

From Wind Caves

The Administrative and Forest Fire Information Retrieval and Management System (AFFIRMS) is a user-oriented interactive computer program designed to permit simultaneous entry of fire weather observations from field stations over an extensive network. Fire weather data may be entered from any of a number of data terminals; then those data and the associated fire indexes may be centrally archived and may be displayed at any terminal in the network.

Wind Caves is one of the first parks outside the PNR to use AFFIRMS from a Datapoint Computer. AFFIRMS uses the 1978 National Fire Danger Rating System as a basis for calculating fire danger indexes, which in turn provide fire managers with an invaluable predictive tool in managing fire activities.

Increased use of Datapoint computers throughout the Park Service has made the AFFIRMS program available to areas that have been reliant on manual computations or the Texas Instruments TI-59 handheld calculator for non-archived index calculations. Some additional hardware may be required, depending on the user's present Datapoint equipment.

For example, Wind Cave has a DP 1800 Processor with a 2400 Baud modem (2400 baud is standard throughout the Rocky Mountain Region for administrative transmittals). However, AFFIRMS sends at

either 300 or 1200 baud. Therefore, a combination of hard-and-software was acquired to "translate" between the different rates and allow the park to use AFFIRMS locally.

The interface procedures involved were developed by the Pacific Northwest Region and provided to the Branch of Fire Management, BIFC, in July, 1983. Once AFFIRMS is telephonically accessed the user must then follow the normal AFFIRMS operations.

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