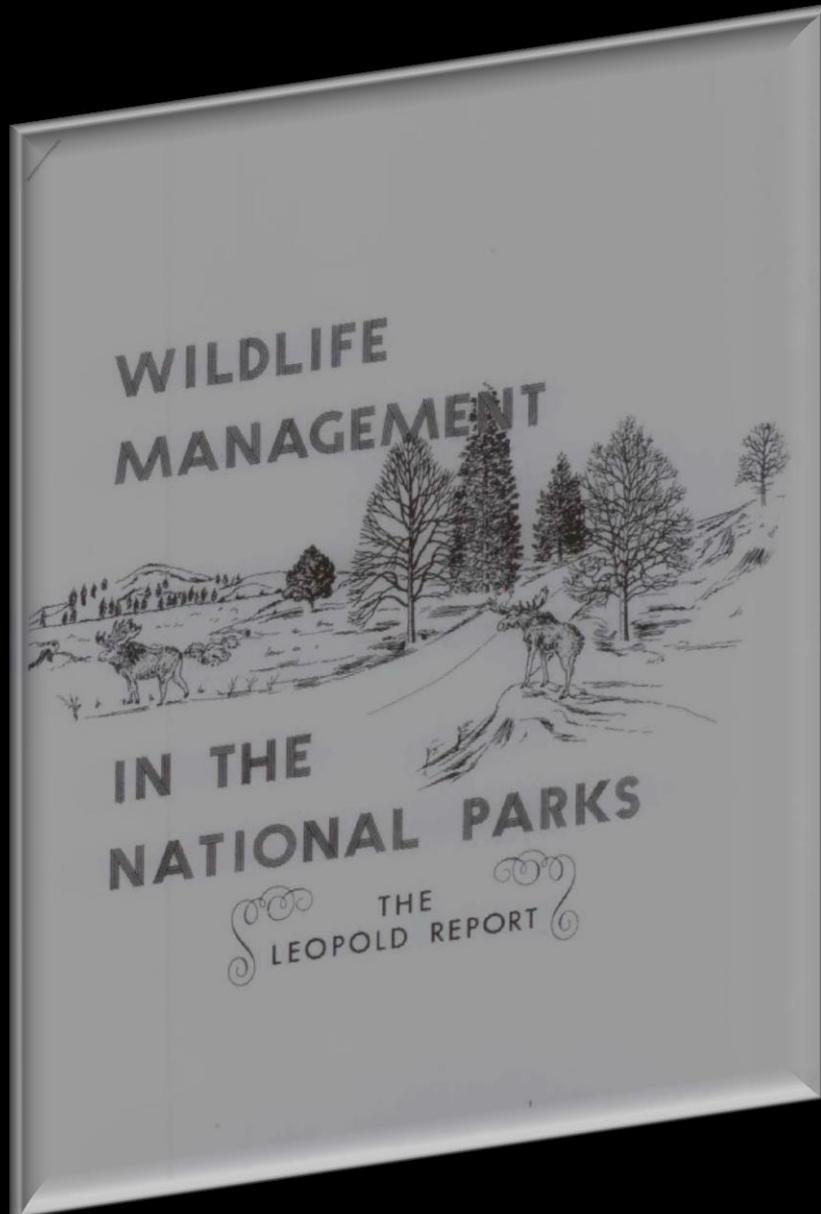




Science, Resource Stewardship, and the Parks

World Parks Congress
Sydney, Australia
18 November
G. Machlis
US National Park Service
Clemson University





