

From Olympic NP

Equipment: Datapoint 1560 w/10MB hard disk — DOS H. Will run "standalone" or under ARC.

Programs and Software: Multiplan, Datascan, FORTRAN, IEOS, word processing, CP/M-80 2.2 (in progress), Lemonade, DATABUS*

In the Olympic S&T Division we are using the computer primarily as a data storage and manipulation tool. Current applications include analysis of permanent plots in plant communities, manipulation of anadromous fish spawning survey data, hazardous tree records, hazardous tree monitoring, statistical analyses, budget tracking, wildlife management, drug inventories, equipment inventories, and word processing. We expect to use the computer for plant checklists, herbarium inventory, museum catalogs, wildlife observation cards, bibliographies, scientific abstracts, fish scale data, wildlife movements, electronic mail, storage of weather data, fire management and as many other applications as our collective imaginations will allow.

The first park computer was a Datapoint 1800 with a 10MB hard disk drive we all shared. Since data storage and machine access were too limited we added a 1560 in the Science and Technology Division and two 1560s running under the ARC system in Administration. The 1800 currently is in Maintenance and plans are underway to add a 1560 in the Interpretive Division. Most of us are pleased with the Datapoint system but we continue to study alternatives.

Initial use of our computer system was relatively slow. Each individual had to become familiar with new equipment and — in some cases — with computers in general. We have had a computer for approximately 16 months and still feel we are in the embryonic stages of how best to use the system. It is apparent we need at least one and more likely two programmer/operators on a full-time basis.

To take full advantage of a computer system, considerable time must be spent on training. Staff members need to know both how to use the computer and how to determine what types of applications are ap-

propriate for computer use. Tasks that are to be handled by the computer must be carefully thought out. It is inefficient as well as frustrating to a programmer to have someone continually changing or adding parameters to a program that has already been written.

At Olympic we are committed to broad applications of the system. As more of our experts on particular subjects become familiar with the computer as a "working tool," we find we are just beginning to tap the advantages of ADP.

***Software package descriptions:**

DATASCAN — a data base manipulation tool of considerable power, but operates slowly on some machines.

LEMONADE — a screen generator, allows set up of a "page" on the screen so that when data is entered it is automatically placed in a predetermined format.

IEOS — Datapoint's word processor.

DATABUS — a computer language designed by Datapoint.

FORTTRAN — a computer language designed for scientific applications.

CP/M 80 — an operating system used by many processors including IBM, Kaypro, etc.

MULTIPLAN — a powerful "spread sheet" set up in rows and columns. Appropriate for smaller data sets and making tables or maintaining running totals in different accounts.

DOS H — the disk operating system on Olympic's Datapoint 1560 series computers.

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