

National Park Service  
2003 Environmental Achievement Awards  
Winner

**William P. Quinn, Chief of Operations**  
Petrified Forest National Park

Recycling opportunities at Petrified Forest National Park are limited due to the lack of a recycling center within a reasonable distance and due to the high cost of shipping materials to recycling centers located a great distance from the Park.

As Chief of Operations at Petrified Forest National Park, William “Pat” Quinn recognized an opportunity to implement a recycling partnership that could benefit not only the Park, but communities surrounding the Park. Mr. Quinn brought together concerned individuals from Northeastern Arizona who are interested in recycling. Through a series of meetings, Mr. Quinn helped all of the diverse parties develop a cooperative recycling partnership, the Northeastern Arizona Recycling Alliance (NEARA). Since it became operational, NEARA has diverted approximately 5,880 tons of materials from landfill disposal.

In September, 2002 NEARA initiated a comprehensive recycling program at schools called “Hop to It.” The program is run by students and its goal is to educate school children, faculty, custodial staff, and parents about recycling. Since September 2002, each school in the program has diverted over eight tons of paper to recycling centers.

Mr. Quinn’s efforts demonstrate how one person can help the National Park Service to protect and preserve natural resources and inspire others, both inside and outside the Park Service, to do the same.