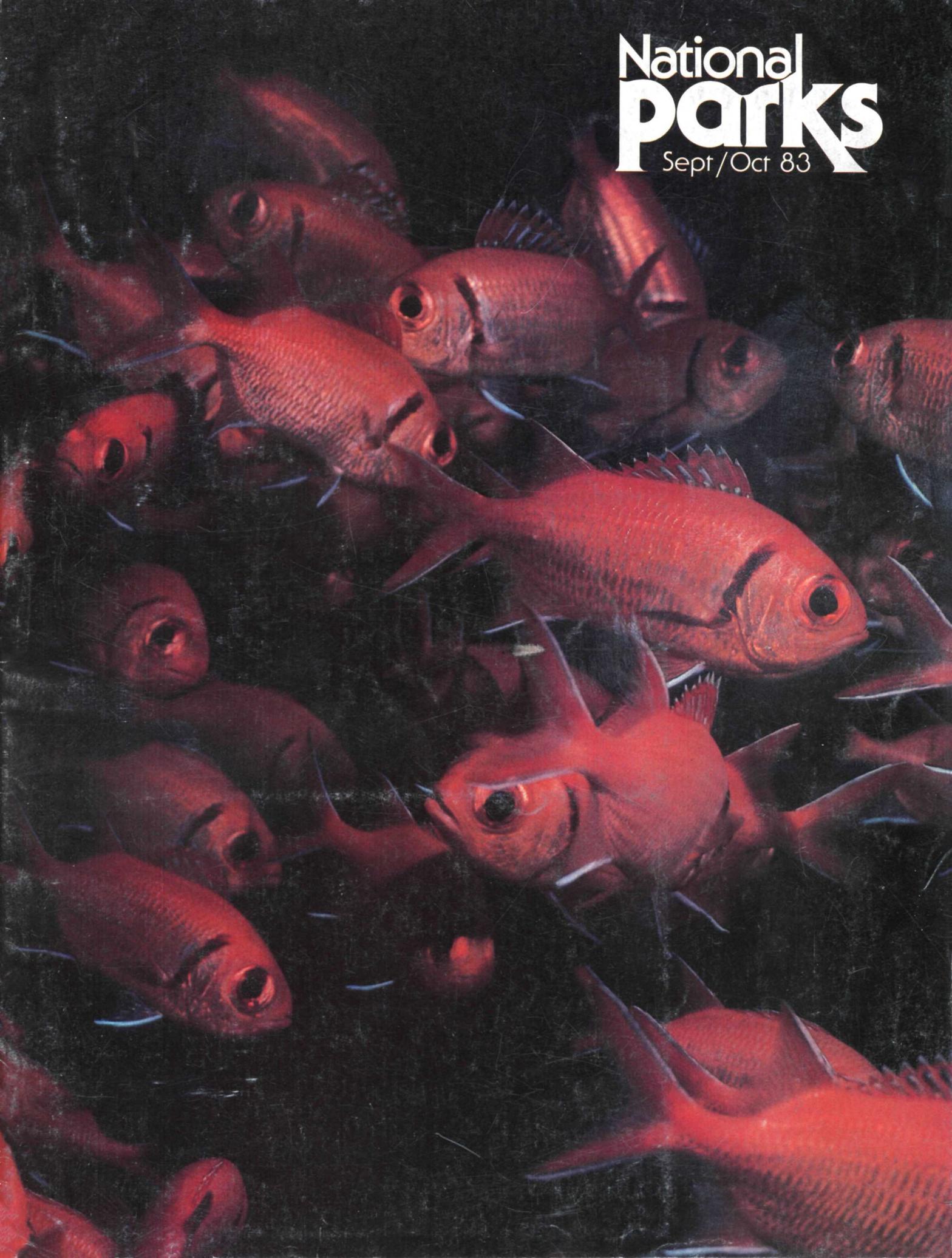


National parks

Sept/Oct 83



Commentary

Forgotten Places

Our nation has not recognized the important role of our estuarine and marine resources. Yet other nations around the world are protecting these areas because of their value in providing fisheries, wildlife sanctuaries, and clean waters and because they deserve protection as areas of national significance.

Chesapeake Bay, Puget Sound, San Francisco Bay—all are the sort of places that most of us know and enjoy. And like them, there are thousands of other such bays and estuarine resources that continue to go unprotected and suffer because of a lack of foresight. Governors are now putting together multimillion-dollar funds to clean up the Chesapeake Bay. But elsewhere similar places are being “written off the books” because money is not there to save what should have been properly managed to begin with. Our estuarine system deserves protection, and many places merit national park status because of the natural and cultural value they provide for our nation.

Marine sanctuaries—home of whales, coral colonies, and much more—located within our territorial waters also deserve proper management and protection but unfortunately are suffering the same fate as the estuarine resources. The federal government has dedicated a few, including the graveyard of the U.S.S. *Monitor* off the Atlantic coast, but this handful receives no true protection. They are still viewed as dumping grounds for our waste and are still subject to intensive resource exploitation without careful consideration of their “national significance.”

During the past few years, we have had to focus on protecting the basic elements of our existing national parks, wildlife refuges, and other protective program systems. It is time for us to deal with the future to protect elements at the edge of our terrestrial life and under the waters that are the great unexplored realms of our world. Unfortunately, study areas for marine and estuarine sanctuary designations go unprotected because they do not command the same interest and enthusiasm as land-based areas.

Someday, we will recognize what we have and, hopefully, not remember what we *had*. The time and the place for identification and protection of these areas are today. We must protect these places. Otherwise, others from other nations will use them to their maximum potential while protecting and conserving their own estuarine and marine sanctuaries. We must continue to provide leadership not only in helping to establish the world's first national park system but also in protecting resources that other countries have long ago realized are critical to the survival of their nations. The cost to recover their loss is measured by the dollars wasted and the disdain of our children for such shortsightedness.

—Paul C. Pritchard
President

Editor's Note

Few people are aware of the existence of the National Park System Advisory Board and its companion, the National Park System Advisory Council, so we felt that it is high time that we told you about them. We are especially pleased to have Horace Albright, the esteemed elder statesman of the national parks, describe the important work accomplished by the volunteer efforts of these public-spirited citizens (p. 28).

This issue's lead article raises the disturbing specter of a large-scale sellout of oil and gas, coal, tar sands, oil shale, and geothermal resources on the nation's public lands. Leases are being sold *now*, and the American people are losing a precious legacy at an alarming rate.

A special section describes the values of our nation's coastal and marine resources and the efforts being made to protect them. We take a closer look at one area—Virgin Islands National Park—where readers can explore the underwater world of tropical fishes and other denizens of the coral reefs that fringe the islands. You will meet two engaging National Park Service interpreters who will tell you stories of the islanders and will help you enjoy your visit. In this connection, don't miss David Doubilet's practical tips about underwater photography (p. 7).

On page 31 we report on the stimulating exchange of ideas and information among private conservation organizations and government national park managers from many countries at NPCA's working conference in Germany in June.

Be sure to read about upcoming NPCA events (p. 4) and news about the National Park System, beginning on page 34.

Watch for information in our next issue about the Wild and Scenic River System and tips on planning a river trip. It's not too soon to plan now for next summer!—EHC

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Members Corner

Annual Conservation Art Show

NPCA members and friends are invited to join us for our annual conservation art show. This year's program will run for the entire month of October in the Washington, D.C., area. The sale of art will benefit NPCA's programs and increase public awareness of the inspirational beauty the national parks offer all of us.

Members' Reception and Dinner

Don't forget to mark your calendar for Thursday evening, November 17. The annual members' reception and dinner has been a great success in the past, and we look forward to welcoming you this year. (See advertisement below for details.)

Plan Ahead

The Public Affairs Office is busy

planning your tours for 1984. The first trip next year will feature a seven-day tropical Everglades expedition. The camping and canoeing tour will explore the flora and fauna of the Everglades National Park. The trip includes guides, equipment, meals, an NPCA staff member, and the promise of good weather—all for \$445 plus tax. Watch for the next issue for details, or write to the NPCA Office of Public Affairs.

Member-Get-A-Member Offer

For the first time in many years, NPCA has instituted a member-get-a-member campaign. Members are the strength of our organization, and we are asking you to assist us in continuing the good work we have been able to accomplish. Share NPCA with your friends and gain valuable prizes, too. Your Board and staff urge you to help our parks and our environment by acquiring new members for NPCA.

The NPCA Office of Public Affairs is here to serve you. Please write 1701 18th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009.

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Feedback

We're interested in what you have to say. Write Feedback, 1701 18th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. (Letters may be edited for space considerations.)

Faraway Places

In Napier Shelton's article "Parks & Sustainable Development" in the May/June issue, Mr. Shelton commended the good facilities of Sabah's Kinabalu National Park. I would like to point out a geographical error: the state of Sabah is not in West Malaysia; Sabah and Sarawak constitute East Malaysia. West Malaysia is now Peninsular Malaysia.

I thank the Association for bringing to light the plight of Sabah's national parks. Klias, a sanctuary for coastal monkeys, only benefits a few timber companies. Kinabalu National Park, with its cool mountain climate, remains the premier recreation area for inhabitants of the hot coastal towns. Tunku Abdul Rahman National Park is a group of islands off the capital city of Kota Kinabalu and serves mainly for weekend picnicking.

Leong Choon-kiong
University, Malaysia

Giraffes on the cover of *National Parks* magazine? NPCA seems to have lost its way. National parks in Africa and Asia should be of primary concern to peoples of those lands. I wish them well, but I am more interested in Yosemite, Acadia, Big Bend, Shenandoah, etc.

Harold L. Patterson
Irving, Texas

Dr. Abrams said it best in that issue: "We may learn more about our parks by understanding their relationship to the rest of the world." —Ed.

Nuke Lake News

Your news story in the May/June issue about Nuclear Lake has reaffirmed my faith and support for your organization. The complexity of the issues regarding the Nuclear Lake site and the seriousness of the

concern regarding toxic chemicals often have overshadowed the facts and positive aspects of the process of review. Thank you for your fair reporting, and I greatly appreciate your support for the Appalachian Trail program and the NPS.

Steven Golden
NPS North Atlantic Region
Boston, Massachusetts

The Fruits of One's Labor

There was a time when we could have walked the legs off any backpacker. We had no time to enjoy the wilderness then. We averaged one vacation every seven years. We were occupied with raising our children, establishing a business, and paying the taxes to purchase these wilderness areas.

We are now retired and our legs are gone. The only way we can enjoy what we have paid for is through the windshield of an automobile. The National Park Service derisively refers to us as "windshield tourists," and the policy is to destroy the access roads by which we can participate in what we have paid for.

Be assured that we love these areas, especially Big Bend National Park. They are valuable to us. We do not litter. We do not set fires. We do not trample vegetation. We do not begrudge the hikers and backpackers. We have done much of that in our early youth, but we feel that it is wrong to deny us what we have left of the enjoyment of these parks.

Lee and Jane Hunt
Varna, Illinois

The National Park Service is spending \$75 million on park roads this year and doesn't have a policy of closing roads. In fact, the NPS is upgrading their roads all the time. —Ed.

Banana Slug Derby

I thought your recent May/June issue was excellent. However, in the essay "Park Interpretation, A World View," the California State Park System developed the Banana Slug Derby before the National Park Service moved into the Redwood region. This year marks the 15th annual running of the Derby. The same thing happened when the Na-

National Parks
September/October 1983 issue

Reader Interest Survey

We want to know how interesting readers found each item in this month's issue of the magazine. Please circle the number in the column to the right of each title that best describes your reaction. You may enclose comments or suggestions if you wish. Please mail the form to **Editor, National Parks, 1701 18th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009.**

	Very Interesting	Somewhat Interesting	Not Interesting	
COMMENTARY				
(p. 2)	1	2	3	
EDITOR'S NOTE				
(p. 2)	1	2	3	
MEMBERS CORNER				
(p. 4)	1	2	3	
FEEDBACK (p. 5)	1	2	3	
PHOTO TIPS				
(p. 7)	1	2	3	
ENERGY ASSETS				
(p. 8)	1	2	3	
MARINE RESERVES				
(p. 12)	1	2	3	
ST. JOHN (p. 18)	1	2	3	
CULTURAL ENVOYS				
(p. 24)	1	2	3	
ADVISORY				
(p. 28)	1	2	3	
GERMAN CONF.				
(p. 31)	1	2	3	
NPCA REPORT				
(pp. 34-43)	1	2	3	
Truck Route	1	2	3	
Coal Leasing	1	2	3	
Channel Islands	1	2	3	
Outdoor Rec	1	2	3	
Adler	1	2	3	
Glacier Road	1	2	3	
Pesticide	1	2	3	
Grand Teton				
Dam	1	2	3	
Nuke Dump	1	2	3	
High Ross Dam	1	2	3	
Today Show	1	2	3	
Acid Rain	1	2	3	
Robert Pierce	1	2	3	
Congressmen	1	2	3	
THE LATEST WORD				
(p. 45)	1	2	3	
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor

How would you rate the cover? 1 2 3 4

Additional comments _____

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tional Park Service didn't give the state park system credit for the "Living History" program on the old ships.

*William Penn Mott, Jr.
California State Parks
Foundation
Oakland, California*

Bighorns and Bucks

I am incensed by a statement in an article entitled "Poaching in Yellowstone," which appeared in the May/June issue. The writer proclaims "coyotes are killed for their pelts, and trophy hunters will pay as much as \$30,000 per bighorn sheep." This grossly misleading statement implies that trophy hunters and poachers are indistinguishable and that \$30,000 is paid illegally for sheep poached in national parks.

I strongly suspect that this \$30,000 figure refers to fees paid in recent years by *one* highest bidder to the wildlife departments of several western states for *one* annual permit to hunt *one* trophy bighorn ram under conditions of fair chase. The proceeds of these public auctions are used for bighorn research and propagation. These fees are obviously paid in the spirit of conservation since a hunter can hunt wild sheep for far less money in a state or province where the animals are more plentiful.

*Mike Stamm
Dugway, Utah*

Not to impugn the majority of law-abiding hunters, but a few trophy hunters are more than willing to pay for an illegally obtained bighorn head, "no questions asked," according to park officials. —Ed.

Bed & Breakfast

We enjoyed your article about bed and breakfast homes [May/June 1983]. Speaking from the other side, a year ago we signed up as B&B hosts and were pleasantly surprised. It was like having friends as house guests. I was disappointed that you failed to mention in your list Northwest Bed & Breakfast of Portland, Oregon, our reservation service.

*Barbara P. Graf
Whitefish, Montana*

Photo Tips

David Doubilet, a well-known contract photographer for the National Geographic Society, has been diving and photographing underwater for twenty-five years.

Do not even think about taking underwater pictures until you have at least a year's diving experience. The underwater world is beautiful yet an extremely alien place. A new diver must first learn how to survive in this alien world. The biggest single danger underwater is not sharks or barracudas; it is drowning. A new diver has to learn to be comfortable, happy as a clam or a turtle drifting in the great kaleidoscope of movement and color that is the sea. I can guarantee that your first undersea photographic effort will produce nothing unless you are truly comfortable with diving. Enjoy the undersea world, look around, and learn how the fish and corals coexist. Learn to identify the fish. Take your time; drift for a year. Once you are completely comfortable with this fascinating world, you must be aware of two things to successfully photograph it.

First, your eye sees more than a camera will. A coral reef seems to have an infinite spectrum of subtle blues, purples, and other wonderful colors. But film records only about half of this spectrum, because it is not as sensitive as your eye. Second, water makes everything seem about one-fourth larger. Clear water is fairly common in the Caribbean, but not in the rest of the northern hemisphere.

These two problems can be remedied. I do not believe in using filters to restore the spectrum or make the film "see" all the subtle underwater colors. The best way to bring out the purples and blues is to use a wide angle lens and get as close as possible to the subject.

I use artificial light (usually an electronic flash) for about 90 percent of all my underwater pictures. A red wetsuit that appears black at 60 feet can be made red again with an elec-

by David Doubilet



David Doubilet at work, by Anne L. Doubilet

tronic flash. The flash restores the spectrum; it's like bottled sunlight. An electronic flash designed for underwater use is better than a regular flash put in an underwater housing. Keep the flash as far away as possible from the lens and aim the flash at your subject. Two flash units are usually better than one.

