



News from NARRP

This content is generated by members for members. Please send us your news, reports, job announcements, manuals and personal updates that may be of interest to other members.

The National Association of Recreation Resource Planners

Request from a member (1)

What are fellow SCORP planners using for a facilities data base to keep track of what recreation and recreational facilities are within their state?

Could someone send me a sample page showing what kind of information is logged into their data base?

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Request from a member (2)

I am looking for examples of rail trails that have successfully integrated motorized and non-motorized trail uses. Do you know of any rail trails that allow both ATV and bicycle use on the same path? Has the ATV use displaced most other non-motorized uses? How about winter snowmobile use with summer non-motorized uses? I welcome any and all examples.

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Learning from the Outdoors

Courtesy of CharlotteObserver.com

Many kids today don't know what it's like to play in the woods. They're so plugged into laptops, iPods and cell phones that the outdoors may seem as foreign to them as a black-and-white television. But at schools like Cannon, Woodlawn and Countryside Montessori, students have ample chance to explore the wilderness – and develop self-confidence and teamwork – through programs that send them into the woods to catch salamanders, climb mountains or go white-water rafting.

The experience was powerful for 16-year-old Jane Campbell, who spent four days in the N.C. mountains last year with her class at Concord's Cannon School.

“We realized you can do so much more than you think you can,” says Campbell, who did her first backpacking on the trip. Students made their own tents out of tarps, went climbing and rappelling and hiked off-trail using a map and compass.

Some experts believe contact with nature is essential to a child’s physical and emotional development. Richard Louv, author of “Last Child in the Woods,” says time spent in nature can help combat obesity, depression and attention disorders – and it can even increase test scores.

Amanda Sturner also believes in the transformative power of nature. She’s the Charlotte program director for North Carolina Outward Bound, a nonprofit wilderness education organization that runs the program for Cannon School’s 10th graders.

“We call the wilderness the great equalizer,” says Sturner, who got hooked on the wonder of nature on an Outward Bound trip at age 16. “Everybody is out of their element. Everybody has to work together to make the trip successful. They’re all out there wearing dirty clothes, eating dinner out of the same pot.”

When students are rock climbing, for example, the star athlete can be on the rock face, while the quiet kid from the back row of biology holds the ropes that keep him safe. By working together, they’re able to find common ground and build self-reliance. Students gain “self-confidence from challenging themselves physically, mentally and emotionally,” says Anne Hoffman, Cannon’s upper school counselor.

Plus, she says, “There’s no way to text in the woods. It’s just a nice, slower pace for them, even though it’s hard work. They learn they’re only as strong as their weakest member. And it’s not just about rushing to the next endeavor. It’s about the journey – which is a metaphor for life.”

At Woodlawn School in Davidson, 6th and 7th graders spend time in the N.C. mountains each year, hiking and studying plants and animals. “We cultivate an appreciation of these animals and the wilderness on which they depend,” says Woodlawn science teacher Cathy Denham. “Each new generation has to come to love the natural world in order for us to think it is worth preserving.”

Woodlawn 7th graders build their own rafts and taste edible plants like sourwood and sassafras. Sixth graders comb the woods and creeks for salamanders and wildflowers at the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont.

“When you get kids out in nature, they feel things for real,” says Denham. “It’s not a virtual world. They touch things and feel with all their senses.”

At Charlotte’s Countryside Montessori School, students spend time at YMCA camps or other outdoor settings beginning in first grade. High school students spend three days at the Nantahala Outdoor Center in Bryson City for climbing and white-water rafting.

Such experiences can be as valuable to a student as history or algebra. “When you’re outside, there are fewer distractions,” says Outward Bound’s Sturner. “You’re able to focus better. You connect with the natural world, which helps you understand your place on the planet and how you function.”

MORE INFORMATION

North Carolina Outward Bound: www.ncobs.org
Richard Louv, author of “Last Child in the Woods”: www.Richardlouv.com
Nantahala Outdoor Center: www.noc.com
Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont: www.gsmiit.org

Park Prescriptions: Resources for Good Health from the Great Outdoors

Courtesy of the Institute at the Golden Gate

Parks, public health agencies, healthcare providers, and other entities across the United States are working together to promote physical activity and nutrition and improve the health of patients and the general public. Some of these partnerships have developed strategies to leverage the doctor-patient relationship to achieve this goal.

These programs have begun to learn what works, what deserves more study, and the institutional realities that may challenge their success. Generally, two overarching needs must be met. Healthcare practitioners need more education on the value of physical activity in nature as a powerful resource for health and more training on how to counsel and prescribe it to their patients. At the same time, parks and community programs need to tailor their communications and programs to better serve patients with a variety of health conditions— as well as the doctors making the park prescriptions.

The programs highlighted in this report represent a small but shining portion of the landscape of rapidly emerging innovation. However, the existing efforts are fragmented. By establishing mechanisms for shared communication, learning, funding, and coordination, these local efforts can be leveraged into a more impactful, cross-sector movement that improves health and well-being on a national scale.

