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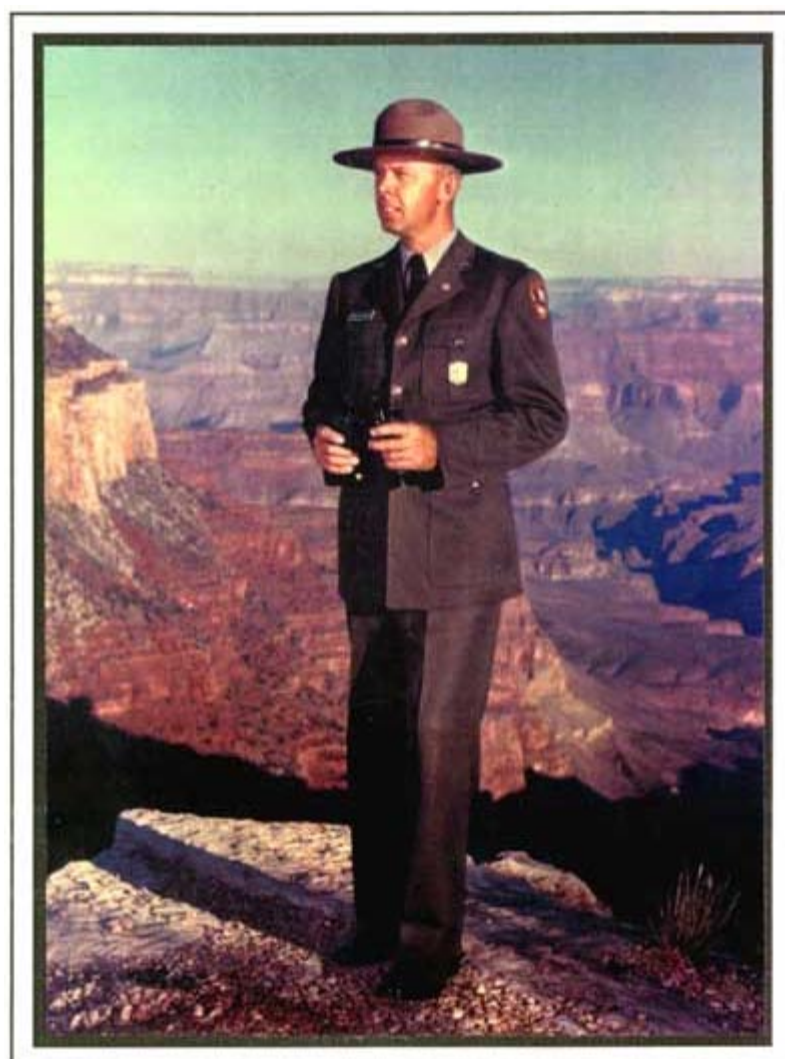
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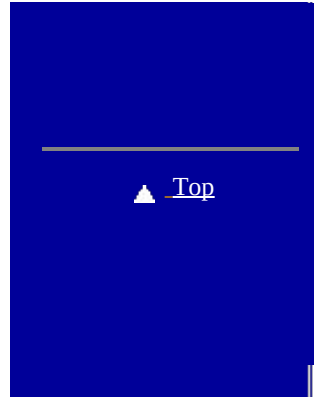
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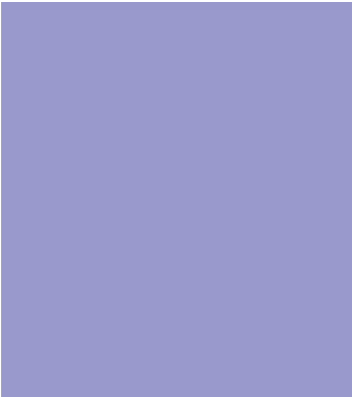
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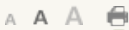
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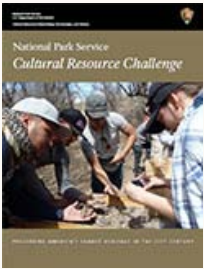
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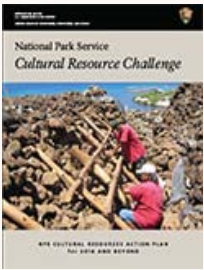
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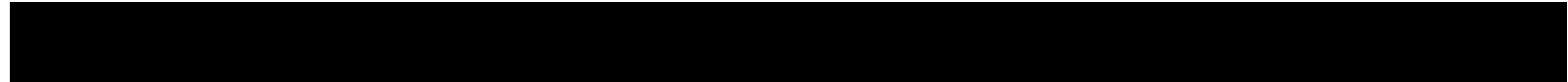
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National Park Service Uniforms

The Developing Years

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1932-1970

Preface

Cover (shown at top left):

Howard Chapman in uniform — GRCA, 1963. Chapman is shown at Grand Canyon National Park soon after his transfer from Yellowstone National Park. The National Park Service Training Center had been temporarily located in Yosemite National Park for four years before finding a permanent home on the South Rim at Grand Canyon. Chapman had transferred to become an instructor at the new Training Center, now christened the Horace M. Albright Training Center, which was completed in the summer of 1963. His 1960 badge and nametag, as well as arrowhead patch and Department of the Interior 10-year service pin stand out on his 1947 pattern uniform.

NPSHPC-HFC#50-70-15

Publications in the		
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE UNIFORM SERIES		
<u>Number</u>	Badges and Insignia	1894-1991
1		
<u>Number</u>	In Search of an Identity	men's uniforms - 1872-
2		1920
<u>Number</u>	Ironing Out the Wrinkles	men's uniforms - 1920-
3		1932
<u>Number</u>	Breeches, Blouses and Skirts	women's uniforms - 1918-
4		1991
<u>Number</u>	The Developing Years	men's uniforms - 1932-
5	(Web edition only, no printed version produced)	1970
<u>Proposed (but not funded)</u>		
Number	They Also Serve	ancillary uniforms - 1920-
6		1991



Ranger Wolfrum "Bill" Joffe was the first ranger to enter the National Park Service from veterans discharged at the Naval Hospital in Yosemite National Park. After the War, uniformed National Park Service personnel were authorized to wear ribbons denoting any decorations they had earned during the War in any of the military services, until rescinded in the 1961 uniform regulations. This was interpreted rather loosely by some. Images show rangers wearing badges and medals, as well. Joffe is wearing his ribbons along with a 1936 ranger badge. *NPSHPC-Ralph H. Anderson photo-HFC#91-7*

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Introduction

The first few decades after the founding of America's system of national parks were spent by the men working in those parks first in search of an identity, then after the establishment of the National Park Service in 1916 in ironing out the wrinkles in their new uniform regulations, as well as those of the new bureau.

The process of fine tuning the uniform regulations to accommodate the various functions of the park ranger began in the 1930s. Until then there was only one uniform and the main focus seemed to be in trying to differentiate between the officers and the lowly rangers. The former were authorized to have their uniforms made of finer material (Elastique versus heavy wool for the ranger), and extraneous decorations of all kinds were hung on the coat to distinguish one from the other.

The ranger's uniform was used for all functions where recognition was desirable: dress; patrol (when the possibility of contact with the public existed), and various other duties, such as firefighting. Regular civilian clothing was authorized to be worn when doing hard physical labor, such as building roads or similar projects, where the uniform might become soiled or torn.

The rangers were required to furnish and maintain their own uniforms in a presentable manner from their low pay, placing an undue burden on their shoulders. Consequently, civilian clothing was quite often worn when patrolling the backcountry, especially in the wintertime, since the chance of meeting the public was very remote.

Whenever rangers' uniform became a little shopworn and needed replacing, many of them, no doubt, reserved their new ones for the more prestigious occasions, and kept the old ones for more arduous duties. Even so, the single-style uniform did not lend itself well to all situations.



The third decade of the Twentieth Century saw the beginning of the developing years for the National Park Service ranger uniform. Up until 1936, the uniform regulations dealt mainly with tidying up loose ends of the original 1920 regulations, such as materials and ornamentation. Beginning that year, more and more clothing found its way into the ranger's closet to cover those occasions when the standard uniform would not suffice.

Most of the early additions dealt with cold weather apparel. Heavy uniform parkas and Mackinaws, warm caps and other specialized apparel were authorized as the need arose, for such arduous duties as ski patrol, for example.

Since most of the people reading this book will have already read the previous publications, and the same people, in and out of the Park Service assisted in this volume as well, it would be redundant to list all those individuals again, but I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to them all for their unselfish assistance in making this book possible.

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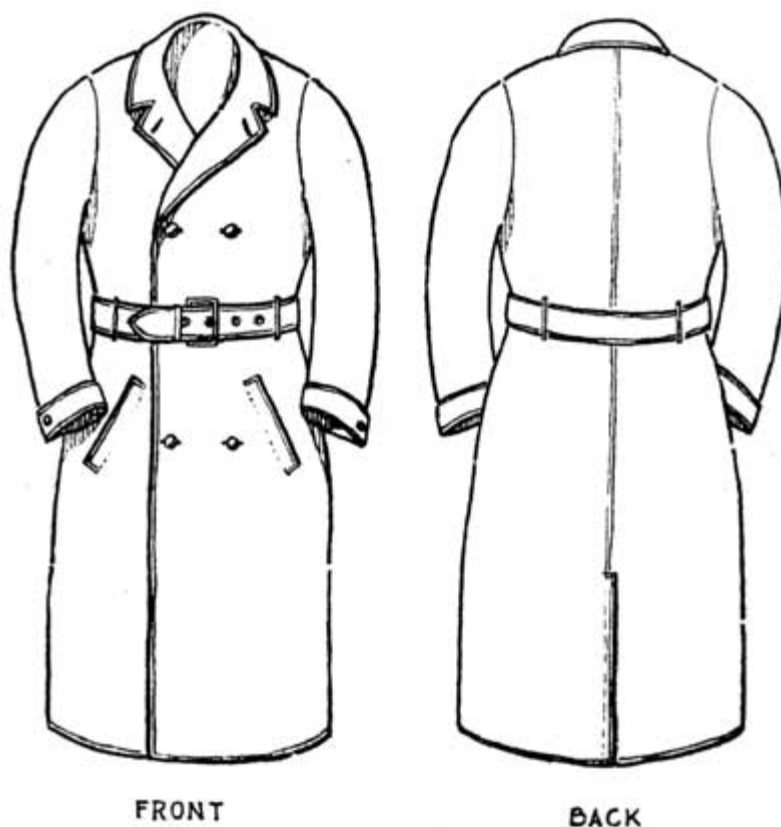
The Developing Years

Up until the 1930s, the National Park Service had been content to tinker with recognition symbols to be applied to the coat. These were added and removed as they endeavored to iron out the wrinkles and come up with a sensible, yet practical uniform. All the effort was concentrated on the basic uniform and consequently the rangers ended up with a very nice suit of clothes that worked well in most of the western parks during the spring, summer and fall seasons. The "officer and men" mentality that prevailed in those early years resulted in the "men" wearing a uniform of heavy grade material not really suited for the warmer eastern parks. This was corrected in 1928 when the rangers were authorized to wear uniforms of the same material as those of the officers.

A soft cap, based on the style worn by British army officers at that time, had been specified in 1928 for motorcycle patrol use, although this was later expanded to include warm weather parks, especially in the East. Other than the hatband authorized in 1930, the first documented addition to the ranger's wardrobe for servicewide use in this decade, was a raincoat.

The need for a raincoat had been suggested at the 1932 Conference, and in fact, an overcoat and raincoat had been specified in the 1932 Regulations when they were issued, but apparently no designs had been formulated for these items, leastwise the raincoat. For some reason, drawings were not made for this item until two years later. Owen A Tomlinson, superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park and chairman of the Uniform Committee submitted these drawings to the Director's office on June 5, 1934, where Director Arno B. Cammerer approved them on June 14. [[1](#)]

RAINCOAT



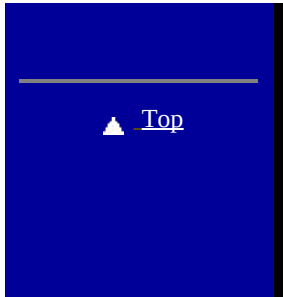
RECOMMENDED *Arno B. Cammerer* DATE *June 6 - 1934*
APPROVED *Arno B. Cammerer* DATE *6/14/34*
CHAIRMAN, UNIFORM COMMITTEE
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

A raincoat was incorporated into the Uniform Regulations in 1932. However, it would appear that this wasn't finalized until this 1934 drawing was signed by Director Arno B. Cammerer approved this drawing on 6/14/34.

