

Southwest Region

The Division of Natural Resource Management and Science has been transferred from Park Operations to Planning and Resource Management in a reorganization that administratively combines cultural and natural resource activities. The division's fire management and forestry responsibilities are being transferred to the Division of Ranger Activities.

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A natural resources management workshop is being held April 3 in San Antonio, Tex., for all Southwest Region natural resource management personnel. Agenda covers IPM, cave management and cave wilderness, air quality, water resources, fire management, computer applications, contract development and management, GISs, biodiversity and global climate change, and resource management interpretation.

Addition of the Harte Ranch to Big Bend NP will necessitate an extensive Resource Basic Inventory effort. A larger-scale RBI effort in the Davis Mountains of West Texas will be coordinated by the Denver Service Center.

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A GIS has been installed at Big Thicket operating on UNIX, using GRASS as the language to assist in processing oil and gas leasing requests and to maintain an extensive resource data base. The system was assembled through an agreement with Texas A&M. Similar systems, operating with data mounted by Texas A&M, will be installed this summer at Padre Island and Big Bend.