A blessing for all of our National Parks

*for Denali and Death Valley,*

*Shenandoah, Saguaro, and Sequoia,*

*Acadia and Arches,*

*Congaree and Carlsbad Caverns,*

*for Isle Royal and Olympia,*

*Yosemite and Badlands,*

*Haleakalā and Dry Tortugas,*

*and for so many others …*

May your lands and waters,

your summits and gorges,

your air and your wild creatures,

be touched gently.

May your fossil fuels

be treasured underground.

And may there be silence

in a world of great noise

and a refuge from light pollution,

so that stars can be seen.

May you be visited by people

of all ages, all races, all faiths,

all languages, all abilities,

all countries –

those who have travel budgets

and those who may not

have money --

but need the peace,

the wilderness, the healing.

May you be protected from greed,

and open to only

to the exploration of the spirit.

May your stories and histories be saved.

May children stand on the south rim

of the Grand Canyon and wonder

about the depth of souls.

And, as that which is precious

is newly discovered –

may your numbers increase.

*Maren C. Tirabassi*