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## Re: Yellowstone

**Bruce Sheaffer** <bruce\_sheaffer@nps.gov>

Tue, Oct 8, 2013 at 1:34 PM

To: Suzanne Waldron <sue\_waldron@nps.gov>

Cc: "Stephens, Beverly" <grace\_stephens@nps.gov>, Laura Joss <laura\_joss@nps.gov>, Dan Wenk <Dan\_Wenk@nps.gov>, Al Nash <al\_nash@nps.gov>, Michael Litterst <Mike\_Litterst@nps.gov>, Colin Campbell <colin\_campbell@nps.gov>, Rena Fugate <rena\_fugate@nps.gov>

Does anyone know what happened here

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 8, 2013, at 3:19 PM, Suzanne Waldron <sue\_waldron@nps.gov> wrote:

Looping in imr and park for response

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 8, 2013, at 3:17 PM, "Stephens, Beverly" <grace\_stephens@nps.gov> wrote:

Are we preparing a response to this one? Getting congressional inquiries here from the Approps staff, and I am sure others are asking.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bruce Sheaffer** <bruce\_sheaffer@nps.gov>

Date: Tue, Oct 8, 2013 at 3:05 PM

Subject: Fwd: Yellowstone

To: Beverly Stephens <grace\_stephens@nps.gov>

Can you run this down quickly

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Pam Haze <pam\_haze@ios.doi.gov>

**Date:** October 8, 2013, 2:42:16 PM EDT

**To:** Blake Androff <Blake\_Androff@ios.doi.gov>

**Cc:** Bruce Sheaffer <Bruce\_Sheaffer@nps.gov>

**Subject:** Fwd: Yellowstone

So we have a response to this one?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "LesStrang, Dave"  
<Dave.LesStrang@mail.house.gov>  
**Date:** October 8, 2013, 1:23:45 PM EDT  
**To:** Bruce Sheaffer <bruce\_sheaffer@nps.gov>  
**Cc:** "Haze, Pam" <pam\_haze@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Yellowstone

## 'Gestapo' tactics meet senior citizens at Yellowstone

<<http://www.eagletribune.com/local/x1442580353/Gestapo-tactics-meet-senior-citizens-at-Yellowstone>>

By John Macone Staff writer  
<<http://www.eagletribune.com>>

NEWBURYPORT — Pat Vaillancourt went on a trip last week that was intended to showcase some of America's greatest treasures.

Instead, the Salisbury resident said she and others on her tour bus witnessed an ugly spectacle that made her embarrassed, angry and heartbroken for her country.

Vaillancourt was one of thousands of people who found themselves in a national park as the federal government shutdown went into effect on Oct. 1. For many hours her tour group, which included senior citizen visitors from Japan, Australia, Canada and the United States, were locked in a Yellowstone National Park hotel under armed guard.

The tourists were treated harshly by armed park employees, she said, so much so that some of the foreign tourists with limited English skills thought they were under arrest.

When finally allowed to leave, the bus was not allowed to halt at all along the 2.5-hour trip out of the park, not even to stop at private bathrooms that were open along the route.

"We've become a country of fear, guns and control," said Vaillancourt, who grew up in Lawrence. "It was like they brought out the armed forces. Nobody was saying, 'we're sorry,' it was all like — " as she clenched her fist and banged it against her forearm.

Vaillancourt took part in a nine-day tour of western parks and sites along with about four dozen senior citizen

tourists. One of the highlights of the tour was to be Yellowstone, where they arrived just as the shutdown went into effect.

Rangers systematically sent visitors out of the park, though some groups that had hotel reservations — such as Vaillancourt's — were allowed to stay for two days. Those two days started out on a sour note, she said.

The bus stopped along a road when a large herd of bison passed nearby, and seniors filed out to take photos. Almost immediately, an armed ranger came by and ordered them to get back in, saying they couldn't "recreate." The tour guide, who had paid a \$300 fee the day before to bring the group into the park, argued that the seniors weren't "recreating," just taking photos.

"She responded and said, 'Sir, you are recreating,' and her tone became very aggressive," Vaillancourt said.

The seniors quickly filed back onboard and the bus went to the Old Faithful Inn, the park's premier lodge located adjacent to the park's most famous site, Old Faithful geyser. That was as close as they could get to the famous site — barricades were erected around Old Faithful, and the seniors were locked inside the hotel, where armed rangers stayed at the door.

"They looked like Hulk Hogans, armed. They told us you can't go outside," she said. "Some of the Asians who were on the tour said, 'Oh my God, are we under arrest?' They felt like they were criminals."

