



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 recreation planning professionals.

The National Association of Recreation Resource Planners

Early bird rates for the 2012 NARRP Conference expire Friday, March 16

Get your conference registrations in by midnight (Eastern Time) on Friday to take advantage of the early bird rates for the NARRP Conference. You'll save \$100.

If you have any questions or have problems registering, contact Brenda at (814) 927-8212 or Brenda@narrp.org.

Support the Student Conference Scholarship Fund

All the proceeds from the live and silent auctions at the annual conference go toward providing student conference scholarships for university students. This year, we will be helping 8 students to attend the conference.

We encourage you to bring auction items to the conference to support the scholarship fund. Items provided in past years have included art works -- paintings, limited edition and/or signed posters, pottery, handcrafted items; park memorabilia -- park photographic/history books, logo clothing, camping gear, souvenirs; food items -- regional classics ...everything from vintage California wines to New England maple syrups to wild rice from Minnesota to Cajun hot sauce, grits and corn meal from the southeast. Things for kids are always highly sought after as well as jewelry and college or university items.

A special "Gallery" section in the silent auction will showcase the special talents of our members and their family and friends. Please consider donating your artwork or hand crafted item. A special tag will be placed on your item to identify the artist and the medium that you work in. Feel free to add your own tag or we will have some available at the conference.

Let your imagination run wild and showcase a special item from your home state or region or university. Even if you are not able to attend, consider sending an item. Contact Mary Donze if you have any questions, or if you would like to arrange to ship your auction item ahead of time - mary.donze@dnr.mo.gov or (314) 416-2069.

NARRP Conference Topic: Using Online Tools for Public Engagement in the Planning Process

One of the biggest challenges in outdoor recreation planning is finding a way to collect and share detailed outdoor recreation resource data among planners, various agencies and the public. Today, that job is made easier by free and low-cost online tools that allow you to collect, archive, share and map data such as trails, parks, lakes, sports fields, picnic areas and other outdoor recreation resources.

During April's NARRP conference in Baton Rouge, Chris Sinnard, vice president of Pragmatic Research, Inc., will demonstrate the use of online tools to create a shared data/mapping system that will be accessible to planners and the public.

In addition, Special Projects Manager Eric VanDeGenachte from Georgia State Parks will show how Google-based tools can provide quick, accurate communications with the public, particularly for large or dispersed park systems.

Member Request

The Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Reclamation in New Mexico are working on a Plan for 180 miles of the Middle Rio Grande River around Albuquerque. The Plan is part of AGO and is focused around a proposed urban wildlife refuge just south of Albuquerque.

Does anyone have suggestions of recent river corridor plans that include issues similar to those in NM, e.g. Recreation, conservation, open space, wildlife habitat protection, and environmental education. You could help us by sharing examples of similar plans? Thanks in advance for your ideas.

Martha Katelle
mketelle@verizon.net

Senate Passes Dedicated LWCF & Gulf Coast Restoration Funding

By a surprisingly strong vote of 76 to 22, the Senate approved an amendment (#1822) to the Senate Transportation Bill to provide two years of dedicated Land & Water Conservation Fund funding (\$700 million/year) and re-authorize the program through 2022. This amendment also includes the RESTORE the Gulf Coast States Act, directing much of the Clean Water Act penalties associated with the 2010 Gulf spill back to the region for long term ecological restoration and economic development.

This isn't a done deal yet. The House and Senate still need to approve their respective transportation bills and reconcile differing language, which could be a challenge. The House also approved a RESTORE Act amendment, but did not include LWCF or clearly dedicate restoration spending. This is, however, a major step towards enacting this important legislation.

We thank Senators Bill Nelson (D-FL), Mary Landrieu (D-LA), Richard Shelby (R-AL) and Barbara Boxer (D-CA) for making today's victory possible.

Breaking News in Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Transportation Enhancements

Courtesy of the National Transportation Enhancements Clearinghouse Newsletter

By Stacie West

During the 112th Congress, both houses considered legislation to reauthorize federal surface transportation programs. Since the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) expired in 2009, a series of extensions have kept surface transportation programs, including the Transportation Enhancements program, operational. The current extension will expire March 31, 2012.

By a 74-22 vote, the Senate approved its two-year reauthorization bill, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (S. 1813; MAP-21), on March 14th. The House will now consider that bill.

