



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



Fact Sheet

**Bibliographic Database
(updated)**

August 1997

97-28

The Natural Resource Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) Program was established to help prevent the loss or impairment of significant natural resources in more than 250 of the 368 units of the National Park System¹. Many natural resources in the system are subjected to unfavorable influences from a variety of sources, for example, air and water pollution, urban encroachment, and excessive visitation. Left unchecked, such effects can threaten the very existence of many natural communities in the units.

The principal functions of the I&M Program are the gathering of information about the resources and the development of techniques for monitoring the ecological communities in the National Park System. Ultimately, the inventory and monitoring of natural resources will be integrated with park planning, operation and maintenance, visitor protection, and interpretation to establish the preservation and protection of natural resources as an integral part of park management and improve the stewardship of natural resources by the National Park Service.

The detection of changes and the quantification of trends in the conditions of natural resources are imperative for the identification of links between changes in resource

¹ National parks and other entities of the National Park Service such as national monuments, national rivers, wild and scenic riverways, national scenic trails, and others are called *units* and collectively constitute the *National Park System*.

conditions and the causes of changes and for the elimination or mitigation of such causes. Inventory and monitoring provide important feedback between natural resource conditions and management and trigger specific management and evaluation of managerial effectiveness. A basic requirement of documentation is a comprehensive bibliographic database.

**Automated Natural Resource
Bibliographic Database**

The comprehensive inventory of parks with significant natural resources began with surveys, cataloging, and archiving of information from all the natural resource studies in parks. All historical scientific material including rare event records, maps, photographs, manuscripts, and specimen collections is incorporated into an automated database.

Standards and Products

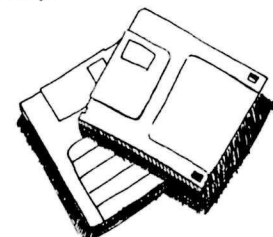
The gathered information will be used to produce a data theme layer for each of the park units in the program. Each park unit will receive a ProCite database with a thesaurus of keywords and descriptors and the procedures for keeping the information current. The database will be kept and maintained at the park unit to ensure accessibility by managers. The I&M Program distributed the ProCite software and the NPS ProCite manual to each park and will ensure on-site staff are trained in using the databases.

Copies of each park's completed database will be transmitted to the NPS Technical Information Center in

Denver for eventual conversion to CD-ROM format. Through dial-up access, managers will have easy access to data from every park in the National Park System. However, the quality of the data will depend on the regularity with which each park updates the ProCite files and transmits them to the Technical Information Center.

Partnerships

Data entry and data conversion are proceeding on schedule under arrangements with the Colorado State University, Idaho State University, University of Northern Arizona, University of Hawaii, Penn State University, North Carolina State University, and Rhode Island State University.



Program Status

As of September 1997, the databases for all parks in the Southwest, Alaska, and the Rocky Mountain and Colorado Plateau areas are complete. Databases for parks in the West, Southeast, New England, the mid-Atlantic, and the Midwest will be completed in Fiscal Year 1998.

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