

Water Resources Division

A workshop on the effects of acid rain and air pollutants to desert park areas was held in Tucson May 16-18, 1988, coordinated by the Water Resources and the Air Quality Divisions and designed to determine what is and is not known about the effects of air pollutants on desert natural and cultural resources.

The 31 who attended included representatives from 17 parks and 3 regional offices. Major concerns dealt with the following: The sizeable but unquantified amount of dry deposition of sulfur and nitrogen oxides; the virtually unknown but potentially serious effects of ozone, sulfur, and nitrogen oxides and acid rain on desert plants; the possibility that the ephemeral aquatic habitats found in desert potholds also are at risk.

Monitoring and bioassay experiments to determine the effects of air pollutants on these and cultural resources were recommended. A proceedings from this workshop will be produced through the WASO Office of Natural Resources.

* * *

Jill Baron, a Research Ecologist with the Water Resources Division at Fort Collins, will be on sabbatical through July 1989. The sabbatical, arranged through Colorado State University, is designed to allow Baron to write a monograph on the results of an eight-year research project having to do with effects of acidic atmospheric deposition on the biogeochemical processes of Loch Vale watershed, an alpine/subalpine drainage in Rocky Mountain NP.