

Subject: NOVEMBER ADNRSS REPORT

ADNRSS Monthly Report for November 1998

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

OZONE NON-ATTAINMENT STATUS AT JOSHUA TREE NP -- EPA recently delisted San Bernardino and Riverside counties from ever having to meet the old 1-hour ozone standard despite the fact that NPS ozone monitoring continued to show exceedances. Apparently some procedural errors were made and the portions of the two counties containing Joshua Tree NP should have been non-attainment and should not have been delisted. EPA staff have requested a review of the situation and a correction. Meanwhile, exceedances of the new 8-hour ozone standard continue to occur, but decisions on attainment/non-attainment status will not be made until 3-years of data are available in 2001. Joshua Tree NP has the highest ozone concentrations in the park system. For more information contact John Ray at (303) 969-2820.

IPM FOR CONCESSION MANAGERS AND WOOD PRESERVATIVES INDUSTRY-- At the request of Dee Highnote of the WASO Concessions Program, Carol DiSalvo gave a presentation on the Servicewide IPM Program to 250 concession managers and NPS employees with concession responsibilities. The audience ranged from GS-5s to Superintendents with a variety of backgrounds. Carol and SER IPM Coordinator Chris Fuqueron provided technical information, answered questions and displayed low risk IPM management tactics at a 3 hour "subject fair" session for all participants. As a result of this participation, many requests for IPM information, future site visits and assistance have been received. Additionally, Carol conducted a session on identification of wood pests at the International Preservation Trades Workshop in Gaithersburg, Maryland with Dr. Brian Ridout, of Ridout Associates, United Kingdom. Dr. Ridout is researching management of wood pests in historic cathedrals and abbeys. He views NPS as far ahead of England in IPM practices.

NPS EXPANDS NATIVE AMERICAN COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PARTICIPATION - The Director asked Natural Resources to help expand NPS support for Native American cooperative education students from the 2 students currently being supported up to a total of 7 students. In the expanded program, Ron Hiebert in MWR will oversee 3 students directly and will represent NPS on the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Board for the National Center for Cooperative Education (NCCE), with the NCCE overseeing 4 students being sponsored by NPS. In addition to working with Ron Hiebert, Natural Resources also will be working with the Service's American Indian Liaison Office.

PARK SCIENCE CD'S RELEASED -- A set of two CD-ROMs with all 67 back issues of Park Science was shipped to parks in November. The powerful search capability of the set provides quick access to 1,896 pages of articles. A word-search leads to the various articles with those words. The main menu lists the issues chronologically and provides another way to access content. The issues are in portable document format (PDF), which preserves their original appearance. Users run the application from a CD drive and can read the articles on the computer screen and print them. Two issues of the Natural Resource Year in Review and article submission guidelines for Park Science are also on the disks. All current recipients of Park Science will receive one CD set by mail. Contact Jeff Selleck at 303-969-2147 for additional

information.

SOUKUP MEETS WITH MEXICAN PARK OFFICIALS After meetings in Mexico concerning Big Bend air quality, Mike Soukup and Miguel. Flores visited Lagunas de Zempoala National Park in Morelos. Established in the 1930's, the park has just received its first permanent staff and is in the process of developing a general management plan. Dr. Soukup discussed possible partnerships with Mexican and Central American protected areas for protection of migratory species. Such partnerships would result in the interchange of park personnel, development of training courses, and attendance at workshops. In Mexico City, Dr. Soukup met with Mr. Guillermo Ramirez Filippini, Mexico's Director of Partnerships for Protected Areas. Mr. Filippini's office is trying to develop cooperation between park land owners and national and international businesses to lessen the exploitation of natural resources in parks, such as building nurseries seeded with materials collected in the parks. Many land owners have historically derived income through the use of park resources, such as the collection and sale of plant and bird species.

