

Southwest Region

The CPSU at U/AZ hosted a GIS Desert Parks Workshop in Tucson in August. Mike Kunzmann and Roy Johnson organized the workshop with WASO funding and 70 NPS managers, researchers, resource managers, and interpreters attended – mostly from the Western Region but some from as far away as Canada. Also in attendance were representatives from federal, state, and local government and the private sector.

Instructors came from NPS, USFS, and from independent hardware and software companies. GIS Steering Committee meetings were chaired by Kunzmann and featured Harvey Fleet of GIS, Denver; George Turnbull, WRO; Roy Johnson, CPSU, U/AZ; Gary Davis, CHIS; and Phil Guertin, U/AZ.

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A Desert Parks Workshop was held in October in Tucson, hosted by the U/AZ CPSU and Saguaro National Monument. The workshop was the outgrowth of a proposed Desert Parks initiative by Death Valley Supt. Ed Rothfuss and others.

Attendees were divided into four working groups: socio-economic, resource management, cultural resources, and maintenance and design. Presentations covered management problems and other subjects unique to desert areas, all within the framework of the work group designations. The work groups produced recommendations regarding the issues brought up at the workshop and presented them to the Associate Regional Directors.

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The following two technical reports from the CPSU at U/AZ may be had from Denny Fenn, CPSU leader:

Bennett, Peter S. and Michael R. Kunzmann. 1989. *A History of the Quitobaquito Resource Management Area, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Arizona*. Technical Report No. 26. CPSU, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ. 88 pp.

Swetnam, Thomas W., Christopher H. Baisan, Peter M. Brown, and Anthony C. Caprio. 1989. *Fire History of Rhyolite Canyon, Chiricahua National Monument*. Technical Report No. 32. (same as above); 47 pp.

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Despite unseasonably warm weather, five peregrine falcon chicks appear to be doing fine in the Chisos Basin area of Big Bend NP. The high temperatures may

have reduced the 1989 peregrine reproduction, so these hatchlings are especially welcome.

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Also at Big Bend, a long-term geohydrologic study conducted by the USGS Texas District Office under contract from the NPS Water Resources Division is nearing completion. The final phase involves drilling of test wells to determine the recharge area and aquifer characteristics for Oak Springs, a major water source in the park, both for wildlife and for visitor use. Earlier research has shown no subsurface link between the developments in the Chisos Basin and Oak Springs, alleviating concerns that contamination from human activities might be impacting the springs' water quality.

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A number of resource management specialists are on the move: Jenny Bjork from Padre Island to Virgin Islands; Steve Cinnamon from Wupatki/Sunset Crater to Midwest Regional Office, and Craig Hauke from Big Thicket to Canyonlands. Southwest Region's losses are the gains of these other regions. We wish them well.

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Dr. Fletcher has been fostering an extensive GIS network for applications both here in the Regional office and in several parks: Bend Bend, Big Thicket, Guadalupe Mountains, and Carlsbad Caverns. These parks are the pilot, trial areas to which others will be added. This effort links with the inventorying and long-term monitoring Servicewide initiative (see p. 7).