



## WATER RESOURCES DIVISION MONTHLY REPORT

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

MARCH 1995

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### SERVICEWIDE ACTIVITIES

WRD staff attended Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Federal Mining Dialogue meeting in Denver, Colorado. EPA's objective for the meeting was to obtain input from Federal agencies for approaches, ideas, and processes for resolving technical, policy, and regulatory issues associated with hardrock mining. The New World Mine proposal near Yellowstone National Park was used as a case study for sessions on proposed and active mining. The DOI/Forest Service draft NPDES permit for abandoned mines was a major topic of discussion in the inactive and abandoned mines sessions. The draft permit was very well received and a commitment was made by EPA and the DOI/FS workgroup to resolve outstanding issues within 4 to 6 weeks. Once those issues are resolved, EPA or a State with NPDES permitting authority (such as Montana) will issue the draft permit for public review and comment. (Kimball, Kliwinski)

### REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

#### MID-ATLANTIC REGION

WRD staff reviewed the Draft final work plan for Naval Special Fuel Oil Area, Yorktown Fuels Annex, and several other environmental reports on behalf of **COLONIAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**. Comments were made concerning the environmental significance of the information presented

and additional information (better oil scans) which would be needed to ensure adequate protection of park resources. The scans first recommended by Navy contractors covered very few the most important constituents of JP-4 and other products which had been spilled (Irwin).

#### PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION

WRD staff traveled to Olympia, Washington, to participate in a meeting of parties involved with developing information for the Elwha River Restoration Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The purpose of the meeting was to inform members of the State of Washington, Department of Natural Resources of the status of the EIS process and the progress of related technical studies. WRD staff contributed information regarding the erosion of reservoir sediments during and after dam removal and the routing of the suspended fraction downstream to critical reaches. (Smillie)

On March 2-3, 1995, WRD staff traveled to Portland, Oregon, to meet with legal counsel and technical staff from the Department of Justice, Office of the Solicitor, Office of General Counsel, USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, and Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the status of efforts to prepare Federal reserved water right claims for Oregon's Klamath River Basin Adjudication. This adjudication includes the southern and eastern

portions of **CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK** (CRLA). The meeting focused on coordinating technical data analysis methodologies for Federal agencies involved in the adjudication. (Pettee, Albright)

WRD staff traveled to Portland, Oregon, to attend a March 3, 1995, meeting on modeling the hydrology of the Klamath River Basin. Output from hydrology models will be used in preparing Federal-reserved water right claims for Oregon's Klamath River Basin Adjudication. This adjudication includes the southern and eastern portions of **CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK**. The meeting included representatives of all Federal agencies preparing reserved water right claims, as well as representatives of the Klamath Indian Tribe and attorneys from the Department of Justice and the Office of the Solicitor. (Pettee, Albright)

### **ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION**

WRD staff traveled to **BIGHORN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA** to work with park management and staff, and Ruth Jacobs from the CPSU at Oregon State University on a Water Resources Management Plan for the park. Initial drafts of the Introduction and Hydrologic Environment chapters were reviewed and 14 actions were identified that will be developed into project statements. (Sharrow)

As part of the Chicken Creek Watershed Restoration effort at **FOSSIL BUTTE NATIONAL MONUMENT** photo documentation, water level data, and channel geometry data were collected. Water level recorders were programmed and calibrated for installation at monitoring stations. Meetings were held on the implementation of the riparian restoration plan and on the upcoming season's workload. Willows planted in incised drainages are taking hold to trap sediment and retard erosion. (Inglis)

WRD staff attended two meetings, reviewed remedial investigation and risk assessment reports, coordinated assistance from FWS and BLM, and reviewed several additional

environmental reports on behalf of **GRANT-KOHR'S RANCH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE** staff. WRD staff made comments concerning the environmental significance of the information presented and additional steps to be taken to ensure adequate protection of park resources at GRKO. (Irwin)

WRD staff traveled to Washington, DC on behalf of **ARCHES AND CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARKS** to represent NPS interests at an Nuclear Regulatory Commission meeting on Atlas mine tailings in Moab, Utah. Following this meeting, WRD staff planned an interagency (NPS, FWS, USGS, BOR, BLM) field trip effort to specify protocols and objectives for detailed contaminants/endangered fish field studies in areas immediately up and downstream of the Atlas mine tailings. (Irwin)

