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# National Parks

The Magazine of  
The National Parks  
and Conservation  
Association

JULY/AUGUST 1998

**The Mining Legacy**

Mid-Level Carnivores

**Underground Railroad**

On the Trail of Discovery

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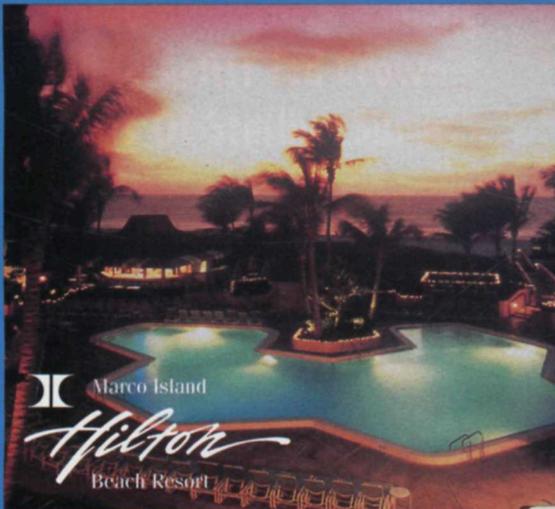


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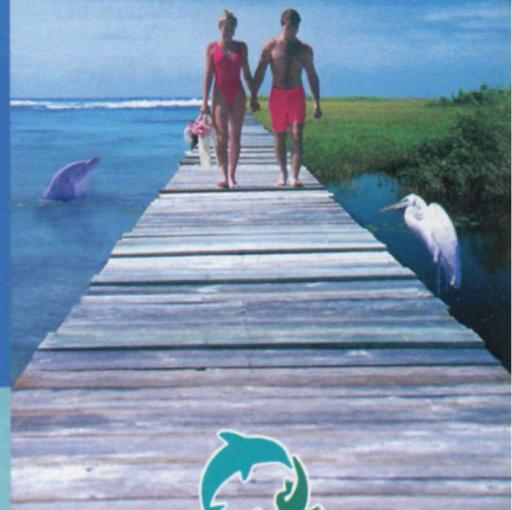
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# National parks

Vol. 72, No. 7-8  
July/August 1998

The Magazine of the National Parks  
and Conservation Association

## FEATURES

**22 High Stakes: The Legacy of Mining**  
Public lands contain thousands of abandoned mineral sites, and at least 30 national parks have ongoing mineral operations. An outdated law is partly to blame, and in its wake are billions of dollars of clean-up costs and subsidized profit for miners who get minerals and ore for bargain basement prices.  
**By George Wuerthner**

**26 Without a Trace**  
Populations of lynx, wolverine, fisher, and marten are plummeting in western parks due to habitat loss and human encroachment. If these forest carnivores are not added to the endangered species list soon, help may be too late.  
**By Todd Wilkinson**

**30 Forging the Freedom Trail**  
Historians have identified more than 300 sites nationwide that may have some association with the Underground Railroad. A bill before Congress proposes to honor this organized system of escape by authorizing the National Park Service to connect some of these sites through interpretation.  
**By Glennette Tilley Turner**

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**COVER:** Death Valley National Park was once the site of active borax mines. Today, California parks have the largest number of abandoned mineral sites within the park system. Photograph by Pat O'Hara.



JOE McDONALD/STOCK & ASSOC.

PAGE 26

## DEPARTMENTS

- 6 Outlook**  
We must find the fortitude to protect our natural and cultural legacy.  
**By Thomas C. Kiernan**
- 8 Editor's Note**
- 10 Letters**
- 14 NPCA Park News**  
Bison management plan, Hawaiian airport expansion, 150th anniversary of Women's Rights NHP.
- 34 Excursions**  
Visitors can follow in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark along the 3,700-mile historic trail.  
**By Yvette La Pierre**
- 40 Rare & Endangered**  
Kentucky cave shrimp.  
**By Bess Zarafonitis Stroh**
- 41 Forum**  
Public-private partnerships can provide valuable service, but both parties must do their part.  
**By Henry L. Diamond**
- 43 EcoOpportunities**
- 44 Notes**
- 46 You Are Here**

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# Beyond Self Interests

*We must find the fortitude to protect our natural and cultural legacy for the future.*

**T**HE THREE feature articles in this issue present the current challenges of our national parks.

Our first feature covers mining on public lands, including the national parks. Mining has been, and will continue to be, an essential activity within the economy of an industrialized nation. Unfortunately, the federal government does not own subsurface mineral rights on all national parklands. Valid existing rights to mine predate the Mining in the Parks Act of 1976, which eliminated some mining activities in many parks and superseded some aspects of the outdated 1872 Mining Law. Even though the Park Service has regulatory clout not enjoyed by other public agencies, the activity does continue. And mining, whether inside a park or outside, can have a tremendous impact. Tailings left behind can leach into surface and groundwater, endangering the health of nearby residents as well as plants and wildlife.

Middle-level carnivores, found primarily in the West, face threats of a different sort. Lynx, fisher, wolverine, and marten are disappearing from our parks and forests because of clear-cutting, human settlement, and a burgeoning number of recreationists. The increasing fragmentation of habitat in and around national parks has hit this group of predators especially hard. Conservationists have petitioned to have the ani-



VICKI PARIS

mals listed, but a lack of research and funding has hindered the process.

The Underground Railroad represents both painful and admirable aspects of history that must be recognized and acknowledged. The railroad became necessary to spirit people away from bond-

age, and those who either served as station masters or used the network to escape showed great personal courage.

These articles lay out the challenges ahead in protecting our parks. Do we have the fortitude to change the outdated framework set by the 1872 Mining Law? Do we have the fortitude to increase funding for monitoring, research, and restoration efforts for all species in our national parks? Do we have the fortitude to be innovative and create new links between our parks—whether the cultural and historic links of the Underground Railroad or the natural links for migratory species?

We must find the fortitude. Because as our parks go, so will go this nation. If we cannot protect the historic and cultural resources in our parks, future generations will not gain the wisdom learned from our shared history.

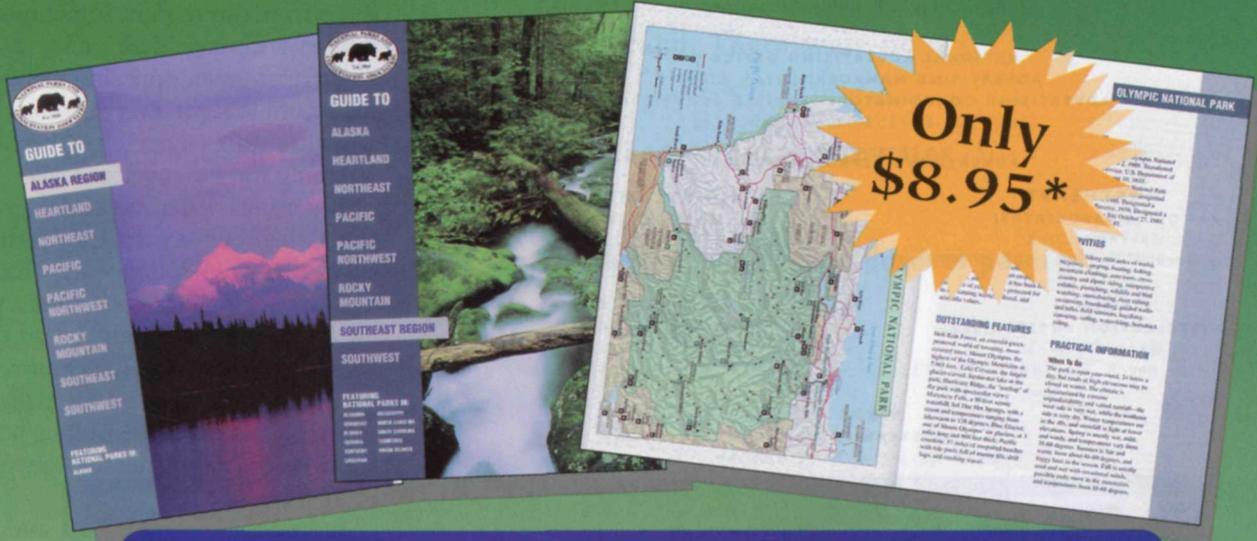
If we cannot learn to live sustainably with all living creatures, then we as a species may not survive into the next millennium. To live in a sustainable, civil society, we must have the fortitude to think beyond our self interests.

**Thomas C. Kiernan**  
President

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# National Parks

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## ABOUT NPCA

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

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

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

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

**EDITORIAL MISSION:** The magazine is the only national publication focusing solely on national parks. The most important communication vehicle with our members, the magazine creates an awareness of the need to protect and properly manage the resources found within and adjacent to the parks. The magazine

underscores the uniqueness of the national parks and encourages an appreciation for the scenery and the natural and historic treasures found in them, informing and inspiring individuals who have concerns about the parks and want to know how they can help to improve these irreplaceable resources.

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE:** A critical component in NPCA's park protection programs are members who take the lead in defense of America's natural and cultural heritage. Park activists alert Congress and the administration to park threats; comment on park planning and adjacent land-use decisions; assist NPCA in developing partnerships; and educate the public and the media about park issues. For more information on the activist network, contact our Grassroots Department, extension 221.

**HOW TO DONATE:** NPCA's success also depends on the financial support of our members. For more information on special giving opportunities, such as Partners for the Parks (a monthly giving program), Trustees for the Parks (\$1,000 and above), bequests, planned gifts, and matching gifts, call our Development Department, extensions 145 or 146.

**HOW TO REACH US:** We can be reached the following ways: National Parks and Conservation Association, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20036; by phone: 1-800-NAT-PARK; by e-mail: npca@npca.org; and <http://www.npca.org/> on the World Wide Web.



# Awash in Letters

**E**ACH ISSUE OF THE magazine contains letters from our readers. Sometimes they offer encouragement, voice a complaint, present an opposing view, or set the record straight. Every now and then an article strikes a nerve and becomes a lightning rod for anger or joy.

If personal watercraft (PWC) were a target, then our March/April Forum by Irwin L. Jacobs—founder and chairman of Genmar Holdings, Inc.—was a piercing arrow that hit the target dead center. By a resounding six to one, our readers gave Jacobs a thumbs up for expressing his views that PWCs are making boating a less enjoyable pursuit and giving the sport a bad name.

In this issue, we have set aside two full pages for your letters. Seven of the ten letters address PWCs. Only one writer disagrees outright with Jacobs.

A survey of the American public by Colorado State University, in conjunction with NPCA, bears out the views expressed by our readers. Of those surveyed, 92 percent believe that PWC use in national parks should be restricted.

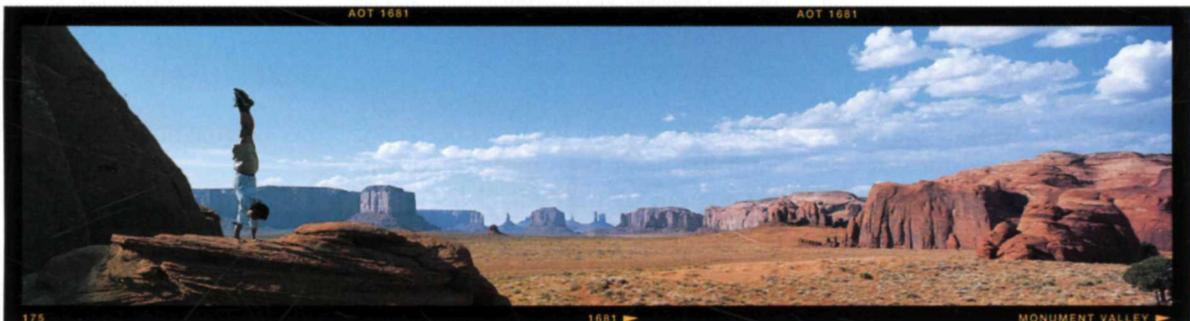
Most people are clear about the limits they seek. They do not believe PWCs should be banned from every body of water in the country. They do feel, however, that certain places, especially the national parks and our national wildlife refuges, have been set aside as sanctuaries for wildlife and for people and are not designed for thrill-seekers.

As modern life becomes more complicated and noise filled, places to escape the hustle and bustle become even more important. Even if people have not experienced the freedom of open waters or are able to hike in the backcountry, they see the intrinsic value of leaving certain spaces untouched. So do we.

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



I've hiked other canyons, yet none so grand. There were no  
monuments in the other valleys I've biked. Other whitewater  
I've rafted wasn't as rapid. Nor the forests petrified or deserts painted.  
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## Bison, Personal Watercraft, and Roads

### Bison Belong

Two letters in your March/April 1998 issue concerning bison management in and around Yellowstone National Park contain errors of fact and some unfortunate misunderstandings.

Both letters express confused notions of wildlife migration. All of Yellowstone's large ungulates, including elk, moose, pronghorn, deer, bighorn sheep, and bison, routinely cross the boundaries on seasonal migrations. All except the bison are enthusiastically welcomed on surrounding lands. These animals are also crossing complex jurisdictional lines; simplistic, "quick fix" solutions such as those offered in the letters will not work. We are working to find a more responsible, sustainable solution to ensure the survival of bison on public lands.

Alfred Fordiani says that bison numbers in the park are too high because of lack of predation. Yellowstone hosts every species of wild predator that was here when Columbus arrived in the New World. These predators, including wolves, black and grizzly bears, and mountain lions, are smart; they choose to take elk, deer, and other more easily killed prey rather than risk injury bringing down the larger bison. Research has established that bison numbers in Yellowstone are controlled primarily by winter weather; their "predator" is a harsh environment, which varies in severity from year to year.

Fordiani proposes feeding bison, but also proposes "controlling" them, i.e., keeping their numbers low. This is, of course, a contradiction, because feeding them just increases the need to control them. The National Park Service, like the state of Montana to Yellowstone's north, recognizes that feeding wildlife usually does more harm than good. Concentrating wild animals at artificial feed sites creates a zoo-like atmosphere, greatly accelerates the spread of disease, increases the rate of injuries, and often devastates the natural landscape around

the feeding site. We do not believe that the public wants these things to happen in Yellowstone.

John Morrison mistakenly states that bison are not native to Yellowstone. At least eight archaeological sites and one paleontological site in the park have yielded bison remains dating back as far as 3,500 years. A recent study of 168 historical accounts of the park area before 1882 yielded dozens of first-hand observations of bison.

In the 1880s, a few foresighted sportsmen-conservationists such as George Bird Grinnell and Theodore Roosevelt recognized that Yellowstone could serve the region as a great "reservoir" for wildlife. They saw that as long as the park was protected, it would continually restock surrounding gamelands with an abundance of migrating animals. That is exactly the dream we share today. The task of coordinating management of these herds has never been easy, but it has never been more important. We urge all of your members to become informed about these issues.

**Michael V. Finley, Superintendent  
Yellowstone National Park**

### Personal Watercraft

My husband and I are among those longtime boaters who have been affected by personal watercraft ["Taking PWCs to Task," March/April 1998]. The experience of being "cut off" on the launch ramp by inconsiderate PWC owners while trying to maneuver a 30-foot trailer has taken the enjoyment out of boating for us. All too often PWC owners launch in "deep water" areas needed for our deep V-hulled boats, and many leave their crafts sitting in the water at the ramp while they park the trailer. These dangerous practices are only some of the many reasons PWCs have made boating more of a chore than a pleasure for us. Until PWCs are banned, or at the very least restricted, we are forced to surrender our long-term boat ownership.

It is gratifying to learn that Genmar Holdings, Inc., would, and did, take a stand. We need more of this type of action. Thank you.

**Sharon Jessop Gottshall  
Upland, CA**

I found the article about PWCs both enlightening and refreshing. I applaud the parks that already have banned PWCs and would love to see them become scarce. Jacobs has a fine point about the necessity for separate regulations for these craft. My question is, where would PWCs be appropriate? Protected lands and ecosystems under the management of the Park Service or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must not be among them!

PWCs are more appropriate for private use in waterways that do not harbor sensitive marine life and endangered ecosystems. I, myself, would be ecstatic if they became history altogether.

**Karen A. Szklany  
Boston, MA**

PWC operators are definitely turning me against boating, mainly because personal watercraft are so obnoxious-sounding and annoying. One or two people on these devices can ruin the prospects of hundreds of people who have come to a lake or river to get away from the stress and hubbub of machines and enjoy the peace and rejuvenating beauty of nature.

It is imperative that we find effective ways to regulate them. The narrow self-centeredness of a few people can no longer be allowed to dominate others who need places that contribute to the inspiration that nature provides.

I hope that a strong grassroots movement can be used to effect these ends.

**Will Tuttle  
Healdsburg, CA**

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Kudos to Genmar Holdings, Inc., for taking action regarding PWCs. I want to express my support for the stand taken. I grew up in the '30s around Lakes Bay and Absecon Inlet in South Jersey and later in life purchased a family boat used primarily in Lake Mead and Lake Powell.

Although I am not an advocate of additional and excessive government control over personal activities, it is refreshing to see a manufacturer willing to back up its philosophy with action. Perhaps other marine builders should take a closer look at this issue.

**Herman F. Chew**  
Canoga Park, CA

I propose that everyone who operates a motorized vessel on the water should be licensed. We have laws regarding motorized land vehicles, and the requirements could be the same for all watercraft owners.

The educational aspect of licensing would benefit people and the environment. In fairness, you should give some space to alternative proposals instead of your "ban all PWCs" stance. It would be interesting from a historical perspective to see what people thought when the first motorized boats showed up on quiet lakes, rivers, and waterways.

**Eric Brown**  
San Francisco, CA

When I was in the military, it was necessary to salute someone of higher rank to show respect.

In the case of Irwin L. Jacobs, I send a large salute for his stand on personal watercraft. Resigning from the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) demonstrates Jacobs' strong feelings concerning the problem.

National Parks also deserves our thanks for providing a forum for Jacobs' views on PWCs and his reasons for resigning from NMMA.

