

# CROP OF ISLAND PRESS RELEASES WORTH PERUSING

By Jean Matthews

ISLAND PRESS, THE ONLY nonprofit organization in the United States whose principal purpose is publication of books on environmental issues and natural resource management, has been busy publishing several works over the last 18 months. Highlights include:

The *Grizzly Bears of Yellowstone: Their Ecology in the Yellowstone Ecosystem, 1959-1992*, by John J. Craighead, Jay S. Sumner, and John A. Mitchell, all of the Craighead Wildlife-Wildlands Institute. Published last September, it has 88 figures (6 in color), 202 tables, 146 black and white photographs, 69 color photos, 448 references, and over 1,800 index entries. The hardcover book sells for \$100. ISBN: 1-55963-456-1.

Three others are paperbacks:

*Compass and Gyroscope*, by Kai N. Lee argues that sustainable development is not a goal, not a condition likely to be attained, but rather (more like freedom or justice) a direction in which we strive. He starts by imagining that the concept is like Utopia—a faraway, perhaps imaginary island—and that humanity searches for it in a ship guided only by a “compass” of science and a “gyroscope” of politics. The subtitle is “Integrating Science and Politics for the Environment,” and the book purports to be a “practical yet innovative guide to environmental management.” It is 6"x9" in size, 243 pages long, with figures, maps, and index, and costs \$16.95. ISBN: 1-55963-198-8.

*Wildlife Policies in the National Parks* was published in July 1995 and is the result of a 5-year study of NPS wildlife management policies. All of its seven authors are distinguished professors,

who have had much experience working in the area of NPS wildlife management and its consequences. Hal Salwasser and Joseph Sax are best known to me, and they are impressive; I suspect the rest measure up. Sax wrote *Mountains Without Handrails*, which is now a classic work on the national parks, and is currently a counselor to the Secretary of the Interior. In the “Future Directions” section, the parts about the research role in the national park system and the functions of science in the system are worth the price of the book. The latter talks about building bridges between the National Park Service and National Biological Service, and shares problems and approaches to solutions. It also mentions “weak leadership at the top” in the past, and concomitant failure “to convey a strong sense of mission, commitment, and pride.” It is 6"x9", 300 pages, has figures and index. Cloth: \$49.00; ISBN: 1-55963-404-9; Paper: \$26.00; ISBN: 1-55963-405-7.

*Environmental Policy and Biodiversity*, edited by R. Edward Grumbine, examines the need for scientists and policy makers to work together if solutions to the biodiversity crisis are to be found. This book presents an overview of important concepts in the field of conservation biology and an examination of the strengths and limitations of the policy making process. The essays come from a broad range of disciplines, are pro-

vocative and clearly argued. They discuss the ethical and scientific bases for conservation biology, the effectiveness of existing policy, numerous case studies from around the nation, and overall environmental policy goals and processes. The essayists are nearly a score of experts in this field, beginning with Michael Soule and continuing with that caliber of persons. (The editor is director of the University of California, Santa Cruz, Sierra Institute, and he lives in Rattlesnake Gulch, Bonny Doon, California... an address that fascinated me). It's 6"x9", 416 pages, contains figures, tables, and an index.

Hardcover: \$45.00; ISBN: 1-55963-282-8. Paperback: \$22.00; ISBN: 1-55963-283-6. It was published in October 1994.



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