With the new Reagan administration in Washington, many special interest groups attempted to have past decisions reconsidered based upon campaign promises to re-examine regulations regarding use of public lands.

In response to an attempt by the Dade County Farm Bureau to reopen the Hole-in-the-Donut for farming, the DOI notified agricultural interests that it is administratively impossible to do so. It is the Solicitor’s opinion that this could only be accomplished through legislative action.

The issue of airboat use in the Stairstep area remains unresolved. On behalf of the Coalition of Concerned Citizens for Big Cypress National Preserve, Ms. Ruth Wallace petitioned the National Park Service for regulatory revisions to allow recreational airboat use on the Stairstep Trail. The Federal Register announcement was published in April, and the 30-day comment period extended to 60 days at the request of the National Wildlife Federation. Nearly 3,000 expressions of opinion were recorded, with 907 in favor of the use of airboats in the park and 2,097 opposing them. The National Park Service completed its analysis of the public comment and submitted their recommendations to the Department in August. No decision has been announced.

The commercial fishing issue was also appealed. Mrs. Jimmie Robinson's petition on behalf of the commercial fishing interests for regulatory amendment to allow continued commercial fishing in the park was published in the Federal Register in May. Two public meetings, chaired by the Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, were held in Everglades City and Key Largo. Almost 12,000 expressions of opinion were recorded (including petition signatures) with 2,163 in favor of amending the existing regulations, and 9,713 opposing a change. Again, the National Park Service review was completed, but the issue is still awaiting Departmental decision. In the meantime, with both parties’ agreement, litigation initiated by commercial fishermen has been postponed pending announcement of a decision by the Secretary's office.

The commitment of staff time and resources to these controversies has been substantial. Everyone from the Mail Clerk to the Superintendent became involved in the volume of mail, tabulation and analysis of comments, preparation of briefings, and media and public information contacts. There is now general anxiety and frustration expressed over the continuing absence of resolutions.

Core Mission/Basic Operations & Performance Evaluation Programs - Superintendent Morehead was selected to head up the Core Mission (later changed to Basic Operations) Task Force. This extremely challenging assignment required a tremendous amount of time away from the area, thus placing an extra workload on the remaining
management staff. Added to this were the extra time requirements needed to establish the new Performance Evaluation Program and the inordinate time demands required by the reopening of all the special issues mentioned above, the myriad of special reports and position papers required, several visits by personnel from the Secretary's office, the holding of public hearings, the public comment periods, etc. All things considered, this has been an unusually demanding year for the entire park staff.

Aircraft Operations - Skyrocketing maintenance and operating costs, together with the resignation of one of the pilots, led to the decision to ground the Widgeon aircraft. Later in the year it was discovered that the Lake aircraft would require extensive corrosion repairs and it also was grounded. Contract aircraft and helicopter services are being utilized with varying degrees of success when NPS pilot is unavailable.

ADMINISTRATION

Personnel ceilings, hiring restrictions, and funding levels that were uncertain until late in the year, resulted in varying degrees of difficulty in personnel, supply, and financial management operations. Frequent vacancies in difficult-to-recruit-for clerical positions still create backlogs of administrative work. A new financial planning and tracking process was devised during FY 81 and was implemented at the beginning of FY 82. This process should reduce considerably the number of programming exercises during the year.

Staffing levels were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Permanent</td>
<td>95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less than full time permanent</td>
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<td>Temporary</td>
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Funding levels were as follows:

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<td>Office of Superintendent</td>
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<td>Interpretation</td>
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<td>Resources Management &amp; Visitor Protection</td>
<td>$1,222,200</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>$1,451,700</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,867,700</strong></td>
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</table>

INTERPRETATION

During 1981, seasonal training was held twice—one week for summer seasonals and two weeks for winter seasonals. All divisions were invited to attend. In addition, the Division hosted a six hour Special Populations training session for all park personnel in November.