**Richard Nelson**  
Broomall, PA

I can only assume that since you gave Irwin Jacobs a free ad in your magazine

that you are in contact with the major PWC companies to schedule their ads. If you call that Forum instead of advertising, you are mistaken.

Outlawing something that is legal is not what I call the American way. In this country we should be trying to be inclusive, not exclusive.

I think you should try to publish more articles that encourage park use rather than the opposite.

**Chuck Kellner**  
Glen Ellyn, IL

### Something for Everyone

Your March/April issue of *National Parks* contained several articles of particular personal interest.

In the summer of 1941, my parents took me on a camping trip to Yellowstone. We were able to photograph an unpublicized family of then almost-extinct trumpeter swans ["Gaining Ground: A Swan's Song,"] at a remote pond in the park. Constant vigilance is required to ensure that the trumpeters, as well as Yellowstone's bison and recently reintroduced gray wolves, remain part of the park scene.

As owners of one of Irwin Jacobs' Wellcrafts, and boaters who have too frequently dodged PWCs, we wholeheartedly agree with his position that PWCs should be strictly regulated...and banned from most national parks.

As residents of south Florida, we are also concerned about our endangered panthers and manatees ["Deconstruction to Reconstruction: Restoring the Everglades"]. It is indeed timely that the Corps of Engineers do something to restore Florida's rivers and "glades."

We agree also that the Gettysburg National Military Park site needs more tasteful preservation and presentation ["Gettysburg to Have Improved Visitor Facilities," News]. Less commercialized Antietam National Battlefield is more interesting and impressive.

In general, recent issues of *National Parks*, it seems to us, are considerably improved. Well Done!

**Sharon and Charles Phillips**  
Palm City, FL

### Roads to Nowhere

Doesn't anyone on your staff bother to determine whether what you print is accurate? ["Roads to Nowhere," January/February 1998] My husband and I have been over the Burr Trail.

The particular road the story focuses on needed grading and maintenance. The part the county graded is a very steep incline of hairpin turns. We saw a car towing a 30-foot trailer back-up traffic for over half an hour trying to go around these turns.

The rest of the Burr Trail goes across a hostile environment of sagebrush and grease wood, rattle snakes, lizards, and insects, and ends up at Lake Powell. It is 110 degrees in the summer and 25 below in the winter. This land is depicted as pristine. The Burr Trail in this area does not have a compelling reason to be upgraded. Most people going to Lake Powell will not use it because it destroys boats and cars.

Having driven on the paved part of Burr Trail, which consists of several miles starting at the town of Boulder and extending several miles east, we were pleased that it was wide enough to get off the road and out of the car to take in the scenic canyon.

Why do people have to establish more "wilderness," when their time could be more profitably used to lobby for money to help maintain the parks, to upgrade the facilities, and hire rangers? A lot of the proposed wilderness areas, such as most of the Burr Trail, are not worthy of being visited.

**Connie Merrell**  
Hurricane, UT

### CORRECTION

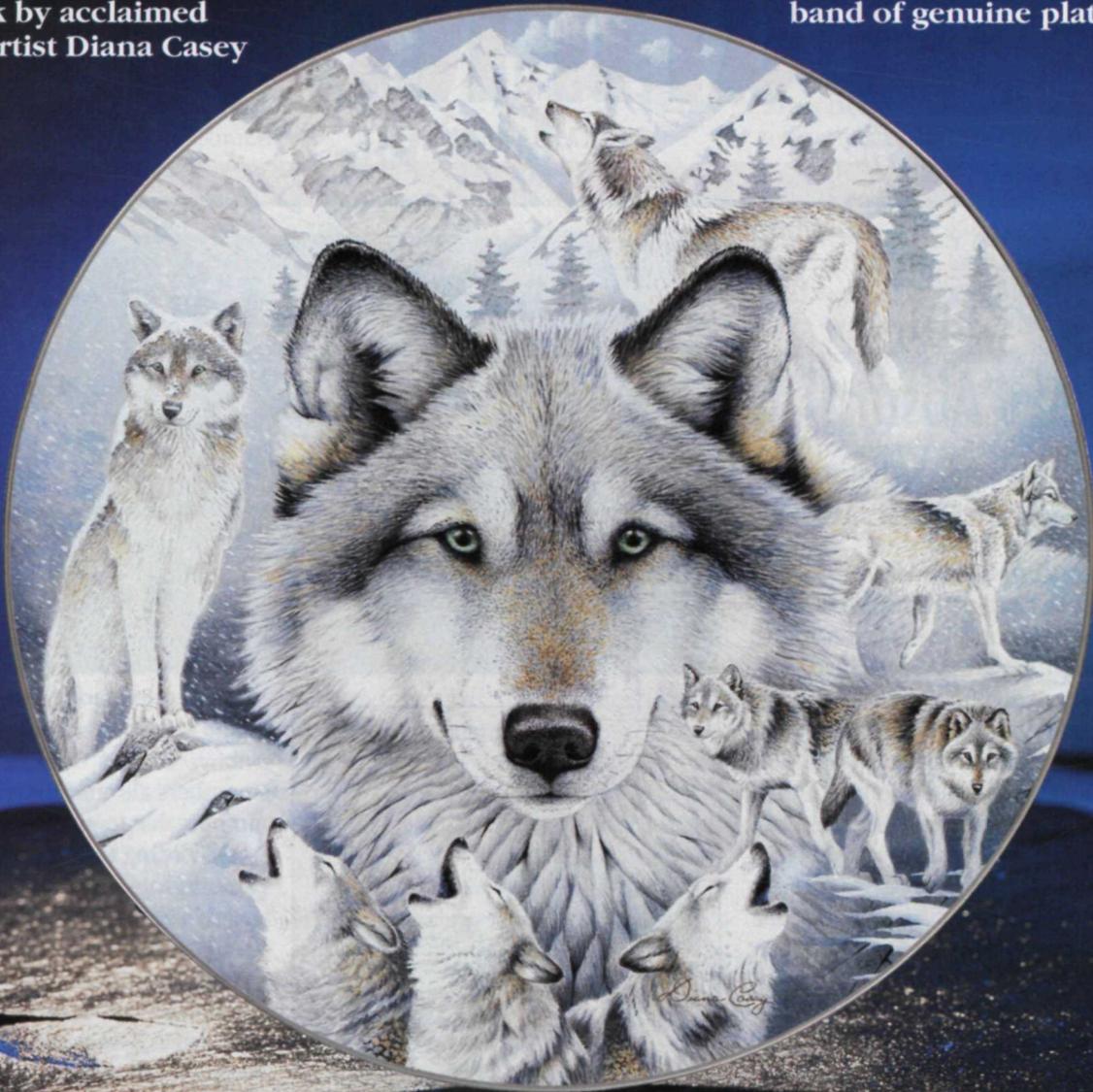
"Parks as Classrooms," which ran as a headline in the May/June issue, is a registered trademark of the National Park Foundation. *National Parks* regrets the error.

Write: Letters, NPCA, 1776 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20036. Letters can be sent via e-mail to [npmag@npsa.org](mailto:npmag@npsa.org). Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

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# Park News

BY KATURAH MACKAY

## MANAGEMENT

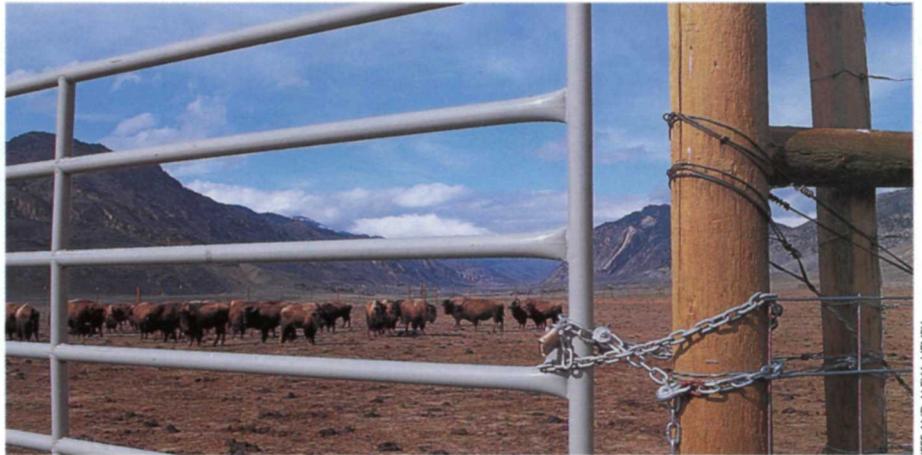
### Bison Plan Called "Absurd"

Proposal may end the nation's last free-roaming bison herd.

YELLOWSTONE N.P., WYO.—The long-awaited draft that would dictate the future for Yellowstone National Park's bison herd was released in early June. If enacted, NPCA fears the nation's last free-roaming bison would be treated more like domestic cattle than wildlife. The plan was issued jointly by the National Park Service, the Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the state of Montana, and the U.S. Forest Service to eliminate brucellosis, a disease that may cause cows to abort their first calf.

"In an attempt to prevent the infinitesimally small risk to fewer than 1,800 cattle adjacent to the park from becoming infected with brucellosis, the plan singles out bison from the larger elk population, which also carries the disease," says Mark Peterson, NPCA's Rocky Mountain regional director. "At a cost of over \$1.7 million a year, the plan will treat Yellowstone's wild bison like zoo animals and give cattle preference on public lands near the park. This is one of the most absurd public policies ever crafted."

NPCA, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition (GYC), and the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance say that the plan's preferred alternative fails to reasonably manage the brucellosis risk while allowing bison to remain wild. The plan does not go far enough in keeping cat-



A quarantine facility on CUT property could hold bison in zoo-like pens.



tle away from bison outside the park, gives cattle preference on U.S. Forest Service lands, and arbitrarily caps the bison population. The plan also appears to cede authority for removing bison that step outside the park to the Montana Board of Livestock, whose seven

members all raise livestock and are not accountable to any elected official.

According to GYC, a regional conservation group, bison would be excluded from U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands for winter foraging outside the park—even though few or no cattle graze in most of these areas. NPCA and GYC favor the option of seasonal separation on lands where the two ungulate groups would come in contact. This option would allow bison and cattle to share grazing lands outside the park by altering the Forest Service grazing allotments used by ten ranchers, who together graze less than 800 cattle on these public lands.

The draft plan also calls for maintaining a reduced population of between 1,700 and 2,500 bison—numbers that are not based on science or ecological factors. Studies have shown that average forage production and winter severity should allow bison numbers to fluctuate up to 3,500 animals in Yellowstone alone—a figure well above the 2,500 limit proposed in the plan for both the park and surrounding lands.

NPCA is also concerned with the draft's proposal to build a quarantine facility either inside the park or just outside its boundaries for holding bison that test negative for brucellosis.

The corrals and buildings associated with a quarantine facility may be located on lands that belong to the Church Universal and Triumphant (CUT) adjacent to the northwest corner of the park. The church lands, 7,000 out of 13,000 acres of which the federal government is looking to acquire, serve as a prime corridor for a variety of wildlife that requires access to Yellowstone, including bison, elk, bighorn sheep, and antelope. Operating much like an "industrial feed lot," says one public official, the facilities would significantly disturb wildlife movement, impair winter range, and harm American Indian cultural resources known to be in the area. NPCA maintains that the CUT property should be acquired as winter range, not for location of a quarantine facility.

"A mistaken impression is that somehow the migration of healthy wildlife herds in and out of the park is part of a sinister plot to enlarge park boundaries," says Marvin Jensen, Yellowstone's assistant superintendent. "In fact, many agencies are increasingly concerned with wildlife habitat and maintaining migration corridors. We have no interest in expanding the park boundaries. We will, however, do our part to honor the American public's desire to see free-ranging wildlife on public lands."

**TAKE ACTION:** Written public comments will be accepted until early October. Oppose the NPS preferred alternative and support these recommendations in your letters and calls: provide for bison use of Forest Service and BLM lands outside Yellowstone in winter; allow populations to fluctuate naturally inside the park based on scientific data, reduce disease risk by seasonally separating bison and cattle, and support the acquisition of property outside the park for additional winter range. Address: Bison Plan Team, NPS, Sarah Bransom, DSCR, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225, or call 303-969-2251; visit the website at [www.nps.gov/planning/current.htm](http://www.nps.gov/planning/current.htm).

## Fight Over Funds Hinders Land Deal

*Visitor experience threatened by anonymous purchase.*

ST. MARYS, GA. — Political wrangling on Capitol Hill is endangering the funds necessary to complete a critical land acquisition deal at Cumberland Island National Seashore, although those funds are already earmarked for that specific purpose by the Clinton Administration.

The critical Greyfield North tract on the island—designated in its entirety as a seashore in 1972—contains 1,148 acres of pristine live oak forests, marshes, and beaches. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) acquired an option to buy the land in five phases and has already purchased and transferred the first phase of 148 acres to the National Park Service for \$2 million (see News story, July/August 1997). In addition, TNC has exercised its option on the next two phases for \$6.4 million. While the money to transfer this land to the park was earmarked by the administration in a special appropriation of \$699 million last year, that money has been delayed

by Congress and its disposition is still uncertain.

To further complicate the situation, Rep. Jack Kingston (R-Ga.), whose district includes Cumberland Island, has been pushing a controversial land swap to replace the appropriation of money to complete the deal. Kingston's proposal would allow a family to purchase the remaining portion of the Greyfield North tract and swap it to the federal government in exchange for private land at the north end of the island. This land was sold to the Park Service years ago, but the family continues to live there under a "retained rights" agreement that will eventually expire.

"The proposed land swap would reprivatize publicly owned land," says Don Barger, NPCA's Southeast regional director. "This would reverse the process of Cumberland Island reaching its potential as a national seashore and send a signal to other retained rights holders on the island that the government would be satisfied with a national seashore dotted with private homes. The United States has a contract with the American people to make sure the island is protected."

Last year, a General Accounting Office report on the land purchase concluded that The Nature Conservancy had probably obtained the best possible deal for the Greyfield North property. However, if the government cannot meet its obligation to purchase phases two and three for \$6.4 million, TNC may not be



Cumberland Island is subject to reprivatization without full federal protection.

# Six-Lane Artery To Traverse Park

*Politics sacrifice sacred lands to parochial interests.*

WASHINGTON, D.C.—By just one vote and a signature, Congress and the president recently granted the city of Albuquerque permission to begin construction of the Paseo del Norte road through Petroglyph National Monument, allowing the urban sprawl of Albuquerque to spill over into areas west of the park.

The loss of 8.5 acres in the heart of the monument has become an ugly example of Washington politics at its worst. New Mexico Senators Pete Domenici (R) and Jeff Bingaman (D) attached the Paseo del Norte provision to the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill that provided storm relief to New England states and funding for military operations overseas. If built, the Paseo road would carry commuters—as many as 24,000 cars and trucks a day—over a six-lane paved surface that passes within one-quarter mile of nearly 1,000 ancient petroglyphs.

“It’s the most cynical kind of political maneuvering, because they knew it couldn’t get by on its own merits,” Albuquerque Mayor Jim Baca recently told reporters. “I resent our senators for doing it.”

Baca vowed to support a city-wide referendum on construction of the road. But a referendum may not be possible because Albuquerque’s City Council voted in 1993 to build Paseo del Norte. According to the council’s president, the road’s only obstacle now is raising sufficient funds—a figure approaching \$30 million.

“To cram this [road] down the throats of the American people as a kind of Trojan horse is to misuse the country’s democratic process,” says Ike Eastvold, president of Friends of the Albuquerque Petroglyphs. But Eastvold also is optimistic that the project will be

able to acquire the land for protection.

Funds for such land acquisitions are funneled from the \$13-billion federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which is fed by royalties from offshore oil and gas leases. Problems arise when congressional approvals for acquisitions such as Cumberland Island are deliberately delayed.

Private landowners typically grow impatient and may sell to the highest bidder. In addition, the closer it gets to the end of a congressional session, the more tempting it is for members of Congress to dip into unused land acquisition funds for more politically favorable projects. Although the Clinton Administration sends a list to House and Senate committees regarding its priorities for spending LWCF funds, the committees ultimately must approve the items on that list.

A very real threat of development already looms over an 82-acre parcel called the Georgia Rose tract, recently acquired by a private interest who continues to remain anonymous. This tract is adjacent to Cumberland Island’s Sea

Camp visitor center and campground, where a majority of the island’s visitors come ashore. NPCA notes that any development on this parcel would severely impact the visitor experience of an undisturbed island and seashore environment. According to Barger, this deal demonstrates that major, covert land deals can and will happen if conservationists do not act quickly.

**TAKE ACTION:** Congress must release the \$6.4 million in the 1998 appropriation and continue to make available the funds to complete the Greyfield North purchase. Urge these leaders to free up LWCF funds for Cumberland Island without engaging in a harmful land swap. Write or call Rep. Ralph Regula, Chairman, House Subcommittee for Interior Appropriations, 2309 Rayburn Bldg., Washington, DC 20515; phone: 202-225-3876; or Sen. Slade Gorton, Chairman, Senate Subcommittee for Interior Appropriations, 730 Hart Bldg., Washington, DC 20510; phone: 202-224-3441; e-mail: senator\_gorton@gorton.senate.gov.



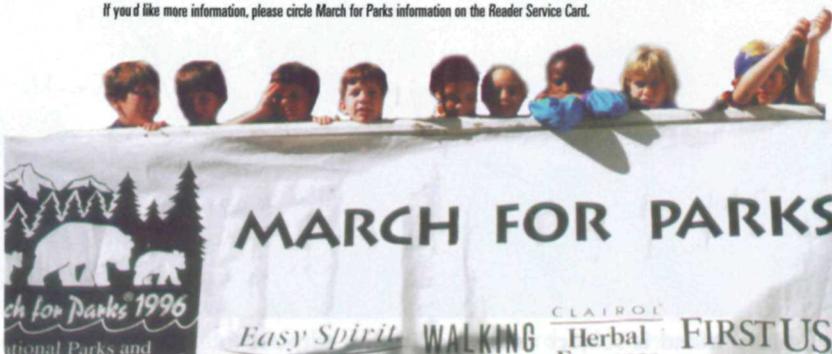
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*If you'd like more information, please circle March for Parks information on the Reader Service Card.*



ted up for years in lawsuits.

