

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

Publishers of National Parks Magazine

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April, 1965

Dear National Parks Association Member
and Subscriber to National Parks Magazine:

The interest you have taken in the work of
this Association has been deeply appreciated.

I am enclosing an advance copy of a report
we shall be making to all our members in the form of
an insert in the May issue of National Parks Magazine.

You will agree with me, I think, that this
report reflects very creditable achievements by the
Association and a steady growth in its influence on
public affairs.

President Johnson has expressed a strong
interest in the enlargement of the national park
system, in the restoration of a natural environment,
in the enhancement of natural beauty, and in conserva-
tion generally; the climate of opinion which has encour-
aged these affirmations has been due, in considerable
part, to the educational work of the Association and
National Parks Magazine in recent years; we expect to
play an increasingly important role in this flowering
of cultural values in the future.

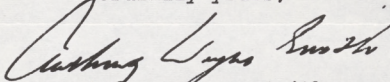
The President's decision to make the Potomac
River Basin a model of conservation and to ask the
Secretary of the Interior to review the plans devel-
oped by the Army Engineers for the Potomac is one of
the outstanding conservation events of the year; the
effort to obtain such a review was initiated by the
Association and has had the concurrence of a broad
coalition of farm, labor, business, and conservation
groups with a membership of between 6 and 7½ million
persons; conservation is beginning to speak with the

voice of great majorities, not helpless minorities, in America, and the Association can claim a significant share of the credit for this change.

The influence of the Association is in large part a result of its autonomy. It is financed almost entirely by membership dues, contributions by its members, and the income from limited investments. Some 200 members contribute amounts of from \$25 to \$20,000 a year. At least 10,000 members, or more than one-third of the total membership of 30,000, contribute smaller amounts within their means, over and above membership dues in various categories, which now run from \$6.50 to \$35 a year. We believe that contributions of this kind reflect an intense interest on the part of our members in the work of the Association and a keen appreciation of the value of National Parks Magazine. Without this kind of support, we could not possibly carry on our work.

Again this year, we are writing to all of our members and inviting them to contribute at least as much as they did last year, and if possible, even more. If you feel you can help us this year, we shall be greatly encouraged and deeply appreciative. Contributions are deductible from Federal taxable income; a card and business reply envelope are enclosed. We look forward to a redoubling of our efforts this year with your assistance.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Anthony Wayne Smith", written in a cursive style.

Anthony Wayne Smith
President and General Counsel

Enclosures

THE NEW LAND AND WATER FUND will make it possible to finance land acquisition for the national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges as never before; it will also give matching funds to the States for land acquisition and the development of recreational programs; it will afford magnificent opportunities for conservation and environmental protection if properly employed; pressures for mass recreation of an undesirable kind could change it into a destructive force; this Association, among others, must be on guard to protect the public interest.

The new Water Pollution Control Administration which will probably be established in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare will strengthen the hand of the Government in helping industry and communities to prevent pollution from getting into our streams and rivers. This will be a great boon to conservation, aiding fish and waterfowl protection and making deep-drawdown reservoirs for the dilution of pollution unnecessary. The educational work of the Association aids developments of this kind.

Public transportation, supplementing the private car, as a means of lightening the traffic pressures in the parks has been suggested by the Association; comfortable coaches, perhaps electrically driven, could be operated from outlying communities around the great parks, or from the entrances to the forests or the parks; people could leave their cars behind and visit the parks unburdened; the parks would be protected from traffic, excessive road construction, and great deserts of parking lots. Similar suggestions have been made for water access to the national seashores, making lengthy roads unnecessary.

We have urged interdepartmental cooperation, instead of conflict, between agencies like the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service in respect to such questions as the establishment of a new national park in the northern Cascades; these recommendations have led to the use of interdepartmental study teams whose work is promising.

We have concerned ourselves within the limits of our facilities with the protection of parks and green and open spaces in the cities, in one instance by court action, and in others by objective publicity, for we are concerned with a natural life-environment for all people everywhere, both in the cities and in the country.

Scenic and conservation easements, as a means of protecting privately owned land for its natural beauty and recreation and as a means of achieving ecological forestry, have been recommended persistently by the Association; at first, public agencies were heedless, but recently the idea begins to gain overwhelming support; it leaves basic private ownership untouched, but protects the public interest.

The underlying menace of the population explosion to all

conservation efforts begins to be widely understood; the Association makes a continuing contribution to such public understanding in the pages of the Magazine.

Close cooperation has been developed with National Educational Television, many of whose stations carry outstanding programs in the conservation field.

National parks are a theme of world-wide significance. The Association cooperates closely with comparable organizations in other countries and on the international scene to establish and protect great national parks abroad for wildlife and scenic preservation and public enjoyment. In recent months, it has had distinguished lecturers on its Washington Conservation Education Center platform and has published many articles in the Magazine on national parks in other countries and their vital contributions to civilization.

