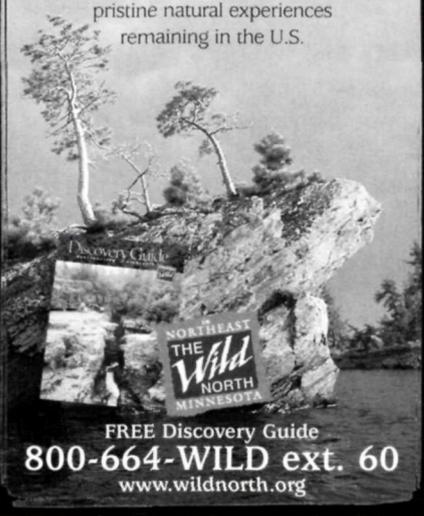


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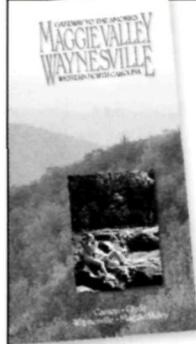
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# National parks

## Magazine Index— Volume 73 (1999)

### A

- Acadia NP  
A Walk in the Parks, **5/6**, 42-44  
Alien Fish May Soon Swim in Ponds, **11/12**, 18
- Airports  
Parks Suffer Onslaught, **1/2**, 11
- Alaska Lands Act (ANILCA)  
Erosion of a Vision, **11/12**, 22-25
- Arches NP  
Boundaries Altered at, **1/2**, 14
- Arizona Strip  
Babbitt Proposes a Monument at, **9/10**, 13
- Art  
Art of Appreciation, **9/10**, 26-29

### B

- Bandelier NM  
Boundaries Altered at, **1/2**, 14  
Baca Ranch Purchase Likely, **11/12**, 16
- Barr, Nevada  
We Can Go Home Again, **5/6**, 26-28
- Bicycling  
Pedaling in the Parks, **3/4**, 34-36
- Big Bend NP  
Getting the Picture, **9/10**, 34-37
- Bighorn sheep  
Need Protection, **4/5**, 12
- Bioprospecting  
Unlocking Nature's Secrets, **7/8**, 41-42
- Birds  
Parks Are for the Birds, **3/4**, 26-29  
Reaching New Heights, **11/12**, 40
- Biscayne NP  
Beneath the Surface, **1/2**, 38-42  
Taking Wing, **3/4**, 39
- Boston NHP  
Churches and Chowda, **7/8**, 34-38
- Bowman, Sally-Jo  
From Where the Sun Now Stands, **1/2**, 28-32
- Bryce Canyon  
Pedaling in the Parks, **3/4**, 34-36
- Business Plan Initiative  
Taking the Initiative, **11/12**, 30-33
- Butterflies  
Taking Wing, **3/4**, 39
- ### C
- Canaveral NS  
20th Century Tour, **11/12**, 34-37
- Canyonlands NP  
Completion Will Better Protect, **7/8**, 14

- Cape Hatteras NS  
Light Move Completed, **9/10**, 18
- Carlsbad Caverns NP  
Getting the Picture, **9/10**, 34-37
- Catoctin Mountain Park  
By Leaps and Bounds, **9/10**, 30-33
- Chaco Culture NHP  
Vanishing Night Skies, **7/8**, 22-25
- Chandler, William J.  
The Preservation Challenge, **3/4**, 40-42
- Chesapeake & Ohio Canal NHP  
Delving in the Dirt, **3/4**, 38  
80 Years of Advocacy, **5/6**, 32-36  
Has Trash-free Policy, **11/12**, 14
- Clarke, Wendy Mitman  
After the Flood, **3/4**, 22-25  
Vanishing Night Skies, **7/8**, 22-25  
Island of Hope, **11/12**, 26-29
- Congress  
NPCA Stifles Bills, **1/2**, 14  
The Preservation Challenge, **3/4**, 40-42  
Graham-Reid Bill Boosts Park Funding Issues, **7/8**, 16  
Budget Would Restrict Research, **9/10**, 20  
Baca Ranch Purchase Likely, **11/12**, 16
- Cultural Diversity  
Breaking Barriers, **1/2**, 47-48  
Dreaming and Defending, **11/12**, 41-42
- Cumberland Gap NHP  
View to the Future, **3/4**, 30-33
- Cumberland Island NS  
Historic Deal Protects, **3/4**, 12
- ### D
- Daerr, Elizabeth G.  
Swimming Upstream, **1/2**, 45  
Taking Wing, **3/4**, 39  
Taking Root, **5/6**, 50  
The Come-Back Whale, **7/8**, 40  
Eastern Indigo Snake, **9/10**, 40  
Reaching New Heights, **11/12**, 40
- Death Valley NP  
Sport Threatens Plants, **5/6**, 14
- Denali NP  
A Walk in the Parks, **5/6**, 42-44  
Erosion of a Vision, **11/12**, 22-25
- Douglas, Marjory Stoneman  
80 Years of Advocacy, **5/6**, 32-36
- Dry Tortugas NP  
Beneath the Surface, **1/2**, 38-42  
Tipping the Scales, **7/8**, 30-33

