

Southwest Region

Sam Kunkle, who formerly served as a research hydrologist with the NPS Water Resources Division in Fort Collins, has left the U.S. Forest Service to become Chief Scientist for the NPS Southwest Region.

For the past four and one half years he has developed and managed an overseas program in tropical forestry for the USFS – a program that promotes cooperation in training and technical assis-

tance abroad with international and non-governmental organizations such as the World Wildlife Fund.

Kunkle completed his graduate studies and Ph.D. at Colorado State University in water resources, and undergraduate studies in California and Goettingen, Germany. He also served as research hydrologist for the Agricultural Research Service and as watershed specialist with the FAO in Rome, Italy.



Sam Kunkle

The Region's Technical Center at U/NM conducted a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) workshop on a DOS-based GIS in late April. The EPPL7 (Environmental Planning and Programming Language) software uses both vector and raster files and is in use at several USFS and NPS areas in New Mexico. The course was taught by a representative of the vender—the State of Minnesota.

Enough personal computers were rented or scrounged to assure each student her/his own workstation. The 24-hour course was a good beginning for field personnel and another is being planned for August or September.

* * *

Mike Hayden, the USDI Asst. Sec. for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, was a keynote speaker at the 57th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Charlotte, NC March 30-April 1. In his talk, "New Times, Old Questions, Tough Answers," Hayden emphasized the need for scientists and managers to get their message to the public; to fail is to forfeit public support for their programs.

Further stressing education, he suggested that our planet is abused more through ignorance than malice. He also highlighted economics, noting that annual expenditures by hunters (\$10 billion), anglers (\$28 billion), and non-consumptive natural resource users (\$14 billion) total 1.5 percent of our entire GNP.

* * *

The annual meeting of the NPS's threatened and endangered (T&E) species coordinators followed the above meeting on April 1. The group discussed programmatic goals, Servicewide T&E publications, and training. Margaret Osborne presented the completed interagency Section 7 consultation handbook.

* * *

On May 20 in Albuquerque, NM, the USFWS conducted the first of two public meetings on the

Mexican wolf. The second meeting was held May 27 in Tucson, AZ. This is part of the preparation toward writing an environmental impact statement for the proposed experimental reintroduction of captive-reared Mexican wolves. Five sites are being considered—four in Arizona, one in New Mexico. Two of the sites are close to NPS units.

Of the 94 in attendance, a majority favored reintroduction. Milford Fletcher, Unit Leader of the CPSU at U/NM; Rob Arnberger, Big Bend NP Superintendent; and Jerry McCrea, SW Regional Biologist, were the NPS attendees. Written comments on the subject were accepted by the USFWS station in Albuquerque only until June 19.

* * *

The Regional Office's Natural Resource Management and Science (NRMS) staff held a training session in Austin, TX in April, covering resource management plans, program funding, and a wide range of technical topics. The 44 participants included resource management specialists, superintendents, scientists, and others from most of the Region's parks.

The NRMS Division will cooperate with the Denver Service Center in FYs 1993-95 on a study of natural vegetation for erosion control. They continue to advise Amistad NRA technically on the toxic landfill question, and met in the Regional Office with park personnel on May 21. The staff also is working closely with Big Bend on developing a River Use study.

* * *

Regional Chief Scientist Sam Kunkle met in late May with Howard Ness, Mexico Program Coordinator for the Region, and representatives of various parks in Las Cruces, NM, to consider possibilities for cooperation with Mexico on various projects.