

Southwest Region

Buffalo is collaborating with Ozark National Scenic Riverways in the Midwest Region to develop an Operations and Conceptual Research Plan (O/CRP) for the Ozark Uplift biogeographical region as one of the 11 areas to participate as a core research area for determining global change effects, starting in FY 1991 or 92. A workshop was held in early September to select the site from which the project coordinator will work, to prepare the position description for the coordinator, to

develop the O/CRP, and to link with researchers in the area for this initiative.

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Work is proceeding to evolve the Capabilities and Interest Statements (C/ISs) for Big Bend, Bandelier, and El Malpais for further consideration by the Servicewide Global Change Program. Meetings were held in August and September to foster a joint effort among researchers and park staffs toward participation in this program in FY 1992 or 93.

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Staff members of the Region's Division of Natural Resources Management and Science prepared papers for the George Wright Society's El Paso meeting in November on the following topics:

- an analysis of the high priority projects enumerated in SW Region park RMPs in the early 1980s compared to those in the RMPs of the late 1980s as to how many have been funded and/or completed fully or in part;
- an assessment of Integrated Pest Management progress in SW Regional parks in the 1980s;
- pesticide levels in selected NPS areas; and
- A computerized method of counting wildlife numbers using video tape recordings.

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SWR continues to be active in Integrated Pest Management programs. IPM inspections were made in 24 percent of the SWR parks during the past FY. These inspections also provided opportunities to hold onsite, practicaly training for IPM coordinators.

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An attempt to control water hyacinth with an agricultural vapor flamer at Jean Lafitte NHP&P showed hyacinth to have considerable resistance to heat. Additional experimentation with liquid torches may be conducted. Because some park areas cannot use open flame for weed control, SWR has purchased equipment to develop a portable hot air generator.

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Cooperative efforts among the SWR, USFS, and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for gypsy moth detection trapping did not show any sources of infestation at NPS sites in Arizona or New Mexico.

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NPS and USFS have made a cooperative effort to classify hazardous trees in SWR parks. Actual work began in October 1990, and park employees trained in this program may be available for assistance to other parks and Regions.

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SWR continues to cooperate with the USFWS in protecting endangered plants and animals and serves

on a task force considering needs to list the Mexican spotted owl. (See page 18 box.)