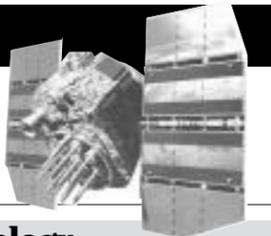


Minerals Management Service



Cynthia Quarterman, Director
Suzanne Melancon, Bureau Editor



Around MMS

In November, generous-spirited MMS employees helped fill Thanksgiving baskets for needy families. **Dora Hardy**, of headquarters Administration, reported that D.C. area MMS staff provided turkey and trimmings for 20 local families 55 boxes of food in all. **Monica Contee** coordinated MMS employee contributions in the main Interior Building.

To mark American Indian Heritage Month, in November, **Edythe Ferguson** used e-mail to remind MMS employees about the contributions of Native Americans and pre-Columbian civilizations in Central America passed on to the Europeans who settled in the Americas after 1492. For example, potatoes, corn, and peanuts, domesticated by American Indians, represent most half of today's world wide food supply.

In December, after 50 children entertained MMS staff with holiday songs at the Atrium Building in Arlington, **Santa** gave out presents from each child's wish list. **Dora Hardy** matched children's wishes with MMS surrogate Santas who volunteered to do the shopping and wrapping.

The holiday season was wrapped up in fine style in Denver, where the Denver Federal Executive Center again sponsored gift-giving to children through Child Opportunity Centers and to senior citizens through the Volunteers of America. **Michele Lee** and **Ruth Bowers** were the MMS coordinators.

Beverly Wilson, of Administration, was delighted with the response to this year's Combined Federal Campaign. Inspired by her enthusiasm, headquarters keyworkers **Wallace Adcox**, **Julene Cross**, **Edith Darry**, **Kent Dirlam**, **Jackie Durham**, **Barbara Evans**, **Frederick Gray**, **Kathleen Kurek**, **Sandra Lawson**, **Glen Lyddane**, **Suzanne Melancon**, **Janet Moore**, **Inger Powell**, **John Rowland**, **Valerie Russ**, **Janice Shay**, **Karen Smith**, **Maggie Weber**, and **Cheri Yoesting** helped net a total of \$38,478, or 14% of Headquarters goal, by November 25. This kind of success couldn't have been achieved without the participation of MMS staff willing to share a bit of their own good fortune.

Minerals Leasing Specialist **Elverlene Williams-Atts**, of MMS's Pacific Regional Office, and **Sue Taylor**, of the Dallas Compliance Division, are busy completing the Women's Executive Leadership program. The program coordinator for MMS is **Pauline Marshall**.

Offshore Field Trip

Ann Bull and **Vilere Reggio**, of the MMS Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Region's Leasing and Environment staff, spent three days offshore inspecting several studies funded by MMS at Mobil's production platform Green Canyon-18. This platform stands at the outer edge of the continental Shelf in a little more than 700 feet of water. Bull was surprised at platform's size. It is about 12 stories tall the stairs were killers and had 74 people on it.

We were able to gain a valuable piece of information needed for an upcoming Platform Remediation Workshop. Using a remotely operated vehicle, we determined that, at this platform anyway, there were few fish below 400 ft. This kind of accurate scientific data will help MMS make important decisions in the future."

Global Positioning Technology Helps Track People, Aircraft, and Whales

In late September 1996, a Twin Otter plane lifted off from Deadhorse, Alaska, and flew out over the frigid Beaufort Sea in search of bowhead whales. On board, a Global Positioning System (GPS), used in flying special survey patterns over the water, was accurately recording the geographic location for each whale sighting and broadcasting the location of the plane.

Meanwhile, in the sky over the tropical Pacific Ocean west of Quito, Ecuador, a geo-stationary satellite called Spacenet 3R received and used this GPS information to track the aircraft as it flies its survey pattern over the icy Arctic water. The plane is part of MMS Alaska Region's Bowhead Whale Aerial Survey Project, which has studied bowhead whales during their fall migration from the Canadian and Alaskan Beaufort Sea to the Chukchi Sea for the past 10 years.

For several years, the aerial survey has investigated the use of satellites to improve the tracking of aircraft in the Arctic. Should the survey plane go down in the freezing waters of the Beaufort Sea, rapid rescue of survivors would mean the difference between life and death.

Until 1993, the survey planes could only be tracked by Very High Frequency (VHF) radio communications with the Deadhorse Flight Service, by a dedicated transponder frequency issued by the FAA's Anchorage Center, and by hourly High Frequency communications with the Office of Aircraft Services in Anchorage. These systems provided only sporadic coverage over the whole Beaufort Sea study area.



Headquarters CFC Team (L-R): Janet Moore, Paulene Cross, Sandra Lawson (Partially hidden), Valerie Russ, Maggie Weber, Kent Dirlam, Janice Shay, Wallace Adcox, and CFC Coordinator Beverly Wilson. Not pictured: Edith Dary, Barbara Evans, Frederick Gray, Kathleen Kurek, Glen Lyddane, Suzanne Melancon, Ginger Powell, John Rowland, Karen Smith, and Cheri Yoesting.