A major portion of the permanent staff changed in 1981 with new district naturalists arriving at Shark Valley, Flamingo, and Environmental Interpretation, and the Chief and Royal Palm District naturalists leaving at the end of 1981.
Royal Palm - A comprehensive management policy was drafted and accepted for the Royal Palm area. A Full Access Plan and a Full Access brochure (Attachment 1) for visitors were developed for Everglades addressing both physical and architectural accessibility. Several park publications have been taped for use by visually impaired visitors.

All new nature trail labels and most wayside exhibits were installed. Red lighting for night wildlife viewing at Royal Palm is nearly complete. Texts for multilingual park guidebooks are complete; however, publication has been postponed due to the high cost.

Everglades City - Programs remained at the 1980 levels only through utilization of donated time and a part-time volunteer. There continues to be a demonstrated need for some type of walking trail. District personnel again operated an information booth at the community's annual Seafood Festival contacting 2,000 people.

Shark Valley - Tram programs continued to be the primary interpretive focus at Shark Valley serving 33,353 visitors. Budgetary restrictions are responsible for the drastic reduction in services over the last five years. The average number of daily trips is down from 5.9 in 1979 to 3.6 this year, although public demand for the service remains quite high.

The long-awaited replacement trams arrived during the summer to replace the three Ford/Thor units which have been in service since 1972. Many changes had been made in the original specifications, and the units as received were totally unacceptable. After extensive negotiations, the new units were returned to the manufacturer for modification and will not be in service until the 1982 summer season, some 45 months after replacement procedures were initiated.

Public acceptance of the bike loan program continues to be exceptionally enthusiastic. In the second year of the program, over 10,300 hours use was logged by 5,074 visitors. Acquisition of fifteen replacement bicycles was not approved and the feasibility of a concession-operated bicycle rental is currently being studied.

The winter seasonal staff was reduced from 11 in 1979 to 7 causing a reduction of other popular ranger-led activities. Construction continues to be slow on the Bobcat Hammock Trail, a potentially popular alternative to those unable to take the tram tour.

Flamingo - Flamingo continues to be the destination for many park visitors. Unfortunately, budget restraints have eroded the district's staffing. The addition of a subject-to-furlough technician position was funded by abolishing two seasonal positions (one winter and one summer).

The Flamingo museum remains an important remodeling priority. The campground amphitheater was rehabilitated this year through the efforts of the Maintenance and Interpretive staffs and the Air Force Reserve; however, the size of the facility is inadequate for the campground.

Interpretation for School Groups - In its eleventh year, both private and public schools from the five counties surrounding Everglades participated in Interpretive programs. Day visits to the park in the National Environmental Study Area (NESA)
program had the greatest attendance with 15,200 students visiting four different park areas. Total number of contacts for 1981 are 22,715. This depressed figure (from 38,677 in 1979) results from the elimination of three positions (two seasonal and one subject-to-furlough) and the cancellation of three programs--Key Largo with 11,340 participants; Key West with 5,775 participants; and the Sandfly Island program (Everglades City) with approximately 300 participants. Gulf Coast counties are now faced with a two-hour commute to the nearest park programming for special populations. Nine groups with physical and mental disabilities participated in NESA in 1981.

In the National Environmental Education Development (NEED) program, 49 camps with 1,706 students stayed at Loop Road Interpretive Center, Nest Key, Fort Jefferson and the new Hidden Lake Interpretive Center (constructed in 1981). Due to increased demand, the high school program, Students Toward Environmental Participation (STEP) expanded to twelve workshops in 1981. In general, support for school programs remains high as evidenced by $17,833 spent in 1981 by Dade County alone to fund buses for NESA, and by the record attendance (395) at teacher workshops.

