

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

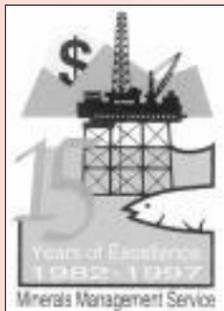
PEOPLE & LAND WATER

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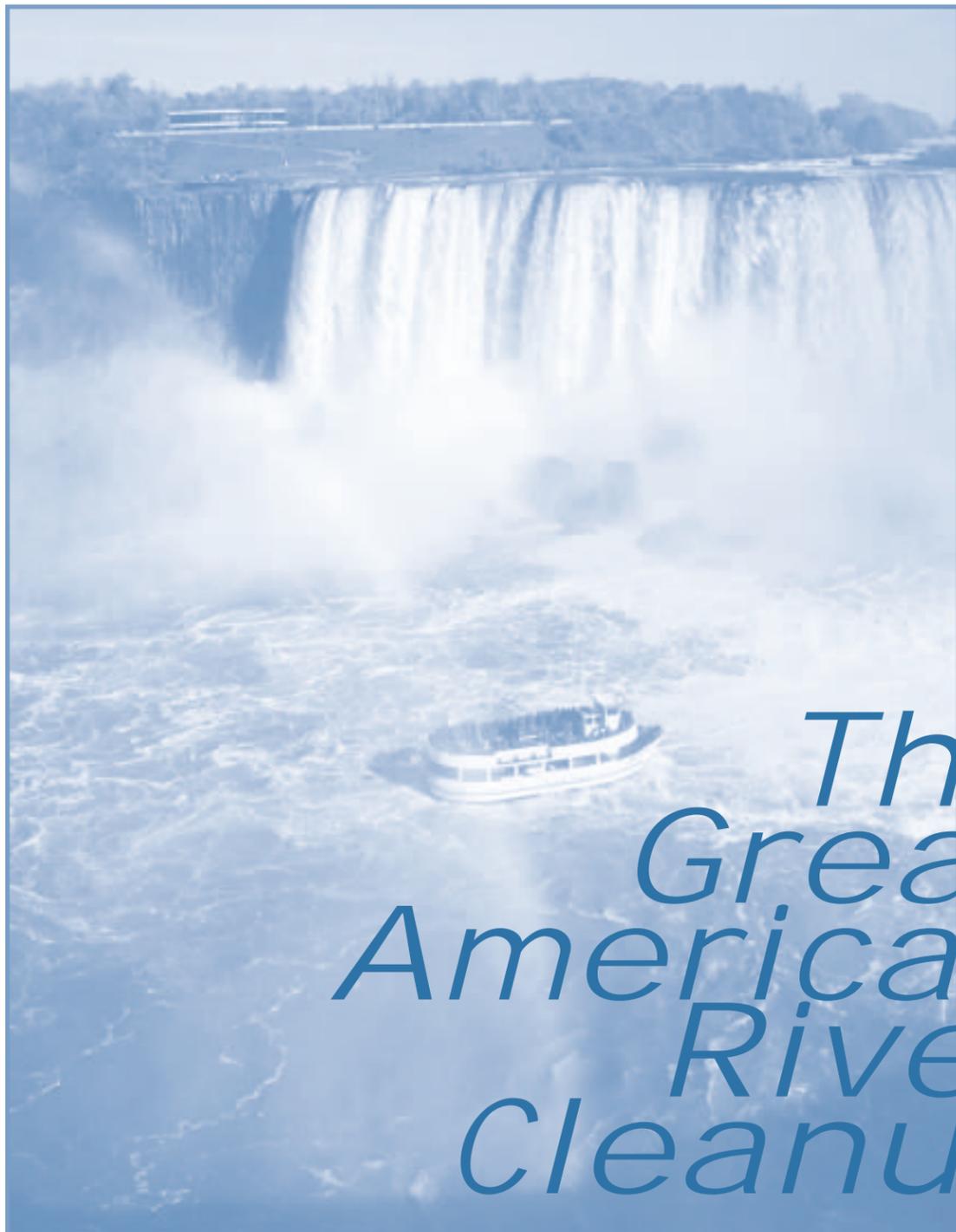


