National parks were established primarily to 'conserve natural and cultural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of visitors and future generations'. Fulfilling this dual mission became complex with time. The initial policies of national park management, projected these areas as a 'public place of enjoyment'. This objective of the park management has ever since dominated the global world of National Park Systems. The policies all over the world have directed towards the use of the parks by the visitors. As a result, national park attracted more visitors both, domestic and foreign. The increased visitation has become more complicated over the period of time. Visitors, who come to the park, have varied interests. Some of them are there because parks are a place to 'get away' from the 'urban chaos', some prefer to be in the park because park's are a store house of 'wild adventure' and some because, these parks are 'marvellous creation of nature'. Whereas to a park authority, national parks are to conserve and preserve the cultural and natural heritage of the nation. On the other hand, these protected areas are a means of livelihood for the 'gateway communities. Under such a circumstance, where national parks acquire different roles, the park management is faced with the most difficult task of making the management policy for the park, so that everyone's interests are safeguarded.

During the beginning of the national park movement, i.e., the early twentieth century, the park authorities felt that the national parks should be opened to the public, so that one could understand the processes of nature by visiting these areas and appreciate them. During those days, the facilities were
limited and the parks were difficult to access. Therefore, a visitor had to make an effort to be in these areas, which made him appreciate the park more. In today’s world the distances have shrunk. This closeness has affected the national park visitors community as well. They can reach the park in no time. At the same time, a visitor while on vacation, hardly has time. As a result, he zooms through these places of wonder, thereby perceiving very little. His senses and perception are all guided mechanically by visual media. This change in the visitors attitude has put the park authorities in a dilemma. The question that is raised now, is what are the park for - conservation or human use?

The formidable task confronting national park authorities is how to protect the region’s natural values while also accommodating human interests and economic activities. Answering this question raises difficult scientific, philosophical, legal and economic issues. The scientific issues focus on the need to develop a comprehensive understanding of ecological relationships throughout the region as well as a better understanding of the cumulative impact that development activity has on the region’s ecological systems. The philosophical issue is whether public lands and resources should be managed to give priority to nature or exploited or developed for human benefits - a long standing point of conflict between preservationist and utilitarian schools of thought. The difficult legal question is that how to reconcile fundamentally different mandates and policies when official decisions are likely to have adverse environmental or economic impacts on the nearby resources, lands and communities. The economic issues are challenging public officials to device resource management plans that will preserve the natural integrity of the region but also provide sufficient economic opportunities to sustain local economies and ensure reasonable returns. These returns can be used for
“green business”, which would help to further enhance the economy and would also be in accord with the park ethics.

In the west, in Yellowstone region, ‘preservationist’ ethic is displacing the ethics of ‘consumption’ that has historically determined public land policy. This revised preservationist ethic is based on the principles of preserving ecological components and processes on a (system-wide) ecosystem scale.

On the other hand, in India, the policies were more ‘preservation oriented’. There were limits on the use of the park, but now there has been shift in the thinking of the policy makers. The new draft is more inclined towards ‘use oriented’ policy for national parks. This is a total departure from what is happening in the west. This may cause similar problems like those faced by the USNPS in the long run. Thus, in India, the park management has to be careful in planning the policies of the park. Management must consider some of the following principles:

1. Resource Stewardship and Resource Protection: The primary responsibility of the National Park Management must be the protection of the park resources from internal and external impairment.

The resources embraced by the national park system are often fragile and can be irreparably altered and degraded. Without proper ‘stewardship’ and protection the pristine landscape may be scarred by the urbanites. It may also damage the natural beauty and the ecological systems for ever. The value of these cultural and natural resources is to be protected in time, for national parks conveys important dimensions of national experience and character. An effective national park management must ensure continuity

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1 Aldo Leopold in his philosophical essays ‘Sand County Almanac’ argued that land management policy should be based on a “land ethic” designed “to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of biotic community”.

