

# The George Wright Forum

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## The National Parks: Shaping the System

*Barry Mackintosh, Janet A. McDonnell, and John H. Sprinkle, Jr.*

### **Preface to the fourth edition**

The National Park Service (NPS), in partnership with the George Wright Society (GWS), presents the fourth edition of *The National Parks: Shaping the System* as a special issue of *The George Wright Forum*. The book tells the story of the evolution of the U.S. National Park System. The NPS published three previous editions, in 1985, 1991, and 2004. The majority of this work was crafted by Bureau Historian Barry Mackintosh, who prepared the original text and the first revision. Bureau Historian Janet A. McDonnell updated the text and tables for the 2004 edition and Bureau Historian John H. Sprinkle, Jr. used these foundations to construct this fourth edition, which brings the story current through 2016, the centennial of the National Park Service, and the final days of the Obama administration in January 2017.

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*A full-color map of the National Park System is on pp. 44–45.*