

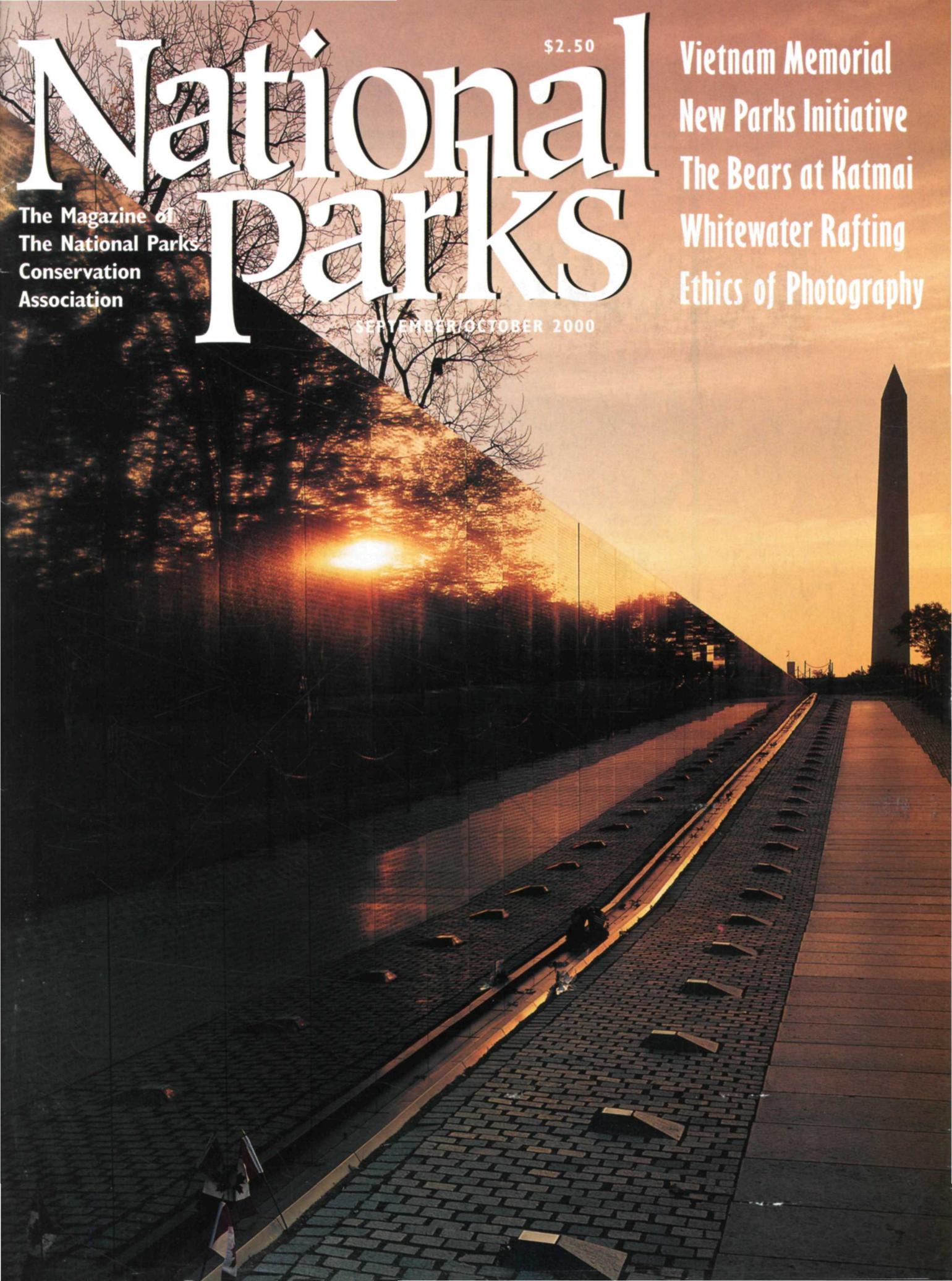
National Parks

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The Magazine of
The National Parks
Conservation
Association

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2000

Vietnam Memorial
New Parks Initiative
The Bears at Katmai
Whitewater Rafting
Ethics of Photography



The Wetlands That Almost Disappeared.

In southern Louisiana, a vital wildlife breeding ground was endangered. Freshwater wetlands



were vanishing. Leveeing along the Mississippi River had reduced the influx of fresh water and silt. But

then, people working nearby partnered with the Fish and Wildlife Service to carve channels into the levees. Hundreds of acres in the Delta National Wildlife Refuge were restored. And so was nature's glorious nursery.

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National parks

Vol. 74, No. 9-10
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The Magazine of the National Parks
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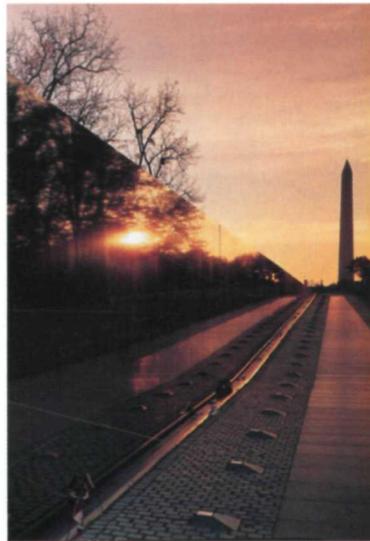
FEATURES

20 War and Remembrance
For nearly 20 years, visitors have left thousands of letters, medals, and other offerings at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., artifacts that have become as much a part of the memorial as the Wall itself. These items present some interpretive challenges for the Park Service.
By William A. Updike

26 The Next Generation
NPCA is recommending that ten new park sites be added to the 379-unit National Park System and another five existing parks be expanded. Encompassing both wildlands and historic sites, the list includes parks based on the Yellowstone model as well as innovative partnerships between the federal government and local communities.
By Todd Wilkinson

32 Too Close for Comfort
Each year, thousands of visitors travel to Katmai National Park's Brooks River to view brown bears feeding on salmon, and some experts fear that increased bear-human interaction spells trouble. A Park Service plan that would have allayed some of the concerns has been derailed by politics.
By Bill Sherwonit

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COVER: The Washington Monument stands above the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, which bears the names of 58,219 Americans who died in the war. Photo by Tom Till.



CHRISTOPHER SMITH

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OUTLOOK

Self-Expression

National parks represent our collective expression and also enhance our personal stories.

OUR NATIONAL parks are the collective expression of what we value as a nation. They also have the power to touch each of us in a personal way.

There is, for example, a story behind each of the 58,219 names on the monument in Washington, D.C., that honors those who served and died in Vietnam. One of these stories belongs to my father, Lt. Col. Joseph Kiernan, who died in a helicopter crash during his second tour of duty. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial (See story, page 20), a unit of the National Park System, is a historical attraction for some visitors and a personal voyage of discovery for others. In my case, it keeps the child in me connected to the values and struggles of a man I loved, but never really knew. A visit to the memorial with my family gives me the opportunity to reflect on an important era of history, and, equally important, to keep the memory of my children's grandfather alive. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial touches my soul, tells my story, and helps me transmit my values to my daughter and sons.

On a different level, so does Grand Canyon National Park. A celebration of awe-inspiring beauty, it, too, offers opportunities for introspection. I have kayaked the Colorado River twice and hiked the canyon many times. During these trips, I have explored its depths and my own. One evening, as I lay next to the river in the Nankoweap Canyon below the ancient cliff dwellings and looked up at the stars, three members of



the Boston Symphony Orchestra played their instruments at a nearby campsite. At that moment, I realized that the grandeur of nature and beauty created by human hands can, under certain circumstances, complement each other.

Teddy Roosevelt was right when he said of the

Grand Canyon, "Leave it as it is. You cannot improve on it, not a bit. The ages have been at work on it, and man can only mar it." We cannot improve on it, but we can learn to better understand and appreciate it.

Which of the parks tells your story? Which comes to mind in hectic moments when your spirit longs for refreshment? If we were to poll our members, each park would have an advocate.

Sadly, each could also be under attack. One piece of legislation threatens to build an unnecessary road through Denali; another attempts to undermine efforts to limit the use of snowmobiles in the parks. And systemwide budgets are stretched too thin to protect irreplaceable resources.

If you haven't already joined NPCA's electronic action network, visit our web site at www.npca.org. National parks will be protected if, and only if, all of us are willing to take action. Without your action, your soul may not be touched, your story may not be told, or that which you value for yourself and for your family may not be protected.

**Thomas C. Kiernan
President**

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Vanishing Spaces

MANY OF US HAVE witnessed a favorite plot of land absorbed by a commercial strip, a special beach overwhelmed by motels, or a formerly open field filled with new homes. Some growth and development is inevitable. But each time a plot of land or a stand of trees disappears beneath a shopping mall, another opportunity evaporates.

As the population continues to grow, more and more open spaces will disappear. And while the field or beach you were especially attached to may not be nationally significant, imagine if it were. And imagine if the opportunity to save that land were gone forever.

In June, NPCA released a report outlining its initiative to set aside ten new parks and expand five existing ones. (See story, page 26.) One of these sites, the Loess Hills in Iowa, was identified by NPCA as nationally significant in its 1988 National Park System Plan. The area is no less so today. Other sites include the Gaviota Coast in California and Bioluminescent Bay in Puerto Rico. One of the cultural areas suggested is the boyhood home in Massachusetts of W.E.B. DuBois, a co-founder of the NAACP. Currently, no site within the system represents this man's contributions to the civil rights movement.

The National Park System represents our country's best natural, historical, and cultural places. The system, like the history it represents, will never be complete; it will constantly evolve.

NPCA's list, itself, is not complete. Even so, it offers a beginning, and a strong one, toward protecting some of these places. The 21st century affords us the opportunity to continue the good works begun over the last 100 years.

We must set aside these areas to preserve dwindling natural resources and biodiversity as well as the evidence of history that is too easily swallowed up in the name of progress.

Linda M. Rancourt
Editor-in-Chief

National parks

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ABOUT NPCA

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

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

WHAT WE STAND FOR:

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

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

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

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

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

our grassroots coordinator, extension 222.

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

HOW TO REACH US: National Parks Conservation Association, 1300 19th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036; by phone: 1-800-NAT-PARK; by e-mail: npca@npca.org; and www.npca.org.



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Petrified Forest, Livestock, Snowmobiles

Petrified Pilfering

When my sister and I were 12 and 13, my parents dragged us on a long driving vacation to Tucson, Arizona. After reading "Petrified Pilfering" [May/June 2000], I remembered how impressed I was not only with the Petrified Forest, but also with my father.

While we were in the middle of the "wonderness" and wilderness of the park, my sister and I thought it would be neat to bring a souvenir piece of petrified wood back to our friends. My father, very much out of character, told us how important it was that we not disturb what nature had created, that every piece of wood played a part in the total creation of the park's beauty, and that we should honor that beauty by leaving it exactly as we found it.

I looked at my father very differently after that day, making a commitment to get to know him better. Today, I realize that much of my respect for the Earth and concern for the environment may have had their beginnings in that one moment in time when I not only was blessed with seeing the magnificence of the park, but also learned the hidden "secret beauty" of my father.

Adele Lanan
New Buffalo, MI



The Beef with Livestock

As an environmental professional and a resident of the Rocky Mountain region for 38 years, I am very much in agreement that livestock grazing in national parks is ecologically destructive, economically irresponsible, and incompatible with the purposes for which the

parks were established ["The Beef with Livestock," May/June 2000].

But, the alternative of more "trophy homes," subdivisions, shopping malls, and "event" tents is worse. In my state of Colorado, thousands of acres of grazing land are swallowed every year. What were once grazing lands and hay meadows are now flooded with McDonald's golden arches, KFC banners, and real estate signs offering 35-acre lots "under" some outrageous price.

The only short-range or long-range solution to the cattle quandary is acquisition of all grazing lands in national parks by either the Park Service or private conservation organizations. Obviously, the necessary funding could not be obtained from a Republican-dominated Congress. However, for matchless splendors like the Tetons, it might not be so difficult to find Rockefeller successors or "dot com" billionaires who could acquire the offending ranch lands out of petty cash.

Roger P. Hansen
Pagosa Springs, CO

Snowmobiles at Yellowstone

I support limiting the pollution and noise emission limits of vehicles used in Yellowstone National Park. However, because of the immense size of the park, banning all snowmobiles will effectively close the park in the winter. Yellowstone is simply too spectacular in the winter not to be seen.

The same noise and pollution arguments used to ban snowmobiles are also valid reasons to ban cars in Yellowstone. However, the reality of the situation is that the majority of Americans support the use of cars in the park. Therefore, banning cars will not happen in the foreseeable future.

I am an avid supporter of our national parks, forests, and monuments. However, I take issue with the notion that the only way to protect our parks is to ban, or severely limit, their use by all but a select few—who physically could cross-

country ski from any entrance of Yellowstone to Old Faithful.

Wayne L. Westfall
Plainfield, IL

EDITORIAL REPLY: The winter use plan that NPCA supports would provide vehicular access to the park through snowcoaches, modern ten to 12 person vans. Snowmobiles account for up to 90 percent of the park's annual hydrocarbon and 68 percent of the carbon monoxide emissions even though automobiles outnumber them 16 to one.

"YOU ARE HERE"

This park boasts the highest waterfall in North America—the fifth highest in the world. The park has five other waterfalls more than 1,000 feet high. Famous conservationist John Muir said: "This one noble park is big enough and rich enough for a whole life of study and aesthetic enjoyment."

California
Answer: Yosemite National Park,

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Park News

BY ELIZABETH G. DAERR

VISITOR USE

New ORV Plan at Big Cypress

New policy aims to curb habitat destruction in Florida preserve.

BIG CYPRESS N. PRES.—A new plan to manage off-road vehicles (ORVs), which are responsible for nearly 22,000 miles of rutted, undesignated trails throughout Big Cypress National Preserve in Florida, is scheduled to be implemented in October. The plan “could set the standard for sustainably managing high-impact recreational uses in national parks,” said Mary Munson, NPCA’s South Florida program director.

The National Park Service (NPS) aims to reverse the severe environmental damage caused by more than two decades of uncontrolled ORV use by hunters, anglers, and recreational users who crush vegetation and alter water-flow by driving their vehicles off designated trails. The vehicles vary in style: swamp buggies, which resemble dune buggies with large tractor tires; three-wheeled motorcycles, called all-terrain vehicles; and airboats that are used to navigate marshes in the southern part of the park. Although the plan retains the cap of 2,000 annual ORV permits and does not shorten the hunting seasons, it creates stricter guidelines for use of ORVs for those activities.

The new plan reduces the number of ORV entrances into the preserve from nearly 70 to 15. The many entrances



ORV users have created 22,000 miles of undesignated trails at Big Cypress.

made it impossible for park staff to monitor the number of vehicles going into the preserve. Vehicles will continue to need permits. In addition, users will be required to have a permit, which will be given after the applicant has attended a session on safe and environmentally appropriate methods for operating the vehicles in the preserve.

ORVs will be required to remain on several hundred miles of designated trails, and some areas will be off-limits during periods of the year. Marl prairies and endangered species habitat, such as that for the Cape Sable seaside sparrow, will be permanently closed.

Environmental and ORV interests have fought for nearly five years over the issue of ORVs at Big Cypress, and a lawsuit filed several years ago by the Florida Biodiversity Project, a local environmental group, was the catalyst for the new management plan.

“We expect the plan to be contro-

versial because it involves dramatic changes to how the park has been used in the past, but it needs to be done to protect the park for the future,” said newly appointed Big Cypress Superintendent John Donahue. He expects the ORV users to respond with a lawsuit, but he believes strongly that the new plan will stand up to a legal challenge.

In addition to allowing wildlife habitat to recover, the plan is also intended to make ORV management less of a burden for the park. Donahue said that just a handful of the preserve’s 500,000 annual visitors hold permits for ORVs, but managing their use takes the majority of his staff’s time. “Essentially all of our resources have been spent on management issues for 1,800 people for the last 25 years,” he said.

The plan affects 574,000 acres of the preserve. An additional 147,000 acres will have a separate ORV plan drawn up next year.

RESOURCE PROTECTION

Private Lands, Public Challenge

NPS continues its push to buy private land to protect parks.

GETTYSBURG, PA.—The last battle of Gettysburg ended with a plume of smoke from a Union soldier's canon and the collapse of a structure that looked like an air-traffic-control tower. In July, amid a crowd of supporters and Civil War reenactors, the National Park Service (NPS) razed a 390-foot observation tower, which loomed over the national battlefield since 1974 from an adjacent property.

After years of fruitless negotiations, NPS condemned the tower this year as part of a \$39-million restoration project for the battlefield. Gene Repoff, chief realty officer for the Park Service, says condemnation is used as a last resort.

The struggle to demolish the Gettysburg tower is an example of the challenges NPS faces to protect the cultural, historic, and scenic integrity of parks from private landowner interests.

Across the nation, the Park Service is engaged in battles with private landowners who want special access and other rights to accompany their private

land inside national park boundaries.

