

CLEAR TEXT:
WASO Ranger Activities'
Electronic Newsletter

February 26, 1993

SEMI-AUTOMATIC WEAPONS

Earlier this week, the Service's contracting officer sent a letter to Sigarms notifying them that the contract which had been awarded to them for semi-automatic weapons had been terminated and advising them that the Service intends to reissue a solicitation for the items covered under the contract. A letter was also sent to the lawyers for Sturm, Ruger, the company which protested the award, advising them of these actions.

Despite reports circulating to the contrary, there is no indication that the funds obligated for the weapons procurement are being considered for reprogramming. Under Federal Acquisition Regulations, the funds remain available for use if the cancellation of the contract was as a direct result of a protest.

PROTECTION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A work group convened here in WASO last week to begin work on a resource protection and visitor management needs assessment program which will assist parks in making objective analyses of law enforcement and other protection needs. The format for the assessment will probably be based loosely on the FIREPRO model. Initial tasks are to:

- * define work loads associated with law enforcement and resource protection activities;
- * develop tables or formulas that will define staff needs for parks;
- * develop a summary format;
- * determine the full cost to maintain a permanent protection employee in the field, including pay, benefits, training, equipment, etc.; and
- * determine other protection support costs.

Software will eventually be developed which will contain all the above information. The objective is to have a computer program which will be relatively easy for parks to utilize, contains information which can be rolled-up at the regional and WASO levels, and can be integrated into budget justification documents.

The evaluation process will ultimately be integrated into a broad protection needs assessment system which will eventually provide a park with information on all protection activities, including law enforcement, search and rescue, and EMS.

We hope to try the system out in two or three parks this year and implement it systemwide next winter.

FIRE AND AVIATION WORK PLAN

The Branch of Fire and Aviation Management has decided to make some scheduling adjustments in its annual work plan (AWP) process. Scheduling changes were deemed necessary in order to ensure that work plans are developed and prioritized ahead of the budget cycle, since funds may not be available to accomplish all identified work. The following procedures and deadlines are now in effect:

- * June 30 - Establishment of prioritized annual work plans for next fiscal year and adjustment of current AWP's.
- * October (upon budget allocation notification) - Distribution of current fiscal year funds to accomplish priority annual work plan items.
- * February 28 - Review current year AWP's for possible priority adjustments.

We want and need recommendations from field and regional office staffs regarding those items and issues which should be undertaken by the branch in the coming fiscal year. Recommendations should be directed to the Chief, Branch of Fire and Aviation Management, no later than June 1st.

ROCK CLIMBING MANAGEMENT

We recently completed an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking and management statement regarding rock climbing and have begun sending it through the WASO surname process for publication in the Federal Register. This document has been completed with substantial input and review from the field. The purpose of this notice is to summarize how the NPS manages rock climbing under existing laws, policies and guidelines and to ask for input from the public on the necessity and scope of proposed general regulations to address rock climbing. At this point, pending public input, it is our position that general regulations in 36 CFR Part 2 need to be developed to give clear regulatory authority to parks to manage climbing. The earliest final regulations could be promulgated would be next fall.

RS-2477 HIGHWAY RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Revised Statute RS-2477 was a section in an 1866 mining law that granted rights-of-way for "highways" across the unreserved public lands. It was repealed in 1976, subject to existing rights. At the direction of Congress, a report on the history, status and impacts of RS-2477 rights-of-way on the public lands is being prepared for presentation to Congress by May 3rd. BLM is the lead agency responsible for the preparation of this report, but the NPS is also involved through the Utah State Coordinator, Rocky Mountain Regional Office, and Alaska Regional Office. This is a major issue for the Western public land states and for Alaska, where this seemingly open-ended federal grant may provoke several hundred or more "highway" assertions by non-federal parties across parks and other federal lands. BLM will send a draft report out for public review on March 1st.

DRUG TESTING ERRORS

According to a recent FLEOA Newsletter, the AFL-CIO's International Union of Police Associations has learned that food and common medications are often mistaken for illegal drugs in urine samples. The following may test positive for the illicit substances indicated:

- * ibuprofen for marijuana;
- * Vick's Formula 44 cough syrup, tonic water and poppy seeds for heroin;
- * many cough and cold medicines for alcohol;
- * herbal tea for cocaine;
- * diet pills, Sudafed, Heat, asthma medicines and nasal sprays for amphetamines.

If you use any of these items and get a positive test, ask for a gas chromatography, mass spectrophotometry or blood test.

PARK VACANCIES AND OPM REGISTER OPENINGS

Cape Cod

The vacancy announcement for the chief ranger's position is now out and closes on March 5th. Cape Cod is very interested in getting a good pool of applicants and encourages qualified persons to apply.

Glen Canyon

The park is recruiting for a GS-6/7 supervisory dispatcher to head-up their 24-hour dispatch center. The selected person will supervise a five-person dispatch staff in the park's new headquarters building in Page, Arizona. For more information, see vacancy announcement GLCA 93-03 or call chief ranger Larry D. Clark at 602-645-8310.

Hagerman Fossil Beds

The newly-authorized (1988) and rapidly developing national monument in south central Idaho has an opening for a GS-7 ranger. General duties include visitor services (interpretive programs, off-site educational/teacher workshops, coordination of coop association and VIP activities), law enforcement patrol, and wildlands fire coordination. This is a drug-testing position and has mandatory level physical fitness. Call Neil King or Bob Willhite at 208-837-4793. The announcement closes March 13th.

QUESTIONS?

Is there something you'd like to know about that we can answer? Let us know and we'll publish the question and answer in an upcoming edition of Clear Text. Please be sure to specify that the question is for response in this newsletter, as questions also come in via cc:Mail which are for individual staff member response. If you've got a question that needs answering, it's likely that other rangers will also be interested in the reply.

Clear Text is the bi-weekly electronic newsletter of the Ranger Activities Division in WASO. It is distributed via cc:Mail to all ranger training and operations centers (FLETC, HOAL, STMA, NIFC), regional office ranger divisions, park chief rangers, and other interested parties. If you would like to get it but don't currently receive it, please advise Ranger Activities via a short cc:Mail message. Any office may receive it, including districts and subdistricts within a park. PLEASE pass it along to others in your division and park.

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