
computer corner

A software package called "WATER Q" is now available to parks with needs for database management in water quality monitoring. Utilizing the dBASE III database management system, the program is user-friendly and menu driven. WATER Q was written for Mount Rainier National Park by Dr. Richard Frenzel of the Cooperative Park Studies Unit, Oregon State University. Although structured for data collected at Mount Rainier, the program may be used to manage water quality data collected in other areas. Additionally, the Statistics, Data Listing, and Non-system File Creation modules are useful for manipulating data sets other than water quality information.

Main options of the program are data entry, editing data, running statistics and/or listing data, log transformations of data, and creation of non-system ascii output files (for use with other software such as Lotus 1,2,3, graphics packages, etc.). Requirements of the program include:

- a) hardware requirements
 - IBM or IBM Compatible Personal Computer
 - 256K bytes of memory

- two 360K floppy disk drives, or
 - one 360K floppy disk drive and a Hard Disk

- b) software requirements
 - MS-DOS or PC-DOS version 2.0 or greater
 - dBASE III or dBASE III +

Data fields used are site code, date, sample time, air temperature, water temperature, salinity, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity, total coliforms, fecal coliforms, fecal streptococcus, alkalinity, suspended sediments, dissolved solids, total N, NH_3 , NO_3 , + NO_2 , total P, PO_4 , Si, Na, K, Ca, and Mg. Individuals familiar with dBASE III programming might add additional parameters (program documentation is included in the manual accompanying the software).

Because "WATER Q" was written for and is the property of NPS, it can be furnished at no cost to parks that want it. Send a blank diskette to: Cat Hawkins, Natural Resource Specialist, Olympic NP, FTS 396-4501, COMM (206) 452-4501, or Peter Thompson, Backcountry Specialist, Mount Rainier NP, FTS 390-6393, COMM (206) 569-2211.