National Parks & Conservation Magazine

The Environmental Journal

June 1975

NPCA • National Parks & Conservation Association • NPCA

Mineral King

IN A REMOTE fastness of the Sierra Nevada, largely encircled by Sequoia National Park, lies a high, wild valley called Mineral King. Excluded from the park when it was established in 1890 because of mining, which has now ceased, it is managed as a wildlife preserve within Sequoia National Forest.

About ten years ago the U.S. Forest Service proposed the development of a gigantic ski resort at Mineral King which would destroy its wilderness and wildlife, and a bitter controversy arose.

AT STAKE, first of all, are certain values which have importance for the survival of mankind: solitude, quietude, tranquility, and remoteness. Men grow and mature within the social matrix: function, productivity, family, community; but this growth cannot take place without opportunity for self-exploration, reflection, meditation, which require periodic severance from the crowd.

The continuity of human society, and hence of all life on earth, depends in this age of chaos on preserving opportunities for such withdrawal and return toward the community for thoughtful people.

In another aspect, the problem is the biological relatedness of the human species to all surrounding life. A great advance in general understanding of the relation of men to their life-support systems has occurred during the last decade. It is one of the major hopes for survival.

A region like Mineral King, providing refuge for the human spirit in search of self-knowledge and integration, and protecting vanishing species of plants and animals, provides psychological and ecological bearings which we destroy at our peril.

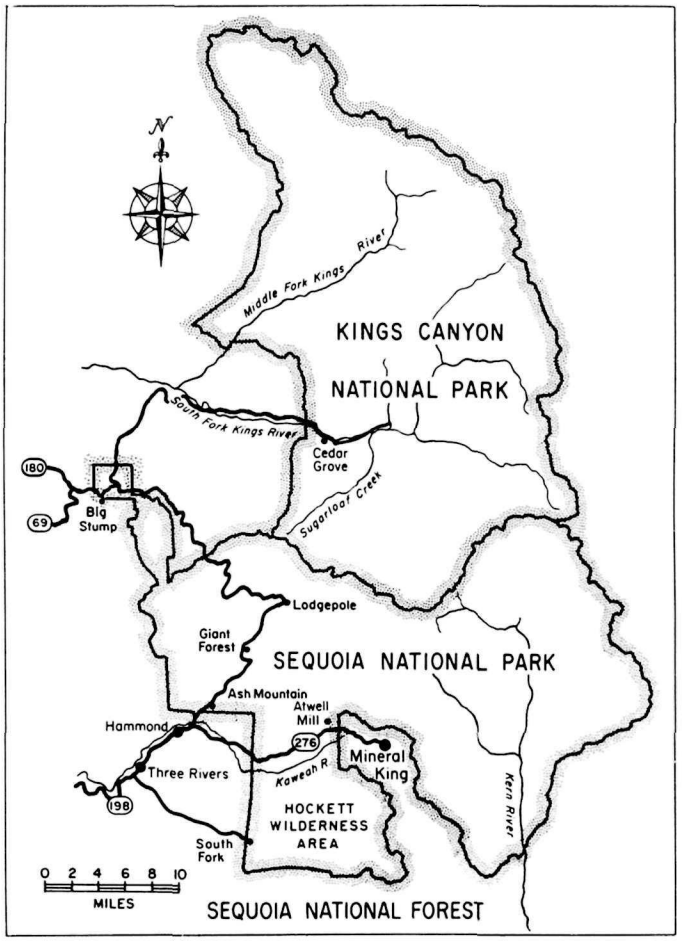
AS CONTRASTED with these vital survival values, the benefits offered by the mammoth resort would be trivial and tawdry. Granted the fine quality of the snow bowls of Mineral King for ski runs, there are many such regions in the western mountains. There are plenty of other places for lodges, entertainment, and mechanical outdoor recreation.

The NPCA has recommended to the President of the United States that he declare Mineral King a national monument under the Antiquities Act and thus add it to the National Park System. Because it is geographically part of Sequoia–Kings Canyon National Park, it should be administered by the National Park Service as one unit in that system. If Congress decided at any time to incorporate it legally into the National Park, it could do so.

Mineral King is a valley of great richness of wildlife, such as the late Walt Disney celebrated in his True Life Adventure series of motion pictures. Next to Walt's early animated cartoons, these nature films captured the heart of all America. Once protected safely within the National Park System, Mineral King, with all its beauty of streams and forests, its abundant animal life, and the wind-blown peaks and snowfields of the High Sierra, should be re-named for Walt Disney and protected for the lifetime of the human race as a wildlife refuge or wilderness area. We suggest that Disney Enterprises, which would be the concessioner at the resort, join us in fostering this approach.

The Forest Service should withdraw its pro-

Continued on page 31



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COVER Aniakchak Caldera, by M. Woodbridge Williams
Photographer Woody Williams and pilot Charlie Allen waited two years for a day clear enough to take this photograph of Aniakchak Caldera, six miles across. The view looks south across Surprise Lake (lower left center), Vent Mountain, and south to another caldera, Mount Veniaminof. The Bering Sea is off to the right; the Pacific Ocean, off to the left. The peak of Mount Aniakchak is at the rim left of Vent Mountain. This magnificent natural phenomenon on the Alaska Peninsula is proposed as a national monument. (See page 4.)

National Parks & Conservation Association, established in 1919 by Stephen Mather, the first Director of the National Park Service, is an independent, private, nonprofit, public service organization, educational and scientific in character. Its responsibilities relate primarily to protecting the national parks and monuments of America, in which it endeavors to cooperate with the National Park Service while functioning as a constructive critic, and to protecting and restoring the whole environment. Life memberships are $600. Annual membership dues, including subscription to National Parks & Conservation Magazine, are $120 Sustaining, $60 Supporting, $25 Contributing, $18 Cooperating, and $12 Associate. Student memberships are $8. Single copies are $1.50. Contributions and bequests are needed to carry on our work. Dues in excess of $12 and contributions are deductible from federal taxable income, and gifts and bequests are deductible for federal gift and estate tax purposes. Mail membership dues, correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address, and postmaster notices or undeliverable copies to National Parks & Conservation Association, 1701 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. When changing address, allow six weeks' advance notice and send address label from latest issue along with new address. Advertising rates are available on request from headquarters in Washington.

weathered american chestnut trunk
jack jeffers photograph

ANIAKCHAK
Kingdom of Genesis

Proposed for national monument status, the remote and seldom seen Aniakchak Caldera on the Alaska Peninsula has a combination of features found nowhere else in our park system

article & photos by M. WOODBRIDGE WILLIAMS

THE MISTY WORLD of the Alaska Peninsula is one of bizarre and uncommon design, and no mountain there or anywhere else in Alaska is so startling as the caldera called Aniakchak, a mountain whose summit collapsed in a mighty volcanic explosion, leaving a skeletal rim and exposing much of its history on the sheer walls. On this cloud-wrapped peninsula, tundra, ponds, lakes, and rivers spread westward from the Aleutian Mountain Range, a segment of the Rim of Fire around the Pacific basin. Aniakchak stands in this range on the relatively narrow peninsula between the Bering Sea to the northwest and the Pacific Ocean to the southeast. Although the caldera is about four hundred miles southwest of Anchorage, relatively few people have ever seen it.

Fog and rain blot out Aniakchak for most of the year: 128 inches of precipitation on the Pacific side and constant fog on the Bering Sea side. For nearly four thousand years, the estimated time of human occupation on the peninsula, the weather as well as Aniakchak's low profile when viewed from the ground concealed this extraordinary phenomenon.

In fact the mountain was not discovered by the Western World until the 1920s, when a party of the U.S. Geological Survey reported sighting it and suggested that Aniakchak is a natural wonder worthy of preservation in a national monument. But the idea did not bear fruit until December 18, 1973, when Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton recommended that it be considered by Congress for national monument status.

The final Park Service recommendation for a 447,000-acre Aniakchak Caldera National Monument came under the provisions of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, which dealt with the settlement of native claims for land and provided for the study of outstanding public lands for designation as national parks, wild rivers, wildlife refuges, and national forests. The caldera is already designated a Natural National Landmark.

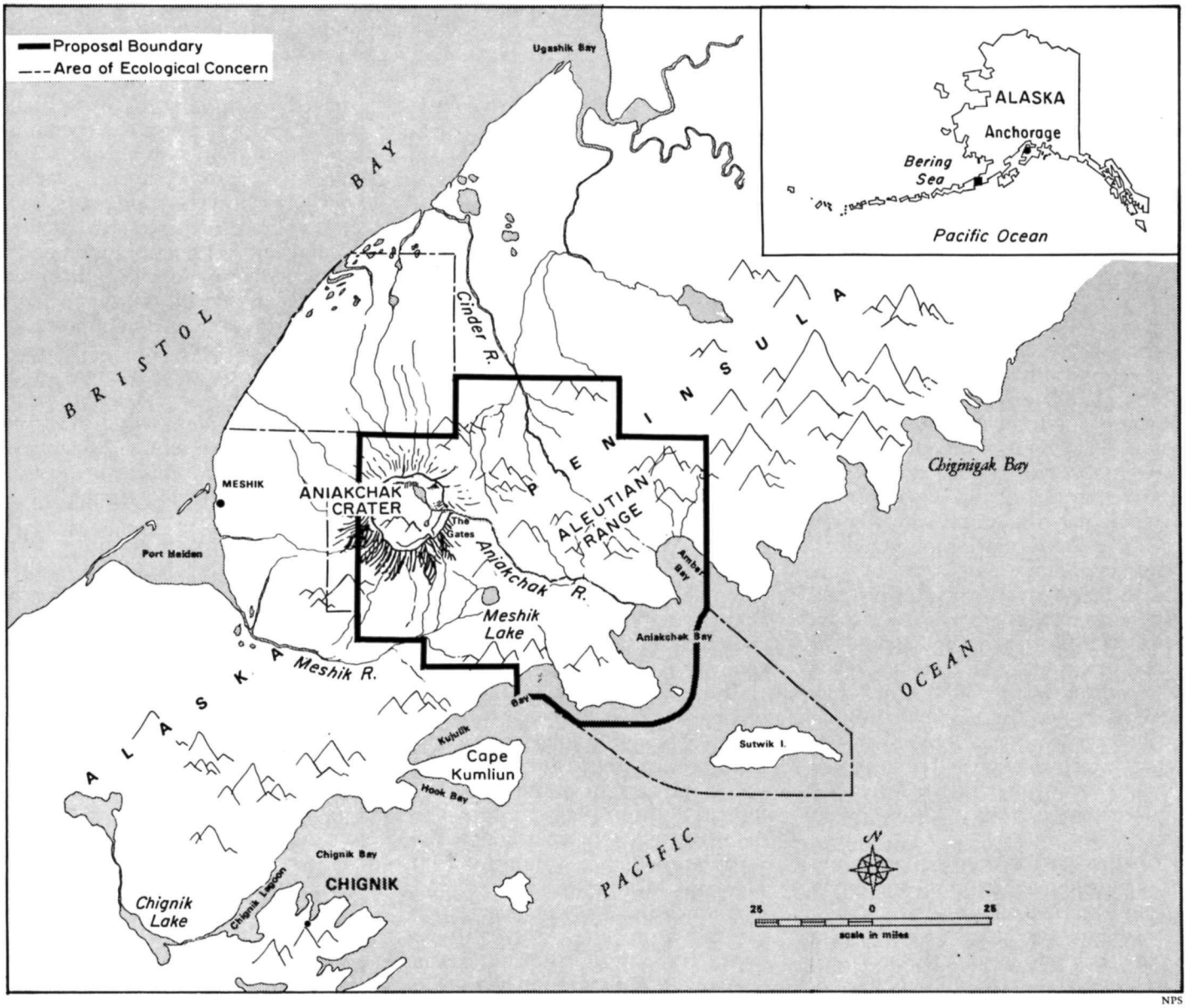
Unlike the well-known caldera that holds Crater Lake in Oregon, Aniakchak is nearly dry; its caldera covers 30 square miles contrasted to 27.5 square miles for Crater Lake (of which 20.4 square miles are the lake). However, Aniakchak does support a small lake on the northeast side, and from this lake the Aniakchak River rushes through a deep rift in the caldera wall called The Gates and on through ash fields twenty-seven miles to the Pacific. This river is proposed for designation as a wild river in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

One can enter Aniakchak Caldera on foot through The Gates and walk within the heart of the mountain. The world around the caldera is occupied by the splendid brown bear, moose, caribou, and numerous smaller mammals and birds. No such combination of geological and faunal features exists today in the National Park System. Nor is any wonder of the continent more isolated.

IN AUGUST 1972 I had attempted to obtain high-level photographs of Aniakchak. My pilot, Charlie Allen, had hoped to enter the caldera from the northeast up parklike Cinder Creek and through The Gates. But clouds hid the entrance, and we had to turn back. In July 1973 we flew again with clouds for landmarks. Our only course became a tracking game with nature where animals and geological features under wing furnished clues to the location of this elusive caldron.

We started tracking one hundred miles from the caldera. An intricate web of game trails connected the tundra ponds or led down to the nearby sea. Skimming down the coast of Bristol Bay on the Bering Sea, we turned above the carcass of a whale washed on the beach. As we roared over for a closer look, a brown bear dashed from the bowels of the whale, scattering gulls as it clawed up the sea bluff to the shelter of the maritime grasses. Some of the ruts in the land were made by this greatest of bears. Then inland, we turned down upon a young bull moose on a sandbar in the King Salmon River. The bull pawed and reared and finally hid from the plane in the high willows holding the river sand. Some of the deep trails lining the banks were made by moose. Finally, a maze of tracks marked the calving areas of the caribou herd, some twelve to fifteen thousand strong on the peninsula. On our return from Aniakchak, hundreds of caribou racks caught the light of the late evening sun while calves found shelter among them, a magnificent expression of this productive yet fragile skein of life that in relatively recent geological history Aniakchak had blasted apart to reveal the somber and smoking heart of a mountain.

A view southeast from inside the caldera shows the Aniakchak River as it runs from Surprise Lake through a 2,000-foot-deep rift in the caldera wall. Flowing twenty-seven miles through ash fields to the Pacific Ocean, Aniakchak River is proposed for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Without this gash in the caldera wall, the lake soon would have filled the caldera, and we would have an Alaskan "Crater Lake."



NPS

Proposed Aniakchak Caldera National Monument: 1975

WE DO NOT KNOW when the mountain exploded, although the absence of glaciation in the ash deposits suggests that it must have taken place after the most recent Ice Age, within the past ten thousand years. The preeruption mountain was about six thousand feet high and of slightly tilted sedimentary rocks of Jurassic Age. Despite the mountain's modest contour, the explosion displaced some 15.4 cubic miles of ejecta across the land for twenty miles in all directions, more than three times the amount thrown out by Krakatoa in 1883. That explosion in Sunda Strait in the East Indies was heard three thousand miles away, and the pumice turned sunsets unusually red around the world for two years. Now Aniakchak stands in silent testimony to an even greater display.

Within the 1,600-mile-long Aleutian Mountain Range some forty-seven volcanoes have been reported active since 1760, more than in all the rest of North America. Most of these volcanoes retain their graceful cones by erupting more material than is eroded away. They are true craters through which lava and ash may rise to the surface. Calderas, on the other hand, develop out of older cones where lavas have become more acid and where the flow of magma to the surface drains subterranean chambers, leaving voids into which the summits collapse.