Volunteers-in-the-Park - Without the park's volunteer program, many services to the visitor would be unavailable and research projects would be delayed. This year a total of 76 persons donated more than 7500 hours with the major portion committed to Research and Interpretation. It is the sixth season for the couple assisting the Protection Division in the operation of Long Pine Key Campground.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Visitation - The park visitation trend continued down in 1981 with an even greater decrease to 622,943 visitors for the year compared to 838,600 in 1980. The much-publicized spiraling crime rate in south Florida plus economic conditions has had an apparent effect on visitation. For the first time in years the campgrounds were not full to capacity for a number of days in our peak season in the late fall and campground use went down to 88,600 for the year.

Fee collection for the year was $283,023 compared to $319,229 in 1980. Camping/trams noticed a slight increase from $105,113 to $108,550 in 1981; Golden Eagle issues went from $21,124 down to $19,450 in 1981. The most noticeable difference was the Entrance Station with a decline from $214,120 in 1980 to $155,013 in 1981.

Law Enforcement - Narcotics smuggling and other illicit drug trafficking continues as a very serious problem in the south Florida area. In calendar year 1981, park rangers worked nine major incidents resulting in the seizure of 939 bales of marijuana (47,000 pounds) at a street value of roughly $18 million. One arrest was made in the Everglades City area and was successfully prosecuted through the Monroe County court system. Another arrest was made at Fort Jefferson NM when a light airplane carrying 500 pounds of high grade "sinsemilla" marijuana crashed in the harbor. The case was successfully prosecuted by NPS/DEA in U.S. District Court.

In early December, a clandestine drug deal was unfolding in the Everglades City area when two boats collided late at night. The result was one fatality by drowning and three to four persons in the local hospitals with various injuries. Investigation has been agonizingly slow due to the fact of proprietary federal
jurisdiction and overlapping jurisdiction of one State agency and two counties. Witnesses do not appear to be willing to cooperate with authorities. Shortly after this incident, the Florida Marine Patrol, accompanied by NPS rangers, seized seven boats and 14 motors in the Everglades City area.

Park rangers have enjoyed reasonably good success in other endeavors. The plague of motel burglaries in the Flamingo area was halted after investigation revealed serious in-house security problems. Alternatives to the concession’s house cleaning operation were recommended and adopted.

In April, rangers at Flamingo and Pine Island coordinated a major arrest of three Latin-aliens, charging them with possession of stolen property. The arrest culminated several month's investigation of larcenies from automobiles. All three individuals pleaded guilty to charges in U.S. District Court. Car clouting problems diminished significantly following the arrest.

A statistical breakdown of the year’s law enforcement activities is as follows:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>Part I offenses</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Part II offenses</td>
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<td>Traffic warnings</td>
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<td>Boating accidents</td>
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<td>Total citations issued</td>
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<tr>
<td>(includes traffic)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Warnings issued</td>
<td>514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(includes traffic)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor assist calls</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

Public Health and Safety - Rangers at Pine Island, Tamiami, and Everglades City assisted State and County law enforcement agencies in numerous fatality/murder investigations. Most of these occurred along old Highway #41 at the northern park boundary.

In September, the son of a high-ranking Venezuelan official crashed his private airplane near Paurotis Pond. His body was not recovered for several days due to the crash site being far removed from his intended flight path. The FBI, FAA, NTSB and U.S. State Department were all involved in the investigation.

Several other aircraft incidents occurred in 1981: a drug plane crashed near the park headquarters in September with no known injuries, and a light cargo plane was forced to make an emergency landing on the main park road in July due to engine problems.
The park continues to experience multiple reports and observations of light planes using the area as a drop-off and landing site for drugs. While many of the reports are unconfirmed, two planes were removed from adjacent canals by local authorities.

Marine Search and Rescue operations require a significant commitment of money and manpower. During the year, in excess of 140 SAR's were handled, almost all were water related.

Air Quality - During 1981 there was an increasing threat to the park's air resources. Florida Power and Light Company (FP&L) petitioned the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation to designate the park as a separate baseline area under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration Section of the Clean Air Act, as amended. FP&L also applied for a variance to the Dade and Broward Counties Pollution Control Ordinances to allow the use of high sulfur fuels at their Turkey Point and Port Everglades fossil fuel generators. The variance requests were unanimously denied in both counties.

