

Books in Brief

Reviewed by David Harmon

Thomas F. King, *Cultural Resource Laws & Practice: An Introductory Guide*. Walnut Creek, California: AltaMira Press, 1998. 303 pp.

King, a well-known consultant in cultural resource matters, has delivered on his title: this book is a good introduction to the maze of laws and regulations that affect the management of cultural resources. It covers everything from Section 106 compliance to writing CRM plans. The book is written in a very informal, often breezy style—sometimes a little too breezy for my taste, but the upside is that the tone is totally unthreatening to anybody trying to learn the CRM ropes. It is full of real-life examples that put flesh on the (very) dry bones of government regulations, and lots of advice from King's long experience in the trenches. A good addition to any park library.



Robert Stottlemeyer, David Toczydlowski, and Raymond Herrmann. *Biogeochemistry of a Mature Boreal Ecosystem: Isle Royale National Park, Michigan*. Scientific Monograph NPS/NRUSGS/NRSM-98/01, National Park Service, 1998. 116 pp. Copies available from R. Stottlemeyer, U.S. Geological Survey, 240 W. Prospect Rd., Fort Collins, CO 80525 USA.

This monograph is a testament to the value of long-term research and monitoring in protected areas. How many research projects go on for more than a few years ... yet how often do we wish we had unbroken data sets that cover long periods of time to use as a baseline? Here, the authors report on 16 years of watershed ecosystem research at Isle Royale, and go a long way toward establishing a solid baseline against which future park managers can measure change, both in the park itself and as a benchmark for the "vital signs" of the Upper Great Lakes. As Ray Herrmann says in the introduction, data such as those reported in this study "make it possible to question existing paradigms and to obtain new understandings about fundamental relationships within and between naturally functioning ecosystems" and provide an example that is "appropriate for a potential network of long-term global baseline research sites." This monograph can be recommended to any park that would like a model for how to set up (and publish the results of) long-term ecological research.



Mary Meagher and Douglas B. Houston, *Yellowstone and the Biology of Time: Photographs Across a Century*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1998. 287 pp.

This is a portfolio of repeat photographs of the same view in the park, from the same location and angle, over a period of 100 years or more. Each set has a historic photo (usually dating from the end of the 19th century), a photo from the 1970s, and one from the 1990s. If done carelessly, such projects have little value, but Meagher and Houston, long-time scientists in the park, have taken great pains to take their repeat photos close to the same spot as those of the original photographer (the location is documented). Only someone with vast experience in the park could have deduced the plausible original locations—and both Meagher and Houston qualify on this count. The results are fascinating. Not only do we see the obvious effects of the fires of 1988, but even in unburned areas of the park there are subtle (and not-so-subtle) changes in the landscape. Meagher and Houston's text adds considerable value to the visual record by describing differences in the foreground, mid-ground, and background of the photos. This book is a gem—a joy to look at, to read, and just to hold. It combines scientific merit with coffee-table-quality photography, and is beautifully printed and typeset. It belongs on the shelf of any Yellowstone lover, and of anyone who is interested in documenting long-term environmental changes.



John Tuxill and Gary Paul Nabhan, *Plants and Protected Areas: A Guide to in situ Management*. People and Plants Conservation Manual #3. Cheltenham, U.K.: Stanley Thornes Publishers, 1998. 248 pp.

The "People and Plants" program is a joint venture of WWF, UNESCO, and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, U.K. As the name suggests, it takes an ethnobotanical approach to conserving plant biodiversity, and this manual focuses that approach on conserving plants *in situ* within protected areas. Tuxill, a botanist based in Panama, and Nabhan, the director of science at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, are well-versed in the practicalities and challenges of doing this type of work, and have delivered a text that will prove useful to managers of plant resources. The book draws on protected areas experience in the tropics, but many of the techniques described (e.g., threat characterization, I&M tools, plot methods, etc.) can be adapted to a wide range of ecosystems. Other parts of the book, such as the conservation of traditional agricultural practices and the discussion of land tenure issues, have particular application to developing-country situations. But all in all, any resource manager who has to deal with plant communities will find valuable information here.



J. G. Nelson et al., eds., *Parks and Protected Areas Research in Ontario 1998*. Waterloo, Ontario: Parks Research Forum of Ontario, c/o Heritage Resources Centre, University of Waterloo, 1999; hrc@fes.uwaterloo.ca. 410 pp.

Conference proceedings, as we all know, can be pretty checkered affairs. The quality of papers often varies considerably, and if you approach a proceedings as you do a regular book, expecting to read it straight through, you are usually disappointed. But this is the wrong way to go after proceedings. It's better to skim them, find the articles that look particularly inviting, and glean what you can out of them. This volume, summarizing the 1998 annual meeting of the Parks Research Forum of Ontario, is a cut above the usual conference book. There are some excellent invited overview papers (I single out Nik Lopoukhine's overview of Canada's protected areas), and a number of good volunteered papers on topics as diverse as protecting cultural resources through forest management practices to coastal geomorphology. The book stands on its own, but, additionally, recommends itself to readers from outside Canada who'd like a snapshot of the kind of research going on in its most populous province.



Kenneth E. Hornback and Paul F. J. Eagles, *Guidelines for Public Use Measurement and Reporting at Parks and Protected Areas*. Gland, Switzerland, and Cambridge, U.K.: IUCN, 1999. Available through IUCN Publication Services Unit, info@books.iucn.org. 90 pp.

The summer I worked at Theodore Roosevelt National Park, one of my duties was to take the down the daily counts at the visitor center. There was an automatic counter that registered people as they came through the front doors. It made an audible click, and I well remember that it sounded like a Geiger counter going off every time somebody pushed a stroller through the entrance. It wasn't terribly accurate, but it did enhance our visitation! If you are serious about getting accurate visitor statistics for your park—and the importance of this information to maintaining political support for parks is obvious—then get this book. Hornback, who is retired from the USNPS, and Eagles, a professor at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, have thought through this specialized but important topic more thoroughly than anyone before. They cover all aspects of measuring public use: the pros and cons of various counter systems, data collection and analysis, visitor studies, and an especially useful chapter on the special problems of measuring public use in marine protected areas.

