



Wilderness Stewardship Division

2010-2011 Wilderness Report



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ON THE COVER

Late day sun shines on the Colorado River in Grand Canyon National Park's proposed wilderness. Photo courtesy of Alicia Burtner.



From top left corner, clockwise: Joel Hard; Ambassadors for Wilderness; Kyle Johnson; Death Valley Wilderness Planning Team. Background Photo: Eureka Dunes in the Death Valley Wilderness, photo courtesy of Drew Kaiser.

2010-2011 WES HENRY AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Director's Wes Henry National Excellence in Wilderness Stewardship Award has been presented since 1993. The award was established to recognize and foster excellence in the Agency's wilderness stewardship efforts by an individual National Park Service (NPS) employee, group of employees, and/or park or central office organization. Wilderness champions are committed to promoting and enhancing the unique combination of ecological and experiential qualities of wilderness through conscientious stewardship, management, and planning.

2010 Award Recipients

The recipient of the 2010 Individual Wilderness Champion Award is **Joel Hard**, Superintendent at Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. Joel led efforts to design and implement a wilderness monitoring strategy in the park, the first in Alaska. The monitoring strategy allows park staff to consistently monitor trends in the qualities of wilderness and serves as an example for other wilderness parks to consider. Hard also enhanced wilderness interpretation by developing a partnership with Alaska Geographic, resulting in a premier interpretive volume that celebrates wilderness values, scenery, wildlife, and rich human history in one of Alaska's most rugged parklands.

Great Sand Dunes National Park's Ambassadors for Wilderness youth program received the 2010 Wilderness Champion Group Award. The Ambassadors, a group of park rangers and community volunteers, help local students learn navigation, camping and backcountry cooking skills, and preparation and

response to inclement weather. Taking place in a wilderness setting for a week or more, students and ambassadors practice Leave No Trace ethics. The program brings the park and local community together, as park staff from multiple disciplines work with local teachers, college students, and non-profit organizations to make the program a success.

2011 Award Recipients

The recipient of the 2011 Individual Wilderness Champion Award is **Kyle Johnson**, Wilderness Specialist at Glacier National Park. Kyle has served as a stalwart protector of the park's wilderness values for over 25 years. Kyle works side-by-side with every park discipline, thoughtfully contributing to management decisions involving everything from facilities management to interpretation and emergency services. Kyle contributed to the revision of NPS Director's Order #41 and worked cooperatively with interagency partners on joint river management plans and cross-border wilderness protection.

Death Valley National Park received the 2011 Wilderness Champion Group Award. The park contains the largest NPS designated wilderness in the lower 48 states, totaling 91% of the park's land base. From a permanent wilderness coordinator position to the interdivisional, interagency wilderness planning team, the park's wilderness resources are well supported. As a result, the park has developed several innovative wilderness products including a comprehensive wilderness stewardship plan and a GIS technique for modeling effects of wilderness character – both of which inform the wilderness planning process and foster a sound decision-making platform.

WILDERNESS ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2010-2011

2010 and 2011 saw the development of the Wilderness Fellows program, the release of a *Park Science* special edition on wilderness, and a boost of diversity in the Wilderness Stewardship Division (the division) workforce. The following are wilderness highlights from the past two years.

Capacity Building Accomplishments

Five Students Join Division for Summer Internships



The division welcomed Erin Drake, Roopa Krithivasan, Jason Lawhon, Jose Martinez, and Marilyn Santos to the Washington Office in June 2010. Hailing from a broad geographic area

extending from California to India, the interns shared their unique perspectives while contributing to wilderness-related projects.

They worked to engage urban communities in wilderness dialogue, examined the relationship between fire and climate change in the context of wilderness management, developed key messages about wilderness in both English and Spanish, strengthened existing communication and outreach products for internal audiences, assisted in the development of wilderness-focused climate change policy guidance, and used Geospatial Information System technology to evaluate wilderness resources for large scale landscape conservation value.

