

From Yellowstone NP

The file handling capabilities of the Datapoint system used in Yellowstone are useful for inputting data to the system. I have used it extensively to input data from field forms and to manipulate the files created for analysis and printed output. These programs are written in the Databus language and were done before Multiplan was available. Some of the work may be easier to enter under Multiplan, depending on the size requirements of the data base. Once the data are in a file form from Multiplan, they could be manipulated with Databus programs or RMS or DOS commands. I have also found the chain file capability of the Datapoint system quite useful. Two or more programs can be called into service automatically after data are input to the terminal.

I have written seven programs, which so far are poorly documented but if anyone wanted a copy of the documentation it could be produced quickly. An example is RDNFPLT/Text:W, a program to build a file of vegetation plot data from field forms. The text file produced consists of a long list of records. The first record is a plot header that gives the plot number, location, and physical parameters of the site. Following that, each species is listed with its cover value. In application programs, the plot header is used to distinguish between plots.

One of the next programs I plan to write will look through the file and find the locations of a particular species. I would be glad to correspond with anyone interested in such programs or other applications of the Datapoint systems.

Don G. Despain

The Greater Yellowstone Area, which includes Yellowstone NP, is using an animal tracking program for the grizzly and black bear monitoring system. The majority of the 1983 information has been put into the system and we are planning to use this system, without backup from the previous system, in 1984. To date, the input program is working well, and the search/selection program has provided us with a useful management tool.

We are using a set of programs for the input and analysis of the research/resources management data.

I. Data Input Program (Datapoint – "Databus" language). Data can be a mixture of literal, numeric, or coded types.

II. Data Search/Selection Program (Datapoint – "Basic" language).

A. Through Interaction Program

1. User designs search for any combination of data values.
2. User designs tabular output of any data fields in any order
3. Sorting of records can be requested.

B. Modules can be added to increase capabilities for special reports, calculations, etc.

Sandi Fowler

Yellowstone NP, WY 82190