



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL OFFICE
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

IN REPLY REFER TO:

N16 RMR-MR

Memorandum

To: Associate Director, Natural Resources

From: Regional Director, Rocky Mountain Region

Subject: Director Mott's Memorandum of May 27, 1987, Requesting
Consideration of a New Definition of "Resource Management"

We agree with the Director that an updated, more specific definition of the term "resources management," as used by the National Park Service, should be developed. According to current (or historic) convention, many of our routine maintenance and enforcement operations could, indeed, be justifiably considered to be resources management as well as maintenance or enforcement. This is because proper maintenance of visitor use improvements and enforcement of resource protection regulations do protect, to varying degrees, the resources we are entrusted to preserve for future generations.

Current use of the term "resources management" has evolved from the earliest period of the Service when enforcement and maintenance were the primary operations in early parks. Since that time we have witnessed the birth and development of the disciplines currently aligned as natural resources management sciences; e.g. forestry, fishery and wildlife management, range conservation, conservation biology, environmental engineering, and others, each having multiple subdivisions.

Recently we have broached a scientific revolution, of sorts, in the management of national parks. Our most visible and controversial issues revolve around highly technical or little understood phenomena. For this reason, our practice of resources management must advance beyond the enforcement and maintenance levels toward a scientific ethic of understanding and prediction rather than reaction. Perhaps, then, a new definition of "resources management" might encompass those activities commonly practiced by professional resource managers (e.g. problem identification and documentation, synthesis of existing information and original research, planning, and decision-making) rather than the labor-intensive, though equally necessary, maintenance and enforcement activities. The latter almost always have resource management implications when carried out in national park areas; thus attempts to establish a broader definition will assuredly result in confusion and more variant interpretation.

Examples would be that elimination of exotic hogs from a park by shooting, herding, or sterilization techniques would be considered resource management while fencing to prevent reintroduction could be justifiably included in either a resource management or construction/capital improvement program. Rehabilitation and revegetation work on foot trails could be considered resource management since it attempts to "naturalize" an ecosystem component impacted by human use. Paving of roads to reduce erosion and subsequent impacts on adjacent areas could, again, be considered part of a resource preservation program or a capital improvements project since the road itself was to facilitate visitor use and not to preserve a natural condition. And even ranger road patrols which issue 99% of all citations for driving violations would certainly react to evidence of wildlife poaching or to aid an animal disabled near the road as a result of collision with an automobile.

The issue of redefinition is timely but, as you see, one with many justifiable perspectives and an understandable evolution. While technology growth and appropriate evolution of our sister agencies support reconsideration of an NPS definition, we must carefully consider the impacts of any changes in that definition on the duties, responsibilities, and position classifications of our dedicated field staff as many maintenance and enforcement employees feel they are part of a tradition of resource preservation in the Service. Changes in terminology could also have far-reaching effects on park base and project funding. If it is determined that a new definition is necessary for budgeting and tracking purposes, we would suggest the term be used to describe the more easily discernable activities of designated resource managers and not include those projects and activities over which we will likely spend as much time trying to categorize as carrying out.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

cc: Regional Directors

DEHuff:deh:10-1-87:ndef.deh:969-2650



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WESTERN REGION

450 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE, BOX 36063
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

IN REPLY REFER TO:

N2623(WR-RN)

October 2, 1987

Memorandum

To: Associate Director, Natural Resources, National Park Service

From: Regional Director, Western Region

Subject: Definition of Resource Management

In response to your August 17, 1987, memorandum requesting our thoughts regarding the definition of "resource management," we offer the following:

Definition

Natural resource management is the maintenance and/or restoration of natural ecosystems and processes.

Goal

The goal of the natural resource management program is stated within the above definition, that is "to maintain and/or restore natural ecosystems and processes."

Objectives

Within the context of the above definition and goal, specific natural resource management objectives for the Western Region currently include: (1) eliminate degradation of park resources due to non-native plants and animals; (2) eliminate the loss of habitat for threatened, endangered and other sensitive plants and animals; (3) minimize the deterioration of park resources due to permit and trespass grazing; (4) minimize the disruption of natural fire regimes; (5) minimize human use impacts on soils and vegetation; (6) minimize the loss of fragile and irreplaceable cave resources; (7) minimize adverse water resources losses and impacts; (8) minimize visibility impairment and biological damage caused by air pollution; (9) eliminate noise and visual intrusions related to aircraft overflights and other sources; and (10) obtain more basic information about park resources through inventory and monitoring programs. These objectives are directly related to the 19 major issues identified in our Natural Resources Assessment and Action Program (NRAAP) and supported by approved natural resources management plans.

We support the effort to more clearly define natural resource management and, thereby, more easily differentiate this and other important activities that fall within the much broader "resources protection" mandate of the Service. Such a definition will enhance our ability to determine those resources that are truly devoted to natural resources management and to direct natural resource management funds to projects that truly serve to maintain and/or restore natural ecosystems and processes.

We believe the term "natural resource management" should include mitigation, manipulation, monitoring, and maintenance activities which have as their primary goals the maintenance or restoration of natural ecosystems and processes. Such activities should also be identified in an approved natural resources management plan. Not applicable to the above definition is any activity which has as its primary goal the safety or management of visitors (e.g., backcountry ranger patrols, operation of a wilderness permit system, and hazardous tree identification and removal) or the enhancement or maintenance of visitor enjoyment (e.g., routine trail maintenance, vista clearing, and disposal of human waste), or which is not appropriate for inclusion in an approved natural resources management plan.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stanley T. Albright". The signature is written in dark ink and is centered on the page.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

MID-ATLANTIC REGION
143 SOUTH THIRD STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19106

IN REPLY REFER TO:

N16(MAR-MR)

SEP 25 1967

Memorandum

To: Associate Director, Natural Resources
From: Regional Director, Mid-Atlantic Region
Subject: Resource Management, Definition

We are pleased to have the opportunity to provide you with our ideas on this issue. We agree that the NRAAP exercise gave inconsistent results due to the wide range of park determined definitions of what constituted resources management.

In response to your memorandum, we requested each participant at the recent Resource Monitoring Course, held at Delaware Water Gap NRA, write a definition of Resource Management. Their responses are enclosed for your information. While differing somewhat, they seem to consistently refer to the monitoring and manipulation of ecosystem components (resources) to meet a previously identified objective.

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Office does not closely differentiate between the efforts of our natural science research program and our natural resource management efforts. Organizationally, the two areas are closely related. Therefore, we would add to the above the element "studies." Our definition would then be as follows, "Any studies, monitoring actions or manipulation of the ecosystem or its components, conducted to achieve a predetermined natural resource objective or goal." This does preclude some social science studies but would cover those relating to resource use and impact.

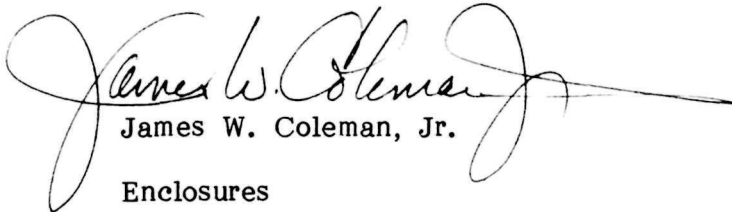
We would appreciate your views as to what degree of documentation in a park Resource Management Plan would be required to support a social science research project funded through the proposed social science initiative.

It is sometimes easier to define what something "isn't," than what it is. In this vein, we offer the following observations:

° Maintenance activities such as mowing lawns are not resource management when the objective is to provide an aesthetic landscape.

- ° Maintenance activities, such as mowing, may be resource management when the objective is to maintain an open meadow, or control an exotic species such as Canada thistle.
- ° Cutting and removal of hazard trees may not constitute a resource management activity when the sole objective is to reduce safety hazards.
- ° Development and implementation of a forest management plan which includes the monitoring of, and preventative treatment of declining trees, and the timely removal of decadent trees where the objective is to maintain landscape elements in an optimum condition.

