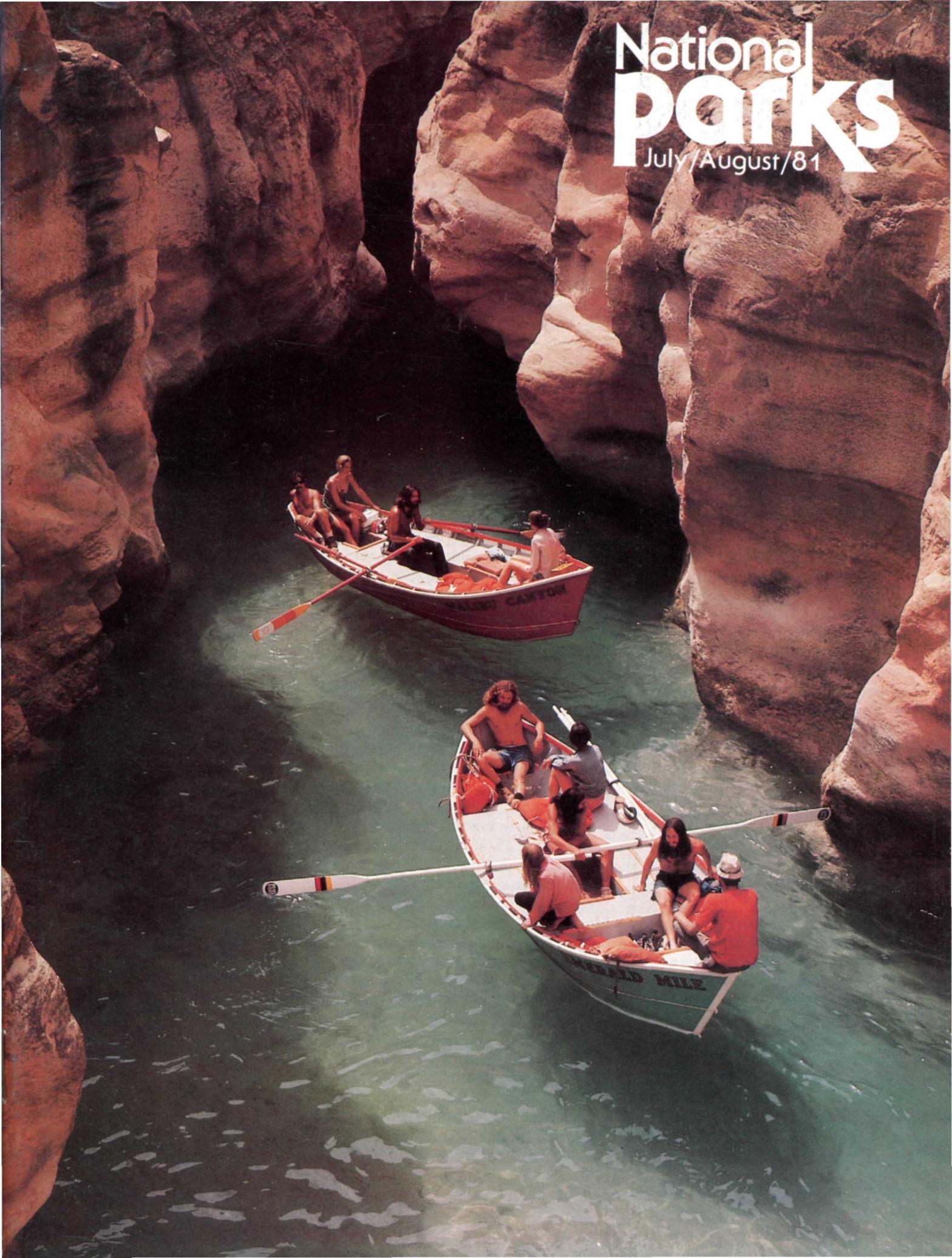


National parks

July/August/81



Commentary

Watt and the Parks

The national parks have never been as threatened as they are today. Suggestions for deauthorization, plans for major boundary changes, proposals to eliminate land acquisition, revisions to policies designed to protect resources in the parks, and broken commitments to individuals who have offered to sell property within park borders—all these have issued from the Department of the Interior. Many of these threats are attributable to the actions of Interior Secretary James G. Watt and other officials of the Reagan administration; others can be laid at the doorstep of special interest groups attempting to exploit what they see as a changed atmosphere in Washington.

Secretary Watt has promised to use the budget to make policy. For the National Park System that means almost no money for completing pressing land purchases; it means a greater role for private concessioners in running the parks; it means a definition of stewardship that ignores increasing deterioration of the natural resources in the parks.

Decision after decision clearly indicates the Reagan administration's attitude toward the parks. Mineral, oil, and gas development will be speeded up in areas surrounding the parks; but the funds necessary for environmental studies will be cut. Interior Department policy supports the use of public resources for management of commercial fishing and recreational airboating in the Everglades, but refuses money for study of endangered species and adequate interpretative staffing in the parks. Proposals by the White House staff look toward ending federal regulation to protect air quality, and the Department of the

Interior seeks to accommodate industry opposition to minimal protection for the relatively pristine air in many national parks.

Over and over again during these first months of the new Administration, we have heard speeches calling for better "stewardship." We must learn to better manage the land we have, the Secretary of the Interior has repeatedly said. NPCA could not agree more. NPCA was founded, after all, to work for the protection of our National Park System. But when Watt speaks of stewardship, he seems to mean building roads, developing facilities, and restoring buildings. True stewardship, in our view, requires active steps to ensure the preservation of our natural and cultural *resources* for future generations; it assumes federal leadership in educating our citizens, business leaders, and foreign visitors about the Park System; it errs on the side of caution in permitting development, believing always that the irreplaceable wonders of a Yosemite, an Olympic, an Everglades, or an Acadia come before the rush for a quick profit.

The specific actions of this Administration, arising not just from the beliefs of one man but rather from a widely shared system of approaches and attitudes, require a response based on innovative leadership and a program of specific alternatives. At a time when the short-term view dominates and the natural resources of the National Park System lack a governmental advocate, the mission of NPCA becomes even more vital. It is up to us—members and staff—to provide that stewardship so rhetorically conspicuous in Washington, but so absent from actual policy decisions. We ask your support in offering that leadership.

—Paul C. Pritchard
Executive Director

Editor's Note

With this issue NPCA inaugurates its expanded, more colorful bimonthly magazine. In our view, color photographs of the wildlife and other natural wonders of our fantastic national parklands add an important dimension to these pages that, in the quantity here, is long overdue. We are pleased to bring you expanded coverage of national parks, related public lands, and wildlife.

This issue's articles will take you from the beaches flanking New York harbor to the desert of California and the alpine heights of Mount Rainier. You will learn about the intriguing possibility that someday wolves may once again roam the wildlands of Yellowstone National Park—if the many problems can first be solved. You will also learn about the damage being done along the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon and about government plans that will *increase* the damage and ruin your chances of ever experiencing the magnificence and intimacy of the spectacular Inner Gorge by river tour—unless you let your voice be heard in the right places.—EHC



National parks

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COVERS Grand Canyon magic, by Martin Litton

River runners enjoy the magic and the majesty of Havasu Creek (front) and the Colorado River (back). But man-made tides sweeping down the river every day threaten the finest adventure available anywhere to ordinary people and also create biological chaos along the banks. And now a new scheme would further aggravate the situation—with taxpayer dollars. (See page 18.)

National Parks & Conservation Association—established in 1919 by Robert Sterling Yard with the support of Stephen Mather, the first Director of the National Park Service—is an independent, private, nonprofit, public service organization, educational and scientific in character. Its responsibilities relate primarily to protecting, promoting, and enlarging the National Park System, in which it endeavors to cooperate with the National Park Service while functioning as a constructive critic. Life memberships are \$750. Annual membership dues, which include a \$7 subscription to *National Parks*, are \$150 Sustaining, \$75 Supporting, \$30 Contributing, \$22 Cooperating, and \$15 Associate. Student memberships are \$10. Single copies are \$2. Contributions and bequests are needed to carry on our work. Dues in excess of \$7 and contributions are deductible from federal taxable income, and gifts and bequests are deductible for federal gift and estate tax purposes. Mail membership dues, correspondence concerning subscriptions or

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Kenneth A. Drews

MOUNT RAINIER'S ALPINE GARDENS

Each summer
the mountain's flower-spangled slopes
beckon
with a promise of re-creation . . .

Kenneth A. Drews

I drove the breadth of the continent for this moment. I had worked nine months in my classroom in Baltimore to be here. Now, as the road snakes its way into the heart of the Cascade Mountains in south-central Washington, the temperature drops noticeably. The air takes on a coniferous bite that I have not smelled in the nine months since I last left these forests. The car swings around a curve, noses out of a fog bank, and suddenly there it is—the mountain I have driven so far to see. The sensation has been the same every time I have ever seen it. That magnificent mountain looms above all its surroundings, welcoming me back to its many treasures.

To Native Americans it is Tahkomah. To local residents it is simply “The Mountain.” Many visitors to the Pacific Northwest see it only in fleeting glimpses between passing clouds, and then it fades again into shadows. To them it is Mount Rainier, the focal point of Mount Rainier National Park. What is it about this mountain that compels me to drive across a continent every summer?

The park and mountain together comprise one of the most widely diversified collections of ecological zones in the United States. A combination of moisture-laden winds from the Japanese Current along with the height of the peak (14,410 feet) creates the mountain’s characteristic environment. Within the park’s boundaries are temperate rain forests, lush with growth stimulated by an abundance of rain. Here, also, subalpine meadows become a palette of colors during the brief summer season. Slopes near the summit contain one of the few subarctic zones in the contiguous United States.

Glaciation actively reshapes massive expanses of Rainier’s face. Winter brings snows of incredible proportions. The community of Paradise (5,400 feet) holds the record for the world’s heaviest measured snowfall in a season—ninety-three feet. Through the years the snows have accumulated in twenty-seven glaciers covering more than thirty-five square miles of the mountain’s slopes. These glacial fields have slowly carved immense valleys

and cirques. On a warm summer day the slopes echo with the contractions and expansions of these massive ice fields as they relieve internal pressures. Occasionally these reports are followed by the rumbling of ice as it breaks free to fall into the valleys below.

As a workshop for studying the succession of plants through the season, the mountain is unsurpassed. It is possible in the course of climbing several thousand feet to observe a full season of growth. While the green hellebore will be in full bloom at the lower elevations, farther up the slopes young plants will only be approaching the blossom stage. Up at the snow line, the sprouts of the same plant will be just poking through the receding snows. Where snowfields still appear as slim fingers pointing down the mountain in valleys protected from the sun, fields of avalanche and glacier lilies will be found as young plants. Yet out in the open fields these plants will be blooming vigorously. Up on the ridges, where the snow has been gone the longest and the sun has had the most impact, the lilies will be in various stages of seed production.

In the early morning the forest of the lower slopes is a study in light and dark. Dense areas of growth exclude all light. An occasional opening in the canopy will let a beam of light through as if serving to spotlight fragile flowers on the forest floor. Delicate twinflowers hang as little bells, too easily overlooked. Western coralroot, a delicate reddish-purple miniature orchid, grows on stalks seldom more than ten inches high. Looking like elfin ballerinas, the white woodnymphs and pink pipsissewas are both members of the heath family. With a sharp eye and a bit of luck one should spot pinesap, Indian pipes, salal, Mertens bluebells, and many other delicate flowers. This miniature world in the midst of the forest giants only serves to emphasize the presence of both.

The trees are smaller farther up the slopes, allowing more light to reach the forest floor. At the openings in the forest made by cataracts rushing off the mountain new flowers spring up. Columbine bushes, some three feet tall, are covered with red

and yellow flowers resembling paper lanterns. Close to the ground Jeffrey shootingstars glisten with droplets of water from the spray of the falls. In the same area bright yellow or pink monkeyflowers look as if they are laughing at all who pass by. Birdsbeak or elephanthead pedicularis, also found in these damp areas, both remarkably resemble their namesakes.

Farther up the mountain the roar of a waterfall breaks the silence. A beautiful spray of water shoots out of snowfields high on a cliff, only to disappear into a new series of snowfields. On a sunny day a double rainbow appears in the mist. From the top of the falls the forest stretches below with only a suggestion of the secrets it holds. Above, Rainier looms large. At this altitude the forest has dwindled to a few straggling trees and is replaced by vast meadows.

To me, as a photographer, the greatest treasures of the park are its plants. I can easily spend a whole afternoon on my hands and knees focusing and framing the many flowers in the park. With camera, film, close-up lenses, and my portable wind-break, I have photographed the park's slopes and forests. It is essential to cover the terrain at ground level. Otherwise the majesty of the peak tends to draw the senses away from the more subtle points of the park. This subtle presence of flowers and trees brings me back time and again.

The subalpine meadows are a riot of color. On first encountering them with my camera, they frustrate me. There is too much to photograph. In red, pink, and orange the paintbrushes wave back and forth. White tufts of bistort stand out, adding their unusual odor to the scene. Pasqueflowers, beargrass, fireweed, heather, Columbia tigerlilies, and many others vie for attention. The variety of colors and blooms seems endless.

The flowers become smaller as the plants hug the ground higher up the slopes. This is the last major area of plant life below the boulders at the edges of the icefields. Brisk, chilly breezes drift down off the ice. The swaying of the plants in the constant breeze makes photography difficult. Here grow stoncrop with their fleshy leaves. Partridge-foot appears as dense mats of flowers about six inches tall. Barely clinging to the mountain are patches of Tolmie saxifrage, its flowers small and leaves fleshy to aid in their survival in this harsh environment.

Other travelers are now finding the beauty of these fields and forests. The years have witnessed noticeable increases in use of the trails. On weekends during the peak season of the flowers one feels the need for traffic control on the slopes to aid in the smooth flow of hikers. This increased use has led to some problems. People wander off trails to picnic or relax in the massive fields of flowers. This practice quickly deprives those who follow of the same idyllic settings. The fragile nature of this environment cannot tolerate such abuses. The very short growing season means that many years will be required to erase the scars caused by the carelessness of one afternoon. The Park Service is conducting research to find the best way to revitalize these areas. Extensive educational programs are being employed in the hope of discouraging abuses. In such ways perhaps the magnificent beds of flowers will survive for future generations to enjoy.

As a photographers' paradise the park is unsurpassed; yet, there is another aspect to the park, one that provides us with recreation in the true sense of that word. The park rejuvenates and regenerates the human spirit. Here a person can become lost in the power of nature, experiencing the exhilaration of an alpine meadow in a brisk wind after a sudden storm, the mystery of the mountain as it ducks in and out of fog banks, or the fascination of a bear in a berry patch. One can experience true solitude as dark closes in and nature dominates the senses with smells and sounds. One can experience the world as it must have looked before we chose to rebuild it.

Always, the summer passes too quickly. One morning I awaken and glance up at the peak. There is a special bite in the air, and the mountain gleams with a fresh covering of snow. As I look around, the flowers are withering. Somehow time has crept up on me. I reluctantly repack the car and nose it back through the clouds. At the top of the pass I look back and take one more photograph of the mountain. Back in the car, I smile to myself, though. After all, in nine months I will be back again. □

Kenneth Drews is a high school teacher of science and photography in Baltimore, Maryland. He travels widely in the Pacific Northwest and the northern Great Plains to study and photograph wildflowers and other wilderness plants.

Will visitors to Yellowstone
once again thrill to
the haunting cry of wolves?

The Return of The Wolf

Bill Schneider

Yellowstone National Park may be more famous for its wildlife than for its geysers. Certainly, the park's wild residents grab more headlines than the thermal areas—a trend that will surely continue with the long-awaited return of the wolf.

In Yellowstone Park, wildlife is still abundant—even too abundant, some say. Park administrators can boast, as few land managers can, that Yellowstone still has all the animals it had a century ago when Congress designated it America's first national park—all the animals except one, that is: the wolf.

Now, even that could change. The National Park Service hopes to complete the ecological picture by bringing back the wolf. Conservationists and wolf biologists vigorously applaud the idea, while politicians and state wildlife agencies remain noncommittal until they see a detailed proposal. And the livestock industry, with its deep-seated hatred for the wolf and other predators, nervously listens, possibly

willing to buy into a professional approach to wolf recovery that considers the needs of the rancher.

Over most of the United States, the wolf was exterminated for one reason—livestock depredation. The wolf is the master predator, with finely honed skills for killing large hoofed animals. Before the advent of the white man, those skills were focused on the native big game. But when the white-faced steer moved in to take the bison's niche on the rangeland, the wolf added beef steaks to its diet. At the time, unregulated killing had depleted big game herds in many areas, making incoming livestock even more attractive to wolves. To hear cattlemen talk, wolves considered their herds nothing short of smorgasbords on the hoof.

Subsequently, a great war on wolves was waged, and the wolf lost. Professional "wolfers" used every means at their disposal—steel traps, set-guns, poison—to rid the

range of the wolf. By 1925, the wolf had nearly disappeared from the western United States.

In Yellowstone Park, the wolf faced execution for another supposed sin—being a predator, an animal that kills other animals, a "bad" animal. Partly because of a society-wide hatred for all predators and partly to defend the park's large ungulates, wolf control began as early as 1877, only five years after the park's designation. After early control efforts waned, however, wolf numbers built back up until another serious campaign from 1914–1926 finished them off.

In 1914, the park superintendent declared wolves "a decided menace to the herds of elk, deer, mountain sheep, and antelope." Then, he called for concerted efforts to "exterminate" the wolf from the park.

This proved to be too much for some conservationists, however, and protests followed. In response, the superintendent reported: "It is evident that the work of controlling these animals must be vigorously

prosecuted by the most effective means available whether or not this meets with the approval of certain game conservationists."

With that absolute directive, the wolfers began their work. Between 1914-1926 at least 136 wolves were killed, mostly pups removed from dens. In 1927, control ceased, and the park moved into a new era of preserving natural systems. But it was too late for the wolf. Although "probable" sightings persist to this day, park officials concede the absence of "a viable population."

To further verify this, the park hired endangered species specialist John Weaver to determine the status of wolves in the Yellowstone area. He came to the same conclusion when he published his technical report in 1978.

That left the park with two options, Weaver concluded in his report—do nothing or "attempt to restore a viable wolf population by introduction."

Since then, he has welcomed opportunities to support the return of the wolf. "Yellowstone Park is one of the world's biological treasures," he explains. "And it's a fairly intact ecosystem, except for the wolf. It's the missing link. I think Yellowstone is the most suitable place in the West for restoring a wolf population—both biologically and politically. And biologists all across the country agree with me."

Fortunately, park administrators also agree with him. "All of us want to see the wolf back in Yellowstone Park," Superinten-

dent John Townsley believes. "That goes without saying. The wolf is part of the ecological balance of the park."

However, Townsley doesn't intend to rush wildly into wolf reintroduction. He's worried about the public reaction, so he has a four-step plan to return the wolf. First, he must see an approved wolf recovery plan, a document already released by the Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Recovery Team set up by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for that purpose.

Second, he would start seeking appropriations through the park's regular funding process to finance the reintroduction. This would take "a year or two" to secure the several hundred thousand dollars needed to finance the effort.

Third and during the appropriations process, "we'll work on cooperation with the surrounding areas to get a better attitude." He anticipates strong opposition and strong support for the effort.

Fourth, go ahead with the transfer of wolves to the park.