A plexiglass dome on the front of an underwater camera housing will correct the usual magnification that water produces. This way the lens you use on the surface will produce the same picture underwater.

If you want to shoot people and undersea vistas, you should use wide angle lenses. You can get closer to your subject and see more. And the colors will be brighter because you are *not* shooting through a lot of water.

Extreme wide angle lenses work well underwater. Semi-fisheye lenses with a 15mm or 16mm focal length are great. Because they see at such a wide angle (180°), they seem to make the water clearer, like air.

Micro lenses for fish photography are indispensable because the most colorful subjects in the underwater world are small. A telephoto micro lens is terrific for fish behavior pictures.

There are two kinds of camera systems for shooting underwater.

First, a regular single lens reflex camera can be put in a housing made of plexiglass or aluminum. Look in *Skindiver* magazine for manufacturers' names. Or you can buy a camera designed specifically for underwater photography, like the Nikonos camera made by Nikon. The Nikonos is *not* a single lens reflex camera; you must estimate the focus. This camera is not good for fish photography but can be used for closeups of motionless subjects. Whichever camera you choose, use Kodachrome 64 or 25 film.

Finally, feel good underwater. Make certain that your camera is working. Know your subject. Look at how the natural light is falling on it. Set your flash system so that it adds to the feeling of the subject. Get as close as you can. Be prepared to take an intimate picture. Wait for the right moment before releasing the shutter.

Take your time to capture this special world on film. It is well worth the trouble.

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SEP/OCT 1983

Wheeling AND Dealing OUR PUBLIC LAND ASSETS

The Interior Department has masterminded a massive transfer of public wealth unmatched in American history—
involving nearly all our public lands, by Bernard Shanks

America's public lands were first plundered, then managed scandalously. After a hundred years of waste and exploitation, conservation became both a promise to the future and a necessity for national security. Teddy Roosevelt advocated the ethic of conservation and an essential truth: A nation is only as strong as its resources.

Today, however, the largest transfer of public wealth to private ownership since the railroad land grants of the 1880s is underway. Interior Secretary James Watt and others in the Department have set out to lease all available and economically feasible public land.

Nothing is being conserved for the future. The environmental impacts of these actions are staggering and will be felt throughout the nation's parks, wildlife refuges, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands. The costs of Interior's leasing program will be borne for generations.

After more than two years of quiet success, widespread criticism of this policy is beginning to emerge. Congressional hearings have revealed serious problems and questions. At its core, Interior's program is in stark contrast to the principles of conservation painfully learned over the past two hundred years. It is an awesome abuse of public trust.

The public wealth involved is dif-

ficult to comprehend. The Outer Continental Shelf alone holds an estimated 36 billion barrels of oil and 178 trillion cubic feet of natural gas—all of which Watt has put up for lease. At today's prices, these energy resources are worth \$1.3 trillion dollars, enough wealth to liquidate the national debt. By the end of the century, these resources will increase in value to several trillion dollars.

The dry public lands of the West are deceptive. In frontier days, they repelled the fainthearted and broke the backs of thousands of homesteaders. They hold the raw beauty of land too harsh for commerce but give the nation its most distinctive geographic region. Public lands are the last places where primitive America can be found. Beneath their tough surface, western lands hold the nation's most tangible source of wealth. The value of gold in Fort Knox is dwarfed by the potential earnings of billions of tons of coal and barrels of oil found under the public lands. Before Watt started his massive leasing scenario, more than 60 percent of the nation's energy reserves were on public lands or the Outer Continental Shelf.

Energy leasing of public lands is complicated and largely hidden from public view. Essentially, the Secretary of the Interior has authority,

delegated by Congress, to sell energy from the public lands. This energy is worth much more—perhaps a hundred times more—than the dry land surface. Yet, the Reagan Administration has widely advocated selling title to federal lands to pay off the national debt. In reality, selling public land is rigidly limited by Congress and federal statutes. Energy resources are different. Since 1920, the sale of energy on public land has remained largely unchanged. Although national parks, wildlife refuges, and BLM lands enjoy congressional protection, the energy they hold does not. In the 1920 Mineral Leasing Act, Congress delegated responsibility for energy sales to the Secretary of the Interior.

Because it can be accomplished without much public notice, energy leasing has been the blind spot in the nation's conservation program. Both tradition and regulations have limited such leasing in the past. Energy protection and conservation have rested largely on the ethical scales held by the Secretary of the Interior. With Watt's liberalization of leasing controls and aggressive efforts at selling energy, the balance has shifted dramatically.

Public land energy leases are contracts that bind the United States to open the lands and give priority to energy development. Although the



"Nothing is being conserved for the future. The impacts of these actions are staggering and will be felt throughout the nation's parks. . . ."

terms of the leases vary, some recent coal leases will remain valid until the middle of the twenty-first century. The price the public earns for the sale of its own resources is ridiculously low. Most onshore oil, gas, and geothermal leases are granted at noncompetitive rates, for only a few dollars per acre. Fair and competitive rates normally attract many buyers, and the price is forced up. Because of the flood of leases during the past two years, even competitive leases earn the public only a fraction of their true market value.

The price the Interior Department earns for selling public energy is so low that a speculative market exists. Public land leases are acquired and then resold at enormous profits. For example, in the early 1970s, some Utah public land leases were purchased from Interior for \$25,000, or \$3.70 per acre. Pacific Gas and Electric Company acquired the same leases in the mid-1970s for \$35 million, or \$4,500 per acre. Recently the California-based utility sold the same leases to Sun Oil Company for \$171 million, or \$20,000 an acre. The same public land leases changed hands, but private speculators, not the public, gained the profit.

At a time when Administration officials are speaking of selling the federal lands to help reduce the national debt, the Interior Department is earning only pennies on the dollar for the sale of public energy resources. The federal government finally recognized the problem in a

recent General Accounting Office (GAO) report, which summarized the problem: "Competitive leases have been awarded for next to nothing."

In 1982 the California Resources Agency became disturbed at reports of the amount of leasing taking place in the state. Yet when the office inquired as to the number and location of oil and gas leases, Interior officials could provide only vague estimates.

In the winter of 1982, oil was struck in a deep well in northern Baja, Mexico. Similar geological formations exist in the California desert just across the border; and, in a matter of weeks, the southern half of the California desert had been leased. Thousands of leases covering millions of acres were granted quietly and efficiently without competitive bidding. Impacts on California's state and national parks, wildlife refuges, and forest lands were not considered. Neither conservation organizations nor the leading state conservation agency had an opportunity to comment on or oppose the leases.

Huey Johnson, California's public-minded former Secretary for Resources, termed the program an attempt to "steal the public trust from future generations." He said, "The exhaustion of our nonrenewable resources is like having a barbecue of all the buffalo left on this planet. . . ."

Other states have had similar experiences. In Wyoming 23 million acres of the state's 29 million acres of federal lands are now leased by energy companies. Throughout the Rocky Mountain states and the desert lands of the West, public oil and gas leases have been sold for only \$2.50 per acre, the minimum price.

Examples of recent energy leasing abound. The Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve in southern California has been protected for emergency military use since the days of President Taft. Early in the Reagan Administration, the reserve oil was ordered pumped at its maximum rate. The field, conserved for three generations, will be exhausted by the end of the decade.

The Alaska petroleum reserve has been protected since 1923 for military purposes. Early last year Interior Secretary Watt offered a 1.5-million-acre sale, the largest public land oil lease in history. Later in the year another half-million acres in Alaska were leased. Twelve million acres of leases in wildlife refuges in the state were also put on the market in 1982. By year's end, more than 100 million acres of public land in Alaska were opened for energy leasing under this Administration. And all of this was done during a worldwide oil glut.

Coal under public lands is the largest source of energy in the United States, at an estimated 400 billion tons. Most has been part of the public trust since the days of

*“ ‘These leases attack some of the greatest park units,’
says NPCA President Paul Pritchard. . . .”*

Teddy Roosevelt, who became outraged when he saw millions of tons pass to coal companies for a few dollars. Yet, Watt repeatedly complains that “radical environmentalists” block new coal leases. President Nixon initiated a moratorium on the leasing of public land coal in 1971, which was to last ten years through later administrations. The reason was simple. More than 500 leases had been granted on land holding an estimated 16.5 billion tons of coal.

At existing rates of production, this coal would not be mined for two hundred years. The coal market was already depressed. Any additional leases would lower the buyers’ prices and lower the revenues for the American people. Nevertheless, in the spring of 1982 Secretary Watt authorized the Powder River Basin coal lease on BLM land in Wyoming. It was the largest coal sale in history. At a time when the market value of coal was nearly \$20 a ton, Interior’s coal sale earned the American people an average price of 3.5-cents per ton before royalties. Coal leases on four of the Powder River parcels went for *less than a penny a ton*.

Conservationists and congressional representatives alike have protested the low prices for the giant Powder River coal lease. Despite these protests, Interior plans another 1.5-billion-ton lease sale in Utah’s Bookcliffs, a 3.3-billion-ton sale in southwestern Utah, and a billion-ton sale in Montana. Another major coal sale late in 1983 would affect



Jack E. Boucher/NPS

The geothermal features of Yellowstone National Park (above) are put in jeopardy by Secretary Watt’s edict to lease surrounding public lands.

Chaco Culture National Historical Park; a potential lease in Utah would be adjacent to Capitol Reef National Park.

Most geothermal areas are found on the public lands of the West. The technology of converting hot water to useful power is complex and virtually untested. So is the technology to mitigate environmental impacts. Nevertheless, Watt ordered all known geothermal resources on the western public lands leased in 1982.

NPCA President Paul Pritchard says, “These leases attack some of the greatest park units. Political boundaries in no way consider the habitat or scenic values that could be destroyed by this mindless leasing.”

The California Resources Agency vigorously challenged leases adjacent to Lassen Volcanic National

Park, fearing the impacts on the park’s geothermal areas. Elsewhere conservationists were shocked to find that geothermal fields in the Targhee National Forest next to Yellowstone National Park were planned. The leases pose unknown impacts on the park’s world-famous geyser basins only a few miles away. Many of the thousands of acres of geothermal leases are adjacent to state parks, wildlife refuges, and even within the boundaries of proposed wilderness areas.

Energy leasing on public lands during the past two years has not been limited to oil, coal, and geothermal resources. Recently, tar sands leases have been proposed near Canyonlands National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation

Continued on page 30



Territories on the OCEAN FRONTIER

America's marine reserves protect essential
—and often elusive—natural resources,
by Dennis Johnson

Over the decades a legacy of natural treasures as dramatic as those found in our national parks has been largely ignored. Forests of plants, dense communities of wildlife, even artifacts—all lie beneath the coastal waters of the United States. Relatively few people have explored these marine regions.

Today a handful of national marine sanctuaries and semiunderwater national parks and monuments is scattered along the country's coastal waters. They represent a few reserved territories on the ocean frontier.

Beneath the warm, turquoise waters off Florida and the Virgin Islands are brilliant mosaics of marine life in all shapes and colors. Staghorn and convoluted brain corals, purple-hued sea fans and orange, green, yellow, and blue gorgonians form a dense forest of calcareous skeletons. Aided by sunlight, tides, and warm temperatures, the coral polyps—simple organisms that function as complex colonies—feed in the nutrient-rich tropical waters, growing their spires, branches, needles, and crowns.

A scuba diver explores the mysterious giant kelp "forest" in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary off Anacapa Island, California. Anacapa is one of the islands of Channel Islands National Park.

The stationary corals and the reef they form serve as a brilliant backdrop for schools of multicolored fishes: glittering copper sweepers, feisty little damselfish, bluish-green parrotfish, black-and-yellow-striped French angelfish, smallmouth grunts, goatfish, squirrelfish, and porkfish. Larger predators—groupers, snappers, jewfish, barracuda, and sharks—visit the reef, often on solitary prowls for another meal.

A coral reef is something of a giant aquarium, but with no glass borders to keep the visitor from stepping inside. Exploring a reef, you leave the bounds of earth and become weightless. Your course is not confined by paths or boardwalks, and your movements are not controlled by the earth's pull. You are suspended, floating in another world.

The colorful reefs along our southernmost, tropical shores contrast sharply with sites farther north. In marine sanctuaries off the California coast, canopies of bull and giant kelp—some as long as 100 feet—replace the coral gardens. Sea life abounds: dolphins, sea lions, fur and elephant seals, sea otters, and whales. Species of sea birds are equally numerous and include brown pelicans, tufted puffins, Arctic loons, clapper rails, cormorants, and auklets.

Though some isolated progress in designating marine parks had al-

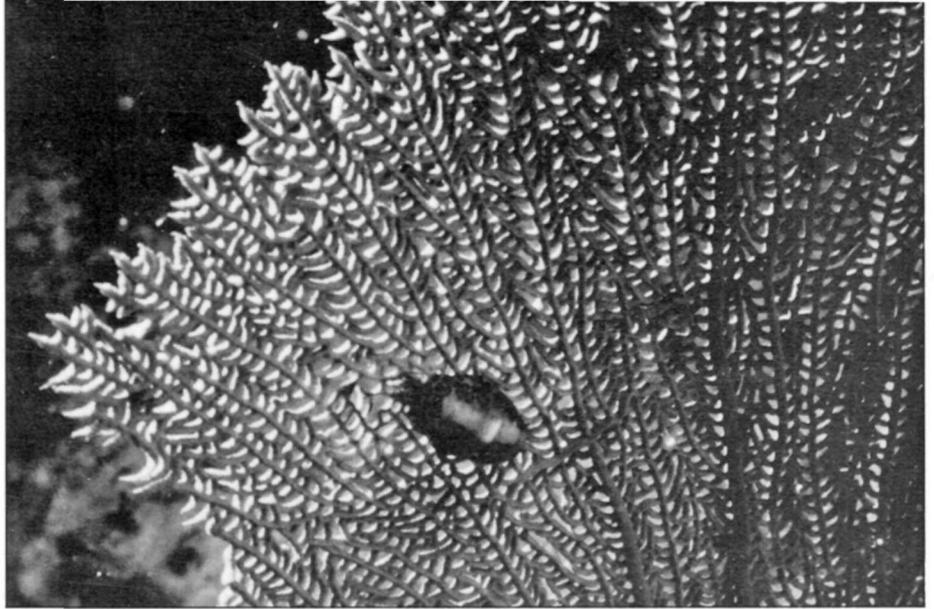
ready been made, the first comprehensive step toward protecting these submerged resources was not taken until passage of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act in 1972. The law was long overdue, says National Parks & Conservation Association (NPCA) President Paul Pritchard, and represents a beginning comparable to that made a hundred years earlier when Yellowstone was set aside as the country's first national park.

The concept of protecting marine ecosystems by including them in the National Park System goes back to 1935 when Fort Jefferson National Monument and underwater reserve was added to the System. The monument in the Dry Tortugas, some 70 miles off Key West, Florida, encompasses thousands of acres of undisturbed coral reef—and includes the country's first underwater trail.

Other national parks whose boundaries include marine habitats or submerged artifacts have also been established: Isle Royale National Park on Lake Superior in 1931; Channel Islands National Monument (now Park) near Santa Barbara, California, in 1938; Virgin Islands National Park in 1956; Buck Island Reef National Monument in 1961; Biscayne National Monument (now Park) in 1968; and War in the Pacific National Historical Park on Guam in 1978.

The Marine Sanctuaries Act pro-

The boundary of Virgin Islands National Park includes marine habitats for many creatures, such as this flamingo tongue cowry and this sea fan—a type of gorgonian coral. Across the continent, sea lions (opposite) cavort in Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary off the California coast.



Alan H. Robinson

The Marine Sanctuaries Act provides the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) under the Department of Commerce with far more comprehensive means for protecting these underwater resources. The Act is a broad mandate designed to preserve and restore the recreational, ecological, and esthetic values of designated sanctuaries while allowing compatible commercial uses. Such a "multiple use" approach has created compromises and conflicts in some of the sanctuaries, however, and has been criticized by NPCA.

Although the Sanctuaries Act has been on the books for more than a decade, progress toward designating sites has moved at a snail's pace. Only two sites—the U.S.S. *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary, protecting the famous Civil War-era ironclad that lies overturned in 200 feet of water off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, and the Key Largo Marine Sanctuary, adjoining Biscayne National Park—had been designated by 1975. Another five years passed before NOAA was able to clear the hurdles necessary to authorize four more sanctuaries: Channel Islands and Point Reyes–Farallon islands, California; Gray's Reef, Georgia; and Looe Key, Florida.

