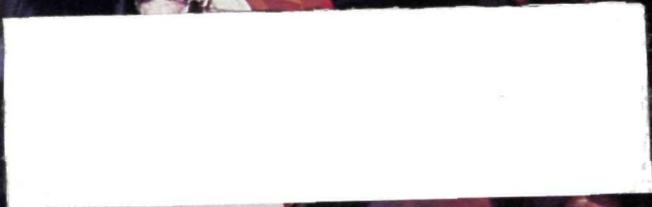


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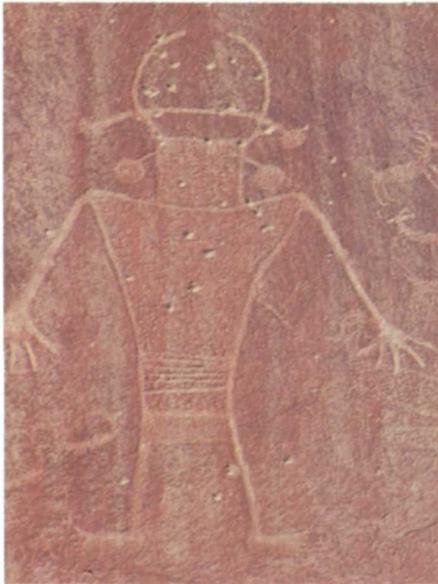
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# PENTAX



ELIOT COHEN

Vandalized petroglyph, p. 30.

#### EDITOR'S NOTE

It's happening across the country: natural and archaeological features in national parks are shot at, spray-painted, smashed, plugged, and chipped away. Civil War relics are stolen from national battlefield parks and sold to collectors; ancient Native American artifacts are taken by thieves and exchanged for greedy profits. Looting and vandalism are the newest crime wave to hit the parks, and the National Park Service is working hard to bring it under control.

In this issue, Todd Wilkinson describes the extent of the damage, how investigators are tracking down thieves and vandals, and what the Park Service is doing to safeguard national parks from further desecration.

#### NATIONAL PARKS

Editor: Sue E. Dodge  
Associate Editor: Linda Rancourt  
News Editor: Elizabeth Hedstrom  
Editorial Assistant: Laura McCarty  
Design Consultant: Icehouse Graphics

#### National Advertising Office

Catherine Freedman, Advertising Manager  
1015 31st Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20007  
(202) 944-8530

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# NATIONAL Parks

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL PARKS AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Vol. 65, No. 9-10  
September/October 1991  
Paul C. Pritchard, Publisher

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

Life memberships are \$1,000. Annual memberships: \$250 Guarantor, \$100 Supporter, \$50 Defender, \$35 Contributor, \$25 Active, \$22 Library, and \$18 Student. Of membership dues, \$7 covers a one-year subscription to *National Parks*. Dues and donations are deductible from federal taxable incomes; gifts and bequests are deductible for federal gift and estate tax purposes. Mail membership dues, contributions, and correspondence to NPCA, 1015 31st Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20007. When changing address, please allow six weeks' advance notice and send address label from your latest issue plus your new address.



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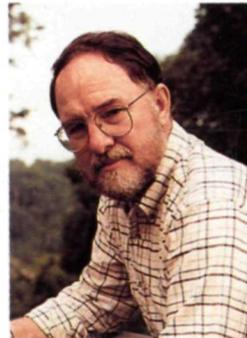
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WHENEVER I WALK on a dark path, I instinctively reach out to feel the trees as if to find strength in the support of the stable environment around me. A better support than trees or walls or handrails is another person. I have found this to be true as a child and as an adult, in the open spaces as well as in the security of my own home.



Working with other people—be it a social or a business relationship—undoubtedly comes naturally to human beings. There are benefits to be derived from all kinds of partnerships, whether between individuals or communities.

Now, America is faced with a need to reach out and cooperate for the very survival of our parks. Certainly in the past, when things did not seem so dark, the National Park Service (NPS) worked with other entities to protect the parks. But most of the essential functions were carried out within the ranks of the Service itself.

Today, however, that is no longer possible. The Park Service struggles just to achieve day-to-day management of the heritage with which it is entrusted. The agency's vision is blurred by the dizzying effect of a world in constant motion: new laws and regulations every year with which to comply; more visitors to respond to; and greater demands placed by concessions operators and external business forces.

The Park Service's dependence on the American public, which has been

constant, is now increasing exponentially. The NPS needs the involvement of citizens to help it meet its current challenges: acquisition of parklands, interpretation of resources, environmental education, scientific research, long-range planning, legal protection.... Most of these are the

agency's essential tasks that must be accomplished—not "gee, if we only had the money" functions.

There is nothing new about partnerships. For decades, our own association has provided the Park Service with a parallel set of hands. This September, through a joint effort—a partnership with our New York Chapter and the National Park Service—NPCA will host a conference on partnerships. There are even "partnership parks" at sites such as Lowell National Historic Park in Massachusetts, where federal, state, and/or local park agencies cooperate to manage resources under joint public and private ownership.

What *is* new about partnerships is their magnitude, importance, and immediacy. The challenge for you and me as private citizens is to realize that our generation must play greater roles than we thought necessary for the preservation of the parks.

Partnerships are empowering because there is mutual benefit for all parties. In offering each other a hand, we provide not only a stabilizing force but also the encouragement to keep moving forward in these challenging times.

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## Practicing What We Preach

We are proud to announce that, with this issue, we begin printing *National Parks* magazine on recycled paper. Our board of trustees made a commitment to switch last November; because of the considerable added cost, it was necessary to wait until the new fiscal year before implementing the decision.

Our recycled stock contains 20 percent de-inked "post-consumer" waste—paper that would have ended up in one of the country's landfills, which are filling to capacity. Paper represents the largest single component of city trash bound for landfills.

Another 30 percent consists of pre-consumer fibers—printers' trimmings or other paper that has never been printed on. Re-used in paper production for many years, these fibers are considered recycled waste under the EPA guidelines.

Because of the complex de-inking and manufacturing process, recycled paper is more expensive; NPCA will be paying about 15 percent more. But our board and staff agreed that, as a leading environmental group, we need to demonstrate our total commitment to the well-being of the planet.

Although many magazines are now printed on recycled paper, *National Parks* is among the first to use recycled paper along with soy-based inks. These inks contain lower levels of volatile organic compounds—substances that produce toxic vapors—than petroleum-based inks.

What else is NPCA doing for resource conservation? All of our paper office supplies—copier paper, message pads, etc.—are made from recycled paper. We also collect all appropriate waste paper from our offices and deliver it to recycling centers. Large yellow bins in our lunchroom enable us to separate cans and bottles for recycling. And when NPCA moves to a new location this fall, the office will be designed using recycled materials and with energy conservation in mind.

## LETTERS

### Teach Your Children Well

As a 21-year-old college student, my concerns do not lie with the families who pile into their mini-vans to storm our national parks for two weeks every summer, but instead with future generations and possibly my own children. Having seen the Grand Canyon for the first time recently, I'm curious to know: Will my children be able to see past the gift shops and taco stands so they can experience this world wonder for what it is?

I share in your belief that education and preservation will be the factors that save our parks from total destruction ["Diamonds and Rust," May/June 1991]. Few magazines are dedicated to this issue and even fewer national organizations.

So to *National Parks* magazine and the National Parks and Conservation Association, I say this: For the preservation and continued well-being of our national parks, and for the sake of future environmental appreciators, keep up the good work! This national parks advocate is behind you all the way.

*Heidi C. Dawson*  
Rochester, NY

As a student in high school, I was encouraged by your article "Building on a Legacy" in the May/June issue. James Ridenour, the author as well as the director of the National Park Service, stressed the founding mission of the service: "To conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife...."

I agree with the goals expressed by Mr. Ridenour. Being environmentally conscious, I feel it a priority to conserve and protect our natural resources.

An adequate amount of money supplied toward education is important. As more young people are taught there is only one environment and conservation is necessary, people will be more inclined to support the idea.

It's necessary that money be supplied for the scientific efforts of the Park Service. It is important that the parks be well-maintained, as the parks face "accelerated deterioration with increased use."

Ultimately, this all requires a steady and large park service budget. The government and the taxpayers must be willing to accept this responsibility. Although this is a time of economic difficulty, I believe that preserving and maintaining our natural environment should be one of our priorities.

*Eric Schneider*  
Scarsdale, NY

### Access Roads

My recent experience has changed my outlook on limiting public transportation access to public parks. My mother is only 63, but totally immobile because of bone cancer. By renting a motorhome she was able to tour several southwestern national parks and never leave her bedroom. Of course, her experience was different from that of a non-disabled person, but it was the trip of a lifetime for both of us.

Before the young, healthy, and physically active propose limited access to public areas, I hope they consider that someday their own bodies may not permit them to access these public areas by the transportation systems they propose. While not every area of every park needs to be accessible to the handicapped, don't exclude the handicapped from every area of every park.

Public support of public parks depends to some degree on the human enjoyment of nature. Decent access for handicapped persons and nature can exist side by side without compromising human enjoyment or the ecology. If anyone doesn't think this is possible, try touring the national parks with a truly appreciative handicapped person.

*Loretta Campbell*  
La Mesa, CA

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## Sidetracked

It seems almost outrageous to me that you open the July/August issue with an editorial note on how the Park Service is in need of so much help and rescue, but then publish an article ["Back on Track," July/August] on how the Service is going to spend money and precious time on the reviving of "a defunct West Virginia railroad town."

This is a good cause, but if the Park Service is so hard-pressed for more people and money to take care of the 80 million acres of wilderness, where does it find the time and money to rebuild a town?

I believe that protecting, nurturing, and servicing our national parks takes precedence over the rebuilding of a "legendary town."

Tell the Park Service to get back to where they belong, in the national parks taking care of the wilderness, not some man-made town.

Timothy W. Sproul  
Palatine, IL

## Just the Facts

After having retired and traveled about this beautiful country for almost eight months, I decided I should join NPCA. However, I questioned after having read the May/June issue of *National Parks*: Does it ever say anything positive about the parks of the NPS?

There are many advantages to living in the United States and many positive things to say about our national parks even though they are not perfectly administered, nor perfectly bounded, nor perfectly kept free of boorish visitors.

Edouard L. Martel  
Marlborough, MA

*We at NPCA are dedicated to educating our members about issues that may threaten or degrade the national parks. NPCA serves as a watchdog for the public and works to protect the parks for future generations. While the issues may seem negative, the end result—defending the parks—is positive.*

—the Editors

## Breaking Ground

Bravo to NPCA for putting the national spotlight on the proposed timber cut in the Chenuis Creek/Cayada Mountain district of Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in Washington state. Mount Rainier National Park is under siege and soon will be an ecological island in a sea of clear-cuts.

The cumulative effects of the poor forestry practiced by the U. S. Forest Service, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, and private timber interests in peripheral forests of Mount Rainier are devastating.

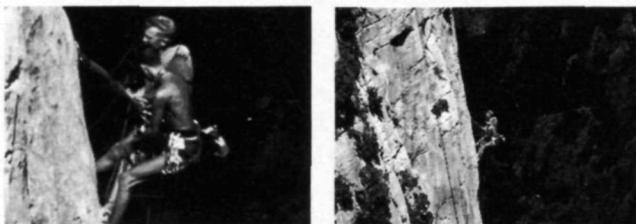
We are deeply concerned that Mount Rainier will not be able to survive the continuous increase in the threats from the outside.

Clay & Dixie Gatchel  
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# NEWS

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## EVERGLADES LAND SWAP IMPERILED

A federal land deal crafted three years ago to resuscitate the dying Florida Everglades may now be falling apart.

In 1988 Congress negotiated the exchange of government land in downtown Phoenix for wetlands needed to restore natural water flow to Everglades National Park.

But Phoenix has balked at development plans for the 106-acre downtown area, considered one of the largest parcels of undeveloped prime real estate in the West.

At issue in Florida are 108,000 acres adjoining Big Cypress National Preserve, just north of the Everglades. NPCA played a major role in designating an 83,000-acre portion for addition to Big Cypress. Another 25,000 acres were to be used for national wildlife refuges.

The land designated for Big Cypress forms the better part of a 146,000-acre expansion Congress approved for the park in 1988. It contains the area's characteristic mix of cypress marsh, pine forest, and clumps of hardwood trees and is home to endangered Florida panthers. But it may be most significant as a water source for the Everglades.

The water that flows to the southern tip of Florida to fill the "River of Grass" first travels through the rivers, lakes, and marshes north of the park.

The Army Corps of Engineers spent

decades draining those wetlands for agriculture and housing subdivisions.

The resulting series of dikes and canals disrupts the flow of water to the Everglades, alternately parching and flooding them, with disastrous results for the park's wildlife. Wading birds inhabit the Everglades in only a fraction of their historic numbers.



While the Everglades suffer from drought and floods, land to help restore natural water flow is tied up in a complex real estate deal.

Further, when water arrives in the Everglades, it is full of pollutants from farmland to the north. Thriving on high levels of phosphorus, algae and cattails have choked the sawgrass marshes.

There is also intensifying competition for water among the park, agricul-

ture, and the ever-expanding Miami area.

One way of reversing the damage is to protect important headwaters in the park system. The wetlands of the Big Cypress expansion drain into a network of dikes and canals that feed Shark River Slough, the park's main water source.

Adding this area to Big Cypress will help NPS fix the drought-or-deluge release of water. It will also keep the land free of development that would disrupt and pollute the water supply.

Most of the area belongs to the Barron Collier Company, a Naples developer. The Department of the Interior began negotiations for the land in 1986, offering in exchange the federally-owned Phoenix Indian School property.

As enrollment declined, the government decided to close the century-old school for Native American children.

"It was administration policy that they didn't want to be expanding parks that they'd have to pay for," an NPS source said. "The expansion was approved because land in Phoenix was available for trade."

Under the deal, signed into law in 1988, Barron Collier would obtain part of the 106-acre Indian School site for development. A second portion would become a city park, and the Veterans Administration would receive a third part to expand a hospital and build a nursing home.

Barron Collier would create a \$35 million fund for Indian education, rep-

representing the difference in the 1986 values of \$45 million for its land and \$80 million for the Arizona property.

The deal called on Phoenix and Barron Collier to agree on a plan for the site. But the deal stalled here.

Barron Collier backed a plan for 7.7 million square feet of commercial, retail, and residential space on its share of the land. "That is more commercial space than exists in all of downtown Phoenix," said Karen Schroeder, assistant to Phoenix mayor Paul Johnson.

The city made its own recommendation for the site: a 90-acre park under either local or NPS jurisdiction. Its fall-back plan was 1.4 million square feet of commercial space and a 40-acre park.

No compromise has been reached. Further, the recession left Phoenix with ten million square feet of vacant office space, and lowered the value of the Indian School land from \$80 million to between \$25 million and \$35 million.

Barron Collier announced in July that, barring a better offer, it was no longer interested in the deal. Interior's recourse is to accept bids for the Indian School land. The 1988 law sets \$80 million as the minimum acceptable bid.

If there are no takers, and Barron Collier does not buy the land, the legislation permitting the exchange will expire on November 18. NPS will then have to turn to Congress.

"The acquisition and expansion are authorized. Whether the appropriations to purchase [the land] are something Congress will come up with money for in the future is difficult to say," said Pat Tolle of Everglades. NPS says it already needs \$14 million for the expansion.

Congress is working on a fiscal 1992 budget that so far contains \$85 million for land acquisition throughout the park system. Big Cypress may receive \$3 million; this would be the first appropriation toward the 1988 expansion.

If the deal expires but the government is able to sell the Phoenix land at market value, it is possible proceeds would go to help fund the expansion.

The National Park Trust, created by NPCA, has purchased 120 acres of privately owned land at Big Cypress for conveyance to the Park Service.

## SAGUARO EXPANDED TO AID VANISHING CACTI

More than 3,500 acres of desert thick with saguaro cactus were added to Saguaro National Monument in Arizona, under a bill signed by President Bush this summer.

The new area's stand of saguaro—the familiar tall, trident-shaped cactus—can now be preserved, a move made especially important by the mysterious decline of cacti already within the park.

Land on the monument's southern boundary was slated for housing development when Russ Butcher, NPCA Pacific Southwest regional director, initiated meetings among the landowners, local and state officials, and environmentalists to develop a consensus for preserving it.

Arizona's congressional delegation was enthusiastic about the resulting proposal. Senator John McCain (R) and Representative Jim Kolbe (R) each sponsored a bill to expand the monument. Kolbe's bill was cosponsored by the entire Arizona House delegation.

