

**CLEAR TEXT:  
WASO Ranger Activities'  
Electronic Newsletter**

**December 23, 1994**

CLEAR TEXT is the more-or-less monthly 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.

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FAREWELLS...

Jim Brady, chief of the Division of Ranger Activities, and Dick Martin, chief of the Branch of Resource and Visitor Protection, are about to hit the road for superintendencies at, respectively, Glacier Bay and Death Valley. There'll be a going-away luncheon for Jim in Washington on January 6th; Dick's has not yet been scheduled, but will be some time later in the month.

Comments, letters, and/or gifts for either should be sent as soon as possible to Bob Marriott at Ranger Activities (cc:Mail - WASO RAD ARPA/Drugs). Jim and Dick have provided outstanding leadership during their several years in Ranger Activities, particularly on Ranger Futures and 6(c) issues. It's time for you to take a minute and say "thank you."

The following is a final message from Dick; Jim will be sending out a note to all of you in the new year...

SOME CLOSING THOUGHTS - Dick Martin, RAD/WASO

One thing you can say about working in WASO - there is rarely a dull moment. The days go by quickly...sometimes almost too quickly. Park resource and visitor issues come to Ranger Activities constantly because we comprise much of the WASO staff that has park experience.

WASO Ranger Activities truly works on the broad scope of park resource and management issues. While the title of the division tends to imply a fairly narrow field, RAD provides expertise to WASO and parks in such diverse areas as aircraft overflights, Indian self-governance, wilderness management, health and fitness, and all-risk management. These are a sampling of the types of Servicewide matters that RAD helps manage on a short- and long-term basis. There are also the usual management functions of regulations, fee management, protection and fire management.

Its an exciting place. I hope everybody gets a chance to work here. I'm glad I did.

See you out in the parks!

RANGER CAREERS UPDATE - Bill Sanders

Work is well underway on Volume II of Ranger Careers, which we hope to have

ready for field review in January. We've been working on proposals to address 6c entry age issues, seasonal classification issues, qualification standards for the ranger occupation, essential competencies for training and career progression, career entry and development, careers management, and many other topics.

In general concept, a ranger's career would begin in academia, where a degree path having a major emphasis in natural or cultural science would be pursued. Following entry into the occupation (via cooperative education, outstanding scholar, or competition), the first two years of a ranger's career would be spent in training and development. Once basic competencies were gained and demonstrated, the ranger would be eligible for advancement to GS-9 and would be ready to perform the basic functions of the occupation independently. Thereafter, additional competencies would be pursued leading to other assignments and further advancement.

Much work remains, but our commitment to Ranger Careers continues.

FEE PROGRAM UPDATE - Tim Stone, RAD/WASO

On December 20th, the Associate Director, Operations, approved the commercial bus tour fee policy for the remainder of FY 95. The Service will continue with the current flat rate fees until April 15, 1995, when the following flat rate fee structure will be instituted:

VEHICLE CAPACITY	COMMERCIAL TOUR FEE
1 - 6 people	\$30.00
7 - 25 people	\$45.00
26 or more people	\$100.00

The flat rate fee structure was kept in place in order to expedite the entrance fee payment process, acknowledge the concerns of field staff, and simplify the fee structure for the commercial bus tour industry. Discussions concerning the commercial bus tour rate centered around the legislative language which directed the Service to collect commercial bus tour fees plus individual entrance fees. The Service will continue to conduct surveys this coming year to determine if the flat rate should be modified, and will work towards legislative changes to make the commercial tour fees equitable for small operators.

I have been working with legislative affairs staff to draft new fee legislation, which will be a top Service priority in the coming Congress. The goals are similar to those in the fee legislation that was introduced in FY 94 - the NPS is again asking that all or a percentage of any new recreation fee revenues above existing levels be returned directly to the Service without further appropriation.

Final/official funding advice will be out soon for the recreation fee collection program. The 15% cost of collection funding will initially be based on FY 94 collections of approximately \$75 million, with an FY 95 goal of \$79 million. Since it appears that the Service will meet or better the goal set for FY 95, additional funds, up to 15% of projected revenues, will be added to the cost of collection funding for enhancement of the Servicewide collection of recreation fees.

The program is moving ahead with several automated fee payment stations. One is in operation at Carlsbad Caverns, and several more will go in this winter at Yellowstone, Grand Coulee, and Olympic. For more information, please call

or send me a cc:Mail message.

I will echo what many others have said and will be saying about Jim Brady and Dick Martin - that their strong leadership and support of Ranger Activities programs in general and the fee program in particular have benefitted the Service and advanced the cause of national parks. Their tireless efforts to achieve the 15% cost of collection funding, among many other pro parks initiatives, should not be underestimated; defying the inertia of bureaucracy has no doubt bettered many lesser men. As advocates for the Service, the parks, and the rangering business, they will sorely be missed.

#### REGULATIONS UPDATE - Dennis Burnett

The comment period for Revised Statute 2477 was extended a second time to January 20th. Comments are going directly to BLM. Meetings have begun in WASO to address the over 2,000 comments received to date and to develop a work plan for moving forward. Secretary Babbitt and Assistant Secretary Frampton strongly support the concept of RS-2477 regulations. The Solicitor's Office is spearheading the effort, with assistance from the NPS, BLM, FWS and BIA.