"I think the worst thing that could happen is that public pressure would push us too fast—both biologically and financially." Townsley's note of caution seems appropriate, as the park already receives numerous letters from wildlife enthusiasts urging the return of the wolf. But wildlife professionals supporting the reintroduction agree strongly with Townsley. Slowly and carefully, they unanimously say, is the *only* way to go.

So don't expect a wolf transplant

next year or even the year following. "Three to five years would be a realistic timetable," Townsley says.

Although little news of the planned restoration of the wolf has seeped into the public arena, wolf biologists and environmentalists are following the process carefully and anxiously.

Dr. Durward Allen, world renowned wolf specialist from Purdue University (and former NPCA trustee), for example, thinks "Most biologists believe this [relocation into the park] ought to be tried.

"We have two million acres with elk running out our ears," Allen emphasizes. "It's a real set-up for wolves."

Dr. L. David Mech, an equally famous wolf biologist working on Minnesota wolves for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, also supports the return of the wolf to Yellowstone Park. However, he is ultra-cautious.

"Reestablishing a population of any species of plant or animal is a very serious undertaking, possibly as serious as extirpating the population of any species," Mech cautions. "The natural world is dynamic and adjusts to change. When a species is removed, changes in the ecosystem are triggered until a new dynamic-equilibrium is reached. Today, in much of its former range, the wolf would be an exotic."

"Let no one mistake my caution for reluctance," Mech assures. "I solidly support an intelligent, ecologically sound wolf reestablishment program."

"Successful reintroduction of the



George Ostrow

wolf to Yellowstone is not only critical to the restoration of the park's original ecosystem, but also of great significance to the reintroduction of native species in other National Park System units," says Paul Pritchard, Executive Director of NPCA.

Not everybody relishes the idea of wolves in Yellowstone. Most notably, the livestock industry worries about wolves leaving the park and preying on their cattle and sheep. At the same time, however, a common ground seems to be developing, as supporters of the return of the wolf realize that their plan must consider the problems the wolf poses for ranchers.

Joe Helle of Dillon has been working with the Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Recovery Team

and frequently speaks for the livestock industry on this subject. Although he thinks bringing back the wolf is "a ridiculous idea," he's willing to work on a management plan that might prevent problems for stockgrowers and sheepmen.

Helle has no problems with wolves in the park, but he knows (as does everybody familiar with the wolf) that the wide-ranging predators won't stay in the park. Pioneering wolves will, in fact, travel hundreds of miles. They will venture out into grazing lands and kill livestock. As surely as the wolf howls at night, this will happen.

"We have no objection to the type of plan they have in Minnesota," Helle notes. "We have a real concern for what might happen if this gets out of hand, and we're *not* going to let that happen. We don't

object to having a few wolves around, but we're not in the business of growing livestock to feed predators."

He has two serious concerns. First, he wants assurances that wolves killing livestock will in turn be killed, instead of being protected by the Endangered Species Act. And second, he won't stand for further restrictions on coyote control because of the outside chance a wolf might be killed accidentally.

The Minnesota plan Helle refers to set up a series of zones. In the inside zones, the wolf was protected completely, with protection becoming more lax in outside zones.

This concept has been recommended by the recovery team for use in the Yellowstone Park area. Team leader Dennis Flath of Bozeman summarizes the plan like this:

Zone 1: An area of total protection probably restricted to Yellowstone Park proper, with no wolf or coyote control.

Zone 2: A buffer zone of mostly remote public land around the park where there is little livestock grazing and no wolf or coyote control, differing from Zone 1 in that no effort will be made to increase the wolf population in the buffer zone.

Zone 3: Farther from the park boundary into some grazing lands where the wolf will still be protected but coyote control can proceed under present regulations.

Zone 4: Anything past Zone 3 would provide only limited protection for the wolf, with control measures probably undertaken by professionals from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and with no further restrictions on coyote control than those presently in effect.

The catch in this plan is the legal status of the wolf. Since the subspecies (*Canis lupus irremotus*) is listed as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act, it can't be killed. Flath says some change in this legal status may be necessary before any attempt at reestablishment. One possibility would be declassifying the subspecies to "threatened," which would still offer protection, but wouldn't prohibit killing in the outer zone.

Wayne Brewster of the Endangered Species Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in Billings agrees. "We have the authority to live-trap and relocate wolves," Brewster explains. "And wolves are relatively easy to trap." He believes this procedure would

take care of most wolves that venture into grazing lands; but if it didn't, the agency would still have some flexibility to relieve ranchers of a stock-killing wolf.

"We could request permission from the main FWS office in Washington, D.C., to take a wolf," Brewster reports. "But this would have to be a special case." (Lest there be any misunderstanding, "take" is biological jargon for "kill.")

However, killing wolves might not be necessary. As Brewster explains: "Before we get pioneering wolves, we would hope that the population would be in good enough shape to warrant declassification to threatened status."

Another point that may soften the livestock industry on the return of the wolf is the impact of wolves on coyotes. Some biological evidence supports a theory that the presence of wolves can mean fewer coyotes.

Obviously, the two species would compete for the same prey in some circumstances, and both would attempt to feed on the same carrion.

In this direct conflict for the same food source, the larger canine usually would dominate, reducing the food available to coyotes.

In addition, there may be a social conflict where coyotes can't tolerate the presence of wolves. Although unproved, this theory has the cau-

tious support of some biologists such as Dr. Bart O'Gara of the University of Montana's Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit. "I'm sure there would be some intolerance," he says, noting that such social conflict exists between all canines. "If you establish wolves in a place like Yellowstone Park, you would have that much less coyote habitat," O'Gara believes.

That may take care of the rancher's concerns, but what about the wolf? "The wolf has to have some chance of surviving if it goes in and out of the park," Townsley insists.

That's a key point, but the man-

agement plan with the buffer zones of complete protection should provide plenty of country to keep the wolf and the wolf enthusiasts happy. In fact, Weaver selected a 7,481-square-mile area in and around the park that may be suitable for wolves.

Weaver believes about thirty to forty wolves still existed in the Yellowstone Park area in 1920. If the recovery team concludes that's a realistic population to work for, there's ample room to support them.

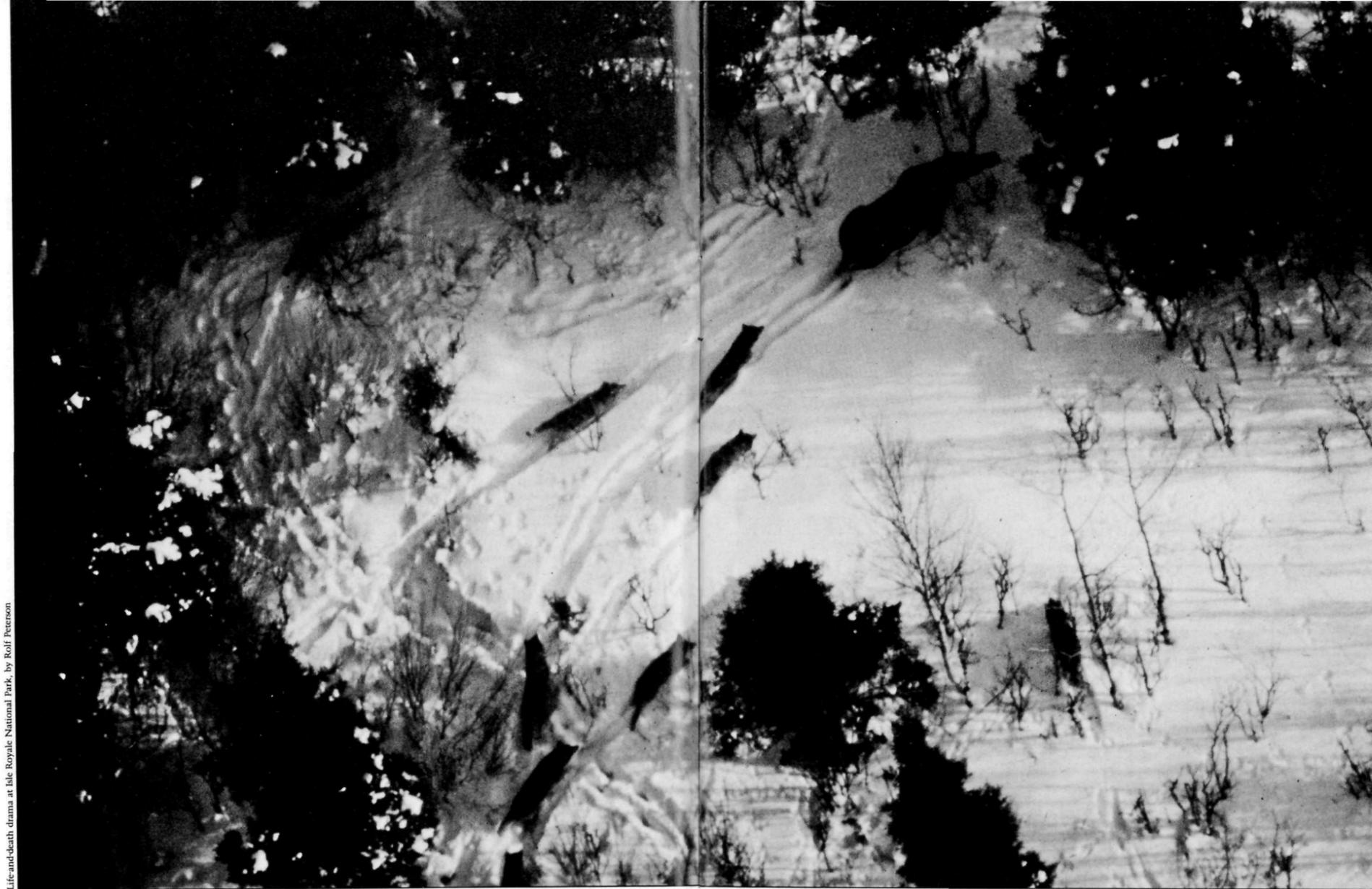
Flath figures that a viable population in the park would mean at least three or four packs and twenty-five to forty wolves. He doesn't be-

lieve wolves would build up a large population. Instead, he expects a population of about one wolf per hundred square miles, which would mean about thirty-five to forty-five wolves in the Yellowstone Park area. "We don't believe we could ever achieve anything more than one wolf per fifty square miles anywhere in the northern Rockies," Flath concludes.

Although the wolf has lots of room to roam in and around the park, much of it apparently isn't suitable for year-round occupancy. The prime habitat may be the northeastern and northern sections of the park in the Soda Butte, Lamar, and upper Yellowstone basins. Most wolves killed in the early 1900s came from this area; and these valleys support large herds of elk, bison, deer, moose, and mountain sheep—all potential prey for the wolf. Although wolves might wander widely during warm months, they probably would winter in this area. By studying historical records, Weaver determined that this area traditionally supported winter concentrations of wolves. Weaver also suggests that this could be a likely release site for the transplanted wolves.

Biologically, it seems likely that wolves could establish in and around the park. Weaver says the prey base, with the exception of fewer beaver, "is the same size or larger as it was in 1920. There's no doubt, however, that some wolves will go east and north out of the park," Weaver concedes.

Everybody agrees on this point. To compensate, Flath believes a se-



Life-and-death drama at Lake Royale National Park, by Rolf Peterson

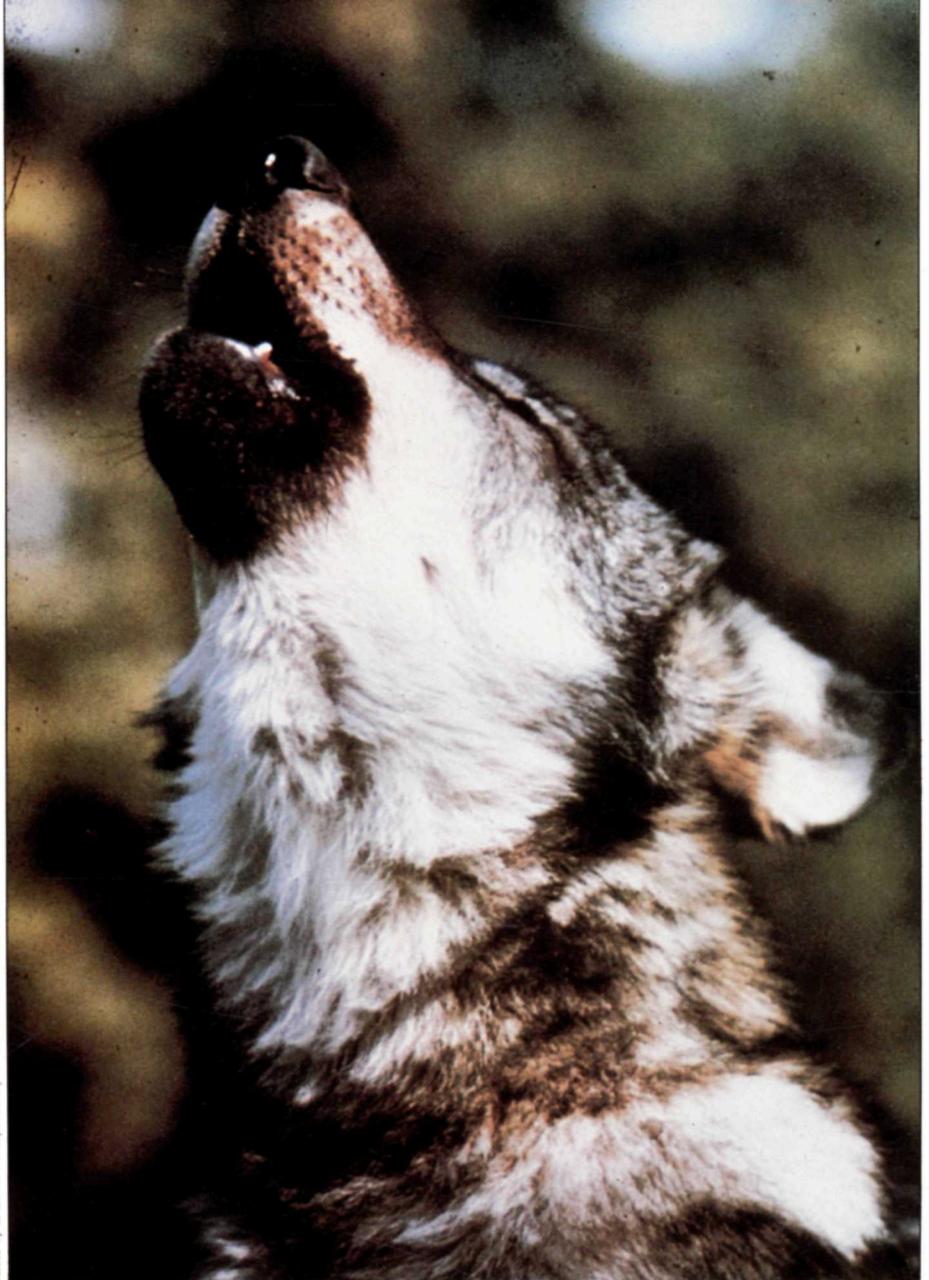
ries of transplants may be needed. A 1974 relocation attempt into Michigan's upper peninsula supports Flath's concern. Here, the wolves hit the ground running. Even though a four-wolf family group, part of an established pack, had been captured for this attempted reestablishment, the wolves immediately dispersed widely and separately. Eventually, they were all killed—shot, trapped, or hit by motor vehicles.

Another significant biological aspect is the impact of wolf recovery on the area's big game herds, particularly elk. Although the park policy stresses natural ecosystems, the absence of the master predator has created an unnatural situation. Outside the park, hunters have, in part, moved into the wolf's niche by harvesting part of the elk population each year. Inside the park, however, where hunting is prohibited, elk numbers have expanded.

State wildlife and park authorities disagree on whether the northern Yellowstone elk herd is overpopulated. State wildlife biologists insist elk overpopulation causes severe damage both to the habitat and the overall health and vigor of the elk population. Countering this, Dr. Mary Meagher, head of wildlife research in the parks, says, "We do not believe there is an elk overpopulation in the park."

Perhaps it doesn't matter when considering a wolf reestablishment. Obviously, there are lots of elk, as well as other large ungulates. The impact on these species may become an issue when the push for the return of the wolf comes.

Photo by L. David Mech, courtesy of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



In Michigan, Minnesota, and New York, hunters have opposed wolf recovery because of a suspected threat to the big game herds, primarily white-tailed deer in these cases. Shortly after the 1974 Michigan transplant, in fact, a "Baraga County Wolf Hunters Association" was unofficially formed with this creed: "Shoot a wolf, Preserve our deer." Even though shooting a wolf in this case was quite illegal, the organization offered a \$100 reward for any wolf shot.

However, wolf recovery in Yellowstone Park differs substantially inasmuch as hunting isn't allowed anyway. Some elk migrate out of

the park in late fall and early winter and are subject to late-season hunts in the Yellowstone and Gallatin valleys, a fact that may concern some hunters and wildlife managers.

LeRoy Ellig, regional supervisor for the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, is responsible for that area and has taken a wait-and-see attitude on the reestablishment. "I don't know what the department would do officially," he says, "but personally, I don't have any objection to having wolves in the park."

In fact, he thinks wolves could benefit wildlife management in Montana. "Under certain circumstances, wolves could help control

the elk population." The impact on elk numbers wouldn't come only from the "act of killing," Ellig theorizes, but by harassing the animals during a tough winter "when they are barely hanging on."

In his research, Weaver concluded that each wolf would require ten to fifteen elk per year. However, he didn't calculate (nobody could) the impact of harassment on the winter range, nor did he estimate the impact this might have on the elk population. But he does wonder: "What is the role of wolf predation in the natural regulation of an elk population?" With the careful monitoring of a reestablished wolf population in Yellowstone Park, Weaver may have the answer to his question.

The impact on the prey base represents one vital question, no doubt, but biologists must answer many others before the National Park Service will give the green light for the transplant, such as:

- Where to release the wolves? Probably in the northeastern corner of the park where wolves historically concentrated and prey is abundant.
- When to release the wolves? Early winter seems best, as the deep snows will inhibit travel and hold the wolves closer to the release site.
- How many wolves to release? At a minimum, biologists want four to six wolves, and prefer more, an already established pack, it is hoped—or better yet, two packs. Needless to say, live-trapping an entire pack presents a real challenge.
- Which subspecies? The taxonomy of the wolf has been fre-

quently questioned, with some biologists doubting that the commonly used subspecies designation ever represented valid distinctions. In other words, the minor differences found among various populations of *Canis lupus* may be only geographical variations of one species. Assuming the subspecies distinction is used, however, most biologists believe *Canis lupus irremotus* originally inhabited the northern Rockies including Yellowstone. Regrettably, *Canis lupus irremotus* is very rare (an endangered species) and thus, most difficult to live-trap. Consequently, biologists will try for the subspecies they feel is closest (geographically and physically) to *Canis lupus irremotus*, probably *Canis lupus occidentalis* of Alberta and British Columbia.

- Release wild or captive wolves? Wolf experts agree that wild wolves should be used, and Superintendent Townsley may insist on it. However, if wild wolves can't be captured, Mech, for one, feels the reestablishment should still be tried using captive wolves that can be taught the ways of the wild.

To get these answers, Flath and other biologists want to start a feasibility study as soon as possible. That will depend on funding. And the research will continue after the wolves are released. Biologists will have radio collars on every wolf released, so their movement can be closely monitored.

