

Air Quality Division

Kathy Tonnessen, Director of the NPS Air Quality Division's Biological Effects Program, was co-author with Mark Williams (U/CO) of a paper on "Hydrologic and Hydrochemical Lessons for the Front Range: An Overview of the Emerald Lake Watershed Study," presented at the Front Range American Geophysical Union meeting in February. The authors discussed results of an intensive watershed investigation at a high elevation watershed in Sequoia NP, with emphasis on the importance of studying snowfall and snowmelt to assess the potential for lake and stream acidification. This work is being continued under NASA sponsorship as part of the Earth Observing System (EOS), and will include monitoring of high elevation sites in the Sierra Nevada, the Rockies, and mountain sites in China and Austria.

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The Division recently published the proceedings of a workshop co-sponsored with the Water Resources Division on Acid Rain and Air Pollution in Desert Park Areas, by D. Mangis, J. Baron, and K. Stolte (Tech. Rpt NPS/NRAQD/NRTR-91/02). The volume includes 12 papers presented at the conference that address the nature of air pollution and deposition in the West and the potential for damage to aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and cultural resources. Copies may be had from the Tech. Info. Center in Denver, (303) 969-2130. The Division is involved in a review of air pollution issues in Saguaro NM. Tonnie Maniero (Policy, Planning, and Permit Review Branch) is organizing the review of the biological effects research program sponsored by the AQD since 1984. The review will evaluate the levels of ambient air pollutants and deposition in the monument and potential impacts on vegetation.

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Deborah Mangis, biologist with the Research Branch, attended a global change and air pollution research coordination meeting organized by the USFS, Southern Global Change Program, Raleigh, NC. Representatives from federal agencies, industry groups, and universities presented information on ecosystem studies in the southern U.S., emphasizing potential impacts of oxidants, acid deposition, air toxics, and global change on forest ecosystems.

Attendees discussed sharing of research sites and funding – discussions that were continued at the Forum on Air Quality Management in the Southern Appalachians in March at Gatlinburg, TN.