“The Leopold Report”
1963

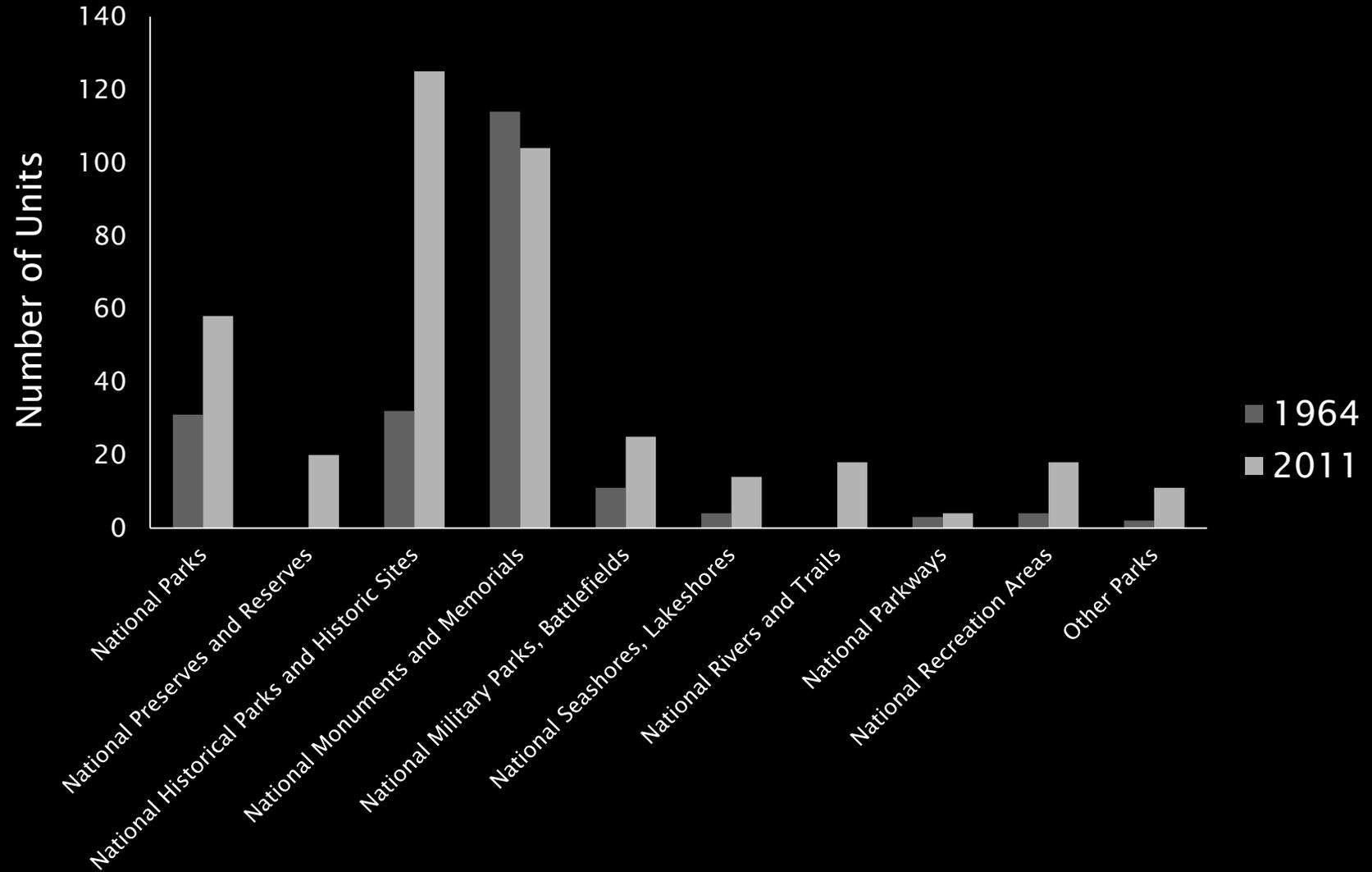


“... A national park
should present a
vignette of primitive
America.”

