

Look What We're Doing!

Five separate publications describing the scientific research projects in the Pacific Northwest and Western Regions now are available. The 91-page PNR Annual Science Report for 1979 is an expanded version of the usual report, in response to the absence of the traditional Science/Resource Management Workshop, held for three days in each of the previous seven years. It includes a paper developed by Jim Agee, Don Field and Ed Starkey on the Cooperative Park Studies Unit concept that summarizes the history and function of CPSU's and includes guidelines for research contracts in parks. Selected abstracts from investigators' annual reports comprise the remainder of the publication. It can be had by contacting the Science and Technology Division, Pacific Northwest Region, 601 4th and Pike Building, Seattle, WA 98101; (206) 442-1355 or FTS 399-1355.

The Western Region's research output is contained in separate reports, one from each of the four CPSU's – University of California, Davis, CA 95616; University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI 96822; University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721; and University of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV 89154. The information given is largely of a preliminary nature and was prepared primarily on an interim basis, but a reading of the documents (approximately 20 to 25 pp each) provides a broad view of the kinds of research being conducted and an educated clue as to how management and interpretation are being served.

Sociology Studies Program: 1970-1979, recent publication of the CPSU at the University of



needs and behavior of people in parks), and applications of research to resource management (such as management assessments and reports, backcountry monitoring programs, interpretive program analysis, visitor monitoring programs and the development of a framework for assessing social impacts.)

Washington College of Forest Resources, provides information about sociological research and reports efforts to apply the findings to resource management and interpretation. The book focuses on highlights of the program and describes products that have proven useful to management, as well as publications stemming from the research and now in production.

An interagency agreement among the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service and College of Forest Resources at the University of Washington continues to undergird the conduct of social science research into problem areas pertinent to park management. The work falls into three broad categories: baseline studies (regional studies designed to promote understanding of human leisure behavior and the participation patterns of people in selected recreational activities, park-based studies (a wide variety of research problems concerned with

The park-based studies are undertaken in response to requests by management and are site-specific. In this category, the Sociology Studies Program has concentrated on providing information for the backcountry and for interpretive plans. An example of the latter is the cruiseship interpretation study described in this issue (p. 21). The computerized backcountry permit information system – a major project begun in 1973 and turned over to Washington, D.C. in 1976, was conducted with frequent management input – a design component that runs throughout sociological research. In this case, the work led to reorganization of travel zones by ranger district, redefinition of travel zones, addition of a page of summary information, and a regional summary for all the major parks of the Pacific Northwest Region.

The 1979 sociology program personnel, under project leader Don Field, consisted of Neil H. Cheek, Jr., research social scientist, and research associates Darryll Johnson, Barbara Koth, Maureen McDonough, Gary Machlis, Pat Stkowski and Peter Womble. Laurie Briggs, programmer; Nadyne Snyder, program assistant/editor; John Murphy, editor, and Barbara Graves, illustrator, completed the 1979 roster. Fifteen collaborators from five universities, the Park Service and the Forest Service, assisted and three project advisors served in a review capacity.

Abstracts of all projects conducted in the nine years of operations are contained in the publication, which can be had by contacting Nadyne Snyder, College of Forest Resources, University of Washington NPS/CPSU, Seattle, WA 98195; (206) 543-6210 or FTS 392-6210.

