

PEOPLE LAND & WATER



Bully for Bruce Babbitt

Photo by Tami A. Heilemann, ISC

Many thought he would not survive the political tempest. Over the past four years, Secretary Babbitt took on some of the toughest natural resource issues facing the nation, including heavy mining and grazing reform, and came under heavy attack for those initiatives. But with steady conviction and boundless energy, he became a powerful national voice, speaking out for a clean environment, a healthy outdoors, and a marriage of science and management to promote the sustainable development and use of natural resources. He used the Bully

Pulpit for conservation of lands, forests, and wildlife in the tradition of Teddy Roosevelt, the Father of the American Conservation Movement. So, Bully for Bruce Babbitt, as Gregg Patterson of ESPN Outdoors and other national commentators have proclaimed, in recognition of the Secretary's fiercely fought battles and hard won accomplishments

As his second term begins, the Secretary's major agenda items include ensuring the success of a user fee program that will allow some national parks to

retain visitor fees rather than turning the money over to the federal treasury and finding more federal funds to protect fragile public lands and watersheds, especially in the East. In this issue, Secretary Babbitt reflects on some of the Department's major accomplishments (pages 10-11) and discusses one of his priority efforts—the New Forestry (pages 8-9). A photo essay (pages 16-17) captures a unique mission that the Secretary undertook early in the year, as President Clinton's Personal Representative at the inauguration of Nicaragua's new president.

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Washington, D.C. 20240.

People, Land & Water can be found on Interior's
homepage at http://www.doi.gov/doi_plw.html