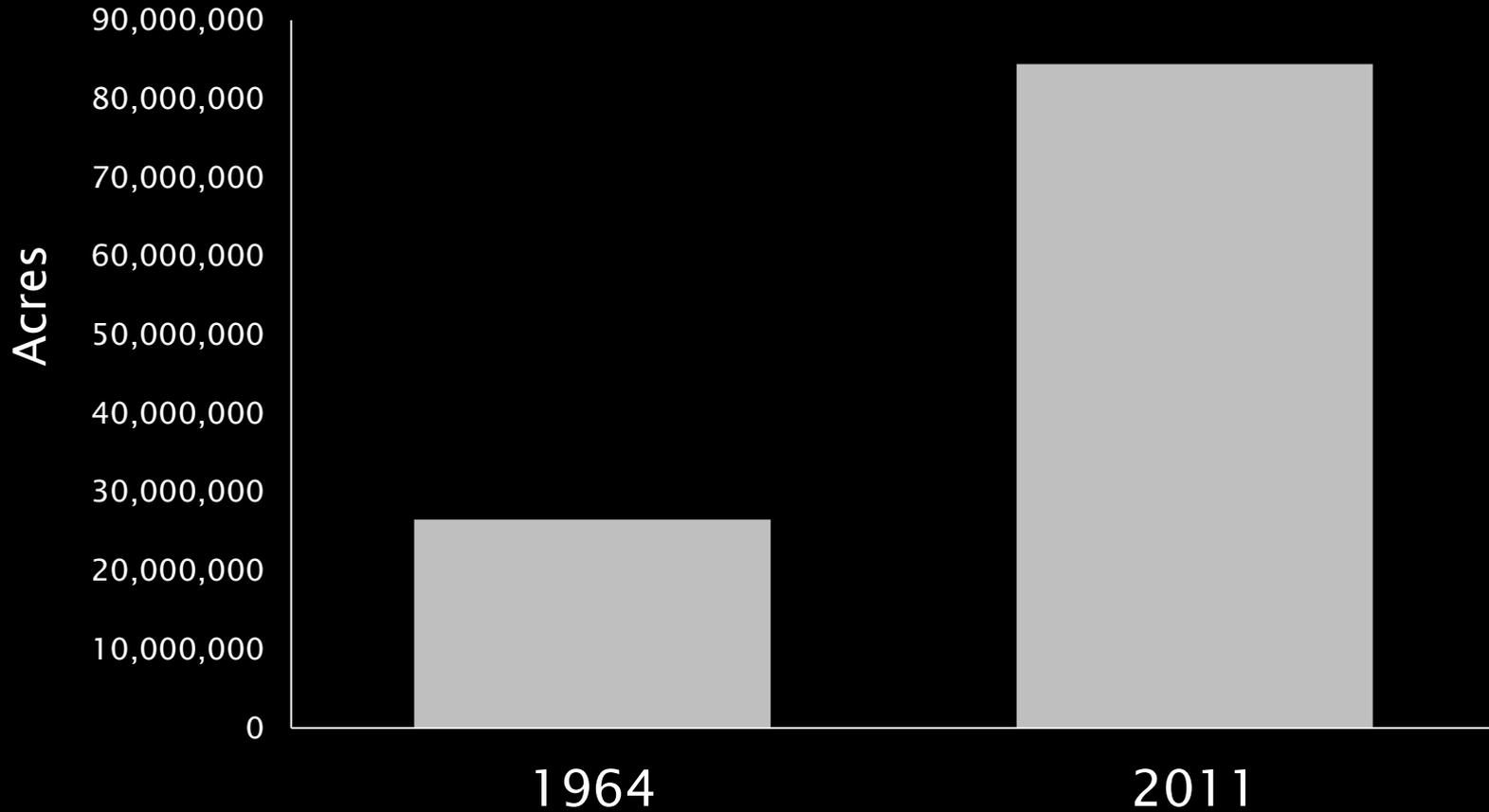
Yet, much has changed since 1963...



