

# National Parks

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The Magazine of  
The National Parks  
Conservation  
Association

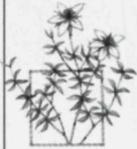
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2000

Wolves on the Rebound  
Civil War Via the Net  
Minuteman Missile Site  
New York City Holiday  
Wildlands as Gardens



# The Desert That Glistened With Water.

Southeastern New Mexico is  
home to mesquite and chaparral,  
mesas and horizons that shimmer



with heat. For animals  
of this parched land,  
survival comes with

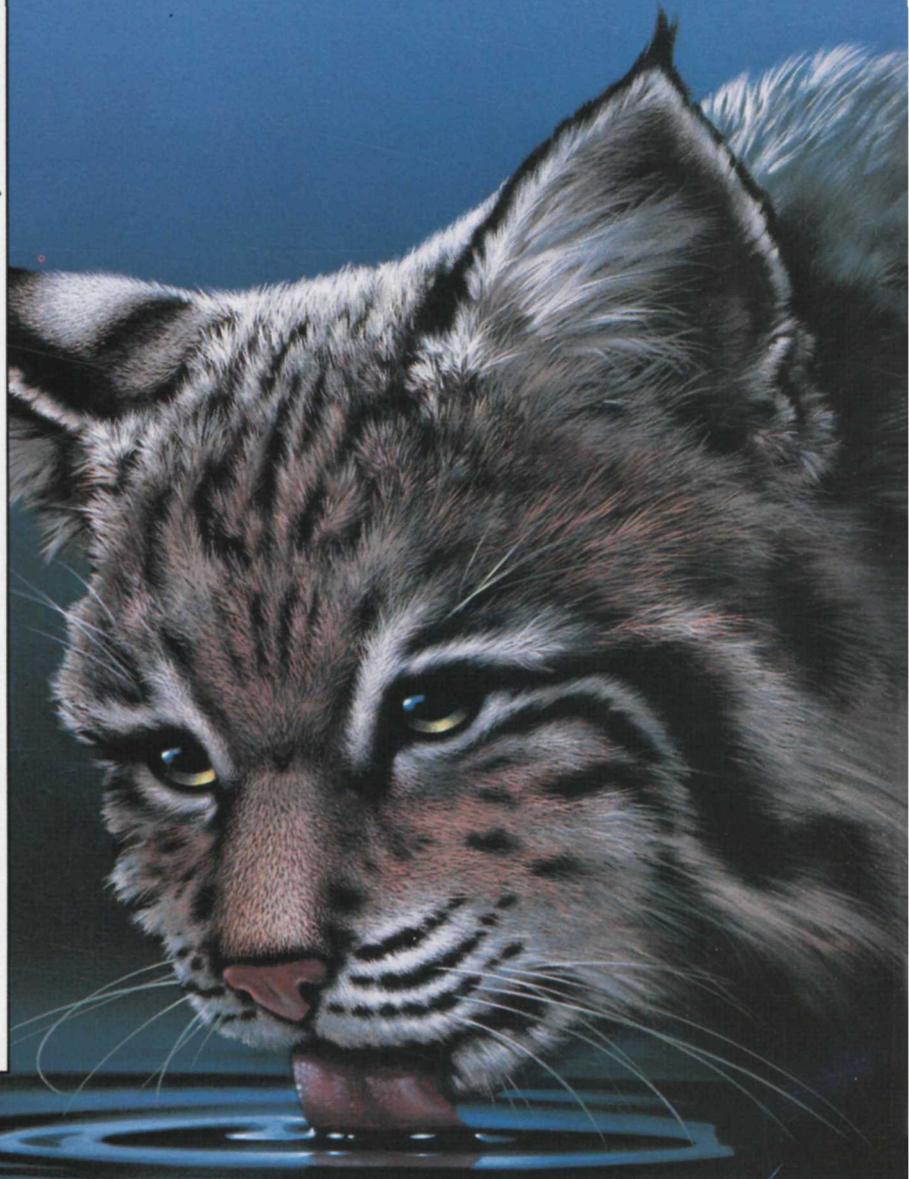
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# National parks

Vol. 74, No. 11-12  
November/December 2000

The Magazine of the National Parks  
Conservation Association

**FEATURES**

**24 A Howling Success**  
Gray wolves have made a remarkable recovery over the past few years, repopulating parks where they were once extirpated. The new challenge facing federal agencies: how many wolves are enough?  
By Elizabeth G. Daerr

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Anyone looking to trace a relative who fought in the Civil War can now do so via the Internet thanks to a National Park Service database containing soldiers' names. Eventually the database will be offered through computer terminals at 42 parks.  
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The newly established Minuteman Missile National Historic Site in South Dakota will be the first park site devoted entirely to the story of the Cold War.  
By Phyllis McIntosh



**COVER:** Because of successful reintroduction, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may alter the endangered species status of the gray wolf. Photo by Jim Brandenburg/Minden Pictures.



U.S. AIR FORCE

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## OUTLOOK

# Funds for Research

More money is needed to fund scientific research, far more than the Park Service has been able to attract.

ON A RECENT trip to Alaska, I stayed in a small backcountry cabin in Denali National Park. As the day faded into evening, I decided to take a walk outside. Just a few feet down the trail, a lone wolf trotted toward me in the fading gray summer light, and, just as casually as I had begun my own walk, turned and trotted away. Clearly, this was his land, his trail, his evening.

Thanks to the efforts of people like Lowell Thomas, Jr., a former lieutenant governor of Alaska and winner of NPCA's William Penn Mott, Jr., Park Achievement Award, the wolves of Alaska are thriving. Thomas played a major role in removing bounties on wolves and is working still to prevent the reinstatement of land-and-shoot hunting of the animals.

But as you will see in our cover story, the fight to protect the gray wolf in North America is not over and not without controversy.

As a result of decades of scientific research, we have learned that predators like the wolf play a key role in the health of an ecosystem. This is why the wolf was reintroduced five years ago to Yellowstone National Park in Montana and Wyoming. From the initial 31 wolves reintroduced in 1995 and 1996, 116 adults now live in or near the park, and another 75 pups were born last spring.

Without research, the gray wolf would surely not have been reintroduced. But research in the parks takes



far more funding than the Park Service has been able to attract. NPCA's Business Plan Initiative shows that the Park Service's annual science budget must be increased by \$200 million annually just to meet current need. Over the past eight years, the science budget for the

parks increased by only \$18 million each year.

During the presidential campaign that will be ending when this magazine reaches you, the discussion of funding for the parks was elevated for the first time in recent years to the national level. We were pleased to hear the candidates discuss the parks' maintenance backlog, but were quick to respond that the parks need more money to study the animals, the plants, and the cultural artifacts they contain. Getting the money for what should be a national priority remains of the greatest importance for NPCA, and a huge challenge.

To see what you can do to increase science funding for our parks and for more information on the candidates' positions on parks, please visit our new web site at [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org). Help us fuel national interest in learning what plants, animals, and cultural artifacts are in our parks and how they interrelate. If we don't address this critical issue now, we will certainly fail in our mandate to protect our parks for present and future generations.

**Thomas C. Kiernan**  
President

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## ABOUT NPCA

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

**WHAT WE DO:** NPCA protects national parks by identifying problems and generating support to resolve them.

### WHAT WE STAND FOR:

NPCA's mission is to protect and enhance America's National Park System for present and future generations.

**HOW TO JOIN:** You can become a member by calling our Membership Department, extension 213. *National Parks* magazine is among the benefits you will receive. Of the \$25 membership dues, \$3 covers a one-year subscription to the magazine.

**EDITORIAL MISSION:** The magazine is the only national publication focusing solely on national parks. The magazine creates an awareness of the need to protect and properly manage park resources, encourages an appreciation for the natural and historic treasures found in the parks, and informs and inspires individuals who have concerns

about the parks and want to know how they can help to protect them.

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE:** Members can help defend America's natural and cultural heritage. Activists alert Congress and the administration to park threats; comment on park planning and adjacent land-use decisions; assist NPCA in developing partnerships; and educate the public and the media. For more information, contact

our grassroots coordinator, extension 222.

**HOW TO DONATE:** For more information on Partners for the Parks, contact our Membership Department, extension 213. For information about Trustees for the Parks, bequests, planned gifts, and matching gifts, call our Development Department, extension 145 or 146. You can also donate by shopping online at [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org), where 5 percent of your purchases is donated to NPCA at no extra cost to you.

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# Snapshots

FOR MOST OF US, our first experience with the national parks is through photographs. Pictures of towering redwoods, layers of rock that appear to be painted, cascading water that falls from incredible heights through seemingly untouched scenery.

The photographs invariably spark interest in traveling to these spectacular places. We want to climb the rugged mountains adorned with bighorn sheep or walk the rolling fields at a Civil War battlefield.

Many of our members travel to the national parks every year. In fact, more than 90 percent of you take as many as five trips a year. Many of you return from your journeys with vivid memories, and many of you, of course, return with photographs.

More often than not, these photographs serve as a record for your journey, a spark to ignite memories, or a keepsake of a favorite site. Sometimes, though, a particular photograph does more than capture a memory, it manages to nearly capture the beauty and inspiration of the place itself.

In this issue, we celebrate our members' appreciation for the beauty of the parks with a three-page spread showing the winners in our first annual photo contest. Nearly 1,000 people entered the contest, which means that we combed through more than 5,000 submissions to pick the three winners and three honorable mentions. We had help in the judging from a nationally known photographer and the front page photo editor of a national newspaper.

Even though only six will receive recognition in this magazine, all of you will have other opportunities to share your national park images in future contests. Rules for the second annual contest will appear in the next issue of the magazine. Keep an eye out. We hope to see your entries next year.

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

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## National Trails, Motorized Abuses, Livestock

### National Trails

I have read *National Parks* for a number of years and have yet to see much information on the various National Park Service (NPS) trails. Here NPS has "strings of pearls"—miles of uncluttered trailways and byways and a continuum of small interpretive sites.

Tell folks about it!

Virginia Lee Fisher  
Arrow Rock, MO

### Motorized Abuses

My wife and I try to enjoy our national parks whenever we can. We've visited many of them and enjoy what you call the "park experience." We visit our parks for the raw nature, the beauty, and the solitude. It spoils that experience to have sky divers, mountain climbers, motorcycles, off-road vehicles, and other distractions. Why must the majority of visitors have to tolerate those who are only interested in self indulgence?

In Denali National Park last year, we would have loved to drive our own vehicle, but we accept the fact that without the controls, we'd have off-road vehicles all over the terrain.

We support your position. Keep up the good work.

Larry and Johanna Muehleisen  
Colorado Springs, CO



### Livestock Grazing

It would seem to me that if our buffalo are slaughtered for daring to come out of Yellowstone National Park ("The Beef with Livestock," May/June 2000), then cattle could be shot for entering Grand Teton National Park.

Where the cattle industry gets off thinking that it has the right to kill wildlife and run tourists off taxpayers' parks and forests is beyond me—especially given the ridiculously low fees they pay for the privilege of using those lands. The ranchers and their employees should remember that we are subsidizing the cattle industry.

Patricia Graves  
Brookings, OR

### Golden Eaglets

In response to the letter objecting to the Hopi's sacred ceremonial practices (Letters, July/August 2000), I would like to say that in Native culture, the eagle is as sacred as the cross is to Christians. For more than 12,000 years, they have practiced their sacred ceremonies without ever endangering the eagles' survival as a species. The Hopi believe that when they can no longer practice their sacred ceremonies, the end of the world will come. If we took some time to understand their religious ceremonies, maybe we would not find them so objectionable.

Golden Heart  
Santa Fe, NM

### Airstrip Closure

Your news story (News, July/August 2000) about the airstrip closures bothered me. The major reason to keep airstrips open is that they provide emergency landing areas for aircraft in distress. Many parks are in remote areas, and aircraft may have no safe alternative for landing. Visitation of parks through airstrips is not very large.

There is a cost associated with airstrip maintenance, but there are ways to fund it without depleting park resources. The Federal Aviation Administration may be a source for funding. The cost of losing even one life because of a lack of suitable emergency landing area is great.

Steven Dale  
Monrovia, CA

**EDITORIAL REPLY:** Most national parks are surrounded by communities with airports where emergency landings could be made. In addition, identifying old airstrips in parks as "open" could send a dangerous signal that these unmaintained strips would be safe for landings, when most are not.

### Snowmobiles in Yellowstone

I snowmobiled in Yellowstone in 1993 and had a wonderful experience seeing its winter beauty. Snowmobiling is a way for anyone of any age, including the handicapped, to enjoy the park in the winter.

The National Park Service has reported that snowmobiles have high emissions. The Environmental Protection Agency is due to issue emission standards for snowmobiles this year. The way to regulate emissions is through these standards, not by closing roads and trails. Stringent noise standards have been in place for snowmobiles for several years.

Local public hearings on the proposed closing of national parks to snowmobiles are planned now, I understand. We need a democratic process to reach the truth.

Wendall R. Malin  
Edina, MN

**EDITORIAL REPLY:** The National Park Service is required by Executive Orders, regulations, and federal laws to allow snowmobiles to be used in parks only if they do not damage or impair resources. Unfortunately, these regulations have not been enforced, despite clear evidence that snowmobiles pollute park air and water (they account for 90 percent of the park's annual hydrocarbon and 68 percent of the carbon monoxide emissions even though automobiles outnumber them 16 to 1), disturb wildlife, and conflict with other visitors. There will be ample opportunities for public input before any changes are made to existing regulations.

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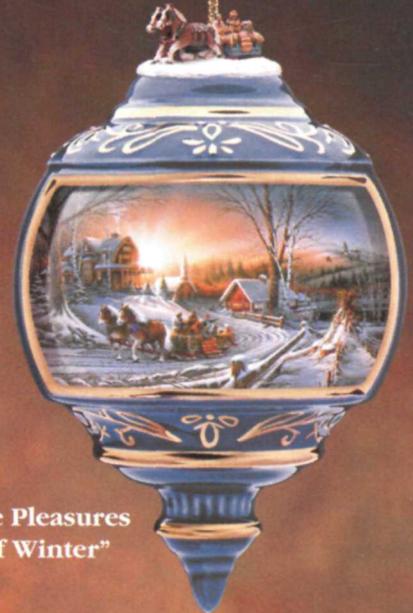
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### Cultural Diversity

I feel that your editorial reply to letters regarding cultural diversity in the parks (May/June 2000) falls short in one regard. To be meaningful, the measure of minorities visiting the parks should be stated in terms of percentages of their populations, rather than just "...do not visit the parks in as great numbers as white Americans." Proportionality gives a basis for comparison far better than raw numbers only.

**Albert W. Oakes**  
Anchorage, AK

### Diesel Pollution

Ignorance and politics have combined to thwart a solution to the ongoing debate about diesel vs. gasoline pollution.

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Lobbying has prevented the mandatory installation of these devices on vast fleets of diesel trucks and buses, but this should not be a barrier to the ultimate goal of cleaner air. If these operators were forced to install these devices, as was the general public for their automobiles, the clamor to penalize these necessary evils would vanish.

In addition, if states would base their vehicle registration rates on a formula dependent on engine displacement and curb weight, rather than on retail cost, the demand for large SUVs and other overpowered vehicles would drop, because the total costs of the operation of such vehicles would be less attractive to potential owners.

Pollution standards should apply to all vehicles.

**James M. Fulcomer**  
Nevada City, NV

### Canyon Forest Village

After visiting Grand Canyon in March, I read again your article, "Canyon Forest Village" (News, November/December 1999).

I was amazed at your wholehearted approval of and assistance with the proposed Canyon Forest Village. You, who are so concerned about overdevelopment near our national parks and forests, are willing to have a full-blown shopping center right on the edge of the south rim of the Grand Canyon! All that is needed is an adequate parking lot and gas stations to handle the vehicles



BOB SCHULZE

### One member's take on the conflict between bison and snowmobiles.

parked there while buses transport people into the park.

I realize that a land exchange did take place between the U.S. Forest Service and developers owning tracts of land within Kaibab National Forest, but I am not convinced that Canyon Forest Village is the best solution to controlling development.

**Catherine L. Graham**  
Battle Creek, MI

**EDITORIAL REPLY:** NPCA is concerned about inappropriate development near national parks and did not come to support the Canyon Forest Village plan lightly. Unfortunately, the question is

not whether development will happen outside Grand Canyon National Park, but how it will happen. The choice at Tusayan, Arizona is between more low-standard projects on private lands plus several separate developments on sensitive lands within Kaibab National Forest, versus one centrally-planned project—Canyon Forest Village. Because of involvement by NPCA and other conservation groups, Canyon Forest Village will meet the highest "green" building standards ever for park gateway development, result in less development inside the park, address several other problems facing the park and the community, and will not rely on groundwater—which would have threatened park springs.

Turn to pages 38-40 to see the exciting results of National Parks magazine's First Annual Photo Contest

### "YOU ARE HERE"

Approximately 60 inches of rain fall yearly in this park on average, leaving much of the land under water during the rainy season. Thus, the park is home to many wading birds, including herons, egrets, and wood storks. Visitors may also spy red-cockaded woodpeckers, wild turkeys, bald eagles, mink, gar, and an endangered member of the large cat family.

Answer: Big Cypress National Preserve, Florida

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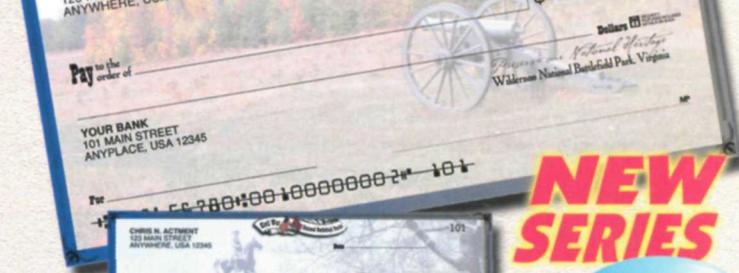
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# Park News

BY ELIZABETH G. DAERR

## LITIGATION

### NPCA Files Suit Against TVA for Smokies Pollution

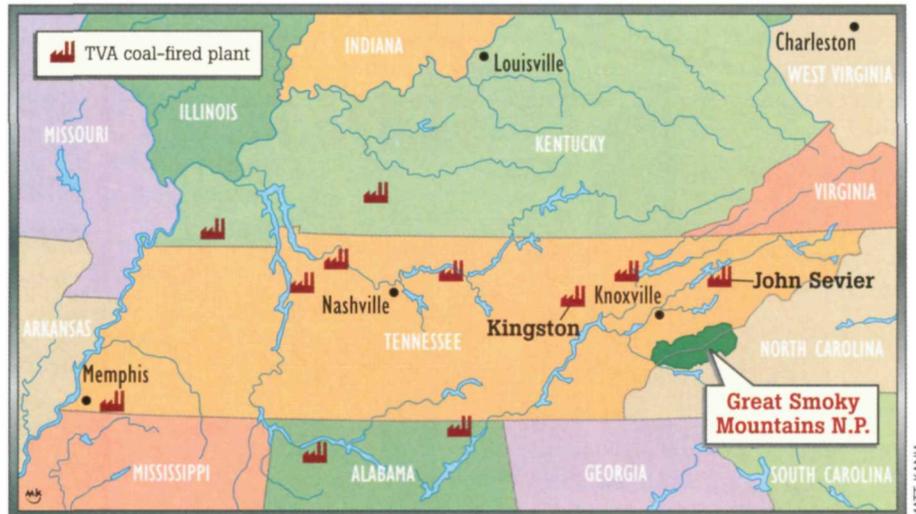
Government agency is not complying with Clean Air Act.

