



Abby Miller

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Subject: Sept Monthly; apologies for lateness

**Natural Resource Stewardship and Science
September 2003**

New Developments

Natural Resources Program Center Workday a Success - To demonstrate commitment

to a "Seamless System of Parks" and internal teambuilding, over 60 employees from the Air Resources, Biological Resource Management, Geologic Resources, Natural Resource Information, and Water Resources Divisions participated in a community service work day for Boulder County Parks and Open Space on September 24. The Boulder County Parks staff was highly impressed by the commitment and very appreciative of work accomplished by the NRPC staff, and it was an enjoyable day in the field for many of our often desk-bound staff. Projects included forest thinning, native seed collecting, hanging birdhouses, invasive weed pulling, and trail maintenance.

Wildlife-Human Interactions Review Paper: The NPS Social Science Program has released and distributed the sixth and most recent *Social Science Research Review*: "Wildlife-Human Interactions in National Parks in Canada and the USA." This document was prepared jointly by Dr. Alistair J. Bath at Memorial University of Newfoundland and Dr. Jody W. Enck at Cornell University. The paper explores the nature of wildlife-human interactions in parks, theoretical frameworks used by social scientists to understand those interactions, and management approaches employed in national parks across North America. The purpose of the *Social Science Research Review* series is to provide a basis for scientific understanding of specific issues critical to the management of the National Park System. This document and others in the series are available on the NPS Social Science Program website at <http://www.nps.gov/socialscience/waso/products.htm>. For further information, please contact Brian Forist at (202) 513-7190 or brian_forist@partner.nps.gov.

Advances in Educational Outreach: The Outreach Technical Advisory Group (OTAG) is operational and is now providing assistance to parks as well as the Natural Resource Program Center. The OTAG is made up of representatives of the different divisions within the Natural Resource Program Center. Its primary emphasis is to promote opportunities for integrating educational and interpretive communications with natural resource stewardship and science programs and activities. OTAG will interact with parks primarily through reviewing, and serving as a clearinghouse for, technical assistance requests to NRPC operations that specifically ask for education interpretive communications help. OTAG will also assist with implementing components of the developing NRSS Strategic Plan, particularly with respect to the goal to "take communications to the next step." In this regard, OTAG will help develop a workshop geared toward improving overlap between NPS public affairs specialists, resource managers, and professional journalists. This meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 2004.

New Fossil Discovery at Wind Cave National Park –During a paleontological survey of known fossil sites at Wind Cave National Park, a new locality was found with an exposed skull of an Oligocene (ca. 32 million years ago) rhino. The park Superintendent requested that Geologic Resources Division staff oversee the excavation and recovery of the specimen so that it would not be lost to erosion over the winter or possibly illegally collected. During the excavation of the specimen additional

bones were found representing about one-third of the skeleton as well as remains of a primitive horse, an early deer and the shells of two tortoises. The success of the excavation was the result of cooperative effort between the park, the Mammoth Site of Hot Springs, Badlands National Park, and the Museum of Geology, South Dakota School of Mines. The specimen is being stored at the Mammoth Site and the initial cleaning is being done by a paleontology intern from England whose visit is jointly sponsored by Wind Cave and the Mammoth Site.

Heads Up

NPS Will Participate in National Public Radio's Earth Care Series: There has been a good deal of interest and enthusiasm within the ranks of NRSS about participating in the upcoming Earth Care radio series that will be aired over the next several years on National Public Radio. The purpose of this outreach effort is to share important scientific natural resource news of national interest to the American public. The goal is to communicate natural resources information – thereby increasing public awareness and knowledge of the natural world and natural resources management and stewardship. Target audiences include adults, science teachers and students (grades 5-12). A number of great story ideas have been submitted by employees throughout the NPS. For further information contact Lynne Murdock or Christopher Mayer of Natural Resource Information Division

Padre Island Shoreline Trash Study Released - Padre Island National Seashore (PAIS) released a report, *Shoreline Trash: Studies at Padre Island National Seashore, 1989-1998*, which outlines the results of studies designed to determine the types and amounts of trash that litter the Padre Island National Seashore shoreline. For much of the year, the beach at Padre Island is heavily littered with trash. Convergent currents occurring along the Gulf coast capture trash floating in the water and deposit it onto the South Texas coastline. While several studies have been undertaken worldwide in an attempt to characterize and quantify beach trash, the trash monitoring project at PAIS is the most extensive of its type, with the most comprehensive results, ever initiated in the United States. The majority of the Padre Island trash items studied originated in the Gulf of Mexico shrimping industry. The park has begun working with members of the Texas shrimping industry to develop better technology, storage systems, and educational efforts to keep trash out of the Gulf. This study was made possible through partnerships with various federal agencies and industry organizations including the U.S. EPA Gulf of Mexico Program, Minerals Management Service, U.S. Navy, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Offshore Operators Committee, and through the long-term commitment and dedication of park management and staff.

New Director's Order for Floodplain Management - The Director's Order #77-2, Floodplain Management has been signed by Director Mainella and became effective on September 8, 2003. This Director's Order, together with its accompanying Procedural Manual 77-2, replaces the NPS floodplain management guidance previously provided in Special Directive 93-4, "Floodplain Management". This Director's Order applies to all

NPS proposed actions, including the direct and indirect support of floodplain development, that could adversely affect the natural resources and functions of floodplains, including coastal floodplains, or increase flood risks. This Director's Order also applies to existing actions when they are the subjects of regularly occurring updates of NPS planning documents. For more information, contact Gary Smillie at (970) 225-3522.