PARK PRESCRIPTIONS

The goal is to increase the prescription of outdoor physical activity to prevent (or treat) health problems resulting from inactivity and poor diet. Park Prescriptions will allow visitors to public lands to increase their time spent enjoying physical activity and will also provide physicians and other healthcare providers with a new set of tools to inspire patients to improve their health. Park Prescriptions programs also benefit public lands by promoting park stewardship and increasing potential funding sources.

Despite the clear evidence that increased physical activity reduces obesity, chronic disease, and stress, the medical community seldom advises patients to increase exercise. A recent study in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine revealed that fewer than 14 percent of primary care providers regularly gave any form of counseling on exercise. Health providers, who are short on time and stretched in all directions, spend most of their clinical hours treating active disease rather than focusing on prevention

Because insurance reimbursements are geared toward treatment, there are few financial incentives for healthcare providers to offer exercise and lifestyle interventions. Additionally, physicians may not know what physical activity interventions to prescribe or where to send their patients. Stronger links between the healthcare system and public lands can help the medical community promote activities that have a higher likelihood of becoming a permanent part of the patient's life.

PROGRAMS LINKING HEALTH and PUBLIC LANDS

More and more, programs around the country are building stronger connections between health and public lands. Doctors in New Mexico and elsewhere are prescribing outdoor activity. Health insurance companies such as SeeChange Health are making commitments to reimburse patients for park visits. Cities like Chicago are investing in obesity-reducing fitness programs. Parks nationwide are making it easier for visitors to utilize trails by increasing trailhead visibility and establishing trail ratings. Because each program addresses barriers between citizens and public spaces in a unique way, creators of these programs can learn from each other. By forming a cross-sector coalition, Park Prescriptions unites health care and public lands through mutually beneficial means that serve the health of all.

KEY FINDINGS

In the research conducted for this report, the Institute has identified six key observations that guide future implementation of Park Prescriptions:

1. There is tremendous enthusiasm to link outdoor/nature-based recreation with health care.

The staff, volunteers, healthcare practitioners, and other participants in these programs are passionate about more preventive approaches to health and the use of physical activity in nature as a complement or supplement to pharmaceutical interventions. In addition to an extensive body of supporting literature, most key informants also cited examples of individual patients who improved their health because of an exercise prescription, counseling, or referral.

Programs that illustrate this finding:

- Children and Nature Initiative
- Prescription Trails New Mexico
- Step Into Cuba Alliance
- California State Parks/SeeChange Health Pilot
- National Park Service Pilot Projects
- Get Fit with US

2. Park programs are often easily converted to health programs.

Park-based staff, activities, materials, and initiatives— normally geared toward improving access and increasing awareness of park resources—translate well to health prescriptions programs. Many park agencies should be able to repurpose and adapt existing programs to meet the needs of healthcare practitioners who prescribe exercise.

Programs that illustrate this finding:

- National Park Service Pilot Projects
- Golden Gate Community Trailhead Project
- Green Gyms

3. Many non-park programs have tools that can inform Park Prescriptions.

There are a large number of tools available from programs developed in a more traditional healthcare setting that can be applied to emerging Park Prescriptions programs. For example, SilverSneakers has developed the process for an insurance company to attract and track member participation. Exercise is Medicine has deep resources to support doctors, and the

Chicago Exercise Prescription Fitness Center Waiver Program has worked out many elements of program design that are specific to urban settings.

Programs that illustrate this finding:

- SilverSneakers
- Exercise is Medicine
- Chicago Exercise Prescription Fitness Center Waiver Program
- YMCA Diabetes Prevention Program

4. Incentives increase participation.

Programs that provide incentives seem to increase participation. For example, children that return to hike additional trails on the Blue Ridge Parkway as part of the Kids in Parks program receive toys and games. Chicago residents that receive a prescription from their doctor to exercise receive a free gym membership valued at \$30 to \$70 depending upon their income. The Children and Nature Initiative provides Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and a small stipend for participating doctors. Most insurance companies and government programs do not reimburse a physician for time spent counseling patients or for prescribing exercise.

Programs that illustrate this finding:

- SilverSneakers
- Kids in Parks
- Chicago Exercise Prescription Fitness Center Waiver Program
- Children and Nature Initiative
- YMCA Diabetes Prevention Program

5. There is a need for sharing lessons learned.

In many cases, programs that engineered their own tools did so with little or no knowledge of similar tools already created by other efforts around the country. For example, at least five programs created exercise prescription pads, and at least seven agencies developed different online mapping tools to help patients find trails and parks. Efforts to share materials, ideas, and lessons learned will have a large impact on the ability to improve program design and expand program reach.

6. Evaluation of Park Prescriptions is in its infancy.

There are very few Park Prescriptions programs in the United States that have been able to evaluate effectively all elements of a program that has medical experts prescribing outdoor activity for health.

Download the report: <http://atfiles.org/files/pdf/park-prescriptions-2010.pdf> (pdf 4.2 mb)

We're tearing this highway down, Transportation Sec. Ray LaHood says *Courtesy of grist.org*

It's one thing to talk about designing cities and towns for people instead of cars, as Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood [has done](#).

