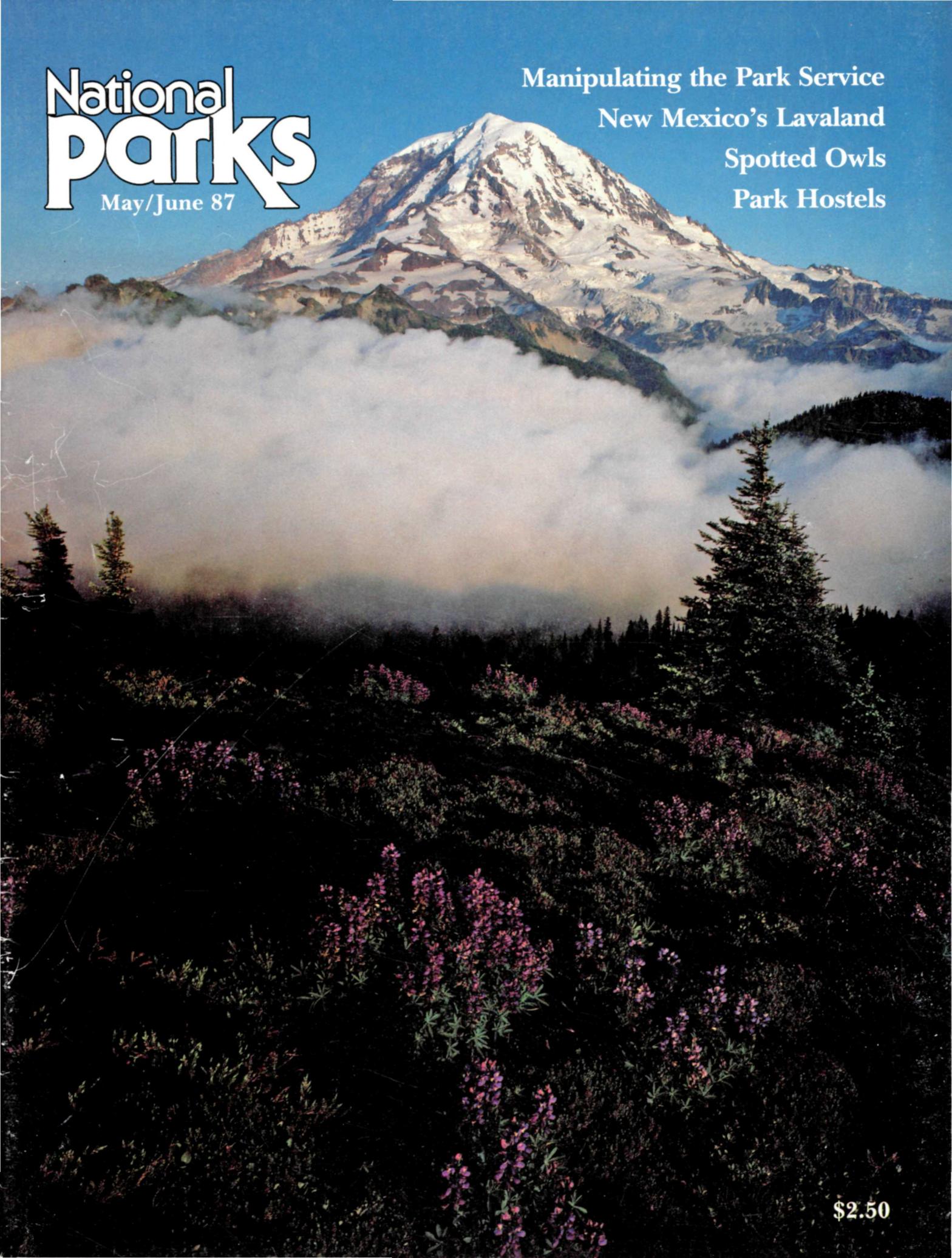


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May/June 87

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The magazine of the National Parks and Conservation Association

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Mount Rainier National Park provides refuge for the spotted owl, which is losing its habitat to logging.

Established in 1919, the National Parks and Conservation Association is the only national, nonprofit, membership organization that focuses on defending, promoting, and improving our country's National Park System while educating the public about the parks.

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Spotted Owl, page 16

Art Wolfe

Editor's Note: Political power is a seductive tool. Those who wield power can go a long way toward implementing their vision of the way things should be.

Stephen Mather, Horace Albright, and others who created the National Park Service saw the NPS as an agency that should be immune from any political fiddling, no matter what part of the political spectrum is attempting the manipulation. Congress imposed only two mandates on the NPS: protect the resources and provide for visitor enjoyment.

As Robert and Patricia Cahn detail in "Disputed Territory," (page 28) officials at the highest levels of the Interior Department are implementing a political vision that is use-oriented. According to this vision, minerals should be tapped, oil drilled, and forests logged. And creatures that exist for their own sake, such as the spotted owl, do not always receive the protection they deserve.

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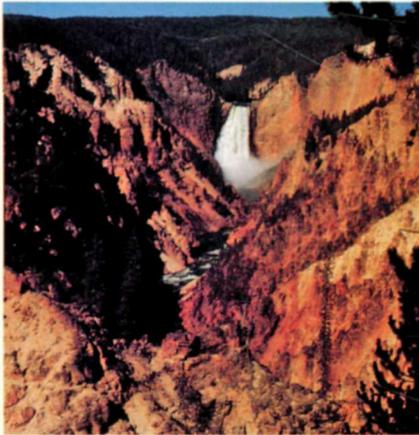
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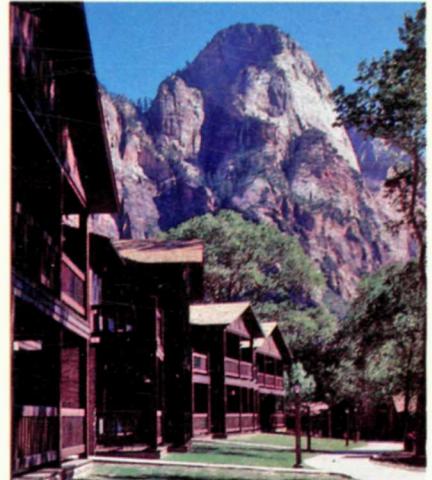
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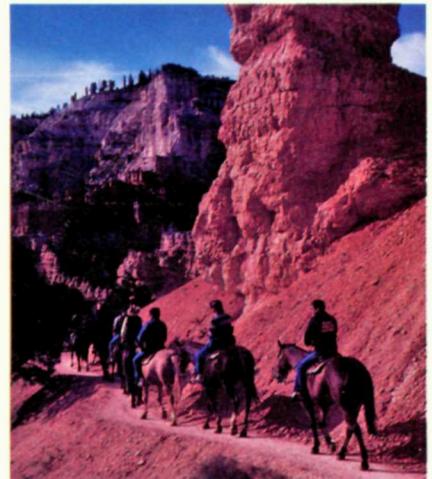
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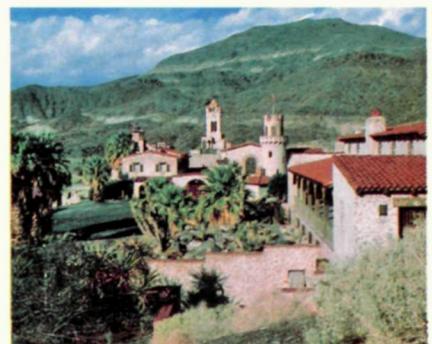
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Zion National Park



Bryce Canyon National Park



Scotty's Castle—Death Valley Nat'l Monument

Commentary

Horace Albright: 1890-1987

Horace Albright arrived in Washington, D.C., in 1913 and, until his death on March 28 at age 97, he never stopped contributing to the cause of national parks and conservation. He and Stephen Mather, the first director of the NPS, meshed perfectly in their early goal of pushing legislation through Congress to establish the National Park Service in August 1916. Even when he became superintendent of Yellowstone National Park in 1919, Albright continued to build the ranger corps, develop park policy, and supervise the western parks. And he sought to make the world's first national park a model for the world.

When Stephen Mather retired, Albright became the second director of the NPS. Before he resigned four years later, he more than doubled the number of park areas when he persuaded President Franklin D. Roosevelt to include the nation's historical and military sites under the wing of the National Park Service.

Even after leaving the NPS in 1933 to become chief executive officer of a major mining company, Albright worked for the cause of parks and conservation. He has been an advisor to every NPS director and many Interior secretaries during the last half century. Among his most illustrious achievements was the addition of the Grand Teton to the park system.

Horace Albright was a trustee emeritus of NPCA; and he received numerous awards, including the Sierra Club's John Muir Award (1986) and the Interior Department's Conservation Service Award (1953). In 1980, President Jimmy Carter, awarding Albright the Presidential Medal of Freedom, cited him as "a champion of nature's causes and a defender of America's most precious inheritance." As one of his final contributions, he set down his story of those founding years in *The Birth of the National Park Service*, published just 18 months ago.

From the first days of my personal recollections, Horace Albright was virtually a member of our family. He and his wife Grace would come to our house in Darien, Connecticut, for lunch. We would listen to him talk about the beginnings of the National Park Service and the problems faced by him and my grandfather, Stephen Mather, as they toiled to establish this new agency in the Department of the Interior. His astounding memory for detail, for names and places, was something that we, as children, took for granted at the time, but which I later came to realize was one of the most extraordinary gifts of this exceptional man. I also realized later that what I had received from Horace Albright was an education about our national parks.

In 1951, he and I traveled to Carlsbad, New Mexico, while he inspected the properties of U.S. Potash Company, of which he was then president. As a young boy of 14, I was greatly impressed to have been asked to accompany him and I could see how the NPS people at Carlsbad Caverns National Parks loved him. He later helped me arrange summer employment as a seasonal ranger in Yellowstone in 1958. At that point, he had been out of the director's office for 25 years. Yet, even as a young seasonal, I sensed his influence was very much felt among the national park employees.

Thanks, in large measure, to Horace Albright's influence on my early years, I have been fortunate as an adult to have become even more involved in national park activities. It has been my observation that he has been the single most influential figure affecting the continuity of NPS policy not only over the three decades that I have observed, but also over the preceding 25 years and, jointly with Stephen Mather, over the 18 years before that. That is a grand total of 73 years, give or take a year or so. It should not be lost on the members of NPCA that we were fortunate to have his guidance for almost as long. NPCA is 68 years old this year and Horace Albright offered counsel to every executive director and president in our history. His contribution to this country, to our parks, and to our association cannot be measured. For those of us who were fortunate enough to have known him, we will be forever grateful for that opportunity.



Stephen Mather McPherson
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NPCA Opposes Proposed Dam At Borders of Capitol Reef

NPCA recently submitted comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) outlining reasons for opposing a proposed dam near the western boundary of Capitol Reef National Park in southeastern Utah.

An application for a preliminary permit was filed by the Wayne County Washington Water Conservancy District on July 1, 1986. If granted, the permit would give the water district three years to study varying schemes for developing the hydropower potential of a 12-mile stretch of the Fremont River.

The current design includes a reservoir that would flood three or more miles of the Fremont River; a nine-mile pipeline along the river gorge from the dam to a powerhouse located just outside the Capitol Reef border; a second diversion dam, powerhouse, and pipeline; and new powerlines connecting the powerhouses to the existing powerlines.

The project could destroy ten miles of "blue-ribbon" trout stream; and altered river flow may harm water-related resources such as aquatic wildlife and vegetation within Capitol Reef National Park.

Also, the construction

of the dam, service roads, power transmission lines, and pipelines would severely degrade the pristine Fremont River Gorge—a wintering area for large mammals, and a favorite hiking and recreation spot.

Furthermore, the project has little mandate. Utah is expected to have a surplus of electrical power generating capacity until at least 1995. Preliminary estimates show that the project could lose as much as \$700,000 a year.

According to the Federal Power Act, the FERC, while considering the hydropower proposal, must give equal consideration to the protection of fish and wildlife, recreation, and general environmental quality.

Lawsuit to Stop PCAO Report Is Dismissed

In early April, a U.S. district court judge dismissed a lawsuit filed against the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors (PCAO). The procedural suit was filed by the Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise, a conservative nonprofit organization that includes the National Inholders Association, a group that opposes parkland purchases.

The lawsuit, which alleged that the commission violated the Federal Advisory Committee Act, sought to prevent dissemination of PCAO's final report. NPCA and the Natural Resources Defense Council successfully intervened as co-defendants in the lawsuit.

In his opinion, the judge stated that the Center had ample opportunity to make its views heard during the many public hearings held by PCAO and that any procedural errors that could have been made would not have substantially changed the content of the report.

The President's Commission on Americans Outdoors, which completed its work last January, was charged with studying the future of outdoor recreation (see "Americans Outdoors," page 12).

The Interior Department had delayed official release of the report pending a decision by the court. Interior is now proceeding with printing and publication.

Because the PCAO report is a public document, Island Press, a nonprofit publisher, made the full report available in March.

"The report is a public document; it should be made officially available," said NPCA President Paul C. Pritchard. "The judge's decision vindicates the commis-

sion and will dispel the cloud the plaintiffs sought to bring upon the report. Official publication will aid in public dissemination of the commission's recommendations," he added.

Hunters Convicted For Poaching In Shenandoah

Five persons were convicted of hunting and weapons offenses within Shenandoah National Park in recent months.

One man was the target of a federal grand jury investigation after a deer was illegally taken along U.S. Highway 33 last November. He pled guilty to two federal offenses—hunting and transporting illegally taken wildlife. A judge set a fine of \$400 and placed the hunter on probation for one year.

The other four men were similarly convicted and fined, and prohibited from entering the park for one year. Each offense carries a maximum fine of \$500 and/or up to six months in jail.

Park officials said that poaching is a constant problem in the park, and that illegal activities along Highway 33 are particularly hard to monitor. This case was successful because of information received from a witness passing by at the time of the incident.

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encouraged to report any suspicious activities to park rangers. Calls and information are kept confidential.

Edgar Wayburn Wins NPCA 1987 Douglas Award

Each year NPCA presents the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award to recognize an individual's outstanding effort toward the protection of an established or proposed unit of the National Park System. The award is made possible by the generosity and concern of the Faultless Starch/Bon Ami Company of Kansas City, Missouri.

The award's namesake, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, championed the preservation of the Florida Everglades, through her writing and speaking, for the past six decades. She is the founder and leader of two grassroots groups who have had considerable success in halting threats to Everglades National Park.

One of her books, *The Everglades: River of Grass*, coincided with the establishment of the park in 1947. She is now 97 years old and was the first recipient of the award in 1985.

This year's award goes to Dr. Edgar Wayburn, for his outstanding career as a pioneer environmentalist. He was a key fig-

ure in the founding of Redwood National Park and Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and in the development of the Alaskan National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980.

He has served as president of the Sierra Club for five years and as director for nearly 30. Dr. Wayburn serves on a number of conservation advisory boards, both governmental and private, international and domestic. He has also coauthored and contributed to a number of books on environmental topics.