By Oct. 3 the park, which sees an average of 4,500 visitors a day, was nearly empty. The remaining hotel visitors were required to leave.

As the bus made its 2.5-hour journey out of Yellowstone, the tour guide made arrangements to stop at a full-service bathroom at an in-park dude ranch he had done business with in the past. Though the bus had its own small bathroom, Vaillancourt said seniors were looking for a more comfortable place to stop. But no stop was made — Vaillancourt said the dude ranch had been warned that its license to operate would be revoked if it allowed the bus to stop. So the bus continued on to Livingston, Mont., a gateway city to the park.

The bus trip made headlines in Livingston, where the local newspaper Livingston Enterprise interviewed the tour guide, Gordon Hodgson, who accused the park service of "Gestapo tactics."

"The national parks belong to the people," he told the Enterprise. "This isn't right."

Calls to Yellowstone's communications office were not returned, as most of the personnel have been furloughed.

Many of the foreign visitors were shocked and dismayed by what had happened and how they were treated, Vaillancourt said.

"A lot of people who were foreign said they wouldn't come back (to America)," she said.

The National Parks' aggressive actions have spawned significant criticism in western states. Governors in park-rich states such as Arizona have been thwarted in their efforts to fund partial reopenings of parks. The Washington Times quoted an unnamed Park Service official who said park law enforcement personnel were instructed to "make life as difficult for people as we can. It's disgusting."

The experience brought up many feelings in Vaillancourt. What struck her most was a widely circulated story about a group of World War II veterans who were on a trip to Washington, D.C., to see the World War II memorial when the shutdown began. The memorial was barricaded and guards were posted, but the vets pushed their way in.

That reminded her of her father, a World War II veteran who spent three years in a Japanese prisoner of war camp.

"My father took a lot of crap from the Japanese," she recalled, her eyes welling with tears. "Every day they made him bow to the Japanese flag. But he stood up to them.

"He always said to stand up for what you believe in, and don't let them push you around," she said, adding she was sad to see "fear, guns and control" turned on citizens in her own country.

- See more at: <http://www.eagletribune.com/local/x1442580353/Gestapo-tactics-meet-senior-citizens-at-Yellowstone#sthash.ssfmVoxa.dpuf>

--  
Grace Stephens  
Special Assistant to the Comptroller

(202) 208-4228

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---

## Re: shutdown photo of gate?

1 message

---

**Suzanne Waldron** <sue\_waldron@nps.gov>

Tue, Oct 1, 2013 at 2:23 PM

To: "Nash, Al" <al\_nash@nps.gov>, Kate Kelly <Kate\_Kelly@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Dan Wenk <Dan\_Wenk@nps.gov>

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 1, 2013, at 4:22 PM, "Nash, Al" <al\_nash@nps.gov> wrote:

Sue:

My flurry of phone calls has finally become a trickle.

I'm not the greatest photog... but I'll go down to the North Entrance and take a few shots and send you something in 45 minutes or so.

Al Nash  
Public Affairs Officer  
Yellowstone National Park  
Work 307-344-2010

On Tue, Oct 1, 2013 at 1:49 PM, Waldron, Suzanne <sue\_waldron@nps.gov> wrote:  
dan did you come up with one?

--

Sue Waldron  
Assistant Director, Communications  
National Park Service  
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Wenk, Dan <Dan\_Wenk@nps.gov>

---

## shutdown photo of gate?

1 photo(s)

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Tue, Oct 1, 2013 at 1:49 PM

To: Dan Wenk <Dan\_Wenk@nps.gov>, Al Nash <al\_nash@nps.gov>

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Waldron, Suzanne

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**Re: Talking Points - 3rd Draft**

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**Suzanne Waldron** <sue\_waldron@nps.gov>  
To: Dan Wenk <dan\_wenk@nps.gov>

Mon, Sep 30, 2013 at 6:24 PM

Toes?

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 30, 2013, at 8:08 PM, Dan Wenk &lt;dan\_wenk@nps.gov&gt; wrote:

Toes are nps permits

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 30, 2013, at 5:12 PM, "Waldron, Suzanne" &lt;sue\_waldron@nps.gov&gt; wrote:

was that from the concessioners (people staying in hotels/receptions in hotels etc) or the park's list of permits?

On Mon, Sep 30, 2013 at 7:03 PM, Dan Wenk &lt;dan\_wenk@nps.gov&gt; wrote:

On,y wedding scheduled in October is My daughter. Lots of other special use permits, school groups etc. let me know.