AIR QUALITY INFORMATIONAL POSTER AVAILABLE -- A new air quality poster is now available from the Air Resources Division. The poster is presented as web pages and is part of actual web sites accessible on the Internet. The web site addresses are shown on the poster. The web pages provide information about the NPS air resource program including air quality monitoring, air pollution effects on park resources, and other air quality related information. The poster is approximately 3' x 2' and is available from Dee Morse at (303) 969-2817 or mail to: dee_morse@nps.gov.

WATER RIGHTS EXPERT WITNESS TRAINING -- The initial offering of a training course for Water Rights Expert Witnesses was held November 16 - 19, at the Bureau of Land Management's National Training Center in Phoenix, AZ. The course was designed by an interagency panel of water rights professionals and attorneys and led by staff from the Water Rights Branch of the Water Resources Division. In this pilot session, NPS and FWS staff gained experience in preparing technical expert witness reports and practiced defending them in a mock trial conducted by attorneys from the Department of Justice and the Office of the Solicitor.

SPECIAL REPORT ON TRANSBOUNDARY AIR QUALITY ISSUES -- This is the title of a report by the International Air Quality Advisory Board of the International Joint Commission, released on November 30, 1998. Kathy Tonnessen (NPS-ARD) is one of the authors of this report, which discusses regional air quality issues along the U.S./Canada border. The focus of the report is on new and emerging issues, such as persistent toxics and transboundary "harmonization" of air quality standards. The report is available on the IAQAB home page, <http://www.ijc.org/boards/iaqab>. Hard copies can be obtained from Kathy Tonnessen (kathy_tonnessen@nps.gov).

STAFF NEWS

INVASIVE PLANTS - The Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Exotic and Noxious Weeds (FICMNEW) recently re-elected Gary Johnston to serve another two year term as its co-chair.

NEW STAFF MEMBERS - Sarah Bransom has joined the staff of the Environmental Quality Division. She has been leading the Bison EIS Team, among other things at the Denver Service Center. In addition, she has been a key leader in the completion of the Elwha EIS process, the Glen Canyon Dam EIS (for the Bureau of Reclamation) and has years

of experience through her previous work in mining and environmental impacts (Black Mesa). She will be continuing to serve in her role with the Bison EIS team and in her spare time assisting parks and regions in environmental impact analysis and helping bring the NEPA guidance revision to fruition and implementation. The Air Resources Division has three new staff members, introduced in the latest issue of "On The Air" at <http://www.nature.nps.gov/ard/ota/index.htm>.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS/SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

PARK SYSTEM RESOURCE PROTECTION ACT WORKSHOP HELD AT SAMO - Bruce Peacock and Dan Hamson, along with Chuck McKinley from the Office of the Solicitor conducted a workshop on damage recoveries under 16 USC 1911. SAMO played host to the workshop which brought together park staff members from several units of the NPS in California and Nevada.

BIG THICKET GOES PUBLIC WITH OIL AND GAS MANAGEMENT PLANNING - The Preserve released a public newsletter about its intention to prepare an oil and gas management plan and EIS. The newsletter discusses broad planning goals, resources and values potentially at stake, preliminary alternatives, and regulatory framework. The newsletter also presents a project timeline, seeks public comments, and announces an "open house" on December 3, 1998 in Beaumont, TX. The planning document will be prepared by the park, region, and Geologic Resources Division, and will define a long term approach for managing nonfederal oil and gas exploration and development in the park while protecting and preserving NPS resources and values.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR SOUKUP PARTICIPATES IN MEXICO CITY MEETINGS ON BIG BEND VISIBILITY ISSUE -- Mike Soukup and Miguel Flores (NPS Air Resources Division) joined a group of senior level managers from EPA in meetings with Mexico Attorney General for Environmental Enforcement, Mr. Antonio Azuela de la Cueva, to discuss the visibility problem at Big Bend National Park. Mexico committed to complete the final report for a study conducted in 1996 and to conduct a multi-million dollar study during summer-fall 1999 on the causes of haze at Big Bend. The study (known as the "BRAVO" study or Big Bend Regional Aerosol and Visibility Observational Study) will provide information for state and federal regulators to develop control strategies for reducing emissions in both countries that worsen hazes at Big Bend.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING ON ALASKA MINING CLAIMS IN THE DENALI AREA - Russ Kucinski and Bruce Giffen from the Alaska Solicitor's Office and John Burghardt from the Geologic Resources Division, as mineral examiners, served as the government's expert witnesses before the Interior Board of Land Appeals. Based on their mineral reports, and ably represented by Joe Darnell from the Alaska Solicitor's Office, the government is contesting the validity of nine lode mining claims in Denali. Despite vigorous efforts by the claim owner's counsel, the government's case held up well throughout the two-week hearing; the NPS mineral examiners' expertise, judgment, and attention to detail were evident. This case illustrates the complexity and need for diligence throughout the validity exam process. If the Board upholds the government, the claims will be found null and void for lack of diligence.

