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Subject: June ADNRSS Monthly Report

Natural Resources Monthly Report for June 1999

ACCOMPLISHMENTS/NEW DEVELOPMENTS

GEOLOGIST-IN-THE-PARK PROGRAM HELPS RECRUIT PALEONTOLOGY INTERNS --
Florissant Fossil

Beds National Monument has received a generous grant from Canon USA to support and expand several of the Monument's paleontology and education programs. These programs utilize interns who will assist with on-going fossil excavations and database projects, and will provide education programs for local schools. The Monument has requested assistance from GRD's Geologist-in-the-Park Program to recruit outstanding geology interns to be supported by this grant. (contact: Dave Shaver)

COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEMS STUDIES UNITS (CESUs) provide research, technical assistance and education to federal land management, environmental and research agencies and their partners. Their broad scope includes the biological, physical, social, and cultural sciences needed to address natural and cultural resource management issues at multiple scales and in an ecosystem context. Each CESU is comprised of federal agencies and a host university with partner institutions. This year four pilots were established in the following biogeographic areas: Colorado Plateau; Rocky Mountains, Southern Appalachian Mountains; and North Atlantic Coast. Secretary Babbit hosted the first CESU Network meeting June 22-23, in Washington D. C. A Memorandum of Understanding between all involved agencies (NPS, BLM, U.S.Geological Survey, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, U. S. Forest Service, and Department of Energy) was signed on June 22, to establish and guide the CESU network. There are 26 universities and other institutions included as partners in these pilot CESUs. For more information, contact Gary Machlis, Chair of the CESU Coordinating Council, and visiting NPS Social Scientist, by cc:mail.

PROFESSIONAL MEETING ATTENDANCE/ AND PUBLICATIONS

NPS provided mine safety instruction to the US Forest Service by assisting the faculty for a Forest Service Mine Safety Workshop in Wallace, Idaho during the week of May 10. This was the fifth Mine Safety course offered by the

Forest Service National Minerals Training Office. Participants have two days in class learning about mining and milling methods, hazards, monitoring equipment, and personal protection equipment, then two days in the field at three inactive underground mines and two abandoned millsites. Contact: Dave Shaver.

NPS PARTICIPATES WITH BLM MINERAL EXAMINER CERTIFICATION PANEL - Natural Resources took part in the semi-annual meeting of the BLM Certification Panel for Mineral Examiners on June 7. Important panel discussions included: 1) HR 1141 stating that patent applications submitted prior to 05/21/99 will not be subject to the 1 millsite to 1 mining claim decision which may affect Mojave; 2) standardization of gold values for mining claim patent applications and validity determinations, which will affect ongoing NPS exams in the California Desert and Alaska; and, 3) A memo anticipated from the solicitor's office restricting the right to patent mining claims on withdrawn lands where the patent application has not been received prior to withdrawal. This could affect several patents currently under review in the NPS and all patent applications on withdrawn lands in the future. Contact: Dave Shaver.

NATURAL RESOURCE YEAR IN REVIEW RELEASED--The Natural Resource Year in Review--1998 was printed in June and mailed to more than 4,000 recipients in the National Park Service, other federal agencies, and many nongovernmental organizations. Now in its third year, the publication summarizes and analyzes significant natural resource issues and trends in the National Park System during calendar year 1998. Applied science and resource management stories are reviewed with the objective of increasing interest in, understanding of, and support for the natural resource stewardship role of the National Park Service. The report will become the on-line feature story on NatureNet within a couple of weeks, accessible at www2.nature.nps.gov/pubs/yir/yir98. Additional copies are available upon request (jeff_selleck@nps.gov).

The latest scientific monograph "Vegetation Patterns, Hydrology, and Water Chemistry in Small Watersheds in the Hoh River Valley, Olympic National Park" by R. L. Edmonds, R. D. Blew, J. L. Marra, J. Blew, A. K. Barg, G. Murray, and T. B. Thomas is a summary of the current understanding of the structure and functioning of two small temperate old-growth watersheds in an environment with little apparent anthropogenic disturbance. The authors examined vegetation patterns, biomass distributions, hydrology, solution chemistry in precipitation, and stream chemistry from 1984-1993. Some data from 1994-97 are also discussed. Request copies by cc:Mail from Rich Gregory.