KNOXVILLE, TENN.—NPCA has filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court against the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) charging the agency with violating the Clean Air Act at two coal-fired power plants near Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The suit alleges that TVA has violated opacity limits for the last five years at its Kingston and John Sevier plants west and north of the park. Opacity measures the amount of light that can penetrate smokestack emissions. Records show that the agency has been in violation longer, but a federal statute of limitations bars civil actions for violations that are more than five years old.

"People like to think of the Great Smokies as a pristine natural environment," said NPCA President Thomas Kiernan. "In fact, it's among the most polluted national parks in America. TVA is a federal agency and a major source of that air pollution. We want the agency to do much, much more to protect the park." TVA supplies electricity to more than 8 million people in seven southeastern states.

The effects of air pollution in the Smokies abound: 30 plant species have



**The Tennessee Valley Authority runs 11 coal-fired plants in the Southeast that were built before 1985 and do not have updated pollution controls.**

been found to have damage from ground-level ozone; summer visibility that once averaged 65 miles is now 15 miles; and in the summer of 1999 air was unhealthy to breathe one out of every three days.

In addition, NPCA launched this year the Summer Clean Air Campaign, which has focused on urging the Tennessee congressional delegation to cosponsor legislation that would force TVA to clean up emissions. The agency, which uses coal to produce 64 percent of its power, has been operating under a loophole in the Clean Air Act that allows coal-fired power plants built before the late 1970s to continue to operate without installing additional air pollution controls. As a result, these plants emit more pollutants.

The law was written with the expectation that most of those power plants, which were already aging, would be phased out of service. But because maintaining the older plants is cheaper than building new ones, TVA has continued

to keep them in operation.

"Instead of setting the standard for environmentally responsible electric power production, TVA has taken every advantage of its exempted status," said Neil Evans, NPCA's assistant counsel. "Even with fewer standards to comply with, the agency has regularly violated opacity limits at these plants. By bringing this suit, we intend, at the very least, to compel the agency to follow the law."

Meanwhile, the Department of the Interior has asked the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to take stronger measures to curb air pollution in national parks and wilderness areas. In July, Interior asked EPA to develop new regulations that would essentially force states to remedy existing air quality problems and prevent future ones.

Years of research by Interior have shown that the problems associated with poor air quality—impaired visibility, acid deposition in streams, damage to plants from ozone, and eutrophica-

tion of coastal water—are increasing.

“Although EPA has a lot of good programs to deal with these issues, except for the regional haze program, they are not focusing on our areas,” said John Bunyak, environmental protection specialist at Interior’s air resources division. “States need to implement plans to reduce emissions from existing plants and revise how they hand out permits for new plants.”

Don Barger, NPCA’s Southeast regional director, said EPA’s response to Interior’s request will be extremely important and will decide “whether our national parks continue to stew in toxic air or take their place as the protected treasures they are supposed to be.”

Additionally, some states are putting pressure on EPA to create more stringent regulations to curb air pollution. In October 1999, the states of New York, Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New Hampshire petitioned the agency to revise its secondary national ambient air quality standards. Under the Clean Air Act, EPA created primary standards, which determine the allowable level of pollution to protect human health. Secondary standards were set up to protect the public welfare and quality of life; examples include effects on visibility, water, vegetation, wildlife, weather, and property.

A recent nationwide poll done by International Communications Research indicates that the U.S. public is willing to take steps to improve air quality in national parks. Nearly 65 percent of people surveyed said that a presidential candidate’s commitment to air quality in national parks was likely to influence their vote.

EPA is accepting public comments on air quality in the national parks, and the petitions submitted by the Department of the Interior and the northeastern states, until December 7.

**TAKE ACTION:** Write to the Environmental Protection Agency asking it to revise its secondary national ambient air quality standards and enact regulations to improve air quality in national parks and wilderness areas. Address: Air and Radiation Docket Information Center, EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, DC, 20460 or e-mail [A-and-R-docket@epa.gov](mailto:A-and-R-docket@epa.gov).

## RESOURCE PROTECTION

# Expanding Airline Services Threaten Nation’s Parks

*Minute Man may lose land to accommodate airline expansion.*

CONCORD, MASS.—If the American Revolution were happening at Minute Man National Historical Park today, the soldiers would not be neatly uniformed British facing bedraggled local farmers, they would be high-powered airport executives going head to head with angry suburban dwellers. The fight would not be over taxation without representation, but about uncontrolled growth and noise generated by the expansion of commercial air service in the skies above.

The National Park Service and a local citizen group, Save Our Heritage, are leading the fight against the incremental expansion of commercial air services at Hanscom Field in Concord, Massachusetts. The battle is one of many that are happening around the country as the expanding economy increases demand for regional airports—which are

often close to national parks.

This year, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approved the construction of a Terminal Doppler Weather Radar Tower at Gateway National Recreation Area despite the Park Service’s objections. Also this year, Congress is expected to pass legislation to allow federal lands to be transferred to the state of Nevada for the construction of a major airport outside of Mojave National Preserve to serve Las Vegas. Meanwhile, heated debate continues about a proposed major commercial airport at Homestead Air Reserve Base outside of Miami, Florida.

Environmental assessments on some airport proposals have indicated serious potential impacts for national parks: noise from overflights can disrupt nesting birds, runway runoff pollutes water, and development for infrastructure to accommodate travelers eliminates buffer habitat.

“Instead of trying to manage and plan for growth with all of the stakeholders at the table, FAA and state transportation authorities are sidestepping environmental laws and regulations that are supposed to safeguard against rampant development,” said Marcia Argust, NPCA legislative representative.

At Minute Man, residents are concerned about the potential loss of land within the park and the site’s natural quiet if commercial air service is allowed to proceed. In addition to the



**Airport expansion opponents argue that Hanscom should remain a general aviation facility for private planes, aviation training, and small corporate jets.**

increased noise that is generated by the 60-seat commercial jets that are now operating at Hanscom, the Park Service fears that expansion will inevitably take land from the park. State Route 2A follows five and a half miles of the historic Battle Road inside the park where militiamen drove back the British toward Boston on April 17, 1775.

Travelers must drive through Minute Man to get to the airport, and the road is already congested with commuter traffic. The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport), which operates the airport and most regional transportation in the state, has indicated that it would widen the road to accommodate traffic if necessary. The Park Service fears that visitors who now walk, bike, or drive along the road to tour historic buildings such as Hartwell Tavern and Merriman's Corner (where the militiamen began their drive against the British) will be discouraged from visiting.

Save Our Heritage, a group devoted to preserving the area's many historic sites, argues that Massport agreed to

maintain Hanscom as a general aviation airport but is now reneging. A 1997 letter from Massport Executive Director and CEO Peter Blute to the ad-hoc working group fighting expansion stated, "in order to respond to local concerns...as to the use of Hanscom Field, Massport has reaffirmed the long-standing policy that Hanscom Field remain a first-class general aviation facility." General aviation includes recreational flying, training, small cargo flights, and corporate jets.

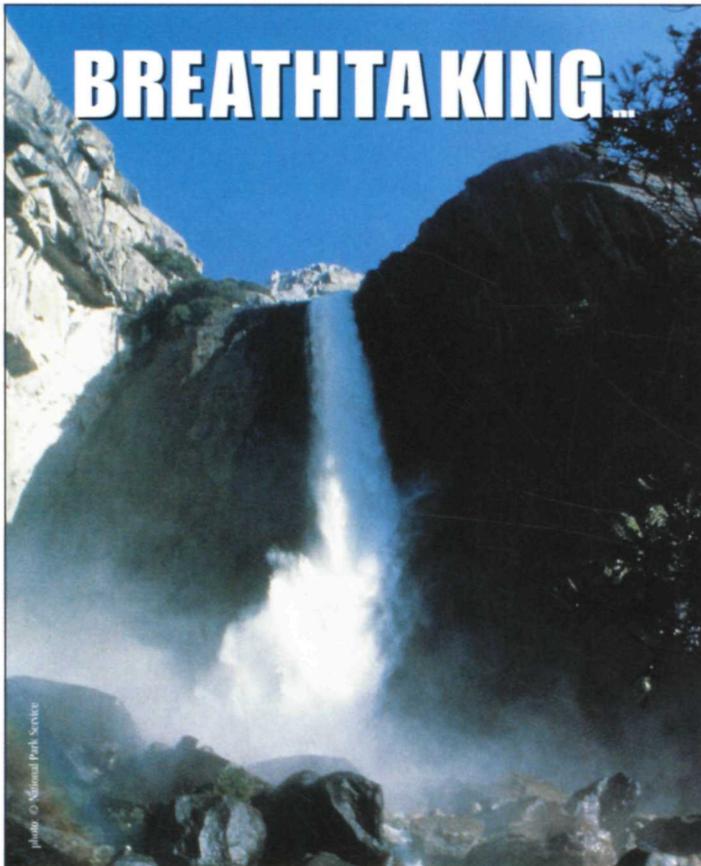
In 1999, however, Massport gave permission to regional air carrier Shuttle America to begin commercial service of small jets to three regional destinations: Buffalo, New York; Trenton, New Jersey; and Greensboro, North Carolina. At press time, Shuttle America was awaiting FAA approval to add seven flights a day to La Guardia Airport in New York City.

"This isn't about these seven flights," said Marty Pepper Aisenberg of Save our Heritage, "It's about whether we are going to turn this into a busy commer-

cial airport." Aisenberg argues that Massport is adding flights incrementally so that the growth will be unnoticeable to those who oppose expansion. U.S. Airways, Delta, and Federal Express have all expressed interest in operating out of Hanscom, he said.

Massport spokesman Richard Walsh said that a 1980 master plan for the airport made provisions for Hanscom to accommodate commercial jets with 60 or fewer seats. He also noted that the total number of operations (a take-off or landing) is down. In the 1970s, approximately 300,000 annual operations were recorded, and last year the airport handled 197,000, "82 percent of which were single-engine planes," Walsh said. "It's still mostly a recreational, student pilot airport."

Much of the pressure comes from the inability of Logan Airport in Boston to handle the 23 million annual passengers projected to fly into the region by 2010. Massport is already facing opposition about the addition of a new runway at Logan.



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# Park Service Gains Structures in Biscayne Bay

After years of controversy, NPS will incorporate Stiltsville.



THE MIAMI HERALD

One of seven weekend retreats that remain inside Biscayne National Park.

MIAMI, FLA. — The National Park Service (NPS) will take possession December 1 of seven private housing units inside Biscayne National Park, known as Stiltsville. Instead of removing them, which was the original intent, the Park Service plans to use the buildings for public functions.

“Allowing Stiltsville to remain a private enclave for the enjoyment of a few people undermines the purposes of the

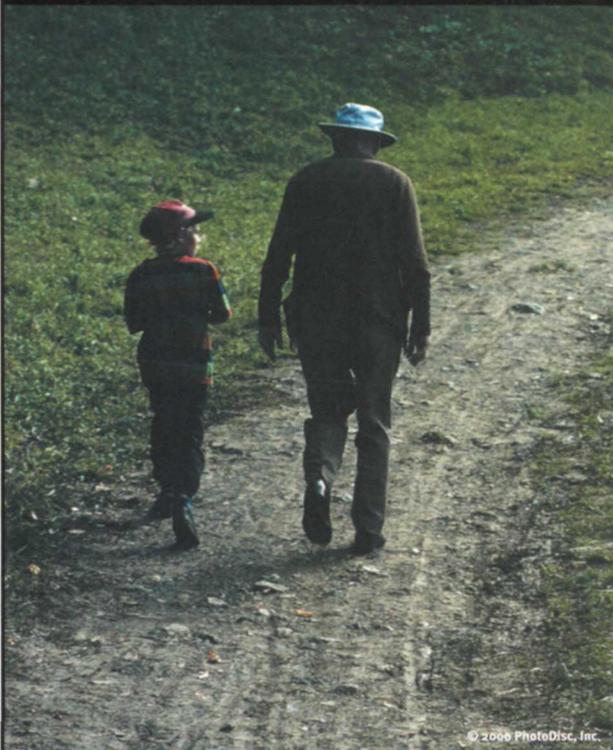
the park,” said NPCA south Florida Program Director Mary Munson. “The original leases were granted with the understanding that Stiltsville would be eliminated when they expired. We’re delighted, however, that the Park Service has at least removed them from private hands.”

The seven properties are the remains of a small enclave of weekend retreats first built on stilts in the middle of

Biscayne Bay in the 1930s. The surviving structures were built in the 1960s. Residents had leases to use the structures, first from the state of Florida and later from the Park Service, until July 1, 1999. At that time, the residents were to vacate the properties, and NPS plans envisioned their ultimate removal.

Newly appointed park Superintendent Linda Canzanelli said that her decision was based on public comments

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gathered from various interest groups, which highlighted Stiltsville's importance to the community. She plans to convene an advisory group to determine appropriate public uses for the structures until they decay naturally.

Under Canzanelli's decision, the houses will be maintained only to keep them safe for the public. Once they have sustained more than 50 percent damage, a likely scenario from a hurricane, they will be torn down.

Another basis for the decision, she said, was evidence from a study done on the seagrass below a house that was destroyed by Hurricane Andrew in 1992. Eight years after the house was removed, none of the grass had regenerated. "Once the structure is there, most of the damage has been done. If we manage it well and keep use levels down, we're not having anymore adverse effects than have already occurred," she said.

Environmentalists, including NPCA, have been urging the Park Service to take possession of the structures since the leases expired. Because of strong opposition from the owners and congressional support from Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.), the takeover has been stalled. Ros-Lehtinen first introduced legislation that would have redrawn the park boundaries to transfer management of Stiltsville to the state. After that bill stalled in Congress, she tried to extend the leases by adding their renewal to the appropriations bill that funds the entire Park Service.

"This was a backdoor assault on Biscayne National Park during the last days of a congressional session," said NPCA Legislative Representative Kevin Collins. "Anyone who believes in preserving public access to the parks should be grateful for the vigilance of Sen. Bob Graham (D-Fla.) and Rep. Peter Deutsch (D-Fla.)," who defeated a last-minute attempt to block the Park Service from returning the sites to public use.

Some Stiltsville supporters have argued that the structures should get historic site status even though they were built in the 1960s, making them too new to qualify.

## Lead Kills Five Condors at the Grand Canyon

*Scientists hope incident is an anomaly in successful program.*

GRAND CANYON NP, ARIZ.—Sixteen reintroduced California condors were captured and treated for lead poisoning in Grand Canyon National Park this summer after five birds were either found or presumed dead from the substance. The incident suggests that the birds may be becoming victims of their own success.

Though scientists could not pinpoint the source of the lead, they suspect the birds fed on an animal carcass full of lead shot—showing that they are increasingly finding their own food sources instead of relying on carcasses left by the recovery team.

"We hope what happened out there is an anomaly," said Shawn Farry, The Peregrine Fund's Arizona manager for the project. Farry's team has observed the birds feeding together and suspects the poisoning could come from a single carcass, although they don't exactly know where the carcass was located because the radio collar signals used to track the condors are interrupted when they fly below the canyon's rim.

Scientists can only speculate as to why the carcass was full of lead shot. Hunting is allowed on some federal lands surrounding the Grand Canyon, but no big game seasons were open when the birds began dying in June. Bill Heinrich, species restoration manager for The Peregrine Fund, said that it's possible the birds found the carrion on private land.

All of the condors captured in July had lead in their bloodstreams. Most were treated with chelate, a substance that binds to the lead and allows the birds to excrete it; a few needed surgery to remove the lead pellets. At press time,



**A juvenile condor at Vermilion Cliffs.**

ten of the 16 birds had been let go, and the other six were awaiting release.

Heinrich said that the poisonings are also a concern because they are an indication that the toxic environment could be harming other creatures that are not being monitored. "Likely, eagles and turkey vultures could have been affected too," he said.

Getting the condors to forage on their own, Farry said, has been one challenge of the program, which began in 1996 as a cooperative effort by The Peregrine Fund, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The first captive-reared birds were released at Vermilion Cliffs, Arizona, BLM land north of the Grand Canyon. Each year, about a dozen birds are released here, and to train the young birds to forage, carcasses are left out by the recovery team. Some of the older condors, however, are now showing a preference for dead bighorn sheep, deer, and elk in the park.

In addition to continuing to provide a healthy source of food for the young birds, the recovery team also hopes to persuade local hunters to use nontoxic bullet alternatives as they become available. One such "green" bullet, a composite of tungsten, tin, and bismuth or

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TTB, is being considered for use by the military to reduce contamination on its training grounds.

Although foraging skills improve among the birds at the Grand Canyon, high mortality and the condor's inquisitive nature create other obstacles for recovery. In the wild, a baby condor stays with its parents for the first year, learning to feed and avoid dangers, but the released birds are juveniles that must fend for themselves. Some are killed by golden eagles and coyotes while competing for food; others have flown into power lines.

Because condors cannot smell, the bird's inquisitive nature evolved to help them find food by following other animals, such as ravens or eagles. The reintroduced condors have shown up in campsites, parking lots, and picnic areas, and their nine-and-a-half-foot wingspan probably causes some people to be a little uneasy, Farry suggests.

"Some people have the misconception that they are looking for food, but they really like to play," Farry said. "They've shown up in some fishermen's sites and dragged away firewood and never touched any food," he said.

At Grand Canyon National Park, people have put children next to the birds for a photo or walked up to them for a close view, said Park Service biologist Elaine Leslie—not behavior that the park recommends. "It's a wonderful experience to see one of them, and we want people to know that the Endangered Species Act works," Leslie said. "But we also want people to see them in their natural, wild state." This means keeping people at a distance so the birds are not habituated.