After the formation of a caldera, pressures may increase in the chambers beneath the volcano and force up new cones within the old skeleton. For example, Wizard Island in Crater Lake testifies to the volcano's last puff. Aniakchak seems to be more active. Its features are of rather recent origin, and therefore it may be classified as a "resurgent caldron." Its discovery came from tracking down the ashes.

Although Russian explorers and trappers had explored up and down the Aleutian chain and Alaska Peninsula for one hundred years and local trappers in this century had penetrated to Chignik Lake, the caldera went unreported until 1922. Then a survey team of the U.S. Geological Survey made the discovery while exploring thirty miles northeast of Aniakchak.

Surprise Lake, 2½ square miles, is fed by mineral springs and drained by the Aniakchak River. Sockeye salmon spawn in the lake, giving rise to one of the best red salmon runs on the Pacific Coast of the Alaska Peninsula. Study teams enter Aniakchak Caldera by landing on Surprise Lake in seaplanes.

HERE Walter R. Smith, author of the report citing the discovery, and R. H. Sargent, the survey geologist, found pockets of fine ash in a hillside. As they moved southwest, the deposits became thicker, and upon arriving at Cinder Creek they found a broad valley entirely blanketed by ejecta. Yet they could not see the source of the material. Finally, Smith and Sargent climbed the 2,360-foot Elephant Mountain at the head of Cinder Creek for a better view. To their delight, they looked for the first time upon the walls of Aniakchak and found the explanation for the ash blanket of Cinder Creek.

The sighting also explained a circle of peaks that appeared on their topographic map, which may have been plotted from a vessel at sea. Contrary to some accounts, Smith did not suspect them of being a volcano or caldera ring until he looked at Aniakchak from Elephant Mountain.

After Smith's report, a priest-geologist from the University of Santa Clara in California, Father Bernard R. Hubbard, "The Glacier Priest," led a party to Aniakchak in 1930 by following the tracks of a bear sow and cub through The Gates. He entered during a storm raging within the caldera, which tore "cloud niagaras" to pieces. When these torrents of cloud pouring over the rim subsided, he found a walled world of abundant plant and animal life. Ladyslippers, an orchid—*Cypripedium* species—and lush ferns grew in areas moderated by the subterranean heat. Most of the caldera was dry, but he found Surprise Lake, a 2.5-square-mile body from which the Aniakchak River roistered through The Gates.

The party followed huge bear tracks one to two feet deep around the lakeshore. Here the great animals had methodically planted their feet one after the other in the same spots year after year, never varying the course. Bear tracks also led them to steaming vents in a volcano that the U.S. Geological Survey considered to be inactive. Here bears wallowed in the warm mud of "a turkish bath" to remove bits of winter fur. Hubbard cooked beans over a fumarole—a hole from which hot gases issue—made further studies, and in January 1931 predicted that an eruption was impending.

At 10:00 a.m., May 1, 1931, An-

Vent Mountain is a 2,200-foot secondary cone inside Aniakchak Caldera. July snows form great "lace" fans on lava fields spreading from the base at right and cryptic scrawls throughout the rest of the caldera. Mount Aniakchak, 4,400 feet high, stands on the rim behind Vent Mountain.

iakchak erupted, throwing flames seven thousand feet in the air and ashes thirty thousand feet high. The major outburst came on May 20 and then began to subside, the activity lasting for twenty-five days. Ashes rained out for six hundred miles in every direction, covering the ground a pound per hour per square foot at the salmon cannery at Chignik sixty miles south of the volcano. At Katmai National Monument, 150 miles north, a quarter of an inch of ash fell.

In June 1931 the Hubbard party returned to the caldera to find, in place of orchids and ferns, a "prelude to Hell: black floor, black walls, black water, deep black holes, and black vents." At the explosion pit of the last eruption, they bottled free chlorine gas for study and found a temperature of 1,976°F at a depth of twelve inches underfoot. But already life had returned: Father Hubbard reported seeing a few bear and ptarmigan.

In 1932, a pilot, Frank Dorbandt, landed the Hubbard party, including dogs and supplies, in the first flight to Surprise Lake. Camping above the lake, they found the volcano still erupting, particularly at a new site where they stood as mites before a column of steam that spiraled thousands of feet in the air. In such a setting, Father Hubbard donned vestments each morning, set up an altar, and held Mass "using the stately columns of ascending smoke" for altar candles in what seemed more like the sanctuary of his arch competitor. Certainly others could call Aniakchak a hellish place, on account of weather, if for no other reason. With this reputation, another forty years went by before serious efforts were made to investigate the wonders of the caldron.

IN 1972 A STUDY TEAM from the Alaska Task Force of the National Park Service entered the caldera and found that pioneering plants had worked up through The Gates and were populating areas about lake and spring. Volcanic rocks had weathered to a lighter color, and erosion had washed away the ash layer from the 1931 eruption so that much of the heart rock of Aniakchak stood exposed in a variety of colors. In this maturing landscape they found no active vents, but a spring feeding Surprise Lake measured 73°F.

According to local fishermen, sockeye red salmon are again spawning in Surprise Lake, which produces one of the best runs of sockeye on the Pacific side of the peninsula. The salmon carry the iron-soda taste of Aniakchak, as they had in Father Hubbard's time, although he also reported trout in the lake feeding on young salmon. No trout were seen in the recent studies.

Brown bears are again reported in the caldera, and they could well be denning on the walls. These bears are among the largest in Alaska, finding an abundance of nourishment from early spring and late summer salmon runs. Caribou and ptarmigan again live in the caldera, and Aniakchak also offers shelter to a number of migratory birds.

As Charlie and I tracked for Aniakchak that day in July 1973, first over the thin life mantle that reaches for the slopes and then over bare ground toward the swirling mists above, we spotted shafts of dark cinders and white snow through rifts in the clouds ahead, leading us on and forming shifting patterns around our plane. Then a blue slit appeared ahead; a ridge separated itself from the cloud. Charlie roared through to meet the caldera: stark, frightening, so different from the green flanks lively with animals—a six-mile-wide doorway to the center of the earth.

Then we spotted a tiny tent nestled beneath a ledge along the south shore of Surprise Lake. Was it the tent of an old explorer or new, tempting the volcano's temper? Only later did we learn who the trespasser was and how close he had come to disaster.

In the cloud light the features named by the old explorers were sharply delineated. The major ones followed a rift through the mountain structure: first, the low pass by which we slipped into the caldera, then Vent Mountain, a steep secondary cone rising 2,200 feet above the caldera floor whose slopes lay at a maximum angle of repose, so that it would collapse with additional height. Flying counterclockwise around Vent Mountain, we passed the steep, snow-frosted, streaked face of 4,400-foot Mount Aniakchak, the highest point on the rim, then passed Black Nose, a 3,800-foot bluff. Finally we reached the terminus of the rift where it cracked

"Doughnut Cone" looked burned crisp without shrinkage. In the background fog pours over the caldera rim. The caldera lies hidden for most of the year beneath this grey cloud cover.

through the wall, forming the 2,000-foot-deep Gates.

The awesome outlet from Surprise Lake cut deep in time, to Upper Jurassic marine sandstone laid down in the Age of Reptiles about 135 million years ago. Within these transformed volcanic sediments several species of a clam called *Aucella* once lived in abundance, and their fossils are now visible in the walls of The Gates.

Now we flew above Surprise Lake with its little tent; beyond, a few caribou were standing on snow patches where they would not be bothered by the ubiquitous Alaskan mosquitos. In the soft light the lake lay clear in emerald and turquoise. Springs made lighter puffs around the edges, a gentling touch to the raw earth scene.

Finally we turned over fields of obsidian and pumice. On occasion this pumice would work down to bounce merrily along the surface of the Aniakchak River. Then we reached Half Cone pressed against the western wall. As large as a football field, Half Cone may have been the site of the 1931 eruption at Aniakchak. Near it, Father Hubbard found cliffs of both horizontal and vertical columns of obsidian, a bonanza for makers of arrowheads.

Completing our turn, we flew above a small doughnut cone of perfect form. It appeared to have been burned to a crisp but without shrinkage. Fanning out from Vent Mountain to the left, rough lava fields swept toward "Doughnut Cone." Snow lay among the rubble, tessellating the flows to black and white lace.

As clouds came down, Charlie decided we must leave. We slipped out over the low pass by which we had come and skimmed down Aniakchak's ashy skin to Port Heiden to the west. When we landed, Mr. and Mrs. Oden Soeth provided a pleasant haven around the coffee pot and telephone in the Reeve Aleutian Airway depot. There we learned that the tent in Aniakchak was occupied by a free-lance writer and Alaskan guide named Ben Guild.

Later I met Ben in the East, and he told me that he had been dropped in the caldera by a commercial float plane from King Salmon and that he had spent six weeks in the crater. During this time, in the microclimate of the thirty-square-mile caldera, his camp was blown down more than once by hurricane winds. Once he was forced to squeeze into a shallow depression in a bluff in order to wait out a hurricane that sent the wind gauge off its top. He also photographed cloud niagaras as Father Hubbard had described. From exposure to such bad weather, he developed a deep ear infection that upset his equilibrium. Finally he was lifted out by a government plane that had brought a federal interagency study team in to float the wild Aniakchak River.

During Ben's six weeks in the crater, he experienced only eight days of sunshine. Now Charlie and I were hoping for one of those rare events. Fog smothered Port Heiden for a day and a half. Then it lifted at noon. Perhaps a break of two years was in the offing. Would the powers of the caldera let us in?

Under broken skies we circled to the south and headed up the broad and gentle Meshik Valley smoothed by ash falls of the past. Now it stood a vivid green. Ser-

pentine streams, oxbow after oxbow, wound down from the bluffs of Aniakchak to join the Meshik. Promontories with steep scarps jutted from the caldera and separated the tributaries. We followed one of the creeks toward the massif. Soon we circled a box canyon before exciting strata, particularly where a distinct nonconformity between sediments and volcanic deposits marked a lost chapter through erosion. Increasing light set off the dark browns, tawny yellows, and reds. Then we pressed a waterfall for photos, one great ribbon plunging several hundred feet from the snow fields above.

Then blue sky appeared. We climbed over the falls, above the snow fields, above Aniakchak Peak, above the caldera, up and up in gentle spirals, through a vast hole in a cloud. Finally, at 14,500 feet this world of fantasy, this mark of the living earth, this kingdom of Genesis, filled my wide angle lens. ■

From 1972 to 1973 M. Woodbridge Williams was chief photographer of the Alaska Task Force of the Department of the Interior, which was studying public land in Alaska for inclusion in the National Park System. Woody has worked with the Park Service for fourteen years, and before that with *National Geographic* for six years. His natural history photos and writings have appeared in several national magazines, including *National Parks & Conservation.*

Editor's Note

The Aniakchak Compromise

The Interior Department has issued its final proposal for a 447,000-acre Aniakchak Caldera National Monument on the Alaska Peninsula. This proposal, yet to receive congressional action, is far weaker than the original concept of natural area designation for this great Alaskan natural phenomenon.

First, the Department is proposing to leave 124,000 acres of the Pacific coastal portion of the proposed national monument open to sport hunting under state control. This provision would threaten the already overhunted Alaskan brown bear.

Second, the proposed acreage is less than optimal for protection of the natural environment. To completely protect the area, the Meshik and Cinder River watersheds, the Bristol Bay coast, and Cape Kumliun should be included in the proposal, which would result in a superb national monument of 1.7 million acres.

Third, more than half the area of the proposed national monument is designated as a withdrawal area for Alaskan natives, including surface and subsurface rights. Such designation could result in mining and development within the proposed national monument, a serious threat to the natural environment and the public interest.

The National Park Service has revised the original Aniakchak Caldera proposal—for management as a natural area unit of the National Park System—to accommodate these conflicting use patterns. Thus the management objectives of the final proposal effectively deny that Aniakchak is a *natural area,* thus jeopardizing the spectacular natural features of the proposed monument and compromising the values that the National Park System was established to protect.

Aniakchak is among the first of a new generation of Alaskan national parks and monuments being established under provisions of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. Thirty million acres of our Alaskan wilderness treasures are involved. Yet, the opportunity to save these treasures is being needlessly lost through bureaucratic and political compromises.

Although the Aniakchak Caldera National Monument proposal has reached final stages of preparation in the Department of the Interior, comments on these policy trends are appropriate. Readers who wish to express their views should write to:

Hon. Nathaniel P. Reed
Assistant Secretary
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

RAISING PANSIES, RADISHES, AND HELL!

Rocky Mountain National Park's first living history program revives the colorful Holzwarth dude ranch of the 1920s

article by LYNN MOHN

THANKS TO Prohibition, juvenile delinquency, a crippling accident, drunken brawlers, and Johnnie Holzwarth, Rocky Mountain National Park opened its first living history exhibit in 1974.

The exhibit is the nationally famous Neversummer Ranch, one of the first dude ranches in Colorado, now part of the park. In its fifty-four years of operation, Neversummer delighted thousands of guests with its rustic simplicity and warm western hospitality. Its character emanated from John G. Holzwarth, Jr., the energetic, wiry proprietor whose woolly backwoods humor kept campfire crowds chuckling for half a century. At the end of the 1973 season, Johnnie closed down the eight-hundred-acre ranch he lovingly built "from scratch, with an axe, a fishin' pole, and a gun" and sold it to Rocky Mountain National Park, through The Nature Conservancy, rather than make an easy fortune from developers. He wanted the land and its past to belong to everyone.

Holzwarth's Neversummer Ranch borders the park on the west in a spectacular setting that intensified its popularity. Nestled deep in the Kawuneeche Valley, hemmed in by the Continental Divide and the Neversummer Mountains of the Arapahoe National Forest, the ranch lies nine thousand feet up amidst hand-carved meadows and tall stands of aspen and pine. Two miles of the Colorado River's headwaters cut through the middle.

In 1918, in a calculated move from Denver, Johnnie's German-born parents brought him and his two sisters to the Kawuneeche Valley. Back home in his Denver birthplace, young John Jr. had begun getting into trouble stealing Model-Ts, and Prohibition had wiped out the Old Corner Saloon his father ran for twelve years. Craving a new life and anxious to keep his son out of jail, John Sr. toyed with the idea of starting all over again in the wilds. The notion was romantic, true, but he had "cowboyed" as an adolescent and often thrilled his children with tales of meeting Billy the Kid, tangling with Geronimo, and riding with the Texas Rangers. Thinking back to Grand County, Colorado, one of his old haunts 115 miles northwest of Denver, he investigated the feasibility of settlement.

The elder Holzwarth quickly found his spot. He staked a homestead claim ten miles north of Grand Lake, former seat of Grand County, on the west side of the Colorado River, and purchased an adjacent plot east of the river. His next door neighbor was three-year-old Rocky Mountain National Park. Johnnie and his father hacked logs and pieced together a primitive cabin, and the family set up housekeeping, later adding a barn, collecting a few cattle and horses, and working to reclaim a hay meadow from marshland. In that first year, they scratched by admirably for city folk.

