



# The National Park Service

*Natural Resource Information Division  
Fact Sheet Series*

Fact Sheet 99-02

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## THE NATURAL RESOURCE PUBLICATION PROGRAM (UPDATED)

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The responsibilities of the Natural Resource Information Division under the Associate Director of Natural Resource Stewardship and Science include the development and the updating of procedures for the assessment and reporting of natural resource conditions in parks. Responsibilities also include the global distribution of natural resource information by a variety of information-distribution technologies, including the Internet.

Since a major reorganization of the National Park Service in 1995, the natural resource publication program has not been fully resumed. The division publishes Fact Sheets, the Inventory and Monitoring Program Annual Report, the Natural Resource Year in Review, and Park Science. The division provides limited editorial services such as writing and conducting peer reviews.

### **Annual Report of the Inventory and Monitoring Program**

In 1998, the division released the second comprehensive annual report

about its Inventory and Monitoring Program. The report is about the monitoring and the status of a wide variety of natural resources in eleven parks that conduct prototype long-term ecological monitoring of natural resources. Protocols developed for sampling natural resources will ultimately be used nationwide in national parks with significant natural resources.

The report is designed to increase the visibility of the Inventory and Monitoring Program and to provide an account of activities. The organization of the 1996 and 1997 reports were by resource and featured reproductions of photographs, line drawings of natural resources, tables, and graphs. The report is intended for staff of the National Park Service and its partners and associates, congressional staff, members of other governmental and non-governmental natural resource agencies, and the public.

The 1996 and 1997 reports are posted on the World Wide Web (<http://www.nature.nps.gov/pubs>). A limited

number of hard copies is available from the editor ([elizabeth\\_rockwell@nps.gov](mailto:elizabeth_rockwell@nps.gov)).

### **Fact Sheets**

In July 1996, the Natural Resource Information Division began to distribute its series of fact sheets. The sheets provide information about various activities and programs of the National Park Service. The contents of the fact sheets are technical but written for a general audience.

Hard copies of the fact sheets are mailed to more than 260 National Park System units with significant natural resources and to various other entities in the service and to its associates. The sheets are regularly posted on the electronic Natural Resource and INTOUCH bulletin boards of the National Park Service. A version with graphics and a text-only version of each fact sheet appears on the world wide web page of the National Park Service (<http://www.nature.nps.gov/pubs>). Twenty-nine current fact sheets and nine archived fact sheets

were posted on the Internet at the end of calendar year 1998.

Fact sheets may be contributed by any staff of the National Park Service and its associates and partners.

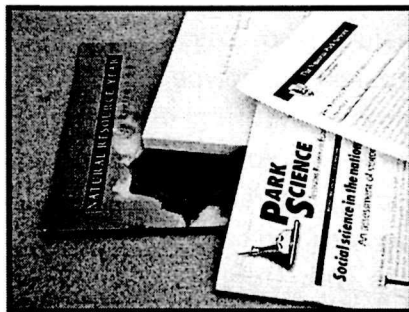
### ***Natural Resource Year in Review***

The *Natural Resource Year in Review* is an analytical and comprehensive report on the state of major natural resource issues and trends in the national park system for the calendar year. Published annually, it features a wide variety of nontechnical stories from around the park system and natural resource program offices. Overall, these stories reflect the complexity of resource management in modern landscapes and present a candid appraisal of what the National Park Service is able to accomplish in the care of natural resources given current staffing and funding. The report also suggests the future direction of the National Park Service for improving its natural resource stewardship capabilities.

The report is designed for a broad audience and follows a popular format. Information is shared through the liberal use of illustrations, professional layout, and to-the-point articles. The report is circulated to staff in every unit of the national park system. Partner agencies and potential partners, the Congress, environmental organizations, and academic institutions are also important primary audiences. Science and environmental reporters receive notice of the report so that

they may learn about park issues to explore in greater depth in their own columns for the public. Electronically published on the World Wide Web (<http://www.nature.nps.gov/natnet/pubs/>), the publication also reaches out to the world.

