Spanish Style Guide

Guidelines to help park rangers, interpreters, editors, and translators working on Spanish language versions of National Park Service interpretive media

Developed during translations of park brochures (and other publications) for Biscayne, Castillo de San Marcos, Dry Tortugas, Everglades, Pinnacles, Saguaro, San Juan, and Whitman Mission;

translations of film scripts for Cabrillo, Castillo de San Marcos, and San Juan;

and translations of wayside exhibit texts for Big Bend, Biscayne, Carlsbad Caverns, Dry Tortugas, Everglades, Grand Canyon, Guadalupe Mountains, Indiana Dunes, Joshua Tree, Juan Bautista de Anza Trail, Organ Pipe, Palo Alto National Battlefield, Salinas Pueblo Missions, San Antonio Missions, San Juan, Sequoia-Kings Canyon, and Timpanogos Cave.

Table of Contents:

SECTION 1:   **Guiding Principles**

How Literal to Make A Translation
for NPS Interpretive Media?

Avoid word-for-word translation. Clarity of meaning and elegance of phrasing are far more important than matching the exact word order of the original English.

The best Spanish titles and texts to communicate important interpretive themes may turn out to **not** be exact translations of the original English.

Word order and sentence structure seen in interesting-to-read Spanish does not always follow the normal English sentence structure. Sentence length in Spanish can be longer than the sentence lengths usually seen in NPS interpretive media in English. In fact, consider combining any short sentences to avoid a Spanish text that reads in a choppy, unnatural way.

We want to avoid the appearance that any NPS publication or wayside was written in English and translated in a rigid, mechanical way.

Park visitors who only read Spanish should be just as effectively engaged, and interpretively provoked as English-only readers. Spanish-only readers should neither be bored by a baby-talk version of Spanish, nor bogged down by unnatural constructions created when a translator forces Spanish to mirror the exact word order in English.

Regional dialects or
International Spanish?

Aim for an internationally acceptable Spanish, similar to what we hear today on news broadcasts on the major international television cable channels, such as *Univisión* or *Telemundo* or *CNN Español*.

Visual Language Parity

Placing Spanish text blocks below English on bilingual waysides, museum exhibits, or publications gives Spanish-only readers the impression that English is more important, and that they are second best. **Placing English text blocks on the left and Spanish text on the right is the best way** to insure you will have few complaints.

For publications, the cleanest solution to provide design that implies equal treatment is to create a Spanish-only document and an English-only document.

SECTION 2:   **Capitalization & punctuation**

Park staff and their translation partners can save Harpers Ferry Center a great deal of pre-press editing time by double-checking to make sure that their submitted texts in Spanish conform to the accepted Spanish rules, *not the English norms taught in the United States.* There are significant differences.

In areas where many people know and use both languages on a daily basis, expect confusion, particularly relative to capitalization rules in either language.

Here are examples of problems that commonly crop up:

2.01

| Days of week | per English rule | Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday |
| | per Spanish rule | *lunes, martes, miércoles* |

| Months | per English rule | January, December, April, August |
| | per Spanish rule | *enero, diciembre, abril, agosto* |

2.02

River/mountain names	per English rule	Mississippi River
	per Spanish rule	*río Misisipí*
		(lowercase RIVER río)
	on maps along stream line	*Misisipí*
	alternate on maps	*R. Misisipí*

2.03

| Tribal and national names | per English rule | Indian, Apache, English, German |
| | per Spanish rule | *indio, apache, inglés, alemán* |

2.04

Titles of books, exhibits	per English rule	Most words in a title capitalized "Plaza — The Heart of the Pueblo"
		For Whom the Bell Tolls
	per Spanish rule	**Only the FIRST word capitalized** *Plaza — el centro del pueblo*
		Por quién doblan las campanas

NPS publications, exhibits, and waysides follow the international rules of capitalization for Spanish seen in the Chicago Manual of Style. Sections 9.4 though 9.6 give guidance on capitalization.

SECTION 3: **Grammar Issues to Decide**

3.01
Command verb forms   in English do not necessarily carry a clear sense of the
                      degree of formality, nor the number of persons being
                      addressed.

                      Default for a more international Spanish should be the
                      formal command verb forms, singular rather than plural,
                      because we are assuming an individual is reading the
                      publication or the wayside.

                      Some NPS interpretive products ask for certain behavior
                      compliance from visitors in very oblique, nice, light-
                      handed terms. A clear, **more direct imperative** verb form
                      works best in a Spanish version, as the subtler approach
                      may often be ignored.

3.02
Formal or
informal YOU   The word YOU in English becomes problematic in Spanish
                      because YOU in English can be both singular or plural and
                      often carries no clue of the relationship of the
                      writer/speaker to the reader or listener.

