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National Parks

The Magazine of
The National Parks
and Conservation
Association

MARCH/APRIL 1996

Yellowstone in Danger

Tracking the Cats

Maritime Parks

Kayaking in the Parks

A Question of Integrity

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National parks

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The Magazine of the National Parks
and Conservation Association



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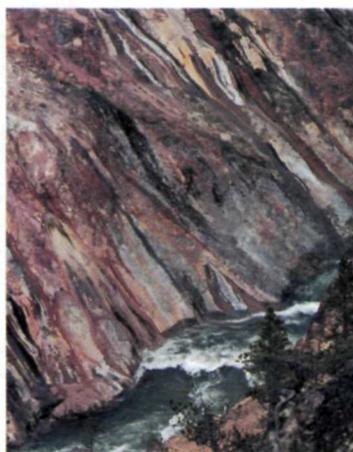
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COVER: The Yellowstone River is at risk from a proposed mine, which prompted a review by the World Heritage Committee.
Photo by Art Wolfe.



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State of the Parks

The national parks are not for sale nor up for grabs by state officials who see them as lucrative tourist attractions.

IN RECENT MONTHS, the governors of two states have proposed taking over management of national parks. The federal budget stand-off prompted South Dakota Gov. William Janklow to seek control of Badlands, Wind Cave, Jewel Cave, and Mount Rushmore. And Arizona



DUPONT PHOTOGRAPHERS

Gov. Fife Symington, after the National Guard helped the state open a small portion of Grand Canyon National Park during the federal shutdown, sought to take over management of the 1.2-million-acre park.

According to both governors, the reason for these proposals was to ensure that the parks would continue to be open. As America saw during the federal budget shutdown in December, communities that provide services outside the parks and are dependent on park visitation suffered great economic hardship when the parks were closed.

But it is not a matter of whether state officials could manage national parks, but should they. The national parks are not for sale nor up for grabs by state officials who see them as lucrative tourist attractions rather than national treasures that need to be carefully safeguarded.

This is not to belittle states' abilities to manage significant areas. The state park systems are outstanding in their own right—indeed, some are exceptional—but many are run more like “destination resort facilities.” States have different laws that allow different uses in their parks. South Dakota, for example, sells permits for hunting buffalo and allows timber harvesting

in some state parks. Some states allow greater motorized use in their parks than would be allowed in a national park. This is the decision of the state, and rightfully so. But we must underscore the importance of maintaining the integrity of the National Park System by holding nationally significant

places to the highest and most consistent standard possible.

NPCA is opposed to states taking over national parks for the same reasons that we opposed the park closure bill. The sites within the National Park System are “nationally significant.” Collectively, the 369 units in the National Park System are a reflection of our nation's heritage. The natural parks represent unique ecosystems and landscapes, while the historical and cultural sites, such as Independence Hall or Gettysburg, were important in the development of the entire country. Independence Hall is a symbol of our nation's independence, not Pennsylvania's. Most of us would never dream of allowing states to take over major parks such as Yellowstone or the Grand Canyon.

The federal government, not the states, can and should be the caretaker of our national treasures. Congress should give the National Park Service sufficient funding to meet its management responsibilities and keep the parks maintained and open.

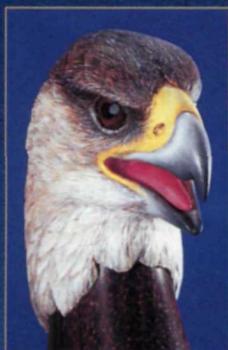
Paul C. Pritchard
President, NPCA



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Shutdown

ONCE AGAIN, the American bureaucracy appears to regard the national parks as a low priority. During the recent federal budget stalemate, the parks were closed because rangers and other park staff were not considered "essential." As John Latschar, superintendent of Gettysburg National Military Park, said, "I have 96 dedicated employees who are used to giving me 50 hours a week for 40 hours of pay, whose productivity is sky high.... They were forced to sit at home... because the National Park Service was considered a nonessential service."

The American people learned just how essential the parks are. The shutdown was a disaster not only for park staff and people wanting to visit parks, but also for merchants in neighboring communities whose livelihood depends on the parks. The lead story in NPCA Park News (page 11) examines some of the impacts of the shutdown. In Outlook (page 6), Paul Pritchard looks at another consequence of the federal government paralysis: proposals from two governors to take over management of national parks in their states.

The shutdown has underscored the value of parks, both economic and otherwise, and NPCA will continue its park protection efforts. Following up on the January/February 1996 issue—a special issue focusing on NPCA's Save Our National Parks Campaign—we will keep you informed through a "Campaign Update" in the NPCA Park News section (see page 20). This update will consist of brief accounts of NPCA action on issues that relate to the campaign, which is designed to mobilize citizen activism on behalf of the parks.

Sue E. Dodge, Editor

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ABOUT NPCA

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

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

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

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

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

and the natural and historic treasures found in them, informing and inspiring individuals who have concerns about the parks and want to know how they can help bring about improvements to these irreplaceable resources.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE: A critical component in NPCA's park protection programs are members who take the lead in defense of America's natural and cultural heritage. Park activists alert Congress and the administration to park threats; comment



on park planning and adjacent land-use decisions; assist NPCA in developing partnerships; and educate the public and the media about park issues.

The Park Activist Network is composed of three groups: Park Watchers, park activists, and park support groups. For more information on the

activist network, contact our Grassroots Department, extension 221. NPCA's success also depends on the financial support of our members. For more information on special giving opportunities, such as Partners for the Parks (a monthly giving program), Trustees for the Parks (\$1,000 and above), bequests, planned gifts, and matching gifts, call our Development Department, extension 131.

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In Our Best Interests, The Price of Parks, In NPS We Trust, A Lesson from Abroad

In Our Best Interests

Two items in your November/December 1995 issue compel me to respond.

The first is a letter claiming that "interest groups such as yours are dead wrong. What the 104th Congress is attempting is heroic." To me, it is the letter writer, not NPCA, who is dead wrong. There is nothing wrong with trying to save our natural heritage for future generations. Likewise, there is nothing heroic about destroying land for short-term gain, ignoring the American people's desire for environmental protection.

Second is Terry Tempest Williams' article ["A Cry for Wilderness"] about the perils to Utah's magnificent red-rock wilderness. Sadly, that state's congressional delegation is ignoring its constituents' clear wish to protect and preserve their lands.

It is not a coincidence that Republicans for Environmental Protection has a growing membership base in Utah. Many Utah Republicans feel betrayed by their own representatives. There, as across the country, rank-and-file Republicans are denouncing the rabid anti-environmentalism of many in the 104th Congress.

Congress has no mandate to destroy the basic environmental safeguards that most Americans appreciate and have come to take for granted. And nobody has a right to sell off or give away the natural treasures that belong to us all.

**Martha Marks
Republicans for Environmental
Protection
Deerfield, IL**

Virtually all of the proposals that will further endanger our environment are based on greed and the supposed need for perpetual growth to assure prosperity. This is certainly true of the Utah

Public Lands Management Act of 1995.

The effects of growth are already serious and getting more so. It is hard to deny that perpetual growth is impossible, so it is easier for politicians and economists to bury their heads in the sand, continue their short-term thinking, and fail to give consideration to this idea.

We need a realistic program to stabilize our population and adjust our economic and taxation systems so as to permit prosperity without perpetual growth. Economists should be working on this now, rather than making absurd and illogical statements intended to justify the dogma of perpetual growth.

**Ray C. Frodey
Fremont, MI**

The Price of Parks

I regret that I found most of the political comments throughout the November/December 1995 issue so strident and devoid of objectivity that I felt compelled to respond.

The mean-spiritedness of "The Park Vendetta" by Paul C. Pritchard was summed up in the title. Worst of all was the observation that savings [realized from a proposal to close national parks or turn them over to states and private entities] "would be negligible, since total NPS expenditures amount to only one-tenth of one percent of the federal budget." Very telling. You could justify spending \$50 for a bar of soap because it is a small part of your net worth. That is the kind of logic that has contributed to the parks' deterioration. And why always inject "national" into every concern about our heritage? Many states and private entities are doing a much better (and cheaper) job of stewardship.

Frankly, I don't believe that any member of Congress is "waging war on the national parks." And I doubt if the "real purpose" of Reps. Hefley and

Hansen is to "dismantle the park system." Their proposal might have some merit, but I wouldn't know it from your personal attacks in a couple of biased paragraphs.

We have had the privilege of visiting many historic and scenic treasures in our country. Like you, we express concern for the generations after us. But if they have an oppressive national debt to pay, whether or not they can visit a national park might be the least of their concerns.

**Sigmund R. Milbrandt
Sterling, VA**

Although the assault on federal government spending has focused on Medicare, Medicaid, and welfare, it also affects agencies such as the National Park Service. Federal taxes have been the lifeblood of the Park Service and should remain so. One of the alternative proposals is to collect as much as possible at park gates. Carried to extremes, this would effectively turn parks into commercial areas on a par with amusement parks. Their integrity would decline and many of their resources would be occupied in collecting and accounting for fees. Even if this system were fully applied, small isolated areas of national significance with relatively little visitation would be unable to make it cost effective.

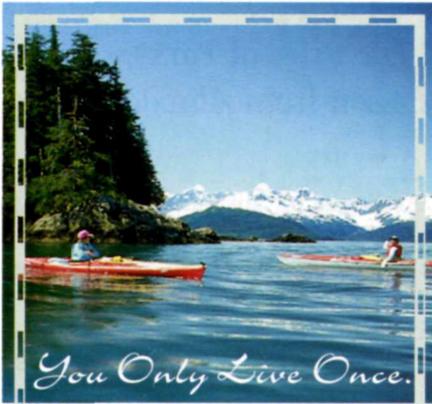
Park entrance fees should never be more than a supplement to federal tax dollars, even if doubled over what they are today. Tax dollars give the parks the freedom to execute their mandates for preservation and interpretation without compromise. Many park facilities are sadly underfunded, from Yellowstone's roads to Little Bighorn's visitor center.

It is truly a sad day when a nation as wealthy as ours fails to adequately support its national heritage.

**Randy Kane
Williston, ND**

ANSWER TO "YOU ARE HERE"

Zion National Park, Utah



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EDITORIAL REPLY: NPCA agrees that park entrance fees should never be expected to cover the entire cost of managing the National Park System. Although some restructuring of the fee system may be needed, NPCA believes that park visitors should not face an increase in fees until the concessioners that do business in the parks pay a fair price for the privilege. Unfortunately, under the current system, fees collected from visitors and concessioners go to the U.S. treasury, not to the parks.

The federal government shutdown illustrates that our tax dollars can be put to work only when Congress allocates an adequate appropriation. Turn to page 12 for an update on the status of the 1996 NPS appropriation.

In NPS We Trust

“Policing the Policy” [September/October 1995] seems well-intentioned, but I took exception to some of the overly general statements and implications. I question the value of demanding more of the National Park Service when it is being forced by political realities and reduced funding to get by with less.

Let’s be realistic. The environmental policies that we have taken for granted for the last 25 years are under heavy attack. Other articles in the same issue describe current congressional efforts to eliminate national parks, slash funding for operations and maintenance, and open federal lands to various potentially damaging economic schemes. I don’t dispute the need for vigilance, but for NPS to institute a “strict system of accountability,” as the article suggests, would be a waste of bureaucratic energy.

The article implies that park personnel cannot be trusted to implement National Environmental Policy Act requirements for their projects. While I’m sure there are instances of corner cutting, my experience with NPS staff members suggests that they are, more often than not, well-qualified professionals who are dedicated to resource preservation and public service. I also

think it is important that most of the environmental review work occur at the park level, in proximity to the affected natural resources, with technical support from the regional offices.

Kris T. Liljeblad
Seattle, WA

A Lesson from Abroad

After spending five months studying abroad in New Zealand, I got a good taste of that country’s world-famous wilderness and system of national parks. More than one quarter of the land in New Zealand is preserved in national parks. Much of the success of this system is due to the underpopulation of the country (3.4 million people in the same area as California). Furthermore, the national parks often preserve lands that are too wild or rugged to develop.

In part, the success of New Zealand’s national parks arises from the lack of development. Usually only one paved road can be found, through a corner of a park. There are never hordes of concessioners as can be found in Yosemite Valley and the Grand Canyon’s South Rim. New Zealand’s parks can be seen from wild and spectacular trails, or “tracks,” which have been constructed through the wilderness and usually require three or more days of hiking. If we can learn anything from the New Zealanders, it should be the national pride they feel in their country’s natural heritage, and that reverence for our own natural heritage is the prerequisite to preserving it.

Paul M. Lantos
Poughkeepsie, NY

CORRECTION

“Divided Over Voyageurs” [January/February 1996] incorrectly identified the size of Minnesota’s congressional delegation. Minnesota has ten members of Congress.

Write: Letters, NPCA, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036. Letters can be sent via e-mail to editorNP@aol.com. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Park News

BY KIM A. O'CONNELL

CRISIS

Federal Shutdown Closes Parks, Angers Many

Visitors turned away as tourism revenues plummet.

During the last shutdown of the federal government, Yellowstone National Park workers bent the rules to fulfill a dying boy's final wish, allowing him into the closed park to witness the eruption of Old Faithful. The gesture underscored the value of national parks at a time when the budget crisis inconvenienced park visitors, National Park Service employees, and businesses.

On December 15, 48,000 Department of the Interior employees were furloughed, closing virtually the entire National Park System. As Congress and the president bickered over federal spending, park employees spent the holidays frustrated and apprehensive.

"We became angry with jokes made during the furlough when we in the Park Service said we'd rather be at work," said Maryanne Gerbauckas, superintendent of Edison National Historic Site in New Jersey. "I realized that we do for a living what other people do for their leisure time."

The shutdown turned away millions of visitors, crippling businesses in "gateway communities" that depend heavily on tourism dollars. In West Yellowstone, Wyoming, which suffered an estimated daily loss of \$1 million, about 150 citizens staged a protest at the park entrance, jeering the few park rangers on duty. Residents and busi-



R. ANTHONY TODT

Millions of visitors were turned away from parks closed during the shutdown.

ness owners in Springdale, Utah, staged a similar protest at adjacent Zion National Park.

NPCA President Paul C. Pritchard said he understands the frustration but stressed that NPS was also a victim. "Not only were the parks hijacked, but dedicated Park Service employees were held hostage to the budget crisis," he said. "The real reason the parks were closed was that the 1996 Interior funding bill was so laden with anti-environmental provisions that President Clinton was forced to veto it."

In response to the public outcry against the park closures, Congress approved a stopgap measure in early January that would reopen the national parks with funding only to activities connected to visitor services. Scientific research and some resource management functions, core aspects of the NPS mission, are not addressed by the bill.

Through special agreements with states and the private sector, only three parks remained open during the shutdown: Independence Hall in Philadelphia and parts of Carlsbad Caverns National Park in New Mexico and Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona. In addition, the aptly named Presidential Savings Bank in Maryland paid the electric bill to keep floodlights trained on Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota.

Encouraged by his state's "rescue" of the Grand Canyon, Gov. Fife Symington (R) proposed during his State of the State address that Arizona permanently take over management of the park. Recently Gov. Bill Janklow (R) similarly suggested that management of several national parks in South Dakota be transferred to his state.

These proposals prompted Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) to introduce emer-

agency legislation (H.R. 2677) that requires the secretary of the Interior to accept state donations of state employees during federal government shutdowns.

“Congress has taken a simplistic view of the varied and complex activities that the Park Service is mandated to perform,” said NPCA Senior Vice President Carol Aten. “It may be relatively easy to collect park fees, but it takes special expertise to radio-collar endangered wolves or monitor a park’s air quality.”

NPCA calls the bill misguided and says that it leaves many management and liability questions unanswered. In addition, employees from state parks, which are often run quite differently from national parks, may not be familiar with Park Service management policies designed to protect park visitors and resources. “If you don’t know the management rules, you can’t implement or enforce them,” Aten said.

The bill failed to pass under a suspension of the normal rules of debate, but it may come up again for reconsideration. A better solution than H.R. 2677, NPCA says, would be for Con-



DICK DIETRICH

The international World Heritage Committee declared Yellowstone “in danger.”

gress to pass an adequate Interior spending bill or designate National Park Service employees as “essential.”

At press time, Congress had approved emergency funding for the Interior Department until March 15.

PRESERVATION

Yellowstone Added To “Danger” List

International team cites threats to world’s first national park.

BERLIN, GER. — In December, three months after it made an unprecedented visit to Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, the World Heritage Committee voted to add the park to the “World Heritage in Danger” list.

The listing focuses worldwide attention on the many threats confronting Yellowstone, especially the proposed New World Mine. At the behest of a coalition of 14 conservation groups organized by NPCA, the international committee visited Yellowstone in September to investigate whether these threats warranted the park’s inclusion on the list. In 1978, Yellowstone was among the first 12 places in the world to be designated World Heritage Sites by the committee. Now the park joins the handful of sites around the world placed on the “in danger” list because they are in serious jeopardy.

“The committee’s finding is a ma-

Budget War Continues as Parks Open

In an attempt to bandage political bruises sustained during two federal government shutdowns, House Republicans decided to fund popular federal programs, including visitor services in the national parks, through September 30. A subsequent continuing resolution (CR) provided funding for some Park Service programs until March 15; funding beyond this deadline will require other congressional action.

Although it is not likely that Congress and the president would allow another federal shutdown this critical election year, negotiations about bills to balance the budget and to fund the Department of the Interior have produced few substantive results. In early January, President Clinton vetoed the massive budget reconciliation bill, which includes a measure to perpetuate conces-

sioner monopolies in national parks.

Clinton also vetoed the fiscal year 1996 Interior spending bill, which would have provided funding for NPS at levels far lower than the president’s budget request. In addition, the bill would have transferred management of Mojave National Preserve to the Bureau of Land Management while NPS developed a management plan for the park. Congressional mandates for management favored “traditional uses” of Mojave such as mining and grazing.

Republicans failed to override the veto on January 4, and the current CR lets NPS decide how much of its temporary budget will go toward managing Mojave.

The CR also includes \$2 million to restore flood-damaged Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park. (See page 25.)

...jor, albeit bittersweet, victory for NPCA and the conservation community," said Terri Martin, NPCA Rocky Mountain regional director. "The listing is a call to action to protect the world's first national park."

