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POLITICS AS IT RELATES TO RESEARCH AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN NATIONAL PARKS

By William H. Ehorn, Superintendent
Channel Islands National Park

An often forgotten and overlooked element in doing research and resource management in national parks is politics and its influence on the results and outcome of these two extremely important programs. It is very clear to me that our resource management problems are becoming more complex than ever before and the public and politicians are more involved in all research and resource management actions that are undertaken in our national parks. It is also apparent that we can't afford to be doing research for "research's sake," it must be applied and related to management needs. Instead of our resource management needs becoming easier, they are becoming much more difficult to accomplish than they were 10-20 years ago. The political climate continues to affect our mission to restore these national treasures to the way they were prior to European man's presence.

Politics as it relates to resource management and research has several factors which need to be considered by both our scientists and managers. Before discussing these factors, I'd like to offer my definition of politics as it relates to these programs.

"Politics in research and resource management is the art of building a constituency for overall park management and support for research and resource management actions."

What I mean by this is, that the public needs to be constantly and consistently dealt with and consulted about the purpose and importance of our national parks. An excellent public relations program is necessary to sell the park and all its management programs. This needs to be done on all levels (local, regional, state, national and international). Once the public becomes aware and understands our mission, it becomes easier to accomplish our research and resource management objectives. The factors that need to be considered in any research and resource management actions are as follows:

Must have scientific and professional consensus as to facts (management without knowledge is a dangerous policy).

Both the scientist and manager need to consult with peers in the local communities to seek concurrence and support. It may be necessary to consider a scientific committee to provide additional advice and support. This, of course, depends on the magnitude of the problem at hand.

Superintendents need grassroots support from local towns and counties, and support from regional, state and national levels if necessary.

This depends upon the sensitivity of the problems. For example, if one were to remove exotic rats from an area, the public would not necessarily become aroused, or even care, since not many people see rats as beneficial. On the contrary, if you were to propose removal of sheep, burros, or perhaps rabbits at Easter time, you could have a real public relations problem confronting you. This is where that support and that scientific advisory committee will help. Again, it depends on the sensitivity and popularity of the non-endemic plant or animal to be eradicated. A manager or scientist can never have too much public support in the carrying out of resource management actions.

Managers and researchers need to be well organized (they should have clear objectives, good strategy, good flow of information so people who need to know are kept informed).

Once you are well organized with a clear set of objectives and strategy, this information needs to be communicated to the public and especially to any special interest groups. In some cases those persons who you know will definitely oppose your actions need to be communicated with head-on! It's surprising that sometimes you can reach a satisfactory understanding, but at other times you may not. However, you must not get discouraged even though they continue to disagree; you must continue with an action proposed as long as you have met all of the legal requirements, i.e., Congressional mandates, NEPA, and NPS policies, etc.

I also feel it's important to realize that people and groups, including your own staff, may not receive the information in the same way. Therefore, plan your presentations for the diversity of audiences with whom you need to communicate. Try to meet with the most concerned and interested groups on their turf so they are more relaxed and don't feel threatened. It also indirectly tells them you really care and honestly want their support and understanding.

Special efforts are necessary in soliciting support from influential people and respected scientists.

Scientists and managers in parks know there are key persons who are influential in the universities, natural history museums and the surrounding communities. A special effort is needed to solicit their total support prior to communicating your proposed resource management actions to the general public. It's surprising how much help these people can be in selling your program. Even more importantly, these people can offer an incredible amount of good advice and come to your aid with support should you need it during the actual manipulative resource management actions. Again, it can also be useful to bring these influential people into an organized advisory committee to help you in the planning process.

Define your vocabulary so it's well understood - don't get the public unduly alarmed by using terminology they don't understand.

Managers and scientists must realize the information they wish to get out to the public will need to be prepared in different terminology for different interest groups. The vocabulary you use to talk to a group of scientists will not be the same as that prepared for the local chapter of the National Rifleman's Association. It is also important that you analyze the phrases we use, such as "Management Alternatives," "Planning Concepts," etc. These types of phrases are confusing.

It has been my experience that in the public's mind

all of the alternatives and any concepts presented are the plan. We need to make it clear as to what our recommendations are without clouding the issues with all the alternatives we considered. Other words to be aware of in resource management actions are "eradication" or "elimination" -- it's much better to use "control techniques."

Managers need to know the problem first-hand; touching and feeling it lends credibility.