If the juvenile birds learn to avoid the dangers of human interaction and competitive species, they have a good chance of reaching sexual maturity. The first condors released—now about six years old—are reaching that stage and beginning to show signs of pair bonding. The team hopes to see wild birds born in the next three to four years.

As of July, 48 California condors lived in the wild in Arizona and California, and 123 were in captive breeding facilities in California and Idaho.

## Petrified Forest Could Double With Proposal

*Expansion area includes important historic sites and fossils.*

HOLBROOK, ARIZ. — Petrified Forest National Park could double in size if Congress takes the necessary steps to fulfill a Park Service general management plan calling for the addition of nearly 98,000 acres of surrounding land. The lands include dinosaur and plant fossils, historic American Indian sites, and additional petrified wood.

Recent opportunities to buy private property from willing sellers have revived a push to expand the park, but Congress has not yet allocated money for the purchases. Several landowners in

the area have indicated a willingness to negotiate with the federal government, and one could provide more than half of the land needed for the expansion.

Although the general management plan has been in place for eight years, implementation has been delayed because Congress has failed to provide money and pass legislation to expand the park's boundary. At press time, NPCA was urging Congress to include at least \$3 million in the 2001 Interior Appropriations bill to begin acquisition. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt has endorsed the expansion, and the closest community to the park, Holbrook, Arizona, supported the measure as well.

The expansion would help preserve petrified wood that has been disappearing inside and outside of the park because of vandalism, theft, and collection for commercial sale (See Historic Highlights, May/June 2000). Estimates say that 12 tons of petrified wood is pilfered per year from the park, and mechanized petrified wood mines are cropping up on surrounding private

*continued on page 20*



**A proposal to add nearly 100,000 acres to the park would help protect petrified wood that is being mined on surrounding private land.**

## New Focus for Parks

A new policy statement from Park Service Director Robert Stanton has, for the first time, explicitly recognized the primacy of resource protection over visitor use in national parks. When Congress created the Park Service, it charged the agency with managing the parks and park resources "in such manner...as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." The agency has since asserted that it has had to satisfy a dual mandate: protecting park resources and providing visitor enjoyment, often with visitor use taking precedent. The new order states that "Congress, recognizing that the enjoyment by future generations of the national parks can be assured only if the superb quality of park resources and values is left unimpaired, has provided that when there is a conflict between conserving resources and values and providing for enjoyment of them, conservation is to be predominant."

## NEWS UPDATE .....

**Everglades Restoration**—The Senate approved by 85 votes to 1 the Everglades Restoration bill, a \$7.8 billion plan to restore clean freshwater flows to the ecosystem. The plan, developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in consultation with other agencies, will collect, store, clean, and redirect surface water to the Everglades in an effort to revive the 12 million acres of marshes, saw grass, and wetland habitat that has suffered from the diversion of water. In addition, some levees and canals, which were built to prevent flooding in south Florida to benefit agriculture and development, will be removed. The project is expected to take 30 to 40 years to complete. At press time, the House had not scheduled a vote on the bill.

**Personal Watercraft**—The National Park Service announced in September that Cape Cod National Seashore will be closed to all personal watercraft. The agency, however, has not yet said when it will enact the ban. After seeking the input of the park's citizen-led advisory commission and the general public, Cape Cod's superintendent, Maria Burks, stated that "it became very apparent that use of personal watercraft was a new use that was inconsistent with the fundamental values and traditional uses of the park." NPCA members sent hundreds of letters and e-mails to the park to voice their support of a ban.

**Merced River Plan**—Two local groups have announced that they are filing suit against the National Park Service over its release of the final Merced Wild and Scenic River Plan for Yosemite National Park, possibly delaying its implementation. The plan, which NPCA generally supports, expands protection of the river to a quarter mile on each side and sets safeguards against future development.

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lands. Housing developments, railroad and natural gas facilities, and a proposed landfill also threaten to destroy the scenic beauty and irreplaceable resources of the area.

Kelley Hays-Gilpin, president of the Arizona Archaeological Council, noted that the area proposed for expansion contains impressive petroglyphs and some major ancestral Puebloan archaeological sites dating as far back as 7,000 years. "It's just got some of the best rock art in the whole world," she said. One ruin, now on private property, has more than 100 rooms and is larger than any cultural site inside the park.

The proposed expansion area also includes a rock formation known as the Chinle escarpment, which some scientists say includes the best record of the Triassic period, which occurred about 225 million years ago. Only six miles of the 22-mile feature are within the park.

"Much of what we expect to find in the area is similar to the specimens we find in the park, but you don't really know until you dig for them," said Dr.

Sidney Ash, adjunct professor of geology at the University of New Mexico who has been studying plant fossils and geology in the park for nearly 50 years. "We may find much better specimens."

Dr. Barry Albright, curator of geology and paleontology at the Museum of Northern Arizona, said that already some of the earliest dinosaurs have been found in the escarpment. Findings range from three- to four-foot-long salamanders, known as metoposaurus, to crocodile-like reptiles, called phytosaurs.

"These creatures are of the age of the first dinosaurs; there's the potential to see the beginning of mammal-like creatures," Albright said.

NPCA Southwest Regional Director Dave Simon believes that the expansion is important to preserve the many natural, cultural, and historic resources, but dinosaur fossils may be the biggest draw for the public. "This is a real 'Triassic Park,'" he said. "We need places like this protected so people can go learn about dinosaurs—not just go to the movies."

## Revitalized Crissy Field Draws People, Wildlife

*Renovation restores wetlands and history to recreational site.*

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.—The successful restoration of Crissy Field from a decaying World War I air base to a popular urban recreation site in Golden Gate National Recreation Area is proving that private partnerships are becoming a viable method for improving America's national parks. The \$32-million project, which has included hiking trails, picnic areas, and the restoration of native wetland habitat for wildlife, was mostly funded through private donations.

When the project began in 1998, the site was covered with asphalt and overgrown with nonnative vegetation. Today the area includes a 20-acre tidal marsh, the 1.3-mile Promenade along San Francisco Bay, dedicated bike lanes, and a 28-acre grass airfield to be used for large public events or daily recreation.

"It's a tremendous victory for the national park," said Brian Huse, NPCA's Pacific regional director. "We've gone from acres of asphalt and concrete to a restored historic airfield, a reclaimed wetland habitat, and a front yard for the Presidio."

The Crissy Field restoration is part of a larger plan for the former Presidio military base, which was taken over by the Park Service in 1994 after federal budget cuts forced its closure. The area has served as a military post as far back as the 1770s when Spain established a permanent outpost there to protect its California settlements.

In the following years, it was held by Mexico and the United States and became the only U.S. Army air coastal defense station in the Pacific during World War I. To interpret the site's mili-

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## MARCH FOR PARKS

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tary history, a local group hopes to create an aviation history museum that will house several early 20th century military airplanes.

The Park Service also plans to interpret aspects of the Ohlone people, American Indians who inhabited land that extended from modern day San Francisco to Monterey, California, before the Spanish arrived.

Descendants still live in the area, and the Park Service consulted with them when construction teams unearthed a native “processing” site that contained a few artifacts and many animal, bird, and fish bones. It was likely the place where food was gathered and processed, said Paul Scolari, the American Indian liaison for the Park Service. At the request of the descendants, the site was reburied, but the park will have interpretive displays to educate visitors about the culture.

Some of the cultural interpretation will be held at the new Crissy Field Center, which will host educational programs, activities, and workshops for the community.

One of the main goals of the project has been to re-create the native wetlands that were filled in for various reasons since the early 20th century. To that end, nearly 70 acres of asphalt were removed to reestablish a portion of the tidal marsh, and the material was used as the foundation for the bike path along the water. Volunteers have also planted 65,000 native plants from the park’s nursery and are expected to plant a total of 100,000 over the next few years.

Greg Moore, executive director of the Golden Gate National Parks Association, which raised the money for the project, said that planting the native vegetation has already provided benefits. “Since the tidal marsh opened, we’ve seen birds returning to the area that we haven’t seen for years.” More than 120 species of birds have been seen in the park, including great blue herons, peregrine falcons, and red-tailed hawks. Some of the birds are attracted by prey species such as bay shrimp and dungeness crab that have also returned. “It’s a natural ecosystem being reformed,” he said.



CANOL PRINCE

**Walking the promenade at Crissy Field is just one of many new recreational opportunities for visitors to Golden Gate National Recreation Area.**

The Golden Gate National Parks Association has collected \$31.5 million so far—including a \$16 million donation from the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr., and Colleen and Robert Haas funds, which launched the project. More than

90 percent of the 2,400 private donations received to help fund the project were \$100 or less.

Golden Gate is the largest urban national park in the world and hosts 20 million visitors each year.

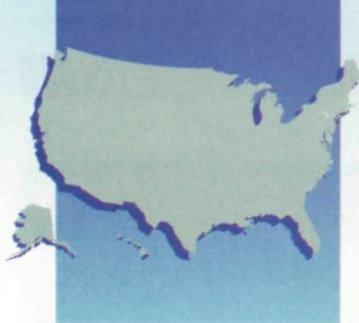
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# REGIONAL REPORT

## ON NPCA'S WORK IN THE PARKS

Text by Elizabeth G. Daerr

### ■ ALASKA

The Alaska State Snowmobile Association (ASSA) and International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA) have filed a lawsuit against the National Park Service (NPS) to overturn the recreational snowmobile ban in the 2-million-acre wilderness core of Denali National Park. The plaintiffs argue that the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), a law that set aside 104 million acres as national parks, wildlife refuges, and other conservation areas, opened the core of Denali to snowmobile use. Although ANILCA does guarantee certain motorized access on public lands to residents who had traditionally hunted, fished, or traveled to homesites within these areas, ASSA and ISMA argue that "traditional activities" include recreational activities such as photography and picnicking. ISMA has suggested that the closure of Denali wilderness will cause a sharp decline in snowmobile industry sales.

#### NPCA REGIONAL DIRECTORS:

ALASKA: Chip Dennerlein

CENTRAL ROCKIES: Mark Peterson

HEARTLAND: Lori Nelson

NORTHEAST: Eileen Woodford

NORTHERN ROCKIES: Tony Jewett

PACIFIC: Brian Huse

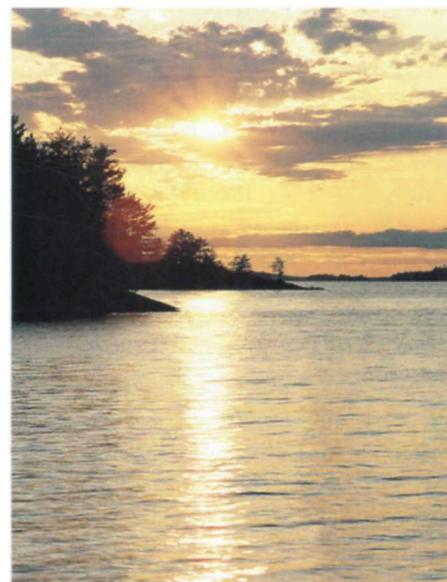
SOUTHEAST: Don Barger

SOUTHWEST: Dave Simon

### ■ CENTRAL ROCKIES

In the aftermath of two wildfires that burned this summer in and around Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado, it is estimated that nearly 1,300 previously undiscovered historic sites will be uncovered in the park and on tribal and federal lands adjacent to it. Burned and cleared vegetation exposed new sites, but also left them vulnerable to erosion, and the Park Service is working to mitigate those effects before heavy rains begin. At press time, archaeologists were conducting a quick survey of the sites to determine which ones needed to be immediately stabilized. When the fires began, several archaeologists were already in the park as part of the Save America's Treasures program, a \$3-million, two-year project to assess the condition of the known cliff dwellings. Mesa Verde contains the best preserved cliff dwellings and artifacts in the United States of the ancestral puebloans who lived there from 10,000 to 800 years ago. The Park Service has recorded more than 4,000 sites in the 52,000-acre park.

The Park Service has implemented a new shuttle bus system at Bryce Canyon National Park in Utah. Since its June 29 start date, approximately 3,500 to 4,000 visitors per day have used the shuttle to tour the park. As an incentive to ride the shuttle, the Park Service has reduced entrance fees for shuttle-users. Annual visitation at Bryce is approaching 2 million visits, and during summer months, heavy traffic and long lines of vehicles waiting for parking spaces cause frustration, safety and air quality concerns, and damage to fragile vegetation. Bryce was established in 1928 to protect the orange-colored pinnacles, walls, and spires of the Utah plateau.



WILLARD CLAY

Voyageurs National Park.

### ■ HEARTLAND

The Park Service is developing a general management plan (GMP) for Voyageurs National Park, which will regulate future use of snowmobiles and floatplanes in the park. Local user groups are promoting high levels of motorized use in proposed wilderness areas, which would likely create a need for additional visitor facilities, docks, and campsites. The park encompasses more than 218,000 acres that include large and small lakes, swamps, and a northern forest ecosystem of pine, birch, maples, and balsam fir. NPCA supports Alternative 2 of the GMP but wants a winter-use plan added to determine the appropriateness of snowmobiles in the park and reevaluate their current use. The alternative also needs an air tour management plan to evaluate existing and future floatplane use, said Lori Nelson, NPCA's Heartland regional director.

**TAKE ACTION:** Write Voyageurs Superintendent Barbara West asking her to

accept Alternative 2 of the GMP with the addition of an air tour management and a winter-use plan to protect the wilderness character of the park. Address: 3131 Highway 53, International Falls, MN 56649-8904. To send an electronic letter through NPCA's web site, go to [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org).

## ■ NORTHEAST

Fire Island National Seashore is accepting public comments on the future use of personal watercraft (PWCs) in the park. In April, the National Park Service published new regulations that banned the use of the machines in most park units; however, some parks, including Fire Island, were given a two-year reprieve. The regulation states that the bans will automatically go into effect April 2002 unless park-specific regulations are written outlining the use and restrictions on PWCs in these parks. The seashore was established in 1964 to preserve the relatively unspoiled, undeveloped sand dunes and beaches. It contains the seven-mile-long Otis Pike Fire Island High Dune Wilderness, the only federal wilderness in New York State. At press time, Superintendent Constantine Dillon had scheduled a public meeting in late October to discuss issues of safety, noise and water pollution, conflicts with other park uses such as canoeing, and disturbance of natural resources.

**TAKE ACTION:** Write to the superintendent asking him to ban PWC use at Fire Island National Seashore. Write to: Superintendent Constantine Dillon, Fire Island NS, 120 Laurel St., Patchogue, NY 11772 or e-mail [constantine\\_dillon@nps.gov](mailto:constantine_dillon@nps.gov).

## ■ NORTHERN ROCKIES

After 15 years of debate, 67,000 public comments, millions of dollars of study, and several lawsuits over the fate of bison that wander outside of Yellowstone National Park in winter, the federal government may issue a management plan that preserves the status quo. At press time, the departments of Interior and Agriculture were about to make a final decision that would allow the continued capture and slaughter of bison on federal lands outside the park. The decision is meant to appease Montana's



**Bison at Yellowstone National Park.**

JEFF FOOT

livestock industry, which fears that the bison spread the disease brucellosis to their cattle grazing on public lands outside and adjacent to Yellowstone.

The disease can cause cattle to abort fetuses, but no case of transmission between the animals has been documented in the wild. More than two-thirds of the letters received during an extensive public comment period favored protection for the bison at Yellowstone, which has the largest free-ranging herd in the United States.

In September, NPCA and a coalition of environmental organizations sent a letter to Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman asking them to change the plan. For the latest information on the subject, go to NPCA's web site at [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org).

## ■ PACIFIC

NPCA is petitioning the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to rehear a case that ruled in favor of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) environmental analysis of a proposed runway extension at Kahului airport near Haleakala National Park, Hawaii. The FAA's analysis found that there would be no adverse impacts on the park from the runway. However, NPCA argued that the extension of the runway would draw larger aircraft, from additional international destinations, possibly introducing invasive nonnative species into the area. One example has been the introduction of the brown tree snake, which arrived in Guam in the wheel wells of airplanes. The snake has no natural predators on the island and has decimated bird populations with its ability to climb trees

and raid nests. NPCA is asking for a rehearing based on the strength of the dissenting opinion. While the state has withdrawn its plans to build the airport, FAA's authorization stands and could be used in the future.

## ■ SOUTHEAST

The state of North Carolina has revoked a permit for the Putnam Mine, a granite quarry that would be visible from the Appalachian Trail (see Regional Report, May/June 2000, page 22). The state Division of Land Resources based its decision on information collected in studies and public meetings held this summer and stated that the mine would be unsightly and noisy. The agency granted the permit to the Clark Stone Company last May without knowing that the quarry would be within two miles of the 2,144-mile national trail that runs from Maine to Georgia.

In August, NPCA, the Appalachian Trail Conference, and area residents sought an injunction to stop production at the mine until the state made a decision. At press time, the company had not appealed the decision.

## ■ SOUTHWEST

In July, NPCA, the Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association, American Whitewater, and four individuals filed suit in federal court challenging the National Park Service's decision to halt work on a wilderness plan and a revised Colorado River management plan. The suit alleges that the agency has failed to protect the wilderness qualities of the Colorado River and failed to provide fair public access. Currently, commercial outfitters get 70 percent of river use and private boaters get only 30 percent—a ratio that has not changed substantially since 1977. The waiting list for private boaters has more than 7,000 names, and private boaters must wait on average eight to 16 years to float the river.

**TAKE ACTION:** If you are an NPCA member on the Park Service waiting list for the access to the Colorado River, please contact the Southwest Regional Office: 823 Gold Ave., S.W., Albuquerque, NM 87102; phone 505-247-1221; e-mail [southwest@npca.org](mailto:southwest@npca.org).



**Thanks to successful reintroduction, park visitors can once again hear the howl of the lone wolf.**

cause they were interfering with the animals' movements.

The comeback of wolves at Yellowstone is proof that the federal wolf recovery program is working. From the 31 wolves reintroduced into Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming and Montana in 1995 and 1996, 116 adults now live in or near the park, and another 75 or so pups were born in April 2000—a number scientists expected to wait ten years to reach.

Although Yellowstone has been the primary focus of the federal recovery program, wolf populations have been doing well in other national parks without the help of federal aid. At Isle Royale National Park in Michigan, the park's wolf population has reached 29, the number that can be naturally sustained on the park's 210 square miles of land. In Voyageurs National Park in Minnesota, between 40 and 50 wolves use the park and surrounding lands and are a portion of the more than 2,500 wolves in the state.