It's another thing to make good on that pledge by tearing down elevated highways that prevent

foot traffic and isolate neighborhoods from each other. LaHood's Transportation Department announced support for three such projects in a [major funding announcement](#) Wednesday. The department made \$600 million in [TIGER II](#) grants, funding 42 construction projects and 33 planning projects around the country.

Perhaps the most eye-catching winner is the New Haven, Conn., Downtown Crossing, which gets \$16 million to remove the limited-access Route 34. Residents and planners hate how it blocks foot-traffic and streetfront retail and separates the city's Union Station and the Yale-New Haven hospital complex from the rest of downtown. Now it'll be [replaced](#) with two walk-bike-transit-friendly boulevards

"We think this is a big f---ing deal," New Haven Mayor John DeStefano Jr. said.

Highway tear-down projects for the Claiborne Corridor in New Orleans and the Sheridan Expressway Corridor New York also received funding [for planning](#), although they aren't yet a certainty.

Announcing new projects is politically easier than getting rid of harmful ones, so the tear-downs signal a commitment to ending the federal government's history of auto-only transportation funding. It doesn't hurt that aging elevated highways are uniquely expensive to maintain.

The rest of the TIGER II projects reveal the administration's priorities too. There's a focus on small-scale projects in small and mid-size cities, [as Transport Politic notes](#) -- things like transit centers, street improvements, and rehabbing freight rail lines. (The [previous round](#) of TIGER grants focused on larger cities). But there is also funding for a light-rail line in Los Angeles, a streetcar line in Atlanta, and a streetcar line in Salt Lake City. \$140 million goes to rural projects.

Broken down by mode, roughly 29 percent of the money goes for road projects, 26 percent for transit, 20 percent for rail projects, 16 percent for ports, 4 percent for bicycle and pedestrian projects and 5 percent for planning projects, according to the DOT. (So roads aren't really getting the shaft.)

In case you're wondering, the funding comes from the 2010 general appropriation bill, not the stimulus act. The DOT said it gave priority to projects that can quickly create jobs.

RV Sales Gaining Ground, Up 21% in Michigan

Courtesy of RVBusiness.com

Michigan's recreational vehicle market is on the mend.

The state, with its retiree population and vast array of campgrounds, is seeing RV sales recover a faster pace than the nation overall, the Lansing State Journal reported.

"There's been a demand, even through the bad periods of late 2008 through 2009, on the part of consumers who are looking for an economical way to travel with their families on vacations," said Bill Sheffer, director of Okemos-based Michigan Association of Recreation Vehicles and Campgrounds (MARVAC).

TOWABLE TRAILERS LEAD SALES

There were 6,683 recreational vehicles — including motorhomes and towable trailers — sold in Michigan this year through August 2010, according to Grand Rapids-based Statistical Surveys Inc. (SSI). That's up nearly 21% from the 5,542 sold a year earlier. Towable trailers accounted for the bulk of those sales.

"Even though Michigan has high unemployment, (the state's residents) have a lot of buying power with people who are on retirement," said Tom Walworth, general manager of Statistical Surveys.

The state's jobless rate stood at 13% in September, compared with 9.6% for the nation.

Nationwide sales also grew, but at a slower pace. Dealers sold 135,158 new recreational vehicles through August, up more than 4% from the 129,654 sold during the same period a year earlier.

Michigan sales are likely are boosted by its network of 80,000 campsites in more than 1,200 state- and privately run campgrounds, Sheffer said.

But the past few years have not been leisurely for dealers.

Statewide, sales dropped 50% from 2000 to 2009, with the decline starting around 2005, according to MARVAC.

STOCK MARKET IMPACT

The financing crunch has dealt a blow to the industry. Banks have been less willing to offer loans for RVs, though some dealers say the credit crunch is starting to ease, Sheffer said.

And the stock market has had an impact on sales, even more than gas prices, said Gennene Kitsmiller, general manager of Kitsmiller RV in Mason, a Lansing suburb.

Most of her customers are retirees on fixed incomes or are close to retirement and relying on investments, she said. Sales suffered when the market declined during the financial crisis and recession but have been rising as Wall Street improves.

In fact, the past two years have been the dealer's best since it opened in 1961, Kitsmiller said. The store sold more than 400 RVs in 2009, up 67% from 2008 — many of them the towable variety.

Customers are looking for "more sensible" purchases in the \$30,000 to \$35,000 range. These tend to be lighter and easier to tow in order to get better fuel economy, she said.

Not all dealers have fared as well. Some have closed or merged into larger companies, Sheffer said.

Slow sales forced Greg Dennis to stop selling new RVs in January 2009. Dennis RV Center now focuses on service and parts. It also rents travel trailers and sells used trailers and motorhomes. The Lansing business has been family owned since 1964.

"Sales have been down and that was a big thing," Dennis said.

“We had to make a decision to either ramp up our inventory ... or concentrate on the customer service end.”

Parks, Forests Eyed for the Fuel Beneath

Courtesy of [National Geographic News](#)

By Marianne Lavelle

[SPECIAL REPORT: THE GREAT SHALE GAS RUSH](#)

Exploring the promise and challenge of a new energy supply.