### E

- Eastern Indigo Snake  
Eastern Indigo Snake, **9/10**, 40
- Elk  
What to Do About, **1/2**, 22-27
- Ellis Island  
Island of Hope, **11/12**, 26-29
- Erie Canal  
Steps Out of the Past, **1/2**, 12

- Everglades NP  
River of Grass Ready to Heal, **1/2**, 19  
80 Years of Advocacy, **5/6**, 32-36  
Budget Would Restrict Research, **9/10**, 20  
State Impedes Plan, **11/12**, 15

### F

- Fire Island NS  
Homes Erode, **7/8**, 10
- Fish  
NPCA Supports Terms, **1/2**, 20  
Swimming Upstream, **1/2**, 45  
Tipping the Scales, **7/8**, 30-33  
Alien Fish May Soon Swim in Acadia's Ponds, **11/12**, 18
- Flowers  
Taking Root, **5/6**, 50
- Fordney, Chris  
View to the Future, **3/4**, 30-33
- Fort Davis NHS  
Getting the Picture, **9/10**, 34-37

### G

- Gantt-Wright, Iantha  
Breaking Barriers, **1/2**, 47-48
- Gateway NRA  
Tower Proposed at, **9/10**, 17
- Glacier Bay NP  
The Come-Back Whale, **7/8**, 40  
Erosion of a Vision, **11/12**, 22-25
- Global Climate Change  
The Heat Is On, **1/2**, 33-37
- Grand Canyon NP  
Pedaling in the Parks, **3/4**, 34-36  
NPCA Scrutinizes Restoration Plan, **5/6**, 18  
We Can Go Home Again, **5/6**, 26-28  
A Walk in the Parks, **5/6**, 42-44  
Forest Village Approved, **11/12**, 12
- Grand Teton NP  
What to Do About Elk, **1/2**, 22-27  
Places of the Heart, **5/6**, 29-31  
Cattle Tempt Grizzlies at, **11/12**, 13
- Great Smoky Mountains NP  
Giant Hemlocks Face Predator, **1/2**, 16  
Parks Are for the Birds, **3/4**, 26-29
- Guadalupe Mountains NP  
Getting the Picture, **9/10**, 34-37

### H

- Haleakala NP  
Parks Suffer Airport Onslaught, **1/2**, 11
- Heacock, Kim  
Erosion of a Vision, **11/12**, 22-25
- Hiking  
A Walk in the Parks, **5/6**, 42-44
- Hierta, Ebba  
Beneath the Surface, **1/2**, 38-42  
Tipping the Scales, **7/8**, 30-33
- Humpback Whale  
The Come-Back Whale, **7/8**, 40

## I

Independence NHP  
Art of Appreciation, **9/10**, 26-29

## J

Jackson, Clay  
Pedaling in the Parks, **3/4**, 34-36

Joshua Tree NP  
Land Exchange Facilitates Dump, **3/4**, 19  
Landfill Goes to High Court, **7/8**, 21

## K

Katmai NP  
Research Needed in, **3/4**, 20

Kenai Fjords NP  
Research Needed in, **3/4**, 20

Klondike Gold Rush NHP  
All That Glitters, **7/8**, 39

## L

Land and Water Conservation Fund  
President Issues Green Agenda, **3/4**, 13

La Pierre, Yvette  
A Walk in the Parks, **5/6**, 42-44  
20th Century Tour, **11/12**, 34-37

Light Pollution  
Vanishing Night Skies, **7/8**, 22-25

Longfellow NHS  
Art of Appreciation, **9/10**, 26-29

Lower East Side Tenement Museum  
Your Huddled Masses, **11/12**, 38

Lowell NHP  
20th Century Tour, **11/12**, 34-37

## M

Mackay, Katurah  
The Redtail Angels, **1/2**, 46  
Delving in the Dirt, **3/4**, 38  
Churches and Chowda, **7/8**, 34-38  
All That Glitters, **7/8**, 39  
Massacre at Sand Creek, **9/10**, 38

Martin Luther King, Jr. NHS  
20th Century Tour, **11/12**, 34-37

Mesa Verde NP  
Tram Proposed at, **5/6**, 20  
We Can Go Home Again, **5/6**, 26-28

Mining  
View to the Future, **3/4**, 30-33  
Agrees to Halt Mining, **9/10**, 21