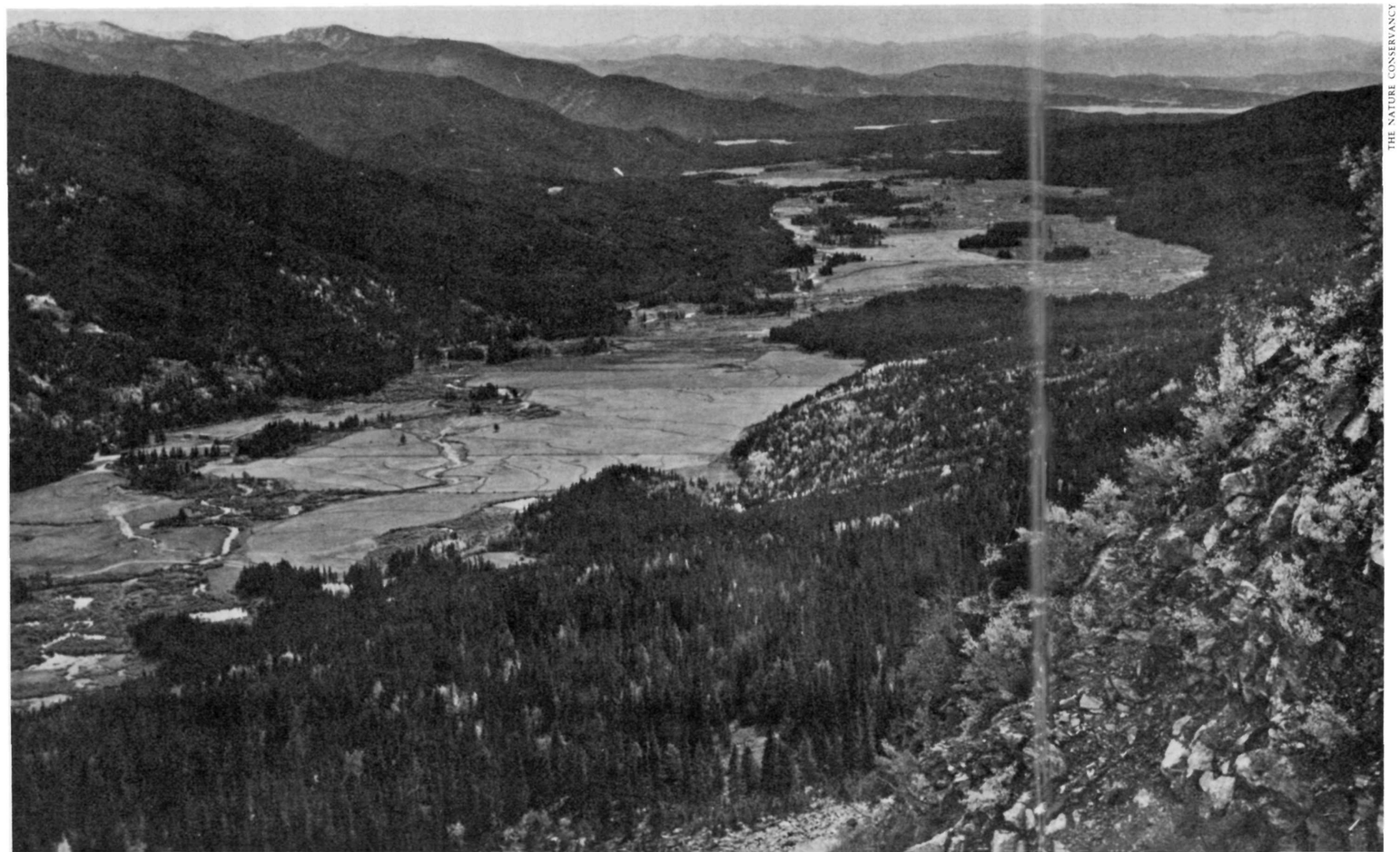
One day, in a freak accident, a team of runaway horses crippled John Sr. so severely that for the rest of his life he could walk only with crutches or a cane. Unable to do heavy work, he mastered taxidermy through a mail-order course and set up a workshop beside the homestead to help make ends meet. He transferred the management of the land to seventeen-year-old Johnnie's shoulders.

Surprisingly, no one thought of making money by housing tourists. All around them in the county, summer hotels and guest houses were flourishing in economic rejuvenation for the first time since the Panic of 1893 had shut down local mines. The creation of Rocky Mountain National Park in 1915 was enticing more vacationers to the area every year.

An incident in 1920, however, turned the homestead into a dude ranch. As Johnnie tells it, a group of John Sr.'s old drinking buddies from Denver showed up one day looking for a cheap summer vacation, each outfitted with a clean shirt and a bottle of whiskey. Soon too drunk to partake of more normal tourist pastimes, the rowdies corralled Johnnie into catching a mess of fish for their dinners. Grudgingly, Johnnie grabbed his pole and came back with 125 fish. He then witnessed his father's inebriated, cursing friends brawl over divvying the catch. The melee made Johnnie and his mother put their heads together indignantly and proclaim that all visitors henceforth would pay two dollars a day and eleven dollars a week for the trouble of room, board, horses, and diversions. They nailed up a sign dubbing the homestead Holzwarth's Trout Lodge. Mr. Holzwarth was immediately outraged at the notion of charging friends for hospitality, but he acquiesced to the mother-son alliance and the income it soon produced.

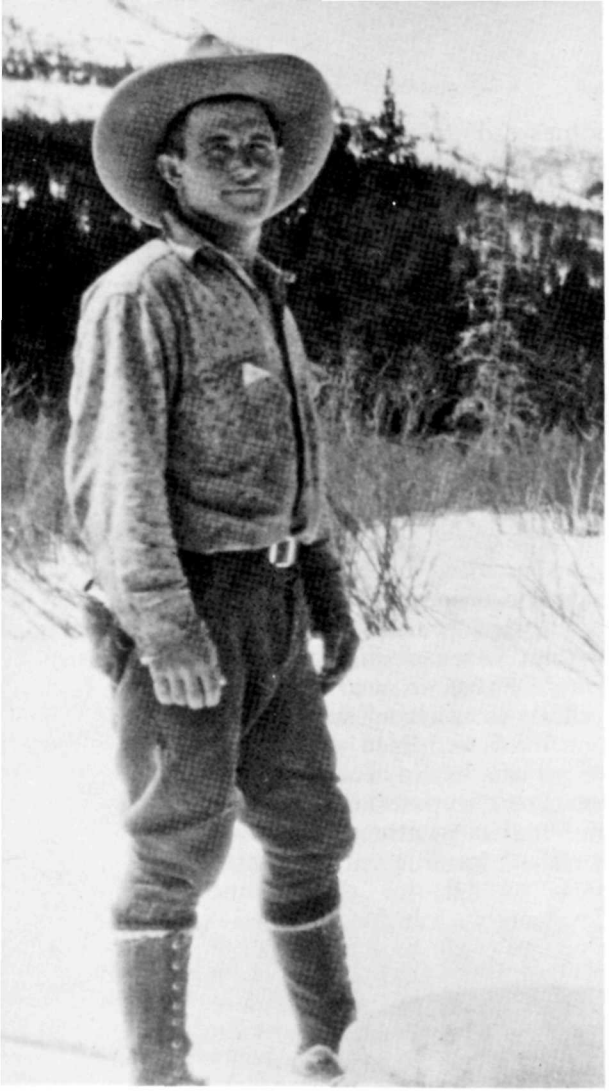
The Holzwarths' first official paying guests were an overflow from Squeaky Bob Wheeler's Hotel de Hardscrabble, a few miles north. Johnnie remembers sleeping in the barn that night to make room. Later, Squeaky Bob taught young John the tricks of running a hotel, including the art of volume dishwashing.

People kept coming. Two rental cabins were soon constructed, but the demand again exceeded the supply. Unable to keep up with the press of tourists, the Holzwarths



THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Neversummer Ranch in the Kawuneeche Valley, Colorado, was purchased by the Park Service through The Nature Conservancy as an addition to Rocky Mountain National Park.



Above, Johnnie working on the ranch in 1926, the winter they were snowed in. Below, forty-eight years later, after selling the ranch to the Park Service, Johnnie still enjoyed dropping by during the summer of 1974 to spin yarns firsthand.

DWIGHT HAMILTON

resorted to spreading box springs and mattresses on the ground and providing canvas covers for blankets until they could build more shelter.

They fed the crowds what the land yielded, which was limited, given the short high-altitude growing season. "All we could raise," says Johnnie mischievously, "were pansies, radishes, and hell." Making do, Mrs. Holzwarth served dinners like fish, biscuits, and dandelion greens spiced with vinegar, sugar, and bacon.

Although the dude ranch business burgeoned, the income was seasonal. While his father stuffed trophies for local sportsmen, Johnnie also farmed the hayfields, broke horses, and set up a sawmill whose products beyond ranch needs were sold to outside customers. During the winter he ran traplines for marten and beaver, sometimes as much as one hundred miles from home. Profits earned from these collective enterprises were always reinvested in improvements to the ranch.

By 1923, the Holzwarths were able to move their center of operations east of the Colorado River, next to heavily traveled Fall River Road (succeeded by paved Trail Ridge Road in 1932), connecting the east and west sides of the park. At this location, the new Holzwarth Neversummer Ranch slowly expanded, sprouting a rustic three-story main lodge with indoor plumbing and an adjoining ring of equally modern guest cabins. In 1954 another 300 acres were added, and in 1965, another 150.

Along with the accommodations, Johnnie built up his repertoire of entertainment to include what he thought a good dude rancher ought to provide—wilderness horseback rides and hikes, fishing, hunting, Sunday rodeos, starlit cookouts around crackling fires, and an endless string of stories on the origins of the ranch, natural history, and local characters. Johnnie's yarn-spinning earned him neighborhood notoriety and kept many an eager dinner table audience glued to their seats long after the meal was over. Understandably, Neversummer never had to advertise. Word of mouth across the country kept it booked to capacity despite the absence of a bar, swimming pool, and neon lights.

Johnnie's love for his land, his ranch, and his guests kept Neversummer running continuously, without a mortgage, through economic and family hardships. One by one, first his father, then his mother, then his two sisters all died of cancer, leaving him alone with the ranch. Rocked by depression and war, meanwhile, neighboring establishments succumbed to high operating costs, sold to subdivision, and bowed to the advent of the motel, and the ubiquitous automobile. Of the original pioneers of the Kawuneeche Valley, only Holzwarth survived. He calls it sheer stubbornness.

In more recent years, real estate developers began to hound Johnnie. They saw easy fortunes in Neversummer because of its proximity to the park. They envisioned summer homes, restaurants, motels, souvenir shops, a ski area. One realtor confidently offered a million dollars for five hundred acres; another volunteered $10,000 apiece for two acres. Johnnie angrily waved them off—"I didn't spend most of my life putting this place together just to see it parceled out again." He was no money-hater, but he had his own vision. "I could never stand to see somebody run that place and run it wrong. Besides, knowing the valley as I do, I think eventually it should all belong to the park."

Johnnie knew the park would run it right. Intimate friends since youth, Rocky Mountain National Park and Johnnie had a mutual respect for each other and for the wilderness. Park rangers drew from Johnnie's encyclopedic knowledge of mountain ecology to help manage the park, and they swore by the gentle, seasoned horses he sold them.

An unconscious conservationist for fifty years, Johnnie cared for his land as well as the park could have done. He proudly shared its breathtaking beauty with his guests and provided park visitors at

high overlooks on Trail Ridge Road with an unmarred vista of the valley. He was a wildlife enthusiast. Throughout his life on the ranch, he hunted only what he needed for food and clothing and deplored overzealous sportsmen who killed for amusement. Elk and deer grazed freely on his meadows at dawn and dusk, and he would excitedly interrupt a conversation to point them out. He also fought to keep the Colorado River in its natural state. When a Fort Collins, Colorado, water supply company once flooded his section of the river, Johnnie hauled them to court for mismanagement.

Selling to the park was Johnnie's way of preserving his life's work. "I can live and die knowing that this valley will be for all and not a select few," he said emotionally when the papers were signed in March 1974. Along with the land, he sold the old homestead, the first guest cabins, his father's taxidermy shop, and outbuildings of the original dude ranch complex west of the river.

THE SALE of Neversummer was well timed. As recently as ten years ago, the National Park Service routinely obliterated most traces of past human involvement on new natural areas within its system. Historically significant property was so categorized only if some famous figure or event was associated with it. Now, aware of the positive role that tangible links to the past play in an uprooted, disoriented society, NPS strives to put the common man and his history back in the ecosystem. The focus is on common lives, a link that goes deeper and broader than heroes, statesmen, and great battles. In 1974, the acquisition of the intact Holzwarth homestead complex was greeted with excitement, not only as a vital addition to the Rocky Mountain wilderness but as a chance to include in the visitor's park experience an important piece of the hitherto untold saga of the region's pioneers.

But, rather than present a static display of buildings, the park chose to make the old dude ranch live

Traveler: A Tall Tale by Johnnie Holzwarth

NOW, this isn't an authentic story, but I did win a prize at the Liar's Contest with it, which I'm quite proud of. It happened in my homestead days when I was just a youngster. My father and mother had left me alone to take care of the ranch in this little cabin we had, which had a dirt roof. It was very, very primitive, but it sufficed.

I got to fiddlin' around there one day, ridin' buckin' horses, and a horse bucked me off and broke my leg. So I crawled back to the cabin and crawled up in the bunk and laid there and suffered out my fever for several days. After a while I got pretty hungry. I didn't know what to do. But I had a very good horse. So I pushed my window open and whistled. My horse come up and I said, "Traveler, I have broke my leg and now if I don't get something to eat pretty soon, I'm gonna pass out." He nodded his head as if he understood.

