

From the Director

As former director of the Pacific Northwest Region, it gives me particular pleasure to welcome ***Pacific Park Science*** into the science/management process of the Western United States. The inspired concept of Cooperative Park Study Units had its birth in the Pacific Northwest Region just 10 years ago, and I see the newsletter as a logical extension of the CPSU function – to put the highest quality science to the most intensive use in managing and interpreting the resources this nation has entrusted to our care.

I made deliberate reference to the science/management process because it is the process nature of our function that I believe still needs attention. With mounting threats to the National Park System demanding our finest total effort, we have yet, as managers, to make full use of the tools science makes available.

It is the responsibility of science to gather information as a basis for management, to interpret the results of research, and to provide resource managers with alternatives. It is the responsibility of managers to increase their knowledge of science and the dynamics of the resources they manage.

Science and management must do more than just meet – they must mesh.

I was an enthusiastic supporter of the science/resource management workshops that were conducted for seven consecutive years in the Pacific Northwest Region. I saw the improvement in our operations that grew from the closer ties and better communication.

Pacific Park Science can act as an important link in holding together what I consider one of the healthiest developments anywhere in the Service – the evolving, interactive integration of scientific activities for park management programs.

I applaud the Western Region's move to the CPSU science format and its decision to cooperate in producing the newsletter. The university-based science programs continue to evolve in problem-solving ways, serving more than one park and capable of interacting at a national level to the benefit of both science and the National Park System.

The CPSU process embraces teaching, research and extension, and a measure of its success depends upon regular dissemination of information. I see the newsletter as bringing the management dimension more strongly to the fore, tying the CPSU functions more closely to the functions of resource management.

It is an effort that will need the attention and support of all park units in the West. I think it will pay enormous dividends for science, for management, and for the public.

Russ Dickenson, Director