Such a relatively slow start by no means suggests that the need for protecting these and other exceptional marine environments has lessened. On the contrary, offshore oil and gas exploration, ocean dumping, heavy siltation from onshore con-

struction, vessel groundings, spills, overfishing, and toxic discharges are still serious threats to fragile coastal reefs and sea life.

Because of protections, marine mammals in certain areas are now regenerating their populations, which were almost extirpated about a century earlier. In the early 1900s, bounty and market hunters virtually decimated the California sea lion off the Oregon coast and began to wipe out these and other unwary pinnipeds in the Channel Islands before they were finally stopped by laws, treaties, and the lack of these animals. Today the sea lion has recovered from earlier depredations, but other species have been slower to respond—the Guadalupe fur seal, for one. Rarely seen, this species still teeters on the edge of extinction.

Sea turtles—including the hawksbill and huge loggerhead, which weigh as much as 300 pounds—also face extinction unless their marine feeding grounds and coastal nesting environments are protected. The humpback whale, an endangered cetacean common along the West Coast and Hawaii, is yet another species struggling for survival.

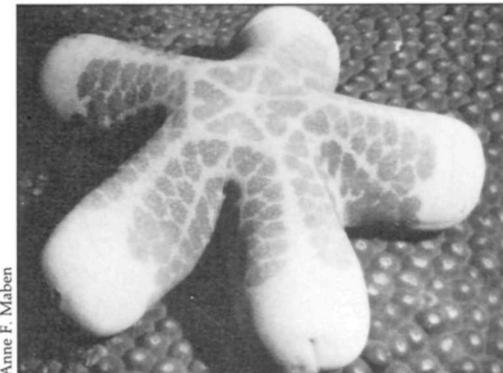
"In the past, we've had special laws to protect special animals," says Dr. Nancy Foster, director of the National Marine Sanctuary Program. Such laws include the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. Although these statutes protect specific species of animals, they do not guard the

species' entire ecosystem. The marine sanctuaries program does.

Implementing the Sanctuaries Act has been the crucial test of the law's effectiveness to protect marine environments. Public controversy and conflicting jurisdictional claims have plagued the site selection process from the start. In some cases, officials have simply had to drop sites altogether. In other instances, compromises have been struck with commercial interests, such as fishing companies and energy development concerns, leaving sanctuaries with weak restrictions against some exploitive uses.

The greatest recent debate has revolved around eighteen "candidate sites" in Alaska proposed last year for possible listing and further study. Among the nominations compiled by a NOAA regional task force were areas off the North Slope, the

A fat sea star rests on star coral in the clear waters of War in the Pacific National Historical Park, Guam.



Anne F. Maben



Gary Carlsen

Bering Strait, St. Lawrence Island, Prince William Sound, and the Aleutian Islands. NOAA was going to narrow the list down to five or fewer sites, but misunderstandings quickly developed, partly from inept planning and inadequate communication by program coordinators and partly from poorly defined provisions in the law.

Before officials could clear up these problems, many people—especially those involved in fishing—were up in arms over the areas, which were announced prematurely to the public as “proposed sanctuaries.” The program office could not overcome the stiff opposition and the divisions among its own staff. As a result, further consideration of sanctuary sites off Alaskan shores has been postponed indefinitely, says Dr. Foster regretfully.

Attacks on the program have not come only from Alaska. The oil and gas industry has charged that the program has been used to prohibit

development of the outer continental shelf. At Channel Islands the charges have gone as far as federal court.

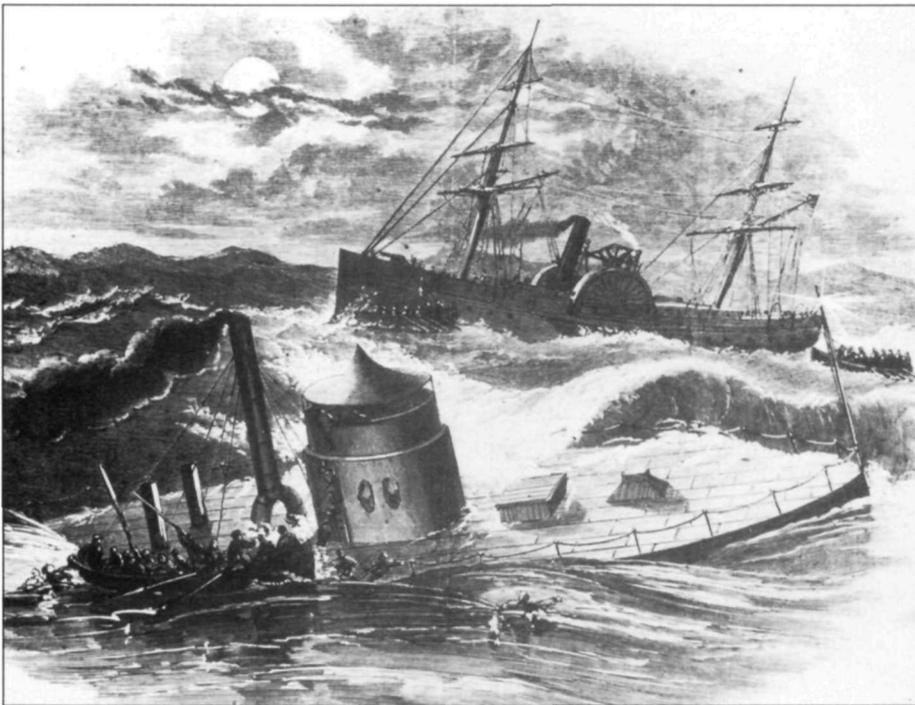
In September 1982, the Western Oil and Gas Association filed a lawsuit that seeks to revoke the Channel Islands sanctuary status and open the 1,200-square-mile area to offshore oil and gas exploration. The Los Angeles-based trade group has argued that 100 million barrels of oil and a comparable amount of natural gas—figures NOAA officials believe to be inflated—could be taken from the area without jeopardizing the area’s kelp beds, endangered brown pelican rookery, Guadalupe fur seals, and migrating blue, fin, and humpback whales—also all endangered.

Western Oil and Gas, which is allowed to work existing claims in the sanctuary, further contends the sanctuary violates provisions under the National Environmental Policy Act and Administrative Procedure

Act, as well as being unwarranted and “contrary to congressional intent.” According to the trade association, the Environmental Impact Statement is inadequate, presents a biased view of sanctuary benefits, and overestimates the potential damage from oil spills.

The Department of Justice has denied the allegations, and fourteen conservation groups have joined the agency in refuting contentions made by Western Oil and Gas.

Despite other attempts to deauthorize or delay various sanctuary designations, the program has become the prime mover for a number of research and restoration projects. In cooperation with the state of North Carolina and the U.S. Navy, NOAA has recovered artifacts from the famed *Monitor* and is now assembling these into a traveling exhibit, which will open this winter. NOAA has also developed interpretive programs with the National Park Service for Channel Islands and



NOAA

funds from the Sanctuary Program Division.

A number of other research projects have been started at several of the sanctuaries. At the Channel Islands, the National Park Service and the California Department of Fish and Game are cooperating with the sanctuary program to monitor the impact of visitors on pelicans, cormorants, auklets, and other sea birds. At Key Largo, a water quality model is being developed for the reef. At Looe Key, researchers are documenting the return of populations of small reef fishes resulting from a 1981 ban on spear fishing in the sanctuary.

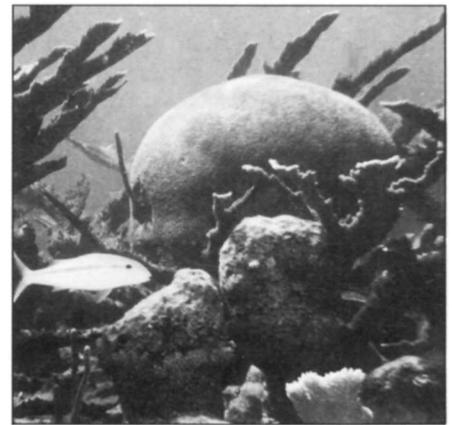
Other studies are less scientific. A guide to fishes is being written for the explorer snorkling or scuba diving among the limestone ledges, which teem with ocean life, at Gray's Reef, eighteen miles off Sapelo Island, Georgia. In the Point Reyes-Farallon Islands Sanctuary, the sanctuary program office and the National Park Service have undertaken a survey of the sixteenth-century vessel *San Agustin*, the first recorded West Coast shipwreck.

The embryonic sanctuaries program still has a long way to go to match the success of the National

Park Service, but significant steps toward strengthening the Marine Sanctuaries Act have been made this year. Congress has worked to ensure reauthorization of the program through 1985 [see sidebar]. Studies are being completed to designate three additional sanctuaries near Puerto Rico, Hawaii, and American Samoa. Dr. Foster says that sites to be considered for sanctuary designation during the next five to ten years will be drawn from a list of 25 to 29 sites scattered along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, as well as in the Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Great Lakes.

More money will be needed, however, to operate the program, provide adequate enforcement, and add new sanctuaries. Even if only a third of the new sites now under review are eventually designated, another \$2.5 million to \$3 million will be required to continue the program at current levels. Because of budgetary concerns, the National Park Service, U.S. Coast Guard, state game and fish departments, and other such agencies typically manage the sanctuaries, using sanctuary funds and some NOAA staff.

Expanding the sanctuary program—thus giving the program more



National Park Service

The site where the Civil War ship U.S.S. *Monitor* sank off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, is now a national marine sanctuary. Buck Island Reef National Monument off St. Croix, Virgin Islands, is ringed by myriads of delicate coral formations and colorful tropical fishes.

visibility—will eventually increase the number of visitors using the sites. Unless overuse is averted and people taught to recognize the harm they can cause, visitor-related damage to the very resources the sanctuaries are designed to protect may result.

For example, development of underwater trails, such as those used at Trunk Bay in Virgin Islands National Park or Buck Island Reef National Monument, has concentrated visitors at these sites. The underwater trail at Trunk Bay has gained so much attention and publicity that cruise ships arrive in port to deliver several hundred passengers at a time for a brief two- or three-hour visit to the bay. Many of the coral formations have been sheared off or damaged by people carelessly kicking or standing on them.

Park staff, led by Chief Ranger Lawrence Guth, has considered moving the Trunk Bay trail to another spot, but at the expense of damaging coral formations at the new location as well. They have also considered the solution employed by the National Park Service at Fort Jefferson—that is, taking out the trail altogether. "No matter what you decide, you're left with a problem and

cide, you're left with a problem and somebody is going to lose out," reflects Guth.

The popularity of Looe Key with snorkelers and scuba divers has created another kind of problem there. Traditionally used for spear fishing, the area was declared off limits to spearing when designated as a sanctuary in an attempt to rebuild the numbers of larger reef predators, such as snappers and groupers. Vessels that have run aground and the indiscriminate use of anchors have also damaged coral at Looe Key.

Dr. Foster is optimistic that visitor-related impacts on the sanctuaries can be kept to a minimum, perhaps by developing a system of zones similar to those used in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park off Australia's Queensland coast. Certain areas allow fishing, spear fishing, and boat anchoring. Other zones are off limits to fishing but provide special anchor buoys for those who want to swim, snorkel, or dive.

Although some of the sanctuaries, such as Looe Key and Key Largo, are already extremely popular, problems resulting from overuse receive less attention than they should because of the more pressing concerns to establish new sanctuaries. For example, Dr. Foster and her sixteen-member central office staff are involved with completing studies for a badly needed sanctuary for humpback whale calving grounds in the Hawaiian Islands.

Many of our country's precious underwater reefs or marine ecosystems have suffered neglect from an "out-of-sight, out-of-mind" attitude. Yet despite weaknesses in the Marine Sanctuaries Act, it provides the country with a new tool for evaluating and designating critical marine habitats. A start has been made to ensure these treasures will remain part of our natural heritage.

Environmental writer and editor Dennis Johnson last wrote for National Parks about Voyageurs National Park (July/August 1982).

Time Is Running Out for Current Sanctuaries Act

Progress toward reauthorizing the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act this year has been slow and suspenseful as Congress has deliberated over a number of bills and amendments affecting the original 1972 act.

Both the House and the Senate held initial hearings in February. Early on Representative Don Young, (R-Alaska) introduced legislation to abolish the entire program. His bill received little serious consideration, however. Representatives Norman D'Amours (D-N.H.) and Joel Pritchard (R-Wash.) developed a compromise bill, H.R. 2062, which was eventually approved by an overwhelming majority in the House during a mid-June vote.

The bill does much to spell out what characteristics should qualify an area as a sanctuary. The original law was obscure at best, directing the Secretary of Commerce to designate special marine environments with conservation, historic, research, educational, recreational, ecological, or esthetic values.

Representatives D'Amours and Pritchard's legislation also authorizes a bit more than \$2 million for the program during the new fiscal year beginning October 1. H.R. 2062 authorizes \$2.5 million for 1984-85 and \$2.7 million for 1985-86.

By summer the Senate had only offered a one-page bill reauthorizing the sanctuary program for three years (the same length of time as the House bill) as now defined. The simple proposal, however, belies serious issues that could jeopardize the program's effectiveness to protect sensitive marine ecosystems.

Questions have been raised by Senator Ted Stevens (R-Alaska). Senator Stevens suggests that the House is attempting to give "blanket authority" to the Secretary of Commerce to manage areas where oth-

ers—most notably commercial fishing concerns and oil and gas companies—have vested interests.

One revision considered by Senator Stevens would give the nation's eight regional fishery management councils, now responsible for developing commercial fishing management plans for their respective areas, authority to establish fishing regulations within the sanctuaries. Under current law, the councils act as consultants to the sanctuary program.

Another issue important to Senator Stevens is protecting access, right-of-way, and existing mineral or other commercially valuable resource rights in proposed sanctuaries. Although these "rights" are often in direct conflict with conserving and protecting an area's natural ecological value, Senator Stevens does not want these rights to be eliminated in the process of designating a sanctuary.

Senator Stevens has not been the only one to raise fears that marine sanctuaries are another attempt to lock up resources. Oil and gas interests have steadily opposed any restrictions placed on tracts available for lease and exploration on the Outer Continental Shelf.

The National Parks & Conservation Association and other environmental groups are concerned Senator Stevens's misgivings about H.R. 2062 and possible revisions of the Senate bill could significantly weaken the sanctuary program. The program, a part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration under the Department of Commerce, is already subject to multiple-use management.

The current act expires September 30. If the House and Senate cannot iron out their differences and send a law to the President before October, it is likely Congress will adopt a continuing resolution. —D. J.



ST. JOHN

Best of the Virgin Islands

Virgin Islands
National Park
offers a memorable
vision of
Caribbean
island life,
by Fred Gebhart

St. John Island is only nineteen square miles of mountains and sand, set in a turquoise sea and ringed by beaches and coral reefs. Virgin Islands National Park occupies 59 percent of the island and offers visitors a fascinating glimpse of a tropical landscape.

There are only seven Virgin Islands of any size. Four islands are British holdings. St. Croix, St. Thomas, and St. John—the smallest island—belong to the United States. But these seven are surrounded by hundreds of islets, cays, and reefs bearing intriguing names from the past like Dead Chest, Treasure Point, Dutch Cap, and French Cay.

Columbus sailed through the Virgins in 1493. The islands were

The clear, azure waters and teeming coral reefs of the U.S. and British Virgin Islands offer superb opportunities to vacationers for swimming, snorkeling, and scuba diving.

David Deubilet



Alan Robinson

claimed anew by every passing warship for the next two centuries; but St. Croix, St. Thomas, and St. John ended up in Danish hands. The islands soon lost their virgin forested slopes to intensive agriculture. Even the steepest mountainsides were burned clean, then terraced to coax sugarcane and cotton from every square inch. It was long, arduous work and economically viable only because labor was cheap: slaves did most daily tasks. Nearly one hundred Danish plantations existed on St. John by the middle of the nineteenth century.