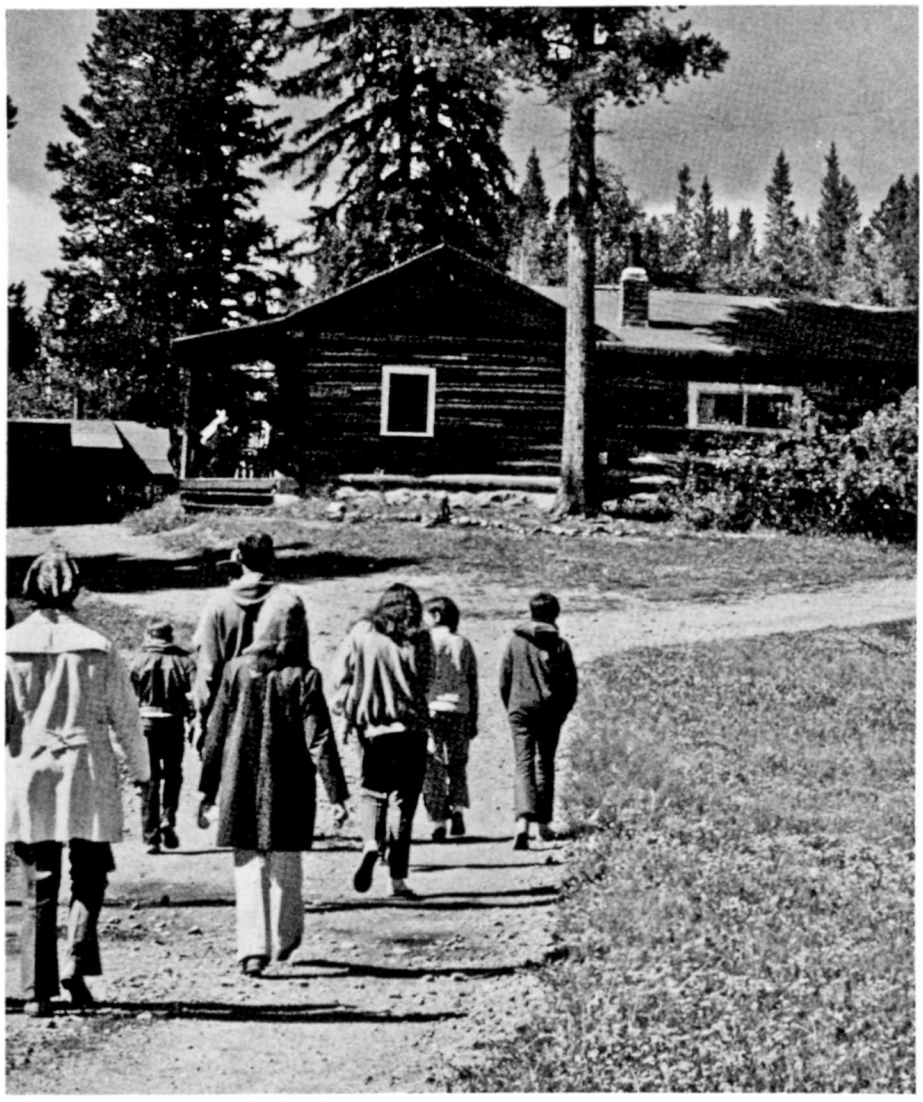
So he went down to the corral and pulled my saddle off the fence and drug it up there to the house and put it on the window sill. I got up on my hands and knees the best I could. We had a little curtain rack where we always hung our things just above the window, ya know, with a forked stick on each side. I grabbed it, and the ole horse, while I kept talkin' to him, just kinda leaned up against the window very carefully. I give the saddle a shove and it lit right on his back. But how in the world was I gonna cinch it? I reached up and got my gun and stuck it under his belly and hooked the side on the end of the cinch and got it up to the cinch ring and cinched that ole horse up. And, he just stood there, just as great as you please. Then I took the saddle strings and tied the gun to the horn of the saddle and tied his tail to the trigger. Away went the horse. Along in the evening, all of a sudden . . . bang! . . . the door flew open and there laid a deer on the floor. And a nice one. I managed to eat that raw meat and got well.

But it always bothered me how that horse got that deer on his back alone. So, when summer came and I was in good shape again, I decided to find out. I fixed everything just like it was before and got into the bunk. I whistled a tune and pretty soon ole Traveler come up and I said, "Traveler, I broke the other leg. You got to help me out again." He nodded. He went off and got the saddle off the fence again and drug it up there and got it on the window sill for me and scooted up to the window. I pushed the saddle up and got my gun and cinched the saddle on the horse. I tied his tail to the trigger . . . the same performance.

The horse took off, and as he did, I jumped on another good horse I had, called Aieda. We took off right up Baker Gulch, just as good as you please. Soon I saw Traveler look up on the hillside at some deer up there. All of a sudden he started moving his rear this way and that way and he finally got squared off to line up that saddle and pretty soon he switched his tail and bang! a deer dropped just like that and started rolling down the mountain. That ole horse just leaned over against the hillside and the deer rolled right over on his back. Then he started to walk down the trail.

All of a sudden he stopped dead still. His ears went forward, and with that he ducked in the willows. So, I ducked in the willows, too, to see what the hell was going on. All of a sudden I heard some voices and what do you know? Who should come up the trail but ole Oscar Wilson, the game warden, and Roger Contor, superintendent of the national park! As soon as they were out of sight, that ole horse came out of the willows and went on down the trail!

During the summer of 1974, the first year that Neversummer Ranch was open to the public as part of Rocky Mountain National Park, two park volunteers moved into the homestead to research local history and to guide visitors. They baked sourdough bread daily (below) in the old Montgomery Ward oven. Visitors approach the old Holzwarth homestead (right), built in 1918.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY BECKY MILLER

again, with real people in a real environment. Johnnie's donation of the original furnishings and implements, family memorabilia, and vividly remembered stories helped the park recreate the harsh but colorful beginnings of Neversummer. This was Rocky Mountain's first attempt at living history, and the first season was a trial run.

During June, July, and August 1974, the first thousand people walked fifty years into the past to see and hear about the Holzwarths. Two young park volunteers moved into the homestead to catalog the antiques, research ranch and local history, and guide visitors. Wearing period attire, they daily opened family albums, served fresh-baked sourdough bread from the old Montgomery Ward oven, and played tapes of Johnnie's salty recollections. A complete tour of the ranch took two hours, leaving older people nostalgic and children who touched authentic cowboy relics wide-eyed. Both guides and visitors were occasionally surprised by 72-year-old Johnnie himself, who liked to drop in unannounced to tell a tale or two firsthand.

The success of the trial solidified plans to run the exhibit again in the summer of 1975. The park is meanwhile restoring the site to more faithfully portray 1920s conditions. Post-twenties structures will be removed, and the missing horse barn and some other outbuildings will be reconstructed. Sod will replace log roofs where it was originally used; electric wiring will be torn out for total reliance on kerosene lamps; and ice cut from the Colorado River in January will be stashed in the icehouse sawdust to keep for warmer days. Someone will even practice driving Johnnie's old mower for haying demonstrations.

When restoration is complete, any of Rocky Mountain National Park's two and a half million annual visitors who missed the opportunity fifty years ago can experience the Holzwarths' brand of dude ranching pretty close to how it used to be. And they may even meet the man who made it possible. ■

Lynn Mohn, former editor of *The Nature Conservancy News,* is now a freelance writer and editor living in Boulder, Colorado.

Exploring Earthman's World

Exploring Earthman's World is a series of essays, co-edited by Darwin Lambert and the editors and published intermittently, which is intended to foster the kind of man–earth relationship that will lead to creative ecological harmony.

Cruelty for Fun by DARWIN LAMBERT

OUR SHARPENING FOCUS on man–earth interrelationships suggests we consider the lasting results of different outdoor activities, whether helpful or harmful to people or nature—or both. Let's think about "Fishing for Fun" (catch and release) as practiced in many places, even in Yellowstone, Glacier, and Shenandoah national parks. Participants use barbless hooks with artificial lures and throw the fish back into the water to provide "fun" for additional fishermen.

The following discussion represents dozens of exchanges between advocates of Fishing for Fun (including outdoor recreation policy makers, fisheries biologists, and managers of fishing waters) and persons who question the effect of this form of fishing on nature and, even more significantly, on humanity. The focus moves from recreational management to ecology that considers mankind to be inside the ecosystem, and on to mental health, environmental protection, and man–nature harmony.

Experience proves we get more mileage out of both the fish and the waters through Fishing for Fun than through regular sport fishing (for fun and food). More people can find wholesome enjoyment.

Wholesome? How much catching and releasing can a fish survive?

Fishermen report catching the same fish again and again on different occasions, learning what hole he hides in, and angling for him there. Barbless hooks aren't injurious. Fish don't swallow artificial flies as they sometimes do live bait.

Yes, I've heard that the same fish has been caught up to six times. But what's the average? It's hard to believe most fish don't soon die from the trauma, or from fungus or other infection. People may handle them with dry hands, say, that damage scales and skin, or hold them too long out of water for trophy pictures.

Enforcing rules isn't always easy. But the basic aim is fun, isn't it? The mission of the Park Service, for example, is to provide enjoyment for visitors. People can enjoy watching birds or chipmunks or deer. But how can they enjoy fish without catching them? Who can put his head under water—to watch fish?

People can—and do—watch fish. But in any event where's the fun if the fish die? And don't they die?

I certainly can't claim they last forever. But don't forget that regular sport fishing can be shockingly wasteful. Fish caught over the limit are often abandoned to rot. Many are wasted because they're too much trouble to clean—or they go stale in freezers.

The growing danger of world famine makes waste of any food criminal. Do you mean to suggest Fishing for Fun as an answer?

Not to food shortage—no. We're discussing recreation, aren't we? And we know Fishing for Fun saves fish in the fishing waters as compared with regular sport fishing. So isn't it better?

Only if "fun" is everything—and you know it isn't. How does fishing for fun relate to natural values? to human values? It isn't natural for the fish—or the fisherman. It reminds me of boys sticking pins in frogs—cruelty for fun, for fun only.

Aren't you being sentimental?

I don't think so. But I'll try to

Streams, pools, and other waters can provide recreation and enjoyment without being the settings for the useless cruelty of fishing for "fun."

connect-in practical concerns. Consider the national parks again. The park idea is, first and foremost, preservation—then enjoyment shading into environmental education; the nature parks encourage human harmony with nature. Anything anti-ecological violates the principle. And isn't this true also outside the parks—everywhere nowadays—considering the environmental crisis?

I'll go all the way with that. And I consider it ecological to cut waste by releasing the fish, recycling them, so to speak.

I can't agree. In my view, catch-and-release fishing—for fun only, no food—violates ecological principle. Life lives on life—you know, there are producers, consumers, decomposers. Humans are consumers, partly predators even, though civilized hypocrisy may disguise the fact. The hunting-gathering-fishing peoples, and maybe a few moderns, combine their food-getting with reverence for life and thus deeply celebrate the ways of earth. Fishing for food harmonizes with basic reality. Fishing for Fun *doesn't* harmonize; it's a perversion of ecological reality; it insults the fish and the whole ecosystem. It multiplies our hypocrisy and tends to undermine our psychological health. We might say it stimulates sadism.

I never thought of it as sadistic.

Don't fish hurt? Should we encourage people to inflict pain and shock on any creature—for personal pleasure only? Remember Aldo Leopold who stressed that "recreational development" is mostly a job of "building receptivity" into the "human mind"? who called for a "land ethic"? Leopold pointed out that civilization has so cluttered the elemental man–earth relationship as to dim our awareness of it, hence there's value in any experience reminding us of our dependency on the plant-animal-man food chain. Often, he wrote, there's "actual training for ethical depravity." He said man–earth experiences have zero, minus, or plus values. I think Fishing for Fun has a minus value.

Don't forget—it increases human contacts with nature.

But much of our present trouble stems from past contacts with nature marked by an arrogance we might hope we've outgrown.

It's hard to believe the minus actually outweighs the plus.

Just add up the points—and judge. It's unethical to confuse or pervert the ecological attitude that creates and strengthens our environmental ethic. The ecological justification for fishing is to eat what we catch. That's natural and useful. But hurting creatures without real purpose isn't natural, isn't useful. It scorns nature and leads away from the kind of earthmanship that could keep humanity healthy, not merely surviving but finding deep and lasting satisfaction. Isn't the indictment of Fishing for Fun proved when we recognize not only ecological confusion and environmental degradation but also psychological damage to ourselves as aspects of the same disharmony?

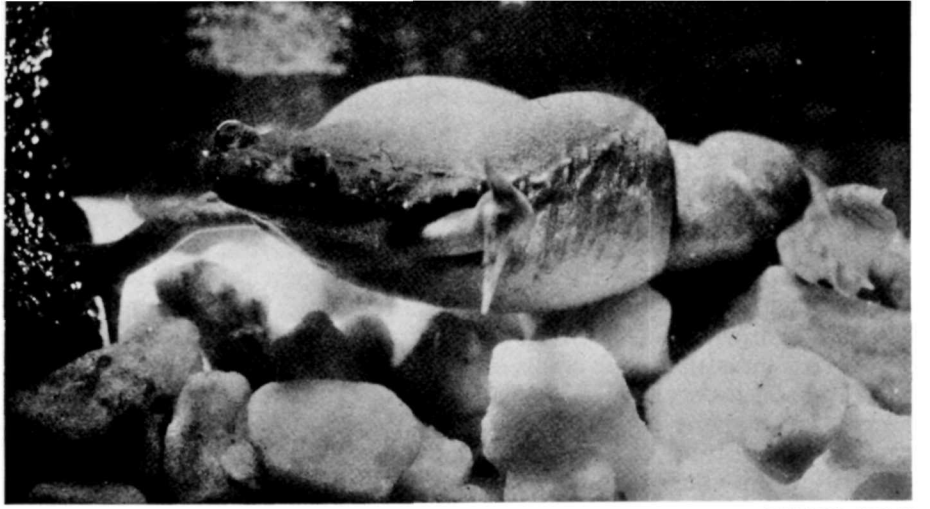
IT IS HOPED that this discussion might encourage others to weigh the plus and minus values of Fishing for Fun and to go on from there to examine the deep, broad, long-range effects that various activities or projects may have on humanity as well as on nature. Perhaps the time will come when the very valuable provision for environmental impact statements will be expanded and the EIS's will be but parts of still more meaningful human impact statements. ■

Darwin Lambert has devoted the past eleven years to studying and experimenting with the relationship of man and nature on various levels, including the physical-material, psychological, and social. He is the author of numerous articles in conservation magazines, international publications, and *Reader's Digest*. He has had six books published and is working on a seventh that will weave personal experiences with nature into a freshly different "earthman's" view of the human condition.

Claude *WHO?*

another unwanted exotic species

Trade in exotic animals must be regulated to protect native species



STEPHEN D. BUSACK

by BRANLEY ALLAN BRANSON

THE WEIRD-LOOKING little frog, scarcely half an inch long, swam frantically this way and that, the beady little eyes glinting in the artificial light. It finally settled into the branches of an elodea plant and sat there glaring back at me. The frog was residing contentedly in a friend's aquarium along with the usual guppies, swordtails, neon tetras, and a few other exotic species, subsisting upon bits of fresh liver offered twice daily.

Cute little rat, isn't he?" my friend said, proudly explaining that he had the only one in town. It was, he informed me, a "Zambezi Floater," and he had paid three dollars for it at a pet shop in Lexington, Kentucky.

We were not strangers, this frog and I. The first time I ever saw one like it was in the gynecology laboratory at Oakland Naval Hospital back in the 1940s. Then, we didn't call them "Zambezi Floaters," however; we called them by their accepted name—South African clawed frogs. Clawed frogs provided the first reliable early pregnancy test in humans. (Actually, later experiments have demonstrated that nearly any species of frog will serve this purpose.) Because of the hormones included in it, urine from a pregnant woman injected into the body cavity of an unfertilized female clawed frog stimulates the frog to begin laying eggs within a few hours. This discovery caused gynecologists from around the world to order enormous numbers of female clawed frogs, giving rise to a fairly lucrative and lively trade. Unfortunately, most shipments also included a few males.

The second time I came into contact with *Xenopus laevis,* the Latin name for the common clawed frog, was during the 1973 meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in San Francisco. A local conservation agent had ten adult specimens on display in a stark algae-ridden aquarium. He had collected them from sections of the Sweetwater and Mount Helix rivers in California. At both sites, the South African clawed frog has apparently eliminated the native red-legged frog probably by successful competition for food and living space. It may be responsible also for the decline of a local population of tree frog *(Hyla)* in San Diego County. This type of tragedy is not new in the United States. We have broadcast many introduced species into our water, land, and air; and in some states the exotics—mostly fishes—outnumber native species.

