

Bureau of Indian Affairs



Ada E. Deer, Assistant Secretary
Ralph Gonzales, Bureau Editor

One of the more controversial sites on federal land that is sacred to Native Americans is this truncated mountain, known in English as Devil's Tower.



GOALS 2000 Grants to 78 BIA Schools

The Goals 2000 Panel of BIA's Office of Indian Education Programs has selected 78 BIA schools to receive \$25,000 in additional funding to assist their reform efforts. Priority was given to schools that had not previously received \$25,000 Goals 2000 grants. The Consolidated School Reform Plan developed at each school includes Title I, II, VII, IX, and Goals 2000 program information, plans, and benchmarks for the next four years. The Goals 2000 grant funds were awarded for implementing reform plans and providing staff development or pre-service teacher training.

Goals 2000 is a federally-funded education reform program authorized under the Educate America Act. The Goals 2000 Panel for BIA is made up of educators and community representatives from Native American Tribes and educational institutions.

New Native Education Directory Available

The 1997 edition of the Native Education Directory published by Educational Resources Information Clearinghouse (ERIC) includes listings of organizations involved in advocacy, reform, publishing, broadcasting, funding, youth leadership, research and many other aspects of American Indian and Alaska Native education.

The publication lists contact persons for more than 500 organizations, agencies, publishers, and colleges and universities, with current addresses, phone numbers, and when available, e-mail, and World Wide Web addresses. These are people who can help educators locate scholarships for students, join forces with others to influence Native education policy or funding, answer questions about regulations and requirements, locate curriculum materials, or give advice on how to set up a Native language program. For instance, the directory lists more than 50 American Indian and Alaska Native languages that can be studied at colleges and universities across North America.

To request a copy, contact ERIC on 1-800-624-9120 or by e-mail on lanhamb@ael.org. Or write to ERIC at P.O. Box 1348, Charleston, WV 25352-1348. The cost is \$12 cost plus shipping and handling. The new directory is 102 pages and fully indexed.

BIA Education Dates to Remember

April 20-22—Family Literacy: The Power and the Promise is the theme of the 6th Annual National Conference on Family Literacy sponsored by the National Center for Family Literacy. It will be held at the Galt House Tower and Galt House East in Louisville, KY. Call 502-584-1133 for information.

May 15-16—Better Education is Everybody's Business is sponsored by the U.S. Dept. of Education, John Hancock Inc., Southern California Edison, Hewlett-Packard Co., United Airlines, IBM, Pizza Hut, and Mattel Corp. It will be held in Boston, MA at the Swissotel. For information call 212-339-0345.

May 16-18—National Teen Summit is sponsored by the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. It will be held at Xavier University in New Orleans, LA. Contact Tom Donaldson of NOFAS for more information on 202-785-4585.

Consultations on Protecting Sacred Sites

The BIA has completed three formal rounds of consultations with representatives of Indian Tribes and other federal agencies aimed at developing policies and procedures for carrying out President Clinton's Executive Order on the protection of Indian sacred sites.

BIA, which also has been receiving written comments from concerned Native Americans and other interested parties throughout the process, will now begin developing those policies and procedures to implement the order, which calls for the protection of sacred areas on federal lands and assurances that American Indians and Alaskan Natives have access to these sites.

The federal-tribal discussions were held in Washington, D.C. (April 3-4), Portland, Oregon (March 12-13), and Denver, Colorado (March 19-20). Discussion topics included protecting the physical integrity of sacred sites; the confidentiality of these areas; providing access; dispute resolution; and meaningful government-to-government coordination. Representatives from the Departments of Justice, Energy, and Agriculture also attended the sessions. Tribes unable to send representatives to the consultations may submit written comments to the BIA.

"All Americans have a stake in seeing that the religious freedom of their fellow citizens is preserved and protected," the President said last May 24 when he issued the order.

