



Thomas Moran, *The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone*, 1872

*"National Parks are the Best Idea  
we ever had. Absolutely American,  
Absolutely democratic, they  
reflect us at our best rather than  
at our worst."  
- Wallace Stegner*

# WE'RE ON A MISSION

What do you know about our  
national parks?

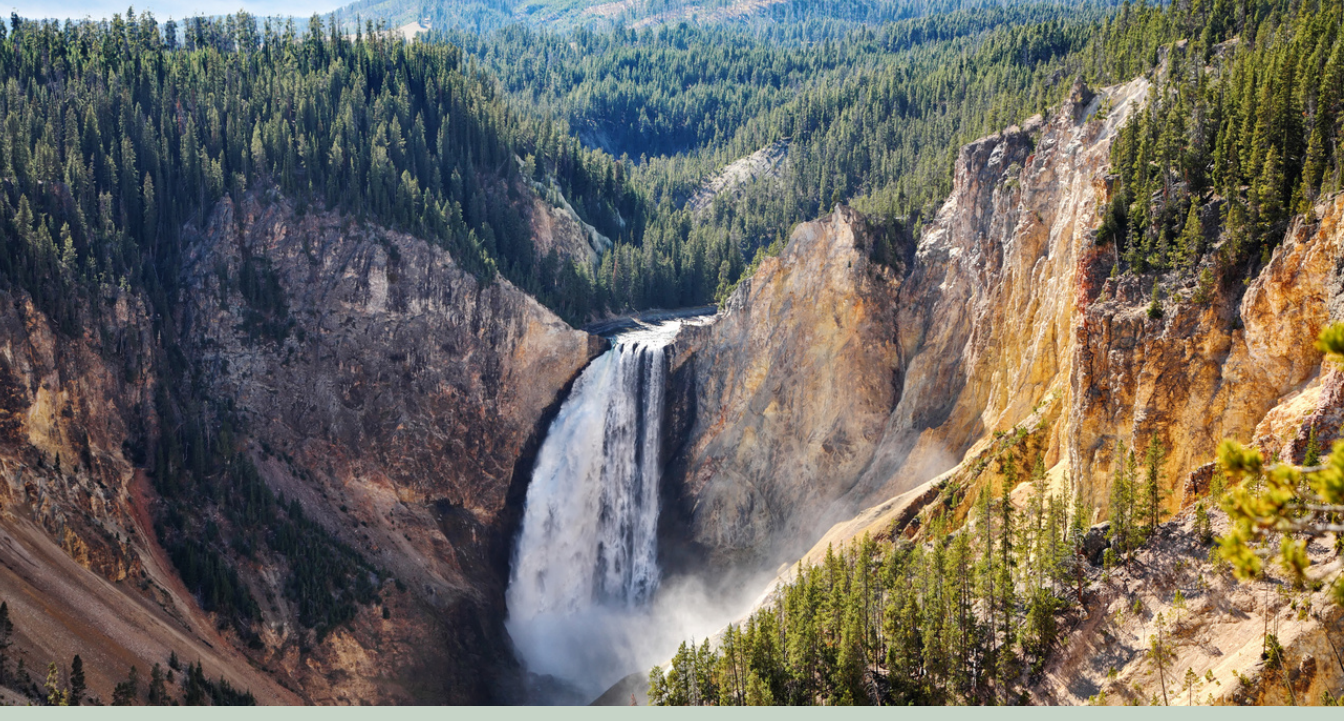