Pipeline Inspections Standardized

Because federal, state, and local agencies in California have different inspection requirements on the same pipelines, MMS' Pacific Region helped to organize a multi-agency group to promote consistency and reduce the number of duplicate pipeline inspections. The Pipeline Inspection Quality Improvement Team reviews existing federal and state requirements for inspecting pipelines on the California Outer Continental Shelf and develops guidelines to improve survey quality.

Team members included representatives from MMS, the Department of Transportation, the California State Lands Commission, the California State Fire Marshall's office, and the California Department of

Then MMS and the Office of Aircraft Services began testing an experimental Radio Determination Satellite System for tracking survey aircraft. In 1993, MMS funded the design and testing of this system aboard the Office's contracted aircraft used by the whale project.



Many different antenna configurations were field-tested to determine the best type and placement of the antenna for providing consistent radio contact between the aircraft and the satellite. Of the antennas tested, the most successful was a small patch antenna attached to a transmitter by a cable.

Data from the onboard GPS showing the latitude, longitude, time, heading, and altitude were sent from the transmitter to the satellite every minute. The satellite relayed the signal to the system designer, Mobile Datacom Corporation in Clarksburg, Maryland. The Office queried the satellite system every 15 minutes to track the aircraft; the information received was displayed in map form on a computer screen.



During the fall of 1996, the whale survey project continued to test the satellite system to track survey aircraft. For the first time in Alaska, a third antenna was placed in the nose of the aircraft. This three-way test antenna system, which included two previously tested antennas attached to each side of the aircraft, was automatically activated by a toggle switch as the aircraft changed course.

The new system helped eliminate blind spots by increasing the number of aircraft signals received by the satellite no matter which way the plane was headed. This year, the plane's position also appeared on the Internet for additional tracking by project managers.

Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources. Over 18 months, the team developed the Offshore California Pipeline Inspection Survey Plan, which demonstrates that cooperation can result in a quality product that meets the needs of all the parties involved.

The inspection plan will permit pipeline operators to develop inspection strategies tailored to the needs of individual lines, based on their actual condition. This will improve pipeline safety and reduce the risk of failure, while affording industry an opportunity to reduce survey costs as a benefit of diligent and innovative inspection and maintenance.

Warning Fish Away from Oil Rig Explosions

A Volunteer research project headed by the Minerals Management Service is working to make a recording of fish-like sounds that will frighten fish away from an off-shore explosion.

Oil companies annually remove about 100 offshore oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico by exploding the anchors that attach the rigs to the ocean floor. The shock waves kill thousands of fish, said **Dr. Ann S. Bull**, an MMS marine biologist.

To save the fish, researchers are donating their time and effort to begin testing four species of fish that typically can be found near offshore rigs to isolate and copy the sounds that would scare them off.

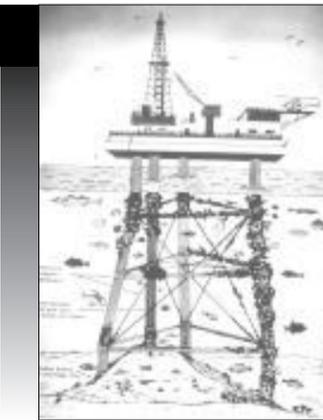


"The sound should be effective enough to drive the fish from an area in several hours, but not cause them to panic and freeze up in fear. This has never been done before with warm water species," Bull said.

To begin the test, researchers collected 75 spade, amberjacks, and small grouper and red snapper in a 12,000-gallon tank in New Orleans at the Aquarium of the Americas. Working with one variety at a time, the scientists then moved the fish from the large tank to a small tank. The transition caused panic and the fish began communicating by making clicks, squeaks, and whistles.

Energy Engineering Services of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, a private contractor on the project, then recorded the fish sounds with special equipment to capture the frequency which that variety of fish hears best, said **Paul Loeffelman**, a senior biologist with the company. When the sounds are understood, Energy Engineering will develop a synthesized recording that the fish will interpret as a warning to clear the area.

The company is optimistic that it can find a workable system for the Gulf because of its past experience. Using similar technology, the firm developed sound barriers in Northern California waters that prevent salmon and herring from entering the cooling intakes of power plants.



Oil companies would have to adopt whatever system is developed voluntarily, Bull pointed out, because it is unlikely the government can mandate use of the alert. None of the fish species involved are endangered, Bull said.

MMS Group Joins Rescue at Sea During Beach Sweep '96

MMS volunteers all along the Gulf Coast joined more than 250,000 participants worldwide for a day of cleaning the nation's beaches in September. The work was done in conjunction with Beach Sweep, part of the 1996 Annual International Coastal Cleanup. Even **Secretary Babbitt** pitched in to help volunteers in Florida.

But few of the volunteers could match the drama that Cleanup Coordinator **Ted Stechmann** experienced during his team's project. Twenty-three MMS volunteers, including **Nick Wetzel**, **Mike Conner**, **Anne Allen**, **Jan Blake**, and **Frank Yam** along with family and friends, were scheduled to spend the morning picking up and bagging marine debris along the south shore of Ship Island, located 12 miles south of Gulfport, Mississippi.

MMS has participated in the cleanup twice a year since 1988, when the Adopt-a-Beach Program was initiated in Mississippi. In the past, their trips to

and from Ship Island have been fairly routine. Not so this time, because members of the group were involved in a rescue at sea.