This is probably one of the most important factors to be considered by managers. They need to get out in the field and see the problem and understand it fully by teaching and feeling it before taking any action. This will help to build support with the scientists and the public as well.

Politics may dictate a piecemeal approach to solving the problem.

Often times, the magnitude and complexity of the problem and the political environment may be such that the research and resource management actions will have to be planned to take place over a long period of time or when the political climate becomes more conducive to NPS objectives. Examples would be the phasing out of commercial fishing or hunting within a park. These are sensitive issues. First, the research must be done and the data collected must clearly demonstrate the degrading effects to the natural ecosystem that these activities are having. The second step may be to make a recommendation to phase out commercial fishing in one small study area that can be used to compare other areas with, eventually leading to total elimination over a long period (a grandfather clause). This is especially true when other agencies or jurisdictions are present.

Be committed and have guts.

Once the necessary scientific data have been collected and the legal requirements met (NEPA, EPA, Legislation, etc.) concerning a research and resource management problem, the manager needs to implement the plan. You will not always have total support, but a manager should be committed to carry it out. According to NPS policy and legislation, it is against the law not to take a resource management action especially when that action involves an exotic species having a dramatic impact on the resources for which the park was established. A further word of advice would be to avoid making the problem larger than it really is. Get started doing something and be persistent.

All of the above factors involve a great deal of effective timing and politics and must be considered in every step of the resource management and research programs in the preservation and protection of our national parks.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As you are aware it is a major goal of PRAC to provide for low cost training opportunities for member rangers. This can encompass a wide variety of subjects. Palmdale satisfied our training needs for awhile; however, it is not too soon to begin thinking about a training session to be held after summer. I think that a week long (4 or 5 days) series of training sessions would attract rangers from statewide. Perhaps a Northern California site would be good for the location. At any rate, keep training subjects and potential instructors in mind and let your regional representatives know of your ideas, needs and desire to help.

John E. Ramirez

EDITOR'S NOTES

I wish to express my gratitude to those members that contributed information to this issue. As for the remainder of the Association, I, the editor, only edit and compile the pieces of information that I can find or are sent to me by YOU! The Signpost is only as good as what YOU the reader/members contribute. This newsletter is the heart of our Association, so please find it in your heart to contribute to it.

For you early-bird Christmas shoppers, Yellowstone Library and Museum Association (YIMA) has marketed a new board game called "Yellowstone". The game was developed by the park's rangers to teach people about the principles of wildlife ecology. The game involves moving four herds (elk, mule deer, bison, and bighorn) through the "park" from their summer to their winter range and back again. The object is to gain "food points" without getting injured, eaten, or poached along the way. After personally playing the game, I should mention that it requires several hours and lots of patience to catch on. Avalon-Hill Game Company markets the game with a portion of the sales going to support interpretation in Yellowstone. A nice money raiser for places having budget constraints! You can write to YIMA at P.O. Box 117, Yellowstone Park, WY, 82190, for your own copy or visit your local toy store. The price for my copy was \$16.04 including tax.

A new park, in California, recently opened its doors to the public. Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site, in Danville, finally signed an agreement with neighboring home owners to allow two van tours a day to come up the private access road to Eugene's "Tao House". The site was established in 1976 to commemorate the Nobel Prize winner. The house was O'Neill's residence from 1938 to 1943. He wrote his last five plays here. The house lacks furnishings, but otherwise I would recommend the two hour tour if you're passing through Danville on your summer vacation. Tours are on a reservation basis provided by Tours Are Us Inc. in Concord (415-674-0474) at \$4.50 per adult.

News from Los Angeles' Coalition To Preserve Our Parks dated May 17, 1985 states: "The surprise in an undertaking that has been fraught with surprises came last Friday when the Recreation and Parks Commission voted unanimously to make Los Angeles City park rangers limited-status peace officers! This means, if this recommendation by the Recreation and Parks Board is approved by the City Council, the current ranger force, and all future park rangers, after undergoing the proper training will have the right to issue citations and perform arrests with immunity under the law." Watch this column for future information.

In response to my request for summer humor, Southern Representative Chuck Tello of Ventura County Parks Department sends the following:

CAMPERS I HAVE KNOWN

Now that the summer season is here, it brings back memories of the different types of campers that visit our parks. Here are a few examples:

1. The Maxium Camper. This camper travels in a 40 foot motorhome that is fortified with a color TV, microwave oven, and Dolby stereo. The only wildlife that he knows about is what is stenciled to the side of his motorhome like Dolphin, Jayco, Beaver, etc. Rangers just hope that he doesn't park next to a tent with his generator running and the exhaust pipe pointing in the window.