NOW I was again eyeball-to-eyeball with the clawed frog, and I was appalled that the creature had become a part of the lucrative business of importing and selling tropical animals. Aquarists, tiring of their expensive hobby, often release their holdings into the nearest stream or pond and are responsible for the introduction of such undesirable species as the walking catfish and pike killifish (among others) in Florida, guppies and various cichlids in California and Arizona, and goldfish at numerous localities. Now, the clawed frog invades California.

"You really ought to kill it," was my advice.

"That little thing?"

It was, admittedly, tiny—a baby, really—but it would not stay that way. Clawed frogs have been known to live for fifteen years in captivity, and they obtain about four inches in length. *Xenopus* actually belongs to a primitive group of tongueless frogs of the family Pipidae, all of which have a small sternum and vertebrae that are convex at the front and concave behind. Native to Africa—where there are about three species of them—*Xenopus* is splendidly adapted for aquatic life. They can remain submerged almost indefinitely, removing oxygen from the water through their skin. Their tiny eyes are lidless, meaning they are ever alert to danger. In this regard, adult *Xenopus* retain their lateral-line sensory systems, common in fish and amphibian larvae, which enable perception of low-frequency vibrations while submerged. *Xenopus* is the only frog that retains this system at maturity. Fish utilize the system, in addition to sight and smell, to avoid predators. The system may operate in the same manner in *Xenopus,* giving it a distinct advantage over other frogs.

Clawed frogs have other adaptations that give them an edge in competitive situations. For ex-

ample, *Xenopus* tadpoles possess two gill pores ("spiracles") on the head compared with the single one in most other frogs, possibly enabling them to occupy low-oxygen waters shunned by other species. Moreover, they can tolerate a high degree of salinity and a wide range of water temperature—from 45 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit. In addition these tadpoles also have a pair of long, highly sensitive tentacles that help them to avoid predators.

Most of the characteristics that allow the clawed frog to out-compete our native species are found in the adult. For one thing, *Xenopus* reaches sexual maturity in as short a period as one year, two at the most, in its native habitat. By comparison, our native bullfrog takes three to four years, and most American toads take two to four years to reach sexual maturity. Assuming that *Xenopus* develops as quickly in warm waters of North America as it does in its native Africa, the faster growing clawed frog can probably out-reproduce most American frogs. Moreover, inasmuch as the adults devour the tadpoles and young of other species, few young of native frogs or toads would live to achieve reproduction age.

Another advantageous adaptation is that *Xenopus* has fingers, which are important in feeding. These frogs are exceptionally adept in seizing prey—which they actively pursue, unlike most other frogs—with the long, mobile fingers used as forks for forcing prey into the small mouth. North American amphibians do not practice this method of feeding. In addition, the three inner toes of the fully webbed hind feet are provided with pointed, black, horny claws that give the frog its name and are utilized in maintaining positions while feeding.

THE MAJOR factors that give the South African clawed frog its competitive edge over native species are its ravenous appetite and the fact that it eats tadpoles of other species. Its appetite was demonstrated about two months after I first met my friend's aquarium pet. One morning he came into my office carrying a jar half-filled with water. In the water was the now two-thirds grown, olive-drab, black-mottled frog, his finlike feet madly beating the fluid to froth. The frog was suspiciously fat and bloated. As it turned out, the creature had devoured all my friend's tropical fishes except for one angel fish that was too large for our gluttonous friend.

Determined to learn more about its feeding habits, we installed the exotic in an aquarium and introduced two one-and-one-half-inch minnows. The frog immediately gave chase, cornered and devoured them! We put in two two-inch crayfish and they followed the minnows to oblivion. These meals took a mere fifteen minutes, and the frog was so stuffed that he looked like a dun-colored balloon with legs. The next morning I introduced four minnows, all better than three inches in length. The frog finished them off in twenty minutes. On successive days, the beast devoured more than one hundred minnows, crayfish, and toad tadpoles. It was an awesome demonstration. What effect could a whole population of unfettered creatures like this one have in a specialized habitat that contains rare or endangered species of frogs and fishes? It is a sobering thought. I know there are many habitats in Florida, Louisiana, Texas, Utah, Arizona, and southern California where this amphibian nemesis from Africa might establish itself if allowed to do so. In any of these areas are small endemic fishes with highly specialized requirements—fishes that are already facing extinction because of human activities. The release of clawed frogs into such habitats could be the final pressure needed to eliminate native local animals.

Disturbed by these thoughts, my friend and I attempted to track down the source of our specimen. The Lexington dealer led us to a large aquarium supply dealer in Cincinnati. A ninety-mile drive netted us little additional information, although we did locate specimens of the so-called "Zambezi Floater." The manager had obtained his stock from a major importer in Miami, Florida. Having neither the time nor finances to pursue our trail further, we let it peter out in Ohio. Probably it would have led to one of five major animal importers based in Miami.

Instead of allowing free enterprise to operate in the field of exotic animal importation, the trade should be very carefully controlled and scrutinized. A large aquarium dealer will sell practically anything you desire, including clawed frogs and dangerous piranhas. Animals potentially capable of surviving in any American waters should be prohibited from being imported and sold on this continent. This type of regulation would not be popular, but in my estimation it is necessary. Our native animals are too precious to allow additional introductions of exotic creatures to further disturb a precarious balance of nature. ■

Branley Allan Branson, a frequent contributor to *National Parks & Conservation Magazine,* is a professor at Eastern Kentucky University with a Ph.D. in ichthyology and fisheries. He has published numerous articles on aquatic organisms and is a member of the American Fisheries Society and the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists.

Editor's Note

New Regulations Proposed to Control Exotic Species Importation

Early in 1975 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) released a revised proposal for Injurious Wildlife Importation Regulations. Under this proposal, species of wildlife *not* included on an FWS "low risk" list could not be imported without a permit. Although a different species, Dwarf Clawed Frog *(Hymenochirus)*, is listed, the South African Clawed Frog is not listed.

While commending FWS for its goals in proposing the regulations, NPCA criticized the proposal's inadequacy. NPCA objected to the large number of fish that are listed even though they have not been proven to be low risk, and to the listing of wildlife that could endanger human safety. See more details on page 23.

Budget Plans Starve the NPS

The new federal budget will hold National Park Service programs below authorized levels

NPCA Staff Report

THE National Park Service is currently facing its most serious budget crisis in recent decades. NPCA's readers have been alerted to the impending personnel shortage ("The Crisis in National Park Service Personnel," April 1975), and this report is designed to offer an overall perspective on the National Park Service budget request for fiscal year 1976. NPCA was invited to testify on the budget in May, and the 1976 budget goes into effect July 1, 1975.

Although the 1976 NPS budget request represents the largest total budget figure in the history of the Park Service, any increases over previous years are completely illusory. The total budget figure is $346.8 million, or $3.68 million greater than last year—an increase of only 1 percent over fiscal year 1975. Clearly, inflation alone will have more than eliminated any increases in the budget, and the Park Service faces the problem of running the National Park System—a larger system in 1976 by virtue of twelve newly authorized national parks and historical sites—on a significantly lower "disposable income." In fact, the Park Service estimates its spending power for national park programs will actually be reduced by 9.4 percent because of inflation during the past three years for which no increases, other than salary increases, have been provided.

The National Park Service draws its budget from two sources. Funds from the general treasury are apppropriated by Congress (following congressional approval of the Administration-requested budget) to meet the budget for running the National Park System—$346.8 million for 1976. In addition, NPS land acquisition funds are appropriated from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which is supplied from special tax revenues including motorboat fuel taxes and offshore oil and gas leases. The Park Service has requested $77.4 million from the LWCF for 1976. All phases of the budget preparation are carefully controlled by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Although the Park Service has declared repeatedly in public that "no parks will be closed to public use," the possibility remains real. If budget and personnel constraints prove too severe and public safety or park property are not properly safeguarded, some units or portions of the National Park System may in fact be closed.

Many important services essential to management of the national parks will probably be reduced almost systemwide. Wildlife protection, maintenance of National Park Service buildings and living quarters, erosion control, sanitation, preservation of irreplaceable historic objects, and natural history interpretation are the kinds of services that may be sacrificed in 1976. Perhaps some national park visitors will never know the difference as they camp or hike this summer, but all these factors add up to a gradual erosion of standards in the preservation of our national park heritage.

Not only can the OMB create problems for the Park Service, but the Civil Service Commission, as overseer of federal employment, has an impact on national parks. The Denver Service Center, for example, was created as a central planning office of the National Park Service and has become an administrative home for the many planning teams that write master plans, wilderness proposals, and environmental impact statements for every unit in the System. Sometimes controversial but decidedly essential, planning efforts in the National Park Service are a key element in proper national park preservation, and planning teams can provide one of the vital access points for public participation in the planning process.

Last March, all DSC employees were notified that the Center is being reorganized according to Civil Service guidelines. The unwritten message behind these words was that the DSC would be absorbing a significant part of the OMB-imposed personnel ceilings on the Park Service, and a reduction-in-force (RIF in civil service parlance) would be forthcoming. Each employee subsequently received a notice that his or her job was being abolished, and simultaneously each person was offered a new job under the reorganization plan. However, many of the new job offers carried a lower civil service rating, thus giving the DSC planners a gentle nudge to leave government service—and national park planning careers—voluntarily. Because of the RIF, their vacant positions will not be filled.

People waiting to visit one of the twelve newly authorized units of the Park System will be the most disappointed citizens next year, because the National Park Service land acquisition program is another operation being severely curtailed by the 1976 budget. Of 272 congressionally authorized jobs in the land acquisition program, only 169 will be filled; and again, because of the RIF, people will not be hired to fill the 105 vacant positions.

FEW PEOPLE outside the government appreciate the effort required in land acquisition for a new national park. Once Congress votes to establish a park not currently in the public domain, and once the funds have been appropriated, a team of Park Service employees must be assembled to approach each landowner, negotiate a price, and transfer the funds. This process takes considerable time and paperwork. The estimated land acquisition effort to acquire Big Cypress National Preserve in Florida, for example, is more than 1,000 man-years (100 individuals working for 10 years). At least 39,299 landowners currently hold title to Big Cypress land. Further, all three major 1974 authorizations—Big Cypress, Big Thicket, and Cuyahoga Valley—were authorized with legislative stipulations that the areas would be substantially acquired within six years from the date of enactment.

Apparently Big Cypress will be the only new unit to receive even half of the usual NPS land acquisition team, in part because the legislation authorizing Big Cypress stipulated a contribution of $40 million in state funds to help defray the $156 million acquisition cost of this preserve. A special land acquisition team has been assembled by drawing personnel from the regional offices of the Park Service. Rather than the full complement needed, the Service will try to work with only twenty to twenty-five permanent full-time positions supplemented by part-time workers that do not count against permanent manpower ceilings. The 1976 federal budget includes $3 million for Big Cypress land acquisition to be appropriated from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). This money will pay only the administrative costs of the acquisition team; the money spent for land will come from the $40 million in state funds, already appropriated by the Florida state legislature.

Two other new units, Big Thicket National Preserve in Texas and Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area in Ohio, will receive land acquisition teams, but not from the National Park Service. In a new alliance fostered by the budget pinch, the Park Service will "borrow" land acquisition teams from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The teams will be paid out of the Corps' budget, but will be under full direction of the Park Service to spend $2 million on the Big Thicket and $500,000 on the Cuyahoga from Land and Water Conservation Fund appropriations in 1976. However, the fact remains that the Park Service needs permanent land acquisition teams of its own to work wherever they are most needed.

Land acquisition is incomplete in at least thirty newly or recently authorized areas. Because of reassignments of staff from regional offices to the special team for Big Cypress, acquisition funds will be spent by remaining regional office personnel virtually in their spare time. The $77.4 million requested from the LWCF for 1976 will probably be spent properly because several willing sellers of major land holdings have been identified, but the Service knows it cannot meet the same level of spending in 1977 without additional personnel to seek out the hundreds of individuals owning smaller parcels of land.

Currently facing a land acquisition backlog of $572.6 million, the land acquisition program desperately needs additional staff and at least $150 million each year to do the job authorized by Congress.

EVEN IF land acquisition were complete, there are no funds and personnel in the 1976 Park Service budget with which to open the new areas. The OMB-imposed ceilings effectively "locked up" the budget before Congress acted on the new-area legislation.

Faced with stringent 1976 budget ceilings, budget officers in the Park Service are attempting to establish priorities and distribute the scarce resources where they perceive the greatest needs. Thus, compared with the fiscal year 1975 budget, funds for operation and maintenance of the National Park System have been increased by $19.9 million, while construction funds have been cut by $34.8 million. Last year's construction program, almost $54 million, reflected the emphasis on programs for the nation's Bicentennial celebration, but the 1976 budget shows Bicentennial costs tapering off. Apparently, postponed construction projects unrelated to the Bicentennial, including sewage treatment facilities and deteriorating trail systems, are being deferred even longer because of budget constraints.

IN EVALUATING the National Park Service 1976 budget request, NPCA expressed concern for the inadequacies described here and spoke strongly for increases in certain parts of the budget during congressional testimony presented on invitation to the appropriations committees in May.

First, NPCA's position was that the budget for operation should be increased to accommodate the levels of personnel authorized by Congress for 1976—8,546 permanent positions instead of the ceiling of 7,168 being imposed for 1976 by the Office of Management and Budget. Clearly, NPCA pointed out, the Park Service should have enough staff in permanent positions to achieve its mandated standards of national park preservation, resource and wildlife protection, visitor safety, and interpretation. Inasmuch as the OMB is not providing for sufficient personnel to permit the Park Service to do its job properly, NPCA said, congressional action would be justified.

Second, no increase was recommended for the $19.9 million construction budget. The money as programmed will be spent primarily for completion of projects for the Bicentennial, and not for new construction.

Third, NPCA strongly supported the National Park Service planning program, including the Denver Service Center, and the land acquisition program. Our new national park areas cannot be properly protected if private interests seeking timber, grazing land, or minerals gain access to authorized but unfunded national parks.

Finally, NPCA reaffirmed its goal of an open budget procedure to permit public interest organizations and the general public to participate in budgetary analyses. Public hearings conducted by the National Park Service, the Department of the Interior, and the Office of Management and Budget before the budget is finalized would introduce public participation just when it is most needed. In this way the budget would be a meaningful expression of the public interest in national parks, and many of the distressing problems such as those encountered in the 1976 budget could be avoided. ■

NPCA at work

NPCA means business in its push for open budgeting processes in federal agencies, especially as a possible means of helping to ensure adequate personnel and services for managing our natural resource lands.

NPCA President A. W. Smith recently urged three agencies—the National Park Service (NPS), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (BOR)—to hold open meetings immediately in order to provide public information and receive recommendations concerning the Fiscal Year 1977 budget.

Deeply disturbed by administrative restrictions placed on agency personnel levels by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), NPCA has recommended for several years, as a possible remedy, that OMB establish certain procedures for public participation at the agency, department, and OMB levels. These procedures should start with agency hearings in April of each year, because April marks the beginning of planning for the fiscal year that is approximately one-and-one-half years away. The Park Service, for instance, is now making tentative plans for Fiscal Year 1977.

