

CURRENT STATUS OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

NESA (National Environmental Study Area Program)

The Pacific Northwest Region now has two official NESA's on NPS land. The newest one is at Sitka National Monument, where Supt. Dan Kuehn has designated the whole monument as a NESA. With its variety of resources, including salt water beach, fresh water stream, deep forest, visitor center rich in history and culture, enthusiastic staff and closeness to schools, it has the potential to rank with Olympic National Park as one of the finest NESA's among the 84 in the system. A teacher workshop sponsored jointly by the NPS, USFS, and the Alaska Dept. of Education was held in Sitka on September 23-25. Through the workshop the NESA was introduced to the Sitka school system and teachers learned how to use it. Another workshop is planned within the next few months to further establish the Sitka NESA as an important resource to the school system there.

NESA BILL

One of the side effects of the Service's NESA program is the proposal, by Senator Gaylord Nelson, of the NESA Bill. This bill, which is presently in committee, is designed to encourage and support efforts to utilize the Nation's public lands to the fullest as a teaching resource. The bill also proposes to establish within the department a NESA office which will be responsible for the coordination of activities of the department which are related to NESA's.

NEEL (National Environmental Education Landmark Program)

As the NESA concepts spread to other agencies, organizations, schools and cities, environmental study sites have been appearing on both Federal and non-Federal lands throughout the country. A special NPS program (NEEL) has been established to recognize certain of these areas that have outstanding facilities and programs. Those areas that can meet the criteria for landmark status are then designated as National Environmental Education Landmarks, in recognition of their accomplishments and continued endeavors in the field of environmental education. Eleven NEEL's have been chosen throughout the country, so far. One, the Lea Hill Environmental Education site in Auburn, Washington, is in this Region.

The enclosed brochure describes the program in more detail. If you are aware of any areas within your sphere of influence which might be eligible for landmark status, we would appreciate your telling us about it.

NEED - (National Environmental Education Development Program)

We are now able to say that the NEED materials, at least the fifth and sixth grade materials, are ready for distribution. The set includes a teacher guide, student workbook and student outdoor book. The materials are published and distributed by the Silver Burdette Company of New Jersey and look very professional. Within the next few weeks we will be sending out sample sets and information on the program and its uses. In the meantime, we have enclosed a brochure giving general information.

ENVIROMAN



The Enviroman symbol for NESAs, depicting man in the center of the web of life, has been designated as one of the official NPS signs which will be appearing in parks across the country soon. The symbol will be used on all NPS environmental education publications and related materials. It will also be used to identify areas in National Parks which have been set aside as NESAs.

N.E.A. WORKSHOP

The National Education Association has entered into a contract with the NPS to conduct a series of model teacher workshops. One occurred during the summer and three more are scheduled in various parts of the country this fall. From these workshops will come two publications: (1) a plan with materials and examples of how to run a workshop, and (2) a booklet that will deal with the use of existing NPS facilities for environmental education purposes.

The Regional Office is currently involved in a number of diverse environmental education type activities. These include developing an urban environmental education teacher workshop package for use throughout the Region, experimenting with a pilot environmental awareness assembly program for elementary schools, working out various ways to help individual field areas in the Region with their environmental education programs, participating in selected environmental education workshops and conferences in the Region when appropriate, working with the States of Washington, Idaho, and Alaska on statewide EE plans, plus the many meetings, conferences, and committees involved. During the last year, members of the staff have visited all of the field areas in this Region and feel that they have a fairly good understanding of individual areas' situations, problems and opportunities. This should result in their being able to be of more help to you as you carry out your individual environmental education program.