NPSHC-HFC RG Y55

Because of the dearth of correspondence and documentation from the 1930s, it is very difficult to pinpoint when some uniform articles were introduced. Some articles credited to the 1932 and 1936 regulations may have been introduced earlier, or as in the case of the raincoat, later. Office Order 204 was published in 1930 and revised on June 7, 1932, but only the revised version has been found. What little official correspondence there is alludes to several office orders concerning uniforms being published between Office Order 204-revised and Office Order 324, published on April 13, 1936, but these have not come to light. The same is true between 1936 and 1940. We must therefore assume that any changes between these dates occurred on the latter, until one of these lost office orders proves otherwise.

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"Asst. Ch Rangers Fred Johnson [left] and George Miller [center] and Forest Ranger Edwards [right] — W. Yell Fire, 1933." Johnson is wearing a leather jacket and trousers, but Miller is in full dress, sans coat, while fighting the big 1933 fire at Yellowstone National Park. They look rather clean for such a dirty job, so they were probably only supervising the various details.

NPSHPC-YELL#130,147



Director [Arno B.] Cammerer (1933-1940)
and Superintendent Owen A. Tomlinson
(1923-1941) at Mount Rainier National Park,
1933. Tomlinson is wearing 2 stars on his
sleeve for his 10 years service.

*NPSHPC-Natt Noyes Dodge Collection-
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1 Drawing: National Park Service History Collection, Record Group Y55, "Raincoat", Harpers Ferry Center, Harpers ferry, West Virginia (Collection hereinafter cited as HFC/Drawings).

2 The Army dress uniform at this time consisted of a dark green coat with light colored trousers with a pinkish tint, commonly called "pinks".

3 Memorandum, Cammerer to all superintendents and custodians, Feb. 23, 1935, National Park Service History Collection, Record Group Y55, Harpers Ferry Center, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, General uniform correspondence (Collection hereinafter cited as HFC/GC).

4 Monthly reports, 1934: March, pp. 142-145; April, pp. 203-207; May, p. 260, Southwestern Monuments Monthly Reports, National Park Service Archives, Record Group Y55, Harpers Ferry Center, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. (Collection hereinafter cited as Southwestern)

5 Jodhpurs originated in India (c.1899) and became popular through their use by the British Army. They are a riding breeches cut full through the hips and close fitting from the knee to the ankle.

6 Memorandum, Cammerer to All Field Offices, Jan. 14, 1935, HFC/GC.

7 Memorandum, Tolson to All Field Offices, Aug. 9, 1935, ibid.

8 Memorandum, Hillory A. Tolson to all National Park Service Offices, Mar. 2, 1935, ibid.

9 Monthly report, April, 1935, p.208, Southwestern.

10 Fairchild's Dictionary of Textiles, 1979, defines cravenette as a "Registered trademark of Crown Metro Inc., The Cravenette Company Division, for a durable and renewable water repellent treatment applied to woolen and worsted fabrics and apparel. The term was coined by a Bradford, England, manufacturer named Wiley who, for want of a better name, used the street on which he lived, Craven Street, London. The original method was discovered about 60 years ago."

11 Memorandum, Arthur E. Demaray to All Field Offices, May 26, 1936, HFC/GC.

12 This was a shortening of "Belgian Belly", named after the beautiful pastel reddish buff color of the underfur of the Belgian hare from which some of the finer hats were felted.

13 Memorandum, Tolson to all Field Offices, Sept. 16, & Oct. 8, 1936, *ibid*.

14 Memorandum, Tolson to All Field Offices, Oct. 9, 1936, *ibid*.

15 Memoranda, Demaray to all field officers, Sept. 3, 1938, *ibid*; Tolson to all field officers, Nov. 10, 1938, HFC/GC.

16 Memorandum, Washington Office to All Field Offices, July 27, 1939, National Park Service History Collection (Record Group Y55), Harpers Ferry Center, National Park Service uniform regulations (Collection hereinafter cited as Regulations/(date)).

17 Letter, John W. Emmert to Preston, April 10, 1940, National Park Service History Collection (File 455) Yellowstone National Park, "Rangers-Misc Reports, Part 2, Jan. 1, 1940-Dec.31, 1943" (Collection hereinafter cited as Yellowstone/MR); Memoranda, Preston to Emmert, April 15, 1940, & July 18, 1940, *ibid*.

18 The color change was probably due to the realization that the darker color would negate much of the insulation qualities afforded by the pith helmet.

19 Memorandum, John C. Preston to Lemuel A. Garrison, 21 May, 1941, National Park Service History Collection (Record Group Y55), Harpers Ferry Center, National Park Service Uniform Committee, Personal file of Lemuel A. "Lon" Garrison, File A-66 (Collection hereinafter cited as Garrison)

20 Memorandum, Garrison to Lawrence C. Hadley, May 28, 1941, *ibid*.

21 Letter, Tolson to Preston, May 7, 1941, *ibid*; Memorandum, Preston to Director, NPS, May 28, 1941, *ibid*.

22 Letters, Region I parks to Garrison, Oct. to Dec., 1941, *ibid*.

23 Memorandum, Preston to Uniform Committee, Mar. 27, 1942, *ibid*; Letters, Fechheimer Brothers Company to Preston, Mar. 24, 1942, *ibid*; Fechheimer to Preston, Mar. 28, 1942, *ibid*.

24 Memoranda, Preston to NPS Uniform Committee, Mar. 27, 1942, *ibid*; Tolson to Preston, Mar. 31, 1942, *ibid*.

25 Memorandum, Preston to Director, NPS, July 2, 1942, *ibid*.

26 Memorandum, Preston to NPS Uniform Committee, Oct. 20, 1942, *ibid*.

27 Memorandum, H. Maier to All Region IV areas, Aug. 20, 1942, *ibid.*

28 Memorandum, Tolson to Regional Director, Apr. 1, 1943, Yellowstone/MR.

29 Conversation between Nash Castro and author, June 23, 1998.

30 Memorandum, Tolson to All Field Finance Offices, June 19, 1956, National Park Service History Collection (Record Group Y55), "Federal Employee Uniform Allowance", Harpers Ferry Center, Collection hereinafter cited as FEUA)

31 Processed sheepskin that has been sheared and dyed to resemble beaver or seal.

32 Webster defines a bodkin as "A blunt needle with a large eye for drawing tape or ribbon through a loop or hem." However, I believe in this case, they refer to the wire clip used quite often to secure buttons on coats.

33 An acetal (waterproofing compound) of butyraldehyde.

34 Raglan is a coat with sleeves that extend to the neckline with slanted seams from the underarm to the neck.

35 This jacket was based on a similar style made popular by General Dwight David Eisenhower while he was supreme commander of allied forces in Europe during World War II.

36 Pima cotton is a fiber of exceptional strength and firmness that was developed in the southwestern U.S. by selection and breeding of Egyptian cottons.

37 Memoranda, Lawrence F. Cook to Director, NPS, March 10, 1960, HFC/GC; Cook to Director, August 30, 1960, *ibid.*

38 Memorandum, Cook to Director, NPS, March 20, 1961, HFC/GC.

39 This disparity was due to the woman's uniform, at that time, being less expensive than that of the man.

40 Memorandum, Clarence P. Montgomery to All Field Offices, Jan. 13, 1966, FEUA.

41 Memorandum, Robert R. Lovegren to All Field Offices, Jan. 13, 1966, FEUA.

42 As in 1918, women were hired to fill the vacancies left when the men joined, or were drafted into the military. These were usually the wives of rangers or locals. A number of women were employed as fire guards throughout the Park system.

43 Pamphlet, MISSION 66 in Action, National Park Service, 1957.

44 This term was used to denote a member or fan of "Star Trek", a

popular TV program of the period.

45 Vince Gleason, then chief of Publications, National Park Service had suggested the hands motif as an abstract symbolizing that the Nation's natural resources were in good hands. The derogatory appellation "Good Hands" or "Allstate" badge resulted from its resemblance to the Allstate Insurance's showing an open pair of hands with the slogan, "You're in good hands with Allstate."

46 Memorandum, Hillory A. Tolson to All Field Offices, Aug. 9, 1935, National Park Service History Collection, (Record Group Y55) General Correspondence.

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The information contained in this volume was gleaned mainly from the National Park Service History Collection (NPSHC) housed at the Harpers Ferry Center Library. This collection contains many textual sub-collections, such as monthly reports, personal histories, published and unpublished materials, etc., as well as an extensive collection of artifacts, all relating to the history and culture of the National Park Service. Definitions extracted from dictionaries covering specific subjects, along with personal interviews served to flesh out the information obtained from the NPSHC.

Fairchild's Dictionary of Textiles, 6th Edition, 1979, Dr. Isabel B. Wingate, Fairchild Publishing Co., New York

National Park Service History Collection, Document Group Y55, "Uniforms of the National Park Service", Harpers Ferry Center, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

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Appendix A

The following list of uniform manufacturers and dealers in uniform equipment was included in a memorandum sent by Assistant Director Hillory A. Tolson to All Field Offices on August 9, 1935. Those marked by an astrick () are known to have furnished uniform equipment to the National Park Service.*

Uniform Manufacturers and Dealers in Uniform Equipment

(As of August, 1935)

Artvogue Neckwear Company	San Francisco, CA
R. Break, Tailor	Livingston, MT
Brooks Clothing Company	Los Angeles, CA
Browning King Corporation	New York, NY
J. Cohen & Sons	Seattle, WA
The Craddock Company	Kansas City, MO
Crown Uniform Company	New York, NY
Desmonds	Los Angeles, CA
A. Dubois & Sons	New York, NY
*Fechheimer Brothers Company	Cincinnati, OH
M.L. French	Bangor, ME
*Gemsco	New York, NY
Glickman & Company	Los Angeles, CA
G.K. George Uniform Company, Inc.	New York, NY
Geraghty & Company	Chicago, IL
J.T. Hardeman Hat Company	Seattle, WA
Harding Uniform & Regalia Company	Boston, MA
Hart, Schaffner & Marx	Chicago, IL
*Hastings Clothing Company	San Francisco, CA
H.L. Hines	Washington, DC
Hirsh, Weintraub & Company	Philadelphia, PA
Kirkendall Boot Company	Omaha, NE
D. Klein & Brother, Inc.	Philadelphia, PA
*Lilley-Ames Company	Columbus, OH

Maier-Lavaty Company	Chicago, Il
B.B. McGinnis	Merced, CA
Nifty Uniform Company	Perkasie, PA
Pettibone Brothers Manufacturing Co.	Cincinnati, OH
Phillips Tailoring Company	Klamath Falls, OR
E.V. Price & Company	Chicago, IL
Jacob Reed's Sons	Philadelphia, PA
Rosenfield Uniform Company	Boston, MA
Juster Brothers,Inc.	Minneapolis, MN
Prom Shirt Company	New York, NY
Bernard Schrag & Company, Inc.	New York, NY
*Sigmund Eisner Company	Red Bank, NJ
H. Singer Company	Baltimore, MD
*Smith-Gray Corporation	New York, NY
Storrs-Schaefer Company	Cincinnati, OH
Sydmaur Uniform Company	Philadelphia,PA
Tegarden Uniform Company	Los Angeles, CA
Western Manufacturing Company	San Francisco, CA
Wherrie Tailoring & Woolen Company	Portland, OR [46]

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The following is the only complete set of National Park Service Uniform Regulations, other than Office Order 204, revised, June 7, 1932, found from the 1930s. They are shown in their entirety, as printed. No corrections, punctuation, spelling or otherwise has been made, to give the flavor of the period.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE UNIFORMS REGULATIONS

OFFICE ORDER NO.324

April 13, 1936

The fundamental purposes of the uniform are to symbolize the National Park Service and to identify the wearer to Park visitors. Accordingly, its use must be limited to the service field personell whose chief duties are to contact visitors and to protect the parks and monuments. The director, however, may approve specific exemptions with respect to the wearing of the uniform.

The following officials and employees of the National Park Service, whether permanent or temporary, shall wear the standard uniform when assigned to duty in any of the National Parks as well as all Historical Parks, National monuments, and other open areas that are open to tourists and visitors.

Superintendents, Assistant superintendents, Custodians rangers, Naturalists, Ranger-Naturalists, Military Park Guards, Museum attendants, Hot Springs National Park Policemen, and other National Park and national monuments employees whose duties are chiefly to attract and to contact park visitors and to protect visitors and to protect the areas adminstered by the National Park Service.

The Uniform is not to be worn by an official or employee when he is not on a duty status.

Emergency Conservation Work and other Emergency employees, when assigned to regular Public Contract service shall wear the Uniform when specifically authorized by the Director.

