



CNSPS Meets with New Science Advisor

On January 13, Rob Arnberger, Rick Smith and Bill Wade (along with CNPSR honorary member and advisor Jon Catton) met in Phoenix with Dr. Gary Machlis, Science Advisor to NPS Director Jon Jarvis. The primary focus of discussion was the Yellowstone winter use issue, but during the meeting, Gary shared the new goals of the NPS Science Program and a proposed process for improving effectiveness of research related to complex and/or controversial issues.



In October, Director Jarvis announced the appointment of Machlis as the first ever Science Advisor to the Director. He is expected to play a key role in advancing science within the NPS and advising the director on science policy and programs. Jarvis stated "The appointment of Dr. Machlis to this new and important position will advance the role of science within our agency as we meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. Dr. Machlis is a proven leader and innovator within the scientific community." Ten goals related to science were approved by the Director and National Leadership Council (NLC) at its November meeting. These science program goals are posted on the CNPSR website. Currently, Machlis is participating in a series of science dialogues in each of the NPS regions, organized by local NPS hosts. The results will be used to develop a broad science initiative for consideration by the NLC at its May 2010 meeting.

New Issue at Big Bend

At Big Bend NP, the superintendent is proposing some 1200 foot wide road corridors through proposed wilderness. This is inconsistent with wilderness policies and precedent. Evidently the purpose of the wider corridors is to allow for bike lane construction. CNPSR is monitoring this issue.

Guns in the Parks....continued

While CNPSR was a party to successful litigation to control guns in parks, that effort was superseded by legislation. The "Coburn Amendment" will be implemented effective February 22, 2010. By the time this newsletter is received, the NPS will have distributed guidance to the field on implementation. In December, CNPSR wrote to Secretary Salazar and Director Jarvis, pointing out that the provisions of "carrying" and "using" in the current regulation in the CFR are enforceable because the Coburn Amendment deals with "possession", a position the DOI Solicitors Office determined to be "defensible." Nonetheless, the DOI has decided to go with a broad definition of "possession." This will mean that in parks in states that allow "open carry" we could see visitors with holsters and revolvers on their hips and assault rifles and shotguns being displayed or carried. Signs will have to be posted in locations where guns will not be allowed, such as federal (but not concession-owned) facilities where federal employees are "routinely present," in accordance with provisions of Title 18. CNPSR will continue to look for ways to mitigate the impacts of this law on the resources of national parks and the enjoyment of their visitors.

Please Become a Contributing Member!

In 2009, donations from members were our main source of income, with just under \$18,000 donated by 153 members, or 21% of our total membership. 57 donated \$100 or more, with 29 of those donating \$200 or more. One member donated \$500 and one member donated \$1000. The Executive Council members donated a total of \$2100 and in addition, contributed approximately 4500 hours of time to managing the Coalition. The total value of contributed time by the EC, members and our pro bono legal firm (Perkins Coie) was approximately \$250,000.

CNPSR received a \$10,000 grant from the 444S Foundation to be used to help protect national parks from impacts of ORVs. We also received \$5000 from the Turner Foundation to determine how CNPSR would influence protection of endangered species in national parks.

This overall funding picture is partly a consequence of the economic downturn, since organizations compete for grants from a much smaller foundation funding pie. It is also to be expected that an organization, as it matures, receives an increasing amount of funding from its own sources, and membership is our primary source of funding. Finally, foundations look at an organization's ability to increase its self support when they consider awarding grants.

Imagine our success if all members donated! Last December, your Executive Council decided not to institute a dues program. Instead, we will be endeavoring to increase the number of members who donate.

We encourage you to donate to your Coalition at one of the annual levels below (non-members may also donate as Contributing, Sustaining, Albright, Mather, or Centennial Partners). We will be thanking donors publically; so let us know if you prefer not to have your name listed.

Thank you!

Contributing Member: \$1 to \$99
Sustaining Member: \$100 to \$249
Albright Guardian: \$250 to \$999
Mather Leadership: \$1,000 to \$4,999
Centennial Stewardship: \$5,000 and above.