The committee concluded that the New World project—a massive gold mine proposed on U.S. Forest Service land 2.5 miles upstream from the park—along with threats to the park's native cutthroat trout, bison, grizzly bears, and geothermal resources, presented "ascertained dangers and potential dangers" serious enough to jeopardize the park.

"The world's conservation leaders validate what the local residents have been saying for years: this mine threatens Yellowstone," said Jim Barrett of the Beartooth Alliance, a grassroots citizens group based near the park. "Anyone who takes a close look at the situation will come to the same conclusion."

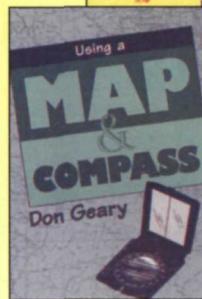
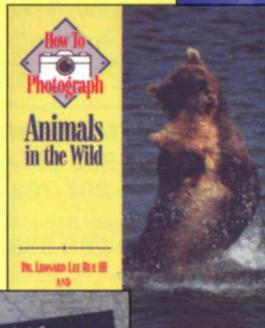
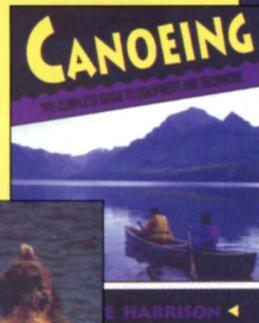
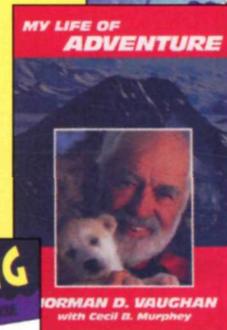
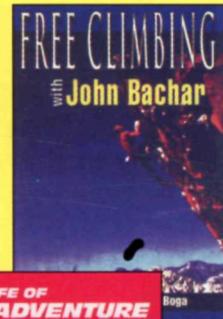
In response to the committee's decision, Joseph J. Baylis, president of Crown Butte Mines, the owner of the mine, once again insisted that the New World project "has not, does not, and will not in any way threaten Yellowstone National Park." Baylis' position contrasts sharply with the National Park Service's findings and those of the World Heritage Committee. Sen. Conrad Burns (R-Mont.) also issued a statement falsely claiming that the World Heritage Committee "wants Yellowstone off-limits to the public" and will prohibit "travel [in the park] by motor vehicles."

In addition, presumably in response to unwarranted fears of foreign usurpation of U.S. sovereignty, Sen. Slade Gorton (R-Wash.) inserted—at Burns' request—language in the 1996 Interior spending bill reiterating National Park Service authority over Yellowstone. Conservationists criticize these reactions, noting that the listing does not affect management over the park or the environmental impact statement process for the mine now under way.

In a prepared statement, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt expressed the U.S. government's goal to "protect this premier national park."

"It is our hope that the committee's

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findings will help America redouble its efforts to protect this global treasure,” said NPCA President Paul C. Pritchard. “We should begin by stopping the New World Mine.”

(For more on World Heritage Sites, see page 34.)

LEGISLATION

Boston Harbor Wins Bipartisan Support

Proposal would protect urban area on ecological rebound.

BOSTON, MASS. — Boston Harbor was once so contaminated that fish suffered from tumors and other marine life died or fled. But after 15 years of citizen-led cleanup, the harbor has recovered, and members of the state’s congressional delegation want to protect the harbor’s 31 islands as a national park unit.

In December, Massachusetts Reps. Gerry Studds (D) and Peter Torkildsen (R) and Sens. John Kerry (D) and Edward Kennedy (D) introduced legislation to create Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area, which was recommended by the National Park Service after it conducted a feasibility study last year. Gov. William Weld (R) also supports the legislation (H.R. 2763/S. 1476).

The islands boast outstanding recreational values and natural features, including drumlins—hills of glacial drift—and returning marine life such as dolphins and harbor seals. Boston Harbor also represents the region’s seafaring and naval history and includes evidence of Native American communities. The islands contain a national historic landmark: the Boston Light, the first lighthouse to be built in the United States. In addition, Edgar Allan Poe is said to have based his short story *The Cask of Amontillado* on an act of revenge that took place at a military fortification on one of the islands.

The measure would establish a unique management structure that rec-

REGIONAL REPORT

News Briefs from NPCA’s Regional Offices

ALASKA **Chip Dennerlein, Regional Director**

► The National Park Service is currently studying the feasibility of building a new transportation route through the northern part of Denali National Park. In comments on the plan, NPCA urged the Park Service to consider carefully whether a new highway or railroad would spur traffic and development inconsistent with the park’s wild character. The route would also traverse proposed wilderness areas. NPCA promotes instead plans to reinforce Denali’s existing road corridor and areas to the south.

HEARTLAND **Lori Nelson, Regional Director**

► When 95 percent of respondents opposed a plan to construct a scenic shoreline drive at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in Michigan, the Park Service seemed ready to consider an alternative. However, NPS now appears to be moving forward with the proposal, which could destroy the primitive nature of the shoreline. NPCA promotes an upgrade of a nearby county road instead.

✍ TAKE ACTION: Write to Bill Schenk, Director, Midwest Field Area, National Park Service, 1709 Jackson Street, Omaha, NE 68102. Urge him to seek an alternative to the shoreline road.

► Three bands of St. Croix Chippewa that proposed a casino near St. Croix National Scenic Riverway are suing the Interior Department over its July decision rejecting the project.

NORTHEAST **Eileen Woodford, Regional Director**

► The Park Service is working with the Museum of Afro-American History to renovate the African Meeting House, the oldest black church in the United States and one of 15 pre-Civil War buildings at Boston African American National Historic Site. The structure is significant in part as the place where the famed 54th Massachusetts regiment of African-American soldiers was recruited during the Civil War. The museum owns the building and has kicked off a capital campaign to fund the rehabilitation.

PACIFIC **Brian Huse, Regional Director**

► In December, the Senate resources committee approved a bill to create an independent government corporation to manage the Presidio in Golden Gate National Recreation Area. In addition to undesirable provisions approved by the House, the bill includes an amendment by Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska) that limits NPS management to little more than the coastal strip of the former military base, requires the trust to report back to Congress within one year, and prevents the trust from transferring open space to NPS for management. NPCA is examining ways to improve the legislation in the future to ensure the long-term protection of the park.

continued



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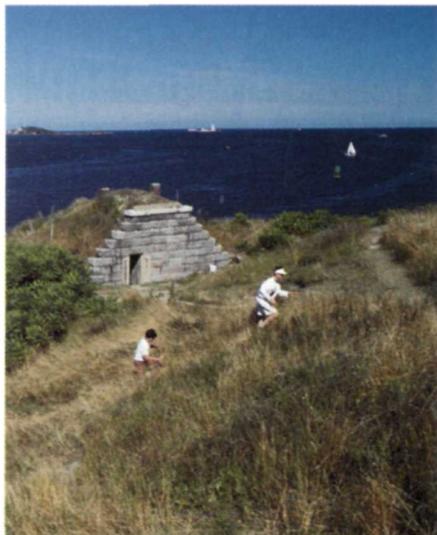
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JUDITH CANTYSTOCK BOSTON

Boston Harbor islands boast natural, historical, and recreational features.

ognizes the diverse interests that brought the harbor back to life. The islands would continue to be owned by state, local, and private entities, but they would be managed by NPS under cooperative agreements. Partnerships coordinated by the Island Alliance, a nonprofit group, would raise funds for the estimated \$4-million annual operating costs for the park. The federal government would be required to pay only \$1 for every \$3 raised.

"The management structure outlined in this legislation should be attractive to Congress because it would lessen the financial burden on the federal government," said Eileen Woodford, NPCA Northeast regional director, "but NPCA will make sure that Congress considers this bill on the basis of the national significance of the harbor islands."

LEGISLATION

Oklahoma Trade Put on Hold

Opposition blocks bill to sell lands to buy Sterling Forest.

WASHINGTON, D. C. — A controversial bill (H.R. 2736) to sell public lands in one state to buy lands in another

PACIFIC NORTHWEST Phil Pearl, Regional Director

► Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument in Idaho has released its first draft general management plan. NPS is seeking to provide for continuing paleontological research at the monument, which contains outstanding fossils in the banks of the Snake River. NPCA supports the plan's preferred alternative, which would establish a paleontological research center. The plan also considers the possibilities of an in-park dormitory for researchers and a boat operation for interpretive tours. NPCA is urging NPS to consider alternatives that would not increase development or congestion.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN Terri Martin, Regional Director

► Eleven more gray wolves were released in Yellowstone National Park in January as part of an ongoing U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wolf reintroduction campaign. The 11 wolves will be kept in acclimation pens for eight to ten weeks. The campaign has continued despite attacks by Sen. Conrad Burns (R-Mont.), who has tried, but failed, to remove funding for the program.

► Rep. James Hansen (R-Utah) has removed the Utah Public Lands Management Act, which would allow development in "wilderness" areas, from the House floor. A pro-wilderness bill, America's Red-rock Wilderness Act, has garnered 109 cosponsors.

SOUTHEAST Don Barger, Regional Director

► The Office of Surface Mining (OSM) has released a draft environmental impact statement on mining in the Fern Lake watershed next to Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. The report is OSM's first step in reviewing a petition to declare the watershed unsuitable for mining, which was filed by NPCA and the city of Middlesboro, Kentucky. OSM states that mining would increase sedimentation and adversely affect the natural landscape.

✍ TAKE ACTION: Write to Willis Gainer, Office of Surface Mining, 530 Gay Street S.W., Suite 500, Knoxville, TN 37902. Urge the office to declare the Fern Lake watershed unsuitable for mining.

► In December, the House parks subcommittee approved a bill to establish the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail.

SOUTHWEST David Simon, Regional Director

► Two water resources issues have arisen at Big Thicket National Preserve in Texas. First, some state legislators and locals are pushing for the creation of a flood control district that may include part of the park. NPCA is opposing the plan, which would upset the park's hydrology. At press time, the application to the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC) had not been completed. Second, the state of Texas is seeking to downgrade water quality standards for numerous streams in east Texas, including some in the Big Thicket watershed.

✍ TAKE ACTION: Urge TNRCC to deny the application to create the flood control district. Write to Dean Robbins, Office of Water Resources Management, TNRCC, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711.

has been shelved.

In December, Rep. Frank Lucas (R-Okla.) proposed selling 56,000 acres of public lands in Oklahoma—the Black Kettle National Grasslands, the Rita Blanca National Grasslands, and Lake Optima in the Oklahoma panhandle—to help finance acquisition of Sterling Forest, an undeveloped tract of land along the New York-New Jersey border.

Proceeds from the sale were also to go toward purchase of private land within Washita Battlefield, the site of an 1868 engagement between Plains Indians (mostly Cheyenne) and the U.S. Army. Washita has been proposed for inclusion in the National Park System. Although NPCA supports protecting the battlefield and Sterling Forest, the association, along with local communities and hunters, opposed selling off the grasslands, which represent 20 percent of the public hunting grounds in western Oklahoma. In addition, NPCA points out, it is not likely that the sale would have raised sufficient

funds to buy the battlefield.

Stung by a surprisingly strong public outcry, Lucas backed off the proposal but did not rule it out completely.

“I will not support any bill before Congress that proposes the sale of Lake Optima or the Rita Blanca lands,” Lucas said. “As for legislation that would establish a national park at the Washita Battlefield site and sell the Black Kettle National Grasslands, I will withhold action on the measure until I have had the opportunity to discuss it with all interested parties.”

One of the bill’s sponsors, Rep. William Martini (R-N.J.), contends that Congress would not support legislation to fund parkland acquisition unless the Treasury could be reimbursed or some other federal property could be sold off. “Therein lies the danger,” a *New York Times* editorial responded, stating that such a proposal would lead legislators to believe that parks and other federal lands are disposable assets.

NPCA and other Washita supporters hope to work with Lucas to develop a

more viable approach to including the battlefield in the park system.

“The Washita battle was a tragic but critical event in our history,” said David Simon, NPCA Southwest regional director. “We must protect the Washita battlefield and teach our children about it, but not at the expense of other public assets.”

As for Sterling Forest, NPCA says a better alternative to the Lucas bill would be for the House to pass the Sterling Forest Protection Act (H.R. 194), sponsored by Rep. Marge Roukema (R-N.J.). The Senate passed a companion bill (S. 223), sponsored by Sen. Bill Bradley (D-N.J.), last June.

The measure would authorize \$17.5 million to help acquire Sterling Forest from the Zurich Insurance Group, which plans to build 14,000 housing units and 8 million square feet of commercial, office, and industrial space on the property. Sterling Forest contains the oldest portion of the Appalachian Trail, as well as hills, valleys, wetlands, and lakes.

TRANSPORTATION

Hurricane Destroys Gulf Islands Road

NPCA advocates rerouting the road to protect resources.

GULF BREEZE, FLA. — Last October, Hurricane Opal ravaged Gulf Islands National Seashore, leveling the dune line and pulverizing Highway 399, the only route through the park’s Santa Rosa Island. Contractors began working immediately to restore the arrow-straight road, but NPCA and other groups urged park officials to consider a new route that would better fit in with the dynamic system of the barrier islands.

The original road interrupted the natural development of secondary dunes, leaving the island more vulnerable to storm surges. Gradual erosion had already moved the beach closer to



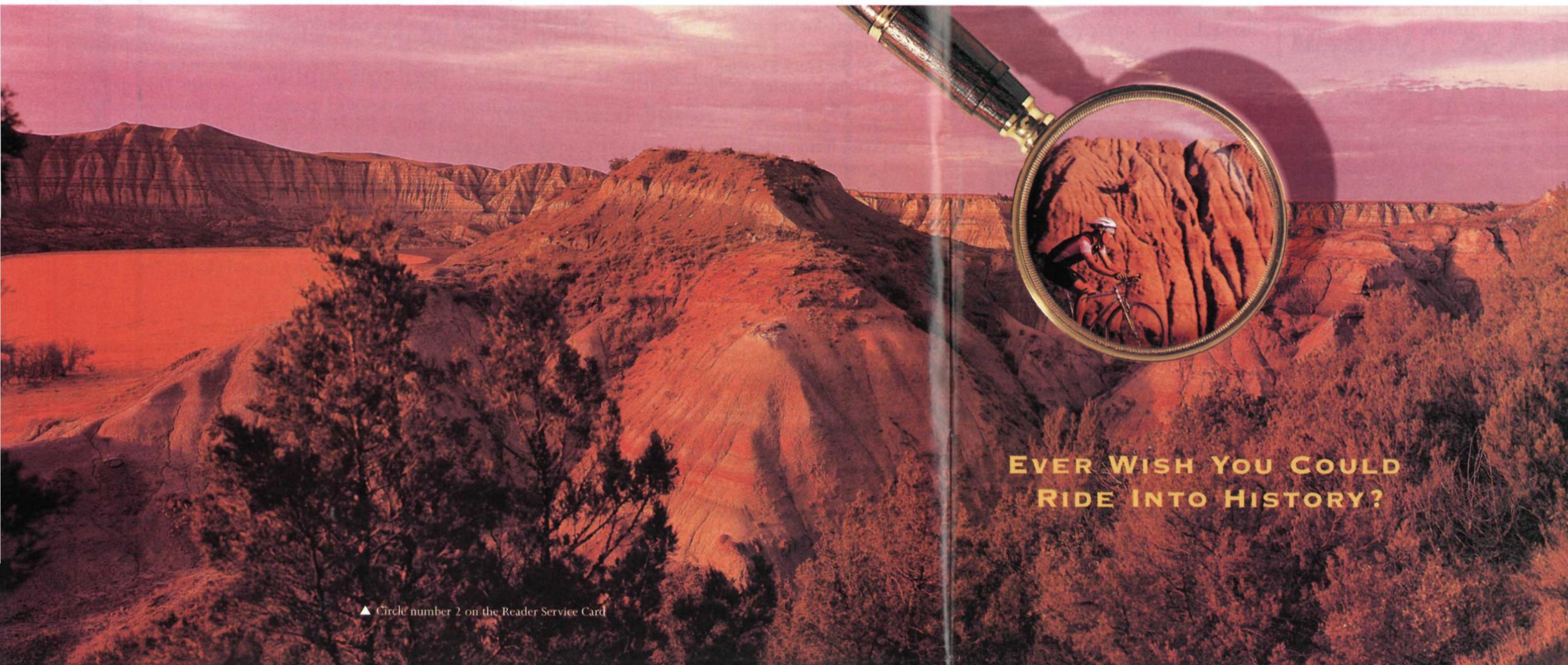
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Hurricane Opal may have given park officials a chance to reroute Highway 399.

the road in some areas when Opal’s 15-foot storm surge hit.

NPCA and local groups, as well as the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, say that moving the

road would give the dunes and other resources a better foundation against storm surges and that a curvy, more scenic route would be in keeping with roads in other parks.



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"Mother Nature has given the park an unusual opportunity to start from scratch and correct some old errors," said Don Barger, NPCA Southeast regional director. "A road that is better designed and located away from the shoreline would provide opportunities to build parking lots and beach access points. These actions would minimize haphazard parking on the side of the highway and trailblazing over the dunes."

In addition, the dunes must be allowed to reestablish to provide habitat for nesting green and loggerhead sea turtles, several species of nesting shorebirds, the Santa Rosa Island beach mouse, and the endangered Perdido Key beach mouse.

"In theory, it's a good idea to relocate the road," park Superintendent Jerry Eubanks told the *Pensacola News Journal*. But Eubanks expressed concerns about the high costs of moving the road and the urgent need to reopen Gulf Islands to visitors, and the U.S. Department of Transportation began reconstructing the original route.

Because of this, NPCA worked furiously to convene a January meeting

with local and regional National Park Service officials to discuss construction alternatives.

"We had some of our regional folks come down to examine whether it was possible to get some environmental benefit from moving portions of the road," said Riley Hoggard, the park's resource management specialist. "We came up with three or four potential areas where we felt it was worth the time and effort involved to move the road far enough away from the beach.... One of the easiest ways to decide where to move the road is to see how wide the beach is. If the beach has receded to a point that the dunes can't be naturally reformed, we have to move the road."

