

Southwest Region

Regional Director Robert I. Kerr has announced reestablishment of the Cooperative Park Studies Unit at A&M University. Director Kerr indicated that the Unit would become operational in October 1982, and he expects the Unit to begin to play a major role in the science activities of the Southwest Region. The A&M Unit will be housed in the Department of Recreation and Parks, within the Experimental Station of the College of Agriculture.

Chief Scientist Milford Fletcher will have primary responsibility for the Unit's

operation. Dr. Fletcher recently negotiated a Revised Memorandum of Understanding between the Region and the University, laying the groundwork for a diverse program of biological and sociological scientific work.

Dr. Robert F. Newkirk will direct the new Unit. A graduate of the University of Maryland, he has eight years of Interior experience in a variety of parks and recreation programs. Although biological projects in support of the Regional parks will be the priority emphasis of the Unit, Dr. Newkirk has expressed interest in expanding research priorities to include much needed visitor profile data, revenue impact studies, and sociological carrying capacity studies on the Region's rivers trails systems.

Correspondence to the new Unit should be addressed to:

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