A nearly identical bill passed the House last year, but the 101st Congress ended before a vote could be taken in



JEFF GNASS

Scientists do not know what has caused the decline of Saguaro's namesake cactus.

the Senate. The legislation introduced this year sped through both chambers and was signed by the president in June.

"We are tremendously grateful for the broad coalition of landowners and environmental groups and for the support of city, county, state, and federal officials and the state's leading newspapers," Butcher said. "This scenic area of saguaros and priceless habitat along

## NEWSUPDATE

▲ **Where Columbus landed.** Delegate Ron de Lugo (D-V. I.) has introduced a bill, developed in consultation with NPCA, to protect the Salt River Bay area of St. Croix, U. S. Virgin Islands. In 1493 the Columbus expedition came to Salt River Bay in its only landing on modern-day U. S. territory.

Next year is the 500th anniversary of the expedition's first landing, in 1492.

▲ **Exxon.** The collapse of a settlement agreement in the *Exxon Valdez* case means a trial for the oil company on federal criminal charges. Civil suits arising from the spill are still pending. Meanwhile, Exxon has completed the final season of cleanup it will fund in Prince William Sound.

▲ **Petroglyph.** Two state court rulings have cleared the way for construction of a 1.1-mile segment of highway that overlaps the border of Petroglyph National Monument in New Mexico and cuts across the mouth of the park's Rinconada Canyon.

▲ **Conference.** NPCA co-hosts "Conserving the Greater North Cascades Ecosystem," October 18-20 in Seattle. Call Mary Cutbill at the Greater Ecosystem Alliance, (206) 671-9950.

▲ **Award.** Nominate Bureau of Land Management employees for the Outstanding Public Lands Professional Award by November 15. Write Ed Zaidlicz, Public Lands Foundation, 724 Park Lane, Billings, MT 95102.

Rincon Creek will greatly enrich Saguaro National Monument.”

According to Superintendent Bill Paleck, there are “at least 50 percent” fewer large saguaro within the monument than there were in the 1930s. Those that remain are ailing, turning brown, and losing their spines.

As these oldest cacti, many of which have stood for more than 100 years, weaken and die, there are no middle-aged plants to take their place. Paleck likened the unexplained 60-year gap to the generation of “Russian men . . . who died in World War II. You just lost the entire age class.”

In recent years, young cacti have taken root, increasing hope that the saguaro will not disappear altogether. The mature saguaro within the park’s current boundaries are expected to die off by the year 2000. The expansion area contains more than 30,000 cacti, healthy and of a variety of ages.

While Congress has officially expanded the park’s boundaries, the business of acquiring the land remains. The new area consists of land from the Rocking K and X9 ranches and state and other private holdings. All owners supported the expansion.

The federal government may purchase the land directly or offer some of its own property in exchange. Another possibility is purchase of the land for eventual resale to the Park Service by the National Park Trust, founded by NPCA, or a similiar trust.

## REINTRODUCTION PLAN ENDANGERS WOLVES

A long-awaited federal plan to return gray wolves to Yellowstone National Park would take away protection from wolves elsewhere in the West.

“We’re disappointed to see a plan that, instead of aiding wolves as an endangered species, endangers them further,” said David Simon, NPCA natural resources program manager.

The proposal calls for the release into the park of ten breeding pairs of Rocky Mountain gray wolves from Canada, beginning in the spring of 1993.



ERWIN AND PEGGY BAUER

**Gray wolves once helped keep Yellowstone’s elk and moose populations in balance.**

Their release would end the half-century absence of the animals from Yellowstone. The park’s original wolves were exterminated in government-sponsored predator control programs.

The animals would be designated an “experimental” population under the Endangered Species Act, permitting sheep and cattle ranchers to kill wolves that wander beyond the park onto their land. Advocates of wolf return accept the designation as a political necessity.

But, under the proposal, the few dozen wolves that have managed to survive outside of parks in remote areas of Montana and Idaho would be classified “experimental” as well. Further, they would become “experimental” immediately, while wolves would not return to Yellowstone until an environmental impact statement on the project is completed, perhaps two years later.

Critics believe the proposal makes a dangerous exception to the Endangered Species Act.

“The plan is a wolf in sheep’s clothing,” said Representative Wayne Owens (D-Utah), a leading congressional advocate of wolf reintroduction.

The plan comes from a committee of ranchers, state and federal officials, and conservationists, funded by Congress. The conservationists voted against the plan.

Francis Petera, director of the Wyo-

oming Game and Fish Department and a member of the committee, said Congress “did not say [the proposal] had to be within the parameters of the Endangered Species Act.”

Wolves are endangered in every state but Alaska and Minnesota, and the federal government has a responsibility under the act to promote their recovery. Livestock and other interests vigorously oppose reintroduction, however.

Congress authorized the committee after a 1990 study found that bringing wolves back to Yellowstone would have few negative effects on the park’s other animals or on adjacent lands.

“The fact that Congress has to initiate action means the Fish and Wildlife Service is not carrying out its legal responsibility for endangered species,” Simon said.

Other breeds of wolf are even rarer than the gray. Red wolves, which roamed the Southeast a century ago, now number roughly 130. Forty captive animals are all that remain of the Mexican wolves once prevalent in the Southwest.

Red wolves were released in a North Carolina wildlife refuge in 1987 as an experimental population, and two pairs arrived this spring at Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The Fish and Wildlife Service completed a recovery plan for the Mexican wolf in 1982 but has never acted upon it.

## SENATE ENERGY BILL THREATENS ENVIRONMENT

When conservationists said America needed an energy policy, the National Energy Security Act was not what they had in mind. The mammoth bill, which sped through the Senate Energy Committee in May and may be headed for the Senate floor in September, deregulates the energy industry, opens the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling, and rewards extraction while virtually ignoring energy efficiency.

"This bill reverses years of struggle to protect the environment," said NPCA President Paul Pritchard. "It's a giveaway to the energy industry straight out of consumer pockets, at the expense of the land, air, and water around us."

For years, bills to permit oil and gas exploration on the refuge's coastal plain, as well as bills to protect it as wilderness, have languished in subcommittee. But advocates of drilling now have the upper hand, and President Bush has said he will veto any energy strategy that does not permit drilling in the refuge.

The 125-mile coastal plain is the last stretch of Alaska's 1,100-mile arctic coast off-limits to leasing. It is the last place in North America where a full range of arctic and subarctic ecosystems is still intact. And it is also, according to the petroleum industry, the best prospect for a major new domestic oil strike.

The Arctic refuge is not the only protected area endangered by the bill. It seems likely to intensify threats national parks already face—oil and gas drilling at their borders, upstream dams that deplete rivers, and air pollution and acid rain from power plants.

The bill calls for increased oil extraction across the country. It also promotes leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf and gives new incentives to coastal states to support off-shore drilling.

The act would streamline approval of new nuclear power plants by combining the two licenses plants now must receive into one and would severely restrict public participation in the process.

The energy bill would allow states to

take over regulation of most new dams, with no standards for what regulations should be. It allows the operators of most existing dams to choose between state and federal regulation. Critics believe this weakens federal laws requiring environmental review of such projects.

The bill also exempts expansion and refurbishing projects at electric utilities from Clean Air Act regulations.

Many of these proposals appeared in President Bush's National Energy Strategy, released in February.

The committee rejected higher automobile fuel efficiency standards, opting to leave the decision up to the administration, which opposes new standards.

It also rejected a proposal aimed at reducing U. S. carbon dioxide emissions by 20 percent to slow global warming.

S. 1220 was sponsored by committee chair Bennett Johnston (D-La.) and ranking Republican Malcolm Wallop of Wyoming. Within the committee, senators Paul Wellstone (D-Minn.), Tim Wirth (D-Colo.), and Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.) fought against some of the worst provisions. The Senate is scheduled to vote on the bill this fall.

*✍ Readers can write their senators (U. S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510) to express concern about S. 1220 and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.*

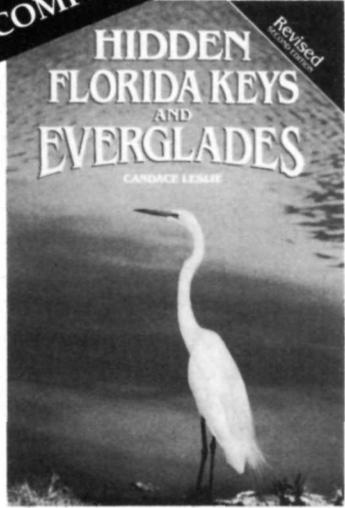
## MARKUP

### KEY PARK LEGISLATION

Bill	Purpose	Status
<b>National Energy Security Act</b> S. 1220	Open Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's coastal plain to drilling; speed nuclear and hydropower licensing; relax Clean Air Act requirements. NPCA opposes.	The Senate Energy Committee approved S. 1220 in May. A vote by the full Senate will likely take place this fall.
<b>Saguaro National Monument</b> Public Law 102-61	Expand Saguaro by 3,540 acres to protect a dense, healthy stand of the disappearing cacti. NPCA actively promoted.	The president signed S. 292 into law in June.
<b>Labor history</b> H. R. 1143	Study sites from American labor history and consider them for national historical landmark status. NPCA supports.	The House agreed in August to Senate amendments to H. R. 1143; the president's signature is next.
<b>Flint Hills</b> H. R. 2369	Protect close to 11,000 acres of tallgrass prairie in Kansas as Flint Hills National Monument. NPCA supports.	H.R. 2369 is before the House Interior subcommittee on national parks and public lands.
<b>Arctic National Wildlife Refuge</b> H. R. 759, S. 109 H. J. Res. 239, S. 39	NPCA opposes H. R. 759 and S. 109, to open the wildlife refuge's coastal plain to oil and gas exploration, and supports H. J. Res. 239 and S. 39, to designate it as wilderness.	S. 109 is before the Senate Energy Committee. H. R. 759 and H. J. Res. 239 are before the House Interior subcommittee on water and power; S. 39 is before the Senate Environment subcommittee on environmental protection.
<b>Concessions</b> H. R. 943	Increase concessioners' franchise fees to 22.5 percent, require competitive bidding for contracts, and limit them to ten years. NPCA supports with amendments.	H. R. 943 is before the House Interior subcommittee on national parks.
<b>Utah wilderness</b> H. R. 1500	Protect 5.1 million acres of Utah canyon lands and desert as wilderness. NPCA supports.	H. R. 1500 is before the House Interior subcommittee on national parks.
<b>Custer Battlefield National Monument</b> H. R. 848	Rename the site Little Bighorn National Battlefield Park and authorize a memorial to the Indians who fought there. NPCA supports.	H. R. 848 passed the House in June. It is now before the Senate Energy subcommittee on national parks.

*NPCA is currently working on more than 60 bills.*

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## STABLES EXPANSION AT MANASSAS DEFEATED

Just before construction began, National Park Service Director James Ridenour halted expansion of horse stables used by top government officials at Manassas National Battlefield Park in Virginia.

"Director Ridenour's decision upholds the purpose of the park, to protect the integrity of the site," said Bruce Craig, NPCA cultural resources program manager. "It also upholds the Park Service's stated intent to restore the historic landscape at the site."

NPCA publicized the expansion plans and organized opposition to them. Craig said letters from NPCA members were important in stopping the project.

The Park Service agreed last year to add six new stables to the existing three at the park's Sutton Farm. The cost was first estimated at \$80,000. NPS later decided to use staff labor for construction, lowering the estimate to \$42,000.

NPS said new stables were needed for horses used by the park's mounted patrols and the U. S. Park Police. "It's not for the riding program," said spokeswoman Sandra Alley. "There's just been so much controversy surrounding it we decided to take another look at it."

But former Manassas staff historian John Hennessy said NPS justifications for the project were "a thinly veiled pretext to create a riding club for well-positioned government bureaucrats."

On weekends, high-level Washington officials come to Manassas to ride horses used the rest of the week by the park's mounted ranger patrol. Visits by Vice President Quayle and his family brought notoriety to the practice.

Advocates of expansion were able to use this group's political clout, critics say.

Under similar circumstances, a \$500,000 equestrian center for another area in the park was proposed in 1988.

At that time, internal Interior Department documents stated the existing set of stables was "a non-conforming intrusion in a historic scene" and that "enlarging it or constructing a new facility" would "make the intrusion worse."

The park's general management plan calls for restoration of Sutton Farm to

its Civil War appearance.

Last spring the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation gave their approval to the project.

The Advisory Council stated, however, that "our concurrence is based on the expectation that the barn and its addition would be of only temporary service to the park." Both the council and the state office called for reconsideration of the park's riding program.

As the plans moved forward, resistance surfaced in Congress. Senator Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.), chair of the Senate subcommittee on national parks, expressed concern about the expansion to Ridenour. Representative Peter Hoagland (D-Nebr.) amended the NPS budget to prohibit funding of the stables.

Members of Congress opposed the expense at a time of limited Park Service budgets. At Manassas, historic buildings need repair, newly added lands have not been restored, and staffing and interpretive programs were recently cut.

## TENNIS STADIUM NETS ROCK CREEK PARK LITTLE

As unusual as it seems for deer and foxes to inhabit the woods of a downtown Washington, D. C., park, so it is to find John McEnroe and Andre Agassi among the animals. But a deal among a local tennis group, a sports promoter, and the National Park Service may bring more commercial spectator sports to Rock Creek Park.

Last year NPS agreed to bring the week-long Virginia Slims women's tennis tournament to the park this August. The Sovran Bank Classic men's tournament is already an annual event there. This July, it drew 75,000 fans over seven days to see Agassi and McEnroe.

NPCA and D. C. residents question the commercial use of what are meant to be public facilities and the effect on the park and adjoining neighborhoods.

When Rock Creek Park was created in 1890 it was the third national park. It is also one of the world's largest and oldest urban parks. And in both categories it is a rarity: a steep woodland valley running

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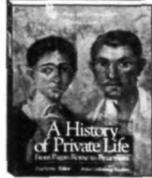
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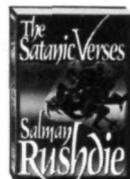
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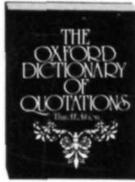
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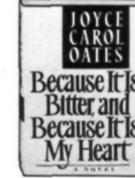
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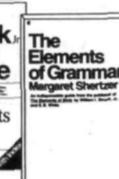
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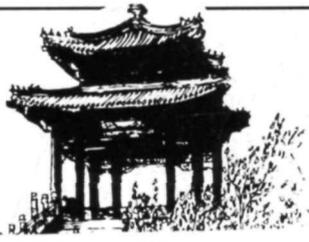
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for miles through a major city, providing habitat for beavers, white-tailed deer, and red foxes as well as for joggers, roller bladers, and softball players.

In 1987 the Washington Tennis Foundation proposed building a "world class tennis center" at a site where two clay courts and bleachers seating 500 were located. The 7,500-seat stadium would host the annual Sovran tournament, which was played at the site but did not draw large names or crowds.

The foundation said it would use proceeds from the tournament to pay construction costs and to fund tennis programs for city children.

After an environmental assessment of the proposal, NPS agreed. When completed, the stadium cost approximately \$5 million more than was projected, leaving the foundation in debt.

In 1989 the Park Service gave the foundation permission to begin holding a women's professional tennis tournament at the stadium. The foundation scheduled the Virginia Slims tournament for August 1991.

Last year the foundation proposed professional boxing matches, a two-ring circus, a beach volleyball tournament, jazz concerts, and ice skating shows.

Surrounding neighborhoods have organized against any new events, citing parking problems, congestion, trash, and noise from the Sovran tournament.

Public ball fields in the park were moved or shrunk to make room for the stadium. During the tournament, remaining fields are used for parking. The resulting damage and repair work puts them out of use for most of the year. The foundation pays most of the repair costs; the rest come from the NPS budget.

This summer NPS began preparing an environmental impact statement on use of the stadium. It stated it would not reexamine the agreement to hold the two tennis tournaments there.

At a July public hearing, NPCA staff attorney Elizabeth Fayad testified, "NPCA has never seen so flagrant an example of commercialization of the national parks." Fayad urged NPS to reconsider its agreement to hold any commercial sports events on national parkland designated for public use.

## BILL WOULD PRESERVE TALLGRASS PRAIRIE

After more than five decades of proposals, Congress is again considering a bill to designate a national park unit to protect tallgrass prairie, long an NPCA objective.