Hoggard says Gulf Islands could be a test case because federal highway managers are examining how roads should be laid on barrier islands. "Anything you put on a barrier island is a temporary structure," Hoggard said. "If you put a road away from the shoreline, you gain time."

Engineers should decide by the end of March whether it is feasible to move the road.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

▶ **ALASKA INITIATIVE:** NPCA's Save Our National Parks Campaign focuses on many issues, including the parks in Alaska. Once the budget crisis is resolved, NPCA expects Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) and Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska), respective chairs of the House and Senate resources committees, to move quickly on bills with potentially serious impacts on the state.

Young has authored legislation (H.R. 2560) that would transfer 90 percent of the public coastline of Lake Clark National Park into private ownership. Sidestepping a 1976 agreement, the bill would convey the lands to Native villages. Subsurface mineral rights to the area would go to Cook Inlet Region, Inc., one of the state's wealthiest Native corporations.

Two other proposals could affect the future of Glacier Bay National Park: a bill to exchange 960 acres of wilderness for other parklands to allow the construction of a hydro-power generator and a plan to increase cruise ships into the bay.

Murkowski inserted language into the budget bill ordering the Park Service to consider a new north road into Denali National Park. NPCA and others believe the road would bring unwarranted development. (For more on the Denali road, see page 15. Also note the R.S. 2477 story on page 21.)

➔ **TAKE ACTION:** NPCA is urging citizens nationwide to become Alaska Activists. To participate, write to NPCA Alaska Activists, c/o the Grassroots Department, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

R.S. 2477 Claims Threaten Parks in Alaska

Bill could cover wildlands with paved highways.

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Legislation now before Congress could permanently alter the national landscape, particularly the frontier wilderness of Alaska.

The Revised Statute 2477 Rights-of-Way Settlement Act, sponsored by Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Rep. James Hansen (R-Utah), would allow states, counties, corporations, and individuals to assert highway rights-of-way across virtually any tract of land. The bills (S. 1425/H.R. 2081) set minimal standards for filing R.S. 2477 claims, which means that footpaths, dogsled trails, or even lines on a map could qualify and be expanded into highways. These routes would be established without compensation to the landowner, public input, or environmental review.

In Alaska alone, 984,000 miles of roads could be constructed in a mile-by-mile grid along "section lines" drawn across national parks, public lands, and Native lands. Even wilderness areas, which are by definition roadless under the Wilderness Act, would not be immune. A section of land is one square mile, the basic survey unit in the United States.

An Alaska Supreme Court case sets the precedent for these claims. In *Girves v. Kenai Peninsula Borough*, the borough asserted a right-of-way where none had existed on a section line through private property.

"The bill opens the possibility of about 1 million miles of roads and highways being built across Alaska, a state still largely protected from rampant development," said Chip Dennerlein, NPCA Alaska regional director. "If this is allowed unchecked in Alaska,

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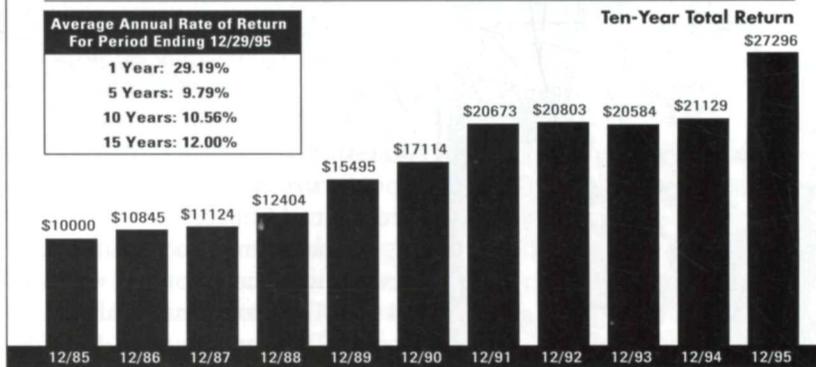
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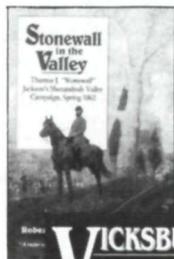
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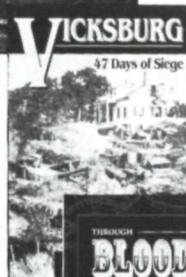


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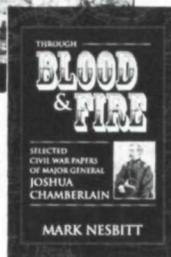


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NPCA PARK NEWS

other states across the West are also in serious danger."

To garner support for his bill, Murkowski, chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, stated that his measure would not "trample on private lands or Native lands," although the bill currently makes no exemptions.

In addition, the bill does not require rights-of-way claims to be part of a state or local transportation plan once they are granted. The Alaska Citizens Transportation Coalition has suggested the creation of a panel of representative Alaskans who would advise the state on rights-of-way policy. This panel would consider rights-of-way claims as part of a comprehensive transportation plan that incorporates public involvement and assesses environmental impacts.

At press time, the Senate resources committee had not yet voted on S. 1425. The House national parks subcommittee approved H.R. 2081 in October.

TAKE ACTION: Write to your members of Congress, urging them to protect Alaska (and other Western states) from road development. Urge them to vote against S. 1425 and H.R. 2081. Addresses: U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510; U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

ADJACENT LANDS

Developer Makes Secret Agreement With Friends Group

Sleeping Bear Dunes conclave plans to swap parkland.

EMPIRE, MICH. — In December, NPCA and other conservationists received surprising news about a plan to transfer a portion of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

The plan, drawn up in secret by

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JOHN & ANN MAHAN

A land exchange proposal threatens the integrity of Sleeping Bear Dunes.

Friends of the Crystal River and real estate developer Robert Kuras, would exchange 204 acres of parkland for a 160-acre parcel of nearby land owned by Kuras. Kuras plans to build an 18-hole golf course and condominium complex within what is now the lakeshore if the plan is approved.

NPCA and the Sierra Club issued a joint statement expressing their dismay at being kept out of the discussions and their concern about impacts to Sleeping Bear Dunes.

“The friends group and the developer claim to represent the public’s best interests, but the truth is they have basically sold out the general public and the taxpayer to appease a commercial developer who has only his own financial interests at heart,” said Lori Nelson, NPCA Heartland regional director.

Kuras must consult with the National Park Service to move forward with the project, and Congress must formally ratify the exchange. Kuras has also applied for a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to fill wetlands for the golf course. If this application is denied, Kuras can still build a housing complex in the area. The project is uncertain, however, since NPS has rejected a previous land exchange proposal and the Corps has denied other permit applications submitted by Kuras.

The land exchange would also give Kuras title to 44 acres of park property on which he now owns an easement for wastewater disposal. NPCA contends that transferring the title would increase Kuras’ legal control over the property and prevent NPS from moni-

toring wastewater treatment violations. Kuras’ resort, the Homestead, has had numerous problems with its sewage treatment facility in the past. The system has malfunctioned several times, sending raw sewage into groundwater in the park.

“The public gains nothing from a trade like this one, based on greed and the personal interests of a handful of people,” said Alison Horton, director of Sierra Club’s Mackinac Chapter. “Sierra Club will vigorously oppose any effort to secure congressional approval for this ill-conceived plan.”

NPCA and Sierra Club contend that Kuras’ property is not as nationally significant as the parklands in question. In its 1988 National Park System Plan, NPCA identified three sites worthy of inclusion in the lakeshore, but the Crystal River site was not among them.

“The lakeshore is public land that is to be preserved and put to a legitimate public use,” Nelson said. “Building a golf course and condominium complex as a tourist attraction to line the developer’s pockets is not, however, consistent with the park’s purpose.”



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“Proud Heritage,” the latest release from environmental sculptor Kitty Cantrell, is a stunning tribute to the American Bald Eagle. In support of wild bird conservation, Cantrell is donating all of her proceeds from the sale of this sculpture to the Grounded Eagle Foundation.

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DANIEL DANCER

The Senate may soon act on a bill to create Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve.

LEGISLATION

Senate Plans March Hearing on Tallgrass Prairie

Preserve would add important piece to the park system.

WASHINGTON, D. C. — At press time, the Senate subcommittee on national parks planned to hold a hearing in mid-March on legislation to create a new unit of the National Park System, Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve.

The bill, which was introduced in both houses of Congress in April 1995, would establish the tallgrass preserve on the site of the historic Z Bar/Spring Hill Ranch in the Flint Hills of Kansas. Members of the Kansas congressional delegation, including Sens. Nancy Kassebaum (R) and Robert Dole (R) and Reps. Pat Roberts (R) and Jan Meyers (R), are sponsors of the legislation (S. 695/H.R. 1449).

Former National Park Service Director Jim Ridenour has described the tallgrass prairie as the only major ecosystem not adequately represented in the National Park System. A National

Park Service study completed in 1991 determined that the Z Bar/Spring Hill Ranch "is a nationally significant example of the once vast tallgrass ecosystem," worthy of inclusion in the National Park System.

In 1994, NPCA assisted the National Park Trust—which NPCA founded in 1983—with the purchase of the 10,894-acre ranch, which will remain under the management of the Trust until legislation creating the tallgrass prairie preserve is enacted.

Members of the 104th Congress have been reluctant to expand the park system, but under the terms of the bill, the preserve would be created with minimal federal land ownership. The Trust will retain ownership of all but nearly 180 acres of the Z Bar/Spring Hill Ranch, which it would donate to the federal government, saving taxpayers the expense of land acquisition for the new park.

The parcel to be donated includes the ranch's 19th-century buildings—a mansion, a three-story stone barn, a one-room schoolhouse, and others—and acreage adequate for parking and visitor facilities. The National Park Service will enter into a cooperative management agreement with the Trust, subject to input from a citizen advisory committee.

"The idea of creating a tallgrass prai-

WISE USE WATCH

MOVEMENT BACKS PRIVATE USE OF PUBLIC LAND

National Parks is tracking the activities of the Wise Use Movement, a coalition working to roll back environmental protections.

A major Wise Use group has supported two bills that would set a dangerous precedent for national parks. On November 14, the House subcommittee on national parks held a hearing on H.R. 1666, which would extend for 99 years special arrangements for private citizens to live on park property in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Michigan, and H.R. 2528, which would similarly extend permits for vacation homes in the scenic Mineral King Valley area of Sequoia National Park in California.

In both cases, NPS negotiated agreements with park residents—many of whom were compensated—with the understanding that, when the leases or permits expire, the land would be voluntarily vacated. More than 1,500 citizens live in parks under these agreements. Proponents of the bills say that for the Park Service to uphold the contracts and terminate the leases would violate private property rights.

The American Land Rights Association, a leading Wise Use group headed by Charles Cushman, sent a former employee, Myron Ebell, to testify at the hearing. Among other things, Ebell advocated the sale of parklands to permittees and accused NPS of threatening citizens.

NPCA's position is that residents do not own the property and that the measures would create preferential rights of access for an elite class of park visitors.

rie preserve has been gaining momentum for 30 years," said Laura Loomis, NPCA's associate director for national issues. "The innovative proposal now before Congress would provide everlasting protection for the tallgrass prairie, a significant aspect of our nation's heritage."

Barbara Zurhellen, the resident director of interpretation for the Z Bar/Spring Hill Ranch, noted that the site has begun to attract regional and national attention. More than 10,000 visitors enjoyed the ranch during the first year of limited public access under the supervision of the Trust.

—M. Katherine Heinrich

TAKE ACTION: National support is needed for Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve. Write to House Majority Leader Dole and to House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), urging them to move the tallgrass prairie bill quickly. Also write to your members of Congress, urging that they support the legislation. Addresses: U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510; U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

PRESERVATION

Study Outlines Ways To Protect Massacre Site

National Park Service examines management alternatives.

PRESTON, IDAHO — In their winter village near Bear River in the southeast corner of Idaho, hundreds of Shoshone Indians were slaughtered during a cavalry raid 133 years ago. Today, the National Park Service is examining ways to memorialize the massacre by protecting the site.

On January 29, 1863, Col. Patrick Edward Connor led the California volunteers of the U.S. Army to the Bear River site with a mission to "chastise" and "exterminate" Indians involved in recent clashes with whites. Vowing to

Groups Rally To Help C&O Canal

Raging floodwaters in the aftermath of the "Blizzard of '96" that hit the East in January have seriously damaged most of Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park.

Eighty percent of the canal and the towpath running alongside it were inundated, and berms and bridges have been ripped apart. The National Park Service estimates that rehabilitation could cost up to \$20 million.

In late January, NPCA hosted a meeting of NPS officials and representatives from the National Park Foundation, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Student Conservation Association, the Potomac Conservancy, the C&O Canal



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Association, and others to discuss ways to aid in the effort.

NPCA is organizing a March for Parks to raise money for the canal. NPCA will also prepare a brochure on what citizens can do to help. In addition, the National Park

Foundation is acting as a conduit for donations to the park and ensures that 100 percent of funds will go toward canal restoration.

TAKE ACTION: To contribute, make checks out to National Park Foundation/C&O Restoration Fund and send them to National Park Foundation, 1101 17th St., N.W., Suite 1102, Washington, DC 20036-4704. For a copy of the "What You Can Do" brochure, call NPCA at 1-800-NAT-PARK.

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give the Shoshone no quarter, Connor's raiders mercilessly set the stage for the Indian Wars to come. The massacre led to the creation of several reservations and opened land for settlement by farmers and miners.

The Bear River site—now a sacred burial ground for the Shoshone—was designated a national historic landmark six years ago. It contains structures and objects, as well as natural features, of religious and other traditional significance to the tribe. But burgeoning regional development and irrigation and hydroelectric activities upstream endanger the site's future.

In response, the state legislatures of Idaho and Utah asked the Park Service to initiate a resource study to assess the site's significance and to determine how best to preserve it. The agency solicited input from the tribe and other local interests.

The study outlines four ways the site could be managed and protected: as a

county historic site, a state historic site, a national historic reserve (which would have a partnership among governments, citizens, associations, and tribes), or a national historic site.

"We applaud the National Park Service for acknowledging this little-known aspect of American history and for conducting such a thorough, unbiased study," said Terri Pauly, former acting Pacific Northwest regional director. "We support protection for the site and will rigorously assess how the fragile resources of the Bear River site can best be saved."

At press time, NPCA planned to submit its evaluation of the feasibility study to NPS by the end of February.

TAKE ACTION: For more information about the feasibility study for the Bear River massacre site, write to the National Park Service, Columbia-Cascades System Support Office, 909 First Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104-1060.

MARKUP

Key Park Legislation

BILL	PURPOSE	STATUS
Budget Reconciliation H.R. 2491	Includes a measure that perpetuates taxpayer subsidies to the park concessions industry. Raises entrance fees without making concessioners pay their fair share. NPCA opposes.	President Clinton vetoed H.R. 2491 on December 6. At press time, the president and Congress were still working out their differences over the bill.
1996 Interior Appropriations H.R. 1977	Provides funding for NPS at levels lower than the president's budget request. Transfers management of Mojave National Preserve from NPS to the Bureau of Land Management. NPCA opposes.	President Clinton vetoed H.R. 1977 on December 18, and the House failed to override the veto on January 4. At press time, the two parties had agreed to a short-term funding measure.
Presidio H.R. 1296	Creates an independent government trust to manage the Presidio. Limits NPS management of the historic base and sets stringent criteria for the trust's operations. NPCA is working to improve the legislation.	H.R. 1296 was approved by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on December 21. The bill passed the full House on September 19.
Tallgrass Prairie H.R. 1449 / S. 695	Creates Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve with minimal federal ownership. NPCA supports.	At press time, the Senate subcommittee on national parks had planned a hearing on S. 695 for mid-March.

NPCA is working on 30 bills.

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Tracking the

CATS

BY CONNIE TOOPS

Habitat loss and poaching have seriously diminished the numbers of some American cats, whereas others are faring well. Either way, the national parks are key to their long-term survival.

TWILIGHT DESCENDS on a forest clearing in Shenandoah National Park, Virginia. An eastern cottontail nibbles on tender grasses, now and then pausing to listen. Crouching among lichen-covered rocks at the edge of the forest is one of North America's most efficient hunters. Its ears strain forward, alert to the slightest sound. Green eyes peer at the rabbit, barely 50 feet away. Unaware of the danger, the cottontail continues to graze. The cat slinks forward, stubby tail twitching in anticipation. Exploding from the woods, the cat bats the rabbit to the ground and ends its life with a bite to the neck. In the ghostly silence that follows, the bobcat retreats with its prey.

Our most abundant native felines,

Bobcats, about the size of a large housecat, have survived human encroachment by being adaptable and by their ability to remain hidden.

bobcats prey primarily on rabbits, but when populations dwindle, the "wildcats" supplement their diets with squirrels, mice, birds, lizards, even large insects. Pound for pound, bobcats are among the scrappiest fighters in the animal kingdom. Long claws, sharp teeth, and daring demeanor even allow them to ambush deer, which weigh three to four times more than the average bobcat. Unlike grizzly bears and mountain lions, whose populations declined as homesteaders moved West, bobcats adapted to the changing landscape and survived on the fringes of human habitation despite bounties posted because of their occasional raids on livestock.

Ocelots, jaguarundis, jaguars, and lynx are not faring as well as the bobcat (mountain lions were covered in the July/August 1995 issue). Habitat loss, poaching, and other threats have affected these cats enough to put ocelots, jaguars, and jaguarundis on the endangered species list. The ranges of

all of these cats extend beyond the boundaries of the contiguous United States, making protection more of a challenge.

The bobcat has been aided by its adaptability and stealth—the ability to remain invisible—as well as a coat with little appeal for the fur trade. Traditionally, bobcat fur was considered inferior to that of the larger cats. In 1974, bobcat pelts sold for \$12, and few trappers bothered with them. But when jaguars, cheetahs, and leopards were excluded from the international fur trade, bobcats came into demand. By 1980, prime pelts fetched \$600. Thankfully, wild fur has fallen from fashion, and although about 30 states still allow trapping, bobcats currently net only \$85 per pelt.