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and sustainability in public’s access to park values. Failure to achieve this goal would constitute a fundamental breach of the public trust. Without protection of park resources, other park values as education, enjoyment and recreation cannot be sustained.

1. This task of protection can be achieved only if the Management can confront the threats to park resources. The changing socio-economic and ecological scenario also has impact on the parks. Many national parks and the protected areas are facing the increasing suburbanisation around their boundaries. The governments too emphasise on tourism-led regional growth in these regions. Under such opposing and uncertain opinions among the park personnel, the mandate of resource protection means that the preservation of external and transboundary impairment of park resources and their values should be the central objective of park policies. With this as a goal, park policies should:

2. provide technical and planning assistance to the various stakeholders to mitigate external and transboundary threats to park’s resources. It should also be able to influence the quality of visitor enjoyment and enlightenment through their provision of gateway services like interpretation, accommodation etc;

3. utilize available resources, expertise and cooperative relationships to ensure enforcement of applicable laws, when external activities endanger the park resources.

This does not imply that the protection of inside park units is a secondary concern. The statute of resource protection for the ‘benefit of present and future citizens’ must be upheld. This mandate is often caught in a dichotomy giving rise to inherent tensions to management. On one hand public must be
provided with access to park units so that the park values may be enjoyed and their meaning to nation may be conveyed. On the other hand lack of proper management, public access may degrade the park resources. The visitors' activity appropriate at one site may not be compatible with other. Thus, there is no simple and universally applicable rule for managing the tension between visitors' use, enjoyment and the mandate of protection. The resources and values should stand at the centre of the park policies.

II. Access and Enjoyment: 'Each park unit should be managed to provide nation's diverse public with access to and recreational and educational enjoyment of the lessons contained in that unit, while maintaining those attributes that are its contribution to the national park system'. The emphasis on the protection of the park should not mean that park units should be managed as “fortresses”, totally impregnable from outside and off limits to the public. The values of the park system should be conveyed to public for a better understanding of country’s heritage. The national park units exist for the enjoyment, recreation and enlightenment of the present and future generations. Public exposure to and experience in the national parks allow them to convey their significance and place in the fabric of nation.

While public access and enjoyment are essential elements of the purpose of the park system, it should not be the goal of the national park management policies. But the objective should be to enlighten public with the park's values and its significance to entire humanity. This is providing enjoyment and use on 'park's terms'. It is entertainment, education and recreation with meaning. The National Park Management provides access to scenery. This access to park’s resources should be in a manner that provokes
the sentiments of wonder on seeing Old Faithful go up in the air and good fortune on sighting a tiger in Corbett.

Often public access and enjoyment conflict with protection of park resources and values. Visitors to the park need basic infrastructure, which takes up the space in the park. Limitations on access and use of the park is appropriate where these facilities threaten the quality of overall visitor experience. Accordingly,

1. National Park Management should minimize the development of facilities within the park boundaries.

2. Where wilderness values are present, impairment of those values should not be compromised.

3. The repair and maintenance of existing park facility should be designed to convey the park values.

4. Facilities that are purely for the convenience of visitors should be provided by the gateway communities outside the park boundaries.

III. Education and Interpretation: 'It should be the responsibility of the National Park Management to interpret and convey each park unit's and park system's contributions to nation's values, character and experience.' The resources in the national parks are not just scenic; they are just not old and interesting nor merely memorable. Each ecosystem, each site, the people of the region, all carry a very special meaning and nationally significant qualities. Like, Corbett represents a varied landscape of the mountain foothills, the story of a hunter turned in to conservator. Its status as the first national park and debut as Tiger Reserve in the country, makes it nationally important and globally significant. Similarly, the thermal wonders of Yellowstone, the majesty of Yosemite National Parks in the US, define America's conception of
their nation and their environment. 'Just showing up attitude' is insufficient to
derive full enjoyment and enlightenment from these unique gifts of nature that
each park has to offer. Conveying the meaning - the contribution to national
identity - of each unit needs special efforts in education and interpretation.
Even in the case of wilderness, which is a special quality of the park,
unprepared visitors may require varying degree introduction to the park values.

