

Pacific Northwest

"Crater Lake NP: Still Beautiful at 90" is the title of the scientific symposium held at the park in May of this year, at which many scientists, who have been studying Crater Lake since a 1982 act of Congress boosted research efforts, reported on their work.

"It's becoming increasingly clear that Crater Lake is a dynamic system (that) changes and fluctuates over time," said Gary Larson, associate professor of forest resources at Oregon State University and leader of the NPS/CPSU there. "Some of these changes, including such things as the water level, clarity, and production of plant and animal life, appear to be cyclical," he said. "There are seasonal, annual, and long term fluctuations, but we're not certain of the exact nature of these cycles ... It's safe to say that at this point research on Crater Lake is still gearing up, not down."

A new role for the lake emerged – as "the world's largest rain gauge." One of the newest projects is using the lake as a barometer of global climate change and learning what effects climate, in turn, will have on the lake, Larson said. For instance, the lake's water level dropped 16 feet during the "dust bowl" of the 1930s. It later rose to levels approximating those of the last turn of the century, and in the 1980s has again dropped about 6 feet.

New faces and new places in the Region include:

Vicki Snitzler-Neek, as Resource Management Specialist at Craters of the Moon, replacing Shelley Sparhawk, who joins the Resource Management staff at Olympic NP;

Paul Gleason, to Olympic NP as Archeologist (a new position), from the Alaska Regional Office in Anchorage;

Karen Taylor-Goodrich, to a new position as Supervisory Natural/Cultural Resource Management Specialist at Coulee Dam NRA, after completing the Natural Resource Management Trainee Program;

David Elk, from Resource Management at Carlsbad Caverns to a new Resource Management Specialist position at Fort Clatsop National Memorial in Oregon;

Shirley Hoh, from Theodore Roosevelt NM to San Juan Island NHS, to fill a new Resource Management Specialist position;

Hugh McDonald, from Cincinnati Museum of Natural History where he was curator of vertebrate paleontology, to the new Paleontologist position at Hagerman Fossil Beds NM in Idaho;

Marsha Davis, from Jewel Cave NM to the Regional Office, filling the new Geologist position in the Resource Management and Protection division; and

Erv Gasser, from Richmond NBP to fill the position in the Resource Management and Protection division vacated when Steve Gibbons transferred to coordinator of the Region's National Natural Landmarks.

An item in the August 12 Regional Weekly Highlights reads as follows:

"Last Thursday afternoon a family of five in front of the Nez Perce NHP Visitor Center looked south and saw something large walking in the wheat fields on a hill about a quarter to half a mile away. They went into the visitor center to ask the ranger what it was. Park Curator Sue Buchel stepped outside the VC and confirmed there was something dark, larger than a human, walking in the fields. It disappeared while they went back in to get binoculars.

"Over the hill, another family reported seeing the creature from a distance of about 150 yards. Grover

Crantz of Washington State University, who has researched Sasquatch for 20 years, traveled to the park on Friday. He has called it a good sighting. There were 13-inch footprints in the area. Supt. Frank Walker has fielded media calls from Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York, Wisconsin, Missouri, Indiana, Utah, Washington, California, and Alberta, Canada."