No other employees of the National Park Service shall wear the Standard Uniform.

ECW supervisory personnel shall wear the ECW authorized uniform. Other temporary employees or members of other Branches of the National Park Service may wear the special uniform Authorized by the Director, but shall not wear the standard uniform or Insignia prescribed for permanently appointed or regular National Park Service officials and employees.

I. STANDARD UNIFORM

The standard uniform consists of the following garments and the authorized accessories is prescribed for all formal wear and ordinary usage:

- A. Hat Stiff brim 3 to 3-1/2 inches wide, and 4 to 4-5/8 inch crown, side color. Hat to be worn with the approved leather. Hat band and two silver Sequoia cones.

Width of brim and height of crown of hat may be varied, within these dimensions, to suit the size or conformation of the wearer.

- B. Cap The approved NPS cap of the same material as uniform with approved chin strap fastened with two silver Sequoia cones is prescribed for Rangers assigned to Motor Cycle duty

- C. Coat Three or four button Military sack having open collar, Pinch back, two breast pockets, pleated, and two side pockets, bellows type; all outside pockets to have flaps, fastened with small service buttons.

The coat shall be worn on all normal occasions. It may be dispensed with only in hot weather when the superintendent or the custodian authorizes it.

- D. Breeches Of the same material as coat; full leg with two side or top pockets, two hip pockets ; and one watch pocket ; buttoned at the knee openings, with or without knee reinforcement, and double seat of the same material.

Breeches are considered as essential part of the formal uniform.

- E. Trousers Of same material as coat, straight leg, with 1-1/2 inch cuff, two side, two hip, and one watch pocket ; may be worn in lieu of breeches;

(1) In such eastern National Parks, Military Parks, National Monuments, and in other areas when extremely warm weather prevails for considerable periods.

(2) Policemen at Hot Springs National Park.

(3) By superintendents, Custodians, and other members of the field personnel on informal occasions.

- F. Field Leather field boots of medium weight, with laced instep and

- Boots laced side at top shall be worn with breeches.
- F.-I Shoes Oxford type with plain dark brown socks and they may be worn with trousers.
- G. Shirts Collar attached type of flannel, Wool; Gabardine: or of cotton material, steel gray color, for all normal duty.

A white shirt and collar is authorized for formal occasions only.

A field shirt with collar attached, shoulder straps, two large plaited breast pockets fastened with buttons, steel grey, is prescribed for wear without coats, Such shirts may be flannel, Gaberiadine or cotton material.

- H. Tie Four in hand baratheia silk, full wool lined, dark green.

- I. Overcoat Double breasted, four button Mackinaw type with convertaible collar, two side patch pockets and sewed on half belt in back.

Coat may be unlined or lined with fleece, or any other materail.

- J. Raincoat Double breasted, full belt, set-in-sleeves, calflength of light weight weather-proof material such as alligator cloth or olive green color is authorized.

- J-I. raincoat Double breasted, calflength, trench coat style with raglan sleeves, full belt and diagonal pockets of forestry green, Weather-proof Gaberiadine.

For all formal occassions such as inspections, official receptions, etc. the standard uniform for Superintendents, shall consist of : Hat, Coat, Breeches, Field Boots, steel grayor white shirt, Dark green tie, and all proper insignia and assessories.

The overcoat shall be considered and essential part of the formal when the weather conditions require its use.

II. FATIGUE UNIFORM

The fatigue uniform is prescribed for informal wear such as patrel and general field duty, fatigue use, and when the purpose of the service is other than public contact, or when the nature of the duty is such that the standard uniform would be inappropriate. It shall consist of;

- A. Hat The regulation hat and hat band.
- B. Jacket The National Park Service Field Jacket is slightly longer than the conventinial cossack, but shorter than the cruiser type jacket. It has a waist band approximately two inches wide with adjustable buckles at the side. The Jacket fastens in the front with full length talon fasteners, and has two large plaited breast pockets with flaps fastened with small regulation buttons. From the top of the breast pockets over the shoulder s and full length of back, material is double. The lower part of the back provides a large pocket, closing with talon fasteners on each side under the arms.

- C. Breeches The regulation breeches
- D. Trousers Regulation trousers. A canvas or any other waterproof material trousers of forestry green or light tan may be authorized when field conditions make this type of garment desirable.
- E. Shirt The regulation shirt, either of wool or of cotton.
- F. Tie The necktie may or may not be worn as directed by Supt.
- G. Boots Heavy leatherlace boots -10 -16 inch top or standard field boot.

Badges or collar ornaments, and rank Insignia shall be worn on the field jacket and on shirts when worn without coats or jackets. In the same position as prescribed for the coat and overcoat of the standard uniform.

III WINTER SPORTS PATROL UNIFORM

For the national parks and other areas having established winter sports seasons the following articles of uniform are prescribed for wear by rangers and other employees whose duties require their presence with visitors at snow sports activities and who are designated to wear them by the Supt. or Custodian.

- A. Cap Ski cap type of NPS design, having adjustable ear flaps and with embroidered NPS insignia on the front.
- B. Jacket The NPS field or fatigue jacket.
- C. Trousers Ski Trousers with full length cuffs, 20 inches or larger leg and knit ankle cuff.
- D. Boots Ski boots of leather of conventional design.
- E. Socks Heavy wool with dark green top, or in lieu of socks, olive green or steel grey ski leggings or spats.
- F. [this is supposed to be Parka] With or without hood, light weight weather-proof material either waist or Knee length, of forestry green or steel grey.

IV. MATERIALS

Forestry green elastic cloth, 16 to 22 ounce weight is prescribed for cap, coat, breeches, trousers, and jacket of standard, fatigue, and winter sports uniforms. All articles of a suit shall be of the same weight material.

For use in the areas where climatic conditions require a lighter weight uniform for comfort, light weight gabardine or tropical worsted cloth of about 12 ounce weight is authorized for the various articles of the standard and fatigue uniforms, subject however to approval of the director for each field unit concerned.

For forestry green elastic cloth, 22 to 30 ounce weight is prescribed for overcoat material.

Forestry or olive green patented waterproof cloth such as Alligator, -forestry green cravenette gabardine, 12 to 18 ounces weight are also prescribed for raincoat material.

Flannel, wool Gabardine, twill, broadcloth, or poplin cloth of steel grey color are authorized for shirts or shiting materials.

Dark green Barathea silk with full wool lineing is prescribed for the necktie,

First quality calf skin or horsehide leather is recommended for field boots, shoes, hat bands and chin straps. All leather articles and accessories shall be uniform cordovan color.

V. BADGES, BUTTONS, COLLAR ORNAMENTS, INSIGNIAS,
HAT*BANDS CHIN STRAPS, AND BELTS

A. Prescribed for use by Superintendents, Custodians Rangers, BADGES and fire guards as follows.

(1) Superintendents and Custodians, Round badge, made of gold.

(2) Chief rangers and assistant Chief rangers, Shield Badge, gold plated.

(3) Park Rangers, Ranger Naturalists guards, and Park Rangers (temporary) shield badge, (Nickel plated)

(3-a) Park guards, same as Park Ran. With word guard instead of "Ranger".

(4) Fire Guards -- Shield badge, Bronze metal, numbered serially.

Park Naturalists may be issued ranger badges when they enforce Park regulations.

Superintendents, Custodians, rangers, and fire guards shall wear thier badges on thier uniforms at all times, The badge shall be worn ove rthe left the pleat of the left breast pocket, Immediately below the button on coats and fatigue jackets, It shall be worn displayed on approximately the same position on field shirts and overcoats.

ALL BADGES SHALL REMAIN THE PROPERTY OF
THE GOVERNMENT

A deposit of [\$]5.00 will be required of temporary rangers and fire guards to whom the badges are issued. This sum will be returned-----Upon surrender of the badge for which it was deposited. If the badge should be lost, an additional deposit of \$5.00 will be required before another badge may be issued.

A.-1 BELT Forestry green, web-waist belt, 1-1/8 inches wide, with buckle of a design approved by the Director, is prescribed for wear when breeches are worn without coat.

B. BUTTONS Buttons of three sizes, large for overcoats, meium for

- coats, and small for pocket flaps, of bronze, and of a design as approved by the Director are prescribed.
- C. COLLAR ORNAMENTS Of rolled gold or gilt of a design approved by the Director shall be worn on coats, overcoats, fatigue jackets, and field shirts, one device shall be attached in a horizontal position to each side of the collar.
- D. RANGER INSIGNIA Indicating the various grades, is prescribed for wear by Rangers only. The Sequoia cone and foliage have been adopted as the basic sleeve insignia and the differentiation in rank is indicated by the number of cones, as follows:

Chief Rangers	Three cones with foliage
Assistant Chief Rangers	Two cones with foliage
Rangers (Permanent)	One cone with foliage
Rangers (Temporary)	Foliage only
Ranger-Naturalist	Bear with foliage

- E. SERVICE INSIGNIA Indicating length of service as a member of the National Park Service is prescribed as follows:

After the first star is earned, bars shall be discontinued to indicate service of less than five-year periods. For each five-year period of completed service, a silver embroidered star.

The service insignia shall be worn on the cuff of the left sleeve of the coat and overcoat, the lower stripe or star shall be placed 1-1/2" above end of sleeve. When stripes and stars are worn, stars shall be placed uppermost. When more than one star is worn, they shall be arranged horizontally up to four and triangularly when more than four stars are worn.

- F. HAT BANDS Of calf skin, cordovan color, 1-1/8 inch wide, embossed with evergreen twigs and cones and the letters "U.S.N.P.S." and ornamented with two silver Sequoia cones, is prescribed for wear on the hat.
- G. CHIN STRAP Of calf skin or same design as the hat band, cordovan color, embossed with evergreen twigs and cones, and the letters "U.S.N.P.S." with silver Sequoia cone fasteners, is prescribed as a part of the uniform cap.

VI. RESPONSIBILITY FOR CORRECTNESS OF ARTICLES AND PROPER USE OF UNIFORM

Employees designated to wear the National Park Service uniform shall, at their own expense, provide and wear uniforms as herein prescribed. They are responsible for compliance with the material and pattern specifications and for the proper use of their uniforms as required in these regulations and by the superintendent or custodian in charge of their field unit.

Superintendents, custodians, and supervisory officials shall, by frequent inspection, see that all members of their organizations required to wear uniforms are properly equipped with all necessary articles of clothing and accessories, and that they wear same in accordance with these regulations. They are responsible for the type of material used, and for the uniformity of all members of their organization. They shall prescribe conditions for the use of the field and winter sports uniforms, and for all seasonal changes. No employee required to wear the standard uniform shall be permitted to remain on duty improperly dressed.

All articles of uniform prescribed herein shall be in accordance with designs and specifications approved by the Director.

Articles of uniform authorized under the provisions of office order number 268 may be continued in use until worn out, Provided such use shall not extend beyond December 31, 1936, when these regulations cancel and supercede all previously issued uniform regulations.

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National Park Service Uniforms

The Developing Years

1932-1970

Number

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Appendix C

National Park Service Uniform Regulations began to be issued in the form of a manual in 1938. While the text was still typewritten, the accompanying illustrations were professionally executed. This procedure was only followed for the regulations of 1938 and 1940. With the change of uniform in 1947, the illustrations accompanying the regulations were simple little line drawings, supplemented by photographs in changes issued in 1950. Starting with the 1961 regulations, illustrations or photographs no longer accompanied the text.

Unfortunately, no complete copy of the 1938 regulations has come to light. Only a few amendment sheets to this manual, dated 1939, remain in the archives to indicate that it used this format. Instructions state that when revisions were issued, the old pages were to be discarded and the new one inserted. Apparently, the revision sheets in the archives were never inserted in the regulations resulting in their being saved when the manual was destroyed.

However, there is a complete, unaltered copy of the 1940 NPS regulations in the archives. It is bound with heavy gray-green papers utilizing a two-prong fastener. Because of its uniqueness, it has been included here in its entirety.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

November 22, 1940.

MEMORANDUM for the Washington Office and all Field Offices.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE UNIFORM REGULATIONS

The fundamental purposes of the uniform are to symbolize the National Park Service and to identify the wearer to park visitors. Accordingly, its use must be limited to the Service field personnel whose chief duties are to contact visitors and to protect the parks and monuments. The Director, however, may approve

specific exemptions with respect to the wearing of the uniform.

