

mab notes

The FY 1991 grant awards made by the U.S. National MAB Committee include several of particular interest to the NPS.

- an interdisciplinary project by MAB's Human Dominated Ecosystems Directorate to develop coupled models of regional ecological and social systems. The models focus on improving managers' capability to assess and predict the implications of alternative ecosystem use and management policies, through case studies in the Pinelands, Virginia Coast, and Everglades Biosphere Reserves. The project involves specialists from six universities. Directorate member John Hadidian, urban ecologist in the National Capital Region, is participating in regional modeling relating to threatened and endangered species.

- an international workshop for managers of high latitude BRs, proposed by Dale Taylor of the Alaska Regional Office, to be held at Denali BR in September 1992. The workshop will focus on identifying resource issues and research goals, comparing management approaches, and developing recommendations for cooperation in the tundra biome.

- a comparative study in Jamaica and the U.S. Virgin Islands to look at ecological, social, and economic factors affecting mangrove ecosystems.

The National Committee called on the Coordinating Committee for Biosphere Reserves to submit its **draft plan for the U.S. biosphere reserve program** for review by October 1991. The plan will present the conceptual basis for establishing and organizing BRs in the U.S.; Centers for learning how to maintain biodiversity within regional and global change.

The **World Parks Congress** in February 1991 will include a workshop on development of BRs over the past 5 years, when establishment of new BRs provided for their intended functions much better than in earlier years. Bill Gregg, NPS MAB Coordinator, is scheduled to present a synthesis paper with Silvio Olivieri of Conservation International on "Biosphere Reserve Designations, New Organization and Holistic Problem Solving."

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