I'd like to make a donation the old-fashioned way (alternative is at ww.npsretirees.org)

Name _____

Address _____

Donation amount (check enclosed) _____

Please email an acknowledgement Please send acknowledgement by mail

OK to publish my name as a donor to CNPSR Yes No

Email address if we don't have it _____

CNPSR is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Yellowstone NP Winter Use...also continued



CNPSR continues to be involved in this issue. An interim plan was approved for the current and the next winter season that will continue to allow up to 318 snowmobiles per day. A new EIS, the sixth environmental analysis in ten years on this issue, has already been started and will be completed in time for a final rule to be implemented for the 2011-12 winter season. Scoping meetings have been announced for Idaho Falls, ID, Billings, MT, Cheyenne, WY and Washington, CD beginning in February and continuing to early March.

CNPSR has been critical of the information being distributed by Yellowstone NP concerning the numbers of snowmobiles and snowcoaches and their relative impacts on the resources. Most recently, CNPSR sent a letter to Yellowstone Superintendent Lewis to point out inaccuracy in reporting numbers of snowcoaches and snowmobiles entering the park in December, 2009. A park news releases reported that both were "down" over December 2008 when, in fact, their official statistical data show that both were "up" over 2008. There has been a pattern of continuing misinformation from YELL, as a result of either flawed analysis or sloppy reporting.

CNPSR Executive Council Meeting

CNPSR's Executive Council met in Tucson, AZ on December 1-3, 2009. We welcomed new EC members, Anne Castellina and Rick Smith (seated effective January 1, 2010), along with re-elected members, Bill Wade and Maureen Finnerty. We also thanked departing members Becky Mills and Phil Brueck. Former EC member and Commissioner on the NPS Second Century Commission, Jerry Rogers, joined us for one day to help CNPSR determine how it would assist with the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission. For 2010, Bill Wade was elected Chair and Anne Castellina was elected Treasurer.

New Source of Park News

The George Wright Society's webpage is now offering "Parkwire", a news feed that provides up-to-date protected area news from around the world, along with an opportunity to comment for members.

New award selections were made as follows:

- George B. Hartzog, Jr. Award – for significant contributions to the mission of the NPS: Mr. Loran Fraser was selected as the recipient of this award for his extraordinary efforts in supporting the NPS Advisory Board (prior to his retirement) and for his role in establishing and supporting the National Park Service Second Century Commission.
- 1872 Award – for significant contributions to the Coalition of National Park Service Retirees: Mr. Art Allen was selected posthumously for his diligence in establishing and managing the Parklands Watch list serve which serves to keep many retirees (and others) informed about issues of concern.

The minutes of this meeting, covering other discussions and decisions, are posted on the CNPSR website.

2009 Highlights

Park-specific issues

- American Revolutionary Center – continued advocacy to prevent this from being built in Valley Forge NHP – resolved by land exchange with Independence NHP in Philadelphia.
- BLM leasing in Colorado and Utah – continued advocacy to withdraw proposed leases near NPS areas – Secretary Salazar withdrew most significant potential leases pending further study.
- Cape Hatteras NRA negotiated regulation process – a process terminated without favorable conclusion; CNPSR continues to monitor.
- Presidio GMP and actions of Trustees – submitted comments and support local advocacy groups attempting to preclude damaging development. Plan for museum dropped.
- Hot Springs NP trademark issue – CNPSR EC member Castleberry designated by Secretary Salazar to attempt to mediate issue with city of Hot Springs.
- Jefferson National Expansion Memorial – consulted with NPS Regional personnel on revision of GMP; continue to monitor issue as it moves to a design competition.
- Lyndon B. Johnson NHP - monitoring GMP amendment at LBJ affecting public transportation and parking modifications.
- Point Reyes NS – supported NPS efforts to plan for termination of permitted use (oyster farm) in proposed Wilderness.
- Theodore Roosevelt NP – Monitored elk reduction issue and met with staff for Senator Dorgan.
- Valles Caldera, NM – advocated for establishing this area as a national preserve unit of the National Park System. New Mexico Coalition members Jerry Rogers and Phil Young are spearheading the Coalition’s efforts on Valles Caldera. Coalition member Tom Ribe chairs the Valles Caldera Coalition.
- Old Santa Fe Trail Office Building, NM – advocated for establishing this area as a national monument or national historic site unit of the National Park System. Draft legislation to establish the Old Santa Fe Trail Building as a national historic site commemorating the work of the CCC has been submitted to Congressman Ben Ray Lujan.

