

Western Region

Dave Graber and Dave Parsons attended and presented papers at the National Research Conference in Fort Collins last week (Graber: "Conflicts between wilderness users and black bears: a Sierra Nevada case study"; Parsons: "Campsite impact data as a basis for determining wilderness use capacities"). Other papers presented by Western Region scientists were "Fire: research on fire's role in creating natural conditions, fuel accumulation processes, fire impacts and management practices" (Bruce Kilgore), "The determination of carrying capacities for the Yosemite Wilderness (Jan van Wagtendonk) and "Variation of vegetation and soil characteristics within wilderness campsites" (Tom Stohlgren). In addition, Director Mott gave a keynote address that highlighted the role of science in carrying out his 12 point plan.

Boyd Evison and Dave Parsons, plus a number of other NPS superintendents testified before Bruce Vento's House Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation regarding air pollution threats to the National Parks. The hearings were held in Washington May 20-21.

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The Missoula Fire Conference Proceedings were recently published. They contain articles by many NPS personnel.

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The NPS/CPSU, at U/Cal Davis, now has available three new publications. Technical Report No. 18, by Kimberly T. Lathrop and Peter J. P. Gogan and entitled "Plant Communities of the Tule Elk Range, Point Reyes National Seashore," describes 17 plant communities and documents vegetational changes to those communities over the past 30 years. Technical Report No. 19, by Gary E. Davis and entitled "Kelp Forest Monitoring Program: A Preliminary Report on Biological Sampling Design, Channel Islands National Park and Sampling," outlines the standardized indicator organisms, sampling techniques and analyses, and reporting systems for monitoring kelp forests within the National Park and Marine Sanctuary. Technical Report No. 20, by Charles B. Halpern and entitled "Hydric Montane Meadows of Sequoia National Park, California: A Literature Review and Classification," presents an account of human and domestic livestock influences on meadows of the southern Sierra Nevada, a description of geomorphic and hydrologic properties of meadows and a discussion of the stability of meadow ecosystems, and a vegetation analysis of hydric montane meadows of Sequoia NP.

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Three technical reports published recently by the NPS/CPSU, U/Nev, Las Vegas, are now available. "Vegetation and Flora of the Funeral Mountains, Death Valley National Monument, California - Nevada" by Carol R. Annable, presents a classification of the vegetation and an annotated checklist - including descriptions of growth habit, relative abundance, habitat, associations and/or communities of occurrence, and historic collections - of 413 taxa. "A Model of Climatic Variables Affecting Bighorn Lamb Survival in Canyonlands NP, Utah," by Charles L. Douglas and Carol R. Annable, identifies relationships that will enable managers to predict lamb survival in a given year from known climatic variables easily obtainable from weather records. "Spring Flow in a Portion of Grand Canyon NP, Arizona," by David B. Goring, examines the structurally controlled, interconnected hydrologic flow system associated with springs that feed Hermit, Monument, Salt and Horn Creeks in Grand Canyon.

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Charles van Riper III, Unit Leader of the NPS/CPSU at U/Cal Davis, was recently elected for a three-year term to the Board of Directors of the Cooper Ornithological Society. He was also selected as Chairman of a committee that will revise the American Ornithologists' Union brochure entitled "Career Opportunities in Ornithology."

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NPS and U/Cal Davis together conducted a resources management trainee course, entitled "Measurement and Management of Vegetation" from July 22 to August 18. It included such topics as ecology of alien plant species; analysis of transects across park boundaries; vegetation inventory, monitoring and evaluation; decision analysis using system modeling; revegetation of disturbed lands; brush and herbaceous weed control; vertebrate pest control; and effects of air pollution on plants. Course curriculum included field trips to Point Reyes NS, Golden Gate NRA, and Redwood NP.

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Two new technical reports recently published by the NPS/CPSU at University of Hawaii are T.R. No. 53, by Clifford W. Smith, Julia E. Williams, and Karen E. Asherman, entitled "Vegetation Map and Resource Management Recommendations for Kipahulu Valley (Below 700 Metres), Haleakala NP" (presents a vegetation map and classification system for 105 structural-floristic communities). T.R. No. 54, "*Myrica Faya*: Potential Biological Control Agents," by Charles S. Hodges, Jr., and Donald E. Gardner (briefly summarizes the native habitat of *Myrica Faya* and describes six fungi and two insects as potential biocontrol agents of this introduced species commonly known in Hawaii as fire brush or firetree).