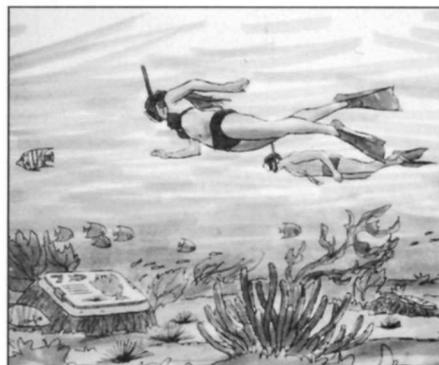
When emancipation was declared in the Danish West Indies in 1848, the plantation economy collapsed. Plantations were abandoned by the score. The population on St. John fell from 2,500 to 700 within a few years. There were still about 700 St. Johnians when the United States bought the Danish-owned Virgin Islands in 1917, and the population remained stable into the 1950s.

The population of St. John has surged in the past twenty years, but

the island remains littered with remnants of the past. The Danes built to last. The Reef Bay Trail follows an old Danish road three miles down a gut, or valley, from the center of St. John to Reef Bay on the south shore. The original stone drainage system still diverts torrential runoff from the unpaved surface.

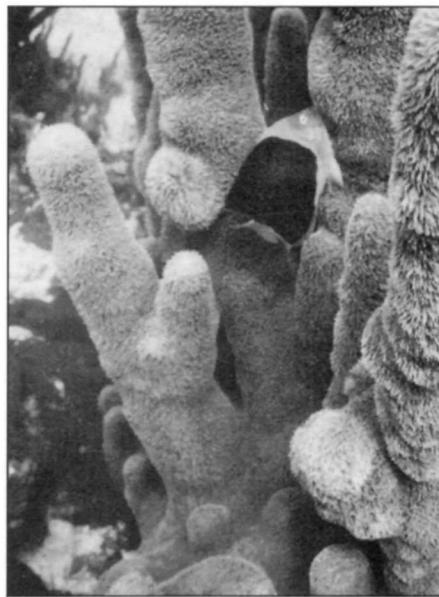
Five plantations once thrived in the gut, complete with owners' houses, slave quarters, sugar mills, and terraced fields climbing to the tip of every ridge. The terracing has long since washed away, leaving steep, almost vertical hillsides. Sugarcane has been replaced by tangles of bay rum, lime, tamarind, soursop, mango, and other exotic plants that used to be domesticated around the old plantations. Ruins appear at every turn, some no more than piles of stones or crumbled walls that now support orchids and strangler figs instead of roofs. At the trail's end lies Reef Bay mill, a working steam-powered mill that struggled on through the early years of this century until it, too, succumbed to falling sugar prices and rising production costs.

Across the island from Reef Bay, the Annaberg Plantation has been partially restored and stabilized to



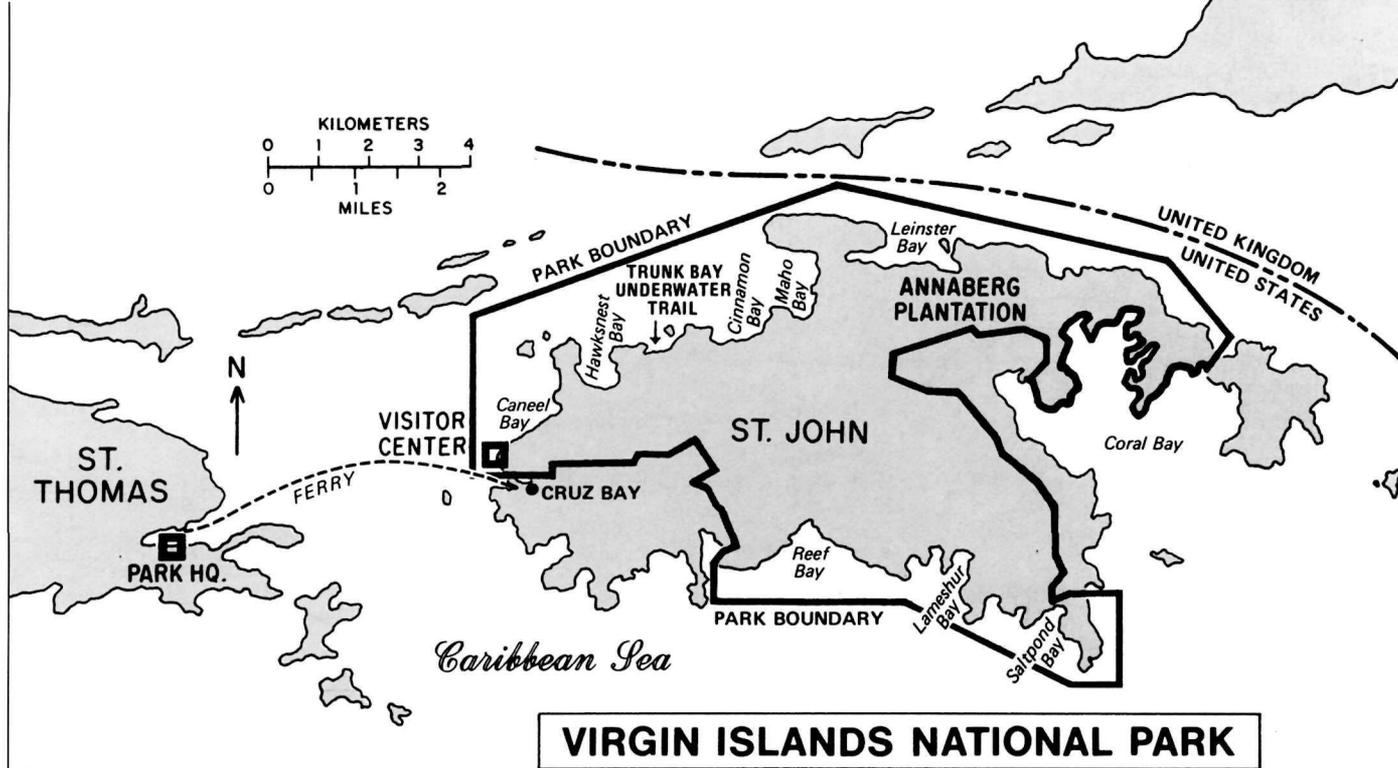
National Park Service

At Annaberg Plantation park interpreters (left) demonstrate baking in a restored 150-year-old oven as well as other subsistence techniques of the 1930s. The famous underwater trail at Trunk Bay (above) attracts many visitors, but these visitors make protecting the coral formations more difficult.



Alan Robinson

A yellow-and-black Rock Beauty—a fish similar to an angelfish—inspects a columnar coral. The coral's polyps are visible because, unlike many other corals, it feeds during daylight.



James F. O'Brien, © NPCA

bring the past to life in national park interpretive programs. Demonstrations focus on subsistence farming during the 1930s, traditional cooking and baking, charcoal making, basketmaking, herbal medicine, and storytelling. Nature walks follow changing climatic patterns from mountain rainforest to dry cactus woodland to the teeming shoreline.

The underwater trail at Trunk Bay is one of the most popular attractions in the park. When tour groups arrive for a few hours each day, Trunk Bay is as crowded as a municipal swimming pool during a heat wave. But in his office on St. Thomas, Noel Pachta, superintendent of Virgin Islands National Park, says, "We're noticing a dying of the coral. We're noticing a great change in color of the reef—it's not as bright as it used to be."

A healthy Caribbean coral reef is a dazzling display of color, from violet to crimson, even black. Such a reef offers a spectacle whose richness rivals the most diverse forest ecosystems on land. Antler, lettuce, and brain are only a few of the many shapes coral formations can take. Colorful parrotfish graze on the coral while other species hide in cracks, crevices, and holes in the twisted formations. The reef dwell-

ers, in turn, attract predators of every size and appetite.

The basic reef-building animal is the coral polyp, a relative of the sea anemone. Each polyp secretes a hard shell of calcium carbonate to protect its soft body. Closed and secure inside stone walls during the day, the polyps open to feed on drifting plankton at night.

Coral is a delicate creature, however, living in an intricately balanced system. Dirty water cuts the sunlight it needs for survival. Silt or sand can smother the polyps. Reefs seldom flourish in muddy bays, near river mouths, or where swimmers constantly stir up bottom sediments—as they do at Trunk Bay.

Breakage is another problem at Trunk Bay. Branching corals may grow as little as two or three inches per year; brain coral heads a foot in diameter may be fifty years old. Boat anchors, souvenir hunters, even careless swimmers who bump formations with flippers or elbows can cause damage that takes decades to repair.

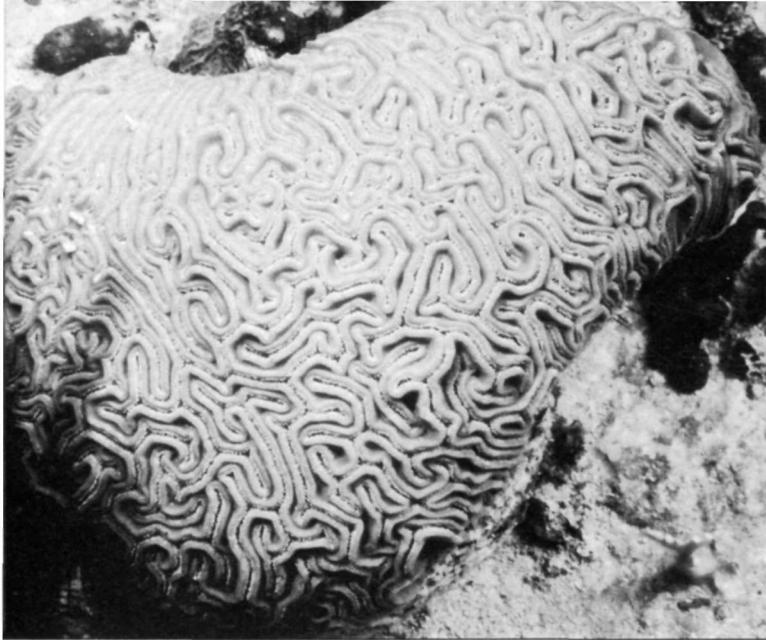
Park naturalist Richard Jones says, "Somebody wants a piece of coral to take home, but they don't know it's going to turn dirty grey and stink. Somebody else wants to rest, so they

stand up on the coral. But it's not some dead rock, it's *alive*—until they stand on it."

"Some days we have to put a person on a surfboard over the trail to keep people from standing there," Superintendent Pachta says. "People do it very innocently. They just don't realize what they're doing."

According to Alan Robinson, formerly marine research biologist at the park for four and a half years, Trunk Bay reef is an area of pretty marginal conditions and probably would not be especially healthy even without visitor impact. The reef there, however, provides a generally protected area with lifeguard services where novices on a rushed tour can safely enjoy what may be their only snorkeling experience. Thus, in a way, Trunk Bay is a "sacrifice area" of resources of secondary quality.

"If people are good swimmers and are here on more flexible extended visits," Superintendent Pachta says, "we encourage them to go elsewhere—Hawksnest, Leinster Bay, Salt Pond, Lameshur Bay, some of



Alan Robinson



Alan Robinson

A specimen of brain coral in optimum conditions (left) of very clean water, without disturbance from people or storm-caused dirty water, shows vigorous, well-defined growth. In contrast, the brain coral formation (right) has been damaged by people standing on it. Hordes of visitors to the popular and well-publicized underwater trail at Trunk Bay (opposite) make protecting the coral difficult for the understaffed and underfunded National Park Service.

the places like that—as their snorkeling skills and self-confidence improve. The Trunk Bay reef is beautiful if you don't have other experiences for comparison; but if you swim one of the other reefs that's not so heavily used, you immediately recognize the difference."

The concept of a "sacrifice area" is controversial, however. T. Destry Jarvis of National Parks & Conservation Association points out that *no* resources in a national park should be "sacrificed," as the purpose of national parks is to preserve resources unimpaired. "The National Park Service has a responsibility," he says, "to provide enough interpretive personnel to prevent damage to the resources. If they can't do that, then they should limit visitor access to the resources."

Congress authorized Virgin Islands National Park to acquire 9,000 acres of land, plus 5,600 acres offshore to protect the shoreline and reefs. But the park is missing 2,000 acres, including five major bays and watersheds on the north shore. As is the case in many national parks, the needed acquisition money just isn't there.

Most of the private acreage within park boundaries are home plots, Su-

perintendent Pachta explains. "The acreage is pretty well scattered, but there are six major pieces [inholdings] of 100 to 400 acres under one ownership. We could get some type of major development that wouldn't be compatible within a park. All we can do is try to encourage the landowners to be concerned about the park surrounding them, concerned about the impact of the development of their land."

Maho Bay Camp opened on one of those inholdings in 1974. Pachta is quick to point out, however, that Maho is no ordinary campground. Instead of bulldozing access roads and tent sites into the steep hillside above the bay, developer Stanley Sellengut built his camp on stilts, above the fragile vegetation. Elevated boardwalks connect the tent platforms and service buildings. Water and utility lines run under the walkways. Sellengut does not spray insecticide to control the insatiable mosquitoes and sand flies, so campers wear long sleeves and musk oil repellent. From a boat in Maho Bay, the camp's 104 tents are almost invisible beneath the trees.

"The NPS campground at Cinnamon Bay has more of an impact than Maho Bay does," Pachta says, "not because of the activity, but because

of the design. In our camp, you have major roads. Maho Bay lies light on the land. They could remove Maho, and a month later you'd never know it had been there."

Most visitors come for the day from St. Thomas, twenty minutes away by ferry, for although St. John is long on beauty and history, it is short on beds. When Laurance S. Rockefeller donated the first 5,000 acres to Virgin Islands National Park in 1956, he reserved 170 acres on Caneel Bay for a beautiful—and expensive—resort. A few homes are for rent in Cruz Bay, the island capital. Add the campgrounds, and that's it. Consequently, reservations to stay on St. John must be made well in advance.

Virgin Islands National Park offers visitors a memorable experience of rugged scenery, fascinating coral reefs, intriguing history, and a relaxed pace of life that they will always cherish. For more information about the park, write the Superintendent, P.O. Box 7789, St. Thomas, VI 00801.

Freelancer Fred Gebhart last wrote for National Parks in January 1983, concerning volcanoes in Hawaii.



CULTURAL AMBASSADORS in Virgin Islands National Park, by Susan Vreeland

Two special people contribute to an instructive, respectful, and tender experience for park visitors.

It's not just the tropical flavor of the natural environment that makes Virgin Islands National Park so special. Its Caribbean culture reflects a vastly different history from that of the fifty states. The job of park ranger becomes more expansive here. Beyond sharing natural history and teaching respect for the environment, national park interpreters give visitors an insight into a history marked by slave revolts and plantation economy, a culture enriched by island Creole and carnival that seems exotic to most Americans.

It takes special people to transmit this cultural and linguistic heritage lightly, comfortably, and meaningfully. Virgin Islands National Park has two especially gifted people who do just that. Visitors come away having learned and grown, but without feeling that they've been to school.

Denise Georges is not so much a lecturing ranger as an island spirit, dancing her trail of visitors through

the bush. As she picks her way through the extraordinary foliage, her speech skips back and forth between melodic island Creole and impeccable English. This bilingualism reflects her dual role: Georges the teacher, instructing visitors how to avoid dangers like the poisonous manchineel tree, jack spaniard wasps, and the stinging nettle; and Georges the island native, proudly sharing Caribbean lore and the islanders' simple yet elegant solutions to the problems of survival.

She explains that at this remote end of the U.S. supply line, West Indians have had to be creative in using what they had available to them. For example, dried anthurium leaves make excellent scouring pads, and stinging nettles make a hair rinse. Strangler fig leaves used to be used as stationery for love letters, and its blossoms provide glue for caulking boats. Natural perfumes of bay rum, wild cinnamon, and hog plum abound in the park.

Drawing from her childhood, Georges tells how West Indian children tease each other with friction-heated scorcher beans from the prickly pod on the nicker tree and how they make flutes from papaya stems and maracas from gourds of the calabash tree. To a West Indian child, mango seeds are really doll's eyes.

Slipping into Creole, Georges tells of the island's herbal medicines: "When yoh have a little baby and say he belly gripin', den yoh use da soursop tea wit da natural vanilla essence for to sweeten it and den he sleep so quiet." Spontaneous and engaging in her relations with visitors, her use of Creole delights and her warmth eases the racial gap. She teases white visitors about the "tourist nose tree," which, she says, has bark that turns red and peels, "just like a tourist's nose." After a campfire talk, Georges is apt to say, "Before we gone, I want all a yoh to meet me mudda." She puts her arms around a middle-aged white woman, a dear friend and neighbor. Some visitors, both captivated and perplexed, sense the joke from the laughter of others.

