The national park idea, the best idea we ever had, was inevitable as soon as Americans learned to confront the wild continent not with fear and cupidity but with delight, wonder, and awe.

– Wallace Stegner
The Stegner Center’s nineteenth annual symposium will focus on the topic “National Parks: Past, Present, and Future.” The symposium seeks to explore the past, present, and future of the national park system. It has been nearly a century since Congress passed the National Parks Organic Act of 1916, giving legal expression to the idea of a national park system and the National Park Service to oversee it. Much has happened since then; the system has grown to encompass more than 400 units that extend across all fifty states and cover more than 84 million acres. Roughly 280 million people visit our national parks annually, and the national park idea now reaches across the globe. Although much beloved, the national parks face significant challenges that include seasonal visitation pressures, incompatible recreational demands, intense political and economic pressures from adjoining communities, potentially destructive external development activities (including climate change), an aging and non-diverse visitor pool, and diminished financial support. And yet another issue is whether and how the system should grow in the future. The Stegner Center symposium aims to examine and to untangle these matters to ensure future generations continue to enjoy our remarkable national park system.

**Past and Future Yellowstones: Finding Our Way in Wonderland**

**Wednesday, March 26, 12:15 p.m.**

University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law Sutherland Moot Courtroom

Free and open to the public. No registration required. Lunch provided. 1 hour CLE (pending)

Paul Schullery began his conservation career in 1972 as a ranger-naturalist in Yellowstone National Park and has held several other positions in the park, including historian-archivist, chief of cultural resources, and senior editor in the Yellowstone Center for Resources. He is the author, co-author, or editor of more than 40 books, including *Mountain Time* (1984); *Searching for Yellowstone* (1997); *Lewis and Clark Among the Grizzlies* (2002); *Myth and History in the Creation of Yellowstone National Park* (with Lee Whittlesey, 2003); and *This High, Wild Country* (2010).

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Bob Keller is the Wallace Stegner Professor of Law, University Distinguished Professor, and founding Director of the Wallace Stegner Center for Land, Resources and the Environment at the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law. He has served on the boards of the National Parks Conservation Association, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, the Sonoran Institute, and the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation. In 2008, the National Parks Conservation Association honored him with its National Parks Achievement Award. His books include Is Conserving Unpaid: The Evolution of the National Park Idea (2013); Keeping Faith with Nature: Ecosystems, Democracy, and America’s Public Lands (2003); Reclaiming the Nature Home of Hope: Community, Ecology, and the West (1998); and The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem: Redeﬁning America’s Wilderness Heritage (1991).

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The national parks are physical remnants of our past—great scenic and natural places that continue to evolve, repositories of outstanding recreational opportunities, classrooms of our heritage, and the legacy we have to future generations—and they warrant the highest standard of protection.

— National Park Service (2006)
Speakers – Thursday, March 27

**National Parks and the Course of Modern American History**


**Understanding the Legal and Policy Framework**

Robert Fischman is a professor at both the law school and the school of public and environmental affairs at Indiana University—Bloomington. Before joining the Indiana faculty in 1992, he taught at the University of Wyoming College of Law and served as Natural Resources Program Director and Staff Attorney at the Environmental Law Institute in Washington, D.C. He has taught in the environmental law programs at both Vermont Law School and Lewis and Clark School of Law. Professor Fischman has also been a senior research scholar at Yale Law School. His scholarship focuses on public land management, wildlife conservation, federalism, environmental impact analysis, adaptive management, and global climate change. Fischman's books include *The Natural Wildlife Refuges: Coordinating a Conservation System Through Law and Federal Public Land & Resources Law.*

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Patricia Gade is a Research Analyst for Headwaters Economics, where she specializes in research on economics, land use, and land management. She has published research findings on topics including the economic value of protected lands, the drivers of wildfire suppression costs, the impacts of energy specialization, and the effects of development patterns on wildlife populations and ecosystems. She is an enthusiast of the scientific method and the use of empirical data and quantitative approaches to answer questions about community development and land management decisions in the West.