We remind our readers and members regularly that their voices are influential with public officials in the Executive Branch. Public administrators depend heavily on their incoming mail to tell them how people feel about government policy; we help our members by providing information on issues and occasions for the expression of their views.

OUR MEMBERS MAINTAIN a vigorous correspondence with us. It is always helpful in reflecting their views and making valuable suggestions; we do the best we can to answer with our limited staff. Members' interest in the Association is also shown by the gifts received in our annual contribution drive. About 200 members contribute between \$25 and \$20,000 apiece every year, and more than 10,000 persons, or over one-third of our membership, contribute smaller amounts within their means every year, over and above membership dues, which now range between \$6.50 and \$35 a year. More and more of our members are making provision for the Association in their wills. And our members realize that in addition to receiving the enlarged National Parks Magazine, with quarterly color covers, and its wide-ranging articles and beautiful photographs on conservation, they lend their vital help in a great cause to which they are devoted.

The strong loyalty which the Association has engendered among its members, and their intense interest in the Association and its work, are the best guarantees that the Association will continue to grow and to influence public affairs creatively in America in respect to the parks, the public lands, the protection of the natural environment, and the enhancement of natural beauty; all those great purposes, which taken together, we know as conservation. ■

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE
1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

Insert 5-65
Report to the General Membership by the
President and General Counsel 1965

*Report of the President and General Counsel, Anthony Wayne Smith,
to the General Membership of the*

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

on the Occasion of the Annual Meeting of the Corporation and Trustees, May 20, 1965

A NEW EPOCH in national park protection and enjoyment may have been opened by the National Parks Association in its recent public recommendations for comprehensive regional recreation planning for the Yellowstone and Grand Teton Parks region.

The Association has proposed¹ that a large region comprising parts of three States be planned as a whole. It would contain, besides the national parks, the national forests, public domain, reclamation reservoirs, soil conservation projects, wildlife refuges, Indian lands, State and local parks and forests, and private recreational developments outside the public lands.

Recreational use would be relatively light in the natural areas of the national parks and forests, including the wilderness and primitive areas, and heavy in the private recreational areas in the surrounding communities.

The effect of these proposals should be to protect the natural areas of the parks and forests against overdevelopment in a way not hitherto considered feasible by many; and at the same time to provide accommodations for wholesome outdoor relaxation for the increasing multitudes which are visiting our great recreational regions as our population grows.

The Association has also analyzed this approach for the TVA-Great Smokies region,² urging more intensive use of the big TVA reservoirs for recreation, and greater moderation in developing roads and mass-recreation facilities in Great Smoky Mountains Park.

We have pointed out that the Government now for the first time has machinery in the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation for making comprehensive plans of this kind, and also for coordinating the work of many public agencies in carrying out such plans.

These comprehensive regional planning proposals have met with broad concurrence by conservationists and a cordial acceptance by public agencies; the difficult dilemma

of protection as against visitation has been solved in principle; practical application should not be unduly difficult as time goes on.

It may seem surprising that this approach had to be suggested to the Government by a private educational and scientific organization; it happened because there has been no place in the Government where a broad perspective could be obtained on these governmental operations; thus an autonomous, objective, public-service organization like our Association plays a vitally important part in the democratic process in America.

This work by the Association is made possible almost entirely by the devotion and generosity of its 30,000 members. Publication and distribution of the Magazine is paid for out of membership dues. Our investigations into the biological and social sciences and our consultations with public officials in the Executive Branch, the results of which are usually published in the Magazine, and which make up a large part of the work of the Association, are financed mainly from contributions by members, over and above basic annual dues; such contributions are tax-deductible. They are aided to some extent by income from investment funds which have also been contributed by members, occasionally as sizable bequests; such gifts are also tax-deductible.

THE GRAND CANYON of the Colorado, America's world-famous scenic shrine, has been in great danger in recent years from hydroelectric power promoters. One proposal, the Kanab Creek project, has been to divert 92 percent of the water of the river out of the canyon to generate power; the matter came before the Federal Power Commission, and the Association led conservationists in intervening to oppose this development. Another possibility would be the construction of several hydropower dams in Grand Canyon National Park.

More recently a number of old power projects have been revived in the form of the Pacific Southwest Water Plan; this proposal, developed by the Bureau of Reclamation,

¹ *National Parks Magazine*, January, 1965.

² *National Parks Magazine*, March, 1965.

would involve power generation at Marble Canyon above the park and at Bridge Canyon below the park; the Bridge Canyon dam would thrust a reservoir many miles through Grand Canyon National Monument and into the park.

