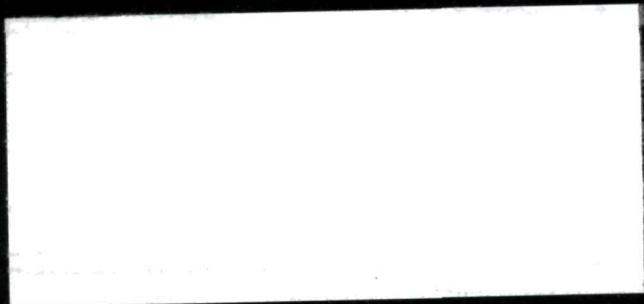


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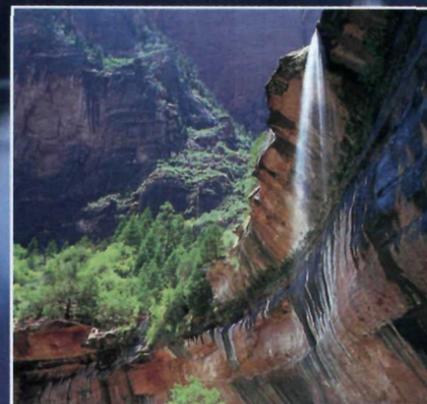
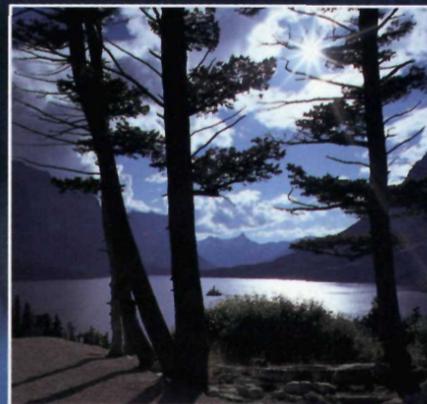


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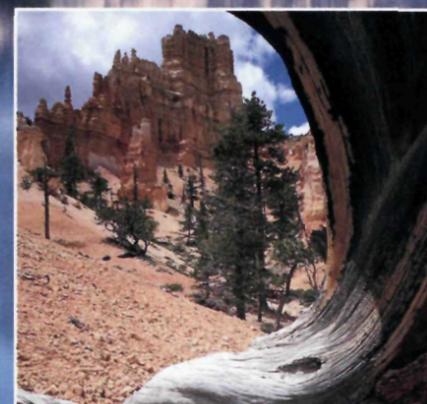
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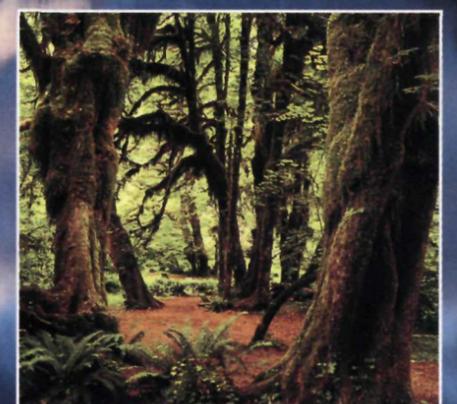
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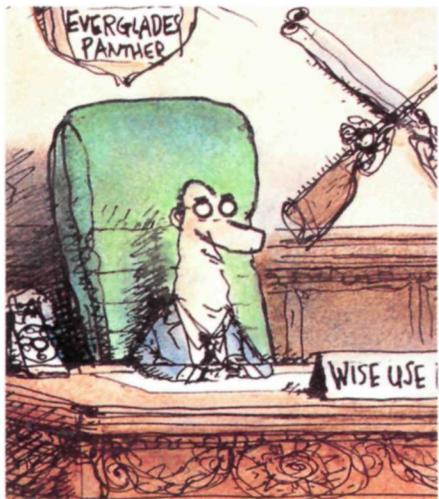
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Wise Use Movement, page 32

#### EDITOR'S NOTE

Our national parks and other public lands are under siege. A growing coalition, known as the Wise Use Movement, includes in its agenda such goals as opening up national parks to mining, logging, and other extractive industries; overturning the Endangered Species Act and a host of other environmental regulations; and allowing unrestricted access to lands designated as wilderness areas. Driven largely by greed and shortsightedness, the movement gets its money primarily from corporations involved in mining, energy development, and manufacture of off-road vehicles. With this issue, *National Parks* begins a three-part series in which journalist Richard M. Stapleton investigates the Wise Use Movement and its potential impact on our parks (see page 32).

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# NATIONAL Parks

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL PARKS AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Vol. 66, No. 11-12  
 November/December 1992  
 Paul C. Pritchard, Publisher

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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.

Life memberships are \$1,000. Annual memberships: \$250 Guarantor, \$100 Supporter, \$50 Defender, \$35 Contributor, \$25 Active, \$22 Library, and \$18 Student. Of membership dues, \$7 covers a one-year subscription to National Parks. Dues and donations are deductible from federal taxable incomes; gifts and bequests are deductible for federal gift and estate tax purposes. Mail membership dues, contributions, and correspondence to NPCA, 1776 Mass. Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036. When changing address, please allow six weeks' advance notice and send address label from your latest issue plus your new address.

November/December 1992



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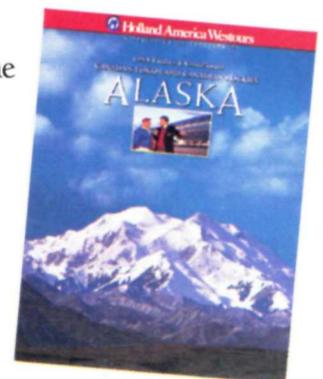
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MANY OF HISTORY'S inspired events have taken place at the ends of centuries. The voyages of Columbus, ratification of the U.S. Bill of Rights, even the beginnings of the American conservation movement, with its concern for urban parks and the national parks—all are part of this phenomenon. The ends of centuries seem to stimulate thinking about what has been and what should be.

At the turn of the last century, conservationists John Muir, Frederick Law Olmstead, and Theodore Roosevelt were individuals of great vision because they regarded the preservation of our landscape as essential to what America was all about. Unfortunately, today, America's leaders have not seen the opportunity nor accepted the challenge to focus on the vision that would guide and inspire America for the future.

As we approach the close of *this* century, now is the time for vision—especially in the preservation of America's unique features that represent our cultural and natural character. November's newly elected officials at the federal, state, and local levels must give high priority to parks and other elements of the environment.

We are realizing that we are losing more than just a few buildings or a few ecosystems or a few symbols of our natural and cultural heritage. We may be witnessing the end of plant and animal evolution itself on many continents

because of the unimagined impact of human "progress" on the seas, on the land, and in the air.

Vision, by definition, must have as its root an appeal to the highest motives of humanity, to the highest perception of the quality of life, to those lasting benefits of civilization that exceed individuals' personal benefit or their tenure on this planet.

Those who sat around a campfire and envisioned the world's first national park at Yellowstone saw more than the geysers as invaluable to the American people, as worthy of protection for future generations. They recognized that this landscape and its resources should not be exploited, but preserved as a permanent legacy and accessible to all—an ideal brought forth by vision and foresight.

We at the National Parks and Conservation Association have placed our reputation on vision, on the enhancement of the National Park System to achieve its complete potential, on the fulfillment of its dual goals of preserving the resources and providing for the public enjoyment for this and future generations.

With newly elected officials in Washington and elsewhere around the country, there is a once-in-a-century chance to use the power of vision on behalf of the parks and the environment as we prepare for the 21st century. We urge them to do so.

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### Let the River Run

By all means, NPCA and its members should continue to protect the Tatshenshini and Alsek rivers (News, July/August 1992). They are precious to all those who love and enjoy the outdoors.

The unspoiled wilderness through which these rivers flow is ideal for the person who wants to get away from it all. Grizzlies, black bears, Dall sheep, bald eagles, and many more of nature's great creatures are seen here...and how their habitat would be affected by a large copper mine is unfathomable.

I hope that your readers, whether they have been in that marvelous St. Elias Range country or not, will urge their members of Congress, as I have, to protect this area and Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve.

Arthur Z. Hirsch, Jr.  
Prescott, AZ

### Pollution Solutions

In a review of Connie Toops' book *Great Smoky Mountains* in your July/August 1992 issue, Toops is quoted as stating, "It is unrealistic to think that we can eliminate all pollution, since pollutants are by-products of economic success."

This was true in the past but is no longer true. Perpetuation of the myth that pollution is essential for progress only impedes true progress.

More than ten years ago, the 3M company pioneered a waste reduction program called "Pollution Prevention Pays" and has saved several hundred million dollars by reducing or eliminating pollution altogether from its manufacturing processes. Many other large companies are now following suit, having found that pollution prevention is good bottom-line business.

Certainly we cannot eliminate all pollution in the next decade, but we must begin working toward that goal now and recognize that pollution prevention creates jobs, reduces liability

worries for companies, and has been proven to actually save companies significant amounts of money. The myth that pollution is necessary for economic success is fortunately no longer true.

Jeffrey V. Cefali  
Valparaiso, IN

### Earth in the Balance

Sen. Al Gore did an outstanding job composing the article about ozone depletion in your July/August issue ("The Unsheltering Sky"). I was extremely impressed with his grasp of the subject and am certain that as our nation's next vice president, he will continue to both exude and display confidence and competence in that office—two qualities that have been lacking for a few years.

Sen. Gore has demonstrated an acute sense of perception and has the foresight to respond and react to problems before they become insurmountable. Once elected, he will work toward the elimination of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which destroy our ozone, and the development of technology to produce hydrofluorocarbon (HFC), an inert replacement for CFCs which does not harm our precious ozone layer. The new administration—with Gore at the environmental helm—is sure to be more sensitive to the doctrine of NPCA, which can be summarized by this quote from Henry David Thoreau: "In wildness is the preservation of the world."

Ray Dethloff  
Dallas, TX

Sen. Al Gore made his best point in the final paragraph of his piece.

He wrote: "What is needed, finally, is this: an ecological perspective that does not treat Earth as something separate from human civilization." After all, it isn't Earth we're trying to save, is it? It's us. Earth has seen us come, and it can see us go. I doubt it would be any more likely to weep at our passing than

it was to cheer at our arrival.

The idea that we should "save the earth" ignores the selfish motive behind the mission. We need to save ourselves, not Earth. It is unfortunate for us that we take such poor care of our gorgeous planet. Can you imagine if we treated our homes the way we treat Earth? Can you imagine if we treated Earth as our home?

John W. Wall  
San Francisco, CA

Sen. Gore's statement that 75 percent of the people [over 65] in Queensland, Australia, have some form of skin cancer is very much on the sensational side, and I am surprised that you accepted it without comment.

I suggest that *National Parks* refrain from publishing scare items which are unproven. Environmentalists are free to make assumptions, but your readers should not be presented with information as factual, when there is no basis for such statements.

Joseph Kabl  
San Diego, CA

### New Promise

Just a few lines to tell you how much I enjoy your magazine. The story in the July/August 1992 issue about Nicodemus, Kansas ("New Promise for Nicodemus"), was especially interesting. I wrote to Angela Bates, the author of the article, and she answered with a very nice letter. I just sent her a check and feel honored to be a member of the Kansas State Historical Society to help preserve our past. Thanks for such a lovely magazine, which brings back memories of my many trips.

Jeannette S. Cogan  
Dayton, OH

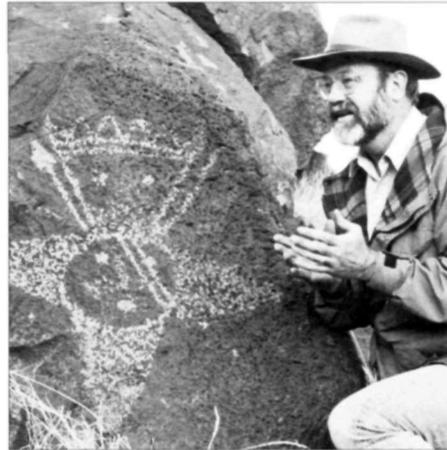
Kudos for the article on Nicodemus, Kansas. As typical of the articles in *National Parks*, [it is] a professional and evocative piece. I always look forward to the magazine's arrival and usually read it cover to cover in one sitting. In this case, it was like revisiting an old friend—my involvement with Nicodemus, Kansas, going back more than ten years now. This is an important his-

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ISAAC C. "IKE" EASTVOLD, the 1991 recipient, is founder and president of Friends of the Albuquerque Petroglyphs, a group dedicated to preventing the destruction of ancient rock art on a 17-mile-long escarpment near Albuquerque. His leadership led to the establishment of the 7,669-acre Petroglyph National Monument in June 1990.



*Isaac C. "Ike" Eastvold*

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## Stephen Tyng Mather Award

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The 1991 recipient is CHRISTINE L. SHAVER, chief of the Policy, Planning, and Permit Review Branch of NPS's Air Quality Division. Over the past several years, she has taken direct action to remedy sources of air pollution affecting national parks—most notably the Grand Canyon, where she helped secure emission limitations on a nearby power plant.



*Christine L. Shaver*



The Faultless Starch/Bon Ami Company wishes to congratulate the recipients of these awards and thank them for the excellent contribution they have made to the protection of our environment.

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toric resource with an important story to tell. I was pleased with the sensitive coverage it received. Congratulations.

*de Teel Patterson Tiller  
National Park Service  
Chief, Preservation Planning Branch  
Interagency Resources Division  
Washington, DC*

### The Hunter's Call

Please persist and insist that H.R. 2929 and S. 21 [the California Desert Protection Act] be passed without the pro-hunting amendment. Hunting is not necessary nor is it a right; hunting is a privilege.

The national parks offer the only federal public lands not hunted on at this time; even our wildlife refuges are merely hunting preserves. The ecological integrity of the parks must not be sacrificed to hunting, if for no other reason than to serve as scientific study sites and as controls for studies conducted elsewhere.

*Randy Bangert  
Fort Collins, CO*

I feel obliged to take exception to "The Hunter's Call" in "Letters," July/August 1992. The enemy of wildlife today, as it has been, is humans, developers, conservationists, all.

Because of our uncaring attitude since this country was a frontier, we have put ourselves in a position of having to manage something that should never have had to be managed.

If nature were left alone, it would manage itself, as it did before humans developed modern weapons. The idea of harvesting wildlife is ludicrous in this modern time. If it were left alone, nature would control the wildlife population. Hunting is simply a legal way to express our destructive disposition.

Hunting is an outdated idea.

*J.R. Parson  
Albuquerque, NM*

### Matters of the Heart

In the July/August News section, you reported on the NPS study of paving the Burr Trail in Utah. Being an NPCA member, I wanted to pass on first-hand, up-to-date news. I am employed by a

geotechnical engineering and materials testing lab with a current project located along the Burr Trail.

My office contracted with Garfield County to test gradation samples on road base and cover chips being crushed by a contractor. The project is nearly complete after six weeks of crushing, with one to two weeks remaining.

Granted, this situation, including the position I am in, is tenuous at best. In another NPCA-related matter, my office has investigations and testing on the proposed Workman Theater near Zion National Park. I am caught in the middle of making a living in an area of natural wonder where the only economic boom is construction. In my heart, I do not want this abusive development to occur, but I have to feed and house my family.

I still encourage your readers and members to write and speak out against degradation to our national parks.

*Paul Klein  
Cedar City, UT*

### Raptor Redux

I wanted you to know how much I appreciated Steve Howe's article on the peregrine recovery ["Raptor Redux," July/August 1992]. It's the best I've seen in any national publication. Keep up the good work!

*Ronald G. Clarke, President  
Alaska Falconers Association  
Juneau, AK*

*Write: Letters, NPCA, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036. Please include address and phone for verification. Or call 1-900-835-6344. Instructions will be given at the time of call. Callers will be charged 89 cents a minute. All calls and letters may be edited for length and clarity.*

### Corrections

In the article "Ancient Metropolis" (March/April 1992), Sen. Hank Brown (R-Colo.) was misidentified. *National Parks* regrets the error.

In the July/August 1992 issue, the photo on page 25 of the oiled coastline was taken by Ken Graham.

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# NEWS

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## ANDREW SLAMS FLORIDA PARKS

When fierce and unforgiving Hurricane Andrew swept through south Florida in late August, it left 25 people dead, thousands homeless, and an area so devastated that it resembled a war zone. National Park Service employees were hit hard, and the national parks in Florida may need years to recover.

Natividad Rohena, a Fort Jefferson National Monument employee, was killed in the storm when the roof collapsed at his residence in Homestead, Florida. One hundred Everglades and Biscayne national park employees—most of whom are residents of Homestead, the city hit hardest by Andrew—were left homeless. Seventy-six other employee homes were severely damaged but are salvageable. The storm also killed two visitors to Biscayne, just south of Miami, who drowned when their boat capsized.

Bob Miller, NPS public information officer, said, “Two-thirds of the employees were victims.”

NPS said food supplies have dwindled and donations are needed. NPCA trustees and other donors have contributed more than \$1,000 in relief funds. NPCA board member James MacFarland helped arrange *pro bono* legal services with the Florida law firm Greenberg and Traurig for employees and their families.

In the long term, NPS expects transfer requests from employees unable to find housing in the area. It also anticipates that some will suffer psychologically as a result of the storm.