Opposing development of a huge mechanized ski resort in Mineral King valley in California, NPCA recently recommended that President Ford protect this fragile alpine valley by issuing an Executive Order designating it for management by the National Park Service (NPS) as a national monument. Mineral King is a valley only one-fourth-mile wide that is almost surrounded by Sequoia National Park, which borders it on three sides.

At the same time, this Association pressed the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), which currently manages the valley as a game refuge within Sequoia National Forest, to drop its advocacy of a multimillion dollar ski development. The ski resort in question, proposed by Walt Disney Productions, poses a grave threat to the habitat of varied wildlife and flora (including endangered species) and other resources of both Mineral King valley and Sequoia National Park.

As planned by Disney Productions, the Mineral King development would eventually include eighteen ski lifts, lodging for up to 6,000 people at a time, campsites for an additional 1,325, and various business establishments. Not only would the impact on the valley of some 2.8 million visitors a year destroy the beautiful natural setting, but the project would require a huge access road or railroad that might cost the public up to $54 million.

In comments on the USFS environmental impact statement (EIS) on the project, NPCA said that only two alternatives for this region are compatible with basic standards governing management of the National Park System and the National Forest System—

no further development, or development involving an *external* concession providing public transit into Sequoia National Park and Mineral King valley, where visitors could enjoy various natural, nonmechanized outdoor activities such as cross-country skiing, hiking, and camping. Among the reasons for this NPCA stand:

- The development would imperil a diverse range of habitat types of many species of wildlife. Six of these species are known to be either rare, endangered, threatened, or of a status undetermined—the California condor, peregrine falcon, wolverine, California bighorn sheep, spotted owl, and pine marten.
- The EIS requires a more thorough consideration of the national list of endangered plants, compiled by the Smithsonian Institution, which shows 242 endangered and 393 threatened species of plants in California. The Forest Service mentions only two species of "rare" plants in Mineral King.
- The valley area includes archaeological resources of great importance in need of surveying and protection.
- Sequoia National Park includes some of the most important groves of giant redwoods still standing. These trees could be gravely endangered or destroyed by a single devastating crown fire that could easily start in or near Mineral King valley as a result of intensive visitor use precipitated by the resort.
- NPCA objected to the fact that a major development at Mineral King would involve wasteful, inappropriate public financing in support of a profit-making private enterprise on public land. The Disney proposal calls for either substantial reconstruction of the existing access road or construction of a special railroad, with the public bearing most or all of the construction costs.
- The EIS indicates that the power demands of the project would be high—22 million kilowatt hours per year. Presumably this figure includes power estimates for lighting and heating buildings and for ski lifts, and additional power would be required if the proposed railroad were included.
- To provide adequate recreational opportunities in California without wasting energy and money, NPCA recommends comprehensive regional planning with respect to recreation in all national parks and forests.
- The U.S. Forest Service would be exceeding its authority under the Term Permit Act. That law allows the USFS to issue permits for use of national forest lands for commercial outdoor recreational developments that do not exceed eighty acres for a period not to exceed thirty years. USFS proposes to issue temporary annual permits that would extend the area occupied by the Mineral King ski development up to 6,000 acres. NPCA stated that permits of such magnitude entail invalid abuses of discretionary authority.
- An obvious defect in the EIS is that it does not consider a major alternative to the Mineral King development—the external concession ap-

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Help Plan Yosemite's Future

Yosemite National Park planners seek citizen involvement this month in development of a new master plan for the California park at public workshops to be held in seven major cities across the nation. The Yosemite National Park Master Planning Team also seeks written comments.

In response to intense nationwide concern about Yosemite and developments in the park, this team has established an exemplary record in recent months as one National Park Service (NPS) team devoted to giving and receiving information from the public. It serves as a model for the future: If all national park planning programs would reach as many communities as the Yosemite team has already reached, our National Park Service would have a significant program to involve the public at all levels of planning.

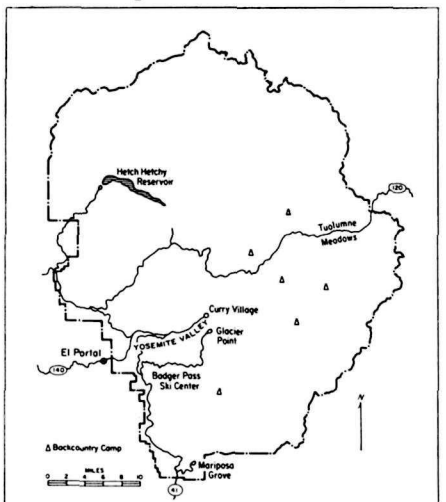
The seven out-of-state workshops, details of which follow, will be in addition to at least thirty-four sessions already held throughout California.

The workshops are the first step in the process leading to a master plan, which is a document that guides the long-range development and management of a national park. An earlier draft master plan for Yosemite was rejected last year by the Interior Department following a serious public outcry that the plan was reflecting concessioner, not National Park Service, planning concepts. The upcoming workshops will provide participants with the opportunity to learn more about Yosemite and to identify for the planning team the major issues and problems of the park, the type of visitor experiences that should be available, and the direction of future development and management.

In the past the major Yosemite issues have centered around activities and developments of private business (concessioners) in the park.

NPCA has supported the concept of relocating concessioner employee housing and certain NPS maintenance facilities to the village of El Portal, outside the park near the main entrance. Likewise, many Yosemite concessioner services would be more appropriately located at such a peripheral location, instead of in the heart of scenic Yosemite Valley.

The concessioner-operated public transit system serving Yosemite Valley is one of the best in the National Park System. NPCA supports the continued operation of the system, which enables visitors to leave their automobiles outside the park. Furthermore, in order



YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

to open Yosemite to public transit from other parts of California, NPS should be encouraged to explore cooperative agreements with Amtrak and other carriers.

NPCA objects to constructing any new tourist facilities inside Yosemite, which is already threatened by very heavy visitation. We oppose the proposal by MCA-Universal, principal owner of concession operations in the park, to construct all-weather replacements for 150 "tent cabins" in Curry Village. We also oppose another proposal by the company that would sacrifice the natural integrity of the magnificent cliff of Glacier Point by constructing a "viewing shelter and fast-food service" on its summit.

NPCA maintains that the Tuolumne Meadows, a fragile subalpine meadow, should not be kept open for winter traffic or subjected to sports activities. Concessioner-operated backcountry camps should not be expanded or increased in number, and enclaves for these camps should not be carved out of land in Yosemite National Park proposed for wilderness designation.

Use of Yosemite for conventions and commercial filming stirred controversies last year. Production within the park of the nationwide television series "Sierra" aroused public indignation at the use of national park resources and services for private profit.

The public also learned that MCA-Universal was booking the Ahwahnee Lodge in the park for business conventions in both winter and summer. NPCA has stressed that neither of these activities is appropriate because both involve drawing people and investments into parks for commercial purposes—conflicting directly with the NPS mandate for preservation.

Members of NPCA are urged to attend one of the following public workshops to be conducted by the Yosemite Master Planning Team in the next several days. If a meeting is not scheduled in your area, written comments can be sent to Anne Bowman, Yosemite Master Planning Team, c/o Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Fort Mason, San Francisco 94123. Strong support for the efforts of the team is crucial to ensure that widespread public participation becomes a regular component of Park Service planning efforts.

Seattle—June 3: 1 pm and 7 pm in Room 1021, Arcade Plaza Building, 2nd Avenue and Union Street.

Dallas–Fort Worth—June 4: 1 pm and 7 pm in Assembly Room, Student Union Building, Southern Methodist University, Dallas.

Denver and vicinity—June 5: Two locations: 1 pm in NPS Rocky Mountain Regional Office, 655 Parfet Avenue, Lakewood, Colo.; 7 pm in Room 116, University of Colorado, 1100-14th Street, Denver.

New York City—June 10: 1 pm and 7 pm in Room 207, Graduate Center, University of New York, 33 W. 42nd Street.

Chicago area—June 10: 1 pm and 7 pm in Auditorium, Devonshire Community Center, 4400 Grove, Skokie.

Washington, D.C.—June 12: 1 pm and 7 pm in Auditorium, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1951 Constitution Avenue, N.W.

Atlanta and vicinity—June 12: Two locations: 1 pm in Room 556, Federal Building, 275 Peachtree Street, N.E.; 7 pm in NPS Building, 3401 Whipple Avenue, East Point, Ga. ■

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proach that NPCA has proposed publicly on previous occasions and that would provide for reasonable development of recreational opportunities while protecting natural conditions from overcrowding and the effects of mechanized recreation. (This month's Editorial points out how this could be accomplished.)

NPCA emphasized that any development within the Mineral King area, if approved, should be accompanied by limitations on the number of visitors and should *not* allow any expansion of the present entrance road or new highways or railroad construction.

Most importantly, NPCA's comments to USFS and to President Ford emphasized that Mineral King is functionally part of the ecosystem of Sequoia National Park and should be transferred promptly to the National Park System for joint management with the park. In recommending that President Ford declare Mineral King a national monument by Executive Order, NPCA President A. W. Smith said that such an action would be a "spectacular demonstration of your interest as President in the conservation of natural resources and protection of the human environment."

If you agree that the magnificent valley of Mineral King should be designated a national monument, you can help by writing or telegraphing President Gerald Ford (The White House Washington, D.C. 20500).

Injurious Wildlife Importation Regulations proposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) early in 1975 identify species, genera, and families of animals that FWS says pose a *low risk* of injury to human beings, and to the interests of agriculture, horticulture, forestry or to the wildlife of the United States. All species of exotic (nonnative) live wildlife that are *not* listed are defined as injurious or possibly injurious and could not be imported without approval by the Secretary of the Interior of an importation permit. The Secretary could issue such permits for scientific, educational, medical, or zoological purposes.

The need to control the influx of exotics is evident from the numerous instances and numerous ways in which nonnative species have damaged our natural ecosystems or threatened human health and safety. Importation of exotic animals into the United States has resulted in increasing numbers of escaped or released animals that later become established here.

In 1972 alone, more than 112 million fish, 2.5 million reptiles, 3.8 million mollusks and crustaceans, 580,220 birds, 90,457 mammals, and 583,441 amphibians were imported into the United States. For the eye-opening tale of one species, see pages 17–18.

NPCA commended the FWS for producing protective regulations; however, at the same time NPCA maintained that the "low-risk" list is still inadequate in its present form.

First of all, the regulations largely ignore human safety considerations by listing various species of elephant, giraffe, camel, rhinoceros, zebra, python, and others as low-risk species. This listing ignores the potential for widespread harm or injury to people resulting from the purchase or handling of these animals by those who, even though they might be compassionate, are nevertheless inexperienced or untrained. This problem is intensified by the fact that pet dealers often treat such animals as novelty items of high marketability without regard to problems of housing or handling.

As a second consideration, the ecological protection afforded by the low-risk list is minimal, especially with respect to the lengthy list of fish (and to some extent the bird list) that would be permitted to be imported. Many species on these lists could colonize south Florida or parts of our Southwest, much to the detriment of natural ecological conditions. FWS has not followed its own criteria for allowing species on the low-risk list, because each of the fish on the list has not been *proven* to be low-risk.

YOU CAN TELEGRAPH your President, congressman, or senator to register your views on any conservation issue. A "public opinion message" costs only $2.00 for a maximum of fifteen words sent from anywhere in the United States. Be sure to specify that you are sending a public opinion telegraph in order to get the special rate.

NPCA urged FWS to appoint a scientific advisory commission to evaluate the list and make recommendations for shortening it.

In addition, NPCA urged FWS to include provisions for public review of the permit process. Public participation would be facilitated by regular publication in the *Federal Register* of summary information concerning permits and imported wildlife.

A proposal to use Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia for vehicular access to second-home developments has involved NPCA in litigation for the past several years. NPCA, on the belief that wildlife refuges exist for the protection of wildlife rather than as private auto thoroughfares, intervened on the side of the Interior Department in a case brought by local citizens and developers who sought alteration of the refuge's vehicular access regulations to permit over-sand vehicles traveling from the populous areas of the cities of Virginia Beach and Norfolk to cross the wild beaches of Back Bay refuge to reach second-home developments to the south.

The Interior Department, NPCA, and other intervenors won a major victory on February 27, 1975, when Judge J. Mackenzie of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia upheld the Interior Department regulations prohibiting open access. The judge stated that the court found that the present rapidly escalating use of the refuge beach as a traffic corridor for land developers and landowners is destructive to the beach and inimical to the use of the property for wildlife.

He indicated that the developers' delaying action against the closure to traffic of the beach of Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge apparently serves no useful purpose "except to continue the sale of lots on property to the south and to build up such a pressure of ownership as to politically force a road" through the refuge and the adjacent Virginia False Cape State Park.

Despite the court victory, several threats to the refuge remain. Local individuals and groups who brought the original lawsuit have appealed the decision. They have also begun exerting pressure on the Interior Department to amend its regulations for the refuge to allow increased vehicular use of the beach, offering to drop the appeal if the amended regulations are forthcoming.

NPCA and other intervenors have urged Assistant Secretary Nathaniel Reed to retain the present regulations, noting that such regulations permit use of the beach by certain permanent residents and for emergency, service, and school vehicles.

Another threat is the possible construction of a hard-surfaced road through the refuge, behind the dunes, for private vehicular access to the Virginia False Cape State Park, located at the southern boundary of the refuge. A study released recently by the Virginia Division of State Parks supports the economic and engineering feasibility of this proposed corridor. NPCA fears the virtually certain damage to the wildlife values of the refuge that this route would inflict.

Members who wish to express their views on the departmental regulations for the refuge can write:

Nathaniel P. Reed,
Assistant Secretary
Fish, Wildlife and Parks
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Concerning the selection of the refuge route for the access to False Cape, write:

Ben H. Bolen,
Commissioner of Parks
1201 State Office Building
Richmond, Virginia 23219

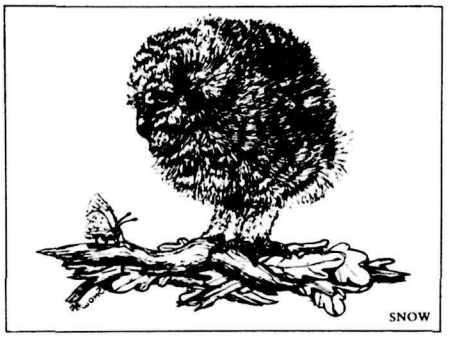
To prevent continued overharvesting of our coastal fisheries, primarily by large foreign factory fleets, the United States must act immediately. Recent NPCA testimony presented on invitation before the House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife Conservation, and the Environment stressed the urgent nature of the need for legal protection of our rapidly declining populations of marine fish.

NPCA supported prompt enactment of HR 1070, which essentially would implement the 1958 Law of the Sea Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources of the High Seas. If implemented by HR 1070, Article 7 of the 1958 Convention would permit the United States to take unilateral action to prevent harvesting of species of coastal fish for which there is scientific evidence of depletion. Such action could be taken despite other existing treaties that allow foreign fishing in our coastal waters, as long as the action did not discriminate against any fisherman. An important point is that actions taken to protect the fish under this bill (as provided in the Convention) would remain in effect during the settlement of any dispute with another nation that challenged their validity.

