



From the Editor

Theme issues need your help

This issue of *Park Science* takes us to northern latitudes, featuring research in Alaskan and Canadian national parks. A brief series of articles describes the research inputs involved in building a model of Denali Park Road traffic that will be instrumental in designing new vehicle limits that may be placed on this popular route. Two Canadian studies seek to better understand the influence of landscape patterns and human populations on Canadian national parks and wildlife by evaluating and improving the efficacy of existing ecological models. Altogether, these reports highlight the sophistication with which models, informed by research and used by circumspect managers, can help address complex management issues.

We also present several water resource-related “Science Notes” that demonstrate significant developments in applications of water law and various technologies to the understanding and protection of park resources. A departure from our normal natural resource-oriented fare that I think you will enjoy especially is the article about a rock inscription at Grand Canyon and its potential meaning for park history.

Though you’ll find these and other topics on the following pages, this edition of *Park Science* was not designed as a theme issue. By contrast, our upcoming spring 2011 and winter 2011–2012 issues will focus on *climate change science* and *wilderness science and management*, respectively. Both are being planned now and need your consideration.

The climate change issue was originally scheduled for winter 2010–2011, but has been delayed until spring to give more time for expanded participation. I am now seeking abstracts and article proposals and would like to hear from you. This issue will concentrate on understanding, anticipating, adapting to, mitigating, restoring resources affected by, and communicating climate change impacts on our national parks. This is a good opportunity to review the issues, projects, research/policy needs, and information breakthroughs related to climate change at your park and to develop and share usable knowledge on this topic with your colleagues. You will find a prospectus of this theme issue on the *Park Science* Web site. Abstracts/proposals are due 15 November and should be e-mailed to me along with any thoughts or ideas on how to make this issue particularly useful and interesting.

Similarly, we will be covering wilderness-related science and management issues in our winter 2011–2012 edition. A call for abstracts and proposals was circulated in late August with a deadline of 6 January 2011. You can review the prospectus on the *Park Science* Web site. Please e-mail your proposals to Wade Vagias (wade_vagias@nps.gov), guest editor for this issue.

Intentionally or not, *Park Science* reveals themes in our endeavors to understand and manage park resources and values. I welcome your input in the process to develop the upcoming theme issues with the goal of making them as relevant to this mission as possible.

—Jeff Selleck