



Environmental Quality Division

Background

The Environmental Quality Division (EQD) manages four programs with staff in Fort Collins and Lakewood, Colorado, and Washington, D.C.

Environmental Planning and Compliance (David Jacob, Branch Chief)

- Assists parks and regions with environmental planning and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) project management on complex, court-ordered, congressionally mandated, and precedent-setting projects.
- Provides parks and regions with environmental planning and compliance training.
- Provides technical assistance and advice to parks, regions and other WASO offices on NEPA-related matters.
- Serves as the Servicewide focal point for matters concerning NEPA.
- Formulates guidance on matters related to NEPA planning and other environmental mandates.

Resource Protection (James Haas, Branch Chief)

- **Response:** Assists parks and regions in developing and implementing response plans to address oil spills, hazardous material releases, and other incidents.
- **Damage Assessment:** Assists parks in assessing injured resources and determining the compensation to seek for restoration.
- **Restoration:** Assists parks in planning and managing projects to restore injured resources.

Social Science (Bret Meldrum, Branch Chief)

- **Social Science Surveys:** Manages the SocioEconomic Monitoring and Visitor Survey Card programs, which conduct social science and customer satisfaction surveys Systemwide.
- **Public Use Statistics:** Collects, analyzes, and publishes official visitation statistics for NPS.

- **Socioeconomic Support:** Provides social and economic support for damage assessments, rulemakings, environmental compliance, information collection and other research efforts, and special projects.

Environmental Information Management (Nancy Werdel, Branch Chief)

- Manages the Department of the Interior's Controlled External Review Program for NPS.
- Manages the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment system (PEPC) to support project planning, compliance tracking, comment analysis and response, and public communications.



Floaters at Kittatinny Point in Delaware Water Gap NRA. EQD publishes statistics on the economic benefits from visitor spending

More Information

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Aerial view showing prop scars in seagrass caused by vessel groundings in Biscayne National Park. EQD is working with Biscayne and Everglades National Parks to restore seagrass habitat.

Current Projects and Accomplishments

Environmental Planning and Compliance

The Environmental Planning and Compliance program:

- Issued a revised NPS NEPA Handbook with accompanying supplemental guidance.
- Is currently managing six plans focused on ungulate management (Grand Canyon NP, Great Sand Dunes NP/Preserve, Yellowstone NP, Capital Reef NP Point Reyes NS, and Olympic NP).
- Working on two wildlife management plans involving the reintroduction of predators (North Cascades NP and Isle Royale NP).
- Recently completed a wilderness stewardship plan for Sequoia/Kings Canyon NP and is currently managing the compliance processes for wilderness stewardship plans at Isle Royale NP and Mt. Rainier NP.
- Leading the development of a water resources management plan in wilderness for Mojave National Preserve.
- Recently completed two off road vehicle (ORV) management plans and is currently managing ORV planning and rulemaking processes in three park units (Glen Canyon NRA, Cape Hatteras NS and Cape Lookout NS).

Resource Protection

The Resource Protection program:

- Recovered approximately \$50 million in settlements since 1994 that were applied to restoration of injured park resources.
- Restored injured resources and lost human use at Gulf Islands National Seashore as part of a settlement between British Petroleum and the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Trustees.

- Integrated NPS resources at risk into Area Plans for the Great Lakes, the Upper Chesapeake Bay, and the Northwest.
- Developed training and operating procedures for Resource Advisors deployed during all-hazards incidents to help reduce impacts to park resources.
- Provided direct support and technical advice to the Southeast Region in support of the response effort for the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

Social Science

The Social Science program conducts research of human relationships with parks and provides technical assistance to NPS management and programs. Example projects include the SocioEconomic Monitoring, Visitor Survey Card, and the Comprehensive Survey of the American Public, including the Centennial Household Survey. Additionally, the program provides economic support to parks and other Federal agencies. Examples include calculating the economic values associated with water recreation at parks along the Colorado River, managing economic analyses for winter use plan rulemakings at Yellowstone, and calculating monetary damages for damage assessment cases.

Environmental Information Management

The Environmental Information Management Program coordinates NPS review of actions proposed by other Federal agencies that may affect parks or NPS programs. These actions include transportation projects, regulations, and management plans. On average, the program coordinates 1,200 to 1,500 reviews annually. This program also manages the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment system in support of park planning, compliance, and public communication.