



Fact Sheet

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Natural Resource Information Division



Natural Resource Information
and Global Communication on the Internet

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The Internet provides a means for reaching an ever growing global audience for the exchange of information on the management and protection of natural resources in units of the National Park System and their associated ecological communities. The National Park Service (NPS) has made a commitment to use the Internet and the World Wide Web as valuable media for information exchange and is using several Internet technologies that enhance the change of information with its customers and clients and help the public understand the need for the preservation of parks and their natural resources for this and future generations.

Current Status of Internet
Activities

NPS Natural Resources
World Wide Web Site
NatureNet

In 1996, the NPS website, *ParkNet*, including its natural resource portion, called *NatureNet*, underwent a major redesign. With a click on a resource type (air, water, geology, and plants and animals) displayed on a periodically changing park landscape, the visitors of the natural resource website are now taken directly to information on the resources. In addition, several natural resource subject areas were incorporated into

the site's design, including (1) *Data* for student and researchers, (2) *Publications* about natural resources, and (3) *Partnerships* of NPS with other entities. The NatureNet website is in its infancy and is evolving. Although major strides have been made in the amount of information on the website, additional information needs to be prepared for posting and the presently posted webpages on NatureNet need to be maintained and continually updated to keep the information current.



Electronic Publishing

The Internet provides the electronic transmission of natural resource publications to a much wider audience than previously possible. An electronic publishing program for natural resource publications has been established, and electronic copies of more recent publications are now available through the NatureNet

website. This includes *Park Science*, a quarterly research and resource management bulletin that strengthens the link between research and park management. Other publications, a series of natural resource fact sheets, and many servicewide natural resource brochures are also now available on NatureNet. With the steadily growing access to the World Wide Web, most future natural resource publications will be made available through this medium as a normal course of action. The use of electronic publishing not only increases the size of the audience that NPS reaches but also results in savings by reducing printing and mailing costs.

Global Communications

The public, by clicking on the e-mail button on NatureNet or ParkNet, can instantly e-mail its questions, concerns, or suggestions about the care of the natural resources in America's national parks from anywhere in the world. E-mail is a fast and cost-effective communication medium for those who have Internet access, and the ability of NPS to communicate with the global community by this medium improves its customer responsiveness.

Future Internet Activities


The National Park Service has made great strides during the past year in

using Internet technologies for the distribution of natural resource information and for global communication. Additional Internet technologies need to be explored to optimize the use of leading edge technologies in accomplishing the NPS mission. An Intranet that will enhance the exchange of information between parks is in the process of being designed. In addition, the Natural Resource Information Division is beginning to focus on the area of data management. Data on the natural resources and on the research and resource management in the parks

have been collected in various databases. The next step is the determination of how to best synthesize those data to provide useful information for the public and public access to non-sensitive information on the Internet.

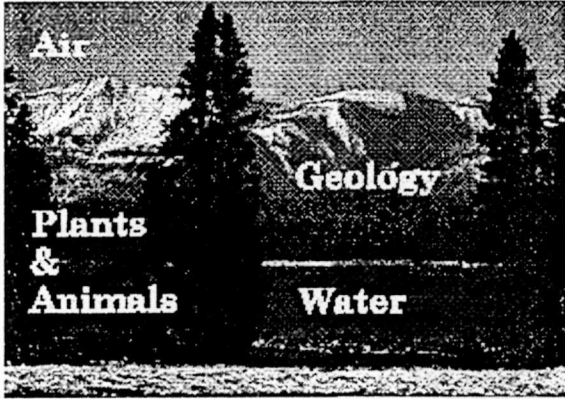
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The National Park Service

Nature Net



-  **Data**
For students and researchers
-  **Publications**
Natural resource publications
-  **Partnerships**
Our partnerships and agreements
-  **What's New**



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