
mab notes

Two **biosphere reserve proposals** with great potential for accomplishment are progressing toward realization. At its April meeting, the U.S. Directorate for Biosphere Reserves recommended the nomination of the Kentucky Cavelands BR (Mammoth Cave NP) and the Tennessee/Cumberland Valleys BR. Approval by the U.S. MAB National Committee, the area administrators, and the international MAB Bureau is still needed.

Kentucky Cavelands BR would consist of Mammoth Cave NP as a core and the adjacent 62,000-hectare groundwater recharge zone as a transition area, or zone of cooperation. Superintendent Dave Mihalic points out that 20 percent of the world's land areas are underlain by karst terranes such as Mammoth Cave's, and that as a biosphere reserve this area could serve as a model for sound environmental management of other such lands. This is an unusually clear example of mutual dependence between park and region: the park attracts tourists to the region and the region must farm and handle sewage in ways that maintain quality of the groundwater that the park's cave life depends on. Cooperation between the park and local communities already has produced an agreement to build a regional sewage system. Public awareness programs are underway, and a study of farm fertilizer practices to prevent groundwater pollution has been proposed.

The Tennessee/Cumberland Valleys BR in western Kentucky and Tennessee would consist of the 170,000-acre Land Between the Lakes (TVA) and two nearby national wildlife refuges as satellites: Cross Creeks and Tennessee. No NPS area is included. The 6,648-acre core area would consist of four watersheds, 33 small ecology study areas, and a number of old-growth stands in Land Between the Lakes (LBL); the rest would constitute a buffer zone. Most of the LBL is intensively managed for recreation, timber production, and wildlife. Established as a national demonstration area in 1963 and now boasting a strong environmental education program, the LBL, with the two refuges, promises to become even more valuable to the region and the world as a biosphere reserve.

The **Lake Champlain Basin-Adirondack BR** in New York and Vermont was approved by the MAB Bureau in April. It becomes the fourth largest biosphere reserve in the world. Dedication ceremonies for the **Central California Coast BR** will be held in San Francisco on August 11. Interest in the new reserve runs high in that environmentally aware region, and many dignitaries are expected to attend.

A **draft action plan** for the U.S. biosphere reserve program is due in July. It will assess the program to date, refine the BR selection process, set priorities for conservation, research, and education programs in biosphere reserves, and recommend actions for using BR's in solving regional and global problems. It will stress that the program's mission in essence is to find ways to bring about integrated development and adjust to global and regional change while still conserving genetic resources. The action plan also will discuss creation of a U.S. Biosphere Reserve Report Series – a system for publishing any report on the BR research program of general interest to the biosphere reserve constituency.

Two important **meetings** on biosphere reserves are coming up in August. An NPS workshop on the role of biosphere reserves in addressing global change

issues will take place August 1-3 at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. And on August 8 and 9 a symposium followed by a workshop on developing an action plan for coastal barrier biosphere reserves will be held during the AIBS meetings in Toronto.

The **Proceedings of the Symposium on Biosphere Reserves**, containing 27 papers delivered at the September 14-17, 1987 meeting in Estes Park, CO, can be obtained from Bill Gregg, Wildlife and Vegetation Division, Washington Office (202-343-8122). The papers address general concepts, coastal-marine biosphere reserves, and experience with biosphere reserves in developed and developing countries. They present a rich, thoughtful picture of the evolving biosphere reserve program.

Napier Shelton
NPS Washington Office