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**1672**

Construction of the Castillo de San Marcos begins

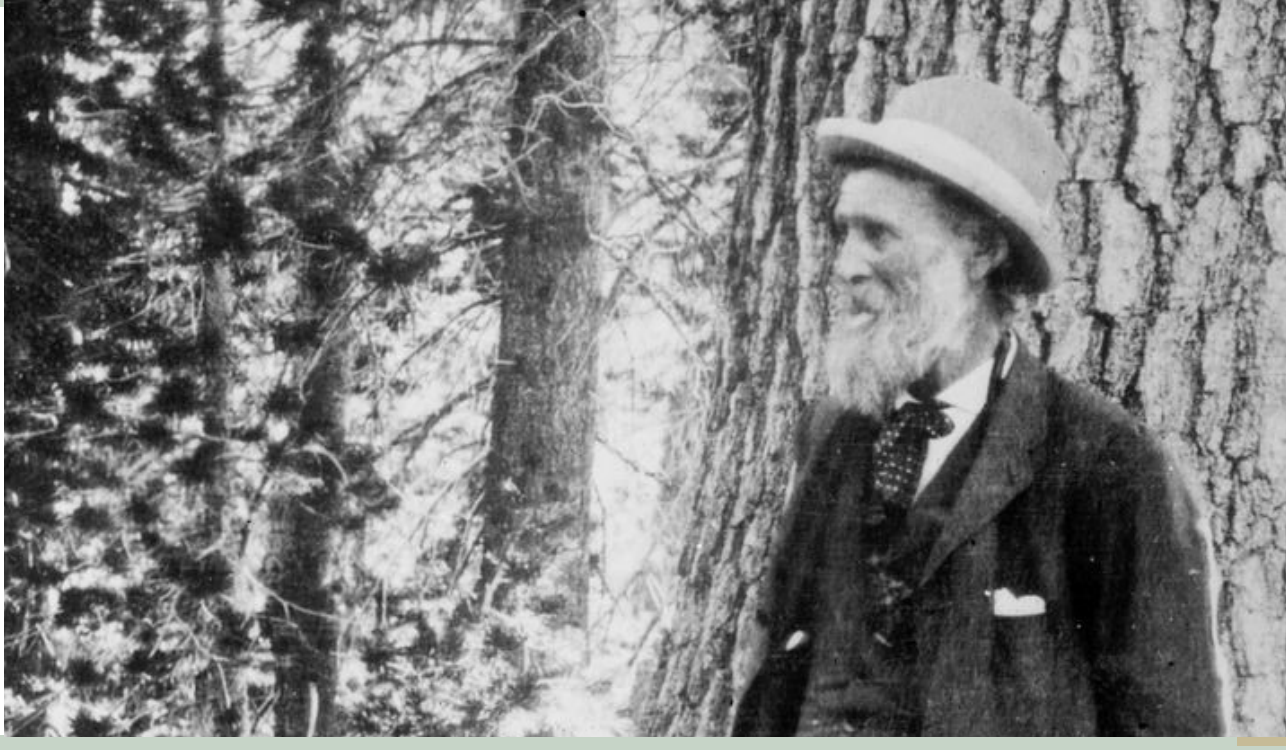


Yellowstone is established as one of America's first National Parks.

**1872**

**1890**

Yosemite is established as a National Park.



John Muir, an early parks advocate, publishes Our National Parks.

**1901**

**1916**

The National Park Service is officially created.



