

NRM Trainee Program Evaluation Underway

The Natural Resource Management Trainee Program is an exciting new direction for the Service to be taking. In keeping with its being a new direction, it has been undergoing several types of evaluation – self-evaluation in parks, regions, and WASO; and now external evaluation as the result of a WASO arrangement with Dr. Paul Nowak, Director of Continuing Education and Chair of the Behavior and Environment Program of the School of Natural Resources, University of Michigan.

Dr. Nowak and his colleagues conducted a pilot survey of trainee attitudes toward the program at the Fort Collins/Denver air quality course. Using the results of this survey, they prepared a more detailed questionnaire to evaluate perceptions about the program. They mailed this questionnaire to trainees, supervisors, superintendents, and coordinators in mid-August.

In early November Dr. Nowak will convene a workshop of trainees, superintendents, and coordinators to present his findings. From these findings, the work group will recommended programmatic changes and revisions for the Trainee Program.

**John Dennis, Ecologist
Natural Resources Division, WASO**