Wildlife researchers consider these tasks demanding, but the political issues at stake may prove

even more challenging. Although not a political issue now, the return of the wolf most definitely will be when the formal proposal comes up for review. By then, the recovery team hopes to have the biology and management plan in order, ready for public scrutiny.

This worries supporters of the transplant more than anything else. They know that the NPS is a very politically sensitive agency. Its well-laid plans could disappear at the whim of a few powerful politicians. The only way to prevent this is, of course, widespread and vocal support for the return of the wolf.

Realistically, Yellowstone Park has all the ingredients for a successful reestablishment: a large prey base, low human population, a minimum of conflicting land uses such as livestock grazing, millions of acres of roadless wildlands, and, most of all, a federal landlord basically behind the attempt to make this an intact ecosystem. With this much going their way, wildlife enthusiasts can only hope politics doesn't ruin it.

That's precisely why everybody seems so careful. "We're not stalling because we don't want to do it," one park official admitted. "We're stalling because when this is done, we want to make sure it's done right. We might get only one chance." □

Bill Schneider was formerly editor of Montana Outdoors and is now a contributing editor to Montana Magazine, where this article originally appeared. Bill now works as a free-lance writer and edits Wild America.

RUNNING ON EMPTY:

The Land and Water Conservation Fund at ZERO

Zero. That is the figure the Administration has recommended to Congress for state and local projects funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR) for Fiscal Year 1982. The Administration is also proposing to rescind most of the remaining FY 1981 funds.

On the federal side the Administration has placed a moratorium on land acquisitions for the National Park System and has requested an amendment to allow the Fund to be used for maintenance work on federal lands.

This stunning and unexpected departure from a sixteen-year history of growing funding for recreation land acquisition, development, and renovation represents a dollar loss to state and local governments in FY 1981 and 1982 of \$440 million—\$330 million for LWCF and \$110 for UPARR.

The Administration has not claimed that America's demand for

public recreation opportunities has been met. Nor has the Administration presented an alternative approach; the vague "block grants" now being sold as substitutes for dismantled individual programs do not include recreation. Nor is it clear what realistic role the private sector is expected to play in the absence of all federal interest or support. Given this dramatic policy shift, one looks for some analysis of the impacts, some justification for repealing federal statutes, some presentation of alternatives. No, zero on that score too.

Besides slashing land purchases for national parks, drastic cuts in the Land and Water Conservation Fund will affect Americans even closer to home—in their state and local parks.

The Rescission and State Needs

The most serious impacts of the proposed rescission for 1981 will fall on states that had not spent or obligated their share of the funds before the freeze on February 20, 1981. Of the \$228,745,000 on the state side of the LWCF, only about \$73,305,000 had been obligated. Twelve states (Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Vermont) and all the territories had obligated no funds at all; twenty-three states had obligated less than half of their apportionment; and only sixteen had obligated more than half. The states could lose all unobligated funds. One state official from Michigan said, "The LWCF used to be a reliable source of funds. Now it is highly unstable. The concept of using the Fund as seed money to spur local initiative is a good one, but it can't be effective if it is unpredictable." As of this writing, moves were being made in Congress to restore some funding so that each state would receive at least a small amount to cover some administrative expenses.

A February 1981 survey developed by the National Recreation and Park Association found that estimates for local and state recreation and park capital improvements for five years came to more than \$11.5 billion. Of this total amount, about one-third or \$4.1 billion was anticipated from federal sources, principally the LWCF and UPARR. Although these figures appear to be high, together the two grants programs (LWCF and UPARR) might have yielded \$3.325

billion over five years for a variety of state and local park needs. Because the Administration is proposing no funding in either account, the actual federal contribution will probably be zero.

Because no one has assembled detailed information on the effect of the cuts, it is impossible to provide a thorough view of the national impact. Phone interviews with officials

in six states—California, Washington, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and South Carolina—supplement existing information about the impact of the cuts on planning, acquisition, development, and relations with the private sector. These interviews clearly show the extent of the irretrievable opportunities that will be lost.

LWCF Background

Funding for the *Land and Water Conservation Fund* was established in 1964 as a direct result of the recommendations of the *Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission*. The ORRRC Report concluded that because the opportunities for outdoor recreation varied greatly from state to state, the federal government's most appropriate role was to stimulate planning, acquisition, and development through seed money to the state and local governments.

Revenues for LWCF are derived from the sale of federal surplus real property, the proceeds from the motorboat fuel tax, and Outer-Continental Shelf (OCS) mineral leasing revenues. The LWCF reinvests OCS revenues (which account for approximately 90 percent of the LWCF authorization) in parklands for the future.

The current *authorized level of funding for LWCF* is \$900 million through 1989. Approximately 60 percent of the funds authorized in any given year are distributed to state and local governments; the law requires that not less than 40 percent be used for the purchase of federal lands such as parks, wild rivers, trails, recreation areas, and endangered species habitat. On state and

local Fund projects a 50 percent match is required from state and local governments. Some other sources of federal funds such as a community development block grant may be used as part of the match.

Accomplishments of the LWCF at the state and local levels have been impressive by any standard. Since 1965 \$2.5 billion have gone to the states for planning, acquiring, and developing more than 27,000 parks and outdoor recreation facilities in 14,000 communities. The Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service has been the planning, grants, and technical assistance organization administering the LWCF as well as the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program and the Historic Preservation Fund. Through its eight regional offices, it worked very closely with state and local governments, national conservation organizations, and community groups. On May 31, 1981, the agency was formally abolished. Most of the programs including the LWCF have been transferred to the National Park Service and other agencies in the Department of the Interior.

The fund has provided money for planning local and state parks projects and has encouraged local businesses and other sources to help pay for those projects. LWCF-funded projects have enhanced local economies, provided jobs, protected public lands, and provided thousands of new recreational areas for Americans.

Planning

To receive LWCF grants a state must prepare a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (SCORP) that surveys attitudes, preferences, behavior, and competing demands. Although the SCORPs have come under sharp attack, most recently in a General Accounting Office report, they have improved substantially in recent years. Often they are used as a vehicle for introducing new ideas and approaches that might otherwise be politically unacceptable. Recent changes in the guidelines have encouraged states to use their planning funds to develop action-oriented plans emphasizing public participation. The guidelines also permit, for the first time, special land use studies—to identify and plan for the use of important natural and recreation areas including river corridors and trails, islands and beaches, and other complex landscapes. Additional planning emphases during the last Administration included urban recreation, urban waterfront revitalization, access for the handicapped, and natural area preservation.

Most states have used the LWCF to support some or all of their recreation planning staffs. A recent survey of the states by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service indicated that eleven would maintain a high level of planning in spite of the cut; sixteen would greatly reduce their current planning effort; twenty-four would drastically curtail or abolish efforts; and four were unable to assess the probable impact. The six states interviewed all reported some adverse

consequences. Pennsylvania anticipates losing five planners; abandoning preliminary work on a statewide network of urban cultural parks; and halting the state's involvement in a comprehensive natural diversity survey for all public and private lands. Michigan will curtail or end special studies on the potential of tourism to help diversify that state's economy, and management studies for snowmobiles and off-road vehicles.

The impact on local planning will also be severe. In states such as Michigan, which require local governments to maintain a plan to be eligible for state and federal financial assistance, the message is clear; if we're not doing it, we can't make you do it. Most states interviewed said they would fall back to the minimal state requirement of developing state park master plans. "The attitude and philosophy of the federal government trickles straight down to the state and local governments. And we are already seeing an alarming tendency to save money by abolishing planning," said one official.

Perhaps the worst consequence of shrinking the institutional capacity to think, study, survey and strategize—that is, to plan—is that lost opportunities are never identified. Who will miss a statewide urban cultural park system if it is never conceived? And who will remember that once there were clear, unobstructed views of some lovely stream that have now been obscured by development?

Acquisition and Development

Most difficult for state and local governments is the loss of funding to carry out projects that have resulted from years of planning. The LWCF has been an important catalyst for acquiring, developing, and redeveloping outdoor recreation facilities. Corporations and individuals have found it attractive to donate land for public use when the LWCF provides development money as a match to their gift. Because most LWCF dollars received by the states are for acquisition and development projects, the cutback will result in a substantial number of aborted efforts:

- Washington State, for example, has scheduled one and one-half miles of choice property on the Green River in the Seattle-King County area for purchase. This land is threatened by private development; but without the LWCF to match state funds, it may not be purchased at all.
- Pennsylvania reports a number of land purchases that will be impossible: the new Swatara Gap State Park; Allegheny River property in Pittsburgh that was to have stimulated neighborhood and economic development; and various game lands and park inholdings.
- South Carolina will be unable to complete its plans on the Charleston and Columbia riverfronts. Both projects were anticipated to have a substantial positive impact on the local economies.

If the Administration has its way, cuts in unspent LWCF funds will halt countless current state and local parks projects. Funding for these projects is completely eliminated from the proposed 1982 budget.

The Next Four Years

The Administration's attitude toward parks and open space is not yet clear. By emphasizing renovation and maintenance of national parks, Secretary Watt has focused attention on a serious problem. But there have been no signs that anyone in the Administration understands either the history of accomplishments of the LWCF or the substantial agenda that remains.

An unproven tenet of Reagan's economic plan is that as the economy becomes healthier the private sector will donate substantially more services and dollars to help fill the gap left by the withdrawal of public dollars. One can predict that there will continue to be land and occasionally services donated to local and state agencies. But will the land be where it is needed most? Will it be accompanied by a development or maintenance endowment? Or will the public end up subsidizing business and wealthy individuals through taxes foregone on donated property which may only be a drain on local agencies to manage?

"Working more with the private sector will be tough," said Rob Blackmore of Virginia, former President of the National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers. "Everyone is hitting the foundations and corporations from all angles—the educators, the artists, the handicapped, the elderly and the poor. We have worked a lot in the past with these sources and have benefitted from substantial private gifts. But these were not a substitute for what we did as a public agency.

It was precisely because the Feds and the state were leading the way, because we had a plan and a framework for action, that the private sector wanted to get involved. Right now we're informing a large well-intentioned clothing manufacturer that has several plants in the state that we can't deliver on our commitment to provide capital to match their investment in a number of community recreation facilities. I expect the whole deal will collapse."

Funding the Agenda

All of us—and future generations as well—will be worse off if we fail to preserve this country's special places for public enjoyment. The question is not if we can or will do it, but how we will do it.

The agenda for the next four years requires at least two simultaneous activities on funding: first, restoring present cuts in the two programs already in place—LWCF and UPARR; and second, fashioning more flexible funding tools for the future. New appropriations might include a conservation and restoration block grant; a trust fund from Outer-Continental Shelf revenues to back state and local bond issues; or a revolving loan fund for acquisition and development projects likely to generate income from tourism or other economic development. Successful bond issues must be analyzed to determine how they were packaged and sold, and renewed efforts must be made to get them passed in other states.

A serious handicap in making the case for future funding is that there is no on-going, updated list of what needs to be done nationwide: projects to be planned; land to be purchased; parks to be restored. In the absence of this site-specific information it is difficult to communicate to decisionmakers that irretrievable opportunities are being lost forever. Further, measuring our progress in meeting critical needs is more difficult. The LWCF is one of the best examples of America doing something right and doing it well. State and local governments have pressing, well-defined needs for land acquisition and development. Now it is up to Congress to revise the searing consequences of the Administration's zeros. □

Meg Maguire was formerly Deputy Director of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, having succeeded current NPCA executive director Paul Pritchard. Previously she held the position of Associate Director for Recreation Programs at HCRS.

DAM IS KILLING THE GRAND CANYON

... and your tax dollars are paying for it!



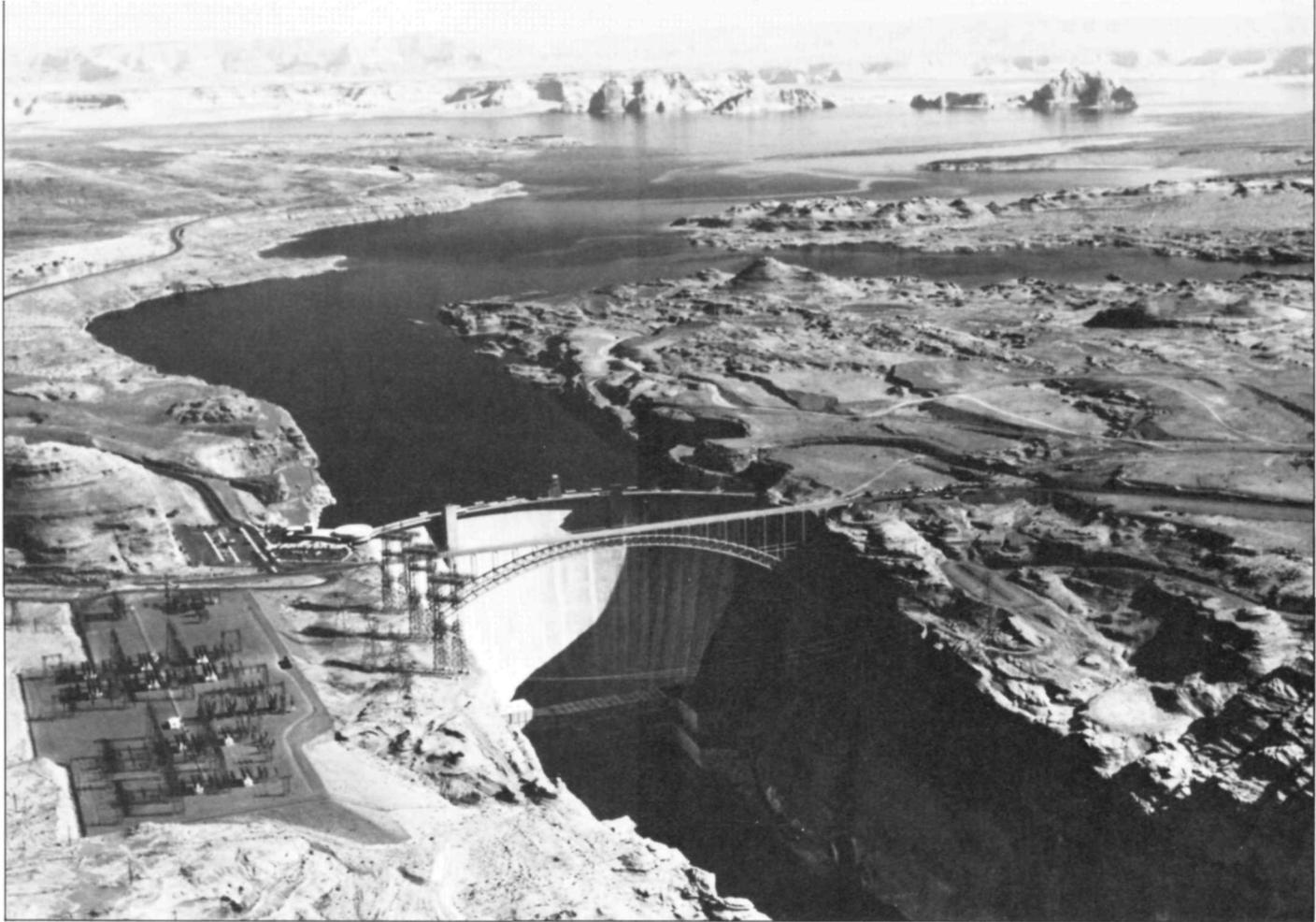
Water release from Glen Canyon Dam, by Dewitt Jones

We pulled several water-smoothed logs from a large snag of driftwood and hauled them to our dory, stuck nearly a foot deep in sand. The retreating high water from the night before had left our three rafts and the red dory grounded forty feet up the beach on our first morning in the Grand Canyon.

We levered the dory loose with the logs, then used them as rollers to work the stranded craft back down to the river. Then we had to partially unload the wider bottomed rubber rafts in order to drag them across the wet sand. This process, plus the re-loading and relashing, consumed three hours.

The lesson moved us to redouble our watch during the night. Several nights later, after having been pressed by autumn's early nightfall to settle for a narrow plateau campsite, we found midnight waters rising into our camp to within three feet of our sleeping bags. Our boats bobbed in the moonlight twenty feet offshore, their slack moorings loosening the knots.

These fluctuations in the level of the Colorado River are now common in the Grand Canyon. Resulting from uneven volumes of water released through Glen Canyon Dam at the upper end of the national park, these man-made "tides" surging along the river's banks through the Grand Canyon have brought increasing criticism from biologists, river runners, and environmentalists. To meet the changing daily and seasonal demand for electricity, the Bureau of Reclamation (BuRec) varies the volume of water flowing through the dam. These flows have changed the ancient ways of the Colorado, disrupting the naturally alternating erosion and redeposition of silt; enabling exotic species of plants to flourish on the banks; and eliminating some populations of birds and endangered fish.



Glen Canyon Dam, by Bureau of Reclamation

Before the dam was filled in 1963–64, floods from storms and from spring meltwater periodically swept down the river and scoured the banks and sandbars, but the river’s natural load of silt rebuilt the beaches each season. Nowadays the dam continues to unleash floods of erosive force into the lower canyon every day, but the river’s silt drops to the bottom of Lake Powell behind the dam. Now, once the beaches are washed away, they are gone.

A new proposal seeks further to increase the differences between these daily floods and their subse-

Under its natural regime before the construction of Glen Canyon Dam, the Colorado River rose to annual high flows in June or July and receded to low flows during the winter. Plants and animals along the riverbanks were adapted to this regime. Now, controlled releases of water from the dam create artificial “tides” on the river that play havoc with native plants and animals and jeopardize rafting tours. And a federal proposal to increase peaking capacity of the dam’s power plant will exacerbate this disastrous situation.

quent ebb flows, and the magnitude of the already destructive fluctuations would reach catastrophic proportions. The new plan calls for holding the river to minimum flows for most of any twenty-four hour period, then suddenly flushing forty or more times that volume down the canyon every day. This flow pattern would destroy many already stressed communities of plants and animals, eliminate scores of campsites, make many remaining sites unsafe, and leave America’s premium stretch of wild river off limits to whitewater boaters.

Of the millions of people who have come from all over the world to visit the Grand Canyon, 15,000 of them a year choose to run the river and touch firsthand the mysteries of the mile-deep canyon. The loss of the opportunity for this experience would entail the loss of one of our greatest natural resources.

The BuRec plan would expand Glen Canyon Dam’s power plant and further increase its use as a peaking power facility. The concept calls for meeting daily peak demands by releasing more water during periods when the demand for electricity is high. To accomplish this, BuRec officials have proposed adding two new turbines in the dam’s exist-

WHAT IS PEAKING POWER?