2. The First Timer. This camper has had absolutely no experience camping. The closest to camping he ever got was a cousin that was a Boy Scout back in Brooklyn. His knowledge of setting up camp rivals that of the Marx Brothers. But he still trys camping. He's the camper that's forgotten just about everything and goes out to borrow what he can from his neighbors.

3. The Eternal Optimist. This camper will not let anything interfere with his campout come hell or high water he's going to have a good time. He will definitely show up in the middle of a rainstorm.

4. The Nite Owl. This camper doesn't know what time to quit. The ranger will always hear about him the next morning. Like owls, they sleep most of the day and rangers have difficulty trying to awaken this camper in order to find out what happened. Their first question always without fail is, "What time is it?"

5. Pat the Brat. This camper's kid is your neighbor kid gone back to nature. Rangers will get complaints about a kid with a sling shot shooting and they find "Pat the Brat" with his pockets bulging with marble size rocks and a sling shot sticking out of his back pocket. When asked if he's seen anyone with a sling shot, he wouldn't have any idea what you are talking about. His parents will chain the family dog and you wonder why they don't chain the kid.

6. The Peeping Tom. This camper claims to be a registered ornithologist and checks on bird migration. He can be easily spotted because he is wearing the biggest binoculars that K-mart has to offer. He's always down on the beach on a sunny day and only when there are many females around.

As rangers, we enjoy dealing with all types of people. We try to make their vacation special, but some of them make our summers memorable.

AND

10D Thursday, July 4, 1985 ■ San Jose Mercury News

Camping

In camping, worst pests are human

By Chuck Woodbury
Special to Venture

FOR relaxing, few activities beat camping. What's better than the smell of pine and clean air, the sound of a gently flowing creek and the sight of wildflowers and jagged mountain peaks? Yes, there's nothing quite like a trip into the great outdoors. Most of the time, that is.

Sometimes the great outdoors is not so great. It's spoiled by a nasty creature that stalks our national parks, forests and other outdoor areas. This pest, a two-legged beast, knows no geographical boundaries.

The creature is man — specifically, the rude camper. He's the guy who plays his stereo at full volume until midnight, who races his dirt bike on campground roads and who gets drunk and yells obscenities to his chums until the sun comes up. In his spare time, he uses his hatchet for target practice on ponderosa pine.

Camping alongside this guy is about as relaxing as watching a car crash.

But how do you avoid him? Sometimes it seems like you can't.

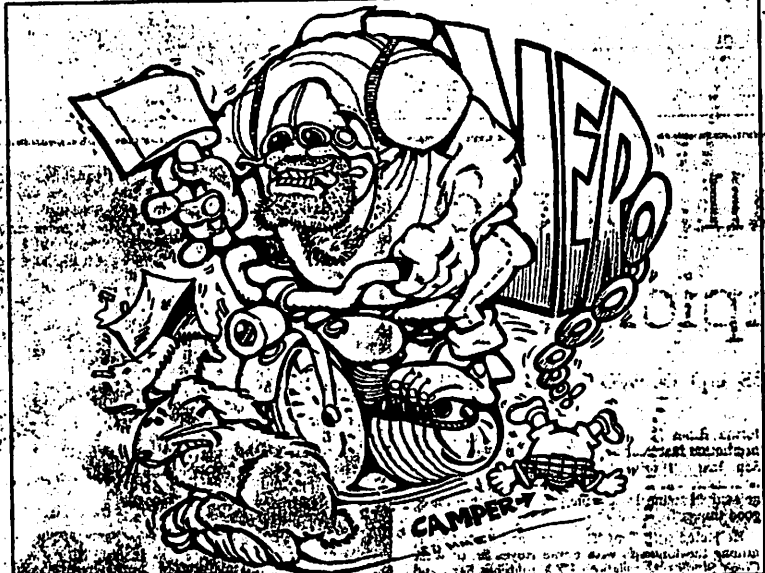
After years of camping, I've developed a few techniques on how to avoid this pest. Follow these do's and don'ts if you've had it with rude campers.

Do camp within 10 miles of a big city. Rude campers don't like to drive very far for their vacations.

Don't camp in a campground that can be reached by a paved road. Instead, find one that's at least a 10-mile drive by dirt or gravel road. Rude campers don't like bumpy rides.

