

Southwest Takes Sweeping Look at Natural Resources

By Keith Yarborough

At a successful workshop on Natural Resources Management, held in April 1989, 37 park participants from 26 Southwest Regional park areas and the CPSU at Texas A&M University, plus 8 from the Southwest Regional Office, discussed a broad spectrum of subjects, to wit:

Hardy Pearce of the Wildlife and Vegetation Division, NPS Washington Office, gave an overview of that division's organization and the services it can provide to field areas, the final Resources Management Program guideline, the revised Management Policies, NPS-77 developments, the NPCA Commission on Resources Management and Science Report, National Natural Landmarks, Global Climate Change and Biodiversity, the NPS's inventorying and long-term monitoring initiative, and the future of the Natural Resources Preservation Program.

Glen Kaye, Chief, SWR Division of Interpretation and Visitor Services, spoke on interpreting biodiversity.

Mark Scruggs, Chief, Research Branch, Air Quality Division, Denver, described that division's organization and services available to parks, updated Air Quality Division's activities, and gave the latest research findings on visibility and biological effects of air pollutants in the Southwest Region and Servicewide.

Dan Kimball, Chief, Policy, Planning, and Evaluation Branch, Water Resources Division, Fort Collins, described that division's organization and services available, and their recent activities in Southwest Region parks.

Tanna Chattin, SWRO Public Affairs Officer, talked on how to work with the media, avoid the pitfalls, and survive.

Ron Kerbo, Cave Specialist, Carlsbad Caverns, NM, described the new discoveries in Lechuguilla Cave, the concept of cave wilderness, and how to interact with a "non-supportive" public and live to tell about it.

Gerry Hoddenbach, Southwest Regional Biologist, covered Integrated Pest Management activities in the Southwest Region.

William Cook, NPS trainer at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Glynco, GA, handled liability risks for resources managers, using important case studies, Servicewide.

George Neusanger, Resources Management Specialist with Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, spoke of the ongoing issue concerning hunting/trapping at Jean Lafitte.

Harry O'Bryant, Acting Unit Leader of the CPSU at Texas A&M University, discussed the services the CPSU can provide to Southwest Region parks.

Cliff Chetwin, SWRO Resources Management Specialist and Fire Officer, described FIREPRO III and fire management policy after the Yellowstone area fires.

Jim Walters, SWRO Resources Management Specialist, tackled the Desert Parks Task Force and concepts of backcountry management (for which he was nearly lynched!).

Harvey Fleet, Geographic Information Systems Division, Denver, outlined the organization and services they can provide, and detailed case examples of GIS applications.

In addition, mini-workshops were held on preparation of contracts, computer applications for resources management, GIS applications, and integrated pest management applications in the Southwest Region parks.