

**National Park System Advisory Board**  
**STRENGTHENING NPS SCIENCE AND RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP**

**May 21, 2014**

The primary purpose of the Advisory Board's Science Committee is to provide advice on issues of science policy and programs, and natural and cultural resource management. The Committee was first tasked to revisit the 1963 Leopold Report, and prepare a new Advisory Board report focused on recommending changes in NPS science and resource policy and programs. The Committee's report *Revisiting Leopold: Resource Stewardship in the National Parks* was adopted by the Advisory Board in July, 2012, and presented to NPS Director Jarvis in August of that year.

**Status of Activities**

Director Jarvis created an Implementation Team to consider the recommendations in *Revisiting Leopold*, to convert selected recommendations into NPS policy guidance, and prepare a draft Policy Memo for his signature, followed by a Director's Order. The Implementation Team includes 10 individuals from different regions and divisions of the NPS, and is co-chaired by NPS Associate Director Michael Reynolds, Regional Director Chris Lehnertz, and Senior Science Advisor to the Director Gary Machlis who serves as liaison with the Science Committee. The Team is preparing the draft Policy Memo.

**Next Steps**

For the Leopold Project, the Committee included 12 scientists and scholars from a wide range of disciplines. Additional members are being added to work on two new tasks to be requested of the Board by Director Jarvis.

1) The Pebble Mine in Alaska in Southwest Alaska is currently in preliminary planning/development, and has the potential to impact the Bristol Bay watershed, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, and Katmai National Park and Preserve. The permitting process is underway, and the NPS will have a consultative role as the project is subjected to state and federal review. The Science Committee will be asked to prepare a committee report on the scientific information necessary for the NPS to be prepared and responsive to the proposed Pebble Mine.

2) Historical recognition of scientific achievement within the National Park System, National Historical Landmarks, and the National Register of Historic Places is incomplete. Such sites can serve as education portals for public science education. The Science Committee will be tasked to identify sites of significant American scientific achievement for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, designation as National Historic Landmarks, or establishment as units of the National Park System, and preparing a report on its findings.