"I was up at 6:30 a.m., nervously monitoring the Weather Channel and expecting to receive a phone call from Park Ranger **Gail Bishop** informing me that the trip to the island was canceled due to anticipated severe weather," Stechmann recalled. "The phone call never came, so we headed to the port to meet our 9:00 a.m. departure time. Although the sky was dark and overcast, with some foreboding clouds to our west, the rangers assured us that conditions on the island were fine, so we shipped out on schedule.

"About a third of the way to Ship Island, we noticed that a man and his young son were following us in a small runabout. The man's wife, young daughter, and mother-in-law were on the ferry. At about the 8-mile beacon, a ferocious thunderstorm hit,

bringing with it gale-force winds, 5-foot seas, and driving rain. The small boat was battered about, and after a fierce struggle and several near misses, the man was able to bring the boat alongside the ferry, which had slowed to a crawl.

"He then threw a tow line to a group of young men who were standing near the stern, including my son, **Daren**, and future son-in-law, **Robert**. One man held the rope as the man passed his son up to another. **Daren** and **Robert** then leaned over the rail, grabbed the man's arms, and launched him onto the ferry.

Somehow, during the excitement that followed, the runabout slipped away and drifted off behind us. A short time later the storm ended, and it was clear sailing to the island. We learned later that our skipper radioed the Coast Guard, who located the drifting boat and towed it to the island," Stechmann recalled.

Fortunately, the remainder of the day went as planned. The skies cleared, the sun came out, and the volunteers purged their adopted beach of marine debris. In just over an hour they collected 18 full garbage bags—substantially less trash this year than there was in either the spring or fall cleanups last year.

Cleanup Coordinator **Vilere Reggio** reports that he and other MMS regulars **Mary Ann Curry**, **Dennis Chew**, **Jeff Brooke**, and **George Franklin**, along with newcomer **Michele Aurand**, brought family, friends, and Boy Scout Troop 85 to help document and remove trash from Fourchon Beach.

Joining an estimated 500 volunteers, mostly organized youth groups from Louisiana's Lafourche Parish Schools, about ten miles of recreational beach were rid of the ugly remnants of human activity and returned once again to attractive Louisiana seashore. Thanks to the sponsorship and hard work of **Chevron** and its Leeville employees, volunteers were rewarded with food, drinks, and souvenir caps in appreciation for their public service commitment on a rainy day.

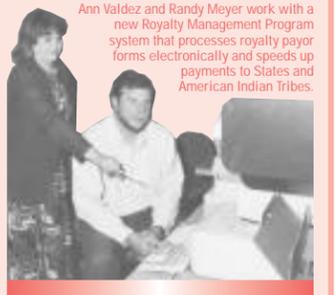
The Pevoto Beach cleanup effort was spearheaded by **John Schollian** and **Leo Dartez** of the Lafayette District. A group of 30 volunteers, including Schollian's and Dartez's families, **Rufus Lormand**, **Gerald Gonzales**, **Joe Gordon**, **David Suire**, **Pat Sarsfield**, and **Cliff Delouche** hit the beach. They cleaned one mile of beach and filled 155 bags with approximately 800 pounds of trash.

New Technology Cuts Costs

MMS has made information technology improvements that could save \$1 million in operating costs during the next few years. The initiatives, recommended by a National Performance Review Laboratory, also will increase efficiency and improve customer service.

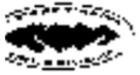
The improvement process began in 1994, when MMS's Royalty Management Program's reinvention lab focused on improving the oil and gas Payor Information Form. The paper form is submitted by the royalty payor - a company extracting natural gas or oil from areas under federal jurisdiction when production begins. The form establishes a payor's account and identifies selling arrangements and revenue sources. The more quickly and accurately the forms are filed, the sooner state and American Indian shares of these royalty payments are distributed.

In 1995 a pilot program tested a new computer imaging system that allows forms to be processed electronically. Test results showed that with the new system, MMS was able to reduce its processing time from 14 to three working days. The bottom line? More timely distribution of both data and revenue to customers.



Ann Valdez and Randy Meyer work with a new Royalty Management Program system that processes royalty payor forms electronically and speeds up payments to States and American Indian Tribes.

Bureau of Reclamation



Eluid Martinez, Commissioner
Colleen Dwyer, Acting Bureau Editor

A Marine Corps ribbon bridge provided transportation and a dry work area for Reclamation's heavy equipment at this site on Lake Mohave on the lower Colorado River. BOR Photo by Andy Pernick



Work Begins on Willow Creek Dam

Erice, Great Plains Regional Office

Reclamation and the Greenfields and Fort Shaw gation Districts have begun repairs on Willow Creek Dam, located 45 miles west of Great Falls, Montana. The work follows the discovery of a hole in the dam's crest on June 28.

When the sinkhole was discovered, Reclamation and Greenfields took immediate emergency measures to stabilize the dam. These included filling the hole, patching the outlet tunnel beneath the hole, and lowering the level of the reservoir.

In early July, Reclamation has been conducting investigations and preparing designs for more permanent repairs. This work will involve excavation and replacement of part of the dam's right abutment, cement grouting of the foundation rock beneath the dam, and adding a steel liner to the outlet works tunnel.

