



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

***Everglades and
Dry Tortugas
National Parks***

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Everglades and Dry Tortugas News Release

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

For Immediate Release

Date: March 31, 2014

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Shawn Benge Appointed Acting Superintendent, Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks

HOMESTEAD, FL –Shawn Benge has been appointed the acting Superintendent for both Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks effective March 31 2014. Shawn will be on a 90 day assignment to fill the position held by retiring Superintendent Dan Kimball for the past ten years.

Benge has 26 years of experience with the National Park Service and comes to south Florida from Atlanta where he is the Deputy Regional Director responsible for operations and providing leadership to the Gulf Coast Cluster of national parks. Shawn was the primary agency official responsible for managing NPS oil spill response activities associated with Deepwater Horizon.



A native of Seymour, Texas, Benge graduated from Texas Tech University with a bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture. He began his career with the NPS at Big Bend National Park in Texas as a Landscape Architect. In 1991 he became a Project Supervisor at the NPS's Denver Service Center, its main park planning, design and development facility.

Benge later became a Park Planner/Landscape Architect for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and, in 2000, he was promoted to Deputy Chief of Facility Management. In 2002, he was promoted to Facility Manager for the park.

While at the "Great Smokies" Benge managed a workforce of more than a hundred people who maintain the park's roads, trails, historic properties, and visitor facilities. He also managed planning and decision-making processes that addressed and resolved a variety of complex issues affecting the future of park resources and visitor use.

"It's both a great honor and tremendous responsibility to be acting superintendent of two very different and important national parks in the southeast region. Each of these parks have significant natural and cultural resources." Benge said. "I'm looking forward to working with the parks' dedicated staff, our many supporters, park neighbors and partner organizations to further public appreciation and long-term preservation of these special places."

-NPS-

WHO: Shawn Benge

WHAT: Acting Superintendent Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks

WHEN: March 31 – June 2014

WHERE: Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks Headquarters, 4001 SR 9336, Homestead, FL 33034

This and other park releases are available at www.nps.gov/ever/parknews/newsreleases.

More information on Everglades National Park can be found on the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/ever>

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About the National Park Service: More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 401 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov.