

Editorial

El Nino, global warming, ozone holes, acid precipitation, loss of genetic diversity – almost every major impact on humanity's life support systems is rooted in a scale of size that lies far outside of our everyday range of vision.

There are worlds within worlds, all of them interlocked and interdependent, and this issue's lead story is our first journey into another level of these myriad scales. Dr. Phinney's fascinating story of a new association of organisms describes what was found when two dives were made at Crater Lake last summer – one dive via submersible vehicle into a hitherto unexplored world deep in the lake, the other dive via microscope into a world inaccessible to our naked eyes – the world of the very tiny.

The jelly-laced jungle shown on the cover requires magnification 106 times to present itself to our limited eyesight. Instead of simply oohing and aahing over the slender slice of microscopic life its view affords, we might do well to let it lead us into thinking of the thousands of levels on down – the subatomic world where “things are happening” – things that affect us all.

Those things that we can see and deal with directly, at a resource management level, are indeed “only the tip of the iceberg.” The “tao” of science – the “way” of research and experiment and varied application – provides us with glimpses and hints of a “total picture” that *hides* most of its connections, but *constantly reveals* its connectedness.

The National Parks, our responsibility, are part of a cosmic blueprint that is currently demanding our attention with a gigantic “ahem.” Look at the cover again, and marvel at the intelligence expressed in this tiny world. Have we the wits to match it in our own?