The purpose of the Marble Canyon dam would be to generate hydropower to pump water from the Colorado River near the Mexican border into central Arizona for agricultural, municipal, and industrial purposes; Bridge Canyon dam would generate power for sale to earn money for a basin account to be reinvested in more water works in California and elsewhere.

The National Parks Association has shown, by expert investigation, that Bridge Canyon dam is unnecessary to earn the money for the basin account, because the water pumped into central Arizona will produce more revenue than represented; moreover, firm power can probably be generated at coal-fired thermal plants at 4 mills a kilowatt hour, as contrasted with 6 mills for peaking power at Bridge Canyon; firm power from Marble Canyon will cost 4.2 mills; in other words, coal power will do the job more cheaply, and save the canyons of the Colorado. We have also pointed out that Government studies indicate that atomic energy will be available soon in the Pacific Southwest from 2 to 3 mills a kilowatt hour; thus the hydropower projects will pay out.

We have also pointed out that solar energy may be the natural source of electric power in a sun-drenched region like the Pacific Southwest and have urged more vigorous efforts by the Government to harness this source of energy.

These conclusions were announced in the National Parks Magazine* and have been placed in the hands of high Government officials for their consideration.

Objective educational work as to the economic and engineering facts in such matters is one of the functions of the Association; the Magazine and special reports are its main educational tools; unbiased, impartial studies provide the information upon which an enlightened public opinion can be developed.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES in his epochal Message to Congress on Natural Beauty recently expressed his desire to have the Potomac River Basin become a model for good conservation practices; he asked the Secretary of the Interior to review the plan which had been under review by the Army Engineers and make recommendations to him.

This decision by the President came after long efforts by this Association and other conservationists to protect the Potomac against 16 major deep-drawdown pollution-dilution reservoirs proposed several years ago by the Army Engineers. The Association first took interest in the problem on behalf of the C&O Canal National Historical Monument, much of which would be flooded by one of these major reservoirs; but it became apparent that the monument could be protected only within a completely new program for the Potomac Basin.

This new program has been thought of as beginning with the complete elimination of all kinds of pollution; as comprising a network of small headwater impoundments of

the Soil Conservation Service type; and as utilizing modern methods for water supply, including a new intake on the fresh-water estuary of the Potomac near Washington for metropolitan water-main purposes.

An unprecedented coalition of conservation, farm, and labor organizations concurred in the Association's Analysis of the Army Engineers' Program, first published in June 1963 as a special report; the Magazine has also carried material on the subject from time to time. The concurring organizations represent perhaps 60 to 75 million members throughout the United States and in the Potomac River Basin; the review directed by the President may well prove to be a historic landmark. A complete reorganization of governmental structure in respect to river basin planning is probably in the offing; the Association can properly claim credit for a major hand in this impending transformation.

THE CALIFORNIA COAST REDWOODS have been dear to the hearts of conservationists for half a century. Heroic efforts by many people have resulted in the preservation of a small segment of the coast redwoods forest in several magnificent State parks. The President of the United States has recently encouraged proposals for the establishment of a new national park in the coast redwoods, the enlargement of the existing State parks. Disastrous floods this past winter have proved the need for better watershed management in the region, including better forestry, and the enlargement of public park holdings.

The Association has given strong support to plans for park enlargement in the redwoods. A National Park Service study considered three possibilities of varying scope, and the Association urged that the largest be considered as a minimum project for protection. It recommended a much more extensive plan for protection of watersheds above the parks, suggesting that Federal purchase of conservation easements for good timber management might be a suitable managerial tool.

The American people, the Association pointed out in its comments to the Service, have proved their interest in the redwoods by hundreds of thousands of financial contributions for protection during some 50 years; they are not likely to stand by idly while remaining redwoods of park quality are logged in a destructive manner. The Association has joined with other conservation organizations in educational and scientific work in this field in the public interest. The Association has recently received from the Service a generous bequest by a devoted conservationist for protection of the *Sequoias*, *deeds sempervirens*, the coast redwood, and *gigantea*, the Big Tree of the Sierra. The income from this fund, and if need be portions of the principal, from time to time, will be devoted to this great purpose. This is an example, one among several in recent years, of the way conservationists may receive through their estates for the vital work of the Association.

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK, preserving an irreplaceable subtropical world of strange and beautiful plants, birds, and reptiles, was established by the American people, acting through Congress, about 20 years ago at the southwestern tip of Florida.

Since then, conflicting public and private programs of

flood control, wetlands drainage, water impoundment, agricultural expansion, and municipal and industrial development, have been robbing central Florida of its immemorial water supplies, which have in the past supplied the park region as well.

