



WATER RESOURCES DIVISION MONTHLY REPORT

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1994

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SERVICEWIDE ACTIVITIES

The Water Resources Division (WRD) hosted a meeting of National Park Service (NPS) water resources professionals on November 15 and 16. The meeting was held in Fort Collins and was attended by 19 park- and region-based water resources professionals. The purpose of the meeting was to foster communication and cooperation among people involved in the technical aspects of water resources within the NPS. Presentations were made by several of the visiting park/region staff describing water-related programs in which they are involved. WRD staff provided presentations on some of the major program areas within WRD. The meeting received favorable reviews from all participants and will likely be repeated in 2 years. (Smillie, Krueger, Hansen)

WRD staff attended the American Water Resources Association 30th Annual Conference and Symposia held in Chicago, Illinois. Barry Long presented a paper on the NPS Water Quality Data Management Program at the annual conference. In addition to the annual conference, three symposia were held. They were the National Symposium on Water Quality, the Symposium on the Future Quality of the Great Lakes, and the Symposium on the National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program. During the conference, discussions were held with U.S. Geological Survey staff in regard to implementing pilot collaborative water quality monitoring efforts in parks as part

of the NAWQA Program. (Long, Walker, Rosenlieb, Tucker)

WRD staff attended a workshop sponsored by the National Biological Survey for Federal attorneys and technical staff involved with reserved water rights quantification activities. The workshop was held under the aegis of Attorney-Client confidentiality and will not, therefore, be discussed in detail here. In attendance were attorneys from the Department of Justice, the USDI Office of the Solicitor, and the USDA Office of General Counsel; technical staff from the USDA Forest Service; and the USDI National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs. (Williams)

WRD staff attended a 2-day meeting in Denver with representatives of the National Biological Survey's (NBSs) Midcontinent Ecological Sciences Center (MESC), Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service (Midwest, Southwest, Rocky Mountain, and Western Regions). The purpose of the meeting was to evaluate MESC projects proposed for termination (totaling approximately 15% of MESC's budget) and also have projects prepared by MESC for FY95. (Kimball)

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

MID-ATLANTIC REGION

WRD staff provided recommendations on hydrocarbon scans necessary to monitor ground water pollution at **COLONIAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL SITE (COLO)**. Explanations were provided explaining why standard Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) scans were not sufficient from the standpoints of detection limits or analysis. A list of criteria, benchmarks, and standards for PAHs which are lower than the detection limits of the standard EPA scans were provided. Also, cautions regarding the tendency of hypothesis testing field methods, combined with other factors (high variance, high detection limits, etc.) to favor polluters doing sloppy studies were provided to the parks. (Irwin)

WRD staff traveled to **FORT NECESSITY NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD (FONE)** to initiate and complete a floodplain analysis. In addition to the floodplain delineation, the scope of the project included training for the National Capital Region (NCR) hydrologist, Doug Curtis. Instruction was provided on all aspects of floodplain analysis including: determination of regulatory floodplain, estimation of design flood discharges, collection of proper survey data for hydraulic modeling, and the use of HEC-2 for estimating floodplain boundaries. Subsequent to the fieldwork, WRD staff and the NCR hydrologist have completed the modeling and provided a base map with floodplain boundaries to the Denver Service Center. (M.Martin)

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

WRD staff provided extensive review comments to **CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA** in support of park efforts to complete a Water Resources Scoping Report. (Flora, Jackson, Long, Wondzell, Smillie)

WRD, in cooperation with the Rocky Mountain Region's Water Resources Program Manager presented a 3-day "Water Resources Planning Workshop" for seven Rocky Mountain Region (RMR) NPS units (**GREAT SAND DUNES** and **FOSSIL BUTTE NATIONAL MONUMENTS**, and **THEODORE ROOSEVELT, WIND CAVE,**

CANYONLANDS, ZION and MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARKS). The purpose of this workshop was to familiarize Park's with WRD water resources-related planning assistance, assist Park's in the development of their water-related RMP project statements, and to assist RMR in establishing priorities for requesting water-related planning assistance. (Sharrow, Flora)

WRD staff attended a public meeting held by Western Area Power Administration to identify economically and technically feasible methods of replacing lost Glen Canyon Dam power due to operation changes at the dam. The options developed through this process will be reported to Congress as required by the Grand Canyon Protection Act of 1992. The meeting was presented in context of the interim operating criteria and the Glen Canyon Dam EIS. The replacement power process will identify economically and technically feasible replacement power resources, address transmission system enhancements, and finally report to Congress. The report will not be another EIS or subject to NEPA. However, it is closely related to three ongoing EISs. Potential changes in reservoir levels or regulation of rivers could stemming from this process occur at **DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT, CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL MONUMENT, CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK, GLEN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK** and, **LAKE MEAD NATIONAL RECREATION AREA** if power-peaking operation are altered at other Colorado River systems dams. (Inglis, Cluer)

WRD staff provided recommendations for proposed sediment, water quality, and biota sampling procedure for samples to be taken near uranium mill tailings at Moab, Utah, just upstream from **CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK**. (Irwin)

WRD staff provided recommendations for metals analyses in cattle as part of a Natural Resources Damage Assessment study, at **GRANT-KOHR'S RANCH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**. (Irwin)

Staff of WRD and **BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL MONUMENT** met with representatives of the Bureaus of Reclamation and Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Western Area Power Administration to discuss a proposed exchange of land and water rights with a power company in Western Colorado. Several issues of law, regulation, and policy were raised which will be given further consideration prior to another meeting in early December. (Williams)

WRD staff and attorneys from the Department of Justice and the USDI Office of the Solicitor attended public meetings November 21-22. These meetings, hosted by the Montana Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission, were to inform the public and the Tribal Council of the Crow Tribe as to the contents of the proposed amendment to the Montana Reserved Water Rights Compact. The meetings were intended to both inform and to solicit information and opinions. The next negotiation session (November 30) should be the final session before submission to the full Compact Commission for transmission to the State Legislature for enactment into law. (Williams)

WRD staff traveled to **ZION NATIONAL PARK** (ZION) on November 5-11, 1994, to remove and disassemble stream gaging equipment used on the East and North Forks of the Virgin River and La Verkin Creek. In addition, staff transported all discharge, sediment, and surveying equipment used since 1992 back to Fort Collins. The equipment was used to collect data in support of water rights claims at ZION in the Virgin River Adjudication. (Hautzinger, Stevens)

SOUTHWEST REGION

WRD staff provided extensive comments on the Final Report "Mexico-USA Binational Study of Rio Grande/Rio Bravo and Tributaries." In general, this report provided a good assessment of aquatic contaminants issues potentially affecting **BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK**, and **AMISTAD NATIONAL RECREATION AREA**. (Irwin)

WESTERN REGION

WRD staff met with Superintendent Arnberger and staff from **GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK** and individuals on the General Management Plan planning team from Denver Service Center, to discuss water issues facing the park. A major point of discussion was the possibility of finding an alternative to Roaring Springs as the water supply for the park, which is becoming attractive due to the large expense and impacts associated with replacing the aging transcanyon pipeline, and complying with the surface water treatment rule as required by the State of Arizona. A number of legal and hydrologic questions need to be answered as water supply alternatives are considered. Other topics included protecting park springs from well drilling in Tusayan and the NPS role in the future monitoring of impacts from Glen Canyon Dam. (Jackson, Martin, Sharrow)