The following officials and employees of the National Park Service, whether permanent or temporary, shall wear the standard uniform when assigned to duty in any of the national parks, military parks, historical parks, national monuments, national parkways, and other areas open to visitors:

Superintendents, assistant superintendents, custodians, park rangers, junior park wardens, naturalists, ranger-naturalists, military park guards, museum attendants, national cemetery superintendents, and other national park and national monument employees whose duties are chiefly to contact park visitors and to protect the areas administered by the National Park Service.

Officials and employees at Death Valley National Monument who are required to wear a uniform shall wear the special type of uniform approved by the Director, as follows:

Sun Helmet: Sand tan color with silver Sequoia ornament.

Shirt: Sand tan color, any acceptable material, cotton gabardine, broadcloth, or twill; collar attached, shoulder straps, two large plaited pockets with buttoned flaps and pencil opening on the left; single button cuffs.

Trousers: Sand tan color, cotton gabardine, twill, or similar material; tunnel belt loops 2" on sides, 1-1/2" cuffs.

Belt: Regulation, cordovan color, new style.

Shoes: Blucher type, cordovan color, shoes or oxfords.

Socks: Regulation brown.

Tie: Regulation green.

The uniform is not to be worn by an official or employee when he is not in a duty status, but the superintendents and custodians may wear the uniform on important occasions outside of the park at their discretion. Other members of the field personnel may wear the uniform on important occasions outside of the park when authorized to do so by the superintendent or custodian.

Civilian Conservation Corps and emergency employees, when assigned to regular public contact service, shall wear the uniform, when specifically authorized by the Director.

No other employees of the National Park Service, including policemen in the National Capital Parks, shall wear the standard uniform prescribed by this memorandum.

CCC supervisory personnel shall wear the authorized CCC uniform. Temporary employees or members of other branches of the National Park Service may wear any special uniform authorized by the Director, but shall not wear the standard

uniform or insignia prescribed for permanently appointed or regular National Park Service officials and employees.

For all formal occasions, such as inspections, official receptions, etc., the standard uniform for superintendents shall consist of hat, coat, breeches or trousers, shoes or field boots, steel gray or white shirt, dark green tie, and all other proper insignia and accessories.

The overcoat shall be considered an essential part of the formal uniform when weather conditions require its use.

I. STANDARD UNIFORM

The standard uniform, consisting of the following garments and authorized accessories, is prescribed for all formal wear and ordinary usage:

A.-1 HAT

Stiff brim, 3 to 3-1/2 inches wide and 4 to 4-5/8 inch crown, Belly color, with three ventilator holes, arranged in the form of an equilateral triangle, bottom leg of triangle 1-1/2 inches above brim, legs of triangle 1 inch, on each side of the hat. Hat to be worn with the approved leather hat band and two silver Sequoia cones. Width of brim and height of crown of hat may be varied, within these dimensions, to suit the size or conformation of the wearer's head. Plain leather head straps, 1/2 inch wide, cordovan color, may be worn if desired.

A.-2 HELMET

A sun-tan helmet is prescribed for wear in those areas using sun-tan uniforms and the aluminum helmet in those areas using the standard uniform. A silver sequoia cone the same size as those ornamenting the hat band is to be worn vertically on the front of the helmet.

B. CAP

The approved NPS cap of same material as uniform, with approved chin strap fastened with two silver Sequoia cones, is prescribed for rangers assigned to motorcycle duty, and for general uniform purposes in military and historical areas.

C. COAT

Three- or four-button military sack, having open collar; pinch back; two breast pockets, plaited, and two side pockets, bellows type; all outside pockets to have flaps, fastened with small Service buttons.

The coat shall be worn on all normal occasions. It may be dispensed with only during hot weather when the superintendent or custodian authorizes it.

In areas where the climate is warm and humid, officers and employees are authorized to wear tropical worsted coats of the same style and cut as the coat described above, except to be without padding and without lining in the sleeves.

D. BREECHES

Of same material as coat; full peg with two side or top pockets; two hip pockets, and one watch pocket; buttoned at knee openings, with or without knee reinforcement, and double seat of same material.

Breeches are considered an essential part of the formal uniform.

E. TROUSERS

Of same material as coat, straight leg, with 1-1/2 inch cuff, two side, two hip, and one watch pocket; may be worn in lieu of breeches:

- (1) In Eastern national parks, parkways, military parks, national cemeteries, and national monuments, and in other areas when extremely warm weather prevails for considerable periods.
- (2) Park rangers at Hot Springs National Park.
- (3) In the Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Southwestern National Monuments, Petrified Forest National Monument and Boulder Dam National Recreational Area.
- (4) By superintendents, custodians, and other members of the field personnel on informal occasions in other parks and monuments.

F. FIELD BOOTS

Leather field boots of approved design, medium weight, with laced instep and laced side at top, and of uniform cordovan color, shall be worn with breeches.

F.-1 SHOES

Lace shoes or Oxford type shoes of uniform cordovan color, with plain dark brown socks, may be worn with trousers.

G. SHIRTS

Collar-attached type of flannel, wool gabardine, tropical worsted, or of cotton material, steel gray color, for all normal duty.

A white shirt and collar is authorized for formal occasions only.

A field shirt with collar attached, shoulder straps, two large plaited breast pockets with pocket flaps fastened with buttons, steel gray, is prescribed for wear without coats. Such shirts may be of flannel, gabardine, tropical worsted, or cotton material.

H. TIE

Four-in-hand barathea silk, full-wool lined, dark green.

I. OVERCOAT

Double-breasted, four-button mackinaw type with convertible collar, two side patch pockets and sewed-on half belt in back. Coat may be unlined or lined with "fleece," or other material.

J. RAINCOAT

Double-breasted, full belt, set-in sleeves, calf length of light weight weather-proof material such as "Alligator" cloth, forestry or olive green color, is authorized.

J.-1 RAINCOAT

Double-breasted, calf length, trench coat type with raglan sleeves, full belt and diagonal pockets of forestry green, weather-proof gabardine.

II. FATIGUE UNIFORM

The fatigue uniform is prescribed for informal wear, such as patrol and general field duty, fatigue use, and when the duty to be performed is other than public contact, or when the nature of the duty is such that the standard uniform obviously would be inappropriate. It shall consist of:

A. HAT

The regulation hat and hat band.

B. JACKET

The National Park Service field jacket is slightly longer than the conventional cossack, but shorter than the cruiser type, jacket. It has a waist band approximately two inches wide with two adjusting buckles at sides. The jacket fastens in the front with full-length talon fasteners, and has two large plaited breast pockets with flaps fastened with small regulation buttons. From the top of the breast pockets over shoulders and full length of back, material is double. The lower part of the back provides a large pocket, closing with talon fasteners on each side under arms.

C. BREECHES

The regulation breeches.

D. TROUSERS

Regulation trousers. A canvas or water-repellent material trousers of forestry green or light tan may be authorized when field conditions make this type of garment desirable.

E. SHIRT

The regulation shirt, either of wool or cotton.

F. TIE

The necktie may or may not be worn as directed by superintendent.

G. BOOTS

Heavy leather lace boots from 10 to 16-inch top, or standard field boots.

H. SHOES

Low shoes, or Oxfords, shall be worn with trousers.

Badges and collar ornaments shall be worn on the field jacket and on shirts when worn without coats or jackets, in the same position as prescribed for the coat and overcoat of standard uniform. Boots and shoes shall be of uniform cordovan color.

III. WINTER SPORTS PATROL UNIFORM

For the national parks and other areas having established winter sports seasons, the following articles of uniform are prescribed for wear by rangers and other employees whose duties require their presence with visitors at snow sports activities and who are designated to wear them by the superintendent or custodian:

A. CAP

Ski cap of NPS design, having adjustable ear flaps and with embroidered NPS insignia on front.

B. JACKET

The NPS field or fatigue jacket.

C. TROUSERS

Ski trousers with full-length 20-inch, or larger, leg and knit ankle cuff.

D. BOOTS

Ski boots of leather and of conventional design, the color to be determined by the superintendent of each park where ski boots are worn.

E. SOCKS

Heavy wool with dark green top, or, in lieu of socks, olive green or steel gray ski leggings or spats.

F. PARKA

With or without hood, light weight weather-proof material, either waist or knee length, of forestry green or steel gray.

IV. MATERIALS

Forestry green elastique cloth, 16 to 22-ounce weight is prescribed for cap, coat, breeches, trousers, and jacket of the standard, fatigue, and winter sports uniforms. All articles of a suit shall be of the same weight material.

For use in the areas where climatic conditions require a lighter weight uniform for comfort, light weight gabardine or tropical worsted cloth of about 12-ounce weight is authorized for the various articles of the standard and fatigue uniform, subject, however, to approval of the Director for each field unit concerned.

Forestry green elastique cloth, 22 to 30-ounce weight is prescribed for overcoat material.

Forestry or olive green patented waterproof cloth, such as "Alligator", forestry green cravenetted gabardine, 12 to 18-ounce weight, also are prescribed for raincoat material.

Flannel, wool gabardine, twill, broadcloth, or poplin cloth of steel gray color, are authorized for shirting materials.

Dark green barathea silk with full wool lining is pre scribed for the necktie.

First quality calf skin or horse hide leather is recommended for field boots, shoes, hat bands, and chin straps.

As indicated above, all leather articles and accessories shall be of uniform cordovan color, except ski boots, the color of which shall be determined by the superintendent of each park where ski boots are worn.

V. BADGES, BUTTONS, COLLAR ORNAMENTS, INSIGNIA, HAT BANDS, CHIN STRAPS, AND BELTS

A. BADGES

Prescribed for use by Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, Custodians, Park Rangers, Fire Guards, and Life Guards, as follows:

- (1) Superintendents and Custodians--round badge, gold.
- (2) Assistant Superintendents--round badge, silver.
- (3) Chief Rangers and Assistant Chief Rangers-- Shield badge, gold-plated.
- (4) Park Rangers, Ranger-Naturalists, Guards, and Park Rangers (temporary)--Shield badge, nickel-plated.
- (4a) Park Guards, same as Park Rangers with the word "Guard" instead of "Ranger".
- (4b) Junior Park Wardens, same as Park Rangers with the words "Park Warden" instead of "Ranger".
- (5) Fire Guards--Shield badge, bronze metal, numbered serially .
- (6) Life Guard--Shield cloth badge of approved design with yellow letters embroidered on olive green background of gabardine, Size 5" x 6".

Park Naturalists may be issued park ranger badges when such employees are to enforce park regulations.

Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, Custodians, Park Rangers, Junior Park Wardens, and Fire Guards, shall wear badges on their uniforms at all times. The badge shall be worn fastened to the plait of the left breast pocket, immediately below the button on coats and fatigue jackets. It shall be worn displayed in approximately the same position on field shirts and overcoats.

All badges shall remain the property of the Government.

A deposit will not be required for the safe-keeping of badges and collar ornaments. Each temporary ranger and/or fire guard, however, must be informed

that unless the badge and collar ornaments are returned in good condition, a deduction of \$5.00 will be made for each badge which may be lost. This regulation should be particularly impressed upon temporary rangers and fire guards.

A.-1 LEATHER BELT

Cordovan color, 1-1/2 inches wide, 1/8 inch in thickness, with rectangular nickle-plated buckle.

A.-2 EMBOSSSED LEATHER BELT

A belt of leather, 1/8 inch in thickness and 1-1/2 inches wide, embossed with a design similar to the hat band, and having sewed on cinches and a nickel-plated buckle, may be worn if desired.

A.-3 SAM BROWNE BELT

National Park Service employees required to wear side arms may wear a Sam Browne Belt of cordovan color.

B. BUTTONS

Buttons of three sizes, large for overcoats, medium for coats, and small for pocket flaps, of bronze, as approved by the Director, are prescribed.

C. COLLAR ORNAMENTS

Of rolled gold or gilt as approved by the Director shall be worn on coats, overcoats, fatigue jackets, and field shirts. One device shall be attached in a horizontal position to each side of the collar. (NOTE: Draw an imaginary horizontal line across the upper edge of the collar. Place collar ornament in the center of the triangle formed by the imaginary line and the two edges of the collar, the ornament to be worn in a horizontal position).

D. SERVICE INSIGNIA

Indicating length of service as a member of the National Park Service is prescribed as follows:

For each year of completed service a black braid, 1/8" wide and 2" long.

For each five-year period of completed service, a silver embroidered star. After the first star is earned, bars shall be discontinued to indicate service of less than five-year periods.

The Service insignia shall be worn on the cuff of the left sleeve of the coat and overcoat, the lower stripe or star shall be placed 2-1/2" above end of sleeve. When more than one star is worn, they shall be arranged horizontally up to four and triangularly when more than four stars are worn.