Georges' duties take her on sea-shore walks where she leads visitors wading far out into a shallow bay to discover marine life. She also instructs snorkelers and often dives deep to bring a sea biscuit or sea urchin up to the surface. She takes visitors to places where they might see a moray eel fighting with its mortal enemy, the octopus.

At campfire talks Georges sometimes brings her nine-foot stilts, for she is a much admired *moko jumbee* dancer on the island. Like most Caribbean islands, St. John has a carnival, this one celebrating the emancipation of slaves on July 3, 1848. Capitalizing on U.S. Independence Day, at 4:30 a.m. on July 4, all St. Johnians come outside dressed in pajamas and diapers and other crazy attire for *j'ouvert* (from the French *jour ouvert*, opening or break of day). Everyone dances around town until sunrise, when the parade begins and *moko jumbee* dancers get a chance to show off their skill.

The tradition of stilt dancing, Georges says, comes from West Africa at the time of harvest, as a celebration to the gods. Dancers representing medicine men (*moko*) or spirits of natural elements and ghosts (*jumbee*) dressed in gala costumes skip, hop, and do acrobatics—all high in the air. The stilts support only the arch of the foot, and toes and heels are unsupported. Only in 1978 did a few women start performing as *moko jumbees*. Now Georges is learning to "play the pans" (steel drums); she is the first to combine that with stilt dancing.

Although Georges' effortless blending of languages and culture may exemplify the island's modern times, Ranger Lito Valls gives it historical perspective. No one is better suited to do this, for Valls is known to St. Johnians as the island historian. He maintains a 3,000-volume library on natural and cultural Virgin Islands history at the national park's visitor center in Cruz Bay. Researching local and national archives, interviewing islanders, and exploring old ruins, he has added immensely to the store of Virgin Islands history.

Much information comes from periods long before the United States purchased the islands in 1917. "Danish records were excellent and thorough," Valls says. "On a plantation, if a child even fell down and broke his leg, it was recorded in the plantation log." A philosopher at heart, Valls' historical tales reflect on human follies and achievements that transcend cultural barriers.

On the park's popular historical tour, Ranger Valls takes visitors in an open-air safari bus to the seldom-visited eastern end of the island. En route, island history unrolls like a brightly colored cloth on which cultural patterns mingle. "The first sugar plantation slaves were white—exiles from Danish prisons—and the most wealthy planter was a man of color," he explains.

Valls points out the spot where the first slave insurrection started at Coral Bay in 1733. "The insurrection occurred," he explains, "not because of the drought in that year and the subsequent lack of food, not because of hurricanes, and not even because slavery was reprehensible, but because the slaves had been nobility in Africa and were used to having slaves themselves."

At the Moravian church he stops to share his personal appreciation of the humanitarian impulses of significant island figures. The Moravians—the first Protestants to consider that blacks had souls to save—sent two missionaries to St. John in 1732. One of their converts, Brother Cornelius, a slave, taught himself engineering, architecture, and masonry in order to build the Moravian church still being used today. His own language being Dutch Creole, Brother Cornelius learned English, Danish, Dutch, and German so he could preach in whatever language was necessary.

Slaves on the islands had free time on Saturday nights, Sunday afternoons, and moonlit nights. Brother Cornelius worked during these times to buy the freedom of his mother, his wife, and his eight children before he bought his own. He was in-

strumental in bringing about the translation of the New Testament into Dutch Creole as well as establishing, in 1782, a free public education system, the first in the New World. It was open first for blacks and only the following year for whites, who had other educational advantages. "They don't make them like Cornelius anymore!" Valls remarks.

Valls tells a story about another historical figure, one who started life as an "outside child"—the gentle Creole term for illegitimate child. This child's mother had been steered into marrying an older planter on St. Croix, who was later granted a divorce from her. However, *she* was not considered divorced and therefore could never remarry. But she did bear a child out of wedlock. At fourteen, her son was successfully managing two businesses; and when his financial aptitude was discovered, he was sent to New York for education. His name? Alexander Hamilton, our first Secretary of the Treasury.

One of Valls' major contributions is his island Creole dictionary, *What a Pistarkle!*—a title that, like many island phrases, needs the dictionary for explanation. "Pistarkle" means rampant confusion, and, to the first-time visitor, that might accurately describe the island dialect. But in unraveling the origins of the language, we discover island attitudes and character.

Creole, Valls explains, comes from the Spanish *criar*, meaning "to bring up or to rear." The term was used especially in reference to children born in the New World, with the connotation that they were not quite authentic or pure. Later, Creole came to mean mixed blood.

"While English is the language of our heads, Creole is the language of our hearts," Valls explains. The dialect makes this park piquantly different from any other in the National Park System. Park staff use it. Menus use it. "Kribishee with jumbee parasols" is shrimp with

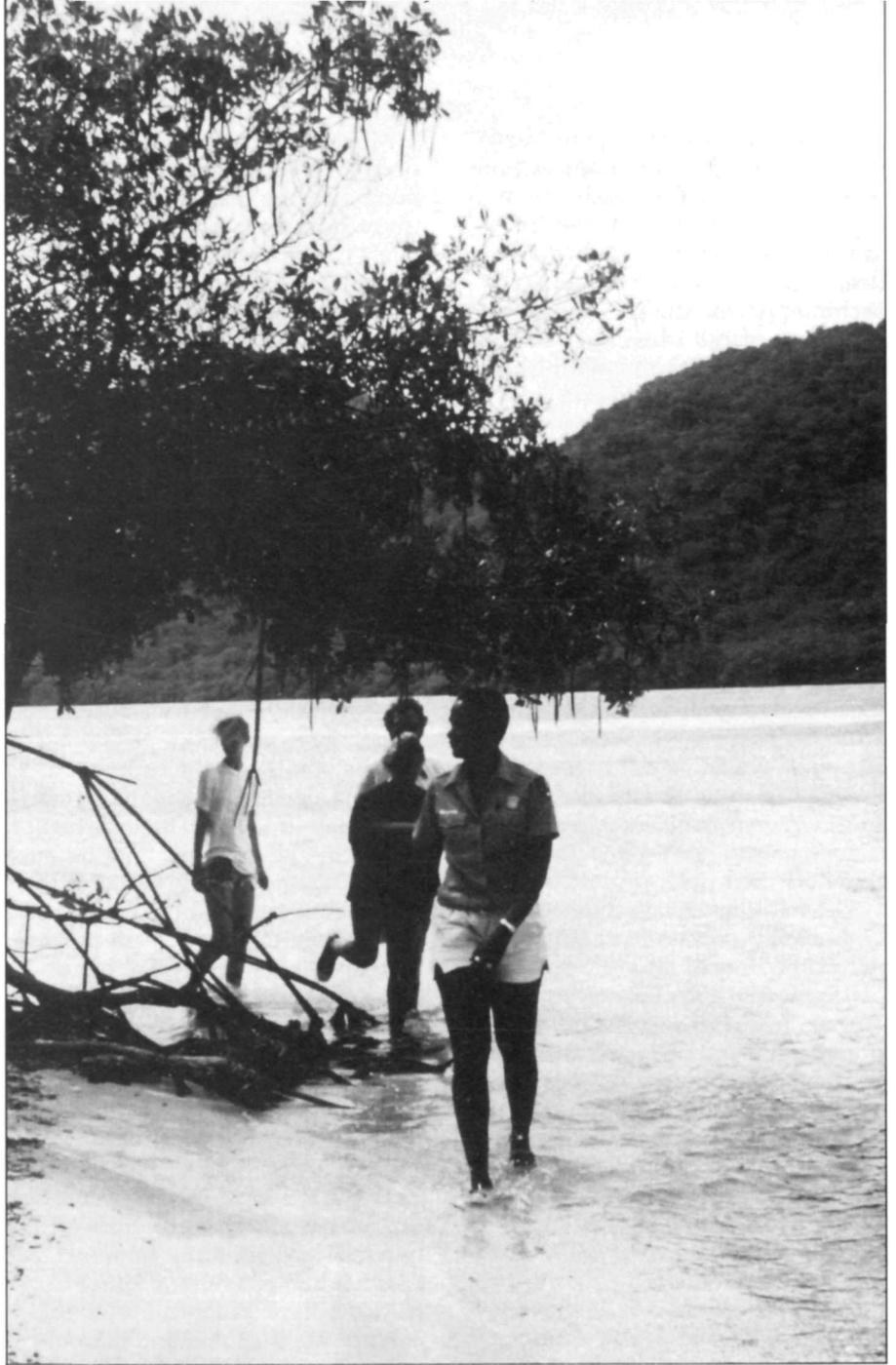
Denise Georges' Reef Bay hike follows an old Danish plantation cart road through dense tropical growth, along ruined plantation walls to an ancient sugar mill, and finally to the sea. Along the way Georges describes islanders' simple ways of using the island's natural gifts for survival. Her seashore walk takes visitors wading far out into the shallows to discover marine life.



Bromeliad, by Alan Robinson

mushrooms. Island fauna and flora reflect it. The "monkey-no-climb" is a tree with sharp thorns on its trunk; the "woman tongue" is a tree with dry pods that rattle incessantly.

"One one" or one by one and little by little, stateside visitors undergo a "mine tu'n"—a mind turn, or a change of mind—and drop their "alien talk" to pick up Creole phrases, but not without curious questions. At a campfire talk, when asked what language is spoken on St. John, Georges allowed a pregnant pause and then quietly said, "En-



Denise Georges, by Susan J. Vreeland

glish"—cementing the link between islanders and continentals.

Both Georges and Valls are cultural ambassadors who serve with love for their visitors, their island's natural gifts, and their people's traditions. Together they make the Virgin Islands National Park experience instructive, respectful, and as warm as the tropic breeze that plays over the islands.

Freelancer Susan Vreeland writes primarily on travel, the arts, and culture for several national publications.



Lito Valls, by Vince Andrunas

Moravian church, by Vince Andrunas



Lito Valls, St. John historian, takes visitors on a popular bus tour, during which his historical tales reveal the rich cultural heritage of the islands. One of the stops along the way is the Moravian church built by the remarkable self-educated converted slave, Brother Cornelius.

Not many of the millions of people who now visit the national parks have ever heard of the National Park System Advisory Board and Council. The knowledgeable and capable people on the Board and Council don't need much attention to be of service, however.

In order to be effective and truly advise on matters pertaining to the National Park System, the Board and Council need only the concern of the Director of the National Park Service (NPS) and the Secretary of the Interior.

The Advisory Board and its adjunct, the Council, are not part of the NPS. Together, the two parts of this voluntary organization run parallel to the NPS and avoid some of the governmental backups that are common in a large federal agency.

Interior Secretaries and NPS Directors have used the Board and Council, therefore, for an array of fact-finding missions. In the past, these advisors have been immensely helpful in establishing parks, revising park boundaries, and advising on the preservation of historic sites.

There is now some talk of abolishing the Council, which is the backbone of the advisory group, those men and women with the longest history of voluntary service.

This must not happen. The NPS would lose one of its finest human assets, and a long history of devoted voluntary public service would end.

Essentially, the Board and Council can only advise; that is what they were set up to do. But their advice is invaluable.

The twelve-member Board was established by law in 1935, and its charter says it must include representatives from four disciplines: history, archeology, architecture, and the natural sciences. The Board meets semiannually and has \$60,000 per year for the expenses of traveling to meetings, maintaining a Washington, D.C., office in the Department of the Interior, field research, and similar needs. After four

KEEPING COUNCIL

The Parks Advisory Council Is Too Valuable to Lose

years a Board member's term ends; and, if that person chooses, he or she can become a Council member.

The Council was officially recognized in 1964 when the Board and NPS officials decided it didn't make sense just to let all the expertise, experience, and interest of these ex-Board members slip away.

The Council has certain restrictions, though: only fifteen members can be reimbursed for travel to any plenary meeting (the Council is allotted \$18,000 per year); Council members cannot vote with the full Board at biennial meetings; Council members who miss two consecutive meetings for reasons other than illness are dropped from the Council; advisory committees may be composed of any number of Council members, but each committee must have at least one Board member.

The only restriction on a Council member's term is the member's own interest and desire to research, consider, recommend issues important to all of us.

Every two years, the charter of the National Park System Advisory Council must be renewed and it always has been renewed because the Council contributes so much to the philosophical framework of conservation in general and the National Park System specifically. Let us hope

the Council's charter will be renewed at the end of this year.

The Council's continuity means much to the Board—in advice and in background on issues that come up again and again. Glacier Bay is an example of a park whose concerns were discussed at the very first Board meeting in 1936. Yet, the problems associated with the park—mining and ship traffic—have been discussed and reworked over the years as each change in the picture called for a different approach.

By the time a Board member's four-year term is half over, he or she is just getting familiar with the territory. There's a lot to learn about the park system, and Board members count on the Council to help them fill in gaps of knowledge. In fact, without the Council, the Board would have a hard time knowing where to go and who to talk with to get the information they need to make useful judgments.

Dr. Edward Danson, an archeologist and a colleague of mine who has been on the Council about twenty years, calls the Council "a steadying influence, a teaching influence."

Another colleague, Dr. J. O. Brew, an archeologist who came onto the Council about the same time I did, says, "The federal government gets

its money's worth from Council members and more."

He's right. The whole idea of volunteering is important today, when so few seem to have the time or inclination. Yet, here is a group of men and women who are happy to give up their own time—often quite a lot of time—to help the parks.

It is the parks that endure, and Council members are cognizant of the importance of that continuity over any personal ambition. This viewpoint possibly allows Council members to judge park issues somewhat more objectively than if they were in the NPS. They have no office politics to worry about.

Often, when an NPS Director wanted some detailed information on a park or a proposed park, he would contact a Council member and say, for instance, "Listen, we need to find out the most sensible boundaries for this park. Would you go over there and help us out?"

Council members contribute historical and archeological advice, status reports on national parks, proposals for new units of the National Park System, and proposals for boundary changes.

They have actively endorsed NPS proposals to keep poisons—such as the kinds used to control "pests"—out of the parks. Because of the number of archeologists and historians on the Council, cultural restoration was given the kind of emphasis it deserves.

Frank Masland, who has been on the Council for a number of years, has traveled to well over 200 parks for various Directors and Secretaries of the Interior, from Hawaii to the Everglades. In fact, he helped lay out the Everglades wilderness canoe trail.

Another member whose knowledge and advice has been invaluable is Dr. Durward Allen, one of the country's foremost experts on wolves and wolf-moose interaction. He helped set up the trail system on Isle Royale so that park visitors and

the resident wolves could each make use of the island without disturbing the other.

Sigurd Olsen, who was another long-time Council member, put in many hundreds of hours trying to establish Voyageurs National Park in the Minnesota north woods he treasured.

Space permits my giving a couple of examples of the activities and achievements of Council members; I wish I could include some of the valuable contributions to the National Park System made by many more.

The majority of Council members are not naturalists, geologists, or historians by profession. They are bankers, labor leaders, publishers, military officers, educators, business executives, and lawyers, to name but a few. It was an inspiration to sit at meetings of the Board and Council and hear the thoughtful contributions of members to the discussions of administrative, historical, and natural resource problems concerning our national parks.

They may have some background in a particular field; but for the most part their concern about the parks keeps them interested, and they carve out their own niches of expertise. Civil War sites, Anasazi ruins, trails, interpretation, the wildlife in our great natural areas—all have their particular champions.

The one quality common to Council members, whatever their particular concerns or background, is interest. Ask anyone on the Council. Interest is what makes the whole thing work. To tell all of those people with so much accumulated knowledge that their knowledge and their interest is no longer wanted would be a waste.

Rather, let us keep using the Council. We may have acquired the lion's share of our parklands, but managing that much land, with problems encroaching from all sides, is a formidable task. Certainly the time for good advice is not over.

Horace M. Albright's association with the national parks and the National Park Service spans seven decades. With Stephen Mather, Albright shaped the agency which cares for our most pristine lands.

In 1913, at the age of 23, he left law school in his native California to become confidential clerk to the Secretary of the Interior. In January 1915, Stephen T. Mather, a semiretired businessman and also a native Californian, became Assistant to the Secretary and was charged with promoting legislation to create a National Park Service. Albright was assigned as his assistant.

