



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

SEP 09 2008

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

S: 15 October 2008

CECW-CO-N

**MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS AND
DISTRICT COMMANDS; CHIEFS, OPERATIONS DIVISIONS AND DISTRICTS**

**SUBJECT: Natural Resources Management (NRM) Park Ranger Community of Practice
Project Management Plan and "3 Up and 3 Down" Survey**

1. It is my pleasure to announce that the Park Ranger Community of Practice (CoP) Advisory Board has been chartered with the goal of developing and administering a community of practice to help unify and provide an on-going support platform for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer Park Ranger.
2. This community of practice will serve as a unifying body, becoming a bridge in bringing together knowledge, expertise, and information in a multitude of program areas to better serve the park ranger community. The board held its inaugural meeting in July 2008 in Grapevine, Texas, to finalize the Charter, prepare the Project Management Plan (PMP), and begin serving the community of practice.
3. The enclosed PMP identifies a number of critical objectives, including: (1) advancing the technical and leadership skills necessary to empower the park ranger in accomplishing professional park ranger duties in an agency-of-choice environment and (2) implementing a plan for program sustainability to ensure that the ranger is appropriately positioned for the future. The PMP identifies many critical actions to be undertaken over the next three years. See Enclosure 1.
4. It is also my privilege to announce that, with the signing of this memorandum, the Park Ranger CoP web page has been officially launched on the Natural Resources Management Gateway web site at <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/rangers.cfm>. Key program managers in several ranger-related disciplines have been working with the Engineer Research and Development Center in developing this interactive web page in support of all team members with park ranger responsibilities.
5. As part of the website, the advisory board has prepared a "3 Up and 3 Down" survey designed to obtain a quick assessment of the Park Ranger CoP as it exists today (Enclosure 2). Request that all park rangers and other natural resource management professionals complete the survey on-line at the above web site address by 15 October 2008. Results of this survey will be published and will help in preparing a more comprehensive survey to be conducted in Fiscal Year 2009.

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6. The USACE Park Ranger will continue to fill a vital role as a natural resources program manager and ambassador to the public and an advocate for our agency. However, as we face ever-evolving missions involving our programs and our people, the challenges for this community will only intensify. The activities of this board and the implementation of the web page and other PMP initiatives will help insure that the members of the NRM Park Ranger Community of Practice across the nation will remain relevant, ready, responsive, and reliable.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



JAMES R. HANNON, JR. P.E.
Acting Chief, Operations
Directorate of Civil Works

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