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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

For Release December 5, 1973

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DIRECTOR
ANNOUNCES NEW REGIONAL OFFICES

Ronald H. Walker, Director of the Department of the Interior's National Park Service, today announced the creation of two new NPS regions, North Atlantic and Rocky Mountain, with offices in Boston and Denver, and the boundary realignment of two other regions.

"These new regions reflect my concern that action authority be brought as close to the local level as possible and are in keeping with President Nixon's policy of standardizing regional office locations within the Federal government," Walker said.

The new regions were created by dividing the eastern portion of former Northeast Region (Philadelphia) into the North Atlantic Region (Boston) and Mid-Atlantic Region (Philadelphia) and dividing the Midwest Region (Omaha) into the Rocky Mountain Region (Denver) and Midwest Region (Omaha). The Midwest Region now embraces five Great Lakes states from the old Northeast Region, and retains Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and Kansas. The other five NPS regions are unchanged.

The Rocky Mountain Region includes the states of Montana, North and South Dakota, Wyoming, Utah and Colorado. Its office will be at 645-655 Parfet Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80215.

The North Atlantic Region will serve the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey with offices at 150 Causeway St., Boston, Mass. 02114.

Walker emphasized that the new regional offices "will be staffed by existing NPS personnel, a job that has been made easier by the recent Washington office reorganization which released 97 positions for use in the field." The realignment will be effective early next year, he said.

Heading the North Atlantic Regional Office will be Regional Director Jerry D. Wagers, 43, former Director of the NPS New York District Headquarters. Wagers, who holds bachelors and masters degrees from the University of California at Berkeley, began his NPS career as a historian at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, Wash., and served at Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, Mo., and the Stephen T. Mather Training Center, W. Va. He was Superintendent of Fire Island National Seashore, N.Y., before assuming his present position in 1971.

The Regional Director at Denver will be Lynn H. Thompson, 47, now Superintendent at Yosemite National Park, Calif. Thompson began his National Park Service career as a ranger at Yellowstone National Park, Idaho-Wyo.-Mont., in 1957 and served in Washington, at Yosemite and as superintendent of Haleakala National Park, Hawaii, before returning to Yosemite in 1971. He is a graduate of Yale University.

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Editors Advisory: A map of all NPS regions and areas is attached, with a separate listing showing regional office addresses.




United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

DEC 3 1973

Memorandum

To: All Employees
From: Director 
Subject: Regional Reorganization

Consistent with my policy of keeping the National Park Service employees informed of any major Servicewide policy decisions, I am enclosing a self-explanatory copy of a December 5, 1973, news release outlining our new regional alignment.

These regional boundary changes will result in a more equitable workload with a better balance in number of areas, number of employees, etc., per Region, thus providing the parks increased services from their Regional Offices. The changes will also afford the Service a basis to achieve greater coordination of its programs with those of other Federal agencies and ultimately enable us to better serve the public.

Following is additional information (not included in the press release) which you should have:

1. For the present, those administrative housekeeping duties required to operate the North Atlantic Region will be performed in the Philadelphia Office;
2. The Rocky Mountain Regional Office will be responsible for supplying administrative support to the Denver Service Center; and
3. The Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, which is within the boundaries of both the North Atlantic Region (Boston) and the Mid-Atlantic Region (Philadelphia), will continue to report to the Philadelphia Office.

Other changes in the field organization include a revamping of State Offices. Except for Alaska and Hawaii, the State Offices will be abolished as now constituted. Old State Director positions (except Colorado) will become Assistants to the Regional Directors and serve as National Park Service Liaison Officers in their States, with a coordinative--not line--role in dealing with Service areas within the States.

Now that this final operational machinery is being put into place, we can all, by working together, make a great difference.

Enclosures

Regions of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior
(effective January 1974)

The North Atlantic Region will serve the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey. Offices: 150 Causeway Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02114.

The Mid-Atlantic Region will serve the States of Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, Delaware, and Virginia. Offices: 143 South Third Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106.

National Capital Parks will serve the metropolitan area of Washington, D.C. Offices: 1100 Ohio Drive, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20242.

The Southeast Region will serve the States of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Offices: 3401 Whipple Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30344.

The Midwest Region will serve the States of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and Kansas. Offices: 1709 Jackson Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102.

The Rocky Mountain Region will serve the States of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado. Offices: 645-655 Parfet Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80215.

The Southwest Region will serve the States of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. Offices: Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501.

The Western Region will serve the States of Arizona, California, Nevada, and Hawaii. Offices: 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102.

The Pacific Northwest Region will serve the States of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Offices: 1424 4th Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98101.