SENATE

Under MAP-21, the two-year authorization bill, TE activities are eligible for funding through the renamed Surface Transportation Program (now the Transportation Mobility Program), but there is no set-aside. Instead, the bill creates an Additional Activities set-aside within the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program that includes the Safe Routes to School, Recreational Trails, and Transportation Enhancements. However, these funds are subject to new transferability provisions and additional eligibilities, including some road construction. The eligible TE activities are also changed. The most notable changes are that welcome centers and museums are no longer eligible, the two preservation-related activities are consolidated, and the environmental mitigation activity is expanded – for more details, please see NTEC's summary memo.

Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Thad Cochran (R-MS) introduced an amendment (#1549) that would empower local governments to implement the TE activities and Safe Routes to School program via suballocation of 50% of the funds to metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) for areas with populations over 200,000. The amendment requires both States and MPOs to create a competitive project selection process open to eligible entities for the remaining funds with the caveat that state DOTs can transfer a small percentage of the money elsewhere. The Cardin-Cochran amendment was accepted in the manager's amendment to the Senate bill on March 2nd.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The House will now consider the Senate bill. Earlier this year, however, the House considered its own reauthorization bill. Representative John Mica (R-FL), Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, introduced the American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act (H.R. 7) on January 31, 2012. The five-year authorization bill included some significant changes to pedestrian and bicycle programs. Transportation Enhancement activities remained eligible under the Surface Transportation Program, but no longer had a 10-percent set-aside of apportioned funds.

The bill also removed eligibility from several TE activities:

- acquisition of scenic or historic easements, including battlefields;
- historic preservation;
- rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation facilities;
- preservation of abandoned railway corridors; and
- the establishment of transportation museums.

Reps. Thomas Petri (R-WI), Timothy Johnson (R-IL), Daniel Lipinski (D-IL) offered an amendment in committee that would have consolidated the Safe Routes to School program (which was eliminated in the bill) with Transportation Enhancements; provided dedicated funding for TE and flexibility for states to determine the source of reserved funds for the programs; and restored the eligibility of rail-trails, acquisition of scenic or historic easements, and rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation facilities. In a 29-27 committee vote on February 2nd, the amendment was defeated.

The House bill was passed by the Transportation and Infrastructure committee on February 3rd, and the amendment filed for consideration on the House floor with co-sponsors expanded to include Reps. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), Steven LaTourette (R-OH), and Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX). However, a number of issues with the House bill have produced limited support for the bill as it stands, and therefore the House Speaker had not, as of the Senate vote, brought the bill to a floor vote. Instead, he has indicated it is likely the House will consider the Senate bill.

Announcing the National Parks Visitation Online Database

The Visitor Services Project (VSP) at the University of Idaho has been conducting visitor surveys in the National Park Service system since 1988. Over 250 in-depth visitor studies are now online and available to scientists, resource managers, students, and the public. More studies are added every year. The database includes:

A catalog of survey questions previously approved by the Office of Management and Budget – this could be helpful to folks interested in getting OMB approval for studies conducted within the Department of Interior.

All the data from all 250 VSP studies going back to 1988. The data is searchable by keyword, site, region, park type, date, region, survey variable, and other criteria.

All questionnaires, reports, and executive summaries, including economic impact (MGM2) reports.

What can you do with this database?

- Browse survey questions
- Search data (simple and advanced)
- Filter data (by year, region, park type, etc.) View charts and data for selected results
- Download Data and documents

What kind of Information is available?

Demographics (Age, education, residence) Activities Transportation Recreation preferences

Visitor opinions on park resources and management Visitor spending and economic impact And much more

How to access the VSP Database:

Visit <https://vsp.uidaho.edu>

Sign up for an account (optional)

Click the tabbed window to view Surveys, Question Types, or Advanced Search function Follow the on-screen instructions

If you have comments or suggestions, we'd like to hear from you. Use the suggestion box found at the bottom of the screen when viewing the database.

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PBIC updates its graduate-level course materials

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center has updated the materials for its Graduate-Level Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Course. PBIC provides all materials instructors need to train future planners about bicycle and pedestrian needs, including a syllabus, homework assignments, lectures and reading lists.

While PBIC has offered these materials for several years, the current materials have been updated based on the latest safety and planning research and in response to feedback from students and instructors.

An example syllabus and reading list is available at <http://www.walkinginfo.org/training/university-courses/masters-course.cfm>. To assure access to the lecture materials and student assignments is limited to instructors, individuals must register with PBIC to receive the full course materials. To register, please visit <http://www.walkinginfo.org/training/university-courses/masters-course-registration.cfm>.

