

SEEING DOUBLE

For its size, this issue of *Park Science* can be considered a double issue. At 96 pages, including 14 feature articles, it is our largest issue ever. A more interesting distinction, however, is the number of resource management topics and fields of study that are discussed in pairs or triplets of articles. Multiplicity pervades this issue and makes for many interesting comparisons and contrasts.

Look no further than our cover article about bison on U.S. federal lands and the feature article about collared lizards at Ozark National Scenic Riverways for interesting analogs to seemingly very different wildlife management issues. Though the animals are unlike, bison (throughout their North American range) and collared lizards (at Ozark) have been living in isolated populations, which limits gene flow and raises concerns for their ability to adapt to environmental change. The connection in *Park Science* is the human effort that has gone into understanding the population genetics as an important factor in planning actions to benefit each species.

A second juncture is the management of cultural landscapes for the interpretation of historical periods and events and the natural resources that lend authenticity to these sites. Management practices and goals strive to achieve historically appropriate landscapes, but as the articles discuss, managers also may need to consider the changeable nature of natural resources in cultural landscapes and the ecological benefits they provide. These issues play out in articles about the management of forests at Gettysburg National Military Park, perpetuation of an important hedgerow at Homestead National Monument of America, and restoration of grasslands in several northeastern national parks to both mimic the historical scene and provide habitat for bird populations.

Our double issue also describes a few management considerations and concerns related to fire. A powerful force, fire and its ecological effects can be far-reaching. How and to what extent prescribed fire affects particular wildlife species is the subject of two articles. A third examines the potential for dangerously high fuel loads from an invasive grass species to alter the natural fire regime at Saguaro National Park, with detrimental consequences for native plants and animals.

Another topic is the use of multiple trap types to reduce bias, sampling error, and sampling effort in small-mammal inventories. Two unrelated accounts in this issue—the summary of a journal article and an investigation conducted along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail—come to the same conclusion: the use of multiple trap types improves the efficiency and accuracy of assessing the composition and structure of small-mammal populations.

Finally, I want to call your attention to the new *Park Science* Web site, launched last fall, which has undergone a complete redesign and is now up to par with the print edition. The new site is a pleasure to use, easy to navigate, and now features a helpful search function. Though it duplicates the material presented in print, the Web site extends the reach of *Park Science* beyond our traditional print audience. You too may find that its greater accessibility will serve your information needs.

As always, we hope this issue is as enjoyable for you to read as it was for us to assemble. May the articles and the multiple topics they explore help clarify unfamiliar issues, stimulate new thinking, celebrate the benefits of scientific inquiry, and help us preserve the natural resources entrusted to our care.


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