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Destry Jarvis has spent the past 43 years working professionally in the parks, recreation, historic preservation, and youth service fields, in senior positions for non-profit associations, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and as a for-profit consultant. For the past eleven years, Mr. Jarvis has conducted high level consulting in policy and management of units of the national park system, cooperative land use planning at the local, state and federal levels, preservation of farmland and open spaces, public lands natural and cultural resources management, tourism marketing and policy, historic preservation, and recreation programs, carrying capacity determinations, agri- and eco-tourism, appropriate development in public parks, Politics, and Partnerships. Jarvis’ books include *Understanding the Legal and Policy Framework.*

**Innitude— The Bright Edge—Photographs and Stories from the National Parks**

Stephen Trimpke has received numerous awards for his photography, his non-fiction, and his fiction, including: The Sierra Club’s Ansel Adams Award for photography and conservation; The National Cowboy Museum’s Western Heritage “Wrangler” Award; a Wallace Stegner Centennial Fellowship at the University of Utah Tanner Humanities Center; and a Doctor of Humane Letters from his alma mater, Colorado College, honoring his efforts to increase our understanding of Western landscapes and peoples. As writer, editor, and photographer, Trimpke has published more than 20 books, including *Bagpussing for Eden: The Fight for the Lost Open Spaces in America and Lasting Light:* 225 Years of Grand Canyon Photography. Trimpke teaches writing in the University of Utah Honors College and makes his home in Salt Lake City and in the redrock country of Torrey, Utah.

**Science, Resource Stewardship, and the Parks**

Gary Machlis is Science Advisor to the Director, National Park Service, and Professor of Environmental Sustainability at Clemson University. He is the first scientist appointed to this position with the NPS, and advises the director on a range of science policy issues and programs. Dr. Machlis has served as Intern Associate Vice President for Research at the University of Idaho, and been a visiting professor at Nanjing Technological College in China and at Yale University. Dr. Machlis received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Washington in Seattle, and his Ph.D. in human ecology from Yale. He has written numerous books and scientific papers on issues of conservation, including *The State of the World’s Parks* (1986), the first systematic study of threats to protected areas around the world. His most recent co-edited book is *Warfare Ecology: A New Synthesis for Peace and Security* (2011). His research has been published in journals as varied as *BioScience, Climatic Change, Conservation Biology, Society and Natural Resources,* and *Science.* In 2010, Dr. Machlis was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Taking Science Seriously: An Outsider’s View

Jodi Hilby is the Executive Director of the North America Program for the Wildlife Conservation Society. She provides leadership on the scientific applications utilized to address four major natural resource management and conservation issues across North America, including promoting healthy communities to sustain a healthy environment, identifying and protecting wildlife corridors allowing species room to roam, reducing the threats of natural resource extraction, and addressing the myriad of challenges climate change poses to wildlife and wild places. Overseeing a staff of 60 working in some of the most remote locations in the United States, Dr. Hilby promotes the active engagement of WCS in the larger scientific and conservation communities, strengthens partnerships with agencies and organizations, and cultivates the next generation of conservation science leaders. Trained as a conservation biologist at the University of California, Berkeley, her passion is focused on finding creative, science-based solutions to resolve critical conflicts between humans and the natural world.

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Matthew Brownlee’s interdisciplinary research links outdoor recreation and resource management, and provides information to help park and protected area managers plan for, monitor, and evaluate visitor experiences. He uses visitor surveys (Internet and on-site sampling methods), GPS tracking, infrared counters, and photographic methods to help managers evaluate visitors’ 1) on-site behaviors, motivations and benefits, 2) perceptions of environmental conditions, and 3) park crowding and carrying capacities. He also examines how nature-based recreational interactions and attachments to climate-sensitive and impacted environments influence their 1) attitudes towards sustainability initiatives, 2) visitation and recreation behaviors, and 3) opinions about global climate change. His research generally incorporates student learning and addresses a pertinent management need in addition to unanswered academic questions.

**Keynote— The National Park Service at 100: Stewardship for a New Century**

Jonathan B. Jarvis began his career with the National Park Service in 1976 as a seasonal interpreter in Washington, D.C. Today, as the Service’s 18th Director, he is responsible for more than 22,000 employees, a $3 billion budget, preservation, conservation and recreation programs that are helping to revitalize communities across America, as well as 401 national parks that attract more than 280 million visitors every year who generate $30 billion in economic benefit across the nation. Managing the National Park Service on the eve of its 2016 centennial, Jarvis has focused on several key areas that are critical for the future: enhancing stewardship of the places entrusted to the Service’s care; maximizing the educational potential of parks and programs; engaging new generations and audiences; and ensuring the welfare and fulfillment of National Park Service employees. Jarvis speaks frequently about climate change, sustainability, the outdoors as a source of public health, and the parks as a unifying, inspirational force for the nation. His blueprint for the agency’s second century, *A Call to Action,* calls for innovative, ambitious, yet practical ways to fulfill the National Park Service’s promise to America in the 21st century.

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