Action such as that proposed in HR 1070 would not be likely to disrupt the complex negotiations now underway at the new Law of the Sea (LOS) Conference. Other unilateral actions that have been proposed—such as a unilateral move to establish a 200-mile zone immediately to keep all foreign fishermen out—would be likely to have an adverse impact on the LOS negotiations. NPCA believes that these negotiations are our best hope not only for saving fish and other living resources of the oceans (such as marine mammals) but of achieving a comprehensive agreement on a wide range of other ocean problems.

Recent congressional oversight hearings afforded NPCA an opportunity to express its views on current issues relating to the National Park System and administration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Testifying on invitation before the House Interior Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation, NPCA examined these and other key issues:

Alternate Transportation Systems. The present NPS policy of reducing



private automobile traffic in national parks by providing subsidized, concessioner-operated public transportation systems for public access is an excellent program, NPCA stated. The Park Service has demonstrated that alternative transportation systems save energy and money and improve conditions in the parks.

However, there are still some problems to untangle. In one situation, a concessioner offered to operate a public transit system in Virginia's Shenandoah National Park and requested $12,000 in assistance. The Park Service was willing to support the effort, but OMB required a feasibility study that cost approximately $30,000—more than twice the cost of the pilot project itself! Thus, OMB delayed an important, forward-looking program; at the same time NPS is burdened with maintenance costs of supporting uncontrolled private auto use in the park. Parallel situations reportedly exist in other NPS areas. No new systems are planned for 1976, only studies.

Urban Parks and New NPS Areas. NPCA will continue its policy of considering future proposals designed to preserve natural habitats and open space in urban regions on the basis of the national significance of each plan. We must not allow the addition of urban parks to the National Park System to dilute high standards for NPS protection of natural areas. The situation merits a comprehensive approach, including an enlarged LWCF and full funding for NPS and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (BOR).

Land and Water Conservation Fund. NPCA favors increasing the fund to one billion dollars in order to meet more adequately the current federal land acquisition backlog. The Fund is an important component of national recreation planning. Urging more careful treatment of our public funds, NPCA noted that the BOR has no comprehensive policy guide to evaluate state requests for LWCF grants.

Concessions. NPCA urged the subcommittee to investigate private business in the parks and hold special oversight hearings on concessioner problems.

To help block mining threats to Glacier Bay National Monument in Alaska, NPCA has urged that the Interior Department temporarily withdraw the monument from new mining claim location pending completion of an upcoming study. Potential wilderness areas at Glacier Bay are vulnerable to encroachment by mining interests under a 1936 law that permits mining within this particular area of the National Park System.

Although mineral development of any NPS unit clearly violates the intent of the 1916 act that created the National Park Service, in 1936 a hastily passed law opened Glacier Bay to mineral entry. Almost forty years later, former President Nixon, in his 1974 wilderness message to Congress, deferred any action on adding parts of this unique area of rapidly receding glaciers and a wealth of flora and fauna to the National Wilderness Preservation System. Nixon called for a mineral resource potential study. The U.S. Geological Survey will begin the survey this summer.

NPCA is concerned that prospectors might follow the surveyors, stake new claims in potential wilderness areas, and, through destructive mining activities, disqualify them from consideration for wilderness designation.

To prevent such a situation, we have asked National Park Service Director Gary E. Everhardt to request that the Secretary of Interior withdraw the monument from mining claim location pending completion of the study. This would allow NPS to review the situation and consider how to resolve the conflicts between the 1936 mining law and protecting the entire National Park System from destructive pressures for exploitation.

Mining activities pose a very real threat to the unique wonders of Glacier Bay monument. More than 400 established claims already exist within the monument. One company proposes to extract its patented copper-nickel deposit—even though the ore body is located under Brady Glacier! (For more information on this spectacular land and the threats it faces, see "Glacier Bay: Wilderness or Mining Boom?" in the May 1975 issue.)

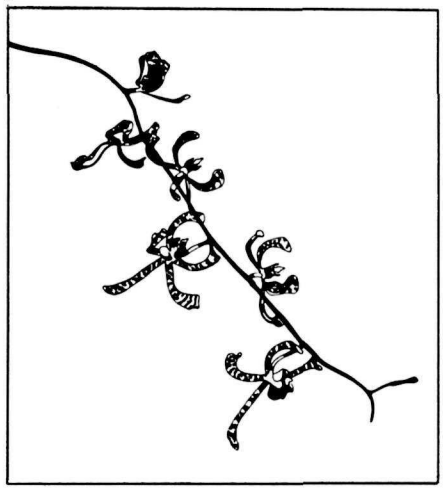
The movement to protect endangered plants has encountered a setback in the Interior Department's lack of action on a status report and recommendations prepared by the Smithsonian Institution pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

NPCA, which has been devoting much work to endangered plants, recently expressed its concern about the situation to Nathaniel P. Reed, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

In mid-January 1975 the Smithsonian submitted to Congress the results of its year-long study of vascular plants native to the United States, a study listing several thousand species and including detailed recommendations on how to protect threatened and endangered plants. The Interior Department is responsible for reviewing the report to determine which species on the proposed lists it will accept for official protection under the Endangered Species Act and then for publishing the lists and further regulations in the *Federal Register.*

NPCA pointed out to Assistant Secretary Reed that, for unexplained reasons, action on this authoritative study has been delayed for several months in the Office of Endangered Species of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). This Association stressed the urgent need for FWS action, as evidenced by the astounding results of the study.

Smithsonian scientists have identified about 2,000 species of vascular plants (that is, flowering plants, pines and their relatives, and ferns) in the continental states including Alaska as "endangered," "threatened," or "recently extinct." That includes 10 percent of the flora in those states. In addition, the report conservatively lists a grim 50 percent of the 2,200 kinds of Hawaiian vascular plants in those categories. ("Endangered" refers to species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their ranges. "Threatened" refers to species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future, and "recently extinct" refers to species no longer known to exist after repeated search of likely places.) Man's activities, especially habitat destruction, have dangerously accelerated the process of extinction.



Of particular concern, NPCA stated, is the need for immediate protection of the seventy-seven species identified as commercially exploited. The Smithsonian report specified that the Secretary of the Interior already is authorized to protect certain commercially exploited species under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Cacti are one of the most seriously affected groups of plants, with 30 percent of our native species of cacti endangered or threatened, primarily by commercial exploiters or private collectors.

The endangered plant resources of this nation must not be allowed to be exploited for the financial gain of irresponsible profiteers. NPCA members can help by writing to demand *immediate and positive* action on the Smithsonian endangered plant report by the Office of Endangered Species. (You can find more information on the report in our January and April 1975 issues.) Write:

Keith M. Schreiner
Associate Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington, D.C. 20240

A CITIZEN'S VOICE IN GOVERNMENT

Organizations like the National Parks and Conservation Association, which enjoy special privileges of tax exemption, may not advocate or oppose legislation to any substantial extent.

Individual citizens of a democracy, however, enjoy the right and share the responsibility of participating in the legislative process. One of the ways citizens of a democracy can take part in their government at state and federal levels is by keeping in touch with their representatives in the legislature; by writing, telegraphing, or telephoning their views; by visiting and talking with their representatives in the national capital or in the home town between sessions. Every American has two senators and one congressman with whom he may keep in contact in this manner.

The best source of information for such purposes is the official CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTORY, which can be bought through the Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. It tells you who your senators and congressmen are and lists the membership of the various congressional committees. It also gives full information on the personnel of the various executive bureaus of the government whom one may contact about administrative programs and policies.

The CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTORY for the First Session of the 94th Congress is available in three editions, prices of which include postage: bound in hard cover, $8.50; paperback, $6.40; and thumb-indexed, $12.35.

news notes

Halting construction of a nuclear power plant near Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore recently, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago ruled that the former Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) violated its own regulations by granting a license for the 660-megawatt Bailly nuclear reactor.

These regulations require that nuclear reactors as large as the one planned for the Bailly site must be at least two miles away from communities with populations of more than 25,000; the proposed site is barely a mile from the city of Portage, the population of which is reaching 25,000.

The court also expressed concern about the consequences of a nuclear accident on a summer day when up to 87,000 persons might be visiting Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and the adjacent Dunes State Park.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, which is administered by the National Park Service, stretches some eleven miles along the south shore of Lake Michigan directly east of the proposed nuclear reactor site. The region includes an exceptional combination of sand dunes, marshes, swamps and bogs, white sand beaches, and diversified flora and fauna.

The court noted AEC draft regulatory guidelines on suitability of sites for nuclear reactors indicating that use of sites near special areas of public use (such as those administered by NPS) may cause unacceptable impacts.

The dangers to this lakeshore environment posed by the planned reactor, as cited in documents reviewed by the court, included permanent damage to delicate wetland ecosystems from lowering of the water level of bogs and ponds, emission of a steam plume that would combine with chemical emissions to form an acid mist deleterious to lakeshore biota and weather conditions in the area, pollution of Lake Michigan with undesirable (including radioactive) waste materials, and destruction of fish. In addition, although the court did not rule directly on various environmental matters, it mentioned that AEC had discounted opinions of its own staff members that the proposed plant's immense cooling tower would constitute a visual intrusion looming over the horizon of the lakeshore.

The federal appeals court ordered the Northern Indiana Public Service Company to fill in the excavation work it had begun on the 350-acre site.

The responsibility for granting nuclear construction permits has passed from the AEC to the new Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The frecklebelly madtom catfish and the Apache silverspot butterfly have something in common: both are among numerous species of wildlife selected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for review to determine whether they should be protected as either "threatened" or "endangered" under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

The Office of Endangered Species, an understaffed office within the FWS, recently announced numerous suitability studies as well as proposals to list species under the act. The first step toward protecting a species is publication of a notice in the *Federal Register* indicating that the agency intends to review the status of a given species. Next, if the review indicates that the species should be classified as endangered or threatened, FWS issues a "proposed rulemaking." After a public comment period, the Interior Department can actually list a species for protection under the act.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 specifies that the list of endangered species protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1969 is designated for protection under the new law until such time as the FWS can review all 109 native and 311 foreign species on the list to decide whether they fit the endangered or threatened categories. The new law allows FWS to consider the status of populations as well as of species and subspecies.

For example, based on what it describes as "reports that the leopard may not be endangered throughout its range, and that some legal exploitation may be permissible," FWS is reviewing the status of *Panthera pardus* for possible reclassification from endangered to threatened in part of its range. (The endangered classification carries with it a ban on killing or importing; the threatened classification allows whatever regulations are thought advisable.) Because the leopard has been so relentlessly exploited, any proposal in the future to reclassify the species would be likely to arouse much controversy. (The public has until July 14 to submit comments germane to the current review of the leopard to the FWS.)

Native species or populations thereof could also be reclassified as threatened. For instance, Minnesota has petitioned FWS to review the status of the eastern timber wolf in that state.

Six months ago the grizzly bear and three species of kangaroo became the first species to be proposed by FWS for listing under the new act. The announcements were welcomed by those who had criticized Interior for a "go-slow" approach in implementing the act. This was followed by proposed rulemakings in April for the Schaus' swallowtail butterfly, Bahaman swallowtail butterfly, Cedros Island mule deer, peninsular pronghorn antelope, Mexican wolf, Scioto madtom catfish, bayou darter fish, gray bat, three species of Hawaiian birds (Newell's Manx shearwater, po'o uli, and Hawaiian creeper), and the U.S. population of the American crocodile.

Although the Endangered Species Act of 1973 pertains to flora as well as to fauna, no species of plants have been listed. (See page 26.)

The FWS says it also has scheduled several status reviews for this year. Studies of forty-one species of butterflies, twenty-nine species of freshwater fish, and various crustaceans and mollusks already have been announced. The agency expects surveys to be underway soon on upwards of a dozen

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Contraband wildlife products seized by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service special agents shown above are leopard purse, crocodile shoes, cheetah compact, cheetah slippers, tortoiseshell jewelry, and tortoiseshell forks. It is illegal to import endangered species products.

species of wildlife as required by the law.

Robert M. Pyle, director of the Xerces Society, an organization aimed at helping butterflies, greeted the announcement of the review with enthusiasm. If species of butterflies are accepted for listing, they will be the first insects to be protected under the law. Mr. Pyle points out that because butterflies are both fragile and conspicuous, the size and well-being of populations of butterflies serve as outstanding monitors of increases in pollution levels and other environmental changes.

Most butterflies under consideration seem to be dwindling in numbers due to land development and dependence on a single primary food.

The Apache silverspot, for instance, inhabits the Owens Valley area of California, where it thrives on a certain kind of violet. However, this delicate violet needs moist growing conditions, and the increasing demand for water to supply nearby Los Angeles will probably mean significant drainage of water from the valley, thus threatening the marshy areas where the plant grows and reducing the population of this butterfly.

Similarly, many of the species of freshwater fish under study owe their current waning populations to stream channelization, dredging, or impoundment. The frecklebelly madtom catfish, an Alabama resident, was present throughout the Alabama River until impoundment and dredging operations destroyed its habitat. It is currently found only in smaller river systems in the state.

In addition to studying and proposing species for possible listing, FWS recently announced the establishment of fifty "recovery teams" to assist species already listed as endangered. Selected for priority are the red wolf, Delmarva fox squirrel, Indiana bat, Kirtland's warbler, dusky seaside sparrow, and the Mississippi sandhill crane.

The teams will guide actions to rescue the species from possible extinction. For instance, it is hoped that the red wolf, one of the most endangered mammals in North America, will have a better chance for survival through establishment of a cooperative federal–state team. Reportedly this species *(Canis rufus)*, which is imperiled by both human persecution and hybridization with the related coyote, is in an even more precarious situation than had been thought. In the early 1970s there were hopes that a last remnant population in extreme southeastern Texas could be stabilized and saved from interbreeding.

Specimens collected in 1974, however, indicate that the hybridization process has now spread even into this population. The recovery team may soon initiate new conservation measures, possibly including a "Dunkirk" type evacuation and reintroduction of red wolves to safer areas.

"But it was already dead!" is a common protest by travelers whose purchases of wildlife products are confiscated when they return to the United States. They argue that the crocodile, sea turtle, leopard, or other endangered species was dead long before they bought their shoes, jewelry, or fur coat. Yet the fact is that every purchase of a product or curio made from an endangered animal maintains the commercial pressure on the surviving members of that species and indirectly leads to the deaths of many more at the hands of poachers and market hunters.

Last year Americans by the thousands—tourists, hunters, commercial importers, and other travelers—learned about some important federal laws the hard way: their exotic purchases or hunting trophies were confiscated at U.S. ports of entry.

Federal law makes it illegal to import into the United States any live or dead animal, its parts, or products made from it if it is one of more than 400 animals on the worldwide list of endangered species established by the Secretary of the Interior.

Since 1971, more than $2 million worth of contraband wildlife products has been seized by special agents of the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) from Americans returning home.

Although a significant portion of this illegal flow represents a deliberate criminal avoidance of federal laws, too many travelers are simply unaware

that such laws exist. Travelers find that attractive wildlife products, including those made from endangered species, are freely sold abroad; and hunters find that they can obtain licenses to hunt certain animals. So they buy and they hunt and later find to their dismay that their purchase or trophy cannot be imported legally into the United States.

Another problem is that travelers often do not know when they buy an item that it was actually made from wildlife. Most people, for example, do not think of an intricate scrimshaw carving or a tortoiseshell comb as a wildlife product. These items may very well have been made from endangered species—whale teeth (ivory) or shells of hawksbill sea turtles, respectively.

