

The national parks of North America are great public treasures, visited by 300 million people each year. Set aside to be kept in relatively natural condition, these remarkable places of forests, rivers, mountains, and wildlife still inspire our capacity for wonder. Today, however, the parks are threatened by increasingly difficult problems from both inside and outside their borders. This book, enriched with personal anecdotes of the authors trips throughout the parks of North America, examines changes in the park services of the United States and Canada over the past fifteen years. William Lowry describes the many challenges facing the parks—such as rising crime, tourism, and overcrowding, pollution, eroding funding for environmental research, and the contentious debate over preservation versus use—and the abilities of the agencies to deal with them. *The Capacity for Wonder* provides a revealing comparison of the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) and the Canadian Parks Service (CPS). The author explains that, while the services are similar in many ways, the priorities of these two agencies have changed dramatically in recent years. Lowry shows how increasing conflicts over agency goals and decreasing institutional support have made the NPS vulnerable to interagency disputes, reluctant to take any risks in its operations, and extremely responsive to political pressures. As a result, U.S. national parks are now managed mainly to serve political purposes. Lowry illustrates how in the 1980s politicians pushed the NPS to expand private uses of national parks through development, timber harvesting, grazing, and mining, while environmental groups push the NPS in the other direction. Over the same period, the CPS enjoyed a clarification of goals and increased institutional supports. As a result, the CPS has been able to decentralize its structure, empower its employees, and renew its commitment to preservation. Lowry considers several proposals to change the institutions governing the parks. His own recommendations are more in line with proposals to revitalize public agencies than with those that suggest replacing them with private enterprise, state agencies, or endowment boards. Lowry concludes that preserving nature should be the primary, explicit goal of the park services, and he calls for a stronger commitment to that goal in the United States.

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*The Capacity for Wonder* - Brookings Institution This book, enriched with personal anecdotes of the authors trips throughout the parks of North America, examines changes in the park services and the *The Capacity for Wonder: Preserving National Parks*: *The Capacity for Wonder* provides a revealing comparison of the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) and the Canadian Parks Service (CPS). The author explains *The capacity for wonder: preserving national parks*. - CAB Direct - 6 secDownload now *The Capacity for Wonder: Preserving National Parks* Click here to read : <http://www.nps.gov> Another plea to protect Americas parks publishes in September. Will Available in the National Library of Australia collection. Author: Lowry, William R. (William Robert), 1953- Format: Book xii, 280 p. : maps 24 cm. - 7 secWatch [PDF Download] *The Capacity for Wonder: Preserving National Parks* [ PDF] Full Ebook Consumers of Wonder - Grand Canyon National Park (U.S. National lands, less attention has been paid to the National Park Service **THE CAPACITY FOR WONDER: PRESERVING NATIONAL PARKS**, *The Capacity for Wonder: Preserving National Parks*. By William R. The national parks of North America are great public treasures, visited by 300 million people

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