Research Learning Centers: Focus on Education
National Park Service

... National Treasures
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• "...to promote and regulate the use of the...national parks...which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

National Park Service

Take care of this treasure!
The Natural Resources Challenge is a National Park Service initiative focusing energy, commitment, and resources on the NPS mission to preserve and protect our natural heritage for the American people.
Natural Resources Challenge
Funded Programs

Inventory and Monitoring Networks

• Vegetation Maps
• Geology
• Vascular Plants
• Vertebrates
• Air Quality
• Water Resources
Federal land management, environmental, and research agencies, along with the nation's universities, share several science-based goals in the 21st century:

• high-quality science
• usable knowledge for resource managers,
• responsive technical assistance,
• continuing education, and
• cost-effective research programs.
Natural Resources Challenge
Funded Programs

Research Learning Centers
NPS Research Learning Centers

• Active, scientifically sound management of parks

• Involvement of the research community in providing scientific information and in using parks as scientific laboratories

• Engaging the public as partners in resource preservation through education
Provide visiting researchers with laboratories, offices, and dormitory space for use during their stay in the parks.
Research Learning Centers
Educational Programs

Field Seminars
Newsletters, Articles, Websites
Teacher Workshops
Employee training events
Researcher brown-bags lunches
Development of educational curriculum and distance learning programs
Ozone Effects Research

The science

- International team meets yearly
- 13 peer-reviewed publications, 6 in preparation
- 7 Graduate students
Ozone Effects Education
Ozone bio-monitoring gardens
Appalachian Highlands
Research Learning Center

Slime Mold Inventory
part of a
$2 million NSF Grant
for a planetary biodiversity inventory
Education

• EPA Grant
  – Slime Mold Training for Park Partners

• Students are Good at finding Fruiting Bodies

• Lessons in Cellular Development
  – Can Culture Samples

• Hands on the Land
Murie Science and Learning Center

Digital Storytelling Camp
Center for Urban Ecology

Natural Resources Non-fiction Creative Writing and Web Design Fellowships
University students designed new NPS publication, *Values and Challenges in Urban Ecology.*

**Semester 1:**
- Learn about design
- Produce a design concept
- Present design proposal

**Semester 2:** Layout the publication and prepare it for production.
Oak Savanna Restoration Research

• Research Demonstration Plot
• Teachers Workshop & Student Activities
• Interpretive Signage
Great Lakes Educator Workshops
Great Lakes Educator Workshops
Great Lakes Educator Workshops
NPS Research Learning Centers

Science: The Next Generation