▲ At Glacier National Park in Montana, a landowner has filed suit against the Park Service for denying him winter access to his property by snowmobile even though the park has prohibited snowmobiles since 1975.

▲ At Biscayne National Park in Florida, owners of seven weekend houses built on stilts in the middle of the bay are pushing Congress to swap 1,200 acres of park waters, which include their properties, with an equal amount of less ecologically significant waters outside the park's boundary. They took this step after their long-term leases expired in 1999.

▲ Along the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park in Maryland, the Park Service is getting resistance from property owners who agreed years ago to leave at the end of long-term leases. Those leases are ready to expire, and the property owners are asking, with support from Rep. Roscoe Bartlett (R-Md.), to have them renewed even though the park's enabling legislation does not allow it.

The issues at Glacier and Biscayne may be decided within the year and could set precedents limiting the Park Service's ability to protect national parks. Allowing some special access to private inholdings could encourage additional requests and damage natural resources. Likewise, time-limited leases—often used as a tool to placate local

opposition to establishing parks—could become moot if Congress is willing to redraw park boundaries each time those leases expire.

These cases illustrate the difficulty the Park Service has encountered in trying to respect local residents' rights while fulfilling its mission to protect the parks. The Park Service has identified more than 1.7 million acres of private land that it hopes to purchase—at an estimated cost of \$1.4 billion—to maintain the historic and ecological integrity of the nation's parks. Unwilling sellers and a lack of funding have made acquiring many of these properties problematic, but the logistics of acquiring that much land has slowed the process as well.

“Even assuming that everyone wanted to sell and we had all the money today, it would still take years to acquire all that land,” said Repoff.

Nadine Leisz, program analyst for the Land Resources Division of the agency, concedes that money is often the deciding factor when sellers want more than the appraised fair market value. “Our role is twofold. We try to acquire land to protect the resources and historic landscapes of the park but also try to be good stewards to the taxpayers and not pay more than is needed,” she said.

To address the funding issue, this year the House passed the Conservation and Reinvestment Act, which would fund federal land acquisition programs at



Civil War reenactors (left) wait to fire a canon that signals the razing of an observation tower (right) at Gettysburg National Military Park in July.

AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS (2)

\$450 million annually through 2015 and includes \$100 million each year to protect established park resources. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee sent its final version of the bill to the full Senate for consideration in July.

Despite the ongoing clashes, the current NPS policy to acquire inholdings from willing sellers is the best solution for now, Leisz said, because it avoids the extremes of either condemning everything or obtaining nothing. "The way things [the policies] have evolved are middle of the road," she said. "And when you are middle of the road, you're never going to please everyone."

More Money for Parks

After months of deadlock, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee reached an agreement on the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA), a landmark bill that will secure nearly \$3 billion a year through 2015 for environmental conservation. The compromise bill, crafted by Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-N.Mex.) guarantees \$100 million annually for the protection of natural, cultural, and historic resources within the park system. The funds could be used to support a variety of activities from restoring native vegetation to preserving historic documents. The bill also provides \$900 million annually for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is used to acquire environmentally significant state and federal lands. The bill may go to the full Senate for a vote in September; a similar bill has already passed the House.

TAKE ACTION: Please write or call your senators asking them to support the CARA bill, H.R. 701, and retain the \$100 million allocated for park protection. Call the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121 or write to: The Hon. _____, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510. To find the name or e-mail address of your senator, go to www.senate.gov. To send an electronic letter through NPCA's web site, go to www.npca.org.

PARK MANAGEMENT

Los Alamos Causes Fire Policy Change

A GAO investigation suggests ways to prevent future problems.

LOS ALAMOS, N.MEX.—As a result of the Cerro Grande wildfire that started as a prescribed burn at Bandelier National Monument in New Mexico, the Park Service may soon revise its fire management policy. A report issued by the General Accounting Office (GAO), the investigative arm of Congress, states that in addition to errors that were made at the park, the fire occurred because the agency's fire management policy is inadequate.

The wildfire eventually moved into the Santa Fe National Forest, burning 48,000 acres, destroying more than 200 homes, and coming perilously close to the nuclear weapons facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Damage is estimated at \$1 billion.

GAO submitted its report at a July hearing of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. There, Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska) criticized the National Park and U.S. Forest services for failing to use the most effective means for controlling the fire. The current fire policy directs the agencies to limit resource damage, which often precludes the use of chainsaws and bulldozers to create fire breaks.

"Public safety should take precedence over resource protection—this concept was apparently not part of the government's thinking," Murkowski said.

The GAO investigation found that "the overall complexity of the burn and the resources needed to keep it under control were underestimated." Also, no written documentation exists to show that the park's fire team conducted the necessary safety checklist before starting the burn. Furthermore, there was not adequate cooperation between agencies. When park personnel first called the Forest Service for help after the fire



Firefighter at the Cerro Grande fire.

got out of control, a Forest Service employee stated that their management policy did not allow them to respond to a prescribed burn.

Among the recommended changes:

- ▲ Have a qualified individual from outside the agency review the prescribed burn plan before it is implemented;
- ▲ Better define "contingency resources," including what is available, when they may be used, and how to implement them quickly;
- ▲ Require documentation of a pre-burn safety checklist; and
- ▲ Make clear that once a prescribed fire becomes a wildfire, the blaze should be suppressed as quickly as possible even if it requires mechanical means.

Although fires should be suppressed if they burn out of control, Randy Rasmussen, program manager in NPCA's Southwest regional office, said, mechanical means should not be used as a first response. "The need to protect private property and structures should be paramount, but we shouldn't be creating blanket approval for the use of bulldozers and chainsaws through wilderness."

Immediately following the fire, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt issued a moratorium on prescribed burns on NPS lands west of the 100th meridian, which runs from North Dakota to Texas. At the July hearing, Park Service Director Robert Stanton stated that the moratorium would remain in effect until the fire management policy was revised to reflect some of the recommended changes.

RESOURCE PROTECTION

Agency Begins Light Pollution Monitoring

NPS initiates a program to address the loss of dark skies.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The National Park Service (NPS) has inaugurated a monitoring project in five parks to address the effects of light pollution on visitors' experience of night skies.

Slated for inclusion in the pilot project are Joshua Tree, Sequoia, Kings Canyon, and Death Valley national parks and Pinnacles National Monument. Park Service employees will use custom-made photography equipment, called a charge coupled detector camera, to measure the brightness of the space that

interferes with views of the stars at the five parks.

According to Chad Moore, physical scientist at Pinnacles and coordinator of the project, the ultimate goals are to establish a measurable standard for light pollution, provide resource managers at park units with measurement tools, and raise awareness of light pollution in the general populace.

"My dream would be that we would have an inventory of all the natural resource National Park Service units' light pollution levels and that each of those parks would enter into a partnership with local communities to reduce light pollution," said Moore. "We're trying to protect those crystal clear nights that are so inspiring to the visitors," he added.

The Park Service project comes on the heels of NPCA's initiative to address light pollution in the parks—an initiative that included a special report that found that light pollution was considered a widespread problem at national parks. According to the report, light pollution not only affects visitors' experi-

ence of viewing dark skies, but also endangers some birds and sea turtles by drawing them away from their natural habitats. In addition, excessive exterior lighting wastes energy—costing the United States more than \$1.5 billion annually.

"We're very pleased with the Park Service's initial response to our report," said Dave Simon, NPCA's Southwest regional director. "However, the project needs to be expanded, and NPS must make a long-term investment."

"This is just the beginning of what has to be a bold new effort to save our dark skies. But it's a good beginning," he added.

According to John Notar, meteorologist for the Park Service's Air Resources Division, the agency also has developed a computer program that calculates the magnitude of stars lost to visitors' view because of light pollution. The program helps NPS to work with local communities on reducing both light and air pollution, which exacerbates the loss of dark skies by scattering light.

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"The national parks are in some cases the last areas that you can count on having dark skies," Notar said. "Dark skies are an endangered species."

Various communities around the country are working to reduce light pollution. One such is the city of Moab, in Grand County, Utah. Light from the community affects both Canyonlands and Arches national parks. Lillian Makeda, a local community activist, and others in Moab are bringing together members of the city and county councils and planning commissions with representatives from the Park Service and state parks to discuss the issue. Makeda hopes that the city and county will adopt a unified code to combat light pollution.

"Sometimes, it's one light at a time," said Makeda.

Both Shenandoah and Grand Canyon national parks are also individually working to develop light pollution plans.

—William A. Uptide

NEWS UPDATE

World War II Memorial—In July, the Commission on Fine Arts in Washington, D.C., voted unanimously to approve the new World War II Memorial to be built between the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument. The design and placement of the structure, above the Reflecting Pool on the National Mall, had been contested by some groups who oppose disrupting the historically open view. The memorial is scheduled to be completed Memorial Day 2003 at a cost of \$100 million of donated funds.

Homestead Airport—A draft environmental impact statement released in January confirmed that a new commercial airport at Homestead Air Reserve Base outside of Miami, Florida, would have serious effects on the area's national parks. The airport would have more than 230,000 flights annually, generating excessive noise and air pollution at Everglades and Biscayne national parks and Big Cypress National Preserve. Discharge from the airport runway would drain directly into Biscayne Bay.

TAKE ACTION: Send the postcard located between pages 28 and 29 to President Clinton asking him to oppose the construction of Homestead airport.

Antiquities Act—During Senate consideration of the 2001 Interior Appropriations bill in July, an amendment was offered that would have undermined the Antiquities Act—a 1906 statute that grants the president authority to protect public lands facing exploitative threats. The amendment failed 49-50. NPCA applauds those senators who opposed this amendment, in particular the six Republicans who voted against it: Lincoln Chafee (R.I.), Mike DeWine (Ohio), Peter Fitzgerald (Ill.), James Jeffords (Vt.), William Roth (Del.), and Richard Lugar (Ind.).

RESOURCE PROTECTION

Fishing, Other Uses Take Toll on Horseshoe Crabs

Fisherman sues Cape Cod for not allowing crab harvesting.

CAPE COD N.S., MASS.—A commercial fisherman is suing the National Park Service (NPS) for not issuing a special-use permit to collect horseshoe crabs at Cape Cod National Seashore even though the park is not legally able to allow the activity.

Associates of Cape Cod, Inc., a biomedical company, and Jay Harrington, a commercial fisherman who supplies the company with crabs, are plaintiffs in the case against NPS and nearby Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge. They claim they will suffer irreparable

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harm and lose millions of dollars if they are denied access to the two sites. In written testimony, the Park Service has stated that the plaintiffs continue to have access to other federal waters and that the park was set aside to protect wildlife, which this closure is facilitating. No court date has been set.

The conflict between fishing and conservation interests at the national seashore is just one of several happening along the Eastern seaboard as concern builds over the decline of horseshoe crabs.

The crabs are found from Mexico to Maine, making the creature's total population hard to tabulate; however, scientists have been concerned about decreases in some local populations since 1990. They attribute the decline to the species' use as bait for commercial eel and conch fishing and, to a small degree, for biomedical research.

An enzyme in the crabs' blood is used to create a product that tests for lethal impurities in intravenous drugs. Although a nonlethal level of blood is drawn from the animals and they are returned to the water within 72 hours, about 10 percent die during the process according to the National Marine Fisheries Service, the federal agency that manages the nation's marine resources. More horseshoe crabs may die after being returned to the water, but no one currently tracks this.

The lack of scientific information about the creatures has made the issue more complex. No surveys have been done over the years to document the population trend, and the Park Service and the plaintiffs in the lawsuit are disputing whether a horseshoe crab fits within the definition of a shellfish. The park's legislation allows local towns to regulate shellfish harvesting at the seashore, but some scientists say that the horseshoe crab is more closely related to the arachnid family, which includes spiders and scorpions. This would support the park's position that horseshoe crabs could not be taken from the park. Harrington also argues that because the crabs are returned to the water, it is a nonconsumptive use, which should be permitted by the seashore.

Henry Lind, a biologist and the director of the natural resources department for the local town of Eastham, Massachusetts, said the ban may be prudent until more scientific data is collected. "It's a vast unknown," he said. "We don't know if they survive once they are returned to the water or how many survive or if there are behavioral changes once they are returned."

Horseshoe crabs have existed for 350 million years, and some say it's unlikely that the species would be wiped out because of overfishing, but horseshoe crabs support a host of other wildlife that could be harmed by the crab's decline. At least 11 species of migratory birds, including ruddy turnstone, red knot, sanderling, and semipalmated sandpiper, depend on the billions of eggs that the crabs produce during the spring spawn. Female crabs lay eggs in May and June during the new and full moons when the tides are greatest; the churning water facilitates fertilization. Shorebirds swarm the beaches during that time, collecting the eggs to sustain them during their migration from South America to the Arctic, which can total 15,000 miles.

Studies done along the New Jersey shore of Delaware Bay, a major stop for migratory birds, indicate that horseshoe crab eggs make up an average of 57 percent of the birds' diet during the two to three weeks they stop there to feed. The birds gain 40 percent of their body weight during that time. Other species,

such as the threatened Atlantic loggerhead turtle and a variety of finfish, also depend on the crabs as a food source.

In response to dwindling numbers, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, a board of the 15 Eastern coastal states, voted in February to reduce horseshoe crab harvests by 25 percent—a step that has met with varied reactions. The state of Virginia protested the move and was found to be out of compliance this summer, while the governors of Delaware, New Jersey, and Maryland asked U.S. Commerce Secretary William Daley to go one step further and ban horseshoe crab fishing in federal waters outside of Delaware Bay.

Bill Hall, a marine education specialist at the University of Delaware, said that the 25 percent ban will only slow the decline, but a total ban for a limited period of time will allow the species to naturally repopulate.

"To continue to fish something that is declining is ludicrous," Hall said. "That's true of any fish, not just horseshoe crabs."



Eleven species of shorebirds, including the red knot (above), eat horseshoe crab eggs to sustain their migration. Horseshoe crabs mating (below).

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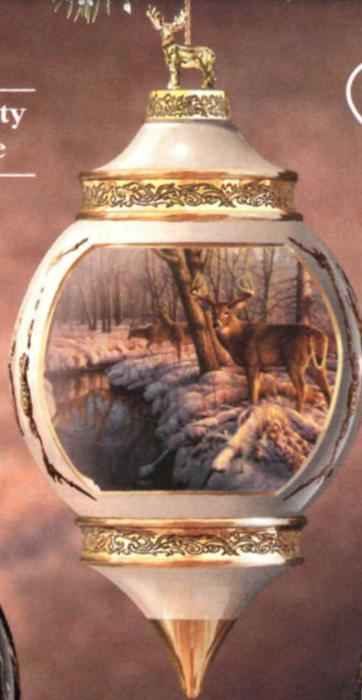


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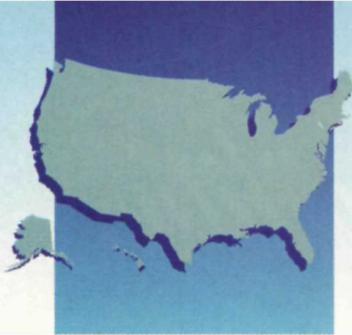
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REGIONAL REPORT

ON NPCA'S WORK IN THE PARKS

Text by Elizabeth G. Daerr

■ ALASKA

Alaska Sen. Frank Murkowski (R) has added to the 2001 Interior Appropriations bill a provision that directs the National Park Service (NPS) to work with the state of Alaska to study options for campgrounds, trails, and visitor facilities along the Stampede Trail in Denali National Park and Preserve. Because the 80-mile Stampede Trail, an old mining road, is only passable by car for about eight miles, any facilities suggested by the study would necessitate a new transportation corridor. That route would likely come in the form of the proposed northern road or railroad through proposed wilderness to Wonder Lake in the heart of the park. The senator has made many attempts to get the controversial development project through Congress and failed. NPS has indicated its opposition to a northern access route. Cost estimates for the project are \$100 million for a road and \$200 million for a railroad.

NPCA REGIONAL DIRECTORS:

ALASKA: Chip Dennerlein

CENTRAL ROCKIES: Mark Peterson

HEARTLAND: Lori Nelson

NORTHEAST: Eileen Woodford

NORTHERN ROCKIES: Tony Jewett

PACIFIC: Brian Huse

SOUTHEAST: Don Barger

SOUTHWEST: Dave Simon

TAKE ACTION: Contact your senators to urge them to oppose the Stampede Trail and keep the Interior Appropriations bill free of other anti-environmental riders. The Hon. _____, U. S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510. To find the name or e-mail address of your senator, go to www.senate.gov. To send an e-mail through NPCA's web site, go to www.npca.org

■ CENTRAL ROCKIES

At press time, the Senate was expected to pass a bill that allows the exchange of 106,000 acres of Utah state lands for an equal number of federal acres that could prove more profitable for the state. The bill has already passed the House. The state acreage consists of scattered parcels that are surrounded by potential federal wilderness. Sponsored by Utah Rep. Jim Hansen (R), the legislation secures more profitable lands to benefit the state's educational system in exchange for state lands that would complete federal wilderness areas. NPCA and the Grand Canyon Trust (GCT) are concerned with the swap because it transfers 315 acres of federal land outside the entrance to Zion National Park to the state. That land was believed to be protected as the entry to a scenic corridor meant to preserve the historic viewshed and cultural heritage on the west side of the park. The trade to the state guarantees that the land will be developed. GCT will be part of a planning effort to make the development environmentally compatible with its surroundings.