E. HAT BANDS

Of calf skin, cordovan color, 1-1/8 inch wide, embossed with evergreen twigs and cones and the letters "U.S. N.P.S." and ornamented with two silver Sequoia cones, is prescribed for wear on the hat.

F. CHIN STRAP

Of calf skin, or same design as the hat band, cordovan color, embossed with evergreen twigs and cones, and the letters "U.S. N.P.S." with silver Sequoia cone fastners, is prescribed as a part of the uniform cap.

VI. BOATMEN UNIFORM (winter)

For the National Parks and other areas where park employees are assigned to boat operation the following articles of uniform are prescribed for wear by the boat captain, engineer, purser or other employees of the boats.

A.-1 CAP

Cap of the style worn by Chief Petty Officers of the U. S. Navy, of blue material, black visor, black visor strap, black ribbon band and with cap ornament, gold anchors crossed, sewed on front.

B. COAT

Coat, dark blue, double-breasted, four button, similar in style and cut to that of a Chief Petty Officer of the U. S. Navy.

The regulation insignia USNPS shall be worn on the coat in the same manner prescribed for the standard uniform.

The coat shall be worn on all normal occasions, it may be dispensed with only during hot weather when the Superintendent or Custodian authorizes it.

C. TROUSERS

Of same material as coat, two side pockets, two hip pockets, and one watch pocket; similar in style and cut to that worn by the Chief Petty Officer of the U. S. Navy.

D. SHOES AND SOCKS

Black lace shoes or oxford type, with plain black socks shall be worn with trousers.

E. SHIRT

A white shirt and collar is prescribed for all occasions.

F. TIE

Four-in-hand barathea silk, full wool lined, black.

G. BUTTONS

Regulation park service.

H. SUMMER UNIFORM

Same style as the winter uniforms, except they shall be white and of duck or

other suitable material. Shoes and socks white; tie black; and shirt white. Cap, white.

VII. RESPONSIBILITY FOR CORRECTNESS OF ARTICLES AND PROPER USE OF UNIFORM

Employees designated to wear the National Park Service uniform shall, at their own expense, provide and wear uniforms as herein prescribed. They are responsible for compliance with the material and pattern specifications and for the proper use of their uniforms as required in these regulations and by the superintendent or custodian in charge of their field unit.

Superintendents, custodians, and other supervisory officials shall, by frequent inspection, see that all members of their organizations required to wear uniforms are properly equipped with all necessary articles of clothing and accessories and that they wear the same in accordance with these regulations. They are personally responsible for the type of material used and for the uniformity of all members of their organization.

Where these Regulations provide for a choice of materials or colors, it shall be the duty of the official in charge of a park area to decide which material or color shall be used in order to maintain complete uniformity of dress in each area administered by the Service.

They shall prescribe conditions for the use of the field and winter sports uniforms and for all seasonal changes.

No employee required to wear a National Park Service uniform shall be permitted to remain on duty improperly dressed.

All articles of uniform prescribed herein shall be in accordance with design and specifications approved by the Director.

The National Park Service uniformed personnel shall salute the American Flag with the right hand when it passes.

These regulations cancel and supersede all previously issued Uniform Regulations.

Newton B. Drury,
Director.

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Manzanar National Historic Site in California

The Park History Program, begun in 1931, preserves and protects our nation's cultural and natural resources by conducting research on national parks, national historic landmarks, park planning and special history studies, oral histories, and interpretive and management plans. Our staff helps evaluate proposed new parks, and we support cultural resources personnel in parks, regional offices, and Washington in all matters relating to the history and mission of the Park Service.

Located in Washington and led by the chief historian, the program offers a window into the historical richness of the National Park System and the opportunities it presents for understanding who we are, where we have been, and how we as a society, might approach the future. For questions about any of the program areas below, please [contact us](#).

Park History Program Areas:

- For the National Park Service [oral history](#) has long been an invaluable way to document the history of individual parks and the people and events the parks commemorate. Interviews also safeguard the collective memory and expertise of the people who have shaped the Park Service over the years.
- As the Deputy Federal Preservation Office for the National Park Service, we manage [park National Register documentation](#) and assist parks and regional offices with Register and National Historic Landmark preparation.
- The [Maritime Heritage](#) program documents and protects National Park Service and nationally significant maritime resources. It also administers the National Maritime Heritage Grant Program that provides matching funds for maritime preservation, restoration and education.

- The National Park Service recognizes the value added to its conservation mission by a comprehensive understanding of the [agency's history](#). The origins and development of our parks and programs tell their own story about how Americans have identified, managed, and interpreted special places across the country.



*Historic grave markers on the Chilkoot Trail,
Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Alaska.*

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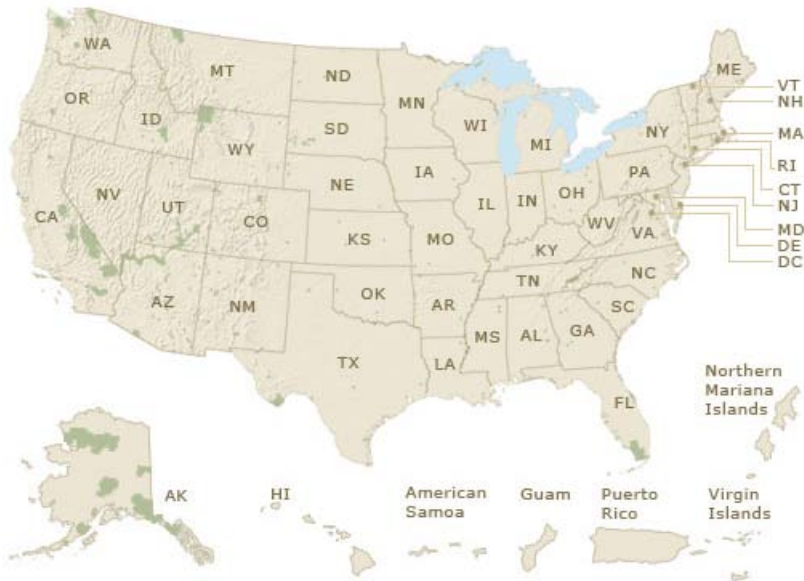
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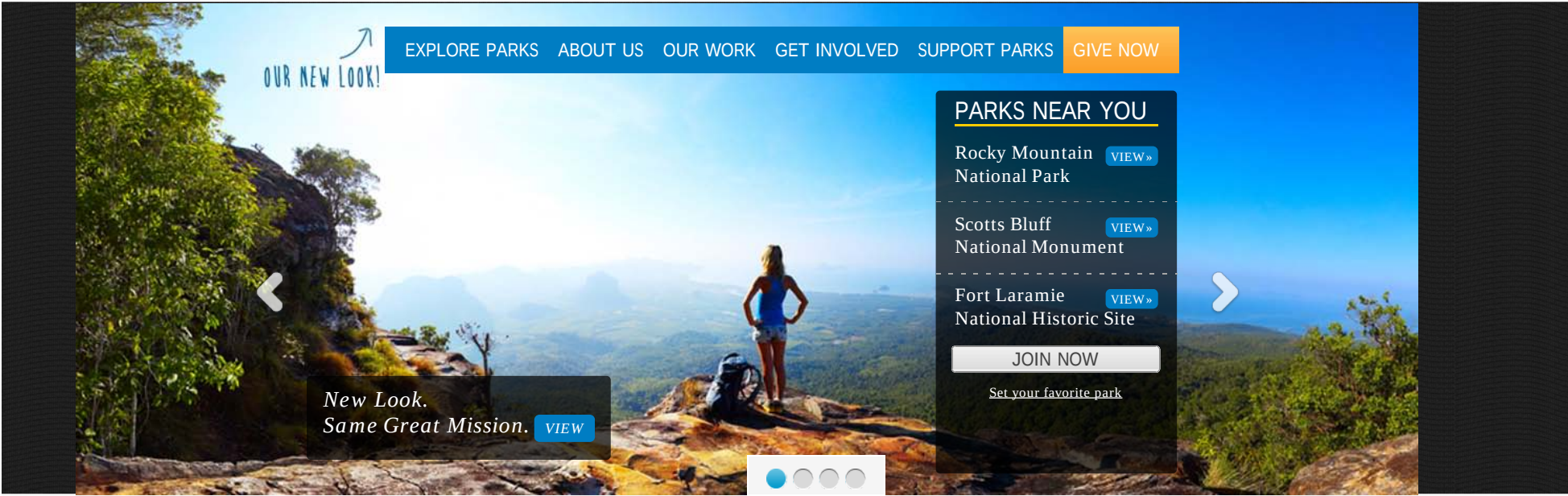


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Ever wonder about the best hikes, sites and activities in America's national parks? Are you unsure about where to visit next or what to pack? NPF's blog, Trail Talk, is a great place to find all the answers! [Learn More»](#)

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- The Macromedia Flash Player 8 or higher (click below to install)


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http://www.nps.gov/ever/naturescience/2010seagrassworkshop.htm

Seagrass - Learn About
http://www1.coseecoastaltrends.net/modules/seagrass/learn_about/

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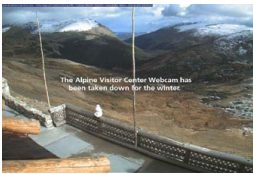
- **Old Fall River Road will be closed in 2014 due to flood damage**

Damages on Old Fall River Road are extensive and the road will remain closed to vehicles through 2014. It is unknown at this time whether hikers and bicyclists will be allowed on the road. [More »](#)

- **Impacts from September 2013 Flood**

Due to recent flooding, there are still some closures in the park that could affect your visit. [More »](#)

Webcams



Alpine Visitor Center

The Alpine Visitor Center is the highest elevation visitor center in the National Park Service, situated at 11,796' at Fall River Pass. The Alpine Visitor Center Webcam reveals views of the Fall River canyon, Old Fall River Road, Mount Chapin, and part of Trail Ridge.

[View webcam](#)



Kawuneeche Valley

Located on the west side of Rocky Mountain National Park one-half mile from the Grand Lake Entrance Station, Harbison Meadow in the Kawuneeche Valley teems with wildlife and wildflowers. The Never Summer Mountains look down on the headwaters of the Colorado River in this view of the Kawuneeche Valley.

[View webcam](#)



Continental Divide

Located at Glacier Basin Campground, the Continental Divide Webcam offers a spectacular view of the peaks which rise up from the Bear Lake area. On clear days you will see Thatchtop, Taylor Peak, Otis Peak, Hallett Peak, and Flattop Mountain.

This webcam has been moved due to ongoing staging of equipment for the Bear lake Road reconstruction. The park will continue to evaluate the best location and best view.

[View webcam](#)



Longs Peak

The Longs Peak Webcam has moved to the beautiful Tahosa Valley along Hwy 7. The webcam takes you to the tallest mountain in Rocky Mountain National

Park. Longs Peak sits at an elevation of 14,259' and is a challenging mountain to climb under the best conditions. For more information about climbing Longs Peak, visit the Plan Your Visit - Things to Do - Hiking & Climbing section of the website.

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Did You Know?



You can access research information throughout the entire National Park Service system. Find out which parks are studying Chronic Wasting Disease. [More...](#)

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http://www.nps.gov/romo/photosmultimedia/webcams.htm[4/4/2014 2:16:26 PM]

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El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro

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Traveling the Trail

The question we hear most is "Where's the trail?" It's a good question. This national historic trail weaves through communities as well as wildlands. There are many stops along the way from south of El Paso, Texas to Ohkay Owingeh (San Juan Pueblo), north of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Return to this page often to find more videos that will help you travel the trail, and experience an incredible heritage that dates back to 1598. Over time colonizers brought silver, chiles, silks, and other products from Mexico City; items that we still use across America today.

Take a Journey Along El Camino Real

Take a journey along this historic route to discover the people, places, and events that have shaped Mexico, New Mexico, and America. In this film, we take you to El Camino Real International Heritage Center and along Jornada del Muerto, south of Socorro, New Mexico.

Duration:
6 minutes, 32 seconds

Credit / Author:
Brooke G. Safford

Date created:
2012-05-25

Download Original File:
[ELCA-Journey-Final-052012.mp4](#)
155,676 KB

[Video Transcript](#)

Título: Haga un viaje a lo largo del Sendero Histórico Nacional de El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro

Take a Journey along El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail

Spanish Translation [WORD](#) (36 KB) [PDE](#) (90 KB)

The Children of Spanish Colonial Times

Children in the 1700s worked alongside their family members, but they also had fun! In this video we travel to El Rancho de las Golondrinas (14 miles south of Santa Fe) to experience the children's lives.