Wolves are doing so well, in fact, that the federal agency responsible for their recovery is increasingly finding itself in the position of responding to complaints about the animals from ranchers and farmers—the very same interests that drove local, state, and federal governments to shoot, trap, and poison the predator more than 75 years ago, nearly eliminating the animals from the lower 48 states.

In July, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) published its proposal to reclassify the gray wolf from endangered to threatened status in 16 northern states from Maine to Washington that have suitable wolf habitat (not including the experimental classification of the Yellowstone area). In all or parts of 30 other states where the agency believes recovery is not feasible, the wolf would be removed from the list. If approved, the measure would go into effect as early as 2001. Curiously, many of the states proposed for reclassification,

# A HOWLING SUCCESS

Gray wolves have made a remarkable recovery over the past few years, repopulating parks where they were once extirpated.

The new challenge facing federal agencies: how many wolves are enough?

BY ELIZABETH G. DAERR

**A** 1922 MONTHLY REPORT from the superintendent at Yellowstone National Park exemplifies the federal attitude toward wolves at that time: "It is evident that the work of controlling these animals must be vigorously prosecuted by the most effective means available whether or not this meets with the approval of certain game conservationists." By 1926, the last wolf had been shot in Yellowstone.

Nearly 30 years later, in 1995, when gray wolves were reintroduced to the nation's first park, the animals received a very different greeting. The only object aimed and ready to shoot them was a camera.

Today, an average of 15,000 people see a wolf in Yellowstone in a year, says Douglas Smith, the park's wolf project leader. His research team has recorded a wolf sighting for 135 consecutive days—all from the park road. Sightings have become so common that this year Smith had to hire two employees to keep the hundreds of viewers at bay be-

## WOLVES *Continued*

such as Oregon, Utah, South Dakota, and New Hampshire, have no documented evidence of wolves in recent decades.

Ron Refsnider, the agency's wolf recovery coordinator in Minnesota and an author of the proposal, says that the purpose of the Endangered Species Act is to "pull the species from the brink of extinction for the foreseeable future," and he believes the agency has achieved that. "We don't need to recover wolves across their historic range to meet the goal of keeping them from the brink of extinction," he says.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service establishes recovery not by state boundaries but by larger biological populations divided by regions: the Northwest, the Western Great Lakes, and the Northeast.



JEFF HENRY

**Biologists measure the canines of a wolf reintroduced into Yellowstone. In April, approximately 75 pups were born in the park.**

Although gray wolves may now be limited to six states, suitable habitat exists in the other ten states. This 16-state region does not include New Mexico or Arizona, where the Mexican wolf, a subspecies of the gray wolf, resides.

Ed Bangs, USFWS recovery coordinator for the Northwest population, adds that relaxing protection in states where the animals don't exist will actually help protect the overall populations.

"People are fearful that wolves may kill their child or restrict their access to lands" that they depend on for their livelihood, he says. "Threatened status allows laws to be written so everyone knows the ground rules—laws that address whether human life is threatened." With more flexibility in managing wolves, Bangs believes there will be fewer illegal killings, and



wolves will be tolerated in more areas.

Charlie Scott, branch chief of recovery and delisting for USFWS, says that the animals' high birth and survival rates have allowed them to recover relatively quickly. Consequently, it's time to turn management over to the tribes and states—the same states that led the charge to eliminate wolves from 95 percent of their territory over the last 200 years. Some Western states proposed for threatened status actively oppose the move, stating that they have spent years ridding themselves of the animals and don't want them back.

Some environmentalists argue that the states have not proven their ability to protect endangered species, and turning management over to them could create a cycle of listing, recovery, and listing. In June, the Minnesota legislature passed a law that widens the legal limits under which wolves can be shot in anticipation of the Fish and Wildlife Service's proposal. In a statement urging Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura (L) not to sign the bill, Defenders of Wildlife President Rodger Schlickeisen said the law will "place the wolf...on a downhill trajectory that could eventually lead to listing again" under the Endangered Species Act.

If that happens, reclassifying the gray wolf may be a test case of how humans will approach wild species conservation in the future. Will humans work to reestablish a species, only to realize that its recovery creates new problems?

Daniel Janzen, a world-renowned scientist and professor of biology at the University of Pennsylvania, says that humans have already decided that other species may live, but only on our terms. In his 1997 acceptance speech for the Kyoto Prize in Basic Science, Janzen stated, "The question is not whether we must manage nature, but rather how shall we manage it—by accident, haphazardly, or with the calculated goal of its survival forever?"

Using Janzen's criteria, the Fish and Wildlife Service would characterize the wolf recovery proposal as a calculated goal for survival. Each of the states with

core wolf populations should have a state management plan that monitors the population, health, and location of the wolves before Fish and Wildlife Service will delist them. Additionally, the Fish and Wildlife Service is required by the Endangered Species Act to monitor the populations for the first five years the animals are under state control. Any sign of wolves headed for danger would result in serious consideration of relisting, Refsnider says.

Meanwhile, the wolves that live within national park boundaries of the Great Lakes region are thriving. In addition to healthy populations at Voyageurs and Isle Royale national parks, dispersing animals have been found moving through Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in Michigan. Voyageurs biologist Jim Schaberl says he has few concerns that removing wolves from the endangered species list in Minnesota would have an immediate negative effect on



CARR CLIFTON

**Wolf populations in national parks in the Great Lakes region are thriving and have been found moving through Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Michigan.**

In the Great Lakes region, Michigan and Wisconsin have already established management plans in anticipation of the agency's move, and Minnesota must still develop a plan to supplement the control measures stipulated by this year's law.

As humans move to control gray wolf populations in the Great Lakes, their presence has, in part, changed the types of prey animals available in the region. When humans began settling the region, they pushed out some of the game animals such as caribou. Deer, moose, and beaver are the primary prey species now.

the park's wolf packs. His only fear is that if hunting and control measures in nearby areas of the state dramatically diminish the overall population, exchange of wolves across the park boundaries may be reduced and affect the park population.

Wolves can disperse up to 500 miles to find new territory, and the Fish and Wildlife Service is envisioning natural dispersal as one possible mechanism to supply the northeastern recovery region of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. Anecdotal evidence suggests that individual wolves have moved from Canada into the re-

gion, but the agency currently has no plans to actively reintroduce the species there, Scott says.

Illustrating the controversial nature of wolf recovery, the New Hampshire state legislature last year approved a bill banning the reintroduction of wolves. None of the national parks in the Northeast are large enough to support wolf populations; however, some environmental groups are pushing to create a 3-million-acre national conservation

area in northern Maine, informally named Maine Woods. A park that size might accommodate several packs.

Far from the laissez-faire policy the federal agency has adopted in the Northeast, USFWS has conducted one of the most comprehensive and successful reintroduction programs in the Northwest. More than 300 adult wolves inhabit areas of Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana, with the highest concentration living in Yellowstone National Park. The original recovery program mandated establishing for three consecutive

years ten breeding packs in three separate locations. Getting the exact number in each area has been difficult. Overall, however, 30 packs have been established throughout the region, and the agency hopes that within the next three to four years it can remove federal protection from the species in those states. In the meantime, experimental wolf populations in Yellowstone and Idaho will continue to have partial protection as "experimental," a status that allows federal agents to shoot nuisance wolves that have killed livestock.

## In Alaska: The Call of the Wild

**T**he proposed USFWS reclassification will not affect Alaskan wolves, which are not listed as endangered or threatened, but the ongoing battle of one issue is indicative of the growing momentum on each side of the wolf-control debate.

In 1996, Alaska voters approved a public initiative that stopped the shooting of wolves the same day they were sighted by a hunter in a small plane. The reason: residents wanted to promote a basic sense of fairness to big game animals that were hunted. In response, the state legislature passed a law this year to reinstate "land-and-shoot" hunting in five areas of the state where the Alaska Board of Game said wolf control must be stepped up to allow diminishing ungulate populations to rebound. Alaska Gov. Tony Knowles (D) vetoed the law. The legislature overrode the governor's veto, and now a referendum to reinstate the ban on land-and-shoot hunting is on the ballot for November.

Much of the controversy centers on two areas bordering Denali National Park and Preserve. The Nelchina basin, southeast of the park, is easily accessible for urban hunters from Anchorage and Fairbanks. McGrath, west of the park,

and the three other areas that the legislature has opened to land-and-shoot hunting provide rural residents with subsistence hunting. Moose are key prey species for wolves. In recent winters crusty snow conditions created situations favoring high wolf predation. (Wolves travel easily across crusty snow, whereas moose break through.) Now wolf populations are suffi-

ing the same season, the agency estimated that about 500 wolves and between 1,000 and 1,500 bears killed between 9,000 to 12,000 moose in the game management unit containing the Nelchina area.

The agency's last available numbers for statewide populations are from 1995 and estimate that there were 144,000 to 160,000 moose and between 7,000 and 9,900 wolves. The agency has also recorded an average of 1,300 wolf kills annually for the last five years. Wolf hunting and trapping are legal in Alaska.

To help resolve the conflict, Knowles has convened a group of individuals representing different interests to search for a consensus approach to wildlife management in the McGrath area. Another group, organized by the Alaska Board of Game, is discussing the possibility of a buffer zone on state lands east of Denali National Park where

wolves could not be hunted and visitors could have increased opportunities for wildlife viewing. Knowles supports managing areas of the state to serve a range of different interests, including hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, and other non-consumptive uses.

—EGD



JIM BRANDENBURG/MINDEN PICTURES

**In wintertime, wolves can travel easily across crusty snow, whereas moose break through. Populations of moose, key prey species for wolves, have recently declined in Alaska.**

ciently large that the animals and bears cause nearly 100 percent moose calf mortality. This has led to shorter subsistence and other hunting seasons. For example, hunters reported killing 860 moose in the Nelchina area in the 1998-99 season, whereas the average number of kills for the previous three seasons was 944. Dur-



**Since 1974, federal agencies have spent a combined total of \$15 million on the wolf recovery program.**

It is possible, says the Fish and Wildlife Service's Bangs, that Northwest wolves would colonize areas of Washington, Oregon, Utah, and Colorado, although recovery in those states is not part of the federal plan.

A recent incident in Oregon suggests that wolves may not be welcome there either. This spring when a wolf crossed the Snake River from Idaho into Oregon, the animal elicited such controversy that federal agents had to trap the wolf and return it to Idaho. So far, only Washington State has developed a management plan that would be implemented if the Fish and Wildlife Service delists the animal. Again, Bangs expects wolf control measures under certain

circumstances to ease opposition.

A major benefit of reclassifying wolves will be the amount of federal money saved, Bangs adds.

"The fewer . . . animals you have, the more intensely you have to manage," he says, and management is the greatest cost. The annual combined cost to the USFWS and the National Park Service on wolf recovery in the Northwest is \$1.2 million, and the total cost for the project since 1974 is \$15 million. Nationally, USFWS spent an estimated \$2.3 million in 1998 to monitor wolf populations to reduce conflicts with people. If states begin issuing permits to individuals to hunt wolves where they are prevalent or to shoot those that threaten humans or livestock, the cost to the federal government will decrease.

The proposed reduction of federal protection of gray wolves will no doubt

be controversial, and the agency has offered an extended 120-day public comment period before making the final decision. Moreover, the Fish and Wildlife Service expects multiple lawsuits to ensue, which could delay implementation for several years.

For now, a few of the national parks are the only places where wolves continue to roam "unmanaged." In fact, Isle Royale may be the last place on Earth where humans do not interfere in any way with the wolves' natural order. The question remains, however, in those places that we have chosen: will we allow wolves, and other species, to live with us?

Charlie Scott admits, "The only determinant to wolf recovery is man."

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ELIZABETH G. DAERR is news editor for National Parks.



# KEYING in to HISTORY

Anyone looking to trace a relative who fought in the Civil War can now do so via the Internet thanks to a National Park Service database containing soldiers' names. Eventually the database will be offered through computer terminals at 42 parks.

BY CHRIS FORDNEY

**W**OODY HARRELL was a ranger on duty at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park in Georgia on a February morning more than 20 years ago when a middle-aged couple came into the battlefield's visitor center. They asked Harrell if he would help them find information about their ancestors, both Civil War soldiers.

After digging through several thick reference volumes containing soldiers' names and units, Harrell made a startling discovery. Leading the couple outside, he pointed to Kelly Field, where

armies totaling 140,000 men had fought at close range for several days during the Battle of Chickamauga in September 1863. One ancestor, a Confederate, had fought on one side of the field, Harrell told them, and the other ancestor, a Union soldier, had fought on the other side.

Both soldiers had survived the war and returned home. Generations later, their descendants had met, fallen in love, married, and eventually made the pilgrimage back to the scene.

Harrell, currently superintendent at Shiloh National Military Park in Tennessee, was thrilled that he had been able to make the connection for the couple. But he was also concerned that he would have missed them had they

**A depiction (inset) represents a battle chronicled at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park.**

come during the summer, when he and other rangers would have been swamped with visitors and unable to take the time to do the research.

Now, family members and researchers have a new tool to quickly find the kind of information that Harrell provided to the visiting couple, and it's unrestricted by either rangers' schedules or information-seekers' ability to visit the site. The Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System (CWSS) is a database that will soon contain the records of every soldier known to have served in the war who is listed in the National Archives. It is available on the Internet and eventually will be offered through computer terminals at 42 national parks with some connection to the Civil War. The Park Service expects the names of all Civil War soldiers to be in the database by sometime next year.

Built over the past decade with the help of hundreds of volunteers from all over the United States, the new database will allow anyone with Internet access to type the name of any Civil War soldier into the CWSS web site ([www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/](http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/)) and quickly pull up a wealth of information—the history of the soldier's unit, the battles in which he may have fought, whether he's buried in a national cemetery, and, at some time in the future, such identifying features as height, weight, and eye and hair color.

"This will be a huge step forward for a lot of researchers," says Harrell, a long-time supporter of the system. The CWSS will open up to the public a world of data that have been buried in dusty archives and available only to specialists or determined amateurs.

Until now, someone trying simply to confirm that an ancestor fought in the war had to either make a trip to the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and hunt through a massive file of index cards or microfilm, or file a written request that might take weeks or even months to fill. With the National Archives receiving up to 1,500 inquiries a week about Civil War pension files alone, as well as serving scores of

historians specializing in the war, the CWSS is expected to make access easier for researchers and free up the archives' staff for other pressing preservation duties. Having an electronic database will also eliminate wear and tear on crumbling historical documents.

The CWSS is one product of a Park Service initiative to bring computer technology into interpretive programs. Originally conceived as a system of kiosks at national battlefields, the idea evolved with the development of the Internet into something that could be used with home computers. It will also help stitch together the extensive but



**Christian A. Fleetwood, a soldier with the 4th U.S. Colored Infantry, was awarded the Medal of Honor.**

disparate collections of information on the war that the Park Service has assembled over the years. When people pull up the name of a soldier and then click on a link to a battle in which he fought, for example, they'll be drawing on summaries of the 384 most important battles, which were prepared by Park Service historians for the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission. Created in the wake of the 1990 controversy over development plans at Manassas National Battlefield Park in Virginia, the commission inventoried and evaluated the nation's threatened battlefield land.

One of the goals was to develop something useful for all the Civil War

parks rather than responding to individual requests for interpretive improvements, said John Peterson, chief of the Branch of Partnership Systems at the Park Service's Information and Telecommunications Center. "Everything in the Park Service tends to be one-by-one, park-by-park," Peterson says. "Here was something we could do for 30 parks that would have a bigger impact and be a better use of resources." Peterson, along with Park Service interpreter Eric Sheetz and computer programmer Wayne McLaughlin, is overseeing the construction of the CWSS web site and the final editing of names from offices at the Interior Department in Washington.

Eventually, names of burials from the Park Service's 14 national cemeteries will be added. The records of the 1,200 Medals of Honor awarded during the war and lists of prisoners of war, with those from Andersonville in Georgia and Fort McHenry in Baltimore, are already available. The system will have links to the web sites of the national battlefields and will even include precise locations of where individual regiments fought. With that information, visitors could find enough information to "walk where their ancestor walked," said Timothy Good, a Park Service historian at Lincoln Home National Historic Site who is helping to prepare the regimental histories. For all Union regiments in the nation, Good is using the *Compendium of the War of Rebellion*, written by Frederick Dyer, a drummer boy during the war who put himself into virtual solitary confinement for five years around the turn of the 19th century to complete the work. Because Dyer interviewed Union veterans, his *Compendium* remains the most reliable source on northern regiments. The Park Service has used Joseph Crute's *Units of the Confederacy* for all Confederate regimental histories.

The CWSS is fulfilling another, somewhat unanticipated, purpose. For some Americans whose ancestors' sacrifices in the war have long gone unrecognized on monuments and other public venues, the CWSS serves as a memorial in itself. Good said he remembers helping an elderly African-American woman find the name of her ancestor

## CIVIL WAR Continued

when the CWSS was demonstrated during the dedication of the African American Civil War Memorial in Washington, D.C., in July 1998. When the soldier's name came up on the screen. "She burst into tears when she saw her ancestor's name on there," Good says. "She was overjoyed."

Compiled as a database for the memorial at 10th Street and Vermont Avenue, N.W., the names of the 235,000 black soldiers and sailors who served in the war were the first to become available in September 1996. The memorial contains plaques with the name of each black soldier who served in the war and features "The Spirit of Freedom," a bronze statue of black soldiers and sailors. The second batch of information added to the system in the spring of 2000 included the names of 194,872 Tennessee Confederate soldiers and 95,898 Iowans.

The memorial and the CWSS have helped bring to life individual soldiers'



CHRIS E. HEISEY

**A sculpture of Union General Warren stands at Gettysburg National Military Park, symbolizing how the real Warren might have gazed at the battlefield.**

stories, such as that of Christian A. Fleetwood, a sergeant major with the 4th U.S. Colored Infantry who was awarded the Medal of Honor during the Battle of New Market Heights near Richmond in September 1864 for seizing and carrying colors whose bearers had been shot down. Despite his medal and rapid advancement through the enlisted ranks, Fleetwood left the Army in disgust at war's end because no black members of his regiment could obtain commissions as officers even with recommendations from white officers.

Visitors seeking information about Fleetwood in the CWSS would learn that his name is on the memorial at plaque A-11, that he entered the war as a sergeant, and that he was discharged as a sergeant major. They could read an account of his regiment's experiences that confirms his claim that "no regiment has performed more active, arduous, and dangerous service than the 4th U.S. Colored Troops...and now it strikes me that more could be done for our welfare in the pursuits of civil life." The CWSS lists six separate engagements in which the unit fought, and details the circumstances under which Fleetwood and 13 other black soldiers won Medals of Honor at New Market Heights.