To gauge trapping pressure, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) surveyed bobcat populations during the late 1980s. The cats are scarce in portions of the Midwest where their habitat has been replaced by crops, but the

TRACKING CATS Continued

USFWS estimated up to 1.5 million adult bobcats remain in swamps, forests, deserts, and other rugged terrain.

In large Eastern parks such as Acadia, Shenandoah, and the Great Smokies, and in many Western parks, bobcats are more common now than in colonial times, yet few people see these wary creatures. Even though the cats are secretive, Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes National Seashore in California are excellent places to catch sight of them.

At a fleeting glimpse, which is what most observers settle for, it is difficult to tell a bobcat from a lynx. Both weigh 20 to 25 pounds, twice the size of a house cat. Both have stubby tails and fringes of fur framing their faces. A bobcat's coat has a ruddy hue; the lynx is grayer, and up close, it is distinguished by black tufts of fur extending from the tips of its ears. Lynx, which have streamlined bodies atop gangling legs and huge feet, seem out of proportion.

Bobcats are very adaptable when

food is scarce. They defend territories aggressively and outcompete lynx in temperate zones. But with a taste for hares (an abundant prey species in the North) and feet like snowshoes, lynx dominate boreal habitats. The current dividing line between lynx and bobcats roughly follows the U.S.-Canada border. Historically lynx also inhabited the high Rockies as far south as Colorado and Utah.

THE LYNX'S most popular food source is the snowshoe hare, which multiplies until the population consumes nearly all of the available forage. Populations boom, then crash in predictable cycles. As hares increase, lynx prosper, and females find enough food so that most kittens survive to adulthood. When hares crash, lynx kittens starve, and young adults wander great distances searching for food.

Lynx seem to be faring well in Alaskan parks. Resource management specialist Ken Stahlnecker says the lynx population has grown to about the size

that can be supported in Denali. The animals are usually observed near headquarters and along the entrance road, where there is ample wooded cover.

Bill Route, wildlife management biologist at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, says a recent study with the USFWS indicates the park and adjoining refuge lands host "a healthy population" of lynx. Twenty-five of the elusive cats were radio-collared during the survey. Females used home ranges averaging 21 square miles. Males patrolled territories twice that size, often consorting with two to four females.

USFWS wildlife biologist Lori Nordstrom studies lynx in the contiguous United States, where the outlook is less favorable than in Alaska or Canada. "Fur prices for lynx skyrocketed in the 1970s," she says. "There were not many animals in the Lower 48, but they were affected because more trappers could get to them [than in Alaska or Canada]. Lynx were overharvested, and where the breeding stock was taken, populations have not recovered."



Lynx are distinguished from bobcats by an overall grayer appearance and by the tufts of fur on their ears.

State furbearer coordinator Brian Giddings believes Montana has the best lynx habitat and probably the highest number of individuals in the Lower 48. Montana annually allows only two lynx to be trapped statewide. Once state officials are informed that the limit has been met, the season is closed. Giddings maintains this low limit has little effect on the overall population. At Glacier National Park, lynx inhabit old-growth forests above 5,000 feet. They den in hollow logs and hunt in nearby meadows. Prime lynx habitat lies on the eastern edge of the park, and trapping is allowed outside the boundary. Resource manager Steve Gniadeck says, "Sightings have declined since the late '60s. Since lynx are relatively rare even when abundant, [the situation calls] for being more cautious, not less."

According to National Park Service (NPS) resource management specialist Sue Consolo-Murphy, Yellowstone National Park is on the edge of lynx range. "From 1883 through 1995, we have only 58 records of lynx tracks or sightings on file." Consolo-Murphy uses data from automated photo sta-

tions run by volunteers and from remote snagging devices that collect hair samples to confirm the presence of elusive forest carnivores. "For now, it's the best we can do," she says. "We need a study, but it would be expensive. Realistically, in this time of declining

Politics has also hampered proposals to protect native cats through the Endangered Species Act.

budgets, lynx, fisher, and wolverine don't rank high on the list of priorities."

Two years ago, 1,900 scientists from NPS, USFWS, and other Interior agencies were reassigned to the National Biological Service (NBS). Ideally, NBS was to thoroughly inventory natural resources on our nation's public lands. In reality, NBS has fallen prey to gov-

ernment downsizing and budget woes, as well as aggressive attacks from anti-environmental forces opposed to its mission. Current congressional proposals will cut the NBS budget by 20 percent and assimilate personnel into the U.S. Geological Survey.

Some former NPS researchers have been laid off and others have left NBS because of job uncertainty. Although most former NPS scientists are continuing their park research from regional field stations, many have experienced slowdowns in administrative support and communications. "When resident scientists were transferred to NBS," Yellowstone's Consolo-Murphy says, "priorities shifted. We have received no information from NBS on how to put in requests for future projects."

Politics has also hampered proposals to protect native cats through the Endangered Species Act. For example, in Colorado the most recent lynx trapping occurred in 1972. The last "iffy" track was observed in the mid-'80s. Lori Nordstrom's research indicates lynx are probably gone from Colorado



ERWIN & PEGGY BAUER

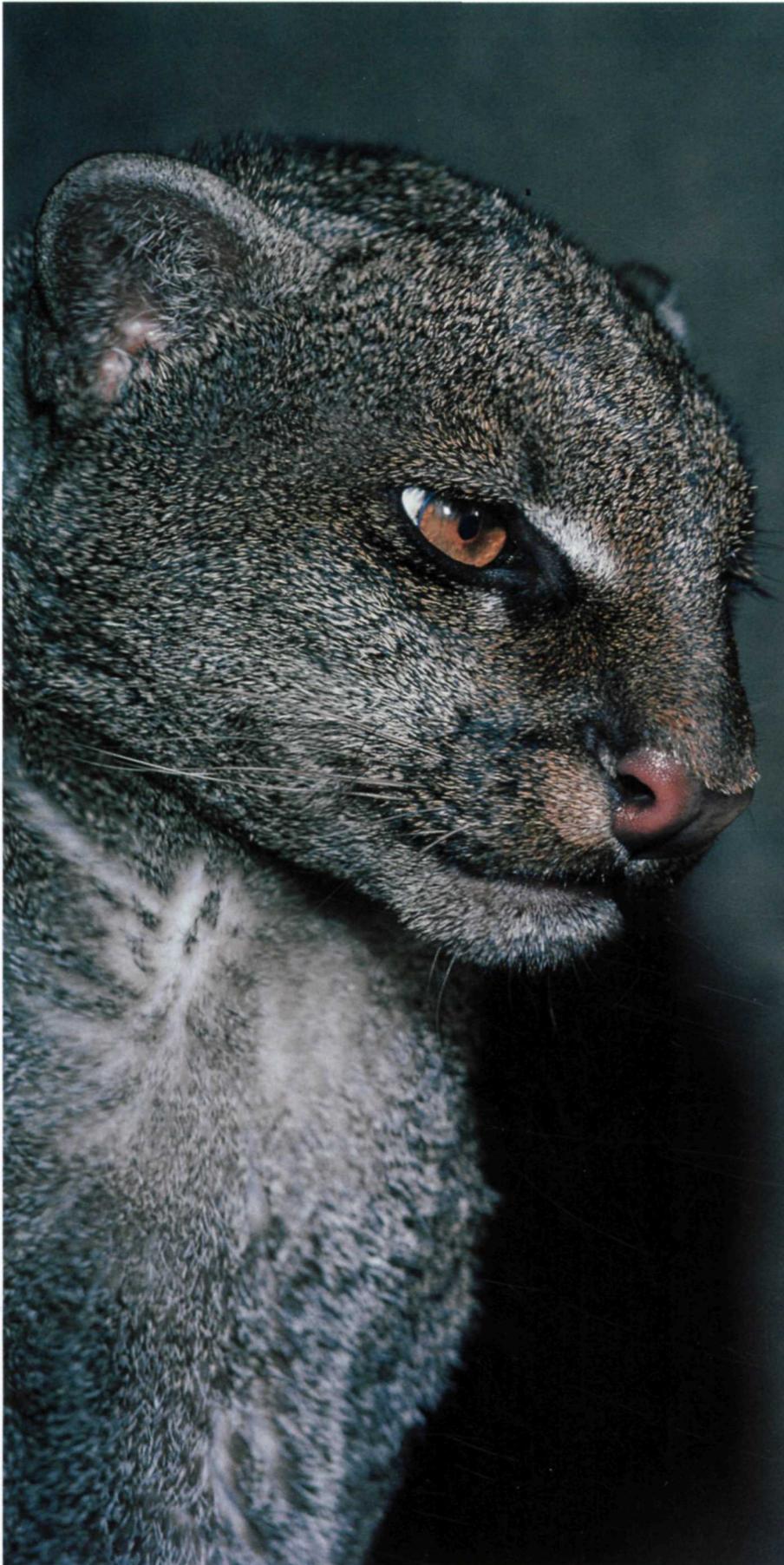
Only 50 to 100 ocelots remain in Texas, where habitat loss and highways pose major problems for the endangered cats.

and much of their former Great Lakes range. Based on her data, the USFWS proposed listing the lynx as endangered within the continental United States.

Most states in the Lower 48 within the historic lynx range already classify these animals as endangered, threatened, or sensitive. But the petition to list the animal was rejected at the national level, ostensibly because lynx populations are still adequate in Canada and Alaska. Most endangered species listings result from human-caused loss of habitat. When the Endangered Species Act is invoked to protect a plant or an animal, it can prevent development on public or private property. Thus the act has riled some property-rights groups and business interests, such as the logging industry. They have placed increasing political pressure on legislators to soften the act, which is currently up for reauthorization.

THE REMAINING three cats are all listed as endangered in at least some portion of their ranges, although additional protection would help these beleaguered species to survive in greater numbers. Ocelots, jaguars, and jaguarundis are all Southwest species that cross over the border from Mexico. Although never numerous, jaguars historically have ranged into the Southwestern United States. Before 1940, they were seen occasionally at Saguaro National Park. Rich Hayes, a ranger at Saguaro and an experienced animal tracker, believes young jaguars periodically wander north out of Mexico. They follow river corridors and seek refuge in isolated, rugged habitats. Sign records also exist from the Chisos Mountains in Big Bend National Park in Texas. A jaguar was killed illegally in 1986 in the Dos Cabezas Mountains, not far from Chiricahua National Monument in Arizona. As a result of a sting operation, wildlife officers caught the poachers.

Jaguars are the largest American cats, averaging 250 pounds and six feet long. Throughout much of their principal range in Central and South Amer-



GARY MILBURN/TOM STACK & ASSOCIATES

The jaguarundi is a tropical species, but a population may exist in south Texas.

ica, jaguars are being displaced by expanding human populations. Ranchers kill them because the cats sometimes eat cattle, and poachers kill them for their beautiful fur.

In 1972 jaguars from Mexico southward were declared endangered. At that time, no jaguars were thought to remain in the United States. The 1986 poaching case proved otherwise. To correct this oversight, a petition to include jaguars north of the border as endangered was filed in 1994. A decision was due in July 1995, but riders on Interior Department fiscal year 1996 appropriations bills—which had yet to be approved as of early 1996—placed a moratorium on new listings.

THE ENDANGERED OCELOT once roamed north to Big Thicket National Preserve in Texas. Only 50 to 100 of them remain in the United States, now centered in a few south Texas counties. USFWS biologist Linda Laack studies these small striped cats. Although they are still poached in Latin America for their coats, Laack stated, "Habitat loss is their biggest threat. Highway mortality is another problem."

Ocelots require woody canopy of mesquite and ebony with dense, thorny underbrush. Since the 1940s, most thorn-scrub has been cleared for citrus groves and vegetable farms. Ocelots prey on rabbits, mice, rats, and birds where fragments of good cover remain. Males in search of mates and young adults seeking new territories range farther. They need uncleared fencerows and brushy *resacas* (river channels) as safe travel corridors. To reduce mortality caused by vehicles, the Texas Highway Department installed two (and plan more) below-grade culverts near the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge where ocelots can cross busy roads.

Laack searched for ocelots at Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site near Brownsville, Texas, without success. Besides the Laguna Atascosa refuge in Texas, where Laack knows of nine ocelot dens, much of the best remaining habitat is on private land, although some animals have been found

at the Lower Rio Grand National Wildlife Refuge. "We need to promote a cooperative atmosphere with landowners," she says. Education about these seldom-seen cats is vital in order to inspire voluntary preservation of their habitat. In addition, Land and Water Conservation Fund money should be used to prevent further habitat fragmentation. The fund uses money drawn from mineral extraction to acquire ecologically important lands for the national park, forest, and ref-

Ocelots, jaguars, and jaguarundis are all listed as endangered in at least some portion of their ranges, although additional protection would help these beleaguered species to survive in greater numbers.

uge systems. Congress, which has made limited money available from the fund, last year attempted to eliminate it altogether.

Jaguarundis, also listed as endangered, are sleek, long-tailed creatures, colored either a uniform reddish brown or dark gray. Like ocelots, they inhabit brush cover. Occasional sightings are reported; an individual was killed on a highway near Brownsville a few years ago. But Laack is not certain whether a remnant population exists in south Texas or whether animals wander north from Mexico.

Raymond Skiles, resource management specialist at Big Bend National Park in Texas, also has received reports of jaguarundis. "In the last two years, we have had a number of sightings, some by rangers and naturalists," he says. Without physical evidence, however, these sightings are difficult to confirm. Skiles suspects the animals

may be using the woody habitat along the Rio Grande as a travel corridor.

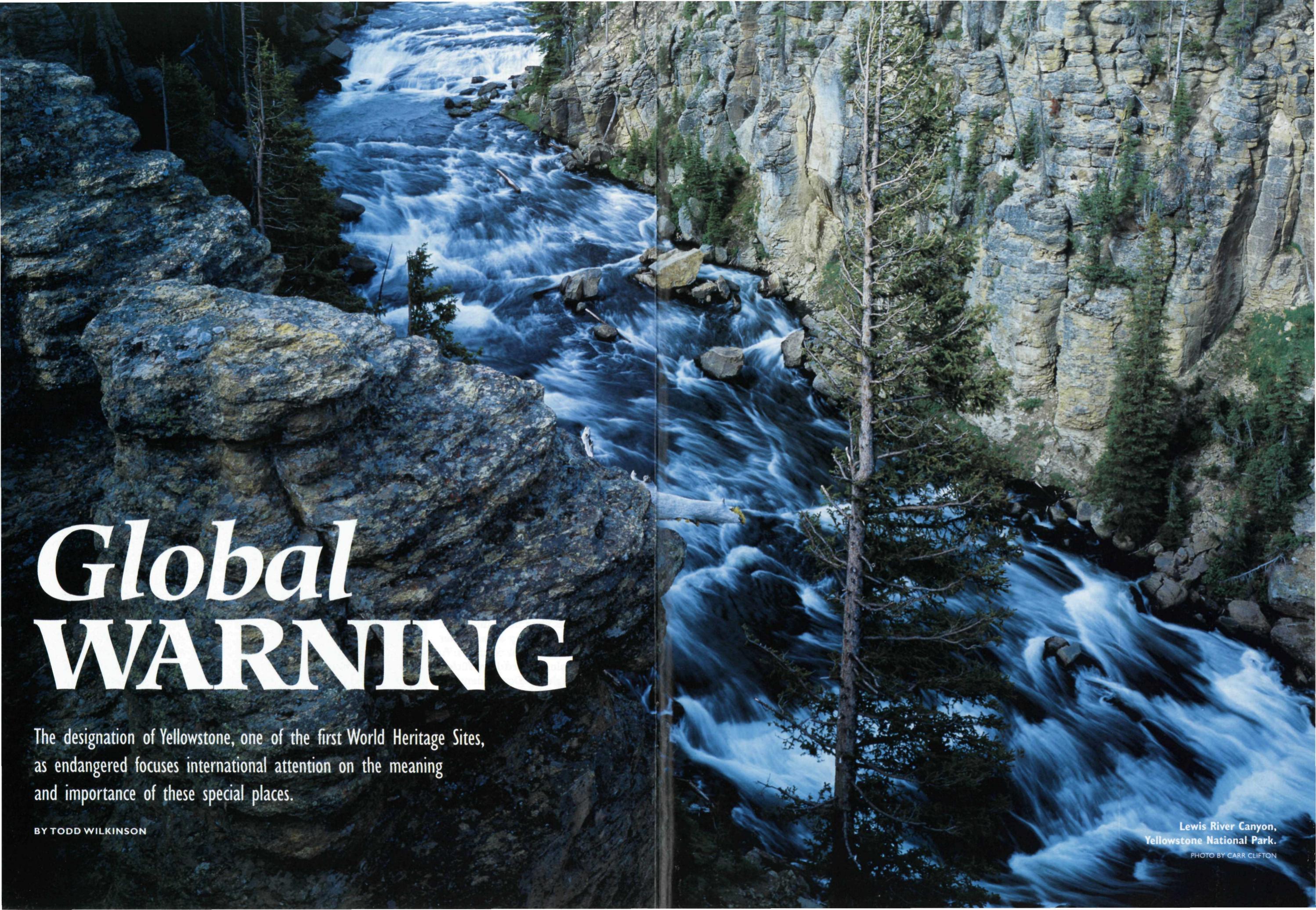
At Eagle Pass, Texas, about 150 miles east of Big Bend, the proposed 3,000-acre *Dos Republicas* strip mine would disrupt Elm Creek, a tributary of the Rio Grande. This riparian habitat is suitable for jaguarundis and ocelots. An Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ruling would allow the mining company to destroy the creek-side thorn-scrub and mitigate the damage by planting an experimental brush corridor elsewhere on the site. The National Parks and Conservation Association (NPCA) and the Sierra Club have appealed the EPA decisions. NPCA Southwest Regional Director Dave Simon says, "Intense political pressure biased the decision to grant the mine permit, despite a questionable biological opinion and mitigation plan."

Reports of ocelots and jaguarundis also trickle in from southern Arizona, including Chiricahua and Organ Pipe Cactus national monuments and Coronado National Memorial. Arizona Game and Fish mammalogist Bill Van Pelt follows up sightings by installing remote cameras along game trails in hopes of documenting the animals. No jaguarundis, ocelots, or jaguars have been photographed yet, but Van Pelt says, "We know we have lots of bobcats and mountain lions."

