



RANGER ACTIVITIES INFORMATION EXCHANGE



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The Ranger Activities Information Exchange is a four-page monthly bulletin produced by the Washington Ranger Activities Office and distributed to the chief ranger in each park, regional office ranger staffs, and other interested parties. Chief rangers are strongly encouraged to duplicate each issue and share it with their staffs. If you have any information for the Exchange or any questions you'd like answered, please contact Bill Halainen at 202-343-4874.

Employee Fitness Programs

In 1984, the Comptroller General issued a decision (B-218840) which stated that the National Park Service could not grant administrative leave to allow employees to engage in physical exercise as part of a health fitness program. The report said that, since regulations in effect at that time excluded physical exercise from the services that agencies could provide their employees, the regulations "should also be interpreted as excluding physical exercise from the purposes for which agencies may grant excused absences."

Since that time, OMB has decided that OPM should serve as lead agency in the area of health services and has rescinded their regulations regarding health services (OMB Circular A-72). At about the same time, GSA determined that the scope of their involvement with health services rested merely with the provision of space for the housing of health services equipment, and that no additional regulations were required to authorize such usage. OPM then issued Personnel Management Bulletin Number 792-15 which includes physical exercise within those services which agencies may provide their employees, and specifically noted that the Comptroller General's decision was the impetus for issuance of the bulletin.

If you're wondering where that leaves us, you're not alone. The Service is presently researching the implications of OPM's new bulletin to determine its impact on the granting of administrative leave for exercise and on the use of authorized funds for equipment or facilities. It appears that it will be some time before this issue will be resolved.

Fees Legislation

Hearings were held on two proposed fee bills on June 12th. Senator Wallop's Subcommittee on Public Lands, Reserved Water and Resource Conservation reviewed and discussed S. 2204, the bill backed by the Park Service which has been detailed in these pages, and S. 2130, a bill cosponsored by Senators Baucus and Durenberger which would put a \$5 cap on entrance fees, establish a \$25 fee for Golden Eagle passes, and return 100 percent of revenues to resource management.

Both bills were well received, but the chairman said that it was unlikely that there would be any action on either of them this year. It appears quite likely, however, that a bill will be acted on in the 100th Congress early next year, and that it will be passed before the 1987 summer season begins.

35 CFR Part 4 Proposed Rule Released

The newly revised vehicle and traffic safety regulations have been released for a 60-day comment period and are attached to this issue of Exchange for your review. Any constructive suggestions for improvements will be welcome. You are also urged to pass on copies to your U.S. Magistrates and Attorneys for their comments.

The major provisions of the rulemaking include:

- a strong reliance on the use of individual state vehicle codes and the deletion of a number of unnecessary regulations from part 4;
- the removal of the last remaining references to the former administrative categories;
- the strengthening of regulations pertaining to bicycle use, unsafe operation, and operation under the influence of alcohol or drugs;
- a new mandatory seatbelt regulation; and
- the eventual deletion of a number of special regulations pertaining to traffic.

All responses should be made through channels on the attached comments sheet and be submitted to the Chief, Branch of Ranger Activities, WASO. Questions should be addressed to Andy Ringgold at 202-343-1360.

Permit Regulations Revised

A proposed rule now out for comment would make minor changes to 36 CFR 1.5, 1.6 and 3.3 to clarify the mandatory aspects of Park Service permit requirements and to authorize superintendents to establish permit terms or conditons based on any provisions of 36 CFR. All general criteria and prohibitions concerning permits will be consolidated in section 1.6. Failure to obtain required permits will now be prohibited, thereby closing a potentially troublesome loophole in current regulations. The revision also allows superintendents to establish a broader range of permit terms and conditions than at present, and violation of such terms and conditions continues to constitute grounds for permit suspension or revocation.

The proposed rule can be found in the June 3rd issue of the Federal Register (V. 51, No. 106) on page 19858.

Signs Update

As reported previously in the Exchange, the Service was attempting this year to replenish the inventories of the "ten series" signs at the Brentwood and Rocky Mountain supply centers. Unfortunately, there is no money available this fiscal year to undertake this project, so it will be deferred until some time in 1987. In the interim, parks will have to acquire such signs on their own. Those of you with a pressing need for ten series signs might want to consider the reproduction technique employed by Blue Ridge Parkway (Exchange, March, 1986). Chief Ranger Jim Parr or Resource Management Specialist Larry Freeman will be happy to explain this process to you.