                      In Spanish NPS documents or wayside text, the park and
                      HFC will have to agree according to the purpose of the
                      translated text and local usage whether the formal second
                      person singular –*usted*-- or the informal second person
                      singular—*tu*— is best to achieve the goals.

SECTION 4:   **Punctuation Problems**

Like reoccurring problems with capitalization cited above, translators working with NPS sites should make sure punctuation follows the accepted Spanish rules. Style guides are available from major Spanish language newspapers. Also check with the Chicago Manual of Style, Sections 9.68 through 9.79.

In areas of the United States where many people know and see both languages on a daily basis, expect confusion on what constitutes proper punctuation.

Problems that show up over and over are:

4.01
Comma use in sequences   per English rule   first, second, and third

                             per Spanish rule   *primero, segundo y tercero*

                             Note: NO comma placed immediately before AND ~ *y*

4.02
Initial question mark ¿   Spanish interrogatory and exclamatory sentences must lead
Initial exclamation mark ¡   with an upside down question mark and an upside down
                             exclamation mark before the first word of the sentence.
                             These two symbols exist in all ASCII character sets, so
                             there is no technical or software excuse for leaving them
                             out. This is yet another area where English usage is
                             impacting what people think is acceptable in Spanish.

4.03
Vowels with accents   Some translated materials coming to Harpers Ferry Center
                             from parks lack some or all of the accented vowels or other
                             special characters. Sometimes writers don't know how to
                             get their software to replicate the special characters, and
                             sometimes they have argued that accented vowels are no
                             longer necessary. Advertising materials often omit accents,
                             particularly when they are using all caps to attract attention.

                             A word in Spanish without its proper accents is a
                             misspelled word. Accents are not optional in an NPS
                             interpretive product or map label.

SECTION 5:   **Standard Usage**

5.01
Business names   generally should be left in their original English or
                        internationally known form. You can check in Spanish
                        textbooks, and sometimes on the Internet, to determine if
                        there is a Spanish variant of an English company name that
                        is more prevalent in the Spanish-speaking world.

                        Recommended   Hudson's Bay Company

                        Not recommended   *Compañía de la Bahía de Hudson*

5.02
Centuries   Recommended   Siglo XX, en el siglo XVIII

                        Not recommended   *Siglo 20, en el siglo 18*

5.03
Decades   Recommended   en los años 1840 (note <u>no</u> final S)
                                             En los años 1960

                                             Durante la década de los 1840

                        Not recommended   *en los años 1840s*
                                             En los años 1960s
                                             Durante la década de los 1840s

5.04
Indians (generic)
vs. specific tribal name   In English NPS interpretive texts, we use the name of the
                           group of people we are talking about in preference over the
                           general term Indian or even the general term Native
                           American. We should follow the same principle in Spanish.

                           Recommended   *los apache, los cayuse, los seminola*
                           Not recommended   *los indios*

                           Remember these tribe names remain lowercase in Spanish.

5.05
Native American names

are often problematic, if all we have to start out is the version of their name translated into English. We can show honor to an individual by using their real name where this is possible.

Translating the English equivalent name doesn't necessarily add any significance or meaning for a Spanish-only reader. Better to convey the actual sound of the name that the historic person would themselves recognize.

Historic name	Rabbit-Skin-Leggings
Phonetic English	Heh-yooks Toe-nihn

(19th century rendering of Nez Perce pronunciation)

2nd variant spelling found	Hee-oh'ks-te-kin
Present-day Nez Perce	heeyuxc tohon
Spelled in Spanish manner	Ji-lluks-tojón
Not recommended	Polainas de Pellejo de Conejo

In many cases in the Southwest, we have both a Native American name for a historic individual, and a Spanish name. The best known case is **GERONIMO**, whose Apache name was Go-yath-lay. Since Goyathlay is famous in both English and Spanish as Gerónimo, I would advocate rendering his name in Spanish texts Gerónimo for the best chance to link the interpretive story to readers' memories.

5.06
Geographic names
May differ
CAVEAT

Place names are not always the same in both languages.

Rio Grande River   in English
río Bravo del Norte   in Spanish

Havana   in English
la Habana   in Spanish

check resources like *Cassell's Spanish Dictionary,* 1968. pp 1474 if in doubt.

5.07
Proper Nouns:
Don't Translate

NEVER translate a person's name from their original language. Keep English names all English and Spanish names all Spanish.

Recommended	William Henry Gray
Not recommended	*Guillermo Enrique Gris*

Recommended	*Juan Ponce de León*
Not recommended	John Ponce from Leon

5.08
States vs. Nations

Map labels should compare nations to nations, and states to states. Texas, Arizona, California, and New Mexico are states; México and Canada are nations.