Mojave NP  
Agrees to Halt Mining, **9/10**, 21

Mount Rainier NP  
Resort Plans Pressure Park, **3/4**, 14

## N

Nez Perce NHP  
From Where the Sun Now Stands, **1/2**, 28-32

Niobrara NSR  
Court Ruling Helps, **9/10**, 12

Nonnative Species  
Giant Hemlocks Face Predator, **1/2**, 16

## O

O'Connell, Kim A.  
Ten Parks in Peril, **5/6**, 24-25

Olympic NP  
Swimming Upstream, **1/2**, 45

## P

Parent, Laurence  
Getting the Picture, **9/10**, 34-37

## R

Rancourt, Linda M.  
Magnificent Obsession, **5/6**, 37-40

Rock Creek Park  
Pedaling in the Parks, **3/4**, 34-36

Rocky Mountain NP  
What to Do About Elk, **1/2**, 22-27  
A Walk in the Parks, **5/6**, 42-44  
Taking the Initiative, **11/12**, 30-33

## S

Sandboarding  
Threatens Plants, **5/6**, 14

Sand Creek  
Massacre at, **9/10**, 38

Scott, Preston T.  
Unlocking Nature's Secrets, **7/8**, 41-42

Sequoia NP  
Giant Forest Floor Restored, **9/10**, 16

Shenandoah NP  
By Leaps and Bounds, **9/10**, 30-33

Snorkeling  
Beneath the Surface, **1/2**, 38-42

Snowmobiles  
New Winter Use Plan, **9/10**, 11

Statue of Liberty NM  
20th Century Tour, **11/12**, 34-37

Stones River NB  
Taking Root, **5/6**, 50  
Dell Decision Spares, **7/8**, 18

Stroh, Bess Zarfionitis  
Art of Appreciation, **9/10**, 26-29

## T

Tallgrass Prairie NP  
Needs Native Species, **7/8**, 12

Ten Most Endangered Parks  
Ten Parks in Peril, **5/6**, 24-25

Tennessen, Michael  
What to Do About Elk, **1/2**, 22-27

Toops, Connie  
By Leaps and Bounds, **9/10**, 30-33

Tuskegee Airmen NHS  
The Redtail Angels, **1/2**, 46

## U

Updike, William A.  
Stiltsville's Last Stand?, **9/10**, A-1  
C&O Canal Has Trash-free Policy, **11/12**, 14  
20th Century Tour, **11/12**, 34-37  
Your Huddled Masses, **11/12**, 38

## V

Virgin Islands NP  
Beneath the Surface, **1/2**, 38-42

## W

Watkins, T.H.  
Call It Silence, **9/10**, 41-42

Wauer, Roland H.  
Parks Are for the Birds, **3/4**, 26-29

Weir Farm NHS  
The Art of Appreciation, **9/10**, 26-29

White-tailed Deer  
By Leaps and Bounds, **9/10**, 30-33

Whiteman, Lily  
The Heat Is On, **1/2**, 33-37

White Sands NM  
Vanishing Night Skies, **7/8**, 22-25

Wilderness  
Promised Land, **9/10**, 22-25  
Call It Silence, **9/10**, 41-42

Wilkinson, Todd  
80 Years of Advocacy, **5/6**, 32-36  
Caught in a Free Fall, **7/8**, 26-29  
Promised Land, **9/10**, 22-25  
Taking the Initiative, **11/12**, 30-33

Williams, Terry Tempest  
Places of the Heart, **5/6**, 29-31

Winks, Robin W.  
Magnificent Obsession, **5/6**, 37-40  
Dreaming and Defending, **11/12**, 41-42

Women's Rights NHP  
20th Century Tour, **11/12**, 34-37

## Y

Yellowstone NP  
What to Do About Elk, **1/2**, 22-27  
Boaters Seek Park Access, **3/4**, 16  
New Winter Use Plan at, **9/10**, 11  
The Art of Appreciation, **9/10**, 26-29  
Taking the Initiative, **11/12**, 30-33

Yosemite NP  
After the Flood, **3/4**, 22-25  
Caught in a Free Fall, **7/8**, 26-29

## Z

Zion NP  
Pedaling in the Parks, **3/4**, 34-36

NB: National Battlefield  
NBP: National Battlefield Park  
NHP: National Historical Park  
NHS: National Historic Site  
NM: National Monument  
NMP: National Military Park  
NP: National Park  
NPRES: National Preserve  
NPS: National Park Service  
NRA: National Recreation Area  
NS: National Seashore  
NSR: National Scenic Riverway  
NST: National Scenic Trail

**NOTE: Bold numerals indicate months of issue**



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by John Bell

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