

Regional Highlights

Pacific Northwest

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program in the Region is assisting the Department of Agriculture to develop USFWS/NPS cooperative partnership projects with outside groups in four pilot cities—Seattle, Atlanta, Chicago, and New York. RTCA held its first workshop on February 17—discussion among 50 Seattle and county (King, Pierce, and Snohomish) officials, and conservation leaders from all over the region. Since then, RTCA has worked with organizing groups to develop and identify partnership goals and potential project areas; to define the organizing framework of the Partnership; to select a full-time Partnership coordinator, and to set a schedule of implementation for the rest of the fiscal year.

Director Kennedy has made a formal commitment of NPS staff through RTCA to the development of this concept, and the RTCA staff will continue to participate in its development and implementation.

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RTCA and the Soil Conservation Service are working with the Kalispel Reservation in northeastern Washington for the use and protection of the Reservation. The Kalispels are a small tribe interested in habitat restoration and resource management, and in the development of recreation/interpretive opportunities that could generate revenue. The reservation, which possesses significant wildlife habitat and a rich abundance of water fowl, mammals, and rare riparian forests, is located in a scenic but poor part of the state and has untapped resources for tourism. The plan will provide proposals for resource conservation and restoration, interpretation, recreation, and appropriate economic enterprises.

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RTCA is helping the Trust for Public Lands and the Evergreen Alliance write and produce the "Conservation Toolbox," a manual for communities to use in developing strategies for acquiring and/or protecting open space and other significant local, natural, cultural, or recreational resources. They are investigating development of electronic products to accompany the manual, which will be available for distribution by September.

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Ruth Anderson attended the annual long distance trail managers meeting in Tallahassee, FL in February. Strategic planning for long distance trail management had been initiated at the last annual meeting in Tuc-

son, AZ, and the improved focus has become particularly important in light of various reorganization plans. Other initiatives discussed included multi-objective resource management, GIS, cultural landscape identification, and urban initiatives.

The Pacific Northwest Region's proposal to conduct a cultural landscape inventory and study along the Oregon National Historic Trail may become a demonstration project for other Regions.

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Bill Walters and Kathy Joep are working with the Regional Interagency Executive Committee toward implementation of the President's Forest Plan. Supporting the Executive Committee are 18 working groups addressing such topics as watershed analysis, watershed restoration, endangered species consultation, coordination with other intergovernmental efforts, adaptive management, strategic research planning and coordination, monitoring, and public information.

NPS personnel from Crater Lake, Mount Rainier, North Cascades, Olympic, Redwood, and the PNR Office, are participating on 14 of the working groups. The Committee has approved delineation of 12 multi-watershed "provinces" in the area extending from the Canadian border to Muir Woods in California.

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Marsha Davis, geologist in the Regional Office, met in Menlo Park, CA with researchers from the USGS, Washington DNR, and Oregon State University to discuss the Cascadia 2000 research program, the results of which will have significant implications for all the parks in western Oregon and Washington.

Beginning in 1994, the USGS, through its Deep Continental Studies Program, will conduct geophysical experiments in southwestern Washington to study the geometry of plate boundaries, their interactions, and the deformation and mobility in the continental rocks. Tectonic research can yield information about deeper parts of the earth that cannot be gained by surface geologic mapping.

Purpose of the Menlo Park meeting was to discuss possible locations for an east-west seismic survey line from offshore to the eastern margin of the Cascade Range. Part of the research involves seismic refraction and wide-angle reflection surveys. The proposed seismic survey will fall between Mount Rainier and Mount St. Helens. Exact location will be based upon proximity to geological anomalies that would interfere with the

data, accessibility by road, and permitting approval by WA/DNR.

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In recognition of his contributions to the university community, Dr. H. Gregory McDonald, NPS paleontologist at Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, has been appointed an affiliate faculty member in the ID/State University department of geology. Dr. McDonald is developing the monument's research programs and fossil resource inventory criteria.

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PNR Chief of Natural Resources (and Acting Chief Scientist) Kathy Joep has accepted an invitation to serve on the Advisory Board for the Division of Ecosystem Science and Conservation in the U/WA College of Forestry. The advisory board will help devise the curriculum for the "Wildlife" and the "Conservation of Wildland Resources" majors, as well as address other needs such as continuing education and potential opportunities for students to work on natural resource surveys and other park projects.

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Michael Tollefson, Associate Regional Director, represented the PNR at the dedication of the Sterling Munro Trail at North Cascades NPS Complex on May 28, as part of the celebration of National Parks Week. Supt. William F. Paleck, speaking at the Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center, reminded guests of the tremendous contributions to natural resource protection by Senator Jackson and his administrative assistant, Munro. The results of their work, Tollefson told the assemblage, "benefited the NPS and all Americans." Among those significant accomplishments are the Wilderness Act, the Redwoods NP Act, the North Cascades NP Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

Tollefson cited the Service's primary responsibility—protection of park resources, and credited Jackson and Munro for breaking important ground in this direction. "Ecosystem management must be our proactive style," he said. "We must be committed to increasing our understanding of how entire ecosystems interrelate and how other agencies and organizations manage their lands so we can better protect park resources."

Western Region

David M. Graber, Research Scientist at Sequoia and Kings Canyon NPs, (now with the National Biological Survey at the Sequoia/Kings Canyon NPs Field Station), is the author of a chapter in *Nature and Reality: Critiques of Postmodernism*

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Deconstruction, edited by Michael E. Soule and Gary Lease and published early this year by Island Press, Washington, DC.