Conveying the meaning of park resources to the visitors should be
one of the central reasons of having the Park Management Services. It is
important that:

1. Each visitor to a park unit should have access to basic interpretation of
unit's unique features and significance. Management should also provide
interpretation that enhances visitor's experience.
2. The National Park Management should have a systematic, park-by-park,
usable inventory of information on park's resources and visitor's needs.
3. This, comprehensive information on park's resources and visitor's needs
should be incorporated into the management plans.
4. In order to fulfill the objectives of education and interpretation, must invest
in understanding the resources it protects and the constituencies it serves.

IV. Proactive Leadership: 'The National Park Management must be a leader
in local, national and international park affairs, actively pursuing the mission
of the national system and assisting others in managing their park resources
and values.' It is very important for the National Park Management to possess
personnel and organizational structure that are sensitive towards the national
park system, its policies and their enforcement with care. National Park often
faces - challenges of funds, lack of professionalism, inadequate training and
employment, etc. Policies should be able to fight this. Management personnel
should initiate in to value creation activities that are centered around the individual park units and programs. The management should be decentralised as well.

V. Science and Research: 'The National Park Management must engage in a sustained and integrated programme of natural, cultural and social science resource management and research aimed at acquiring and using the information needed to manage and protect the park resources.' Resource management and research should be an integral part of the park's management policies. It should support system wide commitment of science and integrated programme of resource management and research. Research efforts should be driven from immediate and narrow needs of environmental impact assessment, monitoring and evaluation of any programme of interpretation or recreation management or collecting information on any resource in the park. This requires:

1. Clear legislation and funds to support research in the national parks.
2. Training of the park officials in information management- its role, use and production of research information.
3. This resource information should help in decision making for the base resource protection, access and interpretation services.

VI. Professionalism: The National Park Management must create and maintain a highly professional organization and work force. The term professionalism appropriately describes what is needed of the work force and organization that manages the national park system. National Park Management as stated earlier does not support recreation, aesthetic or tourism merely. The work force and the organization should be to protect the park resources and maintaining the infrastructure necessary to ensure that their
significance can be conveyed to next succeeding generations. The park employees should be institutionally responsible, well trained, innovative, energetic and insightful. The National Park Management should strengthen recruitment, hiring and retention of culturally diverse professional workforce.

The ability of National Park System - national historic sites, cultural symbols and natural environments to contribute to the 'public's sense of shared identity' should be at the core of the purpose of the National Park Management.

A park is a complex mix of culture, values, human beings, nature and its creation. It cannot be confined to theoretical framework of any kinds. However, there can be some kind of philosophy to guide the management policies for the national parks. This philosophy must complement the integrated park management. Essentially, it must be a philosophy divorced from the controls of anthropocentric economics, that is, the perception of the parks only in terms of utility. Society's growing perception of our environment's jeopardy is helping this transformation all over the world. The park management policies are understood to be based on the ecocentric economic principles. But such principles are based on ecological truths and ethics (see figure 12).

Ecological truths are the realisation of the impact of management on various elements with in and without parks. Ethics consists of choosing whether parks are intended for man's sole enjoyment or truly for the protection of ecosystems and their elements. Economic realities, enjoyment and education too can not be eliminated from the philosophy of park management. They must, however, become subservient in the age of integrated management. Each park has to be seen as a different entity, with different requirements. To meet these requirement of the park, different plan
Figure 12 Spheres of influence on park management philosophy.
(Source, Keiter, 1991)
has to be prepared. One cannot have same sets of parameters for these areas. The policies have to be park specific, but must integrate the surroundings of the park within as:

"...ecosystem hangs together - a single body with blood made of fire and fish, birds, mammal, and insects, flowing up and down the veins of valley and ridge tops, through all its myriad appendages. To be in one place is in sense to be the entire system."

(Gary Ferguson, Walking Down the Wild, p.170)