At this writing, NPCA will present the award to Dr. Wayburn during a private luncheon at the Tropical Audubon Society in South Miami, Florida, on April 28.

House Extends Land and Water Conservation Fund

In early April, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed H.R. 1320, a bill pertaining to park fees and to reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

The bill, sponsored by Bruce Vento (D-Minn.), Interior National Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee chairman, and Morris Udall (D-Ariz.), Interior Committee chairman, would extend the life

of the present LWCF, which is set to expire in 1989, for another 25 years.

LWCF is the principal source of land acquisition funds for the federal government. Those funds are derived primarily from outer continental shelf oil and gas leasing receipts. In Fiscal Year 1988, \$900 million will be credited to the fund from the \$5.2 billion expected from offshore mineral leasing that year.

Millions of acres lie as inholdings within various units of the National Park System. This acreage has been designated as parkland, but has not yet been purchased. LWCF monies make purchases of parkland possible.

In her testimony, NPCA Trustee Dr. April Young told House subcommittee members how important LWCF is to state and local governments as well, helping them provide parks and recreation sites across the country.

Legislation must now pass the Senate, where several LWCF bills are pending.

House Considers New Maritime National Park

William Lienesch, NPCA director of federal activities, testified before the House Subcommittee on National

Parks and Public Lands in support of H.R. 1044, a bill to establish the National Maritime Museum in San Francisco as a separate unit of the National Park System.

Eight historic ships, extensive marine collections, and various maritime artifacts would be preserved in this new park area. All are currently under the aegis of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA).

No land purchases would be necessary in the new arrangement. The borders of GGNRA would be revised to exclude the new museum area.

NPCA recommended a few changes in the legislation, including naming the new unit the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park.

Funding to restore and preserve the historic ships would be authorized under the new plan. Interpretation for the park may include relocating the vessels permanently or temporarily as educational exhibits.

This park, if approved by Congress, would be the first maritime national historical park.

Correction

In the March/April issue of *National Parks*, the photograph on page 33 should be credited to Daniel Cox.

Feedback

We're interested in what you have to say. Write NPCA Feedback, 1015 Thirty-first St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20007. (Letters may be edited for space considerations.)

One Man's Contribution

In your Nov/Dec 1986 issue, you ran an article entitled "Trail Blazers" by Charles Sloan. Reading about volunteers on the Appalachian Trail compels me to write you concerning my father, William F. Etchberger of Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

At the end of 1986, he completed his 56th year as a volunteer worker on the AT. During most of this time, he was affiliated with the Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club and maintained a section of the trail between Swatara Gap and Rausch Gap in Lebanon County. I don't know if serving from 1930 to 1986 is a record for volunteer service given to the AT, but it is noteworthy as a per-

sonal accomplishment. My father and others who have given freely of their time are the reason there is an Appalachian Trail today.

*Robert Etchberger
Lebanon, Pennsylvania*

Goats: Victims Not Criminals

I was very disturbed by the article, "A Mountainous Appetite" in the Jan/Feb issue. The "exotic" mountain goats seem to be criminals to the author. The truth is that they are innocent animals, placed there without choice by inconsiderate humans. Protect them with the love they deserve.

*Manny Wishnoff
Saratoga, New York*

Making Parks 'Feasible'

In response to the commentary by NPCA President Paul Pritchard and the article by Senator Dave Durenburger [Jan/Feb 1987], I must say that an increase in park fees is long overdue. Certainly a system cannot survive without continued support from those who use it.

While a park system "accessible to all people" is a noble gesture, unfortunately not all people clean up their own refuse and disturb flora and fauna as little as possible.

I feel that raising fees will increase the awareness of most visitors regarding nature's fragility and perhaps induce less responsible individuals to take their carelessness and refuse elsewhere. Those who care about our parks will find the money to get in.

*Carl Johnson
San Luis Obispo, California*

Haute on the Sierra

After staring for several minutes at the Jan/Feb cover of the Sierra High Route, I felt like I was lost until I realized that this picture of the skier approaching Milestone Pass from the east was inadvertently reversed. Milestone Pass crosses the Great Western Divide at approximately 13,000 feet and is the high point of this famous ski tour. By viewing this cover in the mirror the correct perspective is obtained.

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Thanks for the great article about high route ski touring. I hope that it inspires other skiers to broaden their horizons.

*John Bees
Reno, Nevada*

Thank you for Doug Robinson's excellent "Haute Skiing" article. I agree that ski huts are an effective winter wilderness management tool when used along wilderness edges.

As crosscountry skiing continues to grow in popularity, I also see the possibility of reclaiming national park roads for winter wilderness, roads that are now either plowed or open to snowmobiles. The savings in park maintenance funds by not plowing or grooming these roads could be put to better uses.

*Eric Burr
Mazama, Washington*

Somewhere Near Someplace

I enjoyed working with you on the prescribed fire article [Jan/Feb 1987] and I support the excellent work of NPCA.

I must, however, register a small editorial complaint. In the article "Haute Skiing," you identify Michael Graber's photo of the Muir Pass hut as "near Yosemite National Park." Certainly NPCA ought to be able to find out that the Muir hut is located *within* Kings Canyon National Park. We get a little defensive here in the shadow of famous Yosemite. You can even the score for us if you wish by captioning a photo of Half Dome as "in the Sierra somewhere north of Kings Canyon."

*William Tweed
Sequoia Natl. Park, California*

Preserving St. Croix

I always look with eagerness for my copy of *National Parks*. I had never heard of Salt River Bay before. If indeed it is the only place in the United States where Columbus did land, then it is a spot of national significance. Wauer doesn't mention anything about it in his otherwise informative article, but are there any proposals to place Salt River Bay in the National Park System?

Meanwhile, as a lover of Wheeler Peak, I am very happy about the creation of Great Basin National Park. I urge all lovers of national parks, beauty, and nature to visit our newest park.

*Murray Aronson
West Hollywood, California*

NPCA is pursuing the possibility of more complete protection as part of the park system.

—the Editors

I was pleased to see Ro Wauer's piece, "Caribbean Landing Point," in the Jan/Feb issue. The future of this fragile portion of St. Croix is of concern to many local groups, as well as to the National Park Service and other governmental agencies. With the support of groups like National Parks and Conservation Association, perhaps Salt River Bay and other threatened corners of the world will remain unaltered for future generations to enjoy.

*Thomas Bradley, Superintendent
Christiansted Natl. Historic Site*

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Americans Outdoors

**As we crowd closer together,
we need more urban parks, trails,
greenbelts, and waterways**

by Paul C. Pritchard

Based on current projections, each year the United States adds population equivalent to the number of people living in Houston and New Orleans. And, by the year 2000, approximately 80 percent of these Americans will live in metropolitan areas—a significant change in traditional American life.

Where will these people find open space and recreation facilities? Even today, more people pursue recreational activities than experts predicted 20 years ago.

In the last 25 years we have seen the development of a “recreation industry” with new technologies that allow people to rock climb, snowmobile, windsurf, and river raft. These technologies have created opportunities, but they have also caused problems.

Volunteer efforts, such as the management of the Appalachian Trail by the Appalachian Trail Conference, have also been on the upswing, requiring new and better approaches to volunteer management.

In 1983, Laurance S. Rockefeller and other leaders completed a study on the future of recreation in which they called for the creation of a commission that would develop some specific conclusions about Americans and the outdoors. In response, in 1985, the presidentially appointed President’s Commission on Americans Outdoors (PCAO) began an 18-month study.

The commission was chaired by then-Governor Lamar Alexander (R) of Tennessee and made up of 14 other distinguished leaders in policy and outdoor recreation. Their task

was an ambitious one: Find out what Americans want to do outdoors for the next generation, and how we, as a nation, can make sure they have enough places to do it.

To fulfill their mandate, the commission sought answers from the public. PCAO held 18 nationwide public hearings, solicited “concept” papers on ideas and successful programs, conducted case studies, organized issue study teams, appointed a panel of 20 senior advisors, including myself, and orchestrated a nationwide public opinion poll.

Every group had the opportunity to be heard, from high-school students to conservation groups to inholders. Issues ranged from the use of off-road vehicles on public lands to the need for stable federal funding for land acquisition.

NPCA played a major role in assisting and attempting to influence the commission during the past year and a half. We published “Americans Outdoors,” a national newsletter, testified at hearings, submitted concept papers, and urged the participation of other groups and individuals in the commission’s efforts.

The commission’s work is now complete. A 32-page executive summary, produced by the National Geographic Society, and a longer report, “Americans Outdoors: The Legacy, the Challenge,” have been published. Many of the commission’s findings come as no great surprise.

Yet, they provide documentation and support for ideas conservation-

ists have been advocating for years. In some cases they are also a welcome repudiation of current Administration policy toward parks and recreation.

The report concludes:

- Open space continues to be swallowed up by development at an alarming rate, particularly near growing metropolitan areas and near water.
- Americans want and need recreation lands close to their homes.
- High-quality air, land, and water resources are essential to outdoor activities, and the quality of many of our air, land, and water resources is precarious.
- And the increasing competition for available lands will require better management in the future.

More important, however, than the commission’s findings are its recommendations, which cover funding, public and private land management, ethics and education, volunteers, liability, urban recreation, rivers, wetlands and coastal protection, information, and training. NPCA is committed to pursuing the fulfillment of at least two of PCAO’s most important recommendations: the reauthorization and expansion of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which provides funding for parkland acquisition and some recreation development, and the creation of greenways.

The commission’s vision includes a nationwide network of interconnected greenways made up of the trails, rivers, and abandoned railroad



Andreas Stettler

City dwellers make good use of parks in urban areas. Bikers and runners enjoy the Mount Vernon Trail, outside Washington, D.C., throughout the year.

rights-of-way that lace the country, linking urban and rural areas; protection of 2,000 additional river segments by the year 2000; and an end to subsidies for new development within 100-year floodplains.

There would also be a system of scenic roadways, and states would develop outdoor corps programs along the lines of the old Civilian Conservation Corps to encourage citizens, particularly the young, to dedicate a portion of their lives to the stewardship of natural resources.

Communities would develop ways to show their commitment to protecting open space by identifying important community assets and creating land trusts and tax incentives for land preservation. An ethic of respect for the outdoors would be rekindled.

Most importantly, the present LWCF would be replaced by a dedicated trust that would provide a minimum of \$1 billion per year. Although this is a difficult time for budgets, the political momentum for this idea is building.

Much of the money that Congress authorized for LWCF was not even spent. Out of the \$900 million au-

thorized for Fiscal Year 1987, only \$188 million was appropriated by Congress, and the Administration had asked for far less. Authorization for additions to the fund expires during the next Congress. I believe that expansion of this fund is the single most important idea to emerge from this commission.

Initially, many conservationists were skeptical about PCAO. They feared that a Reagan administration-created commission would make weak or bad recommendations. NPCA, however, supported the commission as an important opportunity to develop a conservation agenda in this decade.

In fact, I am pleased with the overall report. This is a clear mandate to Congress and the Administration from the public.

On most issues, the commission held firm, but some concessions were made. For example, I believe the report's recommendations concerning the nation's federal lands are weak. Further, PCAO was not willing to call for stronger federal environmental laws; it only said that the laws should be "better enforced."

The report calls for a prairie fire of grassroots action to implement the commission's recommendations at the state and local level. In response, here is an agenda:

- Community coalitions interested in recreation and the protection of open space should be identified. They can pinpoint resources that need to be protected and can work with local representatives.
- At the national level, NPCA is leading a broad-based coalition on reauthorization and expansion of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and is working to implement other recommendations.
- NPCA held a national conference in March to examine the PCAO recommendations. At the conference, participants heard about legislative proposals for continuing and expanding the LWCF from senators J. Bennett Johnston (D-La.) and John Chafee (R-RI). Another bill has been introduced in the House by Rep. Bruce Vento (D-Minn.).

These bills are starting points for expanding LWCF, just as our conference was the starting point for the prairie fire of action within the conservation community. But we need your help.

I urge all of you to identify goals toward which you can work to achieve this vision for the future. As the executive summary concludes, "We have to create . . . opportunities by preserving and nurturing the natural world before we lose it forever. If we pay our debt to the great outdoors, we will be repaid many times over."

NPCA President Paul C. Pritchard was one of the 20 senior advisors to the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors and, as deputy director, was the chief operations officer of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, which later became the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service. Kathy Sferra, NPCA's recreation resources coordinator, researched this article.

For information on purchasing the PCAO report, please write to Island Press, 1718 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20009.

Travelers' Respite

Park hostels offer inexpensive lodging, cultural encounters, and a feeling of fellowship

by Ted Stroll



AYH/Doug Maas

Spring comes early to San Francisco. Even in February the plum trees' blooms contrast with the bright green of Fort Mason's lawns to create a profusion of color. A former military base that still houses service families, Fort Mason also houses the San Francisco International Hostel.

Located in a large wooden building that served the military beginning with the Civil War, the San Francisco International Hostel is run with a precision and efficiency that reflects its heritage. And it vibrates with the energy and excitement generated whenever a large number of adventurous and diverse young people congregate in a hostel setting.

Approximately 75 percent of Fort Mason's 50,000 annual youth hostel guests are from abroad, a fact illustrated by the flags that line the walls of the common room and the multilingual signs everywhere (even the kitchen sink is usefully labeled "Rinse/Spülen/Enjuague/Rinçage").

Fort Mason is part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, one of a series of urban parks established in recent years to extend the National Park System to city dwellers. These parks are more accessible alternatives to traditional national parks located in majestic but remote parts of the country.

Twenty years ago there was no such thing as a youth hostel in a national park. Too often overnight park use was limited to those who could afford the high prices of commercial innkeepers, or to those whose good physical condition and lack of encumbrances, such as small children, allowed them to rough it in a park campground or in a wilderness setting.

In the late 1970s, however, then National Park Service (NPS) Director Bill Whalen realized the possibilities for increasing national park use through hostels. A feasibility study showed that hostels could attract bicyclists and foreign tourists who otherwise might never visit many national parks. Since 1978, building hostels wherever feasible has become National Park Service (NPS) policy.

Though well known in Europe and throughout much of the world for more than 50 years, youth hostels are only now becoming popular in the United States. For an overnight fee of \$6 to \$10 (prices abroad are even lower), hostellers have use of single-sex bunkrooms and bathrooms and share kitchen, laundry, and lounging areas. Many hostels also have special rooms for couples and families.

Most hostels are managed by a

resident couple who sign the guests in, assign sleeping rooms, and delegate simple morning chores so that everyone pitches in to keep the place clean. A few simple rules exist to ensure everyone's comfort. For example, all guests must return to the hostel and be settled in by 11 p.m. so that everyone can get a good night's sleep. Also, alcoholic beverages and smoking are not allowed inside the hostel, and the building is closed during the day while every one is out exploring the area.

