

"The Yellowstone Vision: An Experiment That Failed or a Vote for Posterity?" is the title of a paper by Yellowstone Supt. Bob Barbee, Biologist John Varley, and author Paul Schullery, from the Proceedings of a conference on "Partnership in Parks and Preservation," held in Albany, NY Sept. 9-12, 1991. In it, the authors describe a document created by the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee – an overarching statement of principles that would guide future coordination among the many natural resource management agencies operating in the Greater Yellowstone Area. The document was called *Vision for the Future, A Framework for Coordination in the Greater Yellowstone Area*.

The paper describes how the document took shape, why it was attempted, and its stormy greeting from emotional and misinformed commodity groups (who termed it "a giant land-grab, another Federal lockup") and from the conservation community (who felt it didn't go far enough and who failed to come together in its defense).

They observe that "the American public, the owners of the parks and forests of the greater Yellowstone area, played virtually no role at all ... So we were faced with a powerful regional campaign, superbly engineered by special interest groups and featuring stunning inflammatory rhetoric against the *Vision*. We failed to convincingly invite the pro-*Vision* interests to mobilize adequately."

They conclude that "bureaucracies are put in place to police the status quo" and add: "Perhaps the fore-

most lesson we learned, at least so far, is this: before you undertake a project of this magnitude, be absolutely certain that your own leadership is prepared to give you full support, as far up the chain of command as imaginable."

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