Ownership of the Castillo is transferred to the NPS

**1933**

**1947**

Everglades National Park is established right here in Florida



**Which events do you think were important in the formation of national parks?**

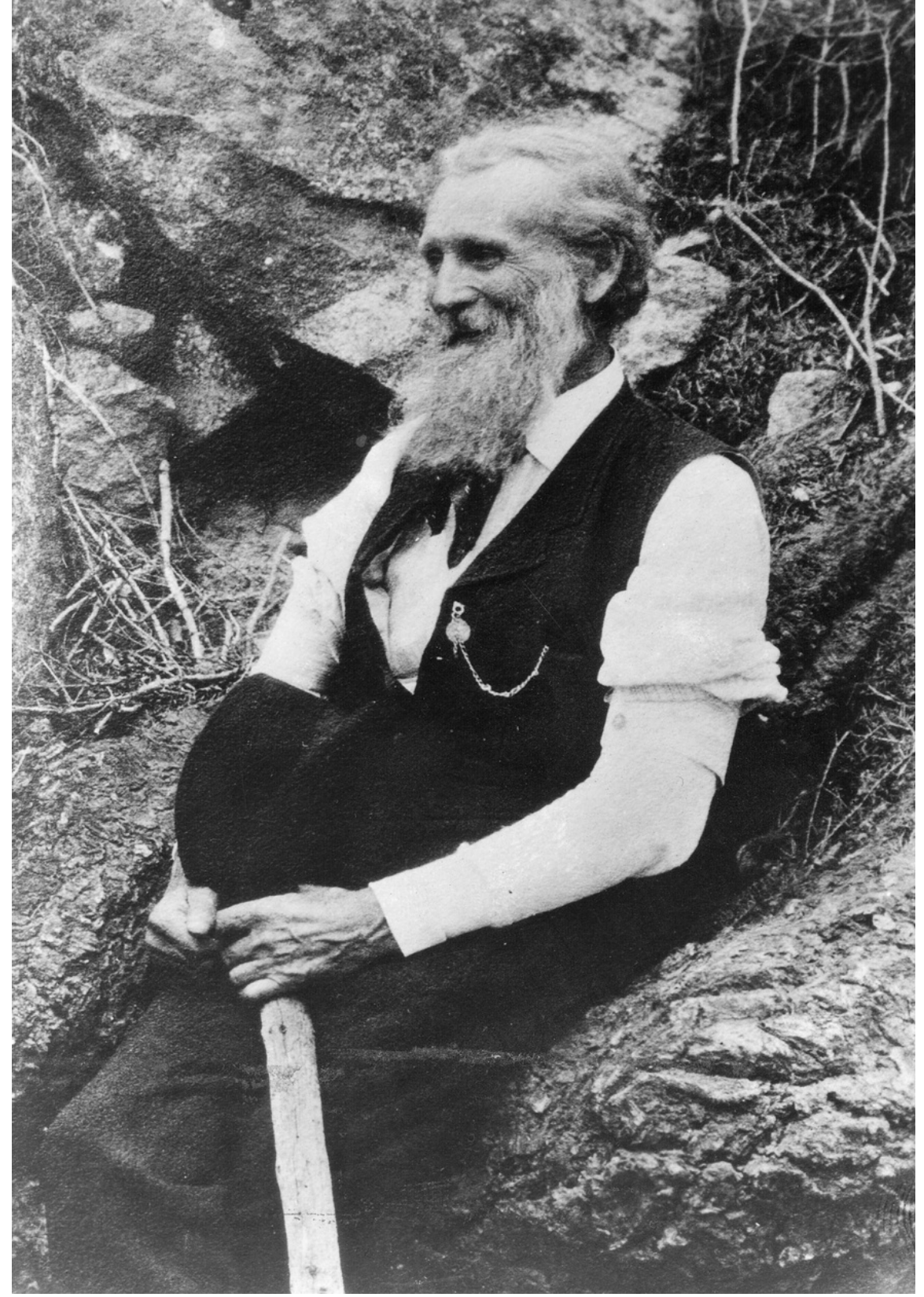
# PARK HEROES

## JOHN MUIR

At the end of the nineteenth century, he envisioned preserving wild western lands before settlement and industry could spoil them. His poetic words spread the idea of nature appreciation:

"Nature is ever at work building and pulling down, creating and destroying, keeping everything whirling and flowing, allowing no rest but in rhythmical motion, chasing everything in endless song out of one beautiful form into another."

**Mission: Preserve America's grand landscapes.**



## MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS

In her 1947 bestseller *Everglades: River of Grass*, she brought awareness to the importance of Florida's Everglades as an environmental resource. When South Florida developers wanted to drain the swamps and pave over the cypress trees, Douglas rallied for the area to be established as a national park.

