



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

September 1, 2021

A7221 (2550)

Jeff Ruch
248 3rd Street #311
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Mr. Ruch:

Reference: DOI-NPS-2021-005214

Subject: Response to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated July 26, 2021, in which you requested a copy of any list submitted to Congress, between January 1, 2011, and the present, in accordance with 54 U.S. Code §100502, which states "On January 1 of each year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a list indicating the current status of completion or revision of general management plans for each System Unit".

After searching our files, we have determined that we have no records responsive to your request. It is NPS's understanding that well prior to January 1, 2011, the referenced requirement to annually report to Congress on the completion status of general management plans (GMPs) was eliminated. Its recodification as 54 U.S.C. 100502 in 2014 did not change that status, and the requirement remains obsolete.

Updated NPS planning policy was recently issued through Director's Order #2: Park Planning (DO #2), which affirms that all park units must address all relevant statutory requirements for GMPs and provides a more flexible framework to do so. In the past, GMP requirements were typically met through preparation of a single stand-alone GMP. While this remains an option for parks, DO #2 also allows parks to prepare multiple planning documents (a park planning portfolio) that collectively meet the statutory requirements for GMPs.

The NPS is committed to providing prompt updates to members of Congress and other elected officials on the status of management planning in national parks upon request. Given the updated approach to meeting planning requirements through multiple planning documents, it has proven to be more useful and efficient to provide individual park updates about these documents, rather than a list of limited information covering all NPS park units, as was provided in the past.

Should you consider this NO RECORDS response to be a denial of your request, you have the right to appeal. You may file an appeal by writing to:

Freedom of Information Act Appeals Officer
Office of the Solicitor
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
MS-6556-MIB,
Washington, D.C. 20240
foia.appeals@sol.doi.gov

Your appeal must be received no later than 90 workdays after the date of this final response. The appeal should be marked, both on the envelope and the face of the appeal letter, with the legend "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL." Your appeal should be accompanied by a copy of your original request and copies of all correspondence between yourself and the National Park Service related to this request, along with any information you have which leads you to believe the records are available, including where they might be found, if the location is known to you. Please note, appeals received after 5 p.m. EST will be considered to have been received as of the following day. Appeals submitted via the FOIAonline form will NOT be accepted for processing and will be deleted without further review or communication.

Also as part of the 2007 OPEN Government Act FOIA amendments, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a nonexclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation.

You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)
National Archives and Records Administration
Room 2510
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001

E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Phone: 301-837-1996
Fax: 301-837-0348
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

Additionally, because the National Park Service creates and maintains law enforcement records, we are required by the Department of Justice to provide the following information, even though it may or may not apply to your specific request. Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV 2010). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that we are required to give all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

Please do not hesitate to contact me as the person responsible for processing your request, with any further questions or concerns. I can also be reached via e-mail at npsfoia@nps.gov. Information on the Department of the Interior's FOIA Liaison can be found at <https://www.doi.gov/foia/foiacenters>.

Sincerely,

Charis Wilson
NPS FOIA Officer