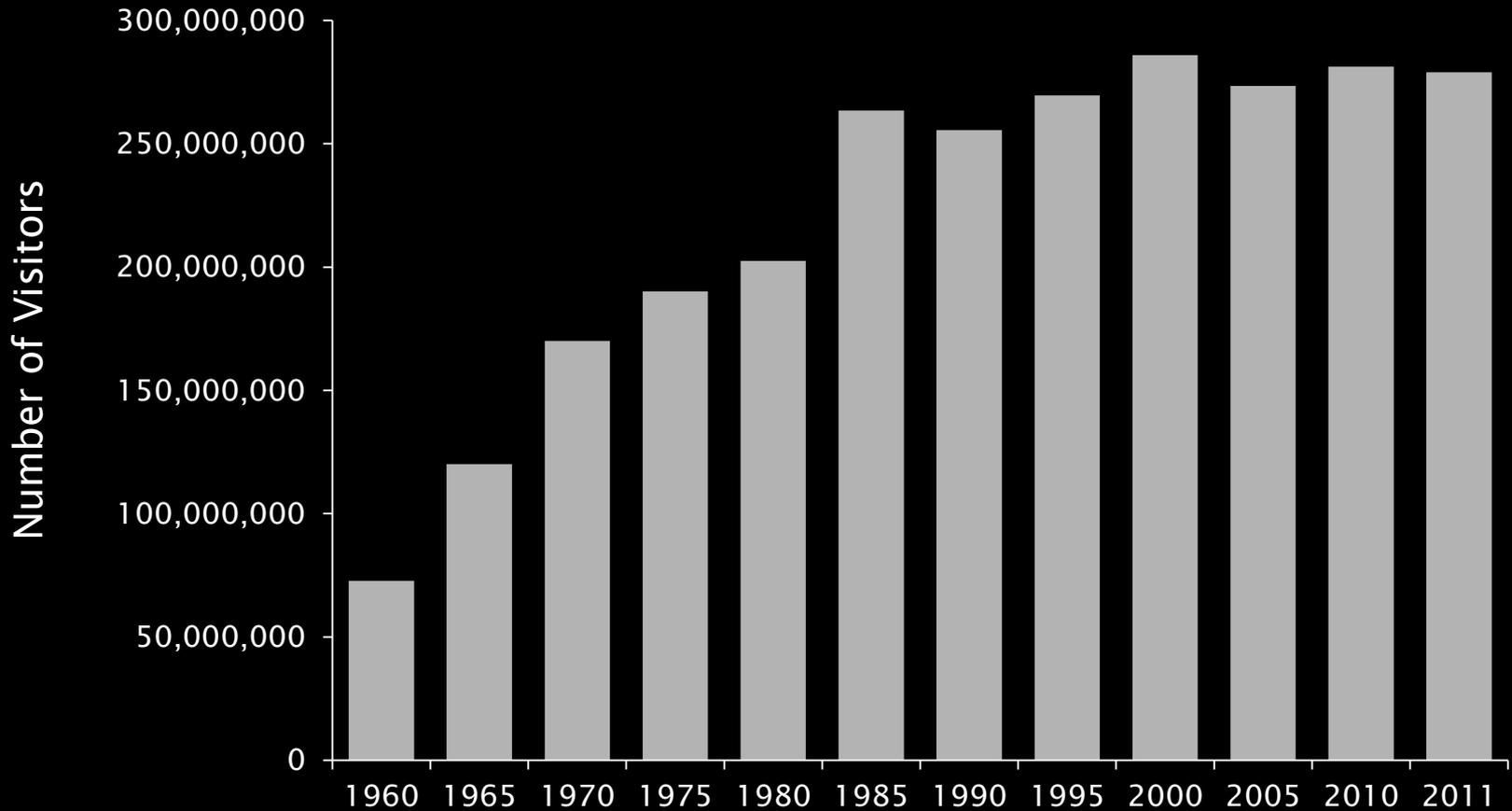
National Park System Units



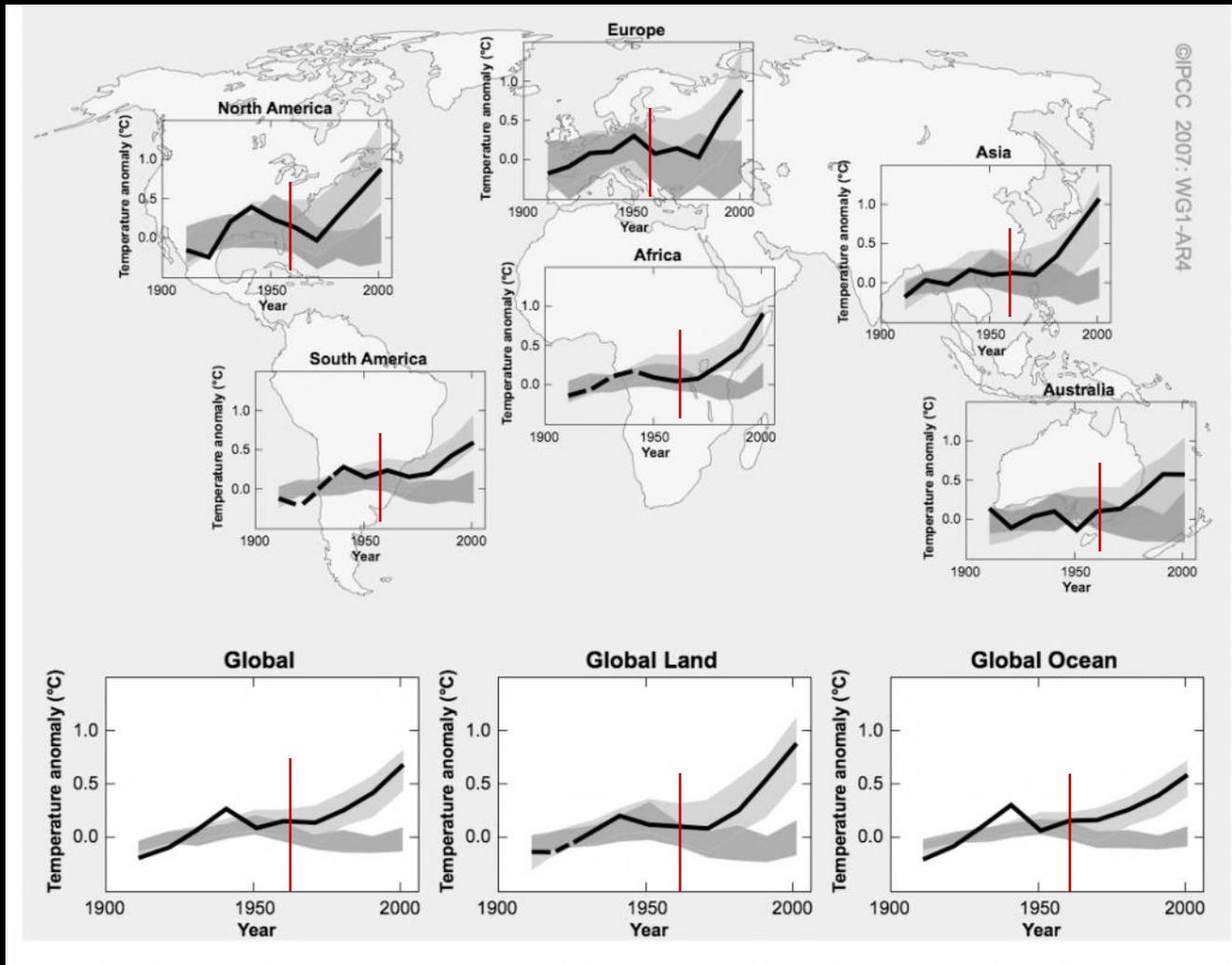
National Park System Acreage 1964 and 2011



Visitors to the National Park System



Global and Continental Temperature Change





1910



1997

Grinnell Glacier
Glacier National Park,
1910-1997

Conservation Biology

Volume 26, Number 2, April 2012



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VOLUME 24 NUMBER 4 NOVEMBER 2009

JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY





“I would ask that the Science Committee undertake a critically important task: to revisit the Leopold Report, and report back to me their findings.”