FP&L requested a continuance of the DER public hearing for the designation of the park as a separate PSD area. This is the result of meetings with the park to address the question of impact on the park's biological resources. A list of research proposals has been submitted to FP&L for their consideration in funding. Until the research is completed or the questions can otherwise be adequately addressed, the National Park Service will oppose the burning of high sulfur fuel at the Turkey Point plant. Should these studies show there would be no impact on the park's resources, an alternative mechanism to the designation of the park as a separate PSD baseline area would need to be identified.

During 1981, with assistance from Washington the park purchased air quality monitoring equipment to monitor sulfur dioxide and particulates. This equipment is scheduled to go on-line in 1982.

Adjacent Land Use - During 1981, 350 permits required under Section 404, Clean Water Act of 1977, and Section 10, River and Harbor Act of 1899, were reviewed by the Resources Management staff; the primary concern being that adjacent development could affect the surface water quality and flow into the park through the two major natural drainage systems. Permit applications range in scope from filling wetlands for single family residences to excavations for industrial purposes.

The area of particular concern is the 242 square mile tract immediately adjacent to the east boundary of the park. This area known as the "East Everglades" was designated an area of critical environmental concern by the County and was subsequently rezoned and the severance use rights method of compensation was approved. However, unauthorized dredge and fill activities continue. To monitor for unauthorized development and to inspect proposed development areas, 30 reconnaissance flights were conducted.

The Dade-Collier Jetport Pact was due for review this year. The Site 14 alternative was being considered as a replacement site. Comments were submitted in opposition to the new location stating the impact of the jetport occurred during its construction, not in its continued use. Further, the Site 14 location is located in an area shown to be critical to the water supply to the Shark River Slough area of the park. A final decision from the Departments of Interior and Transportation is anticipated in 1982.
Backcountry Management - The majority of backcountry use in the park centers on the water areas. The principle users are sport fishermen who visit Florida Bay and the Gulf Coast sections with approximately 36,820 boats recorded through the year; an increase of over 5% from last year. Backcountry use by campers is increasing; some use power boats, but canoes are rapidly growing in popularity. In 1981, 907 backcountry permits were issued; however, this is only a general indication of use as not all visitors obtain these permits. Visitor impact is being monitored at campsites using established photopoints.

Marking projects included remarking the Wilderness Waterway, Noble Hammock and Bear Lake Canoe Trails. A new 5.2 mile loop trail at Nine Mile Pond was laid out and marked.

Big Cypress National Preserve Minerals Management - Last year, four plans of operations were approved under procedures contained in Title 36, NPS Minerals Management Regulations. This included construction of approximately four miles of new road and four drilling pads. Two wells permitted by the State prior to the promulgation of NPS regulations were authorized to be drilled from existing locations. Three additional plans of operations were received proposing to drill 30 wells and construct approximately six miles of new road. This includes a proposal from Exxon Corporation to develop the 1977 discovery at Raccoon Point. Twenty wells are proposed to be drilled from five locations requiring construction of five miles of new road. The environmental review is continuing on this proposal. Increased access into the interior of the Preserve and the protection of the endangered Florida panther have emerged as the primary environmental concerns. Three additional sites were examined by the Big Cypress Swamp Advisory Committee for which plans of operation can be anticipated in 1982.

Fire Program - Total number of wildfires-8; lightning-caused fires-15; prescribed burns-18; research burns-4. See Fire Summary (Table I) for further details.

Exotic Plant Control - A limited program of exotic plant monitoring and removal was continued in all districts with the exception of the southeast corner of the park. That area will require further study and a separate project due to its massive population of Casuarina. At this time, only three species—Schinus, Melaleuca and Casuarina—are being actively controlled in the park and adjacent park areas.

