

An article by Constance Miller and William Libby in **Restoration & Management Notes** (Vol. 7:1, 19-24) questions the National Park Service's "restoration" at Redwood NP through aerial seeding with species that "though native to the park, were introduced from exotic sources." In their article ("Disneyland or Native Ecosystems: Genetics and Restoration"), the authors see "too little attention paid to the issue of the genetic source of planting stock." They offer 7 recommendations to aid in planning restoration and reintroduction projects.

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From Dick Weisbrod at the Spring Creek Field lab (St. Croix National Riverway) comes an old page from **Science** (Vol. 241:1437) with two pieces of possibly pertinent information: One suggests an international Author Nonproliferation Act (the world's record as of Sept. 16, 1988 seems to have been 192 authors from 20 institutions for a single article); the other was a civics quiz. "What do Burma, Liberia, and the United States have in common?" The answer is, "They're the last 3 countries on earth not using the metric system."

Science notes that the Omnibus Trade Act of 1988 gives federal agencies until 1992 to adopt the metric system into their business dealings.

Park Science asks its contributing authors to take note!

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In "The Regeneration Gap," by Jim Erickson (in **National Parks** (Vol. 63, Nos. 7&8) the "vanishing giant saguaros" of the Rincon mountain plot in Saguaro National Monument are described. Botanist Raymond Turner and his USGS colleagues set up monitoring plots there in the 1960s. Turner began monitoring the plots again in 1989 and found remaining only 42 of the 213 saguaros plotted there in 1961, many of them in bad shape.

The good news is that 119 new saguaro plants were found, some 2 feet tall, "apparently representing a new population in the Rincon after a 60-year hiatus in production of seedlings."

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Seen on a coffee mug owned by Supt. Dick Ring of the Delaware Watergap NRA:

"Lack of planning on your part does not necessarily mean an emergency on *my* part."

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The Sept/Oct 1989 issue of **Defenders**, (a bi-monthly published by Defenders of Wildlife) carries a truncated article by Napier Shelton of the NPS Wildlife and Vegetation Division in the Washington office, titled "Park Wildlife Makes a Comeback." It describes how biologists across the nation are working to fill ecological gaps.

Because **Defenders** readers are most interested in animals, Shelton's original version was trimmed of its plant restoration content. However, the 22 typed pages of his original draft; plus 2 pages of appendix listing 97 recent or ongoing restoration projects in NPS units, has been distributed to the Chief Scientists in all 10 Regions and is available from them.

In an "author's note" to the field, Shelton says: "A fuller treatment might also have included restoration of air and water quality, which of course are important for biological health but involve entirely different management processes."

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Public Television has proclaimed 1990 as "Year of the Environment." As part of the 20th anniversary of Earth Day, public television will air a 10-part series in the fall of 1990, under the heading "Race to Save the Planet." Planning coordinators are Roselle Kovitz and Deb Miller at Nebraska ETV, P.O. Box 83111, Lincoln, NE 68501-3111; 402-472-3611 (or 3575).

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Gary Willson, NPS Midwest Region ecologist, calls attention of **Park Science** readers to "a somewhat controversial" (his words) article, "Is It Getting Stuffy in Here, Or Is It Just My Imagination?" The author, Andrew Solow, writes in **Chance**, a magazine published quarterly by Springer-Verlag New York, Inc., "about statistics and computing" and intended "for anyone who has an interest in the analysis of data."

The author claims that the recent warming "is no more striking than that of earlier periods during which human contributions to atmospheric CO₂ were negligible." Solow winds up his presentation (in Vol. 2 No. 3:40-46) with "a word about policy." One side, he says, "holds that, despite the uncertainties, the potential consequences of climate change are so great that we must act as if it is certain to occur (particularly if we do nothing to stop it). The other side, (which expresses itself more in inactivity than in debate) holds that the costs of action are so great that, because of the uncertainties, no action is justified.

"It is to this debate," he claims, "that statisticians may have the most to contribute by pointing out that a sensible approach need not ignore uncertainty, but should use it in balancing costs, benefits, and the value of information in the formulation of policy."

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Brad Griffith, formerly on the University of Idaho faculty and now with a USFWS research unit at the University of Maine, is the lead author of an article on "Translocation as a Species Conservation Tool: Status and Strategy," in **Science**, Aug. 4, 1989 (Vol. 245: 477-480). Surveys of intentional releases from 1973 to 1986 of native birds and mammals to the wild in Australia, Canada, Hawaii, New Zealand, and the U.S. were conducted to document current activities, identify factors associated with success, and suggest guidelines for enhancing future work.

A second article stemming from the same research deals with translocations of birds exclusively and is scheduled to appear in an IUCN Technical Bulletin. A third treatment will provide a geographical analysis, list names of translocated species, and will be submitted to the **Wildlife Society Bulletin**.

Reprints of the **Science** article and requests for the two upcoming articles may be addressed to Griffith at 240 Nutting Hall, Orono, ME 04469-0125; (207) 581-2870.