

INTERVIEW: WILLIAM WHALEN, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
with questioning by: BARRY TINDALL, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS,
NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARKS ASSOCIATION

Q. THE PARK SERVICE HAS COMMITTED SUBSTANTIAL RESOURCES TO INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE SYSTEM. WHAT WILL YOU EXPECT FROM THIS "INVESTMENT? WHAT EMPHASIS WILL YOU PLACE ON INTERPRETATION IN GENERAL AND, SAY, ON COMMUNICATING ENERGY CONSERVATION IN AND THROUGH THE PARKS?

A. WHAT WE EXPECT FROM OUR INVESTMENT IN THE INTERPRETATION AND VISITOR SERVICES PROGRAM IS THAT EVERY PARK VISITOR WILL HAVE A SAFE AND PLEASANT VISIT, WILL PARTICIPATE IN A VARIETY OF THOUGHTFUL, MINIMUM IMPACT USES OF THE PARK'S NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES, AND WILL RETURN HOME WITH AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PARK'S RESOURCES, THE MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS NECESSARY TO PRESERVE THEM, AND AN INDIVIDUAL AWARENESS OF HOW HE OR SHE BOTH DEPEND ON AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY. WE HOPE, TOO, THAT OUR VISITORS WILL HAVE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED THEMSELVES.

THE ENERGY CONSERVATION MESSAGE, ALONG WITH A VARIETY OF OTHER SPECIFIC SUBJECTS, SUCH AS ORIENTATION AND INFORMATION, RESOURCE USE OPTIONS, SAFETY, NATURAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY, AND OTHERS MENTIONED EARLIER, CONSTITUTE THE GENERAL INTERPRETATION PROGRAM IN A PARK.

CERTAINLY, WE CAN SHOW THE VISITOR WHAT STEPS WE ARE TAKING TO CONSERVE ENERGY IN THE PARKS, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT HAVE APPLICATION IN HIS HOME. ENERGY CONSERVATION WILL NOT BE AN EXCLUSIVE THEME IN MANY AREAS BUT WILL BE PRESENTED AS A PART OF THE GENERAL CONSERVATION ETHIC. WE FEEL VERY STRONGLY OUR OBLIGATION TO HELP ALL AMERICANS UNDERSTAND HOW ENERGY CONSERVATION IS VITAL TO THE PRESERVATION OF OUR NATION AND ITS ENVIRONMENT.