The Executive Order, No. 13007, calls for the development of policies and procedures according to the following guidelines: Each executive branch agency with responsibility for the management of land shall, to the extent practicable, permitted by law, and not clearly inconsistent with essential agency functions, accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners. These agencies also must avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of the sacred sites and, where appropriate, shall maintain the confidentiality of the areas.

Under the order, a sacred site means any specific, discrete, narrowly delineated location on federal land that is identified by an Indian tribe, or Indian individual determined to be an appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion. The site's sacred character is evaluated by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion; provided that the tribe or appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion has informed the agency of the site's existence.

In implementing their policies and procedures, federal agencies must comply with the Executive memorandum of April 29, 1994—*Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments*. By May 26 of this year, under the order, the head of each executive branch agency with federal land management authority shall report to the President, through the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, on the implementation of this order.

Native Alaskan Land Allotment Proposal

About 1,800 applications for legal title to Native Alaskan lands could be approved if a proposal by Secretary Babbitt is implemented. The Secretary has proposed allowing the statutory approval of Alaska Native allotment applications in cases where protests against such actions have been withdrawn.

A notice requesting comment on the proposal was published in the February 14 Federal Register (62 Fed Reg 7033). The proposed action would overrule an Interior Board of Land Appeals interpretation of Section 905 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).

In Section 905 of ANILCA, Congress provided for the approval of pending allotment applications as long as certain conditions are met and unless a timely and sufficient protest is filed. The 1906 Alaska Native Allotment Act was intended to give individuals the opportunity to obtain legal title to lands they used and occupied.

Section 905 of the ANILCA was enacted to expedite the approval of allotment applications and to fulfill the commitments of the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), which repealed the 1906 Alaska Native Allotment Act. Section 905 was enacted in 1980 to facilitate the approval of allotment applications that were pending on or before ANCSA was passed.

The Interior Board of Land Appeals has ruled that allotment applications must be adjudicated even when the protesting party has dismissed its protest. The Secretary has requested a legal opinion from the Interior Department Solicitor on this matter.

Interested persons and organizations may submit comments regarding the Secretary's proposal to lift this bar to statutory approval of uncontested allotment applications. Written comments must be received by April 11. Comments should be mailed to the Bureau of Land Management, Administrative Record, Room 401LS, 1849 C Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

Comments may also be hand-delivered to the Bureau of Land Management, Administrative Record, Room 401, 1620 L Street, Washington, D.C. Comments may also be transmitted electronically, via the Internet to WOCComments@wo.blm.gov. Please include "Attn: Secretarial Decision," and your name and address in the message. If you do not receive a confirmation that your Internet message has been received, contact that office directly at (202) 452-5030.



Students at the Sante Fe Indian School developed a multimedia database—Four Corners: The Past Meets the Present—to interpret their culture for non-Native Americans. The Bureau of Land Management-supported project provided the students technical training in computer exhibits and enriched educational opportunities. For information on the project and the CD, contact BLM's New Mexico State Office at (505) 761-8700.



Indian Affairs on the Eve of the Millennium

Ada Deer

I will soon turn the reins over to a new assistant secretary for Indian Affairs—the person who will steer Indian Affairs into the new millennium. I urge each of you to give that person your fullest cooperation and support—I know that I will.

This is a position of great trust to our native peoples and I would not trade my service for anything. It has been, as they say, a great ride—although at times more like a roller-coaster than a carousel and frequently like the bumper cars.

The most rewarding part of the job for me has been the opportunity to travel throughout Indian Country and get a first hand view of the deep and enduring spirit of our Indian people. From Makah to Miccosukee, from Arctic Village to Pine Ridge, I have met and worked with some of the most brilliant and inspiring minds of our times.

When I first began as assistant secretary in July of 1993, I found a Bureau of Indian Affairs hungry for direction. My task was to oversee its transition from paternalistic landlord to true partner on a government-to-government basis with American Indian Tribes and ...I am happy to now add...Alaska Native Tribal Governments.

