

Stephen T. Mather Training Center

Interdisciplinary Resource Protection and Law

This forty-hour interdisciplinary course provides employees with a solid understanding of the resource mission of the NPS and the primary laws, legal authorities, case law interpretation, and policies used to protect park resources. Participants will also receive instruction in the functions and roles that contribute to effective interdisciplinary group work and practice these skills through resource protection case studies.

Training focuses on the ability of the employee to recognize a diversity of natural and cultural resources existing throughout the national park system and the types of threats and vulnerabilities associated with these resources. Participants utilize the legal basis (including compliance) for resource protection and develop skills and strategies to respond and take action to prevent resource injuries through interdisciplinary collaboration. Methods for implementing resource protection, visitor education, and visitor management techniques are explored. Participants will leave this training with the basic level knowledge required to apply legal authorities to safeguard natural and cultural resources, an understanding of the broad range of threats to park resources, and strategies to recognize, respond, and take action to resource impacts. Participants will gain experience using interdisciplinary group processes to ensure effective collaboration among NPS staff, partners and the public. **Participants will be required to complete pre- and post course work to receive full credit for the course.** Part of the post-course work will include developing an outline of a response plan SOP for a resource injury. Law enforcement refresher credit hours are available (28.5 hours) for this class.

Course Objectives:

Develop a comprehensive knowledge of the environmental and legal framework that safeguards natural and cultural resources in the National Park System.

- Develop a working knowledge of the environmental and legal framework that safeguards natural and cultural resources in the National Park System.
- Recognize that knowledge of park resources is central to each employee's duty of protecting those resources.
- Understand that resource protection, prevention, and visitor education are important components of taking action to ensure resources are protected in park unit daily operations.
- Demonstrate group processes to ensure effective interdisciplinary and cooperative actions among NPS staff, partners, and the public.
- Use an integrated approach to identify threats to park resources for the purpose of ensuring that resource injuries are correctly acted upon.

Participants: This course is recommended for **commissioned employees, interpreters in resource education and public information, resource management discipline specialists, and facility management employees** who will work in interdisciplinary teams. Other disciplines are encouraged to apply. Law enforcement refresher credit hours are available (28.5 hours) for this class. Class size is a maximum of 32 participants.

Dates: Tentatively planned for summer 2014

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