Photo L-R: Jason Lawhon, Erin Drake, Marilyn Santos, Jose Martinez. Roopa Krithivasan not pictured.

Wilderness Fellows Program is Launched



In the summer of 2010, six students from Yale, Duke, and the University of North Carolina were welcomed into the inaugural Wilderness Fellows program.

The program is a partnership between Everglades National Park the Intermountain Region, and the

division to provide opportunities for students to gain valuable career experience while helping advance the stewardship of wilderness resources. Each Fellow spent up to six months in a wilderness park to support the development of a Wilderness Stewardship Plan and associated tasks.

Fellows took part in training courses, developed inventory and monitoring strategies, produced baseline wilderness character assessments, created public outreach strategies, and strengthened their understanding of NPS culture. The following are the participating parks and their Fellow:

- El Malpais/El Morro and Bandelier National Monuments: Emily Biesecker
- Everglades National Park: Alicia Burtner
- Guadalupe Mountains National Park: Christina Mills
- Buffalo National River: Monica Patel
- Buffalo National River: Lisanne Petracca
- Lassen Volcanic National Park: Brian Tarpinian

Photo L-R: Brian Tarpinian, Monica Patel, Alicia Burtner, Christina Mills, Lisanne Petracca, Emily Biesecker.

Ryan Scavo Joins Division as SCEP



Ryan Scavo, a Masters student at Stephen F. Austin State University, joined the division in a joint SCEP appointment between wilderness and Park Facilities Management in October 2010. In 2010-2011, Ryan worked on a

variety of wilderness projects, including website maintenance, assistance to the Wilderness Fellows, and an inventory of constructed assets in wilderness examined through the lens of the undeveloped quality of wilderness.

Wilderness Stewardship Planning Accomplishments

Interdisciplinary team launches *Together Wild*

In January 2010, the Wilderness Stewardship and Park Planning and Special Studies Divisions, in cooperation with the Regional Wilderness Coordinators, launched *Together Wild: A collaborative wilderness stewardship planning initiative*. *Together Wild* is a pilot project designed to provide a cohort of wilderness parks with the resources and support necessary to develop a wilderness stewardship plan informed by wilderness character. Participating parks work collaboratively with the Washington Office, regional staff, and individuals external to the NPS to develop site-specific wilderness stewardship plans.



Photo Contest Award Winner: Denali's Big Creek in the Denali Wilderness, courtesy of Jacob Frank.

NPS Wilderness Character Integration Team is Formed

With a goal of preserving wilderness character now and into the future, the NPS Wilderness Character Integration Team was established in September 2010. The interdisciplinary team, consisting of 18 people from parks and regions across the country, is operating on a two year timeframe to develop and implement a variety of products to monitor and preserve wilderness character, including user guides, templates, examples, and best practices.

Education and Outreach Accomplishments

Bulgarian Deputy Minister meets with Division

In February 2010, Dr. Georgi Kostov, Bulgarian Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food, met with Division Chief Garry Oye to discuss protected area efforts in the NPS. Kostov and Oye discussed the development of the National Wilderness Preservation System, management challenges, inventory and monitoring, visitor education efforts like *Leave No Trace*, and the importance of large undeveloped landscapes in the context of climate change. Opportunities to continue international dialogue and share technical assistance and expertise were also exchanged.

Newly formed National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance meets with Associate Director and Division Chief

Steve Shackleton, Associate Director for Visitor and Resource Protection, and Garry Oye met with board members of the newly formed National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance (NWSA) in November 2010. NWSA's mission is to develop a growing network of volunteer-based organizations to provide stewardship for America's enduring wilderness resource. The board members expressed a strong desire to work closely with the NPS and plan to help with baseline monitoring, restoration activities, maintenance, and visitor contacts.