MMS Marks 15th Anniversary, 24

Alaska Land Pacts, 2 & 19



Earth Day Every Day, 6



The Great American River Cleanup

Majestic Niagara Falls, an icon of America's natural heritage, serves as our symbol of the on-going nationwide effort to clean up the nation's rivers and breathe new life into riverfront towns and cities. A new Cabinet-level initiative, the American Heritage Rivers program (pages 10-11), can help communities to revitalize their waterways. Our coverage also looks at the broadest national study to date of the correlation between contaminants and hormone levels in fish, and what that could mean for river wildlife. The findings (page 12) underscore community concern for cleaner rivers. Other articles describe Interior efforts to clean up acid mine drainage in Appalachian watersheds (page 13); fight whirling disease in the West's foremost trout streams (page 22); counter the spread of invasive weeds in riparian areas (pages 9, 21); and help Honduras save its threatened Río Platano Biosphere (pages 16-17).

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Utah attorney Pat Shea looks at issues like a scientist and emphasizes the economic consequences of decisions. He was nominated director of the Bureau of Land Management, 28.

Bureau Bound

Kathy Karpan's a coal miner's daughter and a "no nonsense administrator," as well as a Wyoming state leader, and former journalist. And she's been named to lead the Office of Surface Mining, 15.



The Death of Coral & The Life of Hawks

Pages 8-9



Fish and Wildlife Service raptor specialist Craig Koppie, right, talks with Argentinean Ambassador Raúl Granillo Ocampo about Swainson's Hawks. Photo by Tami Heilemann, ISC



Historic Refuge Legislation Passes House, 32



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NOTABLE QUOTABLES

BLMer Honored for Helping Group Hurt by Oklahoma City Bombing

Theresa Herrera, New Mexico State Office

Laura Stich, a Bureau of Land Management employee, was honored recently by the Federal Executive Board for her commitment to an organization that was almost devastated by the Oklahoma City bombing.



Laura Stich

The explosion at the Alfred P. Murrah Building killed or injured many members of the Oklahoma Inter-Agency Training Council—a group that acts as a clearing house for training programs for government employees. Reconvening the council's meetings was extremely painful for those remaining. However, the group resumed its work 18 months ago.

Stich, who is a support services assistant with BLM's New Mexico-Oklahoma Tulsa District Office, was sent to the Council's meetings to find free or low-cost training for BLM employees. Stich volunteered to be secretary of the newly reformed council.

Laura felt so strongly about this commitment that she drove 250 miles round-trip each month to keep the meetings running, taking the minutes and publicizing free or low cost training offered by other government agencies.

"Laura has been an outstanding employee who has been enthusiastic and willing to do what she can to help her co-workers and other agencies with needed training," said **Tulsa District Manager Jim Sims**. "We're proud of her accomplishments," Sims added.

Stich and another council member launched a similar inter-agency training council in the Tulsa area to provide the same opportunities for agencies located in northeastern Oklahoma. Because of her commitment, several agencies with larger budgets have offered training slots to the Oklahoma BLM employees at no cost.

As many government agencies face declining budgets and lack of funds to offer training to employees, Laura Stich has gone above and beyond her job of bringing free and low-cost training to the BLM Tulsa District employees as well as other government agencies.

MMS Center Honored

Cathy McNish

The Western Administrative Service Center of the Minerals Management Service has received Excellence in Government Awards from the Denver Federal Executive Board. Excellence Medallions went to **Todd Leneau**, of the Service Center's Procurement Branch, and to the Personnel Branch for excellent public service. **Jan Fletcher**, Service Center manager, was also presented a Special Recognition Award for extraordinary customer service.

"This is a win-win for the environment and a win-win for the Kenai Native Association shareholders. The association finally will get to develop its property with \$4.4 million in seed money and the Federal Government will get clear title to important land inside the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, especially the 800-acre Stephanka Track—the crown jewel of the Kenai River Basin."

Deborah Williams, special assistant to Secretary Babbitt for Alaskan affairs, speaking of the signing of an agreement with the **Kenai Natives Association, Inc.**—an Alaskan Native urban corporation—that will protect valuable Kenai River habitat while also allowing the native association to develop its land that had been inside a national wildlife refuge.