Representative Dan Glickman (D-Kans.) introduced the bill with eight cosponsors, including two other Kansas delegates. The Flint Hills National Monument would be comprised of the 10,894-acre Z-Bar, or Spring Hill, Ranch located just outside Strong City and Cottonwood Falls, Kansas.

Tallgrass, which can reach six feet in height and once covered 400,000 square miles of America, has diminished to one percent of this amount. Tallgrass prairie is one of the major ecological gaps in the National Park System. Only about 3,000 acres, in scattered bits and pieces, exist in the parks.

Tallgrass prairie also provides habitat for 80 species of mammals, 200 species of plants, and 300 species of birds.

NPS studied the ranch's resources and concluded that the Z-Bar Ranch grasslands are "diverse, representative of the tallgrass prairie ecosystem, have been minimally impacted, and are in good to excellent condition." The study, in agreement with NPCA's 1988 *National Park System Plan*, pointed out that 80 percent of the grassland already within the park system is mixed grass prairie rather than tallgrass.

A barn and schoolhouse, built on the site in the 1880s, are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The ranch, which still supports an active cattle ranching operation, represents an important part of the history of Americans' westward migration and interaction with the land.

David Simon, NPCA natural resources program manager, said, "The National Park System is meant to reflect the full breadth of America and its history. Without the tallgrass prairie, our park system is incomplete."

A Missouri bank currently owns the ranch and is a willing seller. However, Representative Dick Nichols (R-Kans.) and some local ranchers do not support

the bill, stating concerns about future park expansion. The bill specifically prohibits condemnation of land, however.

There is strong local support as well. In a July congressional hearing, many witnesses, including the mayor of Cottonwood Falls and a local rancher, testified in favor of the park.

NPCA testified, recommending an amendment to protect the monument from the encroachment of development.

A 1988 proposal for a 90,000-acre tallgrass prairie park in Oklahoma's Osage Hills failed to pass Congress.

*NPCA members are urged to write their representatives (U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515) to cosponsor H.R. 2369 and their senators (U. S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510) to introduce a companion bill.*

## NPCA RECOMMENDS CONCESSIONS REFORM

The recent high-profile sale and proposed resale of the Yosemite National Park concessioner brought to public attention the problems of the national park concessions system. These include overdevelopment, little return of concessions fees to the parks, and contracts which often reduce National Park Service power to protect the parks.

How best to reform the concessions system has been a subject of ongoing investigation. NPCA presented its reform recommendations at a hearing before the House Interior subcommittee on national parks and public lands this summer.

One major recommendation was safeguards to prevent excessive or damaging concessions development.

The 1965 Concessions Policy Act states that development should be "limited to . . . [what is] necessary and appropriate" and should be "consistent . . . with the preservation and conservation" of the parks.

In his testimony, Norman Cohen, NPCA Board of Trustees chair, stated each park should in its general management plan address which concessions are "necessary and appropriate."

The plans, which parks draw up with

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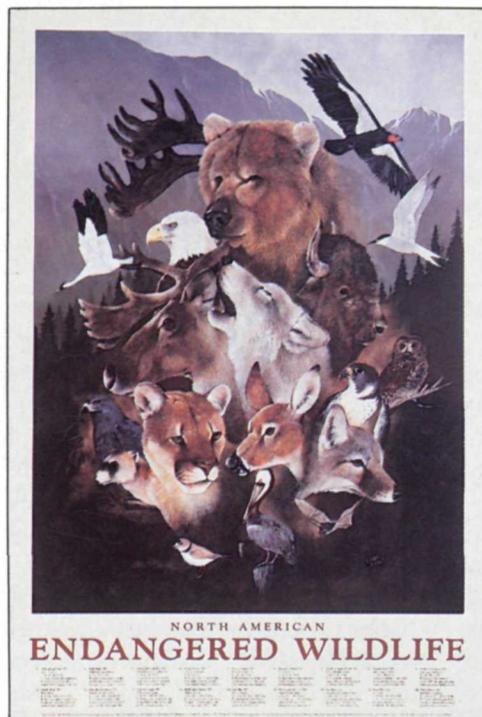
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public participation, also would include any terms and conditions needed to guarantee that concessions operations have no damaging side effects.

Another topic of controversy has been the low percentage of gross receipts concessioners return to the government. The average in the national parks is 2.17 percent; in an NPCA survey, state park systems reported charging an average of nearly ten percent.

Cohen stated fee increases should be set by concessioner category, so that small canoe-trip outfitters and corporations operating chains of hotels and restaurants are not lumped together.

He called for fees to go into a special fund for the national parks rather than into the government's general treasury.

NPCA also recommended that contract lengths be negotiable, that competitive bidding for contracts be instituted, and that NPS make information about contracts open to the public.

## EXPANSION OPPOSED AT JACKSON HOLE AIRPORT

The Jackson Hole Airport Board has proposed a major runway expansion at Jackson Hole Airport, located in Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming.

The extension, opposed by NPCA, the park, and many area residents, would lengthen the runway from 6,300 to 8,000 feet. Jackson Hole is the only airport in a national park, and critics have long objected to the noise and sight of aircraft operations in and over the park.

Airport safety is the central point of the controversy. The board claims that extending the runway 1,700 feet is necessary to improve the margin of safety for jets using the airport and to enhance efficiency.

The Federal Aviation Administration has declared the runway safe for all planes presently using the airport under standard operating procedures.

"If something is not safe, we don't allow it to go on," said Mitch Barker, FAA public affairs specialist. "We do concur that it is safe now."

Opponents believe runway extension is being proposed primarily to accom-



The sight and sound of jets are now common in the Tetons and on the Snake River.

modate larger aircraft and to eliminate weight restrictions. "The safety issue is largely a smoke screen," said Terri Martin, NPCA Rocky Mountain regional director. "There are ways to improve safety that do not require extending the runway, gobbling up parkland, or increasing noise and visual intrusions on the park."

The airport board asked local officials to concur in a request that the Department of the Interior amend the 1983 agreement authorizing airport operation in the park. That agreement bars further lengthening of the runway.

At a public meeting held by town and county officials, however, local opinion ran strongly against the proposal. The town and county called for a study of various alternatives for improving safety, including but not limited to runway expansion. Studies would also look at means of reducing the noise and visibility of air traffic.

The decision to assess alternatives "brings into focus that the Park Service will be involved in whatever direction the board does take," said Marshall Gingery, assistant superintendent of Grand Teton. "We are still opposed to any extension to the north, particularly the 1,700 feet that has been proposed."

When the park was established in

1950, the airport consisted of a 5,200-foot gravel strip and a single log building. The runway later grew to 6,300 feet, and there has been pressure since the 1970s for expansion to 8,000 feet. A terminal, restaurant, car rental agencies, and parking facilities have also sprung up.

In 1979 Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus announced the airport's special use permit would not be extended past 1995. In 1983 Secretary James Watt granted the airport a 30-year lease on the grounds that there would be no runway expansion. Under Watt, large commercial jets came to Jackson Hole as well.

Originally an airstrip for local private aircraft, the airport now receives as many as 12 commercial flights daily. The number of passengers has increased 270 percent since jet service began a decade ago, from 42,000 a year to 265,000.

"Enough is enough," Martin said. "The airport is now commercially viable, convenient, and safe. It is unconscionable to further compromise Grand Teton to boost local tourism."

*Please write Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan (Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240) and urge him to oppose further expansion of the runway at Jackson Hole Airport.*

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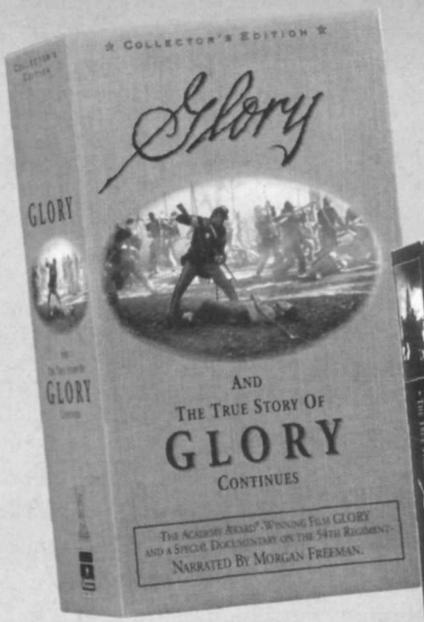
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## ALASKA BUILDS CONTESTED FISH LADDER

A ready supply of salmon, to be introduced on a river near the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary and Katmai National Park in Alaska, could prove a deadly lure for the grizzly bears that roam the land in and around the park.

The Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA), a private, nonprofit group working with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, has received permission to introduce salmon to the Paint River—three miles from McNeil—and to build a fish ladder there. The ladder would enable the fish to get around a 35- to 40-foot waterfall near the mouth of the river and swim upstream to spawn. The CIAA and the state Commercial Fish Division expect to create an annual return of up to 1.5 million salmon that will attract both commercial and sport fishermen.

Salmon is a favorite food of grizzly bears that roam both Katmai National Park and the McNeil River sanctuary, a unique site that draws visitors and photographers from all over the world to capture feeding bears on film.

Conservationists maintain that the salmon run could endanger McNeil River's grizzlies by drawing them out of the sanctuary onto state land where hunting may be permitted. McNeil has for more than 20 years maintained a very controlled setting in which humans and bears interact. A lottery system is used to limit the number of people allowed near the McNeil River falls. Only one in 11 requests was granted this year. Conservationists argue that the McNeil River grizzly bears have become accustomed to and do not fear humans. At McNeil, bears fish for salmon with people standing close by. These same bears could get into trouble with commercial or sport fishermen if they try to fish for salmon along the Paint River.

"Humans are in the bears' world at McNeil," said Mary Grisco, NPCA's Alaska regional director. "Bears will go where the food is easiest to get. Bears don't read signs; when they go out of the park or sanctuary, they don't know they're in a different area."



A grizzly bear catches a salmon at McNeil River State Game Sanctuary in Alaska.

CIAA maintains that safeguards are planned, including a permanent grating to be built over the fish ladder and an electric fence. Conservationists are not convinced these will be enough. They also fear that any bears drawn to the site run the risk of being gunned down by fishermen or hunters.

The Alaskan legislature passed a bill last spring that expands the 84,000-acre McNeil River sanctuary to include the lower Paint River. The bill extends the sanctuary, in which hunting and fishing are prohibited, by five percent. Much of the additional land could be open to hunting. The bill leaves that decision to the state Board of Game.

NPCA maintains that the U. S. Department of Commerce should have conducted an environmental impact statement and solicited comments from the National Park Service. A lawsuit filed this spring by Friends of McNeil and several other environmental groups was intended to block construction of the \$2.8-million fish ladder.

U. S. District Court Judge Andrew Kleinfeld, however, refused to block construction—scheduled to be completed this fall. Although the judge said court records indicate that the Army Corps of Engineers did not properly address the potential impact the project may have on wildlife before issuing \$1

million in federal funds, there was not enough evidence to demonstrate that the ladder would have an adverse effect on the grizzly bears.

## CONGRESS APPROVES LABOR HISTORY STUDY

Legislation to study important sites in American labor history passed both chambers of Congress this summer. The president was expected to sign the bill, which received White House support.

NPCA testified before Congress that the three-year study, to be undertaken by the National Park Service, will give recognition to an underrepresented area of American history.

The study will examine the history of American workers and the kinds of work they have done; the labor movement, including unionizing efforts and strikes; and the impacts of industrial and technological change.

Many of the places identified are likely to be the sites of important events or to be associated with leading figures in labor history. But the study will look as well for sites that provide an understanding of workers' lives in various industries and time periods.

The places identified by the Park Service will be considered for national

historic landmark designation. At present, the list of landmarks includes few sites from labor history.

"By designating sites as national landmarks, we as a nation recognize their historic importance," said Bruce Craig, NPCA cultural resources program manager. "It also brings their importance to the attention of state and local governments, which in many instances can protect them through preservation ordinances."

NPCA recommended in its 1988 *National Park System Plan* that labor history be more fully represented in the park system.

At present, only Lowell National Historical Park focuses on the subject. At Lowell, the country's first planned industrial city and the world's largest producer of cotton textiles in the 19th century, visitors learn about the nation's shift from agriculture to industry and immigrant labor.

More often, however, such historical sites are not protected. For example, the Aracoma Coal Company is pursuing permission to strip mine Blair Mountain, West Virginia. There in 1921, U. S. Army troops and 10,000 miners fought a several-day battle, part of the "mining wars" portrayed in the movie *Matewan*.

Representative Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.), chair of the House Interior subcommittee on mining and natural resources, is investigating the company's destruction of historic buildings on the site and the Office of Surface Mining's enforcement of the National Historic Preservation Act.

## OIL SPILL HITS OLYMPIC COASTLINE

At press time, an off-shore oil spill had soiled roughly half the 57-mile shoreline of Olympic National Park in Washington, in the second major spill to hit Olympic in three years.

A Japanese fish processing ship collided with a Chinese freighter just north of the U. S.-Canada maritime boundary in late July. At this writing, officials were not sure how many of the 360,000 gallons of oil on board had been re-

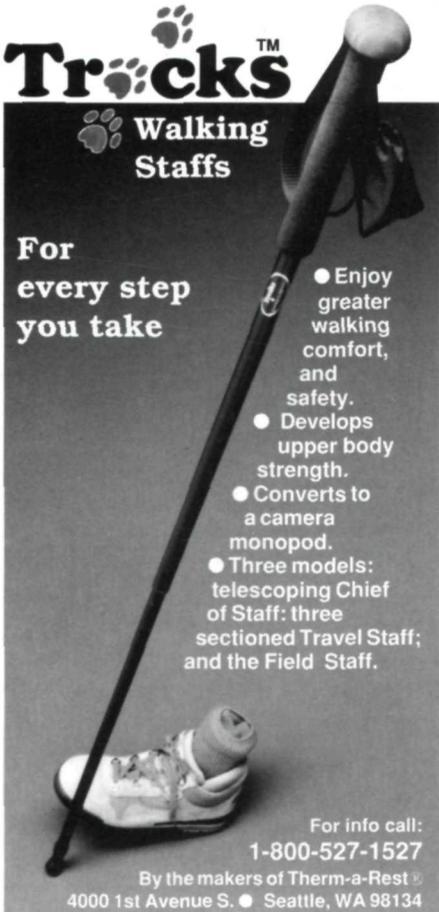
leased from the ship, which was still leaking. The slick, moving south, began washing ashore at Olympic two days after the collision.

So far, rescue workers had recovered 2,400 oiled birds, nearly 1,800 of which were already dead. More birds were believed to have died at sea.

Park Service information officer Bob Appling said the time of year made birds especially vulnerable. "It's at fledgling season, when the fledglings are leaving the nest, entering the water, and unable to fly," he said.

After the 1988 spill, workers recovered the carcasses of 39,000 birds. Appling said wildlife populations had not yet returned to their previous numbers when the new spill hit.

The speed of response to the spill has come under criticism. "It's astounding after the 1988 disaster and the *Exxon Valdez* that we still can't get a rapid response to an oil spill," said Dale Crane, NPCA Pacific Northwest regional director. "It seems a congressional investigation is called for." Crane has requested a hearing be held on the two incidents.

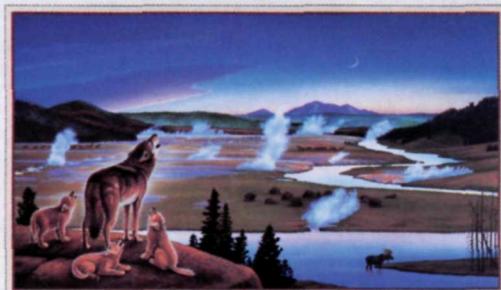


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# A Park System for Everyone

*The National Park System should reflect the nation's ethnic and racial diversity.*

By U.S. Rep. John Lewis

**T**HE UNITED STATES is a diverse nation with a proud history and needs a park system that reflects the nation's character. No one ethnic, racial, or national group can take sole credit for the nation's history and heritage. As the 20th century comes to a close, the nation's diversity will become even more apparent. By the year 2000, births of African-American, Hispanic, and Asian children will make up half of the total number in the United States.

The National Park Service should commemorate the total character of this nation through the history and interpretation of sites of particular significance. White soldiers, for instance, were not the only ones who sacrificed their lives during the bloody Civil War battles. Black men made a significant contribution fighting as Union soldiers throughout the war. Women, too, played important roles working behind the scenes to heal the wounded. This one slice of history needs to be presented, not as a moment in time, but as a reflection of a period. All of the players should be included in the picture, not just a chosen few.

In recent years, the National Park Service has, through congressional initiatives, begun to broaden minority representation in its permanent sites.