During the work, the reservoir level will be lowered by about 28 feet, leaving about 5,000 acre-feet of water in the reservoir. The normal capacity of the reservoir is 2,300 acre-feet. Drawdown of the reservoir is not anticipated to damage the fishery. The reservoir will also remain open for recreational use, and access roads will remain open to the public.



The Great Plains Regional drill crew performed investigative drilling. Photo by Lovell Parish

Work is being performed in the Districts, which will rate and maintain the dam under contract with Reclamation. Work is in part through Reclamation contracts. The \$6 million repair project began September 9 and will be complete by spring 1997, said Kurt Spleter, the resident engineer overseeing the construction.

Cispus Workshop

Redding, Pacific Northwest Regional Office

The Pacific Northwest Region will join other federal and state natural resource management agencies in a five-day Cispus Workshop aimed at improving communication skills for those involved in resource management and working with the public. The workshop will be held March 3-7, 1997, at the former Job Corps Center on the Cispus River in Rainier, Washington, in the western Cascade Mountains. The \$285 registration fee includes room and board, training sessions, and materials.

The workshop helps professionals find better ways to communicate with the public to resolve natural resource management issues. Over the past 25 years, the workshop has honed the communication skills of executives, program managers, public affairs specialists, resource specialists, and interpreters. Participants find that the communication skills they learn apply to everyday work lives as well.

The workshop relies almost entirely on volunteer staff from federal and state agencies for development and delivery of their interactive workshop sessions. For further information about this training opportunity, contact Chris Jansen-Lute at (208) 378-5319.

Reclamation, NPS Join Marine Corps in Repairing Colorado River Backwater

Terry Murphy and Steve Belew of the Lower Colorado Regional Office recently completed work with the National Park Service and the U.S. Marine Corps to repair a damaged backwater on Lake Mohave on the Colorado River. Called Davis Cove, the area is used as a grow-out facility for endangered razorback sucker spawn as part of a multi-agency Native Fish Rearing Project.

In 1994, an earthen berm was constructed at the mouth of Davis Cove to create a backwater where endangered Colorado River fish could be raised isolated from predatory fish species. The berm partially collapsed and was no longer effective in protecting the cove. To rebuild this section, the agencies joined in a partnership that used the resources of each group to reduce the cost of project.

For the \$30,000 program, the Lower Colorado Region provided overall project management

and coordination. Denver Office staff furnished design support and construction management, the Yuma Area Office and U.S. Marine Corps supplied survey and construction equipment and crews, and the Park Service provided environmental compliance.

Because of the cove's remote and inaccessible location, Reclamation work crews and equipment were transported to the site by means of a Marine Corps barge. Called a ribbon bridge by the Marines, the barge has a capacity of 60 tons and is used for ferrying vehicles and heavy equipment across waterways. The barge remained in place near the cove during the October 21 through November 1 construction period to provide a dry work area for operation of heavy equipment.

Ultimately, the project benefited everyone. During this operation, the Marine battalion, made up of active duty soldiers from Camp Pendleton, California, completed required field training and experienced practical application of their engineering skills. They also worked on other coves and roadways throughout the National Recreation Area for the balance of their two-week training period. This practice also reduced the amount of Reclamation and Park Service equipment and personnel that would have been mobilized, resulting in savings for both agencies.

Third Innovations Conference



Commissioner Eluid Martinez

More than 300 federal, state, and local government employees gathered September 26 in San Antonio, Texas, for Reclamation's third and final Innovations Conference. The Alamo Federal Executive Board joined Great Plains Regional Director Neil Stessman and Upper Colorado Regional Director Charley Calhoun in hosting the

conference about government reinvention successes and challenges.

Conference speakers included Commissioner Eluid Martinez; Carmen Maymi, Manager of Administration and National Performance Review Initiatives; William Parent, Senior Administrator at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University; and John Kamensky, Deputy Project Leader, National Performance Review Office in Washington, D.C.

The conference, organized by a team of employees from the Great Plains and Upper Colorado Regions, included a symposium of Vice President Al Gore's Hammer Award winners from the San Antonio area and an in-depth workshop on the Government Performance and Results Act. Other workshops focused on customer service, managing downsizing and restructuring, privatization of federal assets,

and streamlining regulations. Reclamation employees also presented seminars on the partnerships that had evolved as a result of its reinvention.

Much of the funding for the San Antonio conference, and its two predecessors in Sacramento and Denver, was provided by a \$100,000 grant to Reclamation from the Ford Foundation. The Innovations in American Government awards program, which recognizes successful innovation efforts at all levels of government, is administered by the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Reclamation was one of 15 winners in 1995.

Reclamation will now establish an Innovations Resource Center in Denver to disseminate information on techniques and approaches that were successfully applied in its reinvention effort.



This recent publication on Reinvention successes is available from the Government Printing Office. The catalogue number is ISBN 0-16-048770-6.

A Celebration of Firsts

Reflections on the Completion of the Glen Canyon Dam-Colorado River Test Flooding

Rick Gold, Deputy Regional Director, Upper Colorado Region

Secretary Babbitt signed the Record of Decision in the Environmental Impact Statement process for the operation of Glen Canyon Dam on October 9, 1996. That process began in July 1989 when the Department directed the Bureau of Reclamation to prepare the Statement.

As a major player throughout the seven years and three months of that process, I am proud of Reclamation's effort and accomplishment.