Land Management Investigator's Course

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center will be offering a new criminal investigator's course which will focus on criminal activities of concern to land management agencies. Jointly sponsored by the Forest Service, Park Service and TVA, this course, entitled "Land Management Investigator's Training Program", will include the essential components of the standard criminal investigator course,

but will add sections on timber theft, ARPA violations, wildland fire investigation, wildlife law enforcement and technical surveillance techniques.

The first session will probably be held in the first quarter of fiscal 1987. Candidates will be required to:

- have a completed full field background investigation (critical sensitive);
- possess a full commission, which the candidate must have held for three years;
- have a PD which includes criminal investigation as a duty; and
- come from a park with a jurisdiction which will allow the candidate to use the training he or she receives.

The announcement will be out early enough to allow sufficient time for completion of the necessary background investigation. Contact Andy Hutchison for further information.

Law Enforcement Awards

The Interagency Committee on Women in Federal Law Enforcement is seeking nominations for two annual awards - one recognizing significant accomplishments by women in federal law enforcement, the other acknowledging contributions by managers and supervisors who have promoted opportunities for women in law enforcement careers. The former, the Julie Y. Cross Memorial Award, will be given to a woman who has displayed exceptional performance in her career and who serves as a model for women in the law enforcement profession. All full-time female law enforcement agents or officers in the federal government are eligible. The latter is self-explanatory, and open to all federal managers and supervisors, both male and female, who have law enforcement responsibility.

Each agency may submit up to two nominations for each award. Nomination forms are available from Ranger Activities. Once they are completed, the applications need to be returned through channels to this office for review. The Interagency Committee needs to have them in hand no later than September 2nd, so now's the time to act if you have a candidate in mind.

Hat Presses

If you're looking for an inexpensive way to keep your felt and straw hats from warping, there is a Boy Scout troop in St. Louis that is selling hat presses that will do the trick nicely. The troop has been making them for 20 years, and has customers in the Park Service, Forest Service, Marine Corps and numerous other agencies with wide-brim uniform hats. Each one holds a single hat in a U-shaped frame which has a grommet at the top for hanging it on the wall. They cost \$10.55 each; if you order over 25, they're \$9.55 each. Checks should be made out to Boy Scout Troop 17 and sent to that organization in care of V.O. Barnhart, Salem Church, 1200 S. Lindbergh Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63131. Allow two to three weeks for delivery.

Field Incidents

Rangers in Alaska have had some success in curtailing poaching, according to Bill Tanner, the regional law enforcement specialist. Charges have been filed against four Washington hunters for violations of the Lacey Act and the state law on wanton waste of a game animal. The charges stemmed from a hunting trip into Bering Land Bridge in which the four killed five moose and took only the horns and capes of four of them. Rangers at Noatak recently issued a total of 14 citations to three people who were hunting and trapping in the park; seven sheep and two wolves were also seized. The charges included running down and shooting

wolves from snow machines, taking too many dall sheep, and various permit violations. Alaska Legal Services has entered a class action civil suit on behalf of all hunters and trappers which questions the Service's authority to enforce state regulations (assimilated through 36 CFR) against local subsistence hunters. The U.S. Attorney is proceeding on both the criminal and civil cases; it's expected that both will wind up in District Court and that the criminal case will be set aside until the civil case is resolved.

An arson fire consumed two structures at Fort Necessity on the morning of June 14th. The non-historic Hager House and its two-bay garage, which were being converted, respectively, into government quarters and a resource management shop, were fully involved when the fire department arrived and were beyond saving. The total valuation of the two structures and their contents was just under \$100,000. The state fire marshall and a ranger who graduated from the FBI's arson school are investigating.

Southwest Region Ranger Activities Directory

In the interest of improving communications among rangers, the Exchange offers the following diagram of the organization and duties of staffers in the Southwest Region's Division of Protection and Visitor Use Management. All persons in this office can be reached at FTS 476-6371 or (505) 988-6371:

