Management And Science Reorganized

In revisions to the Departmental Manual approved in June 1981, the Division of Natural Resources, formerly in the Office of Science and Technology, was restructured into two divisions: the Division of Natural Science, within Science and Technology, and the Division of Natural Resources Management, within Management and Operations. The intent of this reorganization action was to move to M&O those activities that relate specifically to the management of natural resources and to retain in S&T those natural science research activities that support the preservation and integrity of in-park natural ecosystems and natural processes.

The functions transferred to M&O encompass field-related programmatic activities such as ADP responsibilities for bear management, pesticide management and the backcountry permit system. M&O also will assume responsibility for the Resource Management Plans, for development and prioritization of Significant Resource Problems, and a variety of training, reporting and planning relating to management of in-park natural resources.

The Natural Science Division remaining in S&T will be responsible for natural science and natural history research, for long-term biological/ecosystem monitoring, for science publications, for special research studies, for evaluation of field natural science programs, for coordination of Service-wide programs involving scientific subject matter such as the Endangered Species Program, and for budget, policy, guidelines and standards relating to the conduct of NPS natural science research programs.

The Natural Science Division, together with the Regional Chief Scientists, will take steps to develop long-term relationships with universities to provide improved response capabilities to such research needs as coastal and riparian, desert, eastern and western forest, and Hawaiian and Alaskan ecosystems.