

Park Rangers Heard From On Interpretation Status

A resolution, proposed by Jim Tuck, Rocky Mountain Regional Interpretive Specialist, and passed at the October Ranger Rendezvous at Grand Tetons NP, objects to "the placement of interpretation on a different level from other ranger activities." The full resolution text follows:

We applaud the Director's recent announcement of the creation of the position of Associate Director, Interpretation, for the indication of the importance the Director feels for this aspect of National Park Rangers' duties. For too long, interpretation has received rhetoric but no funds to back up what has been professed by upper level management as high importance.

We cannot, however, agree with the placement of interpretation on a different level from other ranger activities, specifically the area of visitor protection. We therefore propose that, because a National Park Ranger's duties are composed of three equally important activities – Interpretation, Resources Management and Visitor Protection, that a more appropriate reorganization would result in the following:

Associate Director, Park Operations

Interpretation Division

Visitor Protection Division

Resources Management Division

Concessions Division

Engineering & Safety Services Division

This would more appropriately reflect the relative importance of the activities that comprise park operations.

It is of prime importance that ALL those divisions listed above be recognized as parts of the total "Park Operations" organization.