The agreement, which uses about \$4.4 million in funds from the Exxon Valdez oil spill settlement, puts into force a land exchange authorized by Congress in the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 and resolves a long-standing land management issue involving the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Story, page 19.



Deborah Williams
Assistant to the Secretary for Alaska

Coleman Named Superintendent of Washington's Rock Creek Park

Adrienne A. Coleman, a 17-year career employee with the National Park Service, has been named superintendent of Rock Creek Park in Washington, D.C. She is only the second woman to hold the job since 1965 when the park became independent.

"Adrienne has strong management skills and works well with community groups," said **Terry R. Carlstrom**, the acting director of the National Capital Regional in making the announcement. "She is very familiar with the issues confronting the park, and her personal knowledge of the community and fluency in Spanish will be extremely valuable in addressing these challenges."

Coleman, who became assistant superintendent of the park in March 1996, has been acting superintendent since the retirement of her predecessor, **William Shields**, in April of this year. During her tenure as assistant superintendent, Coleman led the team that developed a new General Management Plan for the park. As superintendent, she assumes management responsibility for the entire 2,800-acre park, including visitor services, maintenance, resource management, safety, concessions, and administration.

From 1983 until 1996, Coleman worked in the Management Consulting Division of the National Park Service, National Capital Region, becoming division chief in 1990. In that position, she

helped launch more than 200 partnership and interagency agreements designed to support park programs. She also administered more than \$2 million in grants to non-profit organizations in support of National Park Service programs and resource protection activities.

During this period, Coleman coordinated the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Program to improve internship and employment opportunities nationwide for students of those institutions. She also coordinated transition activities for two years prior to the establishment of the Mary McLeod Bethune National Historic Site, Washington, D.C., as a unit of the National Park System.

From 1980 until 1983, Coleman conducted research and analyses of operational components of the 600-member United States Park Police, a unit of the National Park Service headquartered in Washington, D.C. Her prior experience includes service with the National Capital Housing Authority of Washington, D.C., as public information officer and as an administrator in public housing, community development, and urban renewal programs.

Coleman studied sociology while attending Howard University from 1967-1969, and continued her studies at the University of Maryland to obtain a degree in business and management. She, her husband, and son reside in Rockville, Maryland.

Rock Creek Park

Rock Creek Park is one of the largest and oldest urban parks in the country. Established in 1890 under a military control board, it predates by nearly a half century the birth of the National Park Service as an agency under the Department. The system of "roadways and bridle paths...and footways for pedestrians" envisioned by its founders in Congress quickly became a reality and has been enjoyed ever since by generations of Washingtonians.

Today's Rock Creek Park, which became independent of the military control board and other national parks in 1965, has some 30 picnic areas, several playgrounds, 25 hard- and soft-surfaced tennis courts, a golf course, and many miles of nature trails, horse trails, and bike paths. The park, including its nature center, historic Pierce Mill and Carter-Baron Amphitheater, attracts nearly two million annually.

Watersheds



First of Its Kind Book

Marian Hansson, left, the first American Indian Fellow at the Smithsonian Institution, compiled a milestone publication on the Smithsonian's Kiowa collections. Wearing a blue Kiowa cloth dress, Hansson is shown with Georgette Palmer and Palmer's daughter at the American Indian Exposition in Anadarko, Oklahoma. Page 7.



Father of Big Bend Ranch

Bob Armstrong has become only the third individual to win the prestigious Conservation Lifetime Achievement Award from the Nature Conservancy of Texas, Page 25.

Colorado River Water for Mexico

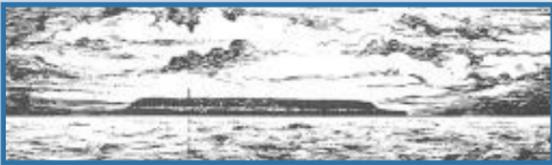
This year's high flows on the Colorado River will allow the United States to allocate an additional 200,000 acre-feet of water to Mexico, bringing that country's total delivery to 1.7 million acre-feet for 1997. Other topics at the Colorado River summit meeting with Mexican officials centered on sedimentation buildup at Morelos Dam and boundary issues caused by changes in the river channel. Page 26.

Balanced Budget Agreement



A proposal that would balance the federal budget—for the first time in a generation—would protect natural resource and heritage preservation programs at current levels for five years. Page 5.

