

Threats To Parks Symposium Set

Five NPS scientists will jointly present a symposium on "External Threats to Ecosystems of the National Parks" on Friday, Jan. 8, 1982, at 9 a.m. in the Pan American Room of the Capital Hilton in Washington, D.C. — part of the Jan. 3-8 annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

J. Robert Stottlemeyer, NPS research scientist with the Great Lakes Research Area study unit and adjunct professor in the Michigan Technology University department of biological sciences at Houghton, MI, arranged the symposium and will preside. R. Roy Johnson of the Western Region will handle "Ecosystem Impacts Resulting from Hydrologic Regulation;" Paul G. Godfrey of the North Atlantic Region and an associate professor of botany at the University of Massachusetts, "External Influences on the Management of Barrier Island Parks;" Susan P. Bratton, research scientist at Great Smoky Mountain NP, "Effects of Exotic Plant and Animal Species on Park Ecosystems;" and Clifford J. Martinka, research biologist at Glacier NP, "Effects of Co-terminus Land Use on Endangered Grizzly Bear." Stottlemeyer will discuss "Ecosystem Evaluation of Anthropogenic Atmospheric Inputs."

The Symposium abstract reads: "National park resources are becoming increasingly important in the international conservation of genetic resources and their supporting environment. Designation of almost 15 national parks as international biosphere reserves is recognition of this value. Present administrative authority appears adequate to resolve most resource impacts that originate within park boundaries. But a recent survey shows most threats to park natural values originate beyond park boundaries. The mitigation of such threats will require a considerable expansion and major shift in Park Service research. Case studies documented by research on topics as diverse as the external regulation of hydrologic budgets, exotic species, management of barrier islands, air pollution, and co-terminus land use, point out the need to use an ecosystem approach in assessing the magnitude of these external threats. This approach more fully accounts for the complexity of such threats, and provides better information for mitigation strategies."