

Subject: September Monthly Report

NRACers,

Here's an advanced copy of the WASO Natural Resources monthly report for September from Abby Miller.

Regarding the information under new CESU's, Judy Gottlieb is contacting Abby's office to clarify that the focus for the Alaska CESU (which at this stage is planned to be linked with the PNWR) not be limited to just southeast Alaska.

Also, the next national SAC and NRAG meetings are scheduled for the last week in October. Judy Gottlieb (SAC) and Steve Martin and I (NRAG) will be AK region representatives in those meetings.

Please forward any questions/issues you wished raised in those upcoming meetings to us as soon as possible.

Thanks,

Alex

P.S. You might also want to send congratulatory cmail notes to Karen Wade and Rick Potts, two of our former Alaskan colleagues, for the recognition they recently received for contributions to protect and advance NPS natural resources

Forward Header

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NATURAL RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP AND SCIENCE
SEPTEMBER MONTHLY REPORT

NEW DEVELOPMENTS/NEWS

DIRECTOR'S NATURAL RESOURCE AWARDS AWARDED at the general Natural Resource meeting, held in conjunction with the Society for Ecological Restoration Conference in San Francisco the week of September 20. Karen Wade was named Superintendent of the Year for Natural Resource Stewardship, in recognition of her efforts related to the All-Taxa Biodiversity Inventory, as well as many other examples of her leadership in the natural resource arena. Joe Dunstan, the Pacific West Region's Sustainability Coordinator received the award for Excellence in Natural Resource Stewardship through Maintenance, for his development of a program to support sustainable practices and opportunity planning. The Trish Patterson-SCA Award for a Resource Manager in a Small Park is

presented to Rick Potts for his work as the first natural resource manager at Kalaupapa NHP, developing several new activities to recognize and manage the significant natural resources of this "cultural" park. Bill Halvorson, from the BRD unit at the University of Arizona received the Director's Award for Natural Resource Research for his long-time efforts in support of southern Arizona parks, including inventories and research and facilitating communications between researchers and resource managers.

Minutes from the Natural Resource Meeting will be posted on the Natural Resource bulletin board shortly and will be forwarded to regions and support offices for further distribution.

CANON SCHOLARS ANNOUNCED Eight new students have been awarded scholarships for PhD dissertations through the Canon Scholars Program. The scholarships are for topics of interest to the NPS; a new topic is selected yearly in each of four categories, based on recommendations from superintendents. The four categories are biological, physical, social and cultural sciences. The American Association for the Advancement of Science administers the panels that select the scholars. The eight students (listed with their dissertation proposal titles) are: Helen Neville University of Nevada, Reno, "Understanding the dispersal dynamics of a putative metapopulation on an Interior Basin salmonid: a theoretical and empirical approach"; Bibit Traut, University of California, Davis, "The High Salt Marsh: a model for ecotone and metacommunity theories"; Daiwen Kang, North Carolina State University, "Non-methane hydrocarbons in the Rural Southeast United States national parks"; Koren Nydick, Colorado State University, "Experiments to determine the effects of nitrogen deposition on high elevation lakes in Rocky Mountain National Park"; Richard Makopondo, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, "Collaboration, partnerships, and the involvement of minority communities in the planning and use of recreation and tourism resources within the National Park System"; Derek Martin, University of California, Irvine, "Race and wildland recreation participation: Inside the ethnicity and marginality perspectives"; Laura Watt, University of California, Berkeley, "Managing cultural landscapes: Reconciling local preservation and institutional ideology in the National Park Service"; and Alice Wondrak, University of Colorado, "From Juno to Toby: Policy, culture, and the historical narrative of the Yellowstone Bear".

HEADS UP

STATUS OF RMP DATABASE/SOFTWARE Parks will not complete an RMP database update with the old DOS software ever again. Information will soon be distributed to resource managers about the potential integration of data stored in RMPs, the PMIS database, and the OFS database. This will include proposed changes to the Resource Management Plan Guidelines, an explanation of what staff should do if they are currently working on a revised RMP or due to begin such work in the near future, and what to do with the existing RMP database. For further information contact Gary Mason at (202) 219-3386.

BRD CALL FOR PARK SUPPORT PROJECTS USGS Biological Resources Division (BRD) Announces New Park-Oriented Competition - USGS-BRD opened to its scientists an opportunity to compete for joint BRD-NPS funds for short term projects. BRD scientists are invited to submit proposals for work to benefit parks, either for exploratory research into emerging issues or for providing technical assistance. Proposals must be submitted by November 1,

1999. BRD scientists must include in their proposal packages a letter from the NPS partner that expresses support for the proposed project. Contact John Dennis (202-208-5193).

NPS AIR QUALITY SUMMIT. A meeting about air quality in parks will be held on 15-18 November in Estes Park, Colorado. One of the purposes of the meeting is the sharing of new information on air quality research and monitoring, policies and regulations, information management, and interpretation and outreach. Another purpose is the planning of expanded activities by the Air Resources Division as proposed in the Natural Resource Challenge, the National Park Service's Action Plan for Preserving Natural Resources. For further information contact Tonnie Maniero (303) 969-2806.

