

Pacific Northwest

Fuel and Fire Behavior Predictions in Subalpine Forests of Pacific Northwest NPs (CPSU/UW 89-4) is the first in a series of U/WA CPSU publications on subalpine fire dynamics of PNW Region NPs. Co-authors James K. Agee and Mark Huff, assisted by Michael Gracz and Mark Finney, report on research conducted in the "rainshadow" behind mountains at Crater Lake, Olympic, Mount Rainier, and North Cascades NPs.

* * *

Gary Larson, research aquatic ecologist with the Oregon State University CPSU, briefed staff at Mount Rainier NP Feb. 27 on the findings of recent research on water quality of glacial and non glacial streams in the park. The project was started in 1985 by Cat Hawkins (now at Olympic NP) as her Natural Resource Management course project. Since then, sampling has continued and recommendations for management and continued monitoring have grown out of the research. Water quality was found to be influenced by distance downstream from glacial headwaters, geology, time of day, season, elevation, and mineral springs.

The Crater Lake Interim Report, dealing with studies and investigations into the status and trends of changing water quality at Crater Lake, was signed in Novem-

ber 1989 and submitted to Congress. Research data dealing with relationships between suspected thermal features, the lake's limnology, and the lake's clarity will continue to be analyzed. A draft final report is due to NPS in September 1990.

In 1989, 65 lakes in North Cascades NP were sampled for water quality, algae, zooplankton, and bottom fauna to determine the status of lake communities in naturally fishless lakes. A number of lakes in the park have been stocked with rainbow trout, and researchers now propose to do intensive studies of "paired lakes" – one without fish and one stocked with trout – to determine the effects of fish stocking on natural lake communities. A peer review of this proposal will be held in May, according to Gary Larson, project co-leader. The proposal is for two years of paired lake studies, in 1990 and 1991.