From day one, I have promoted tribal sovereignty, self-governance, and self-determination. These are the hallmarks of the Clinton Administration's Indian policy. I testified in favor of the 1994 amendments to the self-governance and self-determination statutes and advocated negotiated rulemaking as the new way for the Interior Department to develop substantive rules for Indian programs. I took Vice-President Gore's words to heart: "Negotiate, don't dictate."

I have urged other government agencies to build on this model. Negotiated rulemaking works, especially when there is strong tribal leadership driving the process such as we had on the 638 and self-governance teams. My special thanks go to the tribal co-chairs of those efforts: **Buford Bolin, Julia Davis, Kathy Grosdidier, Ed Mouss, Ron Allen, and Bernida Churchill.** I also want to thank Deputy Assistant Secretary **Michael Anderson** and Director of the office of American Indian Trust **Elizabeth Homer** for their leadership in these efforts.

But I have been equally committed to making sure that those Tribes that wish to retain direct services from the Bureau can continue to exercise that choice. I agree with the warnings of my good friends Oglala Chairman **John Yellow Bird Steele** and **Frank Ducheneaux**—we must continue to protect the Tribes' right of access to BIA services.



At a 1996 news conference, Assistant Secretary Ada Deer and Secretary Babbitt explain new Interior initiatives to improve educational opportunities for Indian school children. Photo by Tami Heilemann, ISC

I confronted many challenges during my term, including efforts to reduce or eliminate tribal tax immunity, gaming rights, Indian child welfare, land acquisitions, environmental jurisdiction, and even the core tribal budgets. Individual tribes came under fire. I know how hard **Henry Cagey** and **Randy Noka** had to fight for their tribes. And believe me the fight isn't over.

One of the weapons of the assistant secretary is the bully pulpit and I spent the summer and fall of 1995 on it. I spent weeks on the road traveling from city to city, conducting scores of editorial board meetings, press conferences, and talk radio interviews because I wanted mainstream America to hear our message.

I'll never forget the fall of 1995 when we stood together on the steps of the U.S. Capitol to rally for



Members of Interior's Indian Minerals Steering Committee that helped improve communication between the Department and tribal members with mineral leases includes, from right, **Elizabeth Homer, Director of the Office of American Indian Trust; Dianne Shaughnessy, POB; Terry Virdin, BIA; Ed Cohen, Deputy Solicitor; Horn Tipton, BLM; and Greg Smith, MMS.** Photo by Tami Heilemann

Top Challenges in Indian Affairs

In addition to re-shaping the BIA, Interior's new assistant secretary for Indian Affairs will face at least ten other major challenges. First, advancing tribal sovereignty by transferring regulatory and management authority to tribal governments through self-governance compacts, 638 contracts, co-management agreements, and other inter-governmental instruments. The implementation of President Clinton's sacred sites, trust, and government-to-government policies also are important tasks.

Second, fighting for the Indian budget. As Secretary Babbitt has said, the administration is on our side, but we will have to bring Congress along. The new assistant secretary is going to need sharp political skills and tribal support. Remember, the BIA budget is more the tribes' budget than it is a federal agency budget. Contrary to popular myth, 90 percent of the money budgeted for the BIA actually goes to Tribes.

Third, the assistant secretary must keep education as a top priority, implementing the President's Executive Order and leveraging more funds for tribal colleges will be one of the first tasks. I also think that school construction starts should be increased as well as funds for school improvements.

Fourth, I would like to see a fair resolution to the trust funds issues for tribal and individual Indian moneys account holders. Fifth, gaming and economic development initiatives must continue. Existing gaming compacts must be renewed on favorable terms and the right of all tribes to commence class III gaming operations must be supported. Efforts must be made to protect loan guarantee programs and expand business development initiatives.