NPCA has long opposed the road and led a national campaign to fight passage of the provision, saying Paseo's construction would establish a dangerous precedent for national parks throughout the country.

"This Petroglyph road would be bad enough if it were an isolated incident," says Kevin Collins, NPCA's legislative representative working on the issue. "Unfortunately, there are lots of other environmentally harmful boondoggles being pushed by developers who have the ear of some congressman." Specifically, Collins is referring to projects circulating in Congress such as:

► a plan to build a paved northern access road through the pristine wilderness of Denali National Park in Alaska. Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska) successfully added language to the recently completed reauthorization of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) to provide \$1.5 million for a formal environmental impact statement on the Denali road proposition;

► a proposal to construct a 30-mile highway between King Cove and Cold Bay in Alaska, ten miles of which would cut through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. Also introduced by Murkowski, this road is estimated to cost \$40 million, and its construction would be completely exempted from environmental laws, setting a dangerous precedent for any roads traversing federal lands;

► efforts to construct or expand roads through or near national park sites to ease commuter congestion, such as at Manassas National Battlefield Park and Chancellorsville National Battlefield in Virginia, and Ocmulgee National Monument in Georgia.

NPCA opposes these proposals, which threaten the integrity of national parklands throughout the system and spend otherwise useful funds on unnecessary projects.

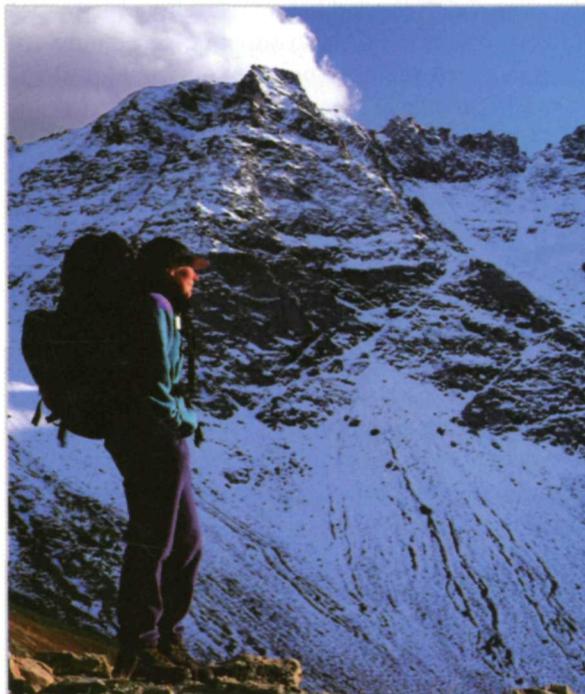
**TAKE ACTION:** To become more involved in helping fight these and other harmful projects, join NPCA's Park Activist Network. Call 1-800-NAT-PARK, ext. 229, or e-mail Stephany Seay at [sseay@npca.org](mailto:sseay@npca.org).

## NEWS UPDATE

► **THOMAS BILL:** The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources has approved the Vision 2020 National Parks Restoration Act, sponsored by Sen. Craig Thomas (R-Wyo.). NPCA says the package of park improvement measures is in "substantially better shape" than previous versions (see Legislative Update, May/June 1998), but considerable room for improvement remains, especially in areas addressing park concessions. As it currently stands, the bill would allow companies that have made capital improvements in parks to enjoy a guaranteed return on their investment, which effectively allows concessioners to continue to speculate on publicly owned parkland. The bill provides for increased competition and allows open bidding on all contracts of more than \$500,000.

► **CANYON FOREST VILLAGE:** NPCA and other conservationist groups

have been working to improve a proposed land exchange and development outside Grand Canyon National Park called Canyon Forest Village (see News story, September/October 1997). NPCA insists that development must not harm park or forest resources, must be appropriately scaled, and must set a high standard for gateway development. NPCA supports Alternative H as the most favorable option because it would not rely on groundwater, thereby protecting Grand Canyon water resources, would use sustainable environmental design, would provide the gateway community of Tusayan and the South Rim with much-needed community and park-related facilities, and would help avert growth inside the park. **TAKE ACTION:** For information about commenting on the Forest Service EIS containing Alt. H., contact NPCA's Southwest regional office at: 823 Gold Ave., S.W., Albuquerque, NM 87102; 505-247-1221.



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# REGIONAL REPORT

News Briefs from NPCA's Regional Offices

## ALASKA Chip Dennerlein, Regional Director

► Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska) has submitted a request to the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee to authorize the operation and landing of helicopters in all of Alaska's conservation units, including national parks, wilderness, and wilderness study areas. Murkowski proposes to amend the Alaska National Interest Lands and Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA), which authorizes the use of "airplanes"—meaning fixed wing aircraft—only for "traditional" activities and necessary travel. Large-scale commercial helicopter operations as part of tour packages are not "traditional activities" within the meaning of ANILCA, and would be grossly inappropriate in these areas. **TAKE ACTION:** To help oppose helicopters in Alaska's conservation areas, visit NPCA's website at [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org).

## HEARTLAND Lori Nelson, Regional Director

► NPCA has submitted comments on the draft general management plan (GMP) for Isle Royale National Park in Michigan, which is 99 percent wilderness. NPCA is asking the Park Service to develop a more resource protection-based management plan rather than one that caters to traditional visitor use and visitor expectations. More scientific research and baseline data is needed before recreational activities are promoted in park waters. NPCA also supports combining lodging facilities with park employee housing in an environmental education center that would provide learning opportunities for visitors. **TAKE ACTION:** Write to the park and support NPCA's recommendations mentioned above. Address: Superintendent Douglas Barnard, Isle Royale National Park, 87 North Ripley St., Houghton, MI 49931.

## NORTHEAST Eileen Woodford, Regional Director

► On June 6, Marsh-Billings National Historical Park in Vermont opened its federal facilities to the public. The park, managed in partnership with the Woodstock Foundation, is Vermont's first national park. It is also the first unit of the park system to focus on the theme of conservation history and the changing nature of land stewardship in America. The park, which includes the Billings Farm and Museum, interprets the dairy farm and professionally managed forest established there in the late 19th century.

## PACIFIC Brian Huse, Regional Director

► Yosemite National Park will be completing a thorough analysis of the Valley Implementation Plan (VIP), designed to restore many areas of the park to their natural condition. NPCA is urging the park to revise its planning for the VIP to incorporate the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation Strategy's summer restrictions on shuttling visitors in and out of the park. Beginning August 1, write to the park and request this supplemental analysis for comment. Address: Yosemite N.P., Attn: VIP, Yosemite, CA 95389; or call 209-372-0261.

continued

## POLICY

# NPCA Demands Final PWC Rule

Survey reveals 92 percent believe PWC use should be restricted.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—NPCA has petitioned the National Park Service (NPS) to issue an immediate, system-wide moratorium on personal watercraft (PWC) because of their noise, pollution, and disturbance to park visitors and wildlife. Unless action is taken, NPCA has threatened to pursue legal measures against the Park Service.

NPCA and a host of other concerned groups have been waiting nearly nine months for the Park Service to issue a final rule governing the appropriate use of PWCs in national parks. The agency has devised a proposed rule that requires superintendents to issue special regulations in their parks if they believe PWCs should be allowed there. Yet NPS has delayed issuing the rule.

An NPCA public opinion survey conducted this year by Colorado State University revealed that more than 92 percent of Americans believe the use of PWCs should be limited—51 percent of whom called for an outright ban (see Notes, p. 44).

NPS management policies state: "General regulations addressing . . . off-road vehicle use . . . require that special regulations be developed before these uses may be authorized in parks." PWCs are the latest form of "off-road" vehicles to be proposed for use in national parks. NPCA maintains they should be treated the same as other motorized uses such as snowmobiles, which require special-use regulations from the Park Service.

**TAKE ACTION:** Vigorous support for a systemwide prohibition of personal watercraft is essential to accelerate the final implementation of the NPS proposed rule. Support tough regulations of PWCs in parks by contacting: Maureen Finnerty, Associate Director of Park Operations, NPS, 1849 C St., N.W., Washington, DC 20240; phone: 202-208-5651.

# Airport Plans Ignore Impacts to Maui Park

Alien invasions threaten diversity in World Biosphere Reserve.

MAKAWAO, HAWAII—Unless the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) improves inspection practices for a proposed airport expansion, Haleakala National Park could be overrun by alien species, Park Service officials fear.

“Haleakala National Park protects the most pristine example of a rainforest ecosystem in America,” says Brian Huse, NPCA’s Pacific regional director. “FAA has failed its own mandate to protect the public’s parklands and is threatening to upset the balance of nature.”

The proposal to expand Kahului Airport, presented by the FAA and the Hawaii Department of Transportation, would extend the current runway from 7,400 feet to 9,600 feet, allowing larger, significantly heavier planes from the United States, Canada, and Asia to land on Maui. Luggage, cargo, people, and plane apparatus can all carry foreign seeds, insects, and microscopic organisms that are difficult to detect. Kahului’s small staff of Hawaii state inspectors could be overwhelmed by the increase in traffic inevitable with an airport expansion. Add to this the outright smuggling of reptiles (namely snakes), birds, fish, plants, and insects in regular carry-on or checked baggage—most of which is unexamined upon arrival—and the threats to the park magnify.

“Oceanic islands are particularly sensitive to biological invasions,” says Dr. Lloyd Loope, a former Haleakala National Park research scientist who now works for the U.S. Geological Service’s Biological Research Division. “There is an analogy here to how vulnerable American Indians and Polynesians were to diseases that were brought over by Europeans. Island life will not fare well when exposed to whatever organisms



the modern world economy might bring to Maui.”

Because the final environmental impact statement (EIS) for the project released by the FAA in October 1997 fails to address specifically the impacts of alien species on Haleakala National Park, the National Park Service (NPS) and the Department of the Interior (DOI) have referred the matter to President Clinton’s Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). The park’s superintendent and DOI have made numerous attempts to draw the FAA’s attention to the effects of the project on Haleakala National Park, but to no avail. In 1993, FAA refused a request for the National Park Service to be given “cooperating agency” status on the project’s evaluation.

According to documentation submitted to CEQ by the park, FAA repeatedly ignored Park Service requests to be involved in discussions and drafting of the EIS, justifying its negligence thus: “The park is 20 miles away, [the Park Service] has no expertise in the subject [of airport expansion], and endangered species are the jurisdiction of the Fish and Wildlife Service.” None of these reasons is relevant to what could happen and is happening to Haleakala’s ecosystem, according to biologists like Loope, who specialize in the effects of invasive species on isolated environments. More native species have been eliminated in Hawaii than anywhere else in the United States and most places

in the world—alien invasion is a main factor. As many as 20 alien species a year are introduced to an extremely diverse environment that evolved in near-complete isolation over 70 million years.

The proposed mitigation measures for the project submitted by the Park Service to CEQ include educational displays and inflight videos; mandatory training for airport employees, baggage handlers, and cabin personnel to recognize alien species; installation of highly sensitive X-ray machines and other technology to aid inspections; additional inspection dogs and quarantine officers; a new air cargo building designed with sterilization, incineration, and containment facilities; and a comprehensive program to monitor and assess the effectiveness of the detection program for alien species at Kahului Airport. These measures must be mandated before construction begins and in place before the airport project is completed.

NPCA, the Friends of Haleakala National Park, and local group Maui Malama Pono support the Park Service’s position on the issue.

“Our concern is not just about the serious impacts of alien species,” says Haleakala Superintendent Don Reeser. “The larger issue is whether external threats to a national park will be adequately addressed and effectively mitigated. Our success or failure at Haleakala will be important to other national parks in the system.”

REGIONAL REPORT *continued***PACIFIC NORTHWEST**

► The draft management plan that will guide operations at Glacier National Park in Montana for the next 20 years will be issued soon for public comment. It will present various alternatives to address such critical park issues as scenic air tour overflights, use of personal watercraft, preservation of historic lodges, deterioration of Going-to-the-Sun Highway, increasing winter use, and the need for new facilities. **TAKE ACTION:** To learn more about the alternatives and to comment on the draft, write: General Management Plan, Superintendent, Glacier National Park, West Glacier, MT 59936; or look for it on the park's web site: [www.nps.gov/glac](http://www.nps.gov/glac).

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN** **Mark Peterson, Regional Director**

► A recent federal study indicates that mining tailings leftover from Atlas Corporation's past uranium mining operations in Utah are leaching into the Colorado River. Up to a half pound of uranium, 2,422 pounds of sulfate, and 330 pounds of ammonium is dissolving into the river daily, carried downstream to several national parks including Canyonlands and Grand Canyon. The river serves as the main source of drinking water for 19 million people. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is reluctant to remove tailings from the river's floodplain, claiming the clean-up will require special legislation. **TAKE ACTION:** Write to Utah Senator Bob Bennett, 431 Dirksen Bldg., Washington, DC 20510; e-mail: [senator@bennett.senate.gov](mailto:senator@bennett.senate.gov). Encourage him to push for legislation that would clean up the Atlas tailings.

**SOUTHEAST** **Don Barger, Regional Director**

► Mark Woods, superintendent of Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, has been named by the Park Service as Superintendent of the Year for outstanding natural resource protection. Woods' formal appeal of a coal strip mining permit on lands just outside the park (see News story, March/April 1998) activated a little-used section of the Surface Mining Act to advance the protection of parks from aesthetic impacts outside their boundaries. NPCA and the city of Middlesboro, Kentucky, are also participating in the appeal and successfully petitioned to have the adjacent Fern Lake watershed declared unsuitable for mining. The judge, who is recommending that the mining permit be rescinded, supported the landmark decision with NPCA's Fern Lake petition.

**SOUTHWEST** **Dave Simon, Regional Director**

► The Mohave Generating Station, a coal-fired power plant, is the last major power plant in the southwest that lacks adequate pollution controls. It emits 40,000 tons of sulphur dioxide, 10,000 tons of particulates, and 44,000 tons of nitrogen oxides per year. NPCA is seeking to join a lawsuit alleging violations of the Clean Air Act to compel cleanup of the plant, which will reduce local pollution and improve visibility at Grand Canyon National Park only 60 miles away. **TAKE ACTION:** Urge the Environmental Protection Agency to require pollution control equipment on the Mohave plant. Write: Felicia Marcus, EPA Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105.

## LITIGATION

**Ellis Island Split  
by High Court**

*Major portion of historic island  
now part of New Jersey.*

ELLIS ISLAND, N. J. —In a six to three ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court settled a 160-year-old dispute between the states of New York and New Jersey, giving the latter jurisdiction over more than 80 percent of Ellis Island's 27.5 acres (see News story, July/August 1997). Only 3.3 acres will remain part of New York.

An 1834 compact gave New York rights to the original three acres of the island, but New Jersey was given claim to the water-covered portions west of the central harbor. These submerged acres have been filled in during the last century, creating an unclaimed piece of property that New York officials assumed was theirs. New York City's Mayor Rudolph Guiliani was quoted by reporters: "They're still not going to convince me that my grandfather, when he was sitting in Italy thinking of coming to the United States, was saying to himself, 'I'm coming to New Jersey!'"

The National Park Service will continue to manage the island and its interpretation as part of Statue of Liberty National Monument. New Jersey may benefit from the reallocation of some sales and income tax revenue from Ellis Island. Of greater concern to the Park Service, however, is the deteriorating condition of a number of vacant but historically significant structures—including a psychiatric ward, kitchen, mortuary, and dormitory building—on New Jersey's portion of the island. In the past, New Jersey has proposed new development for this little-visited area.

"We hope New Jersey realizes that the whole of Ellis Island is important to the immigrant story," says Eileen Woodford, NPCA's Northeast regional director. "NPS, as sole steward of the island's resources, is the government agency responsible for all future planning."

# 150 Years of Women's Rights

Park celebrates women's movement with variety of events.

SENECA FALLS, N.Y. — Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, New York, will present a series of events, exhibits, and speakers July 16-19 to commemorate the beginnings of equality for American women.

Established by Congress in 1980, the park is dedicated to the national movement for gender reform initiated in 1848 by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony, abolitionists, Quakers, and others.

The park includes Stanton's home, which became a popular gathering spot for lively discussion with visitors such as abolitionist Frederick Douglass. Also open to visitors is the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, site of the first convention, where 300 people gathered to hear the grievances and desired rights drafted by Stanton and friends. At the time of the convention, the United States did not allow women to vote, own property, earn and keep wages, have custody of children, or obtain an education equal to that of men.

Park staff hope that through a fundraising campaign, aided by the National Park Foundation, they will be able to restore the M'Clintock House, where convention planners met to draft the Declaration of Rights and Sentiments. A special loan to the park from the Smithsonian Institution features the original table on which the declaration was written.

The park's celebration of the convention is cosponsored by Celebrate '98, a nonprofit corporation composed of key local, state, and national organizations and individuals with an interest in the legacy of Seneca Falls. Officials are also hoping to enrich park support by beginning a national friends group to continue restoration efforts.

