

JULY NATURAL RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP AND SCIENCE REPORT

NOTICE: WASO Natural Resource offices in Denver have moved to the Academy Place building. Phones will stay the same and so will the address for now, as the mail room in the Alameda building will handle all mail.

FUNDING STATUS

WATER RESOURCE PROJECTS This year's project evaluation panel convened in Fort Collins on July 16 and included Jim Tilmant (GLAC), Joe Meiman (MACA), Dave Reynolds (Chesapeake SSO), and David Vana-Miller (WRD, ex officio panel member). Based on the panel's evaluations/recommendations, WRD is forwarding its FY97 water resource project funding recommendations to Mike Soukup early the week of 7/29.

Mike will then advise the Field Directors in early August as to what projects we think we will be able to fund in FY97. Of course, the next step in the process will be preparation and submission of detailed study plans for these projects.

NRPP UPDATE. A panel for the NRPP projects will be held in Ft. Collins on August 14 and 15. Mike Coffey is coordinating the panel's work.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND REQUESTS TO FIELD

WORKSHOP FOR GEOLOGIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT - The Geologic Resources Division is planning a November 1996 workshop in Denver for NPS staff involved in managing geologic resources, disturbed lands restoration, and mineral development. The workshop is intended to foster communication and cooperation among individuals involved in these topical areas, and serve as an opportunity for NPS resource professionals to share ideas and develop management strategies. A CCmail message was distributed in mid-July soliciting field comments and suggestions regarding relevant topics and workshop sessions. For additional general information on the workshop, contact the workshop committee (Edward Kassman: 303-969-2146, David Steensen: 303-969-2014, and Judy Geniac: 303-969-2015).

NR-MAP UPDATE We are getting ready to update park profile information for the NR-MAP database. A memorandum was sent on July 26 to Field Area Directors, SSO Superintendents, and Cluster Leadership Council about the update procedures.

REGIONAL AIR QUALITY REVIEWS This summer, the ARD will fund a comprehensive evaluation of air pollution and its effects on resources in NPS Class I areas in the Rocky Mountains and Great Plains (BADL, GLAC, GRTE, ROMO, THRO, WICA, & YELL). This will be the third regional air quality review. The first review focused on the Pacific Northwest (CRLA, CRMO, MORA, NOCA, & OLYM) and the second in and near the Colorado Plateau (ARCH, CARE, CANY, BRCA, ZION, BLCA, GRSA, MEVE, PEFO, BAND, & GRCA). The review will: 1) compile information on emission sources, monitoring data, sensitive species, and threshold values to use in the review of permit applications and environmental impact statements, and 2) provide guidance on air quality-related research needs in the area. In addition, the resulting document will be useful to Field Area, Park, and SSO staff in developing RMPs and research agendas, working with permit applicants, and providing information for public awareness programs. Although the focus is on NPS Class I areas, the review will also be useful for Class II NPS areas and non-NPS areas in the region. The report will be available

in the fall.

To kickoff this review, the principal investigators met recently with ARD staff in Denver to review the scope of work and receive copies of reports, etc. available from the ARD. The investigators then conducted their first site visit, at Rocky Mountain NP. They met with park staff, reviewed park files, and visited air quality monitoring and research sites. The other Rocky Mountain park visits will take place in the next two weeks; the Great Plains parks will be visited in August. Contact Tonnie Maniero at (303) 969-2806 for more information. (Air Resources Division)

NOTABLE EVENTS/ACHIEVEMENTS

DIRECTOR'S AWARDS. The Director announced (on June 26--sorry we missed it last time) the recipients of the 1995 Director's Awards for Natural Resource Management, Natural Resource Research, and Superintendent of the Year for Natural Resource Stewardship. Terry Hofstra, who leads the natural resources staff at Redwoods NP, is the recipient of the award for natural resource management. Paul Buckley, with the NBS's CPSU at University of Rhode Island, won the research award. Finally, the Pacific Island SSO Superintendent, Bryan Harry, was named in the superintendent's award.