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 30, 2013, at 4:08 PM, "Waldron, Suzanne" &lt;sue\_waldron@nps.gov&gt; wrote:

i tend to agree as well - you will still have visitors i the park who are the overnite folks

On Mon, Sep 30, 2013 at 6:06 PM, Dan Wenk &lt;dan\_wenk@nps.gov&gt; wrote:

So have you been asked my question yet? Which is. Should we allow media into the park tomorrow to film, interview visitors, whatever? As typically we would only allow media into areas we are allowing the public? And we ain't allowing the public in starting tomorrow morning. They would call it news. I tend to agree.

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 30, 2013, at 3:58 PM, "Waldron, Suzanne" &lt;sue\_waldron@nps.gov&gt; wrote:

thanks - you can probably be the poster park for the shut down

On Mon, Sep 30, 2013 at 5:55 PM, Dan Wenk <dan\_wenk@nps.gov> wrote:

Tomorrow morning I'll have 5 of them.

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 30, 2013, at 3:54 PM, "Waldron, Suzanne" <sue\_waldron@nps.gov> wrote:

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"Tim Fullerton is requesting a photo of an iconic park's gate shut (with a closed sign)."

On Mon, Sep 30, 2013 at 5:51 PM, Dan Wenk <dan\_wenk@nps.gov> wrote:

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Sent from my iPad

On Sep 30, 2013, at 2:44 PM, Suzanne Waldron <sue\_waldron@nps.gov> wrote:

> Can you send me a better pic of the bear leaving Yellowstone

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

> On Sep 30, 2013, at 4:32 PM, Dan Wenk <dan\_wenk@nps.gov> wrote:

>

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recreational visits  
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second week of  
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recreational visits for the entire  
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made 29,000 contacts at visitor  
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over 36, 000 the second week of  
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 >> <Talking Points.pdf>

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## Fwd: Fink is back

---

**Waldron, Suzanne** <sue\_waldron@nps.gov>

Mon, Sep 30, 2013 at 5:24 PM

To: Jon Jarvis <Jon\_Jarvis@nps.gov>, Peggy O'Dell <Peggy\_O'Dell@nps.gov>, Maureen Foster <Maureen\_Foster@nps.gov>, Bruce Sheaffer <Bruce\_Sheaffer@nps.gov>, Dan Wenk <Dan\_Wenk@nps.gov>  
Cc: Mike Litterst <Mike\_Litterst@nps.gov>, Jody Lyle <jody\_lyle@nps.gov>

he's baaaack!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jody Lyle** <jlyledc@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 30, 2013 at 7:15 PM

Subject: Fink is back

To: sue\_waldron@nps.gov, mike\_litterst@nps.gov

OMG, I can't believe you were just telling me about this guy this morning. He's made a video that he posted on YouTube encouraging employees to work during the shutdown. It already has 424 views. Someone posted it on diginterp and people don't seem to be taking the bait.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yUmTCEjMQIA>

--  
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Wenk, Dan <dan\_wenk@nps.gov>

## Re: Talking Points - 3rd Draft

10/31/13

Waldron, Suzanne <sue\_waldron@nps.gov>

Mon, Sep 30, 2013 at 5:12 PM

To: Dan Wenk <dan\_wenk@nps.gov>

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Sent from my iPad

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Print this message

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**Re: Talking Points - 3rd Draft**

message

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Wenk, Dan &lt;dan\_wenk@nps.gov&gt;

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**Re: Talking Points - 3rd Draft**

1 message

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So have you been asked my question yet? Which is. Should we allow media into the park tomorrow to film, interview visitors, whatever? As typically we would only allow media into areas we are allowing the public? And we ain't allowing the public in starting tomorrow morning. They would call it news. I tend to agree.

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 30, 2013, at 3:58 PM, "Waldron, Suzanne" <sue\_waldron@nps.gov> wrote:

thanks - you can porbably be the poster park for the shut down

On Mon, Sep 30, 2013 at 5:55 PM, Dan Wenk <dan\_wenk@nps.gov> wrote:

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>> <Talking Points.pdf>

--  
Sue Waldron  
Assistant Director, Communications  
National Park Service  
(202) 208-3046

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Mark Dan Wenk <dan\_wenk@nps.gov>

## Re: Talking Points - 3rd Draft

in message

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Mark Dan Wenk <dan\_wenk@nps.gov>

## Re: Talking Points - 3rd Draft

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to: Dan Wenk <dan\_wenk@nps.gov>

