

# Outdoor Ethics Program Briefing Packet

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Wilderness Stewardship Division &  
Conservation and Outdoor Recreation  
Division, WASO



## FY - 2009



leave no trace  
CENTER FOR OUTDOOR ETHICS

treadlightly!<sup>®</sup>  
ON LAND AND WATER



# Outdoor Ethics Program Charter

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Wilderness Stewardship Division &  
Conservation and Outdoor Recreation  
Division, WASO



**Mission:** The mission of the Outdoor Ethics Program is to promote and enhance the dissemination and effectiveness of outdoor ethics education, Servicewide. Moreover, this program seeks to provide National Park Service units with the necessary training and assistance to plan, implement, and evaluate their outdoor ethics education programs with the end goal of improving both the visitor experience and resource condition.

**Shared Vision:** As the national and regional outdoor ethics coordinators, we share a vision of all NPS visitors and employees embracing and practicing Outdoor Ethics wherever they recreate and live.

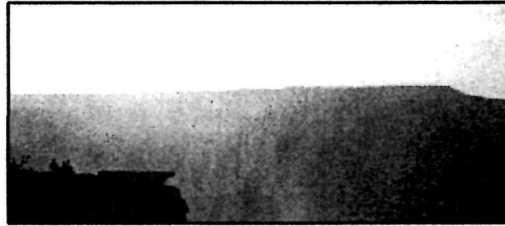
- Focus Areas:**
- ✓ Increasing Institutional Capacity and Support for Outdoor Ethics, by:
    - Identifying and securing national-level base program funding.
    - Increasing institutional capacity for ethics promotion at the regional level.
    - Pursuing grants and other soft money opportunities.
  
  - ✓ Enhancing Message Content and Consistency and Support of Parks, by:
    - Supporting individual NPS units with recreational skills and ethics training programs.
    - Increasing coverage and consistency of outdoor ethics education messages across all units.
    - Integrating relevant research into message content and delivery mechanisms.
  
  - ✓ Engaging with New Audiences, by:
    - Developing, implementing, and evaluating a frontcountry visitor education pilot program.
    - Developing and make available a variety of on-line outdoor ethics teaching resources.
  
  - ✓ Facilitating Strong Partnerships, by:
    - Enhancing partnerships with both traditional and nontraditional partner organizations.
  
  - ✓ Pursuing Research Opportunities, by:
    - Seeking research opportunities with members of the academic community.

Personnel:	National Lead	Wade Vagias, Ph.D.	<a href="mailto:Wade_Vagias@nps.gov">Wade_Vagias@nps.gov</a>	(202) 513-7124
	Alaska Region Lead	Kathleen Kavalok	<a href="mailto:Kathleen_Kavalok@nps.gov">Kathleen_Kavalok@nps.gov</a>	(907) 644-3509
	Intermountain Region Lead	Kodi Schoppmann	<a href="mailto:Kodi_Schoppman@nps.gov">Kodi_Schoppman@nps.gov</a>	(435) 586-9548
	Midwest Region Lead	Position Vacant		
	Northeast Region Lead	Jodi French-Burr	<a href="mailto:Jodi_French-Burr@nps.gov">Jodi_French-Burr@nps.gov</a>	(304) 574-2115
	National Capital Region Lead	Polly Angelakis	<a href="mailto:Polly_Angelakis@nps.gov">Polly_Angelakis@nps.gov</a>	(301) 320-1403
	Pacific West Region Lead	Position Vacant		
	Southeast Region Lead	Position Vacant		

# Outdoor Ethics Program Accomplishments FY - 2009

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Wilderness Stewardship Division &  
Conservation and Outdoor Recreation  
Division, WASO



## ***Increasing Institutional Capacity & Support for Outdoor Ethics:***

- ✓ Reinvigorating the networks of regional outdoor ethics coordinators through monthly conference calls.
- ✓ Development of an 'Outdoor Ethics Promotion Charter,' including developing a mission and vision statements and articulating five key focus areas.
- ✓ Funded re-release of LNT Video, including the production of 20,000 DVD copies as well as an online media player and exclusive rights to the video. The video is presently hosted on the homepage of [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).
- ✓ PMIS funding submittal for FY10 (\$330,000). Not funded.
- ✓ Historically, oversight of the Leave No Trace (LNT) and Tread Lightly! (TL) visitor education programs has rested with the Wilderness Stewardship Division, WASO. In August 2009, responsibility for oversight of these programs was split with Wilderness Stewardship retaining oversight of LNT and the Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Division assuming responsibilities for TL. However, the national and regional outdoor ethics coordinators have and will continue to work to promote both programs.

