



Future Goals

To improve its leadership, expertise, and ability to provide scientific support, the NRPC has identified several goals:

- Advance communications within the organization and with the public
- Improve internal NRPC collaboration and work processes
- Focus directorate-wide efforts on restoration
- More effectively and strategically foster partnerships, including international partnerships

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For additional information, please visit the Internet site:

<http://www.nature.nps.gov>

or the Intranet site:

<http://www1.nrintra.nps.gov>

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Natural Resource Program Center



Providing Service-wide leadership, expertise, and scientific information to ensure the natural resources of the National Park System remain unimpaired for future generations.

The Natural Resource Program Center



The Natural Resource Program Center (NRPC) is the core of the NPS Natural Resource Stewardship and Science Directorate. With most of its staff located in Lakewood and Fort Collins, Colorado, and Washington D.C., the NRPC assists parks in managing physical and biological resources.

The NRPC consists of five divisions and three offices, managed by a Center Director. The Center Director reports to the NPS Associate Director for Natural Resource Stewardship and Science. There are three offices under the Center Director: The Office of Inventory, Monitoring, and Evaluation; the Office of Natural Resource Information Systems; and the Office of Education and Outreach. There are five NRPC divisions, each managed by a Division Chief:

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

The NRPC Mission

The NRPC mission is to provide leadership, expertise, and scientific information to ensure the natural resources of the National Park System remain unimpaired for future generations.

To accomplish this mission, the NRPC identifies and mitigates threats that endanger animals, plants, air, water, and geologic features or processes in our national parks. NRPC's professional staff helps NPS field managers care for and restore these interrelated natural systems. Through education, the NRPC helps the public understand that human actions directly affect the health of our national parks and associated ecosystems.

Challenges

Dynamic and diverse forces increasingly threaten the health of ecosystems throughout the National Park System and adjacent communities:

- invasive species
- air and water pollution
- resource contamination by hazardous materials
- land use changes and land development
- uncontrolled visitor impacts
- previous or current grazing, logging, and mining

The NRPC tackles these complex challenges by informing decision-makers, providing parks with accurate and timely scientific information and expertise, and distributing funds.

Services Provided by the NRPC

To help parks and partners in natural resource management, the NRPC:

- coordinates resource inventory and monitoring activities;
- implements technical resource management solutions;
- funds resource management projects;
- acts as a national clearinghouse for resource management information;
- facilitates resource management partnerships and training;
- informs the public about natural resource management programs and activities;
- synthesizes and disseminates resource management policy, regulations, and permitting; and
- supports resource management planning, research, and policy development.

The NRPC's multidisciplinary staff helps resolve park resource management challenges that originate in or outside of National Park System units. NRPC professionals are

- scientists,
- natural resource managers,
- information technology experts,
- policy and regulatory compliance experts, and
- educators and interpreters.