Congress authorized the new bureau in August 1916 and Mather was appointed the first Director. Albright, as the first Assistant Director, took care of administrative details and much of the behind-the-scenes negotiating.

In 1919, Albright was made superintendent of Yellowstone National Park, where he helped turn Mather's ideal ranger into a real work force of public servants. Because the park was snowbound for almost six months—and travel in the park was impossible—Albright continued to serve as Assistant Director (in the field), often visiting other parks to confer about problems and spending a month or more in Washington, D.C. In 1928, when illness compelled Director Mather to resign, Horace Albright became Director of the National Park Service.

After nearly six years as Director, Albright entered the business world, but his association with the parks did not end. He served as an NPCA trustee and is now a "trustee emeritus"; and, from 1952 to 1958, Albright served on the National Park System Advisory Board and, later, the Council.

Horace Albright, now 93 years of age, has had many tributes paid to him as a conservationist and for his achievements in the National Park Service. In 1980 he received the Medal of Freedom, the highest honor the President of the United States can confer on a civilian.

"In one day Watt equaled the amount of OCS land leased during the previous thirty years. . . ."

Continued from page 11

Area. These leases require virtually untested pioneer technology.

Despite the failure of oil shale development, the Department of the Interior has announced plans to lease these highly valuable public resources in the future. Oil shale reserves are enormous—perhaps two trillion barrels could eventually be recovered—but it would be premature to sell such potentially valuable resources at this time. The last Interior sale of oil shale leases in 1974 earned the public only 8.5 cents per barrel of oil.

Most threats to National Park System lands are indirect, but potentially disastrous. A recent study by an environmental organization considered the impact of new road construction on the public lands as a result of oil and gas leasing. During the next decade, that new road mileage will equal or exceed the total mileage of the interstate highway system. Most national parks and monuments in the West will be threatened by air pollution, road construction, and industrialization from nearby public lands.

Other threats are more direct. Last year Secretary Watt opened Glen Canyon, Lake Mead, Shasta-Trinity, and other national recreation areas which allow multiple use to mining and energy leasing. In previous administrations, park regulations limited nearby activities that might damage a park's resources. Under

the guise of "regulatory reform," Watt also opened private lands within national parks to mining.

The massive leasing program put together by Watt and company has been challenged during the past months. *The Los Angeles Times* called Watt's program "a sellout of our heritage." *The Washington Post* labeled the program "a federal fire sale." In April the GAO's report stated that Interior's program "principally benefits leaseholders."

On the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) lands the Interior Department's leasing program has been highly public and controversial for some time. James Watt is virtually giving away oil and natural gas leases worth \$1.3 trillion at present market value.

The first OCS lease was sold in 1953. During the next three decades, the Department of the Interior leased a total of less than 40 million acres. During Watt's first year in office he boasted that he had leased 44 million acres of OCS lands. Within months of taking office he had made plans to lease up to a billion acres of land in five years' time. On a spring day in 1983, Watt supervised the sale of 40 million acres of OCS land in the Gulf of Mexico, the largest such lease in history. In one day Watt equaled the amount of OCS land leased during the previous thirty years, a period involving six administrations.

At the close of Watt's leasing operation, all the Outer Continental

Shelf oil and gas resources could be in private hands. The majority of the OCS leases are now being sold on schedule. A national outcry emerged over the potential impact on coastlines, including such areas as Channel Islands National Park and Padre Island, Point Reyes, and Cape Cod national seashores. As a result, a few of the most controversial leases were delayed by congressional restrictions on the Interior budget.

The Interior Department's public land leasing program defies all economic logic as well as the science of environmental protection. Without a doubt, what is underway is a massive transfer of public wealth unmatched in the history of the public lands.

Public lands and resources are a legacy for the future, but Watt's leases mock the sacred trust we owe the next generation. They represent an act of immorality by this generation toward its children. The ethic of energy development *now* matches the greed of public land history. This Administration's leases will always cast a long, dark shadow of shame across the public lands.

A former professor of parks and recreation and public land policy and a park ranger in six of our western parks, Bernard Shanks is currently manager of watershed lands for the Marin Municipal Water District in California. He is working on a book about public lands, scheduled to be published in the spring of 1984.



NEW DIRECTIONS

A Report on NPCA's International Working Conference, by Marjorie Corbett

Lüneberger Heide, by Marjorie Corbett

In June 1983 the National Parks & Conservation Association co-sponsored an International Working Conference in Germany called "New Directions for Conservation of Parks." Organized by the Federation of Nature and Nationalparks of Europe [*sic*] and the Northern German Nature Conservation Academy, the conference was an outgrowth of discussion among NPCA President Paul C. Pritchard, past president Fred Packard, and German industrialist/conservationist Alfred Toepfer. The eleven-day meeting brought together representatives from twelve European nations, the United States, and Canada to discuss the direction of the European park movement and the current status of park systems in North America.

The National Park System in the

United States is the oldest, largest, and most stable in the world, and European nations have long looked to it for conservation ideals and practical management techniques. At the same time, European nations have developed and adapted a wide variety of management techniques uniquely suited to their resources and useful for dealing with problems like overcrowding, pressure for land uses, and centuries of human changes in natural systems. Such a wealth of experience, NPCA reasoned, could be used by American conservationists for application to open space preservation programs here in the United States.

Thus, the conference was arranged so that both the European and the North American experiences would be presented for comparison, discus-

sion, and mutual benefit. The conference schedule provided for field visits to various planned or established German parks displaying varying degrees of protection, as well as for eight seminars on topics ranging from the politics of landscape management in Germany to religious and ethical ideologies related to land conservation.

NPCA's President Paul C. Pritchard noted, "The combination of field visits and an open forum of exchange provided an extraordinary opportunity for American representatives to come face to face with the remarkable accomplishments in European land conservation over the past thirty years, as well as to gain insight into the immense difficulties Europeans face in preserving parks in a natural state."

Right, conference leader Henry Makowski instructs the group on land conservation patterns in Lower Saxony. Below, Dr. Klaus Theile elaborates on the traditions of Bavarian forestry. Bottom, Superintendent Zierl of Berchtesgaden National Park shares his concerns about acid rain in the parks with NPCA's President, Paul Pritchard.



Photos by Marjorie Corbett

Henry Makowski



Recreational lake near East German border

The first part of the conference was held in the Lüneberger Heide nature reserve, a 50-thousand-acre heath sprinkled with historic villages, farms, and woods just south of Hamburg. Immortalized by singers, poets, and painters of the early twentieth century, the landscape became a national symbol for natural beauty in Germany. Private organizations now manage and preserve portions of the historic landscape in cooperation with the state Ministry for Food, Agriculture, and Forestry. A visitor center and museum tell the story of man's complex relationship to nature in this region of Germany, and each year thousands of visitors through the pathways, bike paths, and bridle paths that twist through the landscape.

NPCA's Bill Lienesch explained, "Lüneberger Heide displays a kind of marriage between public and private management and between preservation and land use patterns that are similar to some 'greenline'-type parks in the U.S." Greenline parks—a way of protecting regional landscapes through joint management of local, state, and federal agencies—were the subject of a number of discussions, resulting in a call for further development of the concept within the United States, drawing on the European experience. Conferees noted that although similarities may exist between some European park management systems and the American greenline concept, it may not be useful to model American preservation techniques too closely after European ones, because of major differences in political structures already in place.



Dr. Charles Yaple, Mrs. Yaple, Dr. Klaus Theile, Mrs. Gilbert Stucker, Dr. Matti Helminen

Dr. Hubert Zierl, Paul C. Pritchard



Waddensea bird preserve/recreation area



Photo by Paul Pritchard

Acid rain damage in Bavarian forest

A waterbird finds a moment of solitude in the midst of a heavily used recreational park in Germany's Lower Saxony. Swimming, picnicking, timbering, and landfilling are a typical range of human activities supported by German recreational parks. Below left, a small boy makes friends with a newly shorn sheep in one of Germany's most unusual and controversial preserves, the Waddensea. Not yet a national park, the green ridges of earth on the edges of the North Sea reflect an ancient tradition of reclaiming tidal flats for agriculture, and currently serve as a sheep-grazing range, as one of Germany's most prized bird preserves, and as a recreational beach. Bottom, acid rain in Bayerischerwald National Park has virtually wiped out certain less hardy species, killed mountain lakes, and now threatens natural systems as a whole. A computer study is now underway in the park.

Other German parks visited included the Waddensea, a wetland bird preserve on the North Sea that has potential to become an international park, and the Bavarian Forest National Park, Germany's first national park. Representatives from Sweden, Finland, Norway, the Netherlands, Switzerland, France, Hungary, Poland, Ireland, and England also made presentations on their national park systems.

Representatives from the United States included NPS Resource Management Specialist Ro Wauer, conservation journalist Michael Frome, lawyer/writer Joseph Sax, editor of *Parks* magazine Jean Packard, leaders from a number of grassroots conservation groups, several state conservation leaders, and NPCA trustees. In opening comments for one of the first sessions, Joseph Sax commented, "I think it is easy to believe that the situation in American parks is so fundamentally different from those in Europe that it hardly pays to make a comparison." Sax proceeded to outline what he saw as the crucial differences between parks in the U.S. and in any European nation.

He explained that the U.S. National Park System has several clear advantages over European nations—a huge public land reserve on which to draw, a century of experience in managing a large park system, and a history of high principles for conservation that have stood up to tests from commercial interests. Although Germany and other nations may not have vast land resources, they can and do draw on the experience of park managers and their conservation battles in the U.S.

For example, many European nations have adopted the practice of requiring Environmental Impact Statements before allowing new development on open landscape.

Of particular interest to European conferees is the marked change in conservation policies under the current Administration. German conservation leader Henry Makowski commented, "It's not a question of what's happening with parks. It's a question of what's happening with society. We have the idea in Germany that all the ideas born in the U.S. will come to Europe in ten years—starting with jeans, Coca Cola, new machines. . . . In the past, when we saw the good work [that American] groups did to fight pollution, we felt hopeful that we could do the same in five years' time. And now we hear about the difficulties you have with your new Administration. We are extremely shocked at what is happening now in America."

Conferees drew up a set of twelve informal resolutions based upon insights gained during the exchange. The resolutions emphasized the need for worldwide awareness of the importance of ecological systems and recommended specific means for better protecting natural areas. Conferees expressed the hope that they would meet again to exchange new ideas and promote a high level of park protection on both Europe and North America.

Marjorie Corbett, features editor of National Parks, was a participant at the conference, where she presented for review a draft of a book on greenline parks soon to be published by NPCA.

NPCA Report

Path of Mine Truck Route Would Cross Alaska Park

The proposed Red Dog Mine, next to the Noatak National Preserve in Northwest Alaska, seems to be one conservationists can live with. A part of the plan concerns NPCA, however, because the preferred road corridor from the mine to the shipping port would cut across the northwest corner of Cape Krusenstern National Monument.

None of the Red Dog proposals seem likely to affect the 100-plus beach ridges, which form an archeological calendar tracing more than 6,000 years of Eskimo habitation, for which Cape Krusenstern was designated. NPCA will continue to participate in the approval process for this project, though, and is waiting to comment on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) due out in September.

If the EIS concurs with the Red Dog proposals, the National Park Service (NPS) will want to use the guidelines built into the Alaska Lands Act for approval of transportation corridors through units of the National Park System in that state. The NPS would have to pick its way carefully because any such test case would be scrutinized.

The Red Dog mine site, which

bears lead and zinc ores, is owned by the Northwest Alaska Native Association, and NANA has hired Cominco Alaska, Inc.—a mining company—to organize the mining operation.

The open pit mine, sited on Red Dog Creek near Deadlock Mountain, is being planned to last approximately fifty years with 1,057,000 tons of ore extracted per year. In its proposal Cominco has included measures that would avoid waste and uphold environmental standards.

The company plans to use any excess heat produced by fuel-based power generation to dry the minerals, recycle water from the tailings process, install scrubbers to control air pollution, extract all high-sulfide material that could possibly leach into and pollute Red Dog Creek, and return the site to as much a natural condition as possible when mining operations are completed.

In planning its overland transportation route, the company was also careful to consider environmental values that would be disrupted by either a twice-daily railroad run and nine truck trips per day, or a slurry pipeline. Although a northern route to the sea would not cross Cape Krusenstern, it *would* have to cross a number of rivers (approximately fourteen crossings all together), disturbing fish habitats.

It would also intersect—and interrupt—wildlife habitat that Native

Alaskans have hunted throughout history, making the area valuable to subsistence hunters and rich in archeological artifacts as well as animal life.

In contrast, the southern route through the national monument parallels rather than intersects animal corridors, disrupts few fish habitats, and passes through an area of little known archeological value. This route, being fifteen miles shorter than the northern route, would also cost Cominco less money to construct—quite a bit less money, especially considering that the river crossings alone will cost an estimated \$5 million per 100 feet.

Despite all of these considerations, NPCA believes the NPS should take into account all possible alternatives and look toward the prospect of recommending a transportation corridor through Cape Krusenstern with circumspection.

NPCA Director of Federal Activities T. Destry Jarvis recently visited the monument and mine site with the NPS, at the invitation of NANA and Cominco. After viewing the area, Jarvis concluded:

“If this mine is properly developed as appears to be contemplated, it will stand as an important precedent. It will demonstrate that mining on a large scale can be compatible with an adjacent National Park System unit when the interested parties work closely together in the development process.”

Southwesterners Speak Out Against More Coal Leasing

In late May, while Interior Secretary James Watt's coal-leasing policies were making front-page news in Washington, D.C., two House Interior subcommittees held joint hearings in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on coal leasing that could affect Chaco Culture National Historical Park and three Bureau of Land Management wilderness study areas.

The Department of the Interior is interested in offering leases for approximately 3.7 billion tons of coal on BLM lands in northwestern New Mexico despite a depressed coal market and a public outcry over

what NPCA and other environmental organizations believe is a massive coal giveaway. At the hearings NPCA, the state of New Mexico, and the Navajo and Jicarilla Apache tribes all spoke out against leasing any more public lands in New Mexico for coal mining.

Spencer Lucas, a paleontologist from the University of New Mexico who also testified against leasing, said that New Mexico's San Juan Basin is one of the few places on earth where fossil layers show the progression from the last stages of the age of dinosaurs to the beginnings of the mammalian age.

Russ Butcher, NPCA's Southwest

representative, pointed out that mining near the borders of Chaco Canyon could have detrimental impacts on the park, such as degrading the air and water quality, disturbing visitors' appreciation of the Chacoan ruins, and disrupting the prehistoric structures for which the park was established with vibrations from blasting and heavy earth moving equipment.

“We are greatly alarmed,” said Butcher, “by what we perceive as an unnecessary headlong rush to lease and develop coal resources near Chaco—the Grand Canyon of America's national cultural parks.”

NPCA is also concerned that coal

Land Purchases a Priority At Channel Islands

The Channel Islands, off the southern California coast, rise from the sea like giant chunks of an ancient land. The beaches and the waters that surround these primordial islands are crowded with sea life—from seals and shore birds to great kelp “forests.”

In 1938 President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed the three-island Anacapa group and Santa Barbara Island as Channel Islands National Monument. In 1980, Congress gave these and the rest of the northern cluster of islands—San Miguel, Santa Rosa, and Santa Cruz—full national park status. The actual park boundary lies one nautical mile from the shore of each island. An additional five-mile-wide zone has been designated as the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

At that time Congress authorized the appropriation of \$30.1 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for purchasing Santa Rosa and the eastern end of Santa Cruz. To date, no funds have been spent on land acquisition. (Most of Santa Cruz Island has been acquired by The Nature Conservancy and is thus protected.)

This past May, the National Park



Russell D. Butcher

The westward view of Middle Anacapa Island is one of primordial beauty.

Service (NPS) issued its draft Land Protection Plan, which recommends:

- Transfer from Navy ownership to NPS ownership of San Miguel Island.

- Prompt acquisition of Santa Rosa Island, with a phased acquisition plan if complete funding is not immediately available.

- Prompt acquisition of the eastern end of Santa Cruz, with phased acquisition if necessary.