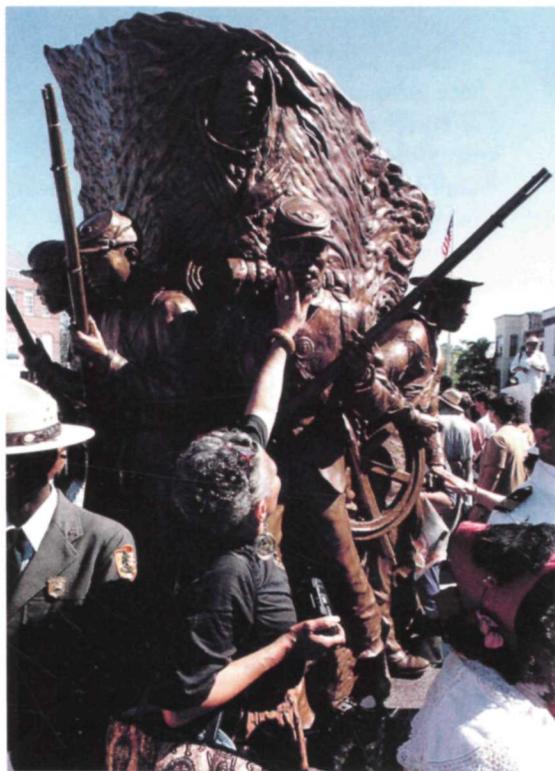
Another poignant story is told by a photo of a headstone at

Poplar Grove National Cemetery that can be viewed on the CWSS. Grave number 4803 is that of Robert Douglas, a soldier with the 11th Maine Infantry. He died at Appomattox Station on April 9, 1865, the same day that Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to Union forces under Gen. Ulysses S. Grant.

For many descendants of Civil War soldiers, the CWSS will be a starting point for research because of the ease of searching the entire database for relatives who may have served in the war. Eventually more than 5.4 million names will be entered into the system, a massive data entry job nearly complete in the middle of 2000 through the efforts of more than 1,000 volunteers in 36 states, from the United Daughters of the Confederacy to state historical societies. The Park Service cannot put a dollar figure on the CWSS because all of the work has been done with existing funds that were not necessarily earmarked for the project. Even so, officials are aware that using volunteers has been the main factor in keeping costs down. Although using volunteers has also meant a longer time to complete the project, contracting out the data entry alone would have cost at least \$4 million, officials said.

Key to the data entry was assistance from the Genealogical Society of Utah, a nonprofit affiliated with the Mormon Church. The organization has provided software as well as processing and editing services. By using its Universal Data Entry software, organizers were able to divide up the names so that a volunteer could enter as few as 200, allowing the project to attract people who might otherwise have been put off by the number of names. "It was a stroke of genius to have the project scaleable," says Curt Witcher of the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and manager of the national data entry for the CWSS names index.

Roughly two-thirds of the names have been entered by the Utah Army Corps, a small group of volunteers made up mostly of Mormons and com-



RICH CLEMENT/ARCHIVE PHOTOS

**The African American Civil War Memorial commemorates the 235,000 black soldiers and sailors who served.**

manded by Terry Moyer, a retired employee of the Mormon Church in Draper, Utah. Moyer's group was provided with both microfilm and paper copies of the names, which he then divided up into batches to hand out to more than 400 people. Each volunteer's work was double-checked. As each volunteer completed a certain number of names, he or she received a promotion.

One woman, a brigadier general in the corps, suffers from cerebral palsy and has the use of only a single index finger. "She gets as much work done as anybody," Moyer said. The CWSS has also given many retirees a worthwhile project, including a woman who had to stay home because her late husband had Alzheimer's disease. "It's been a great blessing in her life," he said, adding, "a lot of older people have a computer, but they're not sure why. This gives them something to do with it."

Another key organization has been the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the 23,000-member descendants' group that has entered more than 1 million names, including those of many Southerners who fought for the North. That lack of partisanship has been the norm among the volunteers, Park Service officials say. "We didn't care who we did," says Peggy Palmer of Rock Hill, South Carolina, the former president-general of the organization. "We thought it was a good project."

The basic source for the names in the CWSS is the General Index Cards of the Compiled Military Service Records in the National Archives. Now very fragile and hardly ever used, the 5.4 million cards were part of a file of 140 million, 3-by-8-inch index cards prepared in the late 19th century by War Department clerks. These cards transferred the information from original muster rolls, the lists of officers and men that units in the field would maintain as a record of their manpower.

There will be 5.4 million names in the CWSS, although 3.5 million men actually served in the war. The discrepancy arises from a decision made when the original index cards were being prepared to include all the names from muster rolls even when it was clear there were many duplicates—a reflection of the chaos of war as men were

## Expanding the Storyline

**T**he Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System is one part of a new thrust within the National Park Service to make its 28 battlefield parks and Civil War sites more relevant and accessible to more Americans, particularly African Americans, who visit battlefields in small numbers despite the importance of the war to black history.

The impetus for the new initiative comes both from within the Park Service, with support from Director Robert Stanton, and from Congress, where Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-Ill.) has inserted language in the Interior Department's funding bill that encourages battlefields to broaden presentations at battlefield visitor centers to include material about the causes and consequences of the Civil War.

Most battlefield visitor centers focus on military history, and few even mention slavery. Now that's changing, as new informational panels cover slavery as a cause of the war and describe the experiences of local civilians during battles.

At Gettysburg National Military Park, where the staff is about to embark on a \$70 million overhaul, the planning for a new \$39 million visitor center is stress-

ing the theme of a "new birth of freedom" embodied in President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, in addition to the "high-water mark" of the Confederacy that has traditionally framed the story at the park.

Jackson was the main speaker at a symposium held at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C., in May 2000 attended by hundreds of battlefield rangers and staff. The event featured top military historians, but also scholars who specialize in other aspects of the war, such as Eric Foner, an authority on Reconstruction, and Ira Berlin, author of *Many Thousands Gone*, a ground-breaking study of slavery.

Battlefield superintendents, as well, went on record in support of this broadened interpretation at a conference in Nashville in 1998.

They set the following goals for each of their sites: establish its "particular place in the continuum of the war; illuminate the social, economic and cultural issues that caused or were affected by the war; illustrate the breadth of human experience during the period, and establish the relevance of the war to people today."

—CF

killed or wounded or regiments were disbanded and reformed. The Park Service decided to follow the same policy and leave it up to users to determine whether they have found the right soldier in the system.

Although the CWSS has been focused on soldiers, the Park Service is also committed to entering the names of all Civil War sailors, a tougher challenge because the names are not as well organized. Finding information about black sailors has been difficult because they were not segregated into separate units as in the armies. Estimates of the number of black sailors have ranged from 9,000 to 30,000.

To get a clearer picture of black sailors, the Park Service is receiving help from Howard University in Washington, D.C., and the Navy Department. Graduate students from Howard pored over ships' muster rolls and other

records and compared and collated them with indexes prepared by the Navy Department around World War II. So far they've identified about 19,000 black enlisted personnel whose names will be added to the CWSS.

Along with the compilation of names, those working on the CWSS envision a day when it will be linked with the work being done by archaeologists and geographic information system specialists in the Park Service so that researchers could sit at a computer terminal and take a virtual tour of a battlefield, seeing the same ground from the same perspective their ancestor saw it a century and a half ago. In all these ways, Harrell points out, individuals "can be their own historian."

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CHRIS FORDNEY is based in Winchester, Virginia, and last wrote for National Parks about the All-Taxa Biodiversity Inventory.

# Coming out of Cold Storage



The newly established Minuteman Missile National Historic Site in South Dakota will be the first park site devoted entirely to the story of the Cold War.

BY PHYLLIS MCINTOSH

**M**OST BABY BOOMERS who grew up with the Cold War would just as soon forget the air raid drills, fallout shelters, and doomsday scenarios brought on by events like the Cuban missile crisis. But those 40 or so years of nose-to-nose brinkmanship with

the former Soviet Union represent a significant era in U.S. history—one that many historians believe deserves recognition in the National Park System.

Now that is about to happen, thanks to an unusual combination of events and a cast of characters ranging from international diplomats to a 16-year-old boy in rural South Dakota. On No-

**A Minuteman missile is tested (inset). Minuteman Missile National Historic Site is near Badlands National Park, South Dakota (left).**

vember 29, 1999, President Clinton signed legislation creating the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site adjacent to Badlands National Park in southwestern South Dakota. According to that law, the purpose of the site is “to preserve, protect, and interpret for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the structures associated with the Minuteman II missile defense system” and to interpret the historical role of that system “as a key component of America’s strategic commitment to preserve world peace, and in the broader context of the Cold War.” When the facility opens to the public in five years, it will be the first national historic site devoted entirely to the story of the Cold War.

During the 1960s, when tensions peaked between the United States and the Soviet Union, 1,000 Minuteman missiles were deployed throughout the sparsely populated states of the upper Midwest, poised to strike Russian targets within 30 minutes or less. In 100 launch control facilities, each linked to ten missile silos, two officers stood watch in reinforced bunkers 30 feet below ground to await the unthinkable: orders from the president to launch a nuclear attack.

That era ended in 1991 after the collapse of the Soviet Union when President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev signed the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), which ordered that all Minuteman II missiles be destroyed by the end of 2001.

Irv Mortenson, then superintendent of Badlands National Park, recalls how the Air Force’s efforts to deactivate the missiles filled the local news. “We were watching the TV, and my 16-year-old son, Brian, who at that time was enamored of missiles and rockets, said, ‘You know, Dad, the Park Service ought to be working to set aside one of those things.’” As luck would have it, the framers of START had had similar foresight, including in the treaty a provision allowing for preservation of “one static display” of a Minuteman missile.

Recognizing that his son’s suggestion had merit, Mortenson contacted the state historic preservation office, the South Dakota congressional delegation, and historian Greg Kendrick in the National Park Service’s Denver office. “At that point, no one, even in the Air Force, considered these missile sites historic,” says Kendrick. “But we convinced the Air Force that we needed at least a graphic record for posterity, so we brought in a team of architects, historians, and photographers to produce detailed drawings and photographs.” The graphics sparked further interest in actually saving part of the complex as a tourist attraction.

NPCA’s Heartland Regional Director, Lori Nelson, also believed the proposal had merit, and testified before Congress in favor of a park. “The park fills a unique niche commemorating a nationally significant period in our country’s history...no other site would do that,” Nelson says.

With funding from a Defense Department program designed to preserve the history of the armed forces, the Park Service launched a study, directed by Kendrick, to determine the feasibility of creating a national historic site around the launch control facility of the Delta missile wing (known as Delta 1) and one of the ten missiles attached to it (Delta 9). The study concluded that these were indeed most worthy of preservation for three reasons:

▲ Delta 1 and 9 have the most historical integrity of all Minuteman sites because they were the least changed from their original 1961 configuration.

▲ They are within a mile of Interstate 90, the main tourist route from the Midwest to Yellowstone. Most of the other missile sites are remote, reachable only by gravel road or by crossing private land.

▲ They are only about seven miles from Badlands National Park, so administrative functions can be shared initially, saving the taxpayers money.

With the selection of Delta 1 and 9 confirmed, all other missiles in the Delta wing were disarmed and imploded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the mid-1990s. The piles of rubble were left untouched for up to a year so that Russian satellites could verify that

CARR CLIFTON; U.S. AIR FORCE (INSET)

## MINUTEMAN *Continued*

the missiles had indeed been destroyed, as required by START.

Now that Congress has authorized establishment of a national historic site, the National Park Service (NPS) over the next three years will develop a general management plan to determine the best way to manage the flow of visitors and to interpret the missile complex's role in the Cold War. So far, there is no actual budget for the site, but Marianne Mills, chief of resource education at Badlands and currently site manager for the Minuteman, has requested a base budget of \$750,000 for initial staffing.

Before the site opens to the public, the Park Service will construct a visitor center and parking areas, but for now the area is mostly empty prairie. "The launch control facility was designed to blend into the landscape, so it looks like a plain, tan ranch house with a lot of strange yard art," Mills explains. "There's a chain link fence topped with barbed wire, and in the open area in front of the building there are several microwave receivers, all sorts of radio equipment, a burn bin where they burned the orders each day, some physical fitness equipment, and storage for trucks and a lawn mower. All that will stay." Inside, everything looks as if the military personnel just walked out—right down to the magazines, videos, and other minutiae of daily life. Only items susceptible to theft, such as TVs and VCRs have been removed. An Air Force engineer checks the property at least once a month, and Mills has installed equipment to monitor temperature and humidity.

The heart of the operation is out of sight below ground. At Delta 1, an elevator connects the support building with the 12 by 28-foot capsule that was manned around the clock by the two launch control officers. (Just like in the movies, they had two red keys that they would have had to insert simultaneously in their consoles to initiate a launch, and each was armed as a check against one deciding to act alone.) It is

unlikely that such a confined space can be made accessible to large numbers of visitors, Mills says, so much of the below-ground story may be told at the visitor center. There is also a launch control simulator at nearby Ellsworth Air Force Base that is open to the public.

At the Delta 9 missile silo, the only visible evidence is a concrete slab surrounded by chain link and barbed wire. The silo is capped with an 80-ton, reinforced concrete door that in the event of a missile launch would have been blown off with explosives. "Under the treaty, the Air Force has to uncork the silo and open it up so the Russians can peek inside on a satellite pass and confirm that there really isn't a missile down in the hole," says Mortenson. So,

to accommodate both the Russians and the public, the massive door will be welded into a partially open position and the hole capped with a transparent cover to allow visibility while protecting the silo from the weather. Once the silo modification is complete and the site has been officially cleared under START, the Air Force will turn over the property to the National Park Service, likely to be sometime in 2001.

"From the Park Service's standpoint, this is probably the first time we've ever had a near complete historic assemblage of what was there when a site was in operation," notes Mortenson. "Most military history sites were stripped and dismembered, and it's very difficult to envision what they looked like unless



Cuban refugees listen to President Kennedy's national address during the Cuban missile crisis (top). Air raid drills were common in U.S. schools during the Cold War (left). State Department official Alger Hiss (above) was accused of being a Soviet agent during this period.

somebody has the time, the money, and the expertise to reconstruct what was there.”

To complete the story, the Minuteman visitor center will house a museum containing objects and reminiscences related specifically to the Delta missile site and to the era it represents. “I’ll be contacting Sears and Roebuck, because they sold through their catalog ready-made bomb shelters and bomb shelter kits, and that’s something we want to include in our collection,” Mills says. The aim at the center will be to cover the entire scope of the Cold War, including McCarthyism, the Cuban missile crisis, and to some extent the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. “It all has to be put in context,” Mills adds, “because the Minuteman missile system certainly didn’t exist in a vacuum.”

Although Minuteman will be the only site within the park system devoted exclusively to the Cold War, it is by no means the only one with connections to that era. Nike missile sites are among the attractions at two NPS units: Marin Headlands at San Francisco’s Golden Gate National Recreation Area, where visitors can watch the missile ascend from its silo and hear interpretive talks by knowledgeable volunteers; and Gateway National Recreation Area at the entrance to New York City harbor, where wayside markers at Forts Tilden and Hancock describe the role of the Nike in coastal defenses. Another early missile, the Titan, is featured at a privately owned site in Arizona.

A number of military sites associated with the Cold War also have been designated national historic landmarks or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (both administered by the Park Service), which means that they are historically significant but not necessarily owned by the federal government or open to the public.

These include the Thor missile launch site at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California; the Army’s launch complex 33 at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, where Wernher von Braun and his team perfected the V-2 rocket after World War II; the world’s



LAURENCE PARENT

**Ground Zero Monument site, in the White Sands Missile Range, represents the place where the world’s first nuclear bomb was detonated.**

first nuclear-powered submarine, USS Nautilus, now docked at Groton, Connecticut; and the Los Alamos National Laboratory, where the world’s first atomic bomb was perfected, and the Trinity site, where it was successfully detonated on June 16, 1945, both in New Mexico. Congress may well designate some of these as national historic sites once they are no longer part of active defense installations.

Civilian sites on the landmark or register list include a civil defense emergency operations center in Jefferson County, Colorado; Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, site of the world’s oldest nuclear reactor; and the Atomic Energy Commission’s National Engineering Lab in Idaho, which houses the first nuclear reactor to produce a usable amount of electricity for peacetime use.

Political aspects of the Cold War also come into play at a range of sites and landmarks, including the Eisenhower National Historic Site at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where Ike conferred with Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, and Westminster College Gymnasium, a national historic landmark, where Winston Churchill made his famous iron curtain speech. One of the most unusual landmarks is the pumpkin patch in Westminster, Maryland, made famous during the Alger Hiss case of 1948-49. It was from a hollowed-out pumpkin on his farm that former Communist-

turned-conservative Whittaker Chambers retrieved documents that he claimed State Department official Hiss had given him to pass on to a Soviet agent. On the basis of the pumpkin patch evidence and Chambers’ testimony, Hiss was convicted and sent to prison. The case propelled California Congressman Richard Nixon into national prominence and laid the groundwork for Sen. Joseph McCarthy’s Communist witch-hunt, which started shortly thereafter. The Chambers farm is still privately owned and is not open to the public.

So far, Congress has not authorized the National Park Service to conduct a “theme” study to identify sites related to the Cold War,

as it has for other aspects of American history, such as civil rights, the women’s movement, and the space program. But with the establishment of the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site, the Cold War is taking its rightful place in the nation’s heritage. “This could well serve for some years as the only site for a full interpretation of that era, until we see how the public reacts, what political controversies arise, and how difficult it is to write objective material,” notes Robin Winks, professor of history at Yale and a member of the board of trustees of the National Parks Conservation Association. “But over time the nation will likely decide that dealing with the fear of nuclear attack at just this one site is not sufficient for something that has been so powerfully important in American life.”

In the meantime, says Marianne Mills, the Park Service is determined to present the Minuteman site in the context of hope for the future. “We want to focus not just on ‘might makes right’ and what we can do with power and technology but rather on the wisdom of humanity that these weapons were never used,” she says. “This really is more of a world peace site than one devoted to military might.”

