



National Park Service

DIRECTOR'S ORDER #53: SPECIAL PARK USES

Approved: /s/ Robert G. Stanton (signed original on file)
Director, National Park Service

Effective Date: April 4, 2000

Sunset Date: April 4, 2004

10.3 Telecommunication Antenna Sites. Director's Order 53A, 'Wireless Telecommunications,' is hereby rescinded and replaced by the applicable provisions of this Director's Order. The NPS will comply with the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and any other policies, requirements, or instructions that are applicable to the Service. In complying, superintendents will:

- Encourage preliminary meetings with telecommunication industry companies who wish to discuss pending or proposed applications for sites in the park to explain park concerns and understand industry timeframes.
- Encourage meetings with the applicants during the post application decision process as necessary, but especially if the manager is considering denying the application. Such meetings should take place prior to written notification of denial.
- Consider the safety of the visiting public when reviewing telecommunication site applications, including the potential benefit of having telephone access to emergency law enforcement and public safety services.
- Ensure that, when an application is submitted, the park replies in writing within 10 business days with an initial response on the application, and that response will be 'yes' (probably a known categorical exclusion requiring very minor additional information to be submitted), 'no' (with reasons in writing), or 'maybe' (with additional information to be submitted).
- Ensure that, to the extent possible, the timeline and detailed steps enumerated in Reference Manual 53 are followed and the permit is issued or denied.
- Ensure that compliance actions and reviews will be conducted expeditiously and consistent with all applicable statutes.

A telecommunication use is considered a utility and, like other utilities on NPS lands, will be authorized using the right-of-way permit process described in Reference Manual 53. *16 USC 5* will be used as the authority to permit telecommunication antenna sites.