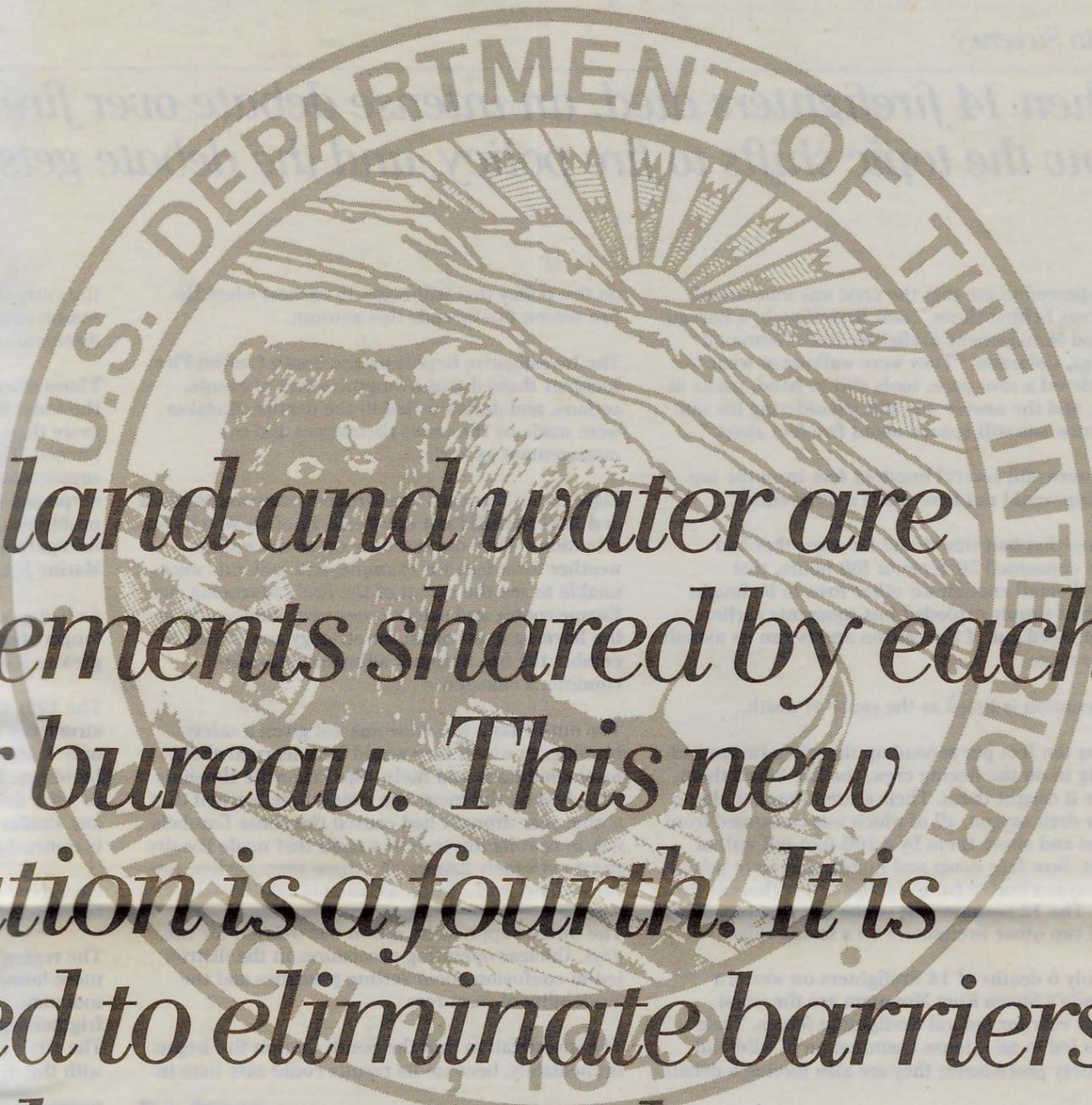


# PEOPLE LAND & WATER

The seal of the U.S. Department of the Interior is centered in the background. It features an eagle with wings spread, perched on a shield. The shield contains a bison. The eagle is holding arrows in its talons. The words "U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR" are written around the perimeter of the seal.

*People, land and water are three elements shared by each Interior bureau. This new publication is a fourth. It is designed to eliminate barriers among bureaus, to shatter the walls. It will bring us together as we protect and develop our resources. It will focus on the best science and approaches to land management. It will focus on beauty, on love of the land.*

# Fire on the Ridge

Kevin Sweeney

*When 14 firefighters died, an intense debate over fire safety raged. Now the topic shifts to fire policy, and the debate gets even hotter.*

"It appeared to me that the crew was unaware of what was behind them," said Brad Haugh, a Bureau of Land Management firefighter from Glenwood Springs, Colorado. "They were walking at what I considered a slow pace, tools still in hand, packs in place, and the sawyer was still shouldering his saw. The crew was still spaced about five feet apart."

They were still several hundred feet from the top. Running would not have made a difference.

The fire that had smoldered for days, that had barely consumed 50 acres in 100 hours, that seemed small enough for other fires to be fought first, had simply exploded just moments earlier. Now it raced out of the canyon and began its assault on the ridge.

Asphyxiation is listed as the cause of death.

Moving ten feet per second up the steep ravine and closing in on the fleeing crew, the fire killed them before it caught them. Their seared lungs could no longer draw oxygen, all of which was consumed from behind and above them by a 200-foot-tall wall of flames. Now face down and numb, they were mixed with oxygen pulled from a place still higher on the ridge. The 12 became part of the fire that raced on to kill two other firefighters on a facing ridge.

The July 6 deaths of 14 firefighters on western Colorado's Storm King Mountain are the worst tragedy ever for federal firefighting forces. Their deaths led to an intense examination of wildland fire safety procedures; they are also forcing a debate

on fire policy that will begin in earnest when the fire season finally ends this autumn.

The Investigative Report on the South Canyon Fire Incident showed that a lengthy series of events, actions, and decisions led to the deaths. Mistakes were made by the crews themselves and by management as well.

Eight of ten Standard Fire Orders were compromised and the crews did not recognize 12 of 18 Watch Out Situations. They did not have up-to-the minute weather forecasts, for example, and lookouts were unable to see the extent of the fire's advancing rim. Escape routes and safety zones were inadequate for the burning conditions; the strategy and tactics to combat the fire were not adjusted as the fire conditions changed.

The out-of-state fire crew was not given a safety briefing, in which they would have learned about local conditions and fuels. The Prineville Hotshots who died on the mountain would have learned that a nine-year drought had caused the dense Gambels oak to coat its leaves with a resin that made the dry plant extremely flammable; three years earlier, two fire fighters had died in a Gambels oak blow-up.

The initial suppression action was delayed for two days. Unclear operating procedures in the district led to confusion about setting priorities and the availability of resources.

The investigation into the South Canyon fire began immediately, because its results could save lives in

the current fire season. But with the current fire season coming to an end, most likely this month, discussions shift to fire policy.

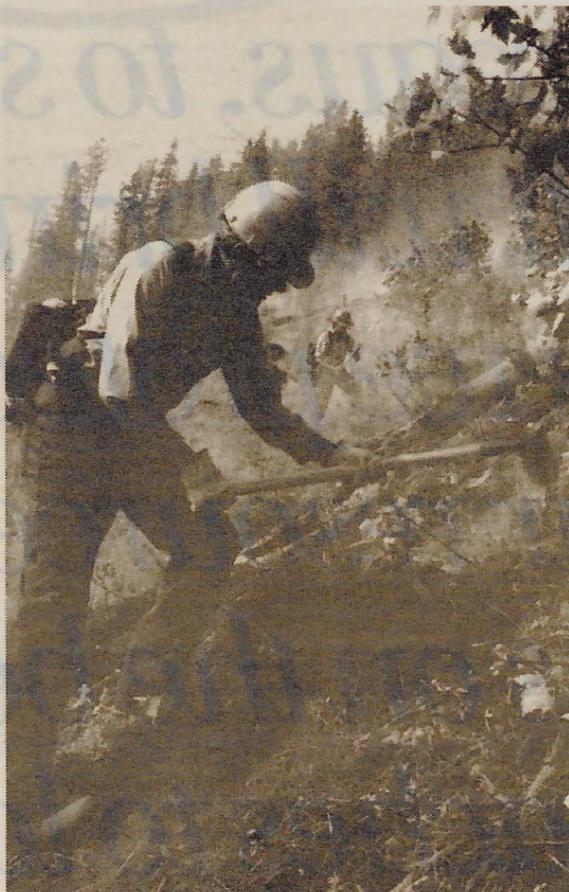
Those discussions take place in the wake of one of the worst fire seasons in decades. By late August, more than three million acres of western lands had burned. The federal government's budget for fire suppression, some \$307 million, had been surpassed by the summer's midpoint. (Accounting problems would be dealt with later.) Some 25,000 firefighters were engaged and were joined by seven Marine battalions.

As bad as this season has been, bad fire seasons no longer stand out. Each year, wildland fires cause greater economic and physical destruction.

The 1991 Oakland hills fire destroyed more structures than any fire before. Though it covered only 1,500 acres, it destroyed more than 3,000 buildings. Fires in Northern California and Oregon in 1987 destroyed a greater value of timber than any similar fires in the previous 50 years. And 1988 is remembered as the year Yellowstone burned.

Fire prevention strategies are among the most controversial topics in the West.

The region's open spaces are filling in; more and more homes clutter the foothills of western mountain ranges. The Oakland fire gives a frightening glimpse of what the future may hold. The city's urban sprawl reached into canyons filled with the dry grasses and trees native to the region.



Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt takes a break from fighting the Hirschdale Fire near Truckee, California, on August 13.



Top: Wildfire works its way toward homes built in woodland areas. A growing western population and increased building in scenic rural areas create the need to combine urban fire suppression and wildfire containment strategies.



Bottom: Prescribed burns are set and controlled by fire specialists under specific conditions.

# Fifty Acres a Day

Robert King and Peter Homan

Competition for water threatens the survival of the  
 Everglades ecosystem. Exotic plants displace native species,  
 encroaching on the park at the rate of 50 acres a day.

Fire was as inevitable as it was unstoppable.

"People are starting to understand you can't build in flood plains," said Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt. "But that lesson doesn't extend to wildfire, which is another uncontrolled force of nature that we're basically oblivious to."

"It's a very difficult issue," said Secretary Babbitt. "It's not primarily a federal responsibility. We're going to have to see if we can't find some way of moving states toward setting out provisions governing buildings in the woods in high-risk areas."

The topic is common among firefighters on the ground. "No one is suggesting firefighters stop protecting homes and property," said Secretary Babbitt. "What I'm hearing these guys say is 'We're perfectly willing to protect lives and property. But they all marvel that there are no agreed upon rules for the way you build in the forest.'"

Prescribed burns can help after seven decades of fire suppression. Without them, fuel loads per acre skyrocket and lead to fires so intense that regeneration of the ecosystem can be stunted. With prescribed fires, habitat is improved and the threat of catastrophic fires is reduced. But prescribed burns are expensive, and landowners and public lands users complain about interruptions and inconveniences.

The practice of thinning, clearing out fallen, unhealthy, or immature trees, can reduce the fuel load and reduce the risk of catastrophic fire. But

that practice is also anathema to those who say too much logging has already occurred on public lands. Interference by federal land managers created the problem, they say; continued interference won't solve it.

Fire suppression decisions may be reconsidered in future years, as well. Most Westerners now know that "let it burn" can often be good for the landscape. Many advocate such a policy. . . until it hits the forest closest to their home. And Secretary Babbitt insists there are many cases where "all-out suppression" is required.

"The closer people are to reality on the landscape, the more consistently you hear them say that fire is not an enemy to be defeated at all costs, at all times," said Secretary Babbitt. "We've got to find a way to go with the forces of nature a little more, rather than always taking them head on."

In some cases, endangered species protection is blamed for fire's destruction. In southern California, homeowners complained that Fish & Wildlife Service efforts to protect the Stevens kangaroo rat prevented them from taking steps that could have saved their homes from a devastating wildfire. A study by the independent Government Accounting Office proved their claim was wrong, but the heat of their rhetoric still fuels the debate.

After a long, hot summer, expect a long, hot winter.

*Kevin Sweeney is the director of the Office of Communications.*

## People

At 15, Bruce Babbitt lied about his age to get summer work on a Forest Service fire crew. Last summer, at 55, he finally went to fire school and passed the required physical exams. Now certified, he fought four major fires this summer, working 12-hour shifts and sleeping in remote camps.

"It's management by walking around," said Babbitt. "It's important for me to understand how the overall firefighting effort is going. The best way to see that is on the ground."

Says smokejumper Ken Franz: "He gets right out there and swings a mean pulaski." Bruce Babbitt is Secretary of this Department. You can reach him by a Campfire Note in a blue envelope.

## Land

Fire plays an important role in recycling nutrients throughout the chaparral ecosystem of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Fanned by high winds called Santa Anas, fire reduces everything to charred stumps and ash. Yet, within weeks, new growth begins to appear.

Few Southern California sites boast the beauty of the Santa Monicas in the spring following a wildfire. The park's foot and bike paths are lined with brilliant wildflower displays. Bleeding heart, twining snapdragon, scarlet larkspur, and fire poppy all bloom within less than an hour's drive for millions of Los Angeles area residents.



To educate young people about wildlands fire, The Firehouse, a California company, and the Bureau of Land Management have produced jointly two series of trading cards. "Wildfire Heros" presents fire crew members.

"Wildland Aerial Attack" presents vehicles. Each card also presents a wildfire safety tip geared to young people.

# Fifty Acres a Day

Richard Ring and Peter Hamm

*Competition for water threatens the survival of the Everglades ecosystem. Exotic plants displace native species, encroaching on the park at the rate of 50 acres a day.*

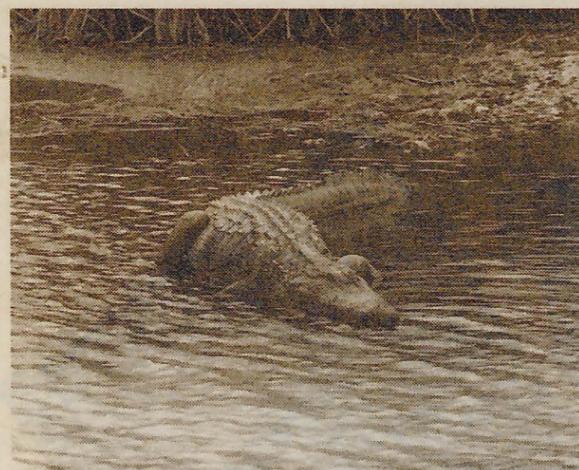
Key Largo, Florida: Charter captains here used to have a paradise, a unique, brackish bay system whose nutrients and grasses sustained more fish than tourists could ever take back home. At the bottom of a natural system that begins 150 miles north in central Florida, there was no fallout from the nagging troubles the system was facing.

Now those captains do a fair business taking naturalists on excursions into the Florida Bay. Naturalists could outnumber fishing tourists soon—because what they have been looking at is a plague.

Fifty-mile-wide algae blooms, a sickly brown, drift atop the waters. Thousands of dead fish bob and drift toward the shores. The seagrasses are vanishing. Shrimp and lobster populations have nothing to eat, nowhere to hide from predators. In 1993, their number dropped to 15 percent of average.