The issue, in our opinion, hinges on the objective which is being met, rather than the activity itself.



James W. Coleman, Jr.

Enclosures

Natural Resource Management

Definition

Managing all natural resources to maintain them or improve them (when human adversely affected), and to allow natural processes (i.e. succession) to run its course.

Defining the monitoring, research management programs needed to protect and preserve the natural and cultural resources within the legislative intent of your enabling act.

Plans, studies, actions, and evaluations designed to increase knowledge of, maintain or improve the quality of, and establish the state of natural resources.

Monitoring of the condition of the natural resources, and putting into practice those procedures which will maintain a healthy and viable resource, providing the best resource for the appreciation and experience of the visitor.

The monitoring and manipulation of living things, and what they interact with, to achieve a desired result.

All activities associated with the management of natural resources (i.e. air, water, vegetation, animals, ecosystem processes) where environments are predominantly natural (i.e. emphasis on natural zones as opposed to developed zones).

The monitoring, manipulation, and preservation of natural resources to meet stated management objectives.

Manipulation of natural resources to achieve a goal.

The protection, monitoring and manipulation of natural resources to meet the specific management objectives of the service and the particular parks in question.

Systematic approach to protecting/manipulating natural resources with respect to the enabling legislation of a park and other NPS policies, guidelines and procedures. Includes mitigative already damaged areas.

Series of actions involving monitoring, research and mitigation of the natural processes.

The systematic identification, inventory of natural resources and the recognition of changes and problems with those resources and the implementation of programs to correct problems and protect the integrity of those resources and the systems they are part of.

All actions on the part of park staff (or directed by park staff) which are undertaken to inventory, research, mitigate or in some way change natural processes in the park.

Researching, monitoring, and implementations management actions designed to preserve natural resources.

Monitoring and management of all natural elements of an ecosystem.

Any action or non action that results in the observation, monitoring or manipulation, to achieve a desired state with that given natural resource you are charged with managing.

Activities involving the use of biological sciences for the purpose of manipulating natural resources.

The process of understanding and implementing management action relating to natural resources.

Any active management of natural resource to meet a specific objective. Also includes observation of natural resources without manipulation to assure that objectives are met.

The assessment of the condition of all biotic and abiotic resources in natural areas, the identification of problems or issues affecting those areas, and the development and implementation of strategies to eliminate or mitigate those problems or issues.

Maintaining and monitoring those values designated by the Congress for future generations.

The field of study/management that provides planning, guidance, research data, analysis, and back up information that allows parks to take actions that protect resources (a protection function enforcement) manage visitors (a visitor management function enforcement) and information that is transferred regarding resources (visitor services/interpretation). The actual action of protecting is usually an enforcement function or maintenance function once it becomes routine.

Monitoring and manipulating elements of natural resources to achieve management goals and objectives.

DEFINITION OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Resource management is the deliberate and planned manipulation, modification or monitoring of natural or cultural resources to meet a well defined goal or objective. Examples of such an objective might be to conduct a baseline inventory of aquatic insects, remove an exotic plant or to rehabilitate a landscape damaged by visitor use. Excluded from these actions are routine maintenance operations such as landscaping in developed areas, trail maintenance, litter removal, roadside mowing and brush clearing and other similar activities necessary to maintain facilities. However, this does not exclude all activities which may have traditionally been performed by maintenance crews. Examples of such activities might include vegetation manipulation to maintain historic scenes, prescribed fire, and pest management. Although many interpretive programs focus directly on resource management operations these activities would not ,in themselves, be considered as resource management.



IN REPLY REFER TO

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

MID-ATLANTIC REGION
143 SOUTH THIRD STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19106

September 9, 1987

Memorandum

From: Jeff Marion and Beth Johnson
To: Bill Supernaugh
Subject: Resources Management Definition

The following is our response to your request for Resources Management definitions. After considerable discussion and debate we arrived at the following conclusions:

1) A single concise definition is neither possible nor appropriate.

