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Subject: October ADNRSS Report



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Associate Director, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science Monthly Report for October 2002

New Developments

Marine Reserves Established at Channel Islands National Park: On October 23 the California Fish and Game Commission voted to establish 13 marine reserves and conservation areas in waters adjacent to Channel Islands National Park. Eleven areas, designated as reserves, will be closed to all fishing; the remaining two areas, designated as conservation areas, will remain open to limited recreational fishing and commercial lobster harvest. A total of 175 square miles will be protected by the Commissioners' decision, which takes effect on January 1. Within the next two years, the federal government is expected to decide whether to extend protection to adjacent federal waters. The size of the combined state / federal reserve system would be 426 square miles, incorporating 25% of the waters surrounding the Islands and creating the largest marine protected area in the continental United States.

FAA Publishes Final Rule to Implement National Park Air Tour Management Act: The FAA final rule to implement the National Parks Air Tour Management Act (P.L. 106-181) of April 5, 2000, was published in the federal register on October 25, 2002. This triggers the beginning of development of air tour management plans (ATMPs) for parks that now have air tours and for parks where air tours may be proposed in the future. There are 54 Parks that have reported air tours and therefore will need ATMP's. The FAA will shortly publish an advisory circular to notify existing air tour operators that they must apply for interim operating authority in order to continue operations.

Director's Order 78: Social Science was signed by Director Mainella on October 7, 2002. The Director's Order delineates policies, procedures, and responsibilities for social science in the NPS and outlines the responsibilities of the NPS Social Science Program, including technical assistance on contracts and agreements, oversight of Paperwork Reduction Act compliance, basic criteria for social science research proposals, and peer review and reporting requirements. D.O. 78 is available on the Office of Policy website at <http://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/DO78.htm>. For additional electronic or hard copies please contact Brian Forist in the Social Science Program office by telephone at (202) 513-7190 or by email at brian_forist@partner.nps.gov.

Natural Sounds Program Now Part of NRSS Portfolio: Effective October st, the NPS Natural Sounds Program moved under the Associate Director for Natural Resources Stewardship and Science's umbrella. The program, which previously reported to the Associate Director for Operations, is responsible for assisting parks in the development of soundscape management plans (per D.O. 47) and working with the Federal Aviation Administration on air tour management plans for parks. Organizationally, the Natural Sounds Program will be part of the Air Resources Division and will continue to have staff stationed in Ft. Collins, Denver, and Washington, D.C.

New Visiting Chief Social Scientist; Machlis Moves on as Senior Scientist and CESU Coordinator Dr. James H. Gramann has been appointed as the new Visiting Chief Social Scientist. Jim is a full professor at Texas A&M University where he holds a joint appointment in the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences, and the Department of Rural Sociology. Gary Machlis, who formally held this title, has been named Senior Scientist and National Coordinator of the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) Network. Jean McKendry will serve as Gary's deputy in the CESU position. For more information, see Staff News below.

Accomplishments/Significant Activities

Air Quality Summit: The Air Resources Division hosted an air quality summit in Estes Park, Colorado to share information about national and local air quality issues with region and park staff involved in air resource management activities. ARD provided an "Introduction to Air Quality" session for newer folks, including those field staff recently hired to fill the new Natural Resource Challenge positions. ARD staff provided updates and received valuable field input on monitoring and research projects, inventory and monitoring networks, environmental leadership activities, park planning needs, and servicewide air resource management priorities. Other discussion topics included night skies, natural sounds, air pollution effects on cultural resources, and legislative and regulatory developments.

Response to FOIA request from Sierra Club: At the request of the Director's Office, the Geologic Resources Division responded to an inquiry under the Freedom of Information Act from a local chapter of the Sierra Club in Texas. The inquiry, keyed by recent decisions at Big Thicket, focused on the Service's interpretation of a regulatory provision governing directional drilling under the Service's nonfederal oil and gas regulations. Because of the legal nature of the inquiry, Division staff worked with the Office of the Solicitor on the response.

NPS Support for Meeting of the Coral Reef Task Force: Water Resource Division staff provided planning and organizational support for the October meeting of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The WRD Marine Management Specialist served a one-month detail in the office of Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks. During that time he provided NPS input on coral reef policy and DOI/interagency implementation of Executive Order 13089 and National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs, wrote a briefing paper, designed and constructed a DOI exhibit on department-wide activities, coordinated public speakers, exhibits, and field trips, and handled on-site logistics.