OIA's Mystery Isle



A former pirates lair and scene of a murderous labor revolt, Navassa Island—a dry spec of land off the coast of Haiti in the Caribbean Sea—is placed under Interior's jurisdiction. Page 30.



Pulling Together in the War on Weeds

A coalition of public and private sector groups has developed the first nationwide integrated strategy to address a major national environmental and economic problem—the rapid spread of destructive non-native weeds that threatens native plant species and destroys fish and animal habitats. Page 21.

BLM Milwaukee Office Joins Educational Fishing

Jim Boylan, Milwaukee District Public Affairs

Participants in the annual **Fishing Has No Boundaries** event in Hayward, Wisconsin, display their catch after a pretty good day on the water. BLM, Eastern States, Milwaukee District employees participated in the tenth anniversary event on May 16-18. The program is an educational, non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to opening up the great outdoors to disabled individuals throughout the world.



We'd Rather be.....FISHING!

Geoff Walsh, Eastern States Wildlife Biologist

Thirty youngsters from Washington, D.C.'s Miner Elementary School enjoyed a day filled with fishing and environmental fun in the sun during BLM Eastern States' **Kids Fishing Day 1997** at the Occoquan Regional Park in northern Virginia.

Kids Fishing Day, which Eastern States has sponsored since 1991, brought together volunteers from local community organizations, state, and federal governments to teach outdoor ethics and environmental responsibility to fourth and fifth grade youngsters from Miner Elementary—Eastern States' adopted school.

Organizers solicited support from area merchants such as Giant Food, Safeway, Shoppers Food Warehouse, Pepsi Cola, Coca-Cola, Bagel Gourmet, and Utz Quality Foods for refreshments for the kids and volunteers.

The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority donated the use of the park and waived licensing and parking fees for participants. About 40 fishermen from Virginia Region I BASS (Bass Anglers and Sportsman Society) generously donated

their time and their boats to give the kids an on-the-water experience not readily available to children who live in the city.

Congressman Tom Davis from Virginia's 11th district, Park Authority Executive Director **Walter Mess**, BLM Deputy Director **Mat Millenbach**, and Eastern States Director **Pete Culp** kicked off the April 29 activities with brief welcomes and reminders to be safe and have fun!

The *Pathways to Fishing* educational seminar stations were strategically set up along the river's edge. The kids learned about water safety, the proper way to handle fish, and how to tie fishing knots. The site provided a great place for the kids to practice their casting skills before boarding boats for about two hours of fishing. Although some of the youngsters returned to dry land with nary a nibble, a few lucky first-time anglers proudly displayed their catches before releasing their fish back into the Occoquan River.

After lunch, activities included building blue bird houses for the park and viewing a red-tailed hawk provided by the National Zoo for special environmental events.

Gateway Staffers Honored

Several members of the Gateway National Recreation Area staff were honored by the New York Federal Executive Board during its recent public service recognition awards ceremony.

Kevin C. Buckley, the general superintendent, won the distinguished executive award; **Vernon Butler**, maintenance mechanic supervisor, and **Charles Pellicane**, director of planning and professional services, received the outstanding supervisor award; and **Mary Gibson Scott**, superintendent, **Jeanette Parker**, assistant superintendent, and the **Staten Island Unit** won the distinguished team award.

Buckley was recognized for his accomplishments as superintendent of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island and for his accomplishments since becoming general superintendent of Gateway National Recreation Area in 1990. Butler was recognized "for getting the job done, not only before schedule but generally at substantial cost savings to the government."

Pellicane's award results from "hard work, dedication, and initiative, and for community service." In addition to his full time supervisory role at Gateway, Pellicane and his wife Irene are actively involved in fund-raising for Korean orphans, supervise a church kitchen, and cook for the homeless on Long Island.

The Staten Island Unit was singled out for its technical, talent, and communication skills and flexibility as well as its creativity in the face of unforeseen circumstances which provided New York with its newest Park Service site, Fort Wadsworth.

The winners were selected from a Federal Executive Board panel of more than 100 nominees from all federal agencies in the New York area. The awards were presented by **James K. Kallstrom**, assistant director in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at a ceremony aboard the *U.S.S. Intrepid* in Manhattan on May 7.