The group that has provided hostels in cities and in scenic and historic locations throughout the United States is American Youth Hostels, Inc. (AYH). AYH is a non-profit, membership organization founded in 1934 "to promote greater understanding of the world and its people by providing low-cost recreational and educational travel opportunities."

AYH effort to provide economical and versatile accommodations in the parks began haphazardly in the mid-1960s with the Little America Youth Hostel at Cape Cod National Seashore. The hostel almost "happened accidentally," according to Nina Janopaul, AYH director of hostel development, who coordinates the creation of new hostels from the

The Charit Creek Hostel at Big South Fork NRA in Tennessee gives travelers a chance to see what life was like before rural electrification, paved roads, and instant communication.

organization's Washington, D.C., headquarters.

Cape Cod National Seashore had an old building for which it had no use. At the same time, the local AYH council wanted to create a youth hostel in the area without having to construct a new building—a cost that the AYH could not then and still cannot afford. Since then, many park hostels have been set up in old, sometimes historic, buildings; this has charmed travelers and has added a new dimension to park interpretation.

The best example of this is the Charit Creek Hostel at Big South Fork National Recreation Area (NRA) in Tennessee, opening for the first time this May. The hostel is located at the confluence of Charit Creek and Station Camp Creek, and "used to be a gathering place for loggers in the 1700s and 1800s," according to hostel manager Lamar Ingalls. The NPS has restored the lodge and surrounding cabins, all part of a hunting and logging camp, to its turn-of-the-century simplicity, with kerosene lighting and other fixtures of the nineteenth century.

Locals in the nearby town of Oneida are excited about the hostel. "The folks around here have never had many visitors from outside the United States," said Ingalls. He expects that the 150-200 miles of hiking trails, 200-300 miles of horse trails, the two whitewater rafting concessions, and the 330 nearby caves will draw adventurers from around the world to this remote and wild area of Tennessee.

Hostelers must be willing to really rough it—the hostel is a mile hike-in from the nearest road. And, "there are no showers here," Ingalls said wryly, "but there is a long bathtub—Charit Creek."

The Grand Canyon International Hostel is located in Arizona a half-mile from the south rim. It was reconstructed from an old ranger dormitory that was one of the park's

first buildings. Park officials agreed to lease the building to AYH for \$50 a year. After spending \$2,500 on repairs, AYH opened it as a hostel five years ago.

Right away the hostel's 20 beds were full throughout the year. Six thousand annual visitors, 80 percent foreign, come to the area to see America's most talked-about national park. The Arizona AYH figures that they could fill a 100-bed hostel with no problem, but the head of park concessions at Grand Canyon will not permit additions to the building. AYH is looking at sites just outside the park.

Youth hostels are now in operation at nine National Park System areas. Other park hostels include Delaware Water Gap and Cuyahoga Valley national recreation

"People do their own cooking and meet other people, and they get turned on to the idea of hosteling," says Bob Baez.

areas. Future hostels are planned for Crater Lake National Park, Lowell National Historical Park, Sandy Hook (part of Gateway National Recreation Area), and Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

Northern California offers many hostels on Park Service land. These include the Fort Mason hostel; Golden Gate hostel, an historic 1907 building located in Marin County's spectacular headlands only minutes from San Francisco; and Point Reyes Hostel at Point Reyes National Seashore, one of the most scenic undeveloped stretches of shoreline in the contiguous United States.

The hostel is a big draw at Point Reyes, said Bob Baez, the hostel manager. "People see the setting we're in. There's no hotel in the area, but this place is comfortable. People do their own cooking and meet other

people, and they get turned on to the idea of hosteling."

Baez said that the 44-bed hostel expects more than 6,000 visitors in 1987. "We're slow from December to February, but busy from March through October, especially on weekends." Many hostels recommend making reservations during holidays and summer.

This summer, AYH is preparing to open a hostel in Redwood National Park, in a solid redwood turn-of-the-century hostelry. The adaptation of this historic roadside inn reflects the degree to which AYH and the National Park Service are committed to the creation of alternative park lodging.

"There is an incredible network of cooperation for developing the DeMartin House Hostel, with contributions of services and the property by the National Park Service, funding from the California Coastal Conservancy and donated labor from the California Conservation Corps," said Joe Lusa of Redwood National Park. "It makes the project more complicated, but it also makes it economically feasible."

The building, like many in-park structures AYH converts to hostels, needs a great deal of renovation. AYH raised almost all the money needed through loans, grants, and private fund-raising. The park supplied the building. Where the building itself is historic and of educational value to park visitors, the National Park Service may also pay for interior work.

With only a handful of hostels established in national parks so far (and several more in lighthouses under a Coast Guard policy of converting abandoned beacons to hostels), AYH is just beginning the task of making national park areas more accessible than ever. AYH is in the midst of a large capital fund-raising drive and Janopaul said that park hostels are a major priority.

Ted Stroll is a freelance writer based in Berkeley, California. He has stayed in hostels from Nova Scotia to California, and camped in national parks across the country.

End of the Old-Growth Canopy

The decline of the spotted owl signals the loss of our last virgin timber

by Liza Tuttle

The forest is dense and quiet, dark and entrancing. Thousand-year-old trees cast a glow of all-engulfing green; not even the bright sky above is visible. The limbs of the grandest trees drip with gray-green, bearded moss. Underneath them, young trees compete for light. In the Douglas-fir, old-growth forests of the Pacific Northwest, life abounds in many forms.

But the richness of this habitat is fragile, and the fate of one species—the spotted owl—reveals what is happening to the old-growth forests. Biologists consider the spotted owl to be an “indicator species” because the owls are particularly sensitive to the loss of old-growth forest habitat.

Although conservationists argue that these brown-and-white speckled birds with the soulful eyes are appealing and important in and of themselves, the health of their populations also signals the health of the Northwest’s virgin-forest ecosystems in general.

Elusive in the wild, the spotted owl still has researchers curious about many of its habits. Through radio tagging and observation, scientists have been able to discover lim-

ited information about the bird’s migratory, nesting, and reproductive patterns. With only 2,000 to 3,000 pairs still in existence in the western United States, research is difficult and becoming more so as the bird’s numbers continue to dwindle.

The spotted owl is in trouble because its habitat happens to be the same forests prized by the region’s timber industry, and the timber industry is not much interested in the welfare of the spotted owl. To them, virgin forests are simply trees ready to be logged.

As current logging practices continue to diminish large, contiguous tracts of virgin forest, the spotted owl gets nearer to having its name on the federal list of endangered species. At present, the spotted owl is listed as “threatened” in both Oregon and Washington, where most of this country’s spotted owl habitat is found.

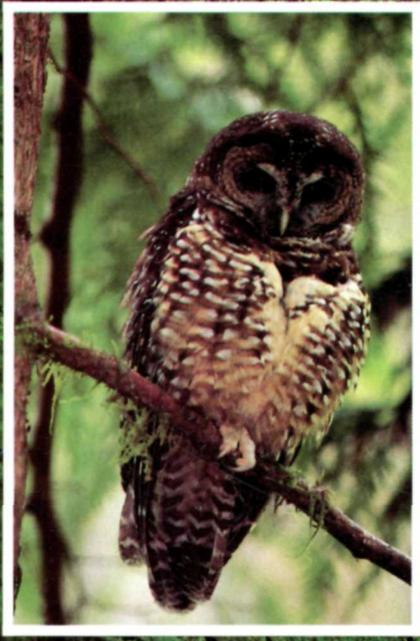
Only 2 percent of the magnificent virgin forests that once covered much of our country still stands untouched. These tracts of old growth are found mostly in Washington, Oregon, parts of northern California, and in southeastern Alaska. The

majority falls within the boundaries of national forests, while other stands are located within Olympic, North Cascades, Mount Rainier, and Crater Lake national parks.

Boundary lines mean nothing to spotted owls, however; and the federal government must come up with a definitive, long-term plan that will ensure the survival of spotted owls, goshawks, martens, and the numerous other species that are dependent on old-growth forests. Because the National Park Service (NPS), the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) all manage tracts of old growth, a cooperative management plan may be the answer.

What makes the old-growth forests particularly attractive to wildlife is their unique composition. The oldest trees are as much as 1,000 years old and as tall

Old growth provides an ideal year-round environment for the spotted owl and other species. In winter, the densest woven upper limbs keep the heaviest snows out. In summer, the canopy keeps the forest shady and cool.



as 200 feet. The wide range of age and height creates a distinct canopy and multilayered understory.

Lichen and pine needles falling from the very top limbs of the canopy are trapped by lower trees and branches. As this matter decays it creates mats of soil high in the canopy. During harsh winter conditions, the canopy catches the heavy snow, keeping the forest floor accessible to foraging wildlife. Dead trees and snags provide nesting spots up and down their trunks for many creatures. Moss and fallen trunks retain moisture to sustain the ecosystem in dry months.

More than 200 species, 40 of them vertebrates, depend on old-growth forests. Some, such as the spotted owl and the marten, exist almost exclusively in these forests. Bald eagles, northern flying squirrels, and other species reach their highest population densities in old-growth Douglas fir.

The controversy over the spotted owl and the old-growth forests has centered on the Forest Service. In recent years, as the timber industry exhausted its old-growth resources on private lands, it turned to the Forest Service and to BLM, asking these agencies for unlimited access to log virgin growth.

Despite these controversies, the Forest Service has not created a policy for old-growth preservation. In fact, 80 percent of all old growth on the Northwest's public lands is available for logging. If current attitudes continue, the last "over-mature" tree outside a protected area will succumb to the saw in a matter of decades.

According to law, the Forest Service "must retain viable populations of all native and desired vertebrate species" dwelling in national forests. If the spotted owl is declared a federally endangered species, the Forest Service will lose all federal funding

In Mount Rainier National Park (with Mount St. Helens visible in the distance), spotted owl habitat is protected. But logging just beyond park boundaries (distant right) confines the birds to limited national park habitat, making survival a struggle.

Charles A. Mauzy



for logging operations that threaten the owl. Such a scenario would effectively put an end to Northwest timbering projects.

In some cases, logging on Forest Service lands has occurred adjacent to park boundaries. While this mars the landscape for park visitors, it is even more disturbing for the owl. Logging on adjacent Forest Service lands forces spotted owls—and other species—into smaller, discrete habitats.

These park “islands” may isolate owls to the point that not all will survive and the breeding pool will shrink.

The NPS is just starting to study the effects of logging on Forest Service lands adjacent to Olympic National Park. Researchers in the park began studies last year to estimate the number of pairs located on the Olympic Peninsula.

Says Olympic Superintendent Robert Chandler, “We are reluctant to make any firm projections. Some say it’s too late to save the spotted owl on the Olympic Peninsula.”

There are two reasons why this might be so. Scientists estimate that the entire peninsula can support only 30 to 35 pairs of spotted owls. While spotted owl populations in the Cascade Range have a lengthy, north-south mountain corridor along which they can migrate and breed, the Olympic birds are entirely isolated.

Superintendent Chandler is also worried about the recent invasion of barred owls into spotted owl habitat. The barred owls are more aggressive than their more reclusive relatives, and thus present another threat to the spotted owl at Olympic and in all other areas.

In Mount Rainier National Park, three years of research without radio telemetry have resulted in only rough estimates of owl populations. Although most of Mount Rainier’s forested areas are virgin timber, spotted owls are even particular about the old growth they inhabit. They are especially fond of stands more than 100 years old—at an advanced stage of “decadence,” with an abundance of snags, decaying

logs, and debris on the forest floor. Also, studies show that spotted owls do not breed above 4,000 feet. In the mountainous Northwest, that eliminates a good portion of potential habitat.

Mount Rainier is surrounded on three sides by Forest Service lands. Two of these are protected as Forest Service wilderness areas. But active logging on the other two boundaries has park officials concerned.

Janet Edwards, natural resource specialist, headed the study on spot-

**The real question
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disappear.**

ted owls at Mount Rainier. In her words, “Our primary concern is the next generation of spotted owls. Juveniles that disperse in the fall may not find the habitat or prey in the fragmented forest beyond park borders that they need to survive.”

During the mid-Seventies, conservation groups in Oregon became concerned about the survival of the spotted owl and suggested that more research be done to understand the birds and how logging practices affect them. Management plans were revised repeatedly through the years as more was learned about the bird’s reproductive patterns and their need for large habitat areas. In May 1984, the Forest Service released its final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on logging in the area.

The EIS presented management alternatives that attempted to balance the interests of both the timber industry and conservation groups. The Forest Service’s preferred alternative allowed for 375 pairs of spotted owls in Oregon and Washington, on 550 protected old-growth plots of 1,000 acres each.

Less than two pairs per 1,000-acre plot may seem like a lot of land for a pair of birds. Like the grizzly, however, spotted owls require a large amount of territory. This requirement makes them a good indicator of old-growth deforestation because most old-growth-dependent species need less than the spotted owl.

When the EIS became public, conservation groups filed an appeal, claiming that the plan perpetuated recent timber practices that have split large tracts of old growth into isolated chunks too small to sustain healthy owl populations. The timber industry countered, saying that the plan set aside more than a reasonable amount of land necessary to protect a viable population.

New spotted-owl data precipitated the need for a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) from the Forest Service. In the draft SEIS—published in August 1986—the Forest Service agreed to increase the size of the protected tracts and the number of owls to be maintained—to 2,200 acres per pair of owls, for 550 pairs.

Still, some scientists and conservationists argue that at least 1,000 protected areas with more acreage are necessary to maintain healthy breeding pools. In addition, they advise that other habitats in BLM lands, national parklands, and state forests remain protected.

A National Audubon Society report recommended that a minimum of 1,500 pairs of spotted owls should be preserved in a habitat network extending through Washington, Oregon, and northern California. The report also emphasizes that a comprehensive research program be initiated as soon as possible.

The situation seems to be at an impasse. The Forest Service is trying to strike a compromise between conservationists and the timber industry.

One point yet to be resolved centers on the Forest Service estimate that 760 to 1,330 jobs would be lost if logging in national forests is restricted. (The timber industry adds 3,500 jobs lost in timber-related fields.) Conservationists have used



Marty Cordano

the Forest Service's own data to argue that these job-loss estimates are based on "potential yield" and further point out that the actual timber harvest for the last decade has been 45 percent below the industry's potential.

The Forest Service used these theoretical statistics to determine their "preferred alternative" management plan, thereby exaggerating the repercussions of preserving old-growth forests and the spotted owl.

Another argument concerns how many pairs of owls constitute an effective breeding population. There must be enough owls left to ensure a viable population so the species will not decline. Conservation-group biologists say a minimum of 1,500 pairs in the Northwest is necessary;

the timber industry's biologists say 500 pairs, and see no need for specific habitats.

The two sides also disagree on the acreage necessary for each pair of owls. The Forest Service compromise of 2,200 acres is not adequate, according to owl researchers. The Audubon report recommends that the spotted owl have 2,500 acres in Oregon, 4,500 acres in Washington, and 1,400 in northern California.