—Jon Jarvis, Director
National Park Service
27 June 2011

National Park System Advisory Board Science Committee



Rita Colwell, Chair

Susan Avery

Joel Berger

Gary Davis

Healy Hamilton

Thomas Lovejoy

Shirley Malcom

Ann McMullen

Michael Novacek

Richard J. Roberts

Richard Tapia

Gary Machlis, NPS Liaison

Key Findings of the Committee ...





“Environmental changes confronting the National Park System are widespread, complex, accelerating, and volatile.”

Revisiting Leopold, p. 4



“Natural and cultural
resource management
must occur
simultaneously and, in
general,
interdependently.”

Revisiting Leopold, p. 9

Key Recommendations of the Committee ...



“The overarching goal of NPS resource management should be

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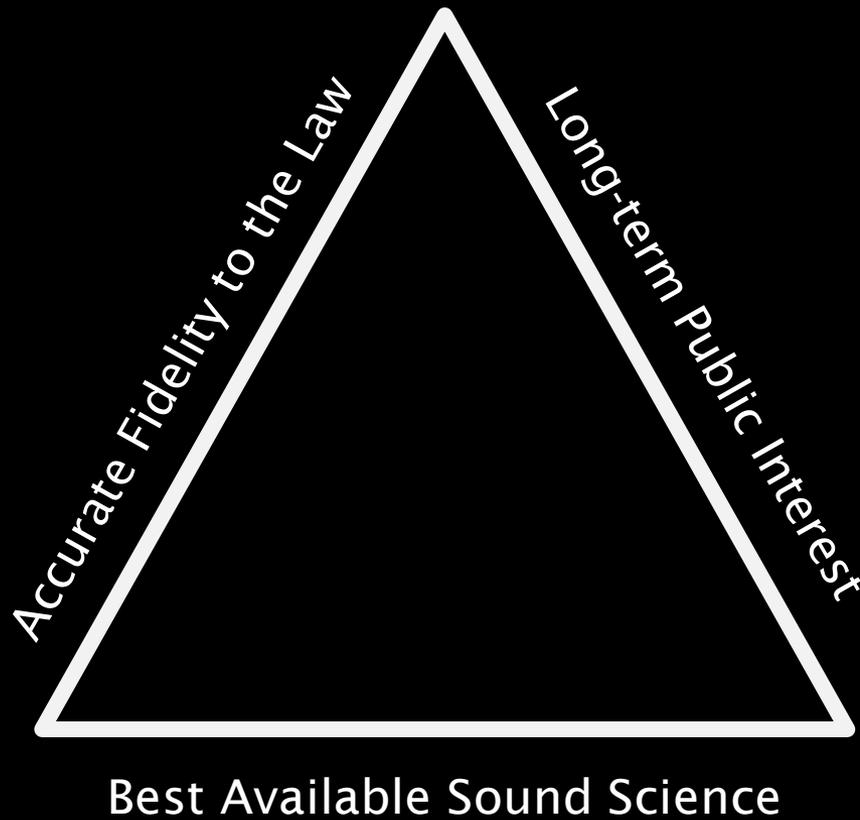
“The overarching goal of NPS resource management should be to steward NPS resources for continuous change that is not yet fully understood, in order to preserve ecological integrity and cultural and historical authenticity, provide visitors with transformative experiences,

“The overarching goal of NPS resource management should be to steward NPS resources for continuous change that is not yet fully understood, in order to preserve ecological integrity and cultural and historical authenticity, provide visitors with transformative experiences, and form the core of a national conservation land– and seascape.”



“The precautionary principle requires that stewardship decisions reflect science-informed prudence and restraint.”

Revisiting Leopold, p. 15



“The NPS needs a specific and explicit policy for park stewardship and decision making based on the *best available science, accurate fidelity to the law, and long-term public interest.*”

Revisiting Leopold, p. 17



The 2016 NPS
Centennial
“...provides a critical
benchmark for
progress in meeting
this enduring
responsibility.”

Revisiting Leopold, p. 23



From
Recommendations
to Policy
and
Action



Thanks to:

National Park Service
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National Park System Advisory Board
and its Science Committee

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Graphic communications assistance, Nina Chambers

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