NPS Participates in National Wilderness Conference

March 2011 marked the inaugural National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance conference, a four day event in Las Vegas, NV. With 120 attendees representing over 40 organizations, the diversity of ideas exchanged and perspectives shared was unmatched. Speakers included renowned southern Nevada nature photographer Sharon Schafer, author of the celebrated conservation tome *The Enduring Wilderness*, Doug Scott, and Frank Simpson, Executive Director of the Mojave Family Experience, an organization that educates children on stewardship practices in natural settings. Garry Oye participated in the "Working with Government Agencies – the elements of cooperation" panel, which also included representatives from the other wilderness management agencies.

NPS Wilderness Character Panel Discussion at George Wright Society Conference

With the theme of "Rethinking Protected Areas in a Changing World," the biennial George Wright Society was hosted in New Orleans in March 2011, welcoming over 1,000 attendees. Complementing the conference theme, division staff, regional wilderness coordinators, and key partners from other NPS programs presented a five-part panel discussion entitled, "Integrating Wilderness Character into NPS Planning, Monitoring, and Management." The panel featured presentations on the Wilderness Character Integration Team, the Wilderness Fellows Program, and case studies in Death Valley and Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Parks, and Curecanti National Recreation Area.

Wilderness Photo Contest

A competition for wilderness photos was held in *Park Science* magazine in September 2011. A total of 130 photographs, representing 33 wilderness areas in the National Park System were submitted. Jacob Frank won first place with a stunning photograph of Big Creek in the Denali Wilderness.

Wilderness and Recreation Fee Staff meet with Southern Sierra Wilderness Managers

In September 2011, Garry Oye and staff from the Recreation Fee Program met with an interagency group of Southern Sierra wilderness managers in Yosemite National Park to discuss current wilderness permit operations and future system requirements. With increasing public requests for online wilderness permitting options, the group shared perspectives on permitting needs and improvement capacity. This interagency, interdisciplinary effort supports a strong foundation for future dialogue and coordination with Recreation.gov, the website responsible for all federal land recreation reservations.

Park Science Special Issue: Wilderness Stewardship and Science

The winter 2011-2012 edition of [Park Science](http://ParkScience), the research and resource management bulletin of the NPS was dedicated to the interface of science and wilderness stewardship. In light of the ever-increasing role of science in protected area management and the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, the special edition includes contributions such as case studies, research reports, science features, literature summaries, and field perspectives. Content areas include wildland fire in wilderness, cultural resources and wilderness character, climate change, wilderness character integration and monitoring, and recreation management in wilderness.

Training Accomplishments

The [Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center](http://ArthurCarhartNationalWildernessTrainingCenter) provides a variety of interagency wilderness trainings, including face-to-face classroom instruction and online courses. Tim Devine, NPS Wilderness Training Program Manager is stationed at the Center in Missoula, MT.

Interagency Wilderness Stewardship Workshops

Five regional and two national interagency wilderness stewardship workshops were conducted in 2010-2011, including regional workshops in Colorado (2010), Montana (2010), Alaska (2010), Arizona (2011), and Washington (2011), and national workshops in Montana (2010 and 2011).

Park-specific Wilderness Workshops

Five park-specific wilderness workshops were conducted in 2010 at Death Valley, Rocky Mountain, Saguaro, and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks. In 2011, four park workshops were held in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and Dinosaur National Monuments, and Olympic and Big Bend National Parks. Attendees appreciated the place-based focus of the training and the opportunity for an interdisciplinary training that considers the perspectives of many different park programs.

Workshops with U.S. Border Patrol

Participants in the 2010 wilderness workshop in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument included U.S. Border Patrol Agents who work closely with park staff in preserving wilderness resources near the border of Mexico. In 2011, a wilderness awareness session was hosted at the U.S. Border Patrol Public Lands Liaison Agents Meeting. Adding to this awareness building, in 2011 Tim Devine assisted with the development and implementation of the U.S. Border Patrol Environmental and Cultural Stewardship Online Training Course – an annual training requirement for all agents.

Online Training Courses and Forums

In 2010-2011, the Center developed three new online courses of study, including 18 individual courses: 12 in natural resource management, three in cultural resource management, and three in paleontological resources. This brings the total available online wilderness courses to 24 in 2011. NPS staff completed 481 courses in 2010, and grew completion numbers to 1, 110 courses in 2011 – a 130 percent increase from 2010 to 2011.