Nothing has changed on the status of the climbing regulation. A final draft of the regulation is with Assistant Secretary Frampton. The Department still supports the regulation.

The group working on revisions to 36 CFR Part 2 is still preparing the final draft package. We hope to have a document out for review in the Federal Register as a proposed rule some time this winter.

The final rule on solid waste management sites in NPS areas (36 CFR 6) was printed in the Federal Register on December 22nd. It will become effective on January 23rd.

The final rule on 43 CFR Part 7, Protection of Archaeological Resources is ready for publication in the Federal Register. This final rule revises the uniform regulations that implement the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) of 1979 to incorporate the recent amendments to the act. For the most part, these changes amend the description of prohibited acts to include attempts to excavate, remove, damage or otherwise alter or deface archaeological resources; address the lower threshold for felony violations of ARPA; establish public awareness programs; specify archaeological surveys and schedules; mandate the Secretary of the Interior's report to Congress on federal archeology; and provide guidance to Federal land managers regarding the disposition of Native American human remains and other "cultural items" as defined by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

The proposed rule for 36 CFR Part 68, the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects, is ready for publication in the Federal Register. This proposed rule revises the regulation, which contain standards that apply to all proposed grant-in-aid projects assisted through the National Historic Preservation Fund, focusing primarily on development projects involving buildings.

A work group is being organized to update 36 CFR Part 3 regulations, beginning this winter. A request for field recommendations and comments will be sent to all park areas once the work group is solidified. Start thinking about changes you'd like to see. If you have any nominations for the work group, please cc:Mail them to me.

## SPECIAL PARK USES - Dick Young

The update of 36 CFR Part 14 is neither dead nor lost in the echoing corridors of WASO. Thanks to the efforts of Dennis Burnett, it is being moved along and may be in the Federal Register some time after Christmas. Work is also proceeding - slowly, perhaps, but moving - on the draft of release number two of NPS-53, the special park uses guideline. Some of the chapters and appendix are out to various folks for review and revision, and are to be returned by February 28th. After they come in, a revised version of the guideline will be sent out to regional special park use coordinators for review. If you're interested in having a crack at it, please contact your regional coordinator, as only a limited number of copies will be available.

## FIELD NOTES

### Midwest Regional Office

Gary Sullivan of MWRO has passed on the following information: The Center for Wildlife Law has just published the State Wildlife Laws Handbook. The handbook provides both summary information on the wildlife codes of each of the 50 states and policy analysis of wildlife management and protection laws. It also offers recommendations, sample statutes, and state-by-state comparisons in a variety of areas, including hunting and trapping laws, law enforcement, and habitat and endangered species protection. Copies of the book may be ordered for \$89 from Government Institutes, 4 Research Place, Suite 200, Rockville, MD 20850; (301) 921-2355.

## PARK EXCHANGE

No listings.

## VACANCIES, REGISTER OPENINGS AND DETAILS

### Mojave

The park is about to advertise three vacancies to serve as members of a core planning team to be duty stationed in Barstow, California. The people in these three positions will serve as the National Park Service members of an eight-person, inter-agency, multi-disciplinary team to produce a management plan for the 11.5-million acre Northern and Eastern Mojave Ecosystem. This ecosystem, which straddles the California-Nevada border, includes Mojave National Preserve, the expanded Death Valley National Park and part of Lake Mead National Recreation Area. The team will also include three Bureau of Land Management members and two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service members. The Department of the Army and National Biological Survey may also co-locate staff with the team. The ecosystem plan will be produced as part of a National Performance Review Management Innovation Laboratory. Plan components will include: general management plans, wild horse and burro management plan, recovery plans for 30 sensitive species, grazing plans, mining and minerals management plans, and a wilderness management plan. The plan will be used to guide implementation of the California Desert Protection Act of 1994. This planning effort will be unprecedented, complex, politically sensitive, challenging, and highly visible. The three vacancies are: GS-13 team manager, GS-11/12 natural resource specialist, and GS-11/12 community planner. The vacancies will be filled on a permanent or term basis for four years. As the plan is completed, some team members will be reassigned and some will transition into the Mojave National Preserve

management team. Headquarters for the Mojave National Preserve will also be in Barstow. Greater Barstow has approximately 24,000 residents and is a full service community with good schools. If you are interested, have questions, or know of someone who would be a strong candidate, please contact Ray Murray at 415-744-3968 or Mary Martin or Jerry McHugh at 702-293-8920. They'll make sure you get the vacancy announcement ASAP. Selections will be made in January; the objective is to have the team staffed in Barstow by February.

#### Independence

The park has a GS-9/11 supervisory park ranger opening in its law enforcement division. The closing date for the announcement is January 4th. For details, please contact Judy Merriweather, INDE personnel, at 215-597-1506, or Willie Patrick Bowman, assistant chief ranger, at 215-597-5437.

#### Indiana Dunes

The park will be hiring three GS-4 forestry technicians for their fire crew. The employment dates are February 19th through July 22nd. Contact either FMO Bill Gabbert (cc:Mail - William Gabbert at NP-INDU) or the park personnel office for more information.

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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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