■ HEARTLAND

Despite a widespread ban issued by the Park Service this year on personal watercraft, recreation interests are pushing to keep the Missouri National Recreational River in South Dakota and Nebraska open to the machines. Rep. John Thune

(R-S.Dak.) has pressured the Park Service to conduct a 90-day comment period to hear from local constituents. The comment period is scheduled to close September 30.

TAKE ACTION: Write Superintendent Paul Hedren asking him to uphold the ban on personal watercraft. Remind him that noisy, pollution-generating personal watercraft are incompatible with the mission of a national park unit, which is to protect water, wildlife, and natural sites and sounds. Address: P.O. Box 591, O'Neill, NE 68763-0591.

■ NORTHEAST

The National Park Service (NPS) may renovate a naval site at Schoodic Point in Acadia National Park if the military leaves the base in 2002 as anticipated. The 100-acre base was built in the 1930s in exchange for naval lands taken when Acadia was established. Only a portion of the land is within the park's boundaries, but more than 50 buildings exist, including a medical building, dormitories, and a recreation facility. The NPS planning team is considering options that would maintain some economic opportunities for local residents who are currently employed on the base but would also support the park's mission of environmental protection. Some suggestions offered at a local public meeting: using the buildings as a university extended science campus with a focus of marine studies or renting the buildings to an outdoor school or nature camp for disabled or inner-city youth. The planning team is accepting public comment and new ideas for possible redevelopment of the site.

TAKE ACTION: Please write to the NPS planning team and ask them to sup-

port low-impact development options that are consistent with national park preservation. Write to: Sarah Peskin or John Kelly, NPS Boston Planning Team Office, 15 State St., Boston, MA 02109.

■ NORTHERN ROCKIES

An inholder has begun bottling water from a well on private property inside Grand Teton National Park and selling it commercially. In June, the Halpin family received permission from the Teton County commissioners to begin pumping up to 18,000 gallons of water a day, and the Park Service issued a special-use permit to allow trucks to haul the water through the park. Profits after cost from the project will go to the Grand Teton National Park Foundation, which plans to use the money to build a new visitor center in Moose, Wyoming, and renovate some historic buildings, among other projects. NPCA and the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, a local environmental group, oppose the project. Of particular concern to the groups is the commercialization and sale of a park resource. For more information, go to NPCA's web site at www.npca.org.

■ PACIFIC

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has approved legislation that authorizes the sale of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land near Mojave National Preserve in California to build an airport to serve Las Vegas, Nevada. The final version does not require formal environmental review before the land transaction takes place; however, changes were made to increase public input before construction of any airport facility. Improvements include: establishing the Department of the Interior as a joint lead agency in any environmental study; language that enables the land to revert to BLM if it is found that an airport should not be built there; establishing a fund that can be used for the acquisition of private inholdings within Mojave; and requiring that an environmental review must address any potential impacts on the purposes for which Mojave National Preserve was created. At press time, the Senate had not yet scheduled a vote on the bill.

■ SOUTHEAST

Drawn by clean waters and spectacular coral reefs, an increasing number of visitors are traveling to Dry Tortugas National Park, 70 miles west of Key West, Florida. But increased visitation is taking a toll on the island environment. To curb further destruction, the National Park Service is considering several plans to alter visitor use. NPCA supports Alternative C, which establishes a Research Natural Area or "no-take" zone where all fishing would be prohibited and sets limits on visitation. The alternative also requires divers, snorkelers, and other visitors to receive instruction on how to avoid harming the fragile coral reefs.

TAKE ACTION: Please write to Florida Senators Connie Mack (R) and Bob Graham (D) and Rep. Peter Deutch (D) asking them to support the Dry Tortugas plan amendment. Ask them to support visitation limits and a "no-take" zone so that at least one area of the park is completely protected for marine creatures. For their addresses, go to NPCA's web site at www.npca.org



A state road runs through Pecos NHP.

■ SOUTHWEST

NPCA is expected to release this fall a study of the economic and visual benefits of removing a state road that runs through the middle of Glorieta Battlefield at Pecos National Historical Park in New Mexico. Computer-generated pictures will show how the park will be transformed if the Park Service were to replace the road with a pedestrian path. Removing the road is expected to increase visitation to the battlefield, expanding opportunities for local businesses and enhancing the park's opportunities for interpretation.

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WAR AND REMEMBRANCE

For nearly 20 years, visitors have left thousands of letters, medals, and other offerings at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., artifacts that have become as much a part of the memorial as the Wall itself. These items present some interpretive challenges for the Park Service.

BY WILLIAM A. UPDIKE

A RECENT SPECIAL report ran on the television show *Dateline* about an American man, Richard Luttrell, who, fighting in the Vietnam War at barely 18 years of age, came face to face with a North Vietnamese soldier who was poised and ready to fire a machine gun. The Vietnamese soldier chose not to pull his trigger; Luttrell made the opposite decision. After the shooting, some of Luttrell's fellow soldiers rifled through the Vietnamese man's wallet and other belongings. A photo of the dead soldier with a little girl fell carelessly onto the ground. Moved by curiosity and remorse, Luttrell kept the photo in his own wallet for many years after he returned.

Then, on a visit to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., in 1989, Luttrell was inspired by the power of the memorial to place the photo in its shadow. Alongside the photo, he left a note that read:

Dear Sir, For twenty-two years I have carried your picture in my wallet. I was only eighteen years old that day that we faced one another on that trail in Chu Lai, Vietnam. Why you didn't take my life, I'll never know. You stared at me for so long, armed with your AK-47, and yet you did not fire. Forgive me for taking your life, I was reacting just the way I was trained, to kill V.C. . . . So many times over the years I



Nguyen Trong Ngoan and daughter, Lan.

have stared at your picture and your daughter, I suspect. Each time my heart and guts would burn with the pain of guilt. I have two daughters myself now. . . . I perceive you as a brave soldier defending his homeland. Above all else, I can now respect the importance that life held for you. I suppose that is why I am able to be here today. . . . It is time for me to continue the life process and release my pain and guilt. Forgive me, Sir.

Although he believed he had left the photo behind, the picture eventually made it into a book about the collection of objects left at the Wall. The book, *Of-*

ferings at the Wall, was shown to Luttrell in 1996 by an Illinois state congressman friend. After weeping over seeing the photo again, Luttrell realized that he had not put the past behind him and made it his mission to find the girl in the picture. It was one more mission, but a personal, not a military, one.

Luttrell began by writing to the Vietnamese ambassador in Washington, D.C., enclosing a story about his search that appeared in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. A Vietnamese newspaper ran the story with an appeal: "Does anyone know these people?" By amazing coincidence, a man in Hanoi sent a care package to his mother wrapped with the newspaper that had run Luttrell's story. The mother knew the soldier in the photo and took the story to his children. This was 33 years after Luttrell first picked up the photo.

Luttrell eventually received a letter from Lan, the girl in the photograph. It read with profound simplicity: "Dear Mr. Richard, the child that you have taken care of, or through the picture, for over 30 years, she becomes adult now, and she had spent so much sufferance in her childhood by the missing of her father. I hope you will bring the joy and

The black marble wall of the memorial reflects the faces of visitors and projects the names of those listed.



... JAMES M. MCCANN
... RICHARD L. TAYLOR
... RONALD D. BRUCE
... VERNICE
... RICHARD
... ROBERT E. BRO
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VIETNAM Continued

happiness to my family." Luttrell was understandably amazed that she had responded with compassion and not hate.

With *Dateline's* help, Luttrell returned the photo to Lan. It is the only photo of the father, Nguyen Trong Ngoan, that the family has.

Luttrell's is just one story about the more than 60,000 artifacts left at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, which are now stored in the Museum Resource Center in Maryland—a site managed by the National Park Service (NPS). Unbelievable, horrific, tragic, or heartwarming, these stories are a part of the political and ethical fabric of the country. They are stories that make real the chaos of the Vietnam War and the social

upheaval of the 1960s because, most of all, the stories are about people, not politicians.

One man left a note, signed "Your Buddy," to a soldier nicknamed "Pops": "You once told me 'I want to see more action than John Wayne.' The only difference is your name is on this wall and his is not."

Another left a coin and ring that signified membership in Narcotics Anonymous along with a letter about his experience in the war. "I learned fear," he wrote. "I learned to be ALONE—NEVER let ANYONE in. I learned to be an animal—to take what I wanted, when I wanted. I learned to kill—no—learned it was OK to kill—I came home and nothing worked—my family did not want me—they were—ARE—

afraid of me. I am afraid of me. I pray for your forgiveness for my life/lies." The note ended with words that can be read as either a proclamation or an entreaty: "No more hurt."

Many of the stories and objects are offerings from soldiers who survived to those who did not. People leave favorite objects of the dead soldiers—dog tags, cigarettes, beer and alcohol, food, sports equipment, a packet of Kool Aid for a kid who didn't drink liquor. Veterans leave mementos from the war—some with clear meanings, others that have very personal connections.

A recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, one of the highest recognitions awarded for service, left his medal at the Wall in 1986 with a letter to then-President Reagan, saying

that it was left as "my strongest public expression of opposition to U.S. military policies in Central America."

Other offerings found there reflect the thoughts and feelings of family members of soldiers. Baby shoes and clothes of the dead soldiers or their children, family pictures, toys, wedding rings, still more letters—some written by the adult children of those who died. "I know you would like Lisa," one man wrote. "You could not ask for a better wife. Dad, you have a granddaughter. Her name is Meghan and when she sees your picture, she says, 'That's my pa pa.'" A woman who left two sonograms at the Wall wrote: "I don't know if it's a boy or a girl—if the baby is a boy—he'll be named after you. Dad—this child will know you.

Just how I have grown to know and love you—even though the last time I saw you I was only 4 mo. old."

Thomas C. Kiernan, NPCA's president, has a very personal and powerful connection to the Wall. When he was seven years old, he lost his father, Joseph, a Lieutenant Colonel, in a helicopter crash during his second tour of duty. "The Wall so gloriously captures the atrocities of war," says Kiernan. "When you go there, you see people thinking and their hearts being touched in a profound way."

Although he has never left any mementos at the Wall, Kiernan visits the memorial once a year with his three children and explains to them about the grandfather that they will never meet. In a bitter twist of fate, Kiernan shows his children where his father's name is located—on wall 21E, on the 48th line, and first in the line. Kiernan's father was first in his class at West Point. He graduated in 1948.

Some of the offerings relate to those whose names are not on the memorial, but who suffered and died as a result of the war—from diseases caused by herbicides such as Agent Orange, for example. One woman left a model of the Wall and a photograph of her husband, who died in 1985. "My son asked if his Dad's name would be carved on your beautiful face," she wrote in a letter. "I had to tell him that it would not, because he did not die in Vietnam but from being in Vietnam." Many of the letters, such as this one, speak directly to the Wall, as if it is imbued with a living force.

Recent legislation signed by President Clinton stipulates that a plaque carrying the names of those who died after the conflict of war-related causes will be placed near the memorial.

Park Service personnel have the powerful and challenging task of gathering and interpreting the offerings left at the

Park Service employees collect offerings from the base of the Wall, such as this bouquet and note, everyday.



Some pay tribute to soldiers lost in the War by leaving clothing that they wore, such as boots.

Wall. Every evening, park rangers collect the items that have been left, place them in plastic bags, write down any names mentioned, the panel that the item rested in front of, and the date. Approximately ten-20 artifacts are left on a typical day. On holidays, like Memorial Day, as many as 1,000 items can be found.

Because of the emotional nature of the offerings left at the memorial, collecting them can be a difficult job. "I usually don't like reading them. They're just so personal and gut-wrenching," says Pete Printer, a park ranger who helps with the task each evening. "You can almost feel the loss and the sacrifice. These people are still feeling it."

Printer recalls a three-by-five card that had a quarter taped to it. The card read: "Hey [soldier's name] give me a call when you get back to the world."

Another evening ranger, Jerry Hawn, remembers a letter he once found from a man who decided to go to Canada rather than be drafted. In the letter, the man, who had had much counseling as a result of his guilty feelings about the war, apologized to all of the names on the Wall for not joining them in Vietnam. The letter writer lamented that he might have been able to help keep one of the names off the list.

Unfortunately, one of the most troubling aspects of their jobs, according to Printer and Hawn, is dealing with the glory seekers and thieves. "Some people search for fame," says Printer. "They say 'You have my permission to display this in the Smithsonian Institution' in order to get their names in an exhibit." Although they estimate that only a frac-



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VIETNAM Continued

tion of 1 percent of the thousands of artifacts that have been collected are lost to thieves, Hawn and Printer keep a special eye on objects of value to protect them. However, in the interpretation of the collection itself, no object is treated with any more reverence than another. "From a note on a gum wrapper to a Congressional Medal of Honor, every object is treated the same," says Printer. "Some things may have a monetary difference, but all the artifacts have strong emotional ties."

From the collection area on the Mall, the items are moved to the Museum Resource Center, which is housed in a recently built, climate-controlled building. At the center, Park Service employees take great care to interpret and provide avenues for research about the items. Center staff attempt to decipher the meaning of the objects as they come in and then catalog the artifacts and enter them into a database that can be used for research purposes. A research room, monitored by a surveillance camera, is available for individuals studying the offerings. Another room overlooking the entire Museum Resource Center will be used for educational purposes, such as student field trips.



Visitors often etch with paper and pencil the names of soldiers whom they once knew.

Many exhibits travel throughout the United States and other countries, including an exhibit that goes to high schools around New Jersey in an effort to educate students about the memorial as well as the war. The Park Service uses the objects in the collection to tell the story. A permanent exhibit of offerings from the Wall resides at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

"We have the tremendous challenge of giving these objects and stories the

honor and respect they deserve," says Pam West, director of the Museum Resources Center.

West says the collection began because a maintenance worker decided that he could not, in conscience, dispose of the things being left at the Wall. At first, some managers were resistant to the idea of creating a collection that, because it was not fixed in the past, would be constantly growing and changing. However, West convinced them otherwise and the collection began. "We had to invent what we were doing," says West, speaking of the early days. "It is like doing history in reverse."

West believes that the strength of the collection lies in its uniqueness. "Instead of a bunch of curators deciding what is preserved, we take just about everything," she says. Thus, she adds, "The public are the curators; we are the caretakers."

Duery Felton, a Vietnam veteran who now serves as museum curator of the memorial collection, looks at the collection as "a sacred trust." It's important for some veterans to know that a fellow soldier is managing the collection. One person even left his diary with a note saying, "Duery, you will understand."

"I'm proud of the fact that the National Park Service is sharing the collection," Felton says. "It's not a hundred years after the fact. It's a living memorial, a living archive."

Felton, in fact, unknowingly played a crucial role in the uniting of Luttrell and Lan. Because he was so moved by the photo of the young girl and her father, he urged that the photo be included in the *Offerings at the Wall* book—which prompted Luttrell to begin his search.

The vast number and nature of items collected in the Museum Resource Center are a clear demonstration of the power and purpose of the Wall. Despite the fact that the memorial was paid for with private funds, there was much political debate over its design—debate that almost delayed and had the potential to derail its construction.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was the brainchild of Jan Scruggs, a former rifleman in Vietnam, who got the idea



An exhibit that travels to high schools around New Jersey allows students to learn about the war and view the personal mementos left at the Wall.



DAVID HUBENCH

Frederick Hart's sculpture of three soldiers was added to the memorial following pressure from members of Congress.

for the memorial while he was studying Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in graduate school. He hypothesized that because so many veterans felt “survivor guilt” that a memorial of names would help them say goodbye to their friends—and their nightmares. In 1979 after seeing the movie *The Deer Hunter*, he began the effort. From this was born the now well-known concept of listing the names of all the military personnel who died in the war.

Displaying the names on the monument became a requirement of the national competition held to select a design and designer for the monument. The unique and unconventional design by Maya Lin, a 21-year-old architecture student at Yale University—identified as design number 1,026 in the competition—was chosen the winner out of the 1,421 entries.

Lin's simple design consisted of two black marble walls that delve into the earth and meet at a 12-foot pinnacle. Her description of the monument in her entry ended with these words: “Those names, seemingly infinite in number, convey the sense of overwhelming numbers, while unifying

those individuals into a whole. For this memorial is meant not as a monument to the individual but rather as a memorial to the men and women who died during the war, as a whole.”

The memorial's design was controversial at first. A letter signed by 27 Republican congressmen stated, “We feel this design makes a political statement of shame and dishonor rather than an expression of our national pride at the courage, patriotism, and ability of all who served.” In a *New York Times* editorial, Vietnam veteran Thomas Carhart wrote, “By this will we be remembered: a black gash of shame and sorrow, hacked into the national visage that is the Mall.” James Watt, then-Secretary of the Interior, attempted to hold up construction, and then-President Ronald Reagan failed to show up for the opening ceremonies.