Either label only UNITED STATES and MÉXICO,

OR label   TEXAS, COAHUILA, TAMAULIPAS, CHIHUAHUA, NEW MEXICO, SONORA, ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA, BAJA CALIFORNIA

5.09
Time and Date
Formats

Spain and many Latin American countries use the 24-hour format for stating time, rather than the 12-hour AM/PM format still used in National Park Service products.

Recommended	16:00	19.00 hs
Not recommended	4:00 PM	7.00 PM

Dates in text in Spanish follow the DD de MM de YYYY format, so when this is truncated for saving line space, it makes sense to give dates DD.MM.YYYY. Translating dates in full is a terrible line length/space waster.

Recommended	04-VII-1776
	4.7.1776
	4 de julio de 1776

Parks and HFC will have to agree which hour:minutes separator works best for the park's anticipated audiences, and which day-month-year separator works best.

SECTION 6:   **Vocabulary Choices**   Problem Areas

6.01
Adjective
Variety Needed: Translations where an English noun functions as an adjective, or makes a compound noun end up longer and more repetitive in Spanish by the standard convention of translating English "YYY-XXX" into Spanish "XXXX OF THE YYYY". Example DESERT TREES becomes *árboles del desierto*.

This contributes to the line length problem – 12 letter spaces in English became 20 letter spaces in Spanish (160%). DESERT PLAINS becomes *planicies del desierto*, again, line length creeping up from 13 spaces to 21. Often adjectival forms exist, such as *desértico/a* for DESERT. Writers and editors should question how many times the words DESERT or ENVIRONMENT need to appear in a text block to do the job, or there will be no hope of getting a good text fit in the space available.

6.02
Adjectives of locality
Gentilicios

Provide readers with some variety from repeating the formula XXXX DE LA YYYY. Instead of having 20 repetitions of SONORAN DESERT rendered as *desierto de Sonora* repetitively, an alternative is to use *desierto sonorense*.

Note the adjective of locality is always **lowercase** in Spanish, for example – PUERTO RICAN RAINFOREST ~ *bosque pluvial boricua*.

6.03
América and
Americans
CAVEAT   Citizens of the United States routinely call our country "AMERICA" and ourselves "AMERICANS."

WARNING: Many Spanish speakers find this practice arrogant and offensive, since the term *América* in Spanish includes all the nations on the two continents between the Arctic Circle and Cape Horn. *América* in Spanish includes North America, Central America, and South America, not just the USA.

Mexicans, Central Americans, and South Americans all consider themselves to be legitimate Americans, since they live in the Americas.

This makes a slogan like **EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA** highly problematic to translate into Spanish, as it begs the question of which AMERICA you want people to experience and to whom that AMERICA belongs. Consider that <u>half</u> of the Republic of Mexico was conquered and absorbed into the USA after the U.S.-Mexican War of 1846-48. Bringing up the subject of whose AMERICA it is has the potential to open old wounds for many Latin Americans.

Literal-minded translators will render AMERICA and AMERICANS just as the original English writer placed them, assuming the audience will sort it out and get over their feelings of being linguistically run over roughshod.

The most accurate and least offensive way to refer to the peoples of the United States in Spanish is *estadounidenses*. No exact English cognate for this word exists.

Recommended	*estadounidenses*
Alternate	*norteamericanos*
Not recommended	*americanos*

6.04
<u>Caliber of cannon and small arms</u>

Many English-language military history texts of the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries name cannon by the term POUNDER, which gives information about the relative caliber (bore diameter) of the guns.

This arcane term is potentially confusing to modern readers who may assume that a 12-pounder cannon weighs 12 pounds. A 12-pounder is a cannon whose cannon ball weighed 12 pounds. Writers often employ XX-POUNDER as a synonym for the individual cannon or the class of cannon they are discussing in their interpretive texts.

Spanish artillerists of the 18th-19th centuries also used a parallel naming system, based on the weight of the cannonball being fired. But unlike the English naming

tradition, the Spanish nomenclature usually did not include the word LIBRA (POUND), so modern readers are likely to be confused what the unusual older phrase really implies.

Traditional English: 24-pounder cannon
Traditional Spanish: *Un cañón de á 24 (libras)*

Naming an 18th-century cannon in Spanish by reference to pounds is problematic for readers who come from metric countries. Even U.S. readers have little notion of how big a 6-pound cannonball is relative to a 24-pound cannon ball.

The alternate artillery naming system is based on the measurement of the bore diameter. This naming convention started gaining favor in the late 19th-century. After the U.S. military went metric after World War II, it became the dominant nomenclature for artillery pieces. It is the easiest way to give Spanish readers a clue as to the size of the cannon projectile.

