



Association of National Park Rangers • P.O. Box 108 • Larned, KS 67550-0108 • www.anpr.org

May 3, 2004

Dear Employee of the National Park Service:

By now you have probably seen the report, "Endangered Rangers," or read one of the numerous media articles it has generated. Published March 16, 2004, by the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), "Endangered Rangers" draws from numerous sources to highlight the ever-dwindling number of park staff entrusted to carry out the mission of the National Park Service. As a major contributor to this report, the Association of National Park Rangers also released a companion piece, "Beyond the Endangered Ranger: A View from within the National Parks," on Earth Day, April 22, 2004. The full version can be viewed on ANPR's website: www.anpr.org/beyond-04.pdf.

This is not all ANPR has been working on. As the NPS approaches its 100th anniversary in 2016, we feel it should not be a time to lament what we have lost, but serve as a clarion call. Just as Mission 66 revitalized a struggling system from 1956 to 1966, **Mission 16**, a new ANPR initiative, will target resource stewardship capacity. This project is ANPR's major focal point for the years to come. What do we propose? Visit our website at www.anpr.org for information on **Mission 16** and ANPR. Learn how ANPR has been the voice for more than a quarter of a century for those who serve the mission of the NPS.

For decades the Association of National Park Rangers has been on the forefront of many fights for park resources and those who care for them. ANPR has been a leader in employee issues from Ranger Careers to 6C retirement for protection rangers to housing issues. We have been an advocate for resources management and protection and visitor services. We have presented a wide variety of training opportunities. Most recently, we added our collective voice to the discussion on "competitive sourcing" and were heard by the Director and the Department. As a result, fee collectors and park guides were removed from the list of job series to be studied. ANPR has been and will continue to be "stewards for parks, visitors and each other" for many years to come.

We hope that you will strengthen this energized movement by reading the information from the NPCA report (at www.npca.org), ANPR's report and ANPR's information sheets (at www.anpr.org/anpraction.htm), and by encouraging others to do the same. Now more than ever employees need encouragement. ANPR is a place for employees to feel acknowledged and where their enthusiasm for the NPS mission can be supported and amplified. We ask you to let your staff know about ANPR and its advocacy for park resources and employees. An ANPR membership poster for display in your park's break room(s) accompanies this letter.

The Association of National Park Rangers is here to support the employees of the National Park Service. We have been and continue to be an effective voice with the Directorate and Interior Department for NPS employees. If you want to add your voice to ours, please contact at me at ANPRExDir@comcast.net with any comments, questions, suggestions or thoughts. I strongly encourage you to be a part of the dialogue. We need your voice and your support. Please be assured that your comments can be kept confidential. As you see that ANPR is doing the right thing on behalf of our employees, we hope that you will add to our collective voice by joining the association and encouraging others to do the same.

Sincerely,

Jeff McFarland, Executive Director