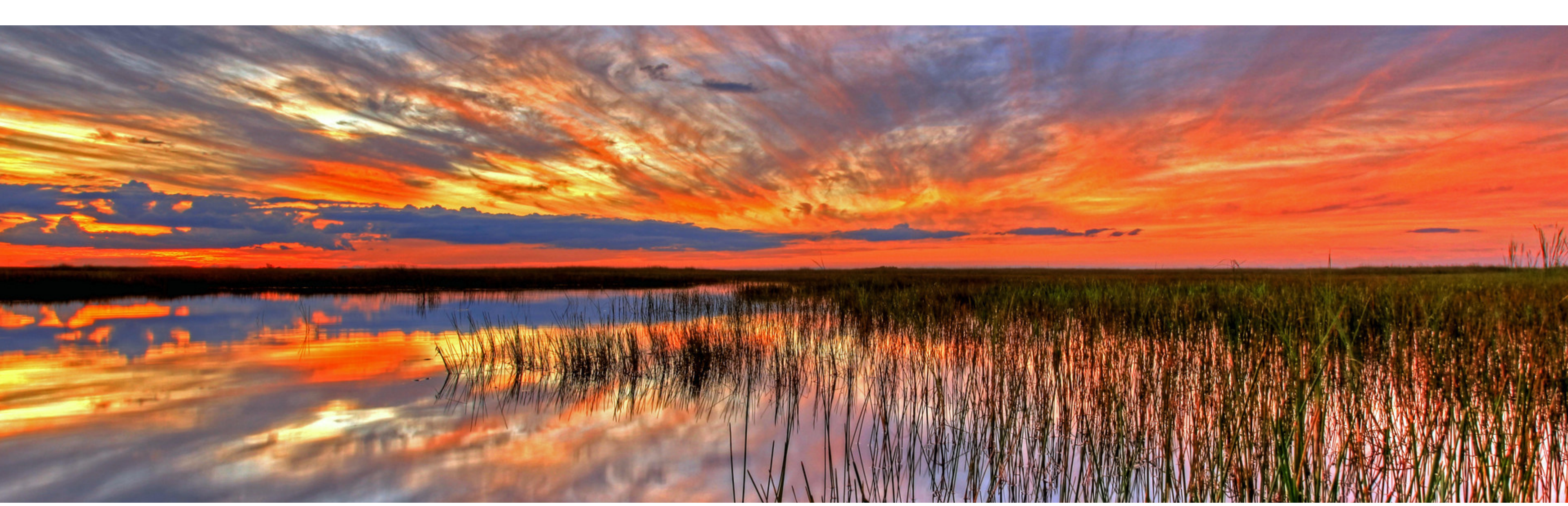
**Mission: Spread the word of the Everglades.**

## TODAY'S RANGERS

Rangers of the National Park Service--like Betty Reid Soskin--have maintained parks around the nation for more than a century. While the job's requirements have changed alongside America's development, the spirit of nature appreciation and historic preservation remains the same.

**Mission: To keep our parks alive!**





# MISSION: PROTECTION

*"Let us pledge our lives and fortunes to aid the great task of Earth's rejuvenation, and with confidence and faith, each do our part as trustee of Earth to take charge and take care of our planet." - John McConnell*

Within our national parks, there is an abundance of diversity. Over the years, ecologists have tried to understand how people and other animals affect the sublime lands that are held close to people's hearts. From the tip of Florida, to the Rocky Mountain, and even overseas, ecological management helps to conserve these unique landscapes.

**What does  
preservation mean  
to you?**



Photo by Jim Carr



Photo by Phil Doherty

# PRESERVATION IN PARKS

## EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

This park protects the southern 20% of Florida's original everglades and is the largest wilderness of any kind east of the Mississippi River. An average of one million people visit the park each year. Most national parks preserve unique geographic features but Everglades National Park was the first created to protect the fragile wetland ecosystem.