Celebratory activities at the park in-



"... all men and women are created equal," declared Stanton and supporters.

clude a 25-minute film in the visitor center, interactive exhibits, and book signings in the bookstore. The chapel will be open daily for regularly scheduled dramatizations of the 1848 convention. Interpretive tours and interactive talks will be featured at Elizabeth Cady Stanton's home. The Park Service has worked with President Clinton's Interagency Council on Women to bring high-level speakers from the govern-

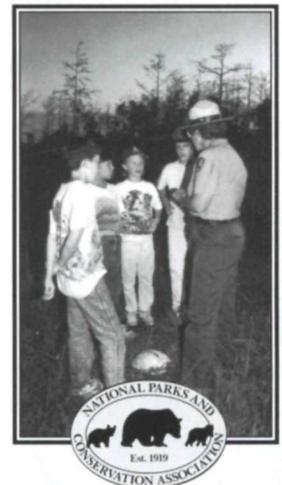
ment and public sector to the park to participate in discussion panels on the lawn of Stanton's home. First Lady Hillary Clinton will be the keynote speaker at the grand opening ceremonies on July 16.

For more information on Celebrate '98 or activities at Women's Rights National Historical Park, contact the park at 315-568-2991, or visit the park's web site at <http://www.nps.gov/wori>.

## For Future Generations

Since 1919, NPCA has worked tirelessly to preserve and enhance the National Park System. One of NPCA's founders, Stephen Mather, had the foresight more than 75 years ago to take action to help save the sites we all enjoy today. He knew then that only by planning ahead could we preserve the priceless and irreplaceable treasures that are our national parks and historic sites.

Charitable bequests from wills and other individual estate plans are vital to funding our important mission. If you would like to do something special to ensure that others may enjoy the splendor of our national parks for years to come, please remember NPCA in your will or trust. You can leave a legacy that lasts far beyond your lifetime, enriching the lives of future generations of park lovers.



For a copy of, "How To Make A Will That Works," please return this coupon or contact: Daniel Studnicki

National Parks and Conservation Association  
1776 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036

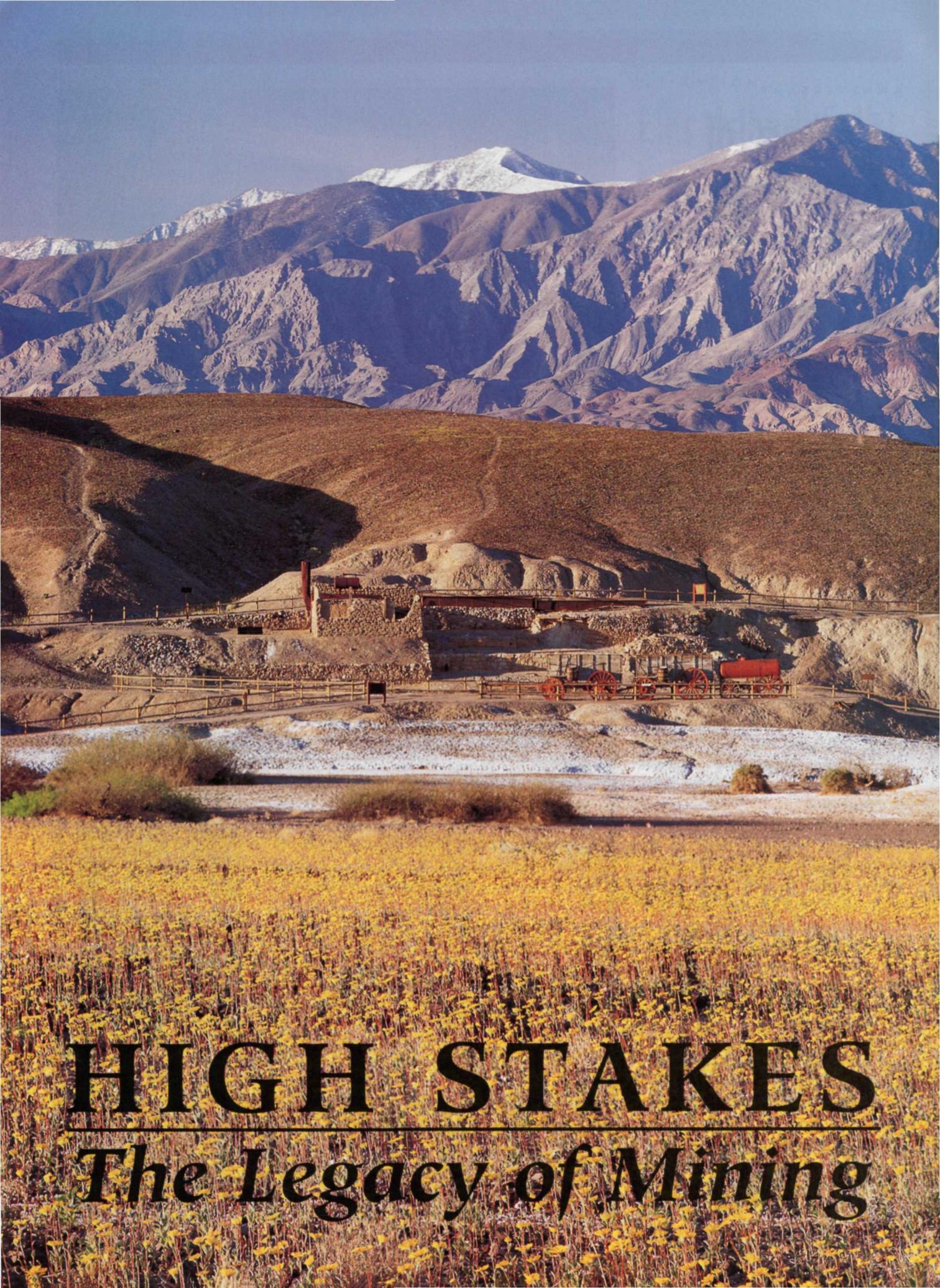
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# HIGH STAKES

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## *The Legacy of Mining*

Public lands contain thousands of abandoned mineral sites, and at least 30 national parks have ongoing mineral operations. An outdated law is partly to blame, and in its wake are billions of dollars of clean-up costs and subsidized profit for miners who get minerals and ore for bargain basement prices.

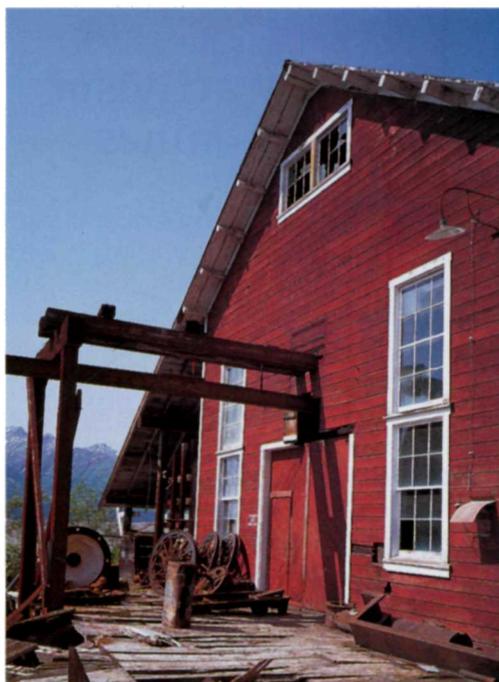
BY GEORGE WUERTHNER

**M**INING AND MINERAL exploration have figured prominently in the American experience, so it is not surprising that a few parks celebrate the mining era. Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park memorializes the romance and adventure of the gold rush of 1898, and interpretation of the area's mining history is a big part of such park units as Yukon-Charley Preserve and Death Valley National Park.

But along with images of the 20-mule-team borax wagons that traversed the California landscape are some others that are not so picturesque. The legacy of mining can be seen in scarred landscapes of Kentucky's coal fields and Alaska's gold mines. And today, that legacy frequently includes toxic waste. Adjacent to Mojave National Preserve, for instance, the Molycorp Mine recently burst a pipeline that crosses the preserve and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands. The operator reluctantly cleaned up the spill of more than 200,000 gallons of radioactive and hazardous wastes with Park Service assistance.

Nationwide, an estimated 557,000 abandoned hard rock mine sites are left unreclaimed, and more than 12,000 miles of rivers have been poisoned by mining wastes. And it is taxpayers who are frequently left with the estimated minimum \$32-\$72-billion clean-up costs. One of the sources of these problems, according to Will Patrick of the Washington-based Mineral Policy Cen-

ter, is the 1872 Mining Law, which gives a company or individual a right to mine on more than 270 million acres of public domain, including nearly all Forest Service and BLM lands. "The federal government can place stipulations



**Lands at Kennicott Mine in Wrangell-St. Elias in Alaska have been subdivided and could result in new development.**

on how mining will be conducted, but it can't deny a hard rock mining operation if it complies with basic rules of operations—no matter what other values may be negatively affected," he says.

According to Dave Shaver, chief of the geological resources division in the Natural Resources Program Center of the National Park Service (NPS), more than 4,000 abandoned mining claims exist within units of the park system—an estimated 1,200 alone in Mojave National Preserve in California—with more than 11,000 underground open-

ings, 33,000 disturbed sites, and 5,000 miles of access roads. In addition to the effects of past mining activities, "there are ongoing active mineral operations occurring in about 30 park units," says Shaver. That makes for a lot of park space with a lot of problems.

NPS has stronger tools than other federal agencies to prevent or at least regulate mining to protect a park's natural and cultural resources, but the agency has not always implemented its regulations. Currently Mojave National Preserve is allowing mining of the Cima Cinder Cone, a national landmark, even though the operation is out of compliance with both state and federal regulations.

Three types of private mineral rights operate on federal public lands, including park units: federal leases for oil and gas; non-federally owned minerals that preexisted a park's establishment; and hard rock mining claims under the infamous Mining Law of 1872, which covers minerals such as gold and silver.

The most egregious problems caused by minerals extraction have been associated with this 1872 law. Enacted in the glory days of the pick-and-shovel mining era when the main goal of the federal government was to promote settlement of the West, the law allows anyone to stake a claim to hard rock minerals such as silver, gold, lead, uranium, and copper. Each claim covers about 20 acres, and a claimant can locate and stake as many claims as desired. If the claim is properly staked and possesses legitimate minerals worthy of recovery, the law gives the claimant the minerals virtually for free (although there is an annual \$100 maintenance fee), as well as use of any surface resources such as trees and

**Harmony Borax Works at Death Valley National Park in California remains from the 20-mule-team mining era.**

## MINING *Continued*

water needed for mining. The law also lacks any specific requirements for reclamation.

Furthermore, the mining law allows, but does not require, the fee purchase or "patent" of a claim. For a mere \$5 an acre—1872 prices—a person can acquire public lands worth millions of dollars. In 1995 when a Danish firm obtained rights to minerals worth an estimated \$1 billion, it paid the U.S. government a mere \$275 in fees. Likewise, in 1994, American Barrick Corporation paid \$5,140 for 1,000 acres of public land in Nevada that contained minerals worth \$10 billion.

Not all claims are actually mined, of course, for once the lands are patented, owners can do anything they want with the property, including sell it for any other use. The mining law has consequently been used on more than one occasion to acquire cabin sites in the midst of federal land or to obtain valuable real estate adjacent to ski areas. The resort at Furnace Creek in Death Valley National Park sits on patented mining claims.

Other costs growing out of the mining law giveaway include the clean-up expense often borne by taxpayers. Hard rock mining wastes, often highly toxic, are exempt from federal toxic waste regulation. Sixty-six abandoned mining sites are now included in the Superfund National Priorities List, although none is in a park. Even if not a Superfund site, mining can still affect other park values. Mike Tranel, park planner in Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska, says that mining wastes on Slate Creek near Kantishna Mining District were so polluted with toxins,

the Park Service had to warn backpackers against using the water. And in the East, where most mining effects are associated with coal, Don Barger, NPCA's Southeast regional director, notes that acid drainage from past coal mining is

having an impact on such sites as New River Gorge National River in West Virginia and Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area in Tennessee.

The only good thing that can be said about the mining legacy in national parks is that mines are far less numerous there than on other public lands. This is due, in part, to legislation establishing parks, which removes the lands from future mining claims, although exceptions abound. In some cases, parks have been created where mining claims already exist. A gradual attrition of claims has occurred, however, because they must be maintained to be valid. Furthermore, unlike the rest of the public domain, the staking of new mining claims within national parks is not permitted under the 1976 Mining in the Parks Act.

Thanks to this act, the Park Service has greater authority than other public land management agencies to regulate hard rock mining within park borders. The Park Service requires all mine operators of both patented and unpatented claims to submit a proposed plan of operation for approval and to post a bond for reclamation. The agency has the authority to place stipulations on mining operations to protect other park resources. For instance, NPS may require seasonal closures to protect wildlife or restrict volume to protect other park resources.

Unlike hard rock mining, rights to extract coal, oil, and gas from federal lands are covered by other federal laws including the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, which affects only three park units: Lake Mead, Whiskeytown, and Glen Canyon national recreation areas. Under this act, federal lands are leased rather than sold, and mining companies must pay a 12.5 percent royalty on any minerals



### The new activism against mines

**P**ark defenders are involved in a number of legal actions and other negotiations to limit mining in and around national parks. Some examples:

▲ The Park Service is in court with a Native corporation to determine ownership of some disputed mining claims near Nabesna in Alaska.

▲ In Missouri, NPCA and NPS are fighting a proposed lead mine next to Ozark National Scenic Riverways that could jeopardize the quality of the river's headwater springs.

▲ The Park Service is negotiating to acquire the Kennicott Mine and Woodchopper properties in Wrangell-St. Elias, as well as similar inholdings in the Kantishna Mining District within Denali National Park.

▲ Under pressure from NPS and environmental organizations, Crown Butte Mining, Inc., recently agreed to a \$65-million buyout of its proposed New World gold mine two miles from Yellowstone National Park, which many felt would threaten the park's wildlife and water quality. Critics argue, however, that this expensive solution wouldn't be necessary if the federal government exerted more control over public lands mining operations in the first place.

▲ NPCA, the Park Service, and the community of Middleboro have filed legal objections to a proposed coal mine in the Fern Lake drainage on the border of Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. The private coal mine would lie smack in the middle of one of the park's most prominent viewpoints.

▲ NPCA's Pacific regional office is designing a campaign to research and keep track of mining claims in California Desert national parks. In the past, the Park Service has done an inadequate job of implementing regulations in these areas and in some cases allowed illegal mining to continue.

—GW

removed. Nevertheless, unlike hard rock mining, federal agencies can decide not to lease if other public values may be impaired by extraction—an option that the government has used in far too few instances.

Perhaps the most intractable problems, however, are those mining claims that preexisted the passage of these laws. In 1994, for example, Congress passed a temporary moratorium—renewed annually since—on the patenting of any new mining claims, but the law has generous grandfather clauses. Valid mining claims are recognized as a property right. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve in Alaska has more than 500 patented and unpatented mining claims, says Danny Rosenkrans, acting chief of resources at the park.

One of the options the Park Service has to prevent operation of these mines is to buy them, but doing so can be expensive. Says Jane Tranel, Denali National Park and Preserve public information officer, “Buying out these claims is a political nightmare. Figuring out the value of claims is costly since it often ends up being litigated.”

If these claims are not bought, they remain as inholdings within the park, and inholdings pose a special threat to Alaskan parks. The 1980 Alaska Native Lands Conservation Act, which created and enlarged many parks in Alaska, contains language that guarantees reasonable access to mining claims and other inholdings subject to regulations.

An additional fear is that mining claims will be sold for potential resort or other development. The old Kennicott Copper Mine ruins in Wrangell-St. Elias have been subdivided and could result in significant new development within the park. Patented claims in the Woodchopper Creek area of the Yukon-Charley Preserve have also been subdivided into recreation lots.

Although parks in Alaska contain many valid mining claims, currently none is active, says Russell Kucinski, an NPS geologist in the Anchorage Regional Office. Kucinski says a number of operational plans were approved by the Park Service, but the miners have thus far chosen not to renew operations.

Outside of Alaska, mining claims and other valid mineral extraction opera-

## Keys to reform on public lands

**T**he Mining Law of 1872, enacted in the days of the pick-and-shovel miner, is long overdue for reform. Among the key features reformers believe should be in any new legislation are:

▲ Ending the giveaway. Hard rock mining should come under a leasing program like oil, gas, and coal, with a fair royalty payment on all minerals extracted. The patenting of public lands should end.

▲ Land manager discretion. Agencies should be permitted to weigh the benefits of mineral extraction against all other resource values and receive the support they need in taking a firm stand in denying a mining permit application and be given the financial resources necessary to compensate claimants.

▲ Environmental protection standards. All mining operations should be preceded by rigorous environmental analysis to ensure that impacts and appropriate

mitigation measures are identified.

▲ Enforcement and bond provisions. Federal regulators should have clear enforcement responsibilities with frequent inspections for compliance, plus realistic penalties for violations. Reclamation bonds must be sufficient to cover full restoration costs.

▲ Public participation and citizen suit provisions. The public should have the right to review all mining documents, to comment upon permits and regulatory actions, to petition that certain areas be deemed unsuitable for mining, and to file citizen complaints and suits to force compliance.

▲ Hard rock abandoned mine reclamation program. To deal with the hundreds of thousands of abandoned mining sites in the United States, a federal clean-up program funded by royalty and other mining fees should be implemented.

—GW

tions exist in such park units as North Cascades, Saguaro, Padre Island, Big Cypress, Lake Mead, and Glen Canyon. The region with the largest number of active mining operations, however, is California. The California Desert Protection Act, passed in 1994, created Mojave National Preserve and expanded the boundaries of Death Valley and Joshua Tree national parks. With this law's passage, many existing mining operations and mining claims suddenly came under Park Service purview.

One of these operations is the Rainbow Talc mine. This inactive mine site, in the southeastern corner of Death Valley National Park, shifted from BLM to NPS management with the passage of the desert protection act. Although the mine had been inactive, the site's claimants now propose to re-open it. One million tons of talc may be mined over five years, and in the process may destroy wildlife habitat, blast the quiet of the desert with heavy machinery and explosives, choke the air with dust, and pollute the nearby Amargosa River. Yet in reviewing the project, the Park Service released only a scant environmental assessment of the mining operation.