Duration:
4 minutes, 36 seconds

Credit / Author:
Lynne Mager

Date created:

2012-03-08

[Video Transcript](#)

Título: Los Niños de la Época Colonial Española
Children of Spanish Colonial Times

Spanish Translation: [WORD](#) (30 KB) [PDF](#) (85 KB)

A Child's Story of Socorro

Cottonwood Valley Charter School 6th graders perform what happened when Spanish colonizer Juan de Oñate arrived at the Pueblo of Teypana from Mexico City in 1598 (the pueblo was near present-day Socorro, 138 miles south of Santa Fe).

Duration:
7 minutes, 56 seconds

Credit / Author:
Sheri Armijo
Date created:
2012-08-23

Download Original File:
[elca-A-Child's-Story-of-Socorro.mp4](#)
189,885 KB

Título: El cuento de un niño de Socorro, por Sheri Armijo
A Child's Story of Socorro

Spanish translation [WORD](#) (25 KB) [PDF](#) (424 KB)

Did You Know?



Brought to the New World by Spaniards, horses first arrived in New Mexico in the 16th century. For years afterward, many more horses were brought in via El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro. Indian tribes captured thousands of them, which were dispersed across the plains and integrated into American Indian culture.



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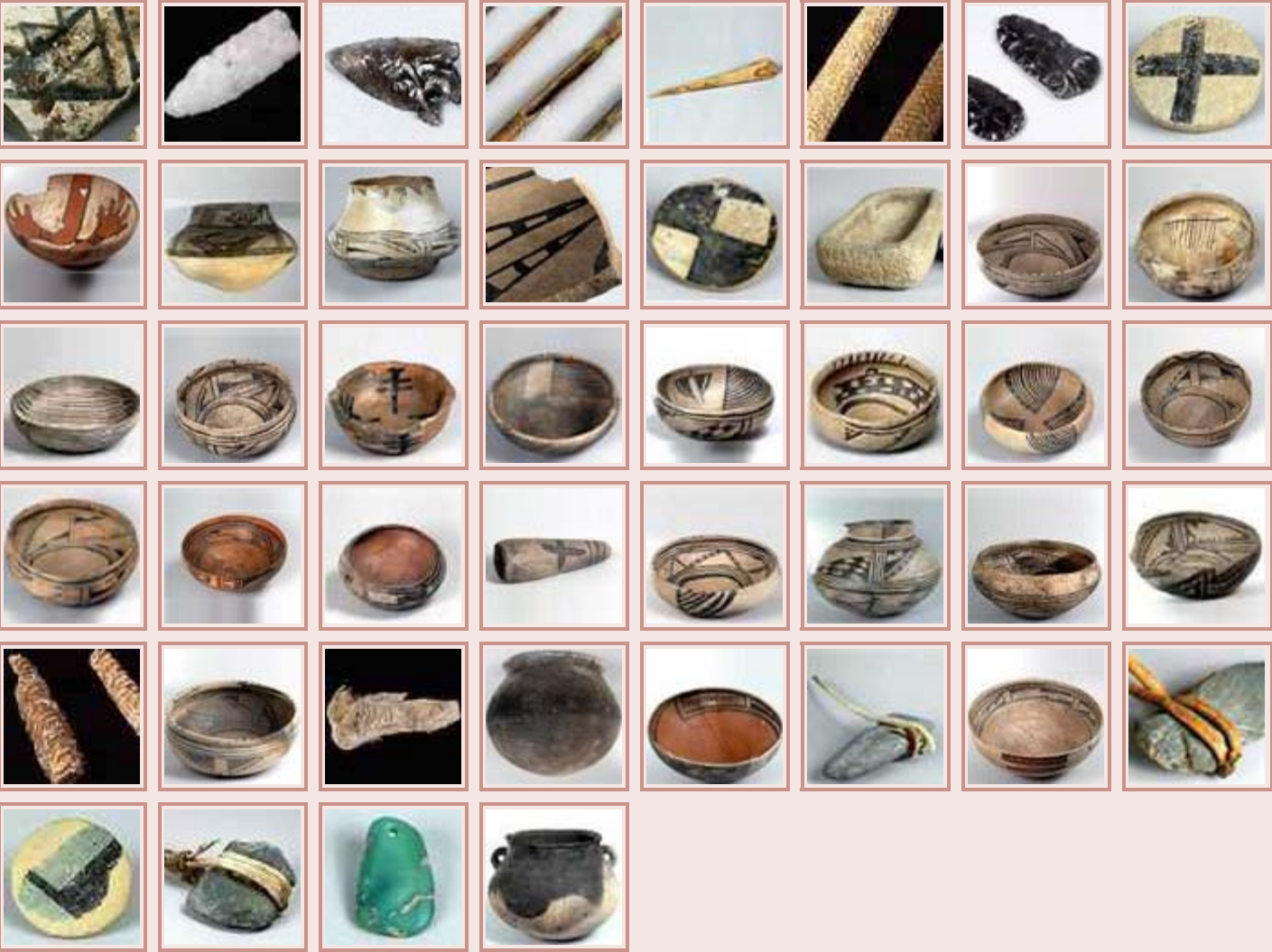


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Island Night Lizard Removed from Endangered Species List Due to Recovery

Date: March 31, 2014
Contact: [Yvonne Menard](#), 805-658-5725

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today announced the removal of the island night lizard (*Xantusia riversiana*), a soft-skinned lizard found on three Channel Islands off the southern California coast, from the protection of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The lizard's recovery is due primarily to the successful habitat conservation and restoration actions of the U.S. Navy and National Park Service. The final rule delisting the species will officially publish in the Federal Register on April 1, 2014.

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- **Cloudy, cool, dry and breezy conditions are expected Friday.**

Another weather system will move across the region on Saturday, with a chance of rain and snow showers. Dry and warmer conditions are expected early next week. (Source NOAA) [More »](#)

National Park Service Seeks Public Input on a Bison Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Grand Canyon National Park

Date: April 2, 2014

Contact: Kirby-Lynn Shedlowski, 928-638-7958

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Grand Canyon, AZ – The National Park Service (NPS) is pleased to announce the latest step to manage the impacts of bison on the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park (GCNP). After meeting with cooperators Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)--over the last several months, the NPS will initiate public scoping later this week for a bison management plan and environmental impact statement (EIS) to be prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

A herd of bison was brought to the Grand Canyon region in the early 1900s and has been managed since 1950 by the AGFD in the House Rock Wildlife Area (HRWA) on the Kaibab National Forest through an interagency agreement with the USFS.

During the late 1990s, the bison began "pioneering" up to the top of the Kaibab Plateau and into GCNP. A combination of public hunt pressure, drought and fire, and reduced forage quality in House Rock Valley during the 1990s may have contributed to the bison moving through Saddle Mountain Wilderness and onto the higher elevations of the Kaibab Plateau. Over the past several years, very few bison have returned to HRWA and most now spend a majority of their time inside the park, with many not leaving GCNP.

Since 2008, a workgroup consisting of staff from GCNP, AGFD, and USFS has been addressing research needs related to impacts of the bison herd on GCNP resources, and potential management tools, as well as administrative and operational challenges of long-term cooperative management. Also in 2008, the Department of the Interior (DOI) chartered a Bison Conservation Initiative to improve bison management amongst its various bureaus, including the National Park Service. These efforts are ongoing and NPS is now initiating development of a long-term, coordinated approach to manage the current and future impacts of bison on natural and cultural resources of GCNP while supporting AGFD, USFS and BLM goals for management of a free-ranging bison population outside the park.

"Stakeholder input is a central and critical part of this planning process," stated Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent Dave Ueberuaga. "We look forward to engaging interested members of the public, other agencies, tribes, and organizations to get their ideas. We appreciate the on-going collaboration of the U.S. Forest Service, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and look forward to working with the Bureau of Land Management as we work through this process."

The first opportunity for such involvement will be during a 60-day public scoping period beginning when the Notice of Intent is published in the Federal Register later this week. Scoping will provide the public and other interested parties the opportunity to participate early in identifying the range of issues to be considered when the NPS studies the potential environmental impacts of managing bison in the park; to identify topics and concerns that should be addressed in the EIS; and to bring forward any new information that NPS may not be aware of that would be useful in preparing the plan and EIS.

The NPS will host three in-person open house meetings during this comment period, as follows:

Monday, April 28, 2014
Kanab Middle School
690 S. Cowboy Way
Kanab, UT 84741
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 29, 2014
High Country Conference Center
201 W. Butler Ave
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 30, 2014
Arizona Game and Fish Department
Activities Center
4044 W. Black Canyon Boulevard
Phoenix, AZ 85086
6:00-8:00 p.m.

The NPS also plans to hold two informational web-based meetings the week after the in-person open houses. In the coming weeks, please check the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at http://parkplanning.nps.gov/grca_bison_eis, as more information about the bison management plan and EIS, public scoping, and public meetings will be posted on this site as it becomes available.

Interested parties will be able to submit scoping comments either electronically on the PEPC web site (the preferred method of receiving comments); via U.S. Postal Service at Grand Canyon National Park, PO Box 129, Attn: Bison Management Plan EIS, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023; or at one of the in-person public meetings the NPS will be holding during the 60-day scoping period. Public comments will not be accepted during the web-based meetings; rather participants will be directed to the PEPC web site to enter their comments.

-NPS-

Did You Know?



In November of 1934, the Grand Canyon Civilian Conservation Corps began working on a trans-canyon telephone line. Starting at Indian Garden, they progressed downward to the Colorado River. It was necessary to complete this portion of the line first before the onset of extreme summer heat. [More...](#)

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http://www.nps.gov/...s/national-park-service-seeks-public-input-on-a-bison-management-plan-and-environmental-impact-statement-for-grand-canyon-national-park.htm[4/4/2014 2:17:24 PM]

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Volunteer

Be a VIP: Volunteer-In-Parks!

We need YOU to help us take care of Redwood National and State Parks! Volunteers work side-by-side with National Park Service, California State Parks, and Redwood Parks Association employees, helping care for our parks in a variety of ways, including enhancing visitor services and helping protect and preserve park resources. In 2012 volunteers donated over 26,000 hours of service! Whatever their task, VIPs are true stewards of our natural and cultural heritage!

Volunteers range in age from young children to senior citizens. They come from all over the United States and the world, bringing different backgrounds, skills, and talents that enrich our park programs. Some positions provide RV pads with full hook-ups in exchange for 32-hours-per week of volunteer work. We also encourage and welcome local community members of all ages to volunteer throughout the year—whether one or two days a week year-round in a park visitor center or one day a year at park beach cleanup events.

There are opportunities for individuals, couples, and groups. [International Volunteers](#) (those who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents) must follow some special application procedures

Each position has its own set of duties; training will be provided. Some of the tasks park VIPs may help with include:



- Staffing park visitor centers and answering visitor questions.
- Assisting with landscape maintenance and custodial work.
- Handling sales of educational items in park bookstores.
- Serving as a campground host (see below).
- Assisting with office and clerical duties.
- Assisting with information technology maintenance.
- Building and maintaining trails.
- Participating in field studies on plants or animals.
- Conducting scientific library research.
- Organizing and maintaining park library.
- Organizing and maintaining park photo inventory.
- Controlling weeds and invasive species.
- Roving park trails.
- Responding to radio and telephone calls.
- Providing educational information on the parks' natural and cultural resources.

We welcome and need volunteers throughout the year, not just the summer months! Visitation to Redwood National and State Parks is year-round. Each season has its own beauty and volunteer opportunities. Winter, for example, is mild here, although admittedly cooler and wetter than summer. However, many consider late fall through early spring the most beautiful and peaceful time to visit our parks.

Volunteers who work at least 32 hours a week may qualify for free park housing. Volunteers are usually required to have a reliable vehicle for personal transportation, though a government vehicle may be provided during work hours.

Available VIP opportunities in Redwood National and State Parks (and other federal land management agencies) can be found and applied for online at www.volunteer.gov/gov. Or, for an information packet and application, or just to learn more about VIP opportunities in Redwood National and State Parks, contact the Volunteer Coordinator:

Volunteer Coordinator
Redwood National and State Parks
1111 Second Street
Crescent City, Calif. 95531
ph: 707-465-7301
[E-mail the Volunteer Coordinator](#)

Once you have completed the on-line application process from the above website, your completed application will be reviewed by a hiring official and compared with other applications for the same volunteer job. A supervisor will contact you directly if you are being considered for a volunteer position. If selected, more information about the job appointment, uniform, etc. will be sent to you.

