



Fact Sheet

U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service Natural Resource Information Division



The 1997-98 Natural Resource Publication Program

September 1997

97-32

The responsibilities of the Natural Resource Information Division under the Associate Director of Natural Resource Stewardship and Science include the development and the updating of procedures for the assessment and reporting of natural resource conditions in parks and the distribution of natural resource information on a global basis by a variety of information-distribution technologies, including the Internet.

Since a major reorganization of the National Park Service in 1995, the natural resource publication program has not been fully resumed. The division publishes *Park Science*, prepares annual reports on the Inventory and Monitoring Program and on the status of natural resources in the parks, and distributes and posts fact sheets about the functions of and progress in various programs. The division also provides editorial services that include writing and conducting peer reviews.

Park Science **Type of Publication**

Park Science is a quarterly research and resource-management bulletin of the National Park Service. Its hard-copy circulation is around 5,300 copies. It was designed to strengthen the links between research and park management by reporting recent and ongoing research in the natural and social sciences, the implications of research for park planning and

management, and the application of findings in resource management. The content of the bulletin receives an editorial review for completeness, clarity, usefulness, basic scientific soundness, and policy considerations but does not undergo an anonymous peer review. Although technical, *Park Science* is written for the lay reader, principally for the superintendents, resource managers, natural and social science researchers, interpreters, maintenance staff, visitors, resource-protection rangers, and other technical and nontechnical personnel of the National Park System. Other common readers are from other federal agencies; state departments of fish and game, parks and recreation, and natural resources; international parks; private conservation organizations; the academic community; and the public. *Park Science* appears under *Publications* on the World Wide Web pages of the National Park Service (<http://www.aqd.nps.gov/natnet/pubs>).

Contributors

Most articles are contributed by federal and nonfederal scientists who conduct research on national park lands and by park managers who use science-based resource-management techniques. The editor encourages article submissions from all readers on research and resource management that are relevant to the preservation of natural resources on national park lands.

Funding

Park Science is funded by the office of the Associate Director for Natural Resource Stewardship and Science of the National Park Service, by combined support of the field areas, and with donations from readers outside the National Park Service.

Natural Resource Year in Review Description

The Natural Resource Year in Review is a comprehensive summary of the most significant issues and trends in natural resources of the National Park System during a calendar year. Reviewed are achievements, applied science, and resource management. The report was designed to raise the interest, understanding, and support of the natural-resource stewardship of the service by the Congress, academic institutions, environmental organizations, the American public, and National Park Service staff.

Organization and Contents

The organization of the report is flexible and helps communicate a particular theme or general feeling associated with the year. For example, the 1997 issue begins with a foreword by the Associate Director of Natural Resource Stewardship and Science and ends with a look to the future by the acting director of the service. The body of the report consists of 50 reports in eight chapters about (1) the complexity and

diversity of threats to natural resources, (2) staffing and funding of natural resource management, (3) gathering of information on the resources and their condition, (4) the indispensable nature of partnerships, (5) ecological restoration, (6) legislation, policy, and legal challenges, (7) the demand for innovation in attacking resource management problems, and (8) the vital role of a professional staff in resource preservation. Most articles and stories are by staff of the service and its partners and associates.

Features of the 1997 issue include articles about securing water rights for Zion National Park in Utah, professionalizing the natural-resource management staff, monitoring ozone levels and visibility in parks, improving the collection of information on endangered species, corporating participation in natural resource management projects, restoring wolves in Yellowstone National Park and ferrets in Badlands National Park, flooding Grand Canyon National Park to build riverine habitat, preparing for dam removal and fishery restoration in Olympic National Park, reestablishing natural quiet by proposing new regulations for scenic flights over parks, and using insects to control thistles in Wind Cave National Park.

The report is liberally illustrated. About 6500 copies were printed of the 1997 issue. The online report is accessible at <http://www.aqd.nps.gov/natnet/pubs/>

Solicitation of 1998 Contributions

Staff of the National Park Service and its partners and associates are invited to contribute articles to the 1998 issue of *The Year in Review* report. Interested persons should submit brief (2-5 sentences) descriptions of material they wish to contribute to the editor (P. O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80227 or jeff_selleck@nps.gov or Selleck, Jeff) no later than 30 September 1997. An editorial board evaluates the proposals and makes selections based on the significance

and appropriateness of the proposed articles. The editor contacts the authors to discuss possible story lines and to assign a due date (around 31 October). Articles should have an average length of 400 words and be accompanied by an average of two illustrations.

Annual Report of the Inventory and Monitoring Program

In 1997, the division released the first comprehensive annual report about its Inventory and Monitoring Program. The report is about the monitoring and the status of a wide variety of natural resources in seven parks that were selected as prototypes for inventories and monitoring of natural resources in national parks. Verified protocols will ultimately be used nationwide in national parks with significant natural resources.

The report is designed to raise the visibility of the Inventory and Monitoring Program and to provide an account of activities in Fiscal Year 1996. Its organization is by resource, and it features reproductions of photographs, line drawings of natural resources, tables, and graphs. The report is intended for staff of the National Park Service and its partners and associates, congressional staff, members of other governmental and nongovernmental natural resource agencies, and the general public.

The report is posted on the World Wide Web (<http://www.aqd.nps.gov/natnet/pubs/i&mann96/01cover.htm>). Hard copies will be available in fall 1997.

Fact Sheets

In July 1996, the Natural Resource Information Division began to distribute its series of fact sheets. The sheets provide information about various activities and programs of the National Park Service. The contents of the fact sheets are technical but written for a general audience.

Between July 1996 and July 1997, the division distributed 31 fact sheets about air, geologic, and water resources; fishes and wildlife; communication; data management; GIS; inventory and monitoring of natural resources; and publications. The fact sheets are periodically updated or replaced.

Since October 1996, the fact sheets have been regularly posted on the electronic Natural Resource Bulletin Board of the National Park Service. Many staff members voiced their interest in the sheets and their approval of having them posted on the bulletin board. The division received several requests for fact sheets on specific topics.

In November 1996, the fact sheets began to appear under *Publications* on the World Wide Web pages of the National Park Service (<http://www.aqd.nps.gov/natnet/pubs>). A text-only version and a version with illustrations and with division or program logos are available. Fact sheets may be contributed by any staff of the National Park Service and its associates and partners.

Future Publications

The appearance and types of future publications depend on the needs of National Park Service personnel, the users of the national park units, and funding. Tentatively envisioned are the resumption of the monograph series for the occasional comprehensive work on a resource, a new technical report series, and a new scientific report series.

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