In 1935, the National Historic Landmarks Program was established by

an act of Congress. The purpose of the program was to identify and commemorate sites of national significance. Since that time, nearly 2,000 sites have been designated as national historic landmarks. Unfortunately, the number of landmarks that commemorate the history and culture of African-Americans is small. Prior to 1972, there were virtually no landmarks honoring black Americans in the National Park System. By 1974 the Secretary had granted landmark status to 13 sites relating to African-American history, and today only 88 of the 1,967 commemorate Af-

frican-Americans. Of units of the National Park System, only two percent of the 357 sites are related to African-American history. These sites include the boyhood home of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Fort Scott National Historic Site in Kansas, a recruiting site for early black Civil War soldiers; and the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in West Virginia. Here

a variety of historical themes is represented, including John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry, which was intended to begin a slave revolt in 1859, and the formation of historically black Storer College, founded after the Civil War and closed in 1955.

In an effort to correct this imbalance, I recently sponsored the African-American History Landmark Theme Study Act. Recently passed by the House of Representatives, the act would direct the Secretary of the Interior to prepare a National Historic Landmark Theme Study on African-American history. The study would identify key sites relating to African-American history for potential inclusion in the National Park System.

The act would establish an Advisory Board for the project, and it would direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with major research and public history organizations of African-American history to prepare the theme study. The act would require that the study be prepared in three years.

As a member of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, I have made the inclusion of minority representation in the National Park Service a top legislative priority. In 1989 I sponsored legislation to designate the route of the 1965 March from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, for study as a

**Our history is a precious resource.  
We should do all that we can to preserve  
it, and to ensure its accuracy.**

national historic trail. That legislation was passed by Congress and signed into law by the president in 1990. Civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., led marchers along that 54-mile route to demonstrate the need for a Voting Rights Act. Violence that erupted shortly after the march began drew national attention to the issue, and convinced then-President Johnson of the



COURTESY OF ALABAMA JOURNAL

**Martin Luther King, Jr., leads the 1965 Civil Rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. Congress adopted a bill to study the historic significance of the route.**

need for the Voting Rights Act. The bill has authorized the Interior Department to study the historic significance of the march route to determine whether it should be made part of the National Trails System.

In a related development, I have also sponsored legislation in the House of Representatives to designate the Mary McLeod Bethune National Historic home in Washington, D.C., as a National Park site. The bill was passed by the House in April 1991.

The Mary McLeod Bethune National Site, named after the renowned educator and activist, houses one of the most extensive manuscript collections related to the individual and collective achievements of African-American women. Besides her role as educator, Mary McLeod Bethune was a presiden-

tial advisor and a college founder.

If the legislation is passed by the Senate and approved by the president, the Bethune National Historic Site will be maintained and supported by the National Park Service. Currently, the Bethune house receives an annual grant from the federal government for program support. The museum also depends upon private support.

The prospect of bringing the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site into the National Park System has filled me with tremendous pride. This should give the National Park Service the opportunity to tell a more complete story of America's history.

A better understanding of American history has the power to inspire and uplift present and future generations

of Americans. Our history is a precious resource. We should do all that we can to preserve it, and to ensure its accuracy by including the history of all Americans. Recognizing the Ellis Island immigration station—part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument—has helped to explain the importance of diverse ethnic groups in the history of the United States. Through this site, historians can tell the story of how populations of immigrants helped to shape the country. In addition, legislation has been proposed that would establish a landmark theme study to identify key sites in Japanese-American history and establish the Manzanar National Historic Site in California. Manzanar housed 10,000 people in the desert of eastern California in the Sierra Nevada as one of the first permanent Japanese-American internment camps during World War II. It has been cited for offering the best opportunities among the ten such camps for interpretation of the World War II relocation program. The incarceration of a group of innocent people solely on the basis of race, without a charge, hearing, or trial, and the suffering and dislocation these people experienced is something which was, and still is, an extremely significant event in American history.

Neither history nor a person's life should be judged solely on the basis of race. But for too long the perspective of history has been weighted toward the contributions of great white men. The United States is more diverse than that particular image would portray. The park system needs to reflect the diversity that is America: From the Chinese Americans who helped to build the Pacific Railway, to the black soldiers who fought during the Civil War, and the women who marched on Washington for voting rights. There is a place for all these groups in the United States, and there should be a place for all in our nation's parks.

*John Lewis is a three-term Democrat from Georgia. He participated in the Selma-to-Montgomery March as a leader of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee.*

# Healing the Sacred Hoop

Lakota and the  
National Park Service work  
together to commemorate  
Wounded Knee.

By David J. Simon



**A**RVOL LOOKING HORSE, keeper of the Sacred Pipe of the Lakota people, led 300 riders—men, women, and children—across frozen prairie toward Wounded Knee Creek. It was December 29, 1990, a bitter cold, slate gray morning. Temperatures 70 degrees below zero numbed horse and rider as they passed through a purifying smoke and formed a silent circle on

It also marked the end of the Ghost Dance movement, a spiritual revival that promised the return of the nearly exterminated buffalo and of an ancestral way of life.

To the Lakota (called Sioux Indians by whites), the events at Wounded Knee broke the sacred hoop of the world, symbol of the unity of all life. Years after the tragedy, Black Elk, a Lakota

the Lakota, the citizens of South Dakota, Congress, the Department of the Interior, the conservation and historic preservation community, and friends of Native Americans worldwide. Wounded Knee is now also a symbol of hope and of healing.

As a potential national park site, Wounded Knee represents an immense but exciting challenge. It is a unique opportunity for the nation to shoulder its responsibilities to past and future generations, to re-expose dark moments to the light of truth and understanding, and in doing so, to acknowledge fully the nation's diverse and complex, and often painful, heritage.

The significance of Wounded Knee has long been recognized. Historians regard the event as a tragic encapsulation of the clash of cultures, failed government policies, and the closing of the American frontier. As the quincentennial of Columbus' discovery of the New World approaches in 1992, Wounded Knee can be seen more clearly in a broader context: as the final chapter in nearly four centuries of armed struggle between Europeans and Native Americans.

In the years preceding Wounded Knee, the Lakota lost ground to Euro-American society. Despite treaty promises, the steady influx of settlers and military pressure continued to overwhelm the Lakota. An 1870s gold rush intensified efforts by whites to claim the sacred Black Hills.

In 1876, fed up with the Lakota's unwillingness to sell the Black Hills—land reserved for them through the Treaty of Fort Laramie—the government ordered the confinement of Native Americans on designated sites. The campaign that followed was a success for the Army, despite the obliteration on June 25, 1876, of Lt. General George A. Custer and his 7th Cavalry troops. Chief Sitting Bull—one of the most revered Lakota leaders—fled to Canada for five years, and Crazy Horse, a brilliant warrior, was slain while in captivity at Fort Robinson, Nebraska. Then in 1877, the federal government essentially confiscated the Black Hills. The U.S. Supreme Court would in 1980 say



PROFILES WEST/AILEEN RUSSELL

**Russell Redner surveys the field where, in 1973, he and other AIM members clashed with federal authorities at Wounded Knee.**

the side of a low hill. These were riders across time, returning to wipe the tears from a site where their ancestors had been slain on a cold December day 100 years before.

Still described officially as a battle, the Wounded Knee massacre was the last armed conflict in the 35-year effort by the U.S. Army to subdue the Plains Indians. The Army, which generally portrayed the event as a glorious victory, presented 18 soldiers with the Medal of Honor. Victims and their descendants and many historians agree, however, that Wounded Knee was not so much a battle as an execution. More than 300 Indians died there, as well as 31 soldiers, many of whom were killed by Army crossfire.

No matter which interpretation is followed, one thing is certain: Wounded Knee brought an end to the Indian wars.

medicine man, said: "I can see that something else died there in the bloody mud and was buried in the blizzard. A people's dream died there.... the nation's hoop is broken and scattered. There is no center any longer, and the sacred tree is dead."

But Black Elk also prophesied that while the Lakota would suffer great hardships, the tribe would experience a resurgence in the seventh generation, and the hoop would be mended. The seventh generation coincided with the event's centennial. Wounded Knee is again the focus of public concern and is about to make history anew. At the invitation of the Lakota, the National Park Service is evaluating alternatives for the site's preservation and interpretation, including scenarios for managing it as a unit of the National Park System. In 1988, NPCA highlighted Wounded Knee as a potential park site in the National Park System Plan. A process of partnership, collaboration, and reconciliation is under way among



NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

of these treaty violations that “a more ripe and rank case of dishonorable dealings will never in all probability be found in our history.”

The government continued to whittle away at the Indians’ holdings, leaving them with the worst lands. The Great Sioux Reservation was eventually divided into six smaller South Dakota reservations, which still exist today—Pine Ridge, Cheyenne River, Rosebud, Standing Rock, Crow Creek, and Lower Brulé. By 1890, the Lakota were all but vanquished by diseases introduced by Europeans, by the loss of the buffalo, and by the prohibition of the practice of traditional religious rites.

Conditions were ripe for the Ghost Dance, which offered a new dream and renewed hope. It promised the return of the buffalo and a land free of whites, where Indians would be united with their ancestors. The practice originated in Nevada, under the leadership of Wovoka, a Paiute shaman. His religion preached pacifism, combining ancient

**Bodies of the dead—many frozen into grotesque shapes—were not collected until three days after the tragedy.**

Indian beliefs and elements of Christianity in ritualistic songs and dances. Many danced in holy garments or ghost shirts, which some believed offered protection from the white man’s bullets.

In the spring of 1890, when emissaries brought the Ghost Dance back to the Lakota reservations, conditions were particularly grim. Drought had ruined crops, subsistence rations were halved or sometimes nonexistent due to pervasive corruption in the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the starving Indians were forbidden to hunt game.

By early fall, the Ghost Dance had spread to all of the Lakota reservations and, in South Dakota, had become more than a pacifist expression. By mid-November, dancing was prevalent on some reservations, and set off a panic among white settlers and Indian agents who feared an uprising. Newspapers carried

exaggerated accounts of unrest, and troops were called in from as far as Kansas.

Then on December 15, an event occurred that would set off a chain reaction culminating in the Wounded Knee tragedy. Sitting Bull was killed at his cabin on Standing Rock Reservation by Indians serving as reservation police officers. They were attempting to arrest him on orders from the government. Refugees from Sitting Bull’s camp joined Big Foot’s Minneconjou Sioux at the Cheyenne River Reservation. Ordered to move his people under Army guard to a nearby fort, Big Foot eventually decided to flee several hundred miles south to the safety and protection of Chief Red Cloud at Pine Ridge Reservation.

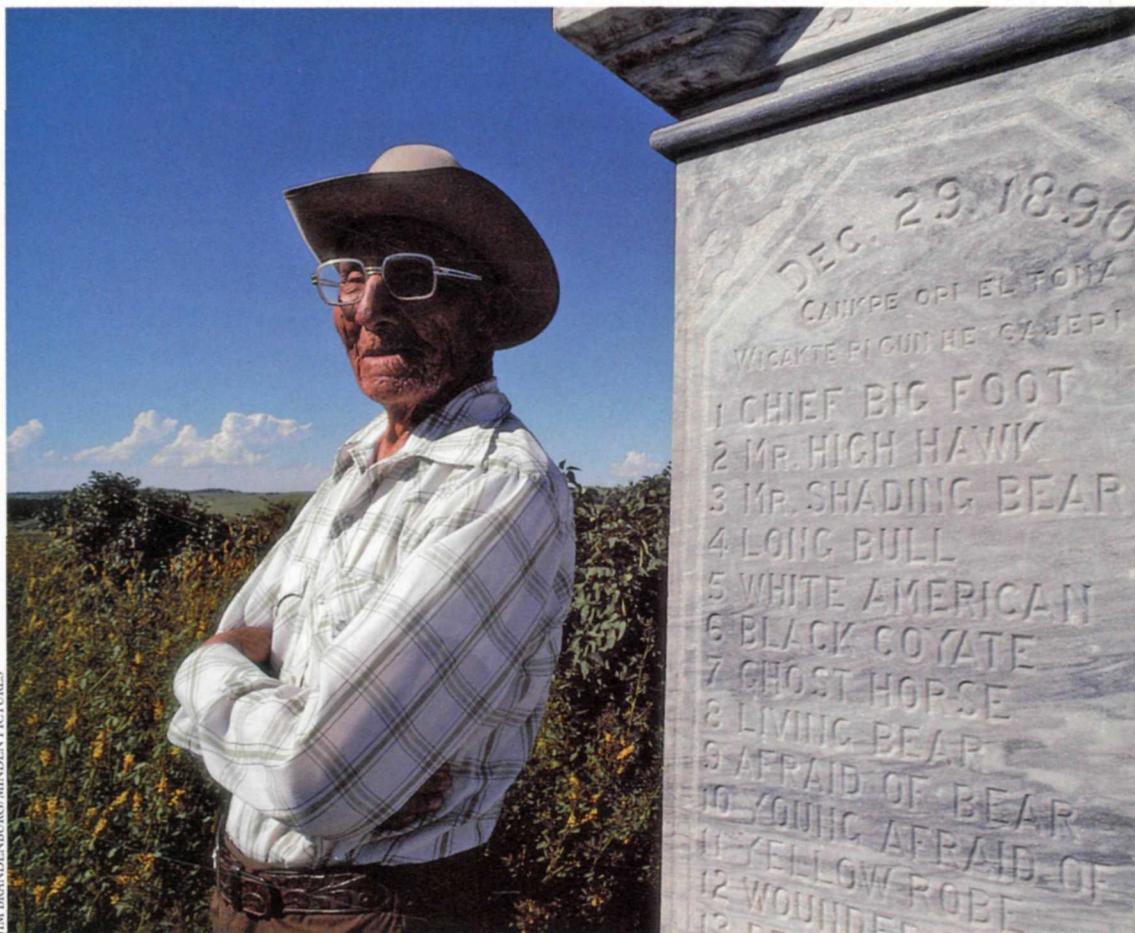
Pursued by soldiers, Big Foot, now seriously ill with pneumonia, surrendered on December 28 to Major Samuel Whitside’s detachment of the 7th Cavalry—Custer’s old command. Big Foot and his hungry and exhausted band

were moved a few miles west to the battalion bivouac at Wounded Knee. Troopers surrounded the camp and set up four rapid-fire Hotchiss cannons on a low hill. At daybreak, the Indians received rations. Colonel James W. Forsyth, who had arrived with the remainder of the 7th Cavalry and assumed command, then gathered the braves around Big Foot, who was propped up on the ground outside his tepee. With his soldiers tightly ringing the Council Circle, Forsyth announced that it was necessary to disarm the warriors to prevent unintentional violence.

When the initial order yielded only a few weapons, a search was ordered. Soldiers uncovered only a small collection of weapons. Tensions mounted on both sides. Many of the soldiers were young, poorly trained, and fearful.

Yellow Bird, a medicine man, began a Ghost Dance and shouted warnings and encouragement to the warriors. "Don't be afraid! Let your hearts be strong to meet what is before you! There are lots of soldiers and they have lots of bullets, but the prairie is large and bullets will not go toward, but over the large prairies."

As Forsyth tried to silence Yellow Bird, one Lakota named Black Coyote—said to be deaf—raised a rifle over his head, protesting the order to relinquish his weapon. A scuffle ensued, and the gun discharged. As the troopers shouldered their rifles, a few braves revealed weapons under their blankets. The crash of gunfire that followed killed most of the Lakota men in the Council Circle, and hand to hand fighting broke out. Then soldiers began firing the big Hotchiss guns—releasing a shell a second—shredding tepees and killing men, women, and children. A twisting ravine



JIM BRANDENBURG/AMINDEN PICTURES

and the creek bottom nearby, where Indians tried to take cover, became killing zones.

Official Army reports maintained that "great care was taken by the officers and generally by the enlisted men to avoid unnecessary killing of Indian women and children."

Lakota warrior Iron Hail, wounded during the exchange, offered a different view: "While I was lying on my back, I looked down the ravine and saw a lot of women coming up and crying. When I saw these women, girls and little girls, and boys coming up, I saw soldiers on both sides of the ravine shoot at them until they had killed every last one." By the time the smoke cleared, roughly 300 Indians lay dead, scattered across the frozen ground. Bodies eventually would be found up to three miles from the camp.

A blizzard kept burial parties away until three days later when about 150 Indian corpses, covered in snow, many frozen in grotesque positions, were re-

covered. They were hastily buried in a mass grave atop the knoll from which the cannons had fired. A few wounded survived the blizzard, including a three-month-old girl found under the snow in a blanket beside her slain mother.

