

Director Kennedy Honors Natural Resource Stewards

National Park Service Director Roger Kennedy recently announced the 1996 winners of the prestigious Director's Award for Natural Resource Management. Given annually, the awards recognize and foster outstanding contributions to natural resource management and research. The honorees include a NPS park superintendent, a NPS resource manager, and a federal government scientist whose work supports park natural resource preservation. The awards were presented at a ceremony in San Francisco in August. All winners received a plaque and a \$2,500 monetary award.

SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR FOR NATURAL RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

Bryan Harry, Superintendent of the Pacific Island System Support Office, is the recipient of this award, which recognizes innovative resource management and support by a NPS superintendent. An outstanding leader, Bryan has demonstrated an ability to protect and restore native ecosystems in Hawaii and the Pacific islands during the last 25 years. His influence has resulted in realistic prospects for conserving highly significant vestiges of native Pacific ecosystems. As Superintendent of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park from 1970-1974, he and his staff changed the mindset in Hawaiian parks from accepting "inevitable" resource deterioration to proactive management that reverses deterioration and restores biological diversity. Upon returning to the islands as Pacific Area Director from

1982 to the present, Bryan presided during an era of tremendous progress in coping with resource issues in Hawaiian parks and expanded proactive management to parks throughout the Pacific.

"I am happy to accept this award," Harry stated, "because it recognizes the accomplishments of park crews and resource managers working with the cooperative park studies unit (CPSU) to mitigate the impacts of nonnative species in the Pacific Island parks. The 'mindset' we changed was to integrate the work of resource managers, park crews, and the scientists at the CPSU. We also shifted our concept of measuring success from how many alien animals we killed to basing removal decisions and efforts on the overall impacts the nonnative species have on the native populations. We have had some success, particularly with large mammals, but have lost the avifauna on Guam to a tree snake. Another difficult area is fire-adapted nonnative grasses." Harry continued, "Hawaii may be providing the national park system with a taste of things to come. While island ecosystems are the first to feel the severity of effects of nonnative species, I think the mainland will face the same challenges in the future; the mainland is just a bigger island."

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Terry Hofstra was chosen for his contributions in guiding the Redwood National and State Parks resource management staff as they forged important working relationships between neighbors, parks, and private entities. A leading proponent

and facilitator of interagency and intra-agency and private sector cooperation, Terry has helped the parks advance toward ecosystem management. Using this approach, the parks have been able to address a broader range of issues over the past 6 years. Pleased to be recognized, Hofstra pointed out that "an award like this is an indication that the entire staff is effective in working toward park preservation goals."

One of the largest resource management operations in the national park system, this staff of more than 40 have concentrated on restoration activities, including mitigating erosion, as a result of logging. While 170 miles of logging roads within the park have been restored under his leadership, an additional 3,000 miles of roads within the watershed have the potential to cause severe erosion and damage to park resources downstream. Hofstra's staff, including archeologists, fish and wildlife biologists, botanists, ecologists, geologists, hydrologists, fire specialists, and maintenance and administrative personnel, have slowly begun to garner the trust and interest of the neighboring private landholders and have started to inventory the condition of the roads in the watershed. A measure of their progress is that the park is now routinely invited to review logging plans *before* they are filed and is able to address park concerns before logging or other activities on adjacent private lands begin. To aid in communication between the partner parks, Hofstra has also helped arrange for a full-time state parks resource manager to be integrated into the operation.

Hofstra has also applied the principles of managing the complete range of resources

into a cohesive, large-scale program that includes wildlife management and planning. Redwood National and State Parks are home to the endangered Marbled Murrelet, an ocean-feeding bird that nests atop old-growth trees. When an adjacent landowner recently petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a permit to log the remaining 564 acres of old-growth redwood from its property, Hofstra, ironically, foresaw the potential for long-term benefit to the murrelets within the park. By preparing a second-growth forest management plan in the interim, the parks are now poised to accept funds, mandated by the Endangered Species Act, to counter habitat disruption from the logging company. If its request for a permit is approved, the firm would pay for thinning 10 acres of second-growth forest within the parks for every acre disturbed on private land. Thinning a second-growth forest increases the speed by which the woods return to old-growth, providing increased future habitat for murrelets. If this comes to pass, Hofstra sees it as "a timely and much needed example of the flexibility of the Endangered Species Act in providing for endangered species preservation while accommodating some commercial activities."

RESEARCH

This award is given to the federal employee who has made the most significant scientific contribution to the NPS natural resource program through the development of creative research projects, published research, or the initiation of science programs. Dr. Paul A. Buckley, Senior Scientist (Ecology) with the National Biologi-

cal Service Cooperative Park Studies Unit at the University of Rhode Island, was recognized for research and natural resource preservation accomplishments that have greatly assisted the National Park Service in achieving its preservation goals. His personal research program, leadership in many areas of natural resource preservation, and influence on national preservation policy span nearly 25 years in association with the National Park Service.

"Winning this award is extremely satisfying, because my colleagues and I have been very persistent over the years pursuing what we knew were critically needed park research projects," Buckley commented. "Nearly all of my own research," he continued, "has been management driven. I have been entranced, captivated by great personal satisfaction from the successful application of research results to park management."

Buckley enjoys tackling some of the most vexing research questions today—those that involve looking at the interplay between various resource recreation uses and their impacts on the population numbers and health of plants and animals. His expertise in this regard is population biology of shorebirds and the biodiversity of birds throughout the northeastern national parks. His work typically results in providing information to managers who must make difficult decisions about resource protection and visitor use.

Working as a shorebird ecologist in the late 1970s, Buckley assisted the National Park Service in gaining colonial waterbird and Piping Plover habitat protection in the face of numerous beach nourishment projects proposed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers along Fire

Island National Seashore, New York. In addition, Dr. Buckley is still involved with investigations he initiated in the 1980s concerning the interrelationships among waterbirds, including Laughing Gulls in the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Unit of Gateway National Recreation Area, and aircraft on the adjacent John F. Kennedy International Airport. Buckley also began funding and doing some of the first work on the ecology and management of Piping Plovers, an endangered eastern U.S. bird species that, thanks in large measure to NPS management in coastal parks and seashores, is now making a comeback. He is quick to warn, however, that "if we make poor decisions [regarding uses of plover nesting beaches], recovery could be set back in a hurry."

While Dr. Buckley acknowledges the importance of applied research in meeting park management needs, he also observes that "there is tremendous need for much more site-specific inventory and general ecosystem research in our parks. Such research might not have obvious immediate application, but is nonetheless essential to the long-term management of the natural resources under our care."

Moving away somewhat from the kinds of projects he has worked on over the last 25 years, Buckley is currently involved in a massive, 5-year, multi-investigator study at Fire Island quantifying, for the first time, the relative roles of migratory and resident birds, deer, small mammals, and ticks, in the ecology of Lyme disease. Here, too, he has succeeded in maintaining that elusive, but critical mixture of research that is at once the most basic, and yet still the most applied.