AIR POLLUTION SETTLEMENT On July 18, a major Clean Air Act settlement was announced by Attorney General Janet Reno. The settlement includes provision for \$4.25 million intended to benefit GRSM and other S. Appalachian Class I area air resources through purchase of permanent NOx offsets, implementation of certain emission management options (EMOs) approved by the Southern Appalachian Mountains Initiative, and assessment of other SAMI EMOs.

GEOLOGIC RESOURCES DIVISION OFFICE AT USGS CENTRAL REGION - To facilitate partnership efforts and cooperative NPS/USGS projects, the Geologic Resources Division has arranged for an NPS office collocated with the USGS-Denver, similar to the present Geologic and Water Resources Division offices at USGS-Reston. Bob Higgins of the division will be in the office on Wednesdays and can be reached there at: 303-236-5565 (phone), or 236-5448 (fax). Other division staff will also be spending some time in the new office, depending on project assignments. The USGS management and staff have been most helpful, and we anticipate that this arrangement will lead to improved cooperative efforts of benefit to the NPS.

NEW IMAX CAVE FILM - The Director recently gave approval for NPS cooperation with the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History's production of an Imax film *The World of Caves*. Ron Kerbo of the Geologic Resources Division will lead the NPS effort focusing on technical advice for script content, selection of NPS caves for filming, protection of cave resources during filming, and ensuring that effective and appropriate messages about caves reach film viewers and buyers of derivative products. Initial work involves preparation of an MOU with the Cincinnati Museum Center. Profits from the film will be shared with the National Park Foundation, and may be available to assist funding NPS cave programs.

JOSHUA TREE MINE CLOSURE - The Geologic Resources Division assisted the DSC to contract for the polyurethane foam (PUF) closure of collapsed mine stopes at the Lost Horse Mine, a National Historic Register site in the park. The vertical shafts are next to an historic ten-stamp gold mill. The PUF closure will stop further expansion of the collapse hole which was threatening to swallow up the historic mill. When the contractor completes this \$100,000 project later this year, it will be one of the largest applications of PUF to date in the restoration of an abandoned mine site.

GLEN CANYON EXPERIMENTAL FLOW SEMINAR A joint USGS-NPS seminar/workshop on the recent experimental flood in Glen and Grand Canyons was held in Denver on July 25. The purpose was to present preliminary results of USGS water and sediment research conducted during the flood, and to discuss the implications for management. NPS Colorado River parks, as well as other interested NPS specialists and managers, were present.

MEETING RESULTS

NPS SOCIAL SCIENCE PROGRAM: The NPS Social Science Program held its first program development workshop in Estes Park, CO July 24-26. Participants came from the Department; NPS WASO, Field Area, System Support, and DSC offices; NBS; and a variety of university cooperators. The workshop focused on how to accomplish a number of social science initiatives contained in the 1996 NPS Social Science Plan: electronic information clearinghouse, competitive research on national needs, role of social science in ecosystem management, peer review for social science research and perhaps other activities, restructuring the CPSU concept, providing technical assistance and training, funding park-based social science, and a streamlined mechanism for securing OMB approval for surveys.

NPS/PARKS CANADA AIR QUALITY WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS The workshop, held at Waterton Lakes National Park and Lethbridge, Alberta, June 4-7, 1995, addressed air pollution and its impacts on the natural and cultural resources of parks, wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, Indian reservations, and other protected lands. Participants included Federal land managing agencies, Federal, State, and provincial air pollution control agencies, and Indian tribes. In addition to presentations, the workshop resulted in recommendations for cooperative efforts in monitoring and research, permit and regulatory reviews, outreach programs, and participation in regional air quality partnerships. The proceedings are being distributed by ARD to all participants and all NPS units. Extra copies may be obtained by calling Erik Hauge at (303) 969-2078.