

Department of the Interior Departmental Manual

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Series: Organization

Part 145: National Park Service

Chapter 2: Basic Organization and Headquarters

Originating Office: National Park Service

145 DM 2

2.1 Basic Organization. The National Park Service (NPS) is headed by a Director. The organization consists of a headquarters office, twelve regions, and multiple park and support units. (See attached organization chart.)

2.2 Headquarters Organization. The headquarters office consists of the Office of the Director, Deputy Directors, Comptroller, Associate Chief Information Officer, and Associate and Assistant Directors. The headquarters office is located in Washington, DC.

A. The headquarters office provides national level leadership and advocacy; policy and regulatory formulation and direction; program guidance; budget formulation; legislative support; accountability for programs and activities managed by the field and key program offices. It manages Service-wide programs that by their nature can most effectively be carried out from a central location.

B. The Director, Deputy Directors, Comptroller, Associate Chief Information Officer, Associate and Assistant Directors, and the Regional Directors comprise the National Leadership Council. In consultation with the Council, the Director establishes overall policy and strategic direction for the NPS, determines overall legislative goals and strategies, and guides implementation of NPS-wide goals and objectives.

C. National Program Centers. National Program Centers are part of the Headquarters office. They provide professional and technical support services to regions and park units. A list of the national program centers and the Associate Director to whom each reports is listed below.

National Program Center	Location	Associate Director
Accounting Operations Center	Herndon, VA	Comptroller
Harpers Ferry Center	Harpers Ferry, WV	Associate Director for Interpretation and Education
Denver Service Center	Denver, CO	Associate Director for Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands
National Center for Preservation Technology and Training	Natchitoches, LA	Associate Director for Cultural Resources. Partnerships and Science

2.3 Regional and Field Organization. There are twelve regions in the Department of the Interior common to all bureaus, including NPS, as shown in Appendix 1. See 105 DM 3 for a full description of the Unified Regions.

A. Regional Offices. The NPS programs and field units in the regions are managed by NPS regional directors. The regional directors report to the Deputy Director, Operations. The regional director is the line manager for all park superintendents within his/her assigned region(s). The regional director is responsible for strategic planning and direction, policy oversight, and assistance in public involvement, media relations, and strategies for parks and programs within the region. Each regional director serves as the principal authority and spokesperson for the area as a whole and ensures consistency with NPS policies and priorities. As line manager, the regional director is also responsible for program coordination, budget formulation and financial management.

B. Park Units. Park units are the basic management entity of NPS. Each Park Unit is headed by a superintendent (or park manager) who may be responsible for more than one park unit. Park superintendents report to regional directors. The superintendent manages all park operations to achieve program goals. The superintendent also develops and fosters external partnerships. They direct and control all program activities, including: interpretation and education; visitor services; resource management and protection; facility management; and other administrative functions, such as procurement, contracting, personnel, and financial management. In addition, superintendents are field representatives for all NPS programs. The diversity of the parks is reflected in the variety of titles given to them. These include such designations as national park, national preserve, national monument, national memorial, national historic site, national seashore, and national battlefield.

C. Regional Coordination. Regional offices may arrange to share resources, coordinate on park unit supervision, or conduct activities across geographic areas when such arrangements support common mission needs and/or achieve efficiencies in service or resource utilization.

D. Regional Offices and Areas of Responsibility.

Interior Region Name	Area of Responsibility	Region Number
North Atlantic-Appalachian	Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, Vermont, West Virginia	1
South Atlantic Gulf	Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, US Virgin Islands	2
Great Lakes	Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin	3
Mississippi Basin	Arkansas, Iowa, Missouri, Mississippi	4
Missouri Basin	All of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas; those portions of the State of Montana which includes the Montana counties and those to the east of Glacier, Pondera, Teton, Lewis and Clark, Jefferson, Madison, and Beaverhead	5
Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf	Oklahoma, Texas	6
Upper Colorado Basin	Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming	7
Lower Colorado Basin	Arizona, Clark County of Nevada, and the southern portion of California (including islands) as delineated by the county boundaries of San Bernadino, Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara, and all California counties lying south	8
Columbia-Pacific Northwest	Washington; Oregon, excluding Klamath county; the State of Idaho; a portion of the State of Montana including the counties of Deer Lodge, Flathead, Granite, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli, Sanders, and Silver Bow	9
California-Great Basin	Klamath County of Oregon, Includes the central and northern portion of California as delineated by the counties of San Luis Obispo, Kern, and Inyo and all California counties lying north. In Nevada, includes the counties of Lincoln and Nye and all counties lying north	10
Alaska	Alaska	11
Pacific Islands	American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and other U.S. possessions in the Pacific	12

Appendix 1
Interior Unified Regions



DOI Unified Regions

