

## **NATURAL RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP AND SCIENCE APRIL 2001 MONTHLY REPORT**

Foot and Mouth Disease The Biological Resources Management Division (BRMD) and the Ranger Activities Division have implemented an Incident Management Team to develop procedures to prevent and respond to possible importation of foot and mouth disease to this country. The BRMD has also provided information to parks about the disease. The work is being closely coordinated with the Department's related committee, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and other Federal authorities; BRMD is also coordinating with Parks Canada.

Brochure Available on the National Natural Landmarks Program "Promoting Conservation through Cooperation" is the theme of a new brochure on the National Natural Landmarks (NNL) Program that is now available. The brochure details success stories the program has had by partnering with state, federal, and private owners of NNLs. Recent projects include water quality monitoring and an interpretive theater in Texas, trail improvements and grassland restoration in the northwest, and assisting with community involvement on an advisory task force in California. Through assistance of this nature, the NNL Program continues to support a variety of landowners and managers who voluntarily elect to conserve nationally-significant natural resources located on their lands. Copies of the brochure are available from the Washington Office of the NPS (contact Bill Commins on ccMail) or from Margi Brooks, NNL program coordinator, WACC, Tucson, AZ.

IMAX Film "Journey Into Amazing Caves" Premieres - The IMAX film premiered in Duluth, MN and in Washington, D.C. Geologic Resources Division cave specialist Ron Kerbo attended the premiers at the Omnimax Theater in Duluth and at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. At Duluth, Kerbo gave talks for a special preview of the film for newspaper writers and staffs. The following day he gave four talks at the theater, including a group of over 400 school children as an "Educational Day" and for television and radio reporters. In Washington Kerbo conducted several interviews including television spots.

U.S. Forest Service Funds Transferred: More than \$370,000 was distributed to eight parks and the National Capital Region for management of forest pests, with the bulk going to gypsy moths and adelgids. The funds were transferred from the U.S. Forest Service.

Park Flight Proposals Selected: Through the Park Flight Migratory Bird Program, the National Park Foundation will fund seven proposals for bird conservation and education projects in thirteen national parks. These parks include Sequoia and Kings Canyon, North Cascades, Bandelier, Pecos, Aztec Ruins, Capulin Volcano, Fort Union, New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail, Cuyahoga Valley, Great Smoky Mountains, Golden Gate, and Point Reyes.

Russian scientists may hold the key for improved management methods for brucellosis in bison at Yellowstone National Park.: Margaret Wild, BRMD, accompanied representatives from Yellowstone National Park, Department of Defense, World Foundation for Environment and Development (WFED), and Turner Ranches on a trip to Russia to investigate the possibility of collaborative research with Russian scientists. This initial trip to the All-Russian Institute in Kazan and other institutes focused on information sharing and initiating research proposals for collaborative work on a vaccine against brucellosis and a vaccine delivery system for use in bison. This was the first visit by Americans to the formerly closed bioweapons institute at Kazan. Highly trained Russian scientists hold a wealth of knowledge gained during the cold war period but job prospects in bioscience in Russia are currently limited. These idle Russian scientists who may otherwise be directed toward risky projects now have another alternative--the new Russian-U.S. cooperative research program that assists scientists in applying their knowledge to useful non-military projects. The Yellowstone bison brucellosis issue is a good example of how this program can be applied; Russian scientists can use their expertise with multiple brucella vaccines, vaccine enhancers, and delivery systems for the benefit of our natural resources.

GIP Program Has Changed Its Name - The Geologist-in-the-Parks Program is now the GeoScientist-in-the-Parks Program. The program will continue to partner with organizations, universities, and other NPS offices to fund and provide full stipends for geoscientist positions. The types of positions are expanding from the geology positions to include hydrology, air resource, GIS, soils, environmental, and integrated science positions. The name change was announced in the Water Resources Division newsletter.

Coordination with Cultural Resources At a meeting of Cultural Resource personnel from around the country, Abby Miller and Doug Morris represented Natural Resources. There was much interest expressed in improving coordination between the stewardship programs and the group expressed interest in a joint natural/cultural meeting in 2002.

## **Meetings and Workshops**

Meeting with Region 3 EPA on Ozone Non-attainment Area Decision Making: ARD personnel met with Region 3 EPA staff in Philadelphia to discuss their novel approach to determining which counties should be in ozone non-attainment based on the 8-hour standard. Since many counties have no monitoring, they used interpolated data to estimate the maximum ozone relative to the standard. Weighted factors were applied to come up with a ranking of counties. A comparison was conducted between the ARD pollutant interpolation and the EPA approach utilizing factors such as natural resources, land cover, sensitive species and pollutant transport which are all relative to the ozone secondary standard. ARD can use the Region 3 approach to assess other areas and be prepared to comment when EPA opens the public comment period on non-attainment area designations.

Air Pollution Workshop on Passive Monitoring and Ozone Injury to Natural Resources:

A meeting held in Riverside, CA the week of April 9 featured a special session on the use of passive samplers. These devices are used internationally in several variations and have proven useful in determining the exposure levels and distribution of ozone. Although there was extensive debate on when plants take up ozone and what are the best statistical metrics to use to relate to injury, most researchers agreed that measurements made nearby were superior to monitoring some distance away. A publication of presentations is being prepared that will include the ARD experience with the passive devices.

NRPC Restoration Technical Advisory Group Meeting Held - Representatives from the Geologic Resources, Water Resources, and Biologic Resources Divisions met in Fort Collins on March 6, to continue the development of the NRPC Restoration Technical Advisory Group (RTAG). The group discussed the development and use of web pages and list servers to facilitate communication with the field and the development of a standard format for parks to request Technical Assistance. Other discussion items included meeting frequency and presentation of a "straw dog" mission and purpose statement for the group. The next meeting will be June 6, at Academy Place, in Lakewood, CO.