

From Whiskeytown NRA

At Whiskeytown NRA, the Datapoint 1800 computer system has been in operation for about one year and is used by all divisions. Whiskeytown does not employ any programmers so the capabilities of the 1800 for the most part, have been governed by available software. The computer is used for payroll functions (DIPS, PAYPERS), budgeting (MULTIPLAN), GSA vehicle tracking, law enforcement visitor use statistics and case incident statistics, and word processing for repetitive correspondence and modifications in the park fire management plan.

Each division sees additional tasks which could use a computer's storage and processing agility. An inventory and maintenance record of buildings, signs, and equipment would facilitate planning of cyclic upkeep. The inventory of the Natural History Association's materials could be updated constantly by a computer cash register system for the visitor center; a sensitive screen, user-friendly informational terminal would benefit the park visitor. Law enforcement personnel could provide readily available intrapark communication regarding vandals who habitually strike national parks. (One sensitive aspect is the problem of adequate security to prevent access to confidential information.)

For managers concerned with mineral leasing, a software program capable of providing a cross-indexed listing of land characteristics by township, range and section would be useful. The computer, by telephone modem, also could give access to the AFFIRMS fire weather system, and to the lightning fire prediction program (LLAFFS) provided by the U.S. Forest Service. Ideally, graphics capabilities would be of great help in mapping of vegetation types, soil types, backcountry trail system, etc. Electronic mail would allow quick, intrapark correspondence.

Victoria Mendiola

P.O. Box 188

Whiskeytown, CA 96095