

CLEAR TEXT:
WASO Ranger Activities'
Electronic Newsletter

June 17, 1994

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. Short submissions for the last three sections of the report - Field Notes; Park Exchange; and Vacancies, Register Openings and Details - are welcome and encouraged.

Next issue: July 8, 1994
Submission deadline: July 5, 1994

RANGER ACTIVITIES PERSONNEL CHANGES

The staffing picture in Ranger Activities continues to change, a pattern which will likely persist for some time. Because of the potential impact of these changes on our overall ability to serve your needs, we will provide you with periodic updates on who's doing what. Here's how things look, at least as of this morning:

* Dick Martin is on detail as incident commander of "Operation Opportunity," overseeing Rick Gale's incident management team in the Service's effort to help fill buy-out positions in parks with central office staff. They're operating out of the third floor here in Interior. Chris Address, regional chief ranger in Mid-Atlantic Region, is scheduled to come and act in Dick's stead, effective on Monday, June 20th.

* Tim Stone is now on board as the Service's fee program manager. He can be reached at WASO RAD Fees (he's also on the system by name, effective yesterday) or at 202-208-4205.

* Russ Wilson's detail as acting regulations program manager was to end on July 1st, but has been extended a week. Dennis Burnett, district ranger at Delaware Water Gap, will be following him in an acting capacity; he'll arrive on July 12th and be here indefinitely. Either can be reached on cc:Mail at WASO RAD Regs, or at 202-208-7675.

* Joe Smith finishes up here on June 24th and heads for Cape Hatteras to become the park's new chief ranger. He will arrive there in time for the Fourth of July weekend and will be hitting the beaches with the rest of his staff. As was noted in the last CLEAR TEXT, Bob Reid, the NIBRS coordinator for Mid-Atlantic Region, will pick up the responsibility for Servicewide management of the NIBRS system.

* Bill Halainen will be leaving Ranger Activities to take a position as management assistant at Delaware Water Gap. He will formally EOD on August 7th, but will be shuttling back and forth through much of July. We are in the process of seeking a detailee to assume responsibility for interim management of the uniform program, which Bill will continue to support from the field on an as needed basis. He will also continue to produce the

morning report until his replacement comes on board, and will be reachable at his current cc:Mail address - WASO Ranger Activities.

NATIVE AMERICAN PLANT GATHERING REG

The National Park Service is considering rulemaking that would amend 36 C.F.R. § 2.1 to allow the gathering of plants and plant parts for traditional religious practices by American Indians whose tribes traditionally gathered similar plants for similar purposes on lands now within park areas. This is in part to accommodate the intent of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act and the President's policy regarding reexamination of the executive branch's practices and procedures to seek opportunities to accommodate Native American religious practices to the fullest extent under the law.

We are considering several alternatives with possible applications at the Servicewide level. We would like your assistance in evaluating the merits of each alternative and in determining the extent that American Indians are currently gathering, or would request recognition to gather, plants for traditional or religious reasons.

We would also welcome general comments on the need for a regulation of this type and/or on whether NPS resource protection concerns could be better addressed - and Indians still accommodated - through park-specific special regulations. The Solicitor's Office in WASO has informally reviewed this proposal and feels that the NPS can accommodate Indians without violating the establishment clause (see 50 C.F.R. § 22.22).

* Alternative One - Under this alternative, we replace subsection (d) with the following (NOTE: The prohibitive language in (d) will also be removed):

The superintendent may designate areas where a certain size and quantity of plants or parts thereof may be gathered by hand, for religious use, by an American Indian from a tribe that has historically and traditionally gathered similar plants for similar purposes on land or water now located within the boundary of that park area: *Provided however*, that such gathering may only be allowed following a written determination that the tribe historically and traditionally gathered similar plants for similar purposes from land or waters now located in that park area; and that, the gathering will not adversely affect park wildlife, the reproductive potential of a plant species, or otherwise adversely affect park resources.

The superintendent, upon receipt of an application and in accordance with the written determination, may issue a special use permit authorizing the gathering of designated plants or parts thereof. The application must include the following information:

- (1) Species and amount to be taken.
- (2) Area that plant will be gathered.
- (3) Name of tribe with which applicant is associated.
- (5) Applicant must attach documentation from the tribal governing body that the applicant is a member of the tribe, and authorized by the tribe to gather plants for religious or ceremonial purposes.

* Alternative Two - Under this alternative, we replace subsection (d) with the following (NOTE: The prohibitive language in (d) will also be removed under this option):

The superintendent may designate certain plants or parts thereof which may be gathered, by hand, by authorized American Indian tribal members, for traditional religious and/or ceremonial purposes upon a written determination that the gathering will not, (1) adversely affect park wildlife, (2) adversely affect the reproductive potential of a plant species, or (3) otherwise adversely affect park resources. The written determination will also include, (4) a statement designating eligible tribes by documenting historic and traditional use of the plant(s) for religious and/or ceremonial purposes by a tribe, and (5) the tribe's historical and traditional use of land or water now located within the park area to gather the particular plant(s).