A Compact wherein the National Park Service and the State of Montana agree to quantified Federal reserved water rights for **BIGHORN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA AND LITTLE BIGHORN BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL MONUMENT** has been ratified by the Montana State Legislature and was signed by the Governor on March 15, 1995. The Compact, which delineates water rights for consumptive uses and instream flows at the two park units, will next go to the Departments of the Interior and Justice for Federal approval. Upon approval, it will be submitted to the Montana Water Court as the jointly supported water rights claim for the two park units. (Williams, Pettee)

### **SOUTHEAST REGION**

As part of the development of a Water Resources Management Plan for **BIG CYPRESS PRESERVE**, a meeting was held at the park with the new park hydrologist, Don Weeks; the contracted preparer of the plan, Bill Schneider; and WRD staff. An outline of the plan was reviewed, along with a list of 14 issues, and over 30 specific actions to address those issues. The highest priority issues involve the management of the water monitoring network, analysis and interpretation of existing data, participation in regional water

management, external land uses, and the lack of knowledge of ground water systems. (Sharrow)

Elaine Furbish, on detail to WRD from Assateague Island, continued to work on a water resources scoping report for **TIMUCUAN ECOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC PRESERVE (TIMU)**. Elaine made an information gathering trip to TIMU in early March where she met with the US Geological Survey, City of Jacksonville, and St. Johns River Water Management District to pull together references on water resources within the Preserve. A computer bibliographic data base has been created for the references, which number over 200 to date. Elaine is currently drafting the first draft of the TIMU Water Resources Scoping Report, which is scheduled to be available for review by May 1st. (Furbish)

WRD staff traveled to **BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK (BISC)** to meet with park staff and Metro Dade County Solid Waste Management regarding impacts of leachate from the land fill at Black Point on shallow ground water and surface water in the Bay. The County's efforts to initiate a ground water remediation project are being hampered by lack of permits for disposal of treated effluent. WRD staff will review the ground water monitoring program at the landfill, make recommendations for additional monitoring sites, and assist the park in improving the monitoring program to identify contaminants entering park waters from the landfill and other sources. (L. Martin)

### **SOUTHWEST REGION**

WRD recently completed a Review Draft of the **PECOS NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK** Water Resources Scoping Report/Management Plan. This review draft was sent to the park, region, and WRD co-authors for internal review on March 13. Review comments are requested by April 17, 1995. This report provided park management with an overview of existing water resource conditions, identified and assessed water-related management issues, and provided eight RMP-type project statements which are expected

to provide park management with recommended alternatives for dealing with high priority water resources issues over the next several years. (Bellinger)

WRD staff represented the NPS at the second meeting of the DOI Shared Water Resources Committee which is reviewing DOI water-related needs along the US-Mexico Border. Information was provided to the committee regarding water-related issues in 12 NPS units located within 60 miles of the US-Mexico Border, based upon an evaluation of water resources-related needs reported in the units' Resource Management Plans and Water Resources Management Plans/Scoping Reports. Minutes of the meeting will be forwarded to Superintendents/Resource Management Specialists in the affected parks when available. (Flora)

WRD staff traveled to **LYNDON B. JOHNSON HISTORICAL PARK** to assess yield problems from one of the park's water supply wells. It was determined that it will be necessary to construct a new well, adjacent to the old one. WRD staff will assist the park in developing contract specs, in obtaining a construction permit from the state, and with technical assistance during drilling and testing of the well. (L. Martin)

WRD staff traveled to **BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK (BIBE)** to perform a floodplain analysis and geomorphic assessment in the vicinity of staff housing. The majority of the structures are located between the Panther Canyon drainage and the Mouse canyon drainage on the proximal end of an alluvial fan. In addition to resident structures, there is curatorial storage in close proximity to one of the drainages in question. A final consideration concerning the housing area is bank stability during moderate to high flows. Topography in the housing area was surveyed using a Lietz set - 4 total station. All survey points were referenced to an established benchmark with known coordinates. Seven cross-sections were surveyed perpendicular to the main channel(s), and channel/overbank roughness estimates were made using professional judgement. The material

in the channel and overbanks was examined to determine its nature (bedrock or alluvium) and origin (fluvial or debris flow) to aid in the geomorphic assessment and supplement the floodplain analysis. The final product of this study will be a detailed report describing the results of the hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, and the conclusions of the geomorphic assessment. Included with the report will be a detailed map delineating the extent of the 100-, 500-, and Maximum Estimated floods. (M. Martin)

