

From Great Smoky Mountains NP

The Resources Management Division of Great Smoky Mountains NP recently acquired an IBM-PC unit. Accessory equipment includes a Haynes Smartmodem Model 1200, Epson Printer FX-100, two floppy disc drives on the system unit, one expansion unit (10-megabyte hard disc drive), IBM Monochrome display, Grizzly power source, and a quad link board. Software support for the system includes Lotus 1,2,3, Wordstar, dBase, Apple-IBM connection, ProKey, a Random House Proofreader, and Cross-talk.

Current uses are for standard budget and FTE tracking programs and word processing. A sidelight of the budget program is the generation of a capital and non-capital property listing for inventory and control purposes. This separate listing is done when a requisition is entered against an account by expanding the fields to include property quantity and description. Inventory programs also are in use, or proposed, for better accountability of wildlife immobilization drugs, training records, wildlife law enforcement and observation records, and for tools and equipment.

A future project that promises a useful data base for recreational fishery management and brook trout restoration efforts is the cataloging of all park streams, location, order, species contained, elevational limits, tributaries, country, and state. A link between the Division's IBM-PC and a mainframe IBM unit at the University of Tennessee via the Smartmodem will allow for analysis of data obtained in creel and fish population surveys utilizing the SAS program.

The IBM currently generates 150-175 "reminder" letters to potential park firefighters that it is time to update step tests. The park retests twice annually because of spring and fall fire seasons. The memorandum generated also provides the prospective firefighter with his last step test score and date passed. Future efforts will include AFFIRMS network interface on the IBM, red card records, and fire history and record storage. A modified U.S. Forest Service hazard tree identification decision key is being experimented with for possible application in the park.

Storage and data manipulation have proved worthwhile in managing bear relocations, mast surveys, bear indices, exotic wild hog removal effectiveness, and temporal and spatial analysis of wildlife incidents. A hog population model has been obtained (for an IBM-PC) and will be tested this year.

Last, a resource management plan project statement tracking system that interfaces with resource management collecting and research activities is under construction. The program will display a brief abstract of the project, and the three principal actions of research, monitoring, and resource management concerning that project. In addition, all collecting and research activities concerning that project may be tracked and vice versa.

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