

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE^{TWS}

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The credibility of our profession depends on how we as wildlife biologists respond to the ethical challenges confronting us. Institutional tendencies, human nature, and political pressures exert an increasingly powerful influence on our daily activities. This may result in the transfer of information favorable to the leaders and culture of an organization rather than to the resource. Yet our ethical standards for professional conduct dictate avoidance of activities “detrimental to the well-being of the wildlife resource and its environment.” This dilemma is compounded in the National Park Service, an agency that has yet to live up to its mandated role in environmental leadership and resource protection. Contemporary examples of ethical challenges will be presented in the context of the history and traditions of that agency.