

Director's Achievement Awards Go to Van Riper, Taylor, Rambur

Charles van Riper III, Dan Taylor, and Richard Rambur were named in August as the 1991 winners of the NPS Director's Annual Achievement awards for research, natural resource management and superintendency, respectively.

Van Riper, currently leader of the newly established CPSU at Northern Arizona University (see p. 6), was cited for being "instrumental in breaking down state and regional barriers by promoting the first ecosystem-based CPSU. His high caliber research encompasses ornithology, conservation biology, and wildlife management," for having more than 50 peer reviewed publications, and for assisting in important resource management projects such as removal of feral pigs to reduce disease impacts on native Hawaiian birds and improved traffic control techniques to protect endangered Great Grey Owls in Yosemite NP. He also was commended for "ability to synthesize research results into easily understood procedures that NPS management personnel can put to practical use."

Taylor, Chief of Resource Management at Hawaii Volcanoes NP, has been a leader in his park and in the region in addressing "an impressive array of resource

problems, including management of feral pigs and goats, exotic plant control, protection of lava tube caves, and monitoring of aircraft overflights." His innovative approaches to problems have served as a model for other parks throughout the Service. The Western Region recognized him for his abilities in working with industry and agency representatives to solve problem threats and for "his optimism in the face of tremendous natural resource problems in Hawaii."

The first ever NPS Director's award for Natural Resource Stewardship by a Superintendent followed on the heels of such an award last year by the NPS Western Region. This year's recipient, Rambur, is in charge of Antietam National Battlefield, where he "completely redefined" the park's resource management objectives and began their aggressive implementation. He laid the groundwork for restoration of the woodlands and the historic agricultural scene, to preserve landscape and increase wildlife habitat. He is using a GIS to address external issues and to aid historic scene restoration, and has taken steps to modify or curtail in-park activities adversely affecting natural resources.