

Welcome to the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) International Programs Bulletin, issued quarterly by the NPS Office of International Affairs (OIA). Additional information on NPS international activities can be found at the NPS OIA webpage: <http://www.nps.gov/oia>

In this Issue:

- NPS Director Chairs the North American Wilderness & Protected Areas Committee
- 50 Years of NPS International Engagement
- Mexican Sister Park Participates in Saguaro National Park's BioBlitz
- Independence National Historical Park Hosts World Heritage Fellow
- Reciprocal Interagency Visit to Russian Protected Areas by NPS, FWS & Forest Service
- NPS Supports Sondrio Environmental Film Festival
- NPS Lends Expertise to Lake Baikal Protected Areas
- Intergovernmental Panel On Climate Change Lead Authors Meet in Japan
- Sequoia-Kings Canyon Establishes Sister Park with China's Taishan National Park
- Sharing Museum Management Practices in Taiwan
- French Volunteer Assists Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park
- Indiana Dunes Reinvigorates Sister Park with Poland's Kampinoski National Park
- Sharing Visitor Management Techniques With Latin American Museum Managers
- Find Us now on Facebook!



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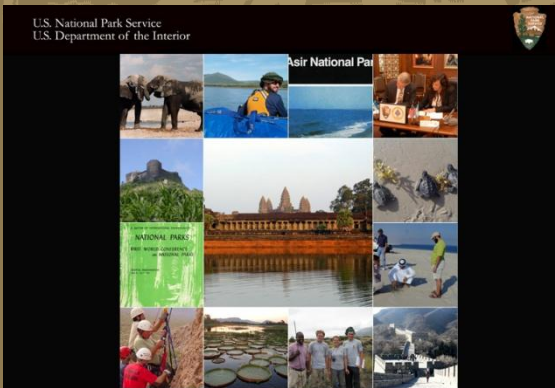


Canadian, Mexican & U.S. protected area managers during the North American Wilderness & Protected Areas (NAWPA) meeting.

NPS Director Chairs North American Wilderness and Protected Areas Committee

National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis chaired the intergovernmental meeting of the **North American Wilderness and Protected Areas** (NAWPA) Committee, a group consisting of the heads of the seven agencies who signed the North American Wilderness MOU in Merida, Mexico, in 2009. The agencies include the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and USDA's Office of Environmental Markets for the U.S., Mexico's National Commission for Natural Protected Areas (CONANP), and Parks Canada. At the meeting, which was held in Key Largo, Florida, the Committee was updated on various activities undertaken by NAWPA working groups, including climate change, relevancy, and valuing ecosystem services. They also discussed potential collaboration in new areas, including conservation of shared migratory species and developing the next generation of conservation leaders. The NAWPA working groups will meet next in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in May 2012. For more details, contact Jonathan Putnam, at jonathan_putnam@nps.gov

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The 2011 year-end volume of the George Wright Forum magazine explores the international mission of the U.S. National Park Service

50 Years of NPS International Engagement

The **George Wright Forum**, the periodical journal of the George Wright Society, has dedicated its latest issue to the subject "Fulfilling the International Mission of the U.S. National Park Service." The year 2011 marked the 50th anniversary of the establishment of an **Office of International Affairs** within the National Park Service, considered by many to be the first such office within the U.S. Government's conservation agencies. Authors include NPS Director Jarvis, five park Superintendents (writing about the benefits of international engagement as seen from their park units) and academic historians of the national parks. For more details, visit <http://www.georgewright.org/forumcurrent> or contact Jon Putnam, at jonathan_putnam@nps.gov The NPS Office of International Affairs is also coordinating events around the U.S. to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the **World Heritage Convention**. For more details, visit http://www.nps.gov/oia/topics/worldheritage/World_Heritage_Anniversary.htm

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Saguaro National Park Superintendent (2nd from right) with staff from Mexico's San Pedro Martir National Park during BioBlitz 2011

Mexican Sister Park Participates in Saguaro National Park's BioBlitz

BioBlitz 2011, hosted by **Saguaro National Park**, was a great success, thanks to the partnership between the National Park Service, National Geographic Society, Friends of Saguaro National Park, Tucson Electric Power and thousands of volunteers. The BioBlitz provided local scientists, students and citizens the opportunity to conduct a 24-hour inventory of the plants, insects, birds and other living things that inhabit the 91,445-acre desert park, providing a snapshot of the park's natural resources. First held in 2007 at Rock Creek National Park in Washington, DC, this year's BioBlitz teams found at least 859 different species, including more than 400 species, mostly invertebrate animals and non-vascular plants, previously unknown in the park. It was also the first BioBlitz with an international component. Saguaro National Park's 'sister park' in Mexico, **San Pedro Martir National Park** in Baja California, sent several staff to learn more about the BioBlitz concept and discuss upcoming cooperation with Saguaro staff. The next BioBlitz will be hosted by **Rocky Mountain National Park** in late August 2012. For more information, visit <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/explorers/projects/bioblitz/>