Recommended   ***Un cañón de 135 mm***

Not recommended   *Un cañón de á 18*

Editors may recommend that the Spanish texts find alternate synonyms for artillery pieces other than depending so heavily on the caliber designation. If the key point to convey is that the cannon in question is very cumbersome and difficult to move, calling it a SIEGE CANNON gets the job done better than calling it an 18-POUNDER. If the key point is that the cannon in question is light and fast, it can be called LIGHT or FIELD ARTILLERY and give as more information than the term 4-POUNDER.

Rifles and Pistols

English writers refer to the relative size of rifles, muskets, and pistols by a decimal number below 1.0 and the term CALIBER — a *.75 caliber musket*, a *.50 caliber pistol*. This naming system implies a bore diameter measured in hundredths of inches.

Shotguns in English are traditionally are named by a whole number and the term GAUGE, which refers to a bore diameter relative to the number of lead balls in a pound. A *12 gauge shotgun* has a bore that would fit a large lead ball that weighs 1/12th of a pound.

The 18th-century traditional Spanish nomenclature for pistol and musket calibers follows the same logic as the current-day shotgun nomenclature in English.

Current English:	A .75 caliber Brown Bess musket
	A .69 caliber Spanish musket
Traditional Spanish:	*Un fusil inglés de á 12*
	Un fusil español de á 16
Recommended	**_Un fusil de 19 mm_**
	Un fusil de 17.5 mm

You can easily see how confusing this traditional Spanish nomenclature which employs numbers but no equivalent to the English words GAUGE or CALIBER can be to a non-military-minded reader. The best solution for translating small-arms caliber for present-day readers is to **give the bore diameter expressed in millimeters**.

6.05
Cannon projectiles

NPS writers describing artillery ammunition of the 17th to 19th century often use a specialized vocabulary to deliver a flavor of the times. These terms have proven themselves to be especially troublesome for non-military-background translators to render accurately.

ROUND SHOT, SOLID SHOT	~	*bala rasa*
GRAPESHOT, CANISTER SHOT	~	*metralla*
SHELL	~	*granada real*
SPHERICAL CASE	~	*granada de metralla*
HOT SHOT	~	*bala roja*
BAR SHOT	~	*palanqueta*
CHAIN SHOT	~	*balas encadenadas*

Source: Tomás de Morla, Tratado de Artillería, 1804.

Another resource for Spanish military technical terms specifically for artillery recently found on the Web:

700 Años de Artillería: Evolución histórica de los materiales de artillería y sus municiones
Por Coronel de Artillería Don Antonio de Sousa y Francisco, Museo del Ejército, Madrid, España. [El coronel

Sousa y Francisco estuvo destinado en el Museo del Ejército de Madrid y es hoy Director del Museo Militar de Melilla.]

http://www.fortunecity.com/victorian/churchmews/1216/HistoriaArtilleria/artilleria1.htm

This website showcases many of the engravings from de Morla treatise as well as vocabulary for cannon types, tools, munitions, and practices.

6.06
Critter and Creature

CAVEAT

Nature writers often employ the term CRITTER as a playful, informal affectionate synonym for animals. There is no good way to translate CRITTER into Spanish so that it carries the same positive, lighthearted tone.

WARNING   Some Spanish-English dictionaries translate CRITTER as *bicho*. Avoid in NPS publications. Although it can mean a generic "bug" or bothersome insect, or a perverse person (all negative connotations), in Puerto Rico, *bicho* is very vulgar.

Even the root word for CRITTER, CREATURE, is potentially problematic in Spanish. *CRIATURA* is not a value-neutral term, and often implies a person who is the puppet or tool of a more powerful figure.

Some dictionaries translate CREATURES as *ANIMALITOS*. But the word *ANIMAL* in Spanish is not value neutral. *ANIMAL* is sometimes used as a synonym for a violent brute or an uncultured person of low social status.

Recommended   Rework your Spanish texts
                   Use the actual species name instead

6.07
Gun

Recommendedterm =   *arma*

If artillery, use =   *cañón*

If your original English text includes the word GUN, give your translator or translation team plenty of guidance about what kind of gun it is.

Be aware that some readers and translators do not know the military writers' convention to call cannon GUNS. Many Spanish-English dictionaries render the first meaning for GUN as *pistola*. In general, the Spanish term ARMA is the best solution.

Note: GUNNERS in many NPS texts refer to artillery crew men, and should be translated into Spanish as *artilleros*.