While the Secretary's focus at the signing was primarily the reporting of results of the controlled flood of 1996, I was moved by the significance of the moment as measured by the commitment and effort of those who gave major portions of their lives and careers to the processes and products of this major project.

I strongly feel that celebration is in order—a celebration of purpose and collaborative effort that when viewed in its historic perspective made a huge difference. Resource management in the United States was purposely changed by this collective effort.



Glen Canyon Dam Operations

In signing the Record of Decision, Secretary Babbitt exercised his authority and discretion to change the operation of Glen Canyon Dam to protect the Colorado River flowing through the Grand Canyon. The decision was based on the scientific evidence gathered during the Environmental Impact Statement process and after the seven-day test flood last March.

The Secretary's action establishes criteria that will protect the Colorado River and Grand Canyon. The management of the dam, particularly its periodic release of water, will now be regulated in a manner that promotes environmental protection of the river and canyon ecosystem in addition to the need to capture water for irrigation and power generation.

The Environmental Impact Statement program was set up in 1982 to gauge the changes to the river and canyon caused by the 1966 construction of the Glen Canyon Dam. By 1988 the program had determined that the dam had significantly altered the natural dynamics of the Colorado River and produced detrimental environmental consequences, eroding beaches and eliminating or damaging plant communities and wildlife habitat.

"This is a decision based on science, allowing us to protect the river and still operate very efficient hydroelectric power generation and water capture," Babbitt said in announcing the new guidelines for the dam's operation.



At left, Secretary Babbitt releases the March, 1996 test flood from the Glen Canyon Dam into the Grand Canyon. Jeff Robbins photo courtesy of the Associated Press. Below, four plumes of water shoot forth from the jet tubes at Glen Canyon Dam during the first ever Beach-Habitat Building Test Flow. Deseret News Photo by Tom Smart



This process represents several firsts that should not go unnoticed. For the first time, the Bureau of Reclamation successfully demonstrated that a new bureau approach could work, did work, and was a positive and professional contribution to a major resource issue.

For the first time, the federal, state, tribal, environmental, and power user interests in the West came together and, through honest effort and sincere attempts at understanding, crafted a balanced solution that was not immediately challenged by litigation from some quarter.

For the first time, the new bureau demonstrated that an interagency, interdisciplinary team could complete a major Environmental Impact Statement, which was approved, liked, and was, in fact, award winning!

Celebration is in order! Team work and individual professional bonds were formed and cemented which continue to benefit the entities and individuals, and current and future resource of the Colorado River Basin and the West.

I am particularly proud of the interagency team of specialists, supervisors, and managers who fought through the problems, believed in the outcome, and continued to work professionally toward our jointly-held objective of a balanced operational approach for Glen Canyon Dam.

When my role in this process began in May 1990 many, including myself, were not at all sure that completion, let alone success, were possible outcomes. I advised the Upper Colorado Regional Director at the time that if Reclamation was ever to become a new bureau and approach issues in a different way, this effort would be the bellwether test. Pass or fail, it was my view that as the Glen Canyon Environmental Impact Statement process went, so would go the future of Reclamation. We passed, we succeeded, we flourished—we should be proud.

I am professionally and personally very, very proud of every Interior employee who contributed in an honest and forthright way to our accomplishment. Those folks are far too numerous to name. They come from the Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of the Solicitor, and U.S. Geological Survey.

We were a very good team, we made a major accomplishment, we made a difference, and we did the right thing. Thank you all!

Hoover Dam Cable Still Hard at Work

Colleen Dwyer, Lower Colorado Region

Spanning the 1200-foot width of Black Canyon across the Colorado River, Hoover Dam's 150-ton cableway was recently tested, following a rehabilitation and overhaul of its carriage system.

The cableway was originally installed in 1932 to help lower equipment and large generator parts to the Hoover Dam construction site. Because the only other access to the base of the dam is by way of a narrow, winding roadway which passes through a tunnel, the cableway is still used to transport large equipment, including 18-wheel oil tankers and a 150-ton transformer.

During load-testing, slabs of concrete weighing up to 20 tons were supported on a cradle 700 feet in the air over the Colorado River. The cableway exceeded its rated capacity and successfully supported 187 tons.



Hoover Dam's 1932 cableway is still able to lift 187 tons. BOR photo by Andrew Pernick

Office of International Affairs



Allen P. Stayman, Director
Stephen Sander, Bureau Editor

Reinvigorating Guam's Mariana Crows

ew report from a committee of the National Earth Council recommends the reintroduction of five bred aga, or Mariana Crow, to the U.S. territory of Guam, to help stem the decline of the indigenous population of the species.

Report by the Board on Biology, Commission on Life Sciences, warns that the aga could become extinct on Guam unless action is taken to prevent the introduced brown tree snake, *Boiga irregularis*, from preying on the remaining few crows and spreading to other islands.

A high percentage of crows produced by the few crows surviving on Guam are infertile, leading scientists to wonder whether the population has grown too old to reinvigorate the species. To attempt to increase the productivity of Guam population, the report recommends that crows that have been bred in captivity be radiographed and released over the next three years. Careful monitoring of reintroduced young breeders will help researchers determine whether it is too late to save the aga.

