

Meetings and Symposia

"Dynamics and Mangement of Mediterranean-type Ecosystems" is the topic of an international symposium slated for June 22-26 at San Diego State University in California, with the National Park Service as a co-sponsor. Dave Parsons, Sequoia-Kings Canyon NP research scientist, who is serving on the technical committee, describes the symposium as "a major effort to draw managers and scientists together to discuss the latest information on this important subject." Sessions will be of interest and value to wildland managers, researchers, and others concerned with management of the brushlands of California and the southwestern U.S., the Mediterranean Basin, central Chile, southern Australia, and southern Africa. Attendees are invited to ask questions and contribute information, during discussion periods and throughout the symposium as well.

John Oakes, former editor of the *New York Times* and one of the founders of the Natural Resources Defense Council, has long held that the environmental movement needed a strong economic leg if it is to stand alone and eventually make headway. A step in this direction is being taken this spring at the University of Louisville in Kentucky, where economists, ecologists and systems analysts will gather April 20-23 under the sponsorship of the International Society for Ecological Modeling. Featured speakers will include Ilya Prigogine, Nobel prize-winning chemist, economist Ken Boulding, mathematician Bernie Patton, systems ecologist H.T. Odum, ISEM President Sven Jorgensen, and James

Grier Miller, author of the monumental "Living Systems." The implications for management of park areas could be profound when ecological and economic factors can be combined in one predictive model.

Dave Butts, NPS chief of fire management, stationed at Boise Interagency Fire Center, delivered a paper on fire and insect outbreaks in the national parks at the December 1980 meeting of Western Forestry and Conservation Association in Victoria, B.C. He pointed out the strong park parallel with National Forest System wilderness area management with particular attention to the increasing "island" effect produced in natural areas by intensifying development of all kinds on surrounding lands—both private and public.

The paper outlines pest and fire management theory (based on NPS "Management Policies, 1978") and then reviews actual practices, using Everglades, Big Thicket, Rocky Mountain, Grand Teton and Yellowstone NPs as examples of the wide variety of ecosystems and impinging conditions to be dealt with. The wind-up deals with specifics of Glacier NP, its current outbreak of Mountain Pine beetle, and the impossible implications of prescribed natural fire and prescribed burning.

In essence, the paper describes the NPS as conducting a "real world" program in regard to pests and fire. "It is not just 'No Action'," Butts maintains. "The underlying rationale is one of ecologically sensitive management."