

New RNA Report Focuses On Information Exchange

"Taking the Pulse of Healthy Land" is the lead article in a new publication, *Natural Areas Report*, Vol. 1, No. 1, edited by Sarah Greene, Forestry Sciences Lab, 3200 Jefferson Way, Corvallis, OR 97331; (503) 757-4429.

The report is an outgrowth of the February workshop in Portland, OR, which focused on the role of Research Natural Areas (RNAs) in baseline monitoring, long-term research, and protection of biological diversity. (See *Park Science*, Spring 1989, p. 11). The February workshop panels produced over 50 recommendations which, when prioritized, boiled down to a strong consensus for the following four:

(1) More specific management direction is desperately needed. This must begin with the setting of specific management objectives and development of a monitoring plan for each RNA.

(2) RNA coordinators are essential to a successful RNA program. At the very least, each agency (such as the NPS) should have an RNA coordinator at the units that contain RNAs.

(3) All agencies with units in the Pacific Northwest should adopt the Oregon and Washington Natural Heritage Plans as guides to RNA cell/element needs.

(4) Assured funding is required. (No agreement was reached, however, on where and how the necessary funding would be appropriated.)

The Pacific Northwest Interagency RNA Committee will hold its biannual meeting in Portland Nov. 16, 1989. Contact: Sarah Greene (see above).