UPDATED, October 26, 2010: Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell has placed a [moratorium](#) on further leasing of state forest land for gas drilling.

Whether they come for whitewater rafting through the Youghiogheny River Gorge, or to enjoy the vistas at the edge of the Laurel Highlands, Pennsylvania’s highest mountains, visitors flock each season to [Ohiopyle State Park](#).

But a new guest interested in work, not recreation, is seeking entry to the 20,500-acre woodland, 70 miles southeast of Pittsburgh.

Global Geophysical Services, a Texas-based seismic survey company, wants to begin testing in the park for potential natural gas drilling sweet spots, state officials say. The reason: all of Ohiopyle—its trails and campgrounds, and even the mighty Yough (pronounced “yawk”)—sits atop the Marcellus shale.

And even though this is ostensibly a protected area, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania did not purchase the subsurface mineral rights for the vast majority of land in its 117 parks when the recreation areas were established decades ago. State officials fear there is little they will be able to do to stop gas development in the Pennsylvania park system, including at popular Ohiopyle, the park where the pressure for gas exploration has been most intense.

PUBLIC LAND AND PRIVATE RIGHTS

Perhaps it was inevitable that public lands and private interests would clash over Marcellus shale development in a state whose name literally means, “Penn’s Woods.” To this day, Pennsylvania remains 60 percent forested, bisected by the Allegheny Mountain range. Three great watersheds define its geography: The Delaware River to the east, the Susquehanna in the center and the three rivers that meet in Pittsburgh to the west. Those responsible for the many state and federal protected enclaves—there are 35 [National Park Service](#) units in or near the Marcellus from Tennessee to New York—are just beginning to understand how the new natural gas industry could alter this landscape.

The first impact has been on Pennsylvania’s state forests, which, much like the lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service, have always been designated for a mix of protection and production. The job of the state [Department of Conservation and Natural Resources](#) (DCNR) is to balance competing interests: To maintain wild areas while at the same time supporting extractive industries such as timber, mining, oil, and gas. Pennsylvania has one of the largest expanses of state forest in the eastern United States—2.1 million acres. About 1.5 million of those acres sit on the Marcellus shale.

Nearly half the Pennsylvania state forestland in the shale formation, 700,000 acres, is now leased for drilling. There are a number of older oil and shallow gas wells in the forests. But 96 percent of the \$434 million to flow to the state in energy business bonuses, rental, and royalties since 2007 have been from Marcellus producers, who did not begin leasing new acreage until 2008.

The new shale drilling could have a more significant impact on public lands than conventional oil and gas wells of the past, concluded an [assessment \(pdf\)](#) by the [U.S. National Park Service \(NPS\)](#) first published in 2008 and updated last year. While conventional oil or gas finds are in limited pockets, the shale gas is locked in rock continuously throughout the formation. One of the positives, the NPS noted, is that the horizontal drilling technique used in the shale gas industry could allow producers to choose well sites away from sensitive areas and reach the gas from a distance. Still, the NPS report said, "It is conceivable that over the course of many years wells could be drilled on every available spacing unit."

Also, the shale gas rigs are larger and require more space than the traditional oil and gas equipment. Even though the sites are reclaimed after drilling, leaving only a small unit of pipes and valves at the wellhead commonly called a "Christmas tree," four to six acres of surface disturbance is likely at each site. That's more than twice the 1.5 to 3 acres needed for a conventional drill site. And drilling in a forest means cutting down trees.

There are 15 Marcellus shale wells already producing on Pennsylvania state forest land. (See interactive: "[Mapping a Gas Boom](#)") All are within a huge expanse in the north-central part of the state that Democratic Governor Edward Rendell has sought to package and promote for the past seven years as the "[Pennsylvania Wilds](#)." The area, with eight state forests and 29 state parks, boasts the largest elk herd in the northeastern United States, more than 2,000 wild trout streams, and some of the darkest night skies in the East. It could also become home to 1,000 Marcellus gas well pads, with six to ten wells per pad, based on the state forest land that is currently leased, with 400 permit applications already in process, the DCNR says. The agency reached a stark conclusion after a [recent geographical information system analysis](#): "No additional leasing involving surface disturbance can occur without significantly altering the ecological integrity and wild character of our state forest system."

Rendell, whose second and final term in office ends in January, has said he would like to call a halt. The governor came out in favor of a moratorium on further state forest gas leasing in March, after gas producer Anadarko accidentally spilled 8,000 to 12,000 gallons (30,280 to 45,400 liters) of mud in [Sproul State Forest](#). Weeks later, the worst shale gas accident to date in Pennsylvania occurred on private land surrounded by the [Moshannon State Forest](#), a blowout at an [EOG Resources](#) well in June that spewed gas and drilling wastewater for 16 hours before it could be brought under control. To have any lasting impact, a moratorium would have to be passed by the Pennsylvania Legislature, which is now debating whether to impose a severance tax and take other steps to regulate the industry.

