



***Cold and Soggy** are two words, the full meaning of which can scarcely be understood until one has worked and camped outdoors in the Olympics during the rainy season. members of Quest Northwest performed their burn site inventory duties at the park with such high good cheer "they even kept MY spirits up," said Jim Agee, CPSU Project Leader at the University of Washington, who worked with them in the field.*

NPS Fire Research

In Olympic NP Aided By Quest

Park managers who are hardput, under personnel and budget constraints, to develop the scientific information they need in order to manage their sites at maximum levels of protection and use may be pleased to learn of a highly successful group now operating in the Pacific Northwest Region.

Quest Northwest, a non-profit outdoor school, has been assisting NPS researchers for two seasons at Olympic NP. After some initial discussions with James K. Agee, project leader at the University of Washington CPSU, Quest crews spent a week in 1980 inventorying the structure of a 180-year-old burn in the western Olympic Mountains. This pilot involvement was so successful that Quest returned in 1981 to help inventory another old fire site.

Since 1973, the Quest staff has functioned as an environmental education resource team for numerous schools, community organizations, and governmental agencies. Individual participants have ranged from high school students to adults. Success of the program stems from the community services being performed in stimulating learning environments, benefiting both the participants and the agency.

"The Quest crews are highly motivated and the high staff/student ratio makes careful data collection possible," says Agee. "They have always been safety conscious and very well prepared for unfavorable weather. On top of this, the cost efficiency of utilizing Quest Northwest has made them indispensable." During the 1981 Olympic fire research, crews worked effectively and camped uncomplainingly in chill, rainy weather. They completed water quality sampling projects at Olympic and North Cascades National Parks this past season, and proved their ability to work with minimal NPS supervision.

The Quest Northwest crews could prove useful for other national park management and research projects, Agee pointed out. They are able to handle a wide range of activities, and are developing particular expertise in water quality sampling. Anyone interested in obtaining their 1981 prospectus or discussing poten-

tial projects may write Miles Hanchett, Director; Quest Northwest, 1140 Sierra Place, Edmonds, WA 98020, (206) 776-4027. For further information, contact Dr. Agee at the Cooperative Park Studies Unit, College of Forest Resources (AR-10), University of Washington, Seattle, WA (206) 543-2688.