



IN REPLY REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Air Resources Division

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May 3, 1999

### Memorandum

To: Wildland Park Superintendents

From: Christine L. Shaver  
Chief, Air Resources Division

Subject: Transmittal of Air Quality – Wildland Fire Documents

As you may be aware, the recently released NPS Reference Manual 18 – Wildland Fire Management contains some new information regarding air quality and smoke management. The manual makes specific reference to the EPA Interim Policy on Wildland and Prescribed Fires, a policy that has been endorsed by Secretary Babbitt. Development of the Interim Policy was a multi-stakeholder process with participants from the Department of Interior's land managing bureaus, including the NPS. Adherence to the policy's guidance will help ensure that NPS fire program planning and implementation is carried out responsibly and in concert with the need to protect air quality both within and outside of parkland boundaries.

The following documents are enclosed for your information:

- 1) Interim Air Quality Policy on Wildland and Prescribed Fires, U.S. EPA – May 1998;
- 2) January 11, 1999 letter from Secretary Babbitt to EPA Administrator Browner endorsing the Interim Air Quality Policy;
- 3) *Fighting Fire with Fire: Keeping Forests Healthy and Protecting Air Quality*, a February 1999 publication supporting the wise use of fire and the importance of sound smoke management practices; and
- 4) an NPS "Air Quality Program Web" poster developed by the Air Resources Division that should help with access to our website on the internet with links to other related information that you and your staff may find useful.

If you need additional information or have questions that we can help answer, please contact Brian Mitchell (303-969-2819) in the Air Resources Division regarding smoke management issues or Dee Morse (303-969-2817) regarding the Air Quality Program Web poster. We hope you will find this information timely and useful.