### WESTERN REGION

WRD continues to cooperate with **YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK** in providing technical review and support to the park and their Colorado State University cooperators in the development of a Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP). During March, WRD personnel met with park staff and their cooperators to provide technical comments and review progress made to date in an effort to assemble and evaluate existing information needed to assess water-related management issues. The park and cooperator have made good progress in assembling available information and utilizing GIS technology to assist with their planning efforts, though completion of the WRMP will probably require additional support and financial assistance from the Western Regional Office, WRD, or the park. (Flora, Johns, Long)

To facilitate updating resource management plans for several parks in Hawaii, WRD staff worked with the resource management specialist from the **PACIFIC AREA OFFICE** to assess water resources management issues at each unit. Valuable input was received from the management and staff at each park. A particular emphasis was given to parks and issues where WRD has not had extensive involvement in the past. Recommendations will be provided on the issues to be addressed in the plans, along with draft project statements and suggestions for technical assistance. (Sharrow)

In response to a threatened pollution abatement order from the State, an interdisciplinary team of natural resource specialists from four Federal agencies was assembled at **CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK** to assess riparian area function and to identify specific opportunities to improve riparian conditions through alterations in livestock grazing practices. Ten stream systems were evaluated on Santa Rosa Island using the Bureau of Land Management's Rapid Riparian Assessment procedure. Livestock grazing will continue on Santa Rosa Island for 17 more years under terms of the sale of the island to NPS. Most of the island's drainages have incised to bedrock and are not likely to deteriorate further under current management practices. However, several streams are well positioned to undergo rapid recovery of riparian vegetation, channel morphology, and hydrologic function if grazing practices can be modified. In addition to riparian/water-quality issues, other resources, such as endangered species, are affected by livestock grazing. (Rosenlieb, Jackson, Wagner)

On March 16 and 17, 1995, WRD staff coordinated a series of contaminants meetings at **CABRILLO NATIONAL MONUMENT (CABR)**. Also participating were CABR Natural Resources staff Samantha Weber, Superintendent Terry diMattio, and Navy environmental specialists from several Navy bases located close to CABR. Following these meetings and inspections of CABR tidal and subtidal habitats exposed to potential oil spills, a tentative agreement was reached with Navy staff that Navy environmental toxicologist, Ken Richter, will assemble environmental data already available for CABR beaches, decide what nearby data collected by others is relevant, and recommend what other data needs to be collected to prepare for natural resource damage assessment should a future marine oil spill impact CABR coastal habitats. (Irwin)

On March 20, 1995, WRD staff met with **SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA (SAMO)** Natural Resources Staff Rose Rumball-Petre and SAMO volunteer Lou Levy

concerning potential threats to water quality at SAMO. The small mountain streams and coastal lagoons of concern were inspected. Malibu Creek, Trancas Creek, and Zuma Creek are potentially impacted by horses, pesticides, sewage treatment plants, and a golf course. These creeks appear to be the right size for relatively easy monitoring via rapid bioassessment methods, possibly starting with volunteers to assess their basic status and variability and then graduating to more quantitative methods once the basics are understood. Paramount Ranch, where filming of a TV series is in progress, was inspected for pollution sources. The movie set has a horse confinement area where manure is piled up right next to a creek in the Malibu lake watershed; signs were present that the creek was being unnecessarily polluted due to a poor confinement of manure. The Calleguas Creek Watershed ends at Mugu Lagoon, one of the largest and most important southern California estuaries. Mugu Lagoon is suffering the long-term impacts of sedimentation and Naval Weapons Station activities. Data from Mugu Lagoon Navy environmental reports was given a quick initial review. Among the concerns found in this review were high levels of DDE and the need for more data on PCBs and possibly dioxins. (Irwin)

At the request of **GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA**, WRD staff reviewed and made detailed comments concerning the Army's proposed corrective action plan for the Building 637 area of the Presidio, and discussed technical/contaminants issues related to wetlands restoration with State experts. (Irwin)

## **PUBLICATIONS**

The WRD series report entitled *Jewel Cave National Monument Water Resources Scoping Report* by WRD and Jewel Cave NM (NPS/NRWRD/NRTR-94/36, NPS D-21) has been printed. Copies may be obtained by contacting Jacquie Nolan, (303) 225-3514 or Mark Flora (303) 969-2956.