Sixth, the right of Tribes to acquire trust lands must be protected from both congressional and judicial attacks. Seventh, the backlog of legitimate petitions for federal recognition of tribal groups must be eliminated. Eighth, the assistant secretary must champion the expansion of the number of Indian policy makers outside of the BIA. Why not an Indian as counselor to the secretary?

Ninth, continuing support for litigation of tribal claims in the federal district courts, appellate courts, and the supreme court as well as the negotiations for water rights' settlements. Tenth, ensuring that U.S. policy reflects the highest standards for the protect on of indigenous rights in the international community.

sovereignty and urge the new Congress to honor its treaty commitments. Some of you may remember that during the budget crisis I, along with many of the Clinton Administration's Indian appointees, signed a letter to the President, urging a veto of the 1996 Interior budget.

We were able to do this because we were confident that this action would receive support from Indian Country and the President, who later vetoed it in large part because of the Indian cuts. This demonstrates how powerful we can be when the Indian Affairs office and the Tribes are working together to protect our common good. We also learned that the assistant secretary can and must be a powerful voice for tribal sovereignty. The assistant secretary serves as the conscience of the Federal Government for Indian people.

The assistant secretary wears many hats. The Congress expects the assistant secretary to execute its Indian policy and direct the Bureau. The Department expects a loyal team player. The staff expects a defender, and Indian Country expects an advocate. When these roles collide, the assistant secretary must have the support of Indian Country in order to have the power it takes to advocate successfully for Indian people.

What happens in Washington D.C. is about power and power is based on perception. But, it is important to understand that we are not always in control of how we are perceived. The actions of some can be reflected back onto others, justly and unjustly. It has been my experience that when things go wrong in Indian Affairs, both the Tribes and the BIA share the blame, regardless of who did or did not do what. Outside of those who work in Indian Affairs, few possess the time, interest, or understanding to find the truth.

Most people don't know a whole lot about Indians. Some care, but lack understanding and some have or serve interests that conflict with ours. All three branches of the Federal Government contain people fitting into one of these categories and it is up to the assistant secretary for Indian Affairs to convince them that they have a legal and moral duty to defer to tribal sovereignty and carry out treaty obligations. Making sure that the trust responsibility is carried out in due deference to tribal sovereignty is perhaps the assistant secretary's most important function.

Then there is the subject of the BIA—the paradox of paradoxes. The Bureau is perhaps the most maligned agency in the Federal Government. It is the Rodney Dangerfield of the Executive Branch. Unlike the football that Charlie Brown tries to kick and always misses, nobody misses a kick at the BIA.

In reality, though, the Bureau is the scapegoat for the failures of U.S. policy to right the wrongs done to the First Americans. The services and resources that it provides are crucial to tribal governments, communities, and members. What people really want from the BIA is better, more responsive performance; active cooperation; respect for tribal sovereignty; fulfillment of trust obligations; appropriate assistance; prompt action and advocacy on behalf of Indian interests.

But let me tell you, friends, the BIA is a tough sell to a deficit-slashing Congress, especially given the scope and vehemence of the criticism directed at the Bureau. As we head into the new millennium, we're going to have to wrap up the business of the 20th century and lay the foundation for the future. The new assistant secretary will be responsible for getting BIA ready for the challenges that the new century will present. This will require taking a hard look at the BIA and how it operates. Change for the BIA is inevitable, but to paraphrase President Clinton—we need to "mend it, not end it."

In closing, I would urge everyone to take personal responsibility for improving the lives of Indian people. We do a great job of talking about the importance of our actions on the seventh generation, but we need to do more.

This article was excerpted and adapted from an address that Assistant Secretary Ada Deer gave to the National Congress of American Indians on January 23, 1997.



