

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 3

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 1976

PARKS

AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR MANAGERS OF NATIONAL PARKS, HISTORIC SITES, AND OTHER PROTECTED AREAS



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Front cover: Dusky dolphins cavort in the clear waters of Golfo San José Marine Park. Enclosed by the fabulous Península Valdéz, this sanctuary in the Argentine Province of Chubut protects a rich variety of marine life, including right whales. Photo by Des Bartlett. © National Geographic Society. Back cover: Dome of a garden pavilion at Yazd, Iran, one of the remarkable mud brick monuments studied by specialists at the ICOMOS Second Biennial Colloquium on the Conservation of Mud Brick, 1976.

PARKS Magazine is an international publication for the exchange of information on the planning, use and management of the world's national parks and other protected natural and cultural resources.

PARKS Magazine is a pilot project of Parks Canada and the National Park Service of the United States. It is produced in collaboration with FAO, UNESCO and the Organization of American States (OAS), and with the cooperation of the Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas (IUCN) and Regional Advisors throughout the world.

PARKS Magazine is issued quarterly in separate editions in English, in French

under the title PARCS and in Spanish under the title PARQUES. Controlled distribution of all editions is by mail. For information concerning subscription or publication of material please address:

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c/o National Park Service
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Washington, D.C. 20240/U.S.A.

PARKS printing costs are paid with donated funds. Ideas or viewpoints expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the sponsors, collaborators or advisors.

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The English and Spanish editions of PARKS Magazine are published in the United States with the cooperation of the Organization of American States and the Eastern National Park and Monument Association. The French edition is prepared and published in Canada by Parks Canada.



Female sea elephants sun themselves on a beach in the Channel Islands National Monument off California. This area is protected by the U.S. National Park Service. NPS photo: Cecil Stoughton.

To our readers

The request for comments about PARKS magazine, published in the first issue, has drawn very encouraging responses from around the world. Several hundred correspondents have told us, in summary, that the magazine is not only much needed, but is about "right" as to technical content, the balance of practical to theoretical subject matter, and readability. We take this opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation to the many people who sent their comments and suggestions.

Overall design of the publication was approved, in general, but there were some complaints. Several readers suggested that color be used for the covers and illustrations—which we cannot afford—and a number of readers felt the "white space" should have been filled with type, and the back cover used for a photo at least. We agree about the cover, but some interior white space is needed in the English edition to accommodate the greater space requirements of French and Spanish.

A number of readers objected to our use of material that had appeared in other publications. It will be our policy to use original material *primarily*. However, mere prior publication is no reason to *exclude* needed material that we believe is suitable for the world-wide readership of the magazine. It must be recognized that many journals have limited

circulation, and some are published in only one language. Our basic objective, after all, is to provide useful information for management everywhere, and some of this material will have appeared in print before.

A great many correspondents asked to be put on our mailing list, or to subscribe to the publication. We reiterate information contained in the introductory remarks published on page 1 of the initial issue: PARKS is a *pilot* effort, and is being distributed during this period on a controlled basis at no cost to those who receive it. During this period—which will cover eight quarterly issues—we hope to develop a truly international magazine that can continue to function as a medium of professional communication.

We see the future of PARKS as an international cooperative activity, with the present sponsors and collaborators, or perhaps others, in similar or modified roles. Following the development period, however, it will no doubt be necessary to convert from free distribution to a cost-sharing or paid subscription basis—at levels that will encourage world-wide distribution. Details of this new arrangement will be reported when they have been worked out.

Meanwhile, the sponsors and staff urge the professional community we address to take advantage of the opportunity PARKS magazine offers as a forum to exchange information of mutual value.

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