Ecotourism and Economic Development

Courtesy of GPRED

The [Center for Responsible Travel](#), a non-profit resource based in Washington, DC and Stanford University, reports that the U.S. ranks first globally for international tourist receipts and second for international tourist arrivals throughout the world in 2009. Travel and tourism generated \$113.0 billion in direct tax revenue for U.S. local, state, and federal governments, and 7.4 million travel-generated jobs in the U.S. in 2009.

Demographically, the majority of U.S. eco-tourists are between 35 and 54 years old, with a large number between 18 and 34. These groups prefer local guides, small groups, uncrowded

destinations, and meaningful educational content.

Public agencies nationwide are exploring the eco-tourism market with good results. Nature travel, environmental education, conservation tours and resource restoration programs are logical strategies for raising environmental awareness and producing a positive local economic impact.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.responsibletravel.org/home/index.html>

Assessment of Visitor Access to National Wildlife Refuges

Courtesy of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Information Center

The purpose of the study is to characterize the use of transit and non-motorized transportation modes for visitor access to National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs), as well as identify opportunities for and constraints to alternative transportation access. Specifically, the objectives of the study are to:

1. Identify NWRs with strong existing transit and trail connections, recognizing factors that contribute to the success of using these modes for NWR access
2. Identify sites with high potential for an increased mode shift to transit or non-motorized access, including key partnerships or promotional opportunities to realize these connections
3. Understand how current U.S. Fish and Wildlife (FWS) planning and management decisions affect transit and trail connections to NWRs
4. Provide a tool for FWS staff, partner agencies, and friends groups to recognize potential connections, set priorities for future planning, and ultimately enhance alternative transportation access to NWRs

Click here to download the report:

http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/Transit_Trails_Layout_Final_123010.pdf

10th Circuit Court Rules on Winter Use Regulations for Yellowstone, Grand Teton National Parks

March 1, 2012

Washington, DC — Yesterday, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled on the National Park Service (NPS) winter use regulations for Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. The ruling was a result of an appeal brought by the State of Wyoming and Park County, Wyoming against NPS concerning the regulations, which set limits on the number of snowmobiles and snowcoaches allowed inside the parks. The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), represented by the law firm Arnold and Porter, LLP, intervened on behalf of NPS.

The 10th circuit agreed with a district court decision that Wyoming and Park County failed to show standing to challenge the Yellowstone and Grand Teton regulations. Specifically, the State

of Wyoming failed to show injury resulting from the regulations. The court found that the Wyoming and Park County argument — that they had suffered economic injury because of the lower number of snowmobiles permitted there in recent years — was unfounded. This means that the litigation concerning Grand Teton's winter use regulation is now finally finished and that Yellowstone's temporary regulation stays in place for the next two weeks of the season.

“NPCA is pleased that the district court found and the appeals court confirmed that Yellowstone National Park correctly used the state's economic data to make a decision on snowmobile and snowcoach use inside the park's boundaries,” said Patricia Dowd, NPCA Yellowstone program manager. “Now, the National Park Service can move ahead with a permanent rule for Yellowstone based on established law, policy, science and public involvement.”

“The state and county simply could not show that the National Park Service's greater emphasis on protection of the natural resources of the parks by reducing the number of permitted snowmobiles had caused any injury to the local tourist economy or other assets of the state or county,” said Robert Rosenbaum of Arnold & Porter, lead attorney on the case.

Read the decision here:

<http://www.leagle.com/xmlResult.aspx?xmlDoc=In%20FCO%2020120229110.xml&docbase=CsLwAr3-2007-Curr>

Seeking common ground

Courtesy of the lonepeaklookout.com

By Jolene Keller

As the name might imply, the Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area (WSA) is expansive. Known to some as the Gallatin Crest, the area's nearly 150,000 acres run from the northern part of Yellowstone National Park, along the Gallatin Range and north of Hyalite Canyon.

While it geologically divides, it also ideologically divides the population that uses it -- motorized vehicle users want more access, while pro-wilderness advocates call for less. Since the WSA's inception in 1977, divided opinions on usage have resulted in continued restricted access, hundreds of lawsuits and no clear solution as to how to manage the area in a way that satisfies the community.

"We've tried the court system and the National Environmental Policy Act, which brought us back to the court system," spokesperson for the Gallatin National Forest, Marna Daley said. "We want to get off that treadmill, unify the community, and begin the conversation about whether or not people are interested in developing a collaborative process."

Click here to read the rest of the story: http://www.lonepeaklookout.com/news/article_61746b62-68a2-11e1-9a79-001871e3ce6c.html

New National Water Trails System Established

Secretary Salazar last week unveiled a new National Water Trails System, a network that will

increase access to water-based outdoor recreation, encourage community stewardship of local waterways, and promote tourism that fuels local economies across America.

