

Pacific Northwest

The Interior Department's Minerals Management Service (MMS) has funded several studies to investigate long-term effects of oil spilled from the barge Nestucca on the coast of Washington. About 6000 barrels of bunker C crude spilled when the barge was damaged by its tug offshore Grays Harbor, WA in late December 1988. Beaches were oiled from Grays Harbor to Vancouver Island, Canada, including Olympic NP. Most obvious effect to wildlife was the loss of an estimated 9000 seabirds.

Three of the MMS projects are being funded through a cooperative agreement with the US Department of Energy and in cooperation with NPS. Study participants include two research teams from U/WA and Batelle Pacific NW Labs. Twelve study sites include representative sites from the primary beach types in the area, both oiled and unoiled. The beach types included are sandy, cobble, and rocky beaches. Sites chosen in Olympic NP are sites for which pre-spill data have been collected.

John Aho, Olympic NP wildlife biologist, is park staff coordinator and will respond to inquiries from *Park Science* readers.

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Doug Houston, PNR research biologist stationed at Olympic NP, is the NPS representative, serving as technical advisor, to a spotted owl research committee funded through USFS. The committee held its first meeting in late November, with field trips throughout spotted owl habitat in Oregon. Houston reports that a committee-produced plan for spotted owl conservation is scheduled for readiness by March 1990.

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Ed Starkey, wildlife ecologist with the Oregon State University NPS/CPSU was in Washington, DC Dec. 5-6 for meetings to identify what is known about bru-

cellosis in the Greater Yellowstone area, recommend any additional research needed, and identify management alternatives. The meetings are being held under the joint aegis of NPS and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

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Dave Peterson was selected in November to fill the research biologist position at the NPS/CPSU, U/WA. His research background and interests include the effects of air pollutants on forest resources, effects of global atmosphere change on forests, and fire ecology.

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Gerry Wright, NPS biologist with the U/ID CPSU, is spending 6 to 8 weeks assisting Gettysburg National Military Park with preparation of an EIS for managing deer damage to the park's cultural landscape.

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Copies of the Pacific Northwest Region's *Annual Science Report – 1988* are now available from PNW Region headquarters in Seattle, WA.

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"I had \$1.5 million, 25 biologists, and 9 birds – plus about 20 conservation groups who wanted to tell me how to run the California Condor recovery program."

Michael Scott, leader of the Idaho Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at U/ID, was addressing the bi-annual meeting of the NPR science group Nov. 29-30 in Moscow, ID.

In addition to a sometimes-grim, sometimes hilarious account of his struggle to maintain those "magnificent flying garbage cans" as a viable population in the wild, Scott described something called "Gap Analysis of Species Richness and Vegetation Cover: An Integrated Conservation Strategy for the Preservation of Biological Diversity." He has promised a future article on the subject for *Park Science* readers.