Welcome to a national park: Florida Bay lies almost entirely within Everglades National Park and makes up almost one third of its acreage. On the mainland, the park has seen a monumental decline in bird populations: it is home now to only a tenth of the birds that were there 15 years ago. Fourteen species that live in the park are either on the threatened or endangered list, and so, soon, may be the multi-billion-dollar tourism economy of South Florida.

Around the edges of the system and advancing at a rate scientists say covers 50 acres a day, exotics (introduced species) are strangling out native vegetation and sucking up water. The melaleuca



Female American alligators build ponds called alligator holes. Wading birds feed on wildlife taking refuge there in the dry season.

tree, for example, was imported from Australia for its unrivaled ability to imbibe. Now, science is heartsick over how to stop it, short of introducing other non-native species.

They have been talking, in Florida, about the “last chance to save the Everglades” for almost 50 years. This mess has befuddled state elected officials, and split environmentalists. It intrigued Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt when he visited shortly after taking office. What he saw was a rare unity of desire for restoration but no forward motion. Tackling the gridlock would be, he said, “the singular, most important, ultimate test case of whether we are going to have the capability to do ecosystem restoration.”

There has been plenty of blame to go around, but now there is also hope. More than 30 legal challenges followed the 1988 lawsuit initiated by the United States against the State of Florida to correct nutrient pollution running off agricultural lands south of Lake Okeechobee into the Everglades. Resolving this conflict was key to breaking the gridlock preventing ecosystem restoration plans and actions. Secretary Babbitt became the catalyst for resolving this conflict. He spoke with all sides and brought them together to air their views. He lent the influence of the Department to their negotiations.

The first break in the logjam occurred last January. The Department signed an agreement with one sugar company that agreed to steps to clean up its agricultural pollution and contribute money to a



Endangered wood storks have declined from 6,000 nesting birds to less than 500 since the 1960s.

broader restoration plan. Critics attacked this one-company agreement with Flo-Sun, Inc., but it worked. Three months later Florida enacted the Everglades Forever Act and extended the model to all the region's sugar companies. This most ambitious ecological restoration program ever marks unprecedented shared commitment by federal and state governments and the private sector.

“We can finally stop spending our money in court and can spend it in the Everglades themselves,” Secretary Babbitt said. Projected price tag for the restoration program: \$700 million. But unlike previous (and much smaller scale) projects, the federal government won't pay all, or even most, of this bill. The federal share will likely be about \$80 million. State government, local governments, agricultural interests, and others will pay the rest. This is a new departure in natural resources management: those with the greatest stake in good planning for South Florida's future will shoulder the greatest cost.

And why not? “What we are seeing in the Florida Keys,” says Secretary Babbitt, “is an economy that is totally dependent on a thriving environment. Its job base and tax revenues are an anchor of the entire Florida tourism economy.”

Substantial, too, is the Department's stake in the Everglades. The area's decline directly affects not only four national parks but also six national wildlife refuges, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, and the tribal lands of the Miccosukee and Seminole Indian nations. The Department has



*“No place on Earth provides starker evidence of our managerial limitations than the Florida Everglades. . .”*  
*Jonathon Porritt, BBC Wildlife magazine*

joined with the Justice Department, Environmental Protection Agency, the Army Corps of Engineers and other agencies—with strong bipartisan support from the Florida Congressional delegation—to turn the situation around.

Already a Federal Task Force, conceived and set in motion by Secretary Babbitt, coordinates federal actions and resolves interagency disputes. Chaired by Assistant Secretary George T. Frampton, Jr., it consists of assistant secretaries of six departments. Florida’s governor set up a commission for a Sustainable South Florida. It guides and coordinates state actions and looks at the region’s limits of growth. The U.S. Department of Agriculture will put up money and also phase in, over 20 years, water quality standards for the agricultural pollutant phosphorous. Already the Corps of Engineers has started to un-straighten the canalized Kissimmee River for natural flow and filtering.

Additional alternatives are being studied as part of the restoration program. These include placing large filtering ponds below Lake Okeechobee that would cleanse farm run-off (storm water treatment areas). Extensive alteration of drainage canals north and east of the national park would provide a more natural sheetflow of water to the park and Florida Bay and limit the amount of fresh water currently dumped into Biscayne Bay.

Nature will help, if given the chance. The Everglades has fought valiantly against repeated efforts to beat it. The River of Grass has had legendary resiliency. But it is running out of

stamina. The ecosystem is not just in trouble but on the precipice. “One way or another, sooner or later, the individuals who are harming this national treasure are going to accept their responsibilities,” says Assistant Secretary Bonnie Cohen.

“And this Administration and this Secretary,” says Assistant Secretary Frampton, “will not let public resources wither and die. Not on this watch.”

*Richard Ring is superintendent, Everglades National Park, and chairman, South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Working Group. Peter Hamm is acting director for external affairs, Office of the Secretary.*



*Watershed management is critical to the Everglades. Its watershed starts in central Florida’s Kissimmee River basin north of Lake Okeechobee. Summer storms once started a wide, shallow river flowing from there to the Gulf of Mexico (map at far left). Water controls disrupt the natural flow now (map at left). Without clean water in the critical seasons and correct quantities, the Everglades will die.*

**Land**

**The Ten Thousand Islands**

**On Florida’s southwestern coast, Big Cypress National Preserve and Everglades National Park crackle and split into 80 miles of tidal rivers, mangrove islands, and mud flats before giving way to the Gulf of Mexico. This is a canoeist’s paradise: gliding through its mangrove channels, one may feel a million miles removed from modern civilization.**

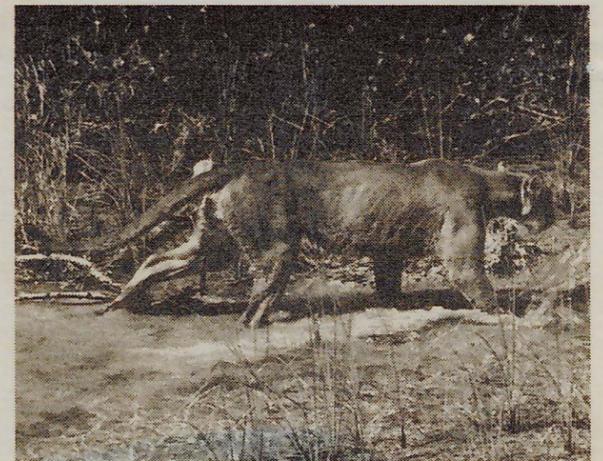
**In the Ten Thousand Islands visitors still can find an untamed and, it is hoped, untameable place where, without a guide, one might readily become lost. The tangled, floating mangrove forests also serve as nurseries for shrimp larvae that are critical for both wild predators and the regional shrimp industry.**

**People**

**Burkett Neely**

**When Secretary Babbitt first announced a broad initiative to restore the Everglades, he dedicated the day to Burkett Neely, manager of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.**

**Neely, frustrated with the lack of progress in cleaning up the agricultural pollutants running into the refuge and Everglades National Park, had been preparing for retirement. When Babbitt said restoration of the Everglades would be one of his highest priorities, however, Neely decided to stick around. He rescinded his retirement and continued as a leader of the federal restoration efforts in the field. Neely can be reached at 407/732 3684.**



*Only three Florida panthers are known to inhabit Everglades National Park, one of them only occasionally.*

# Return of the Nat

Christopher A. Wood, Andrew P. Martin and Jack E. Williams

*An interagency, partnership campaign restores habitat to help imperiled aquatic species and to bring back native species, such as the Marys River Lahontan cutthroat trout*

Petaluma, California, high school students stood on the banks of Adobe Creek and wept. For joy. They had just sighted the first steelhead known to return to spawn there since 1900. The fish came back because teacher Tom Furrer had inspired classes to bring the creek back to life, raise fingerlings, and answer their own question: "What's going to be left for our generation?"

Throughout North America aquatic species are becoming endangered and extinct at a much faster rate than are birds, mammals, and other terrestrial animals. American Fisheries Society studies show that one-third of all North American native freshwater fish species and 70 percent of freshwater mussels are endangered, threatened or of special concern.

Public lands often provide the best, or sometimes last, remaining habitats for many of these imperiled aquatic species. Lands managed by the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, for example, provide habitat for nearly 70 percent of threatened and endangered fish species in the United States and 61 percent of candidate species.

In western states the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service often manage lands within the same watershed. In the past, watershed restoration efforts undertaken to benefit aquatic species generally did not transcend their administrative boundaries. That is changing now: Bring Back the Natives is a national campaign designed to improve the status of native aquatic species on public lands.

It works across administrative boundaries to reconnect isolated parts of the landscape. It was developed in 1991 with the help of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, which also provides challenge grants to both federal agencies.

In the contiguous 48 states, riparian areas, which border streams and rivers, comprise a tiny percentage of the land base but possess disproportionate ecological value. In the Intermountain West these narrow strips of green produce more biomass per unit area than the rest of the land base. For plant and animal diversity, riparian areas outproduce the rest of the entire landscape.

Bring Back the Natives uses riparian areas as the cornerstone of efforts to restore and maintain at-risk fish stocks and other aquatic fauna and to rebuild productive native fish populations.

Unlike past approaches to stream improvement, Bring Back the Natives strategies eliminate both symptoms and causes of watershed degradation. Traditional stream improvement and habitat enhancement work typically involve mitigation. Log weirs or gabions might be placed into stream channels or along stream banks.

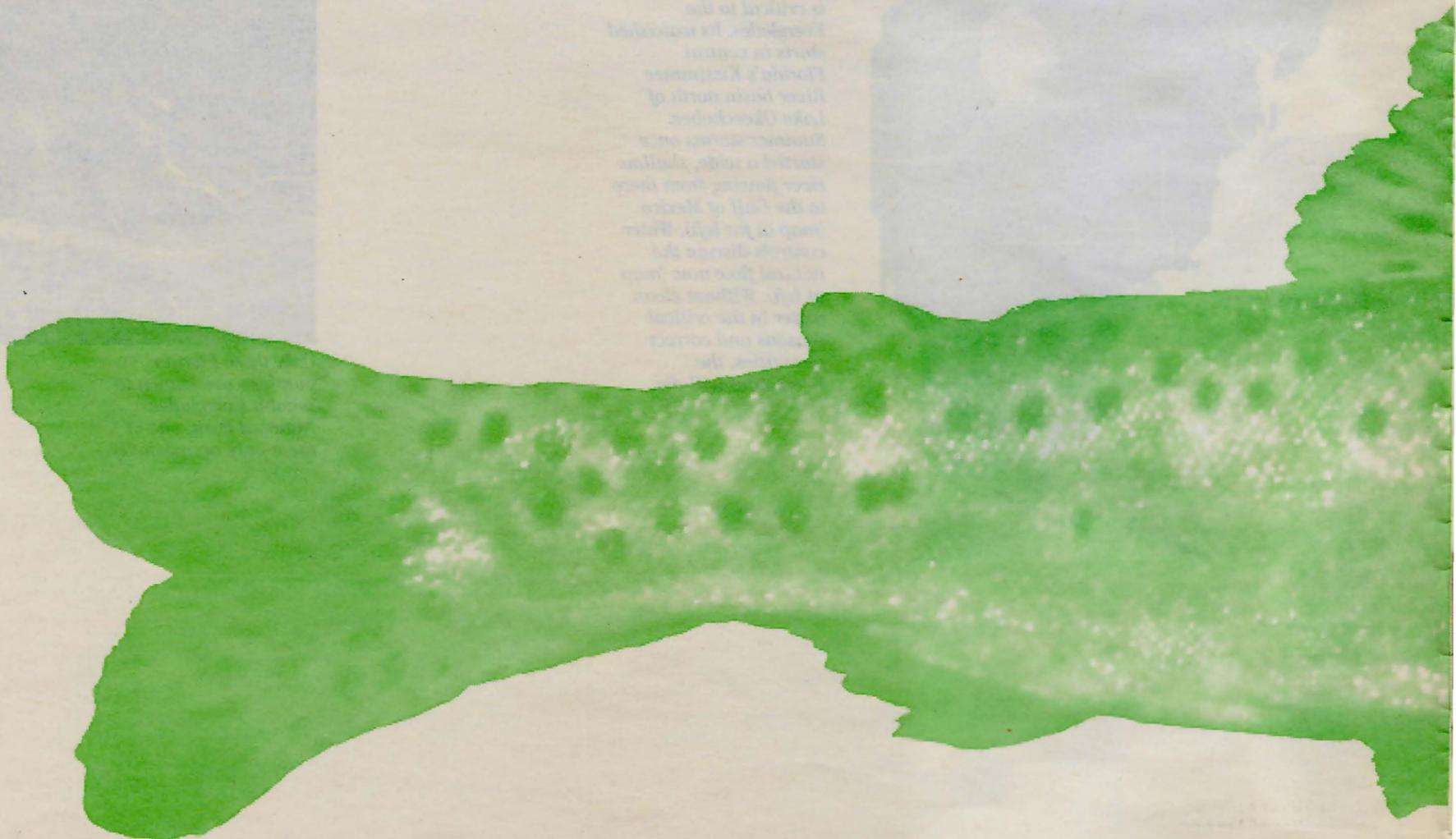
In the past, many projects were designed with the belief that instream structures were capable of compensating for the effects on aquatic habitats of activities such as logging and road building. Federal land management agencies therefore devoted much of their energy and budgets toward improving spawning and rearing areas by putting these

structures in place. Effective in some instances, such artificial structures nevertheless treat only symptoms of stream degradation, not causes.

Bring Back the Natives restoration activities include removing exotic species that outcompete and hybridize with native fish. Combining habitat restoration, improvements in land management, and removal of exotics safeguards the genetic integrity and longterm viability of endangered aquatic species and their habitat.

Building partnerships has been a critical component of the success of Bring Back the Natives. Help and guidance from state fish and wildlife agencies has been essential. Volunteers help with fencing and revegetation. Local fishing, conservation, and school groups pitch in. Local chapters of Trout Unlimited contributed hundreds of hours of volunteer labor last year alone.

Challenge-grant funding by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation requires raising funds from non-federal sources, whether private, corporate, or state sources. This funding linkage invests local communities and states with an important sense of ownership for the projects and makes them feel accountable for the condition of aquatic resources on public lands. Participants in Bring Back the Natives include Trout Unlimited, Coors Brewing Company, and Oregon's Crook County School District. More than 80 private and state groups are expected to take part this year.



## The Marys River Project

### Land

#### Marys River Headwaters

Named for its paint job, Orange Bridge spans the Marys River 82 miles from Elko, Nevada, and makes a trailhead for the headwaters country on Marys Peak. The trip takes you from meadows and mountain brush on Bureau of Land Management land along the river up its steepening canyon into the Jarbidge Wilderness on the Humboldt National Forest. (Leave one car at the old mining town of Jarbidge for a through trip.) Cottonwood galleries and aspen stands dot the riverside. Higher up forests take over and mountain lakes are nearby. In late August neotropical birds join deer that also migrate through this wild corridor.