But the DCNR's GIS analysis made clear that a moratorium on state forest property would not halt the shale gas industry's impact on those forests. Pennsylvania does not own the mineral rights to about 15 percent—about 350,000 acres (141,600 hectares)—of its state forestland, much of it in the Marcellus area. And there are plenty of wells being drilled on neighboring private property that once buffered the forests. "Gas development on private lands is already surrounding the state forest in some areas, causing an uncompensated, lasting change on the forest's wild character," said the report.

NATIONAL PARKS WEIGH IMPACT

That private development impact also was a primary concern raised in the National Park Service's assessments.

Two large national parks are located near the Marcellus: [Shenandoah National Park](#), 20 miles to the east in Virginia, and [Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#), near the southern edge in Tennessee. But there are 33 other national historic sites, national historic parks, scenic river areas, and other areas that also could be affected. Thirteen of those units are actually atop the shale formation, include sites honoring the nation's earliest and most recent history: from the [Fort Necessity National Battlefield](#) near Uniontown, site of George Washington's first military campaign, to the [national memorial](#) being built in Somerset, to honor the passengers of United Airlines Flight 93 who were killed on that ground on September 11, 2001.

The NPS report notes that the [Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River](#) in New York and Pennsylvania, is entirely within the shale area and is closely surrounded by private landowners who have received lease offers from gas companies.

Potential worries, the NPS assessment said, include "water contamination related to drilling and disposal of drilling fluids, air quality degradation from internal combustion engines on drill rigs and trucks, excess dust from equipment transportation, impacts to solitude and night skies from noise and lighting, and safety concerns associated with the large number of trucks needed to support drilling operations." (Related: "[A Dream Dashed by the Rush on Gas](#)")

The assessment concluded that NPS should be an active participant in regulatory hearings on shale development. Indeed, NPS has weighed in. Late last year, in a [submission \(pdf\)](#) to the [New York Department of Environmental Conservation](#), which is developing regulations while a drilling moratorium is in place, NPS requested that any proposal for a drilling site within 2,000 feet of a park service unit automatically trigger a state environmental impact analysis.

NPS also raised concerns about the potential water withdrawals from rivers, given that each well in the Marcellus shale requires about 4 million gallons of water. NPS asked New York to work with the [Delaware River Basin Commission](#) (DRBC), a federal and multi-state compact agency that is also developing gas regulations, to calculate the potential cumulative impact of water withdrawals if the gas boom continues.

NPS noted that such an assessment has been done by the [Susquehanna River Basin Commission](#) (SRBC), a sister compact agency to the west. SRBC, which is in the process of deploying a real-time Internet-based system to monitor withdrawals, has made a [preliminary estimate \(pdf\)](#) that the Marcellus industry could eventually demand 10 billion gallons of water per year from the Susquehanna basin. But SRBC's analysis notes that even that much water would make shale gas a small drain on water resources compared to others in the energy sector: Power plants, mostly nuclear and coal-fired, draw more than 10 billion gallons from the basin every three days.

WHO OWNS MINERAL RIGHTS?

In addition to the impact from development on private land near the National Parks, the federal government—like Pennsylvania—does not own the mineral rights in the majority national park and historic area land overlying the Marcellus. In fact, private landowners hold the drilling and

extraction rights for two-thirds of the 170,300 acres (69,000 hectares) of those 13 NPS units, says Pat O'Dell, petroleum engineer with NPS's Geologic Resources Division. In the majority of cases, that is because even the surface areas are privately owned. At Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, for example, the federal government only owns 100 acres (40 hectares) of the 80,000 acres (32,375 hectares) in the unit.

The Park Service has struggled for years with this issue. In the late 1970s Congress gave NPS authority to regulate some production, even where it doesn't own the subsurface rights. NPS can require that producers obtain approval and secure bonds to pay for reclamation before operations begin, as long as the gas company must cross federally owned land or water to get to the well site. But there may not be a need to cross federal land in all cases in the Marcellus, so the regulations may not always apply, the NPS report noted. In a process that was begun before the shale development, but is now exceedingly relevant for the NPS units in the Marcellus, the Park Service is working to [revise the regulations](#) to ensure some oversight of production operations within park units, even if drillers don't cross federal land.

But even without the change, NPS officials are hopeful that direct impact on federal park property can be avoided with the use of horizontal drilling techniques from offsite. (See interactive, "[Breaking Fuel From Rock](#)") "There is plenty of opportunity to avoid any footprint at all in any of the National Park areas," says Pat O'Dell, petroleum engineer with NPS's Geologic Resources Division.

For Pennsylvania's state park system, it is going to take a great deal of historical research to determine who owns subsurface mineral rights. In many cases, mineral rights were severed from surface rights long ago, in deals that allowed mining companies in the 1800s to acquire land at a low price. DCNR estimates that it does not own mineral rights for 80 percent of Pennsylvania's parkland. This is mainly due to a rapid major expansion of Pennsylvania's park system in the 1960s and 1970s, with the aim of ensuring that there was a park within 25 miles of every state resident. It was during this acquisition spree that the land was purchased for Ohiopyle, Pennsylvania's largest state park and its most popular.