The announcement came in advance of last Friday's White House Conference on Conservation, hosted by the Department of the Interior. The conference spotlighted community-driven conservation efforts as part of President Obama's [America's Great Outdoors](#) Initiative.

"Rivers, lakes, and other waterways are the lifeblood of our communities, connecting us to our environment, our culture, our economy, and our way of life," Salazar said. "The new National Water Trail System will help fulfill President Obama's vision for healthy and accessible rivers as we work to restore and conserve our nation's treasured waterways."

Secretary Salazar signed a [Secretarial Order](#) that establishes national water trails as a class of national recreational trails under the National Trails System Act of 1968. The order sets the framework for Secretarial designation of water trails that will help facilitate outdoor recreation on waterways in and around urban areas, and provide national recognition and resources to existing, local water trails.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/New-National-Water-Trails-System-to-Promote-Healthy-Accessible-Rivers.cfm>

Reflections of a former park ranger

Courtesy of the Washington Trails Association

By Stacy Czebotar

I remember visiting the local library, where I paged curiously through an aging, waterstained book that described the rewards of being a park ranger. That year, I began volunteering with the National Park Service as an interpretive guide at Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, near Birdsboro, Pennsylvania. I loved working with the rangers. I loved their uniforms, their hats, their badges. I loved that rangers could answer visitors' questions and help solve their problems. What a wonderful job that must be.

Years later, in the pressure cooker of college, I found myself struggling to figure out who I wanted to be. One day at Hopewell, the superintendent stopped by to chat with me. When I shared my career woes, he asked quite simply, "What do you love to do?" Without hesitation I responded, "I love being here." My answer was right there in front of me. I called my dad on my drive home, and I told him that I was going to apply to a law enforcement academy and become a park ranger.

Click here to read the rest of the story: http://www.wta.org/trail-news/magazine/reflections-of-a-former-ranger/at_download/file

Kansas Rail-Trails Threatened By Proposed Bill

Courtesy of Kansascyclist.com

Just as trail-building in Kansas is gaining momentum — with dozens of miles of new trail added every year, and ongoing projects in development throughout the state — a proposed bill

threatens to derail the burgeoning trail system.

[House Bill 2735](#) seeks to force counties to tax the land of a trail right-of-way, handing huge bills to trail-building organizations.

According to [KanBikeWalk](#):

“It could cost recreational trails over \$100,000 per year statewide. It is an attempt to value the land under a recreational trail right of way as high as possible and charges the taxes to the trail operator. Currently, counties are exempting rail trails or are valuing the land at \$0.00, much like the public greenways and trails in many KS cities. No one is paying taxes on the land and the counties and municipalities want to keep it that way. This bill was created by special interest groups whose goal is to stop recreational trail development.”

The bill appears to be odd — the counties are not currently taxing the trails, had no plans to tax the trails, and do not want to tax the trails.

In fact, most counties want to do everything they can to encourage trail-building. They recognize that turning old rail lines into trails not only maintains the right-of-ways for possible future needs, but gives their citizens a place to safely walk, run, bike, or ride horses.

Click here to read the rest of the story: <http://www.kansascyclist.com/news/2012/03/kansas-rail-trails-threatened-by-proposed-bill/>

Job Announcement – USDA Forest Service

SUPERVISORY NATURAL RESOURCES SPECIALIST (RECREATION)

SALARY RANGE: \$57,408.00 to \$74,628.00 / Per Year

OPEN PERIOD: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 to Tuesday, April 10, 2012

SERIES & GRADE: GS-0401-11

POSITION INFORMATION: Full Time - Permanent - No time limit

PROMOTION POTENTIAL: 11

DUTY LOCATIONS: 1 vacancy(s) in the following locations: Crawfordville, Florida

WHO MAY BE CONSIDERED: Status Candidates (Merit Promotion Eligibles)

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER: 12-08050006-0724G-DB

JOB SUMMARY:

This position is also being advertised for US Citizens under announcement number 12-08050006-0724DP-DB.

A career with the Forest Service will challenge you to manage and care for more than 193 million acres of our nations most magnificent lands, conduct research through a network of forest and range experiment stations and the Forest Products Laboratory, and provide assistance to State and private forestry agencies. Its an awesome responsibility but the rewards are as limitless as the views.

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](#)
<https://www.avuecentral.com/casting/aiportal/control/toVacancy?referenceCode=OUCGM>.