Scruggs believed that the memorial, which now has 58,219 names on it, including more than 1,000 unaccounted-for prisoners of war and eight women who died in the war, had “become a Rorschach test for people's unresolved attitudes about Vietnam.”

“The controversy of Maya Lin's de-

sign is just a footnote to history,” says Scruggs. “Truly, once the memorial was built it was obvious that it was a winning design.” As a compromise measure, a flag and a more traditional sculpture of three soldiers by noted sculptor Frederick Hart were added across from the Wall.

Scruggs believes that the offerings left at the memorial are both a testament to the Wall's design and a tribute to those who served in Vietnam. He quotes a social scientist who has suggested that “the items left represent a change in the way that America deals with the war, and with suffering in general.”

“The effect of the Wall,” Scruggs concludes, “made mourning in this country a more public and acceptable experience. Now you can cry out if you need to.”

Whether a means of crying out or of healing old wounds, as Luttrell's return of the photo shows, the numerous stories told by mementos left at the Wall continue to touch the nation.

WILLIAM A. UPDIKE is assistant editor of National Parks.

NATIONAL PARKS: The Next Generation

NPCA is recommending that ten new park sites be added to the 379-unit National Park System and another five existing parks be expanded. Encompassing both wildlands and historic sites, the list includes parks based on the Yellowstone model as well as innovative partnerships between the federal government and local communities.

BY TODD WILKINSON

IN A CAVERNOUS ROOM at the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C., Destry Jarvis is thinking about the next generation of America's national parks.

The senior advisor to the assistant secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks is wondering how the great-grandchildren of today's visitors will judge decision makers in Congress and what places, if any, will be regarded with the same reverence as Yellowstone.

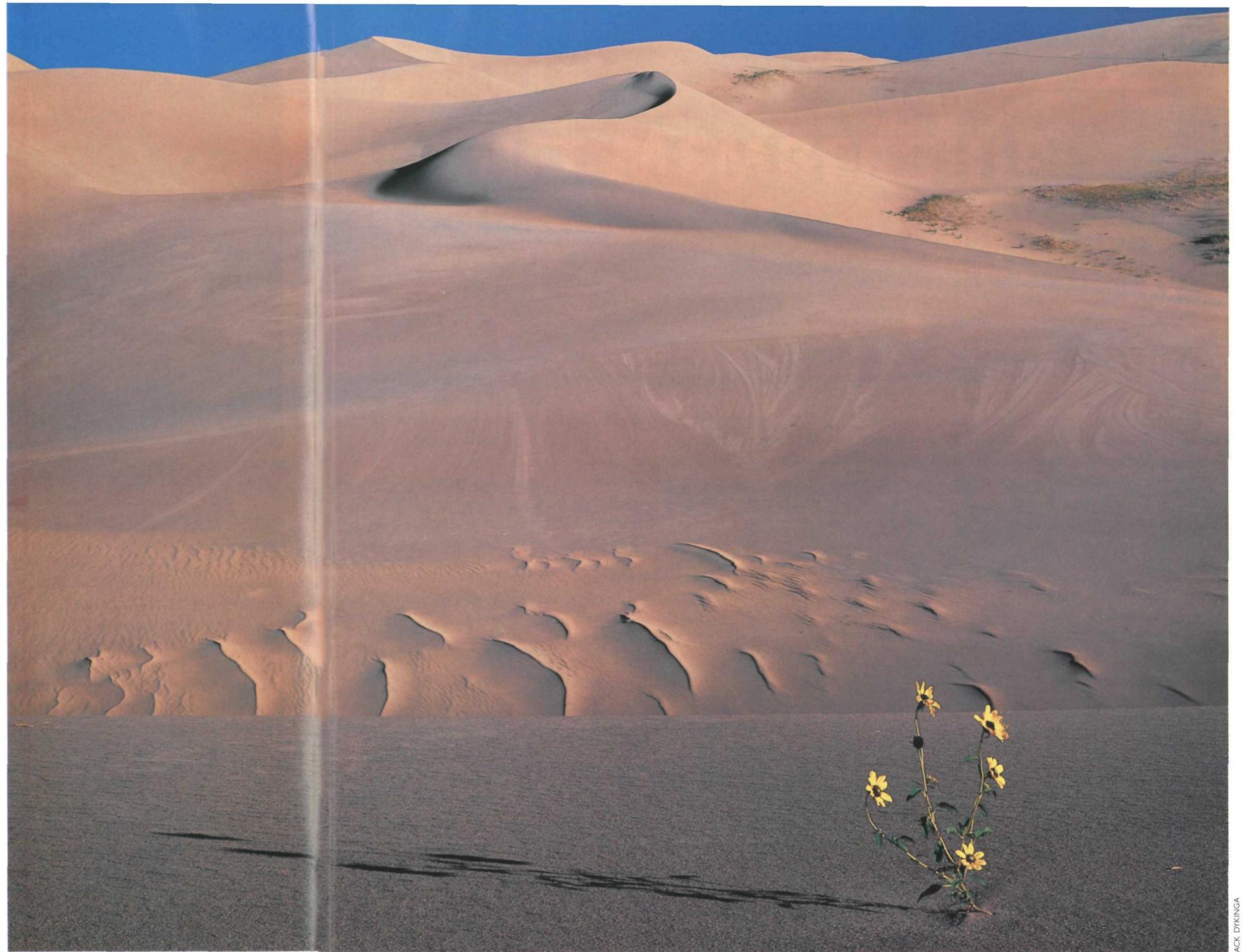
Unfurling a map, Jarvis moves his hand from east to west, from tropical islands in the Caribbean to the icy waters of Alaska, from the Statue of Liberty to the Hawaiian volcanoes. Even though a 379-unit system that has become the envy of the world has much to celebrate, Jarvis speaks of noticeable gaps, and he is alarmed by what he calls "evaporating opportunities."

At the start of a new millennium, many believe the future of the park sys-

tem hinges on the willingness of citizens and their elected leaders to re-embrace the vision of preservation established more than a century ago. It's a cause the National Parks Conservation Association has taken to heart.

In June of this year, NPCA unveiled an ambitious list of proposed preserves that could set a new standard. It's a dynamic montage, encompassing both wildlands and historic sites, parks based on the old Yellowstone model as well as protected areas involving innovative partnerships between the federal government and local communities.

More than a "wish list," NPCA's candidate parks—some of which are now before Congress for approval and others currently being studied by the Park Service—provide a framework for moving ahead with a system-wide expansion in this century. The association's list represents the best, immediate candidates for inclusion in the park system. "Right



JACK DYKINGA



KEVIN ALEXANDER/INDEX STOCK IMAGERY

CENTER: JACK DYKINGA, RIGHT: RICH REID

Counterclockwise: As part of NPCA's new parks initiative, acreage would be added to Great Sand Dunes National Monument, and new park units would be designated including Sand Creek, Sonoran Desert, and Gaviota Coast.

NEW PARKS *Continued*

now, we as a country have the best opportunity to expand the system since the late 1970s," says Ron Tipton, NPCA's senior vice president for program.

In the early 1900s, the park system included mostly natural sites such as Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, and Yosemite. In the 1930s, the park system received dozens of historic sites from the War Department, most of them forts and battlefields from a variety of engagements, including the Revolutionary and Civil wars. Seashores and national recreation areas were added later, primarily during the 1960s and '70s.

Then in the late 1970s and throughout most of the 1980s, the system's growth slowed to a trickle. Following passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, the political climate was not conducive to acquiring additional parklands. That began to change in the late '80s, a change that

was reflected when NPCA advanced a slate of proposed new parks. The association's 1988 *National Park System Plan* identified areas of the country and ecosystems that were grossly underrepresented in the system, including grasslands, freshwater wetlands, marine environments, north woods and forests of the east, and desert chaparral. The report also suggested that certain themes of American history were noticeably underrepresented or absent from the system, including those commemorating the struggles for civil and women's rights, as well as industrial heritage, space exploration, American literature, and World War II.

But out of those 90 proposed park areas, only 17 have been formally designated as park units since the report was issued—seven natural areas and ten cultural sites. Overall since 1988, 33 units have been added to the system.

David Simon, the association's Southwest regional director, who helped put

the 1988 and 2000 lists together, says it's time for the entire parks and historic preservation movement to make a stronger case for new parks. A finite number of open spaces and a growing population make this need even more compelling, one that is recognized by the public. Public opinion polls point to the popularity of parks, the concerns about loss of open space and historic sites, and a need to broaden the definition of parks. Polls also show overwhelming support for using the Land and Water Conservation Fund to expand public lands and to safeguard natural landscapes. This fund uses royalties from offshore oil and gas drilling leases to buy critical lands, though in the past Congress has redirected much of the money to unrelated programs.

Over the years, movements to expand the park system have ebbed and flowed, but rarely has society, in hindsight, lamented the decision to set aside a park. NPCA's Simon believes the orga-



TOM TILL

The creation of a park unit in the Loess Hills region of western Iowa would protect a unique ecosystem of wind-blown, glacial silt deposits—the only comparison of which is found along the Yellow River in northern China.

nization's latest push for new parks is historically significant and builds upon a relationship established between the organization and the National Park Service (NPS) going back eight decades. "The truth is that creating new parks often involves years, even generations, as was demonstrated with the 50-year effort behind establishment of Great Basin [National Park in Nevada]."

Destry Jarvis says the agency also needs to be creative in how it approaches its mission to "preserve and protect." Just as the architects of preservation focused primarily on safeguarding relatively untouched lands throughout much of the 20th century, the next generation of visionaries will have opportunities to rescue places that may not be as pristine, but will be just as valuable. That cause, he notes, is not without historical precedent.

"When Shenandoah [in Virginia] and Redwood [in California] national parks were added to the system, one could argue that portions were devastated resources," Jarvis says. "Look at them today, and you understand the important role in restoration that this agency can play." Both Shenandoah and Redwood had been affected by decades of logging, and by the 1930s when Shenandoah became a park, much of the land had been cleared for agricultural uses. Today, more than 95 percent of the park is covered with forests.

One of the places that made both NPCA's 1988 and 2000 lists is already the subject of an NPS special resources study, and proponents believe establishing a Park Service unit has a good chance of success. The Loess Hills in western Iowa, flanking 200 miles of the Missouri River, were formed by unusual wind-blown, glacial silt deposits. In some areas, the deposits are more than 200 feet high. The only other known loess site in the world with equal geologic and ecological significance is along the Yellow River in northern China. Besides their geologic significance, the hills hold important cultural significance for American Indians and

contain some of the last fragments of unplowed, mixed-grass prairie. In addition, the only member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition to die on the journey is buried near Sioux City, the largest urban area in the Loess Hills.

Slowly and steadily over the past decade, Iowans, in close consultation with their congressional delegation, have been shaping a bipartisan cam-



Bioluminescent Bay derives its unique glow from tiny, single-celled dinoflagellate sea creatures. It is the last of the glowing bays in the area.

FRANK BORGES LLOSA

paign to have a piece of the hills included in the park system. By using the landscape as a unifying social fixture, park proponents envision an unprecedented collaboration of county, state, and federal preserves, private property owners, and the tourism industry. If a bill creating a Loess Hills national park site doesn't prevail in Congress by the end of 2000, it certainly could happen the following year.

"There is a very strong land ethic in the heartland because people realize how important good stewardship is. I think that carries over into a recognition that special places ought to be preserved for future generations," says Patty Beneke, a native Iowan and former assistant secretary of the Interior for Water and Science. "The Loess Hills will

be a focal point not only for people in the Midwest but across the country. In a state like this where most of the land is privately owned, we intend to show how a new unit of the park system will benefit everyone in the area."

Some of the other areas on NPCA's list are:

■ **Bioluminescent Bay in Puerto Rico.**

This bay is not far from the island of Vieques near Puerto Rico, a training ground for military bombing missions. The bay derives its name from the tiny, single-celled dinoflagellate sea creatures found there that glow like underwater fireflies. In the years after the end of World War II, unofficial proposals were advanced to protect a handful of the glowing bays, but inaction resulted in several being harmed by pollution. Today, Bioluminescent Bay, designated a National Natural Landmark in 1980, is the last of its kind. The military bombing of Vieques has kept people away, leaving the bay relatively undisturbed. Even as they desire to have Vieques returned to Puerto Rico, Puerto Ricans have voiced their support for protecting the bay and for the park proposal. The bay is threatened by the continued clearing of mangrove forests and the proposal for a sports complex and trailer park that would diminish the effect of the bay's eerie glow.

■ **Gaviota Coast.** In California, as elsewhere, coastal ecosystems are coming under the heaviest population pressure. To Tipton and a number of prominent conservation biologists, the prospect of having a park on the Gaviota Coast is an opportunity the country cannot afford to squander. Stretching northward from Coal Oil Point in Isla Vista, the Gaviota Coast proposal encompasses about 200,000 acres, half of which are on Vandenberg Air Force Base, which has kept development off limits. The Gaviota proposal is made more compelling by the fact that the park system currently has ten national seashores but only one, Point Reyes, along the lengthy West Coast. This area once supported more American Indians than any other spot along the California coast, and it is

NEW PARKS Continued

rich in archaeological sites, particularly the buried ruins of Chumach villages. A two-year study examining the feasibility of park designation is scheduled to be completed in 2001.

■ **Sonoran Desert.** This desert is among the most botanically diverse of desert ecosystems and sustains a corresponding diversity of animal and bird life. A proposal for a 3-million-acre Sonoran Desert National Park, which would bring together a number of lands already in federal ownership, is gaining momentum. Some of the critical components are Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, and the Barry M. Goldwater Air Force Range. The Sonoran Desert is one of the largest and most diverse ecosystems in North America.

■ **Gullah/Geechee Cultural Site.** From colonial times to the present day, the coastal islands off South Carolina and Georgia have harbored a unique culture that originated with enslaved people brought primarily from West Africa, first to work cotton plantations and then to develop extensive rice crops.



The Gullah/Geechee culture is unique to the sea islands off the coasts of South Carolina and Georgia.



The Barry Goldwater Air Force Range in Arizona is an integral part of NPCA's proposal for the creation of a Sonoran Desert National Park.

More isolated than their counterparts on the mainland and, from the early 1800s on, greatly outnumbering their often absent white masters, the enslaved population maintained many African traditions that form the foundation of today's Gullah/Geechee culture. The Gullah way of life, which includes connections to the Black Seminoles of Florida, Oklahoma, Texas, and northern Mexico, offers important insight into the key transition from African people brought forcibly into the United States to traditions still followed today.

■ **The boyhood home site of W. E. B. DuBois.** William Edward Burghard DuBois was a prominent African-American scholar and co-founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). His ideas about equality and the value of education formed the theoretical basis for the goals of the civil rights movement. Du Bois was born in 1868 and spent most of his boyhood in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, at his grandfather's house.

■ **Sand Creek.** A unit long supported for national park designation by NPCA, this monument would commemorate the Sand Creek massacre of 1864, a tragic episode in the country's 19th-century westward expansion. At Sand Creek in Colorado, 700 U.S. cavalry soldiers attacked an encampment of 500 Arapaho and Cheyenne Indians, killing more than 150. The Park Service has the support of Sen. Ben Nighthorse Camp-

bell (R-Colo.), a member of the northern Cheyenne tribe and vocal supporter of adding more American Indian sites to the National Park System.

■ **World War II site in the North Marianas.** Tinian Island in the North Marianas was the site of North Field, which played a strategic role in the Allied effort against Japan. The airfield was the primary staging point for the long-range B-29 planes that were capable of making the round-trip from the island to Japan. The Enola Gay and Boxcar took off from North Field to drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.

■ **Expansion of Canyonlands, Great Sand Dunes, and Petrified Forest national parks.** In addition to protecting new areas, Simon says NPCA's agenda seeks to "make parks whole" by expanding boundaries originally drawn based upon limited ecological understanding. When Canyonlands National Park in Utah was established in the 1960s, for example, it bore the distinct marks of political compromise. Although NPS had studied 1 million acres for inclusion, park supporters eventually settled for 275,000, which was later expanded slightly. Congress protected a few key features and dropped potential mineral lands from final designation. Now the Park Service and environmentalists want to reconfigure Canyonlands to follow the basin that defines its natural boundaries. A completion proposal advocated by NPCA would more than double the park's size to 819,000 acres, protecting geological features and wildlife habitat that straddle the park's existing southern edge.

Even more dramatically, Great Sand Dunes National Monument in Colorado may quadruple in size and become the nation's 56th national park if a proposal to add nearly 200,000 acres of private, state, and federal lands is approved. The 38,000-acre monument protects North America's highest dunes, which rise more than 700 feet. Development pressure threatens to divert stream drainages that cause the dunes to form on the lands suggested for inclusion in the park.

National Park Expansion: A Political Process

As NPCA's Simon and Tipton note, it is important to consider the protracted battles over park expansion that have been fought in the past.