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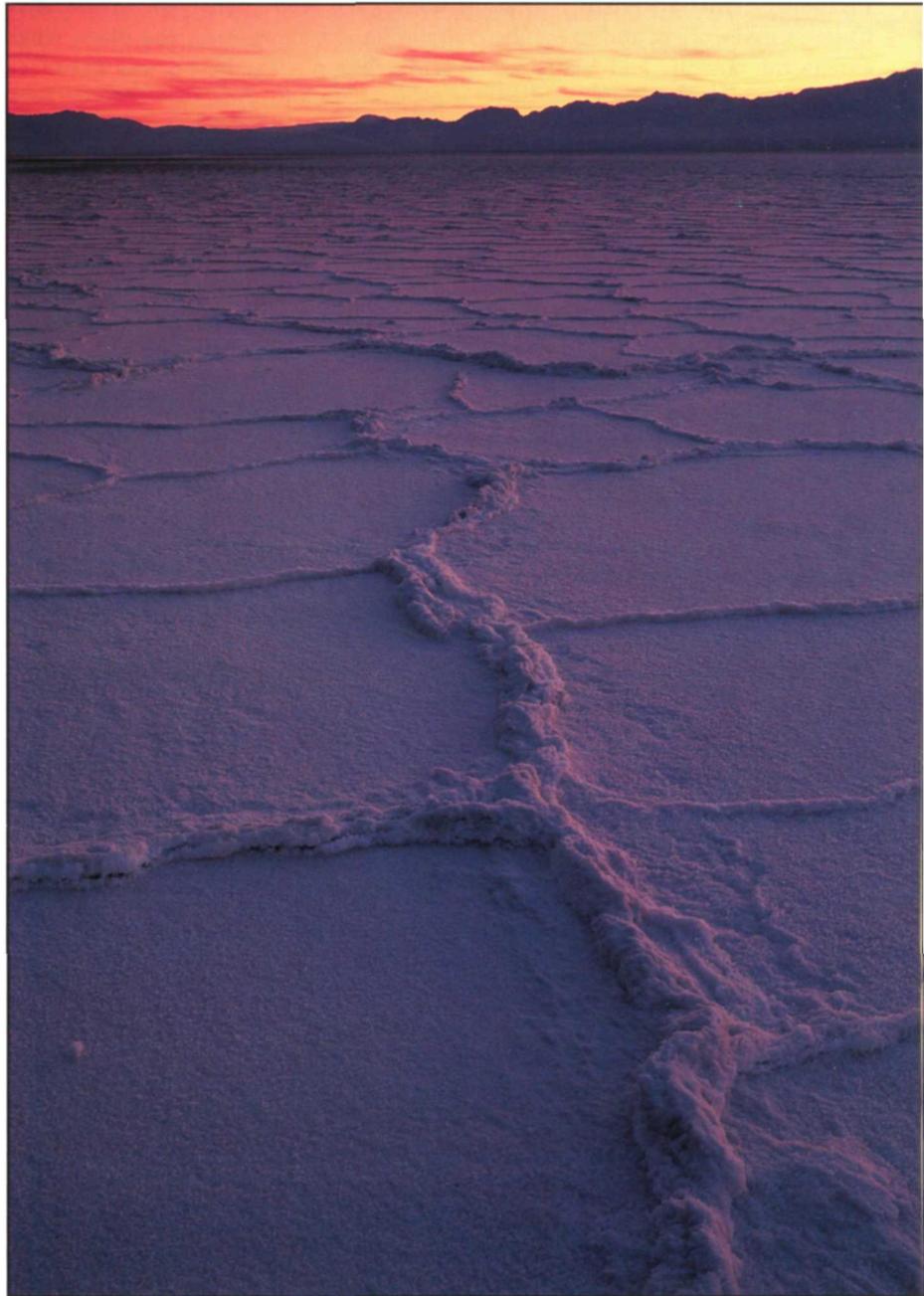
PHYLLIS MCINTOSH, who lives in the Washington, D.C. area, last wrote for National Parks about the challenges of conserving historic artifacts.

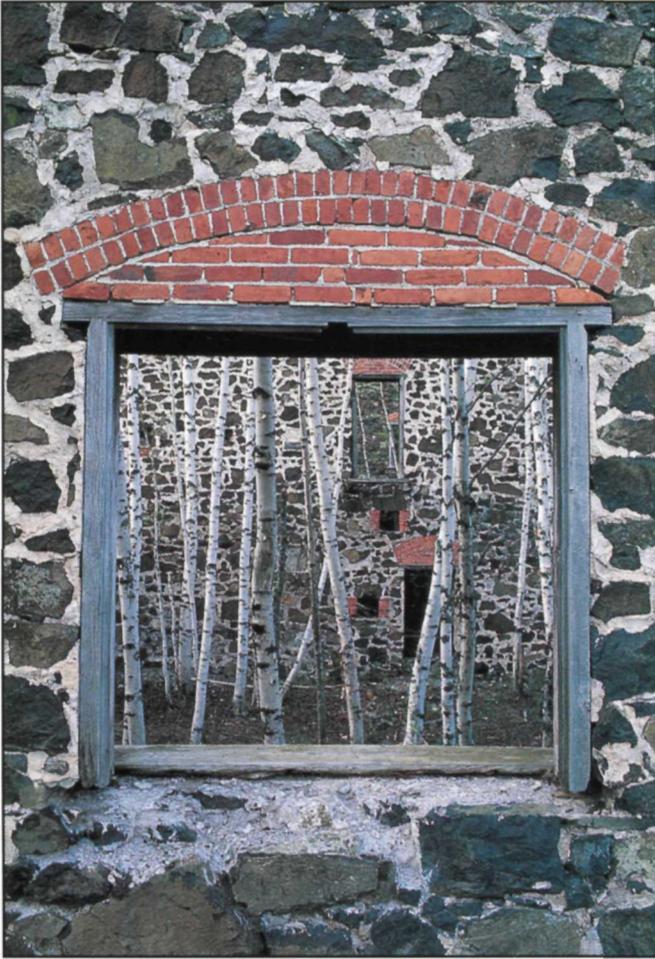
# *National Parks'* FIRST ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST *Winners*

**T**he national parks have inspired musical compositions, landscape paintings, and incredible photography. Some of those photographic images grace the pages of each issue of this magazine, most of them by professionals who travel the country shooting the wildlife and landscapes of the national parks. But sometimes an amateur takes a winning shot, and in this issue, our readers have supplied some stunning images for *National Parks'* first annual photo contest.

During a holiday camping trip to Death Valley, grand-prize winner Mark Miller of Gilbert, Arizona, snapped a shot just before sunset at the Salt Flats south of Badwater. Miller says he composed his photograph carefully, "using the curving line of the salt pan to create a strong foreground element and lead the viewer towards the horizon." His image was selected from more than 4,700 images. The contest drew more than 940 entries. The winners were chosen from 50 finalists by two judges, a nationally known photographer and the front page photo editor of a national newspaper.

In addition to Miller's entry, the other winners are displayed in the following pages.





## Second Place

**Bruce Montagne, Milford, Michigan,  
art director**

“Birch trees in the window of an abandoned copper mine building at Delaware Copper Mine. The mine is one of the oldest within Keweenaw National Historic Park in Upper Michigan. This image was taken May 1999.”

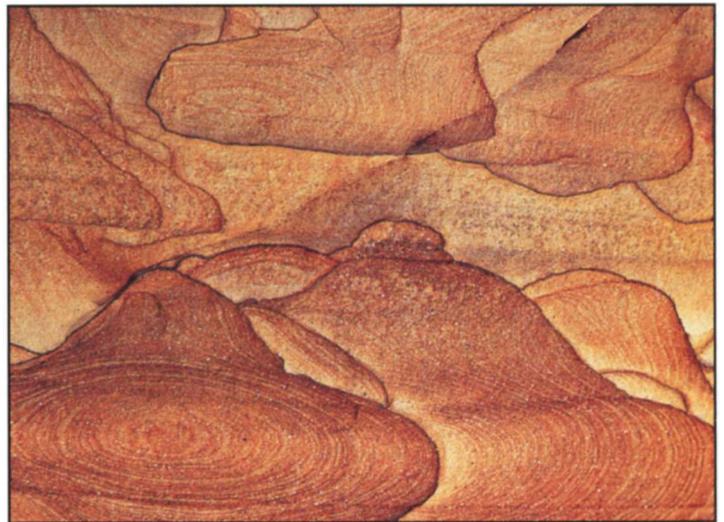


## First Place

**Mark Miller, Gilbert, Arizona,  
national account manager**

Winter Sunset over the Salt Flats, Death Valley National Park, December 1998. “I had always visualized this scene in my mind’s eye. During a Christmas holiday camping trip to Death Valley with my son, I had my chance to capture it on film. Arriving at the Salt Flats south of Badwater just before sunset I set up my tripod low to the ground. I composed this image carefully, using the curving line of the salt pan to create a strong foreground element and lead the viewer towards the horizon.”

Camera used: Toyo 45A, 75mm Nikkor lens with 81B warming and 2 stop graduated neutral density filters.

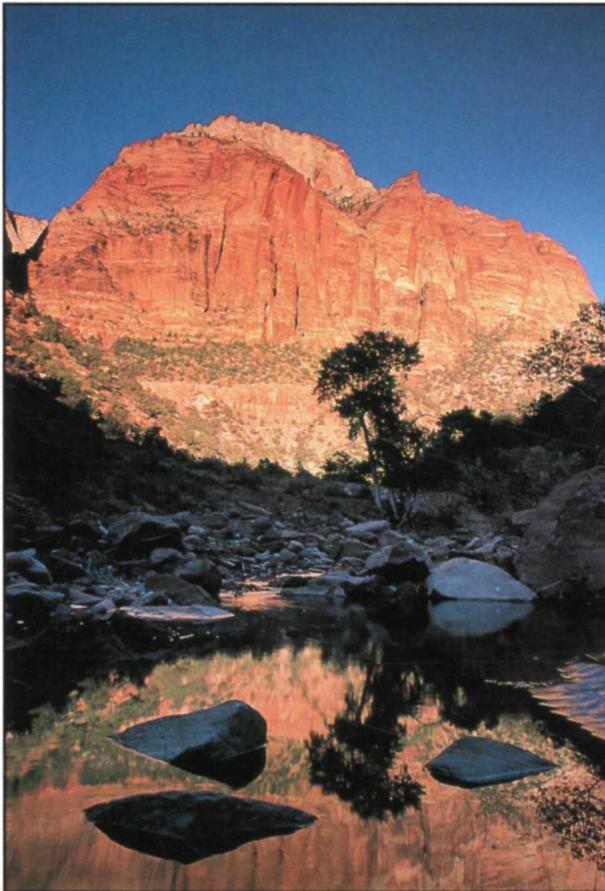


## Third Place

**Mark A. Hesperheide, Idyllwild, California,  
algebra and physics teacher**

“Picture Sandstone,” at Capital Reef National Park, May 1999 f6.7, 1/125.

“Sometimes referred to as ‘wonderstone,’ this sandstone has numerous fractures running through it. As water penetrates through the sandstone, it dissolves iron and magnesium from the body of the sandstone and deposits those metals in the fractures, creating the dark bands and the haloes around them. This particular scene mimics the buttes, cliffs, and clouds of the park to create a miniature landscape in rock.”



**Honorable Mention**

**Rod Barbee, Kent, Washington,  
aspiring professional photographer**

The East Temple, Zion National Park, Utah, October 1997, Nikon F4, 24mm lens.

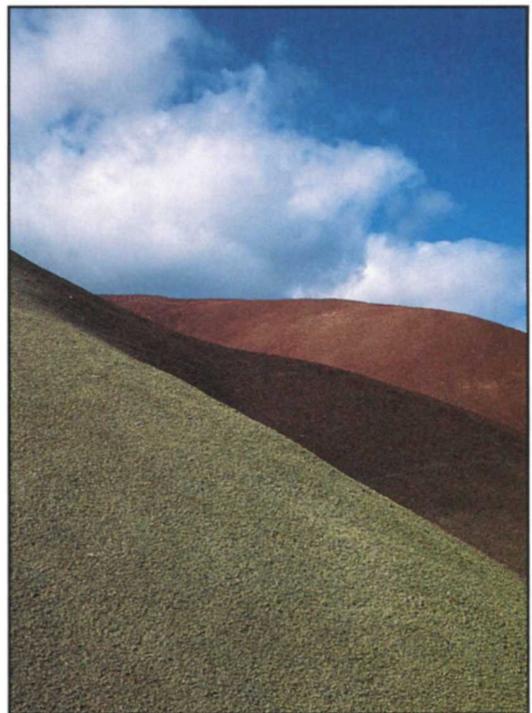
**Watch for our January/February issue to find out how to enter next year's contest.**



**Honorable Mention**

**Hal Beral, Irvine, California, real estate company**

Spiny brittle stars, Channel Islands National Park off Santa Barbara Island. Taken in the fall of 1997 with a Nikon RS camera, 50mm lens, and a SB-104 strobe.



**Honorable Mention**

**Daniel Kencke, Redmond, Washington, senior maintenance worker, City of Redmond  
Park Operations**

Painted Hills at John Day Fossil Beds National Monument in Oregon. Taken in the spring of 1997 at the Painted Hills Unit of John Day.

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# New York Holiday

*If Radio City Music Hall lures you to New York City during the holidays, be sure to save some time for history. More than six historic sites are within easy reach.*

by Wendy Mitman Clarke

**Ah**, holidays in the city. And we mean the city, New York City, the Big Red Delicious. What could be more festive than spending a day or two just walking the streets, taking it all in?

A stroll down Fifth Avenue reveals the annual decorating frenzy, when many of the big name stores try to outdo one another. Some years Christmas carols provide a theme for the windows at Saks or Tiffany's; other years, traditional holiday tales come to life through a designer's eyes. A walk to mid-town takes visitors to another winter wonderland display at Rockefeller Center, where skaters crowd onto the rink to glide past the huge Christmas tree and the annual display of heralding angels.

Some visitors contend that New York City is at its finest during the holidays. Following the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and the traditional kick-off to the holiday shopping season, the city seems to transform. The air fills with the smell of roasting chestnuts, and the bustling crowds of people seem friendlier than usual.

Even if holiday shopping, the annual holiday show at Radio City Music Hall, or a rendition of the Nutcracker ballet beckoned you to the city, you should save some time for history. If you have seen the window displays on Fifth Avenue and couldn't bear to look at one more toy at F.A.O. Schwarz, you may wish to visit some of the city's national historic sites. The most logical place to

start is the Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island.

More than half of all people living in the country today are descended from immigrants who entered the country through New York, many of whom arrived via Ellis Island, now part of Statue of Liberty National Monument.

## Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island

Dedicated in 1886, the 152-foot statue bears the torch of Freedom and was a gift of the French to commemorate the alliance of the two nations during the American Revolution. Designed by Frederick Bartholdi, the statue has come to symbolize freedom for immigrants.

The Statue of Liberty Museum is elevator accessible, and tactile exhibits are

available for people with limited or no vision. For those feeling especially fit, take the 354 steps—up 22 stories—from the bottom to the crown. It's not recommended for the faint of heart—literally—but the view of the city and New York Harbor from the crown makes the climb worthwhile.

A quick ferry ride from Lady Liberty takes you to Ellis Island, perhaps one of the most haunting of the city's monuments. Between 1892 and 1954, about 12 million immigrants were required to pass legal and medical inspections here. The 30-minute documentary "Island of Hope, Island of Tears," shown in two theaters continuously, describes their hopeful and sometimes harrowing journeys. Ellis Island's restored main building is a three-story museum documenting the story of the island and some of the millions of people who passed through its gates. Ellis Island is completely wheelchair accessible, and elevators go to all floors.

Annual visitation to these sites is about 5 million people, and though mid-summer is the peak season, even in winter you can expect company. Access to both is by ferry from Battery Park in lower Manhattan and Liberty State Park in New Jersey. Although there's no charge to visit the islands, a round-trip ferry ticket is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children, and \$6 for seniors.

Call 212-269-5755 for a ferry schedule. The Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island are open daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m., except Christmas Day. Visit the web site at [www.nps.gov/stli](http://www.nps.gov/stli) for the most updated hours, or call 212-363-3200.



The Statue of Liberty at night.

PATTI MCCONVILLE/DEBINSKY PHOTO ASSOC.

WENDY MITMAN CLARKE is a regular contributor to National Parks.

## Castle Clinton National Monument

While you're at Battery Park to catch the ferry, take in Castle Clinton National Monument. Built from 1808 to 1811 to defend the city in the War of 1812, the Southwest Battery Fort never fired a shot. In 1817, the fort was renamed Castle Clinton in honor of DeWitt Clinton, the mayor of the city. Although it began its life as a fort, Castle Clinton has had a varied history. In 1821, the army moved out, and two years later the site was deeded to New York City when it became a restaurant and entertainment center. In 1855, the area was leased to New York State and opened as an immigrant landing depot. Between 1855 and 1890, more than 8 million people entered the United States through this site.

In 1896, Castle Clinton underwent renovations again to become the New York City Aquarium, which was among the city's most popular attractions until it closed in 1941. Castle Clinton has a small museum detailing its history, and rangers describe historic events that occurred here. Admission is free to this accessible site, which is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except Christmas Day. For more information, contact the web site, [www.nps.gov/cacl](http://www.nps.gov/cacl), or call 212-344-7220.

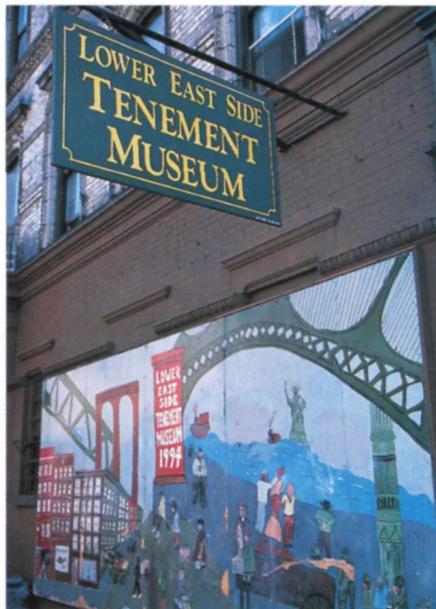
## Lower East Side Tenement Museum

Lower East Side Tenement Museum at 90 Orchard Street is a national historic area. The museum offers a fascinating look at what happened to many immigrants after they left Ellis Island. The living history apartment of the Sephardic-Jewish Confino family, who emigrated from Turkey and lived here around 1916, is a hands-on exhibit that's great for kids; visitors may even try on period clothing or dance to the wind-up Victrola. A costumed interpreter playing the role of Victoria Confino explains what it was like to live in the tenement at the turn of the 19th century. The museum is open Saturday and Sunday from noon to 3 p.m. and costs \$8 for adults and \$6 for seniors and students.

You can also take guided tours of an



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Lower East Side Tenement Museum.