Roger G. Kennedy, Bureau Director
Ricardo Lewis, Bureau Editor

Remembering FDR

The dedication of **Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Park**, the newest memorial in



Washington, D.C., will be held Friday, May 2, with special events throughout the period of May 1-3. The 7-acre park, designed by landscape architect **Lawrence Halprin** of San Francisco, California, depicts Roosevelt's four terms as President in four landscaped open-air "rooms" filled with sculpture and quotations. The \$19.2 million contract

to construct the memorial on the south side of the Tidal Basin was awarded in 1994. The memorial was authorized by Congress in 1982. Contact the FDR Memorial Commission at (202) 228-2491 for information.

They Bloomed a Little Early

The 1997 National Cherry Blossom Festival was held from March 30 through April 13 at various locations in Washington, D.C., but the blossoms themselves couldn't wait and bloomed earlier. Celebrating Washington's famous cherry trees which surround the Tidal Basin in East and West Potomac Parks, the festival included the traditional Parade, on Saturday, April 12, and the lighting of the 300-year-old Japanese lantern. Dignitaries attending the ceremonies included the Japanese Ambassador, top federal and District of Columbia officials, and festival princesses.



Maynard Hudson, a member of the National Capital Parks-Central tree crew that cares for the cherry trees, checks blossoms at the Tidal Basin near the Jefferson Memorial

Underground Railroad Initiative

The Archeology and Ethnography Program of the National Park Service has begun to coordinate an archeological initiative for the National Historic Landmarks' Underground Railroad Theme Study. The Underground Railroad was the name given to the network of people and places used by African-Americans who fled slavery.

The purpose of the Theme Study Archeological Initiative is to assemble archeological information about the Underground Railroad, identify the range of archeological property types associated with its history, and nominate nationally significant places as National Historic Landmarks.

The Initiative is a multi-year partnership project among African-American groups, preservationists, and archeologists. An additional initiative will focus on ethnography because of the importance of oral tradition to interpretations about this important period of American history.

For additional information, contact **Richard C. Waldbauer**, NPS Archeology and Ethnography Program, at (202) 343-1252.

The Best Idea America Ever Had

When **President Ulysses S. Grant** preserved more than 3,300 square miles of park land by signing the Yellowstone Park Act on March 1, 1872, no one foresaw the worldwide rippling effect of his action. The signing of that legislation was the start of the best idea America ever had—our National Parks.

In the United States today there are 374 unique places where our nation preserves its cultural and natural diversity and heritage. And, the national park idea has spread to more than 140 other nations that have modeled their own national park systems after ours.

National Park Week 1997, April 21-27, will celebrate the evolution that began 125 years ago this month with the establishment of Yellowstone National Park (in parts of Wyoming, Montana, Idaho) and the evolution of the National Park System. This much emulated Park System now contains great natural wonders, historic battlefields, urban beaches, ruins of ancient civilizations, monuments to those who shaped this nation, and other pieces of America's historical, cultural, natural, and recreational heritage.

National Park Week 1997 also will highlight the Service's diverse professions, including everything from Search and Rescue specialists who save lives to curators skilled in preserving rare artifacts. Many services and programs provided by the agency also will be profiled, including the responsibility for managing the National Register of Historic Places; a separate tax credit program to help preserve historic buildings; and the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, which helps



towns and cities create close-to-home recreation opportunities.

National Park Week will be celebrated with events at parks all around the country, and an award ceremony, April 23, in Washington, D.C., to present the Harry Yount National Park Ranger Award, and Partnership-Leadership Awards, which recognize the contributions of private and public citizens and organizations in advancing the Service's mission. For more information, the program contact is **Sue Waldron** at (202) 208-5477.

The Yellowstone Vision

Each year, more than 3 million visitors are awestruck by the beauty within Yellowstone National Park, from geysers and hot springs to waterfalls and wildlife. As we celebrate Yellowstone's 125th anniversary, we are reminded of the vision of those early park supporters who believed that Yellowstone's resources should be preserved not for their economic value but for their intrinsic natural beauty.

"We are able to celebrate Yellowstone's anniversary because of the vision of those who preceded us 125 years ago," said park superintendent **Mike Finley**. "How we meet the

challenges today will determine what we as a people will celebrate 125 years from now," he said.