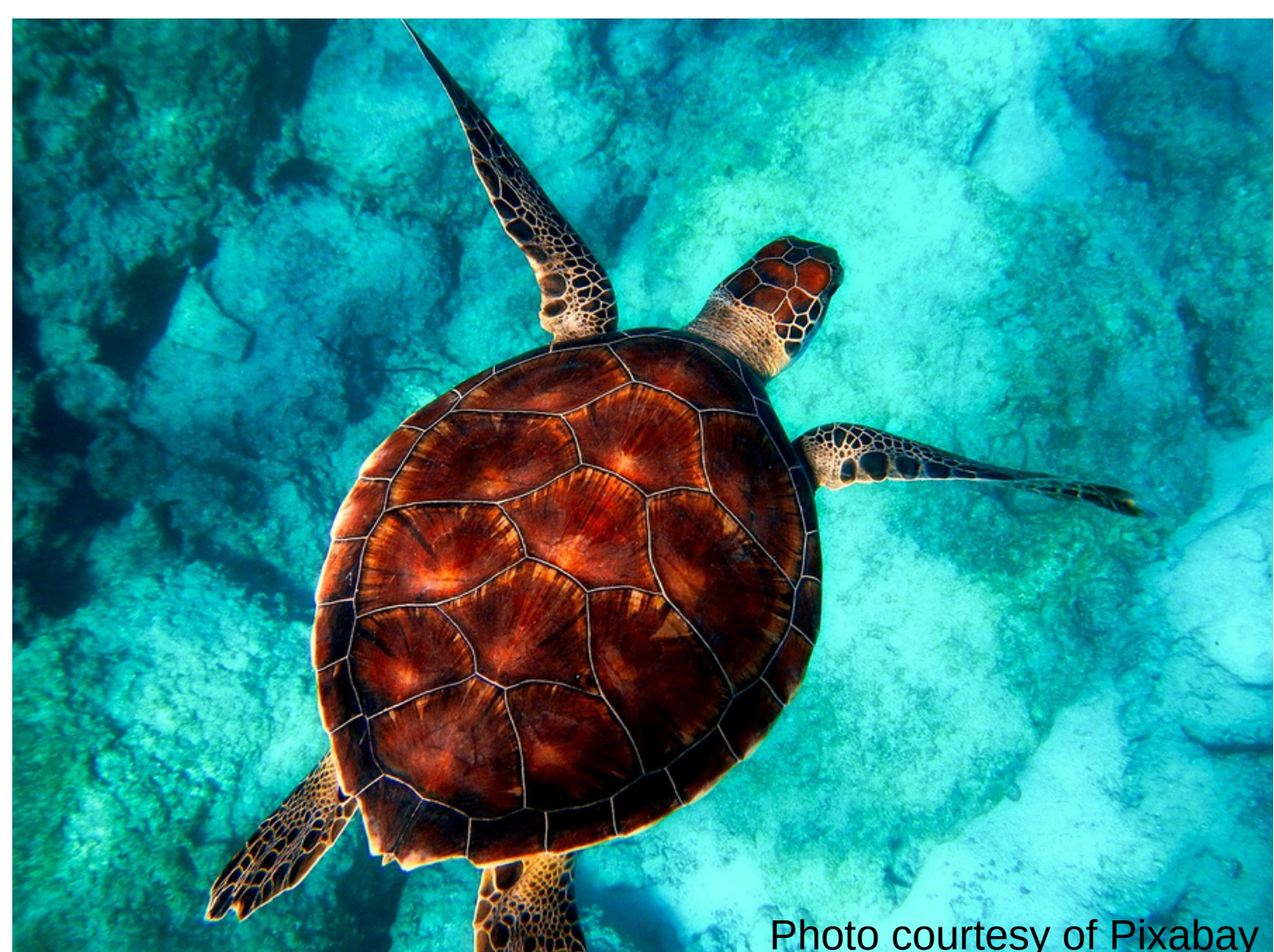


## AMERICAN BISON

Some 30 million bison once roamed the continent. In the late 1800s, they were almost entirely eliminated due to over hunting. People like William Temple Hornaday and Theodore Roosevelt joined together to stop the destruction of the American Bison. Today the last free-roaming specimens are found in Yellowstone.

