

New Natural Resource Report Needs Your Input

The Natural Resource Information Division of the NPS Natural Resource Program Center has begun preparing a new and comprehensive report aimed at building *outside* support for NPS natural resource preservation goals. Tentatively titled, *Natural Resource Year in Review*, the report will be published in early 1997 and will track the highs and lows of

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natural resource management in the National Park Service during 1996. An easy-to-read, magazine-format publication, the report will relate stories of immediate interest, informing readers of the status of significant local and national natural resource issues. The report will be based in science, but written for a general audience that includes Congress, the public, and cooperators.

To be truly national in character, the report needs widespread input. Its contents will be developed with an eye toward comprehensive coverage of major and other current events, science and resource management happenings, and national and local issues that have a bearing on the state of the art of resource preservation in the national park system. *Park Science* editor Jeff Selleck is the editor-in-chief for the project and is now soliciting article ideas and editorial assistance.

Article ideas

Readers are invited to submit brief ideas for articles that relate to issues that are significant for both a park and the national park system this year. These synopses may be informal at this stage, but try to capsule the central issue, problem, or resource management technique and describe how it relates to progress or lost ground in preserving national park system natural resources. Selected article ideas will be developed fully in the fall with the help of an editorial board and park authors. Following are two examples of what the editor is looking for now:

A local issue with broad implications—

Brucellosis, a bovine disease causing fetal abortions in cattle, is carried by Yellowstone bison. For

more than a decade, park scientists, local citizens, and state veterinarians have debated the threat of disease transmission from wild, free-ranging bison to nearby cattle. In 1995, after years of controversial bison removals while government agencies tried unsuccessfully to come to agreement on a mutually acceptable bison management plan, Montana sued the National Park Service to try to speed resolution of the issue. The situation brings the lack of consensus concerning the NPS practice of managing for natural processes into question. The bison management debate necessarily requires the National Park Service and its neighbors to face the often conflicting social, economic, and political factors that influence natural resource management issues.

A national issue—

Since 1991, the network of long-term air quality trend monitoring stations has shrunk from 42 to 34 in class 1 airshed parks. Increasing operational costs without accompanying budget increases accounted for these shut downs and also resulted in suspension of baseline monitoring in other parks. These developments make it unlikely for the National Park Service to meet its goal of establishing baseline ozone and SO₂ levels in each of the 48 class 1 airshed parks by the year 2,000. Further reductions in the long-term monitoring network likely will continue as a result of government downsizing.

Forward your ideas to *Park Science* editor Jeff Selleck (see the bottom of the left column on page 2 for contact information) by e-mail, regular mail, or telephone as they come to mind.

Volunteers for advisory board

The editor is also interested in establishing an editorial board for article evaluation and development. If you are interested in serving on an editorial board and would have a few days this fall that you could devote to discussing the merits of the article ideas, prioritizing them, suggesting full treatment outlines for the articles, and

possibly writing, please contact the editor. Editorial business will be conducted over e-mail and the telephone, rather than by travel. The editor would like representatives from a broad array of perspectives, including parks (park management, resource management, law enforcement and visitor protection, interpretation, and maintenance divisions), the Natural Resource Program Center, the Office of the Associate Director for Natural Resource Stewardship and Science, and partners.

Deadline

Please submit your preliminary article ideas and indicate your interest in serving on the editorial board by August 30.

In Closing

The *Natural Resource Year in Review* is an exciting prospect. It has the potential of unifying disparate stories from around the country into one message about the NPS role in the welfare of our treasured natural resources. While park visitors and political representatives alike flock to national parks to enjoy their grandeur, they may not understand as well or support as fervently the efforts of natural resource managers and scientists to maintain the health of the parks. The *Natural Resource Year in Review* will address this disconnect. Please give it your support.