

Water Resources Lab Completes First Year

The NPS Water Resources Field Support Laboratory at Fort Collins, Colorado, is winding up its first year of operation as a provider of a multi-disciplined support function to WASO, the Regions, and parks. Lab Director Ray Herrmann reports that he and his staff have been involved in hydrological, geological, and ecological water resource investigations and cooperative support activities in more than 20 parks in 9 NPS Regions.

In an anniversary reminder to the entire Service, Herrmann described active Laboratory programs to assist with better park resource protection efforts. (See box)

Jay Bassin, Chief, Water Resources Division, WASO, pointed out that the Lab was established "because of our recognition of a need to efficiently provide professional water resource staff capability to parks and Regions in a number of national focus areas where NPS lacks needed resource management data."

Bassin described the Lab staff as able to respond quickly to a varied set of issues and added, "I encourage park management to employ the Lab's services."

Herrmann is available to provide information, answer questions, and receive comments, at the NPS

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The Water Resources Field Support Lab can help Regions and parks in the following ways:

- (1) collection and analysis of baseline data for maintaining, enhancing, or restoring water quantity and quality;
- (2) understanding the hydrological processes affecting evaluations of potential impacts in Park System areas;
- (3) investigating trends in acidification of streams and lakes;
- (4) investigating the ecological resources of park riparian habitats that may be changing due to water resource developments external to the parks; and
- (5) providing assistance to specific areas in developing water resource management plans and/or monitoring programs.