

To: Regional Chiefs of Natural Resource Management
Regional Chief Scientists
WASO Natural Resources Divisions

From: Acting Associate Director, Natural Resources

Subject: Natural Resources Update Report

June 28, 1993

We have not issued weekly reports for some time, in part due to difficulties in transmission under the ccMail system, the workload imposed by the preparation for the transition of part of our program to NBS, and the fact that we have been in nearly weekly contact with regional counterparts on NBS and related matters. We will attempt to reinitiate reports on a fairly routine basis, as the need to communicate arises. Any addresses to which we have difficulty transmitting will be excluded from the mailing list.

Windy Craggy. A Canadian decision to name an area of British Columbia as protected wilderness has put to rest the potential of the proposed Windy Craggy Copper Mine. The mining proposal was of concern to the National Park Service because of threats to water and water-related values it posed to Glacier Bay National Park.

Water Resource Vacancy. The Water Resources position vacated by Pam Matthes, a GM-14, Environmental Specialist, 028, has been announced. The vacancy announcement for the Washington-based position closes July 16.

Funding Call. A unified Natural Resources project funding call, including NRPP, Water Resources, and GIS, will be issued the week of June 28.

National Biological Survey. For any who have not gotten the word, Gene Hester has been detailed to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks to lead the NBS implementation effort. The detail is expected to last until October 1. Activities are underway to plan for an orderly transition of functions to NBS. We will keep you advised as they are completed. While Gene is working full-time on NBS, I will be acting Associate Director. I plan to bring in regional personnel to act in my deputy slot to assist in research and NBS-related matters.

Natural Resources Management. Dave Haskell is back in Washington this week after spending a good part of June leading a contingent of Russians on a trip to national parks. Dave will continue during his summer-long detail to be a focal point for natural resource management activities.

Organization. As part of the 5-year strategic plan for natural resources, we have been evaluating potential options for organizing functions in a manner that more clearly identifies roles for

resource management and for research, particularly at the WASO level. Team II prepared a recommendation shortly before the creation of NBS was announced. That announcement caused a reevaluation of the recommended WASO organization. However, activities underway by the new Director's staff make formal review of Natural Resource options premature at this time. We have been asked to withhold requesting formal comments on a WASO Natural Resources organization for a few weeks.