### People

#### Dave Nolte

Avid angler Dave Nolte grew up "18 miles from the only stream in Southern California that still had (and has) native rainbows in it." Nolte figures that landed him with Trout Unlimited and Bring Back the Natives. Avid? His fax number: 503/548 FISH! He helps run a K-12 watershed education program for schools under his Crooked River Project of Bring Back the Natives in Oregon. The project wants to save the native resident redband rainbow trout. Nolte would love to see Chinook salmon and steelhead run the Crooked River again, too. Call him at 503/548 3474.



The Marys River Project marks an ambitious attempt to restore more than 180 miles of habitat for a threatened fish species, the Lahontan cutthroat trout. The target area lies in Nevada on both the Humboldt National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management's Elko District. Lahontan cutthroat trout habitat in the Great Basin is down 90 percent now. Once totalling more than 6,000 stream miles, the trout's habitat today includes only 490 of those original stream miles. These fish now survive as remnant populations scattered throughout the upper tributaries of the Marys River.

Taking an ecological and interagency approach, the Marys River Project illustrates the primary thrusts of the Bring Back the Natives campaign. Its restoration emphasis lies with improving land-use practices within the watershed. Riparian areas will be allowed to recover because of new intensive management of livestock: fencing, exclusion, and pasture rest and rotation. Livestock management practices promise significant increases in habitat for the trout.

Begun in 1992, this project features a range of restoration efforts. More than 11,000 aspen, alder, and chokecherry seedlings have already been planted along the river and its tributaries. Riparian exclosures now have been built along Wildcat Branch, South Cross Field, Hanks Creek, and Stud Creek. Some 25 miles of existing fence acquired through a land exchange have been modified so that they now protect 8,000 acres of riparian meadows. Three stockwater wells were drilled in a livestock grazing area. The wells provide an attractive water

source for livestock that keeps them from going into riparian areas and the river to drink.

Volunteer tree-planting work on the Marys River Project further illustrates the Bring Back the Natives campaign philosophy. Cooperators in the overall project now include the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, American Forests, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Northeast Nevada Chapter of Trout Unlimited, National Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Coors Brewing Company, Nevada Mining Association, Newmont Gold Company, and Barrick-Goldstrike Mines, Inc.

Efforts to improve streams help throughout a watershed. When we try to understand all the relationships in an ecosystem, Secretary Babbitt told a writers group this summer, "there is a fish staring at us as the ultimate indicator of our success or failure." Soon many more Lahontan cutthroats should be staring at us from the Marys River, thanks to the Bring Back the Natives.

*Christopher A. Wood is a policy analyst for ecosystem management and biodiversity with the Bureau of Land Management. Jack E. Williams is science advisor to the Bureau director. Andrew P. Martin is a fisheries biologist with the Bureau and the Forest Service.*

Lahontan cutthroat trout, the only native trout to Nevada's interior drainage, are named for former Lake Lahontan. During the Pleistocene Era of great glaciers, Lake Lahontan covered most of today's huge playa, the Humboldt Sink. Some 2,000 miles of Nevada streams end in nothing, sinking into this basin. Marys River cutthroats, east of the Marys Peak water divide, may be a

subspecies of the Lahontan. Research is not yet conclusive. These trout declined because of habitat deterioration caused by livestock grazing and the introduction of competitive rainbow, brook, and brown trout. Rainbows interbreed with them, brookies outcompete the juveniles, and brown trout eat cutthroats or any other fish they can.



## National Park Service

Roger Kennedy, Director  
Debbie Dortch, Bureau Editor

### Federal and State Agencies Prepare for '96 Summer Olympics

Visitors to Atlanta before and during the 1996 Summer Olympic Games will find it easy to obtain information on what to see and do in the South's many parks, forests, wildlife refuges, historic sites, lakes, and seashores. Federal and state agencies responsible for managing public lands are joining forces to provide one-stop visitor information services in the new Atlanta Super Center, scheduled to open late this fall. The Park Service's Southeast Region is leading the preparation of the center's Hall of Resources.

### Coin To Help Finance Prisoner of War Museum

The new Prisoner of War Commemorative Silver Dollar has hit the coin collector's market. The staff at Andersonville National Historic Site in Georgia is hoping for a quick sellout.

Proceeds from the coin sale will help finance a new museum and visitor center at Andersonville, the national park site that commemorates American prisoners of war from the Revolution to the recent peace-keeping mission in Somalia.

The coin may be purchased by itself or as part of a three-coin set honoring war prisoners, Vietnam veterans, and military women. Call 1 800/777 VETS for more information.

### Top Bonders

The Department of the Interior bond campaign results have been tabulated, and the Park Service outdistanced all other agencies in the number of employees who bought new bonds or increased the savings on old ones. The Park Service more than doubled the number for Reclamation, its nearest competitor.

National Park Service 316  
Reclamation 140  
Minerals Management 134  
Bureau of Land Management 126  
Office of the Secretary 93  
Fish and Wildlife 83  
Surface Mining 69  
Indian Affairs 65  
Bureau of Mines 35  
Geological Survey 26  
Territorial Affairs 13  
Department Total 1,100

### Alaska Natural Resource Management Team

Alaska's national parks contain more than 75 percent of all the mining areas in the National Park System. Since three-fourths of all hazardous substance sites in Alaska parks are associated with mineral development activities, the need for reclamation, clean-up, and removal of abandoned mining equipment, debris, and hazardous substances from these areas is daunting.

A team of natural resource management professionals in the Alaska Regional Office's Minerals Management Division has translated the need for environmental protection and resource stewardship into action. The team includes Dennis Schramm, Kevin Meyer, Page Spencer, Jeff Bennett, Judy Alderson, and Branch Chief Alex Carter. They designed and implemented two unprecedented projects to remove the abandoned fuel drums and mining equipment, debris, and hazardous materials from Denali and Glacier Bay national parks.

For their efforts the team received the 1993 Alaska Federal Employee of the Year Award in the Team Category. This award recognized their initiative as responsible stewards protecting national park resources.

### World's Most Complete Remains of Pygmy Mammoth Found

A five-person team of experts on ancient animals has uncovered the world's most complete remains of a Pygmy Mammoth on Santa Rosa Island, one of five islands that make up Channel Islands National Park, California.

San Diego State University Geologist Thomas Rockwell and Park Service Archeologist Don Morris stumbled across the gnarly backbone of this mammoth on one of the island's marine terraces late last summer. Estimated to be 50,000 to 70,000 years old, these remains will help the Park Service and others piece together the history of the Chumash Indians who inhabited the northern Channel Islands at least 11,000 years ago. Quick excavation of the Pygmy Mammoth helped avoid further erosion and protected against fossil poachers.

"This kind of mammoth lived nowhere else in the world," Morris said. "This one died of old age at 50 or 60 and probably limped, since arthritic bonespurs were found between its toes." Ebullient about the find, Morris said he is busy looking for another mammoth. He hopes it has a spearhead in it!



Above: Archeologist Don Morris excavates pygmy mammoth fossil.  
Photo by Holly Bundock

### Operation Opportunity Working for Parks' Future

The National Park Service's Operation Opportunity, a bureau-wide program to relocate central office employees to parks, is receiving warm responses. Nearly 150 employees have obtained new jobs under the program. The Incident Command Team set up by Director Roger Kennedy makes weekly announcements of placement vacancies.

Bill Corley is one of those placements. Bill retired from the military and has seen his share of the country but nothing west of Kansas. All that changed when Bill assumed his new position as automation clerk at Death Valley National Monument, California. Bill says he "sees this move as a great step toward experiencing the diversity of the National Park System and its overall mission."

### Investigation into National Wildlife Poaching Ring

Director Kennedy says investigations continue into the National Wildlife Poaching Ring avowed late this past summer, after a year-long undercover investigation. The investigation included officials at Big Bend National Park, Texas; the Southwest Region Resources Protection Unit, New Mexico; and the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife.

Named "Operation Rockcut," the investigation led to the arrest of three suspects, who are charged with poaching reptiles from Big Bend National Park. Kennedy said that 28 suspects, involved in a poaching ring covering six states, are expected to be charged with 290 federal and state violations.

### Log Home Raising Partnership

Last spring more than 150 volunteers from 15 states gathered in a small clearing behind Great Smoky Mountains National Park headquarters for a day-long Log Home Raising. Secretary Babbitt received a lesson in log home building from Jim Barna, of Jim Barna Log Homes, who took the lead in donating the new seasonal employee dormitory as part of the Secretary's "Partnership for Improved Park Housing" plan.

More than half of all National Park Service employees in Park Service housing live in homes classified as substandard. The Friends of Great Smoky Mountains National Park played a pivotal role in putting together this joint public-private sector undertaking.



Right: Secretary Babbitt helps build a home.  
Photo by Bob Miller

# Office of Territorial and International Affairs

Leslie Turner, Assistant Secretary for Territorial and International Affairs  
Frank Quimby, Bureau Editor

## 50th Anniversary of Pacific Battles

Interior officials helped U.S. Pacific islands celebrate the 50th anniversary of their World War II liberation. Secretary Babbitt, Assistant Secretary Leslie Turner, and Special Assistant Danny Aranza participated in a National Commemoration at Arlington National Cemetery. In July they made official visits to the U.S. Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas. Saipan and Guam were liberated from Japanese forces in June and July of 1944.

The National Park Service helped organize the commemorations. Park Service officials, including historian Ed Bearss and local parks Superintendent Ed Wood, also participated in the ceremonies.

## Palau Prepares for Independence

The Republic of Palau, the last district of the United Nations Trust Territory administered by the United States through the Office of Territorial and International Affairs, has set October 1, 1994, as the implementation date for the Compact of Free Association. If that date is met, Palau would enter the international community as a sovereign state, in free association with the United States. The implementation plan was set after several recent meetings with federal officials.

## Exclusive Economic Zone Fishery Policy

Deputy Assistant Secretary Allen Stayman participated in the second meeting of a federal-insular area working group on Exclusive Economic Zone fishery policy in July 1994. The session centered on proposals for a possible Administration amendment to the Magnuson Fisheries Conservation and Management Act. Major elements of a Magnuson amendment may include regulating foreign and domestic fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone adjacent to the insular areas, establishing a joint fee-setting mechanism for fishing licenses, and covering over-fee collected from vessels using the zones to the appropriate insular area. Insular representatives suggested several revisions to the proposed amendment.

## Customer Service Plan

Guided by the National Performance Review and in response to the President's call for all federal agencies to become customer-driven enterprises, Special Assistant Danny Aranza helped develop a Customer Service Plan, including Customer Service Standards.

The aim of the effort is to provide better service to customers, the United States-affiliated insular areas, at less cost.

Scheduled for distribution in September, the standards will be posted in the Washington Office, as well as in offices in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, American Samoa, and the Republic of Palau.

## Financial Statements

The Interior Department's Inspector General has completed an audit of the Office's financial statements for the 1993 fiscal year and has rendered an "unqualified opinion," often referred to as a "clean opinion," that those statements are accurate and presented fairly, according to Budget Director Dave Heggstad. The audit found that Territorial and International Affairs had complied in all material respects with applicable laws and regulations and that the financial information is consistent with the information presented in the financial statements. An unqualified opinion is the best possible audit result.

## Support for Coral Reef Initiative

The Office is working with United States insular area governments under the Coral Reef Initiative to support local efforts at coral reef protection, according to Director of Territorial Liaison Nancy Fanning. Tourism and fisheries, two of the islands' major industries, depend in large part on healthy coral reefs. Assistant Secretary Turner has made a commitment to support the insular area governments' efforts with personnel and funding.

## Staffers Retire

Several long-time staffers have retired from public service this year. Personnel Officer Wilma Cartwright chose early retirement in May. Dorris Young and Odessa Mitchell of the Technical Assistance Division also left in May. Larry Morgan, director of legislative and public affairs since 1983, retired in June. Morgan's responsibilities included work with the Marshall Islands' groups affected by United States nuclear tests in the Pacific. Tony Palomo, representative on Guam for the past eight years, also retired in June.

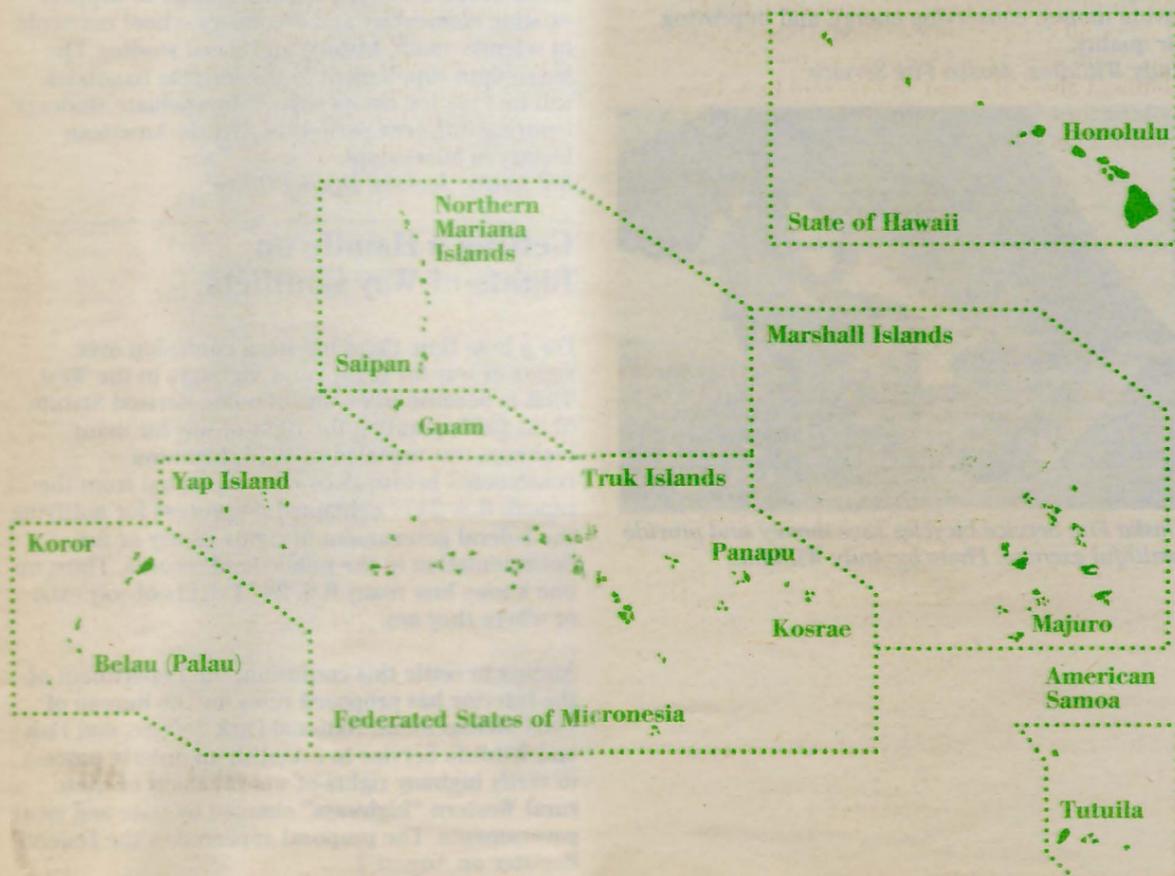
## Cohen Tapped for Northern Marianas Islands Consultations

President Clinton has appointed Edward B. Cohen as special representative for discussions with the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands on issues affecting the Commonwealth's relationship with the federal government. Mr. Cohen, a special assistant and counselor to Secretary Babbitt, previously served in a range of executive and legislative branch positions, including special assistant to former President Carter and counsel for the Senate Commerce Committee.