Last year, the DCNR received the first requests for access to the park for seismic surveys, a process that involves using sound waves to create three-dimensional images of underground terrain. Although the gas industry knows the Marcellus shale lies beneath the park, the surveys would indicate the best places for drilling. To create sound waves, the survey teams use large trucks with vibrator units or set off small explosive charges buried underground in a grid pattern. Sometimes, says DCNR spokeswoman Chris Novak, the companies need to drill exploratory wells.

For now, any survey work is on hold as the DCNR has requested proof that the seismic company is working on behalf of a firm that holds title to the subsurface rights. "Before we allow anyone to do testing, they need to prove to us that they own the mineral rights or have a lease," she says. "We suspect we don't own the mineral rights, but 'suspect' is not good enough in the legal world."

Novak says that in cases where Pennsylvania does not own the mineral rights, it will attempt to work out deals with companies to reduce the impact in areas that have high recreational use or are sensitive habitats. For now, such voluntary agreements may be the best hope for protecting rafting, hiking, and camping spots, as well as the dwellings of the black bear, bobcat, and river otter in Ohiopyle. If a gas producer owns the mineral rights, says Novak, "we don't have much ability to deny access."

Outreach Notice – USDA Forest Service

NORTH ZONE TRAILS COORDINATOR

Forestry Technician (Recreation), GS-462-6/7

Boise National Forest

The Boise National Forest will soon be advertising to fill a PSE 13/13, GS-462-6/7 Zoned Trails and Dispersed Recreation position.

This position will be filled using the open continuous roster, announcement #ADS07-R5-REC/OHV-6/7 G and DP

It is anticipated that a referral list will be issued in the fall of 2010. Apply through AVUE or USAJOBS

POSITION DESCRIPTION:

This position is established at the Ranger District level to perform field and office work in support of the OHV, trail, and recreation programs of work. The duty station for this position is Lowman, Idaho. This position provides the skill and knowledge needed to administer the trail system, OHV program, operation and maintenance of recreation sites (including dispersed campsites and staging areas), enforcement of regulations, recreation volunteer programs, and supervision of temporary trail crews. The Zone manages approximately 500+ miles of mostly motorized single track trails. There is also moderate ATV and non-motorized trail systems that are increasing in mileage.

Important skills needed for this position include motorcycle and OHV, mechanical, organizational, interpersonal, and logistical skills. Incumbent will serve as a Forest Protection Officer. Weekend work will be required on occasion. Work with external partners, volunteers and a diverse workforce will be expected on a regular basis. Experience with trail construction, maintenance, design, and layout is preferred.

Applicants should enjoy working outdoors. Work environments include minimal office work and mostly outside work in varying terrains and weather.

DUTY STATION SPECIFICS:

Lowman, Idaho, is located approximately 75 miles northeast of Boise, Idaho. The District covers 479,000 acres. Activities managed by the District include developed and dispersed recreation, vegetation management programs, mining, outfitter-guide services, wildlife and fish programs, recreational lease holding, and prescribed and wild land fire. Wildlife is abundant in the area.

LOWMAN COMMUNITY INFORMATION:

Lowman is a small mountain community that has grown up along 12 miles of the South Fork of the Payette River, on State Highway 21. Recreation opportunities abound. Depending on the season, you may camp, hike, horseback ride, bike, motorcycle, or ATV on beautiful trails; fish, hunt, cross-country ski, or snowmobile. The South Fork of the Payette River is considered one of the premier kayaking and rafting rivers in the country. After a hard day of work or play there

are numerous hot springs to soak in. There are approximately 200 year round residents in the community and the summer population swells with visitors.

There may be government housing available with this opportunity on the Lowman district, although it is limited in single family, commuter, and crew quarters. There are few private homes or mobile homes for sale or rent in the immediate vicinity. There are numerous homes available in the nearby community of Garden Valley and Crouch, approximately 25 miles from the Lowman District office.

There is a one-room elementary school for grades K-6. Grades 7-12 ride a bus 24 miles to Garden Valley.

There is one church in Lowman, a non-denominational church that conducts Sunday services year round. There are also several community churches, a Catholic church, and an LDS church located in Garden Valley.

The Lowman Ambulance is staffed by local volunteer EMTs, and is available 24 hours a day. The closest medical clinic is located in Garden Valley, which is staffed with an MD. There is also a local volunteer fire department that serves the Lowman community.

AREA BUSINESSES:

There are several businesses located in Lowman that provide the following services: 2 motels, 2 café/restaurants, 2 convenience stores, 2 gas stations.

Contacts: If you are interested in this position, please contact Dave Erwin at Lowman Ranger District, 208-259-3361 ext. 7554, email dcerwin@fs.fed.us.