Campground Hosts

There are three [campgrounds](#) with host positions located in Redwood National and State Parks. Campground host usually reside in their own RV at the campground they are hosting, and are typically responsible for: greeting park visitors and providing them with information to ensure their visit is safe and enjoyable, helping park visitors solve problems and understand park regulations, collecting fees (such as for firewood), assisting park fee collection staff, and conducting some light maintenance, such as cleaning vacant campsites.

Mill Creek Campground in Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park is operated by the National Park Service. The campground hosts are needed from early May through September. Duties include roving campground and conducting camp checks, as well as providing orientation and information, selling firewood, assisting fee collection staff, and performing light janitorial or maintenance work as needed. The position is a 4 to 5 month commitment, with 32 hours/week commitment required. Full hook-ups are available, but no phone service. Mill Creek Campground is located seven miles south of Crescent City, CA, which provides typical community services, such as medical services, grocery and drug stores, restaurants, movie theaters, etc. Couples or individuals interested in serving as campground hosts at Mill Creek Campground should apply online at www.volunteer.gov/gov. Or, contact the park Volunteer Coordinator at (707) 465-7301.

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park Campground is located in the midst of an amazing old-growth redwood forest and along the banks of the beautiful Smith River. It is nine miles northeast of Crescent City, CA, along Hwy 199, and is open year-round. It is operated by California State Parks. Campground host positions are needed throughout the year. Host sites have full hook-ups (including telephone lines). Camp host duties include assisting with campground registration, firewood sales, staffing visitor center, and performing light maintenance. The position is a four month commitment. The host is expected to work 25+ hours each week. Couples or individuals interested in serving as campground hosts at Jedediah Smith Campground should contact Ranger Brett Silver at (707)464-6101 or brett_silver@partner.nps.gov. Or, visit http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=886

Elk Prairie Creek Campground is located near the Newton B. Drury Parkway in the heart of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park and is open year-round. It is operated by California State Parks. Elk Prairie camp hosts will assist visitors with camping registration, conduct camp checks, answer visitor questions, sell firewood, and may volunteer in the visitor center. Full hook-ups are available. Host positions are a minimum one month and maximum six month stay. Full amenities are offered approximately 38 miles south in communities of McKinleyville and Arcata, CA. Couples or individuals interested in serving as campground hosts at Elk Prairie Campground should contact Ranger Danielle Westberg at (707) 465-7347 or [e-mail us](#). Or, visit http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=886

Did You Know?



Common in the redwood forest, ravens often scavenge food scraps found in campgrounds. Once they find an easy food source, they constantly fly over that area in search of food. Unfortunately, they may come across a marbled murrelet nest and eat the egg or chick! Please store all food items properly.

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A Centennial Celebration of Marconi & RCA Wireless Radio in West Marin, 1914-2014

Date: Tuesday, April 1 through Wednesday, April 30
Event: Marconi & RCA Centennial & KWMR 15th Anniversary Exhibits
Location: [Toby's Feed Barn](#) Art Gallery; 11250 Hwy. 1; Point Reyes Station
Description: Visit this exhibit for an introduction to 100 years of local [radio history](#), from the first transmission across the Pacific to contemporary [community radio](#). An opening reception will be held on Saturday, April 5, from 2 pm to 4 pm.

Date: Saturday, April 5 through Friday, June 13
Event: *Paper Work: Signals and Signs*, an installation by Joan Grubin
Location: [Commonweal Gallery](#); 451 Mesa Road; Bolinas; 415-868-0970
Description: New York artist Joan Grubin's large-format paper and tape installation is a visual manifestation of dots and dashes, specifically designed for the New School, Commonweal Gallery space. Inspired by the Commonweal mission and informed by its facility's history as a Marconi/RCA radio station, the work deploys a visual vocabulary that suggests a system of technology, circuitry, and energy harnessed to fling signals out into the void, in hopes that someone, somewhere, will receive the messages.

Check back for additional upcoming events scheduled for late April and beyond. For more information about any of the events, contact Carola DeRooy at 415-464-5125 or by [email](#).

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Did You Know?



Elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*) regularly plunge to depths of 2000 feet to find food, but even far below the ocean's surface they are affected by warming temperatures and melting Antarctic ice. [More...](#)



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2014 Plant a Tree at Flight 93

Date: April 1, 2014
Contact: [Mike Litterst](#), 202-306-4166
Contact: [Alanna Sobel](#), 202-354-6486

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Hundreds of Volunteers Honor the Heroes of Flight 93 During National Park Week

MEMORIAL CONTINUES RESTORATION EFFORT WITH THIRD MASSIVE TREE PLANTING EFFORT

Shanksville, Pa. - On April 25-26 the [National Park Service](#), the [National Park Foundation](#), and [Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial](#) are continuing a major reforestation effort that will eventually result in 150,000 new trees at [Flight 93 National Memorial](#), which commemorates the passengers and crew of United Flight 93 and remembers all those lost on September 11, 2001.

Every year during [National Park Week](#), America's national parks host public events and coordinate volunteer opportunities to celebrate the special occasion. For a third year, Flight 93 National Memorial will honor National Park Week with *Plant a Tree at Flight 93*.

The tree-planting events will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 25-26. Businesses and organizations have already committed to providing more than 150 volunteers each day, but 50 additional individuals are still needed each day to complete the work. All interested volunteers **must** [pre-register online](#) (first-come, first-serve) and be at least 14 years of age. Flight 93 National Memorial will still be open to the public during regular visiting hours (9 a.m. to 7 p.m., with last entry at 6:30 p.m.) on the days of the tree-planting effort.

The previous two years' reforestation efforts consisted of hundreds of volunteers planting nearly 28,000 seedlings. This year, a team of more than 400 volunteers under the guidance of tree-planting experts will have the special opportunity to continue this effort and plant an

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Student Marine Art Exhibit in April at Cape Cod National Seashore

Date: March 27, 2014
Contact: Sue Haley, 508-255-3421

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A display of winners from the 2013 Marine Art Contest sponsored by Massachusetts Marine Educators will be on display at Cape Cod National Seashore's Salt Pond Visitor Center from April 1 until April 28. The artwork, created by students from schools across Massachusetts, captures some of the diversity of species found in nearby Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (SBNMS). The show includes winners and honorable mention recipients from all five contest categories – high school, middle school, elementary school, scientific illustration (all grades), and computer graphics (all grades). Several students from the Cape and Islands are represented in the exhibit, including Provincetown elementary, Lighthouse Charter School, and Nauset High School.

The 2014 Marine Art contest is now underway with a deadline of May 2, 2014. Rules for the contest can be found at the MME website at www.massmarineeducators.org or the Stellwagen Bank sanctuary website, <http://stellwagen.noaa.gov>. Winning artwork from the past few years can also be viewed at the sanctuary website.

The annual Marine Art contest is a program of the Massachusetts Marine Educators (MME), a nonprofit grass-roots organization of

teachers, informal educators, students, educational institutions, and others dedicated to the goals of developing a marine literate society and promoting awareness of the ocean world by integrating marine studies into existing curricula. The contest theme is "Amazing Ocean Creatures of Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary."

"The contest is an exciting way of encouraging interdisciplinary education by integrating marine science with art," said Anne Smrcina, contest director." Through this creative effort, students learn more about some of the local marine life found in their own ocean backyard." Co-sponsors for the annual art contest include SBNMS, New England Aquarium, Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies, Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, and Stellwagen Alive, Friends of the National Marine Sanctuary.The traveling art exhibit is sponsored by the sanctuary and MME.

For more information on the art contest, contact Anne Smrcina, Education Coordinator at SBNMS, 781 545-8026 x204

IF YOU GO: Salt Pond Visitor Center is located at the intersection of Route 6 and Nauset Road in Eastham, and can be contacted by calling 508-255-3421. The center is open from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM and staff is available to assist with activity planning. Stop by and visit the museum, view a park film, enjoy panoramic views of Salt Pond and Nauset Marsh, and shop in the gift and book store featuring national seashore related items. For more information about the seashore's programs, visit the park website atwww.nps.gov/caco.

###

Did You Know?



135 acres of seasonal freshwater wetlands exist across the dune landscape of Cape Cod National Seashore's Province Lands. These wetlands which typically dry down by mid-summer, support plants, serve as breeding areas for Spadefoot and Fowler's toads, and provide drinking water for wildlife.

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<http://www.nps.gov/caco/parknews/student-marine-art-exhibit-in-april-at-cape-cod-national-seashore.htm>[4/4/2014 2:18:21 PM]

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Find A Park

National Park Week



Photo by Sarah Evans

Looking for something fun and fantastic to do with family and friends? Head out to America's national parks where millions of stars light up the dark night sky, deer and antelope (and a few other critters!) play on the wide open range, and history is an unbelievable experience, not a boring class lecture.

The National Park Service is proud to once again join with the [National Park Foundation](#), the official charity of America's national parks, to present on April 19-27, 2014, [National Park Week](#), a presidentially proclaimed celebration of our national heritage.

You can [plan your visit](#) by what you want to do, or where you want to go ... or you can browse our [event calendar](#) and check out the special programs offered throughout the week. On opening weekend, Saturday and Sunday, April 19 to 20, every national park will give you [free admission](#)! Don't miss the video below for a bit of inspiration.

On April 26, National Junior Ranger Day, parks will invite young visitors to "explore, learn, protect" and be sworn in as junior rangers. April 22 is Earth Day, so if you want to roll up your sleeves and pitch in with a project, look for a park where [you can help out](#).

Also, don't forget to check out www.nationalparkweek.org. There you can share your national park photos, videos, and tips. While you're there, learn all about the ways you can help support your national parks all year round.

Get to know one of your national parks during National Park Week, and go wild... for history... for nature... for wildlife... for fun!

Go Wild!

Go Wild...for history, for nature, for fun during National Park Week, April 19-27! No entrance fees April 19 & 20.

Do the Pump ([MrJuan](#)) / [CC BY 3.0](#)

Duration:
36 seconds

Credit / Author:
NPS
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2014-04-01

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This is one of more than 100 videos posted on the [National Park Service YouTube site](#).

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National Parks Support 243,000 U.S. Jobs

Shutdown Impact: \$400+ million estimated loss to communities

Our Mission:
Protecting
America's Great
Outdoors and
Powering Our
Future

The U.S. Department of the Interior protects America's natural resources and heritage, honors our cultures and tribal communities, and supplies the energy to power our future.

Latest Happenings

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Interior Announces First Transfer from Land Buy-Back Program to Cobell Education Fund

WED, APRIL 2, 2014, 12:22 PM EST

The Department of the Interior today announced that quarterly transfers of funds to the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund are set to begin this week with a first transfer of nearly \$580,000 to the American Indian College Fund. [Read More >](#)



\$20 Million Contract Awarded to Build First Pumping Plant for Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project

TUE, APRIL 1, 2014, 02:19 PM EST

Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell today announced that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has awarded a \$19.6 million construction contract to build the Tohlokai Pumping Plant, the first pumping plant for the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project. [Read More >](#)



This Week at Interior March 28, 2014

FRI, MARCH 28, 2014, 04:38 PM EST

The National Park Service says the Washington Monument will reopen to the public soon -- and it has a date picked out; an 81-million year old dinosaur is the star of an exhibit at the Bureau of Land Management; more. [Watch Video >](#)



Statement by Secretary Jewell on the President's Strategy to Reduce Methane Emissions

FRI, MARCH 28, 2014, 01:04 PM EST

As part of President Obama's Climate Action Plan, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell issued the following statement today on the release of the Interagency Strategy to Reduce Methane Emissions. [Read More >](#)



United States and Mexico Celebrate Partnership for Historic Release of Colorado River Water to Delta, Benefitting Both Nations

THU, MARCH 27, 2014, 01:24 PM EST

Deputy Secretary Connor and Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Anne Castle today joined other senior officials of the United States and Mexico to celebrate a historic first-time intentional release of water from Morelos Dam. [Read More >](#)

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Experience America's Best Idea National Park Getaways

A New National Park Getaway Every Month

Congaree National Park South Carolina

Imagine a time when the United States was still largely untamed, primitive wilderness. You can capture that experience at a spot just twenty minutes southeast of Columbia, South Carolina.

Congaree National Park, with more than 26,000 acres of near-virgin forest, is a portal to the past, to a time when millions of acres of old-growth bottomland hardwood forests towered along the banks of southeastern rivers.

Rich in both natural and cultural heritage, Congaree offers a glimpse of what surrounding lands in the southeast once looked like. The signs of man's influence on this wild place, from Native Americans to loggers, are still very evident today.

Of the millions of forested acres, much like those you'll find at Congaree, most have disappeared, fallen victim to intense logging. Congaree's ancient trees were able to survive due to the park's remote nature, but not without help.