More than 100 years later, those shots, and the sorrow and outrage accompanying them, still echo. "The blood is as fresh today as it was in 1890," says Iron Hail's great-granddaughter, Marie Not Help Him.

The massacre site remained unmarked until May 28, 1903, when a group of survivors dedicated a six-foot granite monument inscribed with names of some of the victims. In 1965, Wounded Knee was declared a national historic landmark (NHL), which recognizes its national significance, but brings only limited protection. Despite some cursory attention over the years, including at least four Park Service studies, today only a roadside sign and the granite tombstone mark a place that has endured for many people as a pow-



PROFILES WEST/ALLEN RUSSELL

**Talbert Looking Elk, left, stands beside the monument, shown above, which marks the common grave of the Native Americans who died during the Wounded Knee massacre of 1890. The grave is atop the knoll from which cannons had fired.**

erful symbol of a democratic government's repression of a native culture.

In 1987, a group of Pine Ridge residents met to consider the site's future. Eventually, with the assistance of the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), a study was undertaken to evaluate future options. The final phase of the study, which recommended preserving the site in a park-like setting, was completed in November 1990. Meanwhile, the National Park Service reviewed the NHL boundary, ultimately concluding that about 330 acres constituted the historic core of the site. Congress passed a resolution in October expressing regret for the massacre. Activities culminated in the emotional ceremonies on the centennial date in December.

In May 1991, NPS announced that a study of management alternatives would be undertaken to address important community concerns about who might manage the site, and how. The study, which is involving extensive Lakota in-

put, will take about 18 months. Exploring the prospects for a national park at Wounded Knee comes as the country reviews policies for Native American sites. While dozens of national park units preserve Native American history or sacred sites, few have paid close attention to Indian perspectives. Within the past few years, the first Native American superintendent of Custer Battlefield National Monument was named, and legislation is currently before Congress to rename the battlefield and build a monument to the Indians who died there. Elsewhere, the National Park Service is attempting to involve Native Americans more closely in management and interpretation, and historic preservation programs.

Difficult questions must be addressed in contemplating a park at Wounded Knee, such as the differences between Lakota oral history and official Army accounts. Future interpretation will be complicated because Wounded Knee's significance is not limited to the events of 1890 or the preceding decade. In 1973, members of the American Indian Movement (AIM) occupied the site for 71 days. The 1973 events—which brought needed attention but also ended in violence and deeply divided Indians politically—are equally controversial. Yet Irv Mortinson, superintendent of the nearby Badlands National Park, believes the AIM occupation “was a watershed, a major turning point in Indian history and U.S. history. We can't afford to ignore what happened there in 1973 anymore than we can ignore what happened in 1890.”

Some Lakota, such as the Wounded Knee Survivors Association, still seek a more direct apology from Congress and the return of the Medals of Honor. They also favor payment of reparations and construction of a memorial. But, says Eddie Little Sky, executive director of the Oglala Parks and Recreational Department: “The majority just want the land to tell the story.”

Other questions revolve around land ownership, management duties, scene restoration, protection, and access. NPCA favors an approach that empha-

sizes protecting the sacred qualities of the site, closely involving Lakota in interpretation, management, and prevention of incompatible development.

All recognize that a park at Wounded Knee has tremendous potential to educate the public and tie the reservation more closely to the strong tourism industry in the Black Hills. Nearby Mount Rushmore National Monument and Badlands National Park attract millions of visitors annually. Little Sky envisions Wounded Knee as the anchor of a reservation-wide historical program and tour. The economic opportunity spawned by a park also would help address some of the serious social problems on Pine Ridge Reservation, which includes the nation's poorest county.

But perhaps the most encouraging development for the Lakota is that the renewed focus on Wounded Knee has helped to trigger a new cultural awakening and pride.

Since 1986, the Lakota have commemorated the tragedy and honored their heritage by annually retracing Big Foot's 250-mile route to Wounded Knee. The first year, the Si Tanka Wokiksuye Okolakiciye (Big Foot Memorial Riders) numbered 25—a figure that increased more than tenfold last year. The modern message of last December's centennial ceremonies is one of honor, says Alex White Plume, one of the organizers of the Big Foot Ride. “We're bringing our nation out of grieving. After the ceremony, we will celebrate a new future. The next seven generations will celebrate Wolakota—the people will be stronger than ever. The tree still grows. The unity of the people will mend the hoop.”

The grassy hilltop at Wounded Knee is quiet now, where the soul of a nation lies buried. The site lies in a shallow valley, flanked by pine-dotted ridges. It is beautiful, quiet, but haunting and unsettling. Wounded Knee seems to await some redemption. Perhaps facing up to its legacy, and including this ground as one of the nation's most important places, will contribute to that end.

*David J. Simon is NPCA's natural resources program manager.*

# RAIDERS OF THE PARKS

With looting and vandalism on the rise, Park Service officials fight back.

By Todd Wilkinson



JEFF FOOTIT

**I**N THE OUTSKIRTS of Albuquerque, New Mexico, bullet holes pierce the smooth rock walls in newly designated Petroglyph National Monument. Silhouettes of animals and human figures, carved and painted by Native Americans thousands of years ago, are targets of marksmen who have blasted some of the 16,000 drawings into piles of rubble.

Hundreds of miles away, in the Southeast, looters dig through the

graves of Civil War soldiers in the same battlefields where they fell mortally wounded almost 130 years ago. Buttons are ripped off the soldiers' jackets and sold as valuable prizes in a thriving black market.

In the northern Rockies, along a remote hiking trail in Yellowstone National Park, hooligans heave rocks and boulders into delicate geothermal features, destroying a geyser that had taken millennia to form. And off the coasts of California and Florida, scuba divers secretly raid the wreckage of ships sunk during storms and since protected as national treasures.

What do these events have in common? In the eyes of the average visitor, one of a record 280 million who will enter national parks this year, probably not much. But according to federal law enforcement agents, all of the incidents are linked to a disturbing phenomenon—the rapid escalation of vandalism inundating federal lands.

The artifacts that the 357 national park units were set aside to protect are being stolen, spray-painted, smashed, burned, and plugged by people who do not realize—or do not care—that they are erasing important chapters of natural and cultural history, says Martin McAllister, an archaeologist and consultant who is teaching public-land managers how to combat this growing problem.

"If there's a national park in the United States that hasn't been subjected to vandalism, I'm not aware of it," McAllister says. "The public is losing important pieces of nonrenewable heritage every day." He adds that in 1990 alone, most Civil War battlefields in the country were rocked by some form of vandalism.

For the first time in history, the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have commissioned a joint task force to confront looters who are ravaging archaeological sites and raiding battlefields for memorabilia. "Looters

**The most common form of vandalism, particularly in urban parks, is graffiti spray-painted on rocks or walls.**

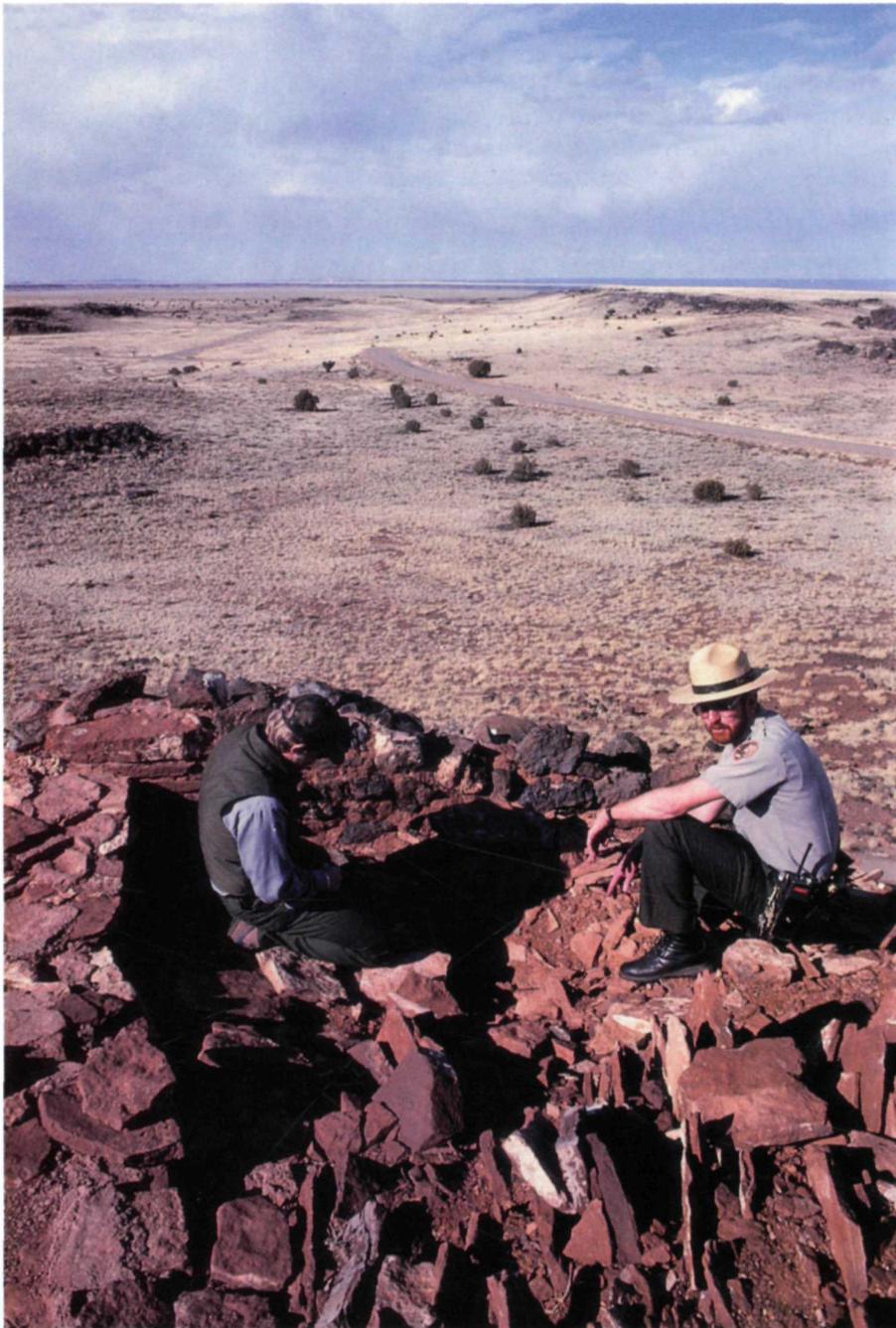
don't recognize man-made, jurisdictional boundaries," says Phil Young, hired this year as the Park Service's first criminal investigator in charge of building cases against vandals. "The only thing they recognize is profit potential."

Young's territory is the isolated desert of the Southwest, where Indian cultures have existed for thousands of years. "Looting of these sites definitely is a big problem in the Southwest," says Young, a former ranger at New Mexico's Bandelier National Monument. "We've known about the problem for decades, but only recently have we been in a position to fight back. One of the reasons it is critical that we stop it now is because sooner or later there won't be anything left to protect."

In 1979, Congress reacted to protests from the Native American and archaeological communities by passing the Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA), which made it a felony to raid cultural sites in all federal and Indian lands.

Unfortunately, experts say, Congress had previously demonstrated a double standard regarding cultural sites. Plundering of Native American graveyards had not inspired the same disgust as the looting of Anglo burial sites, especially those containing the remains of soldiers from the Civil and colonial wars. As a result, those convicted of illegally exhuming primitive artifacts were for decades given little more than a slap on the wrist, archaeological experts say. "Grave robbing is grave robbing, no matter what the cultural background is," says McAllister. "Stealing artifacts from these sites is against the law."

Until a report from the General Accounting Office (GAO) appeared on Capitol Hill four years ago, looting and vandalism—despite ARPA—were still being treated as lightly as a minor traffic offense. But the 1987 GAO report focused on paleontological and Native American sites spread across public lands in the Four Corners region of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah. The Park Service, Forest Service, and BLM reported that, of a total of 135,815 known



GEORGE WUERHINER

**At Wupatki National Monument, Arizona, park rangers investigate vandalized ruins of ancient Native American pueblos.**

sites, more than 43,000—or 32 percent—already had been affected by vandalism, and another 33 percent were in unknown condition. Meanwhile, Park Service statistics showed a 51 percent increase in the number of violations between 1985 and 1987.

Swayed by these numbers, Congress in 1988 passed an amendment to

ARPA reclassifying many acts of vandalism as felonies rather than misdemeanors. Damage or removal of archaeological resources with a value of \$500 today can net thieves two years in prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000. Repeat offenders face a possible prison term of five years. The fact that vandalism is now being treated as seriously as poaching is a manifestation of the problem's severity.

Last spring, two men convicted of looting Vicksburg National Military

Park a year earlier pled guilty to ARPA violations. If a proposed plea-bargain arrangement is approved by the judge, the men—both first-time offenders—will be ordered to pay \$5,000 fines and forfeit a \$12,000 vehicle and metal detecting equipment. They also will be banned from entering any federal military park for two years. "This sends a clear message that looting will not be tolerated," says McAllister.

The question currently facing Congress is whether beefed up laws alone can be effective in an age when fewer rangers are available in the field to enforce those laws. "With the heightened awareness, it's become a known fact that vandalism is occurring and increasing rapidly," said Steven Goldstein, spokesman for Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan. "Unfortunately, we don't have the financial resources for 24-hour law enforcement."

"One of the first things we need is more personnel and time spent in the field on ground patrols and surveillance," said new investigator Young, who named sites in several national parks or monuments ravaged by vandals, including Mesa Verde, Grand Canyon, and Lake Meade.

While provisions of ARPA give attorneys and judges the legal teeth to put offenders away, little can be done to control the prices paid for primitive art. Recently, a highly coveted Mimbres pot, which could have come from only a few sites in New Mexico, fetched \$400,000 in Europe. Another Mimbres piece was sold for \$95,000 in New York. "[Looting] is not a mom-and-pop business as it was portrayed in the 1950s, '60s, and '70s," notes McAllister. "There are people making millions of dollars off resources that are owned by the public. A person who will deal in one kind of contraband will deal in other contraband. There are instances of artifacts being exchanged as payment for drugs. Many of the traffickers carry automatic weapons and may be involved in other activities, such as poaching."

Tony Schetzlsle, chief ranger at Canyonlands, says he views the wind-carved canyons of southern Utah as "an



ELIOT COHEN



JEFF HENRY

**Top, bullet holes and carved initials mar petroglyphs at Capitol Reef NP, Utah. Above left, ancient Indian carvings, chipped away by vandals. Above right, a park ranger inspects a looted grave at Manassas National Battlefield Park.**

open-air museum that showcases the cultural and archaeological resources in a natural resource setting.” This is one reason Canyonlands is a popular attraction for tourists by day and vandals by night. In 1989, after scaling back the



STEPHEN R. POTTER

park’s operation during the holiday season, Schetzle and his staff returned to find a cave’s rock art badly damaged. “It had to be intentional,” Schetzle said. “They took a hunting scene and chipped away at it with a rock, completely eradicating one figure.”

One of the hallmarks of Canyonlands has been the rangers’ attitude of trying to expose backcountry hikers to the spiritual importance of the landscape. Near one campsite, park officials had left the remains of a few Indian pots

uncovered as an example for visitors to enjoy. Thieves, however, walked off with the artifacts last year.

When vandalism occurs, taxpayers face not only the historical and financial loss but also increasingly limited access to cultural resources. “I think it’s only logical that as more and more damage occurs, the Park Service will have to become more restrictive,” McAllister says. “At many sites today, you can see objects firsthand. In the future, your children’s children may not have that opportunity. Instead, [artifacts] may be kept behind chain-link fences and under glass in museums.”

With national parks encompassing more than 80 million acres, protection of natural resources, meanwhile, has left managers in some of the larger park units virtually helpless. During the autumn of 1990, geologist Rick Hutchinson made a routine patrol in the Yellowstone backcountry and hiked through a remote field of geysers known



JEFF HENRY

### NPS geologist Rick Hutchinson scoops litter and debris from Yellowstone's Morning Glory Pool.

as "the Rustic Group." Hutchinson was mortified to find one geyser permanently destroyed and another plugged with debris—the work, of course, of vandals. "It was just so senseless," said Yellowstone spokeswoman Marsha Karle, who made a public appeal for information, though authorities have no suspects. "There was no reason for this to happen. Those geysers were priceless and irreplaceable treasures."

