



The National Park Service

Inventory & Monitoring

NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS NETWORK

February 12, 2003

- **NGPN Board of Directors**
- **Network Charter**

Recommended Approach for Developing a Monitoring Strategy:

- 1 - Form a Board of Directors and Technical committee
- 2 - Summarize existing data and understanding
- 3 - Hold scoping workshop
- 4 - Write workshop report and
have it widely reviewed
- 5 - Decide on priorities and
implementation approaches
- 6 - Draft the Monitoring Strategy
- 7 - Review and approval of Monitoring Strategy

Board of Directors & Network Charter

As part of the network-based park vital signs monitoring effort, all of the parks in each network will be expected to share funding and workloads to accomplish monitoring projects.

A Board of Directors, usually composed of the superintendents from each park included in the network, will be responsible for providing accountability and oversight for the monitoring. It follows that the success of the monitoring effort will depend largely upon how effectively the parks in the network work together, make decisions, and share resources. **For that reason, each network is required to develop a “network charter” which outlines the procedures and guidelines the network will adopt to establish priorities, share resources, and produce required products. Because the network charter will play a crucial role in the eventual success of the monitoring networks, Associate Director Soukup stated in a December 21, 2000 memo that no funding for core park vital signs monitoring will be released to the network until the network charter has been developed and signed by all superintendents in the network and a fully-executed copy provided to the Servicewide I&M Program Office.** If the FY 2003 budget includes the expected vital signs funding for additional networks, we plan to provide monitoring planning funds to all of the remaining networks. Therefore, those networks that have not completed drafting a network charter should do so as soon as possible. Those networks that do have a network charter may want to revise the charters based on some of the changes in the makeup of the network’s Board of Directors, and changes in program guidance and due dates as mentioned above.

Board of Directors

- **Led by Superintendents or their designee (must have authority to make on-the-spot decisions on personnel, funding, office space, and resource management issues.**
- **Network I&M coordinator acts as staff to the Chair.**
- **Board makes decisions on budgeting, scheduling, hiring, based on recommendations from Technical Committee.**
- **Promotes accountability for the program.**
- **Operate under a Network Charter**

Science Advisory (Technical) Committee

- **Comprised of natural resource managers and other scientists from within and outside of NPS, plus Network I&M Coordinator and Regional I&M Coordinator.**
- **Chaired by network I&M coordinator.**
- **Responsible for compiling existing information, preparing for scoping workshop, writing monitoring plan.**
- **Makes recommendations to Board of Directors for approval.**