Farmland Reclamation Project - 86 acres have been planted in the hardwood establishment program. Approximately 9,600 trees of some 15 species are included. The purpose of this planting is to establish a seed source for native hardwoods and to provide a plant community which will compete with Schinus. The native trees have the potential to form a shade canopy which will largely exclude Schinus.

The plots already planted require maintenance and fire protection. To increase the survival rate and facilitate successful establishment of the native hardwoods, trees are planted in rows to allow mowing with a tractor and bushhog. Weed control around individual trees also increases survival rate of planted trees by decreasing competition of weed species.

Sub-unit research plot mowing provides identifiable delineations of management units from the air. Collection of data from burn research plots is continuing.
## Everglades National Park

### Fire Summary, C.Y. 198

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>MAN</th>
<th>LIGHTNING</th>
<th>PRESCRIBED</th>
<th>RESEARCH</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
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<td>24,738</td>
<td>51,919</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20,095</td>
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</table>

**Average:**

- MAN: 3,092, 6,489
- LIGHTNING: 1,339, 465
- PRESCRIBED: 651, 1,357
- RESEARCH: 53, 312
- TOTAL: 1,290, 1,196
Marine Resources Management - The marine resources management effort was concerned with standardization of past recreational and commercial fishing data bases, development of software to analyze those data bases, and generation of data reports starting in July 1978. Additionally, the park responded to requests for data summaries from WASO and DOI and assembled a detailed presentation for the DOI task group prior to the June 1981 public hearings on fishing regulations. The park issued 133 commercial fishing permits and 113 professional guide fishing permits for 1981.

Sportfishing data continues to be taken at Flamingo and Everglades City. Additionally, postage-paid, volunteer fishing survey forms are being distributed by rangers at Fort Jefferson and Key Largo. These surveys have interviewed approximately 18,155 boaters representing about 74,000 man-hours of recreational fishing in NPS waters.

Work continues on assembling oil spill contingency plans and operations manuals for Everglades and Fort Jefferson. Also, park personnel are providing BLM with data and historical spill records in order to assess environmental factors in forthcoming lease sales in the eastern Gulf of Mexico.

The cooperative study of sea turtle populations continues with the National Marine Fisheries Service. The 1981 effort consisted of overflights of the area between Cape Sable and the Dry Tortugas yielding observations of 145 turtles. Field work, involving tagging, was conducted on East Key and 10 female turtles were marked. There were 48 false crawls (non-nesting) observed on East and Loggerhead Keys during the 1981 season.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA RESEARCH CENTER

An unusual climatological year required close attention to the status of park wildlife and vegetation resources. A very dry spring and early summer produced an active wildfire season which resulted in two extensive burns affecting EVER and BICY. In April a fire moving through the East Everglades burned many hardwood hammocks along Everglades National Park boundary. Then in May, the largest wildfire in Park Service history burned nearly 30% of the Big Cypress National Preserve. Research personnel moved quickly to establish monitoring plots in these areas to determine the impact of dry season fires on park resources. Resolving questions about vegetation recovery during drought conditions, post-fire invasion of exotics, and the influence of hydrological conditions on the recovery from fire remain high research priorities.

An unexpected storm, Hurricane Dennis, flooded a newly burned area of Taylor Slough in late summer killing much of the vegetation before it could begin its post-burn recovery. The area is prime Cape Sable Sparrow habitat and the set-back of vegetation recovery may cause the sparrows to move or reduce nesting this coming spring (1982). Long-term study plots were established to evaluate the habitat recovery, both for its implications to summer burn programs and Cape Sable Sparrow populations.

The continuing drought also emphasized the growing water supply problems in south Florida. If Everglades National Park is to secure its water needs and rights to water within the Everglades drainage, it must make a strong bid soon. The drought has encouraged agricultural interests and the growing coastal cities to reserve more water from the Conservation Areas and Lake Okeechobee for their futures. For
that reason, the South Florida Research Center concentrated much of this year's pro-
gram on water issues and in preparing the background hydrologic studies neces-
sary to build Everglades National Park's case for more water and a more natural
means of delivery to the park.