## Re: Talking Points - 3rd Draft

1 message

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[Jonathan.B.Jarvis@nps.gov](mailto:Jonathan.B.Jarvis@nps.gov)

---

## Potential Shutdown of the Federal Government

[View this page](#)**Director, NPS** <nps\_director@nps.gov>

Mon, Sep 30, 2013 at 1:17 PM

Bcc: nps\_all\_employees@nps.gov

September 30, 2013

### Memorandum

**To:** All Employees  
**From:** Director /s/ Jonathan B. Jarvis  
**Subject:** Potential Shutdown of the Federal Government

While I remain hopeful that a government shutdown at midnight tonight will be avoided, I want you to know that we are prepared in case it happens.

The National Park Service's shutdown contingency plan is posted on [www.DOI.gov/shutdown](http://www.DOI.gov/shutdown) which is also where you should check for any updates during a shutdown. This plan, the guidance that has been posted on InsideNPS, and the information that you have received directly from your supervisor explain how a shutdown will affect our work. I also encourage you to watch Secretary Jewell's video message to all employees that was posted last Friday. If you have any questions, please ask your supervisor for a clarification.

A shutdown means that most of our fellow employees will be furloughed for the duration. A small number of employees have been "excepted" from this furlough to secure parks and provide law enforcement, emergency services, firefighting, and other vital services. By now employees should have been notified by their supervisors as to whether they are excepted or not excepted.

And if there is one thing that I ask you to understand – in a completely incomprehensible situation – it is that each and every one of you does important work. Being excepted or unexcepted has nothing to do with your value to this organization or our critical mission.

In the event of a shutdown, employees should report to work on October 1 (unless you have received other direction from your supervisor) to conduct shutdown activities. Employees will have up to four hours to complete timesheets, secure property and files, receive and acknowledge a furlough letter, update voicemail and leave an out-of-office message on email and other activities directed by your supervisor.

I know that these are difficult times. A shutdown will disrupt our work and the lives of those who count on us – national park visitors who come to us for world-class educational and recreational experiences and communities across the country who rely on us for help to preserve their history and create healthy outdoor activities for their neighbors. It will also disrupt your lives and that of your families and for that I am sorry.

You are the backbone of this organization. Your dedication to our mission is unquestioned and unrivaled. It is an honor to work with you. And I promise that we will get through this and return to work to serve the American people as we have for nearly 100 years.



Work from home: [nps.gov](http://nps.gov)

## Fwd: URGENT - NPS shutdown plan is now online and parks are free to discuss their plans

1 message

Waldron, Suzanne <sue\_waldron@nps.gov>

Fri, Sep 27, 2013 at 12:57 PM

To: NPS NLC <nps\_nlc@nps.gov>, Lisa Mendelson <lisa\_mendelson-ielmini@nps.gov>

Cc: Mike Litterst <Mike\_Litterst@nps.gov>

All: following up the NLC call of yesterday - the communications guidance below has just been shared with the regional pios for distribution to all parks. **RDs:** We would appreciate any assistance you can give to ensure that happens.

We have created an InsideNPS page with additional guidance; additions and updates will be made as appropriate.

Sue

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Litterst, Michael** <mike\_litterst@nps.gov>

Date: Fri, Sep 27, 2013 at 2:43 PM

Subject: URGENT - NPS shutdown plan is now online and parks are free to discuss their plans

To: Jane Ahern <jane\_ahern@nps.gov>, Megan Nortrup <megan\_nortrup@nps.gov>, William Reynolds <william\_f\_reynolds@nps.gov>, Patricia Rooney <patty\_rooney@nps.gov>, James Doyle <james\_doyle@nps.gov>, Rick Frost <rick\_frost@nps.gov>, Stephanie Burkhart <stephanie\_burkhart@nps.gov>, Craig Dalby <craig\_dalby@nps.gov>, John Quinley <john\_quinley@nps.gov>

Cc: Sue Waldron <sue\_waldron@nps.gov>, Jeffrey Olson <jeffrey\_olson@nps.gov>

**NOTE: Please forward this e-mail to your park contacts immediately and copy me.**

The National Park Service shutdown plan is now posted online at: <http://www.doi.gov/shutdown/index.cfm>.

Parks may now respond to inquiries about from the public and the media about how the plan will impact their specific operation (e.g. - that the park will close in the event of a government shutdown, how many employees will be furloughed, how many are excepted, etc.).

While you may respond to media inquiries, there are to be no proactive media efforts (issuing press releases or statements, or reaching out to local media). If that changes, we have a template press release for parks to use that we will make available.

