

Superintendent's Corner

Sequoia National Park was the site, last fall, of a remarkable experience in team science — one that already has been beneficial to us, and that promises to be even more valuable when the next phase is completed. At its center were Dr. Jerry Franklin of the U.S. Forest Service, Corvallis, and a remarkable team of scientists, students and technicians from Oregon State University.

Working with shoestring funding received through the National Park Service Interdisciplinary Science Team program to conduct interdisciplinary investigations on the structure and functions of Sierran stream-forest ecosystems, Dr. Franklin and a team of 30 arrived in the Park in September, 1982. The team worked from dawn to dark for 10 days, carrying out intensive field studies of stream, riparian and forest systems in a mixed-conifer forest, a giant sequoia forest, and a meadow. The program was modeled after previous highly successful "pulse" studies in the Cascades and in the Olympic Peninsula.

Nightly campfire sessions provided opportunity for structured, but very lively, discussions of project objectives, progress, and application to Park needs. These sessions were open to Park staff, who frequently were able to provide

valuable insights.

As a participant myself, I can personally attest to the fact that we *gained* knowledge and insights, and were caught up in the excitement of a highly professional, highly interactive group's procedures and findings. Sequoia resource management and science staff also participated in some of the field work, gaining valuable training in field techniques. The group went to great lengths to assure maximum applicability of their findings to such on-going Park programs as basic resources inventory, acid rain research, and long-term monitoring of vegetation changes, the effects of fire, and water quality. In developing a data base on the structure and function of selected Park ecosystems, the "pulse" study is providing interdisciplinary information of a kind that most Parks unfortunately seem to have little hope of obtaining.

Dr. Franklin is to return in June with an even larger group. We plan to take full advantage of the opportunity to establish what I hope will be a firm foundation for other long-term interdisciplinary research projects in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks/International Biosphere Reserve. The results are sure to be very valuable to us, as we work toward the kind of ecosystems knowledge that is essential to sound management of the Park's resources.

Boyd Evison, Superintendent
Sequoia & Kings Canyon NPs