

Division Reorganizes

Competence, credibility, communication. These are the attributes Mike Ruggiero, Chief, wants to strengthen in the recently reorganized Wildlife and Vegetation Division. "With greater scientific competence and emphasis on developing a Systemwide view of natural resource management issues and research needs," he says, "the Division will be better able to serve both the director and the field. The new structure is intended to provide a more clearly defined focus on specific Servicewide issues and to improve communications on these issues to the regions, parks, and public."

The reorganization became effective Sept. 8, 1989. The Division, one of four under the Associate Director, Natural Resources, now consists of 22 people, organized into an office of the Chief and three branches. Hardy Pearce, Deputy Division Chief, is in charge of the Natural Landmarks Program. The Natural Resources Programs Branch (Branch Chief position currently vacant), includes the IPM and Exotics Species Program, the Endangered Species Program, and the Consumptive Uses Program, and handles other biotic resource management issues as they arise.

The Science Branch, headed by John Dennis, develops and coordinates research initiatives on issues of national and international significance, including biological diversity, global climate change, and the biological effects of acid precipitation. It also administers the Natural Resources Preservation Program (NRPP) and the Director's Special Initiatives funds and provides guidance for and participates in technical evaluation of park, Regional, and Servicewide science programs. Within this branch, Bill Gregg continues to coordinate NPS involvement in the Man and the Biosphere Program. The reorganization calls for additions of a Wildlife Biologist, Plant Ecologist, and Aquatic Ecologist to this branch.

Anne Frondorf is Chief of the Planning and Information Branch, which develops and disseminates information, both within the Service and to the public, on wildlife and vegetation issues, as well as some issues of a broader natural resource nature. Among these activities are editing a comprehensive Natural Resource Management Guideline (NPS-77), providing guidance for resources management plans, compiling Servicewide inventories of park research projects, producing bulletins on key wildlife and vegetation issues, and responding to public and Congressional correspondence on these issues.