

WILDLIFE AND VEGETATION DIVISION
Monthly Report - January 1995

ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAM

Endangered Species Act Mailing

The Endangered Species Act is up for reauthorization this year, and it is very controversial. To ensure that the field has information on this issue, we sent an endangered species mailing to all parks during January. Included in the mailing was a copy of the Act, the latest list of species protected under the Act (August 20, 1994), the latest Animal Notice of Review (November 15, 1994), and the latest Plant Notice of Review (September 30, 1993). Two Endangered Species Technical Bulletins with stories about endangered species on park lands were also included. In addition, the three MOUs the Park Service has signed over the past year concerning endangered species, the Presidential Memo on Landscaping with Native Plants, and a brochure on Celebrating Wildflowers were also in the package. There are a limited number of these documents; therefore please xerox copies for distribution.

Endangered Species Database

In cooperation with the National Park Foundation, Dave Deshler is developing an endangered species database for recovery plan tasks. This database will give us a gauge of NPS responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act. We hope to have this completed for all those species with recovery plans by March 1, 1995. Thanks to all of you in the regions and field who have provided information to Dave.

Plant Poaching Lecture

Peggy Olwell gave a lecture on plant poaching to law enforcement rangers in the National Capitol Region. Her two-hour presentation covered all botanical materials that are collectible, from wildflowers to mushrooms, mosses, and cones. Other regions interested in having this presentation made for ranger skills and/or refresher training should contact Peggy at 202-343-8125.

Native Plant Conservation Initiative

Plant Projects Funded Bandelier National Monument, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore were among thirteen recipients of funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant for plant conservation. Bandelier will coordinate a multi-agency survey for rare plants of the Jemez Mountains; Golden Gate will restore vegetation; and Sleeping Bear Dunes will eradicate an exotic plant within the habitat of an endangered plant, *Cirsium pitcheri*.

Strategic Planning Dr. Angela Evenden, USDA Forest Service botanist from Montana, spent two weeks working with Peggy Olwell and other agency botanists drafting a strategic plan for the Native Plant Conservation Initiative. The Strategic Plan will be out within the next several months. If there are NPS personnel interested in a detail into Washington to assist the Native Plant Conservation Initiative on future efforts, please let Peggy Olwell know of your interest via cc mail.

Plant Conservation Article An article on native plant conservation and the Native Plant Conservation Initiative will appear in the next issue of People, Land and Water, the Department of the Interior's in-house newspaper. Keep an eye out for it!

Celebrating Wildflowers is a program created by Forest Service to educate the public about native plants. The Forest Service will put information into a Wildflower Hotline and The Bureau of Land Management has agreed to develop a calendar of wildflower events on public lands. If you want to get the word out on an event in your park, please send me the following information as soon as possible via cc mail:

Event title

Description of event: 1 sentence

Where: state, city, park, other details, if necessary

When: specific date or ongoing

Sponsor: agency or group

Contact person: name, address, phone number

The Second Southwestern Rare and Endangered Plant Conference is scheduled for September 11-14, 1995, in Flagstaff, Arizona. Abstracts should be sent to Dr. Joyce Machinski, Arboretum at Flagstaff, P.O. Box 670, Flagstaff, AZ, 86002 by April 1, 1995. Her number is 602-774-1441.

Fishery Management Planning

Frank Panek participated in the annual planning meeting of the Native Fish Work Group at Glen Canyon NRA. This group was organized by park resource managers to develop cooperative interagency programs for managing the threatened and endangered large river fishes of the Colorado Basin. The park is particularly interested in its role in the overall conservation of these species and the potential habitat uses of Lake Powell. The San Juan arm of Lake Powell may offer some opportunities to assist in the recovery of the razorback sucker.

Resource managers at Glen Canyon will also be cooperatively developing a fishery management plan for Lake Powell. Both Utah and Arizona will be participating in this effort. The plan will not only address threatened and endangered species management, but also sportfish management in the reservoir and the coldwater tailrace trout fisheries. Frank provided background information on fishery management planning and discussed policy issues concerning native and introduced fishes and the role of recreational fishing.

Draft Presidential Executive Order on Recreational Fisheries

Frank Panek has been working with an interagency work group asked by Secretary Babbitt to develop a draft executive order on recreational fisheries for President Clinton's consideration. The order would apply to all Executive Branches including the National Park Service. While much of the wording of the order is still in draft form, the overall intent is to accomplish three things:

1. reemphasize the values of recreational fishing to the American people;
2. facilitate the enhancement, restoration, and protection of aquatic ecosystems; and
3. establish specific agency action plans and programs to meet the order's objectives while providing specific measures for agency accountability.

