

Rocky Mountain Region

A work group with representation from six parks and the regional office met at Rapid City, SD, on Dec. 7 and 8, 1989 to develop a regional policy for disposal of surplus wildlife. The policy will be an interim one, pending completion of an "insular population" research project scheduled for FYs 1991 and 1992. Parks in the work group are Badlands, Grand Teton, Rocky Mountain, Theodore Roosevelt, Wind Cave, and Yellowstone.

The surplus wildlife addressed by this group are the large ungulates, with emphasis on bison and elk. In order to get at the disposal issue, the group threw a wider loop and addressed operational, research, and regulatory and legislative problems as well. The group plans to issue a report that will review these three problem areas and make appropriate recommendations. The report will be submitted for consideration to a panel being convened to plan the "insular population" research.

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Utah's Division of Wildlife Resources has issued a draft proposal to introduce the non-native rainbow smelt (*Osmerus mordax*) into Lake Powell to provide additional forage, ostensibly for all game fish, but primarily for striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*), a non-native species introduced much earlier. The original range of

the adaptable rainbow smelt appears to have been the Atlantic coast between Labrador and New Jersey. It has been introduced into the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River Basin.

Glen Canyon NRA and the NPS are gravely concerned and strongly oppose the proposal. The USFWS also opposes the proposal.

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Resource management specialists from Colorado Plateau parks and personnel from RMRO met in Moab, UT, Jan. 27-Feb. 1 for the annual Colorado Plateau Workshop. Upcoming initiatives will include an inventory and monitoring proposal for the entire plateau as well as a feasibility study of the plateau as a Regional Biosphere Reserve.

Plans are underway for the second year of a major initiative to survey and monitor peregrine falcons throughout the region. Mike Britten, presently at Gates of the Arctic will soon be reporting to ROMO to assist in the program for the next few years. NPS personnel will coordinate with USFWS in FY90 in a major peregrine prey pesticide contaminant study.

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A 5-year GIS plan, started in FY90 for the entire Rocky Mountain Region, will include an inventory of existing digitized data, an inventory and evaluation of available mapped information, and an evaluation of GIS equipment and data needs over the next 5 years. Completion of the plan is expected by summer.

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