CALL FOR NEW CESUs Up to five additional CESUs are being established in the following biogeographic areas: 1) Pacific Northwest (including Southeast Alaska), 2) Californian, 3) Desert Southwest, 4) Great Plains, and 5) South Florida/Caribbean. The multi-agency CESU Council distributed the "Program Announcement and Request for Proposals for Establishing the Second Round of Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units" seeking proposals from additional universities to participate in the CESU Network. In addition, a CESU web site was launched www.cesu.org/cesu, providing detailed information about the network.

NATURAL RESOURCE ADVISORY GROUP and SCIENCE ADVISORY COUNCIL are meeting in Santa Fe at the end of the month. Field personnel who have concerns that should be raised should contact their regional representatives.

UPDATES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

EXCEEDANCE OF THE OZONE STANDARD. During August, seven of the parks where ozone data are available had 8-hour ozone values above the standard level of 85 ppb. The number of parks in which ozone levels exceeded the standard in August were fewer this year than last year, but the total number of parks that exceeded the standard in the season was greater. Levels in Cape Cod, Great Smoky Mountains, Joshua Tree, and Sequoia-Kings Canyon national parks were above 100 ppb. Because of high ozone concentrations, several parks have issued ozone health advisories. The full report is available on the AirWeb site at

<http://www2.nature.nps.gov/ard/gas/exceed.htm>. For further information contact John Ray, 303-969-2820.

PROJECT BRAVO UPDATE. Information collected as part of the Big Bend Regional Aerosol and Visibility Observational Study (BRAVO) is available on the World Wide Web

(<http://www2.nature.nps.gov/ard/bravo/index.htm>). BRAVO is 4-month multi-agency research and monitoring to determine and understand the causes of haze in Big Bend National Park. The main components of BRAVO are the release of tracers from 4 locations in Texas and the sampling of tracers in 24 locations and fine particles in 39 locations in Texas. For further information contact Miguel Flores, 303-969-2076.

NPS TEAMS UP WITH DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY. The Department of Energy asked NPS to join the Mining Industry of the Future task group that will meet in November to address environmental concerns raised by mining. The group will comprise other federal land-managing agencies and concerned parties from academia and industry. The

goal is the development of a focal point to resolve conflicts and possibly provide funding for research into unresolved mining-related environmental problems in a more centralized forum. For more information contact Philip Cloues, GRD, (303) 969-2148.

CONTRACTOR PROPOSALS FOR ADDITIONAL MINERAL EXAMS IN MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE. Mojave NP reviewed and rated site-specific proposals under the validity exam contract that was initiated in 1998. Approximately \$195,000 of FY 1999 funds were set aside for six mineral examinations of lode and placer claims. As work on the four examinations contracted in fall 1998 nears completion, the contracting mechanism seems to be an effective and efficient means of meeting the park's statutory mandate to address the validity of all claims in the park. For more information contact John Burgrardt, GRD, (303) 969-2099].

TRANSFER OF WATER RIGHTS. White Sands National Monument transferred water rights from the park to the Holloman Air Force Base. Land in Dog Canyon, acquired for the park specifically because it contains a source of water supply, was recently authorized for conveyance to the state of New Mexico to become a part of the Oliver Lee Memorial State Park. The park has received its potable water supply from the airforce base since 1956. The transfer excludes the water rights associated with this tract from the land conveyance and will allow for their continued use in the monument and the airforce base.

NPS ATTENDS ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ABANDONED MINE LAND PROGRAMS IN PENNSYLVANIA. NPS minerals staff attended the 1999 NAAML P Conference in Seven Springs, Pennsylvania, 23-24 August. NAAML P comprises representatives of 26 states and 3 Native American tribes that are supported by the Office of Surface Mine Reclamation and Enforcement. The conference largely focused on coal-mine reclamation but also emphasized hard-rock mine reclamation. Most of the mine reclamation partnerships (interagency agreements and memorandums of understanding) that have served NPS so well through the years resulted from contacts made at this conference. For more information contact John Burghardt, GRD 303-969-2099.

GEOLOGY OF COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS WORKSHOP WAS PRODUCTIVE. Preliminary results revealed that GCEW was very popular with workshop attendees. More than 124 people participated in all or part of the meeting (staff from 27 parks, 7 central NPS offices, more than 40 USGS, USFWS, and other federal offices). GRD helped organize and conduct the workshop and participated in the break-out sessions. Initial feedback from USGS is positive; initial feedback from NPS shows parks asking "what did this do for me and what's next?" A management summary that highlights coastal management issues is forthcoming. For more information contact Bruce Heise, GRD (303) 969-2017.

The 1998 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE I&M PROGRAM (hard copies) was distributed to all NPS units with significant natural resources and to regions, divisions, and various other entities. A limited number of copies is available from the editor. Contact Elizabeth Rockwell by cc:Mail.

STAFF NEWS

DR. KATHY TONNESSEN, Ecologist with the Air Resources Division, has accepted a position as NPS Research Coordinator at the Rocky Mountain Cooperative Ecosystem Study Unit (University of Montana,

Missoula). She will start work with the Intermountain Regional Office on 6 December 1999 and move after the first of the year. Kathy has worked with ARD for more than 8 years on ecological effects of air pollution and has served as PRIMENet coordinator for 4 years. She will still work closely with ARD. For more info on the CESUs, including the RFP for five new ones, see the website-in-progress at www.cesu.org/cesu.