National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Team Resources
“Orientation to the Management of National Park Service Resources”

Everyone who works for the National Park Service is a resource manager, regardless of his or her job. Every decision we make and every action we take affects the cultural and natural resources entrusted to our care by the American people. We are all involved in the protection of park resources, while providing for the enjoyment of the visiting public. The concept of TEAM RESOURCES was developed to enhance our awareness of the responsibility with which we are charged by the Organic Act of 1916.

A Servicewide Course

In January of 1988 and 1989 Stephen T. Mather Employee Development Center presented the first two workshops for TEAM RESOURCES instructors. Nearly 75 employees, in many disciplines, participated in these workshops; these same employees now make up ten regional teams.

Workshop participants developed and refined a core-curriculum for the service-wide “Orientation to the Management of National Park Service Resources” course.

The course is designed to introduce park employees to the basic resource management principles of the National Park Service. To accomplish this goal the course stresses the developing concepts of conservation and preservation in America, the origins and history of the NPS, and the laws and policies that govern our management of park resources. In addition, it provides a broad overview of monitoring and maintenance processes common to both cultural and natural resources. In-depth case studies of resource management problems and issues are used throughout the course to illustrate the concepts presented.

Participants will gain an increased awareness of ways in which their jobs contribute to resources management and to the mission of the National Park Service. They will recognize that a "team" effort is required of all employees to carry out this special mission.
What does the course cover?

"Orientation to the Management of National Park Service Resources" is a two-day, 16 hour training session that covers the following topics:

- History, philosophy, and legal framework for managing park resources
- Basic principles of cultural and natural resources management
- Processes of protecting resources
- Employee involvement in managing resources

As the title implies, this is an "orientation" course - not a skills workshop.

Flexibility is built into the course. Since each NPS unit faces special challenges and problems, the curriculum can be tailored to cover topics that are of concern to individual parks. These include such subjects as Fire Management, Cultural Landscapes, Integrated Pest Management, Water Quality, Archeological Protection, Acid Rain and Collections Management. The 16-hour "core" course may be expanded to facilitate a more in-depth orientation or to allow for detailed instruction in special topics. Selected 4-hour sessions from the curriculum can also be adapted for seasonal employees.

Who should attend?

It is important that ALL members of ALL divisions have a basic knowledge and understanding of their roles in the protection and management of their parks' resources. The course is especially aimed at employees who do not have resource management in their job title or position description. Regardless of discipline - maintenance, law enforcement, interpretation, administration, concessions, cooperating associations, or any of the other diverse occupations in the Park Service—attendance at the course will increase your ability to make a positive contribution to resource protection.

TEAM RESOURCES is especially valuable for new employees to the National Park Service or for those who have not attended classes such as "Introduction to NPS Operations" or "Ranger Skills." The course is also valuable for volunteers and employees of concessions and cooperating associations.

When is "Team Resources" offered?

There are trained TEAM RESOURCES instructors in each region. Working with the staff at Mather Employee Development Center, the regional teams offer the course in various locations each year.

The instructors usually present the course in a park or regional office, but other training sites can be arranged upon request from interested parks.

Your regional training officer can provide the exact dates and locations of upcoming "Orientation to the Management of National Park Service Resources" course in your area, or he/she can put you in direct contact with the TEAM RESOURCES Coordinator for your region.