

NPCA Commission on Research and Resource Management Policy in the National Park System

By Carol Aten and David Jervis

For years the Service has sought to convene a panel of outside experts to review our research and resource management functions. Point Six of Director Mott's 12-Point Plan (Expand the Role and Involvement of Citizens and Citizen Groups at All Levels in the National Park Service) proposes the following action: "Establish a Blue Ribbon Panel to Examine NPS Policies About Natural and Cultural Resources and to Recommend How These Policies May be Improved." The Service had not yet been able to establish such a "Blue-Ribbon Panel" under the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

This spring, the National Parks and Conservation Association (NPCA) secured funding for such an effort, and sought the Service's cooperation in it. Director Mott has welcomed this initiative, and asked that courtesy and cooperation be extended to the NPCA group. At the same time, he emphasized that: "This effort is independent and I do not expect to be able to influence its conclusions. Conversely, we will not be bound to follow its recommendations. However, the quality of the appointees and the public interest in the subject leads me to conclude that we should provide information and support."

NPCA has selected 17 distinguished experts in the natural, cultural and social sciences to comprise the panel (Commission). The Commission members and their backgrounds are listed at the end of this article, along with the members of a counterpart NPS "coordination group," which is to provide information and assistance to the Commission. The Service's coordination group was chosen by discipline to parallel categories used to select the Commission. Director Mott instructed the NPS coordinators that they are to represent their peers and the Service, not just themselves.

The Commission held an organizational meeting in Washington, D.C., on April 19, 1988. At a get-acquainted dinner the previous evening, NPCA President Paul Pritchard emphasized the Commission's independence from both NPCA and the Service. In his opening remarks, Deputy Director Dennis Galvin underscored the need for the Commission, and the variety of issues they could face. Paul Schullery, Editor of *The Country Journal*, spoke on resource management challenges and reflections on discussions he had had with Starker Leopold.

In 1963 the "Leopold Report" reviewed the Service's wildlife management practices and launched us on the concept of ecosystem management. The NPCA Commission was likened to the Leopold group, but with a mandate to review and make recommendations on the full range of the Service's research and natural and cultural resource interests, plus the social science aspects of park visitation. In an attempt to accomplish this broad mandate in an interdisciplinary way, the Commission organized into three subcommittees as follows:

- (1) Values and purposes of national parks, and of science and research in the parks.
- (2) Resource management policies and comparison of the NPS research/science program to other research/science programs.
- (3) Addressing the interface between research and resource management.

Personnel throughout the Service are strongly encouraged to contribute their thoughts and comments to this historic effort. You may do so in two ways – by contacting one or more of the NPS repre-

sentatives or by letter to the NPCA staff member providing primary support to the Commission:

Mr. David Simon
National Parks and Conservation Association
1015 Thirty-First Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009
(Telephone (202) 944-8530)

The NPCA staff will assure that information is forwarded to Commission members.

The Commission Chairman, Dr. John C. Gordon (Dean of Yale University's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies), believes that at least a draft copy

of Commission findings and recommendations should be completed by the time of the presidential election in November. This will require intensive effort over the summer months. Such efforts will involve individual investigation, subcommittee meetings, and meetings and investigations by ad hoc groups of Commission members. Meetings of the full Commission are tentatively scheduled for:

(1) Mid-August in California in connection with the meetings of the Ecological Society of America and the American Institute of Biological Sciences; and

Editor's Note: *The work of this Commission represents the kind of effort that happens only once in a generation, and members of both the Commission and the NPS Coordinating Group have expressed their earnest desire to "hear from the field" any thoughts or suggestions that should go into their deliberations. With the idea that field personnel may feel more effective or more comfortable communicating with some particular member of either group, Park Science presents this full list of Commission and Coordinating Group members.*

NPCA Commission on Research and Resource Management Policy in the National Park System

1. **Dr. John C. Gordon (Chairman)**, Professor of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and Dean of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, New Haven, CT.

2. **Dr. Robert Dean**, Professor of Coastal Engineering, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. Director of the Division of Beaches and Shores for the State of Florida, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences coastal advisory board.

3. **Dr. Barbara J. Howe**, Department of History, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV. Vice-Chair, National Council on Public History.

4. **Dr. Ervin H. Zube**, Professor, School of Renewable Natural Resources, and Adjunct Professor of Geography and Regional Development, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ. with degrees in landscape architecture from Harvard and geography from Clark University.

5. **Dr. Tim Clark**, Jackson, WY. Adjunct Professor of wildlife ecology at Idaho State University and Montana State University, a consulting biologist to the Wyoming Department of Game and Fish, and Director of the Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative.