## White House Fellow Comes Aboard

Dr. Angela Diaz was scheduled to join the Interior Department for one year as a White House Fellow on September 1. Among other assignments, Diaz will work with the Office's technical assistance programs for improvement of health delivery systems in the U.S.-affiliated insular areas. She comes to Interior from New York City's Mount Sinai Medical Center, where she served as chief, Division of Adolescent Medicine.

Assistant Secretary Leslie Turner. OTIA photo



## Bureau of Land Management

Mike Dombeck, Director  
Elizabeth Rieben, Bureau Editor

### Blueprint For the Future

Where is the BLM going? The Bureau will soon be distributing its *Blueprint for the Future* that outlines five areas of concentration: 1. Maintaining Healthy Ecosystems, 2. Serving Current and Future Publics, 3. Promoting Collaborative Leadership, 4. Improving Business Practices, and 5. Improving Human Resource Management. Director Mike Dombeck says the document, which reflects the Bureau's new corporate agenda, will be shared and discussed with other agencies, tribes, the public, and interest groups across the West and in Washington, D.C., over the next few months. "This is a starting point," he said. "It will help us focus our activities and encourage others to work with us in managing the public lands."

### Field Deputy Directors Give It a Try!

Field officers sometimes wonder why Washington Office managers act the way they do. At the Bureau, they can find out first-hand through a rotating field deputy director program. Started in response to an employee suggestion made at the Bureau's Summit meeting in April, the program brings resource area (field-level) managers into the Washington Office on a rotating basis to serve one or two weeks as field deputy director.

"They are not here just to observe," notes Deputy Director Denise Meridith. "They bring an important current field perspective to high-level discussions and decision making." She added that field deputy directors basically run the program themselves, each finding successors, recording his or her experiences in a journal, and making and implementing suggestions for improving the program and other Washington Office operations.

Everyone seems to like the program. As one field deputy director put it, "Like all good things in life, the time has passed too quickly." Washington Office staff members also have begun to go to the field as resource area managers in a reciprocal program.

### Americans Appreciate Their Public Lands

The Bureau and Times Mirror Magazines sponsored Public Lands Appreciation Day July 30 at three sites across the country to highlight and celebrate America's natural resources on the public lands and to encourage Americans to conserve them. Volunteers in Cache Creek, California, stabilized archaeological sites; in Red Rock, Nevada, they completed trails; and in Lexington, Kentucky, they found homes for 120 wild horses and 10 burros through the Bureau's adoption program.

### Glacier on the Move

Bering Glacier in the Bureau's Glennallen, Alaska, District is experiencing a major surge and continues to attract scientific interest. The 140-mile-long glacier has moved nine miles this year. The U.S. Coast Guard is monitoring the glacier daily. If it reaches the Gulf of Alaska, icebergs could become a hazard to oil tanker traffic.

### Production Verification Recovers \$93,000

Jackson District Office Geologist Richard Wallace believes in production verification of non-coal solid minerals even though it is a tedious and time consuming task. During a recent production verification on a federal lease, he discovered a substantial miscalculation. As a result, the lessee's revised report was soon sent to the Minerals Management Service, along with a check for \$93,000. "No evidence of fraud was found," Wallace said. "But without production verification, the federal government would have lost a lot of money." *Bill James, Jackson District Office*

### Recreation Area Honors Bill Matthews

The Tusler Recreation and Wildlife Management Area in Montana was renamed in August to honor the late Bill Matthews. Matthews, who passed away this spring, was a Supervisory Land Use Specialist with the Bureau's Powder River Resource Area. Matthews was instrumental in developing the site, which provides wildlife habitat and an accessible trail with picnic sites and fishing access. Located seven miles east of Miles City, the area will now be known as the "William L. Matthews Wildlife Habitat and Recreation Area."

### Bikes Save Bucks; Win Energy Award

The Alaska Fire Service uses a fleet of 75 bicycles to go between facilities on Fort Wainwright and around other field stations, saving thousands of dollars in fuel and maintenance and providing a healthy form of exercise. The bicycles are ridden more than 18,000 miles annually, doing the work of at least six additional motor vehicles.

Fire management officer Bob Quillin said aircraft crews and others temporarily assigned to the Galena Zone office use the bicycles to get to and from the barracks and the airfield. "Rather than send a government rig, we provide free bicycles," Quillin said. "It gives people a lot more mobility than waiting for transportation."

Recently the bike program received a national energy conservation award from the Bureau for saving money, conserving energy, and improving air quality.

*Andy Williams, Alaska Fire Service*



Alaska Fire Service bicycles save money and provide healthful exercise. Photo by Andy Williams

### Bureau Employees Go to Camp

Four Montana employees of the Bureau helped out at the Montana Natural Resources Youth Camp this summer. Mindy Mason, Garnet Resource Area, and John McKay, Butte District, served as instructors in mining and geology while Darrell McDaniel, Butte District, and Dwight Gappert, Garnet Resource Area, led tours in the Garnet Ghost Town.

Held at the Lubrecht Experimental Forest Station just east of Missoula, the six-day camp was attended by 42 Montana high school students. The students were challenged to develop and defend their own land-use management plans, among many other activities. Darrell Sall, Garnet Resource Area manager, is a board member for the camp.

### Record Land Exchange In the Works

The first phase of one of the largest and most complex land exchanges in the history of the Department of the Interior was completed in Nevada in August when more than 43,000 acres were exchanged. The Department and the Bureau of Land Management managed the deal in conjunction with the American Land Conservancy. Scattered small tracts of desert lands near Las Vegas that had been identified for disposal were sold. That money was used to buy land with high recreational values near Reno and a private ranch adjacent to the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation.

The public lands acquired include the Galena and Peavine recreational properties, to be managed by the Forest Service. The ranch became Indian Trust land managed by the northern Paiutes. A second phase is proposed to bring private lands near Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area into public ownership.

### Project Archaeology Goes to Mississippi

The Jackson, Mississippi, District Office will be working with Jackson State University to develop a program of heritage education as part of the Bureau's *Project Archaeology: Intrigue of the Past Initiative*. This initiative uses examples from archaeology, history, and paleontology to support existing elementary and secondary school curricula in science, math, history, and social studies. The Mississippi supplement to the *Intrigue* handbook will include ten essays written by graduate students covering different periods of African-American history in Mississippi.

*Bill James, Jackson District Office*

### Getting a Handle on Rights-of-Way Conflicts

For a long time there has been confusion over rights-of-way for many rural highways in the West. That is because when an 1866 law, Revised Statute (R.S.) 2477, granting the right-of-way for many highways was repealed in 1976, highways constructed before 1976 were exempted from the repeal. R.S. 2477 contained no process for notifying the federal government of rights-of-way or for documentation in the public land records. Thus, no one knows how many R.S. 2477 rights-of-way exist or where they are.

Aiming to settle this confusion, the Department of the Interior has proposed rules for the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service to establish an orderly process to verify highway rights-of-way for many of these rural Western "highways" claimed by state and local governments. The proposal appeared in the Federal Register on August 1.

*Tom Gorey, Washington, D.C., Office*

## Rent for Communications Sites: How Much Is Fair?

How much should the federal government charge commercial broadcasters for using federal lands? Proposed regulations are intended to end a long-standing debate over this issue by setting new rental payments for radio, television, mobile radio, cellular telephone, and other communication uses of public lands managed by the Bureau.

The Bureau administers about 3,300 communication sites and collects \$1.5 million to \$2 million annually in rental payments. Currently the Bureau authorizes communication uses and assesses rent on a site-specific basis that uses real estate appraisals, a time-consuming process that has resulted in lost revenues. The new proposal calls for a more effective and efficient process and would reduce the Bureau's cost of collecting rent. The proposed regulations appeared in the July 12 Federal Register.

*Tom Gorey, Washington, D.C., Office*

## New to Read

The Bureau has recently published a 16-page booklet, *Ecosystem Management, From Concept to Commitment*. Copies can be obtained from the Bureau's state or Washington, D.C., Public Affairs Offices.

## Prisoners Battle Mosquitoes Through Bat Research

Always on the lookout for unique partnerships, Bureau biologist Mary Read enlisted the aid of prisoners at the Wyoming State Penitentiary to construct and erect bat nursery houses for a research project on bat roosting preferences. According to Bat Conservation International, even the most abundant bat species are rapidly losing roosting habitat. Because bats can eat up to 3,000 insects a day, Read also is working with the city of Laramie to let prisoners construct bat houses to help battle the town's mosquito problem. Mosquito spraying was curtailed there because of the endangered Wyoming Toad.

*Mary Apple, Rawlins District Office*



*Mary Read checks bat houses on penitentiary grounds.*

## Striking Gold Along the American River

A riverfront slice of California's Gold Country was opened for universal access this summer thanks to a labor of love by staff from the Bureau's Folsom Resource Area and the community.

Jim Eicher, Sarah Arden, and others transformed 160 scarred acres of mine pits and tailings into a showcase of environmental restoration, outdoor education, and public access. They dedicated the park to Dave Moore, a former Bureau range conservationist, who retired a decade ago when he got multiple sclerosis.

Arden, a natural resource specialist, set out to restore the abandoned mining site five years ago as her senior thesis project in environmental studies at California State University, Sacramento. Bureau workers, state and local firefighters, Boy Scouts, Conservation Corps youths, inmates, and the American River Nature Center all had a hand in the construction, which involved filling in the pits, restoring creeks, and planting native vegetation.

The half-mile trail, suitable for wheelchairs, baby strollers, and every level of walker, winds its way through oak woods, rock formations, and wildflowers to the fast-flowing American River. Remnants of a rock wall built by Chinese laborers nearly 150 years ago to rechannel creek water for gold mining line the walkway. The site is about two miles west of where James Marshall first discovered gold at Sutter's Mill in January 1848.

On June 4, National Trails Day and Moore's 45th birthday, former colleagues wheeled him down the trail to the American River where a steady parade of kayakers and rafters saluted the group. "About three years ago," Eicher said, "we brought Dave here, and it took him an hour and a half to get down to the river. So we thought, 'Let's make a trail,' and the idea just kind of snowballed."

*Patricia Foulk, California State Office*

*Jim Eicher and Dave Moore head down to the river.  
Photo by Rick Cooper*



## Bureau People

*Dave Mensing, New Mexico*

The Bureau's lead for Wilderness, Back Country Byways, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Interpretation, and Off Highway Vehicle Management, Mensing was honored at the Sheldon Coleman Great Outdoors Award Dinner on June 14 in Washington, D.C. The award is sponsored by the American Recreation Coalition. Mensing began his career with the Bureau in 1971 and has been involved in its wilderness review process, the Pacific Crest Trail, and visitor programs in Arizona and California.

*Mike Pool, New Mexico*

District Manager of the Bureau's Farmington District Office, New Mexico, Pool was named 1993 Supervisory Manager of the Year by the Santa Fe-Albuquerque Federal Executive Board. Pool directs a complex land management office that includes one of the Bureau's largest oil and gas programs, an extensive archaeological program, and Indian trust responsibilities.

*Mary Hartel, Nevada*

Land surveyor with the Bureau's Nevada State Office, Hartel is going to Romania this fall to help in the transfer of public lands to private ownership. She will provide expertise in land tenure to a team led by the National Geodetic Survey.

*Tom Curry, Norma Hyde, Esther Enders, Wyoming*  
Curry, natural resource specialist, Hyde, staff assistant, and Enders, human resources, helped Chuck Mattingly after a car accident that confined him to a wheelchair and affected his speech and writing abilities. Appealing for a computer over a local radio station, they heard from Bob and Diane Robertson and son Tom, who donated a computer and software. Thanks to these people, Mattingly, 27, is now able to write messages, is relearning school subjects and playing computer games.

*Francis Eickbush*

Chief of the Division of Cadastral Survey, Francis Eickbush was appointed council commissioner for the National Capital Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The Council oversees an organization of more than 52,000 youth in and around the Nation's Capital. Eickbush, an Eagle Scout from Wyoming, has more than 25 years of scouting experience.

# Vanishing Birds

Yearly Christmas Bird Counts began in 1900, waterfowl surveys in the 1930s, and breeding bird surveys in the 1960s. Data compiled from them show sharp declines for many species.

## Down 84%



**Loggerhead Shrike**  
Often confused with the mockingbird, the loggerhead shrike is gray above and white below with blackish wings, facial mask, and tail; and a prominent, hooked bill.

**Habitat**  
Once found throughout the contiguous United States and into southern Canada, the loggerhead shrike now has disappeared from the northern portions of its former range, notably New England and Canada. It lives primarily in shortgrass grasslands and nests in dense shrub areas, but its range also includes shrubby deserts. The loggerhead shrike winters in the southern United States and Mexico.

**The Decline**  
Down 84 percent over the last three decades, according to Breeding Bird Survey and Christmas Bird Count data.

Why the loggerhead shrike has declined is not fully understood. Factors likely include loss of grassland habitat to agriculture and urban development in both breeding and wintering grounds, pesticide contamination, and severe winter weather. Also, insects, a major food source, have been reduced by fire ants on its wintering grounds.

## Down 50%



**Bobolink**  
The female and fall male resemble large sparrows, with buff-colored crown stripes and breast, narrow pointed tail feathers, and a seed-eater's cone-shaped, sharp bill. The adult male is a mix of black and cream-colored patches.

**Habitat**  
Breeding in lush grasslands and hayfields throughout eastern and central North America, the bobolink migrates southward in large flocks. The bobolink travels the West Indies and the Atlantic coast of Central America to South America, the Galapagos Archipelago, and the Bermudas.

**The Decline**  
Down 50 percent over the last 27 years, according to Breeding Bird Survey data.

Declines have been linked to loss of nesting grassland habitat to agriculture and urban development, and the use of remaining grasslands for intensive grazing or haying. Factors in the bobolink's wintering grounds in Argentina's pampas also may be contributing to the steep population decline.

## Down 38%



**Brown Thrasher**  
Often confused with the wood thrush, the brown thrasher is heavily streaked below and rich rufous brown above, with a rather long tail.

**Habitat**  
The brown thrasher lives in early successional habitats, hedgerows, scrub, and edge habitats such as between fields and forests. It ranges east of the Rocky Mountains and north into southern Canada.

**The Decline**  
Down 38 percent over the last three decades, according to Breeding Bird Survey and Christmas Bird Count data.

Reasons for the decline are loss and destruction of habitat, mainly for agriculture and urban development. Habitat also is lost through the natural process of succession, in which open fields pass through the shrub stage to become woodlands. Successional habitat is not being created at former rates.

## Down 62%



**Red-Headed Woodpecker**  
An unmistakable combination of bright red head and jet black wings and tail identifies the red-headed woodpecker. White breast and wing patches contrast with these colors.

**Habitat**  
The red-headed woodpecker prefers open oak woodlands and farmland interspersed with large trees for nesting. In winter, it is restricted to mature woodlands.

**The Decline**  
Down 62 percent over the past three decades, according to Breeding Bird Survey and Christmas Bird Count data.

Reasons for the red-headed woodpecker's decline include competition for nesting cavities with the European starling, an exotic (or introduced) species, and loss of nesting habitat to the elimination of hedgerows on farmland. Also, bottomland hardwood forests are much reduced in the central United States, especially in the Mississippi Alluvial Plain, where the species winters.