We found that Resources Management included too broad a range of activities to make a single concise definition possible. Furthermore, such a definition would be inappropriate because it would necessarily leave too much open to interpretation, the precise problem which initiated the current need for a more precise definition.

2) It is also inappropriate to develop lists of specific activities which are or are not in the domain of resources management.

An activity oriented approach to defining Resources Management is inappropriate because, in our opinion, the objectives of the activity are critical to the definition. For example, consider mowing as a management activity. We feel most would agree that the mowing of lawns around buildings in Park Developed zones is not a legitimate Resources Management activity. However, the less frequent mowing of meadows in Park Natural or Special Use zones to control exotic plants or to maintain habitat for endangered species is a legitimate Resources Management activity. The activity, mowing, is the same in each instance but the objectives are very different.

3) It is possible and appropriate to focus on the objectives of various activities for the purpose of defining the domain of resources management.

It is our conclusion that Resources Management must be defined by considering the objectives of specific activities. This requires



that our energies be applied to defining appropriate resources management objectives. Such a task deserves the degree of attention that only a new Blue Ribbon committee modeled after the Leopold Committee can provide. In our opinion, appropriate definitions would revolve around the general goal of preserving naturally functioning ecosystems and ecosystem processes. This generally involves activities related to the prevention, minimization, or mitigation of threats to natural ecological relations.

The use of an approach based on objectives is both more precise and flexible, allowing for application to new situations over time. To demonstrate how this approach might be applied it is useful to consider a few case examples which initiated some debate in the recent NKAAP program.

Removal of Hazard Trees - The objective of hazard tree removal relates to visitor and building safety and therefore would not be considered a Resource Management activity.

Vista Clearing and Maintenance - The objective of vista maintenance along roads and trails relates to aesthetics (providing scenic views for park visitors) and therefore would not be considered a Resource Management activity.

Integrated Pest Management - The purpose of IPM activities relating to buildings would not qualify under Resources Management but IPM activities relating to the use of pesticides or herbicides to vegetation might, depending upon the stated objectives.

Litter Cleanup - Litter cleanup is related primarily to visitor aesthetics, particularly in developed zones, and would not be considered a Resources Management activity. Activities related to the containment and cleanup of trash dumps and hazardous wastes would be considered as Resources Management.

Interpretive Activities - Most interpretive activities are related to the objective of visitor education and would therefore not be considered Resources Management.

Fire - Fire suppression objectives are typically related to threats to human safety, buildings, facilities, and non-NPS lands. Such activities would therefore not be considered Resources Management. The use of prescribed fire, both human and lightning initiated, typically have objectives related to the maintenance of natural ecosystems and would be considered as Resources Management.

Law Enforcement - The interpretation of Law Enforcement activities are perhaps the most difficult. We believe that the objectives or intent of the various laws and regulations must be examined to determine which activities are directly related to Resources Management. The enforcement of laws and regulations which were passed primarily to protect park natural resources could be considered as Resources Management. For example, preventing the

poaching of wildlife would be considered Resources Management but general ranger patrol activities would not. Checking fishing and hunting licenses relates primarily to the enforcement of state laws for the regulation of the recreational activity and would not be considered as Resources Management. Conducting or assisting with inventory, monitoring, and research activities related to the protection and management of natural resources would be considered Resources Management.

Planning - All planning activities related to the protection and management of natural resources can be considered as Resources Management.

Inventory and Monitoring - All activities related to the inventory and monitoring of natural resources can be considered as Resources Management.