Don't camp at a lake used primarily by sportfishers. Rude campers prefer to race boats rather than fish for trout.

Don't camp at a campground within walking distance of a resort with a bar, especially one with live music. Some of the bar crowd will slip into



camp at midnight to party another two hours.

- Don't camp next to a car with a "Flex and Roll Forever" bumper sticker. If it's there, it's there.
- Don't camp at first campgrounds unless they are far off the beaten path. Rude campers are cheap.
- Don't camp on busy summer holiday weekends. Every time camper in America will be out.
- Don't camp in a campground with wall-to-wall campites. Choose ones with lots of space or natural barriers like trees and large bushes between campites. You may not notice a rude camper even if he's there.
- Do camp near other serious campers. When you choose an isolated spot, you take a chance on who camps next to you.
- Do camp on weekdays. Most rude campers work Monday through Friday.

Do camp after Labor Day and before Memorial Day. Schools are in session, campgrounds are less crowded, and rude campers stay indoors.

- Do camp next to a motor home or trailer. Most RV people are quiet, considerate neighbors.
- Do camp in a campground with a ranger station or guarded entrance. Rude campers know they can get kicked out of these places.

Finally, if you follow all these suggestions and you still end up next to a rude camper, do not try to reason with him. He does not care if he disturbs you; "it's a free world" is his motto. Instead, move to another campsite or campground.

And, if that doesn't work, then take up backpacking, which is too much work for rude campers.

Herb Gaen: "At a gas station on Lombard (S.F.), a tourist showed a picture of Muir Woods (National Monument) to the kid attendant and asked 'How do I get there.' Attendant: 'Well, you take (Hwy) 101 to Redwood City and....' Fortunately, Toni Delacorte was in the next car to set the tourist straight." (S.F. Chronicle, 6-27-85)

Smokey Strikes Again!

Action Line

Need help? Write to Action Line, San Jose Mercury News, 750 Fiddler Park Drive, San Jose, 95190, or call (408) 287-1222 (in North County and San Mateo County call (415) 484-1100; in Alameda County call (415) 490-7481).

Feds did number on octogenarian

THE United States Department of Interior in Coos Bay, Oregon, sent me a certified letter stating that refuse bearing my name had been found by the Bureau of Land Management. It was evidently dumped on federal land in Oregon.

I have 10 days to remove the refuse from the federal land or I'll face penalty and prosecution. I am 80 years old. I've never been to Oregon. I survive on Social Security benefits and can't afford to hire someone to go up to Oregon to remove the items. I certainly can't do it. When my wife died last year, I had to borrow money for her funeral.

The letter was addressed to my post office box, which leads me to believe the refuse may have been old magazines. I donate my old magazines to charitable organizations.

I don't know what to do. I'd call but I am almost totally deaf.

— M.J.S., Santa Clara

You can relax. The Bureau of Land Management has dropped any action in your case, said Tom Roessler, BLM associate district manager.

Roessler said you shouldn't have worried so much about the letter you received. "It's a standard form letter we send out," Roessler said.

He said sending out such letters does produce results in getting federal land cleaned up in many cases. He said whenever dumpings are found, staff goes through the junk to find anything which may give the BLM a clue as to where it came from.

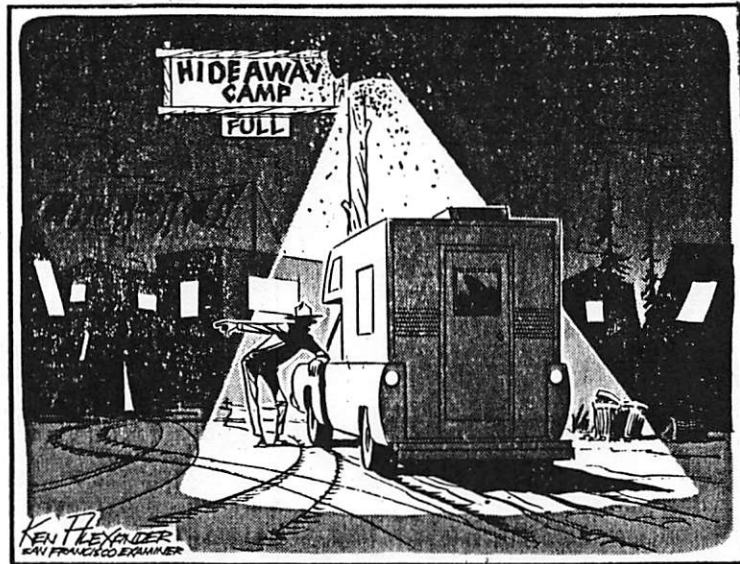
Roessler confirmed that your name was on magazines, of which he said there was "one heck of a truck load."