## Down 50%



**Mallard Duck**  
The male mallard has a green head, a grayish-brown back, and gray underparts with a purplish chestnut breast. Dusky-brown and tawny, the female is mottled and lighter below than above.

**Habitat**  
The mallard duck's range covers most of the Northern Hemisphere except tundra zones of the high Arctic, high mountain areas, and deserts. The mallard winters in Mexico.

**The Decline**  
Down 50 percent over the last 23 years, according to Waterfowl Survey data.

Drought conditions and loss of nesting habitat probably have caused the mallard's decline. Unlike some ducks, it does not migrate to other areas when its usual habitat is not suitable. Widespread drought in the 1980s and draining of shallow ponds for cropland reduced areas the mallard needs to raise young. Clearing of grassland nesting areas also has taken its toll.

Illustrations by Louis Agassiz Fuertes from the collection of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Bureau Briefs

### United States Geological Survey

Gordon Eaton, Director  
Mitch Snow, Bureau Editor

#### Ironing Out Underground Oil Contamination

Derek Lovely, the Survey microbiologist who discovered microbes that can eat ozone-destroying CFCs and strip radioactive uranium from ground water, has discovered a new way of breaking down toxic benzene in underground gasoline spills.

Just as a dose of iron-rich spinach gave Popeye the boost he needed in the cartoons, adding chelated iron to petroleum-contaminated ground water may give naturally-occurring microbes the help they need to break down toxic benzene to nontoxic carbon dioxide. Current estimates of leaking underground storage tanks range from 75,000 to 350,000 nationwide. Lovely and his team's results were published in the July 14, 1994, issue of the magazine *Nature*.

#### Evolution Not So Elementary

Paleontologist Lynn Wingard is challenging the popular conception of evolution dynamics and mass extinctions at the time when dinosaurs disappeared from the earth.

Supporters of the theory that traces extinctions about 65 million years ago to a catastrophic asteroid impact have based many of their calculations of evolutionary rates on published fossil lists. According to a new report by Wingard, these data lists may be highly inaccurate.

Using a list of 38 officially listed fossil mollusks more than 30 million years old, Wingard found that only eight were distinct. According to Wingard, the rates of evolution and extinction calculated by using the previously published fossil record are two to three times too high.

#### McGregor Named Associate Director For Programs

Director Eaton has named Dr. Bonnie McGregor as his associate director for programs. McGregor will direct the Survey's program planning, outreach, and publications activities. McGregor has been serving as acting associate director for the past year. Prior to holding this post, she was assistant chief geologist for programs.

#### Ryan Named Associate Director For Operations

Hydrologist Barbara Ryan has been named the new associate director for operations by Director Eaton. She will oversee the Survey's budget and administrative support functions. As a member of the transition team, Ryan helped prepare future options for the new director while working as the assistant regional hydrologist for the National Water Quality Assessment program in Denver, Colorado.

#### Stanley Named Chief of Staff

Director Eaton recently appointed Linda Stanley as the Survey's first chief of staff. In this new role Stanley will oversee the operation of the dozen different Tiger Teams that are looking into various aspects of the Survey's operations. She will also manage the daily operations of the director's office.

#### Bear Mauls Volunteer Nurse In Alaska

A brown bear attacked Eleonora Florance, a Public Health Service nurse with the Survey's National Center, while she was working as a Survey volunteer at Bering Glacier in Alaska.

Florance was participating as a member of a scientific field team studying the rapid advance of the Bering Glacier. The camp included about 13 researchers from the Survey and the Bureau of Land Management.

Dragged from her tent by the bear, Florance made anguished cries for help that brought instant aid from fellow workers, who shot and killed the animal. Florance was airlifted to the hospital at Cordova for initial treatment of claw and bite injuries to her back and arm and was later transferred to a hospital in Anchorage.

An active member of the Volunteer for Science program, Florance was on her second trip to Alaska as a Survey volunteer. Director Eaton presented her with a purple heart award at the recent Volunteer Recognition ceremonies. Florance returned to work at the National Center on September 1.

*Director Eaton honors Eleonora Florance with a Purple Heart award after she was mauled by a bear. Photo by Dave Usher*

## Bureau of Reclamation

Daniel Beard, Commissioner  
Carrie Carnes, Bureau Editor

#### Purging Pesky Procedures

How many times have you found yourself mired in regulatory restrictions just to perform a simple task? You ask yourself, "Why must I do it that way when it would be much easier and faster to do it this way?"

Until recently, Reclamation employees also had no forum in which to address their concerns. To combat the problem, Reclamation established a Burdensome Regulations clearinghouse to receive and process responses to complaints and suggestions from employees. Employees' comments are forwarded to the appropriate office to determine if Reclamation can eliminate or streamline the current regulation.

#### Bald Eagle Recovery

Reclamation continues to play an important role in the recovery of the bald eagle in Montana. Pete Schendel of the Montana Area Office and Sue Stiles and Jerry Jacobs of the Regional Office have been active in the recovery efforts. Recently Reclamation was a signer of the Bald Eagle Management Plan. The plan provides guidelines to help conserve the species and its habitat, and establishes conservation strategies consistent with the Endangered Species Act. Reclamation is also working with others in the region on the recovery of other threatened and endangered species.

#### Resources Management Award

Dr. Edward Friedman of the Denver Office received the Commissioner's Resources Management Award for his contributions to the management of significant cultural resources. This award, established last March by Commissioner Beard, is designed to recognize employee contributions to conservation of water and other natural resources.

#### Buffalo Bill Dam Visitor Center Dedication

Reclamation's Great Plains Region coordinated construction of interpretive elements for the Buffalo Bill Dam Visitor Center dedication in Cody, Wyoming, in August 1994. The exhibits cover a wide range of resource management issues. Water management and the history of the dam are highlighted. Other exhibits present fossils, caving, threatened and endangered species, water conservation, forest management, recreation planning, and low-impact camping.

#### Talk Back to Your Boss

Commissioner Beard is still asking employees to fill out the "Make a Difference-Talk Back to Dan" comment cards located in Reclamation mail rooms. The Commissioner reads every one of them and appreciates the thoughtful suggestions so far.



## Excellence of Service Award

Reclamation was selected to receive the Interior Unit Award for Excellence of Service, recognizing its support of a commitment to the Department's Business and Economic Development Program for Fiscal Year 1993. This achievement is a direct result of tireless efforts by all of Reclamation's Business Utilization Development specialists, which includes Reclamation employee J.E. Dreibelbis.

## Two Employees Rescue Capsized Couple in Sailboat

Two Mt. Elbert Power Plant employees, Bill Camp and Ralph Gosch, helped rescue a couple in a sailboat at Twin Lakes, Colorado. Camp notified 911 Rescue while Gosch, with help from Forest Service personnel and nearby fishermen, obtained a boat and rowed to the capsized sailboat. The boaters were taken to a nearby hospital, cold but happy to have been rescued.

## Wyoming and Taiwan Exchange Staff

Darrell White Eagle of Reclamation's area office in Mills, Wyoming, hosted a Sister-City cultural exchange from Taipei, Taiwan. The group of 34 Taiwanese visited Casper for two weeks while a Casper student exchange team of 30 stayed in Taiwan. The Sister City Exchange program offers a brighter future for both cities as each group learns more about the other's culture.

## Partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife

Commissioner Beard signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the executive director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at Caddo Lake, Texas, in September 1994. Hosted by Texas Congressman Jim Chapman, the signing ceremony commits Reclamation to a productive partnership facilitating efforts to promote environmental protection while exploring prudent options for ecotourism and sustainable development of the Cypress Basin ecosystem.

## Forgiveness Coupons

Hockey star Wayne Gretzky said it best: You miss 100 percent of the shots you never take. Commissioner Beard agrees wholeheartedly. At a recent Executive Leadership Committee meeting, Beard handed two coupons to each of his area managers. The coupons can be redeemed as an official forgiveness when a good idea goes awry.

"I wanted to let the employees know that I encourage creative problem-solving," said Commissioner Beard. "The coupons are a tangible way for me to show I'm serious about letting people take chances. It gives them a heat shield."

The coupons, good for one year, read across the top, "It's easier to get forgiveness, than permission." Now Reclamation employees can get both.

## Fence Around Canal Saves Animals

Innovative mitigation efforts by Reclamation have reduced the loss of desert mule deer and mountain sheep near the Central Arizona Project aqueduct in Arizona. A study funded by Reclamation determined that fencing the aqueduct has saved an average of 53 ungulates, or hoofed animals, a year from drowning. By tagging the animals with radio monitoring equipment, the mitigation team was able to track the animals' movements. Reclamation biologist Henry Messing said this study convinced the Phoenix Area Office that mitigation efforts "really work. They're no longer a theory."

## Colorado River Conference

Commissioner Beard organized a five-day Colorado River Conference in August for public and private interests that have a stake in the future management of the river. Participants included farmers, environmentalists, recreation industry representatives, government officials, and Native American leaders. The trip was designed for participants to establish an open dialogue on natural and cultural resource management issues surrounding the Grand Canyon and Glen Canyon Dam.

## Veteran of 36 Years Retires

Gerald L. Wright, Area Manager for the Oklahoma-Texas Area Office in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, retired July 8, 1994. He worked more than 36 years with the Bureau of Reclamation.

## United States/Mexican Water Issues Discussed

Commissioner Beard traveled to Mexico in July to meet with officials from the National Water Commission, stopping first in Arizona to visit the large-scale modification of Roosevelt Dam. In Mexico, the delegation visited project sites, including Morelos Dam near Algodones, which was affected by the flood of the Gila River in 1993, and the Riverside Project in Ciudad Juarez. At the last stop, El Paso, they toured the Colonias area, which has received a great amount of national attention for its sub-standard living conditions and poor water supply. Reclamation staff included Chief of International Affairs Sammie Guy, Issues Manager Zell Steever, and International Affairs Specialist Chris Beardsley.



Above: Commissioner Beard and the director general of the National Water Commission discuss issues pertaining to the Gila River flood. Photo by Zell Steever



Dr. Krausman of the University of Arizona tags a bighorn sheep. BOR photo



Above: Hopi Tribe Chairman Ferrell Secakuku, Commissioner Beard, and Marc Reisner, author of Cadillac Desert, observe the breathtaking scenery of Grand Canyon as they float the Colorado River. Photo by Lisa Guide



## Fish and Wildlife Service

Mollie Beattie, Director  
Janet Tennyson, Bureau Editor

### Kudos to Conley Moffett

At its June 14, 1994 annual awards ceremony, the American Recreation Coalition recognized Conley Moffett, the Service's deputy assistant director for ecological services, for outstanding contributions to the enhancement of recreational opportunities in America.

Moffett was one of four individuals the coalition recognized from federal land managing agencies for their dedication to improving the quality of outdoor recreation. The coalition credited Moffett with being singularly responsible for forging partnerships under the Wallop-Breaux Sport Fish Restoration Program. The coalition also commended his leadership in the dissemination of reports on how recreational anglers' and boaters' tax dollars are used.

In addition, Moffett established the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council, which provides advice to the Secretary of the Interior through the Service's director on a variety of matters that have impacts on recreational anglers and boaters.

Moffett has 30 years of federal service, including more than 25 with the Service. He also worked for the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development for 12 years.

### Community Supports Kirtland's Warbler

How do you protect an endangered, half-ounce gray and yellow warbler that nests nowhere else in the world but in an eight-county area in Michigan's lower peninsula? That challenge has stimulated a unique partnership of private and government organizations. Their efforts have resulted in conservation of the bird, local economic benefits in the form of eco-tourism, and the sustainability of a viable logging industry.

In fact, the local communities are so enthusiastic about preserving the Kirtland's warbler (there are about 1,000 of the birds) that they celebrated their first-ever Kirtland's Warbler Festival in June, sponsored by the Oscoda County Chamber of Commerce.

"This is the best example in the United States of communities coming together to protect a rare and irreplaceable species because it is an asset to the area," said Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, who attended the festival. "It proves that there is room in the ecosystem for diversity."

Since the tiny songbird is found only in the eight-county area, except when it migrates to the Bahamas in winter, it attracts tourists and bird watchers from all over the world, making an important economic contribution to the local community. For example, local motels offer special tour packages to see the Kirtland's warbler.

The Kirtland's warbler, with many other endangered forest-dependent birds, nests in forested areas that are in and near communities where logging is an important industry. But while some endangered birds require old growth mature forest, Kirtland's warblers require very young (Christmas tree-size) jack pines. As warbler habitat ages, it must be harvested through commercial logging so that the limited land available can be recycled to younger trees. Thus, warbler management results in more trees available for harvest, not less.

The efforts to conserve the Kirtland's warbler involve eight government agencies, six conservation groups, several private businesses, and universities. They are an example of how banding together to save an endangered species is benefiting people, too.



Sponsored by the local Chamber of Commerce, the Kirtland's Warbler Festival illustrates area residents' enthusiasm about conserving the endangered half-ounce songbird. USFWS photo by Richard Baetson

### Breeding Duck Populations Rebound

After years of declines caused by drought and generally poor habitat conditions, the estimated breeding population of ducks rebounded sharply this year. The rebound comes in response to widespread precipitation and improved wetland and nesting conditions, according to a survey conducted by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Aerial surveys conducted in May revealed that overall breeding duck populations were up 24 percent to 32.5 million, compared with 26.3 million in 1993. This was 2 percent above the 1955-93 average. The survey area covered 1.3 million square miles across the north-central United States, western and northern Canada, and Alaska. These forecasts represent an estimated projection rather than an actual count of birds.

Every duck species surveyed showed an increase compared with 1993. Five of the 10 major duck species remain below their long-term population average from 1955 to 1993, however, and mallards, pintails, and scaup have not yet reached the population goals established for these species under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

Mallard breeding populations rose 22 percent to 7 million (2 percent below the 1955-93 average). Big increases in southern Saskatchewan, Montana, and the Dakotas offset a decline in northwestern Canada. In addition, Minnesota and Wisconsin reported record high numbers of mallards in 1994.

Gadwall were up 32 percent to 2.3 million (75 percent above the 1955-93 average), with increases in southern Saskatchewan and the eastern Dakotas.

Green-winged teal were up 24 percent to 2.1 million (27 percent above 1955-93 average), and blue-winged teal were up 45 percent to 4.6 million (12 percent above 1955-93 average), with increases in southern Saskatchewan, Montana, and the Dakotas.

Meanwhile, scaup were up 11 percent to 4.5 million (18 percent below 1955-93 average), American widgeon were up 16 percent to 2.4 million (8 percent below 1955-93 average), northern shovelers were up 42 percent to 2.9 million (62 percent above 1955-93 average), northern pintails were up 45 percent to 3 million (33 percent below 1955-93 average), redheads were up 35 percent to 653,000 (13 percent above 1955-93 average), and canvasbacks were up 11 percent to 526,000 (2 percent below 1955-93 average).

In cooperation with the Canadian Wildlife Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service annually compiles information from aerial surveys to provide an assessment of the status of waterfowl populations and a fall flight forecast.

The fall flight index has been compiled since the late 1960s. This year's duck fall flight forecast of 71 million is the highest since 1983. Last year's fall flight forecast was 59 million. The index hit a record low of 55 million ducks in 1985.