The Association has been making expert studies of this problem in cooperation with responsible State and Federal agencies, looking toward permanent provision of abundant water to the Everglades Park. We think the nation committed itself to the protection of the Everglades in the park many years ago and that the vast majority of the American people are still committed to that purpose. It is the duty of the various State and Federal agencies responsible for the administration of these natural resources to see to it that Everglades National Park and the irreplaceable natural wealth it contains are protected by adequate water supplies for the enjoyment of the American people, now and permanently.

There have been many warnings by conservationists, including this Association, in the past, that something had to be done about the Everglades; resolution of the problem, however, has awaited a more thorough and precise analysis of the legal and economic problems than has ever before been made possible by the modern scientific approach. The Association hopes to present such detailed recommendations soon; such technical investigations, needless to say, are extremely expensive, and the constantly recurring problem the Association faces is to find money, through contributions by its members, or otherwise, to carry on these activities.

MANY ADDITIONS to the park system, of great value for all time, have been made in the last three or four years; Cape Cod, Padre Island, Point Reyes, and Fire Island Seashores, Ozark Scenic Riverways, and Canyonlands National Parks; among others; important new proposals have been advanced, Assateague National Seashore, Indiana Dunes Lakeshore, Sleeping Ute Dunes Lakeshore, Pictured Rocks Lakeshore, Oregon Dunes Seashore.

The Association made the first suggestions which initiated some of these projects; it examines the plans as they are advanced, and has often recommended the enlargement of territory and the provision of better protection.

Once created, nearly all the parks, monuments, and seashores come under heavy pressure for overdevelopment. The Association's planning approach we have suggested is one way to meet these pressures. However, there must be direct resistance at times to plans for big roads through parks, excessive concessioner installations, and even unwise camping and trailer facilities. We follow the master and subordinate plans of the National Park Service, and we often hear about events in the park through our members and our network of correspondents and consultants throughout the country. These problems are discussed with the responsible government officials, who usually welcome our support in resisting overdevelopment.

One of the most objectionable offenders against protective policies is the Bureau of Public Roads in the Department of Commerce. The Association has pointed out the need for bringing the work of this Bureau under proper planning; Federal aid should not be given to States

for the construction of roads which may even in part pass through State parks, as has been threatened in the California redwoods; nor should the Bureau make the plans for roads in national parks. Park roads should be built to low-speed standards and designed for the enjoyment of scenery; high-speed standards are not appropriate in parks.

The big-dam agencies, notably the Bureau of Reclamation and the Corps of Engineers, have customarily operated with a complete disregard for the values of the natural outdoor environment which the American people have come to treasure more and more. The Federal Power Commission must also be listed as one of the worst offenders; a case in point was its issuance of a license to the Consolidated Edison Company for a hydropower plant at Storm King Mountain on the Hudson.

The presently growing recognition of the importance of the natural outdoor environment, which has been stimulated by the President of the United States, points toward a basic governmental reorganization in these matters, bringing such agencies under the control of policy-minded interdepartmental councils or planning commissions. The Association follows such developments closely, endeavors to appraise new proposals, advances its own suggestions, and thus lends a supporting hand to conservation progress in places where such help counts vitally.

A WIDE VARIETY of conservation and environmental issues claims the attention of the Association constantly.

We fought off efforts a year or two ago to introduce hunting in the national parks as a so-called management tool; the parks give the public a chance to see animals in a natural environment, whereas hunting can be enjoyed elsewhere.

We manage to find the time for seemingly small but important causes like the protection of the endangered Kaibab squirrel against ill-considered open hunting seasons. Our protests last year in this matter were taken up by great numbers of people and were effective; we shall continue to stand against such actions.

We have thrown the searching light of scientific inquiry and public attention on the abuse of pesticides, particularly insecticides, promoted by public agencies and private corporations. We exposed the atrocious Green River fish poisoning in the Dinosaur National Monument region, an operation which, as a consequence, will probably not soon be repeated.

We have been devoting much time, thought, and effort to the views which we must advance when administrative hearings are called on the recommendations of the Secretary of the Interior on wilderness areas in the parks, required by the Wilderness Act of 1964. We must also analyze the plans of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation and the National Park Service for land classification within the parks, the desirability of which has been doubted by many, and the results of which could be disastrous, opening large parts of the parks to occupation, if improperly handled. We have examined the master plans and budgets of the National Park Service for road and other facility construction in Mount McKinley National Park, among others, criticizing them as too favorable to heavy traffic and destructive to wildlife, scenery, and wilderness.

* April, 1964; June, 1964.

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NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

Publishers of National Parks Magazine

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I agree with the National Parks Association that a high civilization such as ours must insist on the resolute protection of its national parks and monuments, wilderness areas and wildlife refuges, and a natural, beautiful, and spacious life-environment for everyone everywhere.

I enclose \$ _____ as my contribution OVER AND ABOVE MY REGULAR MEMBERSHIP DUES.

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