

NBS Director Pulliam to Address Problems Faced by Former NPS Scientists

NBS Director Ron Pulliam has appointed Dr. Charles Van Riper III of the agency's Colorado Plateau Research Station in Flagstaff, Arizona, to serve for three months as an ombudsman, or complaint investigator, for the new agency. Acting on reports that the NBS already has too many layers of bureaucracy between field scientists and headquarters, Pulliam felt it necessary to appoint a trusted former NPS researcher, such as Van Riper, to investigate problems and offer realistic solutions. Pulliam has directed the scientist to begin his investigation with former NPS employees now transferred to the NBS because he believes their problems are especially acute and need to be addressed promptly.

During the next three months, Van Riper will be calling on former NPS scientists and present managers to discuss several issues. Van Riper considers his most important area of investigation to be the relationships between the NBS scientists and their parent bureaus. He plans to find out how NBS field stations relate to NPS managers that once supervised them as well as to help the agencies form an ideal relationship. Also on his list of inquiries are questions about overhead costs affecting field researchers negatively, lacking support services (technical, clerical, etc.) that were available in former agencies, and inefficiencies resulting from bureaucratic layering. Van Riper sees this as a very positive move and encourages scientists and managers to use the opportunity to be candid and solution-oriented in the upcoming effort. This midcourse correction exercise may be very helpful. *Van Riper can be reached at (602)556-7466.*