## ***Enhancing Message Content and Consistency and Support of Parks:***

- ✓ 9/2009 – Grant Application, National Park Foundation, Grants Under \$10,000. Grant seeks to implement, revamp, and refine LNT visitor education efforts at CUIS, a park that has an incomplete LNT visitor education programs.
- ✓ 9/2009 – Grant Application, National Park Foundation, Grants Under \$10,000. Grant proposes funding two individuals who will serve as traveling 'Alaska Stewardship and Ethics Trainers' (ASET) in FY10.
- ✓ 6/2009 – Grant Application, National Audubon Society, Together Green Fellowship. Grant proposes enhancing institutional capacity for promotion of visitor ethics messages across the entire NPS system by identifying and empowering a cadre of 'ethics promotion champions' at both the regional and individual park level. *Not funded.*

## ***Engaging with New Audiences:***

- ✓ Planning and participating at the 2010 BSA Jamboree

## ***Facilitating Strong Partnerships:***

- ✓ Ongoing – participation on monthly Leave No Trace Government Affairs Conference Calls
- ✓ 5/2009 – Attendance at the LNT Educational Review Commission Meeting, Boulder, CO
- ✓ 5/2009 – Attendance at the LNT Board of Directors Meeting, Denver, CO
- ✓ 11/2009 – Attendance at the LNT Board of Directors Meeting, Denver, CO

***Pursuing Research Opportunities:***

- ✓ 11/2009 - Vagias had a paper accepted for oral presentation at the World Wilderness Congress (WILD 9), Merida, Mexico.
- ✓ 10/2009 – Vagias coauthored a peer-reviewed journal article with Leave No Trace Staff, Jeff Marion of Virginia Tech University, and Peter Newman of Colorado State University to rejoiner the mischaracterizations of Leave No Trace in the ‘Beyond Leave No Trace’ article recently written by Simon & Alagona (2009, Ethics, Place, and Environment).
- ✓ 8/2009 – Vagias submitted a paper to the journal Leisure Sciences detailing the conceptual foundation, development, cross-validation, and psychometric qualities of the Leave No Trace Ethics Scale (LNTES), an instrument designed to measure attitudes regarding the LNT principles for responsible recreation.
- ✓ 05/2009 – Vagias presented key findings from his dissertation ‘An Examination of the Leave No Trace Visitor Education Program in Two National Park Service Units’ to the members of the LNT Education Review Commission, Boulder, CO.
- ✓ 03/2009 – Vagias presented key findings from his dissertation ‘An Examination of the Leave No Trace Visitor Education Program in Two National Park Service Units’ at the George Wright Forum, Portland, OR.



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Office of Communications  
and Public Affairs

1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

202 208-6843 phone  
202 219-0910 fax

## National Park Service

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 14, 2008  
Contact: David Barna , National Park Service (202) 208-6843  
Wade Vagias, National Outdoor Ethics Coordinator (202) 513-7124

### **National Park Service helps campers “Leave No Trace”**

WASHINGTON – There is an old saying popular with park rangers and campers – “take only pictures and leave only footprints” when you are enjoying the great outdoors. While many subscribe to this philosophy, it isn’t always obvious how to make the right low-impact choices when you’re far from roads and established campgrounds. The National Park Service’s (NPS) [Leave No Trace video](#) is a great place for campers to learn where to pitch a tent and how to cook in wilderness so that no one will know you were there. It even covers what do to – ahem – when Mother Nature calls.