6.08
Handicapped /
Disabled
CAVEAT

Recommended term =   *los discapacitados*

Not recommended   *los descapacitados*
          los disminuidos
          persona impedida

Alternate term gaining
popularity in México =   *los minusválidos*

6.09
High level
Vocabulary

What sounds stuffy or too scientific in English can be pretty normal vocabulary in a Latin-based language like Spanish. East and west as adjectives are often rendered *del este* and *del oeste* in Spanish. Another option to say east:west in Spanish is *oriental* and *occidental*. These terms would read as too stuffy, *Scientific American*-level in today's English, but they are not so formidable in Spanish.

6.10
Indio vs. indígena
CAVEAT

Some reviewers for early NPS Spanish media projects revealed that the simple word INDIAN ~ *indio* can have pejorative or negative connotations for some readers from some Spanish-speaking countries. Consider how emotionally loaded the words Negro, black, and African American have been in the United States in the last 40 years. Fortunately, there is a better alternative for *indio* readily available in Spanish.

Recommended	*los indígenas*
Not recommended	*los indios*

6.11
Miles vs. *Kilómetros*,
Gallons vs. *Litros*

Map legends and trail data for trailhead waysides stay cleaner and more understandable if customary US units and metric units are not translated. The simplest solution is to give feet/miles/inches/gallons in English, and put the meters/kilometers/centimeters/liters in Spanish – ONLY.

Using metric measurements not only communicates to an international audience, but also has the added virtue of saving serious line length by the abbreviations of the units. '40 km' is even shorter than '25 miles' Putting both miles and kilometers in both languages creates terrible clutter.

Not recommended =	25 miles	40 kilometers	1 hour drive
	25 millas	*40 kilómetros*	*viaje de 1 hora*
Recommended=	25 miles	*40 kilómetros*	

Many borderlands NPS units have made the case that most of their Spanish-speaking visitors live in the U.S., and are more familiar with feet/miles/gallons. Hence there is little or no need to include metric equivalents in running text.

I am not convinced that a good socio-linguistic study would prove that hypothesis true; and even if it is true, addressing a more international audience with the courtesy of the world-wide units they know best lifts the perspective of a national park unit out of the local-interest-only sphere, and onto a higher plain of dignity and justification for special rules of treatment for the resource.

6.12

<u>Multiple Modifiers</u>

Interpretive text in English abounds in noun series like "desert plains, foothills, and mountains" which can produce very long and involved expressions in Spanish. Does 'desert' in the case above modify just 'plains' or does it modify all three nouns? English construction makes it possible to compress expressions that require a lot more reading in Spanish. When trimming text to fit a space, the writer/editor should look for expressions and series that are mostly included for rhythm in English, or customary rhetoric, like 'mountains, deserts, and plains' or 'bread and butter,' and not necessarily the heart of the matter. In the Saguaro folder, the addition of 'sweet' to 'nectar' cost an additional line in the translated Spanish text block. Since nectar is by nature sweet, I am of the opinion it can be done without and not mar the meaning.

6.13

<u>Musket vs. Fusil</u>

Recommended   *fusil*

Not recommended   *mosquete*

If you are referring to either a flintlock musket of the late-17th century through the mid-19th century, use FUSIL. If you are referring to a matchlock musket of the 16th century to the 17th century, then in Spanish use MOSQUETE.

The two words are not interchangeable. Present-day Spanish-English dictionaries frequently do not correctly address the distinction of these two words. Rely more on published period sources in Spanish, such as Tomás de Morla's **Tratado de Artillería**, an encyclopedia of cannon and illustrations of the standard military long guns and pistols. To impart the flavor of the colonial era, use the actual Spanish technical/military words of the time.

The Musket/Fusil confusion is compounded because both words exist in 17th-18th-century English, and are not used in English as they were in Spanish. A FUSIL in an 18th-century English-speaking army was a lighter, smaller long arm carried by an officer. The common soldiers carried a MUSKET. A FUSIL in an 18th-century Spanish-speaking army was the standard long gun carried by the common soldier in the ranks. FUSIL continues to be the name for the standard soldier's rifle in modern Spanish-speaking armies.

6.14
<u>Needles on</u>
conifers

Recommended	*acícula*
Not recommended	*aguja*

6.15
<u>Panther vs. Puma</u>
CAVEAT

North America's most widespread big cat, ***Felis concolor***, has many common names in English: cougar, catamount, panther, mountain lion, painter, and puma.

In Spanish, most widely known name for this species— **regardless of country**— is PUMA. This is fortunate because the shorter word helps NPS safety signs visually get to the main idea quicker. Using PUMA also saves line length in waysides and publications.

An alternate common name in Spanish, also widely accepted, is LEÓN AMERICANO.