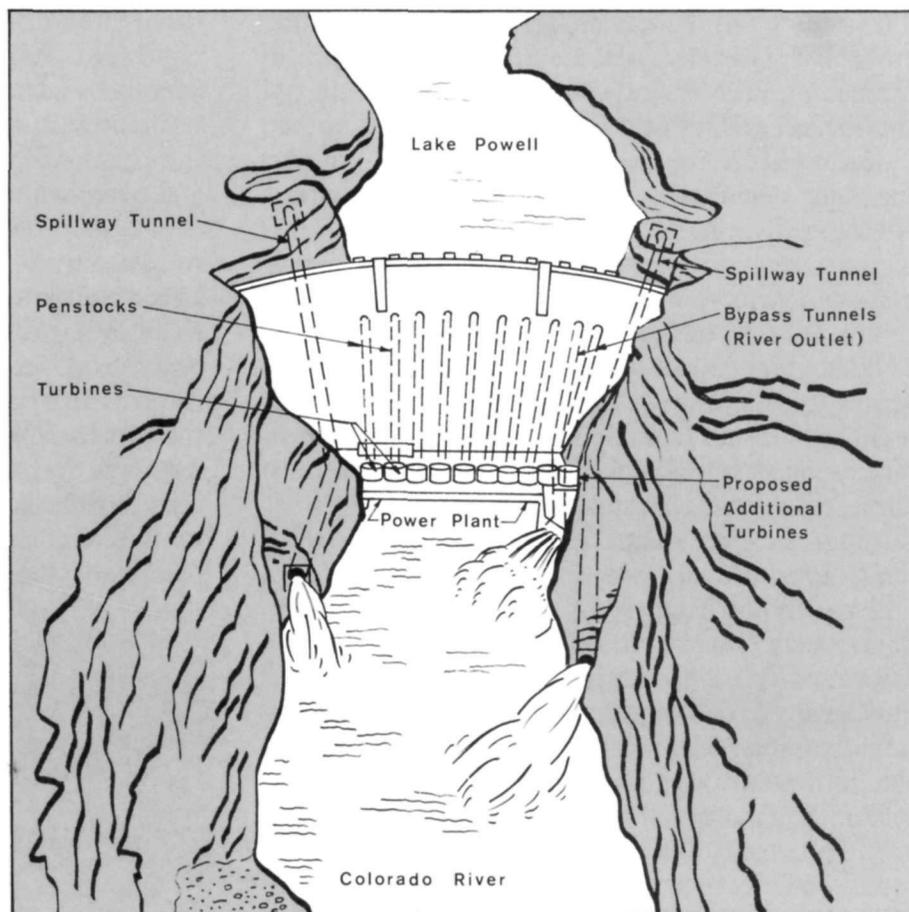
Within the service area of any utility the demand for electricity varies from hour to hour, day to day, and season to season. During the course of a day, for example, the demand for electricity is typically relatively low early in the morning before workers start their day. Demand rises during the day—often reaching a peak around 10:00 a.m. For many utilities, demand then remains relatively constant until the evening hours. Utilities also face higher demands for electricity during the week than on weekends. A utility is called either a summer or winter peaking utility depending on the seasonal demand for either electric heat or air conditioning.

Utility executives and planners divide the power they produce into two parts: baseload and peaking power. Baseload demand remains relatively constant. Demands above that level—the mountains on a demand graph caused by greater demand during some parts of the day—are called peaks.

The most efficient utility imaginable would be all baseload and would have no peaks; the demand would remain constant. Baseload power is cheaper to produce because generating units do not have to be turned on and off, nor do they have to remain idle for some parts of the day when demand is low.

Peaking power is costly to produce. It requires that expensive generating units lie idle for part of the day. Those machines—not producing power at midnight, for example, but called into use at 2:00 p.m.—represent a sizable investment by the utility in capital, maintenance, and interest costs that, for at least part of the day, is not earning any return.

According to the utility industry, certain kinds of generating units are more efficient as peaking power units than



Drawing by Carol Berman, © NPCA

others. Nuclear units, for example, are almost impossible to run for peaking power; they simply cannot be turned on and off quickly or economically. Water-powered turbines and gas-fired generators traditionally have been the cheapest solution to the peaking-power problem.

Because peaking power is more expensive to produce, the utility that can supply it to neighboring power companies can charge more for it. This is, in fact, the economic justification for add-

ing new peaking-power capacity at Glen Canyon Dam. Because the Bureau of Reclamation would be able to supply more electricity at those moments when its customer-utilities have to meet peak power demands, the agency will make more money on its electric sales without actually producing more electricity over the course of a year. Thus, although the dam will actually be used to produce electricity for shorter periods of time, the dollar value of the power produced will increase.—Ed.

ing bypass tunnels. The additional turbines would increase the power plant's capacity by 250 megawatts over the current 1,000 megawatt level. The BuRec plan offers two alternatives to this construction—no new capacity or one new turbine instead of two—but the agency seems to favor the largest possible increase. Although a decision on the size of the increase will be made after public input—and probably by early September—the agency is already proceeding with an interim project that will increase the capacity of the power plant even farther. BuRec is modifying the present turbines to increase the plant's generating capacity by 150 megawatts. Neither public hearings nor an environmental impact statement are planned for this major undertaking.

The existing turbines will not allow more than 33,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) of Lake Powell's waters to pass through the dam. BuRec considers it feasible to install one or two additional turbines and increase peak releases to 40,000 cfs. Because the total yearly release of water from Lake Powell through the dam is set at 8.25 million acre-feet by the Colorado River Compact, increased high flows will have to be balanced by longer periods of low flows, daily dropping the river levels to the most meager of flows. Under present operations summer flows ebb at 3,000 cfs, and winter low flows occasionally ebb at 1,000 cfs. Because the water available to flow through the turbines is limited by agreement, additional turbines and the rewinding of the present turbines will not actually produce more total electricity over the course of a year. The proposal will enable the BuRec to produce more electricity at any one moment, but then these peaks must be balanced by periods when the dam produces little power at all.

Already alarmed by present conditions, the Western River Guides Association reports that flows of even 5,000 cfs leave the river "barely runnable" for wooden dories and "marginal" for larger motorized craft. At that level rocky channels create "stack-ups" as groups encounter each other waiting for water high enough to run the more difficult rapids. A "marginal" rating on a rapid means that an experienced boat handler has even odds at making a passable run but that occasional upsets and strandings will occur, increasing the risks of damaged or lost craft and equipment and of injury to passengers and crew.

Flows of 3,000 cfs or less, the guides say, expose so many rocks that rigid-hulled dories and the larger pontoon boats no longer can negotiate the river. What is more, Tuck Weills, a member of the Recreation Technical Team Subcommittee, one of the advisory boards BuRec has established to review the proposal, reveals in his team's study that at 3,000 cfs even small rubber rafts will find 45 percent of the river's major rapids marginal at best, with several so hazardous as to gain a rating of "impassable." Weills concludes that the long periods of

low flow required by the BuRec plan would virtually end the canyon's \$12 million a year river-running industry.

For economic comparison, Martin Roche, BuRec chief of planning, says preliminary estimates furnished him by the Department of Energy (DOE) indicate the agency could sell the generated power to private utilities for \$10 million to \$18 million a year. Both BuRec and the Western River Guides Association say their respective estimates of the value of power sales and the river-running industry will rise as they seek more information from related businesses. Opponents, however, believe that DOE's estimate is already inflated. Although BuRec officials propose to set final sizing of the project by September, their cost-benefit figures remain "preliminary," their ecological data "pending." Estimated construction costs tentatively hover at \$150 million based on financing at just over 7 percent interest, a rate opponents point to as impossibly low in today's utility money markets. Even if the estimated construction cost proves to be accurate—an unlikely event, considering inflation and a history of cost overruns on water projects in the South-

west—the project would return less than 10 percent on its investment. Ten percent is considered a minimum return on investment in the utility industry.

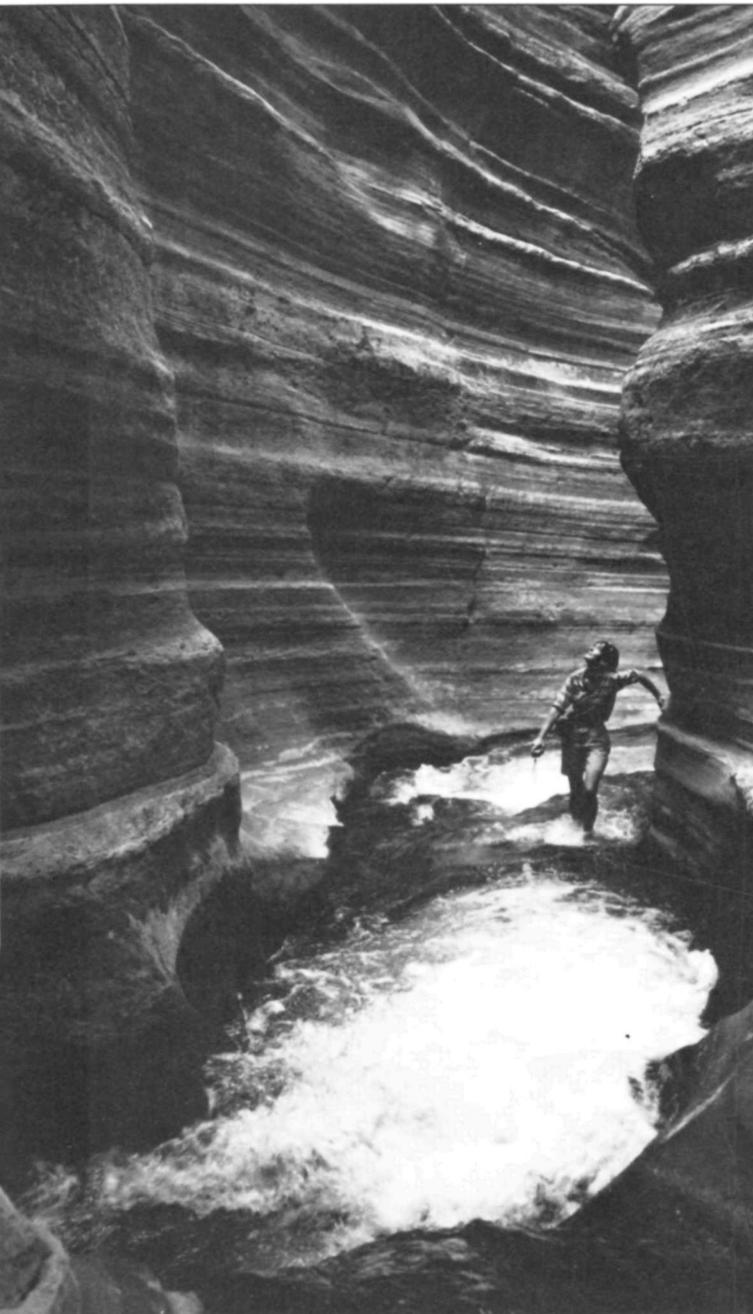
Jane Whalen of the Southwest Resource Council, a Utah-based conservation group, stated in a recent brief submitted to BuRec that Southern California Edison has "overprojected electric growth demand for the next decade." Whalen noted that the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) had projected a growth rate of 3.5 percent. The California utility grew at 1.5 percent last year. Whalen's brief also cited lower forecasts from Pacific Gas and Electric of California that were not used in WAPA's evaluation of the need for the new power. Any actual need in this market area—which includes parts of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, Arizona, Nevada, and California—could be met less expensively by purchasing electricity from existing Southwest utilities, Whalen says. Most of these utilities have excess capacities.

The costs of the project range far beyond the economic losses of the river-running industry or the waste of taxpayer dollars. Jerry Mallett of the American Wilderness Alliance says, "The proposed spread between high and low water will have a devastating effect on the river's resources." The river, heart of the canyon's ecosystem—migration routes, food-gathering patterns, major plant and wildlife interactions—would be radically changed. Even present changes in daily flow have plagued aquatic life, damaged beaches, and adversely affected riparian vegetation and wildlife, Mallett adds. The great mesquite groves, which depended on annual floods to reach high enough on the banks to water their roots, have been replaced by exotic plants such as tamarisk, which

Storms and seasonal high water used to scour away sandbars and beaches along the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon, but the silt-laden water quickly built them up again. Now the river's silt falls to the bottom of Lake Powell behind Glen Canyon Dam; and when beaches are washed away, the river cannot rebuild them. This terrace below President Harding Rapid, like many others, has been separated from the canyon wall by unnaturally fluctuating flows and lies vulnerable. Higher flows of water from increased peak water releases from the dam would wash away many camping beaches like this one used by river runners—and would make others too dangerous to use because of fluctuating water levels.



Colorado River beach, by John Roberts



Gorge of Deer Creek in Grand Canyon, by Martin Litton

Increasing the fluctuations of water from Glen Canyon Dam even more than at present will virtually eliminate most raft and dory trips through the Grand Canyon. Thousands of people per year will no longer have the opportunity to explore hidden delights and mysteries in side canyons deep within the Inner Gorge, many accessible only from the river—water-carved sculptures, tinkling waterfalls, hanging fern gardens, exquisite tiny oases. . . .

form thickets low on the banks and can survive periodic inundation. Canada geese, which once nested in large numbers on islands or along the edges of the river, appear now only as stragglers. And as the river's level falls, it often strands fish, crustaceans, and aquatic insects, leaving them, their eggs, and their hatchlings exposed to the killing sun.

In no area are the effects of rearranging the river's natural patterns more clearly reflected than in the decline of the Colorado River's populations of fish. Terry McCall, Arizona Fisheries biologist, reports that trout already have difficulty reproducing naturally in the changing flows. McCall's study states: "Newly constructed redds [egg-mass nests] on the upper gravel bars are exposed within a twenty-four-hour period as flow velocity is reduced to 1,000 to 5,000 cfs. Spawning fish are reluctant to leave spawning areas and often become trapped as water recedes." Other eggs suffer washout when the next high-flow wave hits.

Jerry Mallett notes that the lunger trout fishery from the dam down to Lee's Ferry would be "wiped out." This segment of the river yields six- to eight-pound rainbows and occasional twenty-pounders. Ironically, BuRec cited the stocking of these fish as a major recreational benefit of building the dam in the first place.

Other species of fish also would suffer greatly from the increased flows. The endangered humpback chub (*Gila cypha*) could be lost; and even the mysteriously successful swimmer of hydraulic turmoil, the razorback sucker (*Xyranchen texacanus*), now rarely found in the canyon, could lose its tenuous hold.

Robert Dolan of the University of Virginia's Environmental Sciences Department confirmed in a recent study that beaches are deteriorating and that



Redwall Cavern in Grand Canyon, by Martin Litton

with greater fluctuations of water "erosion will probably progress at an accelerated rate." Dolan's report states that one-third of the sand terraces now used by river runners for campsites would be lost to new high releases of water. Safety at the remaining sites would become unpredictable. Dangers from rising water would often cause "the necessity of relocating the camps in the night," warns Martin Litton, Grand Canyon historian and thirty-year veteran of the Colorado River's travails. Depending on the width of the river, the depth of water can vary as much as twelve to fifteen feet in a specific spot within twenty-four hours. A difference in depth of ten feet can make a difference of fifty to one-hundred feet in water level up a gradually sloping beach.

Paul C. Pritchard, Executive Director of National Parks & Conservation Association, says, "We would recommend, in the interest of the unique nature of the Grand Canyon, that alternatives to peaking power from Glen Canyon Dam be employed," but Whalen notes that BuRec seems uninterested in studying this possibility. "WAPA dismissed the idea of better load management to reduce peaking power needs," she comments.

Although substantial evidence indicates that the agency should decrease fluctuations of the river rather than increase them, BuRec officials continue to move ahead with the peaking power proposal. Concerned individuals and organizations can write directly for information or comment to John D. Brown, Project Manager, BuRec Durango Projects Office, P.O. Box 640, Durango, CO 81301. Public hearings on the peaking power plan are scheduled for this July. The final Environmental Impact Statement is due in October 1983.

Perhaps Martin Litton best summarizes the seriousness of concern for this national—indeed, world—treasure. Speaking of the responsibility we all share to preserve this place, he said, "Even if we could go out and find another Grand Canyon, how could we ever justify letting anyone ruin this one? Loss of the 180 miles of Glen Canyon's wonders under 'Lake' Powell was enough of a compromise for this or any nation to accept." □

Free-lance writer John Roberts lives in Boulder, Colorado. He served as boatman on an oar-powered Grand Canyon trip in October 1980 and is researching the canyon in preparing a book.

WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVES?

A decision not to build additional peaking power turbines at Glen Canyon Dam will not result in brown-outs or power outages—if utility managers pursue other alternatives. Conservation, load management, cogeneration, and the innovative use of older power plants can produce ample electricity more economically than the Glen Canyon project would.

As some of the country's more efficiently managed utilities have discovered, conservation provides additional electricity by stretching existing resources at a cost that simply cannot be matched by new power plant construction. Almost all the summer peaks in demand in the New Mexico and Arizona sections of the Western Area Power Administration territory served by Glen Canyon Dam, for example, result from residential air conditioning. Appliance labeling, consumer education, and an aggressive home insulation program could reduce this demand. Energy-efficient home air conditioners use two or three times less power than older units.

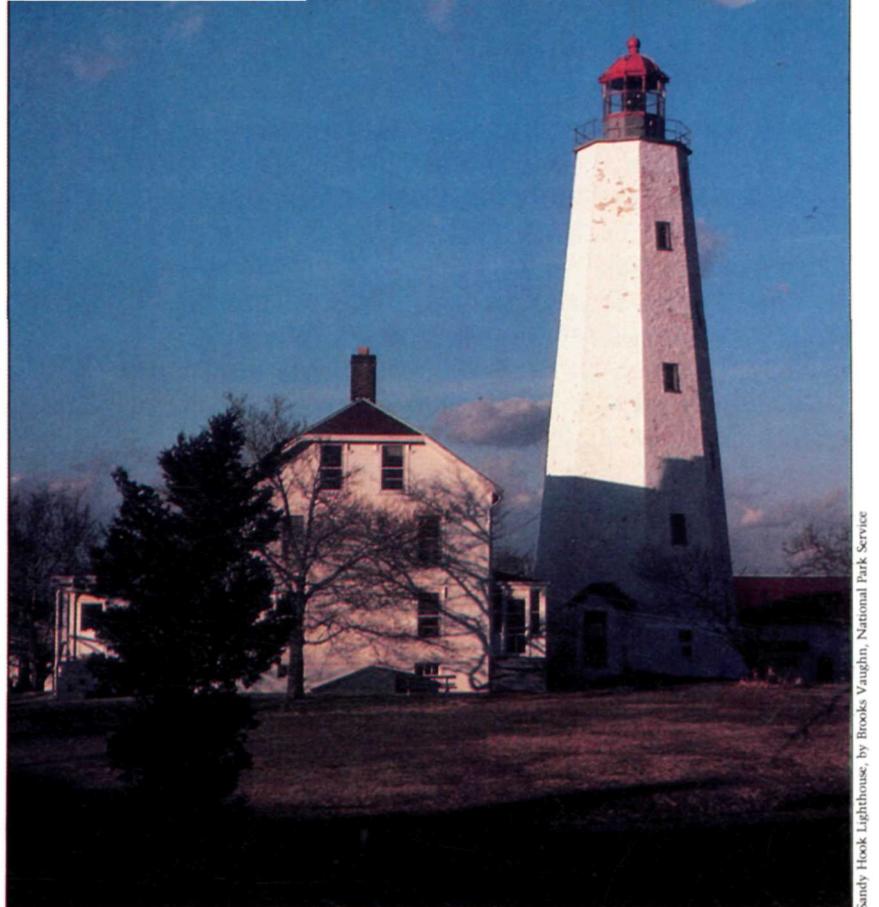
Simply rearranging the hours when people use some appliances also could help. Figures prepared by the Water and Power Resources Service show an extreme fluctuation in electric demand during the fall, for example, from lows of around 100 megawatts between midnight and 6:00 a.m. to peaks of 600 to 900 megawatts between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Utility managers can lower peaks and fill in "valleys" by using remote control cycling devices on water heaters and air conditioners, charging less for off-peak use, and providing bonuses to consumers who limit their demand for electricity.