Until these disputes over a long-term management plan is settled, the future of the old-growth forests and the spotted owl is uncertain. The real question is whether we are willing to see as rich and varied a resource as old-growth forests disappear.

Given at least 200 years, a logged

It is estimated that only 12 percent of spotted owlets survive their first year. Those that do usually begin breeding in their third year. The spotted owl's survival and reproduction are particularly sensitive to predation and the condition of the owl's habitat.

area may be able to recover. But scientists are not certain whether the conditions that produced our lofty, old-growth forests can be duplicated. Once these trees are cut, they may be gone for all time. And species such as the spotted owl may slowly disappear as the national parks become isolated, genetic islands.

Liza Tuttle is the editorial assistant of National Parks magazine.

LAVALAND

**A volcanic sculpture garden,
New Mexico's El Malpais
will also be a Park Service experiment**

by Patricia Guthrie

photographs by David Muench

El Malpais—named the “Badlands” by early Spanish explorers—sits dark, silent, and largely uninhabited, as it has since the last of its volcanoes blew, some 1,000 years ago. Mountains of cinder top its craggy expanse; miles of gigantic, hollow lava tubes lie underneath acres of jugged, jet-black earth; ice caves gurgle and drip, but never melt; stunted ponderosa pines sprout from jumbles of lava. This unique landscape, a swath of black, volcanic remnants found in western New Mexico, may become the nation's next national monument.

El Malpais is surrounded by paved state roads on its eastern and western borders, while a dirt road connects its southern edge and Interstate 40 marks its northern boundary. The loop totals about 115 miles.

This area contains both of the distinct kinds of lava formations: the ropey, twisted *pahoehoe* and the raw, stoney *aa*. There are also the islands of sandstone and earth outcroppings called *kipukas*, which are left in the wake of the hot, running lava flow.

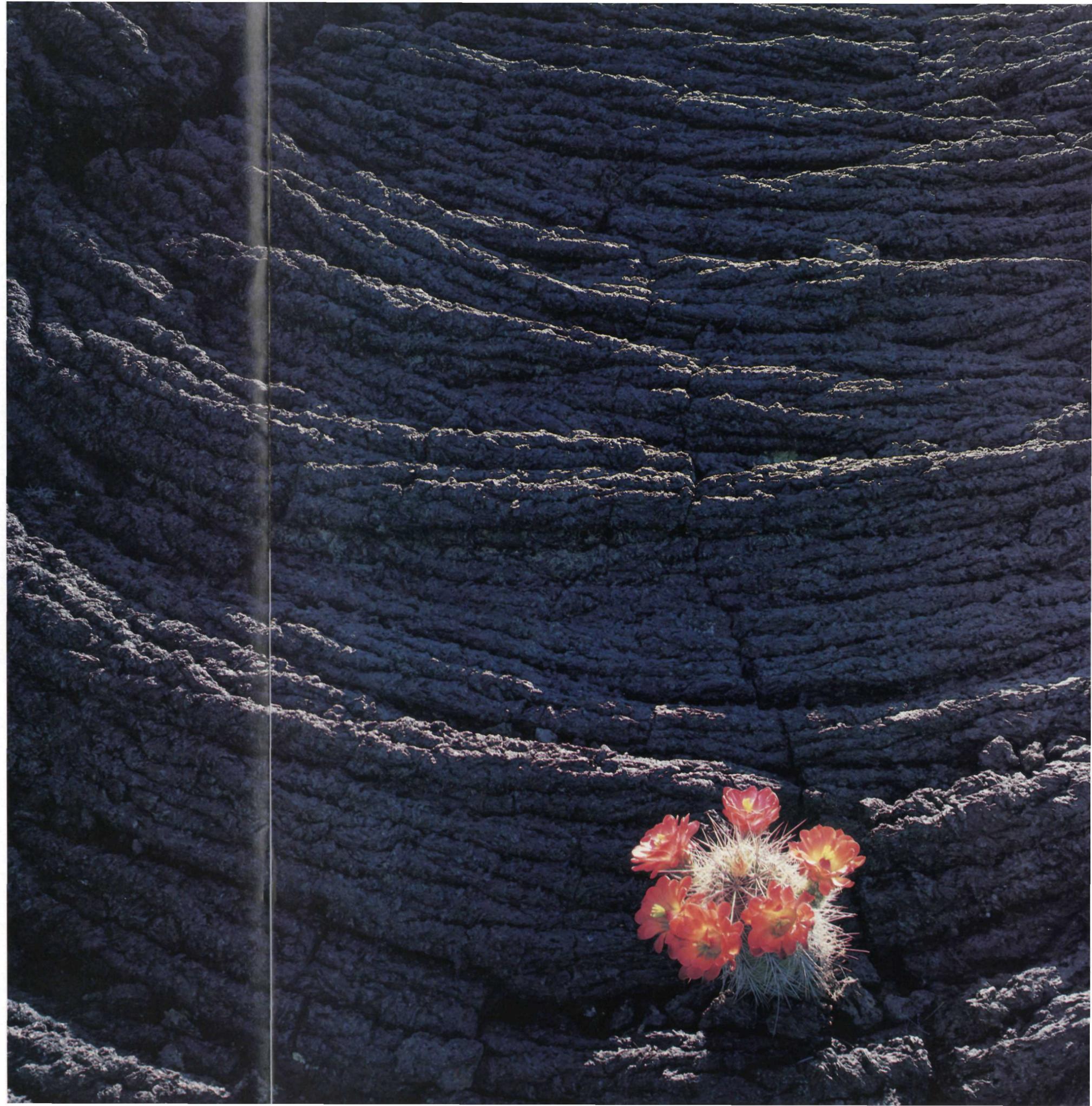
In all, the terrain offers the unusual mix of high-altitude life forms with an environment that is more

commonly found on volcanic islands, such as Hawaii. El Malpais is a rare ecosystem. Mule deer, reptiles, antelope, and bobcats roam the stark plains. Yellow and orange lichen exist next to snakeweed, Gambels oak, juniper, and pinyon.

Walking in this wide, open terrain with its sculptural lava rock formations and asymmetrical, isolated trees is like moving through an enormous, classic Oriental garden. Each direction offers a view of the interplay between dark and light, of space and form.

Currently, the only hint of this world to passersby is the black rocks that spill onto Interstate 40, the nation's main east-west corridor from California to North Carolina. El Malpais appears a foreboding, empty place from the highway, not meriting even a passing glance from tourists heading to the Grand Can-

Claret cup cactus grows from *pahoehoe* lava in El Malpais. The Hawaiian term *pahoehoe* refers to lava that has a smooth or ropy surface. Varieties of *pahoehoe* include corded, elephant-hide, entrail, festooned, filamented, sharkskin, shelly, and slab.





yon, 300 miles to the west or to Albuquerque, 70 miles to the east.

Though the highway is used by thousands of people weekly, few realize that the jumbled masses of mud and rock lapping at the road represent only a mere dribble of the fantastic forms and geological history that lie beyond. To the south, the lava landscape extends for 30 miles, changing from less than two miles wide to 18 miles wide between Cebollita Mesa on its eastern border and the Zuni Mountains to the west.

This year, legislation before Congress may make this land of fire and ice a destination in its own right. Like many park proposals, this area has been considered worthy of inclusion in the National Park System for a long time, in this case 30 to 40 years.

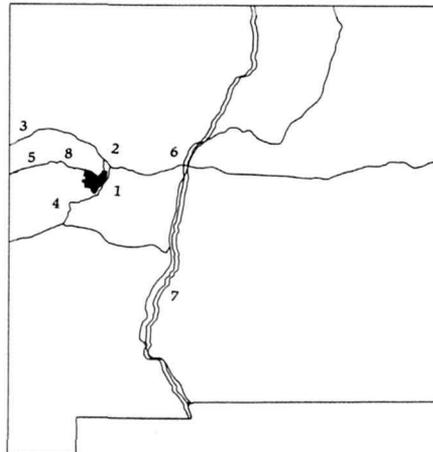
Legislation was introduced in Congress last year, but did not come to a vote by the end of the session. This year essentially the same bill was introduced by New Mexico representatives Bill Richardson (D) and Manuel Lujan, Jr. (R) in the House (H.R. 403) and by New Mexico senators Pete Domenici (R) and Jeff Bingaman (D) in the Senate (S. 56).

Creation of an El Malpais National Monument is also fully supported by the chamber of commerce in Grants, the nearest town, and most ranchers and Acoma Pueblo Indians—as long as grazing and other land-use privileges are protected on the surrounding Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land. The bill to establish El Malpais National Monument would also designate an existing two-lane highway network as the Masau Trail. (According to the Pueblo religion, Masau is the god-man who welcomed the Indian people to the Earth from the underworld.)

This route would link a new El Malpais monument with prehistoric

Mount Taylor lies in the distance, beyond a field of aa lava with its jagged surface. Colorful lichens, which combine a fungus and an algae, exist throughout El Malpais. Lichens can colonize bare rock, break down lava, and act as a base for soil development.

PROPOSED EL MALPAIS NATIONAL MONUMENT



Map by Terry Kilpatrick

KEY TO LOCATOR MAP:

1. Proposed El Mapais Monument
2. Town of Grants
3. National Interstate 40
4. State Highway 117
5. State Highway 53
6. Albuquerque
7. The Rio Grande
8. El Morro National Monument

and historic sites—such as El Morro National Monument's Inscription Rock (15 miles west) and the massive Anasazi ruins at Chaco Culture National Historical Park (65 miles north)—in northern New Mexico and northeastern Arizona.

Passage of the bill will require that the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management cooperate in managing the different segments of the region, a brave, new effort in multiple land use. Approximately 128,000 acres of the core area would be administered by the National Park Service as a national monument. Surrounding the monument would be 253,000 acres designated as the Grants National Conservation Area under the jurisdiction of the BLM.

Within the area controlled by the BLM, 115,000 acres will be set aside as wilderness; and grazing, hunting, and trapping would continue. The bill also protects access to both NPS and BLM lands by Native American people for their traditional cultural and religious events. This inter-agency accommodation is one of the

reasons this bill has enjoyed wide public support.

The bill requires the NPS and the BLM to present Congress with separate management plans for the monument and conservation areas by 1989. These plans must include a multiagency orientation center near Grants set up by the NPS and the BLM with the advice of Acoma Pueblo and two historical groups, plus a visitors center near Bandera Crater, the region's largest extinct volcano.

Happily, the BLM has already consolidated many of the existing landholdings under its control. A "checkerboard" of state, private, and railroad land ownership, which was left from the days of homesteading and railroad-building, had existed in El Malpais.

The heart of El Malpais, with its huge lava tubes, ice caves, and other volcanic wonders, has been explored by few. Kent Carlton, a former BLM employee who fell in love with the area, knows the lay of the lava. Two years ago, he led a campaign to have El Malpais transferred from the BLM to the NPS for better protection.

"You could stay here for more than a month and never visit the same cave twice," Carlton said, carefully stepping around sink holes and spatter cones.

"I don't think anyone really knows El Malpais. You can't look at it like the Grand Canyon. There's no fast fix to El Malpais. It takes time to really appreciate it. It's a magic place," Carlton said of the land he calls "where hell froze over."

"There's a big silence out here, like going back 500 years in time."

Fishing headlamps from his pack, Carlton stops at a large, gaping hole that looks like it was created by a torpedo. Our hike will continue down there, he says, walking down the crumbling entrance toward the dark. Bright green, yellow, and orange lichen cling to the few rocks exposed to sunlight.

In the darkness ahead lies a tunnel of lava, awesome and dark. As large as a New York City subway tunnel, El Malpais' lava tubes are considered



the area's most fascinating geologic phenomenon.

The tubes were formed as the outer surface of a lava flow cooled, solidifying over a still-flowing river of molten lava. When retracing the once-surging course of a red-hot volcanic river, images of fire flash through the mind. Geology becomes real and vivid.

At least eight lava tube systems are known in El Malpais. Some have collapsed; others extend intact for miles just beneath the surface of the lava flow.

Often you find eerie ice caves—rooms of ice that never melt. These form in the craters of some of the collapsed lava tubes. Ice develops when the cave mouth is shielded from the summer sun, and air circulation is minimal. The thick, overlying rock maintains a constant temperature, summer and winter.

El Malpais is, in fact, a land that offers almost every kind of volcanic phenomenon, created by four major

periods of volcanic activity: the Zuni Canyon flow, which is outside the monument north of Grants; the Laguna and McCartys flows; and also cinder cones, which represent an altogether different period of volcanic activity. The oldest eruption may have occurred one million years ago; the most recent is estimated between 500 and 1,000 years old.

"This is one of the best-kept secrets in New Mexico," attests Steve Fischer, the BLM's El Malpais project coordinator, as he maneuvers his truck through a foot of freshly fallen snow. "It's a hidden part of the state. Not many people know about it."

New Mexico's largest natural arch is found just down Route 117 from the Sandstone Bluffs overlook. Resembling an upside-down slingshot, La Ventana ("the window") is tucked back in a curve so it appears as part of the mesa from the road. A short hike and scramble up the hillside reveal La Ventana's true size—close to 500 feet high. The arch

seems both delicate and sturdy from directly underneath it.

Across the road, another sandstone feature, La Vieja ("old woman") stares back toward the arch. Rising above the fields of El Malpais, the stone face seems to add a stern human dimension to the black, bleak earth below.

Through the centuries, the old woman rock must have watched El Malpais' many different kinds of dwellers and visitors pass by, from Indians to ranching families. In the folds and ragged edges of these badlands, archeological remains have been found that lead scientists to think humans were here before the lava. Sandstone cairns, marking the ancient footpaths of Indian hunters, still stand.

El Malpais is believed to have been first inhabited in Paleo-Indian times, as long as 8,000 to 12,000 years ago. From studying remnants of ancient pottery and buildings, it is probable that ancestors of Pueblo

Indians settled here from 700 A.D. to 1400 A.D. Whole pots found in the area, along with a multitude of shards, reveal intricate black-and-white geometric designs created by the people the Navajos refer to as Anasazi, "the ancient ones."

Maize, squash, and beans were harvested in valleys that were fertilized with volcanic ash from cinder cones. On the mesas to the east, large villages were built during the Anasazi civilization's high point—1200 A.D. to 1400 A.D. Today, one of those villages remains at Acoma Pueblo.

The visitor will also find a Chacoan outlier, one of a series of ruins that was built outside the massive Anasazi settlements now preserved in Chaco Canyon. Segments of a prehistoric road, perhaps one of the 300 miles of roads connecting the dozens of Chacoan communities, is still visible.

A tower kiva, or ceremonial round house, is found at the main outlier, while a great kiva sits nearby. Evi-

dence of two pueblos of 30 to 60 rooms, as well as smaller structures can also be seen.

