

Subject: SEPT MO REPORT

SEPTEMBER 1998 NATURAL RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP AND SCIENCE REPORT

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

NPS-77 REVISION WORKSHOP. NPS and USGS-BRD geologists attended the Geologic Resources Division's workshop to draft comments on the NPS.

Management Policies and commence revisions of the geology-related sections of NPS-77, soon to be renamed the "Natural Resource Management Reference Manual." The geology, cave, soil, and paleontology sections of NPS-77 will be revised, and new sections about disturbed land restoration, shoreline management, and geohazards will be added. The revised and new sections will be circulated for peer review before being submitted to the NPS-77 editor, to the Natural Resources Directorate, and to subsequent servicewide review. Contact Julia Brunner by cc:Mail or at 303-969-2012 for more information.

SERVICEWIDE 20% FEE FUNDS. Natural Resources participated in WASO's FY1998 Servicewide 20% Fee Demo funds process. Priorities, titles, and funds for recommended projects of natural resources interest on the servicewide list include: (A) within possible funding range - (2) NAS Review of YELL Northern Range Ungulates (\$250,000); (3) Social Science Support to Urban Recreation Research Center (\$100,000); (4) Assessment of NPS NODSS Noise Model (\$435,000); (5) Project Support for four CESUs (\$400,000); (7) Director's Natural Resource Initiative (\$100,000); (9) Exotics and Native Plant Projects Cost-Shared through NFWF (\$500,000); (10) Visitor Perception of Risk, Associated Visitor Safety Analysis (\$300,000); (11) Wetland Mapping and Digital Data (\$250,000); (15) Economic Valuation of Visitor Uses, Recovery of Costs for Damaged Resources (\$500,000); (17) Endangered Species (\$500,000); (20) Disturbed Land Restoration (\$250,000); (B) beyond the expected funding range - (24) Animal Capture Assistance to Parks (\$30,000); (26) User Response to Water and Energy Conservation (\$50,000); (27) Research Permit Software (\$29,000); (28) Intranet Enhancement for Environmental Compliance Guidance (\$75,000); (29) Contingency Planning for Spills in Parks (\$150,000); (30) Prototype Park Restoration Plan (\$400,000). The estimated cost of 30 projects totals \$7.15 million; the estimated available funding is \$6.0 million.

PROPOSED URANIUM MINE IN AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL PARK/WORLD HERITAGE SITE. A World Heritage Commission team will determine whether the very controversial mine, which is legally excluded from the Park/World Heritage Site but is physically located inside its boundaries and on ancient Aboriginal lands, places Kakadu National Park in danger of losing its world heritage qualities and features. The team will conduct a fact-finding mission to gather information from industry, environmentalists, and the Aboriginal clan opposing the mine. Regional Director John Cook is part of the team and was briefed by the Southwest SO and GRD technical and policy staff about the environmental aspects of the proposed mine and lessons that can be drawn from U.S. mining and Indian law and actual case studies. For more information contact Dave Shaver at 303-969-2094.

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT. NPS is helping with developing measures, protocols, and standard criteria and indicators regarding sustainable forest and rangeland management. This effort, derived from the Montreal Process for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests, will help implement 1993 Presidential Decision Directive NSC-16, which seeks sustainable (healthy and productive; timber growth exceeds harvest; forests are reservoirs of biological diversity and carbon) management of U.S. forests by the year 2000. It will develop a "National Report on Sustainable Forest Management by 2003". NPS may nominate team participants in six of seven topics: biological diversity, productive capacity, health and vitality, soil and water, forest contribution to global carbon cycles (no team here), long-term multiple socio-economic benefits, and legal, institutional, and economic framework. To nominate yourself, from government, from academia, contact John Dennis soon (cc:Mail, voice 202-208-5193, FAX 202-208-4620).

#### PROGRESS ON CONTINUING ISSUES

COASTAL PARKS LOOK AT CACO'S PROTOTYPE I&M PROGRAM. The CACO resource management staff hosted a conference on September 16-17 to review their inventory and monitoring and to share its experience with other coastal parks. CACO is a designated I&M prototype park, and as such, the data and protocols developed there are to be shared with parks with similar ecosystems. Natural resource staff of ACAD, FIIS, GATE, ASIS, CAHA, CALO, CANA, BISC, EVER, GUIS, and PAIS attended. USGS researchers and CACO staff presented an overview of accomplishments to date. Biologists from the other coastal parks presented their accomplishments and information they need soon. A lively discussion ensued on how CACO efforts may help other coastal parks. Similar conferences are planned as CACO progresses through the research phase of its I&M program. For further information contact Gary Williams (970-225-3539).

MINING CLAIMS. The certified review mineral examiner of the Bureau of Land Management confirmed that three mining claims in Joshua Tree National Park are invalid and thus null and void. The claimant has since relinquished his remaining claims in the park. At the end of FY98, GRD issued four contracts to augment in-house capability to determine whether claimants hold bona fide property rights. In FY99, the contractors will examine four unpatented claim groups in Mojave National Preserve and Joshua Tree National Park and will be supervised by GRD mineral examiners who are stationed in Barstow. For more information contact Dave Shaver at 303-969-2094.