When donating old magazines, take time to rip off the address labels before giving them away. It's a wise precautionary measure.

Edward Abbey's definition of a ranger from Desert Solitaire:

A ranger should "know how to saddle a horse, read a topographical map, follow a trail over sliprock, memorize landmarks, build a fire in rain, treat snake-bite, rappel down a cliff, glissade down a glacier, read a compass, find water under sand, load a burro, splint a broken bone, bury a body, patch a rubber boat, portage a waterfall, survive a blizzard, avoid lightning, cook a porcupine, comfort a girl during a thunderstorm, predict the weather, dodge a falling rock, climb out of a box canyon, (and) pour piss out of a boot."

Now how many of us qualify for that job description?



'You might try Camp Lonesome ... take the fourth freeway exit and it's just past the Metro-Mart'

IN THE NEWS:

Sacramento, CA: "The state Fish and Game Commission has authorized capture of all the remaining wild California condors (as few as nine)." (San Jose News, June 8, 1985)

Los Angeles, CA: A man opened fire with a .22 automatic pistol on Saturday, June 8th, at Lanark Recreational Center Park in Canoga Park, killing one man and wounding two others before bystanders pounced on him. (S.J. News, 6/9/85)

Yellowstone N.P.: NPS Director Mott will shut the gates of some favorite parks during busy vacation periods. (S.J. News, 6/9/85)

Sacramento, CA: "California State Parks Director Briner has been charged with racial and sex discrimination in a complaint filed by a retired member of the Department staff." (San Francisco Chronicle, 6/12/85)

Plains, GA: The National Park Service, objecting to a proposed Jimmy Carter National Historic Site, said it is considering a new policy that would bar memorials for former presidents until after their deaths. The new policy also would require private citizens or organizations to provide at least 50% of the cost of presidential memorials. (S.J. News, 6/23/85)

Los Altos, CA: Santa Cruz Mountain residents have banded together to resist Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's future attempts to buy up land and curtail its use of eminent domain powers. (S.J. News, 6/26/85)

Durban, South Africa: A game ranger leading a group of hikers on a trail allowed himself to be gored by a charging black rhinoceros instead of easily shooting it, because it is an

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6-19-83 S.F. Chronicle

endangered species. (S.F. Chronicle, 6/27/85)

Yellowstone N.P.: Two Bull Bison, one enraged by harassing children and the other apparently camera shy, took out their frustrations on two Californians. (S.J. News, 7/2/85)

Bandolier National Monument, NM: Water, from snowmelt swollen Lake Cochiti, has backed up into the Monument threatening to inundate and destroy an ancient Indian pueblo. (S.J. News, 7/7/85)

Thomas Alva Edison National Historic Site, NJ: A former Stanford University professor who made several research visits to the site in 1976, was arrested by the FBI for concealing stolen property valued between \$50,000 to \$200,000 worth of historically priceless Edison inventions and documents reported stolen from the site. (S.J. News, 7/19/85)

Richmond National Battlefield, VA: A Federal magistrate sentenced three relic hunters, who dug more than 60 holes illegally searching for Civil War artifacts at the park, to one year in prison and forfeiture of an estimated \$1,100 worth of metal detecting equipment for violating the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA). The judge in sentencing the trio said, this is "not a simple case of trespass and petty larceny. This is a major crime...a breach of hallowed ground." He declared further, the three were guilty of "an intentional attempt to steal a part of history." This case marks the first prosecution under the 1979 act east of the Mississippi. The relics stolen-which included a bayonet, grapeshod, a button and other assorted items-had a total value of about \$30. (BLM Newsbeat, July 1985)

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY:

Lassen Volcanic National Park created Aug. 9, 1916
 Joshua Tree National Monument established Aug. 10, 1936
 Gifford Pinchot born Aug. 11, 1865
 National Park Service established Aug. 25, 1916
 John Muir Nat. His. Site established Aug. 31, 1964
 Last Passenger Pigeon dies Sept. 1, 1914
 Point Reyes National Seashore established Sept. 13, 1962
 Sequoia National Park created Sept. 25, 1890

Happy 50th Anniversary to Nevada State Parks and East Bay Regional Park District both established in 1935.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

PARK RANGER

Lake Tahoe campground. Seasonal thru 9/15.
 \$950 mo. Housing available. 415-322-1181.