Immediately after the hurricane, the Park Service sent a recovery team to south Florida. Although the foremost concern remains aiding park employees

looking for remnants of the collection. Both primary visitor centers at the Everglades suffered extensive damage, as did the research center. Salvaged documents from both parks are being dehumidified. Everglades and Biscayne remained closed at this writing.

NPS officials estimate that cleanup efforts will take several years and put the initial recovery needs for the parks at \$52 million. The Senate included \$34 million in its hurricane recovery bill. NPCA worked with the administration and Congress to include the full \$52 million in the final House version of the bill. The president signed the bill in September.

Monetarily, Andrew was the worst storm in the country's history, but the Everglades has weathered worse ones. Florida has recorded 57 hurricanes since 1899, the most of any state. Andrew was a category four hurricane with 167-mile-an-hour winds. The 1935 Labor Day Hurricane was a category five storm with winds close to 200 miles per hour. Although it hit with more force, it caused less damage than Andrew, as few people

lived in the area at that time.

But after this last storm, conservationists fear permanent and irreparable damage to the Everglades ecosystem.

“The Everglades has experienced hurricanes for millennia. The question after this one is whether Andrew has delivered a knockout blow to an eco-



The hurricane left Park Service employees homeless. It may also have increased the spread of invasive plants throughout the Everglades.

CONNIE TOOPIS

and their families, the recovery team also began repairing the physical damage Andrew wreaked on the parks.

The hurricane leveled or severely damaged all of Biscayne's facilities, including the new park visitor center and the building that housed the Biscayne museum collection. Recovery teams are

system that's dangerously stressed already," said David Simon, NPCA natural resources program manager.

Throughout Everglades National Park, the storm destroyed trees, including between 20 and 30 percent of the Florida pines. Hardwood trees were knocked down and stripped of leaves, and there was massive damage to the mangrove forests along the shorelines.

Already, these tree species and the native sawgrass face displacement by non-native plants. Hurricane Andrew increased this threat with winds that may have carried the easily spread alien seeds to fertile ground.

Park biologists say animal species, on the other hand, seemed to ride out the storm. The approximately 50 endangered Florida panthers are believed to be fine. The loss of trees could affect the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker and the black-whiskered vireo, but other birds seem unharmed.

The hurricane damage will, however, necessarily draw energy away from Everglades' other problems. Conservationists are trying to reverse the effects of canals and levees built by the Army Corps of Engineers 40 years ago, which drained the marshes north of the Everglades and cut off normal water flow to the park. The resulting floods and droughts have caused wildlife populations to plummet.

The dikes and canals also concentrate pollution from surrounding agricultural areas rather than diluting it as the marshes would. Phosphorus from agricultural runoff accelerates the growth of non-native cattails, allowing them to overpower the native sawgrass.

Everglades also suffers from high mercury levels, which have been found in fish, raccoons, panthers, and people. The source of mercury is not confirmed.

Environmentalists are concerned that the redevelopment of south Florida will perpetuate conditions that put the Everglades in jeopardy in the first place. For example, the relief bill boosts agricultural subsidies to the region by approximately \$1 billion.

"We must ask ourselves whether we have learned anything from the land-use mistakes we have made in south



HELEN LONGEST-SLAUGHTER

This building at the Everglades environmental center was among those Andrew destroyed.

Florida," NPCA's Simon said.

The eighth annual Everglades Coalition Conference, scheduled for February 20-23 in Tallahassee, Florida, will focus on restoration and recovery from Hurricane Andrew and on the Everglades' other troubles. NPCA members are encouraged to attend; some travel stipends will be available. Contact Ellen

Wilson at (202) 223-6722.

Hurricane Andrew relief fund contributions, which will be forwarded immediately to appropriate officials, are being collected at NPCA, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20036. Make checks out to NPCA Andrew Fund.

—Laura P. McCarty

## NEWS UPDATE

▲ **Save the cave.** The Bureau of Land Management released a draft environmental impact statement in August on oil and gas drilling proposed near Carlsbad Caverns National Park in New Mexico. NPCA fears the draft report is the first step toward BLM approval of the project. Even with precautions, drilling could penetrate and pollute the park's Lechuguilla Cave. Explorations since 1986 have so far shown Lechuguilla to be the nation's deepest and one of its longest caves. It almost certainly stretches beyond park borders. Readers are urged to write Joe Incardine by November 20 at the BLM New Mexico office, Box 27115, Santa Fe, NM 87502.

▲ **Protections stripped.** As *National Parks* went to press, the administration was preparing a new Interior Department policy, to be released in November, opening national parks and forests to strip mining unless the government buys out the mineral rights to the lands. Those rights are estimated at hundreds of millions of dollars.

▲ **William Penn Mott, Jr., 1909-1992.** NPCA notes with sadness the September 21 death of former Park Service director and NPCA board member William Penn Mott, Jr.

▲ **Stay tuned.** Our "Markup" section will be back next issue with the final actions of the 102nd Congress on national park-related legislation.

## GIANT LANDFILL PLANNED NEAR JOSHUA TREE

The Bureau of Land Management and Riverside County, California, may permit construction of what would be the world's largest regional solid waste dump, 8,000 feet from the border of Joshua Tree National Monument.

The Eagle Mountain landfill, planned as a final resting place for garbage from southern California, would occupy 4,000 acres a mile and a half south of the park. BLM issued a final environmental impact statement on the project this summer and may approve it soon.

The effect on Joshua Tree would be "immense, unimaginable," said Russ Butcher, NPCA Pacific Southwest regional director. "This is one of the gravest threats to any of the Southwest's national parks to come along in decades."

Mine Reclamation Corporation, the company proposing the project, would create the landfill at the site of an abandoned mine. Cities and counties in southern California would send the landfill 20,000 tons of trash by train and truck each day. Over its projected 115-year life, the total would come to more than eight million tons.

Less than 200 miles from Los Angeles, Joshua Tree encompasses half a million acres of desert, marked by mountains, palm oases, large expanses of desert wildflowers, and the Joshua trees for which the park is named.

"We keep calling this a giant experiment," said Bob Moon, Joshua Tree's chief of resources management. According to Moon, there is little scientific information about the effects of landfills in places as pristine as the Joshua Tree area. "We don't think they can prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that it wouldn't have a significant impact on the monument," he said.

The BLM report concluded the project would not lower visibility in the park. Its analysis was deficient, however, according to California's South Coast Air Quality Management District. BLM did not use the appropriate Environmental Protection Agency-approved model in its calculations. After conducting its own analysis, the Park Service found

"the project will result in visibility impairment within Joshua Tree."

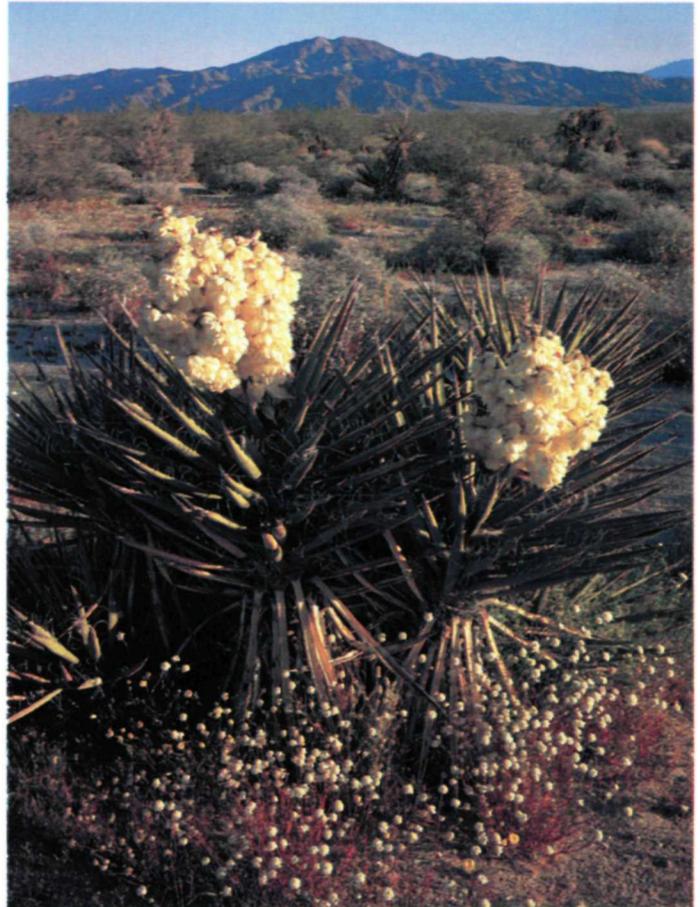
Noise from the project will be audible in wilderness areas of the park. The landfill will be visible from the park, especially as it grows into an artificial mountain in the project's later years.

The threatened desert tortoise is in precarious shape elsewhere in the California desert, but healthy populations exist in and around the monument. The landfill, however, is expected to attract large numbers of scavenging ravens. An increase in ravens, which prey on the tortoises, could send these populations into sharp decline.

For many foreseeable problems, plans for the project do not include preventive or mitigative steps, only monitoring. One exception is the company's plan to keep trash from blowing off the landfill site, but it is still likely that strong desert winds will carry some garbage into the park.

Mine Reclamation Corporation must receive approval for the project from Riverside County as well as from BLM. The county, which stretches from cities near Los Angeles to the Arizona border, is divided over the landfill. Desert towns generally oppose it. Most of the county's population is in the western portion, however. The county is to receive one dollar for every ton of trash dumped—a projected \$20,000 a day—and may find the deal too tempting to turn down.

"The whole project constitutes an enormous unknown," said Butcher. "What's at risk is one of the most pristine and remarkable desert areas left."



CARR CLIFTON

Landfill plans threaten the fragile desert landscape of Joshua Tree.

✍ Readers are urged to write to Russell Kaldenberg, Bureau of Land Management, Box 2000, North Palm Springs, CA 92258, opposing the project.

## LOGGING PLANS PUT RUSSELL CAVE AT RISK

A sharp increase in clearcutting seems imminent in southern Tennessee and northern Alabama. With it comes the possibility of serious damage to Russell Cave National Monument.

Boise Cascade Corporation, Donghae Pulp Company of Alabama, and Parker Towing Company have announced plans to open wood-chip mills on a 12-mile stretch of the Tennessee River between South Pittsburg, Tennessee, and Bridgeport, Alabama. The mills would be built to process 1.9 million tons of timber each year, to be harvested from lands within a 75-mile radius of the mills.

"If you drew that bull's-eye, Russell

Cave would be inside the first ring,” said Don Barger, NPCA Southeast regional director. The cave, near Bridgeport, is surrounded by private lands thick with mature hardwood trees, the very sort the companies have in mind. In addition, for 15 square miles around the monument, all water drains into the stream that flows into Russell Cave.

“If the chip mills go into effect, we’re going to have a tremendous amount of runoff and siltation that will go into the cave. It will alter the streambed and the cave environment,” said Dr. Horton Hobbs, professor of biology at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio. “If we change that...you’re going to destroy the habitat for the existing organisms, and they will vanish.”

Runoff also could wash away, damage, or bury artifacts in the cave. Russell Cave is an important archaeological site. Beginning around 6500 B.C., it provided shelter for bands of Indians who left behind spear points, tools, decorated pottery, and ornaments.

Local resistance to the plans is especially strong in Chattanooga, which is near the targeted stretch of river and in the heart of the logging zone. Opponents include the Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce and the Chattanooga Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, as well as Tennessee senators Jim Sasser (D) and Al Gore (D) and representatives Jim Cooper (D) and Marilyn Lloyd (D).

The companies have applied to the Tennessee Valley Authority for permission to open barge terminals on the river. The terminals would be used to transport wood chips from the mills. Pressure is on TVA, which released a draft environmental impact statement this summer on the project, to deny their requests. NPCA wrote to TVA opposing the project, and, at Barger’s urging, the Interior Department did as well.

Boise Cascade, however, said in September it will begin construction of its chip mill this fall. The company says it can transport chips by truck or train, eliminating the need for TVA approval. Because forestry regulations in Alabama and Tennessee are extremely weak, few environmental safeguards can be put on the project if it goes forward.

## STUDY FINDS OVERHAUL OF PARK SCIENCE NEEDED

A new National Academy of Sciences report calls for a drastic improvement of science in the national parks.

According to *Science and the National Parks*, released in August, there is a dangerous lack of basic scientific information about the parks. At the same time, the parks face an unprecedented range of threats. A better science program is badly needed to provide that information, to address the threats, and to improve management, the report says.

“You cannot manage what you do not understand,” stated Paul Risser, chair of the panel that wrote the report.

The report, requested by National Park Service Director James Ridenour in 1990, is the twelfth major critique of the NPS science program to be issued since 1963. It reflects the recommendations of its predecessors, which include three NPCA reports. “The question is whether Congress and the Park Service will now act on those recommendations,” said NPCA President Paul Pritchard.

Only 2.3 percent of Park Service personnel are scientists, and it is estimated that only 2 percent of the NPS budget goes to research. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spends 10 percent of its budget on research, and 9.3 per-

cent of its employees are scientists.

Science is not a separate category in the Park Service budget and is often skimmed on when funds are needed elsewhere. “It’s awfully hard to think about long-term science when the septic system is overflowing into the river that day,” Ridenour said.

Because long-term research suffers, basic scientific information about the parks and how they are changing over time is seriously lacking.

The report cites problems caused by this lack of knowledge. For decades, all fire was suppressed at Sequoia National Park in California. The policy turned out to hinder reproduction of the park’s giant sequoias, which rely on periodic light fire to release their seeds. Sudden disappearances of amphibians all over the world puzzle scientists, but it is difficult for parks to study the matter without knowing how large their frog and salamander populations used to be.

The report also encouraged greater use of “the parks for science.” Since they are comparatively untouched areas, parks are ideal places to study phenomena like global climate change.

The NAS report called for legislation to make scientific research officially part of the Park Service’s mission, as is the case with other such agencies. It recommended that science become a sepa-

**Salamanders and other amphibians have been mysteriously disappearing from parks.**



DAVID M. DENNIS/TOM STACK AND ASSOCIATES

rate line item within the NPS budget.

NAS also concluded that the Park Service needs to integrate science fully into planning and decision making. It called for more autonomy for the science program, which it found "fragmented" among the ten NPS regions. NAS recommended that the Park Service appoint a chief scientist and an advisory board to guide the program.

These recommendations have been made in previous reports, including NPCA's *National Park System Plan* and a 1989 study of park science NPCA published. But at NPS, those reports are "still collecting dust on the shelves," said Mike Hayden, assistant Interior secretary for fish, wildlife, and parks.

"The academy noted that many important changes, such as giving science more autonomy, can be made without additional funds," Pritchard said. "Now is the time for the Park Service to do what it can right away and for Congress to begin looking for ways to give science in the parks the support, funding, and direction it needs."

## NEW NPS REGULATIONS ISSUED ON CONCESSIONS

The National Park Service issued new regulations in August that reform the national park concessions system in some significant ways.

The Park Service revisited the 1965 law that governs concessions and enacted regulations that, as far as the law allows, make the system more competitive, a better deal for the government, and more compatible with conservation. NPS also issued this fall a draft version of a new standard concessions contract, which furthers many of the same ends.

"They've squeezed all the juice they can out of the 1965 lemon," said William J. Chandler, NPCA's director of conservation programs. "They have changed as much as they can under existing authorities. But more substantial reforms aren't possible without rewriting the Concessions Policy Act." NPCA is working for the passage of reform legislation like S. 1755, sponsored by Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.).

In recent years, calls for reform of the concessions system, under which private companies supply lodging, food, and other visitor services in the parks, have come from everyone from members of Congress to conservation groups to Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan. Its critics say the system fosters "sweetheart" deals, giving concessioners monopoly positions in parks and economic power over their NPS regulators.

The 1965 law gives concessioners what is called a right of preference in renewal. When their contracts expire, concessioners are guaranteed renewal if they match the best offer from other applicants. Other applicants have proven to be few under this system.

The new regulations tighten the procedure for incumbent concessioners to gain a right of preference. NPS also announced its intention to advertise concessions opportunities more widely. It also has eliminated concessioners' automatic right to provide any new or additional visitor services at the parks.

But incumbent concessioners will still

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New plans will reduce development, allowing areas of Yosemite Valley to return to nature.

win the contracts if they can meet the best offer for them.

The Park Service is proposing significant reform on another major issue, possessory interest, in its new standard contract. Possessory interest is the ownership rights concessioners accumulate in the park facilities they build or improve under their contractual requirements. The interest they gain is equivalent to replacement cost, not original cost, minus depreciation. It therefore appreciates over time with market prices. To break or re-award a contract, NPS must buy out the possessory interest.

NPS proposes redefining possessory interest as equivalent to original cost minus depreciation. Although this is an important reform, Chandler said concessioners could delay implementation of the regulations by claiming in court that the 1965 act does not permit the Park Service to make such a change.

Finally, the regulations try to improve the return of concessions revenues to the parks. In 1991, visitors spent \$614 million at park concessions, but only 2.9 percent returned to the government in franchise fees, according to NPS estimates. This share goes to the general treasury, not to the parks. NPS signaled in the regulations its intent to negotiate harder for higher franchise fees.

The new contract proposes special

accounts into which a portion of franchise fees can be paid. Funds from these accounts would be used for repairs and improvements to concessions facilities.

NPCA would like to see those fees also go to general park needs, a better guarantee of possessory interest reform, and more open competition for contracts. "For these reasons," Chandler said, "reforming the concessions law is the best way to reform the concessions system."