ANNUAL DATA SUMMARY REPORTS ON DUNE - for each park with air quality monitoring have just been completed and issued for ozone, meteorological measurements, and the dry deposition filter-pack measurements. A paper report has statistical summaries, graphs, and maps that give the exceedances of the national standard and allow comparison between parks. The 1995 and 1996 reports were issued earlier this year; future reports will be in the Fall following the

year of data collection. For more information contact John Ray at (303) 969-2820.

1998 CANON NATIONAL PARKS SCIENCE AWARDS CEREMONY AND LECTURE - The 1998 Canon National Parks Science Scholars Program Awards Ceremony was held at the AAAS headquarters in Washington, DC on November 13. The second class of Canon National Parks Science Scholars was named: Elizabeth Barrie (Indiana University), Kurt Martens (University of California, Berkeley), and Karen Short (University of Montana). Each Canon Scholar receives \$25,000 per year for up to 3 years to conduct research on topics important to national parks. The Program is underwritten by Canon U.S.A., Inc. Other collaborating organizations include the National Park Service, National Park Foundation (NPF), and American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). At the ceremony, the Program also inaugurated the First Annual Canon Lecture on Science and the National Parks. The 1998 Canon Lecturer was Dr. Daniel Janzen, Professor of Biology and Thomas E. and Louise D. DiMaura Chair in Conservation Biology at the University of Pennsylvania.

DISPro UPDATE -- Below ground and an EPA Amphibian initiative were introduced at the Second Annual meeting of DISPro park representatives in November at the Marconi Conference Center, CA. Park representatives and EPA researchers discussed the stressor monitoring network operations and "leveraged projects" at the DISPro parks. They collected information from the parks on their amphibian issues, and discussed the organization of an "experts meeting" in early 1999 to come up with a work plan to include \$500K of research in a subset of the DISPro parks. The funded projects include: 1) "Below ground ecosystem function: Merging long-term climate monitoring with soil, root and foodweb dynamics to understand mechanisms regulating C and N transformation of dryland ecosystems"; 2) "Using the interrelationships of amphibian and reptile abundance as indicators of environmental change and ecosystem health at Big Bend National Park, Glacier National Park and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park"; 3) "Atmospheric deposition in mountainous terrain: Scaling up to the Landscape at Acadia and Great Smoky Mountain National Parks"; 4) "Nitrogen deposition and UV-B stressor impacts in Canyonlands National Park as affected by climatic pulse events"; 5) "Inferring regional patterns and responses in N and Hg biogeochemistry using two sets of gauged paired-watersheds in Acadia National Park"; 6) "Does N deposition mitigate ozone injury to ponderosa pine in Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park?"; 7) "Risk assessment of the effects of natural gas flaring on the environment in Olympic National Park"; 8) "Assessing the effects of twelve DISPro parks". The names of the authors of the studies can be obtained from Kathy Conner.

HEADS UP

GRANT OPPORTUNITY -- The current listing of grant opportunities and deadlines for FY 99 for the EPA-sponsored grants program, Science to Achieve Results (STAR), are listed on the web site <http://epa.gov/ncercq/rfa>. Current solicitations include research on "Ecological Indicators" due February 4, 1999. The Scale Analysis and Assessment program is currently in the process of working with EPA to develop a list of parks that will be included in an environmental research solicitation that EPA-STAR will announce in FY 2000.

