

Western Region

David J. Parsons, Research Scientist at Sequoia and Kings Canyon NPs, was recently elected Vice-Chairman of the Vegetation Section of the Ecological Society of America. He will serve in that capacity until August, 1987.

* * *

A technical report, entitled "Techniques of Revegetation and Reclamation of Land Damaged by Off-Road Vehicles in the Lake Mead Recreation Area," by James Russell Marble, is now available from the NPS Cooperative Park Studies Unit, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

* * *

The Third Biennial Conference on Research in California's National Parks has been scheduled for Dec. 15 and 16, 1986, at the University of California, Davis.

* * *

Resource Management Trainees returned to the University of California at Davis in October for a three-week course, entitled "Advanced Wildlife Management." Course topics included seabird community organization and dynamics, predation and disturbances in natural communities, bear ecology and management, basic statistics in population ecology, environmental contaminants in wildlife populations, maintaining viable populations, endangered species management, and modeling wildlife-habitat relationships. The course was conducted as a cooperative program between the NPS and the University.

* * *

The first report to be published in the new "Biological Report" series by the Research and Development branch of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is now available. Biological Report 85 (7.2), dated May 1985 and entitled "The Ecology of Giant Kelp Forests in California: A Community Profile," includes sections on the biology and ecology of surface canopy kelps; physical, chemical and geological aspects of the kelp forest environment; community structure and energetics; and the natural history of organisms in the community.

* * *

A description of static pile composting, begun at Redwood National Park in 1982, is contained in Technical Report 14, Redwood NP Research and Development, entitled "Temperature dynamics, oxygen consumption, and nitrogen utilization in static pile composting," by Jeff Purkerson, John Sacklin, and L. Lee Purkerson. Composting provides both a solution to waste disposal problems involving chemical toilet and septic tank wastes and a product useful in the park's watershed rehabilitation program. Results of studies to improve the operation's efficiency and evaluate the usefulness of the end product have been published in a series of Operation Manuals and reports, and will be published in condensed form in scientific journals.