PARK TECHNICIAN, GS-026-4, temporary

Deadline until the announcement is rescinded/amended or until May 9, 1986. Salary: not given.
 Contact: Send SF-171 to U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, National Capital Region, Personnel Division, Room 224, Attn: ASF-PT-85-22, 1100 Ohio Drive, SW, Washington, DC 20242.

Location: Contact NPS-park areas surrounding Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Qualifications: One and one-half years of general experience and one-half year of specialized experience; or completion of at least two years of academic study above high school.

Duties: Perform technical and practical work supporting the management, conservation, interpretation, development and use of park areas and resources; carry out various operating tasks involved in law enforcement, traffic control, recreation program operation, campground and picnic area operation, accident prevention, fire control, plant disease and insect control, fish and wildlife surveys, soil and water conservation, preservation of historical structures and objects, and comparable aspects of park operations.

Selection and Care of Firearms *Irenius F. Ndunguru and Herman Mwageni*

Firearms have an important role in modern wildlife management. Rifles and shotguns were originally used in hunting, and in the protection of life and property against dangerous and destructive wildlife. While the traditional uses of firearms were confined to certain wildlife areas, such as controlled hunting areas and game reserves, their application in national parks was prohibited by law. This situation, however, has changed.

Following the growth of human population in areas surrounding national parks and the steady decline in the availability of land for people, coupled with a growing demand for wildlife trophies, the problem of poaching has been intensified. Unfortunately, the poachers are armed with firearms and therefore in order to protect the already threatened wildlife species, firearms of various calibers have become necessary tools to enforce the law effectively.

Regrettably, armed poachers not only kill animals, but occasionally kill law enforcement personnel as well. For instance, in Tanzania several resource conservation officers have been killed by poachers. In most instances the killers were armed with automatic or semi-automatic firearms.

Given the use of firearms in violating the law, reciprocal measures are logical and pragmatic to protect both wildlife and law enforcement officers. This situation prevails in almost all conservation areas in developing countries, and thus resource protection personnel have to appreciate the significance of firearms in the management of parks and their wildlife resources. Factors involved in the choice, use and care of firearms are, therefore, important.

Selection of Firearms

A decision to acquire a specific firearm is guided by the kind of use intended and the requirement of the law in the country concerned. The effectiveness and durability of the firearm and an assured supply of ammunition are of foremost importance.

Manufacturers of firearms have used several types of steel in making barrels. Some older guns were made of low-carbon steel and were designed for use with slow burning, black powder. All modern ammunition uses smokeless powder which develops much higher pressures than these older guns can sustain. In particular, many old shotguns of Damascus or twist steel are prone to severe damage—to gun and shooter—if modern ammunition is used. When selecting any gun—rifle or shotgun—be sure it is made of proof-tested fluid steel. Stainless steel and nickel steel add to the durability. The less experienced buyers of guns will do well to consult experienced colleagues to make sure they are getting a gun that is safe and suitable to their needs.

The law in Tanzania requires owners of weapons to possess valid licenses for firearms used in hunting. In addition, the regulation describes the type or class of weapons which may be used to kill a particular animal. As far as hunting is concerned, use of a fully automatic firearm is prohibited. This is a firearm which can fire more than one cartridge with one pressure of the trigger or reload itself more than once. This restriction is intended to reduce wanton killing of non-targeted animals. Firearm classification has as its objective the effectiveness of the gun to kill the animal instantly and thus prevent suffering.

The availability of weapons of different makes and calibers in a particular country or region is further determined by the variety and abundance of shootable game for subsistence, recreation and management purposes. In Tanzania, for instance, the law requires that big game animals such as elephant, hippopotamus and African buffalo be killed by a rifle of a minimum caliber of .375 of an inch. Other animals should be killed by a rifle with a caliber equal to or greater than .270 of an inch. Smooth bore weapons are recommended for baboons and vervet monkeys which are numerous in agricultural areas and may inflict damage to crops.

Varmint rifles with telescope sights are excellent for shooting plains game of the size of gazelle and smaller. The flat trajectories possible with the cartridges used by these rifles ensure

accuracy even at ranges of two or three hundred meters.

