

NPS Microcomputer Software Inventory

The NPS Office of Information Management has conducted an inventory of the uses the Service makes of small computers. The purpose of maintaining the inventory is to let NPS staff know what information in their subject area has been automated, to assist in planning or designing of computer systems, and to help NPS staff exchange ideas and software.

The inventory shows that in the last two to three years, computers have proliferated in the parks, and that park staffs have put them to good use. Over 130 kinds of applications are in the inventory, ranging from visitor and resource management to a wide variety of administrative uses.

The inventory has information on 14 computer systems, 11 of them in parks, which maintain natural resource data. These include systems on marine species and on bears, goats, and other mammals, and systems on ground cover and cave use. There are also four natural resource bibliography systems identified.

Systems in NPS use now run on a variety of kinds of hardware. Commonly used brands include Datapoint, IBM-PC's, Data General, Apples, Vector Graphics, and others. Much of the software is from commercially available "off the shelf" packages. In addition to dBase II, most frequently used are electronic spreadsheet packages such as VISICALC, MULTIPLAN (for Datapoint), and SUPER-CALC. Graphics and statistical packages also are used, and packages such as LOTUS 1-2-3, which integrate some of these functions.

The inventory is available in printed form now and will be made available later in an automated data base. It includes just enough detail to let you know who's doing what kind of business on computers in the parks, and the name and phone number of someone to call to find out more about it.

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