

Servicewide Program For I&M Underway

Editor's Note: From NPS Associate Director Gene Hester comes the following chronology and plan for I&M action.

A Natural Resources Inventory and Monitoring Initiative report, published in May 1987, addresses the policy, definitions, and rationale of gathering, analyzing, and managing baseline inventory data and long-term monitoring of NPS natural resources, and contains sections on the background, program description, and implementation of the program.

Developed by resource management personnel of the NPS with the help of David Graber, Jerry Franklin, Gary Davis, Ray Herrmann, Carol Aten, Bruce Wilcox, Jim Larson, Bob Stottlemeyer, Maury Nyquist, Peter White, Christine Schonewald-Cox, Al Lovaas, Bob Barbee, Bob Baker, Dick Briceland, Jerry Rogers, and Boyd Evison, the report also has been reviewed by "the field."

The next step in this program, started June 1, 1987, is the drafting of Servicewide standards and guidelines; the task is to be completed by June 1, 1988. A further step will be a survey of the status of Servicewide inventory and monitoring, a task to begin Nov. 2, 1987, and to be completed April 1, 1988. A completed draft of I&M standards and guidelines is to be distributed to the regions and field for review and comments by Dec. 1, 1987.

As a first step toward developing Servicewide I&M guidelines and standards, a meeting was held at Sequoia/Kings Canyon NP with Boyd Evison, Ray Herrmann, Roland Wauer, Gary Davis, David Graber, and Al Greene in attendance. Future meetings will concentrate on various elements of the inventory (e.g., plants, animals, air, GIS, etc.). Al Greene met with the Regional Chief Scientists the first week in August 1987 to give a progress report and to determine the best way to include them in the Servicewide program during its formative stages.