6. **Dr. Stephen P. Leatherman**, Laboratory for Coastal Research, University of Maryland, College Park, MD. Director of the laboratory, and Chairman of the Board of the Climate Institute.

7. **Mr. Robert Cahn**, Leesburg, VA, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author and a past member of the Council on Environmental Quality with 20 years of experience in writing about national parks and park policy.

8. **Dr. Sarah Bishop**, Washington, D.C., holder of a doctorate in education, President of the Cave Research Foundation, and founder of "Partners in Parks," devoted to enhancing cooperative research efforts between universities, the private sector, and the NPS.

9. **Dr. Douglas Latimer**, Gaia Associates, San Rafael, CA, a partner in a consulting firm that specializes in air quality work.

10. **Dr. George Gumerman**, Professor of Anthropology, University of Southern Illinois, Carbondale, IL, a leading archaeologist of the Southwest, currently on sabbatical at the School of American Research of the University of New Mexico and the Museum of New Mexico in Santa Fe and founder of SIU's Center for Archaeological Investigation.

11. **Dr. Benita Howell**, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, professor in the Department of Anthropology, where she specializes in ethnography, cultural resources management, cultural conservation, and the role of public land management agencies in these topics.

12. **Dr. Jerry Franklin**, College of Forest Resources, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, on sabbatical from his position as the Chief Plant Ecologist, U.S. Forest Service.

13. **Dr. Russell Cahill**, Manager, Kings County Dept. of Recreation and Parks, Mercer Island, WA, former Director of the state park systems of both California and Alaska, has served with the Council on Environmental Quality, as Deputy Commissioner of the Washington Department of Natural Resources, and as superintendent of Haleakala National Park in Hawaii.

14. **Dr. Ralph W.E. Jones, Jr.**, Director, Department of Recreation and Parks, Baltimore, MD, directs the City of Baltimore's park and recreation programs and is Chairman of the Recreation Roundtable, a group of the top 35 park and recreation administrators from the major cities of the nation.

15. **Dr. William R. Burch, Jr.**, Professor of Forestry, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, New Haven, CT. Director of the School's Tropical Resources Institute.

16. **Dr. Harold Mooney**, Professor of Biology, Department of Biological Sciences, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, pioneered work on plant physiology and genetics, a member of the National Academy of Sciences, and President-elect of the Ecological Society of America.

17. **Dr. Victoria Wyatt**, Division of Art History, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, Assistant Professor of Art History at the University and Curator of Northwest Indian Art at the Burke Museum.

(2) Mid-November, in Tucson, in connection with the triennial meeting of the George Wright Society.

In letters to Dr. Gordon and other Commission members, Director Mott emphasized the importance and diversity of the policy issues the Commission will be considering, as the Service faces increasingly difficult challenges in our research and resource management functions. Dr. Gordon has challenged the Commission to produce a report with as much grace, philosophy and substantive guidance as the Leopold Report.

The Commission has taken on a sorely needed but daunting task.

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National Park Service Coordination Group

LEAD LIAISON

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Forest Ecosystems: Susan P. Bratton, Institute of Ecology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602, 404-542-2968.
Wildlife/Ecosystem Management: David M. Graber, Research Scientist, Sequoia and Kings Canyon NPs, Three Rivers, CA 93271, 209-565-3341.

Air Quality: Christine L. Shaver, Chief, Policy, Planning and Implementation Branch, Air Quality Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225, 303-969-2071 (FTS 327-2071).

Coastal/Marine Environments: Gary E. Davis, Research Marine Biologist, Channel Islands NP, 1901 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura, CA 93001, 805-644-8157.

Earth Sciences: Dan B. Kimball, Chief, Policy, Planning and Evaluation Branch, NPS Water Resources Division, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225, 303-969-2813 (FTS 327-2813).

CULTURAL RESOURCES

History: Barry Mackintosh, Bureau Historian, History Division, National Park Service (418), P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127, 202-343-8169.

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SOCIAL SCIENCE

Socio-economics: Donald R. Field, Cooperative Park Studies Unit, College of Forestry, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331, 503-754-2056.

Recreation/Leisure: Robert W. McIntosh, Jr., Superintendent, Gateway NRA Headquarters, Building Number 69, Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, NY 11234, 718-338-3338 (FTS 665-3575).

Education: William E. Brown, Research Historian, Denali National Park and Preserve, P.O. Box 9, Denali Park, AK 99755, 907-683-2294.

GENERAL

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