



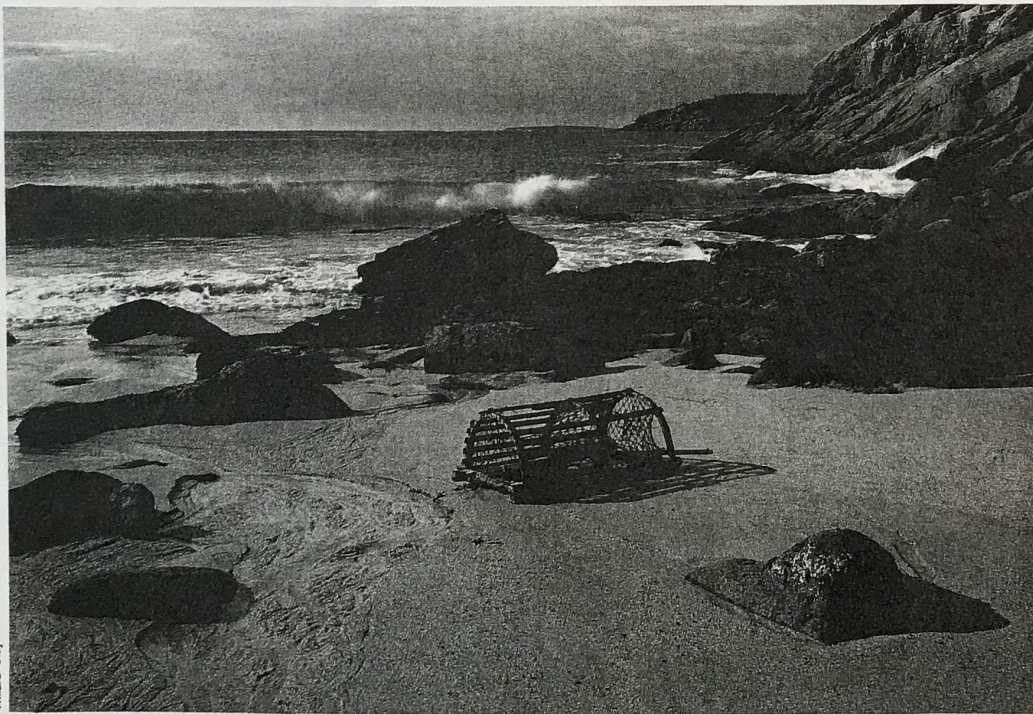
Acadia: Park Without Boundaries

Known for its coastal scenery and spectacular sunrises viewed from Mt. Cadillac, the highest point on the Atlantic Coast, Acadia National Park in Maine is a "patchwork" park composed entirely of donated parcels of private land.

But Acadia may soon lose its status as the only national park lacking permanent boundaries. Local towns consider the ongoing donations of land to the park a threat to their tax base, and they have been clamoring for a bill that would limit the park's size. Fulfilling a campaign promise, Sen. George Mitchell (D-Maine) is about to introduce legislation that would give the Park Service authority to acquire about 2,000 additional acres at Acadia while closing off future donations outside the new boundaries.

The Sierra Club believes the Mitchell proposal will exclude many areas and leave others open to development, including several of the Porcupine Islands, parts of Somes Sound (the only fjord on the East Coast), and other stretches of undeveloped coastline that are vital to the park's ecological and scenic integrity. Meanwhile, summer houses continue to sprout on private inholdings.

"The proposed legislation does not include all the land it should," says Ken Spalding of the Sierra Club's Maine Group. "It's a bill designed strictly to satisfy the local towns, and doesn't take national interest into account nearly enough."



Willard Clay

Reprieve for the Wolf—Again

Minnesota's eastern timber wolf was granted a second reprieve on February 19 when the

U.S. Court of Appeals upheld a lower court ruling that blocked a proposed sport trapping sea-

son on the threatened species. (See "Reprieve for Minnesota's Wolves," March/April 1984.) While the Interior Department argued that a sport season on

the wolf was necessary for population management, a coalition of environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, claimed that the proposal violated the Endangered Species Act.

The court ruled that before a sport season may be established on a threatened species it must be shown that population pressures within the ecosystem cannot otherwise be relieved. According to the coalition's attorneys, the court's strict interpretation of the Endangered Species Act is likely to affect sport seasons on other threatened species, notably the grizzly bear.

As this issue of *Sierra* went to press, government attorneys had not indicated whether they will ask the Supreme Court to review the case.

Unhappy Trails

Some 150,000 miles of hiking trails crisscrossed the national forests at the end of World War II. Today only 98,000 of those miles remain. Fully a third of the country's national-forest trail mileage has disappeared, sometimes through neglect, most often through out-and-out destruction. Logging roads, timber sales, and other developments have destroyed not only roadless areas but the trails that make them accessible to hikers.

With hiking one of the most rapidly growing demands on the national forests, this continuing pattern of trail destruction has aroused concern among conservationists. In March the Sierra Club joined the national Audubon Society