DUTIES:

Plans and administers recreation program activities.

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

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.

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <https://my.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/311377800> (status candidates)

<https://my.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/311379300> (US Citizens)

Job Announcement – USDA Forest Service

NATURAL RESOURCES SPECIALIST (RECREATION)

SALARY RANGE: \$47,448.00 to \$74,628.00 / Per Year

OPEN PERIOD: Friday, March 09, 2012 to Friday, March 23, 2012

SERIES & GRADE: GS-0401-09/11

POSITION INFORMATION: Full Time - Permanent - No time limit

PROMOTION POTENTIAL: 11

DUTY LOCATIONS: 1 vacancy(s) in the following locations: Chatsworth, Georgia

WHO MAY BE CONSIDERED: Status Candidates (Merit Promotion Eligibles)

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER: 12-08030001-0719G-AG

JOB SUMMARY:

This position is also being advertised for US Citizens under announcement number 12-08030001-0719DP-AG.

A career with the Forest Service will challenge you to manage and care for more than 193 million acres of our nations most magnificent lands, conduct research through a network of forest and range experiment stations and the Forest Products Laboratory, and provide assistance to State and private forestry agencies. Its an awesome responsibility but the rewards are as limitless as the views.

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](#)
<https://www.avuecentral.com/casting/aiportal/control/toVacancy?referenceCode=COWQP>.

DUTIES:

Plans and administers recreation program activities.

Participates in the development of natural resource plans and policies for the organization.

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

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <https://my.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/311406800> (status Candidates)

<https://my.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/311409200> (US Citizens)

Job Announcement – US Army Corps of Engineers

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST (Outdoor Recreation)

SALARY RANGE: \$68,809.00 to \$89,450.00 / Per Year

OPEN PERIOD: Friday, March 09, 2012 to Friday, March 30, 2012

SERIES & GRADE: GS-0401-12

POSITION INFORMATION: Full Time - Permanent

DUTY LOCATIONS: 01 vacancy(s) - Albuquerque, NM

WHO MAY BE CONSIDERED: Status Candidates (Merit Promotion and VEOA Eligibles)

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER: WTKC12736581621804

JOB SUMMARY:

Civilian employees serve a vital role in supporting the Army mission. They provide the skills that are not readily available in the military, but crucial to support military operations. The Army integrates the talents and skills of its military and civilian members to form a Total Army.

About the Position: Albuquerque, New Mexico is known as the "Land of Enchantment" for more information about Albuquerque please go to www.desertusa.com/Cities/nm/albuque

WHO MAY APPLY:

1. Current Army Civilian Employee
2. DoD Transfer (Excluding Army)
3. Non-DoD Transfer
4. Appointment of Certain Military Spouses, E.O. 134735
5. Reinstatement
6. 30% Disabled Veteran
7. Veterans Employment Opportunity Act (VEOA)
8. Non-Appropriated Fund (NAF)

9. Persons with Disability

10. Interagency Career Transition Assistance Plan (ICTAP)

DUTIES:

Develop and coordinate District Natural Resources Management program and policies. Interpret policies and directives, and develop supplemental district guidance as needed. Integrate the Natural Resource Management Program with other resource programs to achieve multiple-use management goals and objectives. Prepare, revise and/or supplement master plans for civil works water resource projects. Determine public use requirements and changes in environment caused by the multipurpose operation of lakes. Modify, refine, and/or supplement natural resource management and recreation plans to meet current and foreseeable conditions. Perform site review of proposed development or private exclusive use programs at lake projects to ensure they comply with current Corps Natural Resource Management policies. Coordinate with other district elements to assure proposed developments will create a minimal environmental impact or operational problems. Perform as a lead POC to resolve encroachments at the lake projects. Provide technical guidance in studies and development of recreation plans. Represent the District at conferences with Federal, state, local officials and public interests groups to discuss Corps recreation resource planning and land management matters. Review and make recommendations regarding requests for outgrants, leases, and licenses on government land for compatibility with the project master plan and operation management plans. Evaluate plans and specifications for developmental activities to determine their compliance with applicable Corps regulations and sound land management principles. Make periodic visits to all parks within the Project Areas to evaluate adequacy and effectiveness of natural and recreational resource management programs. Participate in the planning and staffing of Corps exhibits at meetings, shows, fairs, and other special public information functions. Provide technical advice on, or implements, national Corps programs at the district level. Periodically attend professional conferences and meetings to maintain awareness of current natural resource management programs that have applicability to lake project lands.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <https://my.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/311263000>