

# New Head, New Look At UC/Davis CPSU

What's in a license plate? (Apologies to Will Shakespeare.)



Last fall Stephen Veirs was re-assigned from his job as Research Scientist at Redwood to the Unit Leader position for the Cooperative Park Studies Unit at the University of California, Davis. Now you see the connection with his new job and the new plate ... CPSU4CA. Maybe it's in his humor. Not many people guess the meaning.

On the other hand, the role of the Davis CPSU for the California NPS areas it serves is reflecting some broad changes in the Western Region Natural Resource and Research program. In his new role as Unit Leader, Veirs now supervises the eight Western Region research scientists located at Davis (2), YOSE (1), SEKI (2), PORE (1), and CHIS (2). Tom Stohlgren, an ecologist, is now stationed at the Unit and Silvia Hillyer, a University employee, is the Unit's Secretary/Administrative Assistant. Dr's. Charles van Riper III and Christine Schonewald-Cox, who formerly had administrative roles, have been freed for full time research.

The research carried out by the Western Region

research scientists supervised by Veirs is primarily based on the priority research needs of the parks, as identified in their resource management plans. Although duty stationed at Davis or in the parks, these scientists can respond to needs for their expertise throughout the region and elsewhere as NPS priorities dictate. The relationship with U/Cal allows research work to be carried out by University scientists and graduate students in close cooperation with NPS. Through the CPSU, NPS field areas, especially smaller units can obtain scientific assistance in the form of literature searches, research proposal reviews, study designs, and statistical consultation. The University/Service relationship fosters use of the parks as scientific resources for University students and faculty, providing benefits to both the scientific community and the NPS.

The CPSU staff, in cooperation with the Regional Office, assists field areas in reviews and upgrades of their resource management plans and performs an extension role in research and resource management topics as requested by the parks. The CPSU insures the quality of research and research results by obtaining scientific reviews of NPS research proposals and reports. It also facilitates training. Finally, the Unit hosts a biennial conference on research in California's National Parks, which brings together NPS and University scientists, park managers and resource managers, students and the interested public.

What's in a license plate? This one symbolizes a great job that helps integrate and improve research and resource management for the benefit and protection of the resources of the parks and for the visiting public.