



## RANGER ACTIVITIES INFORMATION EXCHANGE



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### Chief Ranger's Comments

We've been talking about organization of work and position management in conjunction with the 025 task group for the last 15 months. I want to take this opportunity to tell you what we're doing along that line in Ranger Activities.

The Washington Office reorganization has elevated Ranger Activities to a division level with three branches - Fire (the Service's office at BIFC), Special Populations and Programs, and Resources and Visitor Protection (formerly the Ranger Activities Branch). We are now in the process of selecting the branch chief for Resources and Visitor Protection, since I have moved into the division job. The position used to fill this slot was the one formerly filled by the uniform and reservation program coordinator (Linda Balatti). Bill Halainen's position is being redescribed to include the uniform program. The Servicewide reservation program will be incorporated into a new "resource management coordinator" position, using the vacancy left by Rich Rambur's transfer to the superintendency of Antietam. This position, which will also oversee wilderness management, grazing operations, river use management, commercial fishing, and wildlife protection, is currently in for classification.

An FTE and funds are being moved as needed from other divisions and branches to establish a new Servicewide structural fire specialist position (GS-084 Structural Fire Protection Engineer) in this office. This position is also in for classification. The incumbent will be responsible for the implementation of NPS-58, the structural fire policy and guideline, throughout all the regions, and will also review major apparatus purchases, building fire plans and fire code compliance, coordinate the review of park pre-attack fire plans, and provide needed coordination between structural and wildland fire activities.

I am also restructuring the recreation fee program and am looking at several possible options. As soon as a decision is made as to who will run the program, it will be announced. We are sorry to see Rich Rambur leave the fee program. He has done an outstanding job in coordinating a very difficult, critical, beneficial and politically sensitive program. We are all excited for him in his new position at Antietam; we wish him the best and offer many thanks for getting us so far down the road in the fee program.

### Uniform Orders

A number of you have recently experienced delays in acquiring some uniform items - particularly Class A summer pants, Class A summer shirts, belts and straw hats. Although all of these backorders should be taken care of by month's end, it's important to let you know why this situation developed.

Each year, R & R Uniforms builds its inventory for the coming fiscal year based on the past history of employee requests for each uniform component.

Last fall, however, additional funds were approved for employee uniforms, and sales jumped immediately and substantially when the subsequent increase in replacement allowances went into effect on April 1st. Although almost the same number of employees ordered uniforms this year as last year (15,604, up from 15,328 in 1986), R & R's third quarter sales rose from 7,131 orders in 1986 to 11,421 orders in 1987 - a 38% increase. Most of this seems attributable to the allowance increase, but employees are also spending more of their personal funds on uniforms. As of June 30th last year, employees had spent \$156,712 of their own money on uniform items; this year, that figure increased to \$193,962 for the same period.

The inevitable effect was that shortages cropped up, particularly in summer uniform items. Several examples illustrate the effect of this increased demand:

<u>Item</u>	<u>1986 Sales (Full Year)</u>	<u>1987 Sales (Thru 7/9)</u>
Embossed belt	2,573	3,249
Class A female summer trousers	1,112	1,265
Class A male summer trousers	1,795	2,242
Class A male short-sleeve shirt	2,790	3,360

In order to rectify the resulting problems with backorders, subcontractor Horace Small worked employees through its normal summer shutdown and R & R mailed orders as soon as the uniform items arrived. All backorders will be taken care of by July 30th.

#### Fee Program Update

As of July 1st, the Service had collected a total of just under \$17 million in fees, up from \$8 million at the same time last year. Although revenues from Golden Eagle passes and campground and user fees are all up, the greatest increase has come in entry fee revenues, which are up well over 300%. According to current projections, the Service should collect about \$35 million this year, or about \$19 million less than the amount predicted in the fee hearings last year. There are some reasons for this short fall, however:

- the \$54 million estimate was based on a full fiscal year of collection, but this year's program was begun in February - a four-month delay that equated to roughly \$10 million in unrealized revenues;
- many parks have not completed their collection stations due to insufficient time and funds;
- the revenue estimate was based on the assumption that there would be 10 parks with \$10 entrance fees, but those parks only collected \$3 per vehicle entry;
- as of the end of June, visitation was down slightly from the same period in 1986.

The report on the status of this year's fee legislation that appeared in the June Exchange is still valid. The Senate is still working on its version of the bill and will need to work out differences with the House before enacting it.