Wilderness Connect Continues to Grow its Membership

Wilderness Connect, the professional social media site for wilderness practitioners launched in 2009, continues to be a valuable tool in connecting wilderness professionals with over 1,080 members from the four federal agencies that manage wilderness, academia, and non-government organizations.



Organ Pipe Cactus Wilderness, photo courtesy of the NPS.

Appendix A: 2010 and 2011 Wilderness Leadership Council (WLC)

WLC Role	Name
Superintendent & Council Chair	Sean McGuinness, Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River
Superintendent	Ralph Moore, Katmai National Park & Preserve
Superintendent	Art Hutchinson, Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve
Superintendent	Chas Cartwright, Glacier National Park
Law Enforcement & Council Vice-Chair	Kevin Hendricks, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
Cultural Resources	Melissa Memory, Everglades & Dry Tortugas National Parks
Natural Resources	Gordon Olson, Shenandoah National Park
Alaska Region/Park Representative	Pete Christian, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve
Interpretation & Education	Carol Sperling, Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve
Park Wilderness Manager	Kelly Bush, North Cascades National Park
Facilities Management	Erik Walker, Big Bend National Park
Regional Wilderness Coordinator	Suzy Stutzman, Intermountain Region
<i>Liaison/Program</i>	
Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center	Connie Myers, Director
Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute	Vacant
Fire & Aviation	Jeff Manley, Deputy - Budget & Planning
Natural Sounds Program	Karen Trevino, Program Manager
Park Planning & Special Studies	Patrick Gregerson, Program Manager
<i>Washington Office</i>	
Visitor & Resource Protection	Steve Shackleton, Associate Director
Natural Resource Stewardship & Science	Bert Frost, Associate Director
Cultural Resources	Stephanie Toothman, Associate Director
Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center	Tim Devine, NPS Wilderness Training Program Manager
Wilderness Stewardship Division	Garry Oye, Division Chief

Appendix B: 2010 and 2011 Regional Wilderness Coordinators

Region	Coordinator
Alaska	Judy Alderson, Regional Environmental Specialist (2010) Adrienne Lindholm, Regional Wilderness Coordinator (2011)
Pacific West	Alan Schmierer, Regional Environmental Coordinator
Intermountain	Suzy Stutzman, Regional Wilderness Coordinator
Midwest	Sandra Washington, Regional Chief of Planning and Compliance (2010) Chris Holbeck, Regional Natural Resource Program Manager (2011)
Northeast	Mike Bilecki, Chief of Resources Management - Fire Island National Park
Southeast	Mark Kinzer, Regional Environmental Protection Specialist