Jeff Marion



Regional Research Biologist
Mid-Atlantic Region

Beth Johnson



Resource Management Specialist,
Delaware Water Gap NRA



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

North Atlantic Region

15 State Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02109-3572



IN REPLY REFER TO

September 16, 1987

N-16(NAR-OV)

Memorandum

To: Associate Director, Natural Resources
From: Regional Director, North Atlantic Region
Subject: Definition of Resource Management

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Director's request for a more precise definition of resource management. Although a precise definition has been and probably will continue to be somewhat illusive, this reflects the many aspects of resource management programs and its interdisciplinary nature. However, in spite of this ambiguity in definition, the overall goals and objectives for both cultural and natural resource management are clearly established in NPS Management Policies. The goals and objectives for park-specific programs are articulated in Resource Management Plans and for regional programs, in the regional reports for both cultural and natural resources (sent to the Washington Office last April and May, respectively). The Regional Natural Resource Assessment and Action Program describes in detail expenditures of funds in FY86 and FTEs committed to Natural Resource Management at both the park and regional level.

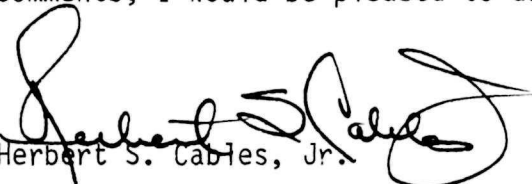
We offer the following definition for resource management: planning; implementing; and evaluating actions taken to protect, or in cases where necessary, restore park natural and cultural resources. These actions are often necessary to detect, avoid or remove impacts to resources from human activities. Actions can include research or many types of program implementation and evaluation such as mitigation/manipulation, monitoring, enforcement, or interpretation (as defined in the Guidelines for the Natural Resource Assessment and Action Program). In general, it is the program implementation which is the most diverse and often involves many park or regional office divisions in addition to Resource Management including park rangers, interpreters, and maintenance. Tracking the "health" of park resources and evaluation of program effectiveness are important aspects of resource management which need more emphasis. The recent Natural Resources Inventory and Monitoring Initiative will help to remedy this program deficiency. Another increasingly important aspect of effective resource management is development of public involvement/education programs to gain support from visitors and neighboring communities for park programs.

I recognize this definition is quite broad, however, I believe that that is inherent in effective resource management. While I agree that a narrower definition of resource management may have certain advantages, it is critical that the definition not isolate resource management programs into a narrow niche within park programs. Over the past several years, we have made significant accomplishments integrating various park and regional office divisions in resource management program development and implementation. I would not want to see that integration lost or in any way diminished, due to a narrower definition of resource management. One successful example of this type of program integration is the North Atlantic Region's Resource Management Skills Team founded in September 1986. The Team is an interdisciplinary group of park and regional office staff that develop resource management training and assist in resource management projects.

I believe that semantics play an important role in this discussion and that describing a job as "routine or general maintenance" could be perceived as those activities being unimportant and would further isolate resource management programs and contribute to morale problems. Many jobs such as wilderness patrols and trail maintenance, (to cite examples used by the Director), should be seen as important parts of park programs and in some cases, part of the resource management programs. For example, resource monitoring can be accomplished during wilderness patrols and protection of sensitive habitat can be accomplished through trail maintenance and construction of boardwalks; both of these activities can be considered implementation of resource management program objectives. I do agree that additional accounting of patrol/monitoring hours and maintenance time would be useful to management. The new Maintenance Management System and the revised PWEs (see next paragraph) will both contribute to this accounting.

I am pleased to see the revision of the natural resources budget PWEs in process. In addition to the 180 series and 414, I encourage you to also review, in cooperation with other offices, the PWEs which are being used by cross-reference, in particular PWEs 300/301 (cultural resources management) and PWEs 232/281/282 (maintenance activities). Without this more comprehensive revision, the cross-references will not work as effectively, particularly in areas such as cultural landscapes. I would argue that the budget definitions should reflect the definition you develop from regional input, rather than vice versa.

Overall, although the definition of resource management may remain less precise, I believe that program goals continue to be articulated more clearly each year. The park Resource Management Plans and the new Plan Guidelines will also contribute to clarification of definition and program goals. Interdivisional involvement in park resource management programs, particularly program implementation, is critical to accomplishment of those programs and should not be undermined by a narrow definition of resource management. If I can provide any additional information or review consolidated regional comments, I would be pleased to do so.


