

From Big South Fork

The Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, a developing park unit on the Cumberland plateau, eventually will contain more than 100,000 acres. The area's resources are diverse and the related resource management data base is growing daily. The staff realized early in 1983 the need to develop an automated data base and to procure computer hardware and software as early as possible to prevent future storage, retrieval, and analysis problems. Networking possibilities also were considered.

The first computer equipment was purchased in Spring 1983, with the main hardware components including an IBM-PC microcomputer with two disk drives, an AMDEK monitor, an NEC letter quality daisy wheel printer, a Hayes Smartmodem, and an Orange electronic protection device. Software purchased included dBase II, MultiPlan, Wordstar (with Mailmerge), and Crosstalk. In Summer 1983, a Corvus 10 MB hard disk system was purchased in anticipation of large data base. Originally, a one-computer system was believed to be adequate for parkwide use by all divisions. We planned for dBase II to be used for all inventory/data base work, Wordstar for word processing, MultiPlan for budget work, and Crosstalk for networking (particularly for electronic mailing and to tap other information systems). However, it was soon realized that one terminal would not be suffi-

cient for use by all park staff.

In Spring 1983, \$125,000 in PRIP (Significant Resource Problem) monies was approved for work relating to mineral developments and associated water quality problems. Computerizing the data base was the only logical approach to managing these problems effectively given staffing constraints, so we designated a large portion of these monies for development of a Geographic Information System (GIS) using an IBM-PC and dBase II.

Major hardware purchased for this GIS system included an IBM-PC with two disk drives, an EPSON FX-100 dot matrix printer, a Corvus 20MB hard disk with mirror, an HP 7470A plotter, a GTCO "DigiPad 5" digitizing pad, and an IBM color display monitor. We have a contract with the University of Tennessee Space Institute (UTSI) in Tullahoma, Tenn., to develop this GIS system. UTSI already had developed a mapping/data base system for vegetative types in the Recreation Area under a previous contract and will add 20-30 "themes" (e.g., roads/trails, water areas, endangered species sightings) to their existing system. The development of software to allow for various analyses and revisions of data also is a part of their contract. This system is to be ready by September 1984.

As we await the final GIS system, we continue to work with our first IBM-PC system. Currently we are preparing an oil and gas well data base using dBase II and compiling water quality sampling data using MultiPlan. Wordstar is being used for plan preparation and daily correspondence. Crosstalk soon will be used to tap other park and agency information systems and for electronic mailing. Once administration begins using MultiPlan extensively for budgeting, Resource Management will be able to make accurate budget adjustments as needed. Also planned are the hiring of a computer clerk and a proposal to acquire an IBM-PC system for the Obed Wild and Scenic River — another park area administered by the Big South Fork NRRRA Headquarters.

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