Findings reflect the larger issues of biodiversity preservation common to all oceanic islands: systems as well as the catastrophic effects of introducing a non-native species to an island. OIA has been working with Department biologists and local officials to develop and carry out a research control program for the brown tree snake. The study, funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is chaired by W. Donald Duckworth, of Hawaii's Bishop Museum.

NS Seeks Draft Regs on Island Immigration

In response to a requirement in new U.S. immigration law, the Immigration and Naturalization Service has requested OIA's assistance in drafting regulations affecting closely associated state citizens in U.S. territories.

Relations with three Pacific island republics—Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia—are governed by compacts of free association, which provide citizens of these states with restricted entry into the U.S. and its territories. Over the past decade, several thousand of them have migrated to the U.S. territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in search of better-paying jobs.

However, the compacts also prevent the imposition of restrictions on the right of such

Secretary Babbitt signs an agreement with representatives of the Republic of the Marshall Islands that will allow residents of Rongelap Atoll, which was contaminated 40 years ago by fallout from U.S. nuclear tests, to return to their island, which has been rehabilitated by the U.S. Government. From left are the Honorable Banny de Brum, the Marshall Islands ambassador to the United States and the Honorable James Malayoshi, the mayor of Rongelap Atoll in the Marshalls.



An Expanded Leadership Role Urged for Island's Private Sector

OIA Director **Allen P. Stayman** urged business leaders in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to play a greater role in guiding the commonwealth's social development by helping to instill a "culture of compliance" for immigration and labor laws.

Speaking at a November 6 session of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Stayman noted that the substantial economic development that has occurred in the islands has been facilitated by more than half a billion dollars in federal funding for roads, bridges, port development, water and power utilities.

The U.S. Government also has granted the Commonwealth special privileges such as the exemptions from federal immigration control, minimum wages, shipping laws, and foreign trade laws. These privileges were extended to benefit the island's people—to provide for the economic and social development of a new community of United States citizens.

More recently, amendments to the Magnuson Fisheries Conservation and Management Act provide the local government with a greater role and benefits from fishing within the 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone around the islands. "We have also worked with the Commonwealth and the Federal Communications Commission to ensure that the islands will be integrated into the North American Telecommunications Numbering Plan and domestic telecommunications rates. These changes in federal policy present significant new development opportunities for local entrepreneurs," Stayman said.

The commonwealth has become a thriving tourism and garment manufacturing center in part because of this unique insular commonwealth status and U.S. financial assistance. But

Stayman noted there also are major concerns in the islands as well as among federal officials and members of Congress regarding the social problems that have attended this explosive growth. Particularly troubling has been the treatment of foreign guest workers by local employers.

To respond to these labor and immigration problems, Congress and the U.S. Executive Branch joined with Commonwealth leaders to establish the current Joint Federal-Commonwealth Labor, Immigration, and Law Enforcement Initiative. The business community played an important role in supporting this initiative.

The Federal Government is now enforcing, and will continue to enforce, federal laws in the Commonwealth,

including many labor statutes. As part of the federal-local initiative, the presence of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Wage and Hour Division of the U.S. Department of Labor has been increased. Training and technical assistance to local officials and businesses are improving local awareness and compliance. The initiative also is providing assistance and training to the local government to strengthen its institutional capabilities to implement and enforce local labor and immigration laws.

"The federal government is now seeking assurance that the local community is genuinely committed to dealing with these problems," Stayman said. "As a part of this community, the private sector has a crucial role in providing this assurance. It is up to you to create a culture of compliance with laws and regulations," Stayman said. "The private sector must join the rest of the community in taking responsibility, not only for economic development, but for social development."

"Federal and local agencies, and the Congress, can determine when local businesses are genuinely committed to compliance, and when they are merely trying to manipulate and out-manuever enforcement officials," Stayman pointed out. Businesses also may try to gain advantage over competitors by cutting corners. The new Labor and Immigration Identification and Documentation System especially needs cooperation from the employers of guest workers in order to function properly.

"From a federal perspective, the desired outcome is to combine effective local enforcement with self-policing by the local business community," Stayman said. One of the fundamental principles of the United States Constitution is the concept of uniformity among the States—that all states will compete economically on a level playing field. The Commonwealth is fortunate, however, that the application of uniformity is not a constitutional requirement in the territories and commonwealths.

"To assure that the Commonwealth's privileges continue, the local government and business community must demonstrate to the Congress that they will respond to problems of growth, balance the benefits of economic growth with the social impacts of that development, and see that the benefits of development flow to the entire community," Stayman said.

Endowment for Mariana College

The Northern Mariana College has received a \$3 million endowment from the Interior Department. The one time grant was appropriated by the Congress in lieu of providing federal land under the land grant status legislation. The Congress has provided lump-sum endowments to generate income for island-grant colleges. The college may use the interest income from the endowment to fund college activities. More projects on forestry research are one of the areas in which the money will be used. The endowment was presented by OIA Director **Allen Stayman** during a recent visit to the Commonwealth. College President **Agnes McPheters** accepted the grant on behalf of the school.

Focus on Technology

Say It Again, Sam This Time With Video

So what's your story? What does your staff or the public need to know to gain a wider understanding of your agency's programs, its accomplishments, and how you can help them?