Unfortunately, translators working for South Florida parks some years ago ignored the term PUMA, perhaps to emphasize that Florida panthers are a breed apart from the cougars of the Great Smokies or western states. Consequently, there are many existing materials, printed and on the Internet, discussing the Florida panther as ~ *la pantera de la Florida*.

For the sake of consistency, Everglades National Park elected to continue this longer term. Big Cypress's safety signs will, however, use the shorter term *puma*.

First-language Spanish-speaking reviewers from a range of countries in the summer of 2006 felt that the term *pantera* referred more to the Old World feline ***Panthera leo***.

Recommended	*puma*
Not recommended	*pantera*

6.16
The Park vs.
Parque nacional

Writers often incorrectly assume all readers understand that the common phrase 'THE PARK' is a synonym for a unit of the National Park system.

Translating 'THE PARK' directly into Spanish will NOT guarantee that readers will understand what you are trying to convey. *El parque* ≠ THE NPS-MANAGED PARK

In Spanish-speaking countries the term *parque* means a small downtown urban green space. It does not mean a large natural or historico-cultural patrimony of national or international significance. Use *parque nacional* to be clear about what you are addressing, and to impart more dignity and significance to your site.

THE PARK is a shorthand phrase coming from inside the work culture of the National Park Service. We should avoid translating this phrase as just *el parque* for Spanish-speaking visitors.

Recommended   *el parque nacional*

Not recommended   *el parque*

6.17
Place Names –
Don't Translate

For many new Spanish NPS publications, there is not funding available to completely rebuild a map with all new Spanish labels. If text next to a map refers to specific places, like a named visitor center, keep the complete name of the feature in the running Spanish text in English, so that a reader can look from the text to the map and see exactly where the reference is.

Recommended =   Red Hills Visitor Center

Not recommended =   *Centro de visitantes de Colinas Coloradas*

Place names, like any compound proper names in Spanish, **should not be divided at the end of a line of text**, if it can be avoided.

6.18
Place Names that were
originally Spanish

Many NPS units bear Spanish names, and to a non-Spanish speaker, these words are perceived as memorable in and of themselves. In the case of Saguaro National Park, there are two districts, now named SAGUARO EAST and SAGUARO WEST. What may sound appealing and exotic to an English reader who is not from the Southwest may be as mundane as "oak tree" or "cow" in Spanish.

Back-translating these district names to something that is parallel to OAK TREE ON THE EAST and OAK TREE ON THE WEST will not provide more reader interest. We should not use SAGUARO DEL ESTE and SAGUARO DEL OESTE as cognates for the district names Saguaro East and West. Avoid confusing readers with tricky or nonsensical combinations.

But if a key feature…

If a key feature in a national park story bears an exotic Spanish name, we often expend some space in the text to explain or define it in English. This is a great opportunity to save some line length in the Spanish language version. It is unnecessary to explain what most of these originally Spanish terms mean to native speakers.

6.19
Plant & Animal
Common Names

are some of the greatest challenges for translators. The names of plants and animals vary greatly from country to country in Latin America and Spain.

Park staffs can shorten the time needed to get the right word in Spanish by supplying a translator with the **correct scientific name** before they tackle the translation. Also tell your translator who your most expected Spanish-speaking audience is: Cuban-Americans, Puerto Ricans, Mexican Americans, or a mixture of international visitors.

Where no common name exists in Spanish**, the scientific name is the best alternative**. In many national parks in the Spanish-speaking world, interpretive texts use the genus and species binomial in the place of local names, and readers expect to see it. In contrast to the attitudes of a general reader in the USA, scientific names are not considered too highbrow in Latin America or Europe.

6.20
Ring of Fire

Recommended	*cinturón de fuego*
Not recommended	*El Anillo de Fuego*

Translators need to stay aware that nicknames or phrases that have been used to popularize scientific ideas—like the RING OF FIRE around the Pacific Rim— may not be universal concepts. What English-speakers think of as a RING may look more like a BELT to another culture. Confusion often occurs when English-language materials are machine translated for new "bilingual" Internet web pages, without checking with a native speaker of Spanish to see if that popular science-related phrase is actually something in use in the real Spanish-speaking world.

Resource for translations of geological terms: undergraduate-level textbook by L. Don Leet & Sheldon Judson, **FUNDAMENTOS DE GEOLOGÍA FÍSICA**, 1997. ISBN 968-18-0475-9. Publisher: EDITORIAL LIMUSA S.A. DE C.V. GRUPO NORIEGA EDITORES, MÉXICO, DF. TRANSLATORS/PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGICAL REVIEWERS IN MEXICO: ING. LUIS BENAVIDES GARCÍA & ING. GEÓLOGO EDUARDO J. GUZMÁN, UNAM.