The recent attacks on Yellowstone's geothermal features have not been isolated, Hutchinson said. Over the years, coins, beer cans, garbage, and items of clothing have been tossed into geysers and hot springs, causing some simply to dry up. Just two hours north of Yellowstone in Montana, vandals—armed with hammers or baseball bats—broke into Lewis and Clark Caverns, a former national monument now admin-

istered by the state. Three suspects were convicted of shattering 18 formations of stalagmites and stalactites that were at least 46,000 years old. Following a scolding from a state judge, the trio was sentenced to six years probation and ordered to pay more than \$5,500 in fines and restitution—a judgment considered harsh. Similar vandalism has occurred at Carlsbad Caverns, New Mexico, and inside several ice caves on federal property.

"Congress is looking very hard at the issue of vandalism this year," says Major Jack Schamp of the U.S. Park Police, which is in charge of patrolling metropolitan sites within the National Park System. Each year, the agency presents an annual law enforcement report to the FBI. "We have a multitude of violations. Whatever you can think of, it's being done," Schamp said. The 1990 report released this spring shows that 3,289 acts of vandalism were committed service-wide, mostly at cultural sites, costing the taxpayers at least \$230,000.

Another 10,920 incidents involved natural resource violations, though not all were considered vandalism.

Destruction has taken a number of forms. Consider a few of the incidents that occurred over the past year: arsonists burned an entrance station at Olympic National Park; thieves took a .45-caliber revolver used by Theodore Roosevelt on his charge of San Juan Hill; vandals caused thousands of dollars in damage to a copper-plated memorial wall honoring immigrants at Ellis Island. By far the most pervasive destruction gripping urban parks is graffiti—the work, in most cases, of gangs and adolescent youths.

Although local law enforcement agencies are being outmaneuvered, those studying vandalism are making tactical gains that could soon revolutionize the way suspects are apprehended. Federal crime laboratories now are able to link single grains of dirt from stolen pots and artifacts with the exact place from which they were un-



JEFF HENRY

**Yellowstone park rangers and a local county sheriff at the crime scene: a vandalized grave in a historic cemetery.**

earthed. McAllister says that looters will no longer be able to “launder” primitive pots—digging them up in national parks but claiming they were removed from private lands.

“I know of one man who bought a piece of private property specifically to launder a truckload of artifacts he stole from national parks and national forests,” he said. “I issue this warning to looters: you had better know what you are doing, because now we’ll be able to catch you. The old tricks won’t work anymore.”

Archaeologists and scientists say the protection of these sites is important—whether it is a geyser, Native American site, or Civil War battlefield—because, when undisturbed, they provide important clues about natural and cultural history.

“While tougher laws would be help-

ful, it’s going to take an attitudinal change if we want to have these things protected and available for future generations,” McAllister said. “Just as we protect the natural environment, we must demand protection of the cultural environment. The public needs to realize that looters and vandals aren’t hurting just archaeologists; they’re hurting everybody.”

Such declarations may have lain fallow in the past, but no longer can society afford to take no action. As time runs out on the artifacts of antiquity, so too does vandalism dilute the value of national parks long into the future. Centuries from now, this generation of park visitors may be remembered as the one that had history resting in the palm of its hand—and then watched passively as it was carried away.

*Todd Wilkinson is a free-lance writer based in Bozeman, Montana. He last wrote for National Parks on efforts to save the trumpeter swan.*

## How To Handle a Vandal

Part of NPCA’s ongoing effort is to instill a respect in people for cultural and natural resources. When people violate these resources, alert visitors can play a critical role in preventing vandalism, or at least in seeing that vandals are apprehended.

“Education is the first step in stopping the problem,” says Terri Martin, NPCA’s Rocky Mountain regional director. “But each of us can make a difference in our own way.”

What should you do if you witness an act of vandalism in a national park? Your first priority should be your own safety, ac-



STEPHEN R. POTTER

**Stones used to build an illegal campfire were stolen from a Civil War fort at Harpers Ferry NHP.**

ording to Martin McAllister. *Do not confront the vandals on your own.* Instead, call the local police or the park headquarters to report the crime. Write down license plate numbers, if possible, and make note of the *exact* location of the activity. Also try to observe and remember details—physical descriptions of the people and their vehicles, for example—that will help identify the suspects. And be prepared to describe to authorities the nature of the activity that was taking place.

# Return of the Ridley

Padre Island may provide a nesting site for  
the world's most endangered sea turtle.

By Franklin Hoke



**A**T THE END OF APRIL this year, a pale gray-green turtle, slightly longer than two feet, emerged from the surf to lay her eggs at Padre Island National Seashore in Texas. A visitor from Houston spotted the creature and alerted park personnel, as advised by signs posted on the beach.

“We raced down there,” says Donna Shaver, coordinator of the Kemp’s ridley sea turtle nesting project at Padre Island. “I was on the beach within five minutes and got there in time to see her start to lay the eggs.”

Shaver hoped the turtle was one of about 12,000 Kemp’s ridleys raised and then released into the Gulf of Mexico at Padre Island between 1978 and 1988. If so, it would be the first to return to Padre Island and the best evidence yet that the effort to establish a second nesting site for the Kemp’s ridley, the most critically endangered sea turtle in the world, may succeed. Currently, the species’ only major known nesting site is near Rancho Nuevo in Mexico, reaching from La Pesca south to 20 miles beyond Barra del Tordo. This site has, in past decades, drawn tens of thousands of nesting turtles, numbers that in recent years dwindled to the hundreds. Creating a second nesting site at Padre Island could be key to helping the turtles rebuild their numbers. And a cornerstone on which the success of the experiment rests is the hypothesis known as imprinting—an explanation of how turtles find their way back to birth beaches.

Kemp’s ridleys returning to nest on Padre Island would provide strong support for the hypothesis. Their return might help to settle other questions about sea turtle biology, including the age at which wild Kemp’s ridleys reach sexual maturity—believed by most bi-

ologists to be about 15 years. In addition, if enough turtles return to establish a second nesting colony, it would be an important boost for the endangered species and would build significantly on the long-standing protection and husbandry at Rancho Nuevo. It might mean that, despite high mortality rates in shrimpers’ nets in years past, the species could recover.

Unfortunately, it was impossible to prove whether the turtle laying eggs in Texas this spring was one from the nesting project, because it had no identification tag. Metal tags used during the first years were subject to corro-



**A female Kemp’s ridley returns to the Gulf of Mexico after nesting at Rancho Nuevo, the turtle’s only major known nesting site.**

sion, so the turtle may have lost its tag. Any scar remaining would have healed over in the intervening decade. (In later years, turtles received three tags: a metal one in the right foreflipper, a magnetic one in the left foreflipper, and a living tag—a patch of the ridley’s light-colored bottom shell grafted onto the darker upper shell.)

The spring arrival also may have been one of the sporadic nestings of ridleys on the Texas coast, although there have been fewer than a half-dozen observed since 1980. “It is encouraging, because the time frame is right,” says Shaver. “The turtles we released may be mature by now and may start returning.” Another encouraging sign: the turtle laid her eggs close to the imprinting site.

Although researchers are heartened by the single arrival, they know one nest will not be enough to secure the turtle’s future. An amateur film made on June 18, 1947, on the Mexican beach showed an estimated 40,000 female Kemp’s ridleys on shore in what the locals call the *arribada*—the arrival. The film shows the frenzy of the gathering, turtles flipping sand in all directions, working to lay two million or more eggs. During the nesting season of 1947, there were three recorded arrivals. But, 40 years later, counts at Rancho Nuevo reached about 400 nesting turtles for an entire season.

Poaching was one of the factors that exacted an extraordinary toll on the turtle populations. At one time, people looking for an easy profit hauled off wagonloads of eggs to sell at markets in Mexico City.

Since the 1960s, U.S. and Mexican conservation teams have worked hard at Rancho Nuevo to stem the turtle’s decline. At times, this has meant stationing armed Mexican marines on the beach to protect the turtles and their eggs from poachers. Workers have collected and incubated tens of thousands of eggs and nurtured hatchlings through the first

vulnerable months. Scientists hope this head starting will increase the odds of survival for the young turtles. Only about one percent of the turtles hatched in the wild from the 60 to 120 eggs laid by each female live to maturity. Ninety percent of turtles hatched and raised in the head start program live to be released, although no one can say for sure how many of the released turtles will live to breed and nest. Many turtles, both wild and captive bred, died in shrimpers’ nets.

A legal battle was fought in the 1980s to force the U.S. shrimping fleet to install special devices to keep sea turtles from being caught accidentally and killed in fishing nets dragged from trawlers. Regulations, to be enforced

**A baby Kemp’s ridley sea turtle emerges from a nest shortly after hatching at Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas, Mexico.**

PHOTOS BY C. ALLAN MORGAN

by the U.S. Coast Guard, finally became effective last year.

Today, after two decades of intensive conservation, there are glimmers of optimism from the people who have long worked to save the Kemp's ridley. Pat Burchfield, deputy director of the Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownsville, Texas, and head of the U.S. contingent at Rancho Nuevo, reports that the population drop at Rancho Nuevo, which had been about three percent a year, may be leveling off. "It was a pretty dramatic, steady drop until about three years ago," says Burchfield. "But since then, we have not seen a dramatic decline. We've seen a trend toward stability." But changes to the beach topography as a result of a severe hurricane several years ago have required expanded patrols and have made it difficult to assess the population level in historic terms.

It's much too soon to declare the species saved, but there is more support for a hopeful outlook now than there has been in years.

"I'm optimistic in a guarded fashion," says Shaver. "It's encouraging that the population decline at Rancho Nuevo has decreased, but protecting the turtles at the nesting locations and in the water is still critical."

To give the nesting project the best opportunity for success, researchers have sought to understand the process by which Kemp's ridleys return to their birth beaches. Biologists have constructed a theory of imprinting using ideas about animal navigation derived from studies on fish, birds, and other migratory animals.

"What I envision," says David Owens, a professor of biology at Texas A&M who has done extensive research on sea turtle imprinting, "is that as the little turtle moves away from its natal beach, it picks up an olfactory set of cues, a bouquet of chemicals that it's passing through, and it remembers them. It also remembers the sun's position as it swims away. If there are any magnetic anomalies on the ocean floor, the turtle senses and remembers this, too."

Like some other impressive navigators, including insects and birds, sea



**A worker at Rancho Nuevo, above, releases baby Kemp's ridley sea turtles. At right, turtles hatched from dozens of nests that once numbered in the thousands scamper toward the sea. Only one percent of wild-bred turtles live to maturity.**

turtles have magnetite in their brains, which leads researchers to suspect that they may have an awareness of Earth's magnetic fields.

Owens and others hypothesize that the characteristics of the sand and water at the beach where the eggs are laid and incubated may be a factor in imprinting sea turtles even before hatching.

With this possibility in mind, workers at Rancho Nuevo literally caught the eggs as they were laid to prevent those destined for Padre Island from touching Mexican sand. They placed the eggs in special Styrofoam coolers filled with Padre Island sand and then flew the eggs to Texas for incubation at the lab operated by Shaver and her coworkers.

In a small shed called the Turtle Lab tucked behind the dunes, three shelves of the sand-filled coolers mimic the heat retention characteristics of the open beach. Records kept by Shaver revealed important information about the process, including the discovery that average temperatures during the middle third of the 48- to 53-day incubation

PHOTOS BY C. ALLAN MORGAN





C. ALLAN MORGAN



ANNE HEIMANN

Scientists hope to establish Padre Island National Seashore in Texas as a second nesting site for the critically endangered sea turtle. Above, workers release turtles at Padre Island National Seashore in an effort to reinforce the imprinting gained during incubation, and, at left, volunteers rescue a mature turtle from a gill net. Padre Island could be key to helping the turtles rebuild their numbers. At right from top: a 60-day-old Kemp's ridley in a container called a "flower pot"; Donna Shaver, coordinator of the Padre Island sea turtle project, with a baby turtle; and a handful of Kemp's ridley sea turtle eggs.

period influence the eventual gender of the hatchlings.

Temperatures above 86 degrees Fahrenheit produce more females; temperatures below that produce more males. This discovery allowed Shaver to achieve more balanced sex ratios among her hatchlings.

To reinforce the imprinting gained during incubation, hatchlings were allowed to race down the beach and into the surf to swim for a minute or two before being netted up again. The

theory is that if the sand or water sets the turtles' compasses—perhaps through olfaction—they would be set for Padre Island.

The turtles were then flown to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) laboratory in Galveston, Texas, for nine to ten months. Following this period, workers returned the near-yearlings to be released from a research vessel 12 miles off Padre Island into the Gulf of Mexico.

How great a role the Earth's mag-

netic fields play, or whether swimming beyond the surf to the ocean's current has a primary role, is not fully understood. The unknowns add an element of anxiety to the wait scientists have endured since 1988, when the release phase of the experiment ended.

"Even if the initial phases of the imprinting worked," Shaver says, "if imprinting is more prolonged, so that the hatchling's trip out from the surf into the ocean currents is important, then we've short-circuited that part of it."

Even so, each nesting season—April through July—Shaver organizes volunteers to patrol the 60-mile-long beach at Padre Island to look for nesting ridleys. It's a lot of sand to canvass effectively, but these patrols will help to accurately gauge the outcome of the nesting experiment.

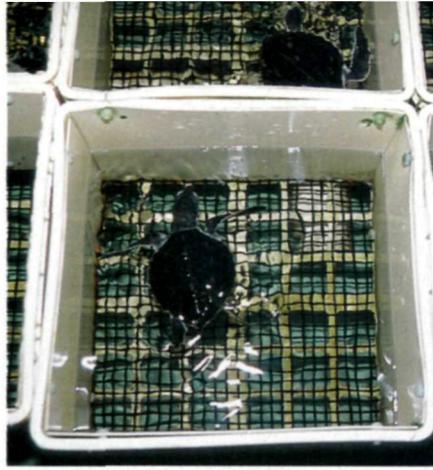
A crucial element to the success of both the Padre Island nesting project and the conservation work at Rancho Nuevo is the legal effort to control accidental catches by the U.S. shrimping industry.

Every season, thousands of U.S. shrimp trawlers ply the coastal waters and rolling swells of the Gulf of Mexico. The shrimpers haul bulging, dripping nets on deck for sorting, separating the shrimp out by hand and tossing back the bycatch. Most of this bycatch is returned to the Gulf dead. The rare sea turtles have been the most politically visible part of this loss. Turtles netted in the trawling operations, which may last for hours, drown when they are unable to come up for air. Some observers maintain there is much more at stake with bycatch than even the protection of endangered species.

"When we went into negotiations with the shrimping industry some years ago, they were insistent that bycatch not be an item for discussion," says Jack Woody, national sea turtle coordinator with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "Because we were concentrating on, and our authority was for, endangered species, we agreed. But there are 10 to 20 pounds of bycatch per pound of shrimp, if not more, and there are hundreds of species involved. It's an unbelievable waste. Bycatch is a sleeping giant."

According to Woody, a number of commercially valuable species are beginning to suffer. "There's a tremendous problem with red snapper, for instance, and it focuses right back on the shrimp industry taking out the sub-adults and juveniles."

In an attempt to confront the problem, the NMFS designed several versions of a device known variously as a turtle excluder device, a trawling efficiency device, or simply a TED. The metal grill or grid made of netting di-



NMFS: GALVESTON LABORATORY, TED WILLIAMS



C. ALLAN MORGAN



C. ALLAN MORGAN

verts turtles but allows smaller catch to pass through. But, shrimpers complain, the devices also exclude as much as a third of the shrimp. The NMFS maintains that the loss of shrimp is negligible in many cases. Shrimpers are unconvinced, but as demonstrated by its literature, the fisheries service is less than sympathetic: "Economic losses caused by TEDs are not legally relevant under the Endangered Species Act. TEDs represent an alternative means for continuing shrimping without violating the act."

Since 1990, TEDs have been required on all shrimp trawls. Enforcement has been effective, so far, and revisions have been suggested to extend seasonal requirements and the area covered, according to Karen Holtz, a fishery management specialist with the NMFS.

Even with strict protections in place, not all of the 12,000 turtles released will live to breed. Burchfield says that captive-bred turtles would have a better than one percent survival rate, but could not say by how much.

Woody says that getting as many as ten animals in a season would be a sign that the experiment has taken hold. Burchfield says that to call the Padre Island experiment a success will require seeing "three or four Kemp's ridleys come in within a short time span—something that's not an incidental turtle here or there." These are surprisingly modest numbers and give insight into the importance and excitement attending the recent nesting at Padre Island.