If you have such a message and it needs telling, have you thought about saying it with video. It's one of the single most powerful tools to reach people in the shortest amount of time, and have the most impact.

The Department has an AudioVisual Center specifically created to meet your video needs. The Denver-based team produces high quality audiovisual programs—from simple videos to 35mm theatrical movies, from slide shows to intricate interactive CD-ROMS, from audio tapes to digitized video distributed through the World Wide Web.

And the Center has put together a sampling list of ideas on using videos internally, for general public distribution, or for a potpourri of other uses. Chances are, there's a few ideas on the list that could fit your needs.

The Center can meet office or bureau needs in a way that is virtually painless for your hard-pressed staff. This customer-friendly service philosophy resulted from the Center's early entry into the reinvention of government program.

Started in early 1994, the process began with a contract for a government-owned, contractor-operated facility. This arrangement provides contractor professional staff at the Denver Federal Center facility.

operating state-of-the-art video production equipment. It also offers full access to the contractor's extensive and technologically advanced home facilities. That includes all the video and sound personnel and digital equipment, as well as 3D animation and interactive multimedia programming capabilities.

The contracting process was revamped to take care of the paperwork hassles so that agencies can spend their time and their efforts concentrating on their programs. To get a project started, all any government agency has to do is sign a one-page interagency agreement. The rest of the paperwork, including the Statement of Work and Interior approvals (form 551), is done for you.

The Center also recognized that for those who've never produced a video before, the process might seem intimidating. What comes first? How long should the program be? What needs to be provided? How should the topics be treated?

To ensure that agencies feel comfortable, technically speaking, Center staff are ready to guide client agencies through the process in plain English and help them make decisions where necessary. The Center wants clients to feel like they're working with friends who have their interests first in mind.

The friendly guide technique goes hand in hand with the Center's ideas on how to make high quality videos: Answer: Engage the ideas of the experts right from the beginning, at the concept stage. Because the contractor is on-site, clients get to talk with the pros right away, during the "thinking" stage of their programs. That beats wading through the typical procurement process before even getting a chance to discuss concepts with someone in the industry.

The Center's staff—including the contract office—concentrates only on audiovisual productions. Agencies



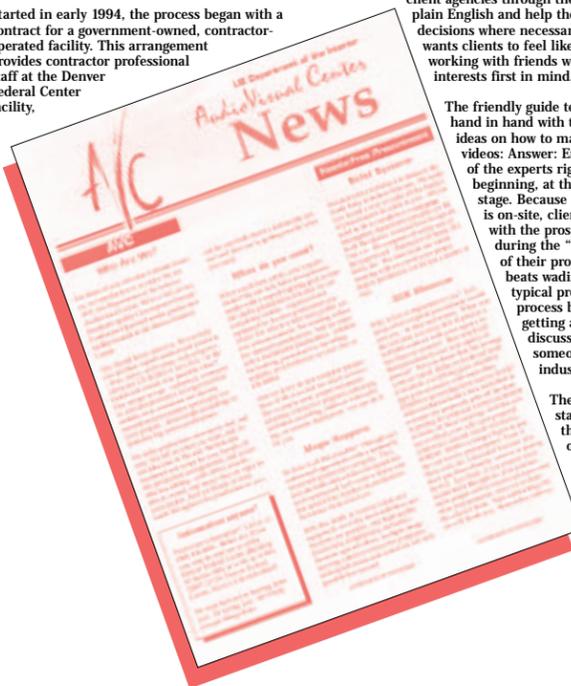
The Interior AudioVisual Center is capable of shooting on location anywhere in the United States. Above a Center crew shoots an interior video against the scenic backdrop of Colorado's Red Rocks area.

that come in will be working with people who know how to get the most for their money. These professionals know if something will or won't work, apply the most appropriate technology to each program, and talk to each other. With the contractor already on site, they have the luxury of being able to work closely together to make every program the best it can be.

And quality is inextricably tied up with equipment. With the dizzying rate of improvements in technology, the Center decided that digital non-linear was the way to go (see article in October-November, 1996, issue of PLW) and are in the process of upgrading an AVID non-linear editing system to the PCI version. That will improve picture quality even more and enhance the Center's capabilities to add more special effects and intriguing transitions to video productions (more bang for your buck).

Wouldn't your staff rather watch a 15-minute video than read a 30-page briefing paper? Wouldn't it be easier to train your staff by producing one video that they could watch at their convenience—and as often as necessary—than to send teams all over the country to provide the same training, hoping that everyone who needs the training can attend? You can reach as many people for less overall cost.

If you are interested in looking into video as a way of getting your story told, the Center's staff will send you a copy of their demo tape and a brochure on services. The Center also produces a quarterly newsletter, so if you want a copy, or want to be on the mailing list, call (303) 236-2001, or fax your inquiry to (303) 236-2005. The mailing address is Box 280982, Lakewood, CO, 80228. If you're in the area, stop by the Center in Building 67, Room 180, Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO, 80225. The Center soon will have a Web site.



Life With Interior

Ben Mammes Just Keeps on Going, and Going, and Going...

by Amy Strumpf, Gateway National Recreation Area

Ben Mammes joined the labor staff at Gateway National Recreation Area in New York City in 1975. Since then, he has rarely missed a day of work, commuting to the Breezy Point District as early as 6 a.m. during the summer.