The *Year in Review* is published by the Natural Resource Information Division with funding from the Associate Director for Natural Resource Stewardship and Science. Report editor Jeff Selleck ([jeff\\_selleck@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_selleck@nps.gov)) solic-



its article ideas and prospective authors from parks and program offices in August or September each year. Proposals describing issues that demonstrate national or regional significance, make a strong connection to the calendar year, and are indicative of a trend are developed into short, journalistic articles. During the fall of the year, the editor provides the authors with guidelines for developing their articles. Approximately 50 articles appear each year, comprising 6-8 thematic sections of the report. The 1998 report explores: (1) the broad spectrum of natural resource preservation challenges facing the National Park Service; (2) the scientific role of the Park Service; (3) the

acquisition of research through non-NPS partners; (4) resource disturbances; (5) ecological restoration; (6) innovation on the job; and (7) the benefits of communicating scientific management of park resources to the public.

### **Park Science**

*Park Science* (ISSN-0735-9462) is a research and resource management bulletin of the National Park Service. It was designed to strengthen the links between research and park management by reporting recent and ongoing research in the natural and social sciences, the implications of research for park planning and management, and the application of findings in natural resource management. The content of the bulletin receives an editorial review for basic scientific soundness and applicability in park management but does not undergo an anonymous peer review. The bulletin is published two to four times annually, has a hard-copy circulation of around 4650 copies, and appears online (ISSN-1090-9966) at <http://www.nature.nps.gov/parksci>. A two-CD-ROM set containing all 67 back issues of *Park Science* was published in 1998; limited quantities are available from the editor.

### ***Audience***

Although semi-technical, *Park Science* is edited for the lay reader, principally for the superintendents, resource managers, natural and social science researchers, and other technical and nontechnical personnel of

the National Park Service. Other common readers are from other federal agencies; state departments of fish and game, parks and recreation, and natural resources; international parks; private conservation organizations; the academic community; and the public.

### **Content**

*Park Science* articles are field-oriented accounts of general interest research and resource management topics that relate to resource conservation and the application of science in resource management in units of the national park system. Topics commonly covered include ecological restoration; inventory and monitoring; ecosystem management; wildlife population ecology; prescribed fire management; and general research and resource management activities related to wildlife, marine, geologic, water, air, and paleontological resources. Repeating columns include editorials, book reviews, a calendar of important upcoming conferences, synopses of scholarly works relevant to resource managers, and brief resource management highlights from around the national park system. Most articles are contributed by federal and nonfederal scientists who conduct research on national park lands and by park managers who use science-based resource-management techniques.

### **Submissions**

The editor encourages article submissions from all readers on research and resource management that are relevant to the preservation of natural resources on national park lands. Submission guidelines are available from the editor and online at <http://www.nature.nps.gov/parksci/guidelines.htm>.

### **Administration**

*Park Science* is published by the NPS Natural Resource Information Division of the Natural Resource Program Center. Editor Jeff Selleck is stationed in Lakewood, Colorado, and can be reached by e-mail at [jeff\\_selleck@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_selleck@nps.gov) or by telephone at 303-969-2147. The publication is funded by the office of the Associate Director for Natural Resource Stewardship and Science of the National Park Service, by combined support of the regions, and with donations from readers outside the National Park Service.

### **Other Editorial Services**

In 1998, the scientific editor of the division conducted anonymous peer reviews of two manuscripts to be published as NPS Scientific Monographs, edited the manuscripts, and secured policy reviews. Both manuscripts are about comprehensive studies of watersheds in two national parks. The

principal authors are former incumbents of the National Park Service who were transferred first to the National Biological Service and then to the U.S. Geological Survey. The U.S. Forest Service assumed handling the contracting for desktop publishing and printing the monographs and the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey assumed financing the publication of the manuscripts.

Also in 1998, the division provided comprehensive editing of several natural-resource reports by National Park Service staff from various entities. Some of the reports were subsequently designed for electronic display and posted on the world wide web pages of the service.

### **Future Publications**

The appearance and types of future publications depend on the needs of the National Park Service, the users of the national parks, and funding.

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