Job Announcement – USDA Forest Service

NATURAL RESOURCES SPECIALIST (RECREATION)

SALARY RANGE: \$68,809.00 - \$89,450.00 /year

OPEN PERIOD: Monday, October 25, 2010 to Monday, November 22, 2010

SERIES & GRADE: GS-0401-12/12

POSITION INFORMATION: Full Time Permanent - No time limit

PROMOTION POTENTIAL: 12

DUTY LOCATIONS: 1 vacancy - Albuquerque, NM

WHO MAY BE CONSIDERED: Status eligibles - This announcement is open to current or former status federal employees and veterans eligible for consideration under the Veterans Employment Opportunities Act (VEOA); others eligible for consideration are disabled veterans with a 30% or more disability; persons with disabilities; certain military spouses; and former Peace Corps and Vista Volunteers may be considered under special hiring authorities.

Job Announcement Number: 11-0303-0038G-LJ

This position is also being advertised under announcement number 11-0303-0038DP-LJ open to all US citizens. http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=91649757&aid=90127670-261010&WT.mc_n=125

JOB SUMMARY:

Applications for this position are being processed through an on-line applicant assessment

system that has been specifically configured for USDA Forest Service applicants. Even if you have already developed a resume in USAJOBS, you will need to access this on-line system to complete the application process. [To obtain information about this position and TO APPLY, please click on http://www.avuecentral.com/vacancy.html?ref=UHEUT.](http://www.avuecentral.com/vacancy.html?ref=UHEUT)

DUTIES:

Participates in, coordinates, and/or manages natural resources programs and projects.

Provides guidance on development and protection plans for natural resources, including land, water, mountains, forests, wildlife, and other outdoor elements that are useful for recreation purposes.

Plans and administers recreation program activities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=91649598&aid=90127670-261010&WT.mc_n=125

Job Announcement – Bureau of Reclamation

OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNER

SALARY RANGE: \$47,448.00 - \$74,628.00 /year

OPEN PERIOD: Friday, October 22, 2010 to Monday, November 08, 2010

SERIES & GRADE: GS-0023-09/11

POSITION INFORMATION: This is a FULL TIME position. This is a PERMANENT position

PROMOTION POTENTIAL: 11

DUTY LOCATIONS: 1 vacancy(s) in one of the following locations: Bend, OR

WHO MAY BE CONSIDERED: Open to current federal employees serving under a competitive service career or career-conditional appointment, former federal employees with reinstatement eligibility, or persons eligible for non-competitive appointment under special appointing authorities. Veterans who are preference eligible or who have been separated from the armed forces under honorable conditions after 3 or more years of continuous active service may apply under Veteran's Employment Opportunity Act (VEOA) of 1998.

Job Announcement Number: BR-PN-VA-CCA-11-024

This position is also being advertised under announcement number BR-PN-DE-CCA-11-025 open to all US citizens.

http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=91621443&aid=90127670-261010&WT.mc_n=125

JOB SUMMARY:

Reclamation is a contemporary water management agency. Reclamation is best known for Hoover Dam on the Colorado River, Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River and Folsom Dam on the American River. Today we are the largest wholesaler of water in the country and the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the western United States.

Visit: <http://www.usbr.gov>. View our DVD titled "Traditions, Talent, and Teamwork" at: <http://www.usbr.gov/pmts/hr/video/>

Position is being advertised concurrently under BR-PN-DE-CCA-11-025 for all US Citizens and Nationals. If you are interested in applying under both announcement numbers, you must submit application packages for each.

Would you enjoy:

- Coordinating the management of outdoor recreation and accessibility programs.
- Preparing contracts and agreements needed for the administration of the outdoor recreation areas.
- Preparing resource management plans and outdoor recreation plans and studies.

Reclamation is seeking a career professional looking for an opportunity to capitalize on his/her expertise as an Outdoor Recreation Planner. You can make a difference in the West by assisting in meeting increasing water demands while protecting the environment.

Here is a great opportunity to join a great organization with stellar growth potential! Great Benefits Package: paid vacation, sick days, holidays, health and life insurance and an excellent retirement package!

This position is located in Bend, OR. For more information, click on the following link:
<http://www.usbr.gov/pn.about/hr/area-information.html>.

DUTIES:

You will ultimately:

- Be responsible for planning, developing, executing, and administering various aspects of outdoor recreation management and accessibility activities with managing partners to provide recreation at several facilities in central and western Oregon.
- Provide information and advice regarding the outdoor recreation and accessibility programs to water users, /organizations, financial institutions, attorneys, and government representatives.
- Prepare contracts, grant and cooperative agreements, interagency agreements, memoranda of agreement or understanding for the effective and efficient administration of the outdoor recreation areas.
- Ensure compliance with management agreements, leases, resource management and development plans, permits, and federal regulations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=91621351&aid=90127670-261010&WT.mc_n=125

Job Announcement - USDA Forest Service

SUPERVISORY NATURAL RESOURCES SPECIALIST (RECREATION)

SALARY RANGE: \$41,563.00 - \$65,371.00 /year

OPEN PERIOD: Thursday, October 21, 2010 to Thursday, November 18, 2010

SERIES & GRADE: GS-0401-09/11

POSITION INFORMATION: Full Time Permanent - No time limit

PROMOTION POTENTIAL: 11

DUTY LOCATIONS: 1 vacancy - Pioneer, CA

WHO MAY BE CONSIDERED: Status eligibles - This announcement is open to current career or career-conditional federal employees with competitive status. Reinstatement eligibles, Veterans Recruitment Authority (VRA) eligibles, Veterans Employment Opportunity Act (VEOA) eligibles, certain military spouses, persons with disabilities, disabled veterans with a 30% or more disability, former Peace Corps and VISTA volunteers may be considered under special hiring authorities.