Reviewing a lifetime's advocacy for the Kemp's ridley just before his death in 1987, Archie Carr, the leading authority on sea turtle biology, wrote, "The outlook for Kemp's ridley is now virtually hopeless." And so it looked, just a few years ago, even to the most dedicated partisans. But the current generation of conservationists, building on Carr's work, is beginning to see signs that their efforts to understand and preserve the Kemp's ridley may yet succeed.

"We're lucky," says Owens, "in the sense that the turtles still have a lot of genetic diversity. Even though the population is small, I think that because of their long lifetimes—40 to 50 years—we've got the remnants of the genetic diversity of perhaps 100,000 turtles. If we can protect these animals there's a very strong chance of recovery."

"Some years ago, I was very pessimistic," Woody says. "Right now, I'm not. If we continue to use TEDs and the Rancho Nuevo operation continues, I think the species is going to come back."

*Franklin Hoke is a free-lance writer who lives in Princeton, New Jersey.*

# Natural Passages

*NPS manages thousands of miles of trails that offer both scenic and historic routes.*

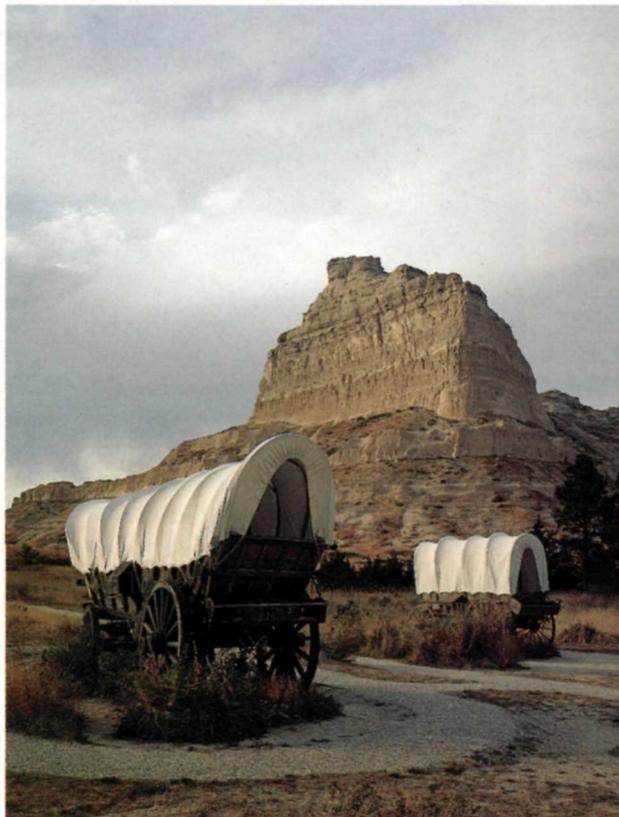
By Jennifer Seher

**T**HE NATIONAL PARK Service protects not only millions of acres of forests, mountainlands, and meadows but also thousands of miles of linear preserves designated as scenic and historic trails. The Park Service has been responsible for managing most of the country's national scenic and historic trails since the establishment in 1968 of the National Trails Act. The act was passed largely through the efforts of supporters of the Appalachian Trail—the granddaddy of long-distance trails. Both the Appalachian, which runs from Maine to Georgia along the ridge of the Appalachian Mountains, and the Pacific Crest Trail, which follows a north-south course through the mountain ranges of the West Coast, were conceived early in the 20th century.

Dedicated trail users and builders established these routes, but growing development pressures threatened continuity and integrity. Protection of the trails led to the consideration of similar, though lesser known, corridors. Today, the Park Service manages a dozen of the 17 long-distance trails, of which five are national scenic

trails and seven are national historic trails, a status added in 1978. Whether you walk a short segment or trek the entire distance, each trail offers the op-

**Covered wagons on the Oregon Trail.**



GREG RYAN/SALLY BEYER

portunity to explore the American landscape.

## **Oregon National Historic Trail**

National historic trails represent pieces of history that no single park unit or piece of literature could convey. The Oregon National Historic Trail, which extends 2,170 miles from the Missouri River at Independence, Missouri, to the Willamette River at Oregon City, Oregon, honors the determination of settlers heading west.

An estimated 300,000 emigrants—driven from the Midwest by a depression in the 1830s—followed the Oregon Trail. The route, which took settlers five months to travel, became the single greatest path for western expansion. While the trail never was developed into an improved road—emigrants never expected to retrace their steps—towns, villages, and military posts sprang up along the way. Pioneers who were sidetracked along the route to Oregon and California settled much of the country's interior.

Today, only 15 percent of the original route is intact, and NPS has made it possible to explore portions that remain. Auto tour tapes and guidebooks lead the Oregon Trail visitor to 125 historic sites and seven segments, totaling 318 miles. Most of the developed trail, called the South Pass Segment, lies along a 125-mile stretch across the western portion of Wyoming. The South Pass crosses the Continental Divide and marked the halfway point for travelers. This section, managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), follows the Sweetwater River through the lower Rocky Mountain pass and provides an excellent opportunity for those who want to explore it on foot or on horseback.

The trail offers the chance to tour historic forts, such as Fort Boise in Idaho, visit hot springs, or see the graves of those who died along the way. Symbolic

pioneer wagons mark the trail, but a brochure map is essential to finding many of the sites and to understanding this linear, open-air museum.

Brochures and information can be obtained at centers along the way. The most comprehensive public information is available at the National Frontier Trails Center in the City of Independence, Missouri. Located near the point at which the Oregon, Sante Fe, and California trails set out from the Missouri River, the center houses a museum, auditorium, and archives of pioneer materials related to all three trails.

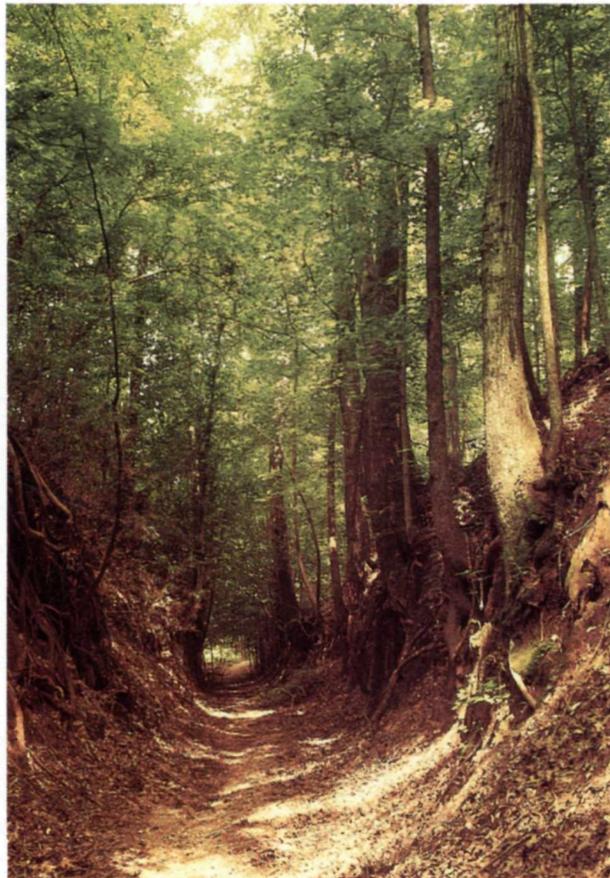
For more information about the Oregon Trail, contact the Oregon-California Trail Association, P.O. Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051-0519; (816) 252-2276; or the NPS Pacific Northwest Regional Office, Recreation Programs, 83 South King Street, Suite 212, Seattle, WA 98104; (206) 442-4720.

### Overmountain Victory Trail

While the Oregon Trail documents a significant era of history, the Overmountain Victory Trail bears tribute to one event. The trail marks a pivotal point in the Revolutionary War—a 14-day trek of patriots to evict the British from the South.

During the autumn of 1780 Virginia militia crossed the Appalachian Mountains to defeat British troops at the Battle of Kings Mountain. It was a battle Thomas Jefferson would call “the joyful announcement of that turn of the tide of success, which terminated the Revolutionary War with the seal of independence.” It was less than a year later that the British were forced to surrender at Yorktown.

Today, only a 20-mile mountain crossing, a small segment of the original 313-mile route, remains a foot trail. The trail starts in the historic district of Abingdon, Virginia, and heads south through Tennessee into North Carolina,



ROBERT CUSHMAN HAYS

### Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail.

across the Blue Ridge Parkway, and zigzags south and east into South Carolina where it ends at Kings Mountain State Park. Seven walking areas have been developed to approximate portions of the original route. With a guide or route map in hand, the trail can be followed closely on country roads that meander through the Appalachian countryside. The roadway is marked, and trailside exhibits, while few and far between, help to bring the patriots' march alive.

Roan Mountain State Park is of particular interest and provides an opportunity to hike part of the militia's estimated route on the second day of the march. The park is on the Doe River near the town of Roan Mountain, Tennessee. It is in a valley at the base of Yellow Mountain, Round Bald, and Roan High Knob.

From this valley, soldiers climbed up Yellow Mountain Road to cross

the Appalachians at Yellow Mountain Gap. Today, the Blue Ridge Parkway provides easy access to the same site. The gap, elevation 4,682 feet, marks the point at which the Overmountain Victory Trail crosses the Appalachian Trail.

For more information, contact the Overmountain Victory Trail Association, c/o P.O. Box 632, Manassas Park, VA 22111, or NPS Southeast Regional Office, Planning and Compliance Division, 75 Spring Street, S.W., Atlanta, GA 30303; (404) 331-5465.

### Natchez Trace Trail

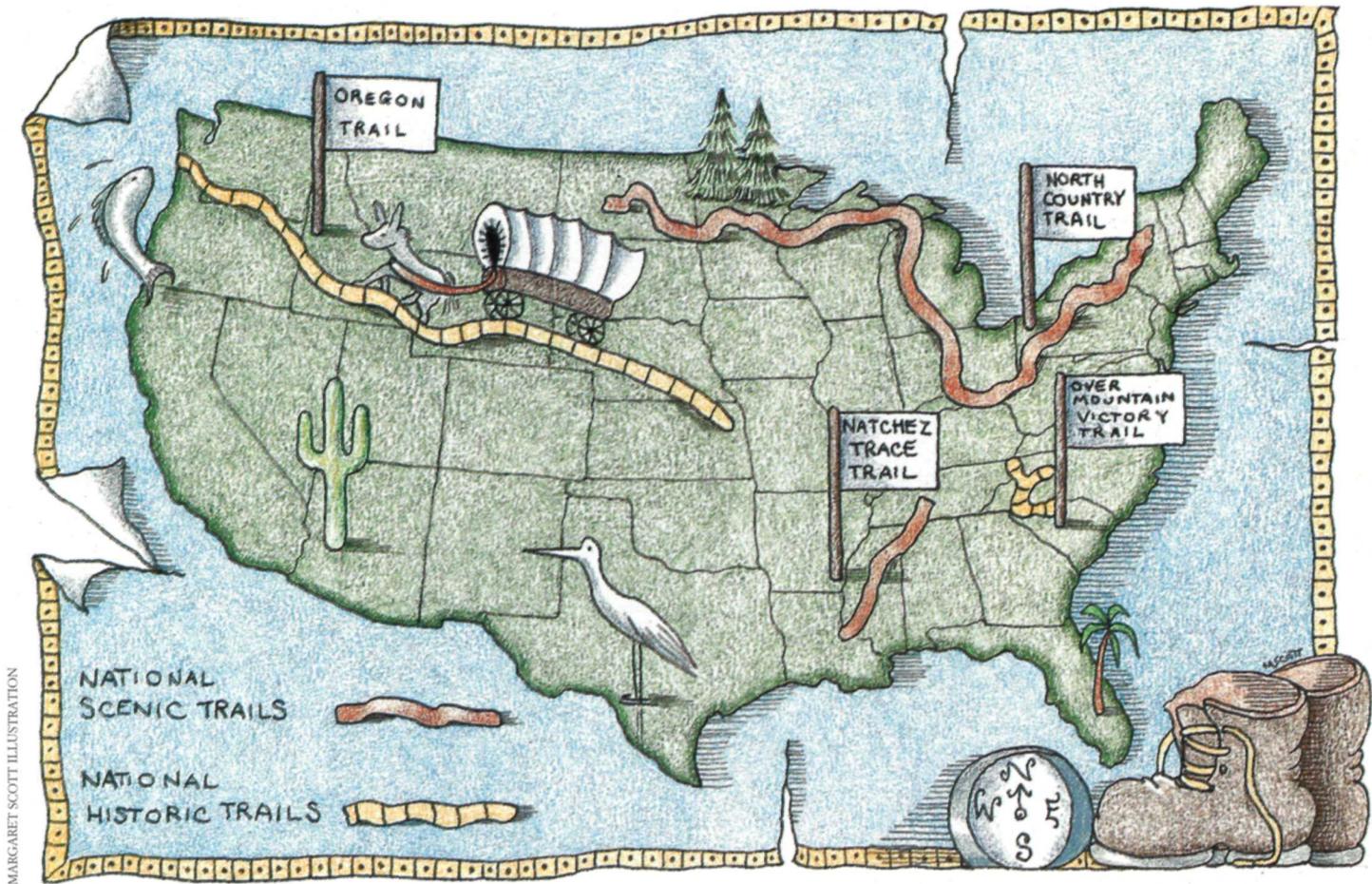
Visitors have toured the length of the 450-mile Natchez Trace Parkway unit of the National Park Service since its dedication in 1938. The road winds across beautiful rolling hills between Nashville, Tennessee, and Natchez, Mississippi, following the historic Natchez Trace. The trace evolved from an animal path, to a Native American hunting route,

to an important transport road for Tennessee valley farmers in the late 18th century.

The two-lane road—designated a scenic trail in 1983—offers a beautiful drive, access to many historic sites, and glimpses of the old trace. The established roadway and its existing camping and visitor sites provide many of the basic facilities for trail users.

Work to develop three segments of the trace's corridor for public access is under way. A 65-mile segment in the Natchez, Mississippi, area will offer hiking and horseback riding and provide access to the trace's longest preserved section. The preserved section, which is three miles long, passes through a natural tunnel of trees on a permanently bare forest floor, bearing witness to the path's hundreds of years of use. Work on the two other segments near Jackson and Nashville began last year and are expected to open in 1992.

Currently, cyclists can tour the entire length of the parkway, for which a



MARGARET SCOTT ILLUSTRATION

guidebook is available. The guide indicates the areas at which several sections of paths provide a more intimate experience with the trace's landscape.

More information on Natchez Trace is available from the Natchez Trace Trail Conference, P.O. Box 6579, Jackson, MS 39282; (601) 373-1447 or the National Park Service, Natchez Trace Parkway, Rural Route 1, NT-143, Tupelo, MS 38801; (601) 842-1572.

### North Country Scenic Trail

The 3,240-mile north country trail is the only east-west national scenic trail in the system. Conceived in the mid-60s and designated in 1980, the trail follows the example of the north-south ridge trails in protecting an extensive natural corridor, but its unique features put it in a class by itself.

The trail starts in New York's Adirondack mountains and passes through Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota before it

reaches the Missouri River in North Dakota. The trail connects population centers, rolling farmlands, lakeshores, and remote forests.

Relatively gentle terrain makes the trail accessible year-round. It's within a half day's drive of more than 100 million people, and only a two-and-a-half-hour drive from Chicago, the capital of the Midwest. While primarily a hiking trail, sections are open to horseback riding and biking. In the winter, skiers and snowshoers trek over portions of the trail.

Today, about one-third of the trail is marked and officially open to the public. These segments pass through seven national forests: the Allegheny in Pennsylvania; the Wayne-Hoosier in Ohio; the Manistee, Hiawatha, and Ottawa in Michigan; the Chequamegon in Wisconsin; and the Chippewa in Minnesota. The trail also passes through Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in Michigan.

Last year, 50,000 people walked across the Mackinac Bridge—where the trail passes between Michigan's lower and upper peninsulas—to celebrate the route's Tenth anniversary. Efforts to protect a continuous corridor are ongoing. The North Country Trail Association, a 500-member organization established in 1980, promotes the route and works to develop it. The trail crosses lands that fall under a variety of owners, making successful public-private management partnerships crucial to its completion and maintenance. Camping facilities are available along most of the trail. Information is available through the North Country Trail Association, P.O. Box 311, White Cloud, MI 49349; (616) 689-1912, or the NPS North Country National Scenic Trail, P.O. Box 5463, Madison, WI 53705-0463; (608) 833-2788.

