Memorandum

To: All Regional Directors, Group, and Park Superintendents

From: Director

Subject: Introducing Our New Handbook Program

Thirty years ago Director Newton Drury and a number of advisers including Freeman Tilden, helped shape a series of new sales publications in an effort which soon came to be known as the Handbook Program.

This series, started with handbooks for Custer Battlefield and Olympic National Park, now includes more than 100 titles in several formats. These NPS handbooks have proved to be useful interpretive tools for management and a continuing source of information for park users.

As times and conditions have changed we have had to reevaluate our position on handbooks in terms of a tourist world rapidly altered by diminishing energy supplies and rising inflation rates.

While the early handbooks appealed mainly to serious students of the parks, we now try to reach the widest possible audience including schools and libraries. Official handbooks now combine pictorial sections, interpretive stories and practical guide information to help park users and others before, during or after a park visit.

I am happy to introduce our new handbook program with four titles representing two distinct sides of the program: Site Handbooks that survey the diversity and essence of a particular park; and Theme Handbooks that examine a topic of significance in one or more parks. The titles are Assateague and Wind Cave in the first group...and Framing of the Federal Constitution and Overland Migrations in the second group.

Handbooks are an essential part of our new publications program inasmuch as they are sold at parks and GPO outlets across the country, so I invite you to join in wishing this program well as it begins its fourth decade. Copies of the new handbooks are attached for your library.