In the late 1970s, Congressman Phil Burton (D-Calif.) advocated a process that would have established a regular schedule for creating new parks—as many as a dozen—every federal budget cycle. But critics, whose numbers grew during the Reagan years, derided this thinking as “the park of the month club.”

In response, President Reagan's Interior Secretary, James Watt, tried to slash spending of the annual \$900 million Land and Water Conservation Fund, which had supported park creation and expansion.

Recently, the trend set during the Reagan and Bush years has begun to change. New park units have been established every year since President Clinton took office in 1992, including the passage of the California Desert Protection Act in 1995, which added acreage to Death Valley and Joshua Tree national parks and created Mojave National Preserve, a site included on NPCA's 1988 list.

Ironically, the need for establishing new parks has also had to do battle with the need to care for existing park areas. The Park Service reports a multi-billion-dollar backlog of maintenance,

which includes everything from crumbling roads and sewer systems to trails overrun with vegetation. Each year, when conservationists and the Park Service would push new park proposals in Congress, the common refrain from fiscal conservatives was this: If the Park Service can't take care of the parks it has, why should Congress authorize more? But new parks take up only a fraction of the Park Service's \$1 billion



Protecting bristlecone pines at Great Basin National Park was a 50-year effort.

budget, and once an area is overwhelmed by development, it cannot be retrieved.

In 1998, Sen. Craig Thomas (R-Wyo.) argued that more money was needed for park infrastructure and scientific research. However, the so-called Thomas parks bill, which eventually was signed by President Clinton, also re-established a new parks study program in the Park Service but mandated that the agency could spend no more than \$25,000 per study to explore

the feasibility of a new park. Further investigation would require an authorization and appropriation by Congress.

This provision of the legislation, park advocates say, was an important step in re-establishing a key program, but the studies have not been funded adequately.

Congress has taken steps to rectify that. During the spring of 2000, the House voted overwhelmingly to pass the \$45 billion, 15-year Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA). The legislation will: restore full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, splitting the \$900 million annual pool evenly between federal and state governments; channel another \$150 million annually into conservation easements and species recovery on private lands surrounding parks and other preserves by acquiring development rights from willing sellers and offering incentives to landowners who voluntarily assist imperiled species; provide \$100 million to the existing historic preservation fund to help safeguard important historic sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including some Park Service cultural sites and historic battlefields; and earmark another \$1 billion toward coastal impact assistance and conservation to offset the damage caused by offshore oil and gas development.

—TW

In addition, Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona includes only 27 percent of the paleontological resources for which the park is known, and nearly all of the landscape viewed by visitors at major overlooks is outside of the park. Development on these lands could be detrimental to world-class resources and the visitor experience, and NPCA has proposed that 97,800 acres of new lands be added to the park.

■ **Other sites.** The list also includes a number of Civil War battlefields in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, the Erie

Canalway in New York, and expansion of Craters of the Moon National Monument in Idaho and Kalaupapa National Historical Park in Hawaii.

For Tipton, the magnanimity expressed by Congress through the proposed Conservation and Reinvestment Act (see sidebar) represents the symbolic start of a new era for parks, and so far NPCA's “wish list” has received a positive reception. Although strong anti-federal sentiment exists in some corners of the country, Americans universally recognize how important na-

tional parks are to their identity and to their quality of life.

Parks are not about locking people out, but of opening up opportunities for the future and safeguarding options now, Tipton says. “The real question that people need to ask is ‘Why are we doing this?’ The answer is that what we do today will matter to those who will be looking back in 100 years.”

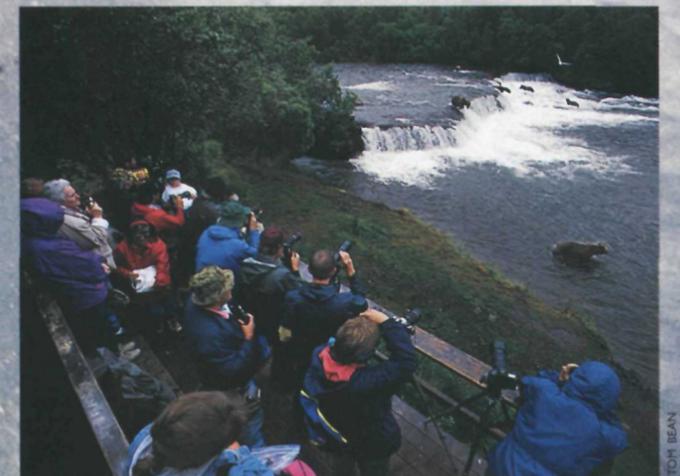
TODD WILKINSON lives in Bozeman, Montana, and is a regular contributor to National Parks.

TOO CLOSE *for* COMFORT



Each year, thousands of visitors travel to Katmai National Park's Brooks River to view brown bears feeding on salmon, and some experts fear that increased bear-human interaction spells trouble. A Park Service plan that would have allayed some of the concerns has been derailed by politics.

BY BILL SHERWONIT



Brooks Falls Overlook, Katmai National Park.

DEB LIGGETT has a ready response when asked how things are going at Brooks River, in the heart of 4-million-acre Katmai National Park and Preserve. "Like I tell my staff, you eat an elephant one bite at a time," she says, a smile creasing her face. Her blend of philosophy and smile suggests Katmai's newest superintendent is staying upbeat despite the difficulties of managing the Brooks River, a place the National Park Service (NPS) considers among its most volatile Alaska parklands.

A 1.5-mile-long clearwater stream connecting Brooks and Naknek lakes, the Brooks River is a small but critically important waterway used each July by thousands of sockeye salmon and dozens of brown bears, the coastal cousins of grizzlies. Over the past 15 to

20 years, Brooks has evolved into one of Alaska's premier bear-viewing sites, now annually attracting as many as 14,000 visitors. Humans watch from an elevated streamside platform as a dozen or more bears fish for salmon at Brooks Falls. They can also see bears along the lower river (at a second platform) or even when walking through Brooks Camp, a developed area nearby with lodge, cabins, NPS visitor center, campground, and other buildings.

Here's the problem: those camp facilities, along with increased tourist crowds, have intruded into critical bear habitat, displaced bears, and raised safety concerns for humans. The camp and associated activities have also damaged Native cultural sites, including human burials. Hence the recognition that things must change. Needed changes aren't occurring as fast as Katmai's staff

would like, yet progress is being made—bite by bite. Says Liggett, "We're moving in the right direction."

Conservationists and some of North America's most respected bear researchers aren't nearly as upbeat. Or patient. While agreeing that helpful actions are occurring at Brooks, they insist that the bites into Katmai's own elephant have been too few—and much too small. That's because Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens (R), chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, has withheld necessary funding and blocked Park Service efforts to implement visitor limits and relocate Brooks Camp. As a result, the Brooks River and neighboring camp are, more than ever, an accident waiting to happen, given the largely unregulated mix of people and bears and placement of human structures in a heavily used bear corridor. "There's a growing



An aerial view of Brooks Camp reveals the proximity of park structures to Brooks River. Visitors must cross the bridge that is evident in the center of the photograph and hike along the river to reach the Brooks Falls overlook.

sense of urgency about this," says Chip Dennerlein, NPCA's Alaska regional director. "The Park Service is really trying to do what's best for the resource and the visitor experience. It baffles me that Sen. Stevens has singlehandedly blocked these actions when they have such widespread support."

A 1998 Brooks Camp report was prepared by Chris Servheen of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and John Schoen, a longtime employee of Alaska's Department of Fish and Game now with The Audubon Society's Alaska office. These two widely respected bear biologists warn that "the [current] situation at Brooks is unsafe and will eventually lead to a serious bear-human encounter resulting in the death or critical injury of one or more visitors. The human use of the Brooks River area, the placement of the facilities, and the high density of bears make this site the most dangerous bear-human interaction situation we have ever seen." Among their top recommendations: relocation of NPS and concessionaire facilities across Brooks River.

These warnings are nothing new. They've been issued, in one form or another by a variety of experts, since the mid-1980s. Concerned about bear-human interactions, as well as impacts on Native cultural resources, the Park Service began work in 1989 on a plan to alter the way it manages the Brooks River area.

After seven years of field studies, public meetings, and plan revisions, the agency in 1996 released a final Development Concept Plan (DCP) that directed park managers to:

- ▲ dismantle Brooks Camp and relocate all visitor and NPS facilities south of the river, so that Brooks's north side would become a "people-free zone";
- ▲ put a cap on visitor numbers and place new restrictions on sportfishing; and
- ▲ develop a more structured visitor program.

Although few people were happy with all of the DCP's proposed actions, the plan reflected the Park Service's



TOM BEAN

Although brown bears can seem docile, such as this mother with her cubs, bear biologists are concerned that bear-human encounters could result in a tragedy.

willingness to work with a wide spectrum of interests. "This was not a unilateral NPS action," Dennerlein emphasizes. "The plan was crafted in Alaska, by Alaskans. The thoughtful mix of facility removal and appropriate new development will serve the needs of bears and humans and protect the character of this place. There is a limit to the number of people and wild bears that can be in the same place at the same time. And it's important to remember that with the new visitor limits, more people will still see more wild brown bears fish for salmon than anywhere on Earth."

Playing a key role was the Katmai Task Force, an informal working group that included Native residents of the area, lodge owners, conservationists, and developers. Formed in 1994, the group allowed participants to confer with each other and park staff. It also built bridges between the Park Service and local resi-

dents, who had often felt alienated from Katmai's management.

Conservationists and Katmai's managers have long considered camp relocation and a visitor cap essential if Brooks River and Camp is to become safer and less intrusive to the area's bears and cultural traditions. Unfortunately, Stevens has had different ideas. In 1997, he forbade the Park Service to use any Interior funds for Brooks Lodge's relocation. He further directed the agency to find ways to increase visitation, not restrict it. Last year, NPS officials seemingly convinced Stevens that the best way to safely boost visitation was to move the camp, and the senator added \$6.2 million to Interior's budget so that the process could begin. But in the fall of 1999, he removed that money from the Senate's fiscal year 2000 Interior appropriations bill. Only later did Liggett discover "with some dismay" that the money had disap-

KATMAI Continued

peared. "We thought we had his support, the green light to go ahead, but something happened that changed Sen. Stevens' mind," she says. "So we're back to the drawing board."

NPS and the conservation community aren't the only parties frustrated by Stevens' actions. "The Park Service has made a good-faith effort to do what's best at Brooks, and we don't understand why Sen. Stevens and his staff are so hesitant to move forward," says Tom Hawkins, senior vice president and chief operating officer for the Bristol Bay Native Corporation. "We've been very disappointed by his opposition to the camp move."

While Katmai's drawing board may not yet include a relocation strategy that Stevens will support, Liggett is optimistic that the senator and the Park Service will eventually find common ground on that critical issue. In the meantime, there are plenty of other bites to take.

The Senate has given the Park Service \$1.1 million to build a new and improved boat ramp and dock on Naknek Lake near King Salmon, the primary gateway community from which visitors travel to Brooks. Right now, most people fly there on float planes. By making boat travel easier, the new dock and ramp should benefit park staff, visitors, and local residents and disperse recreational use to other parts of Katmai as well.

Thanks to Stevens' influence, Senate appropriations have also enabled the Park Service to expand Brooks Camp's visitor center and build a new "bear resistant" bridge across Brooks River, which visitors must cross as they go from camp to falls. And in 1998, Stevens helped negotiate a \$4.4 million deal between NPS and a Native family that owned a key piece of land along Brooks River. "Although Stevens devotes an inordinate amount of attention to Katmai, this is an example where he got involved in a helpful way," says NPCA legislative representative Marcia Argust.

Projects have continued this year.

Work crews are building a thousand-foot boardwalk and new viewing platform to ease visitor crowding and reduce bear-human interaction. And after years of close encounters, the Park Service has placed an electric fence around the 60-person campground, to keep bears out. "The campground is my biggest worry," says Mark Wagner, Katmai's Brooks Camp manager for ten years. "So far no one's been hurt, but every year we get tents torn up by bears. And



Bears are frequently seen nearby visitor recreation and lodging areas in Brooks Camp.

last summer [1999], a bear stepped on a guy in his tent."

One change hasn't required funding or work crews: more restricted fishing. Humans fished the Brooks River long before they came to watch bears. Archaeological evidence suggests that Native peoples lived here off and on for 4,500 years while harvesting salmon. As recently as the 1950s, Aleut and Yupik residents of nearby villages would come to net salmon using traditional subsistence methods.

Fishing is also what brought tourism and the present-day Brooks Camp to the river. Brooks was the largest of five remote camps established within Katmai (then a national monument) during the 1950s, by businessman Ray Petersen. In the camp's early days, visitors saw few bears along the Brooks River because they'd been chased away or killed for as long as humans had occupied this site. Bear numbers and their visibility began increasing once the Park Service began to actively manage the area in the 1950s. Within three decades, Brooks River was trans-

formed from an exclusive fisherman's paradise into a world-renowned bear-watcher's haven.

Conflicts among anglers, bears, and bear viewers have prompted increased sportfishing restrictions. For years, fishermen could take five sockeye salmon a day from the Brooks River. Nowadays, anglers can keep only one salmon and most of the stream is catch-and-release only. "Despite what some people think, the Brooks River is now primarily a bear-watching destination," Wagner says. "We need to consider the bears and human safety, first and foremost."

Those favoring a camp move consider some recent improvements like the renovated visitor center, new bridge, and electrified fence to be temporary measures. Ultimately, says Denerlein, "relocation is the linchpin for the camp's long-term success." A new locale has already been picked and approved. Named the Beaver Pond terrace, it is three-quarters of a mile from Brooks River, away from both heavily traveled bear corridors and cultural sites.

While most of the attention in the relocation debate has focused on Brooks' bears and the potential for bear-human conflicts, Native cultural remains are another compelling reason to move the camp. More than 900 house depressions and numerous other relics have been found along the Brooks River, including fire pits, stone tools, pottery, and human skeletons. Jeanne Schaaf,



This danger sign refers to a bear-human incident and gives testament to the need to move Brooks Camp.

Katmai's cultural resources manager, calls Brooks River a major archaeological district: "It's not the oldest or most spectacular, but it's the largest that we know of in the region and represents intense occupation for thousands of years."

Located beneath Brooks Camp, some important sites have already been harmed by construction and other human use. In one instance, a human skeleton was uncovered by workers digging a water-pipe trench. With the Brooks River district now placed on the National Register of Historic Places, there's some concern that ongoing impacts to sites may violate the National Historic Preservation Act.

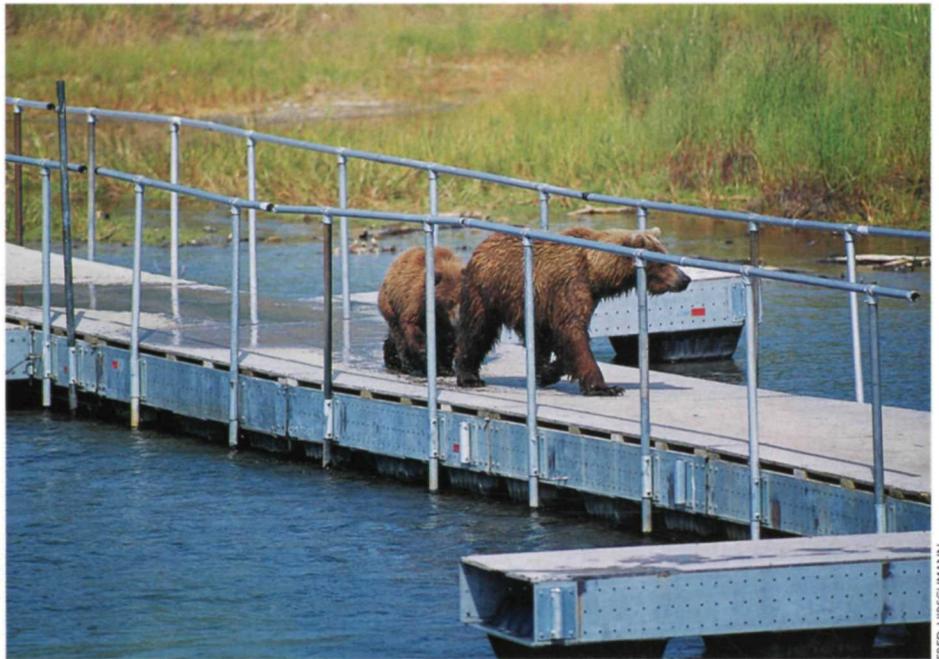
Brooks' cultural importance to contemporary Native peoples must also be recognized, says Trefon Angasan, an Aleut and officer for the Bristol Bay Native Corporation. "The Brooks River is where my dad was born; it's where I grew up," he says. "For many of us, those are still our traditional homelands; we have a spiritual connection to those lands."

Many people, both Native and non-Native, consider it especially repugnant that camp activities have unearthed and disrupted human burials.

Dennerlein notes that efforts are under way at both Antietam National Battlefield and Gettysburg National Military Park to remove facilities, in part to honor those who died there.