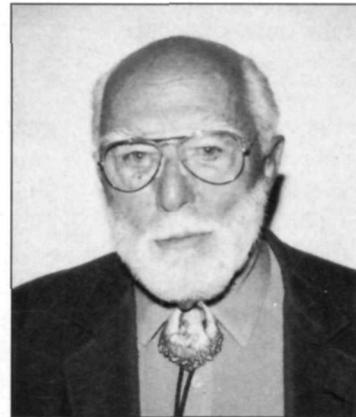
*Jennifer Seber is NPCA's grassroots coordinator.*

# TRIBUTE TO EXCELLENCE

## Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award

Presented by NPCA and the Faultless Starch/Bon Ami Co., this award recognizes outstanding efforts resulting in protection of a unit or a proposed unit of the National Park System. The award is named in honor of Marjory Stoneman Douglas, who devoted many years to preserving the fragile ecosystem of the Florida Everglades.

**FRANK E. MASLAND, JR.**, the 1990 recipient, has been a leader in preserving national and state parklands for more than 50 years. His tireless efforts helped establish many parks, including Gulf Islands, Padre Island, Canyonlands, and the Everglades, as units in the National Park System.



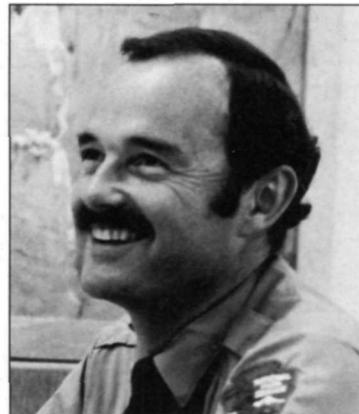
*Frank E. Masland, Jr.*

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## Stephen Tyng Mather Award

The Stephen Tyng Mather Award, named for the first director of the National Park Service, is presented by NPCA and the Faultless Starch/Bon Ami Co. in recognition of a Park Service employee who has risked his or her job or career for the principles and practices of good stewardship.

The 1990 recipient is **BOYD EVISON**, regional director of the National Park Service in Alaska. As the Exxon Valdez oil spill of 1989 threatened Alaska's fragile coastline, he took immediate action to minimize damage despite political pressures to avoid involvement.



LORETTA NEUMANN/NPS PHOTO

*Boyd Evison*



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

The Faultless Starch/Bon Ami Company has actively supported the efforts of organizations such as NPCA for more than 100 years and will continue to work toward the goal of preserving our natural resources for future generations.

# Game Wars

A CERTAIN WEARINESS comes from reading Marc Reisner's new book that has nothing to do with the writing. Reisner is a talented voice who will further the cause of conservation through *Game Wars: The Undercover Pursuit of Wildlife Poachers*. The overwhelming fatigue comes from sadness and from the realization that our arrogance as a species is choking the planet slowly to death.

Poaching is the focus of Reisner's book, a story in which Greed plays a starring role. While Reisner's writing style is a pleasure—an interesting cross between the irreverence of Hunter S. Thompson and the diligence and charm of John McPhee—his message is a horror. He constructs an adventure story, and if it were only that, it would be a marvelous one. But he goes beyond a simple plot to report on one of the most serious crimes affecting the nation's and perhaps the world's parklands. Poaching has become so prevalent in some African nations that elephants are no longer commonplace on the plains or in the parks. "In South Africa, the most developed country on the continent, only about 8,000 elephants survive, nearly all of which are inside Kruger National Park."

Reisner conveys his message through undercover agent extraordinaire Dave Hall, a man who works not only to bring the evil-hearted to justice, but also to transform them through education. Reisner takes us on a journey with Hall as he follows the bloody trail of alligators slaughtered for their skins, elk shot for their antlers, and walrus mowed down with AK-47s for their tusks. From the swamp rats, ne'er do-wells, and small town big shots who actually do the killing, to the cultured businessmen and

manicured millionaires who do the buying, we follow the poaching game from the bayous of Louisiana to the export warehouses of Manhattan.

This is a story in which the bad guys are really bad, and the good guys are not always so clear-cut. A bad guy, who plays a key role in the book's chapter on ivory, has a penchant for fast cash and 15-year-old Eskimo girls. But if girls are unavailable, boys will do, and Seal-skin Charlie apparently has even crossed species lines to have his way with the occasional sled dog.

Poachers are not the only ones tainted by the lure of gold. The justice system, the government, and many within the Fish and Wildlife Service partake of poaching's poisoned profits. Reisner, focusing on Hall, tells the tragic tale of *homo sapiens* running amok in the bayous of Louisiana, the wilderness of Alaska, and the remote parks of eastern Africa. Through the exploits of U.S. Fish and Wildlife agent Hall, Reisner describes the unending slaughter of ducks, alligators, elephants, walrus, and just about anything that will yield a skin, relinquish an antler, or surrender a body part that will garner a profit. It's the kind of slaughter that made Nero famous.

*Game Wars* is not a story for the squeamish, although Reisner does not revel in poaching's gore. It's a story that makes you sick at heart. It is also a story that will make your blood boil with anger, or at least it should, and that, undoubtedly, is Reisner's plan.

Reisner, for many years a staff writer at the Natural Resources Defense Council, does a fine job of explaining the problem of poaching on a human level. Poverty, ignorance, and a lifestyle that cares only about today contribute

to the problem. But none of us is innocent. Reisner describes the sort of system that punishes a criminal for stealing a television set, but congratulates the consumer for buying a hot product at a bargain price.

There always will be a breed of people interested in making fast money, whether the method involves poaching animals, selling cocaine, or selling children for sex. Fortunately for us, there also are people interested in doing the right thing. Dave Hall is intent on stopping the slaughter and hell-bent on converting the sinners. Hall is a non-stop proselytizer for the cause of conservation, and Reisner is a dedicated scribe. Most of Hall's efforts are focused in Louisiana, where poaching seems inherent because of good-ol'-boy corruption in the state and local systems of justice and government. We spend our time knee-deep in swamps, chasing petty and big-time criminals. We get a close-up look at people who will drain a lake of thousands of fish and sell the free catch at exorbitant prices to people who can ill afford it.

We congratulate Hall for having the conviction and backbone to do a very dirty job at a high personal price. He seems to work constantly, spend little time with his family, and receive small monetary reward. But Hall is no superman. Reisner describes the agent as his co-workers see him.

"Among his colleagues in the law-enforcement branch of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Dave Hall is widely admired for his abilities, but also regarded by some—even by some who admire him—as an arrogant, holier-than-thou, willful, opinionated, pathologically driven, and hopelessly egotistical son of a bitch." And, after reading Reisner's book, we may be glad we don't work with Hall, but can take heart in the words of a former U.S. president who once said of a Latin American dictator, "He may be a son of a bitch, but he's our son of a bitch."

*Game Wars*, by Marc Reisner, hardcover, \$19.95; published by Viking Penguin, a division of Penguin Books USA Inc., of New York City.

—Linda Rancourt

# IF A TREE FALLS IN THE SIERRA WILL ANYBODY HEAR IT?

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We hope that local and government agencies as well as the concerned public will be alert to this alternative solution.

We owe it to the environment to listen.



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## Corporate Sponsor Program

The National Parks and Conservation Association wishes to thank the following corporations, which provide generous support for the preservation of our national parks through the Corporate Sponsor Program. The list includes companies that gave \$1,000 or more between July 1, 1990, and June 30, 1991.

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To find out more about how you can become an NPCA corporate sponsor, please contact:

Jane Ryan, Grants Coordinator  
National Parks and Conservation  
Association  
1015 31st Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20007

## NOTICES

### Learning Tools at a Discount

The Park Education Center (PEC) is a service program designed to benefit NPCA members as well as the public by offering educational tools such as books, guides, and videos on national parks.

Members receive discounts on all purchases through PEC, which serves as a source of information about the national parks. The money generated through PEC directly supports NPCA programs. Members also receive reduced rates on T-shirts, mugs, bags, and other gift items bearing the NPCA logo. *National Parks* will carry the PEC holiday shopping guide in the November/December issue.

For more information on the Park Education Center and NPCA products, contact Marlena Kelly, PEC coordinator, at 1-800-NAT-PARK.

### Take Charge of the Parks

NPCA would like to thank all of our members who signed up for the NPCA MasterCard. More than \$100,000 has been generated through the credit card in 1991. NPCA receives a percentage from the Bank of Baltimore every time the cards are used. Cardholders receive the low interest rate of 16.9 percent.

The NPCA MasterCard allows you to choose which program you would like to fund—environmental education, wildlife protection, or cultural heritage protection—to preserve and defend national parks.

Members with the cultural heritage NPCA MasterCard helped to establish important cultural sites like the Weir Farm National Historic Site in Ridgefield, Connecticut, home of painter J. Alden Weir and the center of American impressionism.

Cardholders supporting the wildlife programs helped NPCA play an integral part in expanding park boundaries to preserve natural habitats. Recently, NPCA helped to expand the Everglades National Park by 107,500 acres. NPCA's wildlife program has actively supported

the reintroduction of gray wolves to Yellowstone National Park.

Cardholders who support the environmental education programs help fund NPCA's work to develop school curricula and slide presentations that teach children about the delicate balance of nature and the important role of the national parks.

Nancy Hughes and Roy Bechtel were the winners of our MasterCard "Vacation Giveaway." Both enjoyed a vacation in the national park of their choice, courtesy of Off-the-Beaten-Path travel consultants.

Help continue NPCA's work in critical environmental programs by charging your purchases on the NPCA MasterCard. For those interested in obtaining a card, look for your NPCA credit card application in the mail, or call 1-800-252-9002.

### Workplace Giving

Federal employees can once again donate to NPCA through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), a program that encourages employees to contribute to charities through payroll deductions. NPCA is part of the Environmental Federation of America, a CFC federation which is made up of 27 major environmental groups. Federal employees may designate NPCA (agency #0910) on their CFC pledge forms or donate to a combination of environmental groups in the federation.

NPCA received more than \$300,000 in 1990 from the CFC program.

Nearly \$20,000 has been collected from state employee campaigns in 1990. The following states have included NPCA in their workplace giving programs: Connecticut, Florida, Michigan, North Carolina, Rhode Island, and Washington. NPCA continues to apply for inclusion in other state employee campaigns.

If you're a state or federal employee, please remember the national parks by donating to NPCA.

## Educating the World

NPCA recently donated dozens of books to the National Zoo. The scientific and wildlife books will aid an outreach project directed toward developing countries.

The National Zoo is working to supply needy countries with information about conservation and other environmental issues to preserve the world for future generations.

NPCA encourages other companies and organizations to donate unwanted books in order to promote education as well as recycling.

## Evaluating the Parks

To celebrate the the 75th anniversary of the National Park Service, "Our National Parks," a symposium examining the challenges and strategies for the 21st century, will be held October 7-10 in Vail, Colorado.

More than 600 people will gather at the conference to explore environmental leadership, resource steward-

ship, park use and enjoyment, and organizational renewal. Three hundred participants from within the National Park Service are expected to attend, while the remaining 300 spots are open to the public.

Leaders from the National Park Service, resource management agencies, the academic community, and public and private sectors will contribute recommendations for the future of the national parks. For registration information, contact Lennon Hooper with NPS, Rocky Mountain Region, at (303) 969-2191.

## Public Awareness

NPCA will be distributing literature to promote public awareness of its mission to defend and preserve national parks at the Eco Expo September 6-9 in New York City. The exposition features environmentally sound products and services. *National Parks* readers who would like to attend will receive an admission discount at the Jacob Javits Convention Center by presenting this notice.

## Let the Good Times Roll

NPCA's 12th annual dinner will be held November 21 at the Westin Hotel in Washington, D.C. Members are invited to join us for dinner.

Proceeds from the event will aid NPCA's goal to preserve and protect national parks. For more information, contact Diane Clifford at 1015 31st Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20007, or call 1-800-NAT-PARK.

## Employee Matching

Encourage your employer to support NPCA and watch your gift multiply. Many companies will match employee donations, and some companies may double or even triple your gift to NPCA.

Last year 88 IBM employees participated in NPCA's matching gift program. IBM matched their donations, contributing nearly \$7,000 to NPCA. NPCA expects to reach IBM's \$10,000 maximum annual matching-gift donation by the end of 1991.

# THE MATHER SOCIETY

The Mather Society involves dedicated members and friends of NPCA who, by their annual general contribution of \$1,000 or more, continue to ensure the thoughtful stewardship of our National Park System through their leadership and activism. We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals whose generous support enables us to continue the fine tradition of Stephen Tyng Mather, the first director of the National Park Service and one of the founders of NPCA.

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“I wrote to Save the Children, asking to sponsor a little girl. Now little Ana’s photo is where it belongs, with our other family pictures.

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“We like how Save the Children makes our contributions work with other sponsors’ rather than just giving handouts directly to individual children. The field reports *show* us how we’ve helped Ana’s own village give her the things she needs.

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**Do what Soffia Polhemus did. Give a needy child your loving help. Just say...**

**YES**, I want to become a Save the Children sponsor. My first monthly contribution of \$20 is enclosed. I prefer to sponsor a  boy  girl  either in the area I’ve checked below.

- Where the need is greatest**
- Africa
  - American Indian
  - Asia
  - Caribbean
  - Himalayas
  - Central America
  - Middle East
  - South America
  - United States

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Please send me more information.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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NT 91

# Shop Now for the Holidays and Back-to-School with Woody Woodpecker and NPCA . . .



**NEW!** These beautifully designed 100% cotton T-shirts and cotton/poly sweatshirts make excellent gifts for yourself and loved ones. Sizes: S, M, L, XL.

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Clothing and totes designed to help you enjoy the outdoors as you display with pride the NPCA logo.

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**NEW! It's Only a Matter of Time . . .**

NPCA is proud to present to its membership a limited-edition watch featuring the bobcat, one of more than 780 threatened and endangered animal species. This handsome collector's item, which can be worn by both men and women, has a mineral glass crystal face with quartz 3-hand movement, a black leather band, and gold-tone case. It comes with a sleek gold-tipped velvet pouch with a fact card on the bobcat and a 3-year warranty.

This edition of the endangered species watch featuring the bobcat is **extremely limited**. Fewer than 100 were made, so you must act **NOW** to obtain this watch at the \$47.90 issue price. **All orders must be placed by October 5.**

**NPCA Limited-Edition Bobcat Watch, LEBC1, \$47.90.**



**NPCA member discount prices shown in parentheses**

WWS091

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Item Number	Quantity	Title/Description	Size/Color	Price	Total

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Telephone orders: Call **1-800-NAT-PARK**

All in-stock items will be shipped within 48 hours after receipt of order.



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6 + items - \$5.50

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**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

WWS091

# Outcroppings

**G**EOLGY WAS CALLED a descriptive science, and with its pitted outwash plains and drowned rivers, its hanging tributaries and starved coastlines, it was nothing if not descriptive. It was a fountain of metaphor—of isostatic adjustments and degraded channels, of angular unconformities and shifting divides, of rootless mountains and bitter lakes. Streams eroded headward, digging from two sides into mountain or hill, avidly struggling toward each other until the divide between them broke down, and the two rivers that did the breaking now became confluent (one yielding to the other,

giving up its direction of flow and going the opposite way) to become a single stream. Stream capture. In the Sierra Nevada, the Yuba had captured the Bear. The Macho member of a formation in New Mexico was derived in large part from the solution and collapse of another formation. There was fatigued rock and incompetent rock and inequigranular fabric in rock. If you bent or folded rock, the inside of the curve was in a state of compression, the outside of the curve was under great tension, and somewhere in the middle was the surface of no strain. Thrust fault, reverse fault, normal fault—the two

sides were active in every fault. The inclination of a slope on which boulders would stay put was the angle of repose. There seemed, indeed, to be more than a little of the humanities in this subject.

*Excerpted from Outcroppings, offered through NPCA's Park Education Center, hardcover, \$22.95, plus shipping and handling \$3.50; text originally is from Basin and Range, by John McPhee, published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux, Inc.; photographs by Tom Till. Published by Gibbs-Smith Publisher, Peregrine Smith Books, P.O. Box 667, Layton, UT 84041.*



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“Geologists communicated in English; and they could name things in a manner that sent shivers through the bones...The far out stuff was in the Far West of the country—wild, weirdsma, a leatherjacket geology in mirrored shades...” from McPhee’s *Basin and Range*. Badlands on the Wyoming plains, at left, and sandstone forms on the Colorado Plateau, below.



# RECYCLING TIME



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