Presented testimony

- Revised Statute 2477 (Mining Law) – testimony in Utah Court Case.
- S. 881 - Southeast Alaska Native Land Entitlement Finalization Act (written testimony)
- Testimony before the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands:
 - Public Service Corps (H.R. 1612)
 - Restoring the Public Lands Workforce
 - H.R. 699 - Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2009
 - HR 644 - Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act of 2009 (at field hearing)

Working with NPS

- NPS Collaborative Service Corps, Leadership Development, etc. – continued consultation with NPS and NPCA on Superintendents Academy and other leadership development.
- Appointment of new NPS Director – CNPSR sent letter to Jon Jarvis suggesting high priorities; subsequently had two face-to-face meetings with Jarvis on specific issues.
- NPS collections management – commented on inadequate management and protection of critical collections at NPS Harpers Ferry Center.

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Other efforts to promote parks and advocate for park-related issues

- Department of Interior Transition Team - provided selection criteria for the NPS director.
- George B. Jr. and Helen Hartzog Institute – CNPSR continues to occupy a seat on the Board of Directors.
- National Parks and Conservation Association – participated as member in NPCA Leadership Consortium.
- National Parks Second Century Commission – CNPSR represented at all but one of five Commission meetings and provided significant input to committees, recommendations and report.
- Ken Burns NPS Series – promoted the PBS showing in various ways.
- US House Subcommittee for National Parks, Forests and Public Lands – met with Chair Raúl Grijalva four times and key staff members several times on issues of concern.
- Media contacts – responded to approximately 75 media inquiries during the year. Wrote several op-eds and letters to editors in important issues.

Keeping the organization strong

- CNPSR membership – increased by 10% during the year.
- CNPSR member services - Issued quarterly newsletters and a number of periodic electronic member updates.
- CNPSR Intern in Washington DC – funded intern to work with The Wilderness Society and National Parks Conservation Association; focused primarily on Gun and ORV issues.
- Perkins Coie Legal Support – continued relationship resulting in pro bono legal advice and support; primarily focused on gun issue.

Recognizing park friends

- Presented the George B. Hartzog, Jr. Award (significant contributions to NPS mission) to Congressman Raúl Grijalva and the 1872 Award (significant contributions to CNPSR) to Don Baur of Perkins Coie.

Restore Hetch Hetchy

"Imagine yourself in Hetch Hetchy on a sunny day in June, standing waist-deep in grass and flowers, while the great pines sway dreamily..." John Muir, 1871. Recently Ken Burns reminded us all of the dramatic fight over Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park, John Muir's greatest, most heart-wrenching defeat.

Many of us still remember the astonishing announcement from Interior Secretary Don Hodel in the Reagan era, calling for the removal of the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. Now there's a serious, growing campaign garnering support for the restoration of Hetch Hetchy Valley. Past Yosemite Superintendents B.J.Griffin, Dave Mihalic, and Bob Binnewies have joined the campaign's National Advisory Board. San Francisco's \$3.6 billion Capital Improvement Program to repair and modernize its water supply system presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to manage Tuolumne River water differently and remove the reservoir. Feasibility studies have already identified how the city could receive the same amount of water and power and launch a cutting-edge energy and water saving program. In its December meeting, your Executive Council voted to endorse the campaign to Restore Hetch Hetchy and to recommend to Coalition members that you support it individually and become involved. Check out www.hetchhetchy.org.

Coalition of NPS Retirees
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