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The Subcommittee treats the Cooperative Units quite well under the current tough budget conditions and separates them from being part of the major cut to the overall Service. The Interior Subcommittee has recommended an FY 96 program level of \$14,517,000 for the Cooperative Research Units. This includes park and other units as well as fish and wildlife.

It is not clear exactly how the Interior Subcommittee's proposals will be accepted by the full Committee on Appropriations. Great uncertainty remains about the future of NBS. Once the final action is taken by the House of Representatives, it may be time for cooperators to reevaluate an overall strategy to support the Cooperative Research Unit Program. The House Committee on Appropriations will act next Tuesday, June 27.

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From the desk of...

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