6.21
Sawgrass

One of the most troublesome terms that arose while translating materials for Everglades National Park in 2003 was SAWGRASS, *Cladium jamaicense*. If the word SAWGRASS was only used as a noun, it would not have become such a headache. However, English-speaking writers frequently use SAWGRASS as an evocative descriptor of the watery prairies, thinking that the word SAWGRASS delivers the distinctive flavor of South Florida.

After much debate with Everglades staff, we concluded there was no common name in Spanish that was used by the Spanish-speaking naturalists working in South Florida. No one could find it in a published dictionary. A similar sharp-sided sedge in Argentina is called CORTADERA. A Google internet search in Spanish only revealed that the same species *Cladium jamaicense* is known in coastal Mexico and Guatemala as SIBAL. But SIBAL drew blank looks from all bilingual Everglades staff reviewers.

Our solution was a made-up compound term of two nouns. This follows the pattern seen in Audubon Society publications and other field guides of how common names for birds have been manufactured for Spanish where an English common name existed and a Spanish name did not.

| Recommended | *hierba serrucho* |
| Not recommended | *hierba serrada* |

This constructed solution will not deliver the same meaning and poetic association as the original English term SAWGRASS. Editors of the translated Spanish materials need to make sure that final version does not lean too heavily on any newly coined or artificial word to carry the heart of the message to visitors.

6.21
Trains

Spanish has a cognate *TREN* — for a railroad train.

Advise your translator if your original draft English text refers to WAGON TRAINS or LOGISTICAL TRAINS or SUPPLY TRAINS — trains that don't have a locomotive and rails.

6.22
Triggers and other gun parts

Words in Spanish for gun triggers, hammers, springs, sears, touchholes, and frizzens are time-sensitive. What you would call a trigger in a modern firearm may not be right for a flintlock musket, or a percussion-cap-era pistol.

For Flintlocks

TRIGGER	~	*disparador*
FRIZZEN	~	*rastrillo*
PAN	~	*cazoleta*
COCK/ HAMMER	~	*pié de gato*
GUN FLINT	~	*perdernal*
MAIN SPRING	~	*muelle real*
FRIZZEN SPRING	~	*muelle del rastrillo*
TOUCHHOLE	~	*oido*
MIGUELET LOCK	~	*llave española*
TRUE FLINTLOCK	~	*llave francés*

For Percussion-era and Modern Guns

TRIGGER	~	*gatillo*
HAMMER	~	*percutor o martillo percutor*
NIPPLE & DRUM	~	*chimenea*
MAIN SPRING	~	*resorte principal*
CAPLOCK	~	*llave de percusión*
BOLT ACTION	~	*cerrojo*

6.23
United States

CAVEAT

Most Spanish-language translators will know that there is more than one country in the world with a formal name that includes "United States." For example, the formal name for the republic that lies south of Texas is ESTADOS UNIDOS DE MÉXICO.

For courtesy, write out the entire name of our country.

Recommended	*Estados Unidos de América*
Not recommended	*Estados Unidos*

6.24
 Use Verbs in
 Spanish vs. Nouns.

English relies heavily on nouns for key meanings, where Spanish often loads extra meaning and functions on verbs.

Literal translations that retain the English emphasis on the noun, especially if originally expressed in passive or transitive voice in English, can often be better rendered in Spanish by looking for a better alternate verb.

6.25
Wagon

The Spanish term VAGÓN looks like it should be the cognate of the English word WAGON. Be aware that although it is not a completely "false" cognate, it is at the least treacherous. VAGÓN mainly refers to types of **railroad** cars, which the British call wagons.

There are many specific names in Spanish for horse- or oxen-drawn cargo vehicles, just as were common in English (carriage, wagon, cart, dray, etc.) before the days of the internal combustion engine. If distinguishing the style

and historical period of the vehicle matters, you will have to dig up the exact correct Spanish word.

Recommended	*carro*	
	carromato	for COVERED WAGON
	carreta	for 2-WHEEL CART
Not recommended	*vagón*	

6.26
Walls:
Muralla vs, pared

Translators should remember that the walls of a fortified city or a fortress are called *murallas* in Spanish. There is no exact English cognate for this term.

The standard plain-Jane word for a wall of a building, *pared*, is not the right word to use for fortress or castle walls.

6.27
Whites
CAVEAT

In NPS interpretive texts in English, we always look for other ways to express this idea. A direct translation of WHITES as *blancos,* like the term *indios* [see above], carries negative connotations in Spanish from the colonial past and its *criollo* and *gauchupín* elites. Some readers in Spanish might find *blancos* a reading roadblock.