After being prodded by NPCA and other conservation groups and receiving hundreds of letters from the public, the Park Service decided to do a more extensive environmental analysis and seek funding for acquisition.

“NPS has a challenge: accommodating an antiquated 1872 mining law yet regulating mining operations to protect park resources—but they do need to fully use that regulatory authority to protect park resources,” says NPCA's Brian Huse, Pacific regional director.

Although NPS needs to more assertively use the tools it has at its disposal, the fundamental problem remains: the 1872 Mining Law, which subsidizes profit and degradation of public lands at taxpayer expense. NPCA's Southwest Regional Director Dave Simon sums it up well. “The true costs of mining are never calculated up front,” he says. “The American taxpayer is stuck with the bill, and the public lands are stuck with the damage.”

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GEORGE WUERTHNER is a wildlife biologist, freelance writer, and photographer based in Montana. He last wrote for National Parks about trout in Yellowstone.

# WITHOUT A TRACE



DOMINIQUE BRAUD/TOM STACK & ASSOC.

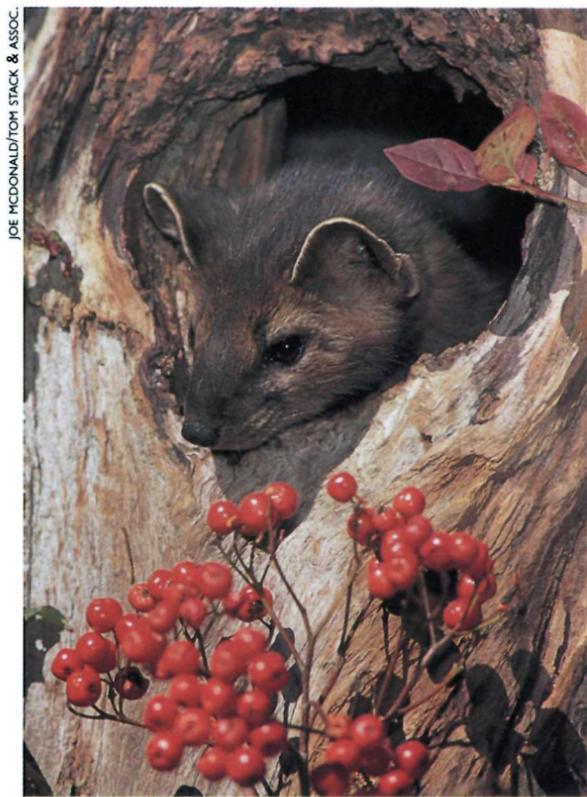


MICHAEL H. FRANCIS



MICHAEL H. FRANCIS

Lynx, fisher, wolverine, and marten are excellent barometers of ecosystem health and can indicate a landscape's tolerance for habitat disturbance.



JOE McDONALD/TOM STACK & ASSOC.

Populations of lynx, wolverine, fisher, and marten are plummeting in western parks due to habitat loss and human encroachment. If these forest carnivores are not added to the endangered species list soon, help may be too late.

BY TODD WILKINSON

**H**IGH IN THE REMOTE, glacial draws of Rocky Mountain National Park, Marsha Lutz is searching for two biological needles in a large haystack. Trudging through one creek drainage and into another, across snowy fields, barren talus slopes, and the upper limit of Colorado's treeline, Lutz seeks a sign, any sign, of two species that may have vanished completely from the landscape: the lynx and the wolverine.

Although the last credible sighting of a lynx (*Felis lynx*) in Rocky Mountain National Park was recorded two decades ago, and it's been years since a hiker stumbled upon a wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) here, Lutz holds out a fleeting, if astronomically slim hope that these rare, secretive animals still exist in Colorado. Mounting evidence, however, suggests that they have gone the way of grizzly bears and wolves, joining the state's list of extirpated predators. "While there

may be an individual lynx or two out there, we are confident there is not a viable population, which means the lynx is functionally extinct," park biologist Lutz says. "We can probably make the same general assumption about the wolverine."

Lynx and wolverine, though morphologically unrelated, are members of a cluster of species now receiving considerable attention from wildlife biologists throughout the higher-forested latitudes of North America. Classified as "medium-sized carnivores" along with the fisher (*Martes pennanti*) and its smaller mink-family cousin, the American marten (*Martes americana*), these animals are excellent barometers of ecosystem health, lending insight into a landscape's tolerance for habitat disturbance. Smaller predators are important ecological gauges, according to Tom Skeelee, executive director of the Montana-based Predator Project, because, as kings inhabiting the top of their food pyramid, they are sensitive to changes not readily apparent to humans.

Of these four endangered critters, only marten are in no immediate danger of extirpation in the lower 48 states. The rest are on a downward trajectory and are subjects of petitions to receive federal protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Unfortunately, getting them on the ESA list is easier said than done. "Wolverine, lynx, fisher, and marten have been caught in a bureaucratic catch-22," says conservationist Skeelee. "We know they are in trouble and deserve to be listed under the Endangered Species Act, yet the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says there isn't money available to do the research necessary for determining their status. Unless a species gets listed, there isn't any money to do research, but in order to get listed, you need research to complete an adequate census."

Especially disturbing to Lutz and other government scientists is that the populations of medium-sized carnivores have plummeted in nearly all of the western national parks that histori-

cally afforded them range. The causes of those declines are found both outside the boundaries of the parks and inside their borders. Although landscape-level logging is most often blamed for recent declines, several factors dating back to European settlement have also contributed. These include fur trapping, human settlement, and burgeoning numbers of recreationists.

"The precarious status of forest carnivores confirms the interdependence that parks share with lands surrounding them," says Mark Peterson, Rocky Mountain regional director for NPCA, citing such problems as "logging and building new roads in national forests, building home sites on private land, or increasing recreation" in the parks themselves.

Peterson says that when Congress eliminated the National Biological Survey in 1996 and transferred its corps of scientists to the U.S. Geological Survey, crucial research dollars were lost and the number of field ecologists studying wildlife was significantly reduced.

Those budget-cutting measures had dire consequences for medium-sized carnivores, which historically have existed anonymously in the shadows of large "charismatic" predators like grizzly bears and wolves that receive public attention, not to mention the greatest share of funding. Contrast the hundreds of studies relating to grizzlies and wolves in the scientific literature with only two dozen for wolverine, lynx, fisher, and marten combined.

A fundamental challenge facing conservation biologists is that no single solution exists for saving all four medium-sized carnivores, because each has particular habitat requirements. However, a few general rules apply.

Reclusive, wandering, and primarily nocturnal, wolverine prefer to occupy forested topography at higher altitudes during the summer and then retreat, like their prey, to lower meadows, forests, and riparian areas in the winter. They are solitary animals, except during mating in the spring and summer, occupying an average home range of

more than 150 square miles in search of rodents, carrion, and berries. Wolverine numbers have dipped due to fur trapping, poisoning, and habitat destruction caused by resource extraction activities and recreation.

Lynx, too, require solitude, preferring old-growth forests both for denning and hunting for snowshoe hare. The lynx's numbers have been depressed in the West by trapping and fire suppression, which created unfavorable conditions for snowshoe hare. Both lynx and wolverine have very low tolerance for human incursion into their isolated haunts. Road building and even foot traffic along popular hiking trails can displace them from their preferred habitat.

Fisher and marten—called "American sable" by fur trappers—also dwell in mature forests that have bountiful rodent populations. Their numbers have been greatly reduced since the emergence of industrial logging operations in national forests.

The bleak picture facing these ani-

## CARNIVORES *Continued*

mals in national parks is a special concern of Bill Ruediger, the endangered species program leader for the Forest Service's northern region and a member of the ad hoc Western Carnivore Committee. Created in 1991, the committee is a clearinghouse of information on the status of forest carnivores in the West.

In Yosemite, for example, accord-

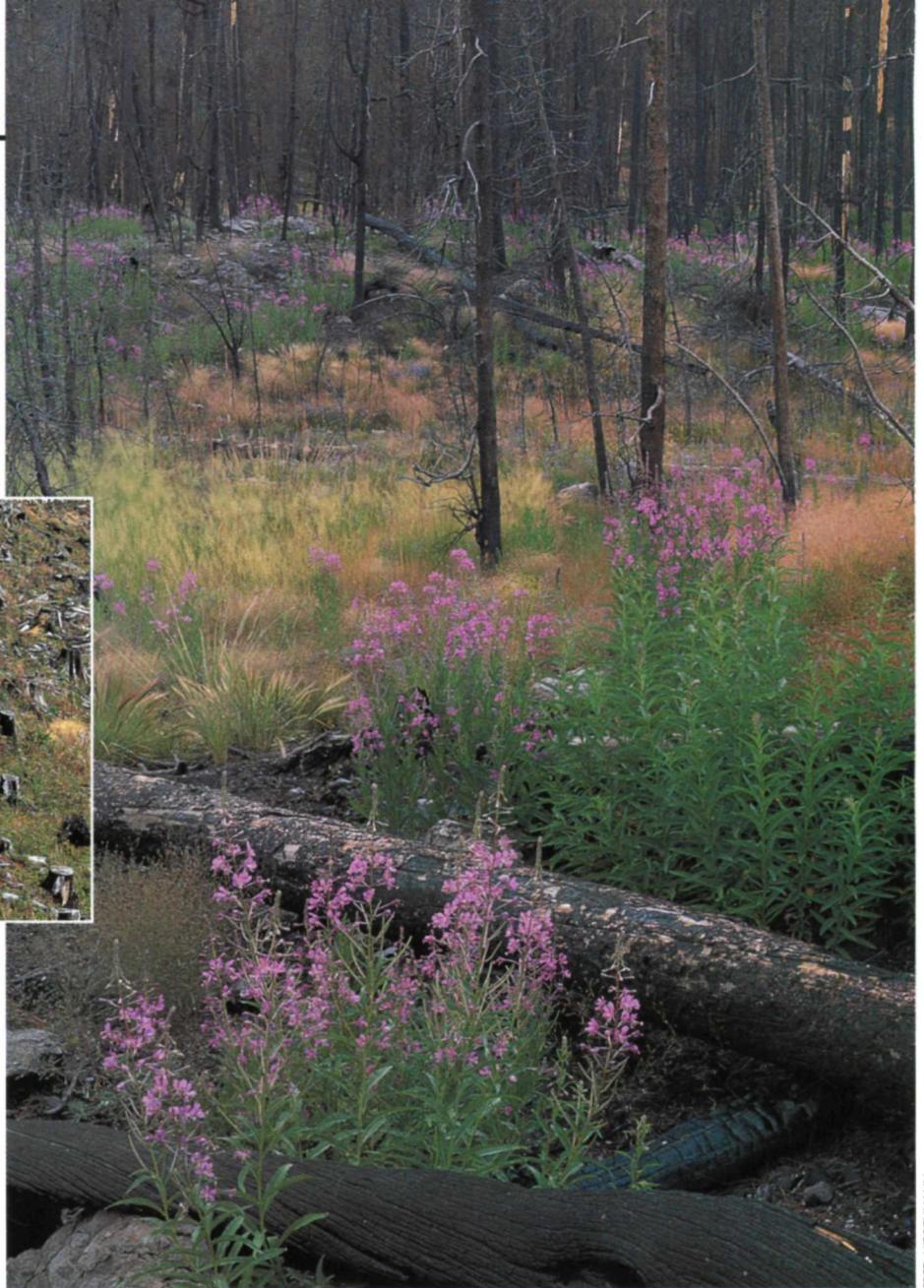


ART WOLFE

ing to Ruediger, wolverine, grizzly bears, wolves, marten, and fisher were native to the park; but today only marten persist. Farther south in the Sierra Nevada, a tiny residual population of about only 50 fisher inhabit the forests of Sequoia. In the North Cascades, wolves, grizzlies, wolverine, lynx, and fisher were present historically; but in the last two decades all have either disappeared or loom perilously close to extirpation. And in Glacier and Yellowstone, all six of the main forest carnivores are known to exist, though in Yellowstone, fisher numbers have severely declined due to national forest clear-cutting.

In Olympic, a population of marten is present, but wider-ranging fisher have been eliminated largely by logging clear-cuts around the park. Kat Hoffman, the park's chief of natural resource management, says that surveys conducted in the 1980s turned up no fisher and that the best habitat lies in national forest lands outside the park. Unfortunately, the forests upon which fisher thrive have been eviscerated.

Other reasons behind these animals' decline are more passive in nature. Part of the problem is that the planet's



FRED HIRSCHMANN

**Logging and clear-cutting have taken a toll on populations of mid-sized carnivores, including lynx. Lynx numbers also have been affected by fire suppression, which creates unfavorable conditions for their preferred food, snowshoe hares.**

human population keeps growing, placing greater and greater pressure on park resources, both from visitors to the parks and from encroachment on their boundaries. Parks are also becoming more fragmented every day, meaning that these areas are "no longer being connected biologically," says Ruediger. Finally, as Ruediger adds, "There has been a lot of complacency amongst people both inside the Park Service and with park users who believe that because we have national parks, these forest carnivores are taken care of. Well, they are not."

A scientific imperative for protecting

medium-sized carnivores was recognized long before conservation groups began filing lawsuits against the Fish and Wildlife Service to force listing of the species.

In 1994, after years of concern over logging, in particular, University of Wyoming zoologist Steve Buskirk joined with four Forest Service scientists in writing a seminal report.

The scientists were Keith Aubry from the Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station, L. Jack Lyon from the Intermountain Research Station, Leonard Ruggiero from the Rocky Mountain Experiment Station, and

William Zielinski from the Pacific Southwest Research Station.

Citing the two decades between the time scientists initially raised red flags over logging's impact on the northern spotted owl and eventual government intervention to severely reduce logging, these authors sought to eliminate a similar biological train wreck over forest carnivores. Their conclusion was straightforward: Without aggressive conservation strategies to protect remaining habitat, bolster the body of scientific information, and coordinate management actions across jurisdictional boundaries, forest carnivores would perish.

Yet over the next three years, as habitat conditions worsened and animals' numbers dwindled, little official action was taken.

The lack of tangible federal intervention was based on three tenuous assumptions: that the populations of these animals were actually more robust than they appeared; that national parks and wilderness areas provided sufficient refuge against external threats to habitat; and that even if declines were occurring in the lower 48 states, there would always be an inward migration of those middle-level carnivore species from Canada.

Conservationists maintain that all three premises are largely unsupported. In fact, limited field monitoring suggests that these predators are actually rarer than previously thought; that national parks and wilderness areas, by themselves, are woefully inadequate to perpetuate sustainable populations; and that Canadian biologists are as worried about the future of their mesofauna as their U.S. counterparts.

An alarming reality, unknown to most citizens in this country, is that Canada, which lacks tough national laws like an ESA, is losing wildlife habitat at an even faster rate than the United States, particularly in the borderlands of the countries. Frustrated by the apparent stalling, a Boulder, Colorado-based conservation group, The Biodiversity Legal Foundation, petitioned to have lynx, wolverine, and fisher added to the list of threatened species.

In 1998, the Fish and Wildlife Service



VICTORIA HURST/TOM STACK & ASSOC.

### Lynx in Alaska and Canada correspond to the rise and fall of snowshoe hare populations.

was ordered to begin the listing process for lynx. "It's sad and unfortunate, but until these species become listed there seems to be almost no funding available for research," Ruediger says. "We as agencies don't seem to address the problems of these species meaningfully until the threat of listing by the ESA is right on top of us. That's been our history with other wildlife, and it is our track record with these mid-sized carnivores. I find that to be extremely disappointing and unfortunate."

All news, however, is not bad. In Yellowstone, now a full decade after the 1988 forest fires that blackened nearly 800,000 acres (about a third of the park), pine seedlings are fast regenerating the landscape. When the young trees reach Christmas-tree height, biologists believe conditions will favor snowshoe hare and could lead to a resurgence of lynx.

Meanwhile, in Rocky Mountain National Park, plans are under way to reintroduce lynx and wolverine before the end of the century. For the past several months, researchers like Lutz have meticulously attempted to locate viable populations of snowshoe hare. Rocky Mountain is one of the sites where radio-collared lynx transplanted from Canada and Alaska would be acclimated in outdoor holding pens and then released as early as January 1999.

"It's very exciting," Lutz says. "Some people are concerned that we may be rushing ahead too quickly, but we're working against another biological time clock."

That clock is determined by the fact

that lynx populations in Alaska and Canada function on a ten-year cycle corresponding to the rise and fall of snowshoe hare numbers. Although lynx currently are at their peak numbers, the hare population is ebbing fast. Lutz says the government has a narrow window to capture enough lynx for reintroduction while the population is robust because, once it dips, researchers must wait at least five years to have excess animals for transplanting.