Hugh Vickery, Washington, D.C.



Northern pintail breeding populations rose 45 percent over last year's estimates. Overall, breeding duck populations were up 24 percent. USFWS photo

## Ken Burton Nominated for Post at Environmental Foundation

President Clinton has nominated Ken Burton, public affairs specialist in the Service's Division of Endangered Species, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation. The Foundation was established in March 1992, and will be located at the University of Arizona. Its purpose will be to foster greater recognition and understanding of the role of the environment, public lands, and natural resources in the development of the United States.

Burton has previously served as a media adviser to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and director of the Office of Public Affairs at the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs in the House of Representatives. He was Representative Morris K. Udall's press secretary from 1979 to 1981.

The Foundation will establish programs for environmental policy research and conflict resolution, develop training resources, provide education outreach, and develop resources to train Native American and Alaska Native professionals in health care and public policy. The Board of Trustees may award scholarships, fellowships, internships, and grants to eligible individuals for study in relevant fields. An appropriation of \$40 million has been authorized for the Foundation.

## Steve Thompson Chosen to Work with Assistant Secretary

Steve Thompson, refuge manager of the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge in Texas, was chosen to spend the month of August in an Upper Level Management Training detail in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

Thompson recently received the first Paul Kroegel Award for Refuge Manager of the Year. The award was presented earlier this year by the National Wildlife Refuge Association and the National Audubon Society. He also has been recognized for participating with the Cameron County Agriculture Wildlife Co-existence Committee to resolve public issues regarding cotton farmers and the endangered northern aplomado falcon.

## Report Chronicles Progress in Endangered Species Recovery

Nearly 40 percent of plants and animals protected under the Endangered Species Act are now stable or improving, according to a report to Congress prepared by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Of 711 U.S.-listed species for the reporting period ending September 28, 1992, 10 percent were found to be improving and 28 percent were considered stable as a direct result of recovery efforts.

The report, *Endangered and Threatened Species Recovery Program—Report to Congress*, evaluates the recovery progress of all U.S.-listed species and notes whether a species' status is improving, stable, declining, unknown, or extinct. The report found that the percentage of species considered declining dropped from 38 percent to 33 percent, but those whose status is unknown climbed to 27 percent from 19 percent. Budgetary and staffing constraints within the Service were identified as reasons for the undetermined status.

This is the second report to Congress on the recovery of endangered and threatened species. The first such report was issued in 1990. As noted in both reports, two percent of listed species were believed to be extinct, and it is believed that most reached that status before being listed. However, Service biologists are reluctant to delist these species if there is a chance they could still be found. Recently, a species of butterfly, the Palos Verde blue, thought to be extinct, was rediscovered in California.

Of the 711 U.S. species included in the report, 410, or about 58 percent, have approved recovery plans. Recovery plans function as working guidelines that outline specific tasks required for species recovery. While they carry no legal authority, recovery plans provide a framework for recovery used by federal, state, county, and private agencies. Many plans are developed by the Service in coordination with these other agencies and organizations.

Under a new policy recently announced by Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, recovery plans will be drafted within 18 months of a species' listing and completed within another year. While these plans are being developed, recovery activities are often already underway.



*Recovery in action: The Aleutian Canada goose has made a comeback from a low of 300 birds in 1967 to nearly 8,000 in 1992. It was reclassified from endangered to threatened in 1990. USFWS photo by Luther C. Goldman*

## Fish and Wildlife Service, Navajo Nation are Partners

The Service's Arizona field office has launched a cooperative agreement under the Partners for Wildlife program with the Navajo Nation to protect Hugo Meadows, a 640-acre cienega (marshland) along the Little Colorado River.

Under the Partners for Wildlife program, the Service provides technical and financial assistance for habitat restoration on private lands through voluntary agreements with landowners. The Service will work with the Navajo Nation to reduce grazing impacts on habitat and to control the invasion of non-native vegetation such as salt cedar and camelthorn.

The agreement is particularly significant because the Navajo Nation recently designated the area as its first wildlife refuge. The Service also will provide technical assistance for the development of environmental education displays at the refuge, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs is providing nearly half of the project funding.

"The Partners for Wildlife program provides a way we can better utilize the expertise of the Fish and Wildlife Service," said Mike Tremble of the Navajo Natural Heritage Program. "We look forward to working with the Service in the Partners program, as well as habitat conservation programs and other types of projects that will protect sensitive species."

Adjacent to the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Chevelon Creek Wildlife Management Area, Hugo Meadows supports migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wildlife such as the bald eagle. *Marie Sullivan, Phoenix, Arizona Field Office*

## Minerals Management Service

Cynthia Quarterman, Acting Director  
John Barclay, Bureau Editor

### Royalty Management Program Honored for Quality Improvement

For the second year, the Service's Royalty Management Program was a finalist for the Quality Improvement Prototype Award at the National Conference on Federal Quality. The award, sponsored by the Federal Quality Institute and the President's Council on Management Improvement, recognizes federal organizations that best exemplify Total Quality Management.

### Comprehensive Audit Effort Nets Billionth Dollar

Through its comprehensive audit program, the Royalty Management Program has passed the \$1 billion mark in collections, revenues that otherwise might have gone unpaid.

A large portion of the collections resulted from the clarification of value resulting from the first round of audits on mineral production, which began in 1982. "While this \$1 billion is the result of audit findings, MMS has actually collected more than \$65 billion in royalties in the past dozen years," said the Program's Deputy Associate Director Jimmy Mayberry. "We rely on both voluntary compliance by payors and sophisticated audit and review processes designed to detect underpayments."

### Service Borrows Navajo Nation Auditor

Through provisions of the Intergovernmental Personnel Act, the Service has borrowed one of the Navajo Nation's employees. Rowena Cheromiah, an auditor with the tribe's Minerals Department, is experienced in oil and gas activities. Her two-year appointment permits Cheromiah to work at the Service's Royalty Management Program offices in Denver.

### Service, Russians to Pool Resources

Russian officials have proposed simultaneous oil and gas lease sales on both sides of the border between Russia and the United States. The sales are planned for late 1997 in the Russian Northern and Southern Chukchi Sea Area and the U.S.'s Chukchi Sea and Hope Basin Planning areas. "Simultaneous sales in this remote area would allow us to coordinate environmental protection measures and improve the scientific data available for the area," said Acting Director Cynthia Quarterman.

### Community Service Alive and Well in Alaska

Streamlining. Downsizing. Doing more with less. Despite uncertainties about what might happen to their jobs, their friends, and their agency, employees of the Alaska Outer Continental Shelf Region still take time to care about their community. Minerals Management Service volunteers have taken part in the following activities:

Seventeen volunteers refurbished the display at Earthquake Park, a popular tourist stop along Anchorage's Coastal Trail. This display took second place in the 1993 Blue Pencil Competition.

As a participant in the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce's School-Business Partnership Program, The Service is partnered with Campbell Elementary School. The Service's employees work with students throughout the school year and judge both the Campbell Science Fair and the Statewide Science Fair each April.

For the past several years, volunteers from the Service have participated in the annual Creek Cleanup, sponsored by the Anchorage Waterways Council, by cleaning up East Chester Creek.

### Denver-Area Royalty Management Program Employees Receive Awards

Budget Analyst Jerri Palmer, Staff Accountant Bob Prael, and Computer Specialists Jan Quigley and Jim Veyera were honored with the Director's Management Control Awards for 1994. The awards acknowledge employees' outstanding efforts in identifying and recommending action for management control weaknesses that could lead to waste or inefficiency.

### Alaska Region Continues Outreach

Teams of staffers are spreading out over Alaska to explain upcoming Outer Continental Shelf sales, the pre-lease process, and the studies program. What started as an experiment two years ago has blossomed into a full-blown outreach effort.

The Region is currently preparing environmental impact statements for proposed sales in Cook Inlet, the Beaufort Sea, and the Gulf of Alaska-Yakutat. Outreach efforts in these regions include public meetings in local communities to explain the Area Evaluation and Decision Process, roundtable discussions with local governments and environmental organizations, and presentations on topics of local interest.

### Annual Stewardship Awards

El Paso Natural Gas Company, Columbia Gas Development Corporation, Dugan Production Corporation, and Jerome P. McHugh and Associates received the Secretary of the Interior's Mineral Revenues Stewardship Awards for outstanding business performance with the federal government during 1993.

### National Performance Review Update

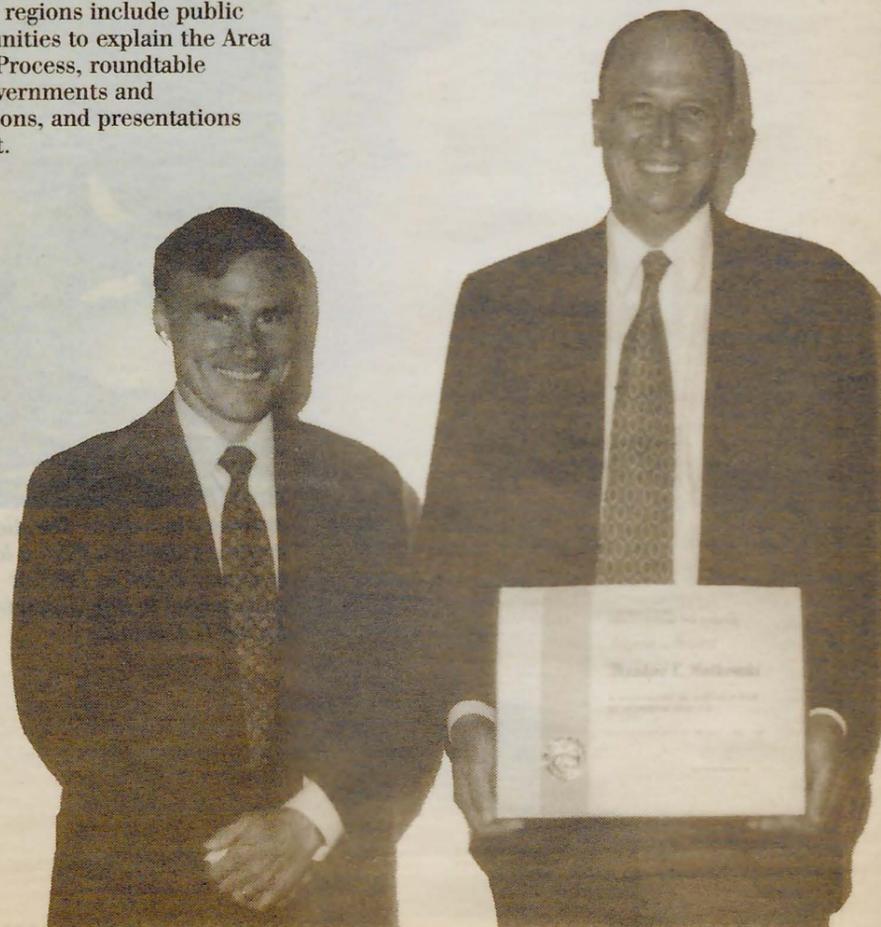
The Minerals Management Service has two new reinvention laboratories: the Royalty Gas Marketing Pilot and the Common Reference Database Reengineering Project. The Royalty Gas Marketing Pilot will reduce red tape by taking some of the gas royalties from the Gulf of Mexico in kind and selling them to marketers. The Common Reference Database project will reengineer the collection and maintenance of accurate data for leases, agreements, and royalty payors. This data is vital to the proper receipt and distribution of more than \$3.5 billion.

A new National Performance Review Talk Back bulletin board lets the Service's employees participate in Review activities. All suggestions for improving business processes will be considered.

### Gail Rainey Receives Award from State of Louisiana

Gail Rainey, an oceanographer for Leasing and Environment, received a Special Recognition Governor's Award from the State of Louisiana for her work on the Louisiana Applied Oil Spill Research and Development Program Advisory Board. For the past year, Rainey has served as the federal representative on the Board, helping to develop a program to ensure that any oil spill is handled in a positive and responsible manner. Board members were commended for their innovative approach in developing this program.

Associate Director Jim Shaw (left) presented Interior Department Superior Service Awards to the Royalty Management Program's Senior Verification Specialist Theodore Hodkouski (center) and Financial Compliance Branch Chief Randall Drake (right).



# Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Robert J. Uram, Director  
Suzanne Melancon, Bureau Editor

## Lt. Col. Richardson Honored By Army

Lieutenant Colonel G. Ed Richardson, currently executive officer of the 4010th United States Army Hospital in New Orleans and better known as a Unit Supervisor for Environmental Operations, was awarded the Army's prestigious Meritorious Service Medal for his contributions to the military educational system in Louisiana. The Meritorious Service Medal is one of the highest peacetime awards for military service.

## Auditing Committee Gets Plaques

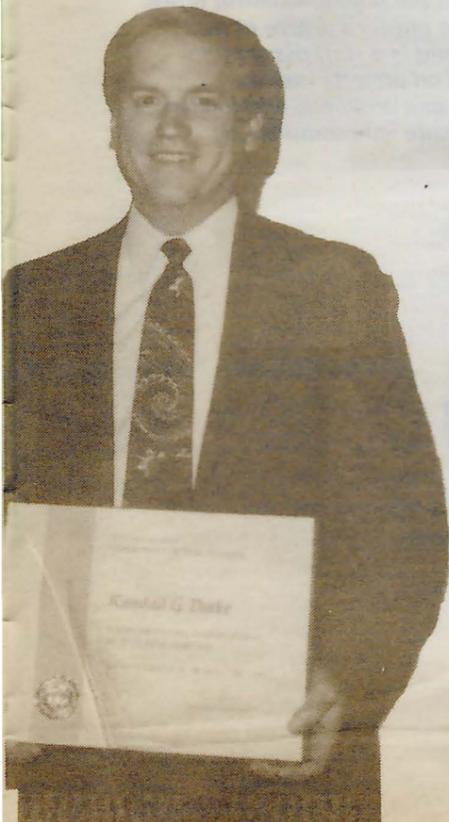
The State and Tribal Royalty Auditing Committee, which includes members of the states and Indian tribes that participate in the Royalty Management Program's Cooperative and Delegated Audit Programs, meets quarterly, and the Service has traditionally been invited to the sessions. In August, the Service presented Committee members with plaques commemorating their participation in the Program's auditing effort, which just reached the \$1 billion mark.

## Gottlieb to Head Alaska Regional Office

Judy Gottlieb, formerly the associate regional director for the National Park Service's Alaska Region, began a new assignment as Director of the Alaska Outer Continental Shelf Region in July. Gottlieb has a B.S. from Boston University and an M.S. in zoology from the University of Maryland. She also holds the Meritorious Service Award, the second highest award the Interior Department can grant to career employees. Gottlieb lives in Anchorage with her husband, Kevin.

## Help for Newsclips Readers

Bob Middleton of the Director's Office puts a daily selection of important news items on a computer bulletin board for headquarters employees. To make the bulletin board more user-friendly, Tom Murrell and Jerry Jeschke developed a new program called NewsClips for Windows. Windows users who used to have to scroll through long texts or navigate cc:Mail's complicated text-viewing features can now access individual stories with the touch of a button. For more information, send an e-mail request to the program's authors.