One issue which has involved an increasing shift in research efforts within the
South Florida Research Center program has been the decline in Florida Bay fish popu-
lations. Many of the staff were busy in 1981 reexamining various approaches to the
problem that could be accomplished with available funds. Dr. Gary Hendrix and
James Tilmant consulted extensively with people knowledgeable on fishing and
estuary problems and solicited ideas from several fishery agencies. Although four
projects were singled out as the most direct approach available, the majority of the
professionals consulted felt it will be a difficult problem to solve.

There were several other research accomplishments of note in 1981. The research
program completed 29 reports or publications (Attachment 2) on park resource problems
and several of these were immediately important in the resolution of management
issues.

Turner River Report (BICY) - Dr. Peter Rosendahl and David Sikkema completed a
2-year study on the effects of the Turner River Canal on the Big Cypress western
watershed. They found that the canal caused overdrainage of the west portion of
the Preserve during the wet season and salt water intrusion during the dry season.
Overdrainage could possibly be a contributing cause to the high number of dry
season fires originating in the Turner River area. Rosendahl and Sikkema recom-
mended redverting the canal into the old meander of the river and plugging certain
sections of the canal to retain more water in the drainage while restoring an
attractive river for recreational use. Steps are now being taken to implement
the plan.

L-31 Canal Report (EVER) - Paul Rose submitted a report that was very important in
resolving an issue of long-standing between agricultural users in the east Ever-
glades and Everglades National Park. The study showed that the water levels in
Canal L-31 separating the park and the farming areas had far-reaching effects
within the park and that the canal could not be operated for the purpose of draining
farmlands without also draining wetlands within the park. A negotiated agreement
between the farmers, the South Florida Water Management District that operates the
canal, and the Park Service was made possible because of Mr. Rose's report.

Red Cockaded Woodpecker Report (BICY) - Gary Patterson and Dr. Bill Robertson re-
ported on a two-year survey of the red cockaded woodpecker in the Big Cypress.
Their study was particularly important because it located the only known colonies
of this endangered species remaining in south Florida and outlined the habitat
where other colonies may exist in the Big Cypress Preserve and Everglades National
Park. These colonies and their habitats changed much of the thinking about location
of oil and gas roads and pads within the Big Cypress. Previously it was assumed
that pineland areas were the proper sites for development; however, Patterson and
Robertson showed that large areas of pinelands within the Big Cypress and Ever-
glades were unique. These were the last uncut pineland areas in south Florida
with unique ecologies--the reason why woodpeckers were still living there. The
study has done much to protect the red cockaded woodpecker and its special habitat
and will help in more proper oil and gas permitting.
Everglades National Park Fire History Report - Dr. Dale Taylor completed a three-year review of all known fires within and near Everglades National Park. This comprehensive survey should serve as a model for other areas with chronic fire management problems. Dr. Taylor gathered together scattered records and anecdotal information very important to understanding the evolution of fire management in Everglades National Park, the first national park to use prescribed fire to manage vegetation. Dr. Taylor's report has been useful in establishing the need for shifting much of the prescription burning to the early summer. He also has done a great service by recounting the many things that have been tried in the Everglades fire programs--what has worked well and what has not.

Biscayne Bay Shipwreck Study - James Tilmant and Richard Curry completed a survey of a galleon shipwreck site establishing the baseline environmental survey necessary to evaluate various management options available to the Park Service in caring for the wreck. Tilmant and Curry had an extremely short time to do their survey, but it was an exceptionally thorough job.

MAINTENANCE

As the winter season approached, Flamingo became a major construction site with several projects affecting all aspects of the complex. The desperately needed rehab of the concessioner's employee housing (Smith Hall) is almost complete. Work began on three units of NPS employee housing with improvements to existing quarters included in the project. The contractor, Corsair Construction, has been most unsatisfactory and has caused numerous problems, falling far behind schedule and at times virtually abandoning the project.

