

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Last issue, we reported that wolf restoration in Yellowstone National Park (and central Idaho) was imminent and that no lawsuits were expected to delay the carefully researched and planned project. In late November, however, after the *Park Science* fall release, the American Farm Bureau Federation filed suit in U.S. District Court, delaying the reintroduction effort.

The lawsuit contends, in part, that Yellowstone and central Idaho are outside the "probable historic range" of the Canadian wolves that would be introduced there and that translocating a species outside of its probable historic range is in violation of the Endangered Species Act. The lawsuit requested a temporary restraining order to prevent the release of the wolves until after the suit is heard. Federal officials have agreed not to import any wolves into the United States until after January 1, 1995. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, however, can continue to capture wolves in Alberta, to fit them with radio collars (necessary for follow-up study after reintroduction), and to turn them loose for later tracking. By the time this issue of *Park Science* has been circulated, the lawsuit will likely have been settled.

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The Rocky Mountain Region established a natural resource management team in 1994 to fo-

cus on field problems and needs. Not an advisory group, this team of park resource specialists and regional office staff will emphasize performing services for parks. Another responsibility of the team is to improve communications among the natural resource management professionals in parks and the regional office. The team's first assignment was to review the natural resource program at Zion National Park, Utah. Requested by the park resource management division, the in-depth review took place last September.

Team members and leaders will change on a rotating basis, and regional office staff will not serve as team leaders. Working on the team also offers opportunities for professional development. The team presently consists of Cheryl Clemmensen, Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, Montana; Chip Jenkins, Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument, Colorado; Ralph Moore, Zion; Sue Consolo Murphy, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming; Bruce Rogers, Canyonlands National Park, Utah; Jim Tilmant, Glacier National Park, Montana; and Bob Moon, Monta-Glea Trebilcock, Janet Wise, and Tom Wylie of the Rocky Mountain Regional Office.

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The regional office and the NPS Water Resources Division cohosted a water resource planning workshop in Denver, Colorado, during November 1994. The workshop provided an overview of the water resource management planning process and focused on the development of resource management plan project statements, scoping documents, and water resource management plans. These documents support the decision-mak-

ing process related to the protection, use, and management of park water resources.

The group first discussed case studies of water resource management programs before beginning a problem-solving session. Park representatives presented the water resource issues facing their parks and then received individual technical assistance from staff in developing strategies and documents.

This was one in a series of workshops that have proved to be beneficial to participating parks. Park resource managers interested in initiating additional water resource planning workshops should contact their respective regional water resource coordinators.