Russ Butcher, NPCA's Southwest regional representative, said, "It would indeed be an unforgivable tragedy if our generation should lose the chance to save Santa Rosa and the remaining 6,000 acres on Santa

Cruz—especially after the monumental, multimillion-dollar accomplishment of The Nature Conservancy. Every effort must be made to purchase the land from these willing sellers."

As of this writing, Congress is considering how much funding to approve for land acquisition. Representative Robert J. Lagomarsino, in whose district the park is located, requested \$8 million for Fiscal Year 1984 acquisition; the House Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks has recommended \$5 million; but the Senate has recommended no funding for Channel Islands National Park.

New Senate Bill Focuses On Outdoor Recreation

On June 28, at a hearing before the Senate Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations, NPCA supported legislation to establish a National Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission (ORRRC). Testimony by NPCA President Paul Pritchard brought up a number of points to consider in S. 1090.

NPCA said an outdoor recreation commission should—

- Evaluate all present programs, including those administered by the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. An outdoor recreation commission should also develop a consistent recreation policy among federal agencies.

- Plan for the future by providing tax incentives for private landowners to donate public open space and by promoting greenline parks.

- Develop carrying capacities for

outdoor recreation programs nationwide.

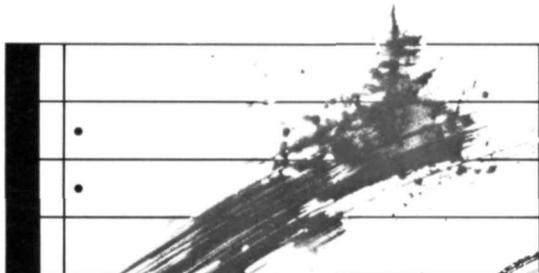
- Double the proposed life of the commission from 18 to 36 months and raise funding to \$4 million.

Pritchard also proposed the idea of making the National Park Service an independent agency, organized along the lines of the Smithsonian Institution. This suggestion has been raised before; because of this Administration's policies, however, the idea is gaining ground.

leasing would negate the qualities of three areas—De-na-zin, Ah-shi-slepah, and the Bisti badlands—and is urging companies to exchange leases from environmentally sensitive areas to less sensitive lands where mining leases can be blocked.

New Mexico Governor Toney Anaya concurred: "What we need now is an aggressive program of exchange or transfer so that the helter-skelter pattern of leases already in existence can be connected to logical mining units. . . ." Anaya also called

for a statewide moratorium on coal leasing that would "allow us to thoroughly consider the concerns of Native Americans, as well as the environmental, archeological, paleontological, historical, and cultural impact of the Watt policies."



Wilderness Suite

One of the original goals of the National Parks & Conservation Association was "to encourage art with national park subjects. . . ." A fortuitous meeting in 1982 added another dimension to that goal through the musical expression of composer Richard Adler.

A year ago, Russ and Pam Butcher, NPCA's Southwest regional representatives, met Mr. and Mrs. Richard Adler while both couples were touring Zion National Park in Utah. Adler, whose Broadway and television credits include *The Pajama Game* and *Damn Yankees* (both Tony winners), had recently turned his creative energies to symphonic works.

He has also become captivated by the national parks as symbols of America's greatness and was devoting his time to composing music that conveyed a sense of nature's wonders. In 1980 Adler wrote *Yellowstone Overture*, which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. When our staff met him, he had just completed a six-movement composition entitled *Wilderness Suite*, which takes the listener on an aural journey through national parks in the Southwest and in Hawaii.

As Adler has said: "The drama staged by Nature displayed the power of the canyon network: grotesque sizes and shapes, obelisks, arches, bridges that spanned beyond what imagination could conjure, rehearsed in over a billion years of continual shaping—again irrepressible beauty creating a sense of awe in the mystery of geologic creation.

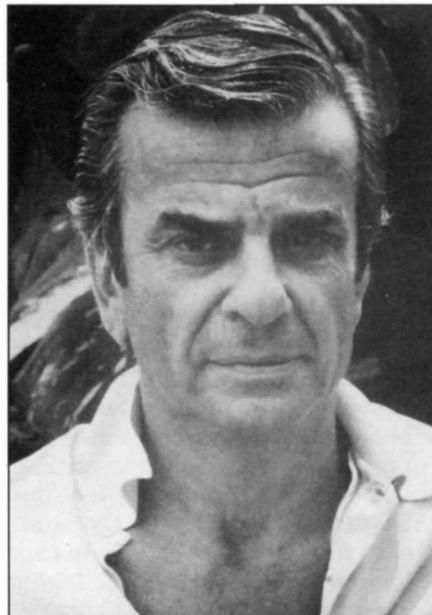
"Thousands of miles away, in the mid-Pacific Hawaiian Islands, I felt that same stirring as the molten sun-

"The moods, mysteries, and awesome beauty of the national parks deserve to be described in music." — Richard Adler

rise shot rays into the crater of Haleakala Volcano, almost 11,000 feet above the sea."

The movements of *Wilderness Suite* variously represent life in an Anasazi pueblo at Mesa Verde; the Navajo's Long Walk after they lost their home at Canyon de Chelly; the mountains, desert, and Rio Grande river at Big Bend National Park; and

Richard Adler, composer for *Damn Yankees* and *Pajama Game*, uses his talents to help the national parks.



the erupting volcanoes of the national parks in Hawaii.

The world premiere of *Wilderness Suite*, performed by the Utah Symphony under the direction of Charles Ketchum, was held in Salt Lake City on February 25, 1983. After the premiere, NPCA—with the assistance of the Utah Symphony staff and our trustee, Stuart Cross—held a reception in honor of Richard Adler and his music at the Hotel Utah.

We were extremely pleased to be able to celebrate the parks with this stirring piece of music and, at the same time, increase people's awareness of the problems confronting the national parks in Utah.

Since its premiere, *Wilderness Suite* has been adopted by the American Museum of Natural History in New York City as the theme music for its Naturemax Theater. The recently opened theater introduces films such as *To Fly* and the *Living Planet* with Adler's composition.

This past June, the recording of *Wilderness Suite* was released. At that time, through the generosity of American Telephone and Telegraph Company, 5,000 albums were made available to conservation organizations. NPCA coordinated this effort, receiving 1,000 albums itself and making available 1,000 albums each to four other conservation organizations.

We would like to gratefully acknowledge the American Telephone and Telegraph Company for its support of America's natural and cultural heritage, and for helping NPCA fulfill one of our founding goals.

—Karen Raible

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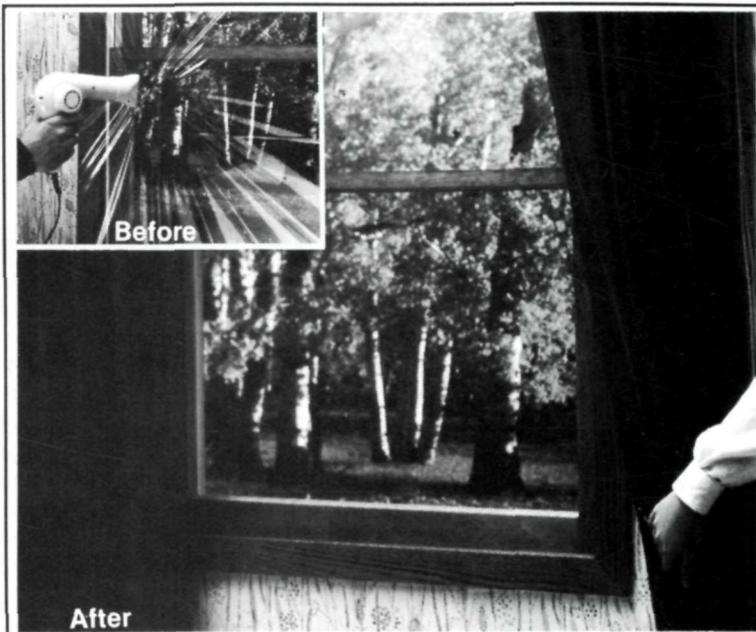
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Glacier Road Plan Dropped To Protect Wolf, Grizzly

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has dropped plans to pave the North Fork Road bordering Glacier National Park because upgrading the road would jeopardize grizzly and grey wolf habitat. Conservationists agree with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's determination that paving the dirt road would seriously interfere with the existence of the endangered grey wolf and the

threatened grizzly bear. Fish and Wildlife's decision is binding under the Endangered Species Act; the FHWA will improve the North Fork Road with gravel, not asphalt.

Unfortunately, the other highway issue—concerning Route 2, which leads into Glacier—is still in “legal limbo,” according to Sharlon Willows of the Flathead Coalition and an NPCA National Park Action Representative. In this David and Goliath situation, Montana conservationists are fighting the Montana

Department of Highways, the FHWA, and local media to stop expansion of Route 2.

Conservationists appealed to have the Environmental Impact Statement reviewed; but after the appeal was denied, they got a court injunction to block action on the upgrading. Growing concern for the plight of the grizzly in the Lower 48, whose habitat would definitely be affected by doubling the width of the highway, may eventually help conservationists turn the corner on this issue.

Pesticide Spraying Canceled, Peregrine Safe for Now

“For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; and they did eat every herb of the land, and all the fruit of the trees” (Exodus 11:15). This Biblical image of insect devastation must have been in the minds of officials at the Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) in May of this year when they proposed a major insect control program on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land near Dinosaur National Monument (Colorado-Utah).

NPCA, concerned for peregrine



Peregrine Falcon, by Alison Partridge

falcon eyries in the park, voiced its reservations to the BLM. In late June APHIS unexpectedly canceled this year's spraying program.

Initially, APHIS anticipated an epidemic of the Mormon cricket (*Anabrus simplex*), a wingless long-horned grasshopper that feeds mainly on other arthropods and forbs. Mormon crickets also consume livestock forage, so ranchers were concerned. APHIS proposed solution was aerial spraying to distribute the pesticide Sevin (carbaryl).

Environmentalist concerns centered on the four endangered species found in the abatement area: blackfooted ferret, Colorado squaw fish, humpback chub, and peregrine falcon. The effects of Sevin on vertebrates have not been well documented, but an Environmental Protection Agency report found the pesticide causes a depression of brain cholinesterase levels in birds, resulting in a loss of active behavior including nest defense.

Environmentalists believe this deficiency may have led to the 1982 loss of a peregrine eyrie in Dinosaur's protected breeding area after the adjacent land had been sprayed. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommended a spraying buffer of only five miles around peregrine eyries, half the distance considered adequate by the Peregrine Recovery Plan.

Laura Loomis, NPCA's park wildlife specialist, and National Park Service officials criticized the spraying program on additional grounds. Critics said it lacked data to substantiate the cricket problem as well as

proof that the forage preserved would justify the cost.

Second, the program did not include any monitoring of the impacts on the biota caused by spraying. Furthermore, they said, the whole proposal was put together hastily; problems were glossed over, and rapid decisions were required from the states and agencies involved.

When NPCA learned about plans for spraying again this year, Loomis questioned the BLM on these points and demanded more scientific evidence. A few days later, APHIS withdrew from the program citing budgetary considerations.

Although local ranchers pledged to raise the funds needed for spraying, the Mormon cricket breeding season passed without aerial spraying. Instead, the BLM and the ranchers used the alternative of mixing Sevin with bran bait. Biologists consider this method less detrimental to wildlife than spraying because the application is more controlled and the poison affects only those species that ingest it.

APHIS will probably consider cricket control again next spring, but Loomis says that “APHIS can expect continued public scrutiny of its proposals.”

—Hans Krimm, NPCA intern

Grand Teton Dam Plan Angers Conservationists

Jackson, Wyoming, citizens are struggling to make themselves heard over the roar of controversy concerning the proposal to build a dam in Grand Teton National Park.



Edward A. Riddell

Grand Teton National Park's Oxbow Bend area, which shelters a heron rookery (left), would be inundated by a new dam.

The controversy arose because in 1976 ten people were killed when the Teton River Dam in Idaho burst. In 1978 Congress passed the Dam Safety Act, requiring that weak dams be strengthened or other mitigating solutions applied to keep another such tragedy from happening.

Conservationists, river runners, ranchers, and the Bureau of Reclamation (BuRec)—the agency most involved in the matter—all agree that the Jackson Lake Dam, built before the park was established, could burst under pressure. If maintained at or near full capacity, an earthquake could trigger the collapse of the dam's earthen berm. Scientists expect a sizable earthquake in that area within the next hundred years, so the potential for disaster exists.

The solution that the BuRec favors is to build a new dam within this magnificent national park, downstream from the Jackson Lake Dam at the point where Pacific Creek enters the Snake River. The Oxbow Bend area, as this section of the park is called, would be devastated.

Reservoir waters would drown the homes and habitat of scores of wildlife, from river otter and moose to

bald eagle. Tourists to Grand Teton would also lose because many come to Oxbow Bend to view the park's wealth of wildlife.

Such a dam would be only the second ever to be built in an already established national park. (Yosemite's Hetch Hetchy was the first.) It would serve as a go-ahead signal for other dam proposals.

The new reservoir would also cut off the Signal Mountain Lodge from the main park road or would force the National Park Service to reroute park traffic onto less scenic routes or even necessitate new road construction, which would further damage park resources. Even more damage would result when the earth and rock needed to build the dam are excavated from sites within the park.

The BuRec is not taking nonstructural, conservation-minded alternatives—such as lowering Jackson Lake's water level, regulating the water for river runners, buying crop insurance, and securing some water rights—seriously, says the Jackson Hole Alliance.

Fixing the old 1916 Jackson Lake Dam would be exorbitantly expensive, says the BuRec. So environ-

mentalists are expecting that Interior Secretary James Watt will announce the Pacific Creek Dam as the alternative of choice in the next month or two.

Story Clark, executive director of the Jackson Hole Alliance, says that the BuRec wants to build a new dam because "they are builders. That's the way they're used to solving problems."

NPCA, the Jackson Hole Alliance, and other conservation organizations believe the public has not had enough of a say on this issue. The BuRec held scoping meetings in 1980, but the new dam was not an alternative at that time.

At the only other public meetings held this past summer, the BuRec asked citizens to comment on their alternatives—none of which was acceptable to conservation groups. The BuRec, however, is not willing to give these groups the information needed to propose better alternatives.

"They know national values are at stake here," said Clark, "but they don't know how to weigh that into their process."

Meanwhile, the BuRec has already subcontracted for a study of the so-



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cial, economic, and environmental impacts of their alternatives. Conservationists worry that this study will become the Environmental Impact Statement and a fait accompli for the dam solution.

A dam can be built only if Congress appropriates the funds. Write your representative and your senators and ask them to oppose a new dam in Grand Teton National Park.

DOE Aims for Nuke Dump Next to Canyonlands Park

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act, passed by Congress and signed by President Reagan in the first week of January 1983, specifies that the Department of Energy (DOE) must pick three test sites for a national nuclear waste dump by early 1985. As of this writing, the DOE wants to move fast and pick the three sites sooner than that. Considering that these nuclear wastes will take tens of thousands of years to degenerate—whatever site is chosen—conservationists believe the DOE is acting hastily and without regard for public concern.

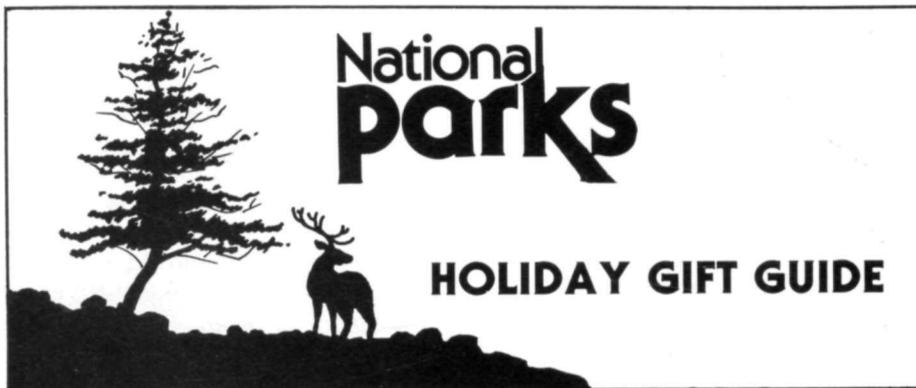
The Gibson Dome site—less than two miles from Canyonland National Park, Utah—is still high on the list of DOE's candidates, and remarks made by Interior Secretary James Watt in an interview with Salt Lake City's KUTV in May confirmed that preference.