Another place where NPS has removed structures is Giant Forest in Sequoia National Park, which Dennerlein suggests could be a model for Brooks Camp. Home to several of the world's largest trees, Giant Forest gained park protection in 1890. Eight years later, tent cabins were built within the forest, later joined by a resort lodge, roads, and other visitor amenities. As early as 1928, Sequoia's superintendent voiced concerns about the harm being done to Giant Forest's trees, but not until 1980 did the Park Service approve a plan to move all commercial facilities.

Finally begun in 1997, razing and removing structures should be finished this year. Some 280 structures will be gone, leaving only four historic buildings, while a new lodge and tourist vil-



FRED HIRSCHMANN

To avoid bear-human contact, the Katmai proposal would relocate visitor facilities south of the river and create a "people-free" zone on the north side.

lage have been erected six miles away.

"Think about it," Dennerlein says. "We have removed our developments from atop the roots of our planet's grandest trees. Why shouldn't we do the same kind of thing at Brooks, for the benefit of North America's most magnificent animals?"

Another fact to consider: about 15 percent of Katmai's visitors go to Brooks River and Camp; yet as currently managed, the site consumes 70 percent of the park's budget. By relocating the camp and initiating a more structured visitor program, Liggett could avoid much of Brooks' day-to-day "crisis management" and put more of her resources and people elsewhere. "I like to remind people that Brooks is one tiny dot in 4 million acres," Liggett says. "I have a whole park to manage, not just this one place."

Two other places are of special concern. One is the Katmai coast, a 400-mile stretch of wild, remote shorelands, where growing demand for bear-viewing opportunities and prime sportfishing has prompted increased use by tour companies. Budget and staff limitations have kept Liggett from assigning anyone to the coast full-time, though park staff are receiving more and more reports of overused "hot spots," where wildlife and habitat may be threatened.

The second problem area is the Alagnak Wild River, which begins inside Katmai National Park and then forms a 56-mile-long protected corridor outside of the park. Popular with boaters and anglers, the Alagnak's troubles include trespassing; trash and human waste; increased conflicts between sport and subsistence fishers and hunters; and tensions between motorized and nonmotorized boats.

Liggett also points out that Brooks, with its bears, crowds, and chaos, have caused people to forget why Katmai was originally established in 1918: to protect the Valley of 10,000 Smokes and its volcanic wonders. The Valley of Smokes, outer coast, Alagnak River, and other Katmai wildlands will all be better served once the necessary changes have been made at Brooks. So too will the Brooks' bears, the cultural sites, and the visitors.

"At its best, when things are done right, Brooks can be a magical place of bears and salmon and 4,000 years of Native culture," Liggett says. "There is no better place on the face of the Earth to educate large numbers of people about Alaska's bears."

BILL SHERWONIT lives in Alaska and last wrote about this issue for National Parks in 1996.



Big Bend National Park

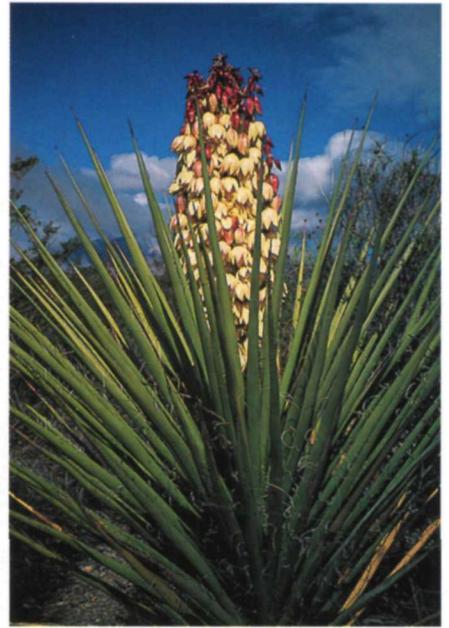
My Place in the World

Photos and Text by Bill Wright

EVERYONE ULTIMATELY develops a sense of place—a feeling about some special part of the world where he or she feels in sync with the environment, where understanding of the natural world, accumulated over many trips and years, gives a person an indefinable assurance that things will somehow be okay.

Big Bend National Park is that place in the world for me. I have traveled there again and again for nearly 50 years, about as long as the park has been in existence, and today it is just as mystical and haunting as it was during my first visit from my home in Abilene as a high school student. Even today, when I pass through Persimmon Gap en route to a campsite or to accommodations in the Chisos Basin, I feel as if I am home.





Above, left: purple-tinged prickly pear; Above: giant dagger plant or yucca.



Opposite page, left: cottonwood before Pummel Peak, Chisos Mountains. Opposite page, top: a flowering cactus at Big Bend. Above: Santa Elena Canyon.

As a photographer, however, I see inevitable changes. Visibility is declining because of pollution generated in far-off areas, borne by the winds. I see the effect of more visitors because of the growing popularity of this remote and formerly little-known national park, especially during the Thanksgiving and spring holidays.

The crowds come when rainfall—especially following a dry spell—brings on the flowers and the springs. The park is a living, dynamic thing, transforming itself from year to year even as the Earth continues its geological evolution on a cosmic timescale.

Deserts, such as the one at Big Bend, are places of meditation. The original migrants to the American Southwest felt the power of these arid lands and felt they elicited visions, dreams, and aspirations. Perhaps it is the unrelenting light. The stark, harsh topography. The silence.

Taking photographs in Big Bend has taught me that we cannot always control what happens to us, only our reaction to it. I cannot moderate the burning of the midday sun, so I seek the shadowed margin of a canyon or the startling lushness of a hidden spring to make my exposures. I arise before daylight to catch the pinks and violets of the first rays and stay in the field until



darkness shrouds the ocotillo and creosote bush, and stars appear.

My first visit was for adventure. The park was new, and I was young and searching. My friends and I were explorers, experiencing the vastness of western Texas for the first time. We wondered if our footsteps might cross the historic trail of Cabeza de Vaca and his companions who, 500 years before, had traded their way to Spanish territory south of the Rio Grande.

Later, as a photographer, I learned where to go when the light would be just so to make the land forms attractive. Every year, I return to the park and wonder whether I will see something new, and I am never disappointed. Even when time passes, Big Bend National Park—as large as the state of Rhode Island—is there, waiting.

Though I still photograph, I now come to Big Bend for other reasons. I am less compelled to do something—to bring back some tangible result of my time spent there. I come to soak in the sky, smell the creosote bush after a rain, see the Strawberry Pitaya in bloom, count the stars.

After even a week or so, I am renewed. I feel an energy of spirit and cleansing of the body from hiking the trails and exploring unfamiliar areas. If the park were not here, I would be diminished because, for me, no place on Earth can compete with Big Bend.

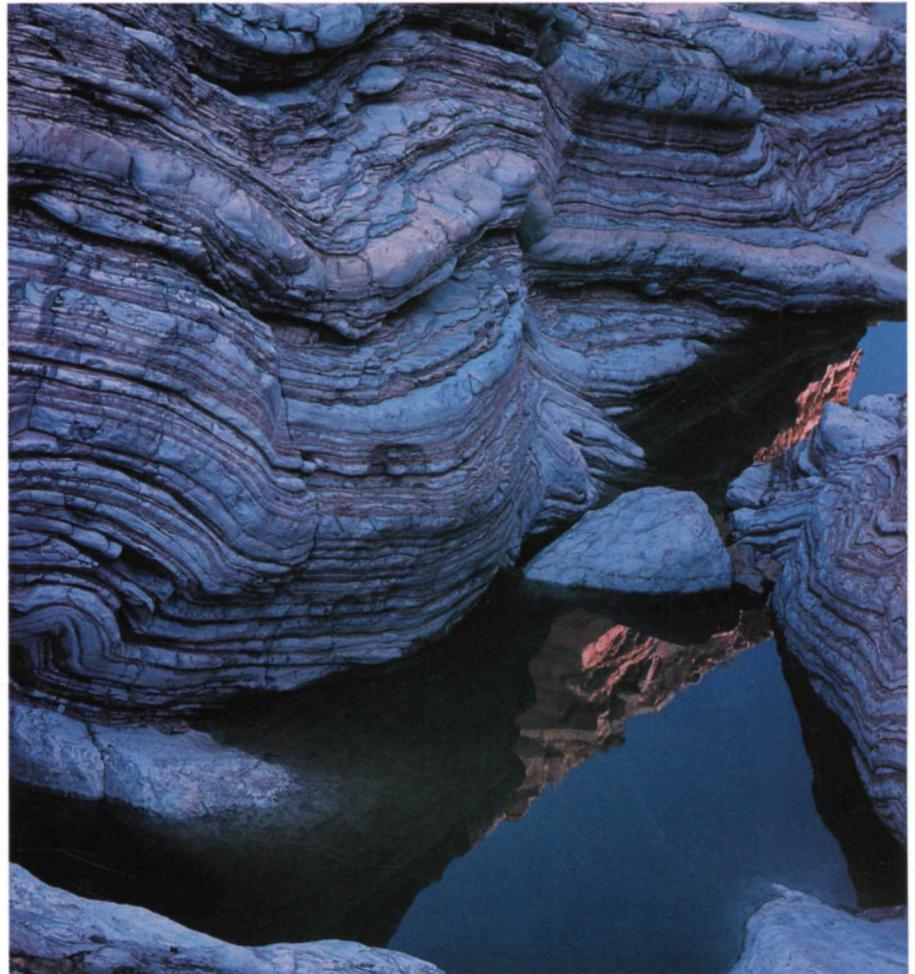
It is my place in the world.

About the Author:

Writer and photographer BILL WRIGHT lives in Abilene, Texas, and Santa Fe, New Mexico. He is the author of four books; the most recent, *People's Lives: A Photographic Celebration of the Human Spirit*, will be released by the University of Texas Press in the spring of 2001. He has served as a member of the National Council for the Humanities and presently serves as Commissioner for the Texas Commission for the Arts.



Ocotillo at sunrise.



Water collects at the Ernst Tinaja.

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Riding the Wild, White Water

If whitewater rafting is your game, West Virginia provides some of the best rivers in the East to enjoy the sport.

by **Katurah Mackay**

DON'T BE FOOLED by gentle ripples and lazy eddies. Any Dr. Jekyll river can become Mr. Hyde when it encounters a snarl of invisible rocks. The sheer power of moving water—unrestrained and relentless along its course through canyon or gorge—drowns all other sound. That bulky orange life vest suddenly becomes a valuable ally. With a numbing mixture of dread and adrenaline, whitewater rivers taunt their visitors, then disappear, plunging raft and occupants into the roar, the waves, and the cold shock of pure exultation that waits below.

Whitewater rafting is Mother Nature's roller coaster—minus predictability and steel safety frames. The lure of fear and risk, and the accompanying thrill of surviving class IV and V-plus rapids, brings whitewater enthusiasts back to their favorite rivers again and again. Defiant rivers are legendary in the West, but for city slickers in the East, the New and Gauley rivers in West Virginia offer some of the most spine-tingling

KATURAH MACKAY is former news editor of National Parks.

recreational rides around. They also present some management challenges for the National Park Service. The New and Gauley rivers draw nearly 1.5 million visitors each year, about a quarter of whom participate in a commercially outfitted rafting trip. Unlike most other park units, the state's Division of Natural Resources regulates the rafting industry on the rivers, not the Park Service. In addition, the Park Service has only one public access point along the entire 25-mile Gauley River National Recreation Area; the rest are owned by commercial outfitters.

New River Gorge National River

Oddly misnamed, the New River is actually one of the oldest rivers in the world from a geological perspective. The New flows across the Appalachian Plateau rather than around or from it as do other regional waterways. This pattern indicates that the river predates the Appalachian Mountains, one of the oldest ranges on Earth.

The New River offers a whitewater experience for all river runners: level of difficulty ranges from mild chop on the upper stretches of the river to class V-plus rapids on the lower portions.

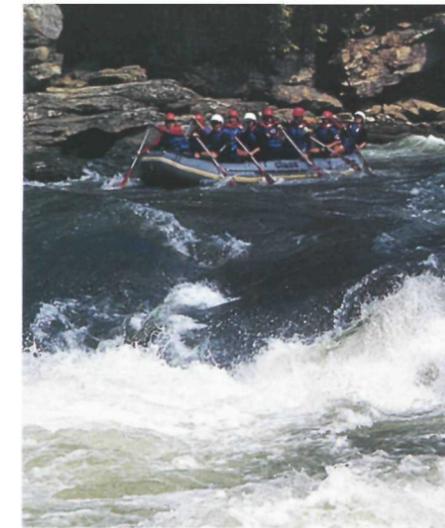


A visitor gazes from Grandview at the New River Gorge's Horseshoe Bend.

North of Thurmond Depot Visitor Center, the New begins its transformation into one of the premier whitewater rivers in the country. The river falls approximately 750 feet in only 50 miles from the Bluestone Dam to Gauley Bridge. By comparison, the Mississippi River drops less than 700 feet over a distance of 2,300 miles from Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. Kayakers come to master the New's rapids with names such as Surprise, Double Z, and Miller's Folly. But if the company of a guide helps quiet your nerves, you may want to join one of the outstanding group trips through New River Gorge. Most outfitters are based in Fayetteville and surrounding towns. Trips are available from April—when water levels are typically high—through October, when the vibrant fall foliage reaches its peak. Make reservations at least several weeks in advance, especially if you desire a



Rafters on the Gauley River plunge into the Pure Screaming Hell rapids.



Gauley rafters ready themselves.

weekend trip. Costs begin at \$45 per person. Choose your whitewater adventure from an extensive list of outfitters and guided trips. The list is available at www.nps.gov/neri/whitewater_commercial.htm, or call 800-CALL-WVA.

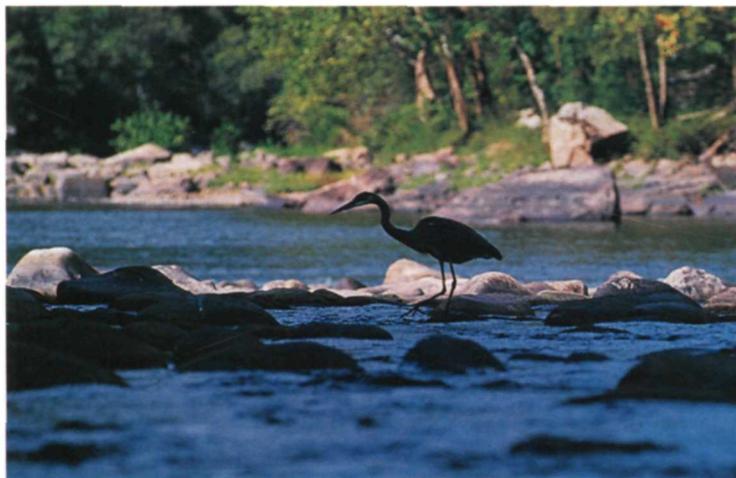
The majority of guided trips require no prior river-running experience. Safety guidelines and paddling technique are covered before you embark, and meals are included in the cost of your trip, depending on the length. Most outfitters offer express trips that span a morning or afternoon through the most exciting rapids of the New, but longer day trips and overnight excursions are also available. At some point during your rafting adventure, be sure to talk to your guide about other recreational opportunities found at the gorge, such as hiking, bird watching, mountain biking, rock climbing, or fishing.

If you choose a solo overnight excursion, the National Park Service asks that you check in with a ranger at any visitor center. Staff at the Hinton Visitor Center can offer excellent suggestions for planning a river trip on the south end of the New River, point out its access points and campsites, and describe the personality of the rapids on this stretch. The primitive campsites offer no drinking water or hookups and limited restroom facilities, and are a good distance from service stations, markets, and telephones. Campers should stock up before embarking in Hinton, Fayetteville, or other nearby towns. More information about camping along the New River can be found at www.nps.gov/neri/camping.htm.



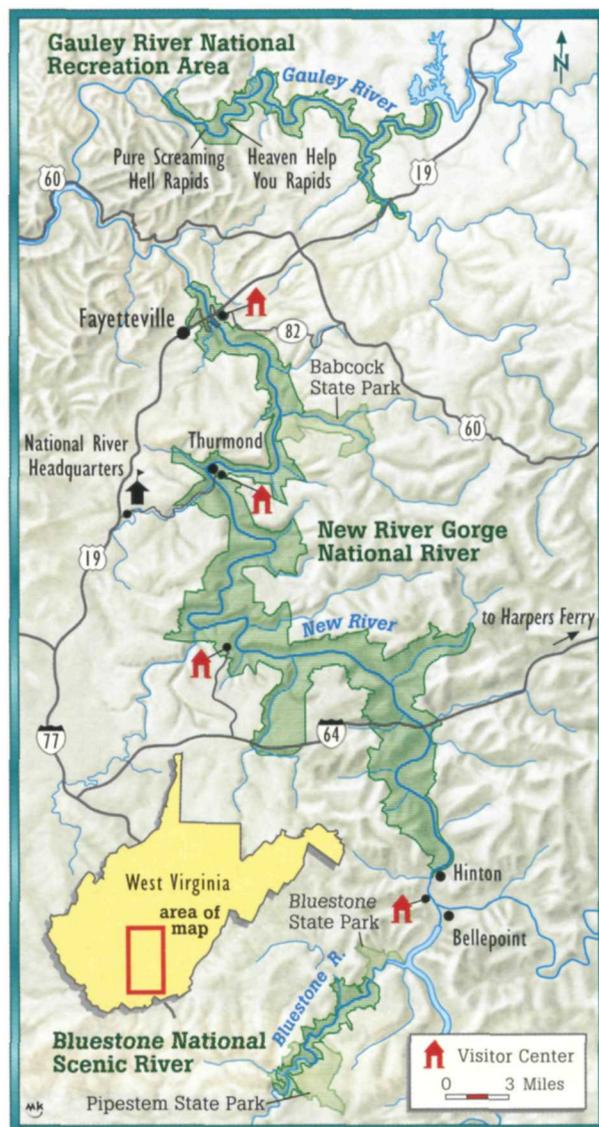
CHRISTOPHER SMITH

Rafters round a bend in the Gauley River's Lower Mash Rapids.



