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Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2001 2:09 PM
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Subject: Professional Status for Recreation/Natural Resources Management

1. We are working closely with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and other federal land management agencies in a combined effort to develop a professional specialization in the classification system for recreation/natural resources management. This is very positive news to anyone who has been following our efforts to obtain a professional status to the outdoor recreation management discipline.

2. The new specialization (*Recreation Science* - proposed parenthetical title) would not replace the GS-025, Park Ranger or GS-023, Outdoor Recreation Planner job series, but would be in addition to those two current nonprofessional series. A meeting was held with Office of Personnel Management, and with Human Resource representatives from the National Park Service, Forest Service, and USACE and substantial preliminary work has been done. OPM is generally supportive of the effort.

3. The new specialization would fall into the GS-401 classification series as a subspecialty, thus would not require a new series, which OPM strongly opposes, and would be accomplished at the same time as the development of a job family standard for the GS-400 occupational group, a project currently underway at OPM. Alex Major, Human Resources, and myself are serving as the USACE points of contact for this effort, which has the support of all the major Federal land management agencies involved with natural resources and recreation, as well as the National Association of Recreation Resource Planners and other outside groups. Our Natural Resources Management Career Development Committee stands ready to assist us with this initiative as necessary.

4. This action constitutes somewhat of a rebirth of a similar project in 1993, which was not supported by the Forest Service, and thus failed. This time should be more successful as all players are on board.

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