## Surface Mining and Abandoned Mine Land Awards

Thanks to the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, reclamation has become a successful part of most coal mining operations in the U.S. Eight years ago, the Office of Surface Mining started an annual awards program to recognize mine operators responsible for the best examples of environmentally sound surface coal mining and reclamation.

Earlier this summer, Secretary Babbitt announced that eight mines in six states were winners of 1993 National Excellence in Surface Mining Reclamation awards. In June, at the 1994 annual meeting of the National Coal Association, in Colorado Springs, Director Bob Uram presented plaques to winning operators and individual certificates of achievement to the men and women responsible for the award-winning reclamation at each mine.

Last month, for the third year, OSM presented awards honoring reclamation projects that have eliminated abandoned mine land problems. In addition to cleaning up abandoned coal mine sites, the nine winning reclamation projects for 1993 ranged from filling in open shafts at a colonial-era coal mine outside Richmond, Virginia, to restoring a vast, radioactive abandoned uranium mining complex in Wyoming. Two projects won awards for bat gates, bars or grates that protect bat habitat while keeping people out of dangerous mine openings. The abandoned mine land awards were presented by Director Uram at the annual meeting of the Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs, in Park City, Utah.

## Fourth-Graders Learn About Mining

Fourth-graders in London, Kentucky, learned about mining from a couple of experts when Mine Inspector Sharon Hall, of the London Area Office, and Natural Resource Specialist Jim Holliday, from the Ashland Area Office, visited their classroom. Hall and Holliday showed the youngsters a documentary film about coal mining in Kentucky, then discussed mining-related problems of erosion, pollution, subsidence, and abandoned mine hazards.

Sharon Hall surprised the class when she told them she was the only female mine inspector in Kentucky, and one of only five women inspectors in the Office of Surface Mining. Hall likes to encourage girls to consider non-traditional careers by emphasizing that women can do what has been considered, until recently, men's work. This was the second year that Hall and Holliday have visited the school to talk about mining.



Sharon Hall fits a hard hat on a fourth-grader.

## Kristi Heisel Detailed to Policy, Management and Budget

Budget Officer Kristi Heisel has been detailed to assist Director of Fiscal Services Bob Lamb in the office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget. Heisel's 120-day detail began August 15. Management Controls Chief Victor Christiansen has been detailed as acting budget officer.

## Federal Executive Association Honors Debbie Feheley

Debbie Feheley, of the Lexington, Kentucky, Applicant/Violator System Office, was honored recently by the Federal Executive Association as the Lexington-area Employee of the Year. She took the lead in upgrading that office's training program and played a key role in developing a national training program for the System's new Migration Project. The Migration Project moved the System from the Geological Survey's mainframe computer in Reston, Virginia, to an Office of Surface Mining mini-computer.

## Anniversary Celebrations

August 3 marked the 17th anniversary of the Surface Mining Act. As part of the Washington, D.C., celebration, several recent retirees were honored for their federal careers and their service. Betty Berry (State Regulatory Programs), Al Henderson (Procurement), Dick Leonard (Public Affairs), Rosalie Roberts (Budget), Lew McNay (Abandoned Mine Lands), and Bob Wiles (Technical Services) returned to attend a reception at Headquarters, just before most Headquarters staff headed to East Potomac Park for the annual Headquarters Employee Appreciation Day picnic.

Secretary Babbitt helped make August 3 a special day for the Office of Surface Mining by signing an official proclamation naming it National Land Reclamation Day in the Department of the Interior each year.

## Bureau of Indian Affairs

Ada Deer, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs  
Alicia Sandoval, Bureau Editor

### Long-Range Planning Pays Off For Arizona Tribes

About half of the Salt River Indian Reservation's 51,000 acres of trust land is individually owned. The reservation is bounded by Scottsdale on the west and north and Mesa and Tempe on the south and adjoins the Fort McDowell Indian Community on the northeast corner. In the early 1980s, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community developed a long-range plan for land use on the reservation.

The planning paid off in 1990, when the Arizona Department of Transportation obtained an easement to construct an eight-lane freeway near the western boundary of the reservation. Major commercial development in the new freeway corridor began in the late 1980s with the construction of the Scottsdale Pavilions, the largest retail center in the U.S. In more than one million square feet, the center houses high-volume merchants such as Target and Home Depot in a non-mall format and generates millions of dollars in annual rent for individual Indian landowners as well as sales tax revenues for the community.

Late last year, the developer of the Pavilions acquired a long-term lease on 140 acres just north of the center for a golf course, future construction of a 400-room resort hotel, and an additional 160,000 square feet of commercial property. At about the same time, a 20-acre allotment two miles south of the center was leased for the construction of a huge Wal-Mart store directly south of the 10,000-student Scottsdale Community College that opened on the reservation in 1970.

### Joann Sebastian Morris Joins Staff In Washington, D.C.

Joann Sebastian Morris, acting director of tribal services, is a newcomer to the Bureau staff in Washington, D.C. A member of the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa and Oneida, she is a noted Indian teacher-researcher in both the U.S. and Canada. She was a founder of the Los Angeles City Schools American Indian Education Commission, and has worked as a National Educational Policy Fellow for the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C.

Morris also served as director of the National Congress of American Indians' bilingual education program and worked in Canada for the National Review of Indian Education. Before joining the Bureau she worked for the Mid-Continent Regional Educational Laboratory in Aurora, Colorado. Following her temporary assignment with Tribal Services, Morris will resume her original appointment as Ada Deer's Special Assistant on Education and Social Services.



Joann Sebastian Morris

### Delegations of Authority Pilot Project

In a pilot project started during the 1994 fiscal year, eight agencies were delegated authority to administer self-determination non-construction, non-procurement contracts. Pilot agencies were selected based on their ability to exercise the authorities without additional staff or resources.

The pilot project allows agency superintendents to approve or decline P.L. 93-638 contract applications. Other agency personnel, such as self-determination specialists, serve as awarding officials and are authorized to negotiate, administer, monitor, and close out self-determination non-procurement contracts.

The pilot program is working well. Tribes served by pilot agencies are especially pleased by the shorter time needed for processing contract applications and modifications, and agency staff see improved working relationships with tribal staff and officials. Area contract officers report a reduction in workload, which allows them to concentrate on non-638 matters, as well as other P.L. 638 procurement agreements.

The Bureau is assessing the capability of other agencies to administer self-determination contracts and expects to delegate authority to 15 more agencies by the end of 1994.

### Faith Roessel Has Second Son

Deputy Assistant Secretary Faith Roessel gave birth to a son, Aaron Robert Slater on August 17, 1994. Roessel and her husband, Matthew Slater, are the parents of another son, two-year-old Carl. Hilda Manuel, acting director of tribal services, will fill in for Roessel during her three-month maternity leave. Replacing Manuel is Joann Sebastian Morris, Assistant Secretary Ada Deer's special assistant for education and social services.

### Les Ramirez Travels to California And South Africa

Attorney Les Ramirez, formerly a special assistant to Ada Deer, is now working on water issues. He attended an Indian water rights conference in Stanford, California, in September. In August, as a White House Fellow, Ramirez spent two weeks on special assignment in South Africa.

Debra Purvis of the Office of American Indian Trust reviews notes on the National American Indian Listening Conference. Purvis is helping to coordinate efforts of the Interior Working Group established by Secretary Babbitt to follow up on the 200 suggestions made by tribal leaders.



### Reservation Fire Crews Fight Western Fires

The summer's outbreak of forest fires in the western U.S. caused a shortage of trained firefighters. In early August, the Bureau's Phoenix Area Office sent 30 fire crews (about 600 firefighters) and 50 support personnel to help. While crews dispatched from reservations supplied much-needed help on the fire lines, firefighting provided temporary employment to hundreds of tribal members. Personnel ranged from support dispatchers and helicopter managers to national team incident commanders.

In July, the 20-tribal-member San Carlos 129 crew, led by Crew Boss Steve Robinson, was sent to Idaho from Bylas, Arizona. Also on duty were forester Keith Burnette from the Ft. Apache Agency and Henry Rawlins of the Phoenix Area Office. In three weeks the crew pulled seventeen shifts on fires northeast of Boise, building fire lines and mopping up.

### Denise Homer Joins SES

Denise Homer of the Minneapolis Area Office recently was promoted to the Senior Executive Service. She has been with the Bureau for more than 14 years, gaining extensive work experience with Indian tribes and national Indian organizations and with federal and tribal government programs.

### Highway Engineers Lead in Metric Conversion

Earlier this year, the Phoenix Area Office's Roads Design Group attended the National Civil Engineering Automation Library (CEAL) Training/Users Group meeting in Tampa, Fla. Attending were Supervisory Highway Engineer David R. Smith, Highway Engineers Scott Schmidgall and Jim Bennett, and Construction Engineer Ron Musgrave.

The Phoenix Area Design Group spoke to conference attendees on metric conversion in highway design and later supplied copies of Bureau plans and specifications for distribution to county transportation departments in both Washington and Oregon. The County Research Administrative Board has invited the Phoenix Area Design Group to make presentations at its conference in November. The fall conference will train highway designers from the northwestern U.S.

Kathleen Mantila, Keweenaw Bay Indian-Chippewa, is one of the new faces at the Bureau's central office. She recently completed a master's degree at the University of Michigan and is a staff assistant to Ada Deer. She will work on projects such as the Listening Conference and economic development efforts and assist the Senate Subcommittee on American Indians.



# National Biological Survey

Trudy Harlow, Bureau Editor

## Dr. Edward T. LaRoe Is Survey's First Senior Scientist

In the winter of 1993, Secretary Babbitt proposed to President Clinton the creation of a National Biological Survey. To define the new bureau a scientist with vision was needed, a biologist who could conceptualize with an understanding of both ecology and government, thinking in new ways about the new bureau. From the Fish and Wildlife Service's Cooperative Research Program came Dr. Ted LaRoe, a marine biologist who was involved with the academic community. His career was devoted to applying sound ecological science to decisions by resource managers and policy-makers. As a pivotal advisor to the Secretary, LaRoe's knowledge of the Department's science programs and personnel enabled him to recruit a task force to define the Survey concept.

As the Survey became a reality, LaRoe's attentions turned to developing a report describing the distribution, abundance, and health of the nation's biological resources. He recruited a diverse cast of specialists and scientific editors to define and produce this document, *Our Living Resources 1994*.

Because of his scientific contributions to the Survey, LaRoe was named the first Senior Scientist of the National Biological Survey, an honor bestowed upon him by the Secretary of the Interior on August 9.



Ted LaRoe

## Survey Collaborates with Russians On Lake Research Project

The National Biological Survey's Great Lakes Science Center at Ann Arbor, Michigan, began a collaborative lake research project with the Institute of Biology in Ulan-Ude, Siberia, in 1992. After fact-finding exchanges in 1990 and 1991, the two formed a linked research program focused on the world's greatest freshwater lakes: the Laurentian Great Lakes of North America and Siberia's Lake Baikal.

In the first year a team of Russian scientists documented the introduction of five European parasites that had hitchhiked on the invading Eurasian ruffe (a fish similar to North American perch). The next year saw an American team undertake seven research projects on Lake Baikal. Their work is progressing toward formal joint publication with their Russian associates.

This year's joint project is back on the Great Lakes, with intensive research directed at determination of the introduced parasites carried by zebra mussels and both tube-nosed and round gobies, all recent invaders of the Great Lakes.

The continuing collaboration and a framework for further work, including a 1995 working visit of American scientists at Lake Baikal, is being managed by Dr. Vladimir Korsunov, director of the Buryat Institute of Biology; David Walsh, acting director of the Survey's Great Lakes Science Center; Dr. Nikolai Pronin, head of the Parasitology Laboratory, Institute of Biology; and James Selgeby, chief of the Survey's Lake Superior Biological Station, Ashland, Wisconsin.

## Hitchhiking on the Information Highway

The National Biological Information Infrastructure: how many of you have heard of it, and how many of you care? This information infrastructure will be coming to you in the next few years in three phases, starting with a Home Page on the Internet. Think of the Home Page as a nearly limitless array of book covers; you open the book of your choice by clicking the on-screen mouse. The National Biological Survey is engaged in the friendly competition to make its book covers among the most attractive and intriguing available. While we all know the cover is not the way to judge the book, we also know that other people do so, and one of the key Survey covers will be of the National Biological Information Infrastructure.

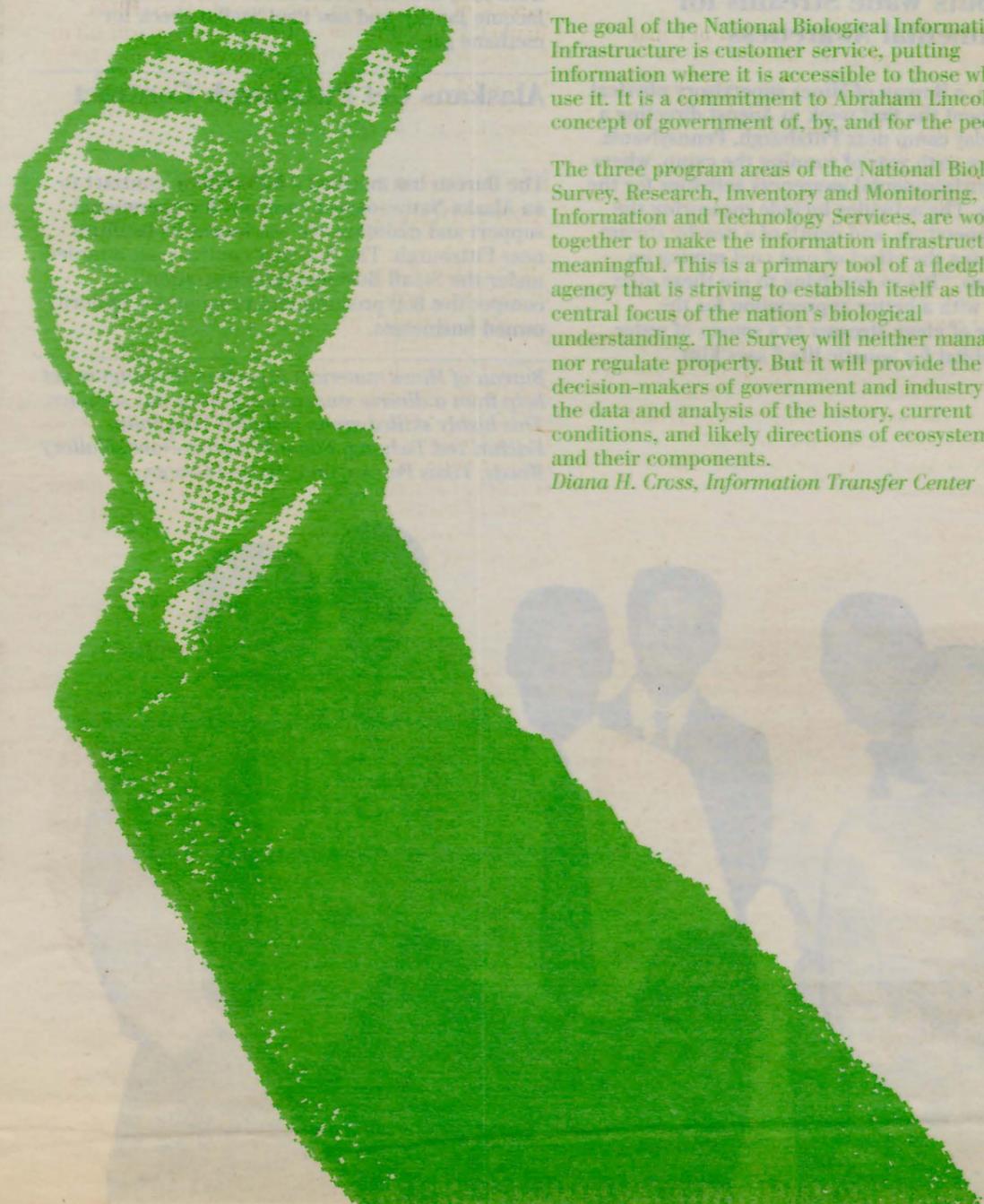
The first phase will be the directory. This is similar to a table of contents but one that leads, through hypertext, to a nearly limitless array of choices. Both browsers and searchers will use the directory to locate everything from detailed, specific research data to descriptions of the scope of resources in broad fields or specialized inventories. The next phase will be a clearinghouse through which users can select the chapter of their choice and extract the information they need.