## YOSEMITE PLAN WOULD REDUCE DEVELOPMENT

Nowhere has controversy over concessions been greater than at Yosemite National Park. Yosemite Valley is an often-cited example of overcommercialization and congestion. Now a new plan will significantly reduce development in the valley, allowing large areas of it to return to a natural state.

"All sides agree Yosemite Valley is overbuilt, and in some places disgracefully slummy, but have disagreed over what to do about it," said Russ Butcher, NPCA Pacific Southwest regional director. "This plan is a real breakthrough."

The concessions services plan would reduce overnight lodging in Yosemite Valley by 20.5 percent and throughout the park by 15.2 percent. It would re-

move 276 of the valley's 426 tent cabins and more than 200 other substandard or poorly located cabins. Under a draft version of the plan, two-story motel-style buildings would have replaced some units. NPCA has called for such reductions for years but urged NPS to reconsider the motel plans.

Under the final plan, NPS will build new cottages and cabins instead. These would occupy more space than the motel units but be much less obtrusive.

Yosemite contains a golf course, tennis courts, and a downhill ski area. "NPCA has long viewed these resort-type attractions as completely inappropriate for a national park," Butcher said. "It is time to phase them out."

NPS will now periodically re-evaluate them on environmental and economic grounds and on the availability of such facilities nearby. It recently ended downhill skiing at Sequoia and Rocky Mountain national parks under similar criteria.

The plan takes up NPCA's recommendation that a professional consultant be hired on the contentious issue of food service in the valley.

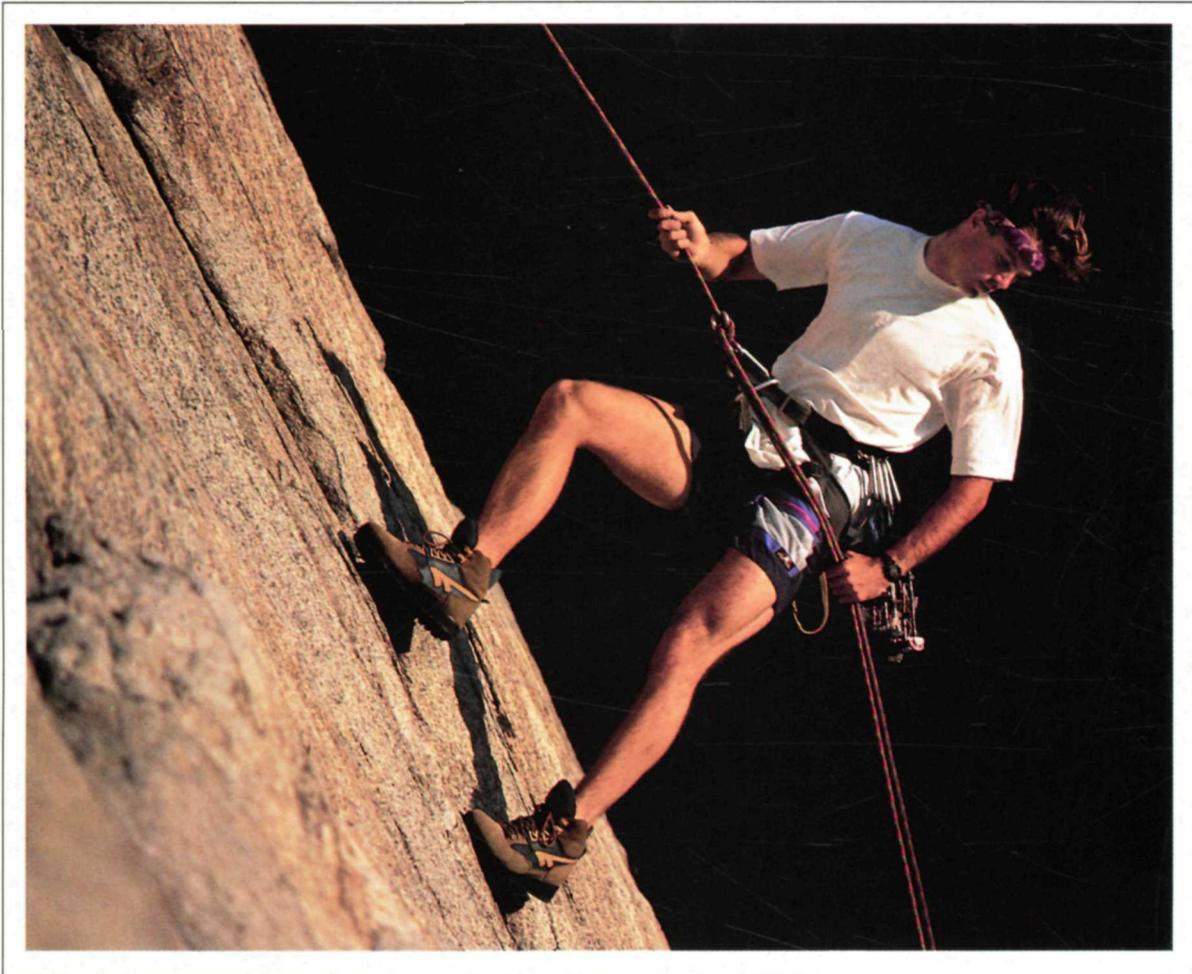
Yosemite also recently released the first draft of a housing plan for its employees. Conservationists oppose its "preferred alternative," to build a new park headquarters and employee housing next to habitat for the great gray owl, which is endangered in California.

NPCA suggests that the park and concessioner headquarters, as well as employees who do not need to work in Yosemite Valley, be moved to an administrative site outside the park. But it argues that employees who need to work in the valley should continue to live there.

To have valley employees commute from the El Portal site would mean road expansion, a new bridge across the Merced Wild and Scenic River, and major new development on the river's untouched south side. Even with a shuttle bus system, commuting would worsen traffic problems and air pollution.

"The plan to move the employees from the valley would be much more expensive than keeping them there, in addition to all the adverse impacts. In the final balance, it would be more damaging than helpful," Butcher said.

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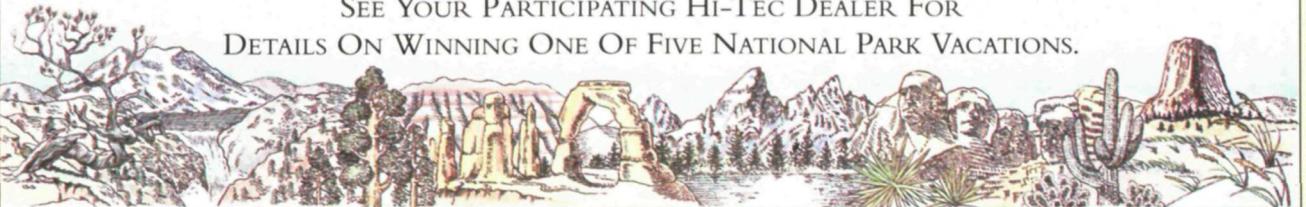
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NP-1192

## REPORT DETAILS THREATS TO THE PARKS

The national parks are facing growing numbers of visitors and threats without the funding, staff, or Interior Department support to deal with them, concluded an NPCA report released in August.

"As a result," said NPCA President Paul Pritchard, "the prognosis is grim for many parks without action soon." *Parks in Peril: the Race Against Time Continues* follows NPCA's 1991 report on the state of the National Park System, *A Race Against Time*. It describes six categories of threats to the parks:

▲ The park system's backlog of rehabilitation and replacement projects is \$2.2 billion and growing.

Historic houses at Antietam National Battlefield are in such disrepair they are closed to the public, and leaky pipes have repeatedly flooded the basement of Independence Hall. Nearly all the trails in Grand Canyon and Yellowstone national parks are deteriorating.

NPCA recommends that Congress establish a reliable funding mechanism to address such problems before the price tag climbs even higher.

▲ Many threats come to parks over their borders. Air pollution shrouds views and endangers forests. Proposed geothermal drilling near Yellowstone puts the park's famous geysers at risk. Heavy logging around Glacier National Park could fragment habitat for grizzly bears.

NPCA is working for legislation to foster coordinated protection strategies among NPS, other agencies, local governments, and landowners.

▲ The number of visitors to the parks climbed from 210 million in 1980 to 268 million in 1991 and is expected to reach one half billion by the year 2010.

Along Yosemite's Merced River, heavy foot traffic has left tree roots exposed and trees in danger of toppling into the river. In many parks, the problem is not too many people as much as too many cars. (See page 26.)

One answer is for NPS to study visitor impacts and include ways to minimize them in its management plans. Another is mass transit systems.

▲ The number of rangers has not kept

up with the number of visitors. Housing for many NPS employees is substandard, and pay and career opportunities are notably better in other agencies.

The report called for the immediate hiring of 1,200 new full-time rangers, better housing, and improved pay and career opportunities.

▲ NPCA also identified the park concessions system as a major problem. (See page 16.) It called for passage of reform legislation to return a higher portion of concessioner profits to the park system.

▲ A final threat is political manipulation of NPS. There is increasing evidence of the power exerted behind the scenes by Interior Department political appointees, commercial interests, and members of Congress. Many believe the Park Service's ability to protect the parks has been severely compromised.

NPCA has long called for making NPS an independent agency, a step that now seems urgent. (See page 24.)

For a copy of the report, send \$8.00 to NPCA, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20036, attention Kathy Westra, *Parks in Peril*.

## EARLY CONSERVATION SITE ADDED TO PARK SYSTEM

In late August, President Bush signed a law establishing a new national park unit, Marsh-Billings National Historical Park in Woodstock, Vermont.

The new park will preserve the home of influential conservationist George Perkins Marsh and 550 surrounding acres of forested hillside. The site is being donated by its owners, Mary and Laurance S. Rockefeller.

"The Marsh-Billings house is among the best places to present the history of conservation," said Bruce Craig, NPCA cultural resources program manager.

Marsh, a diplomat and member of Congress, was author of the 1864 book *Man and Nature*, to which the American and world conservation movements owe much. In it Marsh advanced what was then a new idea—that human activity affects the overall environment, and that land is damaged by unwise use. He argued that enlightened management could provide for sustained use and could even repair damaged lands.

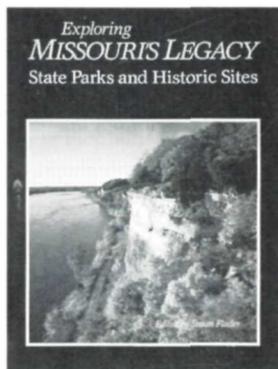
Much of Vermont was clearcut in the early 1800s. By 1870, 80 percent of its forests were gone, resulting in problems of erosion and flooding. Marsh set his principles to work reforesting the denuded hillsides around his estate.

In 1869, Marsh's home was bought by Frederick Billings, a wealthy Gold Rush lawyer and a driving force behind construction of the transcontinental railroad. When he returned to his native Vermont, Billings devoted himself to reforestation following Marsh's example. The Marsh-Billings estate became a model for similar projects.

The estate is now owned by Mary French Rockefeller, Billings' granddaughter, and her husband, Laurance Rockefeller. Both have long records of involvement in conservation. Laurance Rockefeller received a Congressional Gold Medal in 1990 for his efforts.

The Rockefellers are creating a \$7.5-million endowment to generate revenue for the estate's maintenance and another endowment to compensate the town of Woodstock for any property taxes lost by making the estate federal property.

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WPD92

# REGIONAL REPORT

## News Briefs from NPCA's Regional Offices

### ALASKA

*Mary Grisco, Regional Director*

Grisco testified before the House of Representatives in September on two major threats to Glacier Bay National Park. Congress is considering several bills that "set the stage for transfer of federal authority over the waters and submerged lands in Glacier Bay to the state of Alaska," she said. One proposal would open the park to legal commercial fishing, to be regulated by the state, and subsistence hunting and gathering. Another proposal would sanction a 72-percent increase in cruise-ship traffic in the bay. The bills would preempt Park Service research and planning under way on the same subjects.

Grisco also told the House that a proposed British Columbian copper mine threatens an entire region of Canada and Alaska, including Glacier Bay. The Tatshenshini and Alsek rivers flow through a vast expanse of glacial mountains, some of the most spectacular and untouched scenery in either country. The mine could bring massive damage and pollution. Grisco urged the Interior Department to study the proposed mine's effects and the secretaries of State and Interior to negotiate with Canada through the International Joint Commission to protect the area.

### PACIFIC NORTHWEST

*Dale Crane, Regional Director*

NPCA and a coalition of Canadian and U.S. environmental groups are urging the two countries to better protect the North Cascades, ten million acres of high mountains, lush forests and meadows, glaciers, and waterfalls spanning the border between Washington State and British Columbia. Parts of the area have been protected, but it also is plagued by excessive logging and air-

quality problems. Wild salmon populations have plummeted, and the future of the grizzly bear and the gray wolf is uncertain unless enough habitat is preserved. "I believe this is the beginning of international cooperation to protect the most significant ecosystem in the Northwest," Crane said.

### PACIFIC SOUTHWEST

*Russ Butcher, Regional Director*

NPCA is optimistic about an idea that could ease overcrowding at Grand Canyon National Park. An expansion of the Tusayan community on the park border could make room to move the town's medical center, school, and church out of the park. Visitors could leave their cars at a transportation hub there and take mass transit into Grand Canyon. NPCA supports a proposed spur line that would also let visitors take a train from a nearby airport directly into the park. Tusayan could provide new housing for park employees as well, eliminating the need to build new housing within the park.

As this issue went to press, the city of Albuquerque, New Mexico, was about to release a final version of plans to build two major roads—one four-lane and one six-lane—through Petroglyph National Monument on the city's west edge. The document reportedly rejects alternative routes, presented by the Park Service and a traffic consultant for environmental groups including NPCA, that would protect both the park and surrounding neighborhoods. Petroglyph was established to preserve 17 miles of volcanic bluffs rich in ancient Native American and Hispanic rock art. Readers can write to Mayor Louis Saavedra and City Council President Pauline Gubbels, both at Box 1293, Albuquerque, NM 87103, urging them to adopt a less harmful alternative.

### ROCKY MOUNTAIN

*Terri Martin, Regional Director*

In spring and early summer, the grizzly bears of Yellowstone come to streams flowing from Yellowstone Lake to feed on spawning trout. The Lake and Bridge Bay areas also hold dense tourist facilities, which NPCA and other groups feel should be closed until spawning season is over. They have filed notice that they will challenge NPS plans for the area if protections for bears are not adequate.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service held open houses across the country this spring on the proposed return of wolves to Yellowstone. It also held public hearings in August. Opponents of wolf reintroduction reportedly persuaded the Interior Department to add the hearings, hoping to use them as a political forum. But 83 percent of the 400 people testifying supported the wolves' return. For years NPCA has worked for reintroduction, arguing that the Yellowstone ecosystem has been imbalanced since its wolves were exterminated earlier this century. Next spring, Fish and Wildlife will issue a draft environmental impact statement on the proposal.

### SOUTHEAST

*Don Barger, Regional Director*

This summer, North Carolina issued a permit to Haywood County to build a landfill near Great Smoky Mountains National Park that would be a dangerous lure for black bears. NPCA and a chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America are appealing the permit. The county has now asked a \$650,000 bond to be required of the groups if a stay is imposed on the project. A hearing on the request was upcoming at this writing. "The county is attempting to make it too expensive for citizens to pursue their legal right to appeal," Barger said.



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# Disservice to the Parks

*A former Park Service regional director discloses how rules are bent to accommodate special interests.*

By Lorraine Mintzmyer

**T**HE NATIONAL PARKS are under siege not from a battery of assaults but from repeated, insistent sniper fire. A small cadre of special interests, businesses, and individuals believes the public lands are a barely tapped source of revenue. And they believe that their particular scheme will not harm anything, when in fact the cumulative effects of many projects are devastating the parks.

Our parks are like the hole in a doughnut. They are a relatively small area in the middle of a rich, inviting ring of public lands. Divide that outer ring into many smaller segments and label each one with a different special interest, such as mining, energy and geothermal, timber, and grazing in Yellowstone, or fishing and tourism in the Virgin Islands, and water or hydroelectric power in the Grand Canyon.

Around nearly every large park, a small class of beneficiaries derives some economic benefit. Just one mine outside of Yellowstone will produce gold during its life that has a value of more than a billion dollars, an amount greater than half the yearly budget of the National Park Service. Multiply this great worth by the number of parks that have special interest value, and the figures are staggering. The parks are being choked to death by the actions of special interests and political patrons whose

yearly "take" from boundary lands exceeds by many times the combined total spent by all of the stewardship agencies.

In addition, these profit-producing activities frequently carry the price of pollution. Water-borne wastes flow from the doughnut into the parks, and the winds carry noxious chemicals, some of which are toxic, while others are capable of increasing the frequency of mutation. Poisons in the soil make their

**When the base of data has been manipulated, the agency loses its ability to function and its credibility with the public.**

way into the water table and food chain. This process is repeated many times. Different abuses cause different effects in different doughnuts, but the results are the same.

The people who make up these special interests are not, for the most part, bad people; they are not the ecological robber barons of a generation or two past. They think of themselves as good and generally believe that their acts, while not meeting the levels some "tree-hugger" might desire, will not do any permanent harm. Despite their good

intentions, they cannot see the cumulative effect of 30 or 40 or 50 other inhabitants of the doughnut saying the same thing. Each user of that doughnut seeks just one favor from a member of Congress, wants the Department of the Interior to loosen one law, or asks the president to kill just one document. This excess is destroying the parks in ways that are building up unseen just as the savings and loan (S&L) crisis did.

