

# "Vignettes of primitive America" revisited

IN A REPORT ENTITLED *NATIONAL parks: From vignettes to a global view*, [an independent commission] called for "action on an unprecedented scale" to apply ecosystem management concepts to the parks, bring about a "quantum leap in both the quantity and quality of research" in the parks, achieve a higher degree of professionalization within the NPS, and adopt an expanded NPS educational mission to nurture "a conservation ethic among all segments of society, including those traditionally underrepresented in park constituencies, in order to lead the nation toward an environmentally sane future...."

The commission reached key conclusions ... (1) Preserving park resources must continue to be the most important task of the Park Service ... (2) A significant improvement of NPS research programs across all

disciplines must be initiated. ... The Park Service has only about 75 field scientists and 46 park historians for its 354 units, and research comprises only about 2 percent of the NPS operating budget. ... (3) The NPS can no longer rely on generalist rangers for all its needs. Career ladders must be made available to resource managers so they can rise within the hierarchy along with managers with backgrounds in law enforcement and other areas. (4) The National Park System and Service have the capacity to impart conservation ethics to the American and world population, reach out to new constituencies, and explain the processes of environmental and cultural change....

## Reference

Simon, D. 1989. Prestigious commission urges new NPS vision. *Park Science* 9(4):10.



## PARK SCIENCE

A RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BULLETIN

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

VOLUME 9 - NUMBER 4

SUMMER 1989