CHRISTOPHER SMITH

A heron stands atop a rock in the New River Gorge.



MATT KANIA

Gauley River National Recreation Area

If the rapids of the New River were not enough to make your heart pound and palms sweat, drive 30 minutes north from the Canyon Rim Visitor Center and a whole new feisty waterway awaits. Gauley River National Recreation Area was established in 1988 to preserve 25 miles of the Gauley River and six miles of the Meadow River as they pass through scenic gorges and valleys. The Gauley riverbanks protect some of West Virginia's rarest plant species, such as the federally listed Virginia spiraea, which makes its otherwise obscure presence known in April and May with

small white flowers. At both the Gauley and New rivers, visitors should watch for various raptors soaring above—you may catch sight of a peregrine falcon. A wealth of recreational choices centered around the magnificent river and its weathered canyon walls awaits both families and single explorers. This unit of the National Park System encompasses more than 11,000 acres of land in addition to the roiling whitewater vein that courses through its center.

Thousands of river enthusiasts come to the Gauley River every fall to paddle what is considered by many to be some of the best whitewater in the country. Like the New, the Gauley drops an incredible depth in a short distance, cre-

ating powerful, tricky, and thrilling rides. More than 100 rapids with massive waves and tremendous volume goad river runners merely by name: Upper and Lower Mash, Heaven Help You, and Pure Screaming Hell.

Most of the runs on the upper Gauley are between class III and V-plus, and the minimum age is 16 for those running with an outfitter. Lower portions of the river offer a slightly tamer experience—minimum age 12-14 with an outfitter—and a trip with a licensed company is strongly recommended for any portion of the Gauley. Teamwork and the experience of a river veteran help to calm nerves and create a more challenging and enjoyable encounter with

Gauley rapids. Guides will also share some of their more colorful river stories during the delicious anticipation between rapids and can provide visitors with suggestions for other worthwhile educational and recreational activities in the area.

The season begins the first weekend after Labor Day and continues for six weekends, but trips are sometimes available at other times of the year. Call 800-CALL-WVA, or check out http://www.nps.gov/neri/whitewater_commercial.htm for a list of commercial outfitters that work in the park. As with trips on the New River, qualified guides, equipment, safety instruction and paddling training, transportation to and from the river, and meals are provided by outfitters.

Information about both the New and Gauley rivers and the surrounding parklands can be obtained at the national river headquarters in Glen Jean or at any of the visitor centers found along New River Gorge National River. Visit www.nps.gov/neri or www.nps.gov/gari for more detailed advice and recommendations about each park unit, or call 304-465-0508. Bed-and-breakfasts are a popular and comfortable way to spend time in these beautiful natural areas; check out www.bedandbreakfast.com to conduct a search.

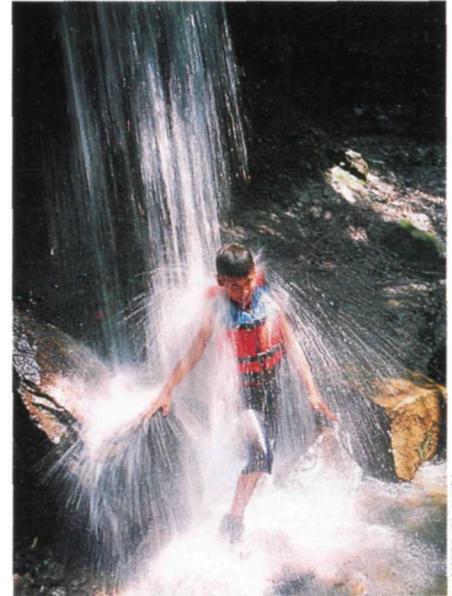
Other Points of Interest

If you entered the New River Gorge National River through the town of Hinton, you were a short distance from Bluestone National Scenic River. In 1988, the Bluestone was established as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, which protects rivers or portions of rivers in a free-flowing condition. Bordered by Bluestone State Park to the north and Pipestem State Park to the south, more than 3,000 acres of the Bluestone River and its corridor are managed by the National Park Service as a scenic and remote tributary of the New River and Bluestone Lake, formed by Bluestone Dam.

Access is offered through each of the bordering state parks. A tram will transport visitors to the Bluestone River from

Pipestem State Park. In the summer and fall, the Bluestone River flows at low volume, but spring waters can be a tempting challenge to adventurous paddlers. An eight-mile Bluestone Turnpike Trail parallels the river, and hiking and fishing offer excellent ways to explore the river's route. Interpretive programs and ranger-led hikes are offered seasonally. The park has no camping or lodging, but both can be found in the state parks. For more information, call park headquarters at 304-465-0508, or visit <http://www.nps.gov/blue/index.htm>.

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, located at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers in West Virginia, Maryland, and Virginia, interprets a sweeping mosaic of significant people, events, and decisions spanning several centuries. American Indians first used this break in the Blue Ridge Mountains as a corridor for travel and transportation. Later, power created by the surging river waters and abundant supplies of hardwood and coal supplied



CHRISTOPHER SMITH

A child enjoys a New River waterfall.

energy for mills and factories. Harpers Ferry is also the site of the United States Armory and Arsenal, established at the end of the 18th century with the help of President George Washington. Meriwether Lewis stocked up at the armory in 1803 before launching his

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Rafters paddle on the New River.

expedition west with William Clark. Fifty-six years later, abolitionist John Brown led a raid on the armory in 1859, signaling the beginning of a much larger conflict. Harpers Ferry was the site of the largest surrender of federal troops during the Civil War and was also the site of Storer College, begun in 1867 by New England Freewill Baptists primarily to educate former slaves. The school was open to all races and both genders and was one of the earliest integrated schools in the United States.

In addition to river travelers, the town's unique location also drew the attention of three pivotal East Coast rail lines, and marks the intersection of the Appalachian Trail and Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, an excellent bike trail from points east.

During the winter months, organized park activities are limited, but the visitor center, museums, and trails remain open and are less crowded than in other seasons. The area offers quaint accommodations such as hilltop bed-and-breakfasts and historic country inns. As always, reservations are recommended, especially during the autumn months. Call 304-535-6298 for more information, or visit the park's web site at www.nps.gov/hafe/home.htm for information about lodging, interpretive programs, fees, and transportation.

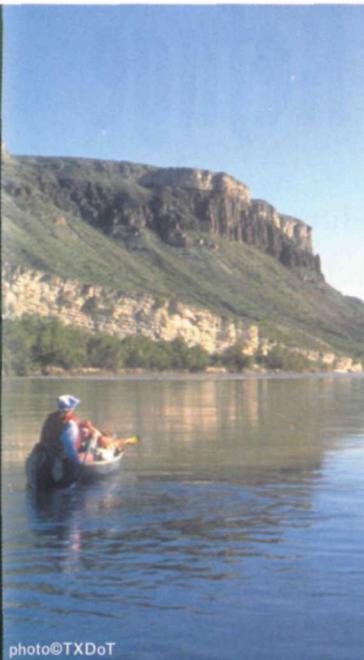


Solitude at a New River campground.

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Place of Refuge

A national park site in the Hawaiian Islands tells the story of an ancient religious practice.

BY WILLIAM A. UPDIKE

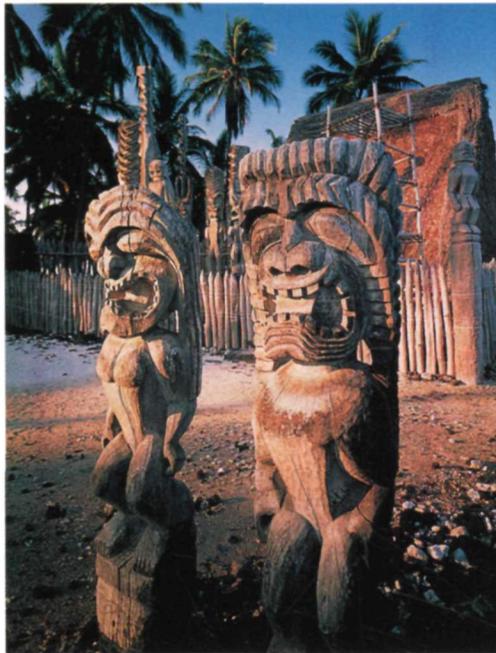
LEAVE THOSE PULP fiction-induced visions of hula dancing natives behind. This is a story about the real indigenous people who populated the Hawaiian Islands.

On the big island of Hawaii, Pu'uhonua o Honaunau—the place of refuge of Honaunau—National Historical Park commemorates a site where individuals who had broken a kapu, a sacred law, could flee to avoid being put to death to appease the gods. The pu'uhonua provided a sanctuary for kapu breakers until Kamehameha II abolished the religion in 1819.

The kapu were laws that related to social class structure in the islands. “Common” people could break kapu by getting too close, walking in the footsteps, or touching the possessions of the ali'i—the ruling chiefs of the various districts in the islands who were believed to have ancestral god-given power, mana, that included their person, possessions, and the ground on which they walked.

Women could not prepare for or eat meals with men, nor could they eat the foods reserved for the gods. The system of kapu also affected other parts of daily life, such as regulating fishing seasons, taking animals, and gathering timber. Islanders believed that any mistake would cause the gods to react violently and invoke volcanic eruptions, tidal waves, famine, and earthquakes. Although such disasters might be caused

WILLIAM A. UPDIKE is assistant editor for National Parks.



Wooden effigies, called ki'i, stand guard over the Pu'uhonua o Honaunau.

LARRY ULRICH

by the gods, most of the temples and major ceremonies were designed to ensure good crops and success in war.

Motivated by fear of the gods, the penalty for breaking a kapu was always the same—death. However, if a kapu breaker safely reached one of several pu'uhonua on the islands, he or she was protected from punishment. At the pu'uhonua, a kahuna pule, a priest, would perform a ceremony of absolution. The guilty one would return home after a stay that might range from a few hours to a few days depending on the crime.

Defeated warriors and non-combatants could also flee to the pu'uhonua during times of war.

In the Honaunau district, a wall, which still exists, separated the pu'uhonua from the palace ground of the ruling ali'i. The wall is 1,000 feet long in an “L” shape, ten feet high, and between 16 to 23 feet thick.

Within the boundaries of the wall, the park protects three heiau—temples that sometimes housed the remains of several chiefs. One is an authentic reconstruction of the temple built in the early 1700s to honor Keawe, the great-grandfather of the revered king, Kamehameha I, who united all the Hawaiian islands. It was said that the powerful mana of Keawe, which remained even after death, protected the pu'uhonua.

The park, which is set on a low promontory of lava-flow rock, also protects some fabled stones. According to a story based on legend but embellished on by Mark Twain in his *Letters from Hawaii*, the Keoua Stone

was the favorite resting place of Keoua, the high chief of Kona, who “was 14 or 15 feet high. When he stretched himself at full length on his lounge, his legs hung down over the end, and when he snored, he woke the dead.” Another story, surrounding the Ka'ahumanu Stone, says that Queen Ka'ahumanu, the favorite wife of King Kamehameha I, left him and swam many miles to hide under the stone. As the story goes, the queen was found because her pet dog barked and gave away her location.

One part legend, one part historical record, the recipe of stories relating to the Pu'uhonua o Honaunau still captures the imagination.



Springs with Life

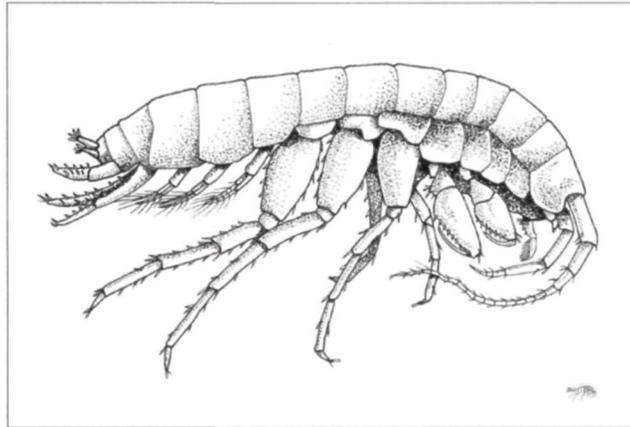
Tiny crustaceans populate springs and clean the waters that feed Rock Creek Park.

BY ELIZABETH G. DAERR

WHEN MARYLAND Department of Natural Resources ecologist Dan Feller was asked to return to Rock Creek Park in Washington, D.C., to identify a crustacean found in two newly located springs, he thought it was improbable that the species was the Hay's Spring amphipod. The pencil-eraser-sized, blind, colorless creature had been found only in one place—a natural spring at the National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C. And just the year before, Feller had surveyed 33 of the park's springs and not found one. He was asked by the National Park Service (NPS) to come back as part of an environmental review before a trail was built next to the springs. "It was a real long shot," Feller said. "I didn't really know what species it would be, but I wanted to make sure that it wasn't something rare." In those springs, Feller identified two of the three sites in the world where the Hay's Spring amphipod has been found.

Also known as the Hay's Spring scud, the species is just one of many "scuds" that live in numerous East Coast aquifers. The crustaceans are seen only above ground when and if they are flushed out during high-water periods, such as floods or spring runoff. And while the scud's emergence allows scientists a rare opportunity to study the species, it also

ELIZABETH G. DAERR is news editor for National Parks.



The Hay's Spring amphipod closely resembles *Stygobromus quatsinensis* (above). Actual size at bottom.

JIM HAYNES

separates them from their habitat and greatly decreases their chances to reproduce. "Once they are flushed out of the aquifer, they are effectively out of the population," says Dr. Jaren Horsley, a retired invertebrate zoologist from the National Zoo.

What is not known about this subterranean species far outweighs what is known. Because the amphipod's habitat is underground, no estimates are available about the species' population or even if other populations exist outside of Washington, D.C. Scientists believe that they feed on bacteria—although they don't know what types—in the water and on decaying leaf litter surrounding the springs. "Essentially, they clean up the underground," said Feller. Almost nothing is known of their reproductive habits, but it is estimated that they may live up to a decade.

When the species was first listed as endangered in 1982, its only home was

located next to an informal dump that the zoo used for landscaping debris. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) feared that the combination of critically low habitat, proximity to a large urban area, and the increasing loss of natural springs in Washington, D.C., poised the crustacean for eminent extinction. Fortunately, the site was located on federally protected property, possibly swaying USFWS to list it as endangered when other species proposed at the same time were passed up.

Bill Yeaman, a resource specialist at Rock Creek, says that the sites are unmarked, but NPS continues to monitor them. "Unfortunately, the best way to protect these sensitive critters is to not tell people where they are," he said. "But it's important to know where they are in case there are potential threats such as road salting or toxic spills." Yeaman added that a drainage study of Rock Creek, which would help pinpoint potential threats, is a future goal.

Although few people know about the creature and very little is known about it, John Holsinger, a professor of biology at Old Dominion University and the scientist responsible for getting the species listed in 1982, says the Hay's Spring amphipod has a role in the universe regardless. "These subterranean species are unique genetic systems and a part of our natural history, part of our natural heritage," he said. "Don't we want to save that?"



Taking Your Best Shot

The ability to take pictures in the parks and other wild areas carries some degree of responsibility.

BY KENNAN AND KAREN WARD

ART—WHETHER IN the form of the grand landscape paintings of Thomas Moran, or the fantastic black and white photographs of stone and water by Ansel Adams—has from the beginning played a role in forwarding the notion that the natural landscapes are sacred, awe-inspiring places.

Photography, long a tradition in our nation's parklands, undoubtedly played a key role in helping to convince legislators to set aside many of these lands in perpetuity. These photo documentations are, in many instances, the legacy from our forebears. William Henry Jackson spent seven years photographing the Rocky Mountains and other parks of the West, but Jackson was the exception rather than the rule during the late 1800s, when photography was still a relatively new art form.