IPM

Reengineering IPM

The IPM Reengineering Team will meet in Fort Collins, CO, during the week of March 13th. The main goals of this effort are to reduce the processing time for the pesticide approvals and make that process more responsive to park needs, and to professionalize IPM staff in the the central offices. Anyone having an interest in the outcome of this effort should contact any of the team members and express their views. The team members are: Gary Johnston, Washington Office; Terry Cacek, Washington Office; Tom Wylie, Rocky Mountain Regional Office; Alan Schmierer, Western Regional Office; Jerry McCrea, Southwestern Regional Office; Erv Gasser, Pacific Northwest Regional Office; Wayne Millington, Delaware Water Gap NRA; Jim Jacobs, Jefferson National Expansion Memorial NHS; Reed Engle, Shenandoah NP; Tony Migliaccio, George Washington Memorial Parkway; Bruce Wadlington, Rocky Mountain Regional Office; and J.T. Reynolds, Rocky Mountain Regional Office.

We hope to have reengineered IPM processes in place for 1996. We would like to remind everyone that it is business as usual for 1995. Pesticide proposals and use logs will be processed as in the past. Several regional IPM positions are vacant. If you are not sure where to send your pesticide proposals, contact your regional office for guidance.

40-hour IPM Course

Due to lack of Washington Office training funds, the 40-Hour IPM Course will not be held this spring.

Technical Assistance

At their request, Terry Cacek and Carol DiSalvo have been assisting in the preparation of a revised IPM program for the North Atlantic Region. If funding permits, we will conduct additional training for regional field staff.

With the beginning of the 1995 field season, technical assistance calls have been coming in from throughout the Service. At the request of field personnel, technical assistance has been provided to 21 parks in 7 regions during January.

Biocontrol

Carol DiSalvo presented National Park Service field concerns with the use of biocontrols to the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Exotic Weeds (FICMEW) and the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The Park Service's main concerns, solicited from field resource managers, are about the release of exotics, lack of long-term monitoring, and biodiversity issues. APHIS shares our concerns and has started to address them by installing a NEPA review process for new biocontrol agents. We will update the field as information arrives.

Training

Carol DiSalvo attended the one-day Interstate Pest Control Conference at University of Maryland to update her pesticide applicators license. Things have changed. Ten years ago IPM strategy was an unknown entity. Now, a majority of commercial pest control operators are selling their knowledge and monitoring skills rather than the pesticide application as in the past. "Spray jockeys" in private industry are almost obsolete. Technical knowledge, tact, and a good conscience go a lot further than the chemical pesticide.

Consumer's Union

At the request of Consumer's Union (the folks that write Consumer Reports), Carol DiSalvo was interviewed regarding the Park Service's IPM program. An article based on that and other interviews on all federal agencies' pest management programs will appear in Consumer Reports later this summer.

Ladybeetles

Three eastern parks reported in January massive amounts of Coccinellidae inside structures. Leave them be! These ladybird beetles are harmless native insects and are excellent predators of aphids and scale larvae. They will wander back outdoors when warmer weather arrives.

Brown Recluse Spiders

Special thanks and appreciation to Kent Higgins, Resource Management Specialist, Shiloh National Military Park (favorite site of the brown recluse!), for the dozen well-prepared brown recluse spiders specimens, or "fiddle backs," he collected and shipped to the Washington Office. We will incorporate them into the 40-hour IPM Training Course. According to Dr. Bob Hall, University of Missouri, this native reclusive spider creates an irregular web, lives for 1-2 years, and can bite in self defense if counter-pressure is applied. Its venom causes necrosis (killed tissue). If you live or work in brown recluse territory, examine and shake out your clothing and shoes and take care when cleaning

storage bins and other areas where contents have not been disturbed for a time. Recognize this spider by the dark fiddle-shaped band extending from behind the eyes down the thorax.

Investigator's Annual Report (IAR)

The IAR software diskettes and instructions were distributed by the regional IAR coordinators last month. Parks are reminded that they are not required to provide the data input for research projects submitted via hard-copy. Software diskettes and copies of the instructions will be distributed to each researcher working within the park (sent by the park IAR coordinator). The researcher is then required to load the software into a computer and use it to complete their annual report. Their data is then to be copied back to a diskette (as per the instructions) and returned to the park. The park coordinator then "combines" the data submitted into one central database (1994 research projects in this case.)

Although making and distributing copies of IAR software diskettes and instruction sheets does take time (especially for those parks with over 100 researchers), it should save park staff from ever manually entering data submitted on a form rather than in the proper database format. The only exception to this scenario is when a researcher does not have access to a computer or the only computer that they can use is not IBM-compatible.

Please contact Tim Goddard at (303) 225-3543 if you have questions.

Resource Management Plan (RMP) Software

All parks should have received a software "patch" to update their new RMP software. This patch will convert your software from version number 2.10 to 2.11 and must be installed prior to preparing your annual accomplishments reports. Anyone not running version 2.11 of the RMP software should contact Tim Goddard at (303) 225-3543.

NNL Program

Craig Shafer wrote an article for the February 1995 issue of BioScience entitled "Values and Shortcomings of Small Reserves." The article includes a bar graph depicting Section 8 Report threats data from 1977-1994. A photograph of Big Oak Tree State Park, Missouri, (a threatened NNL) is on the front cover of the journal.

Section 8

The memo starting the 1995 Section 8 process was signed February 7 and mailed to the regional offices.