Finally, phase three, is to be the book itself. This is a grand multi-volume text offering a virtual library system and involving textbook knowledge, personal experts, and lots of show-and-tell examples. This interactive, distributed system is being developed now with many participating agencies and organizations, one volume at a time. It will be a means of capturing the biological expertise not only of the National Biological Survey but also of partners and cooperators all over the world.

The goal of the National Biological Information Infrastructure is customer service, putting information where it is accessible to those who can use it. It is a commitment to Abraham Lincoln's concept of government of, by, and for the people.

The three program areas of the National Biological Survey, Research, Inventory and Monitoring, and Information and Technology Services, are working together to make the information infrastructure meaningful. This is a primary tool of a fledgling agency that is striving to establish itself as the central focus of the nation's biological understanding. The Survey will neither manage nor regulate property. But it will provide the decision-makers of government and industry with the data and analysis of the history, current conditions, and likely directions of ecosystems and their components.

Diana H. Cross, Information Transfer Center



## Bureau of Mines

Hermann Enzer, Director  
David Quick, Bureau Editor

### Two Win Research Honor for Video Photometer

John B. Cocanour and Donna Harbuck received the 1994 R&D 100 Award for an optical sensor they developed jointly in Salt Lake City. The award, presented by *Research & Development* magazine, is a top honor in the field of applied research and recognizes the optical sensor, a video photometer for monitoring industrial processes, as one of the year's 100 most technologically significant new products.

The video photometer can help analyze and control the processing of almost any translucent substance for which color is an indicator of chemical concentration. Potential users include mineral and chemical processing companies and the pharmaceutical, petroleum, and food and beverage industries.

The Bureau has won 31 other R&D 100s since 1978, including awards for mine rescue equipment, corrosion-resistant sulfur concrete, and technologies for recycling batteries, soldering aluminum, and cleaning up metal-contaminated water.

### Amarillo Photographer Heads Minority Engineering Organization

Floyd Anthony, a photographer and equal opportunity counselor with the Bureau's Helium Field Operations, has been elected president of the Amarillo Chapter of the Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering. This organization tries to interest minority elementary and high school students in engineering careers.

### Girl Scouts Wade Streams for Environmental Awareness

Ann G. Kim, a Bureau of Mines supervisory physical scientist, spent the first week in August directing a Girl Scout day camp near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This was her sixth year of running the camp, where she leads environmental awareness activities for the 70 campers. The activities include measuring the acidity, temperature, and depth of a nearby stream and discussing the effect of past coal mining on local streams. "It's so gratifying to see these girls come away with a better appreciation for the significance of clean streams as a source of water and as a habitat for aquatic life," says Kim.

### Expanding a Washington Perspective

Some people say summers in the West aren't really that hot because of the dry, low-humidity heat there. Dry or not, economist Marilyn Biviano found the 105-degree afternoon temperature just plain hot at the Energy and Minerals Field Institute tour of Nevada in early August. Those participating in this year's program included state and federal agency employees, congressional staffers, and a representative from the White House's Office of Environmental Policy.

The group spent the week visiting mining and energy sites, mostly in Nevada. Site visits included gold mining and milling operations, a diatomite mine, a copper mine, a geo-thermal power plant, the Walker Ute Indian Reservation, and the proposed nuclear waste storage site at Yucca Mountain.

At each site their hosts discussed their perspectives on "Washington issues" (for example, reclamation, environmental regulation, and Mining Law reform) as well as another issue that seems linked with all of these issues in Nevada, water. Says Biviano, "While I've been on more comfortable trips, few have been as enlightening."

### FX "Breakfast Time" Visits Bureau Test Mine

In August, workers at the Bruceeton, Pennsylvania, experimental underground coal mine got a visit from the FX cable TV network's morning show "Breakfast Time." Reporter Spencer Garbett took viewers on a lighthearted tour of the mine. Along the way, he got the perspective of a lifelong miner from Jack Teatino, heard about roof bolting from Jacquie Jansky, and saw Paul Stefko check for methane gas.

### Alaskans Get Pittsburgh Contract

The Bureau has awarded a \$25-million contract to an Alaska Native-owned company for operational support and maintenance services at its facilities near Pittsburgh. The five-year contract was awarded under the Small Business Administration's competitive 8(a) procurement program for minority owned businesses.

*Bureau of Mines materials experts in Washington got help from a diverse student work force this summer. This highly skilled group included Ying Shan, Feichin Ted Tschang, Eduardo Garcia-Nava, Mallory Woods, Vikas Parekh, and Michael George.*

### Bulk Buys Boost Recycling

The eight states in the Great Lakes region are pooling their collective purchasing power to promote recycling, and they've asked the Bureau of Mines to help. The Great Lakes Recycle Project is stocking state government offices in the region with copier paper, computer forms, and envelopes that contain recycled paper.

The project uses multi-state contracts to create a demand for recycled products. Bureau of Mines analysts, who have devised a way to track the flow of commodities in the region, are supporting efforts to develop a coordinated procurement strategy designed to stimulate markets for goods made from recycled materials.

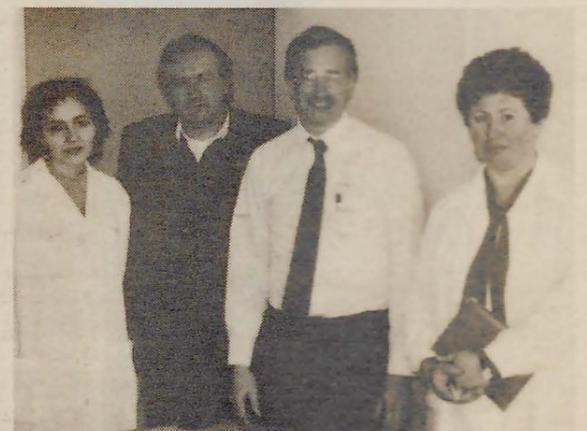
Initial commodity studies have focused on paper, and the region's first bulk buy, for copier paper, kept over 3 million pounds of waste paper from being thrown away. It preserved the equivalent of about 130,000 trees and saved taxpayers more than \$500,000. Other materials slated for analysis include plastics, rubber, motor oil, and glass.

### Zinc Essay Contest Renamed for William Gage

The American Zinc Association is renaming its National Zinc Essay Contest, which it sponsors jointly with the Bureau of Mines, in honor of Bureau audiovisual specialist William Gage, who died this spring. Gage was an internationally recognized film maker who managed the Bureau's audiovisual program. Gage had worked closely with the Association on the contest and other educational projects.

### Romania Seeks Mine "First Aid"

William J. Wiehagen, an industrial engineer in Pittsburgh, recently returned from a trip to Romania, where he met with mining and medical officials. Romania is trying to improve the emergency medical care available to its underground coal miners. Wiehagen helped scope out an educational plan focused on emergency planning for mines, which includes first aid training for miners, in west-central Romania. His work set the stage for future collaboration on both safety and environmental issues.



*William J. Wiehagen, third from left, with representatives of the Mine Rescue Station and the Technical University of Petrosani, Romania.*



## Spokane Scientist Aids Chernobyl Recovery Effort

Frederick E. Kirschner, a Bureau hydrogeologist in Spokane, Washington, is one of 10 American researchers selected by the National Academy of Sciences as part of a Young Investigators Program to study nuclear accidents and radioactive contamination. The U.S. participants worked in collaboration with 10 scientists from Ukraine and Belarus to look at the ecological aspects of the Chernobyl disaster. Their work will benefit this country and other nations that use nuclear energy, as well as the areas affected by the 1986 accident.

"The United States spends billions on nuclear safety each year, part of it on predicting the health and environmental risks associated with releases of radionuclides," Kirschner said. "All these predictions are made with numerical models. Chernobyl offers a unique opportunity to verify our models."

Kirschner's work for the Bureau involves characterizing the hydrogeology of the Midnite Mine, an inactive uranium mine on land owned by the Spokane Indian Tribe.

## Pittsburghers Dig Alaskan Archaeology

Bob Chufu traveled to the northern coast of Alaska this summer to assist in an archaeological study at Pingasagrak, the site of a prehistoric whaling village. Funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation, archaeologists are gathering information about the economic and social development of the village and neighboring communities. The project team is a partnership of universities, private businesses, the North Slope Borough, and Interior Department agencies, including the Bureau of Mines, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Fish and Wildlife Service.

Chufu will be using his experimental ground-penetrating radar equipment to identify and investigate other settlements in the region without undertaking costly, time-consuming excavations. The radar uses electromagnetic measurements to distinguish between such materials as coal and rock.

*Robert L. Chufu (center) with representatives of the North Slope Borough Commission on History, Language, and Culture in Point Franklin, Alaska.*



## Tiny Bubbles. . . .

David Nilsen, Steve Anderson, Tim Fisher, Gloria Galvin, Gary Hundley, Ralph Nafziger, Glen Soltau, and John Wright traveled to the Magma Copper Mine in San Manuel, Arizona, this summer. The Albany, Oregon, scientists were demonstrating how their liquid emulsion membrane technology could be used to treat a waste stream produced by the company's copper electrowinning plant. The membrane, which looks like a mass of bubbles, can remove dissolved metals from dilute solutions. The technology has promising applications for both metal processing and water treatment.

## Coated Concrete Takes on Coastal Climate

Bureau scientists from Albany, Oregon, spent part of their summer clinging to bridges. They were setting up racks of samples of zinc coatings and other metals and alloys on seven bridges along the Oregon coast and at eight other sites at varying distances from the ocean. The metals are being tested for their corrosion rates in different coastal microclimates.

Corrosion causes billions of dollars of damage to the nation's infrastructure each year. Salt from sea air speeds this destructive process. The State of Oregon hopes to buy an additional 20 to 30 years for its concrete coastal bridges by coating them with zinc.

Corrosion experts from the Bureau are helping Oregon study the effectiveness of the coatings. Their research will tell us more about corrosion in coastal environments and the toll it takes on different materials.

"Our work should have an immediate payoff for the state," said Bureau engineer Gordon Holcomb. "It will help officials judge whether coating coastal bridges is a cost-effective protection strategy."



*Bernie Covino installs a rack of coated samples on a coastal bridge in Oregon.*

## Deb Liggett, National Park Service, Devils Tower National Monument

"In my second public appearance as superintendent of Devils Tower National Monument, I successfully rode my burro the full length of the basketball court in a Donkey Basketball fundraiser, to the great pride of the NPS. I am also superintendent of 400 head of Angora goats, whose integrated pest management mission is to eat the dreaded exotic leafy spurge plants. And you thought only Carl Sandburg National Historic Site had goats! This somewhat dubious distinction is probably a direct result of bad companions in my past. After having lived through Hurricane Andrew in 1992 at Everglades National Park, I talked about monkey management. We were worried about the furry primates that escaped from a research station east of the park. More exotics. Recently I received a note from a friend that said, "from monkey management to prescribed goat herding in one easy career step. . . ."

## Student Conservation Association

The Student Conservation Association High School Work Group at Craters of the Moon National Monument had a true field experience this summer. In the first three weeks of the group's five-week fencing project, an adult cougar jumped from a tree in front of their van, a black bear raided their camp, and rangers had to remove a large rattlesnake from their campsite. A summer to remember. . . .

## Boulder Break-In

In July a boulder broke into the law enforcement office of Timpanogos Cave National Monument. Fortunately, lead ranger Mike Gosse was not in his office when the 30-pound rock plunged through the park visitor center roof on its 300-foot free fall from the walls of American Fork Canyon. The boulder ripped a door from its hinges. In this steep-walled canyon rockfalls occur frequently. This was not the first time the park's facilities have been struck.

## What's Your Story?

Do you have a tale to share about life in the field? Please send it to:  
People Land & Water, Life Afield Editor  
NPS-HFC-P, P.O. Box 50  
Harpers Ferry, WV 25443  
Please include your phone and fax numbers.

## Learning from Each Other

Bruce Babbitt, Secretary

### People Land & Water

The monthly newsletter for all employees of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

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Close to 150 years after its founding, most Interior employees know very little about our Department. What is missing is not a sense of history. Most employees simply need to know more about our present programs.

A tradition of turf struggles often left employees of one Interior bureau with little access to others. Because information rarely crossed bureau lines, bureaus too often reinvented the wheel. Each bureau seemed condemned to embark on a solo effort to protect its resources.

That tradition is changing—because employees want it to change, and the resources we protect and nurture demand that it change.

Proof of change abounds in every bureau. Fish and Wildlife Service efforts to protect several endangered species in Texas focus on the Edwards Aquifer; the U.S. Geological Survey helps determine the quality of that aquifer. National Park Service sites across the West are affected by water levels in streams and reservoirs; the Bureau of Reclamation manages flows to protect aquatic resources within park boundaries. This summer I fought a fire on the Yakima Indian Reservation; the Bureau of Indian Affairs fire crews there work closely with Bureau of Land Management crews to protect resources on lands managed by both agencies.

Increasingly, the work of one bureau acknowledges the work of others: this is indeed one Department. That important fact brings you this first issue of *People Land & Water*.

Our goal with this newsletter is to share information across bureau lines so that we build on the work done by others. As we continue reinventing government, this publication will show what each bureau is doing—so we learn from each other. The *people* sections are designed to introduce you to more of your colleagues. We list their phone

numbers and hope you start to call them. The *land* sections hope to entice you to visit some of the beautiful sites we manage. The more familiar each of you becomes with these resources, the more committed you will be to protect them. We also expect to involve other people in these discussions and will profile other federal and state agencies.

While *People Land & Water* will save the Department money, it does not come without costs. To make it possible, we have stopped printing similar bureau-wide newsletters. Information once conveyed in the Bureau of Land Management's *Inside Track*, for example, will now appear in this Departmental newsletter. The difference: now all Interior Department employees can share in understanding how that bureau approaches its work.

*People Land & Water* will be a forum for substantive discussion of the natural resource issues facing all of us—as employees and U.S. citizens. This is a discussion of significant importance because it addresses the biggest issue facing the current generations: how to balance our resource consumption with our resource preservation. There are many possible solutions to this biggest of problems, and many of them are worthy of extended study and practice.

With your help we will see many of those solutions in the pages of *People Land & Water*.

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# PEOPLE LAND & WATER

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Return of the Native  
Bureau Briefs  
Vanishing Birds  
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