Graber's chapter is entitled "Resolute Biocentrism: Managing for Wildness in National Parks." In seven packed pages, he examines the concept of "wildness," the attempts to perpetuate of native ecosystem elements and processes, the largely unacknowledged landscape alterations that occurred as a result of former aborigine activities, the on-going alterations that are taking place in the no-man's land of it's-not-my-job, man, and the biodiversity problems thereunto pertaining.

In a provocative wind-up, Graber asks "What are parks for?" He doesn't so much answer as suggest answers, but he does suggest that "Whatever the 'rightness' or 'wrongness' of the civilization we continue to invent, wild nature and national parks represent—however imperfectly and however dependent upon our continued care—ecological anchors to our own and the planet's past."

Alaska Region

The National Park Stewardship Association (NPSA) was organized recently to represent the concerns of NPS resource management professionals. Membership is open to persons interested in the application of scientific principles in the monitoring and management of national park natural resources.

The group provides a forum (meetings and newsletter—first edition has been printed) for the discussion and information exchange of NPS policies and practices related to the science of resource management. The newsletter includes a viewpoint section that offers pros and cons of controversial issues. Overall, the aim is to support leadership and fellowship among members.

New of the organization comes from Gary Vequist, who gives the following address for copies of the newsletter and membership information: NPSA; 1902 N. Salem Dr.; Anchorage, AK 99508.

Southeast Region

The regional office has begun a water resources monitoring program to provide small parks with a cost-effective, self-sustaining mechanism to acquire and interpret sound aquatic resources data. The program, designed and directed by the SER Water Resources Coordinator, aids in developing baseline aquatic biological and water quality information. It also addresses threats to water resources.

The monitoring program at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park in Georgia is the prototype. King's Mountain National Military Park in South Carolina and Shiloh National Military Park in Tennessee have instituted similar programs. More parks will follow as funding becomes available. A detailed account of this program will be submitted this year to the *Highlights of Natural Resource Management* publication. For information, contact Brendhan Zubricki at 404/331-4916.

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A regional resource management workshop was held in April in Chattanooga, TN and attended by representatives of 22 parks. Two days of the workshop focused on exotic vegetation management. Highlights included presentations by NBS Research Center Directors Milton Friend and Robert E. Stewart, and Asst. Center Director Nick Fumicelli, and presentations by U.S. Congress Office of Technology Assessment Project Director Phyllis Windle and by Randy Westbrook of APHIS. Updates were provided by WASO Wildlife and Vegetation staff and a field exercise was conducted at Chickamauga Battlefield, where Bob Warren of U/GA provided interim results of his deer research.

Christine Johnson and Lillian McElrath conducted an overview of the region's exotic vegetation. Rob Sutter of The Nature Conservancy covered I&M techniques, and David Jones, Doug DeVries, and Tony Pernas discussed exotic pest plant councils and a case study. Also covered were various IPM topics, including fire ants, Africanized bees, and hantavirus. A computer lab was devoted to the new WASO resource management plan software and GIS applications.

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Trish Patterson, Program Analyst for the region's Natural Resource Management and Science Office, has been selected for the Women's Executive Leadership Program. This program, for non-supervisory employees at GS levels 11 and 12, is designed to prepare participants for future leadership positions.

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Recently published reports include:

Hammit, W.E., M.E. Patterson, R.M. Chubb, F.M. Noc, and N. Guse. 1994. Starting a Geographic Information System (GIS) Database for Blue Ridge Parkway. NPS/SERBLR/NRTR-94-01

Publications of interest:

Davis, S.M., and J.C. Ogden (eds). 1994. "Everglades: The Ecosystem and Its Restoration." St. Lucie Press, Delray Beach, FL.

Mid-Atlantic Region

Under the coordination of Elaine Furbish, Assateague Island National Seashore (NS) successfully conducted two prescribed burns in March 1994, over a total of 200 acres. The burn plan and fire management plan were prepared by Dr. Bill Patterson, U/MA. The purpose was to evaluate the use of fire to maintain native dune grass communities. The protective nature of the dunes has allowed the development of an unnatural shrub community, which is a desirable habitat for the exotic sika deer.

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Colonial National Historical Park is completing work on a Water Resources Management Plan and associated GIS map portfolio. Work is continuing on a groundwater study of adjacent urban impacts. Three-fourths of the sampling has been conducted by the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences, also a cooperator on the Plan. Locations of all the sampling wells are being entered into the park's GIS. The park also is cooperating with the Virginia Department of Natural Heritage in the preparation of a detailed monitoring and management plan for RTE species; and the Virginia State Geologist is working on a 1:24,000 geological map that will include the park and be GIS-based.

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Results from a 1991 time of travel study on the Delaware River have been published: "Determination of traveltime in the Delaware River, Hancock, New York, to the Delaware Water Gap by use of a conservative dye tracer." 1994 USGS Water-Resources Investigations Report 93-4203.

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An organizational meeting of cooperative researchers involved in the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid project was held March 8 at Delaware Water Gap NRA. Preliminary results from the 1993 season were presented for the hemlock monitoring program, the small mammal and amphibian survey, and the fish population study. Plans for the understory vegetation study were presented and strategies developed to prevent conflict and overlap of simultaneous studies.

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Delaware Water Gap NRA staff attended a Neotropical Migratory Bird Workshop sponsored by New Jersey. The objective of the conference was to inform people of national, regional and state efforts to protect Neotropical birds and their habitat; and to develop a state (NJ) plan to guide protection, monitoring, research, management, and information and education programs.