In those early days, few people had means or access to these remote places. Today, hundreds of people make a living by taking photographs of parks and wildlife. In fact, anyone who can afford

to buy a disposable camera and has the funds for a trip to the national parks can return home with an envelope full of keepsake photographs that might have taken years to collect not all that long ago. That ability comes with a degree of responsibility.

lucky to see many wild animals in their element. Presenting a photograph of a captive animal as though it were in the wild only adds to the impression that nature can be viewed by appointment.

Digitally enhanced artwork also can give a false impression. Photo compos-

As we venture into the parks to take photographs of the stunning landforms and the wildlife there, we must take care not to trample and destroy the very things we have come to enjoy. Professional photographers have a special mission. We must take care not to present nature in a way that is misleading. How our photos are interpreted when published can affect the viewers' image of wilderness. For instance, the use of photos depicting captive animals that are presented as wilderness shots denigrates the ability to educate with photography. How many times have you heard an impatient park visitor lamenting the fact that the birds and animals are not showing themselves? The parks are not zoos. You have to be knowledgeable, patient, or



CARTOON RESOURCE

ites have many uses, but they should carry accurate captions so reality is not distorted. After viewing an enhanced photo of a sunset with three whales pirouetting from the ocean, a friend gushed, "I want to see that!" Those ultra-fantastic scenes diminish the more subtle but sublime beauty often captured in a natural photograph. It is important to uphold truth in our photographic images and to label work that has been created or retouched by a computer.

Our field techniques and ethics can influence others as well. We've watched photographers and wildlife viewers slowly crowd in upon an animal, each individual moving a few steps closer until the animal is caged in by enthusiastic viewers. This seems innocent enough, but often has detrimental results for the animal and sometimes for the viewer. As areas where we enjoy wildlife and wilderness become more precious, we must strengthen our commitment to proper ethics in order to protect the diminishing resources.

Human beings have been evolving for a long time, but only in the last 100 years has our progress made the largest and most lasting imprint upon the land. It remains within our power to make positive choices to preserve our heritage wilderness areas by renewing our pledge towards conservation and wildlife protection. Our pledge can take a number of forms. As naturalists it would be unthinkable for the two of us to act in a way that would endanger the wilderness or wildlife. Our presence in nature affects the delicate ecosystem. Once we recognize this, all of us can take actions that will better protect the wilderness. Following a few common sense rules will go a long way toward preserving it.

▲ Take the time to stop at the park's visitor center to get oriented and learn of any sensitive areas, closures, or restrictions, or visit the web site ahead of time. If you are a professional photographer, inquire about rules and whether a commercial permit is required.

▲ No matter how desperate you are for that close up shot of a wild animal, do

not feed it. Please keep food secured. Wild animals fed on a steady diet of French fries, hamburgers, and super-market items can starve to death from malnutrition. If you want to get closer, let a telephoto lens do the work for you.

▲ Do not whistle or make noises to get an animal's attention. Getting a photograph is not so important that you need to disturb a creature on its nest or while feeding. While you wait for your photo opportunity, you may see natural behavior that can be more rewarding.

▲ Use caution in sensitive areas. Evaluate your surroundings and choose the least intrusive path. To lessen your impact, consider changing your camera lens or shooting from a different angle. When using your vehicle as a photo blind, be sure to pull safely off the road. Traffic accidents occur when relaxed vacationers or excited photographers treat the roadway as a parking lot.

▲ Pack your trash. Scattered film wrappers, boxes, and plastic film containers leave an uncaring message.

▲ Always place the animals' needs over your photo wish. If your subject shows fear or disturbance, quietly back away and depart. Do not manipulate wildlife to get a "better" photograph or press an animal until it reacts to your presence.

▲ If you move something in the field to make a cleaner wildlife shot, replace the branch or rock after your shot to keep the habitat intact. That rock could be the protective layer shielding rainwater from a burrow.

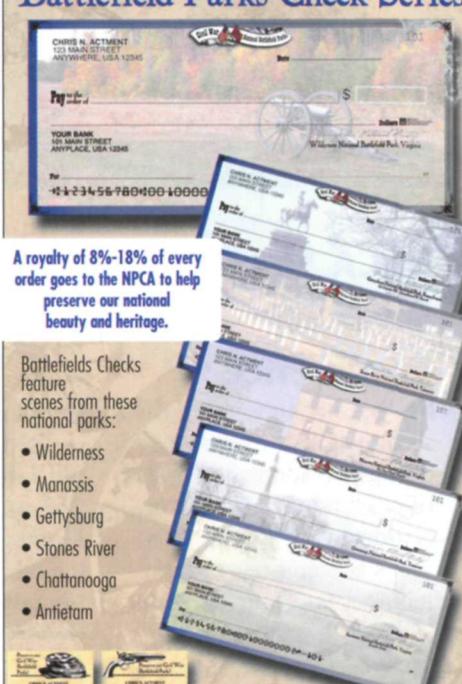
For us, spending time in the wilderness is the chance to enjoy the wonders of creation well beyond our ability or comprehension. You can't experience the message from nature unless you are open to what nature has to teach. Today nearly everyone visiting our national parks enjoys photography. As outdoor enthusiasts, we must take the lead in demonstrating our primary objective: to care for the wilderness and wildlife. As John Muir wrote, "In God's wildness lies the hope of the world." 

KENNAN AND KAREN WARD travel together in the field and have photographed together for 14 years. Kennan Ward is a former park ranger.

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BY WILLIAM A. UPDIKE

NPCA Slates Diversity Conference

►NPCA has announced the second annual conference devoted to addressing issues of race and diversity in the National Park System. This year's conference, *America's Parks—America's People: A Mosaic in Motion II*, will be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, November 8-12.

Following up on the success of last year's conference, which was held in San Francisco, California, attendees will continue to discuss strategies for: recruiting and retaining a diverse workforce in the National Park Service; understanding the positive effects of promoting diversity; creating partnerships with community groups to enhance diversity; and interpreting all peoples' stories at Park Service sites.

One goal for the conference is to establish national standards for the Park Service's promotion of the full inclusion of people of color in park programs, the agency's workforce, and in park visitorship.

Efforts that originated at last year's *Mosaic in Motion* conference recently resulted in a press conference that was held to propose several changes that the National

Park Service can make to ensure diversity in the parks.

On July 24, NPS Director Robert Stanton attended the press conference to receive the 12 recommendations.

For more information, call 1-800-NAT-PARK, ext. 258, and ask for Francisco Morales-Bermudez, or visit the NPCA web site at www.npca.org.

NPCA Offers Underground Railroad Tour

►NPCA's travel program, Parkscapes, is offering a tour that celebrates the establishment of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. The week-long tour is broken down into three parts: the first commemorates the initial escape of slaves from the South to the North, the second follows the journey farther north toward Canada, and the third focuses on the slaves' final destinations.

The first section of the tour, which begins in Philadelphia and runs from October 12 to 14, will include a reception and lecture that celebrates the launch of the park site. National Park Service (NPS) Director Robert Stanton, as well as singer-actress Melba Moore, will be in attendance. The day after

the opening reception, participants will focus on Underground Railroad sites in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Wilmington—the last stop in the border state of Delaware before a slave would reach freedom. It was in those cities that Harriet Ross Tubman, the former slave turned Underground Railroad conductor, and Thomas Garrett, a Quaker, guided more than 2,700 fugitives to the North.

From October 15 to 17, tour attendees will visit Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, in Pennsylvania, and then travel to the Finger Lakes region of New York. One stop will be the Harriet Tubman House, her home after the Civil War until her death in 1913. The tour also includes a trip to the William H. Seward House, an Underground Railroad station, and site of the anti-slavery publishing center that printed Frederick Douglass' autobiography before Seward became governor of New York. Later, tourists will explore the Smith family estate in Peterboro—a safe haven for slaves on their way to Canada and a financial and intellectual center of the anti-slavery movement. In Ithaca, attendees will visit one of the first AME Zion churches in the country.

On the third part of the tour, from October 18 to 20, the group will hear lectures in Buffalo about the Underground Railroad and attend a performance at the African American Cultural Center. Group members will travel across the border, with a stop at Niagara Falls, and hear a lecture on the border towns and the role that Canada played in the Underground Railroad. Tourists will explore Fort Erie and a settlement that became known as "Little Africa."

Those interested can sign up for any one of the three parts of the tour individually, or for the entire tour. Contact Dan Gifford at 1-800-NAT-PARK, ext. 136, or e-mail dgifford@npca.org, for more information.

Rep. Vento Retires from Congress

►A former winner of NPCA's William Penn Mott, Jr., Park Leadership Award, and a major national parks' supporter, Rep. Bruce Vento (D-Minn.) is retiring from Congress this year.

In July, NPCA participated in a fund-raising event for a scholarship fund that is being set up in Vento's name. The fund will be dedicated to aspiring science

teachers—Vento's profession before he entered Congress. The dinner, which was attended by more than 30 members of Congress, President Clinton, and Garrison Keillor, raised approximately \$500,000 for the fund.

While Vento was the chair of the House parks and public lands committee, he worked on more than 300 bills that became law.

National Public Lands Day Announced

►For those interested in volunteering to repair the nation's public lands, National Public Lands Day has been scheduled for September 23, 2000.

Organizers believe that this year's event will include activities at more than 250

sites in all 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Some examples of activities are: repairing trails, removing invasive plants and replacing them with native plants, protecting archaeological sites, cleaning up roads and streams, painting buildings, and making facilities accessible to all people.

Nearly 30,000 volunteers joined public lands' managers at 186 sites and contributed \$5 million worth of improvements to federal, state, and city lands for last year's event. Fifteen national park sites are already included in this year's activities.

For more information, visit the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation web site at www.neetf.org, or call Patti Pride at 202-261-6474.



Letters Sent to Support Land Preservation

►More than 3,000 readers of *National Parks* filled out and returned cards that were placed inside the magazine and addressed to Sen. Trent Lott (R-Miss.).

The cards asked Lott to bring legislation to the Senate floor that would provide full and permanent

funding for the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The fund was initiated in 1964 to purchase lands for the protection of natural resources. LWCF is responsible for preserving lands in many national parks, including Denali and Everglades.

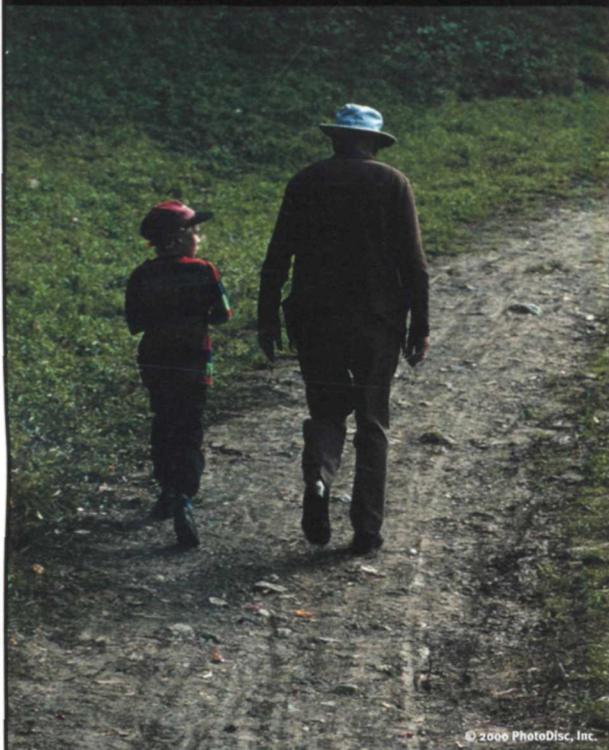
For more information on LWCF, and on becoming an activist for national parks, send an e-mail to TakeAction@npca.org.

APEX Awards

►National Parks has won an APEX Award of Excellence for Wendy Mitman Clarke's story "Island of Hope" (November/December 1999).

NPCA also won the Grand Award for its 1999 Annual Report. Thousands of entries were submitted for the contest.

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National parks

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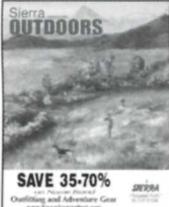
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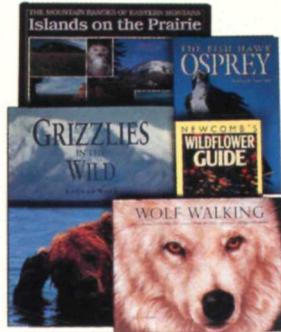
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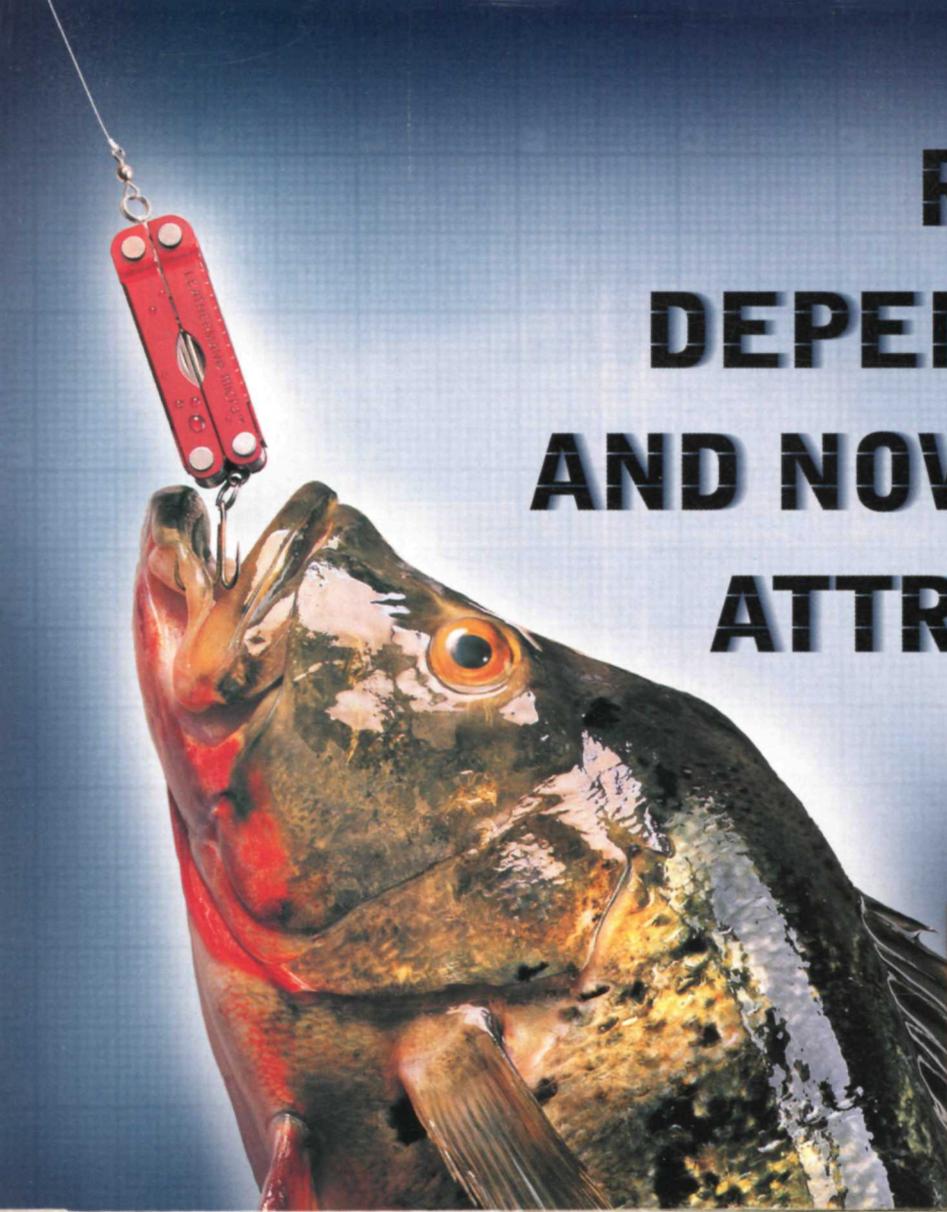
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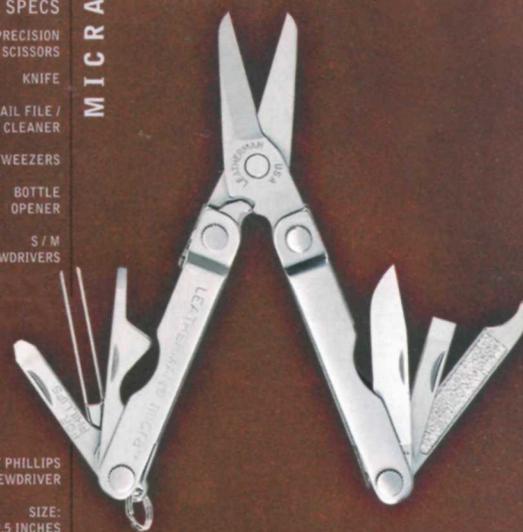
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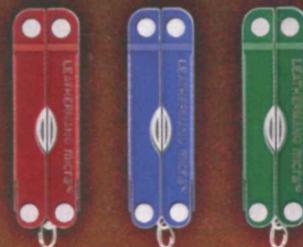
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