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Peruvian archeologist during his World Heritage Fellowship at Independence National Historical Park

Independence National Historical Park Hosts World Heritage Fellow

Gonzalo Rodriguez Carpio recently completed his NPS World Heritage Fellowship at **Independence National Historical Park**. Gonzalo is an archeologist at the **Sacred Site of Caral-Supe**, a 5,000-year old archaeological zone that is one of Peru's eleven World Heritage Sites. The NPS Office of International Affairs places emerging leaders from World Heritage Sites in developing countries in parks units managed by the NPS that also have been designated World Heritage Sites. While in Philadelphia, Gonzalo researched what Independence has achieved not only as a national park and a World Heritage site, but also a popular community and tourist area. He was highly impressed with the park staff's interaction with the public at the archaeology lab, important to him because in his experience the public always appreciates a direct experience with the past. For more details, contact Jon Putnam, at jonathan_putnam@nps.gov

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NPS, FWS & US Forest Service experts visit Russia's Caucasus State Nature Reserve as part of a reciprocal interagency exchange

Reciprocal Interagency Visit to Russian Protected Areas by NPS, FWS & Forest Service

A delegation of nine US specialists in protected area management, from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) visited four protected areas in southwestern Russia - the Caucasus Nature Reserve, Sochi National Park, Sochi Wildlife Preserve, and Utrish Reserve - as part of a reciprocal exchange under the U.S.-Russia Bilateral Presidential Commission (BPC). The purpose of this trip was to provide Russian and U.S. protected area managers the opportunity to share information about their respective protected area systems, discuss best practices, and establish contacts that would facilitate technical cooperation on protected areas between our countries in the future. FWS, USFS and NPS had worked together to host a delegation of 21 Russian protected area managers and specialists on a study tour to the U.S. in February-March 2011, in a stellar example of interagency cooperation. For more details, contact Bella Gordon at bgordon@fs.fed.gov



NPS ranger with fellow members of the film jury for the 2011 Sondrio Film Festival.

NPS Supports Sondrio Environmental FilmFest

At the invitation of the President of the Sondrio International Film Festival on Parks, a ranger from **Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park** represented the NPS as a member of an international jury for Sondrio's annual film festival on parks and protected areas, made an introductory presentation before the screening of "La Sfida di Garamba," (The Dare of Garamba) entitled "American Legends – U.S. National Parks;" conducted school presentations on U.S. national parks; and gave a presentation entitled "Mountain Parks – Which Future? Stelvio, Yellowstone, Sagarmatha." This marked the Sondrio Film Festival's 25th year – for most of which an NPS representative has participated as a juror and spokesperson about U.S. national parks. The Sondrio Festival also coincided with the International Year Of the Forest, thus the focus on forest and mountain parks, with an photographic exhibit of diverse forests where the films and presentations were offered. For more details, contact Mea Arego, at mea_arego@nps.gov



NPS Intermountain Region Chief of Interpretation (front, center) at one of the teachers seminars at Zabaikalsky National park

NPS Lends Expertise to Lake Baikal Parks

The non-profit organization Center for Safe Energy (CSE) requested NPS technical assistance to Russia's Zabaikalsky National Park (ZNP), located on the World Heritage site of Lake Baikal. NPS dispatched its Intermountain Region's Chief of Interpretation, Education and Youth Engagement to join a team, including CSE's program manager and the founder/director of Plastic Pollution Coalition, at an All-Baikal conference held at Zabaikalsky National Park, in honor of the park's 25th anniversary, that attracted administrators of all the national parks and protected lands around Lake Baikal. With the newly appointed director of ZNP, NPS helped design a new plan for visitation to the park including recreation programs and expansion of their visitor center. With heightened international awareness of Lake Baikal, the protected lands, local government, businesses and NGOs are working to create an ecotourism infrastructure in the Baikal region. Additionally, NPS expertise in interpretation and working with the public was used in an NGO conference held in Ulan-Ude organized by the environmental organization, Club FIRN. For more details, contact Phil Zichterman, at phil_zichterman@nps.gov



A member of the NPS climate change response program is serving as a lead author on the International Panel on Climate Change

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Lead Authors Meet in Japan

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) invited an NPS climate change scientist to serve as a lead author for the *2013 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands*. This IPCC report will develop scientifically robust methods to quantify greenhouse gas emissions and storage in wetland ecosystems. IPCC is convening a series of meetings of lead authors through 2013; the core of IPCC is a group of scientists nominated for their expertise in climate change science. NPS's Dr. Patrick Gonzalez served as lead author for two previous reports of the IPCC, in 2001 and 2006, prior to joining the NPS. Having a staff scientist as an IPCC lead author advances the NPS mission by contributing to the science and mitigation goals of the NPS Climate Change Response Strategy. NPS uses the *IPCC Guidelines on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* (IPCC 2006) as a rigorous scientific basis to quantify and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from park operations and to quantify carbon storage in ecosystems, a side-benefit of many resource management actions. For more details, contact Patrick Gonzalez, at patrick_gonzalez@nps.gov



