

Chapman Keynotes Science Meeting

Western Regional Director Howard Chapman, in his Sept. 6 keynote address to the Second Biennial Conference on Research in the National Parks of California at U Cal Davis, told the 130 - participants:

"We need solutions that only science can furnish. If I have one overriding message to deliver here," he said, "it is this - that intelligent protection of park resources will progress only at the rate that new knowledge is discovered and put to use in the System.

"The great natural park systems," he continued, "must be managed in ways that allow them to continue to evolve as much as possible in a natural way. If our hand is needed to keep them functioning, then something is lacking in our management."

Chapman included a strong endorsement of the upcoming international MAB conference at Great Smoky Mountains NP (Nov. 27-29) on management of the world's biosphere reserves.

"I find," Chapman said, "that the Service still is searching for how NPS relates to the World Biosphere Reserve program. I would hope that the November meeting clarifies this relationship. When we have an area that has been designated as a world biosphere reserve, we should take proper recognition of that fact. We in the Western Region will support and emphasize the role of our designated areas as they relate to the wider world picture."

The continuing theme of the California conferences (held every other year at U Cal, Davis), is "The Integration of Research Into Resource Management Decision Making in the National Park Service."

Channel Island Supt. William Ehorn's conference windup, "Politics and Its Relationship to Research and Resource Management in National Parks," will appear as a Superintendent's Corner in the Winter issue of *Park Science*.