As part of its effort to halt this illegal traffic and to acquaint Americans with federal laws governing wildlife importations, FWS has published a booklet "Facts about Federal Wildlife Laws." It is available free on request from the Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

conservation docket

Selected bills introduced in the 94th Congress that may be of interest to NPCA members follow. Descriptions indicate those who introduced the bills and the committees to which bills were referred.

Chatahoochee River: S 661 and HR 3078—To establish the Chatahoochee River National Recreation Area in Georgia. Would include a forty-eight-mile segment of stream from Buford Dam downstream to Peachtree Creek, and prohibit any additional dams on this section of river. NRA would be administered by the National Park Service. Senators Herman Talmadge and Sam Nunn, and Rep. Andrew Young, all Democrats of Georgia. Senate and House Interior Committees.

Potomac National River: HR 3102—To establish a Potomac National River from the District of Columbia to the Fairfax Stone in Maryland, the river's source. To protect a green strip 200 feet wide on both sides of the river, for a maximum of 50,000 acres. Rep. Gilbert Gude (R-Md.). Interior Committee.

Santa Monica Mountains: S 759 and HR 3201—To establish the Santa Monica Mountains and Seashore Urban National Park in Los Angeles and Ventura counties, California, with an acreage of between 40,000 and 80,000. Senators John V. Tunney (D) and Alan Cranston (D) and Rep. Alphonzo Bell (R), all of California. Interior Committees.

Emergency Public Works Acceleration: HR 3067—To authorize the acceleration of most public works projects by the elimination of any procedural requirements—such as hearings, reporting, time limitations, and publication—at the discretion of the agency or department having jurisdiction. Environmental impact statements could be eliminated. Rep. Jim Wright (D-Tex.). Public Works Committee.

NEPA amendment: HR 3516—To permit the states to prepare environmental impact statements on federal-aid highway projects. Rep. William Walsh (R-N.Y.). Public Works Committee.

NEPA moratorium: HR 4912—To provide for a three-year moratorium on requirement of environmental impact statements for federal-aid highway projects. Rep. Thomas Kindness (R-Ohio). Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee and Public Works Committee (jointly).

Isle Royale: HR 2726—To designate approximately 131,938 acres of the Isle Royale National Park as wilderness. Rep. Philip Ruppe (R-Mich.). Interior Committee.

Tule Elk: S.J. Res. 20 and H.J. Res. 154—To establish the Tule Elk National Wildlife Refuge and a federal-state management program in the Owens River watershed of Inyo County, California. The maximum herd permitted in Owens River watershed would be 490 elk; elk in addition to that number would be relocated to other parts of California, but the total number of elk could not exceed 2,000. Senators Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) and John Tunney (D-Calif.), and Representatives John Dingell (D-Mich.) and Robert Leggett (D-Calif.). Senate Commerce Committee and House Merchant Marine Committee.

Humpback Whales: H.J. Res. 193—To require the President to seek an international treaty to establish a wildlife preserve for humpback whales in the West Indies around Turks Island, Silver Bank Passage, Navidad Bank, and Moushoir Passage to protect the humpback's breeding grounds. William Whitehurst (R-Va.). Foreign Affairs Committee.

Whales and Import Restrictions: H.J. Res. 32—To protect whales and other living marine resources by amending the Fisherman's Protective Act to strengthen the import restrictions that can be imposed to deter foreign countries from conducting fishing activities adversely affecting international fishing operations and international fishery conservation programs. Rep. Alphonzo Bell (R-Calif.). Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee.

Red River Gorge: HR 5583—To designate the Red River Gorge of Kentucky as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Rep. Willis D. Gradison (R-Ohio). Interior Committee.

Hells Canyon: HR 30, S 322—To establish the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area on the Middle Snake River in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, and to designate 101.4 miles of the Middle Snake as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Rep. Al Ullman (D-Ore.) and Senators Frank Church (D-Idaho), James McClure (R-Idaho), Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.), and Bob Packwood (R-Ore.). Interior Committees.

Ban the Can: HR 406, 2192, 3246, and S 613—To prohibit the manufacture and sale of nonreturnable bottles and cans, and to require a deposit on bottles and cans. Representatives Hamilton Fish (R-N.Y.), Alphonzo Bell (R-Calif.), and Marvin Esch (R-Mich.), and Senator Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.). House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee and Senate Commerce Committee.

Continued from page 2
posal for the Mineral King resort. The project is in conflict with the Multiple Use Act which governs Forest Service policy, because it would drive out all the other uses of the area. The Park Service can control the situation by refusing access through a strip of Sequoia National Park which stands between the entrances to the west and high valley on the east.

The new Secretary of the Interior, who may have assumed office by the time these words are in print, should understand that he has a responsibility to the nation to stand between this fragile mountain region and the pressures of so-called development from the west, and to support the Park Service in a firm decision to deny any right-of-way through the park.

The issue has already been tested in court. After a first-run setback for technical reasons, the conservation organizations have been holding their fire but making ready to attack again, and we predict that the attack will be successful.

THE NPCA filed comments on the draft environmental statement on the resort which was issued last winter by the Forest Service. We recommended the preservation of Mineral King by Presidential Order establishing a national monument. We recommended permanent protection of the area for wildlife preservation and natural outdoor recreation.

We recommended also, however, that the National Park Service be entrusted with the development of an external concession system, coupled with public transportation for Sequoia–Kings Canyon National Park as a whole, pursuant to a new master plan for the park, including Mineral King. We suggested that this approach would provide communities like Three Rivers and Hammond, near the south entrance to the park, with a much more promising prospect of business growth than the problematic giant resort.

SEQUOIA–KINGS CANYON National Park suffers from a heavy overload of vehicular traffic through its north and south entrances. In 1974 there were 1,224,000 visits into the park, with 342,000 vehicles, through the Big Stump entrance to the north. There were 686,000 visits, with 196,000 vehicles, through the Ash Mountain entrance to the south.

The NPCA has recommended that the Park Service grant external concessions to consortiums of local businesses in the areas outside each of these entrances, consisting of franchises to operate public transit systems into the parks at a profit, subject to NPS regulation. Private automobile traffic into and through the park would be phased out, and would terminate at the external concessions. The concessioners would build overnight accommodations in the adjacent communities, with support facilities for public transit. Within the parks themselves a free public transit system would provide local access. And no further overnight facilities would be constructed inside the park.

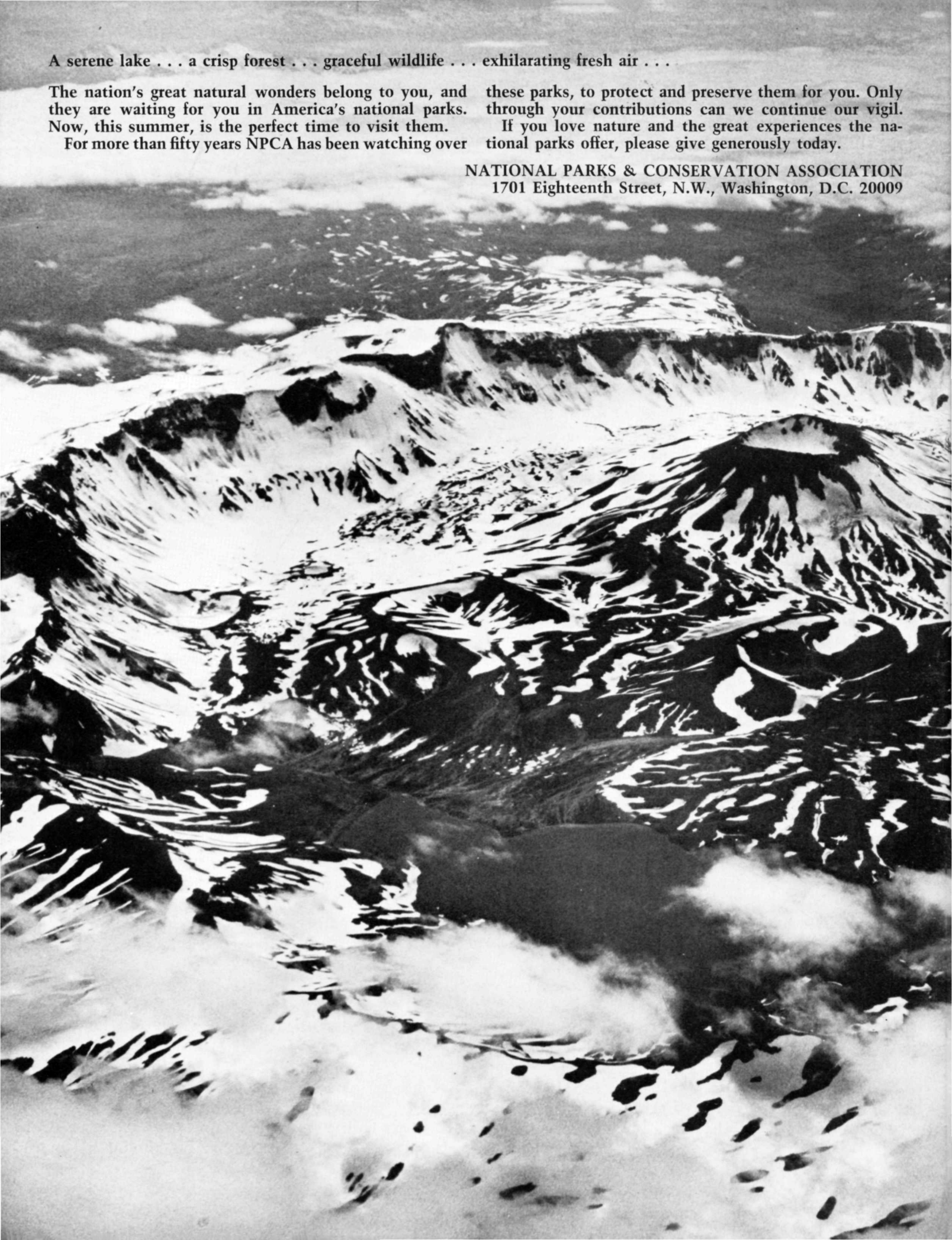
Because the Forest Service has entrapped Disney Enterprises into the mammoth resort project, Disney should have an opportunity to bid on the basis of equality with any local consortium established for the external concession and public transit system proposed. Whether public transit should be extended to Mineral King would be a question to be decided pursuant to the new master plan.

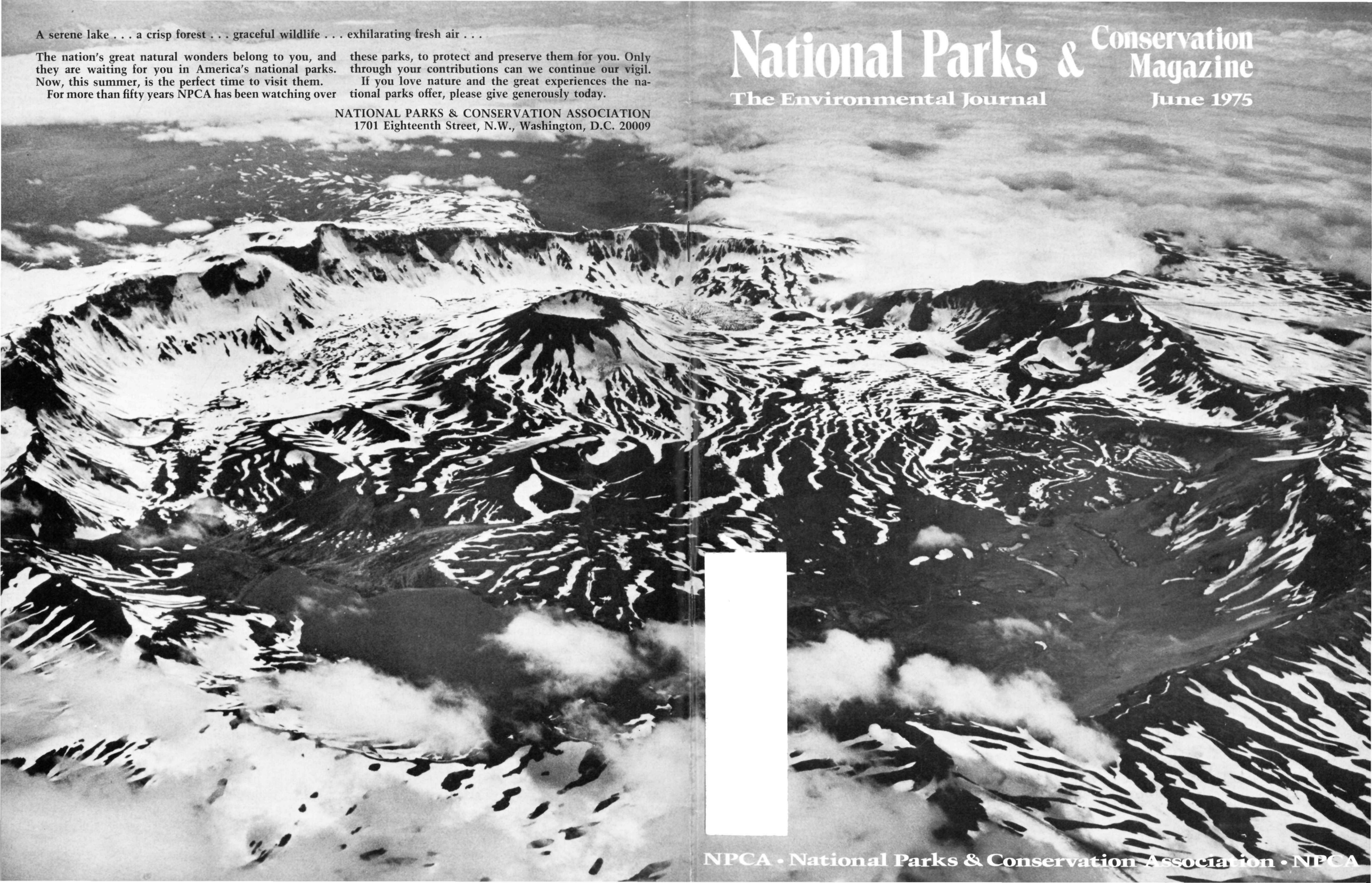
THE DAYS of projects like the gigantic resort proposed for Mineral King are numbered. The nation will be tightening its belt to meet the rising costs of raw materials imported from abroad. The mineral wealth of the nation has been seriously and permanently depleted in many vital respects. The farm and forest resources become increasingly valuable, indispensable. Energy will be more and more costly, ruling out the bright lights, the heavy traffic, and the mechanical equipment which are the inseparable components of garish, artificial, recreational developments.

The overcrowding of the big cities will drive multitudes to escape into the pristine solitudes. The trails and campgrounds of the High Sierra are already overloaded, and more country for natural outdoor recreation, unbroken by facilities and urbanization, will be in great demand. Does this nation have the leadership in its business and governmental institutions which understands these truths?

DECISIONS made unilaterally at any one of at least five places in our society could settle the issue the right way permanently: by the Forest Service, revoking its project; by Disney Enterprises, withdrawing from the project; by the Park Service, denying access irrevocably; by the Congress, incorporating Mineral King into Sequoia Park; or by the President, establishing it as a national monument, in consultation with Congress, by Executive Order.

—Anthony Wayne Smith





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