

Islands Under Siege: National Parks and the Politics of External Threats is the title of new 200-page book by John C. Freemuth, assistant professor of political science and public affairs at Boise State University. He has served on advisory panels for the NPS.

If the Park Service can't – or won't – protect our national parks, who will? he asks, and adds, "It's high time we figure that out." Freemuth first examines the "administrative tightrope" the Service has had to walk, "saddled from the beginning with a contradictory mandate – to promote recreational use of parks yet preserve them for future generations." The new crop of threats – environmental degradation from sources outside the parks – Freemuth sees as political problems. He traces the shifts in government action that have accompanied waves of citizen activism and uncovers evidence of ineffective legislation, inept implementation, and the potent political power of pro-development forces. His conclusion analyzes a set of political strategies that have been used to deal with these threats, evaluating each in terms of environmental effectiveness and political feasibility. The clothbound book (ISBN 0-7006-434-0) has nine photographs, five 6x9" maps, and costs \$25.