

Midwest Region

Mike Ruggiero, formerly Chief Scientist of the Midwest Region, became chief of the Wildlife and Vegetation Division at NPS headquarters in Washington, D.C. on August 1. Gary Willson, Regional Ecologist, will be acting Chief Scientist until the position is filled.

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As the result of a 3-year study of rare species in 19 Midwest Region parks, the Regional Science Office has initiated the following research projects designed to provide parks adequate baseline information on the distribution on biology of selected rare species:

Evaluation of piping plover habitat in National Park Units in the Great Lakes Area; reintroduction of peregrine falcons to Isle Royale; distribution, abundance, and habitat analysis of freshwater mussels of the Saint Croix and Namekagon, Saint Croix; determination of cave ground-water sources in three caves with endangered bats at Ozark; population ecology and management recommendations for *Lesquerella filiformis* at Wilson's Creek; mapping and monitoring of populations of *Cirsium pitcheri* at Pictured Rocks, Sleeping Bear Dunes, and Indiana Dunes; and population regulation in Isle Royale wolves.

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The sociology project crew, consisting of Becki Van-Cleave, Bill Beard, and Brian Daum, has been collecting trail use data over the past three months on a variety of trail segments. Day use patterns are being monitored along 7 trails and locations. Monitoring equipment includes pressure sensitive mat counters buried in the trail, electric eye counters, and electric eye-triggered cameras. Questionnaires are collected at trailheads and parking lot counts were taken at hourly intervals. A protocol is being developed for use of remote monitoring equipment for long-term, parkwide monitoring of trail users as part of the larger Inventory and Monitoring of Human Resources program.