In his first public comment on the possibility of locating a nuclear waste dump next to one of the most popular and pristine national parks in the West, Watt said, "A nuclear waste facility will always be close to something by definition."

Watt went on to say that not only did he not object to siting the dump next to Canyonlands, but he was willing for the DOE to dig test wells within the park itself.

Geologists and hydrologists knowledgeable about the area are already on record as saying that it would be possible for nuclear wastes to leak into the groundwater and, from there, into the Colorado River, the major river system of the Southwest.

"The dagger is being pointed at



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Utah," said Terri Martin, NPCA's Utah representative, "because in the states with other potential sites—especially other salt sites—opposition is growing. At this point, Utah is the path of least resistance and unless our political leaders hear from outraged citizens nationwide, Canyonlands will be the victim."

Representative John Seiberling (D-Ohio), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks; National Park Service Director Russell Dickenson; Utah Governor Scott Matheson; as well as NPCA and other environmental organizations all oppose the Gibson Dome site.

Yet, the DOE is rushing toward a decision. The agency received more than 2,000 letters addressing the guidelines establishing the criteria for site selection. Before the DOE had even finalized these guidelines, however, it was already in the process of nominating certain sites for final consideration.

In May environmentalists in Utah had to meet four deadlines for public comment on complex nuclear waste proposals. At public hearings on the site selection in that state, University of Utah law professor William Lockhart testified for NPCA:

"DOE has placed an insuperable burden on public participants. The tight schedule [of hearings] forecloses any realistic and careful preparation. . . . It has taken years and millions of dollars for DOE to develop a questionable degree of expertise on the subject of nuclear waste disposal. Yet DOE's scheduling of this hearing has given public participants barely a month since the last crucial deadline."

Martin, Lockhart, and others believe the big push for site selection is politically inspired, that the Reagan Administration does not want the crucial decisions to interfere with the 1984 election.

High Ross Dam Rejected By International Board

The International Joint Commission (IJC) has decided against allowing Seattle City Light to build the High Ross Dam in Ross Lake National

Recreation Area (NRA). This decision was applauded by conservationists both in the United States and across the Washington state line in British Columbia. The dam, which had been on the planning books since World War II, would have flooded the Big Beaver Valley in Ross Lake NRA and thousands more acres along the Skagit River in Canada.

To compensate Seattle City Light for the electricity it had hoped to get, the utility company will be allowed to buy the same amount of electricity from British Columbia for no more than the estimated cost of the high dam. The IJC treaty will be in effect for eighty years.

Two Acid Rain Reports Target Pollution as Culprit

The most important outcome of the Interagency Task Force's report on acid rain, published in June, is the conclusion, "Man-made atmospheric pollutants are probably the major contributors to acid deposition in northeastern North America."

Environmentalists are not startled by this news, but the Task Force's statement is *the* official statement on the subject to the President and the Congress. This report marks the first time the Task Force has definitely stated that human activities are the primary cause of acid rain. Although

this Administration has downplayed the dangers of acid rain, the Interagency report makes the problem harder to ignore.

The report goes on to state that more research is needed prior to any mitigation, but clean air advocates say mitigation is necessary now.

Going much further than the Interagency's report is the exhaustive study published less than a month later by a branch of this country's premier scientific institution, the National Academy of Sciences.

The report lays the blame for acid rain directly on pollution produced by human activities. Moreover, Dr. J. G. Calvert, who chaired the committee in charge of the report, said, "The relationship between emissions and deposition can be taken for practical purposes as essentially linear." Thus, less pollution very definitely equals less acid rain.

According to the report, acid deposition in the Northeast can and does originate at distant sources around the country, but these correlations require more study.

Although the Academy does not specify any particular acid rain control program, its solution to damage caused by acid deposition is clear: To protect surface waters, reduce sulfur emissions by 50 percent, and the acidity in precipitation will be reduced by 50 percent.

T. Destry Jarvis (left), NPCA's Director of Federal Activities, trades views with Steve Hanke (right), of the Heritage Foundation, on television's *Today* show, which hosted a four-part June series on threats to our national parks.



Robert Pierce Heads Up NPCA Land Trust

In May, Robert Pierce joined the NPCA staff to head up the newly established National Park Trust®. Pierce, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Texas, has a degree in environmental studies and is also a practicing attorney. As head of the National Park Trust, Pierce will be working toward acquiring private land that lies within designated national park boundaries from willing sellers.

North Carolina Congressmen Propose Parkland Transfer

Much to the chagrin of the North Carolina fishing industry, Oregon Inlet, which provides the industry's main access to the sea, is rapidly becoming impassable.

Industry representatives argue that unless they are allowed to build stabilization jetties on Cape Hatteras National Seashore and Pea Island Wildlife Refuge, they will lose the inlet and with it North Carolina's seafood industry. Interior Secretary James Watt and environmentalists contend, however, that such a project cannot be justified—economically or ecologically.

As the barrier islands that have created the inlet are pushed southward by the sea, industry representatives say that seafood businesses will follow suit, moving south beyond Cape Hatteras—and north to Virginia—in order to gain easy access to the sea. In fact, such a trend has begun.

In July 1982 a commercial seafood park opened in Wanchese, North Carolina, the village that serves as the base for the Oregon Inlet fishing industry. The state and federal governments invested millions of dollars in constructing the commercial park, yet only one fishing business currently operates there. Representatives of the fishing industry say, however, that if accessibility to the ocean could be assured, businesses would flock to the region. Environmentalists have asked why the fishing concerns built this extremely expensive commercial park when

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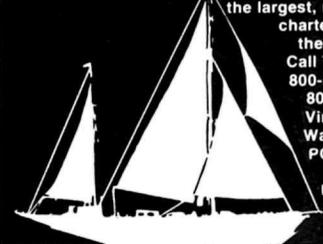
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such questionable circumstances existed at the time.

With the support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the industry proposes construction of two stone jetties, whose length would equal approximately two miles. The jetties would be paid for with federal funds at an initial cost of \$113 million with annual maintenance costs estimated at \$3 million to \$13 million.

NPCA and the National Park Service agree that the plan will adversely affect the environment. Concerns include the loss of Oregon Inlet's ability to expand in response to increased water flow during storms (this inflexibility could cause the "blow-out" of other inlets); the

rapid erosion of beaches as much as 75 miles south of the inlet, including Pea Island Wildlife Refuge (because the jetties would block the southward flow of sand); and possible interference with the distribution and abundance of marine populations.

Furthermore, such action would go against the 1982 Barrier Island Act and executive orders concerning floodplain management and wetlands protection. Secretary Watt, who backed the barrier island bill, has refused to issue the special permits necessary to begin building the jetties on Cape Hatteras and Pea Island.

Having garnered the support of the state's congressional delegation and North Carolina Governor James

B. Hunt, Jr., the fishing industry hopes to surmount the obstacle presented by Secretary Watt. Senator Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) and Representative Walter B. Jones (D-N.C.) have introduced legislation in the Senate (S. 1471) and House (H.R. 3288) that would transfer the land in dispute from the Interior Department to the Army Corps of Engineers.

The House bill has been jointly referred to the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, which is chaired by Representative Jones; the Public Works and Transportation Committee; and the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. As of this writing, hearings on the bills have not begun.

—Harlin Savage, NPCA intern

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The Latest Word

ADMINISTRATION SHORTS LWCF,
BUT CONGRESS UPS THE ANTE For the
third time
in as many

years, Congress is in the process of significantly increasing the National Park Service (NPS) budget above what the Administration has requested.

The House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Representative Sidney Yates (D-Ill.), made its biggest additions to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The LWCF, which has been studiously ignored by Interior Secretary James Watt and other Interior officials, is used to purchase land for the NPS and other federal agencies, plus state and local governments.

The Administration had only requested \$65 million for LWCF in Fiscal Year (FY) 1984; the subcommittee voted for \$242 million. Of that \$80 would purchase lands specifically for the NPS. In addition, another \$54 has been approved in a supplemental appropriations bill for FY 1983.

The subcommittee earmarked \$25 million for purchasing lands in Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (NRA). NPCA strongly supports this action because it believes Santa Monica Mountains NRA is the park unit with the greatest need for these funds.

So far, the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee has voted \$211 for LWCF, but none of that money would be set aside for Santa Monica Mountains. NPCA hopes this omission will be rectified and will work closely with other conservationists to ensure that Santa Monica Mountains NRA receives adequate funding when House and Senate conferees meet to resolve their differences.

FLORIDA GOVERNOR REQUESTS
SAFEGUARDS FOR PANTHER The Florida
panther is
only twenty
animals away from extinction, and state
officials are worried enough to consid-
er restrictive measures. Dr. Kathleen
Shea Abrams, a Floridian who is an NPCA

trustee-elect and on the National Parks Advisory Board, said, "The panthers have no place to go. This is their last habitat."

The Florida panther is a distinct subspecies of mountain lion that makes its home in the environs of Big Cypress National Preserve, a National Park System area. The endangered animal's range has been severely reduced by encroaching human activities, so Florida Governor Bob Graham has instructed the state game commission to recommend mitigations.

At a meeting with Governor Graham, the Florida cabinet, and conservationists, Robert Brantley, director of the game commission, seemed reluctant to immediately commit the agency to measures such as restricting hunting permits in the panther's habitat. One reason for Brantley's hesitancy may be that much of his agency's funds comes from such permits.

MONO BILL PASSES HOUSE,
AWAITS ACTION IN SENATE On July 18 the
House passed a
compromise bill

to establish Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service. As of this writing, Senator Pete Wilson (R-Calif.) is expected to introduce a Mono Lake bill in the Senate, which Senator Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), one of the authors of last year's Mono bill, may cosponsor.

GLACIER BAY REPORT BACKS
RULES FOR SHIP TRAFFIC Despite the
presence of
endangered
humpback whales, the Glacier Bay National Park draft management plan recommends doubling the vessel traffic in the bay. Now the biological opinion, required by the Endangered Species Act, has been issued and its recommendations are far more cautious.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) conducted three scientific studies from 1981 through 1982 to test the effects of the environment and human disturbances on the habits of humpback whales. NMFS provided its information and conclusions to the National Park Service (NPS); and in late June the NPS Alaska regional office issued its opinion.

According to the NMFS report, current numbers of large vessels (87) entering Glacier Bay during whale season will not jeopardize the humpbacks; but it cautions that unrestricted increases or the removal of certain restrictions would.

NMFS does, however, allow for a vessel increase of 20 percent if the number of whales in the bay remains equal to or greater than the twenty that entered the bay in 1982.

BOOSTING PROTECTIONS FOR CHATTAHOOCHEE NRA

Chattahoochee National Recreation Area

(NRA) was the subject of House Public Lands and National Parks Subcommittee hearings this June, resulting from the National Park Service proposal to cut the designated acreage nearly in half: from 6,300 to 3,500. If H.R. 2645 is enacted, Chattahoochee would be safe from drastic downgrading.

Some of the proposals under consideration by the subcommittee include--

- Increasing the amount of designated acreage to 7,328.
- Adding \$11.5 million to appropriations for Chattahoochee NRA.
- Including provisions to protect the river water from adverse impacts.

G. Robert Kerr, director of the Georgia Conservancy and an NPCA National Park Action Project representative, says, "The [Army Corps of Engineers] is looking at the possibility of building another dam." Kerr also says that both House and Senate support these water protections.

The Senate Energy Committee is planning to hold hearings on S. 1218, the companion bill to H.R. 2645, sometime in early September. The House may wait until some action occurs on the Senate side before marking up its bill.

CARRYING CAPACITY TESTED AT THREE NATIONAL PARKS

Field work on carrying capacity is under

way this summer at three National Park System units. In August NPCA's carrying capacity team began consultations with managers at Sequoia and Bandelier and will begin work with National Park Service (NPS) officials at Assateague in September.

The team chose these units for their analysis of the effects of visitor use--and overuse--on resources because they represent a cross section. Sequoia, in California, has many visitors and a large and varied backcountry. Bandelier is typical of many Southwest parks in that it must protect historical structures in a desert environment. Assateague, in the East, is a coastal unit with large numbers of urban visitors and competing uses.

Laura Loomis, NPCA's carrying capacity project coordinator, says that the purpose is to provide consultations with NPS personnel on how to apply carrying capacity principles to visitor use. NPCA hopes this work will prove useful to other units in the system.

NEW NPS REGULATIONS CLEAR UP CONFUSION

The National Park Service (NPS) issued revised regula-

tions on June 30 in order to simplify and reduce scores of rules pertaining to different types of National Park System areas.

In the 1960s, when the National Park System contained far fewer and less diverse types of units, the NPS classified its units as either natural, historical, or recreational. So many combinations and permutations of these categories cropped up in the intervening years--and so many questions about what kind of use was allowed in which unit--that the NPS has rewritten the regulations, cutting out the three categories.

The new regulations include broad, overview rules and specific rules for each unit. The hoped-for result is less confusion along the lines of "If this is only a national recreation area, then mining is probably allowed."

Some revised regulations--both good and bad--include criminal sanctions for people who violate permits, prohibitions against introducing exotic species, and permission for snowmobiles in designated areas.

TRAPPING REGULATIONS RILE NATIONAL GUN GROUP

To trap or not to trap? According to the

old regulations the answers for national recreation areas, national seashores,

and the like were vague and confusing. As a result, illegal trapping took place in thirteen of these National Park System units.

Now the new federal regulations pin down what activities can take place in a unit. Trapping is specifically mentioned for only ten units. Hunting is allowed in about four times as many areas because hunting is viewed as a sport, whereas trapping is considered a commercial activity.

The clear restriction has riled the National Rifle Association and, as of this writing, they are trying to convince Representative William Emerson (R-Mo.) to introduce legislation legitimizing trapping in areas where it has taken place but is unauthorized. Representative Emerson has already introduced legislation (H.R. 2122) to allow trapping in Ozark National Scenic Riverway.

The new NPS regulations go into effect October 3, however, and it is unlikely a law could be passed in so short a time. One political appointee of the Interior Department, a former National Rifle Association lobbyist, who agrees with the goals of the gun group, is levying pressure to postpone the October 3 deadline for those parks where trapping is an issue.

NPCA SHOWS OFF PHOTOS
FROM HISTORIC COLLECTION

In celebration of the fiftieth anniversary

of the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), NPCA hosted the August 3 opening of photographs from the HABS collection. "Historic Architecture in the National Park System" is a selection of twenty-six large-format photographs from this most comprehensive collection of photos and drawings depicting historic American architecture.

The opening, held in NPCA's national headquarters in Washington, D.C., displayed images from National Park System units around the country: one of the great cliff dwellings at Navajo National Monument, John Adams' birthplace in Massachusetts, Fort Point in San Francisco, a railroad building at Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in Alaska.

From NPCA the exhibit will move to the Washington Visitors Information Center in the U.S. Commerce Building, where it will remain until November. The exhibit will then be displayed at the Harpers Ferry Center in West Virginia before it travels to the national parks.

ARIZONA STRIP BILLS
GET BIPARTISAN SUPPORT

Arizona Strip Wilderness bills were

introduced in both House and Senate July 13, beginning the next phase for this carefully wrought proposal. Cosponsors of both bills ranged from conservative to liberal, providing a true cross section.

Energy Fuels Nuclear, NPCA, the Sierra Club, and the Wilderness Society pieced together a wilderness plan for the strip of land that zigzags along the Arizona-Utah border adjacent to Grand Canyon National Park. Grazing interests, who were not among the initiators of the wilderness plan, eventually indicated their support.

The 394,900 acres of Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service land proposed for wilderness designation includes areas of the Vermillion Cliffs and the Virgin River Gorge, among others.

NPCA LAUDS CREATION
OF PARK SYSTEM IN EGYPT

On July 20, Egypt passed legislation creating

a national park system for that country. NPCA is particularly pleased that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and the Egyptian people chose Ras Muhammad--the rich reef waters in the Red Sea--as their first park. NPCA and Trustee Eugenie Clark, in particular, have long supported such protections.

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORTS
ALASKA SPORT-HUNTING BILL

The Senate Energy Committee re-

ported out the Alaska sport-hunting bill (S. 49) on August 4--but without recommendation. S. 49 will now be debated on the Senate floor. The Committee added amendments to delete almost seven million acres in four park units from possible sport-hunting--more than half the contested acreage. And still the Committee could not support the bill.