By the 1960's, logging continued to threaten this forest of immense old-growth cypress, tupelo, laurel oak, and loblolly pine. Led by men such as Harry Hampton, local conservationists lobbied Congress and other politicians to protect Congaree as a national park. Their passion led to the establishment of Congaree Swamp National Monument in 1976. Re-designated in 2003, Congaree National Park protects an active floodplain ecosystem and preserves a large area of federally designated wilderness close to a major city.

Wilderness activities such as hiking, canoeing and camping allow visitors to experience the park up close. **Hiking** trails provide access for visitors to explore the Congaree wilderness. Walking through the stands of old-growth trees, you can observe wildlife such as red-shouldered hawks, wild turkeys, and white-tail deer.

Canoe and kayak routes along Cedar Creek take visitors through a tunnel of green leaves in the spring and summer. Whether you plan your own trip or take part in a **ranger-guided tour**, keep your eyes open—there's good chance that you'll see river otter, heron, or maybe even an alligator. **Campgrounds** provide space for visitors to pitch a tent and spend a night under the stars. For the more adventurous, backcountry camping is an option.

The **boardwalk trail** from the visitor center makes the floodplain accessible to all visitors and shares the big picture in a small frame. The 2.4 mile boardwalk leads visitors through the forest toward Weston Lake, a former bend in the Congaree River that was cut off and left behind as an oxbow lake.

Yearly floods may cover the trails and parts of the boardwalk, bringing in necessary nutrients that help create the thick green canopy high overhead during the summer. These yearly floods are part of what makes this forest one of the tallest deciduous forests in the United States.

Whether you're seeking solitude, spiritual connections, wildlife viewing, or recreation, Congaree has an abundance of ways to **get closer** to nature.

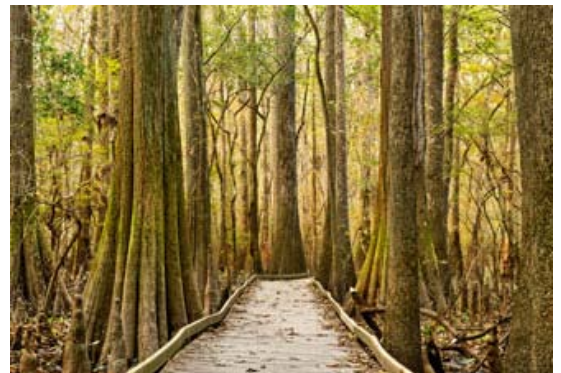
By Jonathan Manchester, park ranger, Congaree National Park



Last Month's Getaway:
Horseshoe Bend National Military Park
Alabama



Previous Getaways



Finding solitude is easy in this tranquil wilderness setting amidst giant hardwoods and towering pines. (NPS/jt-fineart.com)



By kayak or canoe you can explore the Congaree wilderness and see some of the tallest trees in eastern North America. (NPS/jt-fineart.com)



Rangers provide environmental education walks for school groups. (NPS photo)

Homepage photo: Bald
cypress and water tupelo
trees dominate the lower
elevations of the forest.
(NPS/jt-fineart.com)



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Past Features



National Park Getaways

This month: Congaree



Go wild!

National Park Week is April 19-27



Explore their world

Bears in the national parks



Season for celebration

Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, DC



In the flow

Explore the national water trails



National Park Getaways

This month: Horseshoe Bend



Make great connections

March is Women's History Month



The numbers are in

National parks benefit local communities



Forecast calls for flowers

Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, DC



In Your Neighborhood

NPS announces community assistance projects

National Park Getaways



This month: Tuskegee Institute



An inside guide

Explore the homes of past presidents



Connect with the past

February is African American History Month



Beneath the waves

Coral reefs at Dry Tortugas



Free style

National parks waive entrance fees February 15-17



Presidents Day Weekend

National parks waive entrance fees February 15-17



Southern migration

Whales on the move at Point Reyes



Inspiration for a nation

Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.



Deep freeze

Sea caves at Apostle Islands



National Park Getaways

This week: Lava Beds



Resolutions for 2014

Video shares employee goals for the new year



Gear up!

National parks waive entrance fees on January 20



Fun from every angle

Biscayne festival celebrates families



Deck the Mall

National Christmas Tree shines bright at President's Park



Room for expression

Parks welcome artists



Grounded in geology

Earth matters in the national parks



National Park Getaways

This week: Little Rock Central High School



National Park Getaways

This week: Fort Frederica



National Park Getaways

This week: Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front



Watch it live

Lighting of the National Christmas Tree



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[Photos and Multimedia](#) Looking for graphics ideas or public domain images for publication use? This site includes photo galleries, multimedia presentations and film permit information.

[Plan your Visit](#) National parks host adventures for park visitors year round. Take a look at what's happening in national parks across the country.

[Research Links](#) Need access to quick facts and specific information? Check out the research links, fact sheets and National Park Service publications listed on this page.

[Morning Report](#) This gateway for partners, friends, and alumni shares park news and replaces the NPS Digest.

[Fire News](#) This site provides the latest fire information and links to additional resources.

[Director's Speeches](#) Remarks of National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis

[NPS Oil Spill Response](#) The National Park Service was an integral part of the national federal response to the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig which occurred in the Gulf of Mexico on April 20, 2010. Find more information about our role and how we will continue to protect your national parks.

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Panoramas with clickable hot spots, photos, videos and the Internet all work together to take you for a interactive National Park visit -- all without leaving your computer.

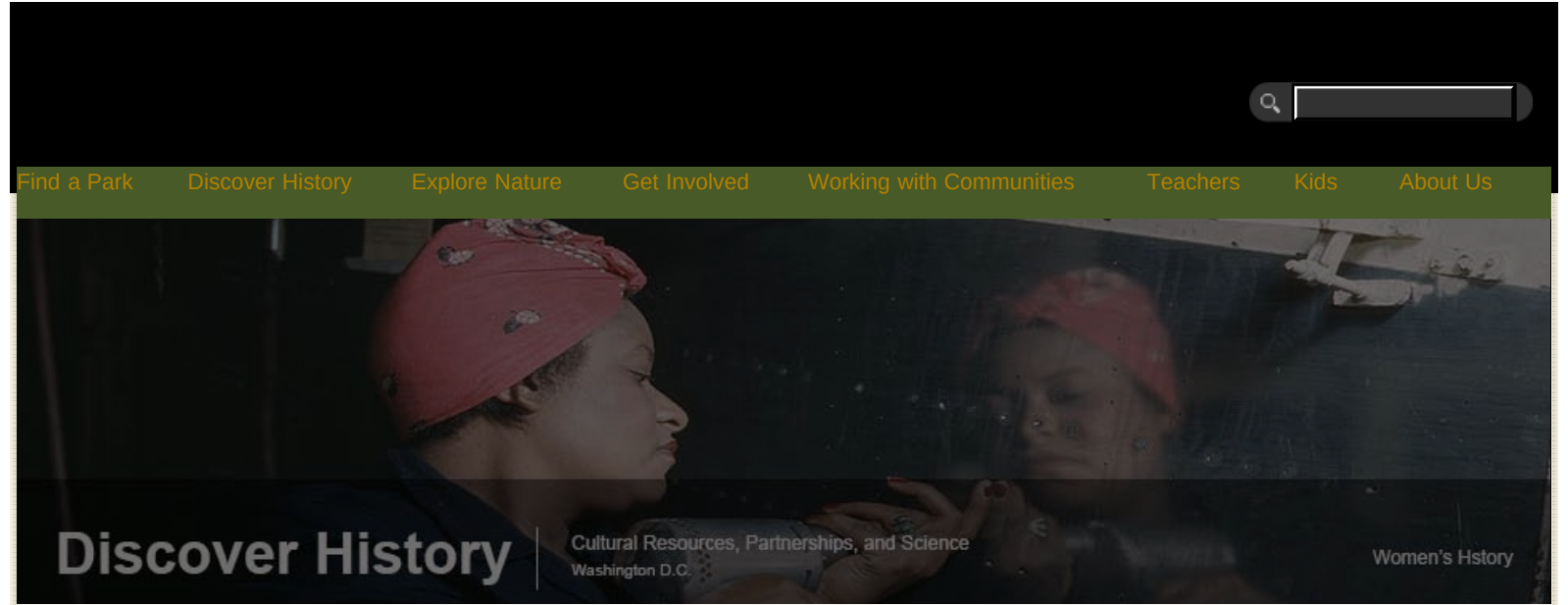
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Webcams

Right there, right now. Real-time experience is what webcams are all about. Going there is just a click away!

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Discover History and Historic Preservation in the National Park Service

Stories of America’s diverse places and people are everywhere. Our stories are found across the landscapes of our nation, in more than 400 national parks, in National Heritage Areas, along historic trails and waterways, and in every neighborhood.

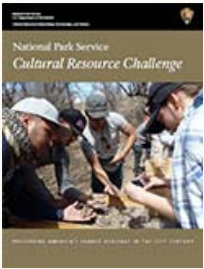
The National Park Service invites you to discover American history in all its diversity, from ancient archeological places to the homes of poets and Presidents to the sobering stories of Civil War soldiers and civilians to the legacy of a courageous woman who refused to give up her seat on a bus. Our history is part of who we were, who we are, and who we will be.

Our national Heritage Initiatives are helping us to tell the stories of all Americans and recognizing the special places associated with our diverse past. Learn more about American history by exploring American Latino heritage and Asian American Pacific Islander heritage, Women's history, and LGBTQ history.

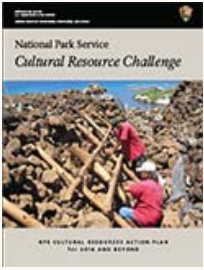
We invite you to explore historic preservation and the tools we use to help preserve and protect the places where history happened. Explore our cultural resource programs to find preservation assistance resources, grant information, internship and volunteer opportunities, and much more.

Find a Program

Find a Grant



National Park Service Cultural Resource Challenge



People, Places & Stories



Asian Pacific
Heritage

Asian and Pacific peoples have played a vital role in the development of the United States

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The War of 1812 -
Bicentennial

The young republic's first war

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American Indian
Heritage

There are hundreds of sites of our native past

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Two types of grants are available – Consultation/Documentation Grants and Repatriation Grants..

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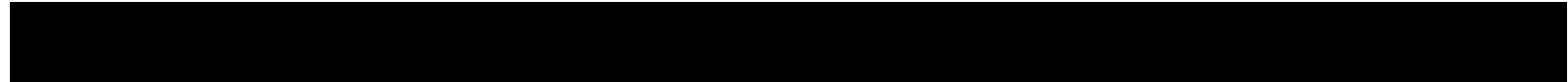
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Feature: Managing Cultural Resources



Marching Band at Gettysburg National Military Park

Join us on a journey to Gettysburg National Military Park, a place where the National Park Service works hard to preserve our national cultural heritage. See the historic battlefields and listen to why it is so important to protect them for future generations.

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- [Explore Natural Sounds](#)
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Science in Your National Parks

National parks contain many of our nation's most treasured landscapes, from the majestic mountain ranges of Alaska to the vast sawgrass prairies of the Everglades. To safeguard these treasures, the National Park Service combines the best available science with innovative education and stewardship programs, such as [Biodiversity Discovery](#), the [Climate Change Youth Initiative](#), and [Geoscientists-in-Parks](#).

We encourage you to "Explore Nature." Learn about the natural resources in parks, from the rocks under our feet to the sky overhead and everything in between. Discover the issues that affect our parks and how we join with neighbors and partners to address them. Meet the people who protect our parks and learn how you can help preserve these treasures for generations to come.

[Learn more »](#)

Other Resources

- Park Science

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People initiative

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Statistics for national
park lakes and streams

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Migratory species in
national parks

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Visits to national parks inspire people to plan another trip, to tell their friends, and often, to ask how they can help.

We love that!

You can:

- volunteer
- join a park [Friends Group](#)
- be an [Artist-in-Residence](#)
- make *your opinion* count
- make a [donation](#)
- come [work with us](#)
- [partner](#) with the NPS
- [do your part](#)
- [revitalize your community](#)



NPS photo

When you get involved, you help ensure that national parks and programs are relevant. Your ideas add strength to the work we do everyday to preserve special places and stories. [Civic engagement](#) is key to the National Park Service mission.

We especially love when kids ask how they can get involved. Younger kids can sign up in the park to be a [Junior Ranger](#) or go online and explore our [Web Rangers](#) program. Older kids can participate in programs we have with the [Boy Scouts](#) and [Girl Scouts](#). High school and college students can give working for the National Park Service a try through our [jobs for students](#).

