

WILDLIFE AND VEGETATION DIVISION
Monthly Report - June, 1993

WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

The second national Watchable Wildlife conference will be held in Corpus Christi, Texas, November 11-13, 1993. Judging from the success of the first conference and the preparations currently underway in Texas, the second conference should result in a rich exchange of experience and ideas on wildlife education and conservation. A brochure describing the conference is being mailed to all regional chiefs of resource management and to chiefs of interpretation in all parks included in the published state wildlife viewing guides. Call Nape Shelton (202-343-8124) for further information.

RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLANNING

New RMP guideline instructions As follow-up to the resources management plan (RMP) workshop held in Tucson last March, the 1989 instructions for RMPs are being revised. While the format and content of RMPs will not change, workshop members felt that the instructions to the parks needed improvement. Mac Brock, Resources Management Specialist at Voyageurs, and Stephanie Rodeffer, Supervisory Archeologist at the Western Archeology and Conservation Center, were in the Washington Office during the week of June 14 to draft the revisions to the RMP instructions. We expect to have the new RMP guidance to the parks by October 1993.

RMP software demo At the Mid-Atlantic regional Workshop for Resource Management Specialists held at Penn State University, Dave Reynolds (MARO RMP Coordinator) organized a roundtable discussion and training session on RMP software development. Tim Goddard demonstrated selected software capabilities of the 1993 version 2.03, with an emphasis on utilizing the filter option to create a variety of specialized reports. Questions regarding using the RMP software to create filtered reports may be directed to Tim at 202-434-8136.

RMP software workshops Four regions have conducted workshops that included RMP software training for park staff during the past six months: Rocky Mountain, Pacific Northwest, North Atlantic, and Mid-Atlantic.

RMP database report A report was recently generated from the servicewide RMP database that provided the total number of projects involving exotic species and a summary of funded and unfunded budget amounts. A similar report was also developed for threatened and endangered species. Out of 13,354 RMP projects, over 800 involved exotic issues and more than 900 involved threatened and endangered species.

ANNUAL SCIENCE REPORT

The 1992 Annual Science Report has been sent to the printer. We appreciate the submissions of the regions. Copies of the automated servicewide research inventory database are available. For information, contact Tim Goddard (202-343-8136).

NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARKS

We have received 1993 Section 8 site status reports from several regions. Completed status reports (due June 1) should be sent to Craig Shafer as soon as possible.

IPM

Deadly virus The hantavirus or Four Corners virus, an airborne virus associated with rodent feces and urine, has caused several deaths in the Southwest. Carol DiSalvo worked with the Public Health Service to prepare fact sheets to be sent to parks in the affected area. The basic recommendation is to drench rodent nests and carcasses with a bleach solution to hold down dust and kill the virus. Then, while wearing rubber gloves and a dust mask, remove the nesting materials and bury them two feet deep. Rodenticides are not recommended because rodents may die in inaccessible areas where they will continue to contribute the virus to the surrounding atmosphere. Snap trapping is the preferred rodent control method.

Ag Workshops Terry Cacek is planning two workshops on agriculture in the Southeast Region. Personnel from adjacent regions may be able to attend. Interested persons should call Terry at 202-343-8112.

Pesticide-free!! Those of us who work in IPM endlessly debate the use of pesticides. The questionnaire recently completed on the IPM Program revealed that about 25 percent of the parks use no pesticides at all!

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Deer and geese overpopulation Mike Coffey has been consulting with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Maryland regarding wildlife management on their 580-acre facility. NIST has an estimated 300 deer and 500-700 Canadian geese on their property damaging native hardwoods and landscape vegetation. The location of NIST in suburban Montgomery County prohibits public hunting as an option.

Feral horse removal The United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit recently reversed a lower district court injunction prohibiting Ozark National Scenic Riverways from implementing a management plan to remove feral horses from the park. This reversal will allow the park to proceed with their approved management action. Judge McMillian noted that the decision was based on the 1916 Organic Act and the decision of the Tenth Circuit in *New Mexico State Game Commission v. Udall*, which supported the conclusion that the Secretary need not wait for further damage to the park before taking action.

