

Clearing the Air Program Update

Training and materials to help interpreters launch the NPS Clearing the Air program are on the way. Training teams from nine Regions sharpened their knowledge, reviewed interpretive media, and developed lesson plans on air quality and acid rain at a workshop held at the Albright Training Center Feb. 22-26, 1988. Discussion of scientific and political constraints was particularly lively, as it is likely to be when these teams conduct training in their Regions. Regional training, assisted by seed money from WASO Interpretation and Natural Resources, is scheduled for various times during 1988. Contact your Regional Training Officer for further details.

A Servicewide slide-script program on visibility, ozone, and acid rain, and a slide collection on acid rain, were nearing completion in May, as was the videotape on NPS acid rain research. Barring unexpected delays, these materials should be available this summer. Ten copies of the slide-script program, 10 of the slide collection, and 2 or 3 of the videotape will be distributed to each Regional Chief of Interpretation.

The contract for a computerized encyclopedia on air quality acidic deposition has been awarded. Carefully reviewed information on air pollutants, their effects on cultural and natural resources, and control and mitigation strategies, at the global and North American level, and in three pilot biogeographical cultural regions, should be available next year. During the succeeding two years, modules for the other biogeographical/cultural regions, and for parks, will be developed. This project, which will provide information in both textual and graphic forms, promises to have long-term value for both interpretation and management.

Last October an information packet on air quality acidic deposition was mailed to 258 Chief Park Interpreters. Most of the items in this packet, plus an article – "Trouble with the Rainbow: Acid Deposition in the National Parks" – and conclusion sections from the Interim Assessment of the National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program are still available from the Washington Office. Contact Napier Shelton, National Park Service (490), Department of the Interior, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127. Phone: FTS 343-8136 or (202) 343-8136.

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