Appendix C: National Park Service Designated Wilderness

Wilderness Name	Park Unit	Designated Acreage
Ansel Adams Wilderness	Devils Postpile National Monument	747
Badlands Wilderness	Badlands National park	64,250
Bandelier Wilderness	Bandelier National Monument	23,267
Beaver Basin Wilderness	Picture Rocks National Lakeshore	11,740
Black Canyon of the Gunnison	Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park	15,599
Black Canyon Wilderness	Lake Mead National Recreation Area	17,220
Bridge Canyon Wilderness	Lake Mead National Recreation Area	7,761
Buffalo National River Wilderness	Buffalo National River	36,000
Carlsbad Caverns Wilderness	Carlsbad Caverns National Park	33,445
Chiricahua National Monument Wilderness	Chiricahua National Monument	10,680
Congaree National Park Wilderness	Congaree National Park	21,850
Craters of the Moon National Wilderness Area	Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve	43,243
Cumberland Gap	Cumberland Gap National Historic Park	12,191
Cumberland Island Wilderness	Cumberland Island National Seashore	20,558
Death Valley Wilderness	Death Valley National Park	3,164,878
Denali Wilderness	Denali National Park & Preserve	2,146,580
El Dorado Wilderness	Lake Mead National Recreation Area	26,250
Gates of the Arctic Wilderness	Gates of the Arctic National Park & Preserve	7,245,600
Gaylord Nelson Wilderness	Apostle Island National Lakeshore	33,500
Glacier Bay Wilderness	Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve	2,770,000
Great Sand Dunes Wilderness	Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve	75,225
Guadalupe Mountains Wilderness	Guadalupe Mountains National Park	46,850
Gulf Islands Wilderness	Gulf Islands National Seashore	4,600
Haleakala Wilderness	Haleakala National park	24,770
Hawaii Volcanoes Wilderness	Hawaii Volcanoes National Park	130,950
Indian Peaks Wilderness	Rocky Mountain National Park	2,917
Ireteba Peaks Wilderness	Lake Mead National Recreation Area	29,299
Isle Royale Wilderness	Isle Royale National Park	132,018
Jimbilnan Wilderness	Lake Mead National Recreation Area	18,879
John Krebs Wilderness	Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks	85,000
Joshua Tree Wilderness	Joshua Tree National Park	557,802
Katmai Wilderness	Katmai National Park & Preserve	3,500,000
Kobuk Valley Wilderness	Kobuk Valley National Park	190,000
Lake Clark Wilderness	Lake Clark National Park & Preserve	2,619,550
Lassen Volcanic Wilderness	Lassen Volcanic National park	78,982
Lava Beds Wilderness	Lava Beds National Monument	28,460
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness	Everglades National Park	1,296,500
Mesa Verde Wilderness	Mesa Verde National Park	8,500
Mojave Wilderness	Mojave National Preserve	695,200
Mount Rainier Wilderness	Mount Rainier National Park	228,480
Muddy Mountains Wilderness	Lake Mead National Recreation Area	3,521
Nellis Wash Wilderness	Lake Mead National Recreation Area	16,423
Noatak Wilderness	Noatak National Preserve	5,765,427
Olympic Wilderness	Olympic National Park	877,047
Organ Pipe Cactus Wilderness	Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument	313,840
Otis Pike Fire Island High Dune Wilderness	Fire Island National Seashore	1,380
Petrified Forest National Wilderness Area	Petrified Forest National Park	50,260
Phillip Burton Wilderness	Point Reyes National Seashore	25,952
Pinnacles Wilderness	Pinnacles National Monument	15,985
Pinto Valley Wilderness	Lake Mead National Recreation Area	39,173
Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness	Rocky Mountain National Park	252,256
Saguaro Wilderness	Saguaro National Park	71,400
Sangre de Cristo Wilderness	Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve	41,676
Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness	Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks	737,080
Shenandoah Wilderness	Shenandoah National Park	79,579
Spirit Mountain Wilderness	Lake Mead National Recreation Area	32,913
Stephen Mather Wilderness	North Cascades National Park	634,614
Theodore Roosevelt Wilderness	Theodore Roosevelt National Park	29,920
Wrangell-Saint Elias Wilderness	Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park & Preserve	9,078,675
Yosemite Wilderness	Yosemite National Park	704,624
Zion Wilderness	Zion National Park	214,406

Appendix D: National Park Service Recommended Wilderness

Park Unit	Recommended Acreage	Recommended Potential Acreage
Arches National Park	70,008	9,050
Assateague Island National Seashore	5,200	4,760
Big Bend National Park	583,000	44,750
Bryce Canyon National Park	20,810	---
Canyonlands National Park	278,420	18,270
Capitol Reef National Park	183,865	4,050
Cedar Breaks National Monument	4,830	
Colorado National Monument	14,779	937
Crater Lake National Park	127,058	---
Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve	396,696	---
Cumberland Gap National Historical Park	14,091	1,900
Dinosaur National Monument	210,727	10,274
El Malpais National Monument	97,428	11,161
Glacier National Park	930,910	3,360
Grand Teton National Park	143,454	20,850
Great Smoky Mountains National Park	390,900	52,286
Yellowstone National Park	2,032,731	---