MEETINGS AND TRAINING

ANNUAL GIS COORDINATORS MEETING -- The NPS GIS coordinators held their annual meeting in Washington DC during the week of 26 October. They focused on remote sensing technology and GIS Program direction. They decided to broaden input and resolution by presenting issues relating to GIS software and data integration at the December Information Council Meeting. The regional GIS coordinators will be responsible for planning and implementing support for documentation of park GIS databases and posting them to the NPS GIS Clearinghouse to qualify for full WASO GIS funding next year. The GIS funding program was revised to include a GIS coordinator position for each region. Paula Jasinski is the new ARD GIS coordinator; she has been on board for about one year as the new International Coordinator. Bill Adams, NIFC, attended the meeting and encouraged GIS staff to work with fire management officers for joint funding, staffing, mapping, and GIS applications.

GIS TRAINING SCHEDULE IN 1999 has been announced: 1) Introduction to ArcView 3.1 on the Internet (1/25-3/5, 4/12-5/21, 9/13-10/22); 2) Intermediate ArcView 3.1 (Piedmont Island Chapter of the -- February and National Capitol Chapter of the -- March); 3) GIS-wide Alliance GIS (Denver -- February); 4) GIS-wide Alliance GIS (Portland -- March); 5) GIS-wide Alliance GIS (Boulder -- April); 6) GIS-wide Alliance GIS (Salt Lake City -- May); 7) GIS-wide Alliance GIS (Phoenix -- June); 8) GIS-wide Alliance GIS (San Diego -- July); 9) GIS-wide Alliance GIS (San Francisco -- August); 10) GIS-wide Alliance GIS (Seattle -- September); 11) GIS-wide Alliance GIS (Vancouver -- October); 12) GIS-wide Alliance GIS (Victoria -- November); 13) GIS-wide Alliance GIS (Whistler -- December). For more information, contact the GIS Clearinghouse at (202) 851-4100.

NATIONAL I&M ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING -- The NPS I&M Advisory Committee met during 17-18 November 1998 in Springfield, Missouri, in association with the Prairie Cluster Prototype Monitoring Program. In addition to reviewing the current status of the Prairie Cluster Monitoring Program, the committee also discussed and provided initial recommendations for expanding ecological monitoring to all parks under the Natural Resource Initiative. The NPS I&M Advisory Committee was another topic of discussion at the meeting. The NPS I&M Advisory Committee was developed and is now a permanent committee. The NPS I&M Advisory Committee will be in the near future.

ARD STAFF ATTEND AT GLOBAL AND LOCAL REGIONAL MEETINGS ON ATMOSPHERIC DEPOSITION -- Kelly Thompson, ARD Staff, and Bill Adams, ARD Staff, attended the International Conference on Snow Hydrology, held in Brownsville, Vermont. They presented a poster on nitrogen deposition in snowpacks in the Colorado Rockies and the leakage of N into stream waters during snowmelt runoff. Snow deposition in the Rockies was also the topic of a poster and oral presentation made by ARD staff at the 20th annual technical meeting of the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) held in Salt Lake City, Utah. The NADP is a long-term program to monitor and assess the effects of acidic deposition on the environment. This is a national program to monitor and assess the effects of acidic deposition on the environment. This is a national program to monitor and assess the effects of acidic deposition on the environment.

NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM OFFICIALS ATTEND AGENCY HARDROCK MINING DIALOGUE -- Water and Geologic Resources Division staff attended a week-long meeting with Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Environmental Protection Agency attorneys and technical staff analyzing cleanup authorities for hardrock mining sites. Most of the discussion focused on CERCLA § 106, the authority under which natural resource trustees may order cleanup of sites that may endanger human health or the environment. The NPS is currently using its authority under CERCLA § 106 to order cleanup of sites that may endanger human health or the environment. The NPS is currently using its authority under CERCLA § 106 to order cleanup of sites that may endanger human health or the environment. The NPS is currently using its authority under CERCLA § 106 to order cleanup of sites that may endanger human health or the environment.