The action (mechanism) of weapons acquired for anti-poaching should be chosen to counteract those arms employed by poachers. This implies that wildlife protection officers should be provided with either automatic or semi-automatic rifles, while investigative officers should also use side arms as defense against dangerous suspects.

In general, large caliber arms, particularly .404 and .458 rifles, are associated with big game hunting in Africa, and as such they are popular among big game hunters and wildlife departments in most countries. Some sportsmen, on the other hand, describe a .375 caliber rifle as universal, since it can be used economically and effectively for all types of large and medium size game. Other popular makes include the 30.06 Springfield, .300 Holland and Holland, and .22 Hornet. Among the smooth bores, the 12 gauge shotgun is the most prevalent in Africa. These firearms are all excellent choices, since they are durable, easy to handle, and their supply of ammunition is constant and reliable. It is worth noting, however, that none of the ammunition is manufactured in East Africa. Costs could be reduced by reloading the empty cartridges in each respective country or region.

Rifles that are commonly being used in wildlife management have two broad types of sighting devices. Iron sights are more common because they are cheap and withstand rough conditions in the field. Of late, however, there has been an increase in telescopic sights to ensure higher accuracy. Unlike the iron sights, 'scopes are quite fragile and careful handling is needed.

A decision to buy a telescopic sight for a rifle is influenced by its intended use, that is, for varmint, big game or target shooting. Generally speaking, a 'scope with a wide field of view is the best for shooting big game; 'scopes of higher magnification but a narrower field of view normally are more satisfactory for varmint and target shooting. Nevertheless, any variable power 'scope with magnification ranging from 2½x to 8x is a good selection, and a 3x 'scope is a good compromise for both woodland and open country hunting.

In addition, the 'scope should possess non-critical eye relief. This quality lets the shooter get a clear field of view through the 'scope at any point where the eye is 2½ to 5 inches from the ocular lens. This feature facilitates quick aiming at moving targets.

Telescopic sight mounting should be rugged and precisely fixed to the gun so that it will withstand the shock of recoil. Also, the telescope axis should be as close to the bore of the rifle as possible. Side mounts are recommended because if 'scope visibility is obstructed (by rain, for example) the instrument can be flipped over and the open sights used instead.

Care of Firearms

Proper care and maintenance of a firearm prolongs its life and value, ensures shooting accuracy and helps prevent accidents. Proper care also includes security of the weapon to prevent it from falling into the hands of an irresponsible person. The owner or trustee of a firearm should always comply with the basic safety rules in the handling of arms. For instance, the muzzle should never be pointed at a non-target object. Guns should always be unloaded when not in use, and guns and ammunition should be stored separately, beyond the reach of children or careless adults. The use of alcohol or drugs before or during shooting is prohibited.

Always ensure that the firing chambers and barrel are clear of excessive oil or any foreign materials.

Care should be taken that the screws holding the barrel in place do not become loose. This could result in vibration which would affect velocity and accuracy.

Regular care of firearms calls for routine cleaning before and after firing, use of correct cleaning kits, and the correct type of oil.

It is important that the manufacturers' instructions be followed in disassembly, cleaning and reassembly. These printed instructions normally are supplied at the time the gun is purchased. If

they have been lost, most manufacturers will supply them on request.

Accessories to be acquired include metal cleaning rods for large and small bore rifles, wooden rods for shotguns, fiber and brass bristle brushes for each caliber, and felt balls for shotguns. Screwdrivers to fit are necessary, as is any other tool required. Cleaning cloths and a pull-through string should also be available.

It should be noted that cleaning brushes and patches are always pushed through the bore from breech to muzzle, never the other way. Cleaning a gun before taking it into the field is necessary. This is to remove any excess oil in the firing chamber or barrel which could cause the first shot to be a bit off the mark.

In the field, when moving through terrain on foot, it is wise to check the barrel periodically to be certain it is open and clean.

Following a period of use, the gun should be cleaned carefully and coated with a thin layer of the oil recommended by the manufacturer.

A common problem some shooters discover after using a gun for a period of time is that it is no longer accurate. In such a case, adjusting the sight will usually correct the problem. Bore-sighting is the quickest and most economical way to begin this process. (see bore-sighting insert.—Ed.)