In many of these cases, the term *anglosajones* will not clearly indicate who the writer is talking about in Spanish without getting into matters of skin color or racism.

For the Whitman Mission park brochure, we opted to use SETTLERS instead of saying WHITES.

Consider how critical this thought is to your meaning. The best solution may be to edit or rewrite the passage.

6.28
<u>Wilderness</u>

The National Park Service and conservationists consider the concept of W<small>ILDERNESS</small> to be a positive attribute. W<small>ILDERNESS</small>—which up to the 19th century was something to fear, to conquer, and to obliterate — has morphed into something very wonderful in the minds of many visitors and park rangers. NPS writers often assume most visitors agree with this point of view.

Unfortunately, the standard Spanish terms normally used for a W<small>ILDERNESS</small> — *DESIERTO, SELVA, TIERRA SALVAJE* —are still heavily negative.

When we searched a Spanish-language thesaurus the negative connotations continued and intensified.

   ABANDONADO,
   DISHABITADO,
   SOLITARIO,
   DESPOBLADO,
   VACIO,
   INHOSPITALARIO,
   SOLEDADES,
   INEXPLORADO,
  SOLEDUMBRE

The way we regularly use the word WILDERNESS in the NPS -- as something we can automatically assume at least some of our audience will agree is a desirable goal and a social good -- is the polar opposite of the meanings of *DESIERTO, SELVA,* or *TIERRAS SALVAJES.*

The whole notion that there is a legal classification of land use in the USA that we label WILDERNESS would be very puzzling to many Spanish readers. Putting WILDERNESS AREA on a map in Spanish and expecting people to "get it" the way we in the NPS understand that label (as a special-laws-apply area) won't work. Straight, literal translation would result in something very similar to those old 18th-century maps that have "UNEXPLORED AREA" in the big blank spots in the middle of Africa, Australia and the Americas.

Recommended: *tierras silvestres*
                 zona silvestre

Alternate: *tierras indomadas*

In summer 2006, staff at Sequoia / Kings Canyon National Park strongly felt that INDOMADO was the best rendering for WILDERNESS. The Spanish verb *domar* means "to break a horse" and is fairly common in Latin America. Others in the Department of the Interior felt this word would draw blank stares from most Latin American readers.

Although Mexico has recently (2006) established their first legal wilderness area and called it *tierra silvestre*, this term does not carry exactly the same meaning in Spanish as WILD in English. *Silvestre* also means SAVAGE, RUSTIC, UNCULTURED, UNREFINED, CRUDE, BARBARIC, PEASANT.

Use with caution.

6.29
Wildlife,
Plants and Animals

Although it is acceptable and common to write "plants and animals" in English with no articles, this is usually rendered in Spanish *las plantas y las animales*, producing a line length gain of 18 to 25 spaces. Writers and editors should consider employing the standard Spanish phrase *flora y fauna* instead to save the space.

The terms *flora y fauna* are not perceived to be as high vocabulary in Spanish, even though using their English cognates FLORA AND FAUNA seems high fallutin in today's English. The terms *flora y fauna* can be seen widely used in interpretive media products produced in many Latin American national parks.

Alternatively, consider using *vida silvestre* ~ wildlife, if you mean the whole biological community.

6.30
Zone vs. Area

The debate about how to label wilderness areas in interpretive text and maps revealed that first-language Spanish readers saw a distinction between *zona* and *área*.

Zona was perceived to be a more managed, controlled place.

Área was perceived to be a more general concept.

If the point of your interpretive writing is that wilderness has to be protected and managed to survive in today's world, use *zona*. If you are referring to a large area that is more loosely controlled, use *área*.

SECTION 7:   **Word Division Caveats**

NPS publications, exhibits, and waysides follow the international rules of word division for Spanish seen in the Chicago Manual of Style Sections 9.68 through 9.79.

7.01
<u>Spanish double letters</u>   When you divide a Spanish word into syllables for a line break, don't rely on your computer to do it right. The letters ch, ll, and rr in Spanish are considered one letter.

Examples: *ci-ga-<u>rr</u>o   mo-<u>ch</u>i-la   ca-ba-<u>ll</u>e-ro*

7.02
<u>Safeguard Key Words</u>
<u>during text adjustments</u>   Complex words, unusual words, and words that are the critical to the meaning of the sentence should not be divided at the end of the line of text, if at all possible.

7.03
<u>Proper Names –</u>
<u>Don't Divide</u>
<u>at Line Ends</u>   Names of people in Spanish are not supposed to be divided by a line break, if there is any way to possibly avoid it.

Note that this is different from English editing practices.

For further information, or to add items to this ongoing list of problems, solutions, and recommendations, contact:

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