



C.P.S.U. Idea Celebrates 10th Birthday

The continuity of leadership provided by Don Field and Dean Bethel is reflected throughout the Western states in the continuing CPSU thrust: to find a flexible, adaptive model for providing scientific inquiry to a cluster of parks rather than a single park . . . to furnish an umbrella under which expertise from the University communities can be drawn upon for solutions to a wide variety of specific management problems . . . to offer wider access to new information in the face of new threats and promises within the National Park System.

For specific reactions from two superintendents, see the John Day Fossil Beds item on page 8 and the Superintendents' Corner on page 10.

The strong growth pattern demonstrated by CPSU's in the past decade is tempered by the historic instability of research organization within the Park Service, and NPS scientists are aware of the need to keep the program useful to the administrations of both the Service and the cooperative universities. Constant feedback is necessary if the constraints imposed by both parks and academia are to be well met. This publication is intended to provide one more arena for airing problems and savoring successes.

If you get to be 10 years old, presumably you're doing something right.

This year, the Cooperative Park Studies Unit idea — National Park research through university-based programs — is celebrating its 10th anniversary in the region where it was born — the Pacific Northwest, and the university dean who helped midwife the movement is throwing a birthday party.

In 1970, armed with a paper signed by then Director George B. Hartzog, Jr., three NPS scientists in Seattle set up an interdisciplinary team that would look at sociological, botanical and zoological phases of changing conditions in NPS sites throughout the Pacific Northwest Region. They were Don Field, Garrett Smathers and Dick Weisbrod (sociologist, botanist and zoologist, respectively,) and the activating agreement was signed by Robert Linn, then NPS chief scientist, and James S. Bethel, dean of the College of Forest Resources at the University of Washington. James Agee, who succeeded Weisbrod, has provided the recent leadership in both botanical and zoological areas.

Dean Bethel, who is hosting the anniversary celebration, is at least as enthusiastic today as he was when the idea was a-borning. The program's growth to the present network of 35 units, operating out of universities all across the U.S., testifies to the rewards provided the various communities involved — scientific, university and park.

In the beginning, the University of Washington-based unit emphasized services to Olympic, North Cascades, Mount Rainier and Alaska. Then, in 1972, the University of Alaska unit was established; Oregon State University followed in 1975, and this year a unit opened at the University of Idaho.

The Western Region was quick to recognize and adopt a good thing, starting its own CPSU network in 1971 with a unit at the University of Nevada. This was followed in 1973 with units at the Universities of Hawaii and Arizona and in 1979 with the University of California at Davis. Last year the Western Region went all the way and decided that CPSU's would be the backbone of the Western Region's science organization. In a memo dated March 15, 1979, Bruce Kilgore, associate regional director for resource management and planning, described the need for "solid, professional scientific data to support management and at the same time a more flexible, cost-effective science program."

Howard Chapman, regional director, concurred, and the move was made.