Herbert S. Cables, Jr.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE

75 Spring Street, S.W.

Atlanta, Georgia 30303

IN REPLY REFER TO:

N16 (SER-ODN)

SEP 14 1987

Memorandum

To: Associate Director, Natural Resources, WASO

From: FOR Regional Director, Southeast Region

Subject: Definition of resource management

During the last part of July, selected Superintendents and resource managers from the Southeast Region met in Atlanta to examine the process of "Resource Management Planning." The objectives of that exercise were to define resource management, establish a resource management "system goal," and develop the primary components of a functional resource management plan. This effort was continued at our September Superintendents Conference where the managers of 53 park units worked to refine those three items. In response to your August 17 memorandum, we have enclosed those items.

Our effort was directed toward developing a planning process that is succinct and functional. The consensus of our managers was that only two fundamental changes are necessary to the existing planning guidelines: eliminate unnecessary and burdensome NEPA compliance and include a process to annually track and evaluate the progress of ongoing actions.

Our representatives to the Director's work group will be proposing to reduce the NEPA compliance burden by recommending that each project statement contain a section on the legal compliance status of the proposed action. This section could document (1) that an EA or EIS has been prepared (on this action or as part of another planning document), (2) that an EA or EIS will be prepared prior to implementation, or (3) that the project has been found to be categorically excluded (citing the appropriate exclusion(s)). We believe that the process to track and evaluate ongoing actions can be developed through a modified annual resource assessment report.

Questions regarding our input should be directed to Rick Dawson, FTS 242-4916.

Enclosures (3)

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DEFINITION

The systematic process of rehabilitating and restoring natural and cultural resources and protecting and preserving them from internal and external threats in keeping with the values and purposes for which an area was established.

DEFINITIONS

Protection: Is defined as the act or process of applying measures designed to **affect the physical condition** of a building, structure, or natural system (or system components) **by guarding it from deterioration, loss, or attack, or to shield from danger or injury**. It includes such actions as: patrol and enforcement, maintenance, inventory, interpretation, monitoring, rule-making, and boundary-marking.

Preservation: Is defined as the act or process of **applying measures or developing strategies** to sustain existing form and integrity of a building, structure, or natural system (or system components). It includes such actions as: stabilization, maintenance, inventory, research, and monitoring.

FOR CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Rehabilitation: Is defined as the act or process of **returning a property to a state of utility** which makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions or features of the property which are significant to its historical, architectural, and cultural values. It includes such actions as: research, repair, and alteration.

Restoration: Is defined as the act or process of **accurately recovering the form and details** of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time. It consists of actions such as: research, removal, and replacement.

FOR NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Rehabilitation: Is defined as the act or process of **returning a resource to a more desirable natural state**. It includes actions such as eradication of exotic plants or animals, removal of diseased plants or animals, removal of diseased plants and replanting with healthy ones, elimination or control of disease-carrying or otherwise harmful insects, enhancement of critical habitats for endangered/threatened species, etc.

Restoration: Is defined as the act or process of **recovering a species, habitat or ecosystem** to a condition as near to unimpaired as possible. It consists of stabilization, reconstruction, and revegetation of eroded dune systems, replanting of successional species to recover a vegetative community, de-channelization of a stream, reintroduction of a native species, etc.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM GOAL