## Emergency Services

Action is underway on a number of fronts:

- NPS-60, the aviation management guideline, is nearly in final draft. It is being sent to the regional aviation coordinators, 16 of the more active aviation parks, and Park Police for final review prior to implementation. The plan was to have it in the mail by the last week of July, with September 15th as the due date.
- Regional dive coordinators have been asked to submit summaries listing divers, depths attained, credentials and park dive officers, since no Servicewide summary currently exists. The listing to be compiled from this information should help tell us who's doing what and where.
- All but one of the regions have submitted their annual EMS inventories. A Servicewide summary will be published ASAP.
- NPS-51, which has been ratified by about 28 states over the past two years, is again being sent out to those states that have not yet approved it. The guideline is coming up for review in the near future; if you have any comments on it (formal or informal), Butch would be interested in receiving them.

## Field Incidents

**Glacier:** A board of inquiry has been conducted on the fatal mauling of a park visitor on April 25th. A reconstruction of the event showed that the visitor, who was an avid wildlife photographer, had taken 39 photos of the bears from 8 different positions, getting closer to the sow and her cubs each time they moved. Indications are that the sow finally reacted in defense of her cubs by severely mauling the victim, who then bled to death. There was no predation, and no action against the bear is planned.

**Sequoia/Kings:** A wildfire which began near the park's headquarters and housing area on the 26th quickly spread to 160 acres and threatened nearby buildings. Nearly 200 firefighters were called in to fight the blaze, which was eventually suppressed without causing any structural damage. A homemade device which is believed to have started the fire was found near the housing area.

**Kenai Fjords:** A woman who was taking photos of Exit Glacier with her husband was severely injured by a half ton piece of ice which calved off, bounced on the ground and hit her. She died of her injuries several days later.

**Grand Canyon:** Gasoline leaking from a camper parked at Desert View on June 30th led to a flash fire, second degree burns to the French driver, and total destruction of both his camper and the two campers parked adjacent to him. Damage was estimated at \$60,000 to \$70,000.

**Joshua Tree:** On July 4th, California Highway Patrol officers attempted to stop an International Scout near Twenty Nine Palms Marine base, only to have it turn and head toward the park's visitor center and headquarters. The driver refused to stop, and the officers saw him light two flares and place them under the front seat of the vehicle as it approached the park buildings. The Scout came to a halt after crashing through a stone wall surrounding an ornamental cactus garden, and the driver threw two more flares in the vehicle's rear, which was filled with containers and tanks of butane, acetylene and gasoline. The vehicle and driver both ignited; the driver shot

himself with a .22 derringer, but was pulled alive from the vehicle. Although police estimated that the flammables had an explosive equivalent of 1,150 sticks of dynamite, there was no explosion because the containers vented as designed under high heat. The driver, it was discovered, had a profound hatred for the NPS, had been arrested for assaulting a ranger at the Grand Canyon, and had filed an unsuccessful tort claim against the government for false arrest. He died several days after the incident.

**Yellowstone:** On July 4th, a concessions-owned stagecoach rolled over near Tower Junction when the team bolted for unknown reasons. Of the 21 on board, 8 were treated for minor injuries.

Briefly...

- Last year, we asked you for information on the field need for the "ten series" signs which had gone out of stock in central supply. Thanks in part to the responses submitted, relief appears to be at hand. Money will probably be available this year (or next fiscal year) for replenishment of these signs. An estimate is currently being sought from Unicor, and there should be an initial supply of 1,000 of each "ten series" sign in central supply by October. Those inventories will be maintained thereafter.
- The directory of park chief rangers and regional ranger activities staffs which was first published last year has been updated and distributed to each regional office.
- If you sent your name in following our request for volunteers for details and wonder what's going on in that department, rest assured that you have not been forgotten. A list of all the candidates who sent in their names has been compiled and will be used as a source list this winter, when most details to this office occur.
- There are still some guidelines in the works, so we'll continue to post you on their status: NPS-58, the structural fire guideline, is in final and due off press in mid-August. This year's proposed revisions to NPS-9 are still circulating for comment in the Washington Office. NPS-4, the SCUBA guideline, is now going into final draft form for circulation and comment. NPS-57, health and fitness, continues on hold; ditto for NPS-56, the SAR guideline.

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