Proposals Submitted for US Forest Service Forest Health Funding: A total of 18 proposals were submitted for forest health protection to the US Forest Service for funding in FY2003. The total request is for \$651,300. This amount is roughly 50 percent more than our request for last year. Two thirds of the funds will be used to control gypsy moths and hemlock woolly adelgids. Dry conditions from coast to coast have weakened trees and favored some insects. Due to increased competition for funds, parks should expect less than 100 percent funding for 2003.

Soundscapes Inventory at Hawaii Volcanoes NP: The Natural Sounds Program (NSP) staff were at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park the week of October 21st initiating a soundscapes inventory project and obtaining park input on a draft soundscapes management plan. The soundscapes inventory project is being done under contract by the acoustical studies firm of Harris, Miller, Miller & Hansen (HMMH) and in cooperation with the FAA's Volpe Center in Boston. Superintendent Jim Martin and staff identified the acoustical zones in relation to park management zones and specified locations within those zones for the monitors. Ten monitors were deployed and data will be collected for about 6 months. A draft soundscapes management plan prepared by the NSP staff was reviewed with Jim Martin and staff. Comments from the park will be incorporated into the document.

Progress / Updates

Restoration Technical Advisory Group Meeting (RTAG): Representatives from the Natural Resources Program Center, Denver Service Center and Intermountain Region met in Fort Collins to discuss the FY03 Technical Assistance requests related to restoration. The group identified primary leads for many crosscutting technical assistance requests and those NRPC staff who will cooperate with the project lead. The results of this and other RTAG efforts will be displayed on the new RTAG website, which should be ready for "prime-time" within a couple of weeks. The website will be located on the NR Intranet, with links from InsideNPS, and is intended to show to parks that the NRPC approaches restoration from a multi-disciplinary perspective. The next RTAG meeting will be sometime early next year.

Hearing for Groundwater Applications Near Chickasaw NRA is Delayed: The Hearing Examiner responsible for making decisions on the effect of large scale ground water pumping on Chickasaw NRA and surrounding towns and

farms issued an order that delays a hearing until early in 2003, while several procedural issues are addressed. Delay of the hearing is due, in part, to injuries sustained by the Hearing Examiner in an automobile accident, which temporarily prevent him from conducting proceedings outside his home. Presentation of procedural issues can be handled without the necessity of a hearing or conference. The NPS is concerned that the proposed ground water withdrawals would capture recharge destined for park springs.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Rejects the Cadiz Project: In a close vote, the Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry Year Supply Project was dropped from consideration by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (District). The Project would have stored surplus Colorado River water underground near Mojave National Preserve and pumped stored as well as indigenous ground water to Southern California during dry years. The Department of the Interior had previously approved the proposal after a cooperative effort by the District, NPS, US Geological Survey, and Bureau of Land Management produced a ground water monitoring and impact mitigation plan which would have become a stipulation to the required right-of-way permit.

Colorado Water Court Begins Litigation of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP Reserved Water Right: On October 3, 2002, the Colorado Water Court held a status conference with the Department of Justice (Justice) on behalf of the NPS, and legal counsel for parties who filed statements of opposition to the claim filed early in 2001. The purpose of the conference was to establish a litigation schedule. During the conference, Justice announced its intent to achieve a negotiated resolution of the water right and thereby avoid litigation. To do so, Justice requested a stay of litigation proceedings for 6 months. Although not supported by most of the opposers, the Court granted the stay but required a report of substantial progress after 60 days. A week before the status conference, Justice sent an initial offer for settlement to the opposers.

Krejci Dump Site Settlement - Restoration Project: The National Park Service Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CUVA) received \$1,370,918.99 for "...damages, including costs of damage assessment, for injury to, destruction of, or loss of Natural Resources at the Site under the trusteeship of DOI." These monies were deposited into the DOI Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Fund (NRDAR Fund) and will be used at CUVA to restore natural resources within the Park.

Professional Meeting Attendance/Papers

Natural Resource staff represent NPS at American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA): In response to an invitation to the Director's Office, Geologic Resources Division and Water Resources Division staff participated in the ASBPA 2002 Annual Conference in Portland, Oregon. The ASBPA is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the protection of shorelines and beaches. With an annual budget of approximately \$70,000, ASBPA publishes "Shore and Beach," a peer-reviewed journal. ASBPA is fairly active in lobbying for monies for beach nourishment and preservation, and it uses some of its funding to support a lobbyist in Washington. In addition to attending the various sessions during the conference, staff participated in the pre-conference field trip to the north-central Oregon coast, and presented a talk on "Effective Management Strategies in Coastal Units of the National Park Service." ASBPA president and conference organizer was particularly pleased that the ASBPA request for a National Park Service presentation was answered, and committed to invite the NPS to its 2003 annual meeting.