Fault finding is an important part of firearm care. As with any mechanical tool, a rifle or shotgun has critical parts which call for special attention. The firing pin is the "spark plug" of the gun. It is the link between the gun and cartridge, and it must always be in good working condition. A faulty linkage could result in hang-fire, a pierced primer or misfires, all unacceptable and dangerous. Generally speaking, anyone acquiring a used firearm should have it checked by a trained gunsmith. Such an inspection will reveal any problems, and they can be corrected before the weapon is used. Serious shooters should always be aware of the condition of their guns and never use a faulty weapon.

To sum up, the significance of firearms in modern wildlife management cannot be overlooked by those who care about the present and future survival of wildlife resources. However, the effectiveness of these tools requires self-generated discipline among users, and strict regulation to control their use.

Dr. Herman Mwageni and I.F. Ndunguru are instructors at the College of African Wildlife Management, at Mweka, Tanzania.

Bore Sighting

Bore sighting is a quick and simple method of getting a rough adjustment of a rifle's sights. It saves time and expensive ammunition in the process of making certain the rifle will hit the target. This makes the job of precise adjustment much easier.

Bore sighting is easy with a bolt action rifle; the bolt is removed and this permits one to look through the bore. The rifle is then placed on a support of sand bags or in a clamp or some other method of holding it firmly in one position. Sight through the bore—from the breech—at a target 25 yards (22.8 m) away. Clamp or weight the rifle in position.

Without moving the rifle, adjust the sights so that they are aligned with the bore on the same aiming point. Your rifle should now at least hit the target paper, and finer adjustments to bring together the point of aim and the point of bullet impact will be simpler.

If you have a closed breech rifle and cannot see directly through the bore, a collimator can be used. This is an optical instrument attached to a rod that is inserted into the bore. A breech-bore mirror could also be used.

CAMPGROUND WATCH

Ranger Don P. Monahan, San Onofre State Beach, has launched a campground version of the Neighborhood Watch Program.

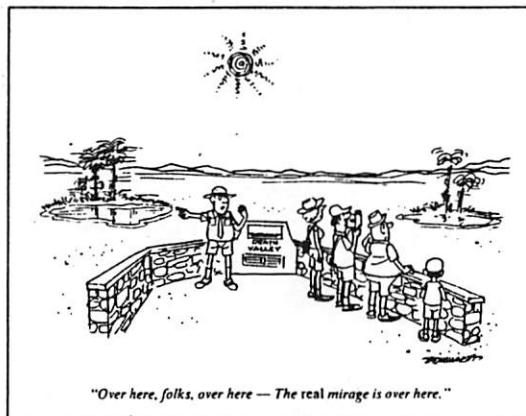
Monahan has posted "bold signing" around the park. Park Aids distribute specially designed crime prevention brochures to visitors. Visitors are encouraged to use C.B. Channel 9, which is monitored by the rangers, to report problems.

Monahan has also selected several long-term campers to be "key campground watch units." They were trained and assigned to known high crime areas of the park to be observers.

Monahan hopes to eventually have several loaner "Operation Identification" kits available to campers for engraving their personal property.

I would encourage anyone interested in establishing a similar program in their park to contact Ranger Monahan via the Pendleton Coast Area Office, 3030 Avenida del Presidente, San Clemente, CA 92672. (714) 492-0802.

(adopted from "Ranger's Approach Reduces Crime," by Officer Steve J. Scarano of Oceanside P.D., in California Peace Officer magazine, June 1985)



September 1982 Scouting

PARK DOG PROBLEMS?

Here are some reasons to have rover leashed or left at home the next time the dog owner asks why!

- 1) **PARASITES:** Dogs will eat and drink anything including fecal matter. As a result, tapeworm, Giardia lamblia, and Capillaria aerophila (a lungworm) can infect the dog.
- 2) **INSECTS:** Ticks, fleas, bees, hornets, & wasps.
- 3) **LARGER ANIMALS:** Unexperienced dogs are naturally curious and are aggressive to larger animals (ie bears). As a result, they will either be killed or high tail it back to you for protection with that larger animal in hot pursuit.
- 4) **SMALLER ANIMALS:** Coyotes are known to have dogs for dinner. Others, like the porcupine and rattlesnake can cause long and painful injuries.
- 5) **HIDDEN DANGERS:** Traps, mines, and open mine shafts.
- 6) **CHASING:** A chased deer makes a weak animal.
- 7) **ON TRAILS:** Dogs will challenge hikers, fisherman, horses, and pack mules.

Rover would be safer at home as well as the safety of the other park visitors. Besides, would you be able to carry an injured rover out of the woods to your car?



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