

NEW YEAR, NEW LOOK

WITH THE COMING OF THE NEW YEAR, WE LAUNCH THE inaugural issue of the fifteenth volume with a new appearance. Part of the transition in moving this publication from the Pacific Northwest to Denver has been to renegotiate printing and distribution contracts and to reevaluate the *Park Science* design while maintaining its always useful content.

You may first notice a difference in the publication subtitle. Now, "Integrating Research and Resource Management," my hope is to portray the role of the publication more accurately by broadening the subtitle to include research and resource management, and to show at a glance the relationship between the two disciplines. Our focus has always been this, so why not say so right on the front page?

You may also find *Park Science* to be a little easier to read. The lines of text are spaced a little broader and the pages are a little more open, creating a more inviting appearance. I hope that creative arrangement of text, graphics, and other design elements will delight the eye as much as the words have always delighted the mind.

A new year celebration often prompts us to look at where we have been and plan for where we are headed. Is it any wonder that the indexes to volume 14, published in the last pages of this issue, indicate that last year a very common topic for *Park Science* articles was the National Biological Survey? We dealt with change on a huge and painful scale, not only in planning for our own reorganization, but also in mourning the loss of our scientists. Now we have begun to accept these realities and are beginning to feel more optimistic about our new relationship with our sister agency. Our point of view seems to be shifting toward one of cooperation and ingenuity in getting the work accomplished. To this end, plans for 1995 include publishing a profile of a NBS research center, along with examples of some of the first research products to come from our fledgling relationship. As always, I encourage contributions of all kinds for the coming year, but especially examples of success between us and the National Biological Survey and other cooperators. Our cover story on restoration of Kenilworth Marsh and the visitor study at Rocky Mountain National Park are perfect examples of the kinds of partnerships we are capable of forming.

This year and in the future, we may also see continued growth in the number and diversity of articles dealing with ecosystem management or landscape ecology research. This edition contains a paper on breeding population dynamics of Isle Royale National Park loons and serves as an example of this important trend toward expressing research and its application in more holistic ways. Growth in this area has been gradual for more than a decade, and I expect that *Park Science* will publish more and more research and resource management project papers that link or have utility in ecologically similar parks.

Whereas last year challenged us to come to grips with sweeping changes in our science program, this year will likely require adjustments to our internal organization. Once our proposed system support offices are up and running and regions have been replaced by the field director offices, we should be able to sort out any changes in our in-park resource management programs and make most of the necessary minor adjustments. While surprises always occur, it seems that 1995 is likely to be more stable and may even begin to show growth and continued professionalization for resource management in the parks.

One indicator for growth is the great progress achieved in garnering support for a long-term increase in resource management staffing as a result of recommendations from the Vail Agenda, the Strategic Plan for Improving the Natural Resource Program of the National Park Service, and the Natural Resource Management Assessment Program (NR-MAP). NR-MAP has proven to be good enough in assessing our natural resource operational workload that Director Kennedy, in a September memorandum, vowed to double park personnel involved in natural resource management by the year 2000! Parks have already begun to plan for these increases through participation in a fiscal year 1997 initiative to compete for the first staff increases.

Another positive indicator will be reported next issue regarding the Assistant Secretary Frampton recommendations for strengthening resource management under the NPS reorganization plan. While specifics are few at this point, NPS participants to the Frampton ad hoc committee gathering last November in Washington, D.C., indicated that support for resource management is running high within the department.

To check up on how well we meet your needs in communicating cutting-edge resource management activities, research, its application in parks, news, and other concerns, we plan to survey readers again in 1995. Conducted first in 1985, the reader survey told us about our audience and your use of the publication. This reader survey will repeat some of the same questions and will give you the opportunity to identify strengths and weaknesses and make suggestions for improving *Park Science*. This bulletin has always been strongly rooted in serving its readers, and the upcoming survey should help strengthen our level of service and keep us pointed in the direction that is most useful to you. We will also update addresses of recipients to improve delivery.

Much can be made out of something that has not yet occurred. Momentum appears to be building again, albeit slowly. Let us get on board and work to make the ride productive this year.