Parallels to the S&L situation include a huge asset base, players with enough money to pressure or remove the regulators, and hundreds of smug individuals who are confident that they have gotten away with beating the system. When the S&L house of cards fell in, two things were revealed. Various federal agencies had been subject to pressure to skirt the law and for other favors and were consequently incapable of seeing the whole board at once. In addition, a potentially destructive tidal wave had been building all the time. Regulators had been neutralized, and the people making the money were too focused on their own deal to notice that the system's fabric was eroding. Such a wave is building in our parks—one that will break even harder than the S&L scandal. The economy has required more than three years to recover, but if the parks are destroyed, the land and the species that depend on it will be impossible to reclaim.

One reaction is to ask where the regulators are, and why they do not understand the threat. These mid-level government officials do not believe that they are assisting those in the doughnut against the interest of the land and do not understand the cumulative effects any more than the special interests do. And because they do not understand, they cannot judge the long-term effects on the parks.

Most are not obscuring big things. Rather, they are hiding the many small favors and changes for the special interests, who are oblivious to the fact that it might be too much. To obscure the deceptions that are "outside of the rules" but "not really harmful," upper-level leaders in the Department of the Interior and National Park Service call for

studies and analyses. In this way, they appear supportive. When those studies and reports reach conclusions and call for actions, they are undermined or destroyed.

When some entrenched parochial interest gets this “help,” the study or report eventually shown to the public has often been altered or destroyed by being filled with false data. This may include replacing science with politics, or professional opinions and views with politically predetermined conclusions.

Clearly, focusing on just a few key government workers is simpler than engaging in months of media and court battles. Think of the money the logging industry would have saved had it had the foresight to ask a member of Congress or an agreeable assistant secretary to transfer the original scientists and managers dealing with the spotted owl—and then to have someone write in the language it wanted. Or, it could have eliminated offending NPS studies, as Interior did when it mysteriously lost a Park Service report opposed to geothermal exploration at Yellowstone National Park.

This type of political intervention has led to such a dilution of the Park Service purpose that the service’s survival is at stake. One effect of this practice is that no recommendation can be assumed to be based on scientific data, because it is impossible to know whether the base-level data were manipulated. Even the service cannot assess the validity of its own studies. When the base of data has been manipulated, the agency loses its ability to function and its credibility with the public.

Politicians have always helped special interest groups to pressure the Park Service and the Forest Service. As a result, fundamental change in the structure and the efficacy of those agencies

has occurred. Politics is much more ingrained and sophisticated in the National Park Service than has heretofore been understood. Professional recommendations are run through so many people, many of whom are sympathetic to development, that it is hard for the Park Service to prevail. All of this substantiates the view that either drastic reforms are needed, or the Park Service should become independent of the Interior Department.

Independence would mean that the service had a voice at the table and much higher access to the decision makers in

In addition to creating an independent Park Service, other actions are needed. The service should develop models designed to measure the build-up of a potential ecosystem disaster, which should include the cost to preserve a given area, the length of time until the functional death of major parks, and the amount special interests are receiving in return for this injury.

If we are asked to concede protection of the land ostensibly because of the need for jobs or because of the need for raw materials, let’s first generate some balance sheets. Let’s see what the

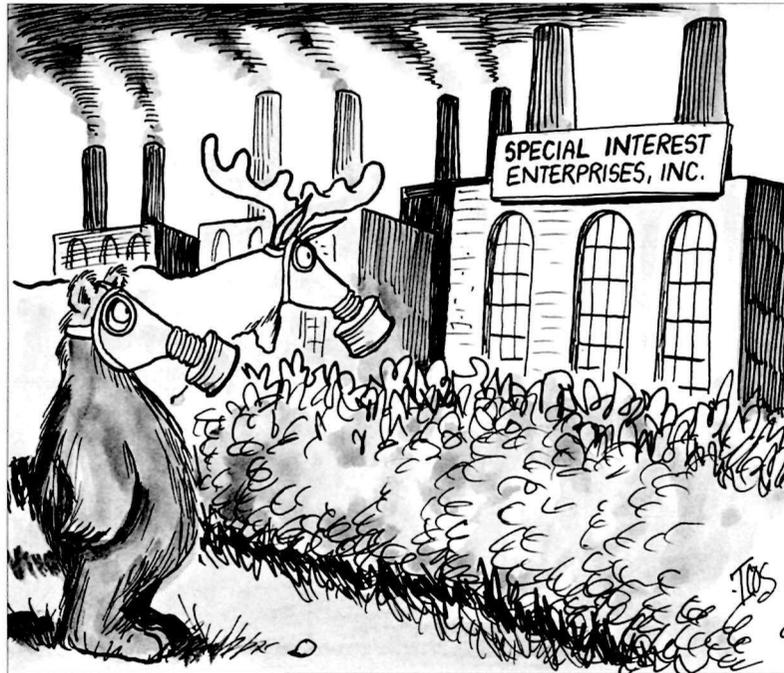
profit margins are, the pay-scales. And let’s be very, very sure the workers, and not the highest number of rich companies or millionaires in Tokyo or Toronto, benefit. It is my strong sense, although I have not reviewed hard data, that if rights to use this land were regulated to maximize well-paying jobs rather than contributions to politicians, the actual amount of activity—such as mining or logging—would fall while jobs actually increased.

Congress should pass a law to forbid *ex parte* negotiations or influence peddling by politicians on stewardship issues

and to forbid closed and private meetings with special interests.

It is only when these actions occur that the credibility and professionalism of the service will once again assure the public and Congress that *their* parks are being administered in the public interest with preservation as the guiding policy and ethic.

*Lorraine Mintzmyer, former NPS Rocky Mountain regional director, testified before a House subcommittee that there had been extensive political interference in the Vision for the Future plan. This excerpt from a speech she made earlier this year is reprinted with permission.*



the White House. It would allow the agency to be much freer in expressing its conservation position; it would help to establish the Park Service as a policymaker in the conservation arena; and independence would help the agency to attract highly talented people in the field. The Park Service’s preservation mission has become different from the multiple-use policy of Interior. Managers in the service are like a voice crying in the wilderness when they try to raise make a case for preservation. They have had only one small voice that these days does not seem to be heard when so-called political decisions are made regarding National Park System lands.

# Grappling with Gridlock

As automobile traffic turns parks into parking lots, transportation alternatives are urgently needed.

By Todd Wilkinson

**W**HEN JAMES BRYCE, the British Ambassador to the United States, visited Yosemite National Park in 1912, he warned of a menace that would soon overtake Yosemite and other national parks.

"If you were to realize what the result of the automobile will be in that wonderful, that incomparable valley, you will keep it out," he said.

Although automobiles were not allowed into the national parks at the time of Bryce's words, public pressure to change the policy mounted as vehicles became more reliable and affordable. Within a year, the first automobiles sputtered into Yosemite, and now, eight decades later, Park Superintendent Mike Finley is facing the consequences. When Finley inspects the magnificent Yosemite Valley during summer afternoons, he sees traffic gridlock with its choking exhaust. And instead of the open fields and meadows that once filled the valley, he finds as-

phalt and 5,500 parking spaces. "Let's face it, the entrance to Yosemite Valley isn't a road system," says George Berklacy, chief spokesman for the Park Service in Washington, D.C. "It's a giant parking lot."

Although Yosemite may indeed be facing the greatest transportation challenge in the National Park System, it is hardly alone. "Few parks have managed to escape the impact of the car," says Laura Loomis, deputy director of conservation programs for the National Parks and Conservation Association.

A look at five national parks reveals the extent of the problem.

Along the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona, snarled traffic exacerbates air pollution so severe that haze hangs over some trademark views like a cataract.

At Great Smoky Mountains National

**Overuse contributes to the poor condition of park roads. Fixing Yellowstone's system alone may cost up to \$300 million.**



MICHAEL H. FRANCIS



Park in Tennessee, nearly 3.6 million vehicles—an increase of more than one million in the last decade—pass through the gates annually, causing gridlock on busy days. Over the past 30 years, visibility has dwindled from 30 miles to 15 miles, while rising ozone levels have damaged an estimated 70 native plant species.

Automobile exhaust during peak vacation months at Acadia National Park in Maine combines with airborne pollution to create hazardous ozone levels that threaten sensitive trees and other plant life and trigger health warnings at park entrance stations.

At Shenandoah National Park in Virginia, heavy traffic—particularly during autumn months when visitors drive through the park to view foliage—adds to the pollution that has been identified as the number one threat to the park. In addition, park officials last year reported a record number of accidents. Two-thirds of the 150 collisions involved deer.

The road system throughout Yel-

lowstone National Park in Wyoming is crumbling and will cost taxpayers a minimum of \$300 million to fix. Experts say that once construction is completed, the mammoth repair task will have to start anew, because the life span of an average park road is less than 30 years.

In nearly a century, accommodating America's dual love affair with the national parks and the automobile has produced expensive highway networks, as well as maintenance budgets that dwarf the expenditures funneled into resource protection, visitor services, and interpretation. The National Park System includes 1,460 associated bridges and tunnels and 7,927 miles of roads, of which 4,860 miles are paved. In 1981 a Park Service survey estimated that 19 percent of all park system roads were in poor condition. Following a decade of increased visitation, decreased funding, and deferred maintenance, 33 percent of the park system roads were in poor or failed condition, prompting safety concerns from the Federal Highway

**Park visitation has increased tremendously in the last 50 years, overwhelming the road systems designed for an earlier time.**

Administration. NPCA's Loomis says, "In all parks, we are seeing visitation increase annually at rates of 3 to 10 percent, and yet we have park road systems designed for traffic volumes from 50 years ago."

The latest cost estimates for road rebuilding and repair are \$1.5 billion, a dollar amount equal to the Park Service's annual operating budget, says Jim Straughan, who oversees the Park Service's Denver-based transportation branch. The outlook is not good. Congress is expected to appropriate a total of \$486 million over the next four years, less than half of what is needed. Consequently, the condition of the roads will continue to decline to the end of the century, when the tab for bringing them up to federal standards will have increased to at least \$2 billion, says Straughan.

This is just a glimpse of the toll. The



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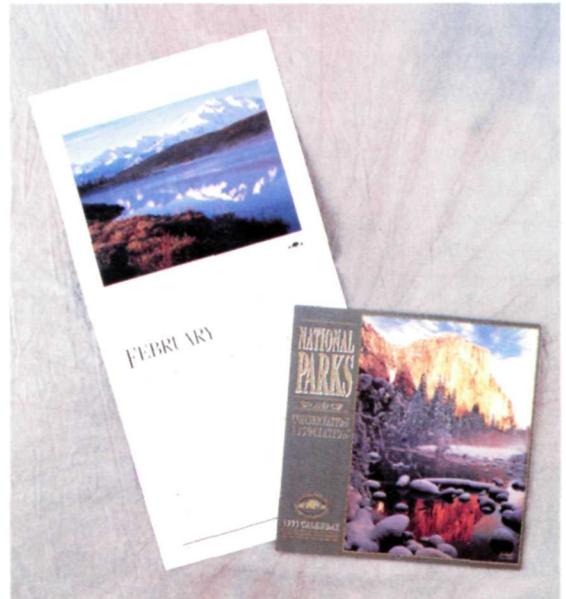
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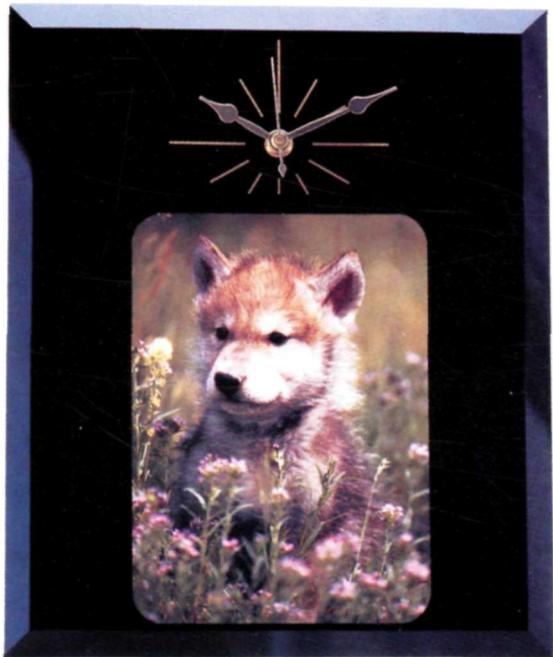
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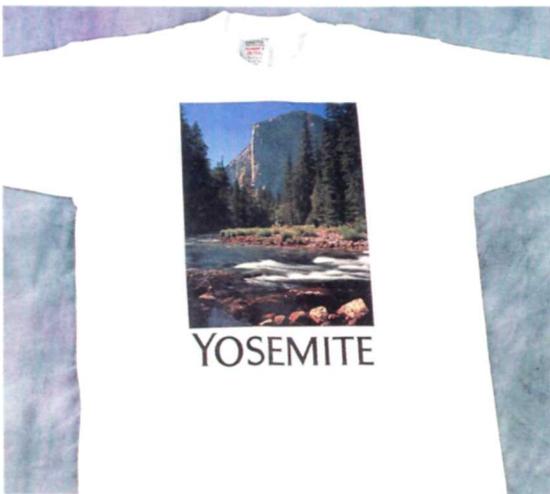
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N120



N123



N121



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VICKI ROZEMA

large western parks that come under the jurisdiction of the Park Service's Rocky Mountain region suffer the most from a cash shortfall. Their road repair bill exceeds \$470 million. "At the rate we're going, our road troubles are not going to be resolved," said Cam Hugie, regional maintenance chief. "It's deplorable for areas of national significance to be in that condition."

Although insufficient funds to repair the roads are part of the problem, replacing the roads is not the only way to improve transportation. But getting away from auto-dependent systems requires revolutionary thinking and a willingness to change.

According to NPCA's Loomis, the vacation of the future may no longer involve loading up the family vehicle and setting out across the country to a series of drive-through parks. "We're entering an age where we may have to abandon traditional thinking about how we visit our parks," she said. Some may not be willing to accept Loomis' assessment, but even transportation experts with the Park Service confess that maintenance and repair problems are of epic proportions.

In addition to the costs to repair roads, car-dependent transportation systems exacerbate pollution, carve up parkland, and may even conflict with the philosophy of the Park Service.

Indeed, the Park Service's recent 135-page Vail Agenda report—for which a team of independent experts was asked to review the state of the national parks—suggests that transpor-

tation and its supporting infrastructure conflict with park values.

"The Steering Committee recognizes that providing for public access and public enjoyment and enlightenment, on the one hand, and protecting park resources and values, on the other, often come into conflict. Visitors to park units use park resources: they take up space, they require transportation, food, shelter, waste facilities, traffic control, viewing areas, and so on...The Service should undertake to develop a new generation of state-of-the-art designs for needed facilities such as trails, overlooks, transportation systems, visitor centers, and campgrounds," wrote the experts in the report, which was delivered for the Park Service's 75th anniversary last year.

NPCA has long been a proponent of establishing thresholds for the number of people who can experience the park without compromising its resources. The association devised Visitor Impact Management studies as a method of assessing how visitors affect the parks. Such an approach was mandated by Congress in 1978, when it passed the Parks and Recreation Act. But demographics, not federal law, has served as more of a catalyst for change. With California's population swelling to 30 million residents, pressure on Yosemite has forced park managers to consider extreme measures such as closing Yosemite Valley to all private cars.

A report by The Wilderness Society titled *Traffic Problems in the National Parks* supported closing down the val-

## Exhaust adds to haze that obscures views in parks such as the Blue Ridge Parkway.

ley. It also advocated "staging areas" where visitors could leave vehicles and use public transportation systems. NPCA and other conservationist groups are working with the Park Service to implement solutions. Others have faulted the federal agency for failing to implement recommendations and claim that, by not taking preventive action decades ago, park managers in Yosemite now must close stretches of highway when they become too crowded.

Agency planners admit that highways in Yosemite already are exceeding their capacity for shuttle buses, but the alternatives are few. And Finley warns that eliminating cars in favor of a more extensive shuttle bus system will not solve all problems. "Does a shuttle bus system really address the needs of anglers who want to be out there and fish at first light; or the photographer who wants freedom to wait for a perfect shot; or a hiker who does not want to be dropped off at the trailhead in a surge of 40 people?" Finley asked.

Finley also points out that establishing staging areas may take more land out of its natural state and could mean greater costs. "It means building a larger bus fleet and more staff and maintenance costs. Who is going to pay for this, and what is the cost to the visitor experience?"

Another problem relates to asphalt. Staging area parking lots could be extensive. "That is a dilemma," says NPCA's Loomis. "If you do make people abandon their cars, you wouldn't want them to encounter a huge expanse of pavement. Right now, the Park Service doesn't have a clear policy on where it wants to go. As a consequence, it's trying to merely patch up obvious problems that require long-term thinking. We have to rethink the way we make parks accessible to visitors and examine the most cost-effective methods of mass transit that can be employed."