El Malpais is the kind of landscape that inspires legends. Acoma folklore tells of rivers of fire that buried their ancestors' farmlands. Navajo cosmology describes the lava flow as the congealed blood of "Big Monster," killed by the "War Twins" on Mount Taylor.

The European and American stories turned on vanished treasures—silver church bells, gold-laden mule trains—all lost in the deep and deceptive lava. More recently, the badlands were home to Gus Raney, whose remote ranch was rumored to be riddled with hidden gold from the Spanish colonial era. Although treasure was never found on Raney's ranch, two bodies were.

People either love it here or don't like it at all," Reddy Candelaria comments from her home tucked behind a combination trading post and entrance gate. "For

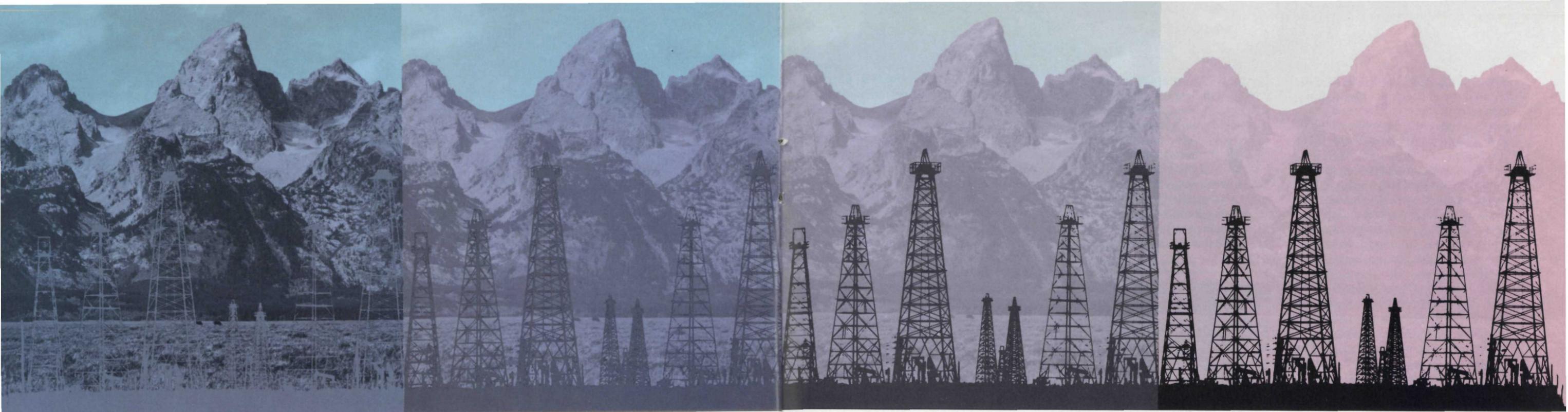
Vast, empty spaces, miles of *pahoehoe* lava, and the undulating, distant mountains of Tularora Valley give the El Malpais visitor as close a sense of being on the moon as there is on Earth.

me, it's one of the few places I ever wanted to live."

Her husband's relatives had homesteaded the land, and he had added a house, road, electricity, water, and other modern conveniences. Volcanic craters and mysterious ice caves happened to be on his family's property, so the Candelarias took a chance at turning them into tourist attractions. Last summer, approximately 35,000 tourists visited their Lavaland.

"According to a NASA lunar study," Dave Candelaria says, "the terrain here is more like the surface of the moon than any other place in the world."

Patricia Guthrie, a freelancer who writes for regional publications, is based in Gallup, New Mexico.



Composite of George Grant/NPS photo of Grand Tetons and DOE photo of oil derricks.

Disputed Territory

Since 1916, dedicated professionals have run the Park Service.

Now, political appointees manipulate policy and personnel.

by Robert and Patricia Cahn

During the past several months, activities have come to light indicating that Interior Department officials are attempting to control—and politicize—the National Park Service. They have endeavored to overrule the director and park superintendents, reorganize the Washington, D.C., office, shift key field personnel, and rewrite policies to allow uses heretofore banned from parks.

Are the national parks at risk, and will these activities leave scars on the Park Service? Or are they just

media allegations “so far off the mark as to approach pure fiction”? This was the dismissal given these allegations by William Horn, assistant secretary of the Interior for fish and wildlife and parks, at a recent congressional hearing.

Most of the coverage has been accurate, although a few cases have been exaggerated. And many other instances of interference have been hidden from public view.

Interior Secretary Donald Hodel as well as Horn and a bevy of his assistants have operated in secrecy,

disobeyed congressional requirements for prior notice on proposed reorganization plans, disdained or ignored advice from experienced park professionals, and used personnel actions or disciplinary measures to stifle policy dissent.

One might ask where the venerable director of the Park Service, William Penn Mott, Jr., stands in all of this. Public airing of grievances does not seem to be his style—he prefers to work within channels. He may also know that if he were to press too hard he could be forced out—despite his close ties to President Reagan—and thus end any hope of completing his wide-reaching agenda for the parks.

Despite his public composure, an internal memo Mott wrote to Horn last December reveals the level of his frustration and resistance. The memo opposed extensive modifications Horn wanted to make in Mott's modest Park Service reorganization plan; it also protested high-level shifts of personnel sought by Horn.

“I disagree with most of the suggested modifications,” wrote Mott. “I believe they do not strengthen park programs, are of no management utility and add to the costs of operating the Washington office.

“I feel compelled to reiterate my

concerns about the way your staff has handled this reorganization. People have been offered jobs that are encumbered or do not exist. . . . I find it incomprehensible that the changes of bonuses, ratings, and the assignment of conditional ratings would occur without consultation with me,” Mott wrote.

The interference goes far beyond reorganization and personnel shifts; it extends into development of basic policies. It also affects management decisions and the protection of National Park System areas, such as Grand Canyon National Park.

The phenomenal increase of sightseeing flights at Grand Canyon during the past decade made noise and safety regulations a high priority. More than 45,000 flights per year take a total of approximately 300,000 tourists over the canyon, making this a \$45-million-a-year industry for air-tour companies operating from as far away as Los Angeles.

Noise from overflights is also becoming an increasingly serious problem at other national parks; thus, the decisions made concerning Grand Canyon could set a precedent for other parks in the system.

Well before two sightseeing planes collided in midair in the Canyon in June 1986, killing 25 people,

Director Mott and conservation organizations had been calling for a halt to flights inside the Canyon. The park staff also had been preparing reports, one of which was an environmental assessment, that covered proposed Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) flight regulations and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) noise regulations relating to the Canyon.

On August 28, 1986, key personnel from Grand Canyon National Park met in Washington with Mott and other NPS officials to fine-tune recommendations for the FAA and EPA. NPS recommendations would have tourist aircraft stay above the Canyon rim and establish flight-free zones and other restrictions to provide maximum safety and noise reduction.

Later that day, before he could send the proposals to Horn, Mott received a short and baffling note from Hodel ordering him to refrain from making public the park staff's environmental assessment. The note also told Mott not to make any decision on the NPS proposals until Interior's Inspector General (IG) completed an internal review of the reports.

NPS officials later learned that on the very day the NPS officials were

meeting on the Canyon problem, Hodel had met with executives from Grand Canyon Helicopters and the Grand Canyon Flight Operators Association, who in an 85-page document accused the Grand Canyon park staff of putting out false data and misstatements.

Two months later, upon receiving an IG report highly critical of the NPS studies, the Secretary wrote Mott that the park's studies “should be redone honestly, unless the NPS can rebut the conclusions.”

Hodel labeled the NPS studies “unprofessional” and said, “the persons responsible for drafting the original report on solitude should be appropriately censured.” Just nine days later, without conferring with Director Mott and without waiting for the rebuttal, Horn submitted the official departmental recommendations—quite different from those of the NPS—to the FAA (and none to the EPA).

He acknowledged that there had been 55 deaths from aircraft accidents in and over the Canyon during the last ten years. Yet, Horn recommended that flights be banned only *within the inner gorge*—the narrow bottom of the Grand Canyon where tour flights virtually never go. Expressing some mild concerns over noise levels, he chose to leave solu-

tion of the problem to the FAA, noting that the Park Service could not provide sufficient data for making recommendations related to noise.

The FAA has issued only mild restrictions on Canyon overflights with loopholes for continued tour flights below the Canyon rim. Interior does not agree with and has not released the NPS recommendations. The NPS, however, has completed a rebuttal of the IG's report, showing almost all of the charges to be inaccurate.

NPS Deputy Director Denis Galvin sent the rebuttal to Secretary Hodel with the brief conclusion: "I do not believe censure is required." Hodel has not responded.

Historians may argue that some degree of political interference in running the national parks is nothing new. They could cite Interior Secretary Franklin Lane's approval of a hydro project in 1913 that destroyed Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park; or the Nixon White House directive to Secretary Rogers Morton that NPS Director George Hartzog be fired and replaced with Nixon's travel advance man, Ronald Walker.

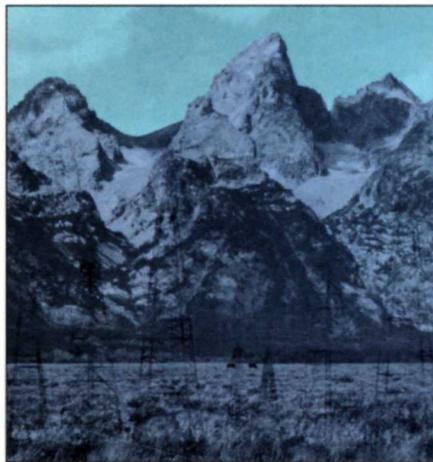
Since 1950, the NPS has been placed organizationally under one of the politically appointed assistant secretaries of the Interior. Since 1973, the men appointed as assistant secretary for fish and wildlife and parks have used their prerogative to influence park management and make occasional high-level NPS appointments.

Until the 1970s—in fact, since 1916, when Stephen Mather and Horace Albright took over management of the national parks—a tradition of independence had become established. Political interference was the exception. The Interior secretary let the NPS director and park professionals run the Park Service. For 55 years, NPS directors had access to their Interior secretaries and could argue their positions directly with them.

Although the amount of interference by the assistant secretary's office accelerated under Nathaniel Reed (1971-1976) and under Robert

Herbst (1977-1980), both men were committed to conservation; so their influence did not significantly disrupt park policy or operations.

With the advent of James Watt and the Reagan Administration in 1981 came the attempt to make drastic changes. The Watt team brought an antigovernment "sagebrush rebellion" philosophy and a tilt toward development and



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privatization, which they aggressively sought to impose on the Park Service.

Watt's idea of preserving the parks meant a \$1-billion program to restore sewage systems, roads, buildings, and other facilities while ignoring programs to protect natural resources. He tried to stop all funding for new parkland and wanted to get rid of "urban" park areas, such as Cuyahoga in Ohio.

Watt's team consisted of like-minded political appointees. His undersecretary, Donald Hodel, was a former head of the Bonneville Power

Administration in the state of Oregon. His deputy undersecretary for Alaskan issues was Horn, who had fought environmentalists as a congressional committee aide during the controversy over the Alaska Lands legislation.

The assistant secretary for fish and wildlife and parks, Ray Arnett, was a former oil company geologist and an advocate of sport hunting, commercial fishing, and off-road vehicle (ORV) use in some park areas. Arnett's special assistant, who soon began giving orders to NPS Director Russell Dickenson, was Ric Davidge, former lobbyist for the National Inholders Association, a group that is opposed to the NPS purchase of private land for parks and has aggressively pursued that goal.

For deputy director, Watt chose Mary Lou Grier, an aide from his Bureau of Outdoor Recreation days, who was working for a Republican congressman. Two other political appointees were later brought in to help Grier: P. Daniel Smith, a lobbyist for the National Rifle Association, and Allan Fitzsimmons, a college teacher of environmental studies.

Some of the Watt changes succeeded. He was able to get funding for restoring park facilities, but he also inhibited the acquisition of new parkland.

Spurred by Senator Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) and Representative Don Young (R-Alaska), Watt acted for Alaska development interests by ordering Director Dickenson to transfer the Alaska regional director and his deputy and the superintendent of Glacier Bay National Park. Their sins were that they imposed restrictions on tour-boat operators in Glacier Bay in order to protect endangered humpback whales. Development interests believed the NPS was not responsive enough to business and private uses, such as sport hunting, in Alaskan parks.

When Watt's stridency and heavy-handedness finally caused his departure, most of his major agenda remained unachieved. During the 14-month tenure of Watt's successor, William Clark, there was little interference in NPS affairs.

Early in 1985, Donald Hodel was appointed as the new Interior secretary, and the Watt agenda quietly reappeared. Without the circuslike atmosphere that surrounded Watt, his successors have been able to proceed with their agenda without much scrutiny.

When Arnett resigned to become executive director of the National Rifle Association, Hodel gave the job to Horn, his former deputy undersecretary. Hodel forced the retirement of NPS Director Dickenson, but had to accept the White House recommendation of 75-year-old William Penn Mott, Jr., as the replacement. Mott had begun his 54-year parks career with the National Park Service, and had served as Governor Reagan's director of California State Parks and Recreation.

Conservationists applauded when one of Mott's first acts was to dismiss most of the political appointees. But Smith and Fitzsimmons simply moved "upstairs" to become assistants to Horn. This move also put them in a position to give orders to the NPS director.

At first, Mott and his deputy director, Denis Galvin—working with Washington staff and regional directors—carried out their plans for the Park Service without much interference. They developed a 12-point agenda, with emphasis on protecting park natural and cultural resources, expanding scientific research, and finding solutions to the worst park threats.

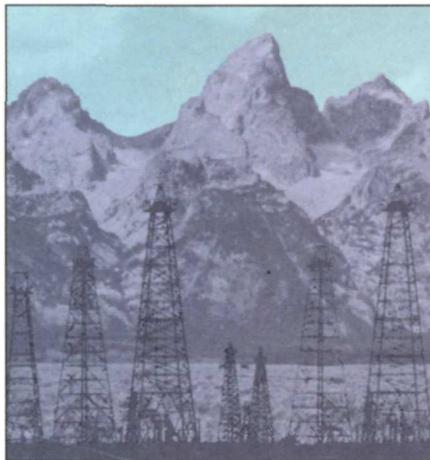
Soon, however, Mott began running into disagreements with Horn's staff. Interference accumulated, sapping NPS morale and undermining the professional managers.

Mott's first big policy dispute came in late 1985 when he sought Hodel's approval to comply with an EPA proposed regulation on "integral vistas." The Clean Air Act allows states to consider the harm that might come from a new development outside a national park—a power plant, for instance—whose smoke plume might degrade the vistas seen from inside the park.

Back in 1981, the NPS had identified 173 potential "integral vistas" in 43 national parks. These include

views of the valleys that flank Shenandoah National Park, the sea coast as seen from Acadia, and the Kaiparowits Plateau viewed from Bryce. But Secretary Hodel had never sent recommendations for listings to EPA.

