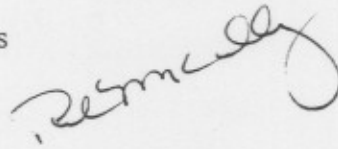


DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

STAFF DIRECTIVE 02-04

TO: Park Superintendents

FROM: Philip K. McKnelly



SUBJECT: Natural Resource Inventory and Monitoring Guidelines (Guidelines #33)

To effectively protect and manage the state park system, it is necessary for us to identify the natural resources present in each unit, and to monitor their respective conditions. These guidelines provide a protocol for establishing an effective natural resource inventory and monitoring program.

Natural resource inventory is a time-consuming process, and natural resource monitoring is both complex in planning and labor-intensive in execution. Given the many demands on park staff time, expectations of progress must be realistic. The goals stated in these guidelines should be understood as long-term goals, the fulfillment of which will be an incremental, continuous process. Read the section on roles and responsibilities carefully, and you will see that the demands are not unreasonable. It is largely a matter of park superintendents needing to recognize the importance of starting and maintaining a formal inventory and monitoring program, supplying whatever assistance possible to survey projects that visit their park, and ensuring that any natural resource data collected in a park is accumulated and properly maintained for future reference.

Some parks may be limited in allotting ranger time to resource inventory and monitoring projects, either because of high visitor loads during the appropriate field season or some other demand on time. However, rangers that are willing and able to perform or assist field surveys are encouraged to do so. Resource Management Program staff will be available to assist any ranger who wishes to start an inventory project.

This guideline is intended for both field staff and resource management personnel. The section on natural resource monitoring should not be an immediate concern. Any monitoring projects should be developed with the assistance of the Resource Management Program and/or non-division scientists.

Please contact the Resource Management Program staff if you have questions regarding these guidelines.

PKM/SJL

CC: District Superintendents - S. DAUGHTRY  
Superintendent of State Parks  
Chief of Planning and Natural Resources  
Program Managers