FISHERIES

National Fishing Week The flagship event of the National Fishing Week was held on the grounds of the Jefferson Memorial on June 7. Nearly 150 school children from the District of Columbia attended the cooperative "Pathway to Fishing" event organized by the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the District of Columbia Fisheries Office. National Capital Parks-Central provided logistical and interpretive support. Preliminary reports from other parks indicate that 25 units provided nearly 40 events during National Fishing Week. A servicewide report summarizing park unit activities

will be prepared by the Washington Office. Please provide details on your events and their attendance to Frank Panek, 202-343-1002.

Marine research Research activities involving fisheries, marine invertebrates, water quality, marine mammals, sea turtles, and marine flora in 51 units with coastal resources were reported in the 1991 Investigator's Annual Report. Thirty-one organizations conducted seventy-eight projects focusing on marine resources. The Park Service provided \$1.9 million of the \$4.5 million supporting these projects.

I&M

Biological inventory database A working group is being developed to discuss National Park Service biological inventory databases. Participants will review existing database systems within and outside the Park Service and determine what standards should be recommended for park, regional, and national biological database systems. Topics include species nomenclature, QA/QC, implementation, and consistency with other agencies. The organizing committee includes Sue Glenn, Linda Pettit-Waldner, and Tim Goddard of the Wildlife and Vegetation Division; Gary Waggoner of the GIS Division; Peter White from the University of North Carolina; and Patricia Mehlhop of the University of New Mexico. The North Carolina Botanical Garden will facilitate the meeting under a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service.

NPFLORA & FAUNA The species lists collected for the updated versions of NPFLORA and NPFAUNA databases have been compiled into a servicewide system. The following numbers of species have been reported as currently extant in parks: 737 bird species, 361 mammals, 363 reptiles and amphibians, 650 fish, and 10,546 plant species. Inconsistencies between park and regional information have been eliminated, and one name for each species has been chosen as the Servicewide standard. This effort has been conducted under the direction of Dr. Jim Quinn at the University of California, Davis. The databases are being sent back to the regions for verification. This will provide an opportunity to update the databases and to correct any errors before the information is distributed outside the Park Service. Software is included with the databases to make updating easier, by providing standard names and categories. Please contact Sue Glenn (202-343-8104) or Jim Quinn (916-752-8027) for further information.

Invertebrate monitoring workshop The Wildlife and Vegetation Division, in conjunction with the national Inventory and Monitoring Program, is sponsoring a national workshop on inventorying and monitoring terrestrial invertebrates in National Park System units. Scientists and park managers will meet to decide on priorities and methods for invertebrate inventory and monitoring. Please contact Mike Ivie (406-994-3860) at Montana State University for information.

GLOBAL CHANGE

ProTrack The final release of the Program and Project Tracking System (ProTrack Version 1.0) has been distributed to the NPS global change biogeographic and thematic coordinators, who will use it to report on their activities for the first half of the year. The coordinators will submit quarterly program reports and annual project reports. The

Inventory and Monitoring Initiative has also expressed interest in using the software for its reporting needs.

ProTrack is a software application that tracks the status of research projects and research programs; it was designed and developed by the NPS Global Change Research Program (GCRP) personnel. ProTrack consists of two kind of information. The first is information about research projects, much of which is received via an interface with the NPS Investigator's Annual Report. This project information includes project title, principal investigator, park, region, findings, results, meetings attended, outreach, database categories, archival center, specimens, ANCS number, bibliographic information, milestones, tasks, and funding. The second kind of information found in ProTrack concerns program activities of research coordinators. Some examples of this program information are achievements, external linkages, lectures, and coordinator name.

Personnel directory A dBase directory of personnel involved in the Global Change Research Program is currently being generated. It will be available by July 14; if interested call Andrea Naccarato at (202) 343-1001.

Detail Cliff Martinka was in Washington on detail from Glacier National Park. He helped complete the Alternative Management Control Review (AMCR), which is an assessment of the scientific performance, financial accountability, and information management of the Global Change Research Program.

CONFERENCES/PAPERS

Frank Panek and Craig Shafer attended the 1993 Natural Areas Conference at the University of Maine. Frank presented an overview of marine research activities in NPS units. Six NPS employees presented papers, gave talks, or moderated symposia.