Several 125th anniversary events have been planned throughout the year, including a birthday celebration, the dedication of the Bison Exhibit at Canyon Visitor Center, Military Appreciation Day, and special National Park Week events. For more information, contact **Marsha Karle** or **Cheryl Matthews**, Yellowstone National Park Public Affairs, at (307) 344-2015 or 2010.

Nominations Sought for Shenandoah Battlefields District Commission

The Department of the Interior is seeking nominations for members to serve on the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District Commission. The Commission was established on November 12, 1996, when **President Clinton** signed the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 into law. The Commission's primary focus is to develop a management plan to protect the natural, cultural, and historic resources of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District (Virginia).

The Commission will also help encourage the protection of those resources by landowners, local governments, organizations, and businesses. The law requires the Secretary to appoint 19 members to the Commission. One member will be appointed to represent property owners from within each of the ten battlefield units with the District. Another five members will represent local governments of the communities in the vicinity of the District.

Of the remaining four members, one will be the Governor of Virginia or the Governor's designee, one will be the Director of the National Park Service or the Director's designee, and two will have expertise in historic preservation and Civil War history. The Secretary asks that nominations to represent property owners within the District be sent before May 15 to Secretary of the Interior, Main Interior Building, Mail Stop 7229, Washington, DC, 20240.

Each nomination should include a home and business address and telephone number, education, and work experience, which of the 10 battlefield units they would represent, and information about why the individual is qualified to serve on the commission. The Secretary will also be requesting local governments of communities in the vicinity of the District to send him their recommendations for the five members who will represent them. For information, contact **Sandy Rives** at (540) 999-3400 or (804) 985-7293.

Vanishing Treasures Initiative

Unique and perishable masonry ruins that are important to our national heritage are deteriorating at a rate which far exceeds the NPS effort to maintain them. The treasures are located in 41 national parks in the arid West. These tangible symbols of America's heritage are slowly vanishing due to weathering and erosion.

In an effort to provide a level of care for these ruins that will inspire their preservation, the NPS has developed a Vanishing Treasures Initiative. The park sites with these ruins include Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado, Chaco Culture National Historical Park in New Mexico, and the Fort Laramie National Historic Site in Wyoming. Other sites are in Utah, Texas, and Arizona.

The aim of the 10-year program is to bring NPS capability and the prehistoric and historic structures to a condition in which they will be preserved by routine preservation maintenance activities. The Initiative



includes: immediate emergency actions to be carried out over the 10-year period; a focus on skilled maintenance expert development and training; and provisions for appropriate expertise in other disciplines to make the program successful.

The President's FY98 budget requests \$3.5 million to fund stabilizing efforts in the first year of the program. The public affairs contact is **Cecilia Matic** (505) 988-6014.

Examples of unique heritage sites in need of assistance are at Chaco Culture National Historic Park, which has 500,000 square feet of exposed wall. Masonry structures dating from the 12th century include, from left, the Great House at Pueblo del Arroyo, flooring in del Arroyo, and New Alto, with rooms of uniform size around a central kiva.

Great American Landmarks

A new home page feature on the National Park Service's Links to the Past web site is **The Great American Landmarks Adventure** (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/pad/adventure/landmark.htm>)

For kids, families, and teachers, the site highlights 43 National Historic Landmarks representing an overall tribute to our nation's achievements and potential. Each Landmark was carefully selected to show what We the People have done in the past, how it has affected our present and will shape our future, and emphasize the contributions of America's diverse peoples.

Eight landmarks will be presented each week, beginning with a prehistoric cave painting, and moving forward chronologically in time until the series ends with America's blast-off to the moon in 1969. Each drawing can be downloaded, and colored with crayons, pencils, or pens. Children are encouraged to send their finished products back to the NPS where selections will be posted in a special gallery, and the names of everyone who sends us a colored drawing will be listed.