Job Announcement Number: ADS11-R5-ENF-4991G-MS

This position is also being advertised under announcement number ADS11-R5-ENF-4991DP-MS open to all US citizens.

http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=91532119&aid=90127670-261010&WT.mc_n=125

JOB SUMMARY:

Applications for this position are being processed through an on-line applicant assessment system that has been specifically configured for USDA Forest Service applicants. Even if you have already developed a resume in USAJOBS, you will need to access this on-line system to complete the application process. [To obtain information about this position and TO APPLY, please click on http://www.avuecentral.com/vacancy.html?ref=BCWQX.](http://www.avuecentral.com/vacancy.html?ref=BCWQX)

DUTIES:(The duties described reflect the full performance level of this position)

Performs the administrative and human resource management functions relative to the staff supervised. Plans, schedules, and assigns work to subordinates. Establishes guidelines and performance expectations for staff members; provides feedback and periodically evaluates employee performance. Provides advice, counsel, and/or instruction to staff members. Recommends or approves appointments, selections, or reassignments to positions appropriate to the selection authority delegated. Effects disciplinary measures as appropriate to the authority delegated in this area. Carries out Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) policies and program activities.

Participates in, coordinates, and/or manages natural resources programs and projects.

Plans and administers recreation program activities.

Provides assistance in the implementation and evaluation of programs and projects.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=91532023&aid=90127670-261010&WT.mc_n=125

Job Announcement – Bureau of Reclamation

OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNER, GS-0023-11/12 (MPP-LL)

SALARY RANGE: \$61,451.00 - \$95,750.00 /year

OPEN PERIOD: Wednesday, October 20, 2010 to Wednesday, November 03, 2010

SERIES & GRADE: GS-0023-11/12

POSITION INFORMATION: Full-time Permanent

PROMOTION POTENTIAL: 12

DUTY LOCATIONS: 1 vacancy(s) in one of the following locations: Folsom, CA

WHO MAY BE CONSIDERED: Current Federal employees serving under a competitive service career or career-conditional appointment, former Federal employees with reinstatement eligibility, VEOA eligible veterans or persons eligible for noncompetitive appointment under special appointing authorities such as 30% Disabled American Veterans, Employment of People with Disabilities, Peace Corps/VISTA Volunteers, Military Spouses, etc.
Job Announcement Number: BR-MP-2010-336

This position is also being advertised under announcement number BR-MP-2010-354 open to all US citizens. http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=91568794&aid=90127670-261010&WT.mc_n=125

JOB SUMMARY:

Reclamation is a contemporary water management agency. Reclamation is best known for Hoover Dam on the Colorado River, Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River and Folsom Dam on the American River. Today we are the largest wholesaler of water in the country and the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the western United States.

Visit: <http://www.usbr.gov>.

View our DVD titled "Traditions, Talent, and Teamwork" at: <http://www.usbr.gov/pmts/hr/video/>

Interested in the areas of recreation planning and management? Come join the Bureau of Reclamation as an Outdoor Recreation Planner, coordinating the use of land, water, and related resources to provide opportunities for the creative use of leisure time outdoors, with due regard to protecting and enhancing the quality of the outdoor environment for the enjoyment of people.

This position is located with the Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region, Central California Area Office in Folsom, CA. For information about the Folsom area visit www.folsom.ca.us

DUTIES:

In consultation with the supervisor and the Area and Regional Office, develops policies and procedures for recreation administration, resource management, and the preservation and enhancement of fish and wildlife on Reclamation lands, waterways and reservoirs.

Designs recreation programs for Reclamation lands.

Provides direction, assistance, technical guidance, budgeting, planning, and implementation of short and long-term management plans.

Conducts inventories and studies to determine recreation visitor use and site suitability.

Provides project management for new studies and management plans including environmental documentation, public involvement, contract preparation and supervision.

Initiates and prepares recreation and wildlife management agreements, prospectuses and concession agreements for recreation management by private concessionaires.

Evaluates the administration and modification of concession program activities and recreational use on Reclamation lands. Provides advice and recommendations and prepares annual and special reports.

Reviews recreation development plans and proposals by concession contractors and managing partners for compliance with Reclamation policies, applicable standards and contract/agreement requirements.

Acts as the Contracting Officer's Representative for technical service contracts relating to recreation programs and responsibilities.

Reviews concession contractor rate requests and conducts comparability analyses for rate approval.

Administers the Area Office Special Recreation Use Permit program and other recreation-related land use authorizations.

Provides direction, assistance, technical guidance, planning, and implementation of the recreation fee program and Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA).

Represents Reclamation in a variety of special assignments on matters pertaining to recreation and wildlife programs and related activities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=91568568&aid=90127670-261010&WT.mc_n=125