Park Flight Presentation for Western Field Ornithologists Meeting: Larry Norris gave a presentation on the Park Flight Migratory Bird Program and represented NPS at the 27th annual meeting of the Western Field Ornithologists (WFO) in Irvine, California, 10-13 October 2002. This presentation was unique at the WFO meeting, which had over 200 participants, in that it was the only paper given by a federal agency employee, involving an international program, or integrating education and outreach. Larry is the Southwest Research Coordinator for NPS and is adjunct at the University of Arizona Desert Southwest Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit, which hosts the Park Flight Program.

Staff News

Margi Brooks has been selected as the NPS national coordinator for the National Natural Landmarks (NNL) Program. She will be organizationally part of the Washington Office's Natural Systems Management Office. Margi joined the NPS in 1993 after 15 years in the private sector as a landscape architect and environmental compliance specialist. For the past 6 years she has been a regional coordinator for the NNL program in the Intermountain Region, and has served on details as acting national coordinator for the NNL program during the last 2 years. She holds a Ph.D. in Renewable Natural Resources and a Master of Landscape Architecture degree, both from the University of Arizona, where she is now an adjunct assistant professor in the School of Renewable Natural Resources. She will continue to be stationed in Tucson, Arizona, where her husband works at Saguaro National Park and her 6-year-old daughter attends kindergarten.

Julie E. Fleming has joined the Inventory and Monitoring staff of the Natural Resource Information Division as Information Manager. She will manage the NR Archive system project and provide data management and database development support for Environmental Quality Division. In addition, Julie will manage the sound archival system and provides IT support for the Soundscape program. Julie worked for the USDA-ARS-National Center for Genetic Resources (formerly known as the National Seed Storage Laboratory) for 14 years as an IT Specialist also in Fort Collins. She began Federal service as a seasonal employee with the U.S. Forest Service doing trails, timber, and range management in the Pike National Forest. Julie has a B.S. in Biology/Natural History from Fort Lewis College.

Dr. James H. Gramann has been appointed as the new Visiting Chief Social Scientist. Jim is a full professor at Texas A&M University where he holds a joint appointment in the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences, and the Department of Rural Sociology. He has served as a regional research sociologist with the National Park Service's former Southwest and Western regions. He has conducted social science research in Yosemite and Carlsbad Caverns National Parks, at Padre Island National Seashore, and in Shiloh National Military Park. Jim worked closely with the NPS Visitor Services Project on visitor studies in several other NPS units, including Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park, Pinnacles National Monument, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, and Badlands National Park. He authored a state-of-the-art review on social science issues in managing natural ambient sound in the National Park System and recently completed a study of crowding and recreational displacement at Mount Rainier and Olympic national parks. In Texas, Jim focused much of his research on racial and ethnic diversity in wildland recreation, leading to his selection in 2000 to direct a national community-outreach effort by the Army Corps of Engineers to underserved minority populations. He also has served as advisor to the Government of Guatemala on ecotourism management in national parks in that country. Jim assumed the responsibilities of Visiting Chief Social Scientist on October 1, 2002 and can be contacted by telephone in Washington at (202) 513-7189, at Texas A&M at (979) 845-4920, and by email at jgramann@rpts.tamu.edu.

Dr. Gary Machlis, the former NPS Visiting Chief Social Scientist, has been appointed as NPS Visiting Senior Scientist and National Coordinator of the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) Network. As NPS Visiting Senior Scientist, Dr. Machlis will provide guidance to the NPS on a variety of scientific matters. As the CESU Network National Coordinator, Dr. Machlis will lead an innovative partnership between 13 federal agencies and over 100 universities and minority-serving institutions. A press release announcing Dr. Machlis' new appointment can be found online at http://www.nps.gov/pub_aff/pressrm.htm. He can be contacted by telephone in Washington at (202) 208-5391, at the University of Idaho at (208) 885-7129, and by email at gary_machlis@partner.nps.gov.

Dr. Jean McKendry is now serving as the Deputy Coordinator for the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) Network. In that position, Dr. McKendry will take a lead role in the administration of the CESU Network. She can be contacted by telephone at (202) 219-8894 and by email at jean_mckendry@partner.nps.gov.

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Abigail Miller