Ben drives his own car most mornings, even if he has to shovel snow from the front of his home during winter. He used to ride his 60-year-old bike with worn rims but gave that up in 1995 because he says, his knees just aren't what they used to be.

"I have no intention of retiring. I'm only 85," he says.

Joseph Rosario, superintendent of the Jamaica Bay-Breezy Point District, does not know whether Ben Mammes is the oldest active employee of the Park Service. He adds without equivocation, however, that the octogenarian is one of the hardest workers he has ever seen.

Ben always does his job, and he has the respect and admiration of co-workers and park visitors, many of whom are young enough to be his grandchildren," Rosario says.



Ben Mammes, center, stops to chat with Jose Rosario, left, the superintendent of Jamaica Bay-Breezy Point District of the Gateway National Recreation Area, and Vernon Butler, at right.

Mammes was born in Manhattan but his family moved to Queens when he was a boy to be near the family ice cream parlor. "I quit school to help in the business," he recalls.

For recreation, he took up bicycling and became so proficient that he was invited to the 1932 Olympic trials. After completing 62.5 miles in just two hours and 41 minutes, he qualified for the northeastern trials and finished third. At age 21, he competed in the Los Angeles Games, and although he did not win a medal, he kept the racing bicycle he had purchased for \$100. He then raced professionally.

With the advent of World War II, Mammes enlisted in the Army in 1942 and served four years, including duty in the Pacific. While stationed in Louisiana, he met his wife-to-be and upon his discharge with the rank of staff sergeant, he and his bride settled in Queens. Since the ice cream business was faltering, he worked for construction

and moving companies for many years.

In 1975, when Mammes "retired," he applied for a seasonal labor position at Gateway and was hired. He now has permanent status, cleaning Jacob Riis Park and performing maintenance functions throughout the Breezy Point District.

He also bowls one night a week with the same team and league he has competed with for more than 20 years. He does admit, somewhat reluctantly, that he "only bowls for a 149 average." His wife of 50 years accompanied him to the lanes every week until she died in 1995.

Mammes attributes his longevity to his diet, his lifestyle, and his family. He occupies an apartment in the three family home which is also occupied by two of his children and grandchildren, and regularly attends church where he was an usher and active parishioner.

He is up every day at 4 a.m. in order to do daily situps and aerobics "to clear my head of cobwebs." This is followed by breakfast of waffles, Wheaties with banana, and a glass of orange juice. His lunch consists of a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and a bowl of applesauce.

"Until my wife died, she made homemade applesauce. Now that she's gone, I have to buy it at the supermarket," Mammes says. His dinners alternate between beef stew and chicken pot pie. Recently, he supplemented his diet with Vitamin C, a multi-vitamin, and B12. "I've never smoked. I didn't even drink alcohol until I was 21," he says.

Retirement, Mammes emphasizes, is not in his plans. He does plan, however, to keep on going for several more years. "I'm going to live until I'm 100 unless I die sooner," he says with a smile.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

PEOPLE & LAND & WATER

A monthly newsletter for all employees of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

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Viewpoint: Rec Fee Reaction

Having Public Lands Pay Their Way

The strategy is welcome and long overdue because many of America's national parks, wildlife refuges, wilderness and recreation areas, and other public lands are in trouble—victims of decreased federal funding and visitors loving them to death. The program, however, is disappointingly modest...The challenge to Interior is to show that it will work and make the case to Congress to extend it permanently to as many sites as necessary.

The Chicago Tribune, December 2

Fees Will Not Exclude Visitors

Even with these fee increases, the parks are still a bargain...and should be. They belong to the American people. We don't think these price increases will exclude people.

Carl Pope, Executive Director-Sierra Club, November 27

Help Our National Parks

Fees alone won't support national parks, refuges, and recreation areas. But they can help....Maintenance backlogs at national parks are estimated in the billions. Compounding the problem, the number of visitors is increasing annually. Some parks—including Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, and Yosemite—effectively have become "destination resorts...." Granted, the money raised is expected to be somewhat modest...Still, it is money that otherwise would not be available. There should be some applause that little things that can make a visit more pleasant or meaningful will now get done. But make it quiet applause...Parks, refuges, and

recreation areas are the people's perks. They will always need and warrant public subsidies.

The Miami Herald, December 2

A Reasonable Solution

Few in Washington or elsewhere disagree about the need for an infusion of new money to support the parks... It is a reasonable solution...Any fee increases should take care to avoid the possibility of pricing low-income people out of the unforgettable experience of visiting some of the most beautiful places in America. But considering that a night out for a family of four to a McDonald's and a movie means shelling out in the neighborhood of \$50, forking over a ten-spot or a \$20 bill for a gander at Half Dome and a climb to Yosemite Falls remains a real bargain.

The San Francisco Chronicle, November 21

A Worthwhile Investment

The fee increase should come as no surprise...The advantage to the new plan is that all of the additional money collected at the parks will stay within the park system, making the fee hike easier to swallow for visitors... We especially like user fees that are reinvested in the parks collecting them. A \$2 charge at the Chattahoochee Recreation area, for example, will not be difficult on the wallet. And anyone who has been to Yosemite knows a fee hike to \$20 to get in that park is definitely a worthwhile investment.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution , November 2