

The award notice for the uniform contract is now posted on FBO.

The direct link is: <https://www.fbo.gov/spg/DOI/NPS/APC-IS/P17PS00914/listing.html>

VF Imagewear Inc, the current vendor, was awarded the contract.

There will not be much of a noticeable visual change in the uniform- the traditional ranger uniform, including the ranger hat - will basically look the same except for a slight variation in the shade of green.

The major difference is that the uniform items will be manufactured with textiles and technologies better suited to the environmental demands and working conditions of National Park Service employees. The clothing will fit and feel better since items will be made with performance oriented fabrics that are moisture wicking, breathable, stretchable, and anti-microbial. They will also have other improved characteristics, such as improved fade resistance, greater stain resistance, higher recycled material content, simpler care and cleaning requirements, and UV and insect protection either as a function of garment weave or via applied treatments.

Using a custom shade of green limited the number of available items. The switch from a custom earth green color to a commercially available forest green color increases the variety of available clothing options. An emphasis on the use of commercial off the shelf products also provides better access to performance oriented textiles.

The roll out of the new uniform pieces will take place in stages. Old items will be sold until their supplies are depleted. A group of employees will soon start wear testing new articles and will recommend whether or not adjustments need to be made. The first wave of new uniform items should be available by Spring of 2018. Old uniform pieces will be grandfathered in and can be worn until the end of the life of the garment.