

regional highlights

Pacific Northwest

Resource Management Specialist Ed Menning professed disappointment in the National Conference on Mountain Management held in late February in Portland, Oreg., citing a low number of participants and "thin" representation from NPS. One moment of "excellence," however, was Yosemite Supt. Jack Morehead's "solid presentation on Future Trends in Mountain Management," Menning said.

A set of resolutions, not yet finalized, will be one product of the conference. They deal with such issues as user conflicts on public lands, lack of public understanding of wildland ethics, threats to water quality, and the need to balance user freedoms with resource impacts.

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The University of Idaho CPSU now has available for distribution, copies of its resource database search program, written by Roger Hoffman. This program was developed to be used with the resource databases now being constructed in several Pacific Northwest parks. The completely menu-driven program comes with a demonstration database and is easy to install and use. The program allows for selectively filtered searches on any one or a combination of the 47 fields of information in the resource database. A variety of output options are also available including a matrix format useful in tracking inventory and monitoring efforts.

The program requires an IBM compatible machine with a hard disk. For a copy of the program, sample database, and user's manual contact Gerry Wright, Cooperative Park Studies Unit, College of Forestry, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83843, and enclose (2) formatted 5.25 inch disks or (1) formatted 3.5" disk.

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Shirley Clark, PNR biologist, attended in April the second annual review of the Oregon State Implementation Plan for Visibility. Visibility in the Mount Hood Wilderness and the Central Cascade Wildernesses has improved since implementation of the State's Visibility Plan; however, visibility impairment at Crater Lake NP has increased. In 1987, 5 percent of daylight hours had significant impairment; in 1988, 18 percent were so affected. Of the 18 percent in 1988, 51 percent was attributed to a prescribed natural fire within the park boundaries. Unexpected weather conditions (see editorial this issue) had caused the fire to "blow up" and required park personnel to switch from a monitoring to a suppression mode. At the request of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Clark and Mark Forbes (PNR Fire Coordinator) met on May 3 with DEQ members to discuss the natural fire program and visibility impairment at Crater Lake.

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The Sierra Club, the Oregon Natural Resources Council, and the National Parks and Conservation Association have requested that the Interior Department's Board of Land Appeals reconsider its decision to allow exploratory drilling for geothermal resources near Crater Lake. Included with the request for reconsideration is a request that all exploratory drilling near Crater Lake be stayed pending resolution of the petition.

Peer review for the research on ecological effects of stocked fish on naturally barren high mountain lakes in North Cascades NP was held in May at the NPS/CPSU on the Oregon State University campus. Gary Larson, CPSU research aquatic ecologist, indicated that results would not be available before presstime. An article on the subject will appear in a future issue.

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Biology of the Rhizosphere was the title of the 50th Annual Biology Colloquium at Oregon State University in Corvallis May 19, 1989. The whole area of interface between plant roots and the surrounding soil was the focus of the day-long meeting, which attracted about 200 scientists from the U.S. and the United Kingdom.

An international group of 10 scientists explored the various aspects of research in this field, providing background for current rhizosphere research and discussing biological interactions, current approaches, and applications of the discipline.

"What goes on below the ground is as important as the biological activities above the ground," according to John Lattin, OSU entomology professor and chairman of the colloquium. For information on the *Proceedings*, contact Dr. Lattin, Dept. of Entomology, OSU, Corvallis, OR 97331; (503) 754-2116.