"The problem with these cats," he says, "is that they are all secretive creatures. Even biologists who spend lots of time in the field don't see them regularly. It's important that these cats have plenty of habitat for their secretive lifestyles."

As habitat continues to be gobbled up by expanding human populations, the role national parks fill as sanctuaries for wildlife becomes even more crucial. Although the national parks provide important habitat for our native cats, much more needs to be done to ensure the continued survival of these stealthy creatures.

CONNIE TOOPS is a photojournalist based in Martinsburg, West Virginia. This article is a sequel to her article about mountain lions, which appeared in the July/August 1995 issue.



Global **WARNING**

The designation of Yellowstone, one of the first World Heritage Sites, as endangered focuses international attention on the meaning and importance of these special places.

BY TODD WILKINSON

Lewis River Canyon,
Yellowstone National Park.

PHOTO BY CARR CLIFTON

THE PRONOUNCEMENT came from a group of global leaders most people had never heard of—yet it resonated across the Atlantic. A few weeks before Christmas, the World Heritage Committee, an international treaty organization empowered by the United States and 142 other countries, declared that the health of the world's first national park was in serious jeopardy.

Bracing against the prospect of a mega-scale gold mine on its doorstep, potential threats to park geysers from private energy developers, and a newly discovered invasion of lake trout that could decimate its famous wild fish populations, Yellowstone National Park has reached perhaps the most critical juncture in its 124-year history.

For that reason, on December 5, 1995, the World Heritage Committee added Yellowstone to its short list of "World Heritage Sites in Danger." It was a holiday gift that left environmentalists with mixed feelings, even though the action was something both they and the U.S. government had actively solicited.

"We think the status is well deserved and are pleased that the listing will help bring worldwide attention to Yellowstone's plight. However, having Yellowstone designated a site in danger is a source of great sorrow," said Terri Martin, Rocky Mountain regional director for the National Parks and Conservation Association (NPCA).

As much as the distinction underscores serious threats to Yellowstone's ecological integrity, the announcement also draws attention to an obscure political body that has served the role of a diagnostic physician assessing the health of protected areas around the world.

"The United States has been an active member in World Heritage from its inception, and yet tens of millions of people who visit parks in this country have no idea they are exploring World Heritage Sites," Martin said. "I like to think of World Heritage as a great atlas that has been sitting unopened on the bookshelf. The time has arrived for us to take a look at the pages inside."

Like the premise of national parks, World Heritage began as a novel undertaking. Nearly a quarter century ago, conservation leaders here and abroad realized there were some places of "outstanding universal value to mankind" that needed to be recognized in a global context.

In 1972, exactly 100 years after Yellowstone was established, the community of nations made a commitment, through the World Heritage Convention, to do everything possible to protect outstanding natural and cultural areas within their borders and to help other nations do the same. The United States' ratification of the con-

Nearly a quarter century ago, conservation leaders here and abroad realized there were some places that needed to be recognized in a global context.

vention was supported by President Nixon and unanimously endorsed by the Senate.

Consisting of representatives of 21 countries elected by the nations that signed the convention, the World Heritage Committee approves designation of sites, which must be nominated by host countries. In 1978, at the request of the U.S. government, Yellowstone was among a dozen inaugural sites approved by the committee.

Since then the roster of World Heritage Sites has blossomed, now encompassing some 350 cultural sites and about 100 natural areas. A distinguished who's who of famous human landmarks, the cultural icons range from India's Taj Mahal and Zimbabwe's Great Ruins to Independence Hall in Philadelphia and the Taos Pueblo in New Mexico.

The natural sites in the World Heritage portfolio represent superlative examples of diverse habitats. American parks such as Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Great Smoky Mountains, Redwood, and Everglades share the distinc-

tion with Tanzania's Serengeti Plain, Ecuador's Galapagos Islands, and Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

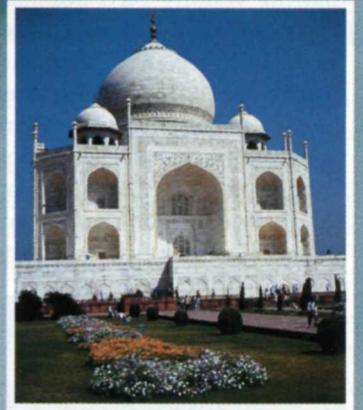
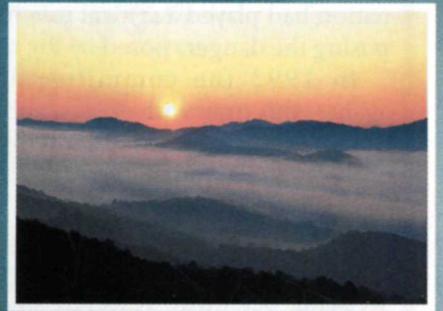
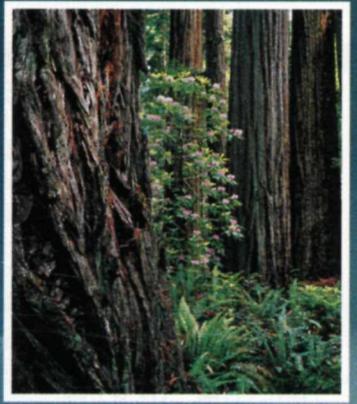
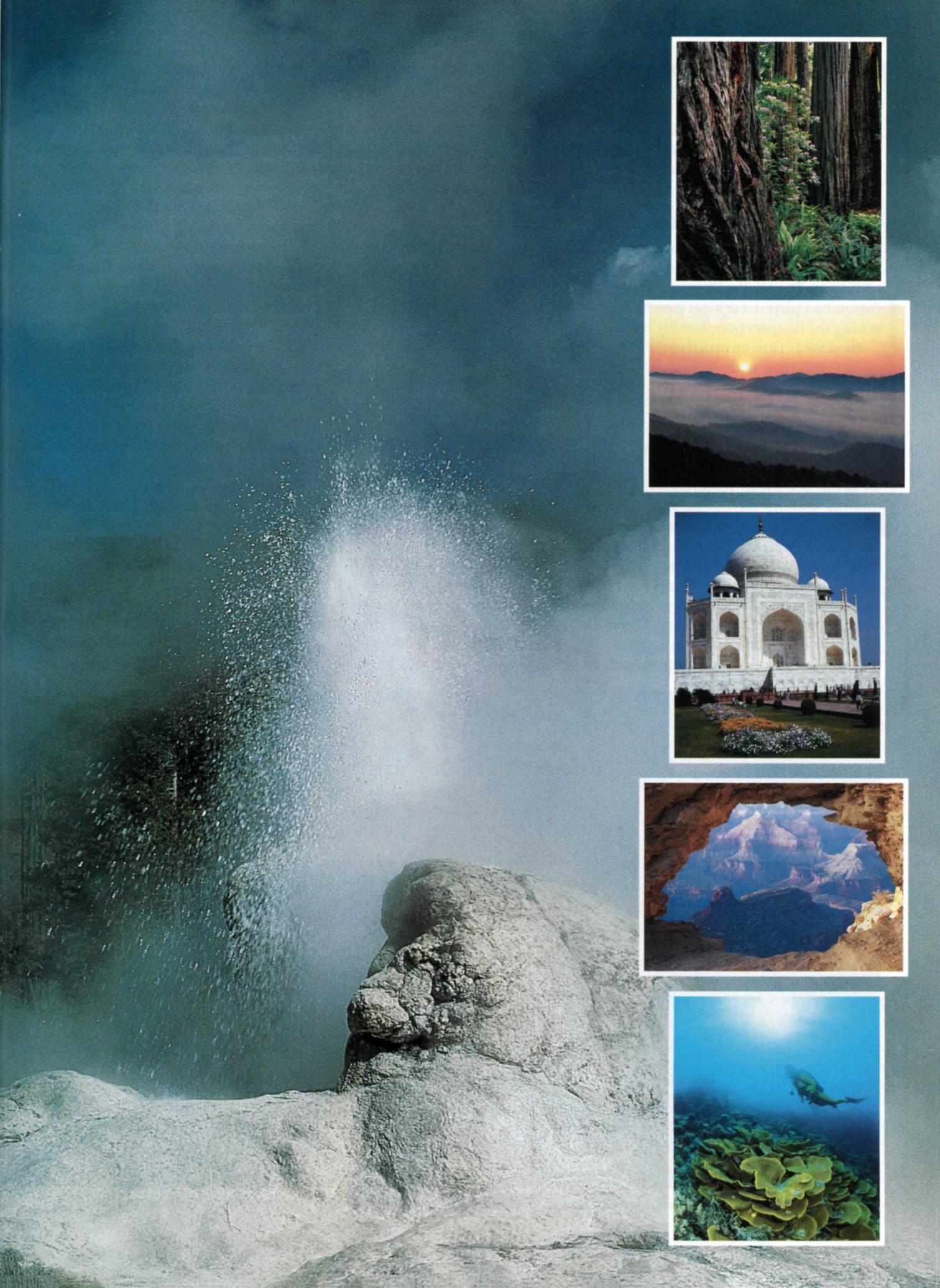
ALTHOUGH THE PRIMARY purpose of the World Heritage Convention is to recognize priceless natural and cultural wonders, the treaty has a safeguard provision that allows the committee to identify sites that have slipped into peril and need help. The "in danger" designation is a way of calling attention to these sites so that potential problems can be confronted before they turn into disasters.

Such intervention occurred in Australia in 1981 on the Great Barrier Reef, where pollution, resort development, and tourism put the coral ecosystem under tremendous stress. Conflict was resolved when an agreement was drafted between conservationists and the fishing and tourism industries to preserve sensitive areas of the reef.

During the Fourth World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas in Caracas, Venezuela, in 1992, more than two dozen sites around the world were identified where the World Heritage designation had played a key role in helping the areas respond to challenges. But it was not until the early 1990s that North Americans got their first taste of the convention's power.

At that time, the committee played an important role in summoning attention to a section of the Canadian North and southeast Alaska, where a massive copper mine was proposed at Windy Craggy Pass in British Columbia. Stopping the mine became a battle cry for conservationists on both sides of the international border because it threatened resources in two World Heritage Sites—Kluane National Park in Canada and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park in Alaska—as well as the lower drainages of the spectacular Alsek and Tatshenshini rivers.

At right: Yellowstone and a sampling of World Heritage Sites. Insets, top to bottom: Redwood National Park, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Taj Mahal, the Grand Canyon, and Great Barrier Reef, Australia.



WORLD HERITAGE *Continued*

Although in this case the committee did not invoke the “in danger” status, its influence nonetheless proved far-reaching. Reacting to the attention brought to bear by World Heritage and other efforts, Canada’s federal and provincial ministers ruled against the mine and took efforts to protect the largest span of undeveloped wilderness on the continent. The World Heritage designation had played a critical role in exposing the dangers posed by the mine.

In 1993 the committee acted again—this time with earnest application of its charter—by adding the Everglades to its endangered list, citing the deleterious effects of water consumption, pollution, and draining that were killing the famous subtropical wetland. Scientific research showed that the wading bird population had declined 93 percent over 30 years, and 56 of the Everglades’ plant and animal species were classified as either threatened or endangered. The World Heritage Committee’s decision provided an impetus for Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and Florida’s sugar cane growers to follow through on an agreement

to try to restore the ecosystem to its original splendor.

Despite these successes, the World Heritage concept has maintained a low profile in the United States. Rick Cook, a management specialist at Everglades who was formerly assigned to the Park Service’s Office of International Affairs, says, “Generally, other nations have promoted their World Heritage affli-

In 1993 the committee added the Everglades to its endangered list, citing the deleterious effects of water consumption, pollution, and draining that were killing the famous wetland.

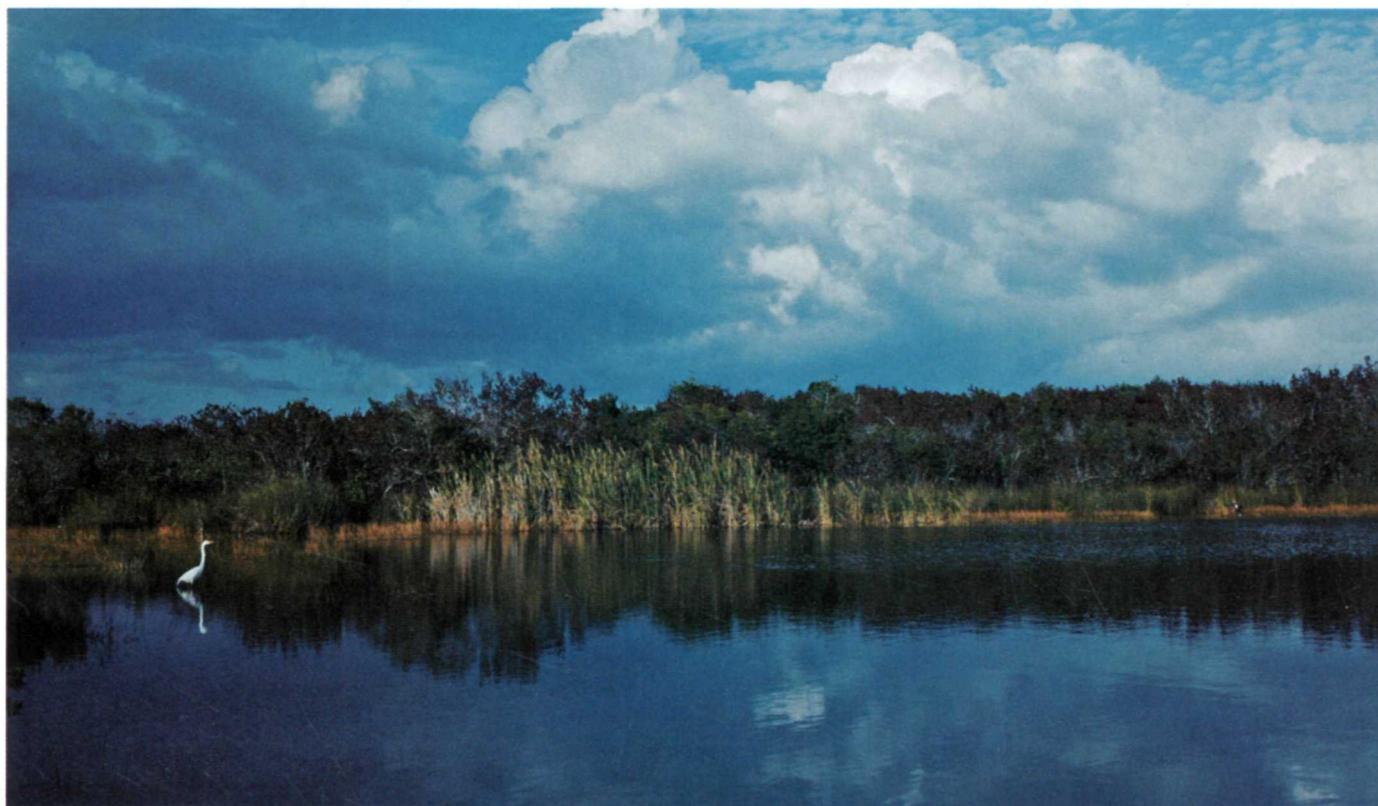
ation with far more zeal than we have, but that is changing. In many countries, global travelers target World Heritage Sites the same way Americans plan their vacations around national parks. The sponsoring countries know they

can [attract] a lot of tourism.”

According to Cook, Everglades’ new visitor center, now being built to replace the old facility destroyed by Hurricane Andrew, will focus on World Heritage. “I suspect that as the convention gets more involved in raging controversies around the world, public awareness will increase,” Cook said. “Some people are going to love World Heritage, and others won’t take too kindly to it.”

Indeed, not everyone approved of the World Heritage Committee’s recommendations for Yellowstone. Just hours after the committee’s decision was announced, Sen. Conrad Burns (R-Mont.)—a vocal defender of the mining industry—condemned the action as an example of the United Nations meddling in the “sovereignty” of the United States.

“It is astonishing that a group of extreme environmentalists can invite in a few folks from the United Nations to circumvent laws that Americans and Montanans have worked hard for and lent their voices to,” the senator declared. “We have an exhaustive procedure on the books in Montana to decide where mines can and cannot be



STAN OSOLINSKI/DEMBINSKY PHOTO ASSOC.

The Everglades’ wading bird populations had declined dramatically by the time the committee took action in 1993.

sited. Why should we allow the U.N. to pick and choose when these laws and rules will be allowed to work?

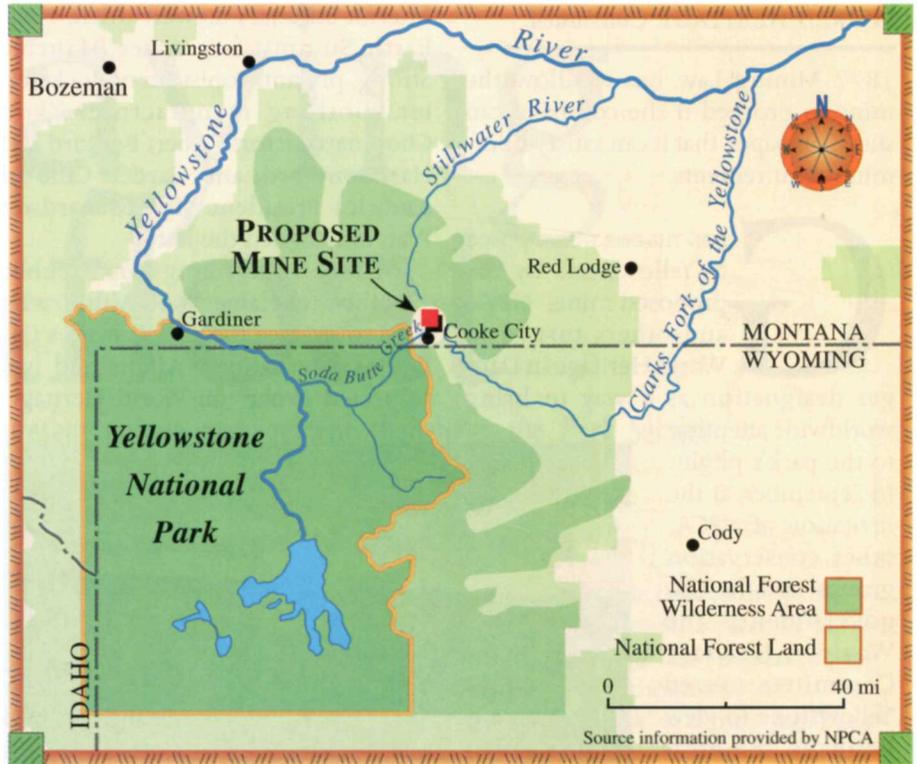
"The designation would also seek to put a halt to activities in the park such as travel by motor vehicles as well as to create a buffer zone around the park that would run roughshod over private property rights," the senator continued. "That's just ridiculous."