Originally published as a book, **The Great American Landmarks Adventure** received funding support from The American Architectural Foundation and the Legacy Resources Management Program. The web site

NPS On the Web



was designed in partnership with The History Channel Online.

A companion Teacher's Guide has been prepared to promote lively discussion of the issues suggested by the landmarks included in the adventure book. The ultimate goal of **The Great American Landmarks Adventure** is to stimulate children's interest in their environment—to encourage them to look around and see themselves as both keepers and creators of this nation's history. At the end of the time travel, kids are asked to select a landmark they believe is historically important and should be preserved for future generations.

Themes of National Significance

Interested in learning about the Civil War, immigration, performing arts, or education? There are NPS sites relating to all of those themes and many more. If you find a particular topic fascinating, you'll now be able to start your research by viewing the NPS web page called: **Categories of National Significance and Parks that Illustrate Them.**

More than 50 theme categories are listed with related park sites. For example, if you want to write about science, you'll find Edison National Historical Site (New Jersey) and Dinosaur National Monument (Colorado), among others, listed under that theme heading.

The list was compiled by the Park History unit of the National Register, History, and Education Program of the National Center for Cultural Resources Stewardship and Partnership Programs. From agriculture to women's history, the NPS can help provide a fuller understanding of our nation's past. The site can be found at: www.nps.gov/crweb1/history/catsig.htm.



Exotic Plant Control

Big Cypress National Park, Florida, and Dade County officials have agreed on a program to control and monitor an exotic pest tree from Australia, *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, in more than 2,000 acres of mixed prairie and cypress stands in the park. The initial treatment, the first of three phases, has been completed; the second phase, which is re-treatment, will begin in late spring. The third and final phase will involve long-term monitoring. Non-native or exotic weeds, such as *Melaleuca*, can crowd out native plants, harm animal habitats, and increase erosion. The County is engaging in the project to mitigate wetland impacts which resulted from the construction of a correctional facility. The program contact is **Tony Pernas**, who can be reached at (941) 695-4111.

Monitoring UV-B

The National Park Service and the Environmental Protection Agency signed an interagency agreement to develop a long-term environmental monitoring program, known as the Demonstration Intensive Site Network (DISPro). The first activity under DISPro will be to install UV-B monitors in twelve National Park Service units by the end of 1997: **Denali**, Alaska; **Sequoia**, California; **Olympic**, Washington; **Big Bend**, Texas; **Everglades**,

Florida; **Virgin Islands**; **Acadia**, Maine; **Shenandoah**, Virginia; **Great Smoky Mountains**, Tennessee; **Rocky Mountain**, Colorado; **Glacier**, Montana; and **Canyonlands**, Utah. This monitoring



network will enhance the existing air and deposition monitoring coordinated by the NPS Air Resources Division. **Kathy Tonnessen**, the program contact, can be reached at (303) 969-2738.

Standing Ready

From March to July, the town of Talkeetna, Alaska (population 800) becomes the international jumping off point for people climbing Mount McKinley, the tallest peak (20,320 feet) in North America. About 1,100 people will try, half will succeed, and several will get into life-threatening trouble. A small group of **Denali National Park** rangers and volunteers, and a very small helicopter, stand ready to try for a rescue in the most dramatic of settings. One ranger recently received an international award in Italy for his life-saving teamwork. For additional information call public affairs contact, **John Quinley** at (907) 257-2696.

Termites in the Tropics

A significant threat to the cultural resources of **San Juan National Historic Site**, Puerto Rico, has been discovered. Active infestations of the subterranean termite (*Coptotermes havilandi*) have been identified in two areas in San Cristobal and El Moro. *Coptotermes havilandi*, found primarily in tropical regions, is considered the most destructive termite species wherever it occurs. Monitoring plans are being implemented to locate termite colonies, and a management plan utilizing baiting technology is being devised. For more information, contact **Chris Furqueron** at (404) 562-3113.