No tribal member shall be deemed authorized to gather plants or parts of plants under this paragraph until the eligible tribe submits a list of eligible tribal members to the superintendent, and the superintendent approves the list in writing.

We'd also like your responses to the following questions, as appropriate:

1. Have Native Americans made requests to gather plants or unoccupied seashells in your park?
2. Are you aware of any plant gathering activity in your park?
3. Is the activity being performed by Native Americans or others?
4. If by Native Americans for what purpose?
5. What is being collected?
6. If plant or parts are being collected, how frequently is this occurring (weekly, monthly, annually, etc.), how much plant material has been taken?
7. Have there been or do you anticipate any adverse impacts on the plant, wildlife, or ecosystem?

A negative response is not necessary; all comments are welcomed. Please reply via cc:mail to Bonnie Winslow or Tony Bonanno, Ranger Activities, Southwest Region.

FIRE SEVERITY POTENTIAL

We've just received the fire severity potential forecast for June 8th to July 7th from NICC Intelligence. Here are a few highlights that Elmer Hurd has flagged for your attention:

Alaska The potential is moderate to high. Temperatures have been above normal to normal with below normal precipitation. Long range forecast predicts normal temps and normal precip.

California The potential is moderate to high. Temps have been normal with above normal precip. PDI indicates extreme drought conditions in northeastern and south central portions of the state. Severe drought is indicated for the rest of the state. Long range forecast predicts near normal temps and below to above normal precip.

Southwest The potential is moderate to very high. Temps have been normal, with above normal precipitation. PDI indicates severe drought in the northeast quarter of Arizona. Long range forecast calls for normal temps and below normal to normal precipitation.

South The potential is from low to high. Temperatures have been above normal, with below normal precip. PID indicates severe drought in eastern North and South Carolina. Long ranger forecast predicts above normal to normal temps with below normal to normal precip.

FIELD NOTES

Death of Past Yosemite SAR Team Member

This issue of Outside magazine contains an obituary for Beverly Johnson, the first woman to solo El Capitan and a member in the 1970s of the park's SAR team and wildland fire crew. She was killed on April 3rd in a heli-skiing crash in Nevada that also claimed the lives of Walt Disney Company president Fran Wells, pilot Dave Walton and guide Paul Scannell. Here's an excerpt from the magazine: "Johnson...channeled a boundless supply of determination and humor into two decades of climbing that placed her in the top rank of American outdoorspeople. After heading west from Arlington, Virginia, in 1970, she gravitated toward Yosemite National Park, where she worked for the elite mountain rescue team. She began racking up notable climbs in 1973, when she led the first all-woman squad up El Capitan. An accomplished pilot, paddler and explorer, Johnson often worked as a sound engineer for her husband, adventure cinematographer Mike Hoover, who was the sole survivor of the Nevada mishap. She was 46."

Dennis Burnett of Delaware Water Gap, who sent in the clip, adds the following: "Bev worked in Yosemite Valley in the early and mid-1970s in fire and search and rescue. I remember her as one of the first women to fight wildland fire and was a base camp cook. She also spent time in the mountain rescue camp (Camp 4) and did work for John Dill, the park's SAR guru. All of us from that era remember her well - a diamond in the rough."

PARK EXCHANGE

No entries...

VACANCIES, REGISTER OPENINGS AND DETAILS

No entries...

DIVISIONAL TRAVEL

**** JUNE ****

6/18-6/22	Farrel	Hazard fuel removal project planning and review, Mesa Verde, CO
6/20-6/23	Broyles	Steering committee meeting, "Fire Management for Practitioners", Seattle, WA
6/20-6/24	Zimmerman	Fire behavior analyst steering committee meeting, Atlanta, GA
6/20-6/24	Clark, Berg	Regional audit, PNRO, Seattle, WA
6/22-6/24	Botti	Southeast Region FMO meeting, Knoxville, TN

6/27-7/1	Broyles	Steering committee meeting, Fire Management for Agency Administrators training course, San Diego, CA
6/28-6/30	Dickerhoof, Sanders	VRAP quality control training, Denver, CO

**** JULY ****

7/11-7/13	Hurd	IFCC meeting, Boise, ID
7/11-7/14	Halainen	Work projects, Delaware Water Gap NRA, PA
7/14	Hurd	NIFC dedication, Boise, ID
7/15	Hurd	NPS fire staff briefing, Boise, ID
7/11-7/15	Stone	Regional fee coordinator training,
Glacier NP, MT		
7/18-7/21	Halainen	Work projects, Delaware Water Gap NRA, PA
7/25-7/28	Halainen	Work projects, Delaware Water Gap NRA, PA

**** AUGUST ****

8/1 - 8/12	Erskine	Annual leave
8/8 - 8/11	Broyles	NWCG training working team meeting,
Denver, DO		

If you would like to get CLEAR TEXT 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.

Prepared by WASO Division of Ranger Activities

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