The provision to list integral vistas expired December 31, 1985. A few weeks before the expiration date, Mott sent a memo to Horn urging that the Interior Department



At Cape Cod National Seashore, the Park Service has been under pressure to open more beach and dune areas to off-road vehicles.

"proceed immediately with the integral vista rule-making."

Mott outlined the importance of scenic views. Inaction "would certainly result in severe criticism of the Department and the Administration by environmental groups and by a public that will perceive that highly important park attributes are being sacrificed," he wrote.

"We would be derelict in our responsibilities if we chose to ignore the opportunity provided by the Clean Air Act to identify integral vistas."

Mott received no reply until after

Hodel made a decision not to list the integral vistas.

A few months later another air pollution issue came up, this time concerning coal strip mines that might be developed near national parks. EPA proposed regulating new sources of pollution where it might affect park air quality.

Instead of protecting his own bureau, Horn sided with Steven Griles, Interior assistant secretary for lands and minerals management, whose constituency includes the coal-mine operators. The Horn-Griles position said that Interior had all the authority it needed to control air pollution.

Bryce, Zion, and other parks are threatened by new sources of pollution from coal mines; and the NPS wanted *enforceable* regulations. But the NPS was left out of departmental policy discussions and was asked not to prepare any written comments on Interior's final position.

NPCA and three other environmental organizations submitted official comments to EPA opposing the Horn-Griles position. The groups said that the Department of Interior had failed to exercise its authority in any meaningful fashion.

The final word was a departmental position paper issued by Undersecretary Ann McLaughlin on May 28, 1986, stating that "The Secretary currently has sufficient authority to protect air quality and related values of the National Park Service units from adverse impacts of surface coal mining activities." The EPA's proposed pollution regulations were squelched. The Park Service had lost again.

Interference in park affairs has not been limited to general, systemwide issues. A number of incidents at specific parks illustrate how the activities of career professionals have been hampered during the last two years.

At Cape Cod National Seashore, the NPS has been under pressure to open more beach and dune areas to ORVs. Park scientists were excluded from a research team of depart-

mental agencies assigned by Horn to assess the potential harm from ORVs. Although the departmental group came out in favor of more ORV use, opposition by the NPS and conservation groups has so far prevented that.

In another issue, Mott and the Park Service were embarrassed by a January 1986 order from Horn directing Mott to cancel a keynote speech to the Everglades Coalition a few hours before he was to make the speech. Mott was already in Florida when he received the order to return to Washington immediately.

The reason: Horn's deputy, Smith, was worried because then-Governor Bob Graham, a Democrat who would be running for the Senate, was on the same program. Smith feared that Mott's presence might be taken as support for Graham and hurt the Republican incumbent, Senator Paula Hawkins.

Much more serious is the recent attempt by Interior to tamper with the organization of the NPS Washington office, shift personnel, and alter performance evaluations of employees who are rated under Senior Executive Service (SES) rules. This creeping politicization of one of the country's most highly regarded agencies has not gone unnoticed.

Several hearings in Congress earlier this year and numerous articles bearing headlines such as "Mott Fends Off Power Threat," "Politics Penetrates U.S. Parks," and "Takeover at the Park Service" [*National Parks*, March 1987] have brought the behind-the-scenes maneuvering into the open.

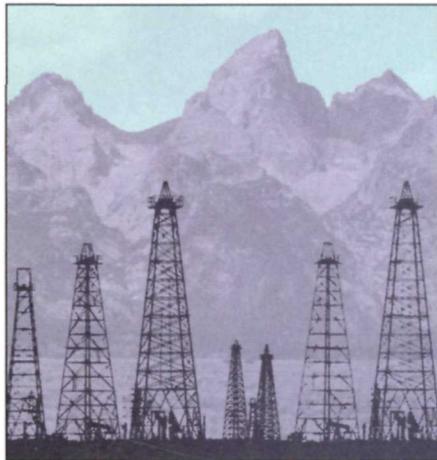
The stir was triggered by Horn's attempt to make substantive changes in a minor reorganization plan submitted to Hodel by Mott. Word of the proposed changes was withheld from Congress until the plan had been implemented.

Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.) accused Horn of running "a covert operation" in not submitting the reorganization plan to the committees as required.

After drawing evasive answers from Horn to questions concerning shifts of personnel and performance

evaluations, Byrd commented: "I am concerned that the appearance is that the Assistant Secretary seems to be playing games among the career staff of our National Park Service."

At House hearings, Interior Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Sidney Yates (D-Ill.) questioned both Hodel and Horn as to why changes had been made in most of the personnel evaluation rat-



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ings given to 16 Senior Executive Service employees.

Yates read from a memo in which Horn informed Mott that he had given a preliminary "less than fully satisfactory" rating to Western Regional Director Howard Chapman, a 40-year NPS veteran. Horn's rating was two grades lower than the "exceeded performance standards" rating that Mott had given Chapman.

The low rating was later raised one level to "fully successful" (i.e., average), the lowest ever for Chapman.

In defense of the low preliminary

rating, Horn cited his specific "concerns." He said Chapman's performance "created a *prima facie* case of 'less than fully satisfactory' management." These concerns included allegations of employment discrimination in the western region (a class-action lawsuit by Hispanics), disobedience of departmental orders to cease buying land within Yosemite National Park, and blame for the Grand Canyon overflight study that Hodel had criticized.

Yates drew from Horn the fact that a review board that overturned many of Mott's SES ratings was chaired by Horn's deputy, Smith. When Horn said that he and Smith had not discussed any of the ratings, Yates replied, "I'm suspicious. It seems impossible that you wouldn't have talked about this [the Chapman matter]."

Yates also impressed upon Hodel the "necessity for preserving the morale of the employees of your Park Service against political interference." He added that "there have been hints of [interference] throughout this case and throughout your reorganization."

When Chapman was called to testify in his own defense, he pointed out that he had never been informed of these "concerns" until Horn's February testimony before Congress. In a 36-page response, Chapman showed each of the allegations to be without foundation or validity.

For instance, Chapman had settled the equal employment lawsuit out of court two years earlier to the satisfaction of both the NPS and the plaintiffs—without admission of discrimination. In fact, Interior had cited the western region for achievements in equal employment opportunity.

As for disobeying departmental orders to cease purchasing land in Yosemite, Chapman stated that he had been acting on advice from the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands.

Horn was forced to admit to Yates, "I am glad to know that many of my concerns were not founded."

The most important challenge for

NPS professionals, with potential long-term effects on the parks, has been a 15-month battle with political appointees over attempts to rewrite the NPS *Management Policies* manual. The guidebook had not been revised since 1978, and Mott and Galvin felt it should be updated. Horn and his policy assistant, Fitzsimmons, seized upon the revision as an opportunity to make significant changes in basic management philosophies.

One policy proposal from Horn's office sought to rate national park areas according to the significance of their most important natural resources. "For example," said the memo, "the aesthetics of Yosemite Valley are obviously essential to the park whereas the health of the mule deer herd is not."

Under this system parks could be rated as in "good condition" if just 80 percent of the natural resources are relatively free from man-caused damage. Such a policy change could allow a wide range of unacceptable park uses, including energy development, mineral exploration, grazing, and commercial enterprise.

In a memo on the policy guidebook revision, Horn told NPS officials that "The Secretary has noted our mandate is to conserve resources for the benefit of people as opposed to protecting resources from people; park management must reflect the fact that we are to serve the general public as opposed to narrowly focused groups. . . ."

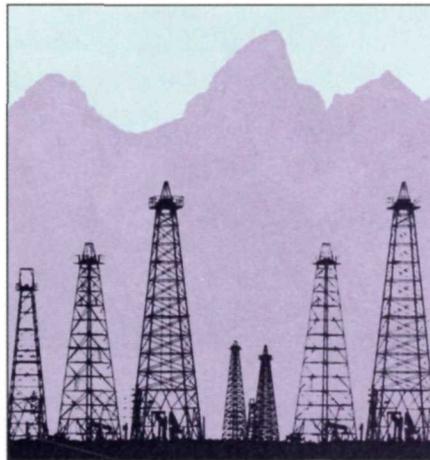
Park Service officials disagreed with Horn's thesis. They felt such a policy twisted the intent of the 1916 Organic Act creating the Park Service, which reads: ". . . to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

The long-standing NPS view is that conservation must always be the overriding priority. If resources are impaired, they would not be available for visitors to enjoy.

Time and again, however, Watt, Hodel, and Horn have inferred that

the Park Service is interested in protecting the parks *from* instead of *for* people. The NPS now puts 83 percent of its operational budget into serving visitor needs—the inference is without foundation.

Dwight Rettie, who headed Mott's policy division until his retirement last August, said that Horn sought to carry out his policy changes by differentiating types of



"I am concerned that . . . the Assistant Secretary seems to be playing games among the career staff of our Park Service," said Senator Byrd.

parks. One management policy would be used for national parks where natural values predominate, another for historic sites and cultural areas, and a third where recreation is the predominant use.

Horn's proposal would reverse the existing NPS policy of managing all units of the National Park System by the same guidelines, except when Congress specifically provides otherwise, such as allowing hunting in certain preserve units. According to this proposal, hunting and trapping would be allowed in many more park areas; off-road vehicles could

be used on the beaches and sand dunes of national seashores such as Cape Cod; national recreation areas would have more roads; pesticides could be used in parks where recreation is a high priority; and exotic species regulation would be more flexible.

Rettie says that the Park Service admits that Cape Cod should not be administered exactly like Yellowstone, because they *are* different. "To the degree that there are natural resource values at Cape Cod or Delaware Water Gap, however, the Park Service plans to treat them the same way it treats natural values at Yellowstone or Yosemite, and give those natural values the fullest protection so they will never be impaired."

In recent weeks, Hodel and Horn have apparently altered their game plan. Horn has backed off from his demands for separate policy guidelines to suit the different types of NPS areas. Also, Deputy Assistant Secretary Smith, a particular thorn to Mott, has moved to the General Services Administration.

But friends of the Park Service are still concerned. "In six years of supervising the National Park Service, the Reagan Administration appointees have not yet supported policies that are consistent with Park Service tradition," says Destry Jarvis, NPCA vice president for conservation policy. "We are not letting down our vigilance or support of Park Service standards, policy, personnel, and management.

"In the long run, however, the only way to assure minimal political interference with the National Park Service is to remove it from the Department of Interior and establish it as an independent agency."

Patricia and Robert Cahn are contributing editors to National Parks. Their articles have appeared in Smithsonian, and the Christian Science Monitor, among others. Patricia Cahn was public affairs director of the EPA. Robert Cahn, who won a Pulitzer Prize for a series of articles on the national parks, recently published The Birth of the National Park Service with Horace Albright.

Members Corner

NPCA's New York Chapter
NPCA members in New York State can now join the first statewide organization devoted to the protection and expansion of parks in their state. Membership with New York Parks and Conservation Association (NYPCA), headquartered in Albany, will keep you informed on what's happening in national, state, and local parks in New York.

Membership costs only \$7 and can be sent along with your national NPCA dues by checking the appropriate box on your renewal form. All funds will go to developing NYPCA.

"National Parks in Urban Areas"

NPCA has just released its newest publication, *National Parks in Urban Areas*. Written by William C. Lienesch, NPCA director of federal activities, *National Parks in Urban*

Areas reports the conclusions drawn at NPCA's Urban National Parks Conference held in San Francisco in March 1984. The conferees stated their goal "to develop strategies for solving the unique problems and protecting the valuable assets of the National Park System units located in or near metropolitan areas."

Conference participants included local and federal government officials, community leaders, conservation group representatives, business people, and local media. Copies of this informative book are limited. For more information, please write NPCA Books.

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We have several new trips to offer you this year in conjunction with Questers Worldwide Nature Tours. You can go rafting on the Green River in Utah this August, or enjoy the fall foliage on West Virginia's Gauley River in October. Questers will also take you to visit the spectacular national parks of Alaska in June, or the equally exciting parks of

South Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana in August. For more information, call Ellen Barclay at NPCA, (202) 944-8550, or see ad page 35.

Membership Services

Show that you are actively helping to protect our national parks by ordering items from NPCA's merchandise collection. All proceeds from your purchases help fund NPCA programs to keep our parks and wildlife healthy. From our cuddly stuffed bear, complete with an NPCA T-shirt, to our nylon jacket that folds into its own zipper pouch, there's something for you.

To assist in making your vacation and park travel plans, remember to request your NPCA PARK-PAK. This package of helpful items includes a full-size map of the United States showing all NPS areas and an index describing each park's significance. For further information on NPCA's merchandise or NPCA PARK-PAK, write NPCA Membership Services, 1015 Thirty-first St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20007.

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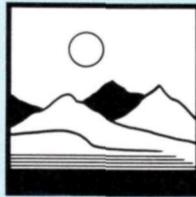
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- Gauley River Columbus Day Rafting Trip, October 12. Cost: \$80.

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NPCA Report

NPCA Opposes Damage To Arctic Wildlife Refuge

In 1960, what is now the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was first given federal protection to preserve arctic ecosystems in the northeastern corner of Alaska. In 1980, Congress established the refuge, doubled its size to 19 million acres, and designated half that area as protected wilderness.

The move was a victory for conservationists—but a backhanded one at that. The same law opened the refuge's 1.5-million-acre coastal plain to oil and gas exploration.

The recent controversy is whether to permit further exploration for oil and gas, or to set the land aside before more harm is done. In such a wild and remote place, modern oil-drilling equipment, and all the noise and pollution associated with it, has left its mark on the environment.

In many cases, wells built in 1984 and 1985 have proved unsuccessful and have simply been abandoned. Pressure to tap oil reserves in Alaska has diminished since the recent oil glut, but it is only a matter of time before the pressure resumes.

The refuge is currently managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

(FWS). In a recent report, FWS officials outlined a preferred management alternative that included making the entire coastal plain available for leasing to industry.

NPCA is involved in the issue as a member of the Alaskan Coalition, a network of major environmental groups whose issue for 1987 is the preservation of the arctic refuge.

In February, NPCA's Alaska Representative William Holman sent comments to FWS listing 22 problem areas in the report. In general, he argued that not enough research has been done on how development would impact this sensitive ecosystem.

Of particular concern is the well-being of North America's largest herd of caribou, which migrates between Canada and Alaska. They use the coastal plain as their calving grounds. Other jeopardized species include the arctic fox, polar bear, musk-ox, other mammals, and many tundra-nesting birds.

Holman also pointed out that the report failed to discuss the disposal of hazardous waste associated with oil development, or what would be done in the event of an oil spill. He urged that alternatives to developing the coastal plain be more seriously considered, and that the area instead be set aside permanently as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Cult Builds Complex At Yellowstone Borders

First there was the Bhagwan Rajneesh, now there's Elizabeth Prophet. Just beyond Yellowstone National Park's northern border, the well-to-do religious cult known as the Church Universal and Triumphant (CUT) has begun developing their new world headquarters.

