

WILDLIFE AND VEGETATION DIVISION

Monthly Report - October 1994

CALL FOR NATURAL RESOURCES HIGHLIGHTS REPORT ARTICLES

The call for articles for the 1994 Highlights of Natural Resources Management has gone out to the regions. The Highlights report provides a forum for showcasing some of the excellent resources management work going on in the National Park Service; it is widely distributed both inside and outside the National Park System. The due date for articles is January 15, 1995. We are especially interested in articles involving ecosystem management successes/innovations. Contact your regional natural resources publications person for copies of the call and the attachments, which give more tips on writing Highlights articles. Please make a special effort to locate good art to accompany your article, preferably black and white photos or line art. For more information, contact Lissa Fox, 202-343-3022, or under her name on cc:Mail. Send articles through your region to Lissa Fox, Wildlife and Vegetation Division, P.O. Box 37127, Ste. 500, Washington, D.C., 20013-7127. Be sure to include a WordPerfect file copy on disk or cc:Mail!

The quality of last year's articles was especially good, both in content and writing. Thanks to everyone who submitted an article. We continue to try to increase distribution, so if you know anyone who would like the Report, send a mailing address to Lissa Fox on cc:Mail.

IPM

REGIONAL IPM COORDINATORS MOVE TO THE FIELD

Susan Alberts, North Atlantic Regional IPM Coordinator, and Bob Hickman, Southeast Regional IPM Coordinator, have accepted positions at Fredricksburg National Battlefield and Prince William Forest Park, respectively. We wish them well in their new positions, but the Servicewide IPM Program will certainly miss their expertise at the regional level. In addition to their other responsibilities, Bob's region addresses the most diverse pest issues and submits the most pesticide requests annually; Suzie's region has taken the lead in providing new technical information and updates on EPA regulations. However, their expertise in IPM will now infiltrate the field via their new positions. Good luck Suzie and Bob!

FOREST PEST MANAGEMENT

The Servicewide IPM Program staff held an annual meeting with the U.S. Forest Service to review the Forest Pest Management proposals for 1995. We have tentative approval for 17 of the 19 proposals submitted. Several of the gypsy moth projects are

funded at levels less than requested due to low population counts. These approvals must be regarded as tentative as they are still contingent on the availability of funds, but the situation looks good. We will provide a detailed update to the regions as soon as firm data on funding becomes available.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Carol DiSalvo provided technical assistance to 19 parks in 10 regions during the month of October. Carol also provided hands-on assistance in the rodent management project at Lockhouse 10, C&O Canal NHP.

UPDATED IPM INFORMATION MANUAL AVAILABLE ON DISK

Twenty-six of the original 45 IPM modules have been revised. Each IPM regional coordinator has been sent one hard copy and one 3 1/2" disk for distribution to each park in their region.

MUSEUM PEST MANAGEMENT

Carol DiSalvo attended the Pest, Insect, and Fungus Management Conference in Boston, MA, on October 22-23. The conference addressed pest management issues concerning museum artifacts and textiles, emphasizing less toxic pest management. Chemically dependent management tools of the past are being phased out: carbon disulfide, sulfuryl fluoride, PDB or paradichlorobenzene, methyl fluoride. Future management strategies include prevention (including perimeter pest management), freezing, heating, CO₂, low O₂, and gamma radiation.

A NOTE ON MUD DAUBERS

Mud daubers may be a source of dermestids (carpet and hide beetles) in your site. Mud dauber wasps stock their mud tubes with spiders, which they capture and paralyze for the developing wasp larvae to feed upon. The young wasps develop and eventually leave the mud tubes. Any remaining spider parts provide a proteinaceous food source for dermestid beetles. Dermestids can be a huge problem to collections of woollens, hides, and animal mounts. Check attics for and remove mud dauber nests regularly.

HANTAVIRUS

Information gathered from the Eastern Hantavirus Survey completed this summer by the Centers for Disease Control teams is being analyzed. Data from the survey show that although infected animals may or may not exhibit symptoms they are carriers of the virus for life. (Presence of hantavirus antibody indicates that the tested organism had been infected with the virus.)

The primary host appears to be *Peromyscus maniculatus* (deer mouse) with 14% incidence of antibody presence only; detection of actual viral presence will occur later. Six other species of *Peromyscus* have also tested positive for the hantavirus antibody. *P. truei* (pinyon mouse) and *P. boylii* (brush mouse) both had high prevalence; *P. leucopus* (white-footed mouse) had a low prevalence. Results on presence in individual parks is currently being prepared.

RODENTICIDE USE

The Servicewide IPM Program has received several phone requests for rodenticides this fall, usually in relation to hantavirus concerns. Rodenticides are not necessarily the best answer to rodent control. Poisoned rodents may die in inaccessible voids, possibly creating a biohazard, as in the case of hantavirus. In addition, decaying carcasses can cause a severe odor problem, as well as providing a food source for dermestid beetles and blowflies. Although snap traps are more work to maintain, they are immediately effective and provide quick reduction and removal of rodents. Snap traps in combination with mechanical exclusion and perimeter sealing efforts will provide long-term management. Routine maintenance, inspection, documentation, and communication with other involved park staff are essential components to keeping your structure rodent proof.

ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAM

Section 7 Consultation Process Updated

The Interagency Endangered Species Working Group continues to meet on a biweekly basis to work on issues related to implementation of the Endangered Species Act. The agency representatives have decided that the first priority for the group is to work on improving the Section 7 consultation process. If the field has any ideas for improving the Section 7 consultation process, please fax them to Peggy Olwell at 202-343-8137.

Candidate Species Conservation Agreements

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requested a briefing for OMB examiners by all the federal agencies who signed the Candidate Conservation Memorandum of Understanding in January 1994. The OMB was interested in finding out what our plans are for candidate conservation in FY 95. Peggy Olwell and Abby Miller briefed them on the Endangered Species Program within the Park Service. As a follow-up to this, there is an interagency meeting being planned for early December. I need to know what conservation agreements have been developed for candidate species since the MOU was developed. Please send copies of your conservation agreement to Peggy Olwell by November 30, 1994, at Wildlife and Vegetation Division, P.O. Box 37127, Ste. 500, Washington, D.C., 20013-7127.

Native Plant Conservation Initiative

The Western Regional Heritage and Science Conference of The Nature Conservancy was held in Whitefish, Montana, during the first week of October. Peggy Olwell, Endangered Species Coordinator, gave a presentation on the U.S. Native Plant Conservation Initiative to the group of over 75 attendees from state, federal, and non-profit organizations. Following the meeting Olwell met with natural resource and interpretation staff at Yellowstone National Park to discuss endangered species issues.

Congressional Operations Seminar

Peggy Olwell attended a week-long training program, Congressional Operations Seminar, put together by Office of Personnel Management. It was a hands-on look at the workings of Congress and how the agencies' missions are promoted. The seminar provides a working view of Congress. The speakers identified the appropriate people who work on the various issues of the participants.