All national media inquiries are to be referred to the Washington communications office (202-206-6843; [mike\\_litterst@nps.gov](mailto:mike_litterst@nps.gov)).

NPS guidance documents are available on InsideNPS at:

<http://inside.nps.gov/waso/custommenu.cfm?lv=2&prg=27&id=11314>

Documents include FAQs, guidance for media inquiries, verbiage for signage and out-of-office messaging in the event of a shutdown, and more. Use of the messaging information contained in these documents is mandatory; it is important that the entire National Park Service speak in a unified voice on this issue.

Following is some specific guidance we have received from the Department that may be of use in responding to inquiries:

- We strongly believe that a lapse in appropriations should not occur and there is enough time for Congress to act. However, we are taking prudent steps to plan.
- The DOI website at: <http://www.doi.gov/shutdown>. This will be the best place to point reporters, the public, and other stakeholders for the latest information.
- Should a lapse in appropriations occur, all bureau websites will be re-directed to <http://www.doi.gov>.
- IF ASKED: Once the contingency plans are posted online, bureaus can answer factual questions from reporters regarding items that are in your contingency plans. This includes local parks, refuges, and other folks in the field answering specific questions about how the asset will be impacted.
- ***Please do not editorialize or offer opinions on the lapse in appropriation and simply stick to the facts.***
- If asked regarding government-wide impacts or any other policy related question (ie What are you doing to prevent a lapse in appropriation?), bureaus should refer reporters either to Jessica Kershaw w/ OCO or directly to the OMB
- Bureaus are **not** to put out proactive press releases regarding impacts of a potential lapse in appropriations at this time. Should that change, we will be the first to let you know.

This is all subject to change early and often so please stay tuned for additional updated guidance.

Thanks to everyone for your assistance and patience over the last several days in what has been (and will continue to be) a rapidly evolving situation. If you have any questions, of course please feel free to get in touch.