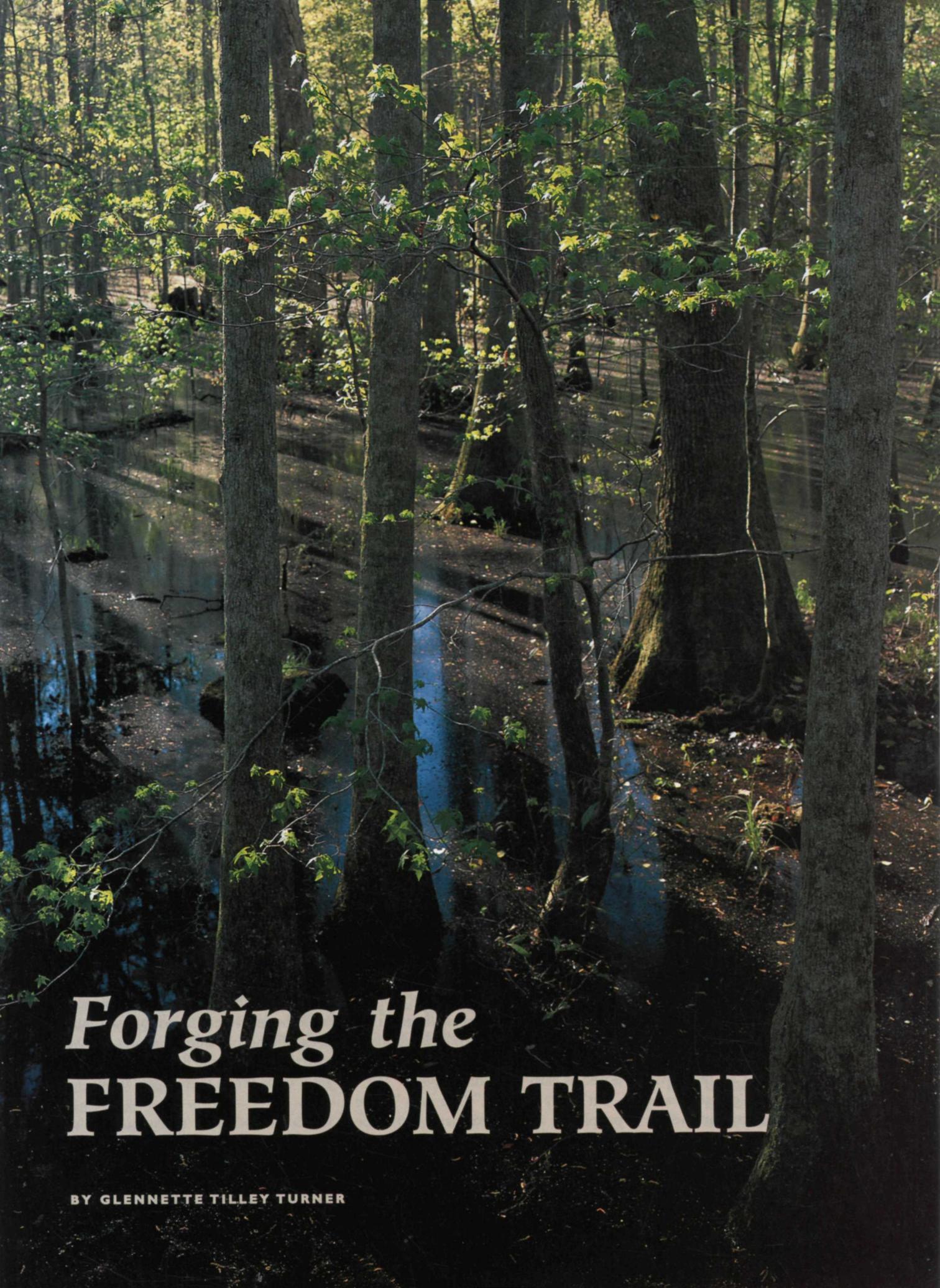
With wolverine, the scenario is a little different; those animals will be equipped with radio implants instead of collars. Both lynx and wolverine, when released, would be extensively tracked twice a week for 60 days to map their home ranges. After their habitat is charted, recommendations would be made to the Forest Service about any necessary management adjustments.

"Timber groups have been very concerned about what this is going to mean, but we need to take a step back," Lutz says. "The lynx is going to be listed [under the Endangered Species Act] and a reintroduction could help the timber industry rather than hurt it. Outside the national park, we may actually ask the Forest Service to provide more strategic cuts to improve conditions for snowshoe hare."

Ruediger, a pragmatist, agrees wholeheartedly with Lutz's assessment. "We don't have to deal with the kind of controversy we've experienced with grizzlies and wolves," he says. "The species we're talking about don't eat people and they don't eat livestock. They live their lives very quietly without hampering 99 percent of what society does. It's mainly about how we affect them. As long as we can draw animals for augmentation and reintroduction from other areas, these mid-sized carnivores could be recovered in a lot of ways fairly easily. The big questions are: Do we have the will and the financial resolve to get it done while there is still time?"

---

TODD WILKINSON, a regular contributor to National Parks, is author of the new book, *Science Under Siege: The Politicians' War on Nature and Truth* (Boulder: Johnson Books, 1998).



*Forging the*  
**FREEDOM TRAIL**

BY GLENNETTE TILLEY TURNER

**D**ID YOU KNOW you may be retracing the historic Underground Railroad when you

▲ drive on an interstate highway or take the byways in 29 states and the District of Columbia?

▲ ride a northbound train on the East Coast?

▲ cross the Delaware River on the Lewes-Cape May ferry?

▲ cruise to the Caribbean?

▲ hike the Appalachian Trail?

▲ bike beside the Chesapeake & Ohio or Illinois & Michigan canals?

These rails, roads, and rivers were important pathways to freedom for men, women, and children who were escaping slavery in the southern United States in the 19th century. Stops along the routes were operated by abolitionists who assisted the freedom seekers by providing food, shelter, and transportation.

Today, the public has tremendous interest in hearing personal stories of the people who participated in the Underground Railroad, in walking in their footsteps, and in gaining insights into that key part of U.S. history. In response, the National Park Service (NPS) is trying to create opportunities for people to learn more about that cooperative effort of people of different races, ages, genders, religions, and economic status who joined together to uphold the American ideals of liberty and freedom. NPS is working to pass legislation that would authorize the Park Service to connect some of these sites through innovative, educational interpretation.

Although enslaved people around the world have attempted to escape from bondage as long as slavery has existed, the escape network in the United States was most active in the mid-1850s—about the time that actual railroads were being built here. The “iron horses,” as trains were nicknamed, captured the imagination of the American public, and railroad terms perfectly lent themselves to coded meanings:

▲ “Passengers” were people who were escaping. Most were of

Historians have identified more than 300 sites nationwide that may have some association with the Underground Railroad. A bill before Congress proposes to honor this organized system of escape by authorizing the National Park Service to connect some of these sites through interpretation.

African descent although, before laws were passed to enslave Africans for life, indentured European servants also had escaped with their fellows in bondage.

▲ “Stations” were stopping places along the way. These could be houses, barns, caves, cornfields, or any other place of shelter.

▲ “Conductors” were people who led passengers from one place to another—either on foot, on horseback, or in a conveyance.

The best known conductor, of course, was Harriet Tubman. Resourcefulness, intrigue, daring, and trust characterized her operations and those of the many other passengers and conductors whose names went unrecorded or are lesser known.

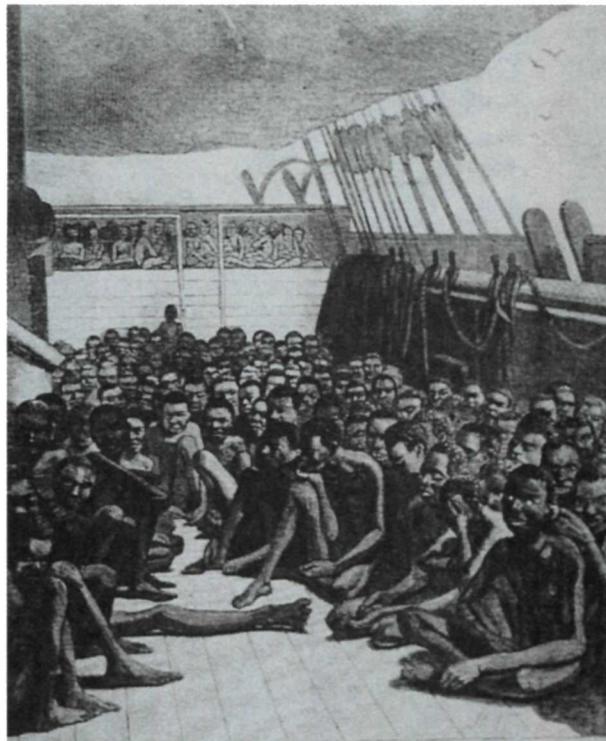
Take the case of William and Ellen Craft, who began their journey in Macon, Georgia, just before Christmas of 1848. Knowing the obstacles to their successful escape, the young slave couple devised a plan in which Ellen, who was light-skinned, disguised herself as an ailing slaveholder traveling to Pennsylvania for dental care. She bandaged her jaw to hide the fact that she had no facial hair and

put her arm in a sling so she would not be asked to sign documents. (Laws denied slaves the opportunity to learn to read and write.) She also pretended to be deaf so that she would not have to speak. William pretended to be “his master’s” loyal manservant who handled travel arrangements.

The Crafts traveled by train and several steamboats as far as Washington, D.C., and continued by train to Baltimore. On that train, they met a free black man who told them how to seek help from Quakers if they were able to reach Philadelphia. But they had an unexpected challenge in Baltimore when the ticket master refused to sell William a ticket without a bond. William insisted that Ellen had urgent need for medical care, saying, “My master can’t be detained.” The ticket master relented, and the Crafts soon boarded a train to Philadelphia.

Once there, although shaken by the stress of their escape, Ellen soon “recovered” from her feigned ailments. Knowing how much attention this dramatic escape would attract, black and white Underground Railroad workers in Philadelphia thought it would be safer for the Crafts to settle in Boston.

There, the couple felt secure at first in the climate established by William Lloyd Garrison, editor of the antislavery *Liberator* news-



**LEFT: Congaree Swamp in South Carolina provided refuge for runaway slaves. ABOVE: An illustration of slaves aboard a transport ship.**

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

paper, and an interracial group of abolitionists. They lived and operated a business in Boston until Congress passed a new Fugitive Slave Act in 1850, which William Craft described as follows: “the...law requires, under heavy penalties, that the inhabitants of FREE states should not only refuse food and shelter to a starving, hunted human

away from them. Lewis and Harriet had escaped in Kentucky, along with their one remaining child, with the help of two white teachers, Calvin Fairbank and Delia Webster.

When the Fugitive Slave Act was passed, William and Ellen Craft’s former owner promptly sent two agents to Boston after them. The slavecatchers were especially eager to capture the couple and make examples of them after their widely known bold escape.

Once again the Crafts gave careful thought to what action they should take, finally deciding that Ellen should hide with a white family and William should take refuge with the Haydens.

Knowing the eagerness of the slavecatchers, Lewis Hayden was so deter-

mined to prevent them from taking William Craft that he not only barricaded his house, but he also mined it with two kegs of gunpowder so he could blow it up, along with its occupants and the intruders, if necessary, as a last resort. Fortunately, the action was not required to protect William, and the Crafts, who had married following the African custom of “jumping the broomstick” while enslaved, were formally married in the Haydens’ home. They ultimately eluded the Fugitive Slave Act by moving to England until after the Civil War was over.

The Haydens’ home, which continued to be a haven for hundreds of escaped slaves, has long been on the National Register of Historic Places. The

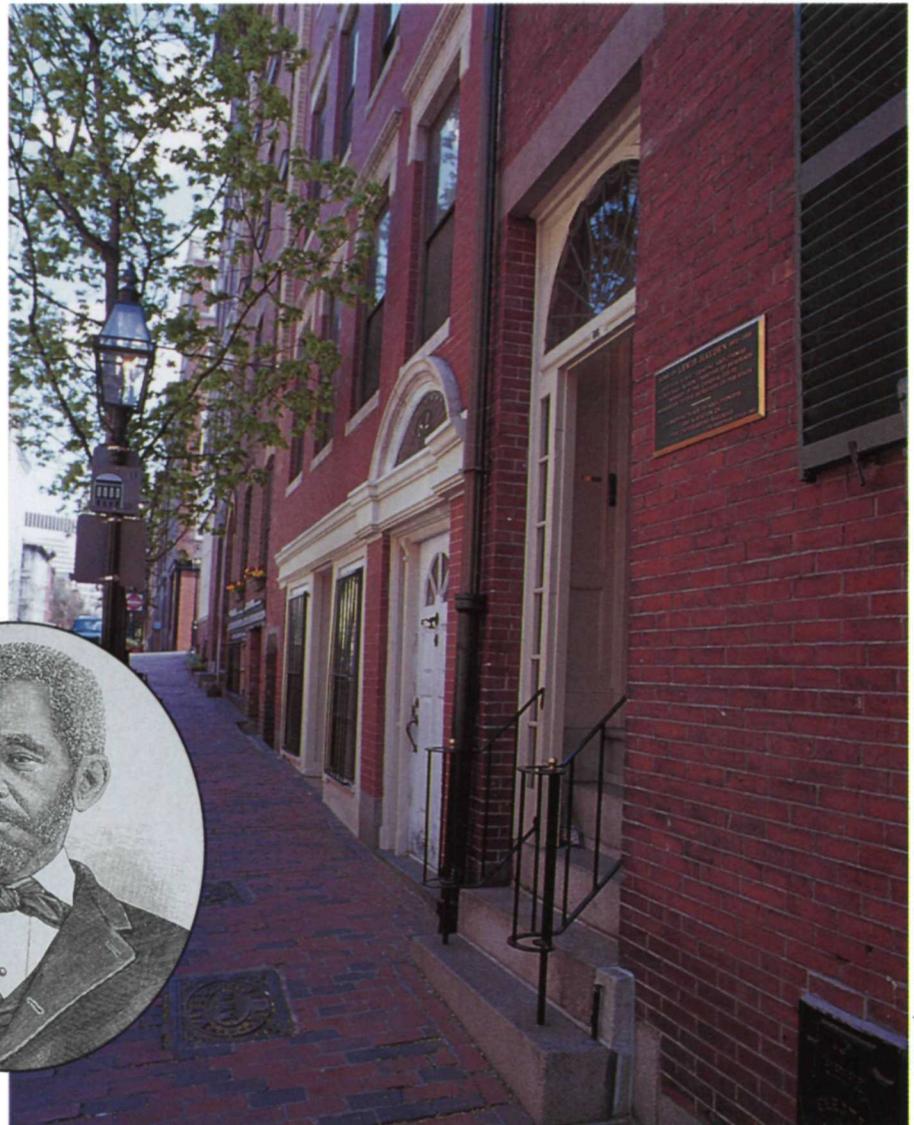
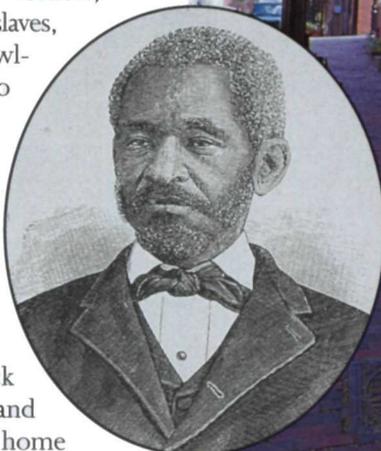
PHOTOGRAPHS AND PRINTS DIVISION, SCHOMBURG CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN BLACK CULTURE, THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY ASTOR, LENOX AND TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

**CAUTION!!**  
**COLORED PEOPLE**  
**OF BOSTON, ONE & ALL,**  
 You are hereby respectfully CAUTIONED and advised, to avoid conversing with the **Watchmen and Police Officers of Boston,**  
 For since the recent ORDER OF THE MAYOR & ALDERMEN, they are empowered to act as **KIDNAPPERS**  
 AND **Slave Catchers,**  
 And they have already been actually employed in **KIDNAPPING, CATCHING, AND KEEPING SLAVES.** Therefore, if you value your **LIBERTY,** and the **Welfare of the Fugitives** among you, **Shun them in every possible manner, as so many HOUNDS on the track of the most unfortunate of your race.**  
**Keep a Sharp Look Out for KIDNAPPERS, and have TOP EYE open.**  
**APRIL 24, 1851.**

being, but should also assist, if called upon by the authorities, to seize the unhappy fugitive and send him back to slavery.”

These “heavy penalties” would be imposed on anyone of any race who assisted an escaping slave, although black Underground Railroad workers, whether free or fugitive slaves, faced the additional knowledge that they could also be enslaved. Nevertheless, instead of deterring Underground Railroad operations, the new law caused a new sense of urgency, and even black abolitionists became more active than ever.

Among those black abolitionists were Lewis and Harriet Hayden, whose home was the chief Underground Railroad station in Boston. Both of the Haydens were former slaves whose family members—Lewis’ mother and one of the couple’s children—had been sold



**Former slaves Lewis Hayden, inset, and his wife Harriet provided a haven for hundreds of escaped slaves in their Boston home, above, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.**

JOANNE PEARSON/FAIR HAVEN PHOTOGRAPHS, INSET: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**Boston was home to the African Meeting House, the oldest African-American church in the country, and to avid abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison.**

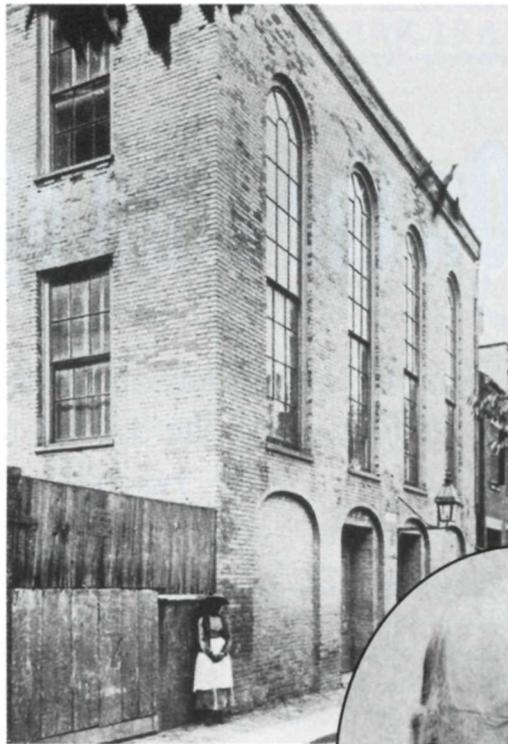
Hayden house is also under consideration as a National Historic Landmark.

The house is only one of the 23 sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places Travel Itinerary for the Underground Railroad. The Park Service administers both the National Register of Historic Places and the National Historic Landmarks programs.

Documenting and preserving such a variety of sites across such a wide geographical sweep present unique challenges and unique opportunities. NPS is in the process of making sure that aspects of the Underground Railroad story are included in the interpretations at park units with railroad connections. It is also coordinating its efforts with park services in international destinations of the Underground Railroad. As a result, it may be eventually possible for a hiker to set out on an Underground Railroad route—perhaps at Bucktown, Maryland, as Harriet Tubman did—and follow it all the way to St. Catherine's, Ontario, Canada.