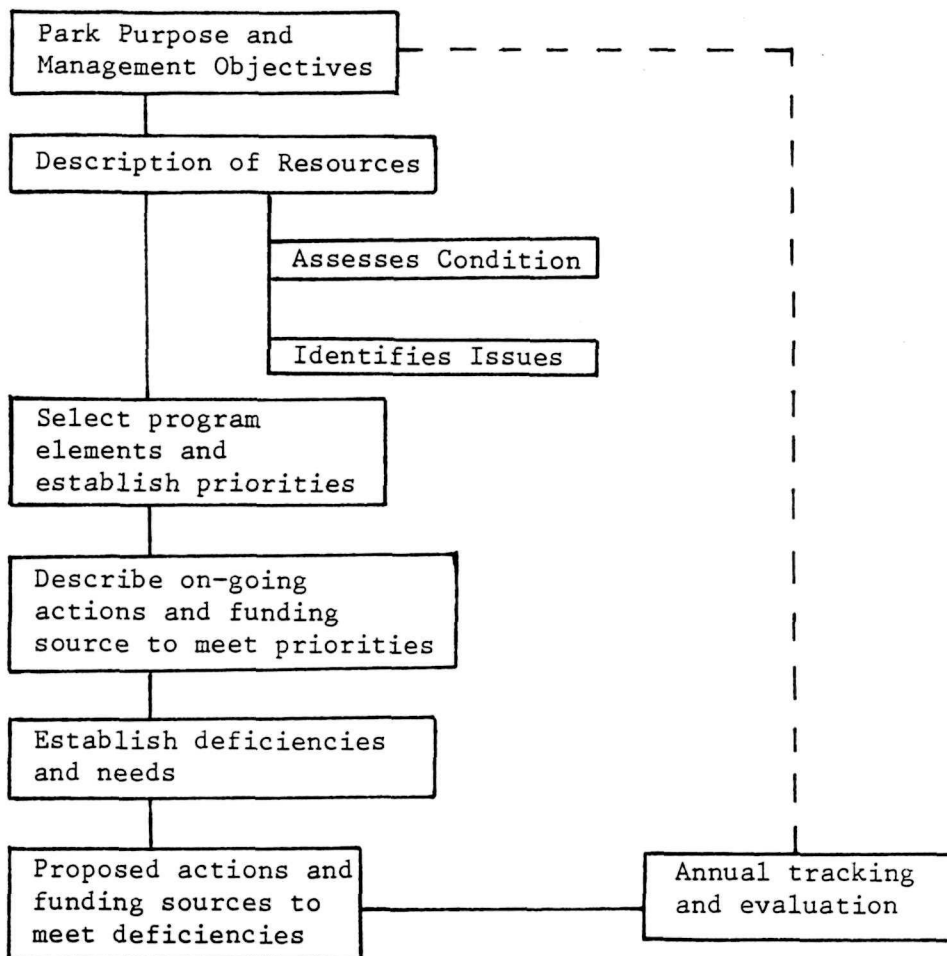
GOAL: To implement a resource management system to maintain natural and cultural resources within the parameters defined by law, executive orders and policy through:

1. inventory of resources and natural processes;
2. assessment of resource condition;
3. identification of internal and external resource-related issues;
4. development of action plans;
5. establishment of management objectives and funding priorities; and
6. the tracking and evaluating of actions taken at park, local, and Regional levels.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Identifies natural and cultural resource issues, proposes management actions, establishes priorities, and evaluates achievements.

PLAN ELEMENTS





United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



IN REPLY REFER TO:

ALASKA REGIONAL OFFICE
2525 Gambell Street, Room 107
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-2892

N16 (ARO-RNR)

15 SEP 1987

Memorandum

To: Associate Director, Natural Resources, WASO

From: **Acting** Regional Director, Alaska Region

Subject: Definition of Resource Management

In response to your memorandum of August 17, 1987 please find enclosed the Alaska Region's comments.

Richard J. Stenmark

Enclosure

Natural Resource Management Definition Alaska Region

The definition evolves from the NPS 1916 Organic Act, which describes three basic purposes for national parks:

1. Conserve the scenery, the natural objects and the wild life (management of natural resources).
2. Conserve the historic objects (management of cultural resources).
3. Provide for their enjoyment by the public (visitor use and protection - including for purposes of this definition the park staffs).

