

mab notes

A wealth of expertise was represented at the meeting in Knoxville, TN August 1-3 on *biosphere reserves and global change*. MAB expects to become deeply involved in this gigantic issue. (See article, p. 14).

The enthusiasm in California for the biosphere reserve concept has reached an encouragingly high political level. At the **dedication of the Central California Coast BR** (CCCBBR) on August 12, U.S. Sen. Pete Wilson and former State legislators Pete Behr and W. Bill Lane, as well as Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Tom Lovejoy and other distinguished officials, welcomed into the biosphere reserve family Golden Gate NRA, Point Reyes NS, Farallon Islands NWR, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, the Marin Municipal Water District, the San Francisco Watershed, and Mount Tamalpais, Tomales, and Samuel P. Taylor state parks. Laurie Wayburn of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory will have an exciting and challenging time as CCCBBR Coordinator in guiding the component parts toward cooperative activities that will benefit the region.

How to institutionalize this cooperation will be suggested in a *feasibility study* funded this year by the U.S. MAB National Committee. The committee also funded feasibility studies for the Lake Champlain Basin-Adirondack BR and for proposed BRs in the Ozark Highlands and Gulf of Maine region.

Regional cooperation was also the subject of a **public MAB seminar** held August 8-10 in Glacier NP, in conjunction with Waterton Lakes NP and the Coram Experimental Forest - all biosphere reserves. Speakers from the NPS, Forest Service, Blackfeet Tribe, British Columbia Parks, and public and private Montana groups presented the MAB program, discussed land management objectives in the northern

Rocky Mountains, and explored opportunities for cooperative achievement of those objectives. The Southern Appalachian MAB Cooperative (SAMAB) was considered as a possible model.

Meanwhile, **SAMAB**, the first U.S. MAB cooperative, gears up for action. Hubert Hinote, a resource economist for 22 years at the Tennessee Valley Authority, has been hired half-time as executive director, and he has prepared a work plan and budget for FY 1989 and FY 1990. Great Smoky Mountains NP is providing office space and secretarial help for the SAMAB Coordinating Office. A nonprofit foundation is being established and, if things go as planned, will fund SAMAB projects beginning in FY 1991. Until then, all funding will come from member agencies.

Cooperative MAB activities with the Soviet Union continue, with a general goal of developing methods for comparing environmental/ecological conditions in the two countries and for other research and education of mutual interest. Ray Herrmann of the WASO Water Resources Division and Dave Graber from Sequoia-Kings Canyon NPs were part of a U.S. group that met with Soviet scientists May 26-June 1 in Idaho and Wyoming. The objectives were to exchange chemical standards, to exchange air samples for equipment calibration, and to agree to a methodological approach for field work to be cooperatively conducted in the U.S.S.R.'s Okiski State Reserve in August and September. The discussions also touched on cooperative work planned for 1990 in Alaska's Noatak BR, where the emphasis is expected to be on monitoring related to global warming effects. Herrmann and Graber also participated in the Okiski Reserve trip, Aug. 15-Sept. 15, where methods for evaluating biodiversity were discussed and tested.

In July the U.S. MAB National Committee allocated a total of \$414,000 to 11 **research and education projects**. The emphasis in this year's grants was decidedly international: 10 of the projects dealt with resource issues in other countries. Subjects ranged from agriculture in the central Andes, grazing in western Tibet, and restoration of pine forests in subtropical China to training, conservation, and management of tropical biosphere reserves, circumpolar study of global change, and global environmental education initiatives. The annual call for proposals for next year went out in August. Bill Gregg, NPS MAB Coordinator, says **better proposals are needed from U.S. biosphere reserves**. This year's were not competitive.

Michael Ruggiero, Chief of the WASO Wildlife and Vegetation Division, represented the U.S. MAB Committee at the **Second European Conference of MAB National Committees** at Trebon, Czechoslovakia May 22-27. Representatives of 20 countries attended, including 10 Eastern bloc countries. Workshops were conducted on biosphere reserves, ecotones, forest ecosystems, and landscape change. Roundtable discussions focused on urban ecosystems and environmental education. Mike reports that there was a real spirit of cooperation between East and West. The environment now has become *the* major issue in Europe and ways are being sought to harmonize efforts among countries. The attendees were particularly interested in U.S. programs relating to geographic information systems and long-term monitoring.

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