What is ridiculous, says NPCA's Martin, is how Burns distorts the facts. In truth, the U.N. has no involvement whatsoever, and the "in danger" designation seeks only to expose serious potential or ascertained threats to designated World Heritage Sites. It is up to the U.S. government and its land management agencies to comply with the mandates of the treaty—the paramount intent being the maintenance of the park's ecological integrity. What the designation does not do is usurp a nation's sovereignty, infringe upon private property rights, or result in economic sanctions or boycotts levied against specific industries.

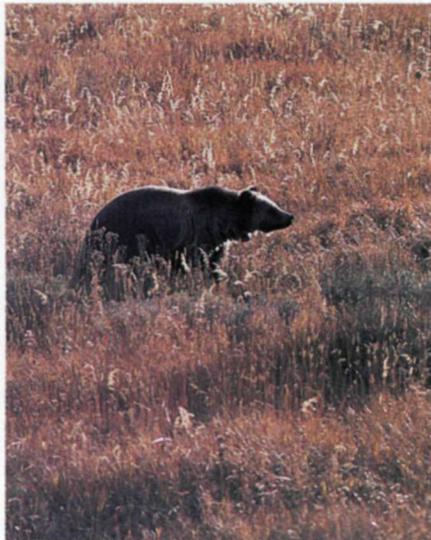
"If Sen. Burns is so concerned about international bodies coming in and hijacking Yellowstone, he ought to be asking himself why he is so eager to let a Canadian mining company come into this country and exploit a law that puts Yellowstone at risk," suggests Bob Ekey, spokesman for the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, which joined with NPCA, American Rivers, and 11 other organizations in seeking World Heritage's involvement.

OF THE PLETHORA of threats to Yellowstone cited by the World Heritage Committee, chief among them is the \$700 million gold, silver, and copper mine backed by Canadian giant Noranda Minerals, Inc., and a Montana-based subsidiary. (See feature story in *National Parks*, July/August 1994.)

The proposed mine, a mosaic of private and public lands in the Bear-tooth Mountains less than three miles from Yellowstone's border, requires the cooperation of the U.S. Forest Service to provide access and a place to entomb 5.5 million tons of toxic waste



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JEFF AND ALEXA HENRY

The proposed mine would not only affect Yellowstone waters but would also bring roads and industrialization to critical grizzly bear habitat.

known as tailings. The proposed tailings graveyard, which would be ten stories deep and the size of 70 football fields, would have to remain sealed forever to avoid environmental catastrophe; yet, Noranda plans to build it in an area of intense geologic activity and at an elevation of 10,000 feet. The site favored by Noranda is along the banks of a stream that flows into the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River, a

blue-ribbon trout fishery and Wyoming's only federal wild and scenic river. An alternative site is another drainage leading to the Lamar and Yellowstone rivers, both of which flow through the park.

The quality and quantity of Yellowstone water also could be affected by the mining operation itself, which could dry up springs and contaminate groundwater that flows into Yellowstone. In addition, the mine would bring roads and industrialization to the area, which is prime habitat for grizzly bears and other wildlife.

Early this spring, the Forest Service and the Montana Department of State Lands are scheduled to release a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the mine. In the works for four years, the statement has been continually delayed by Noranda's inability to complete its applications for several dozen permits.

The Noranda controversy has stirred as much public outrage as did the fight over the Alsek and Tatshenshini rivers. But, despite an avalanche of nearly 20,000 comments of protest that have poured into the White House and Forest Service headquarters in Washington, Forest Service officials say they may have no alternative under the

1872 Mining Law but to allow the mine to proceed if the company can show, on paper, that it can satisfy minimum requirements.

GIVEN THE DIRE THREAT posed to Yellowstone by the proposed mine, NPCA and others turned to World Heritage in Danger designation as a way to bring worldwide attention to the park's plight. In September, at the invitation of NPCA, other conservation groups, and the U.S. government, the World Heritage Committee toured Yellowstone to view firsthand the areas that would be affected by the mine and other threats.

Conservationists knew they needed to plead their case effectively while reminding the committee of the broad base of public opposition to the mine. In a letter to the committee, park historian and NPCA trustee Alfred Runte wrote, "It is vital that you, the representatives of the world community, now declare Yellowstone a World Heritage Site in Danger. What saved Yellowstone in the first place was concern for our self-image in the mirror of world opinion. Make us, then, live up to our own argument."

In another letter to committee chairman Adul Wichenchaoen dated September 6, 1995, NPCA President Paul Pritchard, along with other prominent park supporters, wrote that international recognition was needed to ensure that the mine never breaks ground. The long list of names signing the letter ranged from active members of Congress (Reps. Bruce Vento, Nick Joe Rahall II, and Bill Richardson) to former President Jimmy Carter. Media mogul Ted Turner, scientists Thomas Lovejoy and Luna Leopold, former

Interior Secretary Stewart Udall, 1992 Earth Summit organizer Maurice Strong, philanthropist Larry Rockefeller, clothing manufacturer Yvon Chouinard, actors Robert Redford and Harrison Ford, and Garden Club of America President Mrs. Richardson Pratt also signed the letter.

"The real bargaining chip is public visibility," explained Rob Milne, who used to oversee the Park Service's Office of International Affairs and is a respected expert on World Heritage.



B. "MOOSE" PETERSON/WRP

The "in danger" designation underscores our responsibility to preserve Yellowstone for future generations.

"To not act is to send a message that our participation in international treaties—and indeed our commitment to protect our first national park—is arbitrary and capricious. To do that just doesn't send a very positive message to the rest of the world."

The onus ultimately rests on President Clinton's shoulders, and he already has said, "No amount of gain that could come from it [the mine] could possibly offset any permanent damage to Yellowstone."

BESIDES THE MINE, Yellowstone resource managers are trying to cope with an invasion of lake trout in park waters that is expected to radically reduce the number of indigenous cutthroat trout, a prime source

of food for threatened grizzly bears and a dozen other species. A bill to prohibit geothermal development just outside Yellowstone has stalled in the Republican-controlled Congress, leaving the park's geysers and hot springs vulnerable to tampering. Development is taking place on private lands in critical wildlife habitat next to the park. Yellowstone bison are being shot when they wander beyond park boundaries. And record-breaking crowds are visiting the park in summer and winter.

Yellowstone Superintendent Mike Finley reacted forcefully to insinuations from Sen. Burns that the World Heritage in Danger status was a conspiracy involving the United Nations to create a buffer zone around the park. Finley said, "It causes me to ask the basic question: What's wrong with protecting Yellowstone National Park from internal and external threats?"

"People like Sen. Burns...have tried to make this sound like an

issue of us versus them, foreign intervention versus the United States—which is ironic, since we asked for this listing," he continued. "When they say World Heritage has no business being here, I would like to remind them that every year 3 million people passing through the park entrance stations ratify Yellowstone's designation as a World Heritage Site—a place that is beloved and special the world over."

Today, it remains to be seen whether the World Heritage Committee can rescue Yellowstone from the throes of emerging crises, but at least the world has been alerted to the problem. According to NPCA's Martin, Yellowstone's World Heritage Site in Danger status "is not a eulogy. It means there still is time to act. We have an opportunity that may not be here down the road."

TODD WILKINSON writes regularly for National Parks magazine.

Staying Afloat

Although maritime parks present unique management challenges, the Park Service is doing the best it can with limited funds and expertise.

BY EBBA HIERTA

A HANDFUL OF historic ships in the National Park System, some of them the last of their type in existence, tell the story of an important period in U.S. history, when nearly all commerce was carried out on the water.

Their history is as varied as their designs. A three-masted schooner that hauled lumber along the Pacific Coast; an ocean-going steam-powered tugboat, one of the last of its kind; a scow schooner that carried cargo in coastal waters; the largest wooden boat in the country, a 300-foot side-wheel steamer ferry; and a steel-hulled three-masted square-rigger that was built to withstand the rigors of Cape Horn, the southernmost point of South America, where the waters of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans collide.

While their stories are dramatic ones, full of excitement and the dangers of life at sea, some of the vessels today also tell a sad tale of neglect. The San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, home to seven ships—the largest floating



MICHAEL PERLA

The 111-year-old *C.A. Thayer*, front, built for the Pacific Coast lumber trade, needs a complete overhaul.

historic fleet in the world—has waged a pitched battle over the last 18 years to preserve the boats.

Lack of funds has been the primary problem. The marine environment is harsh and the need for maintenance constant. Most of the boats were in sorry shape when the Park Service took them over from the state of California in 1978. But disagreements among the park staff over how to allocate limited resources and how best to tell the story of these ships and their role in history have interfered with efforts to save them.

The 111-year-old *C.A. Thayer*, one of only three wooden three-masted schooners in the country, needs an infusion of \$8 million. The 156-foot ship, built for the Pacific Coast lumber trade and later used for cod and salmon fishing, is rife with dry rot. The massive 90-foot-long hull timbers, cut from old-growth Douglas fir, are deteriorating at an increasing rate. Replacement planks of this size are no longer available, although hull timbers could be pieced together with shorter planks. The ship's

deck is no longer water-tight, and rain water that leaks into the boat accelerates the rot that is attacking the internal support frames.

The Park Service has treated the wood with borate, a chemical that slows dry rot. The Park Service also has taken the boat out of the water—once in 1987 and again in late 1995—to address pressing emergencies that threatened to sink the ship. Most recently, several severely rotten planks were replaced, and the bottom was recaulked.

Without a complete overhaul, the ship will last perhaps another decade with periodic stabilization efforts, says park Superintendent William Thomas. After that, he says the *C.A. Thayer*, the only lumber schooner still afloat from the original 500-boat fleet, will be too far gone to save.

The 81-year-old *Wampama*, the last of a fleet of 235 steam schooners, has already reached the point of no return. The boat has been dry-docked on a floating barge since 1980. Nearly \$1 million is needed just to stabilize the boat enough to allow visitors to safely tour it, and a complete restoration would cost more than \$12 million.

“We’re taking a hard look at her future,” Thomas says. “She’s deteriorated so much that the cost of restoration is prohibitive. We could spend more money on that one boat than it would take to restore the rest of the fleet. One option we have to look at is to dismantle her and save the important parts for display.”

THE REMAINING five ships in the San Francisco fleet range in condition from excellent to marginal. These ships present a unique problem for the Park Service, which some say is more adept at addressing environmental issues at land-based parks and “bricks and mortar” preservation issues at historic sites.

The park system includes three

Built to withstand the rigors of Cape Horn, Balclutha was the last ship to fly the flag of the Hawaiian Kingdom.



JOHN ELK III

maritime parks, each with its own unique challenges, but none more pressing than those found in San Francisco. "The Park Service doesn't have a lot of experience dealing with maritime resources," says NPCA's Pacific Regional Director Brian Huse. "When you bring in people who are government bureaucrats and combine them with the independent and opinionated individuals who work on these ships, there are naturally going to be confrontations."

Thomas, one of the "bureaucrats," is the first to agree. Giving a fleet of historic ships to the Park Service to manage is like "giving Yosemite National Park to the Navy," says the superintendent. "Very few people in the Park Service really understood what we needed out here when we first started. It was more of a problem years ago. We're getting a much better understanding from our managers now."

For years, the Park Service has battled publicly with Karl Kortum, who in the early 1950s founded the maritime museum that is now part of the Park Service site. He advocated its turnover to the federal agency in 1978 and continued as its curator until his retirement last year. With support from the larger international community of ship preservationists, Kortum disagreed with Thomas repeatedly over how to allocate the limited preservation funds and how to display the ships and interpret them to the 400,000 visitors who tour the park each year.

A difference in approach was at the core of Kortum's disagreement with the Park Service. He supported the idea of distributing the limited funds equally among the maritime museum's ships; the Park Service wanted to keep some of the boats in operating condition, which meant some of the ships received a majority of the available money. Kortum never hesitated to air

his disagreements in the press. And this steady barrage of negative publicity hindered park managers' requests for more money.

"Past squabbles brought a lot of negative attention and scared away congressional help," says Kevin Foster, chief of the NPS National Maritime Initiative. "It was really counterproductive, and it damaged the park's credibility at times."

Even some of Kortum's most ardent supporters agree that his methods sometimes did more harm than good. "I asked him ten years ago to stop his war with the government," says Peter Stamford, president of the National



An 1805 oil painting of Friendship, by George Ropes, is on display at Salem. Construction of a 171-foot replica of the ship is set to begin this year.

Maritime Historical Society and a founder of New York's South Street Seaport Museum, who calls Kortum "a world phenomenon and a genius when it comes to ship preservation."

"I believed that it wasn't really helping the ships, and in some cases it was hurting them," Stamford says. "If he continued to focus on the fight instead of finding some way to cooperate, he was delaying the steps of reform that might otherwise take place. Well, it didn't happen."

Kortum's frustration stemmed from

years of having park managers ignore his advice, says Gunnar Lundeborg, a member of the park's Advisory Commission. Many of the park's problems stem from mismanagement, Lundeborg says, and the park also routinely ignores the advice of the commission, a group of people with extensive experience in ship maintenance.

"They have a terribly scattered maintenance program down there," says Lundeborg, who represents U.S. merchant seamen as president of the Sailor's Union of the Pacific. "Things are out of kilter. There are haphazard and arbitrary decisions made about what gets done and when. Too much

money and effort is spent doing cosmetic work and not getting to the fundamental problem. There is too much staff rotation; we end up with people put in a position of ship managers who have no experience. Petty politics seems to be the rule," he continues. "People who are qualified in ship maintenance are transferred to other departments. Those ships are national treasures. They can't be replaced. This shouldn't be allowed to continue."

Despite protracted internal difficulties and the declining condition of the C.A. Thayer and Wampama, Thomas says he has turned

the corner with most of the fleet. Originally a unit of Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park was granted its own charter in 1989. That allowed park managers to carve out a separate niche, says Thomas, and made it easier to stake a claim for restoration funds. And the National Maritime Initiative, created in 1986, has effectively created a Park Service interest in maritime history, he says.

THE SALEM MARITIME National Historic Site in Massachusetts provides a dramatic contrast to the situation in San Francisco. The Salem site, the first national historic site in

PEABODY ESSEX MUSEUM PHOTO BY JOHN DYKES



The Custom House is one of many historic buildings at Salem Maritime National Historic Site, which displays no ships.

the park system, consists of wharves and buildings on Salem harbor that remain from the days when the port played a dominant role in U.S. international trade.

Salem and surrounding Essex County are home to 8,300 structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places and 23 national landmarks. Through a partnership with other public and private historic sites in the region, Salem Superintendent Steven Kesselman has worked to incorporate the NPS site as part of a greater “heritage area” that encompasses most of Essex County. A new visitors center in downtown Salem and eight “satellite” centers at other nearby historic sites are working with the Park Service to educate the nearly 1 million tourists who visit each year.

“We are interpreting the entire region, not just the National Park Service land,” says Kesselman. “And these other sites incorporate our site and the

importance of the region’s maritime heritage in their programs. We’ve done a whole lot of leveraging, and the whole thing is coming together with minimal cost.”

The Salem site, however, is not without controversy. Its half-mile-long Derby Wharf sits empty, with no ship to help tell its story. Not a single historic ship from Salem’s colonial shipping period has survived. So, the Park Service, with the help of a private fundraising campaign, is building a new one.

Design plans for the *Friendship*, a \$6 million, 171-foot replica of a three-masted square-rigger that was built in Salem in 1797, have been completed, and park officials hope to begin construction this year. Although funding to build the ship was not a Park Service budget priority, a separate act of Congress made a commitment for a \$4.5-million federal grant. The local community is working to raise the ad-

ditional \$1.5 million through private, state, and local sources.

Not everyone thinks the Salem project, and the money allotted to it, are good things. Eileen Woodford, NPCA Northeast regional director, says that Salem, like San Francisco, is not an NPS priority. The difference is that Congress has decided Salem is a priority. “Congress criticizes NPS for how it spends money and then goes ahead and directs funding to something that NPS has decided is not a priority. Congress has to bear some responsibility for what is going on. The money for Salem was an add on,” says Woodford.

But the park’s superintendent says the money will be well spent. Kesselman says a ship is crucial to the historic site’s mission. “We’re a maritime park without a ship,” he says. “Without it, our interpretive potential will never be fully exploited.” Plans for building a ship to complement the Salem site have been in place since the

site was founded in 1938, Kesselman says. The *Friendship* has become the focal point for the regional partnership, he says, and will increase visitation to the site by 20 to 30 percent. The Salem Partnership had raised nearly half of the \$1.5 million needed for the project by the end of 1995.

While the *Friendship* project has the full support of the Salem community, some Park Service officials are uneasy about spending millions of dollars to build a replica when authentic historic ships in San Francisco are deteriorating.

John Birchell, superintendent of Boston National Historical Park, says the ship is a bad idea, and the Park Service "should not be in the ship-building business."

Boston National Historical Park includes the Charlestown Navy Yard, home of the USS *Constitution*, the oldest commissioned ship in the U.S. Navy. Funds are not lacking for the ship on display. The 199-year-old *Constitution* is still a commissioned Navy ship; and therefore, the vessel is maintained by the Department of Defense. The Defense Department has a spare-no-expense attitude toward "old Ironsides."

The U.S. Navy crew assigned to the *Constitution* performs many of the tasks that keep the wooden ship in prime condition. This spring, the three-year, \$12-million overhaul to prepare the ship for its 200-year anniversary in 1997 will be completed, a job undertaken by a contractor. "We are fortunate in that regard," Birchell says. "The *Constitution* is displayed at our pier, but we don't have the responsibility for her upkeep."