1863 tenement house, where museum staffers explain the stories of the families who lived here. Tours are every half-hour from 1 to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and every half-hour from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$9 for adults and \$7 for students and seniors.

Advance tickets are recommended, and can be obtained by calling 800-965-4827 or via [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com). The museum is not accessible to wheelchairs. For more information, go to the museum's web site, [www.tenement.org](http://www.tenement.org), or call 212-431-0233.

## Federal Hall National Memorial

Federal Hall National Memorial, at the corner of Wall and Broad streets, was the seat of New York's colonial government and the home site of the nation's first capital. It was the meeting place of the "Stamp Act" Congress in October 1765, which met to protest "taxation without representation." After the Constitution was ratified in 1788, the building was remodeled to become Federal Hall. Here George Washington was sworn in as the nation's first president on April 30, 1789, and the First Congress met. The following year, the nation's capital moved to Philadelphia, and the building again became City Hall.

The current building was erected between 1834 and 1842 as the Customs House. Visitors can see a ten-minute program introducing the site, and ranger-led or self-guided tours last



Federal Hall, Wall Street.



about half an hour. Federal Hall is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and closed on national holidays. It is accessible to wheelchairs and free. Visit [www.nps.gov/feha](http://www.nps.gov/feha) for more information or call 212-825-6888.

### Hamilton Grange National Memorial

Alexander Hamilton, co-author of "The Federalist Papers," a congressional delegate, and the nation's first treasury secretary, built this home in the late 1700s at 287 Convent Avenue, West 141st and West 142nd streets. He named it the Grange after his family's ancestral home in Scotland.

Hamilton, an author and signer of the Constitution, is also famous for devising plans to fund the national debt and organizing a federal bank. His name is inextricably linked to his political rival, Aaron Burr, who fatally wounded Hamilton in a duel on July 11, 1804. Today, Hamilton Grange includes a small museum detailing Hamilton's life, and staff leads tours of the home. The Park Service plans to relocate the structure to Saint Nicholas Park, where it can be fully restored. The home is not accessible to wheelchairs. The Grange is open Friday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and admission is free. Call 212-283-5154 or 212-666-1640, or visit [www.nps.gov/hagr](http://www.nps.gov/hagr).

### General Grant National Memorial

Few figures stand as tall in the nation's Civil War history as Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, who went on to serve two terms as president. He and his wife, Julia Dent Grant, are interred at General Grant National Memorial, better known as Grant's Tomb. Designed by architect John Duncan and completed in 1897, the granite and marble monument at Riverside Drive and 122nd Street is the largest mausoleum in North America. Grant died of throat cancer in New York City on July 23, 1885, and was laid to rest

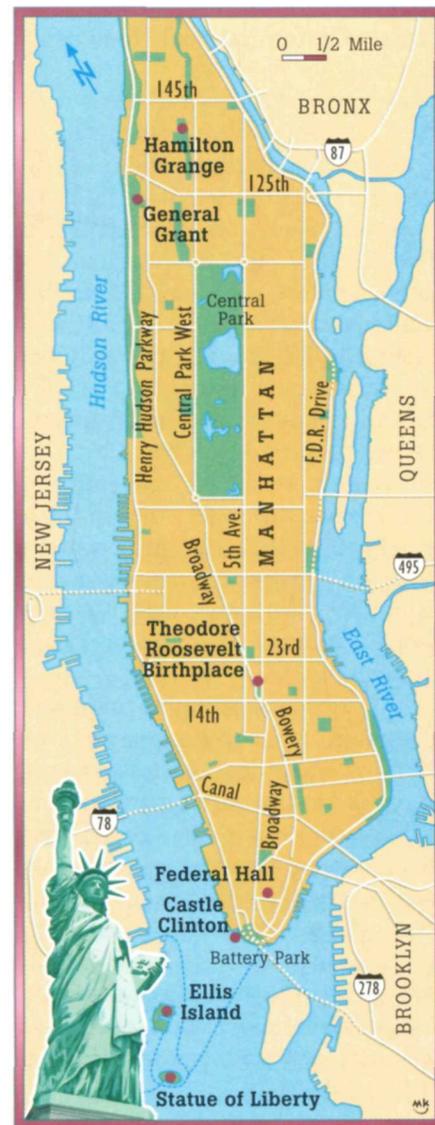
August 8, with more than 60,000 marchers in his funeral procession.

A thorough museum on site describes Grant's life and times, staff-led tours are offered every hour on the hour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and costumed interpreters focus on Grant's role in the Civil War. The tomb is open for free 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except for Thanksgiving and Christmas days. It is not handicapped accessible. For more information, visit the web site at [www.nps.gov/gegr](http://www.nps.gov/gegr) or call 212-666-1640.

### Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site

New York City was the birthplace of another of the country's presidents, Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt, who became president in September 1901 after the assassination of President William McKinley, lived in this house for the first 14 years of his life.

The reconstructed version of his boyhood home is at 28 East 20th Street, between Broadway and Park Avenue South. (The original home was demolished in 1916, but this building was meticulously rebuilt in 1923, and nearly half of its furnish-



MATT KANIA

**G**etting around in New York City and Manhattan can be intimidating and expensive. Your best bet is first to visit the web sites for each of the National Park Service sites. These are full of nitty-gritty information detailing everything from what to wear to which subway or buses to ride to get there. Nearly all recommend using public transportation, because parking in Manhattan is both expensive and nearly impossible. To learn about the subway and bus system, log onto [www.mta.nyc.ny.us](http://www.mta.nyc.ny.us). From here you can download subway and bus routes, schedules, fares, maps and useful phone numbers. You can also call the MTA's Travel Information Center at 718-330-1234.

You'll find a wealth of information at [www.theinsider.com/nyc](http://www.theinsider.com/nyc). This site offers everything from weekly hotel discounts to no-holds-barred reviews of some of the city's top tourist sites. It also has maps and directions. The web site [www.nyc-tourist.com](http://www.nyc-tourist.com) offers information about where to eat and discount hotel rates.

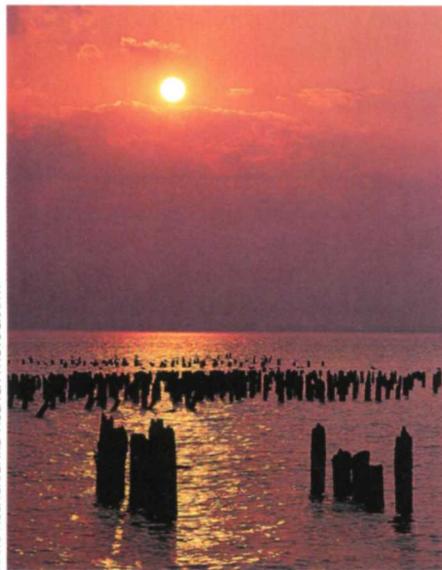
The Manhattan Chamber of Commerce web site, [www.manhattancc.org](http://www.manhattancc.org), is also useful once you click on the link to New York Tourism. This provides further links to hotels, restaurants, the MTA, and other tourist information. The chamber's phone number is 212-479-7772. The New York City Convention and Visitors Bureau, [www.nycvisit.com](http://www.nycvisit.com) or 212-484-1222, also provides useful neighborhood maps and information on hotel discounts and affordable eateries.

ings are from the original house.)

The home presents an enlightening view of well-to-do New Yorkers in the mid-1800s and includes extensive information about Roosevelt's life and times. Staff leads tours every hour. The home is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday and closed on national holidays. It is not accessible to the handicapped, and admission is \$2. Call 212-260-1616 or visit [www.nps.gov/thrb](http://www.nps.gov/thrb).

## Gateway National Recreation Area

Finally, don't miss Gateway National Recreation Area, an enormous park that extends from Sandy Hook in northern New Jersey across the "gate" of New York Harbor to Staten Island, Jamaica Bay, and Rockaway Peninsula in Queens and Brooklyn. Gateway was established in 1972 as the nation's first urban national park. Gateway contains the largest bird sanctuary in the Northeast, Fort Wadsworth, one of the oldest military sites in the country, the oldest operating lighthouse, which is at Sandy Hook, and New York City's first municipal airport at Floyd Bennett Field. Gateway sponsors hundreds of special activities year-round, from festivals to kayak and bicycle tours to star-gazing and camping. For more information, visit the web site at [www.nps.gov/gate](http://www.nps.gov/gate) (which gives phone numbers for each site) or call 718-338-3338.



Sandy Hook Bay.

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# Poet of the People

Carl Sandburg's life is commemorated at a national historic site in Flat Rock, North Carolina.

BY WILLIAM A. UPDIKE

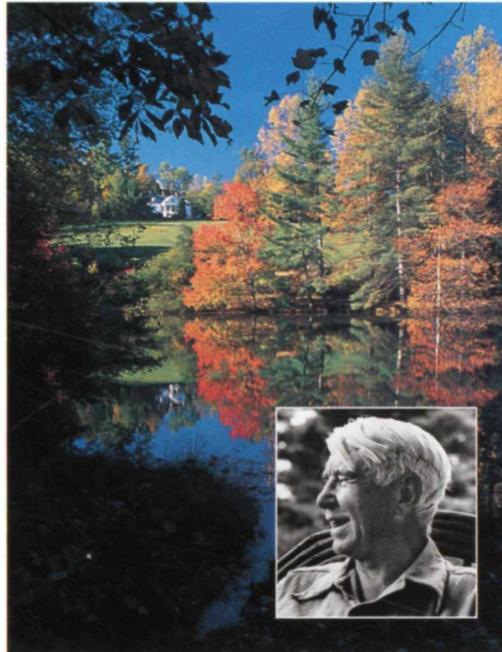
"I shall cry over the dead child of a stockyards hunky./His job is sweeping blood off the floor./He gets a dollar seventy cents a day when he works/And it's many tubs of blood he shoves out with a broom day by day."

—"The Right to Grief"

**A**BOVE ALL ELSE, Carl Sandburg was a poet of the people. Sandburg's life and writing were heavily influenced by his identification with and belief in the power of working people. He came from a working-class Swedish immigrant family and spent much of his young life traveling on trains with hobos, holding many different jobs, moving from town to town selling stereoscopes, viewing instruments that showed 3-D images, working the quintessentially underpaid job—newspaper reporter. Despite his wandering, however, Sandburg expressed certainty in one thing. As he once said, "I'm either going to be a writer—or a bum."

He was not just a writer, however, but also an activist. Because of his identification with working people, Sandburg dedicated himself to various socialist causes. In 1907, he became an organizer for the Social-Democratic Party of Wisconsin, where he met his wife, Lilian—sister of famous photographer Edward Steichen. A year later, he campaigned with presidential candidate Eugene V. Debs, and two years after that he got a job as the private secretary to Milwaukee's Socialist mayor, Emil Seidel.

WILLIAM A. UPDIKE is assistant editor for National Parks.



Sandburg lived at his North Carolina farm from 1945 until his death in 1967.

Sandburg integrated his philosophy with his personal life. As he wrote to his wife-to-be: "All the big people are simple, as simple as the unexplored wilderness. They love the universal things that are free to everybody. Light and air and food and love and some work are enough. In the varying phases of these cheap and common things, the great lives have found their joy..."

Although he was influenced by many poets, Whitman, Dickinson, Poe, Mallarme, and others, Sandburg never traveled in any elite writer's cliques. Because of his poetry's colloquial nature, and despite winning the Pulitzer Prize, some poets objected to his work. Robert

Frost called him a fraud; William Carlos Williams said that he "deliberately invited" failure because of his lack of attention to poetic craft.

Sandburg was also a popular lecturer, a writer of children's stories, and a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian. He wrote and gave his famous lectures, which often included the singing of folk songs that he picked up throughout his travels, and which he published in 1927 as *The American Songbag*. In 1922, he published *Rootabaga Stories*, a very popular set of children's tales, of which Frank Lloyd Wright said in a note to the author: "Dear Carl—I read your fairy-tales every night—before I go to bed—they fill a long felt want—Poetry. I'll soon know them all by heart..." In 1939, he published the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Abraham Lincoln: The War Years*, a four-volume follow-up to *Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years* (1926).

Sandburg wrote the history of Lincoln in a way that was unique for the times. As a reviewer noted, "This Lincoln, made with the poet's hands, takes on a reality, strong, rank, pungent, gorgeous reality." Sandburg believed in the transformative power of history. He once said: "One thing I'm sure of; the biggest part of American history has all to be rewritten; and it will be done."

Although he was never able to tackle the daunting task of rewriting all of American history, his life and work became an integral part of our country's story. As his wife Lilian stated to the press on the day of his death, "Now Carl belongs to the Ages."

PHIL SMITH: NPS/CARL SANDBURG NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE (INSET)

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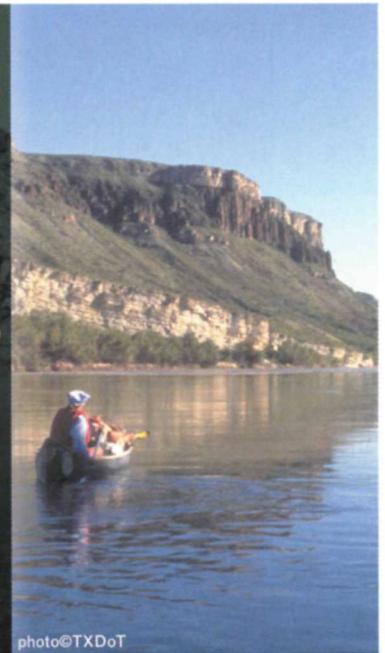
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# Return of a Reptile

The American crocodile is making a comeback, but human misconceptions hinder its recovery.

BY ELIZABETH G. DAERR

**W**HEN MOST PEOPLE conjure up the image of a crocodile, they may picture a large creature floating at the water's surface waiting to ambush an unsuspecting wildebeest or a crocodile hunter wrestling a 15-foot beast in Australia. But Frank Mazzotti, a wildlife biologist at the University of Florida who has studied the American crocodile in Everglades and Biscayne national parks for 23 years, has a different image.

"They're really a gentle species," he says. "I've captured them and prodded them in the most invasive ways [for research], and they just lay there." Mazzotti believes that education about the crocodile's passive nature is one of the best ways to help recovery of this endangered species.

Paul Moler, a wildlife biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, says that the American crocodile has been wrongly linked to the human-eating reputation of its African and Australian cousins. "There's a pervasive misconception that crocodiles are more aggressive than alligators," which few people fear in Florida, he said. "There's never been a documented crocodile attack; they are pretty much reclusive animals." In fact, a large population lives in the 168 linear miles of cooling canals of a Florida Power and Light plant, where they are rarely both-



FRANK CLELAND/GNASS PHOTO IMAGES

**Both upper and lower teeth are visible on a crocodile, distinguishing it from its cousin, the alligator.**

ered by humans and also have access to the protected waters of Biscayne Bay.

The species was listed as endangered in Florida in 1975 because of hunting for the animal's hide and the loss of habitat to development. Today, various scientists estimate that between 500 to 1,200 crocodiles live in Florida—up from approximately 200 to 400 more than two decades ago. Their U.S. habitat extends from Big Pine Key through Biscayne Bay and the Everglades, but they are also found south into Mexico, the Caribbean, and Ecuador.

Though the species resemble one another, crocodiles vary greatly from the more than 1 million alligators found in Florida. Crocodile color ranges from olive green to gray compared with the black hue of alligators, and their snouts are narrower. In addition, the crocodile's bottom and top teeth are visible from the side; only the upper teeth are seen on an alligator. Breeding seasons

also vary, and between March and May, female crocodiles lay 20 to 50 eggs that incubate two to three months.

When the nine-inch hatchlings emerge, they disperse immediately into saltwater estuaries, where the survival rate for the first year ranges from 6 percent to 50 percent, depending on the availability of fresh water. Adequate rainwater is needed to dilute seawater because baby crocodiles cannot tolerate high salinity. Crocodiles can live up to 50 or 60 years according to scientists.

As the American crocodile expands into its historic territory, alterations of key habitat continue to cause problems. Restricted fresh water flows through Everglades National Park, which provide irrigation for agriculture and flood control, have made much of the area unsuitable for hatchlings. Development has also increased the number of human interactions with crocodiles, creating more calls to the state wildlife commission to remove animals.

The population is rebounding without much management, Moler said, and he believes that the species is on its way to being upgraded to threatened status. But neither he nor Mazzotti believes that the American crocodile can be removed entirely from federal protection because of human attitudes toward the creature. "If you don't solve the problem of human intolerance, your program will never be a success," Mazzotti said.

ELIZABETH G. DAERR is news editor for National Parks.

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# Wildlands as Gardens

The question is not whether we must manage wild nature, but how we will go about it.

BY DANIEL JANZEN

I AM A tropical real estate developer. So are farmers, town planners, and national park staff. I do biodiversity development and ecosystem development—biodevelopment, for short. My goal is that large conserved wildlands survive into perpetuity. Non-damaging biodevelopment is the only chance that they have. This “gardenification of nature” is the recognition of nature as friend, as collaborator, rather than as an enemy to be feared or removed to make way for humanity.

The conserved wildland need not be feared and associated with evil things that go bump in the night. The conserved wildland is a garden, albeit the crops do not grow in orderly rows, and the produce does not come in square boxes. Yes, to garden it we need to understand it far better than we do, and the crops are multicropped, multitasked, and multiused. But a garden it is, nonetheless. And society wants gardens.

The question is not whether we must manage wild nature, but rather how shall we manage it—haphazardly or with the calculated goal of its survival forever? Most readers of this magazine opt for the latter. However, society’s relationship to wildland nature is now

DANIEL JANZEN ([djanzen@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:djanzen@sas.upenn.edu)) is the Thomas G. and Louise E. DiMaura Endowed Term Professor of Conservation Biology at the University of Pennsylvania and a Technical Advisor to the Area de Conservacion Guanacaste in northwestern Costa Rica. ([janzen.sas.upenn.edu/caterpillar/RR/rincon\\_rainforest.htm](http://janzen.sas.upenn.edu/caterpillar/RR/rincon_rainforest.htm)). He received the 1984 Crafoord Prize in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the Swedish Royal Academy and the 1997 Kyoto Prize in Basic Science from the Inamori Foundation.



DOUGLAS MACGREGOR

almost entirely accidental. Think on it. We have 10,000 years-plus of making the agroscape work. In the wildland garden, we are not even in kindergarten. We still think that the right thing to do with the wildland resource is to put it in a cage and march around the cage with park guards. How many gardens would survive if all we did was protect them? We set out millennia ago to make the agroscape into high quality, each society in its own way, each with varying degrees of success. When are

we going to do the same for the conserved wildland?