In 1981, the group, under Prophet's leadership, purchased the 12,000-acre ranch belonging to publisher and corporate executive Malcolm Forbes for \$7 million. They have since bought up other tracts for a grand total of 30,000 acres. The plan for their holy city includes a church, modular housing for employees, several homes, a school cafeteria, and a poultry processing factory.

Yellowstone park officials are concerned about the effects of the church development so near the park's borders. One of the main concerns is that the development may interfere with the park's famous geysers. The church has been tapping into thermal springs, hoping to use the hot water to heat church buildings.

Another concern is how the development will affect wildlife populations inhabiting lands near the park's northern border. Grizzly bears, deer, pronghorn antelope, and bighorn sheep all depend on the wilderness area along the Yellowstone River.

Several groups have registered complaints over the CUT complex, including local citizens, environmental groups, the Forest Service, and the National Park Service. But loopholes in zoning regulations have permitted certain questionable projects.

Last fall, when workers began to construct 24 modular homes for 160 employees on the bank of the Yellowstone River, Park County officials intervened. They accused the church of noncompliance with subdivision laws.

The church got around this by saying that the buildings comprised a "work camp" instead of a subdivision. The church has also been ac-

The arctic fox and its prey, the ptarmigan, are threatened by oil interests.



Irene Vandermolen

cused of building their large complex bit by bit so as to escape the scrutiny of watchful opponents.

Finally, last November, the Montana Water Quality Bureau demanded an environmental impact statement from the church. According to some, however, considerable damage has already been done.

Prescribed Burn Report Sees Fire as Effective Tool

The seven-member Sequoia-Mixed Conifer Fire Review Panel recently released its 45-page report on prescribed burning in Sequoia, Kings Canyon, and Yosemite national parks. The panel included some key recommendations for adjusting the program.

- Where fire is being reintroduced after many decades of fire suppression, abnormally heavy forest fuels should be removed from the base of large sequoias and other dominant trees, such as the white fir, to avoid unnatural, extensive charring of those trees. The panel calls for consultation with a landscape architect in the development of burning plans, but it emphasizes that "In all cases, ecological values are paramount and are not to be compromised for aesthetic reasons."
 - The panel calls for a clear procedure for including data from monitored burns into the formulation of burning plans and practices.
 - More must be learned about fire history, the effects of fire on accumulated forest fuels, the growth of trees and other plants, plant nutrient cycles, and wildlife.
 - Long-term funding is essential. Current short-term funding has handicapped burning techniques, thus possibly causing excessive scenic impacts.
- NPCA's Southwest/California Representative Russ Butcher says, "The report is a sensitive, thoroughly professional analysis of this complex park management issue. Its outstanding recommendations, if accepted and implemented, should lead to enhanced burning strategies, practices, monitoring, research, interpretation, and funding for this ecologically vital program."

NPCA Lawsuit Helps Put Burr Trail Paving on Hold

Plans to pave Burr Trail, the 66-mile dirt road that crosses two national park areas and some of the most scenic, undisturbed backcountry in Utah, have taken a new turn.

In earlier attempts, Utah officials had called for paving the entire road, thus outraging conservationists. This time, paving proponents are trying a more low-key, segmented approach. In January, the state of Utah gave Garfield County \$2 million to grade, drain, widen, and realign 26 miles of Burr Trail.

The upgraded portion would run from Boulder to the western edge of Capitol Reef National Park, traversing Long Canyon and two wilderness study areas. The questions are whether the county has a legal right of way across this Bureau of Land Management acreage, and, if it does, whether it may proceed without any environmental review. The answers turn on an antique 1866 law from the homesteading era, which reads, "If a road is built across unreserved public lands, there is a right of way."

NPCA challenges Garfield County's plan for its alleged right of way; and, with three other environmental groups, NPCA has filed a lawsuit seeking an environmental review of the planned roadwork.

Without environmental reviews, "The county could be honeycombed with paved roads and the public won't have a chance to comment," says NPCA Rocky Mountain Representative Terri Martin.

NPCA's motion included a call for



Burr Trail by Terri Martin

a preliminary injunction to stop all upgrading until a judicial decision is made. On March 10, U.S. District Judge Aldon Anderson granted the injunction because the proposed upgrading to Burr Trail constitutes "changes of a substantial nature" that require further study.

This interim measure protects the scenic, archeological, recreational, and wilderness values that Martin says should be protected permanently. Garfield County and the state hope to attract more tourism by increasing traffic on the trail. If they are allowed to upgrade this segment as they plan, it may be the first step in paving the entire length of Burr Trail, and a significant change in the nature of southern Utah's wild backcountry.

James Murfin: 1930-1987 A National Park Educator

James Murfin, who died at the age of 57 on March 30, was a true friend of the parks. Most of his 18 years with the National Park Service, his work with the national park cooperating associations, and his association with NPCA were spent in educating the public about the treasures of the parks. He wrote numerous books about the parks, including the award-winning *Gleam of Bayonets*,

which focuses on the Battle of Antietam and the Civil War, a topic he made a specialty.

His articles appeared in *Smithsonian*, the *Baltimore Sun*, and *Family Circle*, among others. Perhaps the program that most typifies Murfin's energy and commitment is the publications awards program of the national park cooperating associations. This program has significantly enriched the breadth and quality of park publications.

News Update

Natural Landmarks.

This year the National Natural Landmarks Program celebrates its 25th anniversary. On May 18, 1962, then-Interior Secretary Stewart Udall created the program to preserve the best examples of the geologic features and biotic communities composing the nation's natural history. More than 3,500 significant areas have been identified, from which 573 have been designated in 48 states, three territories, and Puerto Rico. Included are such familiar places as Mount Shasta, California, and Okeefenokee Swamp.

National Historic "Recreation" Landmarks. Interior Secretary Donald Hodel has recently designated 39 properties as national historic landmarks for their value to the history of recreation and sports in the United States. (Landmark recognition encourages preservation efforts by state, local, and private groups. There are now 1,751 designated historic landmarks.) Examples of those historic landmarks most recently designated include Pasade-

na's Rose Bowl, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, and the Boston Common.

The Scenic Kings River. In late March, Senator Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) introduced a bill to include 93 miles of California's Kings River in the Wild and Scenic River System. Congressman Richard Lehman (D-Calif.) sponsored identical legislation in the House. This status guarantees federal protection and prohibits further development of the river. The Kings River has the greatest vertical drop and the deepest canyons of any river in the United States outside Alaska. The river is especially revered for its recreational value to trout fishers, rafters, swimmers, and hikers.

Hazardous Wasteland. The Department of Energy is still looking for a site for the nation's first nuclear waste dump. The list of possibilities has included an area near Canyonlands National Park. Reacting to this threat, Utah Representative Wayne Owens (D) sponsored a bill that would expand the park by 417,342 acres, stretching it from rim to rim. Conservation groups believe this is long overdue.

Overflight Bill Includes Flight-free Zones

The House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands held hearings on overflights legislation on March 24. The bill, H.R. 921, concentrates on the safety question and focuses on Grand Canyon National Park.

Interior Secretary Donald Hodel opposes the bill and has called the National Park Service study on overflights "unprofessional" (see "Disputed Territory," page 28). As an agency under the administration of the Interior Department, the National Park Service also opposes the bill. In fact, Representative Morris Udall (D-Ariz.), head of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, said that the NPS had caved in to political pressure.

Subcommittee Chairman Bruce Vento (D-Minn.) set the tenor of the hearing by pointedly asking NPS Director William Penn Mott, Jr., whether Mott's position on H.R. 921 was his personal opinion or an official position. Mott replied that it was his official position. After the hearing, Mott also contradicted Hodel by telling reporters that he believed the NPS completed "a good, professional study."

In NPCA's testimony before the subcommittee, Director of Federal Activities William Lienesch pointed out that air-tour flights are not the only problem, that there is a "disaster waiting to happen in unauthorized military joy-riding flights." Lienesch also said that overflights are so prevalent at the Grand Canyon that "hikers are rarely free of the sounds of aircraft."

Because of last year's mid-air collision, in which 25 people were killed, Grand Canyon is an obvious focus of this bill. Overflights are a problem at many park areas, however, including Sequoia/Kings Canyon, Bryce, Organ Pipe, Hawaii Volcanoes, and Mount Rushmore.

NPCA recommended that, in addition to minimum altitude regulations, there should be a ban of all tourist flights below the Canyon's rims, air operators should use quieter equipment, and flight-free zones should be established. At subcommittee markups the following week, flight-free areas were added to the bill.

A number of air-tour companies is becoming aware that visitor disapproval is growing and some of the air-tour operators have instituted self-regulation. But these companies

are in the minority. NPCA believes that meaningful regulations should be backed up by "real incentives for compliance."

Themes at NPCA Conference On PCAO Stress Action

NPCA's conference, "Beyond the President's Commission," held on March 16-18, drew conservation planners from across the country. More than 180 participants listened to speeches and took part in workshops, all designed to solidify support for the recommendations of the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors (PCAO).

Three U.S. senators took part, as well as representatives of national conservation groups, representatives of federal agencies, and local public-interest groups.

Among the themes of the conference: "lighting the prairie fire of local action," while securing the commitment of the federal government; making sure that PCAO's recommendations are implemented and not simply acknowledged; and encouraging states to inventory and prioritize their public lands so they can more successfully protect those areas.

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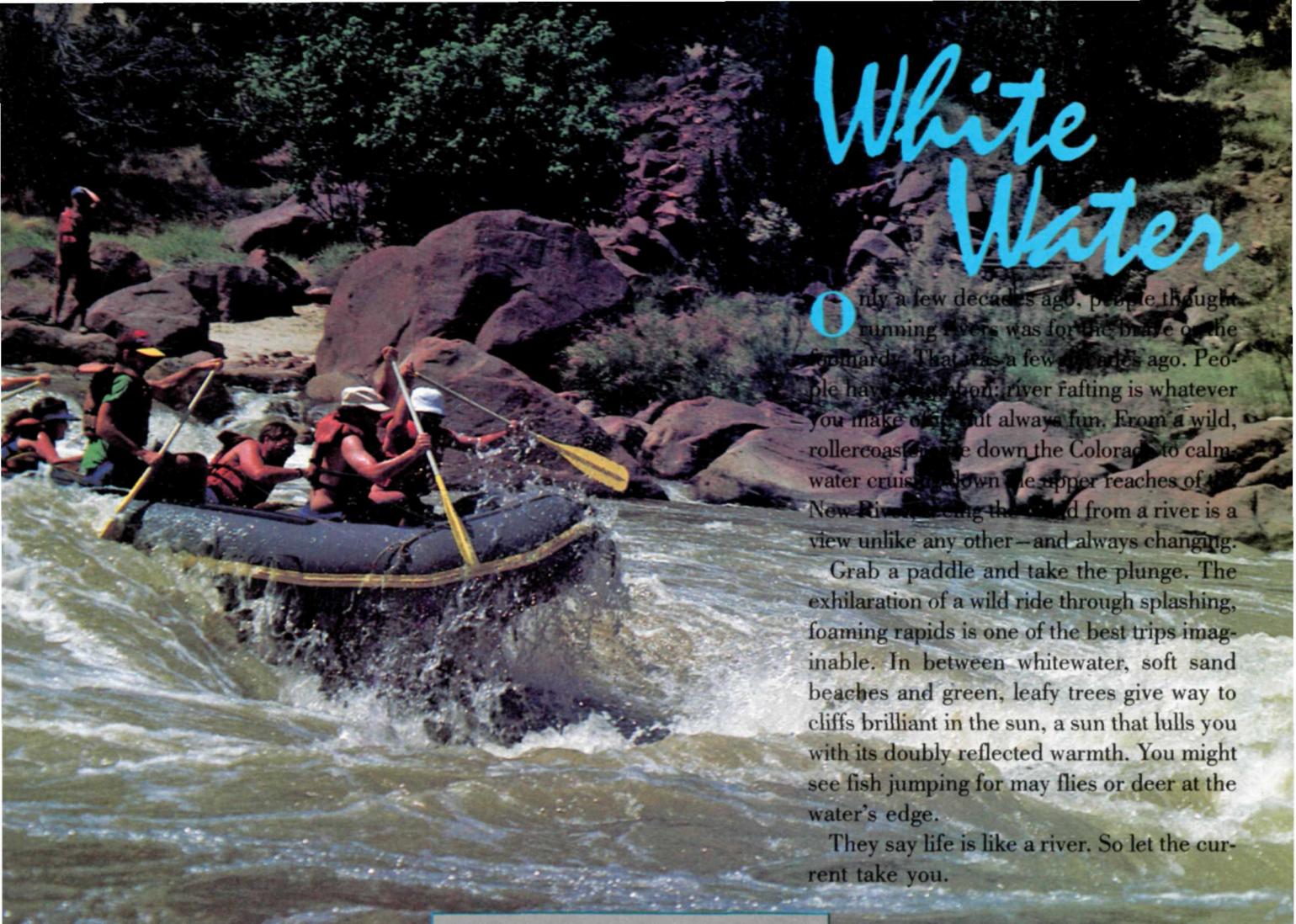
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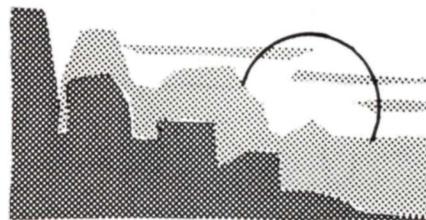
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White Water OUTFITTERS

river management issues, such as carrying capacities, resource protection, allocation of use, and management plans. This trip is offered in conjunction with Colorado State University and one hour of college credit is available. (Please see NPCA advertisement on page 35 for further information on ADRIFT ADVENTURES.)

Idaho

SALMON RIVER

American River Touring Association—Main Salmon, 5 & 6 Days

In 1805, Lewis and Clark arrived at a point about 30 miles upstream from our launching spot they named the Main Salmon "The River of No Return," and turned around. What prompted them to look elsewhere for a trade route to the Orient is exactly what prompts us to head downstream: big rapids, remote country, wild animals and even wilder whitewater. Brave and smart as they were, Lewis and Clark missed a great trip. Don't repeat history.

Departure Dates and Rates: June 22 & 30, July 8 & 16, July 24, August 1, 9, 17, 25, Sept. 2; \$570 (\$465) w/o trans., \$700 (\$595) w/trans. (Please add 5% tax.) (Please see advertisement for further information on AMERICAN RIVER TOURING ASSOCIATION.)

Nevada

COLORADO RIVER

Georgie's Royal River Rats

See the Grand Canyon from the bottom by boat. This year, take the trip that tops them all. A 6- or 8-day Grand Canyon of the Colorado River trip allows you time to explore side canyons which contain waterfalls, rock formations (that make for an archeologic stream), Indian ruins, old mines and the most turbulent white-water rapids available anywhere. Nature doesn't tire of smiling for you. This is unforgettable beauty on the river. A photographer's heaven. Trips start and end at Las Vegas with a river party. (Please see advertisement for further information on GEORGIE'S ROYAL RIVER RATS.)