Although the Department of Defense pays the tab for any work done on the ship, some critics argue that the work is not really historic restoration, but rather reconstruction. And, therefore, the work on the ship is unlike any done at other maritime museums in the system.

IN SAN FRANCISCO, upkeep of the fleet is a constant battle—the park staff fight to keep the elements at bay and fight for a share of a shrinking pool of special projects money in the NPS budget. The historic site's \$5-million annual budget includes the salaries of a small crew of carpenters who do routine maintenance. Superintendent Thomas must vie with all of the other parks, monuments, recreation areas, and historic sites in the Pacific Region

has been made on all of the ships except the *Thayer* and *Wampama*.

The other ships are the 105-year-old *Alma*, which is in excellent condition and sailed regularly by a volunteer crew; the 135-foot *Hercules*, the last early 20th century ocean-going steam tugboat afloat, which is in good shape and has been fully operational since 1991. The remaining three ships still need more work to finish restoration. They are the 300-foot ferryboat *Eureka*, the largest wooden boat in the country

and the last intact wooden-hulled sidewheel steamer afloat in the United States; the 100-foot *Eppleton Hall*, a steam-driven sidepaddle tug, the last of the famed British paddle boats to be built and the only one still floating; and the 301-foot *Balclutha*, a steel-hull, three-masted square-rigger built to withstand the rigors of Cape Horn and the last ship to fly the flag of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

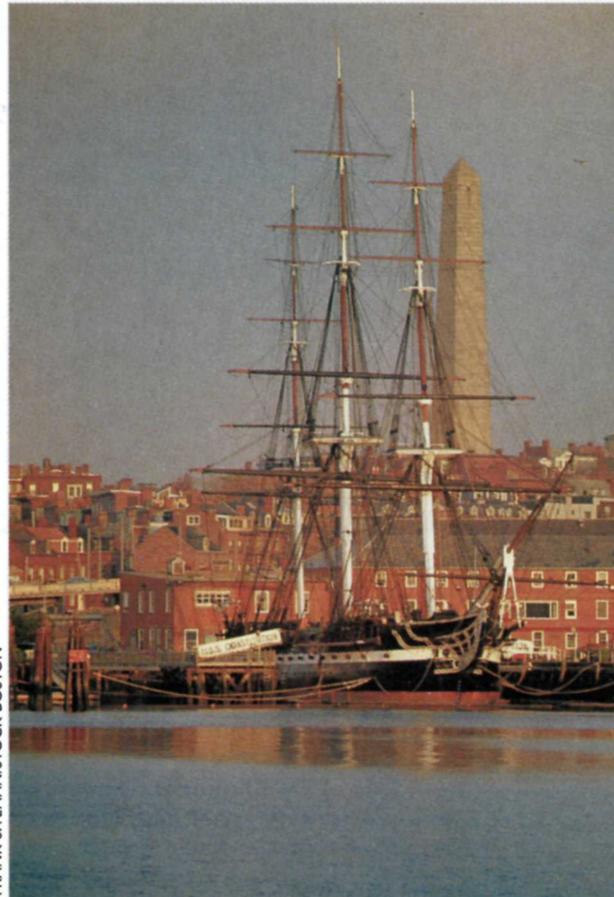
"We still have a lot to do, but I'm still optimistic," says Thomas. "Besides the *Wampama*, I think we will get the resources we need to improve the condition of the ships and keep them up."

Excluding the *Wampama*, the historic site needs \$20 million to complete restoration of its ships and buildings, he says. Not all of that money is needed today, he says, but restoration of the *Thayer* must begin soon if the Park Service intends to save it. Ideally, the restoration

would be done in one huge project, Thomas says, but if the \$8 million is not forthcoming, it may have to be done piece by piece.

"The *Thayer* is the most expensive problem we have and our most pressing concern. Sixty-five percent of our [financial] need is in that ship," Thomas says. "If we don't get to her, she'll solve the problem for us; she'll just fall apart."

EBBA HIERTA, a writer who lives in Atlanta, Georgia, last wrote for National Parks about riverways at risk.



FRANK SITEMAN/ISTOCK BOSTON

The 199-year-old USS *Constitution*, at Charlestown Navy Yard, with Bunker Hill in the background, is still a commissioned Navy vessel with an assigned Navy crew.

for money for period overhauls and restoration.

"We've really come a long way," Thomas says. "We managed in the good years [before NPS budget cuts] to do a lot of work." Since 1989, when NPS ships constituted half of the threatened National Historic Landmarks in California, Thomas says, good progress

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Grand Canyon by Ed Mell in cooperation with the Grand Canyon Chamber Music Festival and the Susan Brown Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ.

Photo by Wolfgang Kaehler



Exploring the Backwaters

Kayaking is an ideal low-impact way to enjoy the national parks from the Virgin Islands to Alaska.

BY DAVID N. B. LEE

PADDLING A KAYAK in silence along a remote lakeshore or gliding across the water at dawn, a traveler realizes few more exhilarating ways exist to enjoy many of the national parks. From Alaska to the U.S. Virgin Islands, kayaking is often the ideal way to see the parks.

The practical advantages of kayak travel are many. Unlike backpackers, paddlers do not have to be as space and weight conscious, and on most guided trips prior experience is not necessary. Often the kayak has room for extra supplies that make the overnight trip that much more pleasurable, and, unlike backpacking, the goods are carried by the boat.

Kayaks allow unobtrusive access to remote areas where crowds cannot follow. Out on the water, solitude, natural quiet, and true wilderness are the rule. Bears, sea lions, eagles, and even whales have little fear of human paddlers, allowing a closer approach than would otherwise be possible.

National parks offer an opportunity to pursue a variety of water-related activities, including kayaking. Here is a close-up look at five of the nation's premier kayaking parks.

Glacier Bay

Glacier Bay National Park in Alaska offers some of the most breathtaking scenery and exciting sea kayaking in the park system. Thousand-foot fjords and glaciers—that calve chunks of ice

DAVID N. B. LEE specializes in environmental and travel writing and last wrote for NATIONAL PARKS about oil and gas drilling in the parks.

the size of buildings into the bay—mark the coastline. Secluded beach campsites provide paddlers with spectacular mountain views as well as access to day hikes.

Wildlife viewing in Glacier Bay is incredible. In the summer months, kayakers can see humpback whales, orcas, sea lions, and dozens of sea birds feeding in the plankton-rich waters. Paddlers often spot wolves, grizzlies, and black bears on shore as they feed on carrion, beach grass, and wild strawberries.

Kayakers should be prepared for changing weather and fluctuating tides. Rain can be falling or the sun

shining at any time, and beach scenes can change from mud flats to open water in a matter of hours, as 20-foot tides ebb and flow.

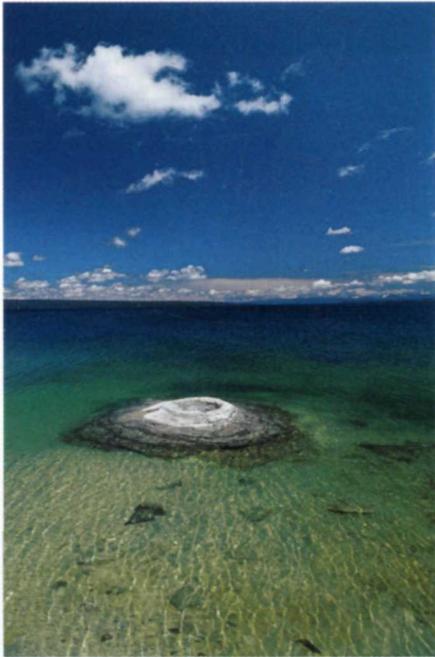
Access to the bay's wildest areas is provided by tour boats that leave from Juneau or the dock at Bartlett Cove, the location of the park's headquarters. Traveling up the bay, a visitor will notice the vegetation change from rainforest to barren landscape. It is as though the boat is going back in time by following the retreat of the glaciers and the subsequent advance of plant and animal communities.

Making early reservations is recommended for kayak rentals or tours.



A lone kayaker in Glacier Bay National Park is dwarfed by the backdrop of mountains and chunks of ice.

MARC MUENCH



ART WOLFE



ERWIN & PEGGY BAUER

White pelicans are a common sight for kayakers at Yellowstone Lake, which outfitter Steve Lentz calls a true wilderness.

Boats and trips in July and August are usually booked months in advance. Campsites are available at Bartlett Cove, and the park allows backcountry camping in several places. Food is available in Gustavus, but it is best to bring supplies or ship them in advance. For more information, contact Glacier Bay National Park, Gustavus, AK 99826 or call 907-697-2230.

Yellowstone

The popularity of kayaking on Yellowstone Lake at Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming has increased dramatically over the past few years, but it is still possible to find seclusion in one of the remote arms of the lake, closed to most motor boat traffic. Bald eagles, osprey, and white pelicans are common sights, and the lucky paddler may even spot a grizzly sauntering along the shore. Cutthroat and lake trout fishing is usually excellent.

Beyond the beach, open woods and sunny meadows provide excellent opportunities to stretch and watch elk and bison graze. Everywhere charred trees and new undergrowth are reminders of how the 1988 wildfires have helped to revitalize the Yellowstone ecosystem.

Yellowstone paddlers should pay attention to the weather, which can change in seconds. Unless a visitor has a kayak, it is best to sign on with one

of the outfitters operating on Yellowstone Lake. Some companies even offer "backcountry luxury" and gourmet meals. Access to the lake varies with the tour. On some trips, paddlers will leave from the busy west side and kayak to the wild southeastern arms of the lake. Other tours include a power boat ride from west-side marinas. Tour operators drop paddlers off in prime kayaking areas. A recent boom in kayaking has led to heavy use in some areas, so check and be sure the chosen outfitter practices minimum-impact camping. Call the park for more information on outfitters.

Groceries, hotels, and gas can be found at the park entrance at West Yellowstone. The Bridge Bay Marina also has most amenities as well as fishing licenses. The lake lies at 7,000 feet above sea level, and kayaking is best from mid-June to mid-September. For more information on paddling in Yellowstone, call the park at 307-344-7381, or write to P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone Park, WY 82190.

Channel Islands

Composed of five islands just 90 minutes from urban southern California, Channel Islands National Park is a sharp contrast to the bustling mainland. Encompassing more than 250,000 acres, the park preserves in a semi-natural state many of the ecosystems lost in

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the mainland's more populated areas.

In the islands, kayakers can paddle into sea caves, explore tide pools, and hike trails to inland valleys. Dubbed "California's Galapagos," the park protects several endemic animal and plant species, including the island fox and Santa Cruz Island ironwood. The foxes are notoriously friendly, and at Scorpion Ranch on Santa Cruz Island, a pair regularly dens under the bunkhouse, feeding their young with tidbits stolen from unsuspecting visitors. (Ninety percent of Santa Cruz Island is owned by The Nature Conservancy. The remainder is owned by the Park Service and a private individual.)

Paddlers who want to explore the islands' caves should do so with caution. Ocean swells, tides, and sharp rocks can make sea caving dangerous, even for experienced paddlers. Helmets and wet suits are a must.

All of the islands offer campsites, and visitors usually get to the park on Island Packers, the boat concessioner, although some airlines offer flights to the islands. If you will be camping, buy groceries and water on the mainland in Ventura, Oxnard, or Santa Barbara. Bed and breakfasts are available at both Smugglers and Scorpion Ranch on Santa Cruz, and both offer a "meals provided" option. For more information, contact Channel Islands National Park, 1901 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura, CA 93001 805-658-5730.

Acadia

Acadia National Park in Maine protects some of the last wildlands on the Atlantic Coast. Here kayakers can paddle along rocky shores, watch harbor seals, and search for porpoises and whales.

More than 300 species of birds can be found at Acadia; 122 of them nest in the park. Acadia offers mountains, islands, and magnificent coastline for the kayaker, including the spectacular cliffs of Isle au Haut, more remote than Mount Desert Island and accessed by ferry boat. On shore, park trails carpeted with spruce needles lead to fantastic views of surrounding islands and the open ocean. Access to the moun-



DAVID MUECH

Kayakers can explore sea caves and tide pools at Channel Islands National Park in California

tains is made easy by 57 miles of carriage roads, a network of woodland pathways free of motor vehicles.

Kayakers should be aware of rapidly changing weather, which over the course of any three-day trip may in-

clude sun, fog, and strong wind. The fog and hidden underwater ledges can make the Maine coast treacherous going for ships, so much so that today the U.S. Coast Guard maintains five lighthouses in the area. Paddlers should be aware of the tides, which vary from nine to 14 feet.

At Duck Harbor, the National Park Service maintains a campground complete with shelters and grills. Private campsites and those operated by the Park Service are also available in the Bar Harbor area. Groceries and other supplies are available in Bar Harbor, Northeast Harbor, Southwest Harbor, and Ellsworth. For more information, write to Acadia National Park, P.O. Box 177, Bar Harbor, ME 04609 or call 207-288-3338.

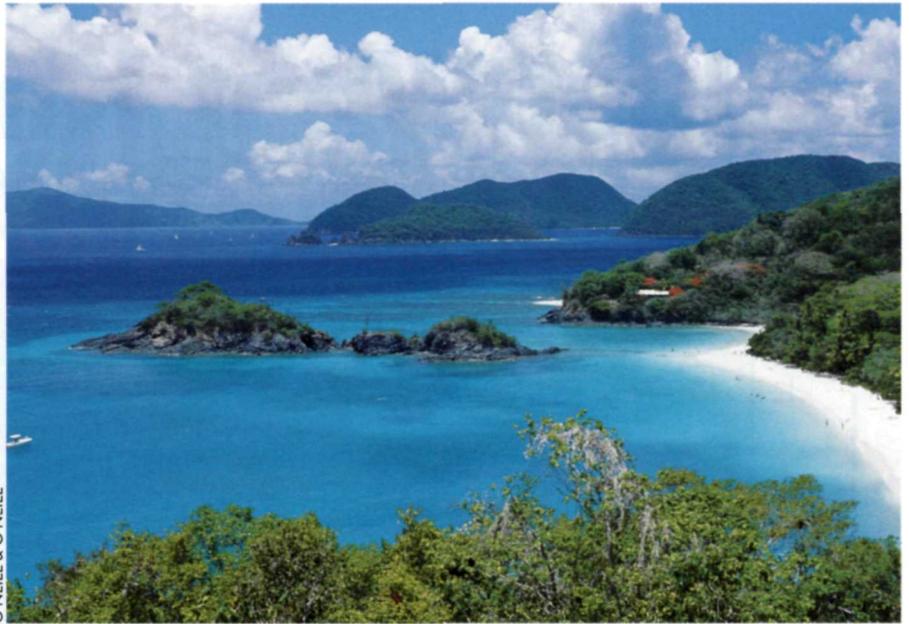
Virgin Islands

If paddling cool waters does not appeal to you, try the calm, clear waters of the Caribbean. In Virgin Islands National Park on St. John, V.I., opportunities for warm water kayaking are nearly endless. Sunny skies, crystalline

water, and teeming coral reefs make this an ideal winter destination.

Kayakers can paddle around St. John Island, landing on one of its sandy beaches to swim, snorkel among tropical fish, and watch the island's colorful birds in the rainforest. At Trunk Bay, the park has an underwater trail that follows the coral reef that juts out from the beach. Here, snorkelers can see the vibrant colors of the parrot, lookdown, and trigger fish, as well as the proud yellow and white stripes of the curious sergeant major fish. In the Virgin Islands, snorkelers may see spectacular creatures, such as porcupine fish, rays, and angelfish along with many types of coral, such as brain, fan, and staghorn. Kayakers paddling at dawn or dusk may be lucky enough to spot sea turtles in the island's inlets.

Paddling in the park is good year-round, although kayakers should check the weather daily, especially during the fall. Hurricanes occasionally buffet the islands, and technically hurricane season runs from mid-June to mid-December. Last year, hurricanes Luis and Marilyn tore through the island, dam-



ONEILL & ONEILL

Trunk Bay on St. John offers sandy beaches and fantastic snorkeling.

aging buildings and trees. Cinnamon Bay was heavily damaged in the storm, and crews still were working on the site in early 1996. The park is open to visitors, and places such as Maho Bay are up and running, but visitors should call well in advance to make reserva-

tions for cottages and tent sites.

Groceries and other supplies are available on both St. John and St. Thomas. For more information, contact Virgin Islands National Park, P.O. Box 7789, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, VI 00801 or call 809-775-6238. 



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A Question of Integrity

Although uniform criteria for including sites in the National Park System have never existed, the value of established parks should not be second-guessed.

BY DWIGHT F. RETTIE

TO HEAR TELL OF IT, our National Park System includes a host of parks unworthy of their name. So say the current and past chairmen of the congressional House subcommittee responsible for park system oversight. So also say a former National Park Service (NPS) director, some NPS professionals, and citizen supporters.

Subcommittee chairman James Hansen (R-Utah) has said, "The question is not whether to close some parks but how to accomplish this goal." Ranking minority member and former chairman Bruce Vento (D-Minn.) has characterized park closure legislation as a means to "ensure that only outstanding resources are included in the system...." Former director James Ridenour wrote a book around the theme that the National Park System has been "compromised" and drained of its financial blood by unworthy parks. (On the latter point, no concrete evidence exists to support his view, and three other former directors disagree.)

In the early planning for my book on our National Park System, I thought

DWIGHT F. RETTIE is retired from NPS and is the author of *Our National Park System: Caring for America's Greatest Natural and Historic Treasures*. The book is available for \$34.95 in a hardback edition and for \$21.95 in paperback. To order, call 800-545-4703. For a 20 percent discount, mention NPCA.

about writing a chapter on "hit lists." I did not write the chapter after I had collected a composite list of more than 120 parks. Such lists are wrongheaded and represent a serious threat to the long-term integrity of the National Park System. If longtime park professionals and friends of the parks as respected as Rep. Bruce Vento want to see parks divested, imagine such a list when it has been influenced by the



Wise Use Movement, property rights, and other anti-government groups.

The argument is made that in recent times older criteria governing the entry of parks into the system have been compromised or abandoned. The fact is no congressionally approved criteria exist. Each new park has had to pass or fail on its own merit, as the consequence of a unique set of factors and forces surrounding a particular site at a specific time in history. Parks happen because a constituency builds a level of support upon which Congress and the president then act. Many proposed parks never happen.