Although conservation alone could eliminate the need for the new Glen Canyon turbines, other methods for producing electricity also could do the job. Applications from individuals and cities for small hydroelectric projects, often on *existing* dams, have mushroomed in recent years thanks to the help of several federal laws. Turbines at Hoover Dam will produce an extra 300 megawatts of peaking power when rewinding is completed in 1988; new turbines could produce an additional 500 megawatts. Wind power "ranches" like the 100 megawatt plant planned by BuRec at Medicine Bow, Wyoming, offer a demonstrated alternative. Cogeneration, another proven technique, uses waste heat or steam from industrial processes such as secondary oil recovery and copper smelting—both common activities in parts of the Southwest—to produce electricity. Passive and active solar systems play a larger role each year. Public Service of New Mexico projects a 5 percent decline in its forecasted need for electricity by the year 1990 attributable to solar power.

One tempting alternative to the project should interest even the most conservative utility manager. Decontrol of natural gas prices has made natural gas much too expensive for use as a fuel to generate base load electricity. Gas-fired power plants, however, often relatively new, are common in the region. Some utilities, realizing the savings these plants represent over the cost of new construction, have begun to purchase the gas-fired units. Public Service of New Mexico, for example, has proposed a merger with a much smaller utility in order to gain control of the company's only major asset—a 180-megawatt gas-fired power plant. As this example shows, there are ways to generate peaking power without any new construction—and certainly without the environmental damage promised by the additions at Glen Canyon Dam. The region has an almost embarrassing number of alternatives to the Glen Canyon Dam project, if utility managers will only use them.—Ed.

M. F. Vernon

Windswept beaches,
dunes, woodlands,
a wildlife refuge,
and several
historic landmarks
offer welcome
open space right at
New York City's
doorstep



Sandy Hook Lighthouse, by Brooks Vaughn, National Park Service

GATEWAY: First "Park for the People"

During the mid-1800s, there emerged the concept that every country should have a system of national parks. For many years, however, national parks were a luxury that the majority of Americans could never afford to visit.

In 1967 Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall wrote in *LOOK Magazine*, "With seven of ten Americans clustered in machine-made urban areas, we desperately need nature's great benefits, for after all, man's part of nature can be a steadying gyroscope in a person's, as well as a nation's, life."

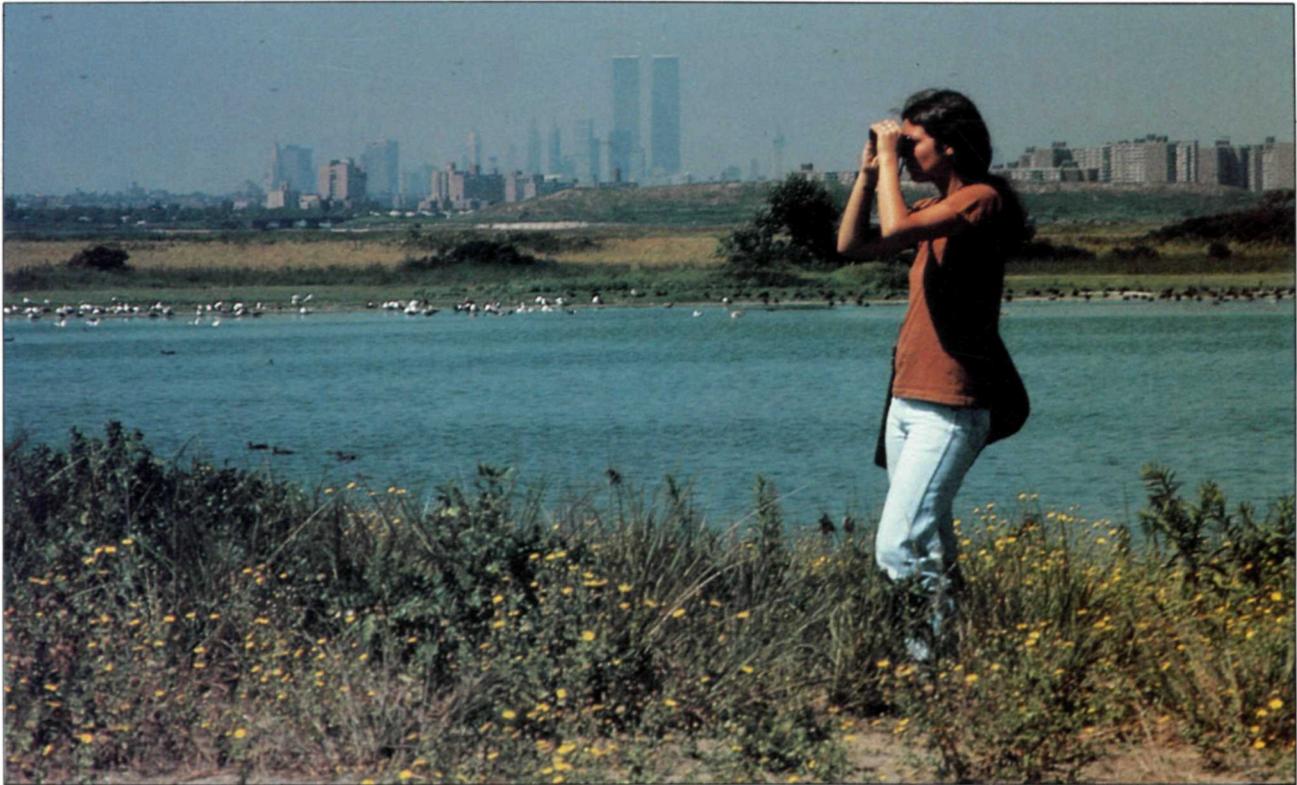
Just five years later, with the strong support of the Nixon Administration, Congress established Gateway as the first national recreation area in a metropolitan area within the National Park System. When Gateway was created, a congressional committee said it would bring the National Park Service program "closer to the people than ever before." Since 1974 more than 9 million visitors have come to Gateway each year. Among Gateway's primary objectives, as outlined in its general management plan, are to care for natural and historic resources and to be a place for experi-

mentation and innovation in park and recreation management.

Gateway's four units in New York and New Jersey are situated in the heart of the nation's largest metropolitan area, with a population of 20 million. Although Gateway targets many of its recreational and interpretive activities toward residents of adjoining metropolitan communities, it is contributing to the preservation of the region's natural and historic resources as well.

Historic Sandy Hook Light and Fort Hancock watch over the shipping channels into New York Harbor. The Sandy Hook unit of Gateway National Recreation Area is popular for swimming, surf fishing, biking, hiking, and nature study.

Thousands of birds stop at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge during spring nesting season and fall migration. Within sight of Manhattan's towers, the refuge offers excellent opportunities for birders to spot more than 300 species of birds, including Canada geese, egrets, and glossy ibis.



Brooks Vaughn, National Park Service

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Gateway has three historic districts on the National Register of Historic Places: Fort Hancock, Miller Field (Staten Island), and Floyd Bennett Field. Millions of visitors each year enjoy Gateway's many acres of beaches and other recreational land.

Fort Tilden, a major defense unit during World War I, is located in Gateway's Breezy Point District. In fact, it had the largest guns protecting New York harbor. Today, National Park rangers lead visitors on explorations of the site and along bay and ocean beaches to discover the fascinating world of marine life.

Specially organized programs enable visitors to participate in crafts activities that utilize the natural materials and patterns of marine life.

A short drive from Fort Tilden is historic Floyd Bennett Field, New York City's first municipal airport and a former Naval Air Station. From these fifty-year-old runways flew Amelia Earhart, Wiley Post, "Wrong Way" Corrigan, Jacqueline Cochran, Howard Hughes, John Glenn, and many other civilian and military aviators. Today Gateway's headquarters is located at Floyd Bennett Field. So is its

Environmental Study Center, which offers programs in a wide range of environmentally oriented subjects including botany, marine life, bird life, food chains, and plant propagation. Ecology Village at Floyd Bennett Field attracts thousands of young people for overnight camping experiences and the chance to live with nature, albeit for only one or two days at a time.

Sandy Hook, New Jersey, is both historically significant and currently important to the life of the region. The Hook's dunes protect the uplands from strong sea winds and enable plant life to flourish. Fortified

frequently through the centuries, Sandy Hook's Fort Hancock became the major New York defense post during the Spanish-American War. Sandy Hook lighthouse, constructed in 1764 to guide merchant ships into New York Harbor, is the oldest lighthouse in the United States. Sandy Hook was also the site of the Army's first proving ground.

One cannot forget the creation of two United States Lifesaving Service Stations at Sandy Hook to rescue sailors and passengers from sinking and grounded vessels. The Service later gave way to the United States

Coast Guard. Gateway personnel still reenact Lyle Gun rescue drills for fascinated visitors.

Thousands of visitors each year come to Gateway's Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, created on the site of a former trash dump. The man-made refuge is proving that man may live and work with nature to restore the environment. More than 350 species of birds have been spotted at the refuge; that's more than have been found in the entire British Isles.

With more visitors per year than Yosemite and Yellowstone combined, with the only self-contained wildlife refuge in the National Park

System and one of the finest holly forests to be found anywhere, Gateway National Recreation Area is also an important educational and research center for such highly regarded colleges as Cornell, Rutgers, Fordham, Yale School of Forestry, University of Michigan, and the City University of New York

This recreation area in the nation's largest urban metropolitan region was born out of challenge and the realization that city folks deserve the same opportunities for recreation as Americans elsewhere and that major natural and human resources in the cities must be preserved.

There is no accurate means of gauging whether this concept is working. However, of the more than 9 million visitors to Gateway each year, many have gone away more adept at various skills and more aware of natural and cultural resources and how to preserve and enjoy them.

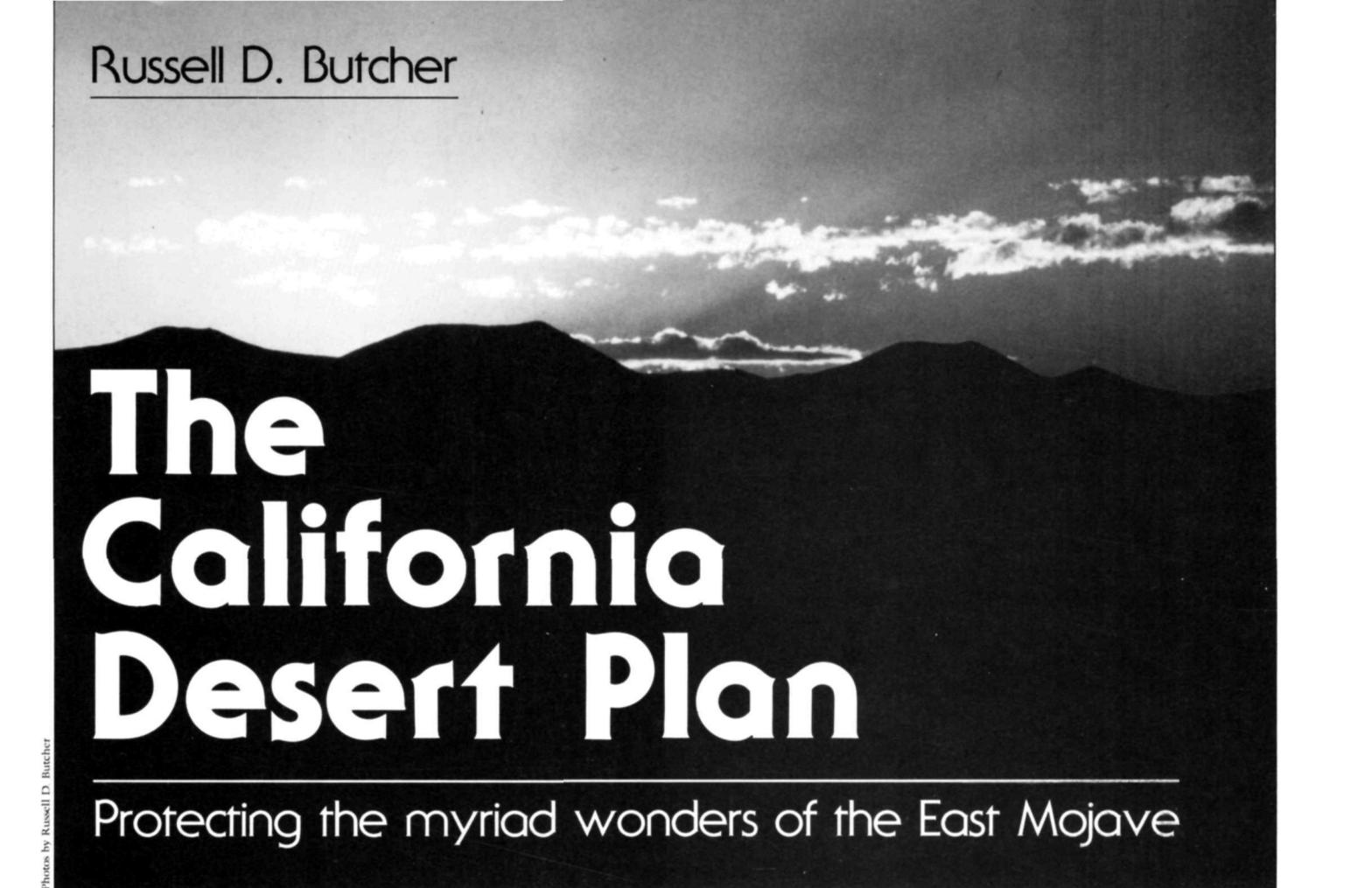
A recent TV commercial exploited the Americanism of hot dogs and apple pie. To millions of men, women, and children nothing is more American than the National Park Service. And Gateway National Recreation Area is being hailed enthusiastically by the millions of American visitors who find welcome outdoor recreation there each year. □

M. F. Vernon is a free-lance writer who specializes in topics of interest to urban Americans.



Brooks Vaughn, National Park Service

A park ranger explains marine life to a group of fascinated children. Hundreds of school classes each year benefit from a wide range of educational field trips to the various units of Gateway National Recreation Area.



The California Desert Plan

Protecting the myriad wonders of the East Mojave

Photos by Russell D. Butcher

Cinder Cones sunrise, East Mojave National Scenic Area

Clear images come to mind when I am asked to describe the Eastern Mojave Desert in California. I remember a day in October when my wife Pam and I watched the constantly changing panoramas of clouds—great billowing white cumulus clouds, their undersurfaces as black as ink, piled thousands of feet above the sharply etched desert ranges; the sun, shining through a gap in the clouds, spotlighting the crest of the Kelso Dunes for a brief few moments; plumes of rain falling here and there across the expanses of desert, sharpening the unmistakable, pungent fragrance of creosote bush; and, in a low mountain pass, a forest of Joshua trees, their angular branches enveloped mysteriously in the fog of a low-lying cloud.

The dramatic beauty and fragile ecological balance of this area are now offered better protection than previously possible, as part of a comprehensive plan created by the Bureau of Land Management to administer the twelve-million-acre expanse of desert known as the California Desert Conservation Area. Some four months after then-Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Water Resources, Guy R. Martin, gave final approval for the plan, Interior

Secretary James G. Watt gave the go-ahead for implementing it. The California Desert Plan is the result of four years of extensive field research, thousands of responses from the public, and tomes of planning documents. It provides an innovative approach to public and private use of the twelve million acres, allowing for both long-range conservation and carefully planned use of this spectacular desert region of southeastern California.

Among the many competing and sometimes sharply conflicting uses of the desert that the plan sets out to accommodate are wilderness hiking and camping, scientific research, mineral prospecting and extraction, wildlife habitat protection, livestock grazing, power plant siting and utility line location, archeological and historical site protection, and a variety of motor vehicle uses—from dune buggy recreation to long-distance motorcycle racing.

Satisfying all these interests may sound like a job for a “mission impossible” task force. It remains to be seen whether the BLM will be able to implement the plan’s ambitious goals—and whether the agency will be provided with anywhere near sufficient funding and staffing with which to carry out



Joshua tree

Photos by Russell D. Butcher

The diverse features of this California region testify to its relative youth as a desert. Whereas in other parts of the world the timeless forces of harsh climate, wind, and water have worn ancient deserts to flat, low-relief surfaces, here these forces have only begun to shape the land. The variety of dramatic landforms such as the rough-hewn Providence Mountains and the remaining expanses of Joshua tree forest and lush grasses attest to the region's former cooler, moister climate before the end of the past ice age. The scenic qualities of some of these features are now protected through designation of the East Mojave National Scenic Area, an idea the BLM adopted after NPCA proposals.



East Mojave vista



Providence Mountains

even its highest priorities. Twelve million acres is a vast amount of land to administer, but the area just might be big enough to absorb these many competing needs within its borders. At the very least, the BLM plan will provide some specific protection to special areas of this vast desert that otherwise might fall to competing development interests.

The plan sets out to accommodate these various interests by dividing the acreage into different classes, matching land-use needs with an area's capacities and special qualities. For example, an area with a particularly delicate ecosystem

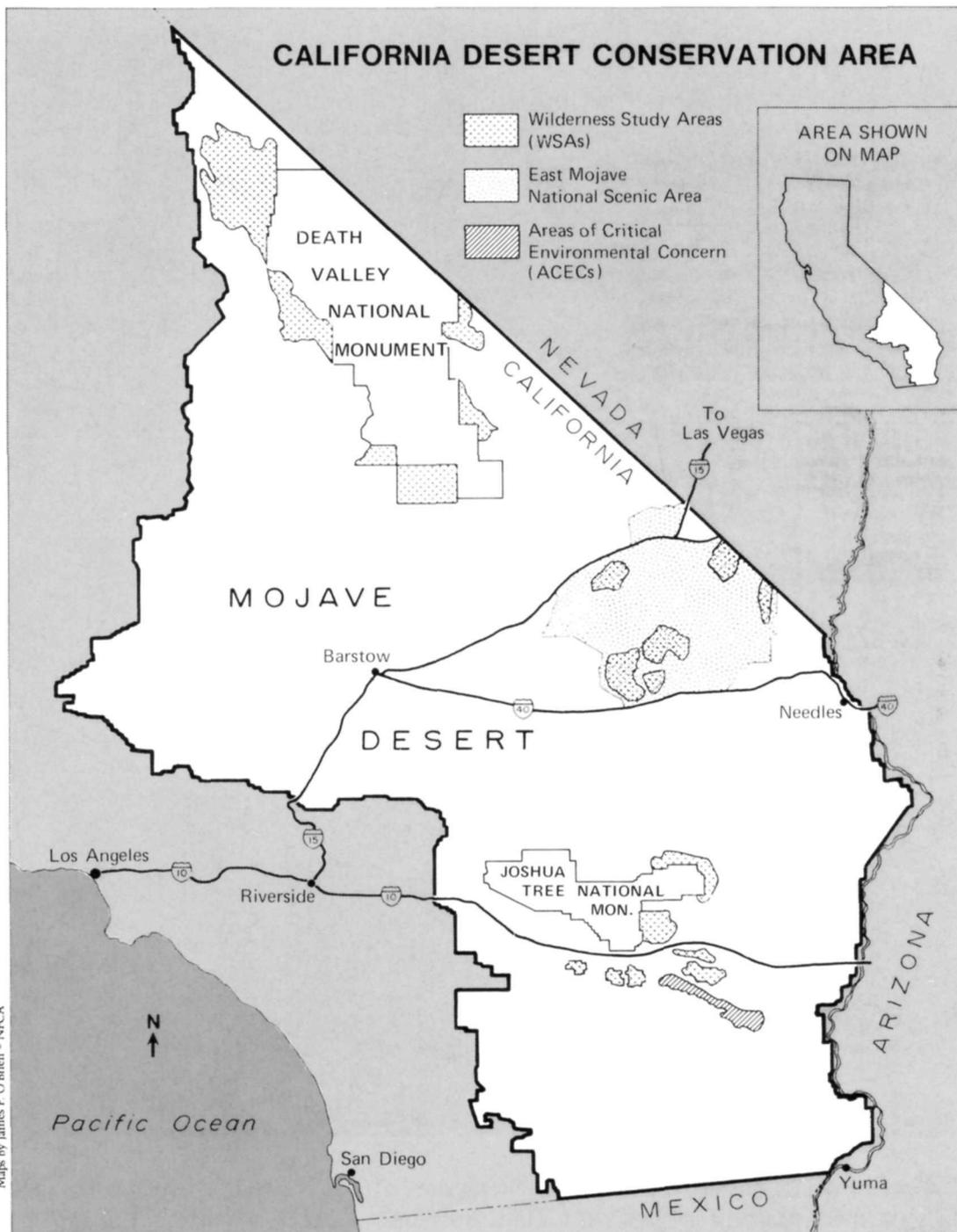
or outstanding scenic qualities might be designated in a protective category, while an area with a sturdy, grassy cover in a less scenic area could be leased for grazing. (See Land Classifications, p. 33.)