Mike

~~~~~  
Mike Litterst  
Chief Spokesperson (acting)

National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240  
Ph: (202) 513-0354  
Cell: (202) 306-4166

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10/31/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fwd: URGENT - NPS shutdown plan is now online and parks are free to discuss their plans

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[Back to Mail Management](#)

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## NLC Conference Call, September 26, 2013

1 PAGE

---

**Foster, Maureen** <maureen\_foster@nps.gov>  
To: NPS NLC <nps\_nlc@nps.gov>  
Cc: NPS NLC Assistants <nps\_nlc\_assistants@nps.gov>

Wed, Sep 25, 2013 at 5:36 PM

All:

Reminder about the call.

Thursday, September 26, 2013  
4:30 - 6:30 p.m. (Eastern time)

Topics:  
Potential Shutdown  
NPS Centennial

Principals only, please; no substitutes.

We will be using both the conference call number and webex.

Call in information:

Call-in number: 866-767-0316  
Passcode: 9312232

WebEx information:  
(if you have any questions, please work with your IT staff)

Below is the WebEx info for the call. To ensure everyone is able access the meeting, please test the software prior to the call (**bold link below**) and log in 5-10 mins before the meeting begins. The first 30 minutes will be on the potential shutdown (and we will not be using the WebEx). We will spend the remainder of the call on the Centennial and use the WebEx.

---

### Meeting information

---

Topic: NLC Presentation 9.26.13  
Date: Thursday, September 26, 2013  
Time: 5:00 pm, Eastern Daylight Time (New York, GMT-04:00)  
Meeting Number: 277 511 049  
Meeting Password: (This meeting does not require a password.)

---

To start or join the online meeting

---

Go to <https://premconf.webex.com/premconf/j.php?ED=31328768&UID=494883242&RT=MiMxMQ%3D%3D>

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For assistance

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1. Go to <https://premconf.webex.com/premconf/mc>

2. On the left navigation bar, click "Support".

To add this meeting to your calendar program (for example Microsoft Outlook), click this link:

[https://premconf.webex.com/premconf/j.php?ED=31328768&](https://premconf.webex.com/premconf/j.php?ED=31328768&UID=494883242&ICS=MS&LD=1&RD=2&ST=1&SHA2=9FmqrfDWp0IVTYG9Y7CgJ5tZthA2cZszZ2m8FXoDcco=)

[UID=494883242&ICS=MS&LD=1&RD=2&ST=1&SHA2=9FmqrfDWp0IVTYG9Y7CgJ5tZthA2cZszZ2m8FXoDcco=](https://premconf.webex.com/premconf/j.php?ED=31328768&UID=494883242&ICS=MS&LD=1&RD=2&ST=1&SHA2=9FmqrfDWp0IVTYG9Y7CgJ5tZthA2cZszZ2m8FXoDcco=)

To check whether you have the appropriate players installed for UCF (Universal Communications Format) rich media files, go to <https://premconf.webex.com/premconf/systemdiagnosis.php>.

<http://www.webex.com>

---

Maureen D. Foster

Chief of Staff

National Park Service

1849 C Street, NW, Room 3114

Washington, DC 20240

202.208.5970 (direct)

202.208.3818 (main)

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Work Day 9/13/13 9:38 AM

## FY 13 closeout notes

**Sheaffer, Bruce** <bruce\_sheaffer@nps.gov>

Fri, Sep 13, 2013 at 9:38 AM

To: NPS NLC <nps\_nlc@nps.gov>, NPS NLC Assistants <nps\_nlc\_assistants@nps.gov>, Stan Austin <stan\_austin@nps.gov>, Laura Joss <laura\_joss@nps.gov>, Teresa Chambers <Teresa\_Chambers@nps.gov>  
Cc: Jennifer Madello <jennifer\_madello@nps.gov>, Jennifer Greatorex <jennifer\_greatorex@nps.gov>, Beverly Stephens <grace\_stephens@nps.gov>, Larry Poe <Larry\_Poe@nps.gov>, John Spernoga <john\_spernoga@nps.gov>

We are approaching the end of our first year on FBMS facing many challenges, far more than in previous years.

We have learned a great deal about this demanding and at times flawed system. Your finance, contracting, purchasing, property and budget folks have done an extraordinary job of managing through the year, but now face the always difficult task of closing with the added complication of correcting errors made in the course of the year while learning.

Jennifer Greatorex, Jennifer Madello, Eric Stone, Allison Willocks, Tim Bailey, John Spernoga and many others in AOC and WASO budget have been exceptional in guiding your staff throughout the year. They will do the same during the close out of FY 2013 and the transition to FY 2014. In August, many of your key staff traveled to DC to participate in mock closeout exercises, and at the end of September, many will be returning to be part of a coordinated year-end closing effort.

Regional staff will have until 7 pm on September 27th to complete FY 2013 year-end entries. From now until then, your staff will be working on several critical items including - posting accruals, moving charges and revenues out of invalid and expired accounts, entering fleet utilization, correcting overcharges in accounts including reimbursable, and moving charge card transactions to appropriate accounts. These are not small tasks or small issues. FBMS requires that they be done before we can close FY 2013 and pass audit. Your staff is aware of the importance of this effort, but it is advised that each of you to check on progress as well.

In addition to extending appreciation to your staff, please be prepared to face some of the same issues that were encountered at the start of last year when NPS moved to FBMS. The Bureau of Reclamation is initiating FBMS operations in FY 2014, again requiring a blackout period. The blackout period for FY 2014 transactions is scheduled to last until October 21, at which point AOC will begin processing all pending payments. Encourage your staff to prepare and submit all invoices to AOC by the this date so we can immediately begin making payments. Maximize the use of charge cards, including utility payments when accepted by the company.

Yet another new system we must adopt - You were notified in an August 28 memo from DOI that we will be moving to a new travel provider, Concur, on or around October 8, 2013. You have been notified regarding availability of training. There is a lot of work still being done to ensure the migration of data and that the new system will meet the requirements for operational use. All current TAs must be created and approved in GovTrip by 6 PM EST September 19, 2013. You will be able to continue to enter and process vouchers for completed travel in GovTrip, but those vouchers must be approved in GovTrip by 6PM EST on September 20, 2013.

In order to facilitate the migration from the GovTrip travel management system to Concur Government Edition (CGE), there will be a blackout period for processing new travel authorizations (TAs) electronically. From September 19, 2013, until the time when CGE goes live, all travel documents must be processed manually. Your Office Travel Leads should be aware of the details, and should be encouraged to ask questions. To book new travel during the blackout, travel arrangers or employees should contact Duluth Travel Incorporated at (855) 847-6398. Keep this number handy. I am sure you will need it.

There you go. The only thing standing in our way is a massive effort to navigate through uncharted waters with the looming possibility of a government-wide shutdown and another sequester. I am sure we have faced worse. I

just can't remember when...

Sheaffer

—

C. Bruce Sheaffer  
Comptroller  
National Park Service  
202-208-4566  
bruce\_sheaffer@nps.gov