

Program Status

Since 1992, the I&M Program has funded approximately 380 inventories and verified species lists from 95 park units. Significant progress has been made in bibliography, base cartography, vegetation, and soils inventories. Baseline assessment reports of water quality and geology in all natural resource parks also were funded. The baseline water quality reports were funded jointly with the Water Resources Division.

Seven LTEMs, including 13 in separate park units, were initiated in the Pacific Coast, the Arctic/Sub-arctic, Grassland and Prairie, Tropical/Sub-tropical, Atlantic Gulf Coast, and Deciduous Forest biomes. Three of the LTEM programs are fully operational.

Underway is the coordination of the NPS Prototype Monitoring with the National Environmental Monitoring and Research Framework sponsored by the National Science and Technology Council's Committee on

Environment and Natural Resources. The intent is to develop a framework for the integration of environmental monitoring and research networks and programs across the federal government.

The National Park Service and eight other federal agencies recently signed an MOU for the development of a spatial framework for defining ecological units of the United States. Personnel from the I&M Program serve on the Interagency Steering Committee for that task and will coordinate the activities of NPS with those of the other federal agencies.

Park priorities for each separate resource inventory were initially developed during 1993. Plans are now underway to reconsider and update those priorities because of, for example, the completion of some inventories by some parks; the need for more explicit information about sensitive species and geological data; a better understanding of the linkages among inventories; new activities,

threats, and issues that increased the urgency of some inventories; and new opportunities for leveraging to complete more inventories with existing funds.

The Natural Resources Inventory and Monitoring course was given again in 1996 and is expected to be given also in future years.

For further information contact:

Dr. Gary Williams
Inventory and Monitoring Program
Coordinator
National Park Service
1201 Oakridge Drive, Suite 350
Fort Collins, Colorado 80525
Telephone (970) 225-3539
e-mail: Gary_Williams@nps.gov
cc: Mail: Williams, Gary

You may also consult our worldwide web page on the I&M Program at:
<http://www.aqd.nps.gov/nrid/im/bintro1.htm>