There is no pristine nature to conserve. Only those unaware of the past can imagine that any ecosystem is unaffected by humanity. The New World? Those hunters 11,500 years ago, with their magnificent fluted spear points, took the continent’s largest animals and, with that action, any illusions of pristine nature. The hidden glassy spring buried in an old-growth rainforest hundreds of kilometers from a road? Do a

test for the airborne organochlorines dripped out of the fog and stored in the mayfly fat bodies. Show me a place that is immune to the global climate change parching our west, pushing the cloud bank up the sides of our tropical mountains, and melting our permafrost. All conserved wildlands are ecological islands in an agroscape, an urbanscape, and will be forever. Even if they are permitted to survive as self-sustaining wild lumps, which is what we lobby for, these lumps will melt, shrink, homogenize, evolve, and be washed over, inexorably, inevitably, mercilessly.

So, folks, do we fiddle while humanity extends its domain over the wildlands? Or are we going to leave some self-sustaining lumps of the library of life to be enjoyed, used, felt, known?

If you opt for the latter, you better get cracking. The one little wrinkle is that you have to do it without trashing the basic resource. And that is not so strange as you may think. Sustainable agriculture has been around a long time. Let's have sustainable wildlands. They need market development, crop rotation, experiment stations, subsidies, insurance, innovation, entrepreneurship—and they need to pay their bills, be a producer, be open around the clock, and be welcomed at society's table.

The conserved wildland has one mission: survive into perpetuity. That means produce whatever goods and services it can produce for whatever community it can reach. And produce them without damaging it. Impossible? All farmers' fields have footprints. "Without damaging" a conserved wildland means that the footprints are within the range of the day-to-day, week-to-week, year-to-year impacts that all wild nature inflicts on all wild nature. The dry forests, cloud forests, and rainforests where I live in Costa Rica absorbed Hurricane Mitch without a blink, just as they do a visit by 2,500 schoolchildren a year, just as they absorb biodiversity prospecting, just as they absorb you on your bird-watching honeymoon. I will pay 5 percent of biodiversity to make the rest welcome in humanity's living room. Every farm has roads, houses, ditches, and fallow. There is no free lunch.

Am I talking one set of rules for the conserved wildland and one set for the agroscape? Yes. The biodiversity in the wildland garden lives and lets live. Where there is life, there is death. The wild ecosystems rip and rage at each other. What I work for is letting them turmoil in peace. That generally means big. That generally means complex. That generally means restoring some large areas already heavily impacted by humanity. That generally means deciding what big areas will be conserved, and what won't. And that means a highly professional staff fully in charge of doing the right thing by its wildland, a staff who knows its wild things, and how those wild things react to change, just like a university hospital knows its patients.

Humanity is not going to give the entire globe back to wildland nature, and the more you try to force humanity to dance by nature's tune in the agroscape and the urbanscape, the more humanity is going to rise up and squash you. We cannot beat 'em, so let's join 'em. And if that snail in that marsh is something that some of us desperately want to see survive, then play real estate developer, cut the deal, and meld its newly purchased home into some wildland lump big enough for survival.

It is imperative that we come to recognize conserved wildlands for the gardens that they are. They are water factories, amusement centers, grocery stores. They are the globe's finest research, entertainment, and aesthetic living libraries. They are carbon deposits, biodegraders, recyclers, buffers, ameliorators. They are sandboxes and swing sets. And they have shoplifters, vandals, drunks, speeders, and stupidities. But they are not gold under the bed to be protected with a machine gun; someone always figures out how to get into Fort Knox. Just how much interest income comes from a farmer's gorgeous field that lies unplanted? They are gold to be put out on the marketplace to work, under the watchful eye of society's self-interest.

We will always have universities, hospitals, highways, the Internet—because they offer something unique. If we want conserved wildlands, then we

have to put great big labels on the front, back, and side doors that say: "Welcome. Biodevelopment here. Come walk in this garden. Take some home." Treat the wildland garden with the respect you would give your neighbors' gardens. Pay your bill when you leave the restaurant.

Can too many people trash a wildland? Of course they can, and too many cattle can trash a pasture. And too much cotton can bleed the soil red. And too much irrigation can salt your flat. Humanity knows how to take care of a piece of real estate.

Think: "protect through knowledgeable use." Train how to multicrop, multitask, multiuse. Does a library exist to protect thin sheets of wood? No. A library is there to be used. Yes, there is a rare book room with a fierce librarian. And there are open stacks. And there is a room where frantic school kids razor-blade pages out of books because they will not use the copy machine. And yes the staff goes on vacation, and even home at night. But more and more, the insomniac can browse that library on the Internet. There is even a planned price, called taxes, for the fact that libraries are not turned into hotels when there is a room shortage and their thin sheets of wood are not burned when gas prices rise.

Act: give your conserved wildland to a staff that lives, breathes, and understands that it is allowed one mission—integrate the conserved wildland into society for its survival into perpetuity. Guided use of conserved wildland real estate is calculable, knowable, and sustainable. It is gardening. 

### Additional Reading

Janzen, D. H. "Gardenification of wildland nature and the human footprint." *Science* 279 (1998):1312-13.

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"How to grow a wildland: the gardenification of nature," *Nature and Human Society*, P.H. Raven and T. Williams, eds. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press, 2000, pp. 521-29.

BY WILLIAM A. UPDIKE

## Junior Rangers Program Goes National

►NPCA's Junior Rangers program, which currently brings diverse youth from the Washington, D.C., area to local Park Service units, is moving to a more national focus with an expansion to Boston, Miami, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. NPCA is

also working in partnership with the Student Conservation Association to begin a program in New York City.

The Junior Rangers program will work in conjunction with NPCA's Community Partners, whose goal is to support national parks' efforts to reach and represent a broader, more diverse, audience. According to Francisco Morales-Bermudez, NPCA's enhancing diversity

program coordinator, giving the Junior Rangers program a national focus is a "natural and obvious step" for NPCA and its Community Partners.

"These youth are the park advocates of the future," Morales-Bermudez said. "Our dream is that they will have a connection to the outdoors that will help them in their everyday lives, as well as instilling in them an understanding for and a love of the national parks."

By providing them with internship and employment information, NPCA's Junior Rangers program also prepares young people for future careers in environmental and Park Service work. "This is not a program that says thank you for what you've done, and goodbye," said Morales-Bermudez.

For more information regarding NPCA's Junior Rangers program, contact Francisco Morales-Bermudez by phone at 202-454-3383, or e-mail at [fmbermudez@npca.org](mailto:fmbermudez@npca.org).



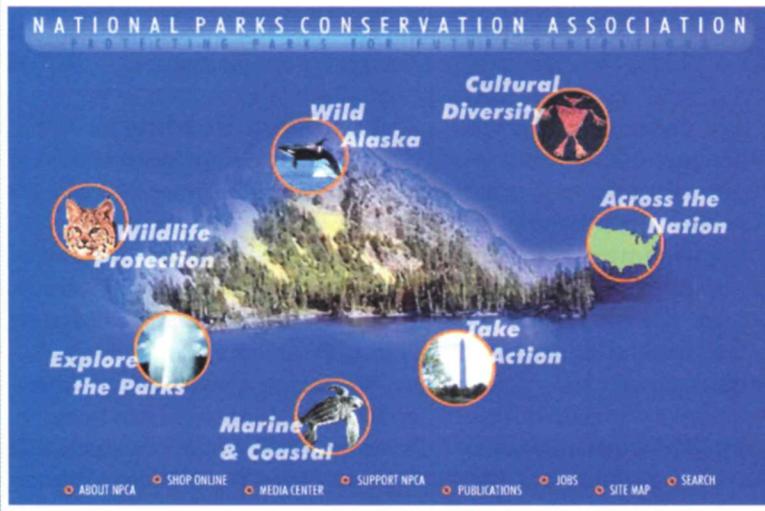
## New Web Site Makes Park Activism Easier

►As part of its new web site design, NPCA also announced a new online Take Action center. The dynamic new center will make it easier for activists to affect change within the National Park System by allowing individuals to send letters to their elected representatives with one click of a keyboard button. The Take Action center will be able to "recognize" each visitor, automatically select his or her senators and representative, and sign his or her name to advocacy letters. In addition, there will be a place for activists to insert comments and personal experiences.

Those who register will receive NPCA's electronic newsletter, *National Park Lines*, in their e-mail inbox every Friday. With each alert in the

### NPCA UNVEILS NEW WEB SITE

In an effort to better serve its members and other interested parties, NPCA has completely redesigned its web site. The new site, which features exciting graphics such as moving images and a scroll bar, is better organized, easier to navigate, and has more information. There is a brand new Take Action center for grassroots work, new sections on marine conservation and wildlife protection, and a new merchandise center with a shopping cart function that will make it easier for visitors to purchase goods to support NPCA's work in the national parks. Although the web site is completely new, the address remains the same: [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org).

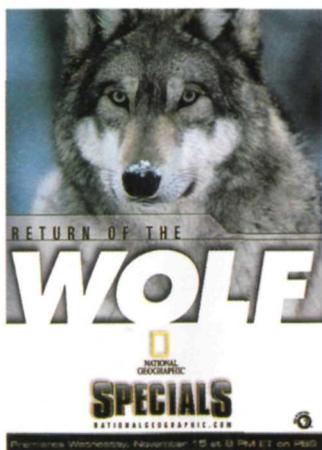


newsletter, there will be a direct link to the Take Action center.

"The new Take Action center will make it even more possible for a large and vocal constituency to effectively voice their support for park protection," said Jim Pissot, NPCA's vice president for public advocacy. "Both the number and quality of comments will be greatly enhanced."

## NPCA Will Co-host Screening of Wolf Film

►Tune in to the National Geographic Special presentation, "Return of the Wolf," which will air on Wednesday, November 15 at 8 p.m., E.T., on PBS (check local listings). This feature presentation follows the efforts to



reintroduce the gray wolf to Yellowstone National Park. NPCA and National Geographic Television will co-host a premiere screening of this film in Washington, D.C., in November.

## Alaska Lands Summit Held

►The Alaska Coalition, which is made up of a

group of environmental organizations including NPCA, recently held the Alaska Lands Summit in Washington, D.C., to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) as well as to meet with key decision makers to drum up support for the continued protection of Alaska's public lands.

From September 16 to 20, more than 120 grassroots activists from around the country descended on Washington to commend those who were responsible for ANILCA, which protected 104 million acres of public land in Alaska. Summit activists met with members of Congress to advocate for continued support for Alaska lands, including protection for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge,

## NEW NPCA ONLINE SURVEY

NPCA wants to know... what's your biggest priority when it comes to safeguarding our national parks? Do you think we should protect Great Smoky Mountains National Park from suffocating air pollution? What's your opinion on motorized vehicle use in places such as Yellowstone, Big Cypress, and Voyageurs?

Just go to [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org) to make your voice heard on our new web survey, which features a timely question on the most urgent issues facing our national parks today. Speak your mind! Take part in our web survey today.

which has been threatened by oil interests, and Tongass National Forest.



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# Low Country

*The 729,000 acres of land included in this park were designated in part to protect the watershed located at its southern border.*



CARR CLIFTON

**T**HIS PARK IS implementing a policy change in an effort to reverse the damage caused by off-road vehicles, which have created nearly 22,000 miles of undesignated trails. Park staff hopes that the new plan will protect endangered species in the park as well as the natural quiet and fragile ecosystem there. The park consists of slash pine, mixed hardwood hammocks, wet prairies, dry prairies, estuarine mangrove forests, and the trees shown above that give the park its name. Have you visited this park? Do you know which one it is? [ANSWER ON PAGE 10.]

# Bring a drained battery back to life without opening your hood

*The remarkable Auto Starter® eliminates the need for dangerous jumper cables and can provide independent power for a variety of uses.*

by Chris Murdock

Imagine this...after a long flight home, you arrive at the airport parking lot, get in your car and turn the key and nothing happens. Guess what? Your car battery's drained. It's cold, dark and you're alone. Do you flag down a stranger and hope he has jumper cables? Do you walk back to the airport, phone a tow truck and wait? No...you simply reach into your glove box and take out your Auto Starter®. You plug it into your car's cigarette lighter and, in a matter of minutes, you're on your way.

**A good start.** These days, cars have complex electrical systems which support many accessories. Many of these features operate even if your car isn't running, which increases the risk that someday you'll find your car's battery drained. Before Auto Starter, you either had to call a tow truck or try to get a jump from another vehicle. Tow trucks are slow to

arrive and very expensive. Jumper cables, even heavy-duty ones, are dangerous and involve getting under the hood. Plus, there has to be another car around to provide the jump. Battery acid can burn your skin and ruin your clothes. If the cables are not connected correctly they can damage your car's expensive electrical system or, even worse, cause an explosion. With Auto Starter, you don't need a jump—you don't even have to open the hood. You simply plug the unit into the cigarette lighter, wait a few minutes and you're on your way. Leave the unit plugged in for 30-120 minutes while driving and it recharges automatically.

The five-amp sealed alkaline battery operates under extreme temperatures, from sub-zero to 120 degrees. It is less than eight inches long, so it stores easily in your glove box. Once it's charged, Auto Starter will retain the power to start your car for five years. It is the easiest, most convenient protection you can own.

**Portable power.** Auto Starter has many other uses. It's an independent 12V DC power supply that can operate TVs, radios, cellular phones and laptops. Almost any appliance that runs off of an adapter can operate independently with Auto Starter, so it's perfect for picnics, camping, boating and more.

Auto Starter also makes it easier to work on your car. Plug it in before you change the car battery, and you won't have to reprogram your car's clock, radio or alarm system. You



Auto Starter can power TVs, radios, cellular phones, laptops...you name it! Perfect for boating, camping, vacations... anywhere you need portable power.



**The Auto Starter eliminates the need for another car to give you a jump, and gives you a portable 12-volt DC power supply!**

- No getting out of your car
- No opening the hood
- No jumper cables
- No tow trucks
- No flagging down strangers
- Portable power...anywhere

wouldn't think of driving around without a spare tire—why not have a spare battery that fits right in your glove box?

**Try it risk-free.** Considering the cost of a tow, Auto Starter will pay for itself the first time you have a problem. This remarkable product is backed by a one-year manufacturer's limited warranty and TechnoScout's exclusive risk-free home trial. If you are not fully satisfied for any reason, return it within 30 days for a full refund, "No Questions Asked."

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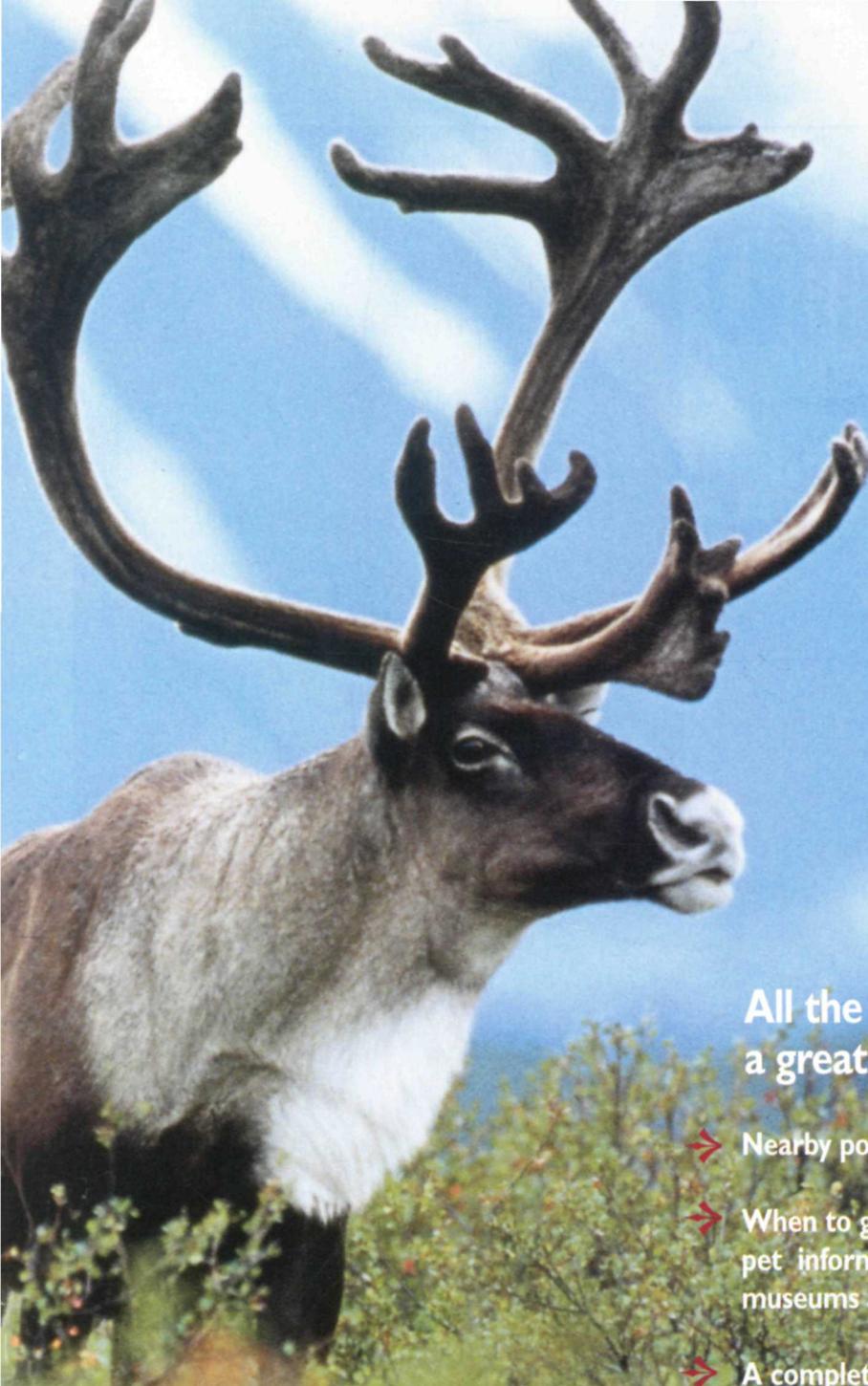


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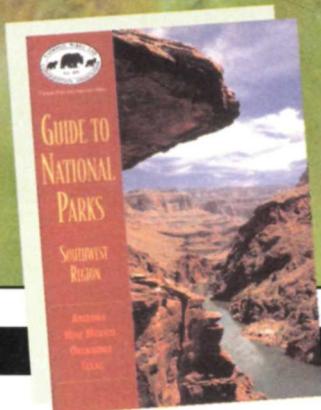
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