Advocates of public transportation gained an unlikely ally last year, when Sen. Malcolm Wallop, a conservative

Wyoming Republican, initiated legislation for a \$240,000 study of park transportation problems. The study is to be completed by the end of 1992. The late Walt Disney, who made monorails a centerpiece of his popular California and Florida theme parks, provided the inspiration for Wallop's bill. The legislation directs the National Park Service to examine the feasibility of alternative transit systems in three locations: Yosemite, Yellowstone, and Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska.

Thirty years ago, drawing comparisons between the Magic Kingdom and America's crown jewels would have been regarded as sacrilege by the environmental community. But Wallop's fondness for Disney's monorails is based on a premise with which most conservationists agree. Studies in Great Smoky Mountains National Park show that the average visitor spends seven times as many hours inside the car as out of it; 16 percent of visitors never turn off the car's engine. Consider Wallop's theory about Disney. "There are some things the private sector has pioneered that the public sector has yet to learn, and

one of them is the ability to separate Americans from their cars and make them enjoy it," Wallop says. "Disney does this better than anyone. As our parks become overcrowded, the infrastructures will continue to collapse. This has led to environmental degradation, because some parks simply cannot handle the tremendous volume of cars."

Although NPCA and other conservation groups praise Wallop's search for creative solutions, their support is tempered with caution. Rather than use trains, buses, or monorails to replace cars, the senator suggests adding them to the existing system. Conservation groups say this approach is unacceptable, because it would only increase the burdens associated with infrastructure maintenance. The question remains: how would an agency that suffers from chronic funding shortfalls pay for alternative transportation? Park Service economists say the average cost of building a paved highway is about \$1 million a mile. Conservative estimates place monorail construction and maintenance costs between \$15 million and \$50 million a mile, a price tag unrealis-

tic for parks such as Yellowstone.

John Gingles, the Park Service deputy chief of engineering and safety, believes the conclusion of Wallop's transportation study will rule out monorails. "Environmentally, we're not going to carve out new corridors in the landscape for monorails. It's out of the question," he said. "On the other hand, we know there is a serious need for public transportation systems and imposing limits on the number of visitors. We tried to limit use in Yosemite but ran into a political firestorm."

Gingles said he and many of his colleagues support a 30-year moratorium on all new development in national parks so that transportation troubles can be resolved. "At a time when we should be looking at tightening up and putting limits on visitor use, Congress is building more facilities in our parks and adding to the trouble," he said. "We're trying to put more people and automobiles into parks, but we don't have any idea what the impacts are to resources, because a solid research base is lacking."

So what are the options? "Whether you and I like it or not, cars are going to

**Most people see the parks from behind a car windshield. Grand Canyon Railway offers an option for South Rim visitors.**

be with us for several decades," says Gingles. "It's almost an unsolvable problem as long as the public insists on seeing the parks from behind the windshield of their own vehicles." Seventy-five years ago, he noted, visitors to Yellowstone were required to abandon their cars at the park border and chain them to a tree. It was the only certain method of convincing them that the cars would be secure while they rode stagecoaches into the park interior. "We need to encourage people to think beyond the car. That's the only hope we have," Gingles says.

Those same sentiments were voiced in Yosemite Valley a long time ago by a British ambassador. If only someone had heard his advice over the coming roar of the horseless carriage.

*Todd Wilkinson lives in Bozeman, Montana, and writes regularly about national parks for a number of magazines including National Parks.*



AL RICHMOND

## The Alternatives

**A**S MANY AS 40 national park units offer some form of public transportation as an alternative to private automobiles, though most of these systems operate on a limited basis. From shuttles and light rail to ferries and bike paths, alternatives are available at parks such as Dinosaur National Monument, North Cascades National Park, the Statue of Liberty National Monument, Denali National Park and Preserve, and Grand Canyon National Park.

Grand Canyon has both shuttle and train systems to carry visitors through portions of the park. A bus shuttle system operates on three different loops. In 1990 the buses were used by a total of 2.6 million people.

**Shuttle buses provide an alternative but not all the answers at Glacier NP.**



MICHAEL H. FRANCIS

In addition to shuttle buses, visitors coming to the Grand Canyon's South Rim may ride the train. The steam train operates once a day from Williams, Arizona. Grand Canyon Railway, the company operating the rail line, claims to displace as many as 30,000 automobiles in the park each year. The company hopes to significantly increase that number by adding a spur line to the transportation hub at Grand Canyon Airport at the gateway community of Tusayan, Arizona. This way, company officials say, visitors arriving by plane or car could be encouraged to take the train directly to the South Rim, eliminating the need for a car. Annual ridership on the train has averaged 91,000 passengers since the service was inaugurated in 1989. Ridership in 1992 is expected to exceed 100,000, and the railway's capacity is more than 368,000 a year, according to the company.

At Denali National Park and Pre-

serve in Alaska, a controlled number of visitors is brought into the heart of the park aboard buses that operate on a single gravel road. As a result, wildlife flourishes along the roadside, and the undeveloped nature of the park is preserved. Visitors can take Amtrak to Denali and then board the shuttle buses on arrival.

Often the move to alternative transit systems has occurred by necessity, because funding shortfalls have left only creative options. At Mount Rainier National Park in Washington, officials have proposed leaving the park's Westside Road open only to bicycle and foot traffic. Since 1989, the Park Service has spent more than \$700,000 repairing the road that is in the path of debris carried by the South Tahoma Glacier. Government engineers estimate that repairing the road to accommodate automobile traffic would cost \$354,000 each year, compared with a single cost

of \$95,000 to convert the road to a bike and foot path.

Currently, nearly everyone who visits a national park travels there by private car. Encouraging people to try different modes of travel will require education and availability of alternatives.

"Right now, you can get to a number of parks via the Amtrak rail system, but I don't know how willing the American public is to use it as long as the car remains the least expensive alternative," says Laura Loomis, NPCA's deputy director of conservation programs. "With many of the urban parks, it is important that they be linked to existing subway and bus systems to allow visitors the choice of leaving their cars behind."

In a few years, hikers will be able to catch the subway to Greenbelt Park in Maryland, 12 miles from Washington, D.C. A stop at Greenbelt Park is among those planned for the city's public transit system.

# GREED vs. Green

How the Wise Use Movement employs corporate money and questionable tactics to stake its claim to public lands.

By Richard M. Stapleton

*"Our goal is to destroy, to eradicate the environmental movement."*

—Ron Arnold

IT IS CLEVER, CALLOUS, politically astute, and very well funded. It is the dark side of conservation, environmentalism's evil force. And at a time when a spectrum of environmental organizations are having to trim staffs and mark time, it seems to be expanding exponentially. It is the Wise Use Movement, and its chilling agenda includes:

- ◆ Breaking up the National Park Service.

- ◆ Opening all national parks and wilderness areas to mineral and energy production.

- ◆ Clearcutting all ancient forests, using the bizarre argument that "decaying and oxygen-using" old-growth contributes to global warming.

- ◆ A major 20-year construction program to build lodging and concessions in national parks.

- ◆ A public land give-away: redefining grazing rights to "recognize [that] these ranches are not public lands but split-estate lands, co-owned by govern-

ment and the rancher."

- ◆ Gutting the Endangered Species Act.

- ◆ Constructing wilderness trails for off-road vehicles (ORVs).

- ◆ Immediately developing petroleum resources in Alaska's pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).

They must be kidding, you say! What and who is the Wise Use Movement (WUM)? Isn't it just a new Sagebrush Rebellion? Can't it be dismissed as another group of strident right-wing kooks? Won't it wither under the righteous light of scientific reason?

No—on all counts. Wise use has been with us since Day One. Gifford Pinchot, father of the National Forest Service and the man who coined the word "conservationist," argued for the controlled and "wise use" of natural resources. Conservationist Pinchot was a good friend of preservationist John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club. Both were trusted advisors to President Theodore Roosevelt as well as point men in the fight against rapacious monopolistic exploitation of the West. They were ecological pioneers at a time when

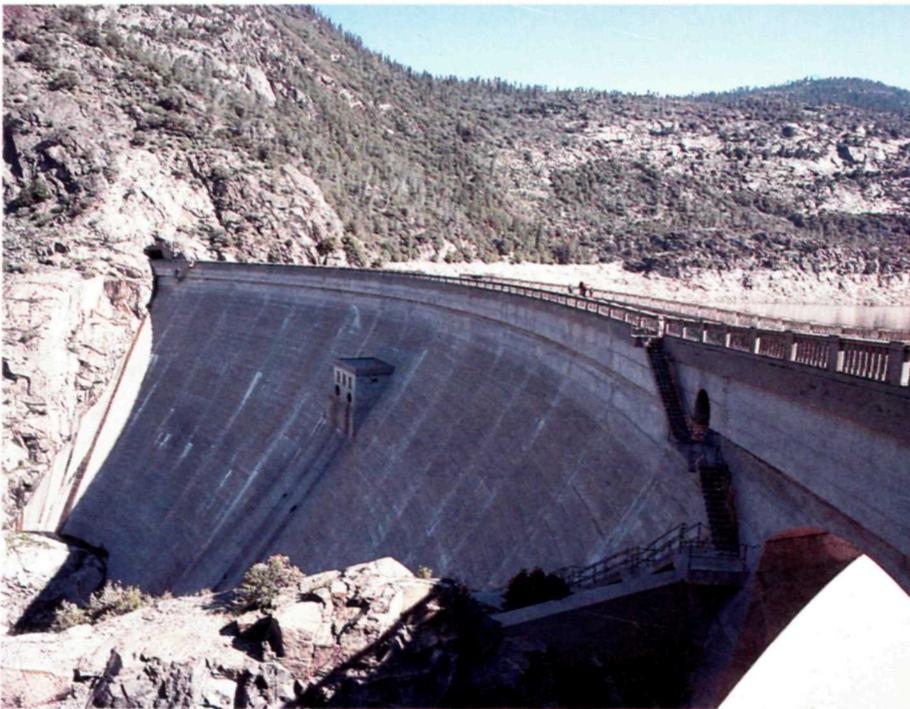
few believed that America's natural resources could possibly be limited.

Muir, who found in the California redwoods "nature's temple," fought exploitation because he held nature sacred: "The clearest way into the Universe," he wrote, "is through a forest wilderness." Pinchot, who equated natural resources with national prosperity, fought exploitation because he recognized natural limits. Nature, like time and money and every other resource, must be "used wisely." Muir had his victories—Roosevelt saved the Grand Canyon from mining interests in 1906—but Pinchot's progressive or wise-use precepts shaped the early days of conservation, emphasizing use for the public good over private gain, and giving us such important principles as multiple use, scientific management, and sustained yield.

The Muir-Pinchot alliance (and friendship) foundered on the cliffs of Yosemite National Park. Pinchot, calling it a "wise use," supported flooding the beautiful Hetch Hetchy Valley to supply San Francisco with water and electric power. Muir likened the pro-



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



RICHARD BLAIR

An early “wise-use” battle over Yosemite National Park’s spectacular Hetch Hetchy Valley (above) polarized the conservation movement in the early 1900s. John Muir and his supporters lost the fight in 1913, when a dam (left) was built, permanently submerging the valley. It is the only dam ever to be constructed in a national park.

As species disappear, we recognize the need for diversity. As the effects of wetland loss multiply, we move to save what’s left. As crowds clog Yosemite, we realize more fully what we lost at Hetch Hetchy. A movement is born, and the Earth gets its Day.

But Newton told us that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. His principle would seem to apply to society as well as physics. Movements beget countermovements. Given the growing strength and success of preservationist environmentalism, the re-emergence of wise use as a movement should surprise no one. It has done so, however, with many environmentalists either unaware of WUM and its agenda, or else discounting it as a minor brushfire of discontent.

posal to damming a cathedral to make an urban water tank. But Pinchot, branding his opposition “misinformed and unreasonable nature lovers,” prevailed, and the scenic gem that the U. S. government once declared “inalienable

for all time” was ordered drowned for the public good. The year was 1913.

The popular embrace of Muir’s preservationist views has been more recent. The more finite our resources seem, the more precious they become.

Consider, then, some recent Wise Use victories:

◆ The *Vision for the Future* document, a plan to protect Yellowstone National Park and its surrounding 12-million-acre ecosystem, was gutted when WUM out-organized and out-shouted both bureaucrats and environmentalists at public hearings.

◆ The \$1.9-million New York Bond Act of 1991, which included \$800 million for land protection, was defeated after the New York Farm Bureau launched a major media campaign attacking the "Land Grabbing Bond Act" as a threat to individual property rights.

◆ \$30 million in gasoline taxes was siphoned off a highway and mass-transit bill to build trails that will open up wilderness areas to off-road vehicles. Japanese manufacturers of ORVs are major financial supporters of WUM.

◆ General Electric announced it would not renew its multi-million-dollar funding of "World of Audubon" TV specials. In a massive fax and letter campaign, WUM threatened GE with a boycott following specials on ranching and logging. Similar WUM campaigns led Stroh's Brewery and the Ford Motor Company to pull sponsorship of Audubon specials.

The Wise Use Movement is an umbrella covering hundreds of groups and organizations. They range from mining and timber companies to ranchers and real estate developers, and there is nothing new to their central philosophy—the removal of any and all restrictions to the exploitation of nature. What is new is the coalition and the savvy use of grass-roots activism to mask a corporate agenda of continued exploitation.

The coalition was born in 1988 when 250 groups, ranging from the American Mining Congress to the National Rifle Association, the American Motorcyclists Association to the National Cattlemen's Association, gathered at the Bellevue, Washington, offices of The Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise. They were joined there by relics of the Sagebrush Rebellion, the naive and underfunded effort during the Carter and Reagan years to have federal lands

## Snakes in the Grass

"What's in a name?" Juliet asked. A rose by any other name may smell as sweet, but beware of sweet-sounding names. The Wise Use Movement likes to hide behind warm fuzzy words and naturescape logos. A sampler:

Alliance for America  
Alliance for Responsible CFC Policy  
Citizens for the Environment  
Citizens for Sensible Control of Acid Rain  
Citizens for a Sound Economy  
Colorado Rivers Resources Coalition  
Council for Solid Waste Solutions  
Information Council on the Environment  
Living Lakes, Inc.  
National Wetlands Coalition  
Oregon Lands Coalition  
People for the West!  
Sahara Club  
Western Environmental Trade Association

The WUM's self-righteousness often creeps into its names. The Essential Information report "Masks of Deception: Corporate Front Groups in America" says names with words like "sound," "sensible," and "responsible" likely mask agendas that are anything but.

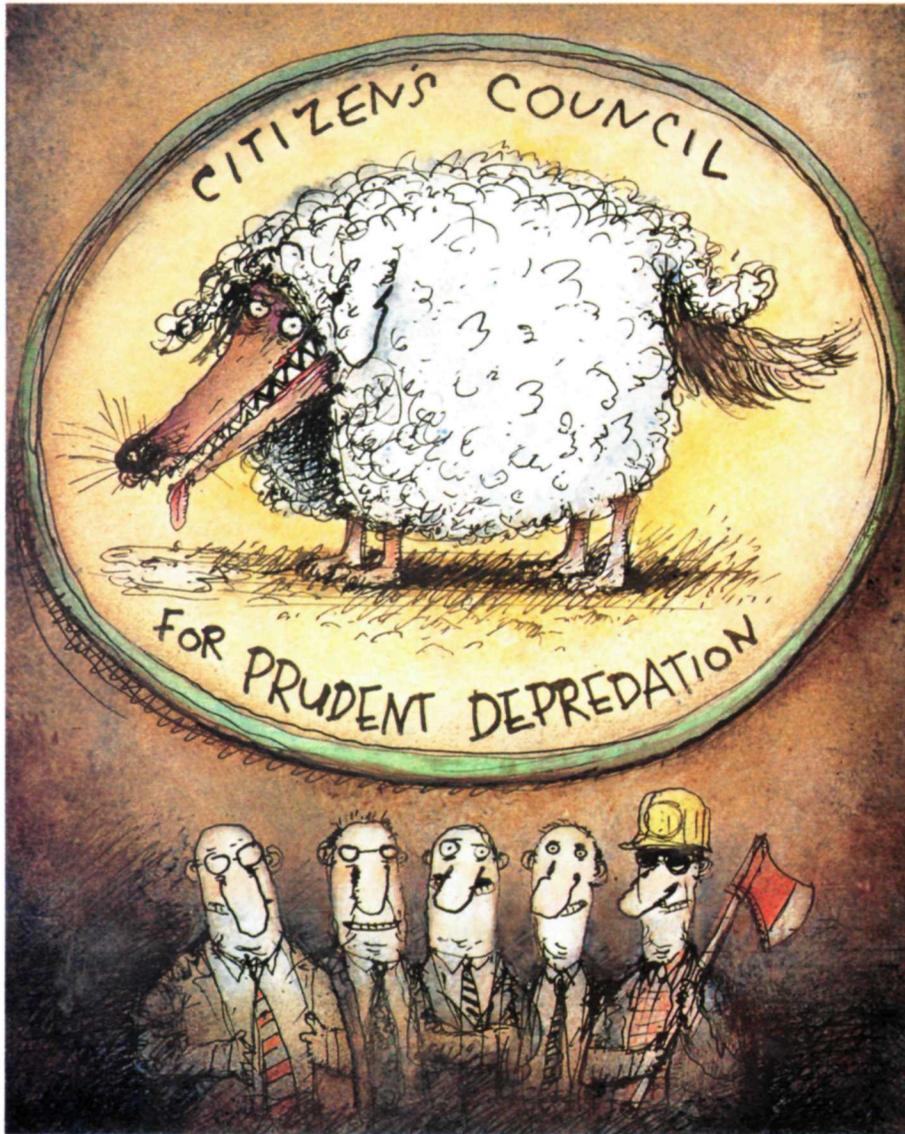
turned over to the states and to private interests.