One of the kinds of implementation problems that the BLM plan focuses upon is how to limit the use of motor vehicles in the desert, particularly in areas that are scenically and biologically sensitive. As one environmental comment states: "Abuse by off-road vehicles is one of the most serious problems facing the desert. Unless they are brought under greater control, ORVs threaten wide scale destruction of the desert's lands and wildlife."

But how can ORVs be controlled—with the sheer vastness of the desert and the severely limited BLM funding and staffing to patrol protected or "closed" areas? In the words of the scientific staff of the University of California's Museum of Vertebrate Zoology: "We have been especially concerned about the mounting evidence for serious and perhaps irreversible damage to natural ecosystems in the desert resulting from the rapid growth of offroad vehicle (ORV) recreation and the effect of this activity on other uses of the desert." This problem requires cooperation among the BLM, recreationists, and conservationists.

The most scenically spectacular part of the BLM's California Desert is in the high (Mojave) desert to the east of Barstow, lying mostly within the "triangle area" between I-40, I-15, and the Nevada state line. This is such an extraordinary expanse of wild desert that a number of environmental groups urged establishment of a million-plus-acre Mojave National Park. In 1978 and 1979 several bills were introduced in Congress for such a park during the same time that the BLM was developing the California Desert Plan.

Continued on page 34



The National Parks & Conservation Association has taken a special interest in the future of a number of the Wilderness Study Areas designated by the plan. A few of these WSAs border on national monuments, and will become adjacent protected wilderness areas if Congress ultimately accepts the plan's recommendations.

Near Death Valley National Monument, WSA acreage includes the remarkable Saline Valley; the wild remote Eureka Valley; the magnificent Eureka

Dunes; and the Last Chance Range. Several other WSAs lie close to Joshua Tree National Monument and have such special qualities that they have been included in proposals to enlarge that monument. These are the Eagle Mountains, the Coxcomb Mountains, and Mecca Hills in the low (Colorado) desert. The BLM has already given protective designations to the Mecca Hills, including restrictions on use of vehicles for certain sensitive portions.

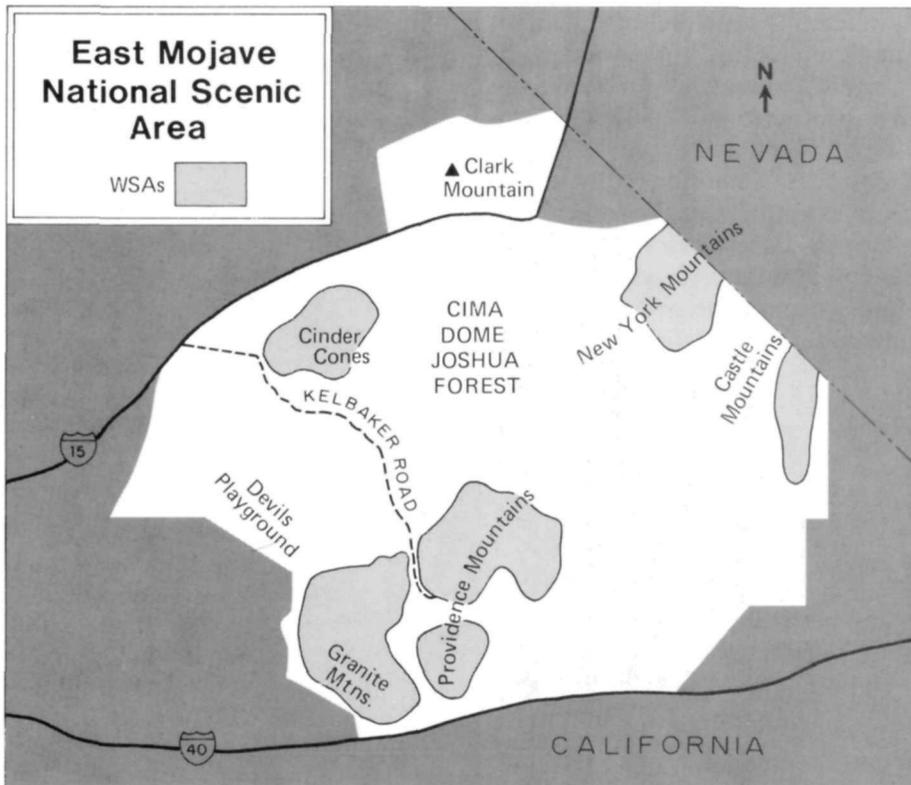
CDCA Budget '82

The Bureau of Land Management's budget office has proposed funding of \$10.4 million for the California Desert Plan for 1982. Since Interior Secretary James G. Watt has apparently given the go-ahead for implementing the plan, Congress will likely approve its funding in the fall. But current federal budget cuts in other areas will make the proposed funding inadequate.

The proposed budget depended on extensive staff support from the Young Adult Conservation Corps, a Labor Department program that has been cut from the budget. John Scull of the BLM California District Office reports, "A great deal of our implementation was formerly done by YACC, so we will be doing less with what funds we get. I'd say a good twenty percent of our field work was covered by YACC." Field work includes fire fighting, erosion control, monitoring areas of environmental concern, and conducting interpretive programs.

The positions formerly filled by the YACC will now have to be covered by GS-rated personnel at substantially higher salaries, or not at all. Another possible alternative is for the BLM office in Riverside, California, to recruit local volunteers to take over where YACC left off. John Scull is hopeful about this option: "We're already working on a volunteer program, and we've come up with some new resources." He explains, "Right now we have a pilot program in the town of Ridgecrest. We've found our recruits to be enthusiastic, effective workers."

With continued local support, BLM budget strictures may be surmounted to some extent, and the delicate balance between conservation and competing interests may be maintained as originally intended in the California Desert Plan.



Land Classifications

• Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)

Seventy-five areas, totaling over 655,000 acres, provide special protection for ecologically significant sand dunes, desert canyons and mountains, perennial springs and streams and their related riparian habitat, rare or endangered plants and animals, and a variety of important historical and cultural sites.

• Four major use classes

Controlled use. This class provides some two million acres, in which forty-five areas have been designated as Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) that have been found suitable for recommendation to Congress as additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Limited use. Nearly six million acres are set aside to protect sensitive

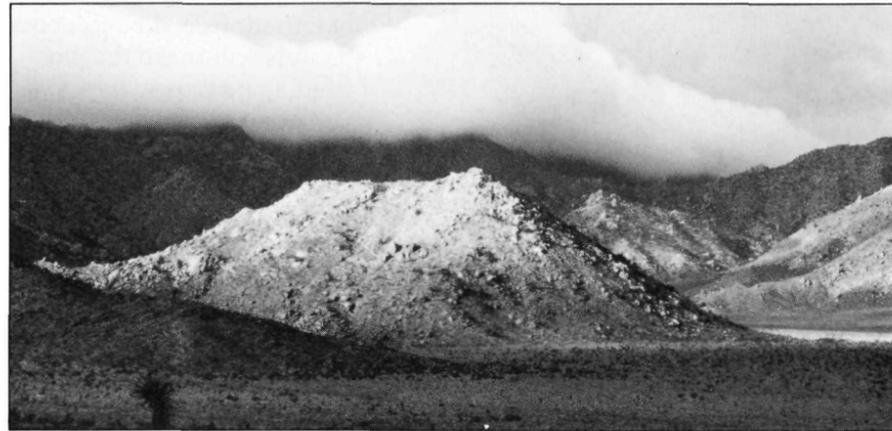
natural and cultural values, to carefully control resource development, and to close routes of travel by motorized vehicles except where they are specifically opened by the BLM.

Moderate use. Three million acres are provided for a wide variety of consumptive uses, to mitigate damage done to the environment by use and development, and to open routes of travel by motorized vehicles except where they are specifically closed by the BLM.

Intensive use. This classification includes about half-of-a-million acres, some of which would be so-called "free-play" motor vehicle lands.

Another third-of-a-million acres, left unclassified, is slated by BLM for eventual land sales, transfers, or exchanges.

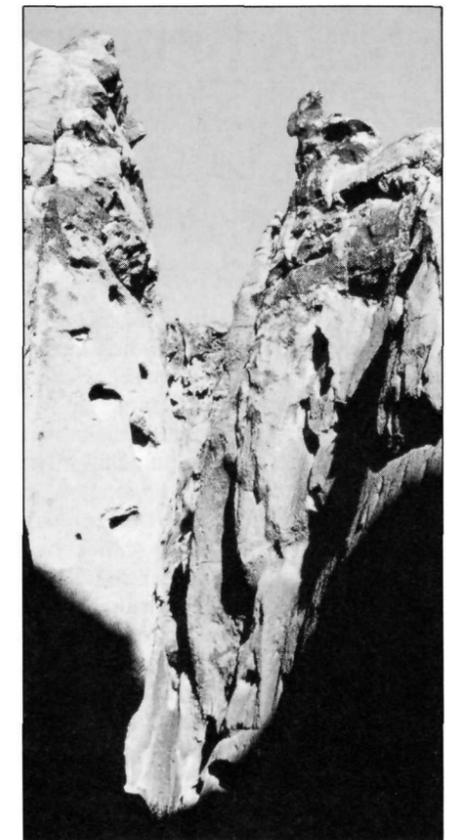
Sunlight spotlights the rugged Granite Mountains (below) in the newly designated East Mojave National Scenic Area. Kelso Dunes (center), an unusual land formation rising to a dramatic 700-foot height above the surrounding creosote bush valley, is also protected by that designation. The "Hole in the Wall" tufa cliffs (far right), another Scenic Area feature, was formed in a previous era from layers of compacted volcanic ash, now eroded to pock-marked spires, a haunt of nimble desert bighorn sheep. Other parts of the vast California Desert are slated by the BLM for grazing, mining, motorcycle racing, and a wide variety of other uses. But NPCA worked with other conservation groups and area residents to help the BLM study the special features shown here for protective designation.



Granite Mountains



Kelso Dunes



"Hole in the Wall"

Continued from page 31

Then, in October 1980, NPCA suggested that the BLM designate this region as a "national scenic area." The Association's statement explained, "It has been evident from discussions with a number of BLM staff that this area is considered by the Bureau of Land Management as its 'Crown Jewel' of the California Desert. Such a special designation as this would help focus public attention on the fact that the BLM really does regard the area as scenically extra special." A coalition of leading environmental organizations endorsed the idea, and the BLM and Interior Department responded favorably by establishing the 1.3-million-acre "East Mojave National Scenic Area," including virtually all lands in the earlier park proposals, as well as some additional lands.

Some of the traditional uses of the East Mojave—mineral prospecting and extraction, livestock grazing, rock hounding, and hunting—will continue. But the scenic designation makes the area a BLM priority and will probably result in tougher use stipulations to prevent damage to the area's overall scenic integrity. The designation will also help BLM

enforce regulations to minimize the visual and ecological impacts of mining operations in the area.

Just what are the features of the East Mojave that make it so exceptional? Running from southwest to northeast through the heart of the region is a rugged, upthrusting backbone of impressive desert mountains: the Granites, the Providences, the New Yorks, and Castle Peaks. Other unusual features include the Kelso Dunes, rising to more than 700 feet above a vast surrounding valley; the sprawling expanse of sand and sparse vegetation called the Devil's Playground; an intriguing lunar-like landscape of thirty-five cinder cones and surrounding lava flows; the Cima Dome Joshua Forest, the largest expanse of Joshua trees anywhere in the Mojave Desert; and 7,929-foot-high Clark Mountain, an impressive "sky-island" that spans life zones from Lower Sonoran to Canadian, with a relict stand of white firs near its lofty summit. Cutting across this area is the historic Mojave military road, with remains of forts dating from the 1850s.

I can attest to the East Mojave's beauty, from the maze of great, rounded, fractured rock formations called the "Sheep Corral" to the brilliantly hued April wildflowers carpeting the desert for miles,

and the shadows lengthening across the rippled Kelso Dunes. Wildlife in this area also has an arresting beauty, in part because of its steadfast endurance. One day, Pete Burk, chairman of the California Desert Alliance, and I discovered an adult and two fuzzy young great horned owls in a nest hidden in a gnarled old juniper. Later that day, we spotted four desert bighorn sheep silhouetted against the western sky, high atop rocky promontories of tufa cliffs.

Many days here the crushing summer heat bakes the desert so mercilessly that you would think no living thing could possibly survive so brutal an onslaught. Even in spring, dessicating desert winds blow with such force that the air is choked with dust and sand. Yet these conditions have helped sculpt the living desert for thousands of years. Randall Henderson, the founder of *Desert Magazine*, once said: "To those who come to the desert with tolerance it gives friendliness; to those who come with courage it gives new strength of character. . . . For those seeking beauty the desert offers nature's rarest artistry."

The BLM's California Desert Plan, now ready for implementation, offers an exciting prospect for pro-

tecting "nature's rarest artistry" in the East Mojave in particular, and throughout the California desert region. But the question remains: Will the limited Bureau of Land Management staff be able to implement the ambitious, innovative plan? With the cooperative support of ranchers, devotees of wildlife and wilderness, mining interests, campers, rock hounds, and a host of others, this plan may work to protect at least the most significant parts of this ecologically vulnerable, beautiful desert region. This cooperation and communication—among the various user groups, and between them and the BLM staff—will be the key to the plan's success in the challenging years ahead.

Russell D. Butcher is NPCA's Southwest Regional Representative. In that role he played a major part in the designation of the East Mojave National Scenic Area.

NPCA Report

Draft Bill Seeks to End Annual Parkland Studies

If the Reagan administration gets its way, James Watt and succeeding secretaries of the Interior will not be required to recommend any more national parks. Following hard on the heels of the moratorium on additions to the Park System, the Administration has drafted a bill to relieve the Secretary of the Interior of the responsibility for recommending potential parks to Congress. Going beyond merely eliminating the current requirement for twelve new area studies annually, the repeal bill would eliminate Park Service responsibility to continually monitor areas of national significance.

The General Authorities Act of 1970 required the Secretary to submit an annual list of no fewer than twelve areas with potential for inclusion in the National Park System. The Reagan administration thinks these studies unnecessary. "The National Park Service already manages the most important areas of natural significance," added under-secretary of the Interior Donald Hodel in a note accompanying the draft bill.

Hodel cited the need to carefully investigate each of the twelve areas as one reason for seeking this amendment. "The studies are an expense that is unjustified in this era of fiscal austerity. The National Park Service estimates that each study would cost between \$50,000 and \$150,000. We believe that it would be better to use these resources to restore and improve existing units of the National Park System," he wrote.

Although the current law directs the Secretary of the Interior to recommend potential parks, Congress has failed to provide sufficient funding for twelve park studies. The Senate and House Appropriations Committees cut the Fiscal Year 1981 budget for park studies from the \$1 million requested by the Park Service to only \$100,000. Congress required the study of only two potential parks: the New Jersey Meadowlands

and the Falls of the Ohio. The Park System is large enough and new area studies are unwarranted at this time, the committees said. The Reagan administration has not requested any money for the study of potential parks in the Fiscal Year 1982 budget.

Such economies are short-sighted, NPCA believes. "Only if you believe that there just aren't any more areas worth including in the system does this make sense," NPCA's executive director Paul Pritchard notes. "How can we plan for future needs, how can we preserve resources under increasing pressure, how can we even know what the alternatives are, if we don't do these studies?"

Chafee, Evans Introduce Barrier Island Bill

At the end of April Senator John Chafee (R.-R.I.) and Representative Thomas Evans (R.-Del.) introduced a bill to discourage federally subsidized growth on barrier islands along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts. The Chafee-Evans bill would prohibit the federal government from providing financial assistance for commercial and residential development on undeveloped barrier islands. "This policy will save the federal taxpayers millions of dollars and indirectly discourage man-induced alteration of these natural treasures, which should be conserved for the use and enjoyment of future generations," Chafee said.

Barrier islands are sandy, low-lying areas that protect the mainland from the full force of storm winds and waves. Sheltering rich breeding grounds for marine organisms, waterfowl, and shorebirds, barrier islands are very productive but extremely fragile areas of dunes and marshes. A recent U.S. Geological Survey study revealed that the amount of built-up land on the barrier islands has increased more than 150 percent during the past thirty years. The same study showed that wetlands, which make up about half the total land area of the islands, decreased by almost 80,000 acres during this same period. Most of that area was lost to construction, landfill, and dredging.

A number of federal programs have contributed to this runaway development. In only three years \$37 million in federal funds have been spent to build bridges and roads to make these accessible for development. In five years the EPA has committed more than \$457 million in sewer and water projects in these areas. Perhaps the greatest impact on the islands has come from the federal flood insurance program. Because these islands with their shifting dunes and shorelines are inherently unstable, most conventional insurance companies will not issue insurance for private homes and other privately owned buildings in these areas. Seventy-eight percent of the federal flood insurance claims for 1978 and 1979 were paid to coastal states—at a rate three times the amount collected in premiums by the federal government. In effect the federal flood insurance program subsidizes the private development of the barrier islands with the U.S. taxpayer picking up the bill. In 1979 insurance policies in the most hazardous coastal areas cost the U.S. taxpayer \$279 per policy.

The bill introduced by Chafee and Evans would establish a Coastal Barrier Resources System consisting of the undeveloped coastal barrier islands on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. Within the system, new federal expenditures and financial assistance—grants, loans, loan guarantees, and insurance—are prohibited. The Secretary of the Interior is to report to Congress after three years. His report will include recommendations for modifications of the system.

The legislation does not give the federal government any new acquisition authority, nor does it authorize any expenditures for acquisition. Local zoning and permitting authority would not be preempted by the law.

Above all, the bill will save money for the American taxpayer and slow down the runaway development of one of our most precious resources. The rate of urban growth on the barrier islands between 1960 and 1976 was four times the national average. The bill introduced by Chafee and Evans would get the U.S. government out of subsidizing this development on undeveloped barrier islands. For more details on problems of development on barrier islands, see *National Parks & Conservation Magazine* special issue, July 1980.

You can help: Write to your Senators and Representative asking them to support and cosponsor the Chafee-Evans coastal islands bill. Urge your Senators to cosponsor S. 1018. Urge your Representative to cosponsor H.R. 3252.

