

NRSS TELECONFERENCE REPORT

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1995

ALERT

Job Announcement - The position of Chief, Natural Resource Information Division, is being advertised as a GS-14/15 401/1301. It opens September 21 and closes October 12. It may not make it into the AVADs system on the 21st, but the announcement will be available to be faxed by the Associate's secretary at (202) 208-3884. (Miller)

FYI/UPDATE

Water Law Training - Water Resources Division staff attended a Water Law Training conference hosted by the Office of the Solicitor (SOL) in Boulder, CO 9/12-14/96. One segment of the conference dealt specifically with water rights issues facing NPS. Given changes in NPS's organization with the recent restructuring, SOL recommends a memo to Park Superintendents reminding them of the sensitivity and magnitude of water rights matters facing NPS and the importance of coordinating water rights issues with SOL and WRD's Water Rights Branch. WRD is preparing an initial draft of this memo and will coordinate this matter with SOL. It is envisioned that this memo will be either signed by the Director or SOL. (Water Resources Division)

Report on Available Geologic Resource Status - Division staff are preparing a report compiling Resource Management Plan data and NR-MAP data to provide insight on how geologic resources are currently being addressed in the NPS. The Geologic Resources Advisory Group, scheduled to meet in Denver September 26-28 will use this information in their meeting regarding the direction for geologic resource management in the NPS. (Geologic Resources Division)

New World Mine Work Groups -In the recent World Heritage Committee hearings at Yellowstone regarding this proposed mine, the lead agencies repeatedly referred to the ongoing NEPA process and the various interagency work groups as the reason not to be concerned about impacts to the park. However, most of these groups (e.g., economics, geology, social impacts, water group, etc.) have not even met yet. In follow-up to the WHC meeting, NPS staff will help the process along by drafting a letter to the lead agencies outlining the importance of the work groups, who the NPS players are in each work group, and how we expect the groups to best function. (Geologic Resources Division)

Disturb Land Restoration article in Departmental Newspaper - An article titled "Healers of the Earth" authored by Vera Smith, Geologic Resources Division, on abandoned mine land reclamation appeared in the September DOI newsletter, People Land & Water. The

article highlights some of the programs successes, and underscores the need for additional program funding to resolve outstanding problems. (Geologic Resources Division)

Weeds Last week a weed summit meeting was held in Denver. It was attended by policy level people from the Federal Agencies and many of the NGO groups with an interest in weed management in the West. Assistant Secretary Garamundi indicated strong support from

Interior. Evidently Gov. Romer also indicated strong support for accomplishing something regarding exotic weeds and evidently indicated a strong desire to make Colorado a demonstration state. He was going to get the appropriate state agencies involved. Gary Johnston will be spearheading Park Service involvement in the Departmental initiative, working closely with Terry Cacek in the IPM program in the Environmental Quality Division. (Johnston/Miller)

Superintendent, Sleeping Bear Dunes Thanks National Guard General for support of NPS reclamation project - Superintendent Ivan Miller sent a letter to General Taylor on August 25th complementing him on the fine work the National Guard Unit did on the reclamation project for the park. Miller estimated that the park received at least \$50,000 of free heavy equipment costs. The park was impressed with the Guard work and how efficiently they got the project done. The Geologic Resources Division staff coordinated with the Guard prior to the work and oversaw the actual earth moving work. (Geologic Resources Division)