The purpose of the Bellevue meeting was to find a common ground from which to fight environmentalism. The timing was fortuitous: three major pieces of legislation—renewal of the Endangered Species Act, renewal of the Clean Water Act, and repeal of the 1872 Mining Law—were coming before Congress. The meeting resulted in formation of a working coalition united by two correlating goals: to curb any constraints on the use of private land and to abolish all limits to the abuse of public land.

Specific goals were spelled out in The Wise Use Agenda (excerpted

above), the bible of the movement. Taken together, they call for turning the clock back to the very beginning of conservation.

Hosts for the meeting were Allan Gottlieb and Ron Arnold. The two men are the gurus of WUM, and their backgrounds explain much about how the Wise Use Movement differs from the Sagebrush Rebellion. Gottlieb is a sophisticated fund raiser for conservative causes (perhaps a bit too sophisticated; he was sent to prison for a year in 1984 for filing false income tax returns). He runs a direct-mail network built while raising money for the NRA, claims to have a list of more than five million potential contributors, and is busy



RICHARD THOMPSON

gathering fistfuls of funds to fight environmentalists.

Ron Arnold, author of *The Wise Use Agenda*, is dead serious when he says he wants to destroy the environmental movement. He is the Benedict Arnold of environmentalism, a former Sierra Club activist who has torn whole chapters from the textbook of grass-roots activism and used them to rewrite industry's rules of engagement. Organize grass-roots organizations, Arnold told Canadian timber executives in a 1989 speech. They can "evoke powerful archetypes such as the sanctity of the family, ...form coalitions to build real political clout, ...be an effective and convincing advocate for your industry."

They can, he told the timbermen, "do things industry can't."

If you're going to exploit nature, Arnold seems to reason, why not exploit your workers as well? And so we see all of the activist's tools—petition drives, fax and letter campaigns, protest meetings, media events, lobbying and organizing—brought into play as Arnold fans the flames of populist fear to create a smoke screen for big business. Too often today, the "environmental activist" you see on the evening news is working to protect industry, not nature:

◆ In Washington, D.C., 300 activists worked the halls of Congress, staged media events, and pressed bureaucrats

over the fate of wetlands, fisheries, national forests, and endangered species. It was the September "Fly-in for Freedom," a carefully organized and orchestrated WUM lobbying effort. "Wear work clothes," organizers told participants, "with special attention to gloves, boots, hard hats, bandanas..." The working-class getup proved to be far more effective than the pin stripes of most industry lobbyists.

◆ In Portland, Oregon, 12,000 loggers rallied to protest curbs on clear-cutting. TV coverage made the spotted owl look like the Willy Horton of the environment. No one mentioned that the men had been given a paid day off to attend the rally, with lunch and transportation provided by the timber companies. And no one mentioned the Bureau of Land Management report showing that 15,000 jobs could be saved with a ban on the export of raw timber.

◆ In Bozeman, Montana, 700 WUM supporters overwhelmed a hearing on the future of the greater Yellowstone ecosystem. "They simply out-organized us," rued Ed Lewis of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition. But there was more than organization involved. The region was flooded with rumors that Yellowstone National Park was to be expanded five-fold, and that hunting, fishing, mining, and logging would be banned. Pre-hearing rallies whipped the crowd into near hysteria, and Yellowstone Superintendent Robert Barbee found himself accused of being everything from a communist to a Nazi.

It's not difficult to expose the sham. The Oregon Lands Coalition, which organized the Portland protest, began its life housed in the Association of Oregon Industries office. The Council for Solid Waste Solutions shares office space with its parent, The Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc. The National Wetlands Coalition (NWC), another industry arm hiding behind a feel-good name, professes to redress problems small landowners have with wetlands regulation. Actually, as Sen. John Chafee (R-R.I.) pointed out in a speech last year, its membership roster "reads like a Who's Who of the oil and gas industry." Funding comes from Amoco, BP,

## Behind the Grassroots Smokescreen

When WUM held its second annual conference in Reno, Nevada, the list of co-sponsors revealed the range of interests that are fanning the grassroots flames:

American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Mining Congress  
National Association of Manufacturers  
United 4-Wheel Drive Assn.  
National Cattlemen's Assn.  
Independent Petroleum Assn. of America  
National Grange  
American Motorcyclists Assn.  
National Forest Products Association  
American Sheep Industry  
American Pulpwood Assn.  
American Forest Council  
National Association of Mining Districts



RICHARD THOMPSON

Chevron, Exxon, Marathon Oil, and dozens more who do not see wetlands as natural filtration systems. NWC, in a bit of literary legerdemain, says it supports the goal of no overall loss of wetlands "as long as no net loss remains a goal" and does not become the law.

People for the West! (PFW), which led the fight at Yellowstone, was formed by John Wilson, head of the Western States Public Lands Commission, to fight repeal of the 1872 Mining Law (which allows mining companies that find deposits to buy public land for no more than \$5.00 per acre). It's no surprise that People for the West! is one of the best-funded WUM groups (see sidebar); founder Wilson is CEO of

Pegasus Gold, and in 1991, 12 of PFW's 13 board members were mining company executives. When PFW turned out 500 people (vs. 50 environmentalists) to speak against mining law reform at a congressional hearing in Santa Fe, New Mexico, it did so by having Phelps-Dodge and Molycorp bus employees in from around the state. It also bused in school children to wave placards proclaiming the PFW vision that repeal would destroy families and communities alike, ultimately causing deterioration of values and the American way!

Never mind that mining companies have a long history of unsafe working conditions, union busting, and pay and benefit cutting. Never mind that over-

grazing destroys the land ranchers says they're fighting to protect. Never mind that shipping raw logs overseas costs more jobs than all the spotted owls and environmentalists put together. The recession has hit hardest where jobs are most tenuous. Rural America is a vast pool of land-bound workers—miners, loggers, ranchhands, farmers, and fishermen—fearful for their future. Drowning people grab first the lifeline, and ask later who's pulling them in; a jobless worker with a mortgage and family to feed has little sympathy for an endangered species when his own habitat is threatened.

The cynical manipulation of workers, who have been as badly exploited as

the natural resources they harvest, is possible in part because the environmental movement has let its grassroots atrophy. Environmental groups don't have WUM's huge reservoir of corporate funding; limited monies have increasingly been funneled to fight Reagan-Bush efforts to gut national legislation. At the same time, legitimate fears about lost jobs have not been addressed, and individual injustices, especially in wetlands enforcement, have been ignored. A gulf has grown between Environmentalism with a capital "E" and people with a small "p," to the point that Ron Arnold gets knowing nods when he charges that the environmental movement has an anti-human agenda. Charles Cushman, of the National Inholders Association, goes even further, railing that preservation is "a new religion, a new paganism, that worships trees and sacrifices people." Inholders, people who own property inside national parks and recreation areas, have an understandably jaundiced view of federal land management, and Cushman is the charismatic organizer of the property rights movement. "It's a holy war," he says, "between fundamentally different religions."

That's a somewhat ironic statement, given the Wise Use Movement's odd affiliation with the Rev. Sung Yung Moon. One of the shakers in the Wise Use Movement is the American Freedom Coalition (AFC), founded by Rev. Moon's chief U.S. lieutenant, Bo Hi Pak. Ron Arnold is on the Washington state board of the AFC, and another WUM grass-roots organizer, Merrill Sikorski, is a paid AFC staffer. Jon Roush of Canyon Consulting in Montana believes Moon is using the Wise Use Movement as a means to further the establishment of his far-right political base.

"This is a war zone," Arnold told ABC News. Environmentalists should prepare for a battle that will be fought everywhere from the trenches to the commander-in-chief's office. WUM is well organized, extravagantly funded, and has proven it knows how to motivate the troops. It also has friends in high places. The cover photo on The Wise Use Agenda shows Allan Gottlieb

## Mining for Money

People for the West! gets its funding from some 200 companies, most of which are involved in the mining and petroleum industries. A sample of recent donations:

American Mining Congress	\$15,000+
Bond Gold Corporation	\$30,000
Chevron USA Inc.	\$45,000
Cyprus Minerals Company	\$100,000
Energy Fuels Corporation	\$15,000+
Hecla Mining Company	\$30,000
Homestake Mining Company	\$15,000+
MolyCorp, Inc./UNOCAL	\$10,000
NERCO Minerals Company	\$100,000
Northwest Mining Association	\$15,000+
Pegasus Mining Company	\$15,000+

Sources: *High Country News* and the Mineral Policy Center

arm-in-arm with a grinning George Bush. And does anyone need to be reminded how Dan Quayle's Council on Competitiveness has worked to sabotage wetlands protection as well as federal clean air and recycling regulations?

The fight is *not* over jobs. Those loggers in Portland are out of work despite the fact that cutting in Oregon's national forests has increased 16 percent in the past decade. Environmentalism is not their problem; exportation and automation are. The fight is what park historian Alfred Runte calls "a battle for leftovers" ("A Word to the Wise," *National Parks*, May/June 1992). Industry, having squandered natural resources to the point of scarcity, can find no room for conservation compromise. Just as the extractors and exploiters have taken pages from the notebooks of social and environmental activism, so now

must environmentalists re-read their tattered notebooks, nurture their grass roots, and tear the mask of respectability from the face of the Wise Use Movement. The failure to do so will surely sanction a thousand replications of Pinchot's success in Hetch Hetchy Valley.

*Richard Stapleton wrote and produced "Down To Earth," a daily environmental broadcast for CBS Radio News. Based in Brooklyn, N.Y., he is currently writing a book on how water keepers protect America's rivers, bays, and sounds.*

*This article is the first in a three-part series. Our next issue will analyze the strategy and tactics of the successful Wise Use campaign, and then discuss how a local environmental organizer turned the tables on a WUM heavyweight.*



# Baiting the Bears

Nearby Gatlinburg, Tennessee, lures Great Smokies bears into trouble with unsecured garbage.

By Connie Toops

**M**ORE THAN TEN YEARS AGO, Dean Berg received a call from the manager of the Sheraton Hotel in Gatlinburg, complaining that bears were harassing the hotel's guests. Fairly new at his job as resource management specialist at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Berg arrived at the hotel and found "the scared patrons in the water, and the bear was circling the pool."

The hotel management allowed bears to eat from the hotel's dumpsters, and on this particular day, a bear had polished off the garbage and gone looking for poolside snacks, recalled Berg, who worked at the park from 1981 to 1991. After the bruin was shooed away, the waterlogged guests considered the incident humorous and harmless, but the encounter typifies hundreds of bear-human interactions in Gatlinburg and elsewhere along park boundaries over the past few years.

Gatlinburg, a city of 3,500 permanent residents, is Tennessee's doorstep to Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Each summer and fall, motels, hotels, condos, and cabins of this bustling resort accommodate 50,000 visitors a night. Gatlinburg, rather than the national park, is the primary destination for many vacationers, who browse in the craft shops, hunt for bargains at factory outlets, wander through the wax



MICHAEL H. FRANCIS

**Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee shelters one of the largest black bear populations anywhere. These bears, which typically feed on nuts and berries, can live as long as 25 years. Yearlings, however, suffer a high mortality rate.**

museum, ride the aerial tramway, and explore Dolly Parton's theme park.

In and around town, visitors are bombarded by images of bears—Bearland Lodge, Yogi Bear's Campground, stuffed bears, carved bears, bear statues, teddy bears, Smokey Bear, bear logos on the city trolleys, bear T-shirts, bear trinkets. It's no wonder the tourists expect to see cute, cuddly, playful bears.

Other enterprising entrepreneurs have also targeted this bear mania. Acting on a tip, a reporter recently phoned the Park Vista, a 315-room hotel and convention center that towers over Gatlinburg from a hillside near the park boundary. The reporter inquired, "Will we see bears or deer or other wildlife in the area?"

"Yes," the Park Vista's reservationist replied. "We have one that comes and eats out of our dumpster every day."

"A bear?" The reporter asked.

"Yes," the hotel employee answered, "a mama and three cubs."

Sevier County wildlife officer Tony Proffitt, a 20-year veteran with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, handles one or two bear complaints in the Gatlinburg vicinity each week. "We've got bears around the hotels, motels, and restaurants," Proffitt said. "Some of the restaurants put food out for them. It's a tourist draw to see bears out the windows."

"On numerous occasions," Proffitt continued, "there have been two and sometimes three bears using the garbage dumpster [at the Park Vista]. This creates a very dangerous situation."

This year a bumper crop of bears—nearly as many animals as the number reported in 1989 when 80 bears were identified as nuisances—has raided dumpsters and prowled picnic areas.

Proffitt is concerned for the welfare of the bears as well as the potential human injuries. Although black bears have not caused a death at Great Smokies, each year an average of seven incidents involving injuries and an estimated 154 incidents involving damage to property are reported. Damage may be anything from a pawed cooler to a broken car window.

Gatlinburg police chief Harry Montgomery says: "People don't realize that once you feed bears, they will come back. I know folks like to see them, but they need to see them up in the park."

The Appalachian Mountains provide some of the best remaining black bear habitat in the eastern United States. With its half-million forested acres, Great Smoky Mountains National Park shelters 400 to 600 bears. Black bears (*Ursus americanus*) are found from Maine to Montana and from Arkansas to Alaska, but Great Smokies has one of the densest populations anywhere. Many people have seen their first—and perhaps only—wild bear in Great Smokies.

Scientists have scrutinized the natural history and behavior of Smokies bears for decades. Dr. Michael Pelton, professor of wildlife science at the University of Tennessee, began studying them in 1968, and wildlife biologist Kim DeLozier has concentrated on Great Smokies bears since joining the Park Service in 1978. They have trapped, anesthetized, weighed, tagged, measured, and radio-tracked backcountry bears as well as panhandler bears.

Females weigh about 125 pounds and reach an average age of seven, while males often reach twice that size but live half as long. Because of high yearling mortality, the average lifespan seems low for both males and females. Scientists have found that many bears live well beyond the average age and have found and recorded a 24-year-old female and 19-year-old male in the park.

Sows den in late autumn and by midwinter have given birth to twins or sometimes triplets. The tiny, nearly naked cubs snuggle against their snoozing mother, suckling milk ten times as rich as a cow's. By May, when the female



TOMMY KIRKLAND AND MARIE MELNAR

brings them from the den, the frolicking cubs weigh four to seven pounds.

Mother is haggard after this long winter dormancy, as bears do not usually eat or drink during the winter months. Resting high in hollow trees or dozing in earthen dens, they burn off up to 30 percent of their fall mass, yet spring vegetation offers little nutrition when bears emerge. Vegetable matter makes up about 90 percent of what the bears ingest early in the year and includes grasses, wildflowers, and unfurling tree leaves. By late May, bears find beetles, wasps, squawroot, and serviceberries, and their weight stabilizes. Bears gorge when blackberries, blueberries, and fire cherries ripen in midsummer, and fall's acorns provide the abundance needed to restore energy for hibernation.

Through the first year, females guard their cubs, but when yearlings are finally driven off, the young bears must find a territory and begin to fend for themselves. According to biologist DeLozier, the Great Smoky Mountains bear population produces about 100 more animals each year than habitat within the park can accommodate.

Bears are most active at night, but yearlings defy normal behavior. "They may feed during the daytime, and they often wander outside the park," DeLozier says. Yearlings suffer high mortality, but once they get past the

**A black bear attempts to remove garbage from a bear-proof bin. Garbage must be discarded properly or it will draw bears.**

second or third year, bears have a good chance of surviving.

When acorn crops are poor, bears scout more widely in search of food. These hungry animals may range over 100 square miles or walk a dozen straight-line miles a day. Once they leave the sanctuary of the park, the animals are more likely to get into trouble.

"Gatlinburg keeps growing," said Tony Proffitt. "As the city limits expand, there is increased traffic and associated [animal] mortality. Everyone wants to be next to the park," he added. "They want wildlife. They leave their bird feeders up in the summer or leave food out for the dog. They don't mean to attract a bear, but it comes. You also have those who feed bears for enjoyment." Bears eventually become so conditioned, they roam in the daytime, tearing up door frames or ripping greasy cooking vents out of the wall because they smell food.

"The people are then terrified, and I have to move the bear," he said. "I have three options. On occasion I use plastic shotgun pellets to [repel] the bears. The next step is to trap and move the animals." Park researchers have discovered that nuisance bears must be relocated



TOMMY KIRKLAND AND MARIE MELNAR

**The park's literature warns visitors not to leave food unattended. A little care could keep a bear from becoming a nuisance.**

at least 40 miles from their territories to keep them from returning for free food. Great Smoky Mountains National Park is so close to Gatlinburg that bears moved to the park head right back into town.

"For years we've moved them to 'Bear Heaven' in Cherokee National Forest," Proffitt said, "but this distresses me because they are probably less protected there, and we don't know what happens to them. As a last resort, I can issue a permit to kill a nuisance bear. I hate to do that." (See page 22 for information about a proposed landfill near the park where NPS has historically relocated garbage-seeking bears.) Between 1979 and 1989, one nuisance bear was killed. Before that, however, bears were shot more often. In 1966, for instance, 15 bears were killed.