Touring Exhibit Features Photo-History of Parks

"American Photographers and the National Parks," the first major photographic exhibit surveying the relationship between the national parks and the growth of American landscape photography, will tour nine cities during the next two years. Photography has been intertwined with the Park System since Congress included photographer William Henry Jackson in the survey party sent to examine the Yellowstone area. Jackson's photographs were instrumental to the formation of the park two years later in 1872. One of America's

great landscape photographers, Ansel Adams, was first drawn to photography during a visit to Yosemite when he was fourteen.

Featuring 205 images by thirty-five nineteenth- and twentieth-century photographers, the exhibit shows a wide variety of park landscapes. "America Photographers and the National Parks" includes photographers such as Edward Weston, Ansel Adams, William Gannett, Laura Gilpin, Eliot Porter, and Minor White. The exhibit will be in Oakland until July 5; at the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C., from September 19 through November 15; the New York Public Library from December 7 through February 3, 1982; the Chicago Historical Society from February 28 through April 24, 1982; the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth from May 27 through July 11, 1982; the Carnegie Institute Museum of Art in Pittsburgh from July 24 through September 26, 1982; the Minneapolis Institute of Arts from October 17 through December 5, 1982; the Denver Art Museum from January 8 through March 6,

1983; and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art from April 7 through June 26, 1983. The exhibit is sponsored by the National Park Foundation and Transamerica Corporation.

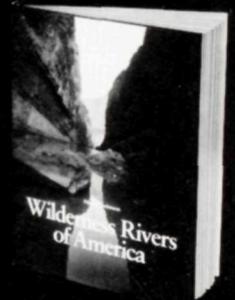
NPS Separates Wilderness from Cumberland Plan

In response to vocal opposition from NPCA and other conservationists the National Park Service has sent the final management plan for Cumberland Island National Seashore back to the drawing board. At the same time, the Park Service separated the wilderness proposal for the island, by far the least controversial part of the plan, from the general plan and the environmental impact statement. "There is overwhelming opposition to the general management plan. The wilderness proposal has not been as controversial, and it is our hope that it can be referred to Congress

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at the earliest possible time," commented NPS Regional Director Joe Brown. When Congress authorized the national seashore in 1972, it set a 1975 deadline for the development of a wilderness plan.

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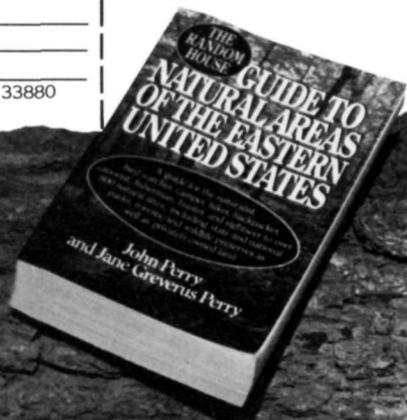
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The proposal would set aside the northern half of the seventeen-mile-long island as wilderness. Wilderness designation would offer important protection from motorized vehicles to fragile dune systems and salt marshes.

The original general management plan made too many assumptions about the ability of the island to sustain a high level of visitation, NPCA felt. The plan's projection of 1,460 visitors on a peak summer day was only a planning estimate made without field data on the actual effect of this number of visitors on the island. NPCA has urged that visitation be limited to a maximum of 600 people a day for the next five years while a careful monitoring program looks at the effect of increases from the current level of less than 300 visitors a day.

The general management plan also included an excessive emphasis upon motorized transportation on the island. The Park Service proposed to conduct a shuttle service from the boat dock to two campgrounds every twenty to thirty minutes. NPCA recommended

that visitors be invited to enjoy the island on foot. The Stafford Beach campground, almost in the middle of the island's ocean-side, could offer a middle ground between the more developed Sea Camp and the wilderness experience farther north, NPCA noted.

Time is of the essence in any effort to protect Cumberland Island National Seashore. Development at the nearby Kings Bay nuclear submarine base is projected to increase population in the Camden County region by 25,000 in the next decade. Population pressures could lead to excessive development on this fragile barrier island. Some of the island is still in private ownership.

You can help: Write your Representative or Senators about the need to protect the wilderness on Cumberland Island. Letters to the National Park Service (Joe Brown, Regional Director, 75 Spring Street, S.W., Atlanta, GA 30303) should stress the need to limit visitation to those levels that monitoring has shown do not damage the island.

Unity Group Sees Cultural Park Improvements

The first Unity Group Meeting for the cultural resources of the National Park System revealed major steps by the Park Service to upgrade the management of the cultural parks, often treated as the orphans of the Park System. The FY 1982 budget and a survey of the purposes of these units offer opportunities for important improvements. (See the related story on page 40 for proposed changes in the way the Park Service manages its cultural collections.)

Fifty individuals participated in this first meeting of the Unity Group, called by NPCA for May 14. Representatives from such diverse organizations as the American Institute of Architects, the Arizona State Museum, the Civil War Round Table, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Society for Historical Archeology covered a ten-item agenda with Park Service Director Russell Dickenson and his staff.

Continued on page 41

NPS Studies Visitor Reaction to Air Pollution

Inside the darkened trailer the small group of park visitors studies a slide of distant mountains. That one's a six, most decide. Another slide, this time with snow on the mountain, flashes on the screen. The group inside the trailer gives it a seven. Another slide of the Canyonlands comes on the screen. This time the air seems dirtier—it's only a four.

During the past two summers, hundreds of visitors to Grand Canyon, Mesa Verde, and Canyonlands national parks have entered a trailer to watch thousands of slides, all in an attempt to help the Park Service learn how park visitors judge visual air pollution.

The Clean Air Act gives the National Park Service important responsibilities for protecting the parks from adverse or significant changes in air quality. But what is an "adverse" impact? When does the deterioration in air quality become significant to the visitor? A new NPS testing program in the Southwest has spent the past two years developing some answers to these questions. Surprisingly, scientists working with the Park Service have discovered that one individual visitor's measurement of visual air pollution is in amazing agreement with most other park visitors and with readings from scientific instruments. Education and income seem to have little to do with the way an individual perceives air pollution.

Recent regulations require the Park Service to protect visual air quality in Class I areas, those most pristine national parks. The regulations define impaired visibility as "any humanly perceptible change in visibility." The experiment set up by the Park Service in these three western parks sought to establish just how sensitive the human eye is to visual air pollution.

Once park visitors had volunteered to participate in the experiment, they were asked to watch a series of slides of the landscape outside the trailer. The audience was asked to rate each slide on a scale of one to ten indicating progressive levels of air quality. The random slides included the landscape under varying sky conditions and time of day.

The Park Service also kept telephotometer data for each slide. (By recording changes in contrast, a telephotometer mechanically measures the optical cleanness of the air.)

The telephotometer readings and the visual ratings by park visitors agreed almost exactly. Visitors were able to notice a 0.04 change in contrast on a slide—a very small change indeed.

During the experiment, the scientists also kept demographic information on the people who rated the slides: place of residence, income, educational level, and the like. People with different backgrounds rated visual air pollution in the same way. People were not rating the scenes according to differing value judgments, but were actually reacting to objective changes in visual air pollution.

The ratings revealed that in a clean atmosphere even a small increase in particulates in the air caused an extensive downgrading of the slide. "It can be seen that in all cases the cleaner the atmosphere, the more sensitive it is to an incremental increase in atmosphere particulate loading," the 1979 research report notes. In addition, the cleaner the atmosphere, the more sensitive distant vistas are to increased air pollution.

All this information gives important support to regulations designed to protect the visual resources of the parks. Singling out the Park System's Class I areas was a logical goal—these areas are the most sensitive to even small amounts of new air pollution because of their now relatively clean air. The most sensitive vistas—called integral vistas in the regulations—deserve special protection because a visitor's experience will depend on the quality of these views.

The research did show one need for further study and regulation. The current regulations on visual air pollution deal only with plumes of pollution from single sources such as smelters of power plants. Preliminary research indicates that park visitors are much more sensitive to pollution-caused haze than to plumes. □

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	Very Interesting	Somewhat Interesting	Not Interesting
COMMENTARY (inside front)	1	2	3
EDITOR'S NOTE (inside front)	1	2	3
MOUNT RAINIER (p. 4)	1	2	3
WOLF RETURN? (p. 7)	1	2	3
LWCF AT ZERO (p. 14)	1	2	3
GRAND CANYON DAM (p. 18)	1	2	3
GATEWAY NRA (p. 26)	1	2	3
CA DESERT PLAN (p. 29)	1	2	3
NPCA REPORT (pp. 36-45)			
Parkland Studies	1	2	3
Barrier Island Bill	1	2	3
Parks Photo-history	1	2	3
Cumberland Plan	1	2	3
Unity Group	1	2	3
Park Air Pollution	1	2	3
Acid Rain	1	2	3
Pictured Rock NL	1	2	3
NPCA Board			
decisions	1	2	3
NPCA Conference	1	2	3
Watt and			
Concessioners	1	2	3
NPCA Raft Trip	1	2	3
BOOKSHELF (p. 43)	1	2	3
FEEDBACK (p. 45)	1	2	3
THE LATEST WORD (p. 46)	1	2	3

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
How would you rate the cover?	1	2	3	4

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Park Collections Face Critical Problems

Even the fifty-three acres of exhibits located in almost every national park display only a small percentage of the historical and archeological objects in the collections of the National Park Service. With approximately 10 million artifacts in its care—ranging from the two cloth tents used by Washington at Valley Forge to ceremonial fur and feather robes from Mesa Verde—the Park Service ranks second only to the Smithsonian in the size of its collections. Yet, this vast museum—scattered throughout more than 325 parks—faces critical problems of storage, staffing, and record-keeping that are only now being addressed. Only 10 percent of the collection has even been inventoried. "Although we've had policies and procedures, the System has grown so rapidly—one-third of the units have been added in the last twelve years—that the staffing and funding haven't kept up with the growth," says Ann Hitchcock, head of the NPS Curatorial Management Division.

The task of inventorying, storing, preserving, and repairing objects in the Park Service collections falls to Hitchcock's division. The division's sixty-two curators are distributed among the parks, the national center at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, and various regional centers such as the Western Archeological Center in Tucson. Only twenty-eight of the parks house even one field curator. Another twenty parks use museum technicians and aides to manage their collections.

In most parks rangers trained in law enforcement, resource management, or interpretation manage important collections in time stolen from other duties. "The interpreters have to be curators too and it just doesn't work," notes Dr. Mary King of the University Museum in Philadelphia.

"It's often hard to justify a full position for a park with a small collection," Hitchcock says. Giving better care to park collections at a reasonable cost is possible, both Hitchcock and Ross Holland, Assistant Director for Cultural Resources, believe. Contracts with outside curators, grouping parks located near each other under a single curator, and curators who travel from collection to collection seem promising solutions.

Holland particularly favors regional preservation centers, a method that has worked in the Midwest and Southwest. Dr. Gwinn Vivian of the Arizona State Museum in Tucson credits the Western Archeological Center for tremendous improvements in the storage of fragile artifacts and inventory procedures. The regional centers, based on cultural and climatological boundaries, can provide special storage conditions and cultural expertise unavailable in either individual parks or at the Harpers Ferry center.

Storage was a critical problem in the Southwest, Vivian remarks. Artifacts such as baskets, blankets, and robes require carefully controlled temperatures and humidity. Vivian remembers the case of some fur and feather robes found in dry caves at Mesa Verde that were better preserved in the caves than in existing NPS storage areas.

Both Hitchcock and Vivian point to better inventory of the collection as the most pressing problem facing the Curatorial Division. "Information is absolutely critical for understanding this material," Vivian says. He remembers examining some ceramics for a display at Chaco only to discover that these objects had come into the Park Service collections long ago and no one had ever recorded the source of the pottery. "Until the Park Service has an idea of what they have, they won't be able to plan," Vivian continues.

Computerizing the national catalog to provide easier access to inventory information is one of Hitchcock's top priorities. A photographic inventory of the objects in the collection would be another way to establish the extent of Park Service holdings.

Problems with the inventory system inevitably stem from a lack of staff, funds, and visibility. "We don't have trained curators in every park. In most cases the quality of [inventory] descriptions is not always what we'd like," Hitchcock says. "Clearly, the level of managerial concern for collections and curatorial functions needs to be increased," Hitchcock wrote this spring. "It's a question of accountability. We're accountable for this material but we don't have control."

NPCA Report

Continued from page 38

A total of \$30.2 million is available for the cultural parks in the proposed FY 1982 budget. Operations and maintenance would receive the bulk of these funds (\$23 million) with lesser amounts devoted to cyclic maintenance (\$3.8 million), the preservation fund (\$2.1 million), and investigations and studies (\$1.3 million).

The most important study is the systemwide "Core Mission Survey," which the Park Service has scheduled for completion by January 1982. In the cultural parks this survey would identify the funding needed to pass the cultural resource on unimpaired to future generations, to build facilities for public use, and to conduct essential interpretive programs. For the first time, the Park Service will be able to document the basic needs of the entire Park System, an important tool in future budget requests.

So successful was the Unity Group meeting that participants spent the last part of the session developing an agenda for a second meeting.

Canadian Minister Stresses U.S. Role in Acid Rain

Reauthorization of the Clean Air Act and the problem of acid rain were at the top of the agenda at the annual New England Environmental Conference, reports Dr. Tom Cobb, NPCA's representative at the session. Principal speakers Senator Robert Stafford (R.-VT) and John Roberts, Canadian minister of the environment, emphasized the need for continued air quality protection.

Stafford, who chairs the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, noted that the Clean Air Act had already received midcourse correction by amendment in 1977. "All that can be justified now is some additional fine tuning."

"Acid precipitation is by far the most pressing transboundary environmental problem facing the United States and Canada today," Roberts commented in another conference session. Two to four

billion dollars of damage results in Canada every year from acid rain. Fifty to 75 percent of the problem comes from sources outside Canada's borders. "Canada is asking the United States to do nothing more than respond to its own self-interest and to hasten the day that the U.S. meets its obligations," Roberts said.

NPS Recommends High-development Plan at Lakeshore

Despite evidence in the Park Service's own visitor survey, the new draft management plan for the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in northern Michigan recommends a high development alternative that will increase soil erosion, build unnecessary roads and parking facilities, and provide excessive numbers of campgrounds and picnic facilities at a time when visitor levels are

likely to rise by only 5 percent. NPCA has criticized the draft plan for promoting overdevelopment of the Lakeshore: "For the Park Service to choose a \$12-16 million development plan for the Lakeshore at a time when its budget is being severely curtailed even for essential maintenance, staff, land acquisition, and facility rehabilitation is at best unrealistic," Destry Jarvis, NPCA's Director of Federal Activities, commented.

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As the Park Service's survey indicated, most of the public that used the Lakeshore favored nonmechanized, dispersed recreation at Pictured Rocks. The alternative recommended by NPCA and the Friends of the Pictured Rocks would have upgraded certain roads; discontinued unlimited motorboat use on Grand Sable and Beaver Lakes; and placed Beaver Basin, Chapel, and Grand Sable Dunes under protective management. This proposal would have increased interpretive and educational facilities and programs while preserving the park's natural resources and the primitive lakeshore experience. A limited expansion of picnic and associated facilities would adequately serve the anticipated 5 percent increase in visitation. Construction costs for this program would be about half those proposed by the Park Service.

The Park Service draft plan would result in the loss of approximately 143 acres of wildlife habitat in the lakeshore itself to new visitor facilities. A 300 to 400 percent increase in camping facilities and a 500 to 700 percent increase in picnic sites may well drive visitors, who strongly support the present slow pace and primitive nature of the lakeshore, from the area.

The Park Service's proposed plan also fails to adequately address some of the most pressing natural resource management problems at the lakeshore. Major portions of the lakeshore's watersheds will remain outside the park boundaries and will be subject to development and timber harvests that could contribute to the pollution of lake waters. New road construction may diminish the wilderness qualities of Chapel Basin, Grand Sable Dunes, and Twelve-mile Beach. As much as one hundred additional acres of land will be lost to new housing construction in the inland buffer zone that protects the more primitive lakeshore itself.

Tourism has grown substantially in this area of Michigan since the formation of the national lakeshore. A management plan that emphasizes development while neglecting resource protection endangers the very qualities that make tourism possible, NPCA commented. "It is unrealistic to build local expectation for high levels of development and greatly increased visitor use of this Park System unit. This general management plan should deal only

with what is realistically possible for the lakeshore in the next few years," Jarvis said.

The level of expectations created among local landowners when the lakeshore was established in 1966 may be coming back to haunt the Park Service. To hear local landowners in the buffer zone around the lakeshore tell it, they were promised a higher degree of recreational development in the park than has yet occurred. At their urging Representative Bob Davis (R.-Mich.) has introduced legislation to eliminate federal controls over the buffer zone. The landowners were willing not to develop their land in exchange for development in the lakeshore to attract tourist dollars, says one member of Davis' staff. Landowners want to be able to timber, build second homes and hunting cabins, and reopen roads in the buffer zone. The Neighbors of Pictured Rocks has started a postcard campaign in support of Davis' bill. The legislation has been referred to the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

NPCA Board Votes New Strategies to Protect Parks

At its semi-annual meeting in May, the NPCA Board of Trustees adopted three new strategies for addressing the problems of an increasingly threatened National Park System. The resolutions passed by the Board concentrate on finding private means for solving park problems and forming new coalitions to increase the effectiveness of grassroots support for the parks.

The Board established a fund to assist the Park Service in restoring buildings and other facilities of historical significance that would not otherwise receive the necessary care because of the Reagan budget cuts. Through the "Threatened Park Facility Fund" NPCA will be able to cooperate with the Park Service on its top priorities.

In partnership with the American Youth Hostels, NPCA will establish youth conservation/adventure clubs. NPCA sees the clubs as a way to introduce young people to the best ways to enjoy and preserve our parks.

The Board also concurred with the formation of the National Park Action Project. Through the project, concerned individuals and citizen groups will work with NPCA to increase support for National Park System units.

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for November.

NPCA to Host Fall Conference on Park System

On September 13-16, NPCA will sponsor a conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, on the state of the national parks. The conference, entitled "The State of the National Parks: Planning for the Future," will draw on thirty park experts of diverse backgrounds and fields of interest to assess the current situation in our parks and recommend ways to develop and protect their resources. The objective will be to prepare a recommendation for a plan that can be used by the Park Service to safeguard the future of the parks. The need for a broad-based, well-informed, citizen constituency to counter the threats to our natural and cultural resources will also be addressed in the conference report. Partial funding for the four-day session comes from a grant by the Columbia Foundation.

Watt Promises Concessioners Larger Park Role

The private concessioners in the national parks have begun to flex their muscles after prodding from the Secretary of the Interior, James G. Watt. In a recent speech the Secretary told the concessioners that "You folks are going to play a tremendously important role in the administration of our national parks. . . . We are going to ask you to be involved in areas that you haven't been allowed to be involved in before."

After meetings with the concession-

Continued on page 44

Bookshelf

State Parks of California, From 1864 to the Present, by Joseph H. Engbeck, Jr. (Oakland: California State Parks Foundation, 1980. 128 pages, illus., \$9.50, paper.) The year is 1864: President Abraham Lincoln signs congressional legislation setting aside approximately 20,000 acres of federal land in the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees, to create the first state park in the nation. This historic act was the beginning of what became one of the great success stories of the conservation movement—the establishment of the California State Park System. Joseph H. Engbeck, Jr., a professional Park Service employee who has written extensively on California parks, explains how and why the Park System was created, delving into a fascinating history of idealism and drama. *State Parks of California* is handsomely illustrated with color photographs by Philip Hyde, well-known landscape photographer, and 150 black and white historical photographs. A \$50 collector's edition, each one individually signed and numbered, is available from the non-profit California State Park Foundation, 1706 Broadway, Room 601, Oakland, CA 94612. A 20 percent discount will be given to NPCA members.

***San Francisco's Wilderness Next Door**, by John Hart. (San Rafael: Presidio Press, 1979. 176 pages, B&W illus., \$9.95, paper.) The "wilderness next door" is a hundred thousand continuous acres of protected parkland, lying to the north of San Francisco, which includes Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Point Reyes National Seashore, and several state parks. John Hart, with the help of Bob Sena's photography, tells how this wildland came into being, reveals the intricate workings of local and national politics, and describes the continuous struggle between conservationists and developers. As Cecil D. Andrus, former Secretary of the Interior, said, "San Francisco's 'next door wilderness' did not come by accident. It is the result of citizen concern and dedication going back to the early years of this century. It is an outstanding example of how people who are willing to make the effort can work to preserve their cultural and natural heritage even

as their city meets the challenge of economic growth." In the last section of this book John Hart brings up the larger issue of the future of parks in this country and outlines a guide for the citizen interested in protecting national natural treasures near urban areas.

***John Muir's America**, by Dewitt Jones and T. H. Watkins. (Portland: Graphic Arts Center Publishing Co., 1981. 160 pages, illus., \$12.95, soft cover.) A handsome and thoroughly engaging biography of John Muir—renowned naturalist, writer, explorer, and political activist. T. H. Watkins presents a revealing portrait of the man whose writings on Yosemite helped bring about the passage of the Yosemite National Park bill, and who, with the creation of the Sierra Club in 1892, helped launch the conservation movement in the twentieth century. Forty-eight beautifully printed color photos by Dewitt Jones accompany the text. Mr. Jones is an experienced outdoor photographer, whose photo essays regularly appear in *National Geographic* magazine. Twenty original Muir drawings are also included.

***Mt. McKinley: The Pioneer Climbs**, by Terris Moore. (Seattle: The Mountaineers, 1981. 224 pages, B&W illus., \$8.95, paper.) As a participant in the third ascent of Mt. McKinley, Terris Moore is well qualified to narrate this historic account of man's contest with Mt. McKinley from the late nineteenth century into the 1940s. Mr. Moore recounts famous climbs as well as heart-breaking failures, like that of Belmore Browne who had to turn back less than 150 feet from the summit. He also takes a look at the controversial Dr. Frederick Cook who laid unsubstantiated claims to an ascent of Mt. McKinley in 1906 and to the discovery of the North Pole in 1908. The narrative is well supported throughout the book with excerpts from travel journals and newspaper accounts. *Mt. McKinley: The Pioneer Climbs* was first published in 1967 by the University of Alaska.

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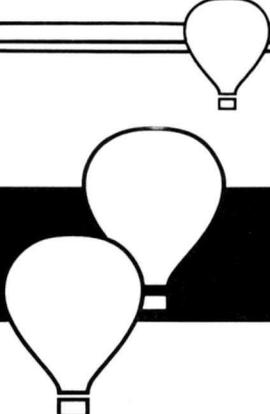
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NPCA Report

Continued from page 42

ers, the Secretary is reportedly ready to have concessioners in some parks take over campground operations, entrance stations to the parks, and some interpretive functions. The excuse is that the budget will no longer allow the Park Service to perform these functions ade-

quately; however, the Secretary told the concessioners that "We will use the budget system to be the excuse to make major policy decisions."

NPCA is opposed to the concessioners taking over any increased responsibility in the national parks; they are barely able to run the hotels, restaurants, and gift shops at a high standard. To move park rangers and interpreters out of their traditional roles in the parks, and

out of contact with the visitors, would subvert the purpose of the National Park Service. Naturally, if the concessioner took over these functions, there would be additional charges to the visitor, and, we believe, poorer service than at present.

In addition, some concessioners are seeking to reverse several concession management decisions made in recent years to strengthen the control of the

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AUSTRALIA, NEPAL, PERU, SRI LANKA—Join expeditions to remote cultures and natural environments supporting local conservation efforts. Visit premier parks and sanctuaries with people who helped preserve them. Free brochure: Dr. Will Weber, c/o Earth Preservation Fund, Box 7545-NP, Ann Arbor, MI 48107. Phone (313) 973-7658.

FASCINATING NATURE, LEGENDARY CULTURES: Special Travel Programs to Latin America, Africa, Europe. Groups or Individuals, reasonably priced. FORUM TRAVEL, Dept. NP, 2437 Durant, Berkeley, CA 94704. (415) 843-8294.

NEW ZEALAND WALKABOUT: A selection of escorted nature and hiking tours featuring New Zealand's scenic National Parks, the Milford Track, Farm Holiday Stay. Pacific Exploration Company, Box 3042-W, Santa Barbara, CA 93105.

LEARNING ADVENTURES. Western Tours with anthropological, archeological, ecological, and natural history themes. Box 214, Boulder City, NV 89005.

NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITION January 1982 Camping, hiking, and climbing. Do the Milford and Routeburn hikes; ascend peaks on North and South Islands. Inquire Iowa Mountaineers, Box 163, Iowa City, IA 52240.

Conservation

HISTORIC PRESERVATION of Civil War sites is our main concern. If you're interested in the preservation of our Civil War heritage, join Civil War Round Table Associates—\$10 a year for monthly *Digest*, annual Congress of CWRT's. Box 7388N, Little Rock, AR 72217.

URGENTLY NEEDED NOW: A NATIONAL POLICY FOR REVERSING U.S. POPULATION GROWTH. The welfare of every American is gravely threatened by shortages of energy and materials, and by the deterioration of the environment. To solve these problems, we must attack their root cause—*overpopulation*. We urgently need *now* a comprehensive national population policy with the primary goal of a *planned and orderly reduction* in the size of our population. Write today for our FREE BROCHURE, NEGATIVE POPULATION GROWTH, INC., Suite 1042 (E-4), 16 East 42nd St., New York, NY 10017.

Food

Gourmet's delight! 30 unique, traditional PERSIAN RECIPES. \$3.60/booklet. Nameki Associates, Box 2051, Lawrence, KS, 66045.

Publications

HUMMINGBIRD GARDENS ARE FUN WITH BEAUTY. "ATTRACTING & FEEDING HUMMINGBIRDS," 16 pg. bklt., \$1.00 ppd. WOODSWORLD HUMMINGBIRDING SOCIETY, 218 Buena Vista Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062.

Magazine for countryside people! Covering: small stock, nature, gardening and much more . . . one year only \$8.00. Farming Uncle*, Box 91-B-9, Liberty, NY 12754.

Advertise in Gleanings Magazine. Only 30¢ a word! Box 86NP, Cutten, CA 95534. Sample for stamps.

Real Estate/Rentals

RETREAT—PARK—REFUGE. Magnificent natural Garden of Eden, 1183 Acres with 6,000 frontage on The Apalachicola—Alum Bluff 150' above the river, hundreds of springs in steep-head ravines. Fauna & Flora found here and nowhere else—gopher wood. The mountains in Florida with a 65 acre spring-fed lake in the center. Near Tallahassee and Bristol, Florida. For sale \$1.15 million. Terms. You must see to believe. For free brochure, contact T. Fregly, Broker/Owner, 904-386-5184, P.O. Box 3886, Tallahassee, FL 32303.

SANIBEL ISLAND, FLORIDA: Lovely 2-bedroom condo on Gulf. Pool, tennis, birding, shelling. Minimum rental 2 weeks, special rates monthly or seasonal. (312) 858-5525—Wesley, 62 Forest Ave., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137.

Schools

SMOKY MOUNTAIN FIELD SCHOOL. Experience the wildlife and beauty of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Intensive 5-day and weekend workshops include Wild Mammals, Wildflower Identification, Birds, Outdoor Photography, Kayaking, and more. Cosponsored by Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the University of Tennessee Division of Continuing Education, SMOKY MOUNTAIN FIELD SCHOOL, 2016 Lake Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37916. (615) 974-6688.

ANTIOCH/NEW ENGLAND GRADUATE PROGRAMS: Combines coursework and internship; individualized approach. MASTER OF SCIENCE IN TEACHING/ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES: coursework includes: ecological theory, environmental science, field ecology (ornithology, geology, botany), political economy of environmental issues, environmental education philosophy, etc. Teacher Certification available. MASTER OF SCIENCE IN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: interdisciplinary work in Environmental Science, Organization and Management. Prepares individuals for leadership of organizations involved in management of environmental resources. Further information contact: ANTIOCH/NEW ENGLAND, BOX NP, KEENE, NH 03431.

Park Service over concessioners in the parks. These changes were made after criticism from Congress, the Government Accounting Office, and conservationists, including NPCA, that the concessioners already wield too much power in park management decision-making. The concessioners reportedly are seeking to reduce or eliminate the performance evaluation done on their operations by NPS, to redefine "possessory interest" to give them more of an investment in the parks, and to regain a monopoly over renewal and extension of their contracts.

Second New River Raft Trip Raises \$1600 for NPCA

The Second Annual NPCA whitewater raft trip was a tremendous success. The thirty people who braved rainy weather to join us on the New River raised more than \$1600 for NPCA.

NPCA executive director Paul Pritchard and his wife Libba welcomed staff, members, and friends at Wildwater Expeditions Unlimited's base camp in Thurmond, West Virginia, before the day's adventure. The seventeen-mile raft trip took the group through some of the most spectacular scenery in West Virginia as expert guides explained a few of the traditional tales associated with the river. Plenty of whitewater kept everyone on their toes.

Plans for the third annual trip were discussed at a dinner that evening hosted by Wildwater owner Jon Dragan.

The New River Gorge National River is a recent addition to the National Park System. Authorized in 1978, the national river stretches for approximately sixty miles through southern West Virginia. Smallmouth bass, catfish, beaver, and other wildlife can be seen by the river traveler.

The scenery is breath-taking, the company congenial, and the experience of running the second oldest river in the world is one you will never forget. Plan to be with NPCA next year when we ride the river again.

Feedback

Watt Threatens the Parks

I want to warn you to keep your eye on Secretary Watt. He is no friend of the environment nor of conservationists. He should be gotten rid of entirely. I doubt that you will get any help in your opposition to the Allen-Warner project, or to mining, logging, and other harmful developments from Secretary of the Interior Watt.

*Mrs. Howard Steigelman
Cochranville, Pennsylvania*

When are we going to take on the most serious threat ever to the National Park System—James Watt? His statements on concessions were terrifying. The man is dangerous and must be shown that the public does not want NPS policy to be formed by the park concessioner!

*Kenneth Pitt
Missoula, Montana*

A Letter for Reagan

I am enclosing a copy of a letter to President Reagan. Obviously I am concerned over the proposed destruction of our wild and scenic places.

It probably will not do any good, big money talks and my little voice will be drowned out by the felling of the Big Trees and the sounds of bulldozers and the clinking of coins.

"Dear President Reagan:

"I'm a Republican. I'm also a grandmother, but I hope not obsolete. I am writing for the sake of our country and the world.

"Will the Reagan administration be recorded in history as the Administration that raped the United States of America?"

"In a previous note to you I expressed my fears. Why should I care? I'll be long gone. What of future generations? Are they to live in a sterile environment devoid of nature's beauty? In a land stripped, squeezed, wrung out, and scarred?"

"Will future generations thank this generation for what they don't have when the oil and gas are gone, and the mountains gutted, and the rivers dammed or channelized? Who will they blame?"

"We all love our country but we must not drain its blood and cut out its heart.

"Greed and lust, oh my."

*Helen Wright
Northboro, Massachusetts*

May Caption in Error

I am in complete agreement with both Russ Dickenson's position and the article in National Parks encouraging greater use of our lesser-known parks. The reason for this letter is to call attention to what I consider to be a gross error. The picture on page eight, lower right, shows the Superstition Mountains which lie east of Phoenix and relates them to the Saguaro National Monument, the two units of which are located east and northeast of Tucson some 100 miles from the Superstition Mountains.

It seems to me that if we are to encourage visitors to the lesser-known parks, the pictorial bait should at least be correct.

*Emil W. Haury
Tucson, Arizona*

Cuts Ahead for Gateway?

We have been members of the National Parks and Conservation Association for years. We are therefore quite disturbed by the rumor that the Reagan administration may cease supporting the Gateway Recreation Area (a part of the National Park System). We and many others find Gateway our escape from the stress of New York City.

We are writing to our Congressman and Senators but also hope that the Association will bring its pressure to bear on this issue.

*Sally and George Finger
Staten Island, New York*

Nature and Money

I intend to let as many as possible know about Washington's undermining of nature.

I just hate to think that I spent several years in the CCC and fought for this country twice only to see some knuckleheads replace life itself with money.

*Douglas M. Craig
Carlsbad, California*

When I read that the personnel of our parks are frustrated and apathetic due to the little concern of the administrators, I feel sick. Is there anyone out there in our government offices who really cares about wildlife? Or are they only interested in making money or furthering our greedy needs as humans?

*Michele Kleczkowski
Elgin, Illinois*

The Latest Word

PARK SERVICE OFFERS NEW PLAN FOR COLORADO RIVER

"There is no way you could get me on an oarpowered raft," Secretary of the Interior Watt commented after a trip on the Colorado River. Not surprisingly, the four alternatives offered by the Park Service in the revised Colorado River plan all permit the use of motorized rafts in the Grand Canyon. A five-year phase-out of outboard motors in the Canyon was blocked in the Senate late last year. The four alternatives include (1) a mixture of motorized and oared use all year; (2) oared use only during the winter from October 16 to April 15; (3) oared use only during the fall and early winter from October 1 to January 1; and (4) three two-week periods for the exclusive launching of oarpowered expeditions between April 16 and October 15. In all alternatives the number of people allowed to use the river would double over present levels, which is expected to cause severe congestion on the river and could lead to increased destruction of the riparian habitat.

You can help: Please write Richard Marks, Superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park (P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023), before August 12. The alternatives presented by the plan are inadequate--the plan offers no alternative that would ban motors. Of the alternatives presented, the combination of two and four is the best. No matter which alternative is adopted, the proposed level of use is too high. A strict monitoring program must be adopted along with the plan.

AIRBOATS, FISHING ISSUES REOPENED IN EVERGLADES

In response to petitions from special interests, Secretary of the Interior James Watt has reopened two issues critical to Everglades National Park for public comment. In 1980 the Park Service issued regulations to phase out commercial fishing in the park by 1985. Substantial evidence showed that the phase-out was essential to preserve much of the park's wildlife and fish populations. Unless there is

strong public reaction, Secretary Watt will reopen the park to commercial fishing. Another private group has petitioned the Park Service to allow recreational airboating along the Stairstep Trails in the park. Although the Park Service has allowed special use permits for a few property owners to use airboats to gain access to their property, opening recreational airboat use to the general public would endanger park wildlife and set dangerous precedents for other private requests in the National Park System.

You can help: Please write Jack Morehead, Superintendent, Everglades National Park, P.O. Box 279, Homestead, Florida 33030. Urge him to prevent the misuse of national resources for the benefit of narrow private interests whether land owners or commercial fishermen. The Park Service should ban commercial fishing now for the greatest benefit to fish and wildlife. Comments must be received by July 20.

FY 1982 BUDGET SETS \$140 MILLION FOR LAND PURCHASES

The House Interior Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Sidney Yates of Illinois, has recommended a FY 1982 budget substantially above Administration requests for parkland acquisition and historic preservation. Federal land agencies would receive slightly more than \$140 million for land acquisition in this budget. (Of this nearly \$88 million would go to the Park Service.) NPCA had hoped for a level closer to \$200 million; the Reagan administration had proposed only \$45 million for the entire Land and Water Conservation Fund. At the \$140 million level, many but not all critical acquisitions would be able to move ahead in 1982. Several areas with critical land acquisition needs received no funding: Big Cypress National Preserve, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, Fire Island National Seashore, Monocacy National Battlefield, New River Gorge National River, and Olympic National Park. Other areas such as the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (\$7.2 million) and the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (\$10.4 million) received only partial funding. Of concern to NPCA was the subcommittee's decision to limit the LWCF state matching grant

program to \$4.5 million. NPCA will work closely with other conservation groups to increase this appropriation for state parklands acquisition and development in the full Appropriations Committee and when the bill reaches the Senate. As NPCA has long urged, the subcommittee also provided more than \$100 million in additional funding from general revenues to improve and restore the national parks. Although the Administration had requested this funding from an amended Land and Water Conservation Fund, NPCA had argued that the easiest and quickest way to provide funding for these needed repairs was out of general revenues, the source of such funding in the past. At least half of this money is intended for upgrading safety and health conditions in the parks. The total budget for the Park Service was set at \$869 million. This is deceptively higher than in previous years because it includes funding for programs previously administered by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service and now managed by the Park Service.

Several other programs also received funding from the subcommittee. Ten million dollars were appropriated for the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program and \$27 million was earmarked for the Historic Preservation Fund. An amendment offered by Rep. Norman Dicks of Washington provided \$20 million for the Youth Conservation Corps. The Senate is now expected to take up the appropriations legislation in July.

<u>SNOWMOBILE RETURN LOOMS FOR CALIFORNIA PARKS</u>	The National Park Service has moved
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another step closer to returning snowmobiles to three California parks this winter. Western Regional Director Howard Chapman announced that public meetings will be held during August or September on lifting the current ban on snowmobiles in Yosemite, Sequoia, and Lassen Volcanic national parks. The Park Service will ask public opinion on allowing snowmobiles and cross-country skiing in the park on alternative weekends, among other options. If the Park Service decides to open the parks, the winter of 1982 would be a test

period to be followed by a final decision next summer.

You can help: The Park Service faces intense political pressure from within the Interior Department to open these parks to snowmobile use despite studies, public comment, and hard economic facts that point in exactly the opposite direction. NPCA believes the parks must remain closed to snowmobiles to protect the natural resources of the parks and to avoid conflicts with other park users. Please write G. Ray Arnett, Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

<u>BROYHILL, WHITE HOUSE BILLS WOULD CUT CLEAN AIR ACT</u>	A bill introduced by Rep. James
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Broyhill (R.-N.C.) would substantially weaken the Clean Air Act. Broyhill's bill, cosponsored by all the Republicans on the House Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, would postpone the current clean air deadlines until 1990. The bill also eliminates two of the three classes of areas under the Act's prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) provisions. Deleting these classification would allow air in Class II and Class III areas, approximately 90 percent of the country, to deteriorate until it reaches the current minimum standards, even when that air is now much cleaner.

Rep. Henry Waxman (D.-CA.) who chairs the House Health and Environment Subcommittee, has released a draft Reagan administration bill that he called "a blueprint for the destruction of our clean air laws." Like the Broyhill bill, the draft would eliminate the PSD program in Class II and Class III areas. At press time, NPCA had just learned that Interior Secretary Watt's staff would recommend that the Administration support repeal of the visibility protection provisions of the Act, critical to the protection of scenic vistas associated with the parks.

You can help: Write your Representative urging him or her to oppose the Broyhill bill (H.R. 3471). Emphasize to both your Senators and Representatives the need to keep the Act strong.