But what about park units such as Steamtown National Historic Site in Pennsylvania, a former railyard, and the cause célèbre of pork barrel parks? Critics say that Steamtown was "rail-roaded" through Congress as a rider on an appropriations bill. That legislative maneuver is a well used (bipartisan) feature of the American political process, although, interestingly, Steamtown is the only park to have gotten into the system that way. In a historic irony, Hansen used that same tactic to add the park closure bill to pending budget legislation even after the bill had been defeated on the House floor. It was eventually removed, but park advocates fear that Hansen may resurrect it in the next session.

The timing and circumstances surrounding the addition of a park into the National Park System are as much a part of the history and substance of that park as its physical resources. The last-chance opportunity taken in the 1960s to save the seashores of this nation—a success story of epic proportions—happened as the result of a bipartisan movement to save public access to rapidly developing coastal areas. The urban national recreation areas of the 1970s grew out of a new sensitivity to the central cities, during a Republican presidency. Today those parks are high on Hansen's hit list.

Today's park system is a remarkable reflection of the environmental diversity and cultural pluralism of our nation. It was not planned according to



a preconceived scheme. It could not have been produced by even the most well-intentioned technicians and bureaucrats. But tearing it to pieces by second-guessing decisions made by an earlier Congress is to rupture the integrity of our heritage. Revising history is inconsistent with honoring it.

Our park system contains sites and resources whose values can be framed as analogues to those embodied in the Declaration of Independence and in our Constitution. Words such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are tangibly manifest in places such as Yellowstone, Independence Hall, and the Statue of Liberty. Where better to celebrate free speech and the right of assembly than at Women's Rights National Historic Site? Or the right of equal protection at Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site? Or the presidency at the homes of Truman, Eisenhower, or Kennedy?

Similar permanent values are found in wilderness and in preservation of the diverse life forms at hundreds of park units—including many in urban settings. Work to preserve for future generations the cultural artifacts of our forebears is not a process with an expiration date. Our National Park System is a living legacy that does not belong to one generation. It belongs to the future as fully as it belongs to us now. If the concept of a National Park System to preserve values for future generations has any meaning at all, it must require a dedication to its integrity. We cannot respect its integrity and tear it apart at the same time.

But, say some, we do not intend to rip apart the system. All we want to do is eliminate the parks that got there because a previous Congress was inattentive. The list will be short—you know the ones—and no "real" parks will be harmed. Besides, if we get rid of some parks, more money will be available for those that remain.

Neither argument stands up to reality. One person's "little list" added to others from friends and foes alike could easily add up to something dis-

astrous. Hansen has said 150. And even if all parties could agree that a site might be administered by a state, how many local governments these days will voluntarily agree to manage a former unit of the park system without getting federal dollars to do it? Recently the governor of South Dakota offered to take over park units in his state provided South Dakota also got the money to do it. Even more recently, the governor of Arizona, emboldened by his state's operation

The timing and circumstances surrounding the addition of a park into the system are as much a part of the history and substance of that park as its physical resources.

of a small portion of Grand Canyon during the nearly month-long government shutdown, has proposed that Arizona permanently take over management of Grand Canyon. The governor offered no clue on how his state would finance Grand Canyon's \$12-million to \$15-million annual budget and deal with documented capital needs of more than \$123 million.

Or take the recent divestiture of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, a site in Washington, D.C., whose leaky roof for years caused headaches for Park Service administrators. NPS got rid of the leaky roof, but did it keep funds ordinarily slated for the Kennedy Center? Not one cent!

One of the historical facts behind proposals to divest parks is that some Park Service professionals have for de-

acades ridiculed and disparaged sites that did not fit their personal model of a proper park. Several directors, beginning with the first, Stephen Mather, and the second, Horace Albright, have sought to purge the system of then-existing units deemed unworthy. Those and later efforts were responsible for eliminating at least 20 parks from the system, some of them finally dropped only after years of deliberate neglect.

Objecting to a proposed addition to the National Park System before and while Congress is considering it is altogether appropriate. People can honestly disagree on the merits or extent of a proposed park. Experts often disagree, and conflicting opinions are properly brought to bear on the congressional process we call democracy. However, once Congress acts and a bill is signed by the president, it is the undebatable trust of the National Park Service to administer the law—fairly, consistently, and with due professional care. The position of some National Park Service professionals who want to "hit" parks is indefensible.

Badmouthing parks has consequences. Even if not a single divestiture actually takes place, the potential exists for permanent damage to the image and self-esteem of parks and their staffs by telling the public the site is not worthy of their taxes or their philanthropy and by telling future staff it is not a place that merits the level of professional care afforded "real" parks.

Our park system should be treated as a physical analogy to our Constitution. It reflects values just as sacred to our national life and character.

Supporters of the National Park System need to find comfort in the processes by which parks are approved. That process surely can be improved to guide the future, but it is the process that should be changed, not the parks already in the system. No park closure commission is needed, now or ever. We should fight for the parks' survival—all of them—with every resource at our command. The integrity of the entire park system is at risk. 

BY M. KATHERINE HEINRICH

A Chapter of Our History

► In festivities coinciding with Black History Month, NPCA honored Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.) for his efforts to establish the route of the 1965 Selma to Montgomery civil rights march as a National Historic Trail. Lewis, along with Martin Luther King, Jr., and others, led the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, an event that captivated the nation only months before President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law. (For more on the status of the Selma to Montgomery Trail, see Southeast Regional Report on page 17.)

At a media event held February 14 at Ebenezer Baptist Church, where King and his father served as ministers, NPCA President Paul C. Pritchard thanked Lewis for his efforts on behalf of the parks. The church is now part of the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site in Atlanta, Georgia. Lewis has also been instrumental in efforts to improve visitor facilities at the King site.

Pritchard noted that many events and places that represent significant

chapters in black history are preserved in the National Park System, including Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site and Booker T. Washington National Monument. Thanks in part to the park system, black history may be celebrated as part of our shared heritage year-round.

March for Parks

► Celebrate Earth Day and National Park Week with NPCA's March for Parks on the weekend of April 19–22. The seventh annual March for Parks will include more than 1,000 marches across the nation and abroad. Thanks to the generous support of our corporate sponsors, every dollar raised stays at the local level to fund park projects. Please join us in thanking our 1996 March for Parks corporate sponsors:

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March for Parks will kick off National Park Week, sponsored by the National Park Service and endorsed by a proclamation signed by President Clinton. National Park Week 1996 features the theme of partnerships, and NPCA is proud to present March for Parks, a prominent part of the week's events. National Park Week will continue with national and local events scheduled for the week of April 22–28. Contact the national park nearest you for information about National Park Week events. A list of events is also available on the NPS World Wide Web site: <http://woodstock.rmro.nps.gov/index.html>

New Face in the Northwest

► Please welcome Phil Pearl, NPCA's new Pacific

Northwest regional director, based in Seattle, Washington. Pearl most recently served as a project manager in the Seattle office of the Trust for Public Land, a nonprofit land conservation organization that acquires open space and parkland for local, county, state, and federal agencies. Pearl's experience includes seasonal employment at Olympic National Park in Washington.

NPCA's eight regional directors, including Pearl, work with local and regional groups on national park issues and evaluate legislative and administrative policy decisions affecting the parks in their regions.

Cultural Diversity Brochure

► NPCA's Cultural Diversity Program has produced *National Parks Belong to Everyone*, an educational brochure that shows how our nation's natural, cultural, and historic parks reflect our identity. From coast to coast, and from Alaska to Hawaii and Puerto Rico and beyond, national park units celebrate and preserve our nation's diverse history.

With beautiful color photographs, the brochure illustrates the rich diversity of our National Park System, reminding us of our shared heritage and our shared responsibility to preserve it. NPCA will use the brochure as an outreach tool to involve individuals and communities in the effort to preserve our parks and to diversify the parks constituency.

For a copy of the brochure, write to: Iantha Gantt, NPCA, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

Southwest Park Conference

► Park advocates and community leaders from Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas are planning a grassroots forum to be held May 17–19 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The theme of the conference is “Citizens Protecting America’s Parks: Creating Unity in Challenging Times.”

The conference will create opportunities for southwestern park activists to share information and build a regional network of citizens working on behalf of our parks. Discussion will focus on four themes: increasing technical assistance and support for park support groups, broadening and diversifying the park constituency, strengthening interaction and information sharing among local park groups, and strengthening partnerships between the Park

Service and park support groups.

To learn more about the conference, contact Andy Schultheiss at 1-800-NAT-PARK, extension 221.

Oil Change

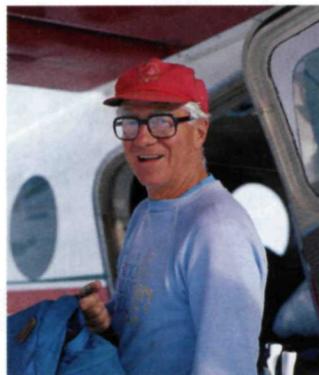
► NPCA congratulates the National Park Service for setting an example for federal agencies by being the first to use re-refined motor oil in its vehicles. Used motor oil will be collected from and reused in the NPS fleet in the Washington, D.C., area. The Park Service estimates that it will use 6,000 quarts of recycled oil annually. “The best place for motor oil is in cars,” said NPS Director Roger Kennedy. “Recycling used oil eliminates costly disposal, is cheaper than buying new oil, and is a fine example of commonsense conservation.”

The Park Service’s recycling effort complies with President Clinton’s Executive Order on Federal Acquisition, Recycling, and Waste Prevention, and was inspired by Vice President Gore’s National Performance Review, better known as the reinventing government initiative.

“We are proud that the National Park Service, an agency charged with preserving and protecting our nation’s resources, is taking the first delivery of re-refined oil under the president’s executive order,” Kennedy said.

NPCA Honors

► Congratulations to Lowell Thomas, Jr., NPCA’s



Lowell Thomas, Jr.

William Penn Mott, Jr., Conservationist of the Year. Thomas, a veteran glacier pilot and former lieutenant governor of Alaska, will be honored at NPCA’s annual dinner on March 6 in Washington, D.C. The award recognizes Thomas’ lifelong commitment to parks and the environment, including his efforts to protect Alaska’s wolves and his leadership in establishing Chugach State Park. The William Penn Mott, Jr., Conservationist of the Year Award is presented annually to a public official who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the protection of America’s natural and cultural heritage.

In honor of Thomas’ accomplishments, the 1996 annual dinner will celebrate the national parks in Alaska, which encompass more than 51 million acres—more than half the acreage in our National Park System. Other events coinciding with the annual dinner include meetings of NPCA’s Board of Trustees and National Council. On March 7, board and council members will meet with members of Congress to discuss legislative issues affecting our national parks.

NPCA Park Guides

► NPCA invites its members to explore the national parks with NPCA’s new regional guidebooks at their side. The series consists of eight regional guides: Alaska, Heartland, Northeast, Pacific, Pacific Northwest, Rocky Mountain, Southeast, and Southwest. Each guide includes information about dozens of national parks in the region, and, more important, advises you on how best to enjoy our parks while leaving them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future visitors. NPCA’s regional national park guides feature photographs, maps, and information on endangered species, natural history, camping, lodging, tours, and more.

You may order one or more regional guides for \$8.95 each, including shipping, by calling 1-900-225-PARK. The charge will appear on your telephone bill. For more information about the guides, turn to page 63.

Annual Report

► NPCA has released its 1995 Annual Report, which details the association’s determination to rise to the challenge presented by an unprecedented wave of anti-park legislation. “The 104th Congress does not view our national parks as sacrosanct,” NPCA President Paul C. Pritchard and Chairman Virgil G. Rose noted in their annual letter

to members. NPCA has responded to the challenge with efforts to engage and educate Congress on the priority Americans place on their national parks. A recent NPCA survey shows that 90 percent of Americans expect that national parks will remain protected in the future. In these difficult times, NPCA has redoubled its educational outreach and its efforts to involve citizens and develop grassroots partnerships to defend the parks in time of need.

According to audited financial statements for the fiscal year, 76.3 percent of NPCA's budget goes to programs. To learn more about NPCA's accomplishments in 1995, write for a free copy of the Annual Report: NPCA, Dept. AR,

1776 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

NPCA Online

▶ NPCA has launched a site dedicated to the national parks on America Online (AOL). The America's National Parks site, which can be accessed by using the keyword "PARKS," provides:

- ◆ late-breaking park news,
- ◆ easy access to national park information,
- ◆ places to discuss national park issues, including an AOL forum and easy connection to the Internet's national parks newsgroup,
- ◆ NPCA membership services, including change

of address, gift memberships, help with subscription problems, and so on,

◆ NPCA fact sheets and testimony regarding important national park issues, and

◆ direct connection to NPCA's site on the World Wide Web.

America Online makes it easy for users to access the World Wide Web. Through the America's National Parks site, users will have immediate access to NPCA's web site, which provides the latest information about the parks and links to National Park Service information about the parks and other locations providing detailed information on individual parks.

NPCA members who subscribe to AOL can use

the America's National Parks site to access information about national parks and NPCA. Traffic at the site will also enhance NPCA's educational efforts. NPCA has AOL starter kits available at no charge. The kit provides the software needed to access AOL and includes ten free hours to explore the service. To receive a kit, call 1-800-NAT-PARK. For more information about NPCA's AOL or web sites, send e-mail to one of the addresses below or call us at 202-223-6722.

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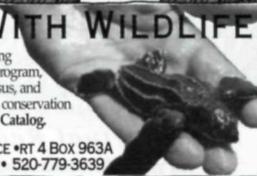
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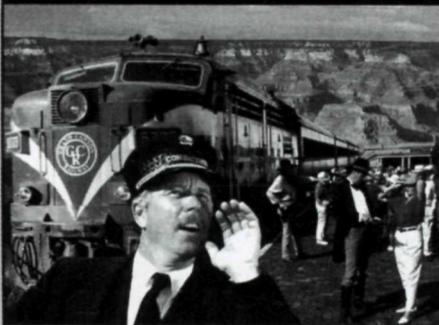
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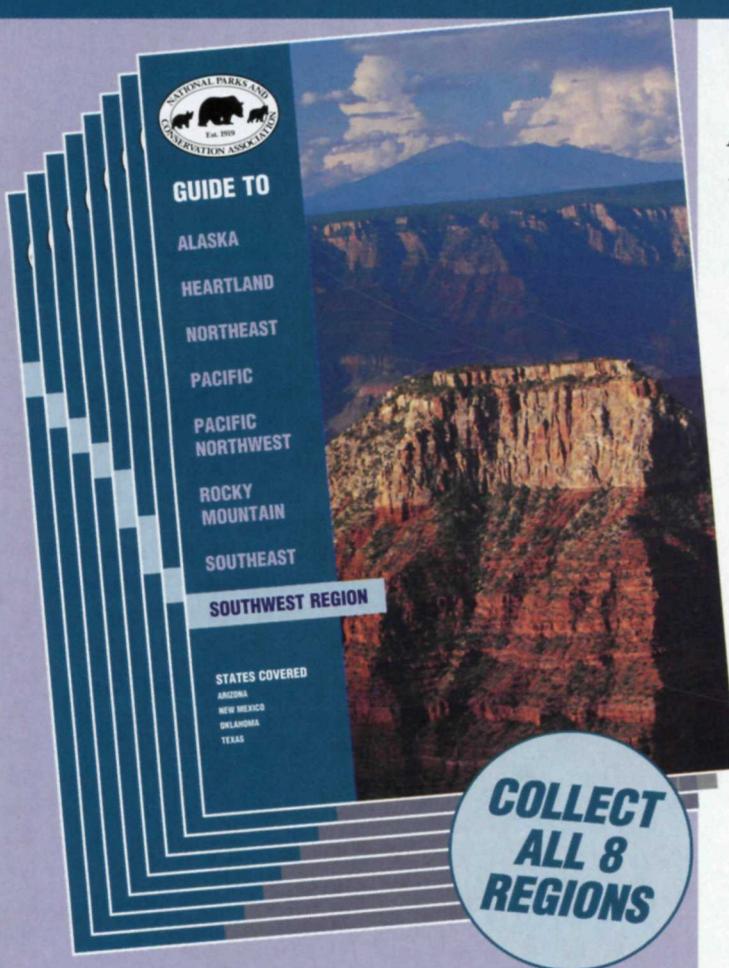
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Acadia and 100 additional parks
Connecticut, Delaware, Maine,
Maryland, Massachusetts, New
Hampshire, New Jersey, New York,
Pennsylvania, Rhode Island,
Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia

PACIFIC (to order press 4)

Yosemite and 30 additional parks
California, Hawaii, Guam, American
Samoa

PACIFIC

NORTHWEST (to order press 5)

Glacier and 23 additional parks
Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington

ROCKY

MOUNTAIN (to order press 6)

Yellowstone and 29 additional parks
Colorado, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming

SOUTHEAST (to order press 7)

Great Smoky Mountains and
65 additional parks
Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia,
Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi,
North Carolina, South Carolina,
Tennessee, Virgin Islands

SOUTHWEST (to order press 8)

Grand Canyon and 45 additional parks
Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma,
Texas

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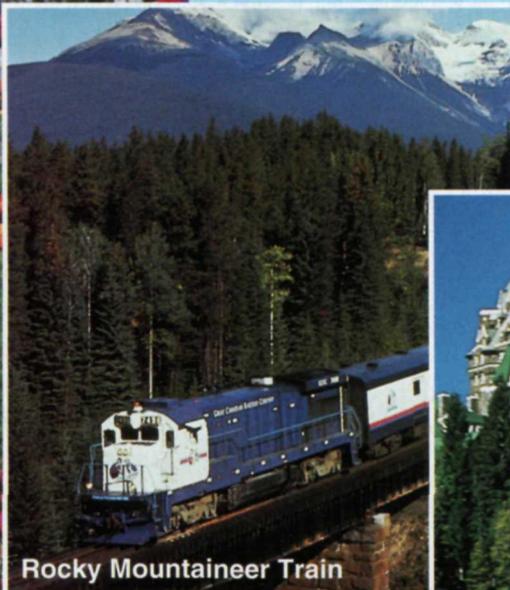
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Rocky Mountaineer Train



Banff Springs
Hotel, Banff

