

NPS Geologic Resources

Spectacular geologic resources exist in more than 180 national parks. They range from the world-renowned sculptured depths of Grand Canyon National Park to the awe-inspiring fossils of Dinosaur National Monument. Less frequently considered, but equally important to park ecosystems, are the commonplace geologic resources beneath our feet and the geologic processes that alter them. Geologic resources include, but are not limited to, minerals, rocks, fossils, cave and karst systems, coastlines, glaciers, volcanoes, faults, landforms, landslides, structures, fluvial systems, sediments, soils, and stratigraphic relations.



Geologic Resource Specialties

- Caves and karst systems
- Coastal geology
- Disturbed lands restoration
- Geohazards
- Geologic information and outreach
- Geologic resource inventory
- Geomorphology
- Minerals and Energy Resources
- Paleontology
- Planning, policy, permitting and regulations
- Soil Resources

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Natural Resource Program Center

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Geologic Resources Division



The Geologic Resources Division, in partnership with parks and others, works to protect, preserve, and understand the geologic resources of the National Park System and to protect park resources from the adverse impacts of mineral development in and adjacent to parks.

Organization

The Geologic Resources Division is a part of the Natural Resources Program Center under the Associate Director for Natural Resource Stewardship and Science. The Natural Resource Program Center consists of the office of the Center Director and five divisions:

- Air Resources
- Biological Resources
- Environmental Quality
- Geologic Resources
- Water Resources

The Geologic Resources Division is comprised of two branches: the Geoscience and Restoration Branch and the Planning, Evaluation and Permits Branch.



The branches collaborate with park and regional staff, and the geoscience community to support NPS managers by providing technical information, regulatory tools, and specialized services to effectively manage geologic and mineral resources. Focused in Denver, Colorado, the Geologic Resources Division works with offices in Fort Collins, Colorado and a liaison office in Washington D.C. Comprised of geologists, mining and petroleum engineers, policy and regulatory analysts, and natural resource specialists the Geologic Resources Division strives to provide NPS units with skills that are rarely available in parks.

Geoscience and Restoration Branch

- Provides technical expertise to park staff on geologic features, processes, and geohazards.
- Manages NPS disturbed lands restoration program, including abandoned mineral lands restoration.
- Coordinates Servicewide cave and karst, coastal geology, and paleontological resource management programs.
- Assists parks with geologic hazard management concerns.
- Coordinates the Servicewide Soil Resource Inventory effort, which includes mapping.
- Manages the Geoscientists-in-the-Parks Program, which provides on-site geoscience expertise to NPS units.



Planning, Evaluation and Permits Branch

- Provides expertise on geologic resource management policy and regulatory concerns, and develops related guidance.
- Evaluates geologic resource related legislative proposals.
- Provides support to parks developing comprehensive park planning documents and minerals management plans.
- Assists park staff with geologic research and mineral development permits inside parks and provides expertise on oil and gas, and solid minerals exploration and development proposals outside park boundaries.
- Coordinates the Servicewide geologic resource inventory and mapping effort.
- Serves as the division's link to the National Cave and Karst Research Institute (NCKRI).

