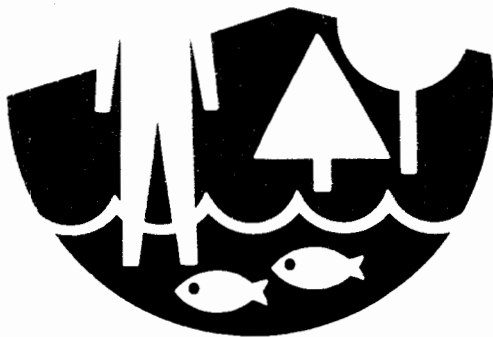




U.S. MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE PROGRAM

DES ENR MAB
Department of State
Washington D.C. 20521
Tel. 202-632-2876 or 632-6827



To Administrators of Biosphere Reserves

The UNESCO MAB Secretariat has recently launched a new publication called INFOMAB. Its purpose is to promote the exchange of information within the international MAB Program. The publication contains information on MAB projects, recent publications, conferences and workshops, training opportunities, and other subjects of general interest. It will be issued on an irregular basis when sufficient information to warrant a new compilation is available.

I have asked the US-MAB Secretariat at the State Department to place you on the INFOMAB mailing list. The Secretariat will compile material from the domestic MAB community on U.S. MAB activities. If you wish to report on activities involving your biosphere reserve, please contact Dr. Roger Soles at the above address. Please let the Secretariat know not only about research, but also educational, training, and resource management activities which you feel would be of international interest.

In December 1984, MAB's International Coordinating Council met in Paris in a remarkably upbeat session in view of the uncertainties over UNESCO's budget. I've enclosed a number of materials from that session which may interest you:

- Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves. Provides a good description of what biosphere reserves are, what they do, the objectives of the BR project, and a blueprint for future action. Please discard copies of the draft plan, some of which were handed out at Gatlinburg, as the ICC substantially revised this plan.
- List of Recommended Priorities, FY 1985-1986. Provides a framework for allocation of resources by the UNESCO MAB Secretariat, and for consideration by international organizations and countries participating in MAB.
- List of New Biosphere Reserves Approved by the MAB Bureau. Includes the Mojave and Colorado Deserts BR in the U.S. There are now 243 biosphere reserves in 65 countries.
- UNESCO MAB Secretariat's Report on the Development of the Biosphere Reserve Project. A status report on current status of the international network.

A COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

o List of MAB National Committees

o Gregg's Foreign Travel Report. Documents my impressions of the significant events of the December ICC meeting (oriented for NPS)

I've also included some updated material on the U. S. biosphere reserve program:

o Minutes of the September 1984 Meeting of the U.S. MAB Directorate on Biosphere Reserves. Contains a status report on ongoing projects. I would be glad to provide additional information on any of them.

o List of BR in the U.S. as of January 1985.

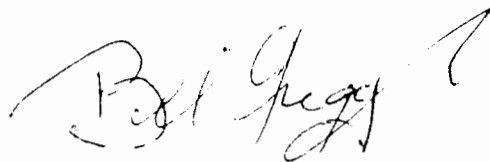
o Names and Addresses of BR administrators in the U.S.

o IUCN List of BR in the International Network as of September 1983.

Finally, you may be interested in knowing that the summer 1985 issue of Parks magazine will be devoted to BR and will include case studies from around the world. Let me know how many copies you need.

The conference on the management of biosphere reserves last November in Gatlinburg generated a lot of good ideas for implementing the BR concept. The NPS expects to publish the proceedings in early spring and will send you a copy as soon as they are available (if you need multiple copies, please let me know). I believe the conference gave us an improved basis for developing the functions of biosphere reserves in the United States. However, perhaps its greatest accomplishment was to bring together for the first time a dynamic and highly experienced group of professionals from many of our most significant conservation and research areas. Perhaps the most important legacy it could leave would be the opportunity to bring such a group together on a regular basis.

For those of you who were in Gatlinburg, I'd appreciate your thoughts now that you have had six weeks to reflect. If you did not go to Gatlinburg, I'd welcome your thoughts on this package and suggestions for the future (202-343-8122).



William P. Gregg, Jr.
Cochairman, US-MAB Project Directorate
on Biosphere Reserves