Earth Science Week in October- This annual event, sponsored by the American Geological Institute (AGI), will be held October 12-18. The purpose of Earth Science week is to promote geoscience. The NPS participates by emphasizing geology outreach, education and specific interpretation programs at NPS units. The Geologic Resources Division participates by working with AGI to distribute materials to the parks that could be used in their programs. Each natural resource park will receive a packet of information that could be helpful for constructing geoscience interpretive programs.

Other Accomplishments/Significant Activities

Adverse Impact Determination at Shenandoah The Assistant Secretary signed an Adverse Impact determination for a Prevention of Significant Deterioration permit in West Virginia named Longview Power. Although West Virginia required very good pollution control technologies in the draft permit, the Federal Land Managers were not provided with all the information relevant to the permit until September 9, with a public comment period closing on September 29. Federal regulations require a minimum notification to Federal Land Managers of 60 days. The adverse Impact determination was thus based on the information provided by West Virginia on September 9. A request for an extension of the public comment period, notification of adverse impacts to visibility and aquatic resources, and an increment violation were cited in the letter as reasons for the adverse impact finding. The letter also expressed our desire to work constructively with West Virginia and Longview Power to resolve these issues.

Visitor Services Project website: The NPS Visitor Services Project (VSP) based at the University of Idaho Park Studies Unit has published a website located at <http://www.psu.uidaho.edu>. Survey instruments and reports from both the in-depth park studies, conducted in approximately 10 NPS units each year, and the Visitor Survey Card (VSC), conducted in most NPS units each year are available.

Coastal Geomorphological Surveys Conducted Before and After Landfall of Hurricane Isabel Pre- and post-Hurricane Isabel coastal surveys were made to document impacts to coastal resources in parks on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. The surveys were coordinated by staff from Geologic Resources Division, Cape Hatteras NS and Cape Lookout NS, the Southeast Regional Office, NPS National Information Systems Center, and researchers at USGS, Duke University, Western Carolina University, and North Carolina State Survey Division of Coastal Management. The surveys include experimental airborne advanced research lidar (EAARL) to document terrain elevations, aerial video and still imagery, ground assessments, in-water multibeam and sidescan to

document depth and seabed characteristics, and digital oblique aerial video and still imagery. Data acquired from the multiple surveys is provided to the parks for post-storm decision-making purposes.

Settlement NPS has received a Settlement of \$132,000 for the Stivers (Great White Wale) case involving a vessel grounded near Crane Key at Everglades that damaged 250 square meters of seagrass. The funds will be used by the park for restoration of resources damaged and aids to navigation at EVER.

Natural Resource Program Divisions Team-up to Assess Restoration Needs at Golden Gate NRA and The Presidio – Based on the advice of the Natural Resource Program Center Restoration Technical Advisory Group (RTAG), interdisciplinary restoration specialists from the Geologic Resources, Water Resources, and Biological Resources Management Divisions conducted on-site evaluations of restoration project sites at Golden Gate National Recreation Area and The Presidio in May, 2003. The NRPC staff evaluated the scope and feasibility and provided recommendations for the Tennessee Hollow watershed, Baker Beach fill removal sites, Fort Cronkite and Stinson Beach. Consequently, the report contains detailed site-specific and general recommendations. The comprehensive “team” report was completed and transmitted to the parks.

USGS Cooperative Mapping Panel Proves Fruitful for the Geologic Resource Evaluation–The Annual USGS Cooperative Geologic Mapping review was held September 11-12 in Reston, Virginia. All geologic mapping proposals from USGS staff for the 2004 fiscal year were reviewed for progress and technical merit. Geologic Resources Division staff are requested to sit on the panel for input on those proposals involving parks. Twenty nine proposals were submitted, with most having multiple mapping projects. Ultimately, thirty parks were identified and favorably considered for mapping during the next year. Of particular interest was a new proposal that is entirely dedicated to mapping projects in parks that would not fall under any of the other USGS proposals. This year, nine parks were included in this single proposal, all were ultimately funded.

New Air Tour Management Plans: The Natural Sounds Program Office, in conjunction with the Federal Aviation Administration, initiated air tour management plans for Mt. Rushmore and Lake Mead NRA in September. Kickoff meetings (internal scoping meetings), orientation to park resources, and data acquisition, including acoustical sampling to characterize park sound environments and noise intrusions, were conducted by the planning team and consultant.

Panamanian Biologist Assists Park Flight at Cuyahoga Valley: Fidelino Jiménez Pérez from Panama will be participating in an international internship in October and November for the Park Flight Migratory Bird Program project at Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CUVA). During the internship, Fidelino will participate in several field-related and education projects conducted by CUVA and their partners, the Cleveland Metroparks and the Environmental Education Center of the Cuyahoga Valley

National Park Association (EEC). Fidelino is a guide and involved in bird work at the Parque Natural Metropolitano in Panama, and is a member of the Kuna, an indigenous group in Panama. This technical exchange was coordinated through the NPS Office of International Affairs International Volunteers in Parks program.

Staff

Judy Geniac in the SPOTLIGHT Geologic Resources Division staff, Judy Geniac, was recently recognized in the spotlight on Inside NPS. The article, which can be found on inside.nps.gov/people, highlights the GIP program and Judy's career in the NPS.

New EQD Staffer from GUIS EQD welcomes Sandra Hamilton, Environmental Protection Specialist, to the Division. Sandy was formerly at Gulf Islands National Seashore prior to coming to the Division. She'll be working on the Cape Hatteras (Oregon Inlet) EIS, developing guidance for NPS on Land and Water Conservation Fund grants, and on the impact statement for the South Florida and Caribbean Exotic Plant Management Teams.

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