

The National Park Service Loses a Friend

By Russell Dickenson
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Dr. A. Starker Leopold, a friend and advisor to the National Park Service for many years, holds a special place in our memories. The most notable and timeless, perhaps, of his contributions was the 1963 report, *Study of Wildlife Problems in the National Parks*, written while he served as chairman of the Special Advisory Board on Wildlife Management under Interior Secretary Stewart L. Udall.

This study later became generally known as the Leopold Report, providing recommendations that have guided development of Service policy and wildlife management for the ensuing 20 years.

Dr. Leopold continued advising the Service through participation in the Natural Sciences Advisory Committee, established in 1964 and destined to figure importantly in subsequent NPS resource policies and programs. While on the University of California faculty, Dr. Leopold found time to serve a year (in 1967 and 1968) as Chief Scientist of the National Park Service, because, he said, "I wanted to help get the research program off the ground."

After he resigned from this post he continued to

serve in various capacities including member of the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Building and Monuments (now known as the National Park System Advisory Board), contributor of information to the *Report of the Committee on Yellowstone Grizzlies* (1974) prepared by the National Academy of Sciences, and as vice-chairman of the Secretary's Advisory Committee from 1972 to 1976. He served with Dr. Durward Allen as a sub-committee of two to produce two 1977 reports: *A Review of National Park Service Bear Management Programs*, and a *Review and Recommendations Relative to the National Park Service Natural Science Programs*, both of which served as policy documents.

More recently, Dr. Leopold served as a member of a panel of experts to write the assessment of the role of science and technology in managing natural resources in parks, prepared by the National Academy of Sciences in 1980.

In all, the NPS has been the proud beneficiary of the thoughts and energies of one of the most renowned naturalists our country has produced. It is with deepest sadness that I make my last farewell to Dr. Leopold, long time friend of our Nation's parks and their natural resources.