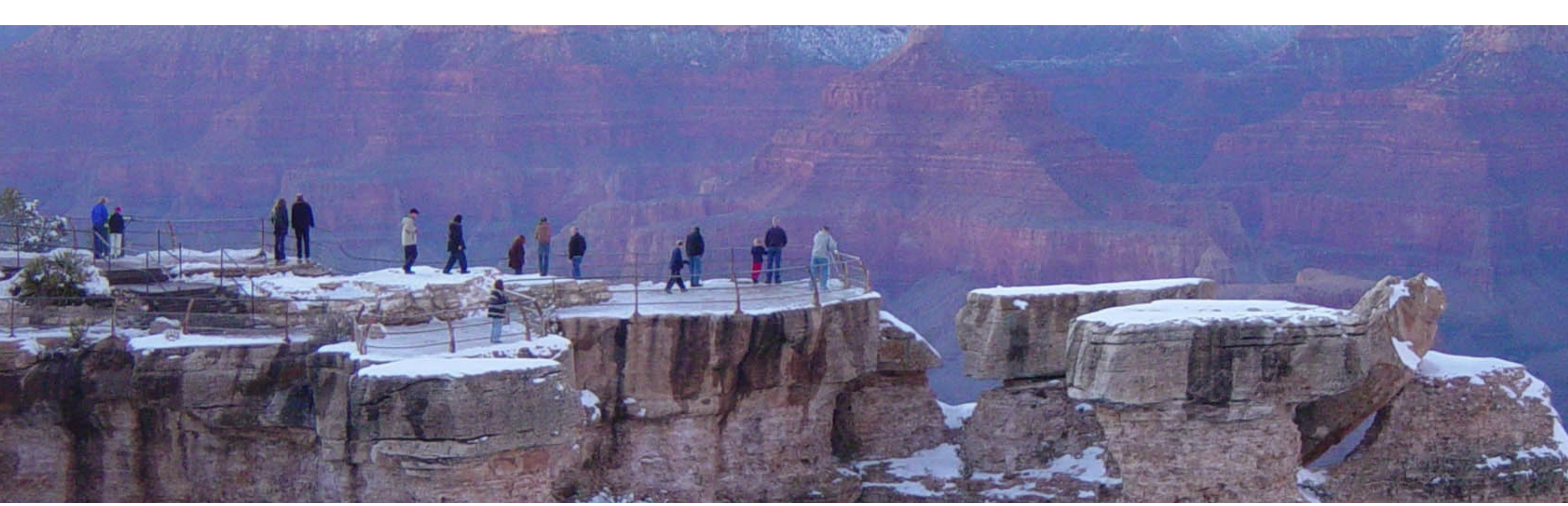
## SEA TURTLES

Florida's three species of sea turtle-- Leatherback, Green, and Loggerhead-- are classified as vulnerable and/or endangered due in part to predators, commercial fishing nets, and ingestion of plastics. Conservation projects include sea turtle hospitals, as well as the use of citizen scientists to scan beaches for nests and block them off from harm.



## MARSICAN BROWN BEARS

Internationally, the preservation of species is an important issue addressed by national parks of other nations. In Italy's National Park of Abruzzo healthy populations of the Marsican brown bear are an example of how international preservation works through partnerships with organizations like the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).



