



Environmental Planning and Compliance Program



Program Overview

The Environmental Planning and Compliance (EPC) program supports parks, regions, and WASO offices in the process of completing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning documents (Environmental Impact Statements and Environmental Assessments) with a priority emphasis on planning efforts that are court-ordered, likely to be litigated, precedent-setting, or of a complex or controversial nature. These planning and compliance actions relate to major management decisions that do not fit within the normal scope of the construction program or the general management planning program.

Inadequate NEPA planning can result in both poor decision making and court challenges that stop or redirect NPS actions. The support of legally defensible NEPA analyses that facilitate sound decision making is a primary function of the EPC program.

The EPC program also provides technical assistance and advice to parks, regions and other WASO offices on NEPA-related matters, serves as the Servicewide focal point for matters concerning NEPA, develops guidance and provides parks and regions with environmental planning and compliance training.

Highlights and Accomplishments

Revised DO-12 Handbook and Delivering NEPA Training to Regions and Parks

The EPC program issued a revised NPS NEPA Handbook with accompanying supplemental guidance in the fall of 2015. A new training program is being developed with the goal of educating practitioners in each region in 2016. In addition, EPC provides NEPA guidance and technical assistance on a daily basis to park, region, and WASO staff.

Addressing Servicewide Ungulate Management Issues

The EPC program is currently managing six plans focused on ungulate management. Plans involving bison are underway at Grand Canyon NP, Great Sand Dunes NP/Preserve, and Yellowstone NP. A Grazing Management Plan is being developed at Capital Reef NP. Plans involving elk and mountain goats are occurring at Point Reyes NS and Olympic NP, respectively.

Wildlife Management Issues

The EPC program is working on two wildlife management plans involving the reintroduction of predators. North Cascades NP is evaluating whether to reintroduce the grizzly bear to the park. Isle Royale NP has initiated an EIS to decide whether to reintroduce gray wolves to the island.

Wilderness and Visitor Use Planning

The EPC program recently completed a wilderness stewardship plan for Sequoia/Kings Canyon NP and is currently managing the compliance processes for wilderness stewardship plans at Isle Royale NP and Mt. Rainier NP. EPC is leading the development of a water resources management plan in wilderness for Mojave National Preserve as well. Coordination discussions are ongoing with the NPS Wilderness Stewardship Division regarding meeting certain conditions of the Wilderness Act in concert with NEPA and other planning processes.

Managing and Regulating Off Road Vehicle Use

The EPC program recently completed two off road vehicle (ORV) management plans and is currently managing ORV planning and rulemaking processes in three park units, including Glen Canyon NRA, Cape Hatteras NS and Cape Lookout NS. These plans will ensure that ORV use is managed in such a manner that protects natural and cultural resources and provides for the safety of park visitors and staff.



Shorebirds move through the surf on the coast



Drakes Estero, Point Reyes National Seashore

Current Projects and Accomplishments

Current EPC-Managed/Funded Projects

- Anacostia Park - Wetland/Goose Mgmt Plan/EA
- Big South Fork NR&RA - Mitigate Coal Mine Drainage Pollution EIS
- Cape Lookout NS – Off Road Vehicle Mgmt Plan/EIS
- Cape Hatteras- Off Road Vehicle Mgmt Plan/EA
- Capitol Reef NP – Grazing Mgmt Plan/EIS
- Death Valley NP - Saline Valley Mgmt Plan/EIS
- George Washington Mem Pkwy - Dyke Marsh Restoration Plan/EIS
- Golden Gate NRA - Dog Mgmt Plan/EIS, Regulation
- Glen Canyon NRA - Off Road Vehicle Mgmt Plan/EIS, Regulation
- Glen Canyon NRA - Grazing Mgmt Plan Cumulative Effects Analysis
- Glacier NP- Fisheries/Aquatics Mgmt Restoration and Climate Change Response Plan/EIS
- Grand Canyon NP - Bison Mgmt Plan/EIS
- Great Sand Dunes NP&Pres - Ungulate Mgmt Plan/EIS
- Gulf Islands NS- Personal Watercraft Plan/EIS
- Isle Royale NP – Wolf/Moose Mgmt Plan/EIS
- Isle Royale NP – Wilderness Stewardship Plan/SEIS
- Mojave NPres – Water Resources Mgmt Plan/EIS
- Mt. Rainier NP – Wilderness Stewardship and User Capacity Plan/EIS
- North Cascades NP – Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/EIS
- Olympic NP - Non-native Goat Mgmt Plan/EIS
- Pictured Rocks NS - Personal Watercraft Plan/EIS
- Point Reyes NS – Comprehensive Ranch Mgmt Plan/EIS
- Redwood NP & Santa Monica NRA – Invasive Plant Mgmt Plan/EA
- Southeast Region – Predator Mgmt Plan/EA
- Yellowstone NP- Bison Conservation Plan/EIS

Recently Completed Projects

- Antietam NB, Monocacy NB and Manassas NB - Deer Mgmt Plan/EIS
- Big South Fork NR&RA - Oil and Gas Mgmt Plan/EIS
- Cape Cod NS - Herring River Restoration EIS
- Cape Hatteras NS- Off Road Vehicle Mgmt Plan/EIS, Regulation
- Curecanti NRA - Off Road Vehicle Mgmt Plan/EA, Regulation
- Cuyahoga Valley NP - Deer Mgmt Plan/EIS
- Fire Island NS - Deer Mgmt Plan/EIS
- Hawaii Volcanoes NP - Ungulate Management Plan/EIS
- Jefferson National Expansion Mem - Implementing City Arch River Initiative EA
- Lake Meredith NRA - Off Highway Vehicle Mgmt Plan/EIS, Regulation
- Morristown NHP - Deer Mgmt Plan/EIS
- NPS - Nonfederal Oil and Gas Development EIS, Regulations Revision
- Pea Ridge NMP - Integrated Vegetation Mgmt Plan/EA
- Point Reyes NS - Drakes Bay Oyster Company Special Use Permit EIS
- Rock Creek Park - Deer Mgmt Plan/EIS
- Sequoia/Kings Canyon NP - Wilderness Stewardship & Stock Use Plan/EIS
- Shenandoah NP - Chronic Wasting Disease Mgmt Plan/EIS
- Yellowstone NP - Winter Use Plan/EIS, Regulation

More Information

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