



Interagency Working Group for Visitor Safety on Federal Lands and Waterways

Charter

This charter establishes the authorities for, the organizational structure of and the guidelines for the Interagency Working Group for Visitor Safety on Federal Lands and Waterways.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this working group is to provide a forum for representatives of Federal agencies with an interest in injury prevention and the management of Federal recreational lands and waterways throughout the United States to identify collaborative opportunities to enhance their efforts to prevent injury, illness, and property damage to the visiting public who recreate on Federal lands and waterways.

BACKGROUND:

The Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Bureau Land Management, the National Park Service, the United States Forest Service, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the United States Coast Guard, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, share a common responsibility within the Federal government for protecting the natural environment and resources, under their specified authorities, and providing varying levels of services to the public who visit these public lands and waterways. Given the inherent risk of outdoor environments and the risks of activities in which visitors engage when they recreate in these areas, visitor safety is a principle concern for managers of these public spaces. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through its Division of Unintentional Injury Prevention in CDC's Injury Center monitors trends in unintentional injuries in the United States, conducts research to better understand risk factors, and evaluates interventions to prevent these injuries. Input and expertise from the CDC on this working group will enhance the efforts of the Federal land and water management agencies to prevent injuries among visitors to recreational areas.

FUNCTION:

The Interagency Working Group for Visitor Safety on Federal Lands and Waterways (hereafter Visitor Safety Working Group) has a shared interest in advancing efforts to prevent injury, illness, and property damage related to recreational activity on Federal lands and public waterways. The objectives of this working group are to:

1. Identify opportunities to share data, tools and other resources among these Federal entities that will enhance safety for the public who visit these natural environments.
2. When beneficial and appropriate, align and standardize policies, tools, data collection methods, training, etc to achieve consistent visitor injury prevention strategies among agencies.
3. Identify opportunities to achieve consistency and reciprocity between Federal and state policies, regulations, and laws for recreation on federal lands and waterways.
4. Share information about newly identified or recreational hazards that may impact interagency working group partners.
5. Share best practices or proven effective strategies for both assessing and mitigating hazards.

6. Strategize solutions for addressing common safety problems.
7. Share training opportunities among agencies.
8. Identify opportunities for partnering on specific safety initiatives or safety campaigns.
9. Conduct collaborative research, evaluation or other data gathering for the purpose of enhancing understanding of the visitor safety problems and to improve intervention strategies to prevent or mitigate injury and illness.

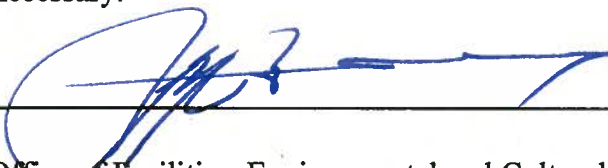
STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION:

The working group shall consist of voting members. Each agency will have one vote. Member agencies can be represented by one or more agency representatives. The Visitor Safety Working Group shall be permanently chaired by the National Park Service. A Vice-Chair will serve with the Chair and will be represented by another voting member agency. The Vice-Chair may rotate every two years to a different agency representative. The Visitor Safety Working Group may establish interagency subgroups composed of Federal officials with appropriate subject matter expertise, as needed. Non-voting subject matter experts may be brought in as needed and appropriate to participate on subgroups.

DURATION:

It is anticipated that this Interagency Working Group will serve indefinitely, though membership will change over time and at prescribed intervals unless otherwise directed by the undersigned or designated representative.

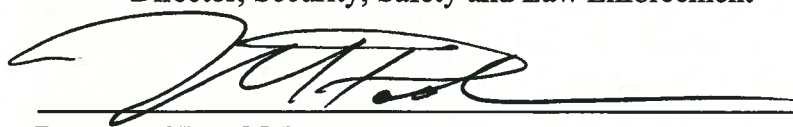
The following agencies shall be represented on the working group. The signee will designate an appropriate representative as necessary.



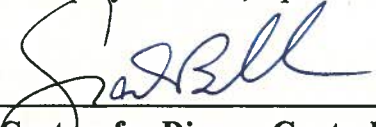
Indian Affairs 11/29/10
 Director, Office of Facilities, Environmental and Cultural Resources Date



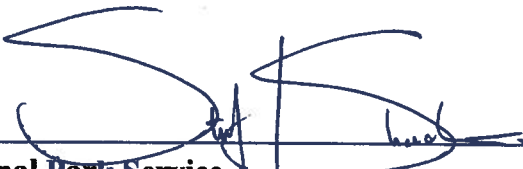
Bureau of Reclamation 12/14/11
 Director, Security, Safety and Law Enforcement Date




Bureau of Land Management 12/17/2010
 Deputy Director, Operations Date




The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 3/23/2011
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Date
 Director, Division of Unintentional Injury Prevention




National Park Service 1/28/2011
Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection Date




U.S. Forest Service 1/10/2011
Director, Office of Safety and Occupational Health Date



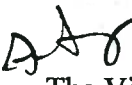
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2/28/2011
Deputy Commanding General, Civil and Emergency Operations Date



U.S. Coast Guard 3/18/2011
Rear Admiral, Director of Prevention Policy Date



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 4/20/2011
Assistant Director – National Wildlife Refuge System Date

 The Visitor Safety Working Group may establish interagency subgroups composed of Federal officials and with input from appropriate subject matter experts, as needed.

ADMINISTRATION:

1. The administration of the Visitor Safety Working Group will reside with the National Park Service, serving as Chair. The Co-Chair for the given fiscal year will serve in place of the Chair when needed and work with the Chair to carry out the administrative functions of the working group.
2. Meeting Frequency: The Visitor Safety Working Group will meet as needed but approximately quarterly.
3. Meeting Structure: Summaries of meetings of the Visitor Safety Working Group will be recorded by the Visitor Safety Working Group administrator and will include, at a minimum, participant lists, old and new business, action items and decisions made. Meeting minutes will be circulated to working group within 10 days of the meeting as "draft" for review and for final approval at the next meeting. All documentation should be dated and marked "For Official Use Only."

TERMINATION:

Unless renewed, terminated, or modified by the working group voting membership prior to its expiration, the charter of the Visitor Safety Working Group shall terminate no later than December 31, 2020.