Utah

COLORADO RIVER

North American River Expeditions—2-Day Cataract Canyon Rapids Adventure

This is the trip for people who want to experience the rapids, but have limited time. This trip follows exactly the same route as all 3, 4,

5 and 6-day raft trips on the Colorado River, through Canyonlands National Park and the exciting rapids of Cataract Canyon. The only difference is TIME. By using land vehicles from Moab to the river put-in, and traveling by jet boat over the flat water downriver to the park boundary where we board the raft, we save 55 miles of flat water. In Canyonlands National Park, the time spent hiking Indian Creek to the waterfall and the hike over the Loop will be the same as the 3 and 5 day trip. This trip is action-packed from start to finish; our days are full and deluxe in every way. (Please see advertisement for further information on NORTH AMERICAN RIVER EXPEDITIONS.)

Departure Dates and Rates: Every Saturday & Sunday, Wednesday & Thursday; \$299.00 per person.

Grand Canyon Expeditions

The Grand Canyon has been known to man for thousands of years. The Ancient ones' (Anasazis) discovered, explored, and lived inside its hidden corridors of time. What brought these Anasazis to this massive canyon? How did they survive? What caused them to disappear? Come with us as we journey through the Grand Canyon with our guest anthropologist, Robert C. Euler, Ph.D., as we try to unscramble thousands of years of secrets. (Archeological expedition with Robert C. Euler, Ph.D.) The trip takes 9 days from Lee's Ferry to Lake Mead. Group rates, charters and other trips available. Call/write for more information. (Please see advertisement for further information on GRAND CANYON EXPEDITIONS.)

Departure Dates and Rates: September 12-20; \$1,195 per person; under the age of 15 \$1075.

Colorado River & Trail Expeditions—Cataract Canyon/ Canyonlands National Park

If you are in the market for a good "all around" river adventure—one that will introduce you to the geology and pre-history of the canyon country; provide you with the opportunity to do a bit of nature study, hiking, and exploring; and one that offers a "short, but sweet" dose of highly challenging white water—this is definitely the trip for you! We offer motorized expeditions in the spring and early summer, and oar-powered trips later when water levels are more suitable for small rafts. (Please see advertisement for further information on COLORADO RIVER & TRAIL EXPEDITIONS.)

Departure Dates and Cost: 3-day trips—May 23-25, 29-31, June 5-7, 12-14, 19-21; \$395.00; 4-day trips—June 28-July 1, July 5-8, 19-22, 26-29, Aug. 2-5, 16-19; \$450.00; 5-day trips—July 12-16, Aug. 9-13, 23-27; \$575.00.

GREEN RIVER

Don Hatch River Expeditions, Inc.—Dinosaur National Monument/Lodore Canyon

Here is a deep, dark, vermilion canyon that rivals any canyon you have ever seen. Huge amphitheaters sculptured by wind and rain out of solid courtzite. This canyon is vertical for about 2000 feet, with lush greenery along the bottom featuring box elder trees, reeds, grasses, cedars, and pine. Rocky Mountain Big Horn Sheep, mule deer, beaver, and lion are often present. There are plenty of exciting rapids, safely navigated with our oar-powered boats. It's a trip for both families and adventure seekers. (Please see advertisement for further information on DON HATCH RIVER EXPEDITIONS, INC.)

Departure Dates and Rates: 3-day trip, \$296; 4-day trip, \$355; 5-day trips, \$366. 117 launches May through Sept. 15.

West Virginia

NEW RIVER

Wildwater Expeditions Unlimited, Inc.—High Adventure

Our High Adventure program is a 5-day course providing you with the opportunity to break away from your daily routine and experience an exciting and personal adventure. Our adventure activities include canoeing, white-water rafting, rock climbing and rappelling. You will camp out each night, cook your meals over an open fire, and travel down one of the oldest rivers in the world, the New River. You will explore its ghost towns, marvel at its beauty, and climb its vertical walls.

Departure Dates: June through August. (Please see NPCA advertisement on page 35 for further information on WILDWATER EXPEDITIONS UNLIMITED, INC.)

Class VI River Runners

"Grand Canyon of the East." Fed by mountain streams, the New River flows northward, growing in volume and velocity, carving its way through a thousand-foot gorge toward the foothills of central West Virginia. For immense power, size, and beauty, the New River can be compared to no other river east of the Mississippi. Our new season is from March 15th until November 30th. Spring rains bring Grand Canyon type white-water and beautiful spring color to the canyon. June, July, and August are our summer months and September, October, and November bring cool, clear, crisp air and beautiful fall foliage. 1, 2, 3, and 4 day trips available. (Please see NPCA advertisement on page 35 for further information on CLASS VI RIVER RUNNERS.)

WILDLIFE T-SHIRTS



T-Shirts: EXQUISITE ART and information about ENDANGERED SPECIES and ENVIRONMENTAL issues. S-M-L-XL, 100% cotton, \$9.45 ea. (quantity discounts), in tan, blue, yellow and lilac. FREE CATALOG. Many beautiful designs. JIM MORRIS T-Shirts, P.O. Box 2308, Dept. PE7 Boulder, Co. 80306. (303) 444-6430.

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TWO GUIDES TO JOBS IN THE NATIONAL PARKS:

For years, the most comprehensive guide to volunteer work in the national parks and other public lands has been *Helping Out in the Outdoors*. This year, the American Hiking Society has picked up the publishing and distribution end of the project.

Now, when you buy this useful directory, you also support the AHS, a hard-working group that protects the interests of the trail community. Copies are available for \$3, or \$12 for a two-year subscription (four issues) from the American Hiking Society, 1015 Thirty-first Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007.

If you are interested in finding a seasonal job, you might want to order a copy of *National Parks Trade Journal*. This publication offers comprehensive listings of the parks, their seasonal opportunities and requirements.

Although the book gives a passing nod to employment as an NPS seasonal, its best coverage is on concessionaires. It is a good tool for high school and college students looking for summer jobs. For a copy, send \$7.95, plus \$1 for shipping, to

Taverly-Churchill Publishing, P.O. Box 2221, Wawona Station, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389.

HERE'S AN INEXPENSIVE TOOL FOR PROTECTING OUR COASTS:

Recently there has been increased interest in the accessibility and viability of our coastal lands and large bodies of water, such as the Chesapeake Bay, the San Francisco Bay, and the Florida Everglades.

The Coast Alliance, a coalition of environmental groups, has published what they hope will be the primary citizens' handbook for organizing those groups who are working to protect America's thousands of miles of coastlines.

And Two If by Sea, a beautifully designed and clearly written book by Beth Millemann, shows how the Coastal Zone Management Act and other coastal laws can be used to protect the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf and Great Lakes coasts.

For your own copy, send \$2 to Coast Alliance, 218 D Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.

AN INTERESTING, TRADITIONAL WAY TO SEE THE NATIONAL PARKS:

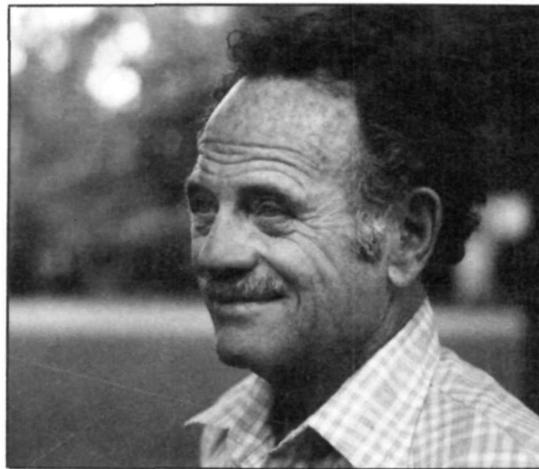
Trains and national parks have always been intertwined. In fact, before there were automobiles, Americans visited their parks by train.

Amtrak has tried to preserve this tradition by including national parks, sometimes with escorted bus tours, on their tours whenever possible. This summer you can see Glacier, Grand Canyon, Rocky Mountain, Yosemite, Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Bryce, and Zion by train, or by a bus that connects with a train. Contact Amtrak for details, and, if you take one of these trips, tell us about it.

We would like to hear about the ideas, books, people, or programs that you feel contribute to our understanding, use, and protection of the national parks. Please send items to Gallery, National Parks magazine, 1015 Thirty-first Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007.

TRIBUTE TO EXCELLENCE

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award



Sam Ham

AWARD: The Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award is presented by the National Parks and Conservation Association and the Bon Ami Co. to recognize an individual for an outstanding effort that results in protection of a unit or a proposed unit of the National Park System. The award is named in honor of Marjory Stoneman Douglas for her many years of dedication to preserving the fragile ecosystem of the Florida Everglades.

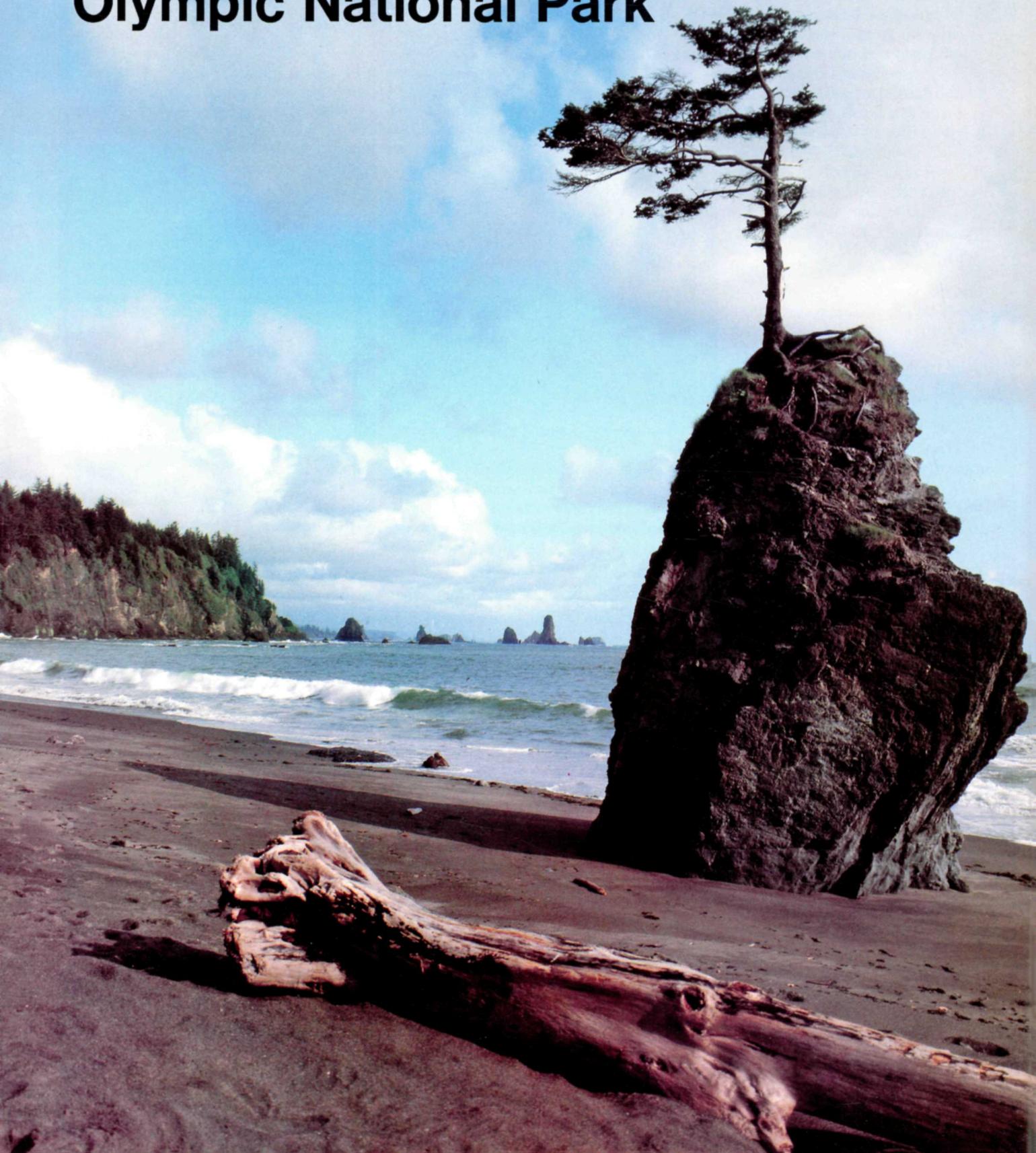
**1986
RECIPIENT:** MICHAEL FROME. Mr. Frome is a writer and Environmental-Scholar-in-Residence for Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute who has been a persistent advocate for the wise management and use of our national parks and other public lands. Mr. Frome is the author of "The Promised Land" and is currently working on a book about the national park system.

The Faultless Starch/Bon Ami Co. wishes to congratulate the recipient of this award and thank them for the excellent contribution they have made to the protection of our environment.

The Bon Ami Co. has actively supported the efforts of organizations such as National Parks and Conservation Association for over 100 years and will continue to work toward the goal of preserving our natural resources for future generations.



Olympic National Park



Park Portfolio

Olympic National Park encompasses the greatest remaining true wilderness forest in the contiguous United States. Record-sized specimens of several species of trees testify to the ideal conditions for growth. Take a mild coastal climate, add a good dose of rain and fog, and you have the ingredients for a temperate rain forest. Sitka spruce grows in a narrow band along the coast and up the river valleys from Alaska to southern Oregon, where it blends into the redwood forests. On offshore sea stacks and along the coast, wind, sand, and spray batter Sitka spruce into gnarled shapes.

On higher terraces, the moss-dominated rain forest of Sitka spruce and western hemlock grows. Ironically, the tiny seeds of the giant forest monarchs do not seem to be able to gain a foothold on the ground.

The huge trees are vulnerable in another respect: because of abundant moisture in the soil, the trees do not need deep roots. Thus, they can be toppled by strong winds. Once the fallen trees begin to decay, they become ideal sites for seed germination.

Small trees soon establish themselves on a log, but competition eventually reduces their numbers. Their success is dependent upon their ability to reach the soil, so their roots gradually creep down and around the nurse log until they reach the ground. Survivors grow in a row like soldiers standing at attention. These colonnades are a hallmark of the temperate rain forest.

Excerpted from Olympic: The Story Behind the Scenery, by Henry C. Warren: KC Publications, Box 14883, Las Vegas, NV 89114. \$4.50 postpaid.



Willis Peterson

Left: Sitka spruce tops a seawall on the coast. Above: Licorice fern, maidenhair fern, trillium, sword fern, and trailing blackberry are only some of the plants that compete for space and light in the rain forest. Below: Nutrients in decaying "nurse" logs support the growth of new trees. Below left: Subalpine trees often develop skirts under a protective layer of snow. These lower branches may take root.

David Muench



Facing page: David Muench

Ross Hamilton





East Rim, Big Bend National Park

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