The long-awaited Buttonwood Canal Plug project is finally under way, necessitating the construction of a new boat ramp on the Florida Bay side and relocation of utility lines. At the same time, the concessioner's pier and pilings were redone and a substantial portion of the Buttonwood Canal road riprapping was completed in cooperation with the South Florida Water Management District. All of this activity has placed a severe strain on the entire Maintenance Division to provide supervisory control and liaison among the various contractors, the concessioner, and the visiting public.

Late in the year the repair of the counterscarp at Fort Jefferson was begun, requiring further supervision and on-site inspections. The contractor, Powell Brothers, is also doing the canal plug, and must be commended for their excellent work and professional approach to the job.

Efforts to develop cooperative programs with other agencies have been extremely beneficial to the park. Projects completed with the cooperation of the Air Force Reserve unit from Homestead Air Force Base included: 1/ replacing overhead transmission lines at Long Pine Key; 2/ construction of tent platforms at the Hidden Lake Interpretive Center; and 3/ rehabilitation of the amphitheater at Flamingo. A program with South Dade Correctional Institution has provided the means for accomplishing valuable labor intensive projects.

Due to the extensive use of glass in the design of the headquarters, visitor center and entrance station buildings, hurricane protection has always been a particular problem. The true value of the new aluminum storm panels was evident when Hurricane Dennis threatened and the entire complex was secured in a half-day.
The radio communications, which are the vital link among the south Florida NPS areas, have grown like Topsy. As an initial step in upgrading the system, a DSC evaluation of the operation was made with recommendations for developing a unified system. The first phase—construction of a new 250 ft. tower located near the Research Center—will be completed early in 1982.

Other notable maintenance projects completed include: installation of new, underground electrical transmission lines eliminating 4½ miles of overhead lines that were inaccessible, outdated and unsightly; installation of a new septic system on the environvac unit at Shark Valley, greatly decreasing labor and energy costs; extensive repairs to boardwalk trails; replacement of 2,000 feet of sewer line, a potential health hazard at Flamingo.

Missile Site - Subsequent to the U.S. Army's determination in 1979 that the Missile Site was to be deactivated, it has been necessary to develop a basic understanding with the Army, through the Corps of Engineers, on what facilities are to be retained and the amount of restoration work they will be required to accomplish.

CONCESSIONS

Sammy Hamilton, Jr. - The new contract terminates December 31, 1991. Visitor use has increased over the 1981 season as the following figures illustrate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1981</th>
<th>1982</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>2,871</td>
<td>1,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>1,313</td>
<td>2,765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>2,233</td>
<td>2,897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>3,891</td>
<td>4,905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10,308</td>
<td>11,992</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Flamingo Houseboat Corporation - The concessioner is installing a temporary office building in the vicinity of the current office structure. Visitor use of the houseboats continues to be heavy.

Everglades Park Catering, Inc. - The concessioner has complied with Phase I of the Concessioner Improvement Program (Exhibit "A" to the contract dated November 11, 1981). In addition, the concessioner has completely renovated the Pelican Cove Restaurant, ten motel rooms and four cottages. The visitor use has remained stable from the previous year with the notable exception of the number of meals served to "day-use" visitors. Tour groups have ceased going to Flamingo and the number of day-use visitors has fallen by 50%.

Commercial Use Licenses - The Commercial Use Licenses are not concession authorizations. They do not authorize the licensee to perform services to the visiting public within these areas as this would be inconsistent with P.L. 89-249. Instead, they authorize the licensee to enter Everglades National Park, Big Cypress National Preserve, and Fort Jefferson NM with their clients to provide services such as guided canoe tours, bus tours and boat and airplane transportation. At present, there are five licenses issued for Everglades National Park (three guided canoe tours and two bus tours), twelve licenses issued for Fort Jefferson National Monument (eight tour-boat and four air taxi), and one issued for Big Cypress National Preserve for guided interpretive services.