

Amendment to National Park System Closure Determination and Notice

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 1.5, effective at 12:01 a.m. on October 1, 2013, all units of the National Park System nationwide were closed to public visitation and use, subject to the conditions and exceptions described in the Director's October 1, 2013 Closure Determination and Notice (Closure Notice). That national closure was necessitated by a lapse in funds appropriated by the United States Congress for the operation of the National Park System. Under the provisions of the Antideficiency Act (Act), in the absence of an appropriation the National Park Service (NPS) is able to undertake only very limited activities, primarily related to emergencies. Given time constraints, NPS could not review each of the thousands of established contracts, permits and agreements prior to the lapse, and took the most prudent course of action to minimize the possibility of obligating funds in the absence of appropriations.

Consistent with its regulations and the terms of the applicable agreements, the Closure Notice suspended special use permits, concessions, commercial use authorizations and other partner agreements to ensure that a violation of the Act would not occur. The shutdown of the Government and the National Parks has created significant hardships for many persons and organizations, including the partner organizations which operate facilities under concession contracts and other agreements. Because a limited number of those partner organizations may be able to resume operation of such facilities within the scope of their existing written authorizations, at least in the short term, without requiring an obligation or expenditure of funds by NPS, the Closure Notice is hereby amended as follows:

14. The Director of the National Park Service will make a determination, on a case-by-case basis, whether a commercial, concession, and/or partnership facility may be re-opened during the government shutdown. The October 1 National Closure determination is not final agency action as to such partner organization until the Director has made a determination in accordance with the process and criteria described below:

- A. A written request for reconsideration must be submitted by the facility operator or its legal representative to Business_Services@nps.gov.
- B. The facility or area is accessible from private land or a road that is currently open. This may be a state or park through road that remains open to the public in accordance with the NPS Closure Notice, e.g. a "through road."
- C. The facility and/or area is self-contained and visitors do not require access to or the use of closed National Park lands or facilities
- D. Re-opening of the facility will not require NPS to obligate or expend any funds in violation of the Antideficiency Act.
- E. The operator of the facility confirms in writing that its existing agreement requires it to indemnify NPS and the United States for any liabilities that may be incurred as a result of its operations during the government shutdown.

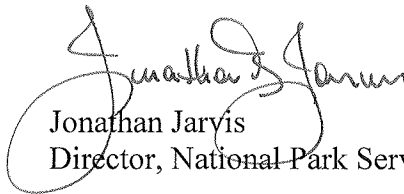
These decisions will be made solely by the Director, will not be delegated, and will constitute final agency actions.

Any decision by the Director to reopen such a facility during the shutdown is contingent on his finding that the facility could operate without NPS incurring any expenditure or obligation in violation of the Antideficiency Act during this shutdown period, currently

framed for this purpose from the present until October 30. In reviewing the request, the NPS may ask the requester to provide copies of relevant agreements and an explanation why in the opinion of the requester the reopening the facility would not cause NPS to be expending or obligating funds in violation of the Antideficiency Act.

If an individual facility, or various facilities on a cumulative basis, would likely cause such expenditures or obligations to be made, NPS would have to require partner organizations to again suspend operations. Therefore this interim policy is intended to be used sparingly and each decision will be made in consideration of its NPS-wide implications.

Notification: Notification of the decision to allow or deny a facility to re-open will be conveyed in writing (including by email), and documentation supporting each decision will be assembled for an administrative record. Specific provisions may be attached to each decision to re-open, but at a minimum, each operator must agree to inform the visitors using their facility that the National Park remains closed to public use with the exception of the immediate environs subject to the control of the partner under its existing agreement with NPS.


Jonathan Jarvis
Director, National Park Service

Date 10/11/2013