

Vail Final Report Sets Six Goals

The Steering Committee's final report to Director James Ridenour on "National Parks for the 21st Century: The Vail Agenda," proposes six strategic objectives for correcting what it acknowledges as current flaws in the state of the National Park Service. (In spite of general recognition of the National Park System as the finest in the world, enjoying broad-based public support, the effectiveness of the National Park Service is weakened by decreasing employee morale caused by eroding professionalism, limited resources for resource management, and a sense of isolation from decisions that count.)

The proposed objectives aimed at creating and fulfilling a vision for the next century are: **resource stewardship and protection** (NPS's primary responsibility is protection of park resources); **public access and enjoyment**; **education and interpretation**; **proactive leadership**; **science and research** (the NPS must engage in a sustained and integrated program of natural, cultural, and social science resource management and research aimed at acquiring and using the information needed to manage and protect park resources); and **professionalism** (the NPS must create and maintain a highly professional organization and workforce.)

The Report, which deals in detail with all six areas and specific recommendations, was presented to Director Ridenour by William J. Briggie, steering committee chair, and Henry L. Diamond, symposium general chair. It has been distributed to all Regions and is available for study and review.