This is a beginning, but so much more remains to be done. Although some elements of the Underground Railroad are represented in existing places, many sites are in imminent danger of being lost or destroyed, and many important resource types are not adequately represented and protected.

Consequently, the National Park Service recently completed a three-year study of the Underground Railroad's routes and operations. As part of this study, authorized by Congress (P.L. 101-628) and directed by a nine-member Underground Railroad Advisory Committee, historians identified more than 300 possible Underground Railroad sites in 29 states, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands. Many of the sites include homes, but others ranged from the Congaree Swamp National Monument in South Carolina to the Second Baptist Church in Detroit, from



SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NEW ENGLAND ANTIQUITIES  
INSET: BOSTON ATHENAEUM



the Graue Mill in Oak Brook, Illinois, to caves along the banks of waterways.

Many states have additional local links with that past, some of which are in state parks or are privately owned. A cave in one Illinois State Park, for example, contains a head sculpted into the stone of the cave by an escaping slave who had found refuge there. A program at a Delaware courthouse, on the other hand, focuses on the experiences encountered by a family that escaped by way of that state.

Because no single monument or trail can adequately reflect this many-faceted story, each link is significant. Like the Underground Railroad itself, all of the sites together are necessary. It is the only way to ensure that present and future generations have the opportunity to learn about this extraordinary chapter of American history.

*Historian GLENNETTE TILLEY TURNER, a member of the nine-member NPS Underground Railroad Advisory Committee, is the author of a number of works on the Underground Railroad. These include a juvenile novel, *Running for Our Lives*, and the recently published *Underground Railroads in Illinois*.*

## How You Can Help

The Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act (S. 887 and H.R. 1635), now in congressional subcommittees, will authorize NPS to coordinate and facilitate federal and non-federal activities to commemorate, honor, and interpret the history of the Underground Railroad.

The texts of the House and Senate versions are identical except that the Senate bill introduced by Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun (D-Ill.) and Sen. Michael Dewine (R-Ohio) provides funds (\$500,000 for FY 1998 and \$1 million for each fiscal year there-

after) to enable NPS to produce and disseminate appropriate educational materials; enter into appropriate cooperative agreements with other federal agencies, states, localities, regional governmental bodies, and private entities and cooperate with the governments of Canada, Mexico, and Caribbean countries; and adopt an official symbol for the national network and issue regulations for its use.

You can help make this happen by doing the following:

- ▲ Write to your senator at U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 or call at 202-224-3121. Be sure to talk with a staff person if you call.
- ▲ Ask if "Senator \_\_\_\_\_ is a cosponsor of the Underground Network to Freedom Act (S. 887)."
- ▲ If the senator is not, ask the staff person to recommend that the senator sign on as a cosponsor and see to it that no unrelated amendments are attached.
- ▲ Say that you'll call back in a week to find out how the senator responded.
- ▲ Meanwhile, contact your local newspaper: If you are in a Northern, Midwestern, or Southern state, ask an editor whether a local Underground Railroad site could be featured in a story. If you are farther west, ask if the editor knows of any "passengers" in your area.

—GTT



# On the Trail of Discovery

Visitors can follow in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark along the 3,700-mile historic trail.

BY YVETTE LA PIERRE

**M**ANY PEOPLE HAVE dreamed of following in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark and their Corps of Discovery. On the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, you can drive, hike, bike, canoe, and ride horseback along the historic 3,700-mile-long trail that inspired a generation of explorers and opened the way for westward expansion of the United States.

In 1803 the United States bought from France the entire territory of Louisiana for \$15 million. This enormous chunk of land, which included the present states of Arkansas, Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska and parts of Louisiana, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, and North and South Dakota, doubled the size of the United States. President Thomas Jefferson requested an expedition to explore this new territory, with Meriwether Lewis and William Clark in charge. Their primary objective was to find a transportation link—water, if possible—from St. Louis to the “Oregon Country.” Jefferson also wanted detailed notes, maps, and specimens of the natural resources.

On May 14, 1804, the captains and their men left Wood River, Illinois, above St. Louis, following the course of the Missouri River. They would travel more than 8,000 miles to the Pacific Ocean and back in a little more than two years. They encountered harsh

weather, dangerous animals, and unknown Indian tribes and suffered hunger, fatigue, and sickness. Miraculously, the expedition lost only one man, who died of an apparent appendicitis attack.

The National Park Service (NPS) administers the Lewis and Clark Trail, from the Mississippi River in Illinois to

the mouth of the Columbia River in Oregon, in cooperation with the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and many state and local agencies and private landowners. Water, land, and motor segments precisely or nearly follow the entire route. Commercial boat trips are available on some water segments, such as the Upper Missouri National Wild



An evening view of the arch at Jefferson National Memorial in St. Louis.

YVETTE LA PIERRE lives in Madison, Wisconsin.

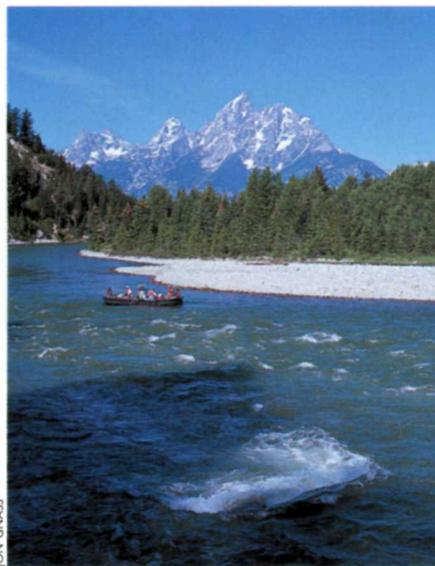


and Scenic River in Montana. Three of the land trail segments, which will be developed for foot, bike, and horse traffic, are already open for public use: the Roughrider Trail (North Dakota), the Lolo Trail (Idaho), and the trail over the Tillamook Head in Ecola State Park (Oregon). The motor route is designated by rectangular signs with the figures of Lewis and Clark.

The trail is marked by many interpretive signs and includes nearly 500 public and private recreation and historic sites, including four national park units. NPS publishes a semiannual *Administrative Update* with information about trail activities. It is available from NPS by calling 608-264-5610. You can also request a brochure and a map by e-mailing [Merry\\_Moore@nps.gov](mailto:Merry_Moore@nps.gov). Include your name and mailing address.

### Jefferson Expansion Memorial

The soaring steel arch rising above St. Louis is a tribute to the vision of Thomas Jefferson and the courage of Lewis and Clark. The Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, better known as the Gateway Arch, was finished in 1965.



Rafters enter rapids on the Snake River at Grand Teton National Park.

At 630-feet high, the stainless steel arch is the nation's tallest monument. Its simple curved design is able to withstand extreme temperatures, heavy winds, and earthquakes without an inner frame or skeleton to hold it up. A tram takes visitors to the top of the arch.

At the base of the arch is the under-

ground Museum of Westward Expansion. It displays 100 years of exploration and settlement history using maps, paintings, historic photos, and Indian and pioneer artifacts. It also features the American Indian Peace medal exhibit. Lewis and Clark presented these medals to Indian leaders as gestures of goodwill and peace from President Jefferson. In all, they gave 86 medals. On one side is a bust of Jefferson, and the reverse side has two clasped hands with the motto: "Peace and Friendship."

The park is in the heart of downtown St. Louis. It is open daily from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. in the summer and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. the remainder of the year. For additional information, call the park at 314-425-4465.

### Knife River Indian Villages

After a tedious journey of five months from St. Louis, the expedition spent its first winter at Fort Mandan. The explorers built the fort in 1804 near the five Knife River villages of the Mandan and Hidatsa Indians in present-day North Dakota. The Indians provided Lewis and Clark with valuable information about



LAURENCE PARENT

**Lewis and Clark traveled many rivers to reach their destination. A statue commemorates the trip, and in Oregon a salt stove remains.**

Indian crafts, music, dances, and demonstrations. Lodging and food are available in nearby towns; camping is available in nearby state parks. For more information, call 701-745-3309.

### Nez Perce

In September 1805, the Corps made a difficult crossing through the Bitterroot Mountains on what is now known as the Lolo Trail. During the crossing, expedition members nearly starved to death. But once the Corps reached its destination, the expedition met a group of

Nez Perce Indians camped on the Weippe Prairie digging camas root. The Nez Perce received the explorers graciously, providing Lewis and Clark and the rest of the explorers with food, supplies, and information about the river route to the Pacific.

The expedition camped among the Nez Perce while building five canoes for their journey down the Clearwater, Snake, and Columbia rivers. Weippe Prairie and Lewis and Clark's canoe camp are two of the 38 sites scattered across Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Montana that constitute Nez Perce National Historical Park. As you drive the route between the sites, most of which are on the Nez Perce Reservation, you gain an understanding of the rich culture and history of the Nez Perce people. The park headquarters are at Spalding, 11 miles east of Lewiston, Idaho. The visitor center includes a museum of Nez Perce art and artifacts, interpretive programs, and a film that describes Nez Perce history.

The Nez Perce lived in the valleys of the Clearwater and Snake rivers and their tributaries, where their lives fol-



SCOTT T. SMITH



JOHN ELK III

1738, the Northern Plains culture was at the height of prosperity. The Mandan and Hidatsa had built flourishing and stable communities, supported by hunting, farming, and a vast trade network. They lived in spacious homes made of earth and wooden posts.

Knife River Villages National Historic Site includes three villages, making it the best-preserved complex of Northern Plains culture. The site contains a visitor center and a full-scale Hidatsa earthlodge. The park is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily in the summer and 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the winter (check weather conditions before visiting). The Northern Plains Indian Culture Fest is the fourth weekend in July and features American

their route to the west. It was here, also, that Lewis and Clark gained one of their most valuable expedition members—the young Shoshone girl Sacagawea. Her husband and their newborn son accompanied Lewis and Clark to the Pacific and back to the Mandan villages.

Lewis and Clark were not the first whites to visit the Mandans. When the trader Pierre de la Verendrye arrived in

lowed a seasonal round of fishing, hunting, and root digging. After they acquired horses in the 1700s, their travels increased, and they spent more time with the buffalo-hunting tribes of the Plains. After the Lewis and Clark expedition, a steady stream of fur trappers and traders, missionaries, and settlers entered their land. The park also contains some sites highlighting the tragic Nez Perce War of 1877, when a band of Nez Perce tried to reach sanctuary in Canada as they were being forced onto a reservation. Chief Joseph from Oregon's Wallowa Valley and 750 men, women, and children and 2,000 horses eluded 2,000 U.S. soldiers and defeated them in several battles. Their escape route took them through Yellowstone National Park. The Nez Perce were finally forced to surrender just 30 miles from the Canadian boundary and freedom. General William Tecumseh Sherman called the saga, "the most extraordinary of Indian wars."

Food, lodging, and campgrounds are scattered in towns along the park drive. For more information about the park, call 208-843-2261.



JEFFREY L. TORIETTA

**Wallula Gap, Columbia River Gorge, Wallula, Washington.**

*South Dakota*

## FAMOUS FOR OUR PARTIES

One of America's most recognized parties, the Lewis and Clark expedition, whooped it up while in South Dakota. They danced with the Yankton Sioux, feasted with the Teton Sioux and exchanged gifts with the Arikaras. We're still celebrating today. Come check out our heritage and history along the Lewis and Clark Trail. You'll have a blast *and* learn something along the way.



Call 1▲800▲S▲DAKOTA (1-800-732-5682) to request a free Lewis and Clark Trail guide.  
sdinfo@goed.state.sd.us <http://www.state.sd.us> (click on Tourism)



GEORGE WUERTHNER



**Lewis and Clark stayed at Fort Clatsop for three months.**

### Fort Clatsop

After canoeing some 600 miles down the Snake and Columbia rivers, the expedition sighted the ocean in November 1805. The explorers began building a fort near present-day Astoria, Oregon, which they named after the local Clatsop Indians. It was ready by Christmas Eve and served as their base for the next three months while the Corps was busy preparing for its trip home. The captains spent most of the winter organizing their field notes and maps and trading with the Clatsop people for food as well as important geographic and ethnographic information.

Their winter at Fort Clatsop was, however, far from pleasant. It rained nearly every day, and their clothing rotted. Fleas infested the furs and hides of their bedding, making a full night's rest impossible. The damp weather gave nearly everyone colds or rheumatism. On March 23, 1806, the expedition began the long trek home and reached St. Louis on September 23, 1806.

The focus of the 125-acre Fort Clatsop National Memorial is a replica of the explorers' fort. It was built in 1955 by community members following the dimensions of the floor plan drawn by Clark on the elkhide cover of his field book. As part of the park's living history program, staff members in period costume demonstrate some of the frontier skills used at Fort Clatsop. The park is open daily 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in summer, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in winter. Lodging and food are available in nearby towns, and camping is available at Fort Stevens State Park five miles away. For more information, call 503-861-2471.

## Retracing the Journey

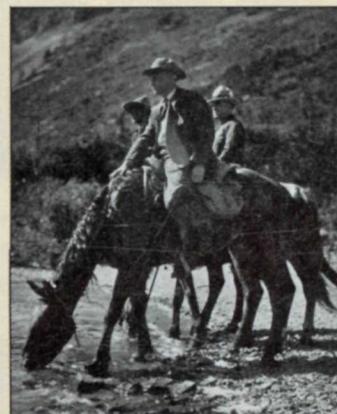
After 18 months of arduous travel, Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery finally sighted the Pacific Ocean. NPCA offers members and others an opportunity to retrace a portion of this journey in relative luxury. A 70-passenger ship follows the Snake and Columbia rivers for 450 miles. The seven-day trip, *In the Wake of Lewis and Clark*, will be offered May 1 through 7, 1999.

The voyage, which will stop at Fort Clatsop National Memorial and Nez Perce National Historical Park, is led by historians and naturalists who describe the journey of Lewis and Clark. NPCA offers more than a dozen "Parkscape" trips showcasing the national parks. For more information on this trip or for a schedule of Parkscape tours, contact Dan Gifford at 1-800-628-7275, ext. 136.

*"The Yosemite, the Yellowstone, the Grand Canyon are National Properties in which Every Citizen has a Vested Interest;*

*They Belong as Much to the Man of Massachusetts, of Michigan, of Florida, as They do to the People of California, of Wyoming, of Arizona."*

Stephen Mather,  
First National Park Service director  
(1917-1929)  
and a NPCA founder



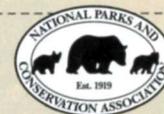
Stephen Mather (foreground) pictured with Yellowstone Superintendent Horace Albright (right), c. 1920

Stephen Mather was among a handful of visionaries who were the national parks' first trustees. NPCA invites you to advance *your* role in protecting the parks through membership in a growing group:

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Membership in this special society of NPCA supporters is conferred through an annual contribution of \$1,000 or greater and offers exclusive privileges. As national parks guardians, Trustees play a key role in NPCA's urgent grassroots, land protection, advocacy, and education initiatives.

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# TRAVEL PLANNER

EVERY ISSUE, NATIONAL PARKS OFFERS THIS TRAVEL PLANNER SO THAT YOU MAY INVITE OUR READERS TO YOUR DESTINATION.



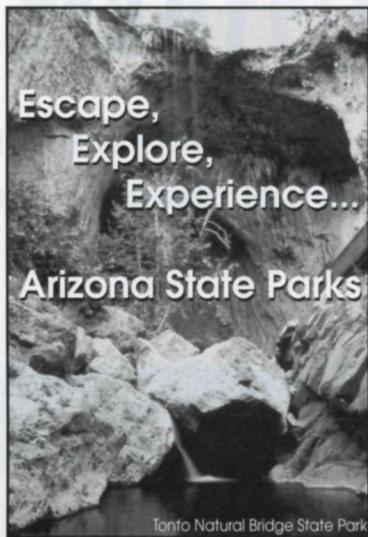
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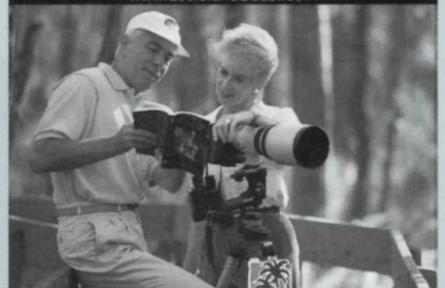
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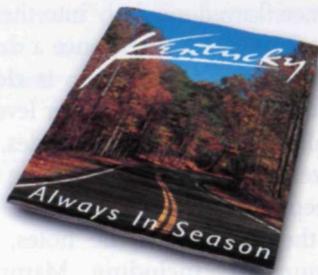


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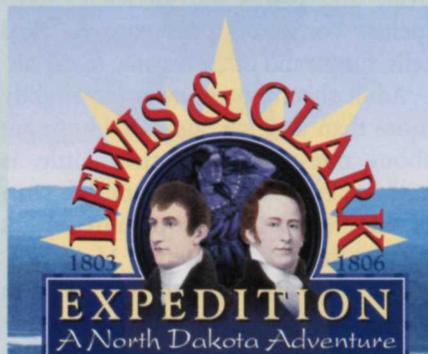


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# Cave Dweller

A blind translucent shrimp relies on the subterranean waters of Mammoth Cave National Park for survival.

BY BESS ZARAFONITIS STROH

**I**N THE QUIET underground pools and streams of Mammoth Cave, the Kentucky cave shrimp appears to be holding its own against threats to its only habitat.

Changes have occurred that reduce pollution potential in the central Kentucky water system that sustains the delicate shrimp. Those changes—from better management of human sewage to reduced chemicals used on farm lands—have stemmed the decline that led to the shrimp's 1983 listing as an endangered species, says Rick Olson, ecologist at Mammoth Cave National Park. However, he adds, "accurate population data on the shrimp are lacking."