KATIE MCGINTY SPEAKS TO FICMNEW. CEQ chair Katie McGinty videotaped remarks for presentation to the upcoming program retreat of the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW). FICMNEW will develop a list of action items to build on past successes. These successes include: the "Pulling Together National Strategy" endorsed by the Vice President and more than 100 governmental and non-governmental organizations; the cost share partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation that in two years has matched \$1.2 million of federal funds at a 2:1 ratio; the soon-to-be-completed fact book that serves as briefing book and background document about invasive weeds for decision makers and others; and high level briefings for Congressional members and staffs.

NAS REVIEW On September 18, a panel of the National Academy of Sciences of the USGS-Water Resources Division (Colorado District) reviewed the relevance of USGS research and monitoring in meeting

federal, state, and local agency needs. Kathy Tonnessen (ARD) discussed the long NPS-ARD/USGS-WRD association in collecting deposition information and its effects on Class-I parks in the western United States. She recommended that USGS-WRD continue to provide data to federal land managers with Class-I area responsibilities in mountainous areas of the West. She suggested that USGS-WRD allow researchers with special expertise to work outside their regions. For further information contact Kathy Tonnessen at 303-969-2738.

**NPS and EPA SIGN DISPRO INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.** After an initial period of cooperative design and implementation of the Demonstrative Intensive Site Project (DISPro), the two agencies renewed their agreement for 3 years. NPS will monitor air and deposition in 14 park sites and support EPA-funded research and monitoring. EPA will operate the UV monitoring network in these parks and also provide funding for stressor/response research and research on amphibians. Amphibian work to be carried out in FY99 will be discussed at the second annual DISPro meeting in November 1998. For further information contact Kathy Tonnessen at 303-969-2738.

**THE PARK SCIENCE WEB SITE** ([www.nature.nps.gov/parksci](http://www.nature.nps.gov/parksci)) was redesigned to enhance its usefulness. The interface is now more intuitive and easier to navigate with buttons. The pages are more attractive and consistent in their appearance, and more information can be displayed on the screen at one time. This is achieved with frames, an HTML feature that has been customized to display a table of contents (hyperlinks to various articles) on the left side of the screen while the content itself displays simultaneously on the right. Most important, content for the web site was added, including all back issues of the publication. These can be downloaded as PDF files. For further information contact Jeff Selleck (303-969-2147).

**COLORADO PILOT PROJECT AT DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT.** Staff from the park, GRD, and NRID met to determine the park's geologic mapping needs and general geologic resource management needs. Addressed also the shifting of the quarry building (because of its geology) and consequent threat to the dinosaur quarry face and building. After determining the needs of two more parks in Colorado, the Pilot Project will move to parks in Utah. For more information contact Bruce Heise at 303-969-2017.

#### PUBLICATIONS

**AIR QUALITY REPORT.** A report titled "Assessment of Air Quality and Air Pollutant Impacts in National Parks of the Rocky Mountains and Northern Great Plains" is now available. It presents summaries of emissions, ambient monitoring, and air quality-related ecological and visibility effects information for northern Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Chapters are dedicated to each of the NPS Class-I areas in the region. The report provides recommendations for future research and monitoring that would better clarify current conditions and resource effects thresholds. For a copy of the report, contact Tonnie Maniero at (303) 969-2806.

**MEASURING ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION IN NPS UNITS.** A fact sheet that describes UV-B monitoring at the 14 Demonstrative Intensive Site Project (DISPro) park units can be viewed on the web at <http://www.nature.nps.gov/facts/findex.htm>.

**PROCEEDINGS.** The Science and Management of Protected Areas Association (SAMPAA) published papers delivered during the Third International Conference in Calgary in May 1997. Included are papers on protected area issues and air quality in parks and preserves by

three Air Resources Division staff. The book, "Linking Protected Areas with Working Landscapes Conserving Biodiversity," can be obtained from SAMPAA at Centre for Wildlife and Conservation Biology, Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, B0P 1X0. For further information contact Kathy Tonnessen at 303-969-2738.

#### MEETINGS

THE NATURAL RESOURCE MEETING in Austin, Texas, and involving representatives from clusters and regions, was held on 28-30 September. Presentations included the NPS Director's Natural Resource Initiative, the FY 2000 NPS budget, research and collection permits, the Project Management Information System, the Social Science Program, the Colorado Plateau 5-year strategy, fire management, and air resource fire issues. A total of 40 natural resource and park personnel attended the sessions. THE SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION (SER) meeting coincided with the Austin meeting. SER sessions included range restoration, insect diversity, restoration of mined lands, and grassland restoration. Plenary sessions were on restoration education, rangeland restoration, and restoration across borders. Attendants of the Austin Meeting joined SER attendants for the final SER plenary session when Secretary Babbitt spoke on restoration across borders.

#### AWARDS

During the Natural Resource Meeting in Austin, Texas, the NPS Director presented natural-resource awards to Bob Cook (now biologist in CACO) for resource management in a small park (NPSA), to F. Kent Turner for resource management in LAME; and to Dr. Kate Kendall, BRD (USGS) researcher, for work on DNA in grizzly bears in GLAC. For more information contact Debby Peck at 202-208-4624.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

PRESENTATION OF PAPER AND KEY NOTE ADDRESS. Erik Hauge (ARD) presented a paper on regional clean-air partnerships at the 11th World Clean Air Congress in Durban, South Africa and gave the keynote address at a meeting of governmental, business, and environmental representatives to establish a clean air partnership in the Eastern Cape Province.