

Global Change Program Update

By David Figlio

The Global Change Program Committee (GCPC) met in Reno, NV, the week of January 28 to review Global Change Capabilities and Interest Statements from 14 biogeographic areas. The GCPC identified 10 of these as being significant to a national global change research program.

Of these 10 areas, Big Thicket, Central Grasslands, Channel Islands, Hawaiian Islands, South Florida, and Upper Rio Grande Basin, were regarded as particularly important additions to the existing NPS global change network; these will be invited to submit Global Change Operations and Conceptual Research Plans (GCP), according to target schedules in official Washington Office (WASO) memoranda.

These schedules are being developed so that lower ranked biogeographic areas won't be putting out a lot of effort chasing the limited dollars in the program at this time. In order to provide preparers additional time, this next round of GCPs will be due to WASO by Sept. 3, 1991, rather than in May as previously indicated. The other 4 areas – Central California Coast, Chihuahuan Desert, Colorado Plateau, and Greater Yellowstone – will be invited to submit GCPs as additional funding becomes available.

At the request of biogeographic area coordinators currently preparing full research proposals, the Associate Director, Natural Resources, provided guidance on selection of technical peer reviewers. Full research proposals were due at be WASO by March 15 and the due date for peer reviews was March 29. The GCPC met in Boulder, CO, the week of April 8 to review these proposals.

All of this is being written in February, so if any questions arise between my writing and your reading, they can be answered by Pete Comanor at 202-343-8126.

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