# MISSION: TOURISM

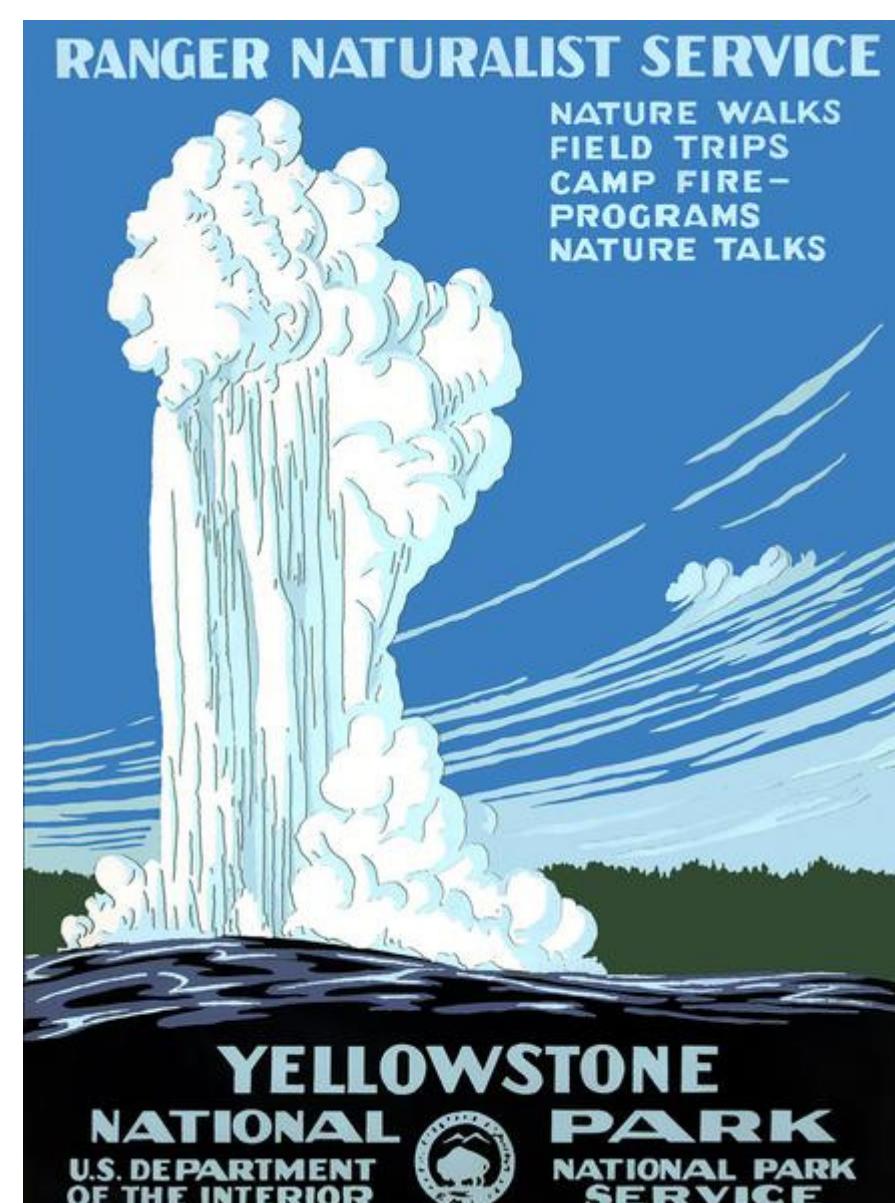
*"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul." -John Muir*

When national parks first opened, tourism increased public awareness and provided a revenue stream. Infrastructure like railways and hotels, then later roads, gave tourists a brand new way to experience nature that had been previously unreachable. Our parks continue to offer recreational activities for visitors to experience their beauty.

**What is your favorite way to visit parks?**



Old Faithful Inn, 1904





# OUR CHALLENGES

*"In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks."*

*- John Muir*

While enriching the lives of many generations, national parks are accompanied by certain challenges and controversies. No institution is without its disputes and setbacks and the NPS is no different. From development and boundary issues, to displaced people and public safety, national parks have confronted challenges to public support.

**What other trials have and are impacting parks?**



Yosemite Indian Susan McGowan and Sadie Paiutes

ged of gold cuffbuttons with the United States seal in raised enamel.

→ Nature Lovers on Hand for Conflict

No. Nature Lovers on Hand for Conflict

John Muir Will Be Among Those Opposing Hetch-Hetchy Water Plan.

Special Dispatch to the "Chronicle."

WASHINGTON, June 24.—"Nature lovers" began to arrive here today to take part in the hearing which begins before the Public Lands Committee tomorrow on the Hetch-Hetchy water bills. All of them will oppose the bill on the grounds that the Hetch-Hetchy reservoir will destroy the natural beauty of the valley.

John Muir, chief of the "nature lovers," telegraphed Chairman Ferris of the committee that he would be on hand. Secretary of the Interior Lane is expected to be the first witness before the commission tomorrow and he will probably make a favorable recommendation on the bill.

SIX AFTER ONE OFFICE

Dangerous alligators are created by people. It is illegal to feed any wildlife. 36 CFR 2.2

*"The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page." - Saint Augustine*

# WHAT WILL YOUR MISSION BE?



This has been a project of the Flagler College Public History Program.

Thank you to the Castillo de San Marcos and Fort Matanzas National Monuments, especially ranger Amelia Vela.

All photos have been courtesy of the National Park Service, unless otherwise indicated.



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