

Improving Science's Role In NPS Management

The executive summary of the 1986 Conference on Science in the National Parks, written by Conference Co-chairman Ray Herrmann and cleared through the NPS directorate, describes a three-part process for developing an appropriate, responsive, and well-managed research program:

(1) Deal theoretically with the role that research can and should play in the NPS administrative and management process;

(2) Reiterate the values of quality research, properly organized (vis a vis the physical, biological, social, and cultural sciences) to park management; and

(3) Implement a structure within the NPS management framework that will directly recognize, utilize, and support research.

Four structural issues are identified and discussed in the Report: (1) who is responsible for research; (2) the relationship of research to resource management; (3) the nature and structure of resource management, and (4) the organizational role of research.

The foregoing grew out of the work of two Conference plenary research panels, and invites continuing discussion and work along these lines, Herrmann suggests.

A total of 24 research-related "actions" are identified as growing out of issues identified by the conferees and specifically related to Director Bill Mott's 12-Point Plan. This section comprises the last third of the Report.

In addition, the Report contains pertinent history of science in the parks, a list of "things that research can NOT do," enumeration of significant achievements of the science program, and excerpts from the remarks of the plenary session speakers: Director Mott, George Pring, Boyd Evison, Theodore W. Sudia, W. James Judge, Chuck Odegaard, Tom Lovejoy, Richard Forman, John R. Kelly, Joseph K. Berry, Raymond Dasmann, Jay M. Hughes, and Bob Beeton.

The Summary Report will be carried in full in the next issue of the George Wright Society FORUM, P.O. Box 65, Hancock, MI 49930.