Sequoia-Kings Canyon Establishes Sister Park with China's Tai-shan National Park

Staff from **Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI)** traveled to China to establish a sister park relationship with China's **Mount Taishan Scenic Spot**, a mixed natural-cultural World Heritage Site located in Shandong province. Both parks protect valuable natural and cultural resources. Each park features mountain landscapes of high peaks, deep canyons, and white-water rivers with waterfalls; both have varied life zones characterized by diverse vegetation and fauna. Each of the parks experience heavy tourism pressure in peak season and major holidays. Both parks are also bordered by well-populated valleys whose inhabitants use the parks for recreation and education. Issues common to both parks encompass executing the principles of visitor interpretation and education and the development of youth outreach and educational programs, as well as natural and cultural resource protection, visitor use management, and leadership development. The arrangement provides for technical, advisory, and mentorship assistance and exchanges in furtherance of mutually beneficial conservation and resources management goals. For more information, contact Colleen Bathe, at colleen_bathe@nps.gov



Sharing Museum Management Practices in Taiwan

A senior curator from the **National Park Service's Museum Management Program** presented papers on NPS museum management policies and procedures at the International Conference on Procedural Standards of Museums in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. Over a hundred Taiwanese museum and conservation professionals and museum studies graduate students attended the conference. NPS's representative traveled across Taiwan, at the invitation of the conference hosts, The National Science and Technology Museum, the Collection Management System Special Interest Group, Museum Computer Network, Taiwan Chapter, the Graduate Institute of Conservation of Cultural Relics and Museology of Tainan National University of the Arts, and the National Cheng Kung University. For more details, contact Joan Bacharach, at joan_bacharach@nps.gov



French Volunteer Assists Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

A French graduate student worked as an International Volunteer-in-Parks (IVIP) intern with the restoration ecology program at **Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park (HAVO)**, donating a total of 968 hours to the park. Her position at the park also fulfilled her internship requirement to earn a Master's Degree from VetAgro SUP University in Paris, France. She hopes to utilize the knowledge and skills she gained at HAVO to aid in restoration work at the National Park of La Reunion, where she was born and resides. During her internship, Laureen worked with park staff to map *Cyanea tritomantha*, a candidate endangered species included in the first phase of a park project on building capacity in rare and endangered plant populations in a changing climate. For more details, contact Jim Gale, at jim_gale@nps.gov

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Indiana Dunes National Seashore Superintendent Dillon (center) with counterparts from Poland's Kampinoski National Park

Indiana Dunes Reinvigorates Sister Park Relationship with Poland's Kampinoski NP

Marking the first visit in many years, staff from **Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore** traveled to Poland to reinvigorate its cooperative relationship with Poland's Kampinoski National Park, which began in 1998. Recent changes in the Polish Government resulted in the abolition of Poland's National Park Service, with each of the country's 23 national parks now reporting directly to the Department of Nature Protection in the Environment Ministry and new laws requiring all national parks to have protection plans. Thus, Kampinoski sought help educating their staff on techniques to interpret and educate tourists on protection of park resources, to increase communication with park neighbors, and to lend technical assistance in planning workshops for their staff in managing their invasive and alien plant populations, the protection of native wildlife, and application of new monitoring techniques. For more information, contact Costa Dillon at constantine_dillon@nps.gov

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South American museum managers observed local community use of the park at Brown V Board of Education NHS

Sharing Visitor Management Techniques With Latin American Museum Managers

Brown vs. Board of Education National Historic Site hosted museum managers from Latin America who were on a study tour through the American Midwest looking at examples of how the NPS operates visitor centers and museums. The group came from a variety of South and Central American countries and were sponsored by the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program. Park staff provided a program in Spanish on the history of the site and then engaged in a round table discussion on the role of interpretation in telling civil rights stories. The park also provided a distance learning demonstration. Coincidental to the group's visit the park hosted a local school, so staff had the Latin American managers participate with the children in an environmental education program. For more details contact David Smith, at BRVB_Superintendent@nps.gov

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The use of social media was crucial in coordinating multi-agency response to the April 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Increasingly, U.S. National Park Service park units are turning to Flickr, Facebook and Twitter to reach the public and share the latest information about conditions, programs and activities at their sites. We have established a Facebook page for the NPS Office of International Affairs, which will serve not only as a home to this Quarterly Bulletin but many other items, such as a World Heritage blog and an international park of the day feature. Check back frequently, or communicate with us via this page, at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/US-National-Park-Service-Office-of-International-Affairs/146676028717853>

This newsletter is distributed quarterly to NPS staff, partners and other interested parties. If you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please contact Rudy D'Alessandro at rudy_dalessandro@nps.gov. We encourage NPS colleagues to submit brief summaries of international activities and accomplishments suitable for inclusion in this bulletin.