The shrimp was discovered in 1901 by William Perry Hay in the Roaring River passage of Mammoth Cave, about two miles from the entrance. The section is part of a vast labyrinth thought to be the most extensive cave system in the world. With more than 350 miles of explored passageways and as many as 600 miles yet to be discovered, the network extends beyond the 53,000-acre park, whose surface is covered with sandstone ridges and rugged forests.

The blind, translucent cave shrimp has adapted to this specialized, restricted environment. It prefers to live in sand- and silt-bottomed pools and streams where water is deep and cur-



CHIP CLARK

**Kentucky cave shrimp.**

rents are mild. In those places, it swims freely and grazes the surface of sediments, consuming protozoans, algal cells, fungi, and other organic materials.

Adult shrimp measure up to slightly more than an inch, and hatchlings are about one-tenth that size. Little is known about the growth and life span of the creatures, but aquarium studies suggest they may live ten to 15 years.

Sightings of the shrimp in the Mammoth Cave system occasionally were recorded for decades after Hay made his discovery. But when the species was not found in traditional cave locations in the late 1960s and in the 1970s, some feared it had succumbed to pollution. Proof of its survival came with sightings in 1979, and efforts to restore *Palaemonias ganteri* began.

The cave depends largely on surface waters for organics and other materials that make up the base of its food web. The waters enter through sinkholes and other geological features, as well as backflooding of the Green River.

As such, the system is vulnerable to anything that might affect groundwater quality well beyond the boundaries of Mammoth Cave. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recovery plan, that includes sewage disposal, agricultural activities, oil and natural gas drilling, and spills from traffic accidents and roadside businesses. Erosion poses another serious threat and is triggered by agricultural development and deforestation.

Olson is optimistic that education- and regulation-inspired changes in the last few decades have reduced pollution that once flowed regularly into the cave system. The Green River, once a dumping site for oil field brines, is cleaner than it was, he says, and lower levels of agricultural pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers are being used, reducing what can seep into groundwater.

In the last decade, he notes, four communities, including Mammoth Cave Park, have tied into a sewage treatment plant, lessening the threat of inadequate disposal systems. And the National Park Service has worked with the state of Kentucky to map drainage along Interstate 65, so first responders to a chemical spill can stem pollution flowing toward the park's water system.

The entire human population can enjoy cleaner groundwater and, in some cases, economic rewards, Olson says. For the blind shrimp and other cave species, the efforts could mean the difference between survival or extinction. 

BESS ZARAFONITIS STROH lives in Gales Ferry, Connecticut, and last wrote for National Parks about Washington, D.C.

# A Perfect Union

*Public-private partnerships can provide valuable services, but both parties must do their share.*

BY HENRY L. DIAMOND

**P**ARTNERSHIP IS a concept now much in vogue. The allure is that citizens can help fund and operate the National Park Service (NPS). But it may be wrong to rely on private action to replace or supplement what public agencies should be doing.

Americans have traditionally taken an interest in public problems. A century and a half ago, the insightful Frenchman Alexis de Tocqueville noted that when Americans saw a problem, unlike Europeans, they did not wait for government to solve it. Instead, they formed committees and associations to take on the task.

This is in part how America's first national parks were formed. The establishment of Yellowstone and Yosemite came about through the activism of citizens who were so moved by what they saw, they wanted the areas preserved.

Other park advocates shared this vision. Most of the big parks of the West were carved out of the public domain, but key units of the system were provided by private philanthropy. Acadia, Great Smokies, Grand Teton, and Redwoods became national parks through the joining of private gifts and public property. It was not until the mid-1960s with acquisitions at Cape Cod, Massachusetts, that federal money was spent to acquire land for the park system.

Partnerships have been encouraged since the beginning of the park system. A

partnership with citizens was promoted by NPS's founding leaders, Stephen Mather and Horace Albright. They stimulated the creation of the National Parks Association, now NPCA.

Perhaps more than in any area of government, the public has been involved in addressing major issues of park and

And in 1991, when the Park Service celebrated its 75th Anniversary, it chose to mark the event by a citizen-led examination of its internal problems and its place in American life. A year-long series of task force meetings culminated in a conference where 500 citizens and NPS employees met to plan for the future.

Their work resulted in the Vail Agenda, which remains a park management guide for the 21st century.

Others are building on this history with new types of partnerships. The recently established Marsh-Billings National Historical Park is perhaps the most dramatic and extensive effort. The Park Service and the private Billings Farm & Museum jointly will provide visitor services and interpretation. At Gettysburg National Military Park, negotiations are under way with a private partner who will build a new visitor center, museum, and curatorial storage building in return for the opportunity to provide visitor services and exhibit a film. At Yosemite, the Park Service is seeking help from communities outside the park to mitigate the traffic problem.

Across the park system, friends organizations have emerged to assist specific parks. While Americans love the concept of a National Park System, many cherish a particular park and are willing to work exclusively for it. Friends organizations, which range from sophisticated groups with relatively large budgets and full-time staff to small ad hoc groups, provide money and enthusiastic, talented volunteers to help understaffed parks.

In recent years, the National Park



DOUGLAS MACGREGOR

recreation policy. In 1959, Congress created a commission made up of seven citizens and eight members of Congress to review park and outdoor recreation policy. The recommendations of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission established the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation to direct overall policy and to administer the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is used to acquire federal land and assist states and local governments. A similar group, the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors led by Lamar Alexander in the mid-1980s, also set out new directions for park policy.

HENRY L. DIAMOND practices law in Washington, D.C. He was chairman of the National Park Service Anniversary Symposium.



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## FORUM

continued

Foundation has emerged as a strong NPS ally. The foundation has raised tens of millions of dollars through private sources and corporate giving.

The record of citizens working with their government to provide better national parks is a distinguished one. However, we must not let the worthwhile concept of partnership obscure governmental obligations. In the glow of partnership, some responsibilities have been blurred.

While private philanthropy can enrich the national park experience, it is the federal government that must provide the basic funding.

Clearly, NPS must decide on what terms it will accept private funds, what recognition will be afforded corporate givers, and where and what kind of facilities are to be provided. Unlike sports arenas, parks are not for sale to the highest corporate bidder. This is why we have a National Park System that must be nurtured by our national government with our national taxes. But the recent record is poor.

▲ Operating appropriations for NPS have not kept pace with growing needs. Taking inflation into account, the Park Service today is serving far more visitors with far less money.

▲ We have not cherished our parks. Buildings, roads, and trails need care. A backlog of maintenance and repair means endangered resources, dilapidated buildings, and potholed roads.

▲ The government has not provided adequate funding to acquire inholdings.

▲ LWCF has been neglected by administrations and Congress for the last 16 years. Fed by royalties from offshore oil and gas leases, this fund has provided acquisition money for the National Park Service and other federal agencies. In the first 25 years of its existence, LWCF supported 30,000 projects across the country. Yet, this vital program has been allowed to wither.

▲ A few years ago, a public/private partnership emerged to provide improved housing for national park employees. Although it was a worthwhile initiative, this basic responsibility should fall to the federal government.

It is time to sort out the relative roles

of the private and public partners. In the tradition of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Committee, the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors, and the Vail Agenda, a new review commission could address the problems of the 21st century and remind the public, the Administration, and the Congress of the vital role of parks in America.

A review commission could address other issues that affect partnerships as well, such as:

▲ What should the standards be for additions to the National Park System? Former NPS Director Jim Ridenour has argued that adding units that do not meet national park standards has caused a "thinning of the blood."

▲ What is the proper role of NPS in assisting states and local governments in meeting outdoor recreation needs?

▲ How can NPS seek private funding for the system without giving way to commercialism? Can fees collected in parks remain at a given park without a corresponding loss of appropriations?

▲ How can the Park Service make better science-based decisions? Should it have its own scientific capability?

▲ How do changes in the broader society, such as the role of women in the workplace, the aging of the population, and the current trends in immigration, affect the National Park System?

▲ What policy changes need to be made in the concession system?

▲ Does NPS have a proper balance among Washington, the regional offices, and the field in allocation of human and other resources?

These are long-standing questions. But they must be addressed anew if our parks are to continue their important part in American life in the 21st century. By sorting out responsibilities, NPS could be reinvigorated. Knowing the government is doing its part would give friends groups the opportunity to unleash and focus the vigor of citizen action.

Partnerships are fine, but both partners must do their part. Friends don't let friends shirk their duty. Perhaps the most important role for private partners is to make sure that Congress and the Administration know this.

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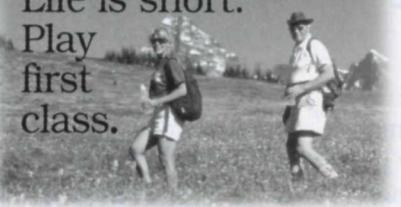
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BY MARILOU REILLY

## Activist Marjory Stoneman Douglas Dies

► Marjory Stoneman Douglas, tireless environmentalist, died May 15 at her home in Florida, where she had lived since 1926. She was 108.

Douglas was considered the authority on the Everglades, and she helped to lead the successful effort to have the 1.6 million acres designated as Everglades National Park in 1946. That same year, she published her book *The Everglades: River of Grass*, referring to the fact that the Everglades is a wide river of shallow water flowing southward across a grassy plain.

In 1985, NPCA established the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Citizen Conservationist of the Year Award in her honor. This award annually recognizes the outstanding efforts of an individual that result in the protection of a unit or proposed unit of the National Park System. NPCA established this award to honor individuals who often must go to great lengths to advocate and fight for the protection of the National Park System. Each recipient receives a cash award of \$5,000.

In 1985 Douglas was the first recipient of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas award for her life-long efforts to save the Florida Everglades. In addition to her unending efforts to protect the Everglades, Douglas worked to protect Big Cypress National Preserve from encroaching development. She was also co-founder of the Friends of the Everglades.

## Public Will Accept Limits Survey Says

► A new NPCA survey shows that although people love the parks more than ever, they are pessimistic about the parks' future and are willing to accept limits to make certain that parks remain protected. In June, NPCA released *National Parks and the American People*, a report on public opinion about parks and park issues. The survey was conducted by the Colorado State University Human Dimensions in Natural Resources Unit, and sampled a cross-section of the American public. Among the findings:

▲ More than half of Americans believe that

national parks will be in worse condition 25 years from now than they are today.

▲ A majority of Americans feel the most important purpose of national parks is to preserve America's most significant places for future generations.

▲ Nine out of ten Americans want inappropriate uses like personal watercraft, snowmobiles, and tour overflights limited or banned from the parks.

▲ More than 90 percent of Americans would be willing to make reservations and/or ride buses to reduce crowds in the parks.

Copies of the report are available on the NPCA website, <http://www.npca.org>.

## Melba Moore Speaks Out

► At the Mt. Zion Female Union Band cemetery in Georgetown, Washington, D.C. — a local site on the Underground Railroad — Tony award-winning singer and actress Melba Moore spoke of the importance of legislation before Congress that would commemorate the Underground Railroad. Moore represents 36 national and regional organizations

convened by NPCA to urge Congress to quickly pass the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act (H.R.1635 and S. 887). This legislation would link hundreds of sites, spanning 29 states, Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean, in a cohesive and educational commemoration of one of the most significant chapters of American history.

To relate the lessons learned from the Underground Railroad to life today, NPCA asked students from Washington, D.C.'s Lincoln Multicultural Middle School to describe in an essay how the diversity, freedom, cooperation, and unity represented by the Underground Railroad has influenced their lives. The first place winner was seventh grader Desalghn Fikre mariam, who stated that to be an American means to be free and "have an equal chance to work and live."

"Our youth are our future and for them to be successful, we must show them the past and what we have learned from it," said Moore.

NPCA anticipates that Moore will be visiting congressional leaders as the bill moves through Congress. She will also join coalition members throughout the nation as they work toward

passage of this national bill.

## Ten-Point Plan Outlined for Guadalupe

► Speaking at a three-day symposium marking the anniversary of Guadalupe Mountains National Park in Texas, NPCA Southwest Regional Director David Simon presented NPCA's *Silver Anniversary Agenda for the Future of Guadalupe*. This ten-point plan for Guadalupe Mountains defines the swift action necessary to address threats to the park's air quality, scenic views, natural quiet, and other natural and

cultural resources.

Among Simon's recommendations were: establishing a research endowment to create a permanent source of funding, improving monitoring programs, designating wilderness, and understanding the effects of visitors on the park.

"The National Park Service and its supporters and partners must join together to make this agenda a reality. We must act now, so that Guadalupe's 50th anniversary will find the park more secure and more cherished than ever before," Simon said. "Our children and grandchildren will not forgive us if we allow this jewel to be tarnished." He emphasized the importance of giving

Guadalupe Mountains the resources it needs to manage for the future.

## Aten Elected Chair, Partners in Parks

► Carol Aten, NPCA's executive vice-president, was elected chair of Partners in Parks by its Board of Directors. The election took place at the organization's April 1998 meeting.

The mission of Partners in Parks is to help preserve national parks through research and conservation programs. The organization encourages, promotes, and

establishes long-term partnerships with parks using skilled volunteers and others who contribute their time and talents to the welfare of these special places.

Aten became involved with Partners in Parks at the time of the organization's inception in 1988 while she was an employee of the National Park Service. She continued her relationship with Partners, and soon after she joined the National Parks and Conservation Association, she was elected director of Partners in Parks.

For more information about Partners in Parks, contact Sarah Bishop, president, at 4916 Butterworth Place N.W., Washington, DC 20016, or by telephone at 202-364-7244.

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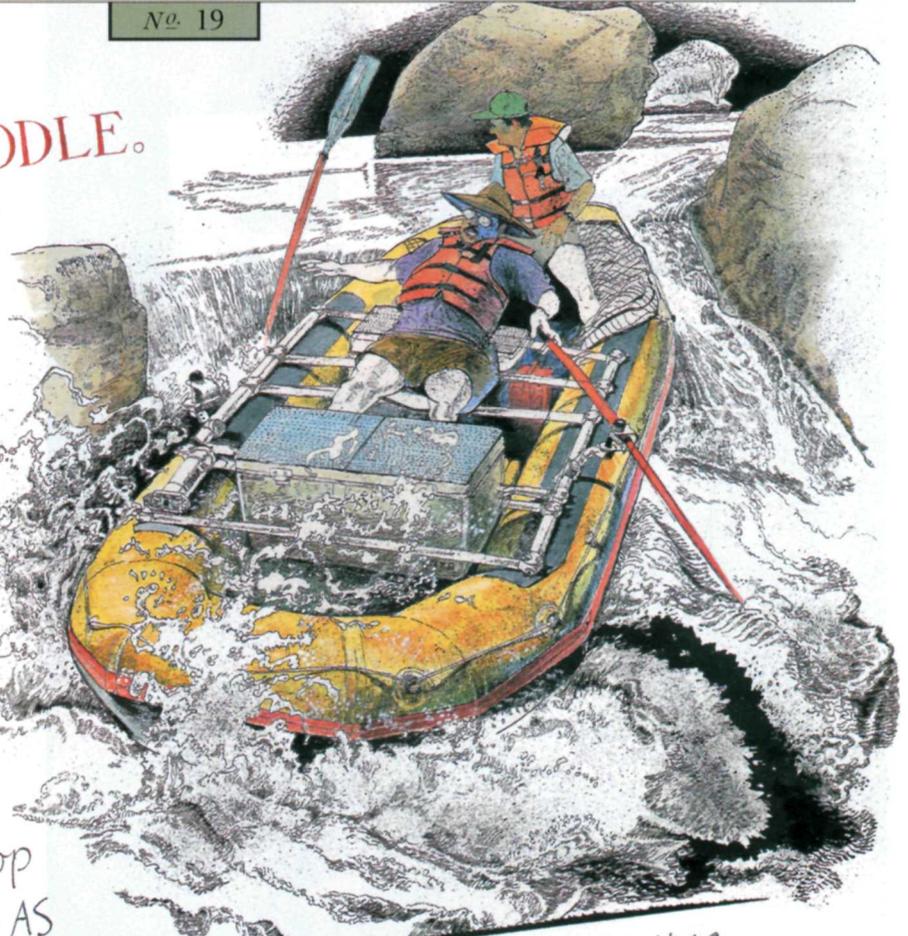


FRED HIRSCHMANN

**T**HE MOUNTAIN RANGES that converge in this national park are often referred to as the “mountain kingdom of North America.” In terms of acreage, this is the largest unit of the park system, offering refuge to a variety of wildlife and harboring a diverse collection of wild rivers and mountain valleys. Copper and gold mining drew hoards of temporary speculators here in the early part of the 20th century, and the abandoned and dilapidated structures of these hopeful ventures are still visible. Have you visited this park? Which park is it? [ANSWER ON PAGE 10.]

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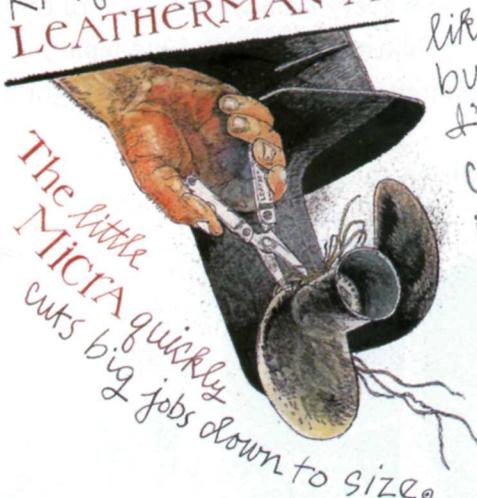
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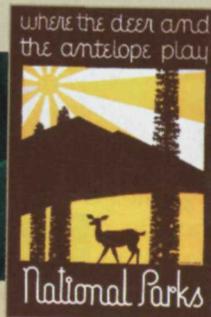
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