The 9½ minute video, on-line for the first time, addresses the importance of taking a personal role in preserving the outdoor experience for future generations. It provides a vivid and adventurous display of outdoor scenery, showcasing wild animals, breathtaking scenery, and presents how people can incorporate Leave No Trace principles when they are outdoors.

“We hope the video inspires people to take a wilderness trip,” said Jonathan Jarvis, Director of the National Park Service. “The more people know about making the right choices while camping and enjoying the backcountry, the better we can protect these special places for future generations of hikers and campers.”

Copies are now available for individuals, colleges, universities, summer camps, and groups through the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics in Boulder, Colorado. To obtain a free copy of the DVD, please visit [www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org), or call (800) 332-4100 (shipping and handling charges will apply).

For information about hosting the video on your website, contact Wade Vagias with the National Park Service at [Wade\\_Vagias@nps.gov](mailto:Wade_Vagias@nps.gov) or (202) 513-7124. To view or download the video, go to <http://www.nps.gov/features/wilderness/leavenotrace/popup.html>.

NPS

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



[InsideNPS](#) > [WASO](#) > [Visitor and Resource Protection](#) > [Wilderness Stewardship and Recreation Management](#) > [Wilderness Stewardship](#)

### Wilderness Stewardship Division Re-Releases Popular Leave No Trace Video

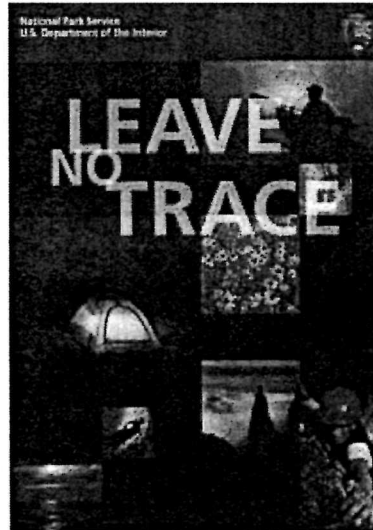
By [Wade Vagias](#)

202-513-7124

October 19, 2009

The principles of Leave No Trace are important tools not only in experiencing the outdoors but also in helping preserve it for future enjoyment. The Wilderness Stewardship Division, in partnership with the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics and Harpers Ferry Center, has re-released an educational video promoting Leave No Trace principles, along with an interactive media player that is available online for viewing and download at [www.wilderness.nps.gov](http://www.wilderness.nps.gov).

The 9½ minute video, available on-line for the first time, addresses the importance of taking a personal role in preserving the outdoor experience for future generations. It provides a vivid and adventurous display of wilderness scenery showcasing wild animals, breathtaking shots of canyons, forests and mountains, and presenting how people can incorporate Leave No Trace principles when they are outdoors.



Cover of Leave No Trace DVD

[Print This Article](#)

[E-Mail This Article](#)

#### Related Stories

- [SRC, Isle Royale Divers Investigate Sunken Ships](#)
- [Secretary Salazar And Director Jarvis Visit Park](#)
- [National Capitol Region Meets To Prepare For CW150](#)
- [Potential Slide Forces Parkway Closure](#)
- [NPS Launches Fall-to-Spring Trip-Planning Website](#)

The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics has noted the video's success and is excited for the re-release as well, according to Ben Lawhon, the center's education director. "This video is an excellent teaching resource for anyone interested in promoting the skills and ethics of Leave No Trace. At just under 10 minutes, it's the perfect length for any audience. Requests for this video are at an all time high and we're pleased that it will again be available," said Lawhon.

The project was coordinated by Garry Oye and Wade Vagias, of the Wilderness Stewardship Division, WASO, and produced by Chuck Dunkerly of the Harpers Ferry Center. Funding was through the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, which was used to develop and hold the exclusive rights to the media player, along with reprogramming the video with new scene selections, 508 complaint accessibility tracks, and obtaining the official rights to the video. 20,000 copies were produced and will be distributed.

To obtain a free copy of the DVD, or for additional information about hosting the online media player on a website, contact Wade Vagias at [Wade\\_Vagias@nps.gov](mailto:Wade_Vagias@nps.gov) or (202) 513-7124.

[More Information](#)