"Once bears become day-active," said DeLozier, "it's a matter of time before the animal has to be relocated or put to sleep. Directly or indirectly, feeding bears kills bears."

DeLozier, Pelton, and other researchers have determined that panhandling bears live only half as long as wild bears. Either the animals are harmed by ingesting plastic wrap, bro-

ken glass, metal shards, and toxic substances in garbage, or they become easy targets for poachers.

Each year poachers kill an estimated 45 to 80 bears in and around the park. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sting operation, which ended in 1988, netted more than 60 people who were arrested for killing bears and selling their parts for profit. Those arrested through "Operation Smoky" were believed to have killed as many as 500 bears for their claws, feet, teeth, heads, skins, and gallbladders. On the black market, dried bear gallbladder for Asian potions brings \$35 to \$75 an ounce. Although not an endangered species, black bears are listed under the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) because of poaching problems. The Convention prohibits the sale or export of listed species.

"A big problem," DeLozier said, "is a misconception of what feeding wildlife is. Leaving a bucket of fried chicken on the table to draw a bear in or not securing garbage...is actually more damaging than handing a cookie to a bear."

"If a bear can walk up and take a cookie out of your hand that bear has progressed so far behaviorally to a habitual condition that the bear is hopeless," DeLozier said. "It cannot be reversed to a wild state. Unsecured nighttime garbage is damaging because that

may be the early stage in behavioral change of bears being habituated to people."

DeLozier speaks from experience. By his own admission, the park's Chimneys picnic area, located about five miles from Gatlinburg, was until 1990 "the worst spot in the eastern U.S. for habituating wild bears to people."

Visitors routinely left food out at Chimneys, attracting bears with chicken bones and watermelon rinds scattered in the bushes. The bears came day after day, year after year, teaching their offspring how to frighten picnickers away from coolers or slap open trash cans.

Two summers ago, DeLozier and his staff declared war on the free food at Chimneys. "We knew the garbage disposal system was not adequate," DeLozier recalled, "so we used bear-proof garbage cans and evaluated various dumpsters." Before the picnic area closed at dusk, the "clean team" removed concealed melon rinds, collected cookie crumbs from under the tables, and scrubbed meat scraps and melted marshmallows off the grills.

"It's impossible to keep bears out of the picnic area at night because of the lingering smell," DeLozier said of the animals, whose noses can easily detect odors a mile away.

In the year before the Chimneys cleanup, park rangers trapped 32 nuisance bears at the picnic area. In 1991 night observations revealed bears roaming through Chimneys, but without positive food reinforcement, they did not linger. "We did not remove a single bear from Chimneys last year," DeLozier said proudly. "When you don't have to take bears out, it promotes natural regulation and dominance within the population."

Two bears did begin to ignore the researchers' spotlights. "Wild bears, when they see a human or are hit by a spotlight, should run. These two would stop and look at you, not affected by the light," said DeLozier. To instill a healthy dose of fear into the animals, the researchers caught the bears and attached ear tags, gave each a lip tattoo, took blood samples, and pulled a tooth to determine ages. (Researchers can tell

how old a bear is by counting the number of rings on its tooth.) “Then we released them in the middle of the busy picnic area the next day. We haven’t seen nor heard from them since.” DeLozier believes the negative stress of capturing the bears, combined with the fact that they found no food at Chimneys, was discomfoting enough for them to abandon the site.

Wild bears are not as visible as panhandlers, and long-time Smokies visitors are noticing the difference. “People are not necessarily happy about this,” DeLozier confirmed. In a conversation overheard at a Gatlinburg civic club, a local man complained that the purge at Chimneys was “not only hurting business at Gatlinburg but affecting the whole economy of Sevier County.”

The statement may be an exaggeration, but it does explain the rationale behind establishments such as Park Vista allowing bears to feed at dumpsters. According to Smokies Chief Ranger Jason Houck, the National Park Service has regulations against feeding wildlife, “but it is not against the law to feed a bear within the city limits of Gatlinburg.” He continued, “What’s particularly annoying and unsettling is to have the hotel publicly do something so contradictory and contrary to what we’re trying to accomplish in the park.”

Pelton added, “Feeding is a pretty appalling thing. It flies in the face of everything we’ve been trying to do to cut down on the problems with bear interactions.” Although Gatlinburg may have the most obvious problem, none of the towns abutting the park has ordinances prohibiting the feeding of bears.

“I’ve talked with the city of Gatlinburg about some kind of ordinance,” Proffitt said. “I believe metal lids on the dumpsters would be effective, but we have not gotten very far with it.”

DeLozier was contacted two years ago by an official from the Park Vista. “I told the guy, ‘Nighttime garbage is the problem,’” he said. “When bears are afraid of people, they won’t confront them during the day, but they will steal garbage at night. It’s the most critical time to do something. They were told



**A bear reaches for acorns—food that helps the animals store energy for hibernation.**

two years ago to cover their dumpsters with a metal lid. They also had grease that was stored outside in a big plastic tub. I told them that needs to be encased or left inside. The times I’ve been up there since, that’s still outside, and there are bear teeth marks in the lid.”

The hotel management seems to know what to do. When asked recently about the problem, Park Vista spokeswoman Dottie Adams said, “They’re old dumpsters, and we’re trying to get the lids to go on them. Our engineering department is in the process of checking into having them made.” Adams did not know when—or if—the dumpsters would be covered.

“The Park Vista is not the only problem in Gatlinburg,” DeLozier said, “it’s just the most visible.” Feeding bears is widespread in town, although much of it is unintentional and results from untidy garbage bins. DeLozier knows of places in town where unnaturally bold bears have killed pets, and wildlife officer Tony Proffitt says he has been dreading a more serious incident.

Dr. Pelton and Chief Ranger Houck both mentioned a task force meeting several years ago at which park officials presented bear management suggestions to Gatlinburg city managers. Pelton said recommendations included “a more aggressive garbage pickup system and education” of hotel-motel owners and

area residents. The city is apparently open to suggestions but has not made the next step toward fixing the problem.

DeLozier favors a city ordinance making it illegal to feed bears. “If you try to do what is best for the bear, it’s not necessarily what all the people want,” DeLozier said. “My objective is to manage a wild bear population. We’re not in the business of providing nuisance bear-viewing opportunities.”

Convincing area residents and business owners not to lure bears into backyards will be difficult. According to Tony Proffitt, enforcing a no-feeding ordinance will require extra patrols, but he urges the city, county, and Park Service to take coordinated action soon for the benefit of the bears.

Several years ago, Great Smokies naturalist Arthur Stupka wrote, “As long as we have bears in this park, there will be certain risks and problems that go hand-in-hand with these animals. We cannot have one without the other. In my opinion, our bears will always be worth these risks and problems.”

*Connie Toops is a photojournalist specializing in topics related to national parks. She is the author of the book Great Smoky Mountains.*

# Untamed Rivers

*Wild and Scenic Rivers, some of the most stunning in the United States, are preserved as part of the park system.*

By Bess Zarafonitis

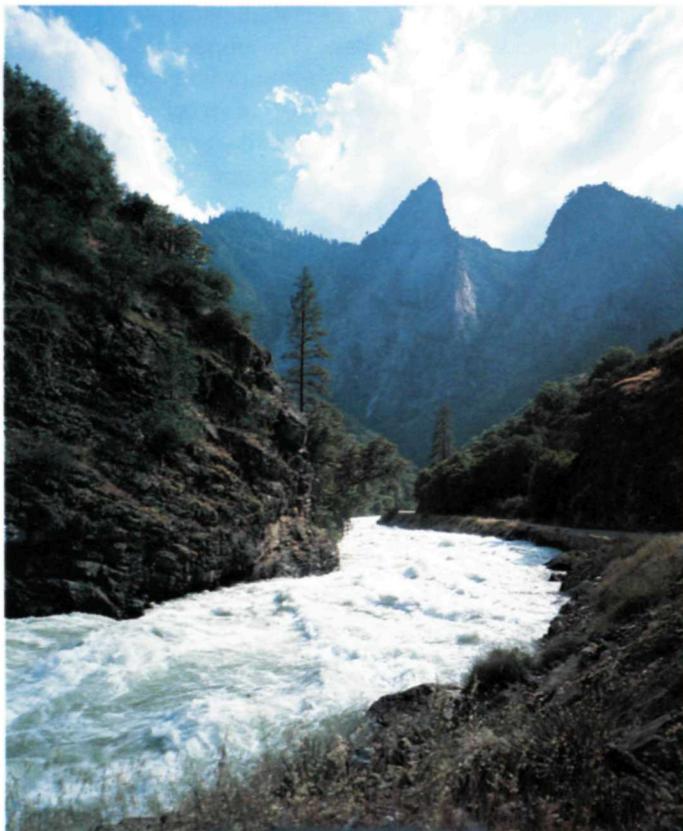
SINCE FEDERAL legislation established the Wild and Scenic Rivers System in 1968, the National Park Service has been involved in preserving rivers as free-flowing waterways accessible for public use and pleasure. As of last summer, the service counted 31 river components in 13 states under its administration.

Some of the most stunning and important rivers in the United States are part of this system. Rivers may be designated wild or scenic to draw attention to their important roles in the country's natural or cultural history, to protect them from threatened development, or to preserve their unique cultural or natural characteristics for future generations. Designation takes an act of Congress or assignment by the Secretary of the Interior. And it ensures some legal protections against adverse development as well as management mechanisms for river resources and federal lands that are within the river corridor.

More than 2,399 miles of wild and scenic waterways included under the National Park Service's jurisdiction supply habitat for endangered species of birds and fish, offer a glimpse into history, or

provide some of the best canoeing in the country. Some rivers are accessible only by trail; others are easily reached by highway or railroad. All of these rivers offer a variety of activities and foster an appreciation for beautiful and wild places.

**Kings River in Kings Canyon and Sequoia national parks, California.**



## Kings River

In the glacial lakes above the timberline in Kings Canyon and Sequoia national parks in California, the waters of the Kings River begin a journey through deep-sided canyons and open meadows, over falls and cataracts. Fifty-five miles of two Kings River branches—the Middle and South Forks—are within Kings Canyon National Park, which encompasses more than 450,000 acres of wilderness. To the north and south, the rivers are flanked by cedar forest, and to the southwest are groves of giant sequoias. The sequoias are known as the largest growing trees on Earth, and they grow naturally only along a 280-mile stretch of the Sierra Nevada's western slopes.

The Middle Fork of the Kings River originates in the vicinity of Muir Pass (11,955 feet) and Black Giant (13,330 feet) in the northern end of Kings Canyon National Park and flows for 27 miles before entering Sierra National Forest. One of the last free-flowing, primitive High Sierra rivers left in California, the Kings River cascades through glaciated valleys and alpine meadows and plummets into LeConte Canyon and Devil's Washbowl in Kings Canyon National Park. It widens slightly as it passes on to the Tehipite Valley close to the park's western border. Within the park, the river is accessible only by foot in the Tehipite Valley area.

The South Fork of the river, flowing through one of the deepest glacial canyons in the United States, picks up speed as it plunges from 4,600 feet at its head to 200 feet where it joins the Middle Fork in the national forest. It runs for 38 miles within Kings Canyon and is most spectacular when currents rage with spring melt.

Within the park, visitors may enjoy the South Fork along hiking, motoring, and horseback riding trails. Although no boats or flotation

DAVID MUEENCH

devices may be used within the park parameters, some swimming is allowed.

Visitors to the Kings River branches may consider lodge accommodations at Cedar Grove, within Kings Canyon National Park. About 360 campsites are available in the area, as are flush toilets, telephones, camper store, food service, laundromat, pay showers, and service station. Permits are required for backcountry camping. The access road to the park is open from May through October, though some late fall and winter access is allowed for skiing and hiking.

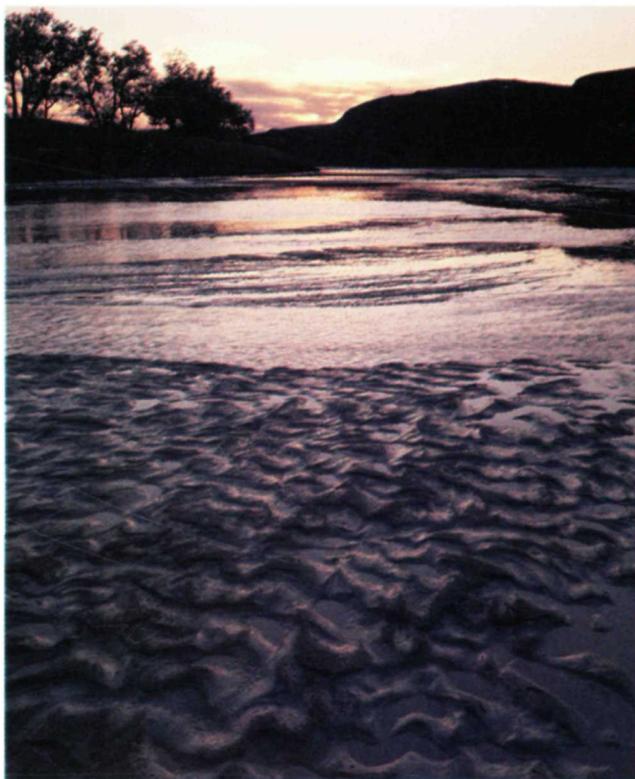
Outstanding natural features in the region include Boyden Cave, part of a five-mile underground system, and Mount Whitney, the highest mountain in the contiguous United States at 14,494 feet of elevation. Mount Whitney is located in Sequoia National Park.

For more information about Kings Canyon National Park and the Kings River, call (209) 565-3134.

### Charley Wild River

Tucked deep in the unspoiled wilderness of central Alaska, the Charley River runs cold and clear through the 2.5-million-acre Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. Accessible only by boat or aircraft, the designated wild river begins in the Yukon-Tanana uplands and flows north through stream-cut valley and open floodplain. For more than 108 miles, the Charley travels in the shadow of mountain peaks higher than 6,000 feet and passes beneath high bluffs and cliffs to the Yukon Valley, where rapids slow to a crawl, and the Charley eventually joins the Yukon River.

The Charley descends from about 4,000 feet at its headwaters to 700 feet at the Yukon. It takes an average of six days to travel the distance in a raft or a kayak, though additional days are needed to float the Yukon for take out at Circle, Alaska. The best boating on



DAVID MUENCH

### Niobrara River in Nebraska.

the Charley is from June through August, but during low water floaters may have to portage over shallow areas, rocks, or gravel bars. The upper two-thirds of the river drops an average of 31 feet per mile, providing excellent white water for rafters and kayakers. (Open canoes are discouraged.) Most of the river is rated "intermediate" on the national scale of difficulty; some areas are "more difficult."

The area hosts about 20 percent of Alaska's peregrine falcons, which hatch and raise their young in the steep river bluffs. The area also is calving ground for the Fortymile caribou herd, and grizzly and black bears, moose, and fox are abundant.

Access to the region around the Charley River basin is by Taylor Highway to Eagle or Steese Highway from Fairbanks to Circle. Scheduled flights to both towns are available in Fairbanks.

Minimal impact camping is allowed within the Yukon-Charley preserve, but group size should be ten people or fewer. Neither fees nor permits are required to use the Yukon and Charley rivers.

For additional information, write to the Superintendent, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, P.O. Box 167, Eagle, AK, 99738; or telephone (907) 547-2233.

### Niobrara River

Three segments of Nebraska's Niobrara River are among the most recent additions to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, designated as scenic or recreational components in May 1992. Landowners in the valley were the first to propose in 1980 that the Niobrara be protected in the national river system.

The Niobrara River valley is known as a biological crossroads, being the farthest east extension of the ponderosa pine forests and the farthest west extension of deciduous woodlands. With sandhill prairie to the south of the river and mixed

prairie grassland to the north, the area is a biological melting pot that boasts plant and animal species of up to six ecological systems. Additionally, the river provides whooping cranes, least terns, piping plovers, and bald eagles—endangered or threatened species—a place to nest, winter, or roost during migration.

The Niobrara Valley also is rich in relics of earlier times. Fossil sites along the river provide clues to animal species of the Miocene, Pliocene, and Pleistocene eras. Evidence of nomadic Plains Indian tribes that used the Niobrara as a highway is scattered along the river tributaries. And canyons off of the river's southern slope have protected pockets of glacial-age plant communities, such as groves of paper birch trees that grow here, about 500 miles south of their normal range.

The Niobrara River lives up to its Indian name, meaning "running water." Because it is spring fed out of the Nebraskan sandhills and has a consistent drop of 9-1/2 feet per mile, it runs at a steady current of four to seven miles per hour all year. *Backpacker* magazine has rated the Niobrara among the



**St. Croix National Scenic Riverway in Wisconsin and Minnesota.**

country's ten best canoeing rivers.

The customary canoe launch site is the Cornell Bridge and Dam, off of Route 12 north of Valentine and on the 40-mile stretch of the upper Niobrara, which is designated as a national scenic river. The Rock Dam area, about 25 miles downriver, is a typical canoe take-out point. Niobrara waters east of Egelhoff Narrows require more attention and skill, because the river is broader, shallower, and interrupted by sandbars.

This upper stretch of river, situated between northern woods, the Ozarks to the east, and the Rocky Mountains to the west, also is considered prime camping and hiking territory. Private campgrounds are located along the river, and hiking trails explore springs and waterfalls and stretch beyond the canyon rim through open forest and prairie. This year, the state established a 200-acre park near Smith Falls, the highest waterfall in Nebraska.

