

book review

WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT IN THE NATIONAL PARKS, R. Gerald Wright, 1992. University of Illinois Press, Urbana and Chicago, 224 pages. Cloth, \$32.50. Notes, appendix, figures, tables, bibliography, and index.

Gerry Wright has presented a much needed and long overdue account of the evolution and present day treatment of wildlife research and management in the National Park Service. From the introduction to its conclusion, relatively unusual facts and little known accounts of past actions and deeds are presented. Unpublished literature and incidents that may have long escaped attention, have been forgotten, or have been buried, are here made available. Memories and notes of those managers, biologists, and scientists who have left the Service in body but not in mind are now brought into the light. As Paul Harvey says, "And now, the rest of the story."

Gerry's unique perspective is not only informational and thought provoking, it reflects his personal concerns and commitment for wildlife management and research in the Park Service. While some may argue that he is not critical enough, others will maintain that the book is an expression of sour grapes. It is neither. It is a well written and researched review of the history and evolution of wildlife management and research in the NPS.

The book is an important and valuable contribution to an understanding of the evaluation of NPS wildlife research and management activities ... a must read for everyone who is involved, interested, or concerned with wildlife in our national parks. It is not only for those within the Service, but for those in conservation at the local, state, and federal levels and in the private sector.

While the book is not perfect, the errors are few, the generalizations, data interpretation, and interpretation of past and present literature are neither slanted nor biased pro or con. The availability and use of more current data and information in a number of the tables and figures would greatly have enhanced the book. Read it; you'll enjoy it.

Michael A. Coffey, Wildlife Biologist,
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