



*Man and his culture
are interrelated and interdependent
with his environment.*

A NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PROGRAM

The National Parks contain an incredibly rich variety of plants, animals, and natural surroundings, ideal for teaching and interpreting the values and relationships of man and nature. This educational resource is being made available to the Nation's students as part of a National Park Service program: the National Environmental Education Development (NEED).

The goal of the NEED program is to foster an appreciative and critical environmental awareness in our youth, through an understanding of the interactions of natural and social processes illustrated in National Park areas. Its further aim is to increase the will and capacity to improve the environment.

The NEED systems and interpretive materials, combining the most effective educational techniques and keying the program into the existing curricula, were developed at the University of California, Davis campus, under the direction of Dr. Mario M. Menesini. All materials are pilot-tested and field-tested at select Park Service areas and participating schools throughout the nation. Unique to the NEED materials is their flexibility for adaption to any site, any ecology.

Basic to the NEED program is the premise that environmental awareness requires outdoor implementation of classroom lessons, which must be related to all subjects in the curriculum: to art, literature, social studies, as well as the natural sciences. Materials are being created for pre-site (classroom), on-site (environmental school), and post-site follow-up.

Phase I of the NEED program emphasizes the appreciative level in an encounter with natural phenomena at an environmental school site, with emphasis on academic, aesthetic, and skill interpretations. This phase focuses on elementary-school levels.

Phase II for the intermediate (7th, 8th, 9th grades) level of the program centers on man's positive and negative utilization of his natural resources, and his efforts to rectify a self-imposed contaminated environment through technological applications.

Phase III (high school) will develop the necessity for environmental ethics, centered on attitudes of the individual. It will integrate the disciplines of political science, economics, and sociology.

The NEED educational-research program is administered through the Educational Consulting Service, Orinda Village, California, under the continued direction of its founder, Dr. Mario M. Menesini.