For more information about commercial campgrounds and canoeing

outfitters, call the Valentine Chamber of Commerce, 1-800-658-4024.

### **St. Croix Riverway**

Before the arrival of whites in the 1600s, the St. Croix River and its valley in the Upper Midwest were home to the Dakota Indians, who later were joined by the Chippewa in plying the water and land for fish, game, and wild rice. The region eventually attracted the French, who sought the pelts of an abundant beaver population. Later still, as white settlements spread along the lower river valley around 1839, the upper St. Croix valley surrendered its rich white pine forests as timber for a developing nation. Lumbering continued for about 75 years, with logs driven downstream in such numbers, they choked the St. Croix River during spring months.

Today St. Croix and its Namekagon River tributary are protected from such encroachment as parts of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. Located in Wisconsin and Minnesota, close to the Twin Cities, the clean, free-flowing wa-

terway cuts through some of the least developed country in the region.

Wildlife along the river changes with the habitat over 252 miles. New-growth forests of pines, brush, and hardwoods are home to deer, and the riverway marshes are home to wood ducks, mallards, and great blue herons. Osprey and bald eagles nest in the region. Mink, beaver, otter, and muskrat inhabit the rivers, and a variety of songbirds and mammals pervade the valley. Brown trout inhabit the Namekagon, and bass, muskellunge, walleye pike, and sturgeon are among the species found in the St. Croix.

The Namekagon and the upper St. Croix are narrow, twisting channels best traveled by canoe. The Namekagon flows from a heavily forested area to a wide valley, sometimes widening into marshy areas popular for viewing waterfowl. In its lower portion, the Namekagon winds through high sandy banks, insulating explorers from development in the region.

The St. Croix deepens and widens at its confluence with the Namekagon, about 20 miles downstream. From there, much of the river flows through a wide valley with low banks.

St. Croix Riverway is not considered a whitewater system, though low, medium, and even high rapids exist on the rivers. On-water activities range from canoeing, innertubing, and boating to water skiing. Explorers also enjoy the waterway by land, taking advantage of hiking trails, which can be used for cross-country skiing in winter months.

Many primitive campsites are accessible through parking areas in the federal region or by water. There are developed campgrounds along the river, including private and Minnesota state park locations. Motels, cabins, and resorts also are established along the riverway, nearby lakes, and rivers.

For more information about the St. Croix Riverway, call (715) 483-3284.

*Bess Zaratsonitis is a writer who is based in Gales Ferry, Connecticut. She last wrote for National Parks about sites commemorating U.S. involvement in World War II.*

# Great Basin Drama

**A** BRISTLECONE PINE named Prometheus—a name shared by a Titan tortured by Zeus for stealing fire from heaven and giving it to humans—lit a different kind of blaze in Great Basin, Nevada. The death of this 5,000-year-old tree at the hands of a chainsaw-wielding Forest Service employee—the Forest Service cut the tree to determine its age—sparked a renewed effort to preserve the Snake Range in Nevada's Great Basin.

As told by Darwin Lambert in *Great Basin Drama: The Story of a National Park*, this action so horrified park pro-

ponents that new life was breathed into an effort to designate Great Basin as Nevada's only national park. The demise of Prometheus added fuel to a simmering fire, one that burned bright and was nearly doused several times from 1953, when the idea for a national park first began in earnest, to October 1986 when it was finally realized.

A trustee of NPCA for 25 years and a long-time parks supporter, Lambert describes the region from its recorded beginnings to the present day. His early chapters are full of adventurers and settlers who explored or remained in

the region, among them Shoshone Indians, Mormons, cattle ranchers, and miners. Lambert devotes a great deal of ink, as well he should, to Absalom Lehman, the man who discovered Lehman Caves. The caves, designated a national monument in 1922, are now included within the boundaries of Great Basin National Park. Much of the information is of historical interest, but Lambert sometimes gets bogged down in detail that did not benefit from a good sifting before being used in the book. Although Lambert's story is not always smoothly packaged, and overall

**I**N HONOR OF National Parks and Conservation Association's retiring Chairman, the Norman G. Cohen Parks Education Fund will assist with the development of environmental education curricula to educate the children in the Washington, D.C., community about the National Park System.

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributors for their commitment to this effort:

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Diane J. Clifford  
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1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
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not well edited, the book nonetheless provides an engaging story.

Lambert does a good job of depicting the kinds of machinations that go on behind the scenes when an idea of this kind is put forward. For instance, in the early 1960s, when the park idea had been introduced in Congress for perhaps the third time, then-Rep. Walter Baring (D-Nev.) used his influence to sabotage it. In fact, Baring worked to derail park legislation during most of his tenure in the House. Lambert recounts a scene in which Baring was taken on a tour of Lehman Caves. While the other visitors conferred with the park ranger, Baring attempted to thump out a tune on the huge stalactites for which the caves are famous. He stopped only when asked to do so by the ranger.

Besides describing the vagaries of politicians, Lambert's story offers insight into the present-day Wise Use Movement. The interests that today complain about regulation of public land are the same as those that opposed regulation in the 1800s. The battle over Great Basin can, in fact, be seen as a precursor to today's battles. Ranching, mining, and logging interests provided the greatest opposition to the park. Lambert also offers insights into the political manipulations that continue to plague the Park Service. (See page 24.)

The *Los Angeles Times* stated at the time: "Politics, not a lack of natural qualities, have delayed admission of the Great Basin to its rightful niche in the park system." Politics also has had its benefits. It was, after all, Sen. Paul Laxalt (R-Nev.) who finally helped to push the plan forward for final approval.

For 30 years, advocates proposed a national park in Great Basin. If nothing else, this is a story of the perseverance and dedication of those who truly believe in an idea. Thirty years is a long time to sustain an effort. Different people pushed for the idea at different times, but all had the same goal: to preserve a remarkable natural area.

*Great Basin Drama: The Story of a National Park* is available for \$12.95, softcover; published by Roberts Rinehart Publishers.

—Linda M. Rancourt



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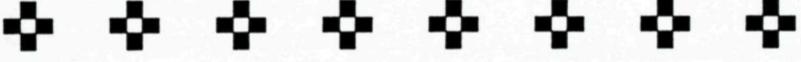
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## NOTICES

### Survey Says?

More than 505,000 new NPCA members and other concerned citizens responded to the 1992 survey on park issues. The survey asked 12 questions about park concerns, such as development, poaching, and clean air legislation.

From a random sampling of survey responses, NPCA found that:

▲ More than half of the respondents have visited Yellowstone National Park, America's first national park. Ninety-three percent of those responding are opposed to the U.S. Forest Service opening the land surrounding the park to oil and gas leasing.

▲ Nearly all participants support federal controls to ensure cleaner air and clearer views of the national parks and favor legislation to prevent acid rain.

▲ Ninety-six percent support education efforts to alert today's children to tomorrow's park problems. In cooperation with the Park Service, NPCA developed the first curriculum on biological diversity for grades four through six.

▲ Approximately one million acres of wilderness land and open space are lost to development each year. More than 95 percent of those polled support a congressional bill to create the American Heritage Trust. The trust would secure funds for local communities, as well as state and federal agencies, to preserve land and historic sites endangered by development.

▲ Almost every respondent believes the Bush administration should endorse NPCA's National Park System Plan to preserve park resources and acquire land for new parks.

▲ More than 80 percent agree that national parks should be closed to hunting and trapping.

▲ Approximately 71 percent are willing to make a financial contribution to help prevent a full-scale crisis, such as poaching of wildlife or the destruction of priceless cultural resources, in

the National Park System.

If you would like to respond to the survey or make a tax-deductible contribution, contact NPCA, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036.



### March for Parks

The fourth annual March for Parks will be held April 16-18 in conjunction with Earth Day 1993. Participants will march on any or all of the three days to raise money and awareness for the local, state, or national park of their choice. The theme for this year's march is "Adopt-a-Park." To get involved with a march, contact Tom St. Hilaire, NPCA grassroots director, at (202) 223-6722.

### Planting Grassroots

For the second time this year, NPCA is opening a new regional office. Bruce Craig, NPCA's cultural resource program manager, will become the Northeast regional director in January. Craig, who served as a park ranger at Channel Islands National Park and Boston National Historic Site, has worked on Northeast issues and is familiar with the area and its problems. With the new regional office, NPCA will address park issues on the grassroots level in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington, D.C. NPCA looks forward to

Craig's new endeavors and wishes him the best of luck.

### Hunting in the Parks

In recent months *National Parks* has tried to balance the battle between hunters and anti-hunters. Hunters claim NPCA has unfairly characterized hunting, while anti-hunters believe NPCA has given hunters too much room to voice their opinions.

To set the record straight, here is NPCA's stand on hunting:

NPCA does not take a position on hunting outside national park units except where hunting affects the biological health of populations in a national park unit. The principal purpose of the park system is to preserve ecological resources in a natural and healthy state with as little interference from humans as possible.

NPCA is not opposed to hunting as a recreational sport in general, but NPCA is against sport hunting in the National Park System because:

▲ National parks are meant to represent and preserve naturally function-

ing ecosystems, and NPCA believes hunting artificially changes ecosystem relationships. Hunting interferes with scientific research that gathers baseline data on healthy, non-manipulated ecosystems.

▲ Aside from the ecological reasons to oppose hunting in the national parks, NPCA believes hunting poses a threat to visitor safety. Hunting interferes with the legitimate pursuits of other park visitors. Hunted wildlife becomes wary of people, and wildlife viewing is minimized.

▲ Although large populations of elk and deer can damage park vegetation, NPCA believes their numbers can best be controlled by reintroducing predators to parks from which they are missing, where it would be beneficial for the balance of nature.

▲ Where large populations of elk and deer must be reduced by artificial means, NPCA believes that professional wildlife managers are best qualified to do so, by removing the weakest and the oldest animals—just as natural predators would. Hunting disrupts the natural age distribution and genetic viability of a species population because it

targets the biggest individual animals.

▲ NPCA does not oppose subsistence hunting that has been congressionally authorized in 21 national park units in Alaska.

### Civil War Brochure

NPCA has published a new brochure, "Visiting Civil War Battlefields: How To Have a Quality Experience," which explores battlefields in the National Park System. To obtain a free copy, write to the Park Education Center, NPCA, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

### Park Education

NPCA recently established the Norman G. Cohen Park Education Fund to develop an environmental curriculum that will assist the National Park Service in educating children in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Norman G. Cohen, NPCA's former chairman of the board and founder of the fund, is a Washington resident. NPCA encourages others to contribute to the fund to support environmental education.

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Volume 66, 1992

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NHP: National Historical Park & Preserve	NPS: National Park Service
NL: National Lakeshore	NR: National River
NM: National Monument	NRA: National Recreation Area
NP: National Park	NS: National Seashore

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# City Escapes

**P**ARK PURSUIT tests your knowledge of the history and the natural resources represented within the National Park System. Clues can be found in past issues of the magazine, in books, or in literature about the parks.

The November/December quiz focuses on urban parks, and information has been provided to aid you in identifying those depicted.

Most of us think of national parks as remote wilderness areas. But green spaces in urban settings are just as important to rejuvenating the world weary as parks in the Rocky Mountains or Yosemite Valley.

By the end of this century, an estimated 80 percent of the U.S. population will live in metropolitan areas. This heavy concentration of people underscores the value of parks in cities. Urban parks can handle large numbers of visitors, representing a departure from the traditional view of a national park, where public use is perceived as a secondary purpose.

Close-to-home spots for recreation, rest, or renewal are especially critical for people who have limited incomes or are restricted to public transportation. City parks are places to introduce people to bird watching, wildflower or tree identification, or the cultural or

historical significance of an area.

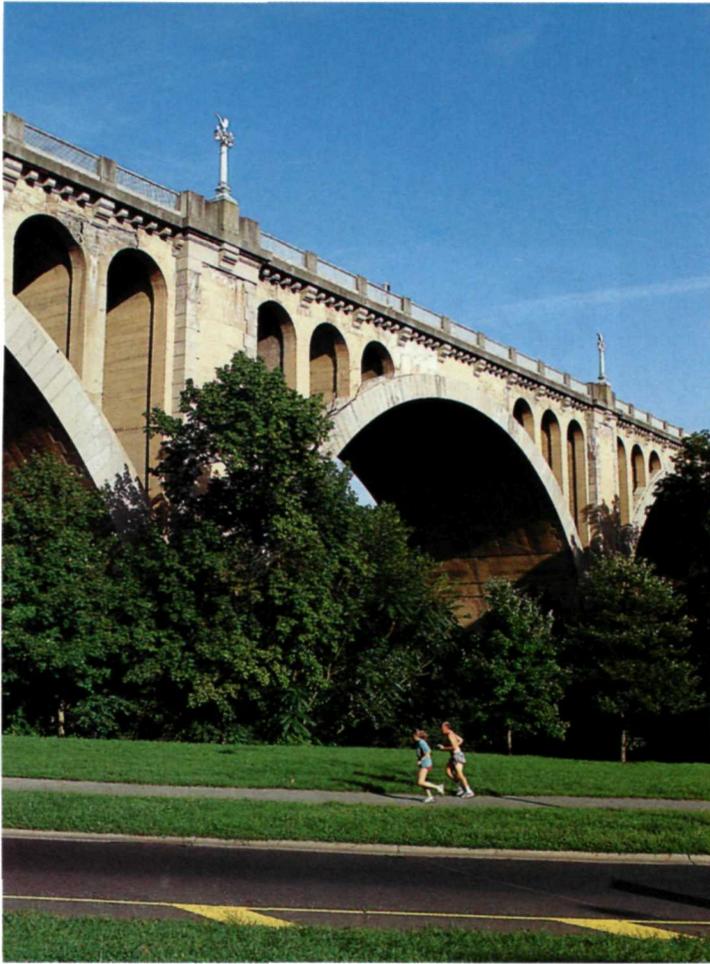
Parks are not just far-away places, but spaces down the street where people can go jogging, take a walk on a beach, have a picnic, or listen to some music while escaping from everyday worries.

If you are unable to wait until next issue for the answers, call our 900 number (see page 10). Answers to the September/October quiz are as follows: 1. George Washington and George Washington Birthplace National Monument in Virginia; 2. Ulysses S. Grant and General Grant National Memorial, New York City, New York; 3. Theodore Roosevelt and Sagamore Hill National Historic Site in New York State.

**1.** This park encompasses shoreline areas of a city and includes ocean beaches, redwood forests, lagoons, marshes, military properties, a fort, and an island penitentiary. The beauty of the city, the bay, the ocean, and the landscape are brought together in this urban park. It contains about 31,000 acres of open space. What park unit is this, and in what city is it located?



JOHN PITT



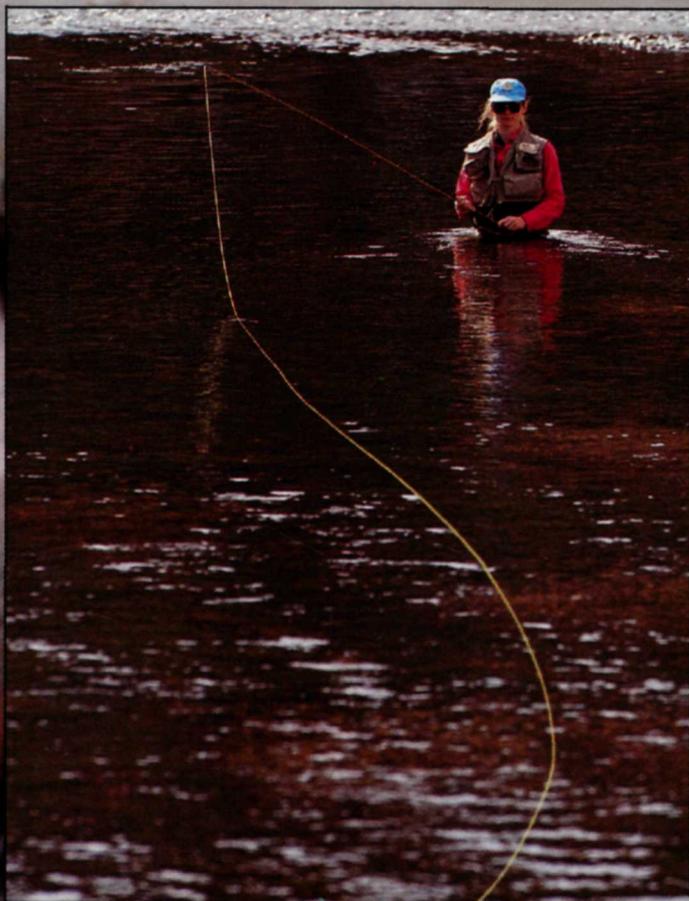
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- 2.** This is one of the largest urban parks in the United States and contains a diverse array of geological, historical, and recreational resources. Activities include tennis, golf, picnicking, horseback riding, and bicycling. In fact, this urban park contains a portion of one of the nation's longest bicycle trails. What national park unit is this, and in what city is it located?



JOHN ELK III

- 3.** This park was established to preserve and interpret the cultural diversity of the delta region of a principal U.S. river. The park unit is made up of three sections; one has trails and canoe tours, another was the scene of a battle in 1815, and the third interprets the ethnic population of the region. What national park unit is represented here, and in what city is it located?



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