



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

MAR 28 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski:

Enclosed is a response prepared by the Department to a question for the record submitted following the Committee's March 22, 2018, hearing on "The 2018 Western Water Supply Outlook and Water Infrastructure and Drought Resilience Legislation."

We apologize for the delay in providing the Committee with this information. Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Sincerely,

Christopher P. Salotti
Legislative Counsel
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Joe Manchin
Ranking Member

U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
March 22, 2018 Hearing: *The 2018 Western Water Supply Outlook*
and Water Infrastructure and Drought Resilience Legislation
Question for the Record Submitted to the Honorable Timothy Petty

Question from Senator Mazie K. Hirono

Question: Dr. Petty, as discussed in the hearing, the Department of the Interior has programs that provide funding for partnerships with universities and other non-federal entities to coordinate and conduct research on water-related problems. Can you please provide me with a list of these partnerships that the Department funds within Hawaii and note the ones that you feel are working effectively?

Answer:

The Department helps fund various partnerships in Hawaii, including partnerships with the Center for Cultural and Technical Interchange Between East and West in Hawaii and the University of Hawaii Systems.

Specifically, the USGS Pacific Islands Water Science Center and the National and Regional Climate Adaptation Science Center partner with the Center for Cultural and Technical Interchange Between East and West in Hawaii; and the USGS Water Resource Research Center, the USGS Pacific Islands Ecosystem Research Center, and the National and Regional Climate Adaptation Science Center partner with the University of Hawaii system.



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The Honorable Steve Daines
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Parks
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed are responses to the follow-up questions from the December 12, 2018, legislative hearing before your Subcommittee. These responses were prepared by the National Park Service.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to respond to you on this matter.

Sincerely,

Christopher P. Salotti
Legislative Counsel
Office of Congressional and
Legislative Affairs

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Angus King
Ranking Member

United States Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on National Parks
December 12, 2018 Hearing: Pending Legislation
Questions for the Record Submitted to Mr. P. Daniel Smith

Question from Senator Steve Daines

Question: While I certainly understand the need to provide additional tools to control expanding elk populations in the Point Reyes National Seashore, I also want to ensure that any new management of the herds within the Park Unit is done responsibly and professionally. Can you outline the state and federal safeguards, along with the planning processes, that would take place before any removal of elk takes place and what would be done to ensure any elk relocated from the National Seashore do not pose a risk to native elk populations and other wildlife?

Answer: Point Reyes National Seashore anticipates completion of the General Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in early 2020. Through the EIS, the National Park Service (NPS) is evaluating both translocation and lethal removal methods to meet the population management objectives for tule elk.

If the EIS recommends relocating elk outside the Seashore boundaries, the NPS would work closely with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the California Department of Food and Agriculture to develop rigorous protocols for adequate quarantine and testing. This would include testing tule elk for a variety of diseases and parasites, including Johne's disease which the Seashore elk are known to carry and which could be transmitted to other wildlife populations and/or livestock. If it is not possible to ensure that the elk are healthy, they will not be moved. Lethal removal methods will also be evaluated in the EIS including the best practices for humane reduction of wildlife.

Questions from Senator John Hoeven

Question 1: S. 2395, the Explore America Act, would provide technical assistance to communities and assist gateway communities with cultural and heritage tourism. Could you speak to the NPS' efforts in providing gateway communities with the tools they need to leverage programs like the Preserve America program?

Answer: The NPS supports and participates in wide-ranging partnerships, collaborations, and programs that contribute to successful gateway communities through community assistance programs and resources. The NPS administers over 50 programs that support heritage tourism including grants and financial assistance, property acquisition, recreation planning, and community investment through a network of federal, state, and non-profit partners. For example, the National Park Service works with State Historic Preservation Offices to designate Certified Local Governments (CLGs). These communities make a local commitment to increasing the awareness and protection of cultural resources, and are eligible for Historic Preservation Fund grants, trainings, and technical assistance to support their historic preservation efforts. There are

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over 2,000 CLG communities located in all 50 states and approximately 85% of national park gateway communities are CLGs.

In addition, the NPS, through its social science program, generates information about park visitors - including demographics, travel characteristics, and visitor use patterns - that provide businesses with a better understanding of the recreation marketplace. The NPS is working to ensure this information is available to gateway communities and other tourism stakeholders in a more uniform and systematic manner.

Question 2: How do gateway communities contribute to the tourism experience in our National Park System?

Answer: Gateway communities are integral to the tourism experience in national parks. Park visitors often rely on these communities for essential services including lodging, food and beverage, retail, and small businesses, such as outfitter and guide companies that facilitate park experiences. Based on most recent version of the NPS Visitor Spending Effect Report, visitors to national parks spent an estimated \$18.2 billion in local gateway regions in 2017. This level of economic activity reflects the mutual dependency of parks and communities in facilitating and enhancing recreational access. Park and community transportation systems frequently connect or overlap, with webs of multi-modal transportation systems serving visitors. Gateway communities and parks must also coordinate on a range of tourism-related services, from utilities to emergency response systems. The NPS works closely with gateway communities to plan, develop, and deliver high-quality tourism experiences to national parks.