Any activity or action can be assigned primarily to one of these three purposes. The assignment is based solely upon the reason for the activity, not upon who carries it out (i.e., rangers, maintenance, natural resources management specialists, etc.). The caveat is that the park staff be viewed as visitors (which they are) so such activities as painting the Superintendent's house is not defined as natural resources management (Superintendent is a park protector). Activities can change over time and thus move from one purpose to another, example: A road built to service an elk trap (to truck out the elk) has a natural resources management function and maintenance of that road consists of natural resources management, even if the public can also use the road to view the park. If, however, the elk trap is dismantled or is not used anymore, but the road remains for visitor use only, its maintenance comes under visitor use.

Some other, tricky, examples (Natural Resources Management - NRM, Visitor Use - VU, Cultural Resources Management - CRM).

1. Removal of branches and weeds from a motor trail so vehicles containing visitors can pass (VU); extending the vegetation removal to the sides to form a firebreak (NRM).
2. Employing a science staff in a Regional Office (NRM) (purpose is to conserve natural resources).
3. Construction and maintenance of a campground in a park (VU); construction and maintenance of bear-proof food caches in the campground (NRM) (purpose is to protect bears, which would be killed if they get into foods often); construction and maintenance of a hard-sided structure in the campground into which visitors can go for protection from bear attack (VU) (direct protection of visitor safety).
4. Development and maintenance of an agricultural tract in an historic site to represent the historic scene (VU) (done expressly for the visitor); maintenance of an historic house used by visitors (CRM).
5. Placing a boardwalk over alpine tundra for visitors to walk upon (VU) (although this protects the tundra, the primary purpose is to permit visitor use; without the visitor, the boardwalk is unnecessary).



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pacific Northwest Region
83 South King Street, Suite 212
Seattle, Washington 98104



IN REPLY REFER TO:

N16(PNR-OR)

SEP 16 1987

Memorandum

To: Associate Director, Natural Resources,
National Park Service

From: Acting Associate Regional Director, Operations,
Pacific Northwest Region

Subject: Definition of Resource Management

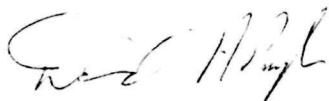
Our staff has discussed the term "resource management" and the range of definitions is extensive. Everything we do in a park is, in reality, resource management of one type or another. The Service's Management Policies state, "The National Park Service will manage the natural resources of the National Park System to maintain and perpetuate their inherent integrity." We propose that any definition of resource management be integrated with the terminology of the Natural Resource Assessment and Action Program (NRAPP). Our proposed definition would be as follows:

"Resource management is the management actions taken to preserve and protect those park resources entrusted to our care. These actions will include research, planning, rehabilitation and protection activities directly related to the legislative mandate of a park and the National Park Service. In many cases, monitoring, mitigation, manipulation and restoration of the resource or element will be necessary over a continuum to ensure resource perpetuation. Resource management actions can be either active or passive, but all actions must be based on sound scientific research recognizing the interdependencies of the specific resources. Park staffs in maintenance, interpretation, administration and ranger activities, as well as other special divisions, are all actively involved in resources management. Individually or collectively, they all affect our resource management actions."

"Resource management is an integrated approach to preserving all natural resources within our National Park System. It encompasses identification of primary, secondary, and other resources, collection of baseline data, an assessment of the condition of those resources and threats to them. Often research programs serve as the initial step in resource management activities. In most cases some type of monitoring is required to determine changes in resources over time. Once impacts or imminent threats to resources are identified, mitigation programs can be planned and implemented. They involve a variety of methods of restoring resources to their natural, undisturbed condition. In order to protect resources in their natural condition, a protection program is an essential portion of resource management since laws and regulations are vehicles by which the NPS can protect resources."

"The overall objectives of resource management are to assure an active rather than a reactive program to prevent a derogation of the values and purposes for which the National Park System was established. The Service will assess and schedule a Servicewide comprehensive action program for problem/issue resolution; will develop an information baseline, including the monitoring of external threats, to note any unacceptable trends; and will not permit any irretrievable or irreversible commitments of park resources. The National Park Service has a mandate to preserve the National heritage and at the same time allow its use without impairment for the use of future generations."

The above response basically summarizes our thoughts on the issue of defining resource management.



David A. Pugh