

letters

The new regional MAB programs, such as the Southern Appalachian (SAMAB) Program, (see p. 19) represent an exciting development in the evolution of Man and the Biosphere. This approach ideally will integrate resource preservation interests of the core area of Biosphere Reserves with the surrounding areas, which usually are devoted to a variety of land uses including recreation and development. The regional approach provides a framework for cooperation among different agencies, states, communities, individuals, and, in certain cases, different countries.

I see this development as very similar to the approach that has been used successfully in the National Park Service's river conservation programs over the past 10 years. In both Congressionally mandated Wild and Scenic Rivers studies and in the state and local river conservation technical assistance programs, the North Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic Regions have been using cooperative strategies to further river conservation. Successful projects such as the Wildcat Brook Wild and Scenic River Study (conducted by NAR), illustrate how effective this cooperative approach can be for marshalling public support and obtaining longterm commitments to resource conservation from a variety of organizations.

A similar strategy of community involvement and cooperation is currently underway as part of the General Management Plan for Acadia NP and at Gettysburg National Military Park. Progress on these projects indicates this approach is proving successful.

Given the potential these projects have for providing guidance to the new regional MAB programs, as well as to parks dealing with external threats, NPS could benefit from evaluating this experience, making this information available throughout the Service, and institutionalizing this approach in NPS planning guidelines. This opportunity to learn from experience in NPS programs should not be missed!

Among references to buttress this position are:
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Diamant, Rolf, J. Glenn Eugster, and Christopher J. Duerksen. *A Citizen's Guide to River Conservation*. Washington, D.C.: The Conservation Foundation, 1984.

Mott, William Penn, Jr. "Looking Beyond National Park Boundaries." *Natural Areas Journal* 8 (1988): 80-82.

Town of Jackson. "River Conservation Plan: Wildcat Brook, Wild and Scenic Rivers Study, Jackson, New Hampshire." Typescript, July 1987.

U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. "Draft Report: Wildcat Brook, Wild and Scenic River Study, Jackson, New Hampshire." Typescript, February 1988.

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