

Writing for *Park Science*

Park Science is a resource management bulletin of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. It reports recent and ongoing natural and social science research, its implications for park planning and management, and its application to resource management. Published by the Natural Resource Information Division of the Natural Resource Program Center, it appears twice annually, usually in summer and fall. (Thematic issues that explore a topic in depth are published occasionally.) It is published in hard copy (ISSN 0735-9462) and on the World Wide Web (ISSN 1090-996) at www.nature.nps.gov/parksci. Semi-technical in nature, *Park Science* is edited for the lay reader.

Emphasis

Park Science articles are easy-to-understand, field-oriented accounts of general interest research and resource management topics. They typically describe the results of scientific research and its application to park planning and management. The table provides a complete list of article types, target lengths, and illustration requirements.

Audience

The principal audience for *Park Science* comprises national park superintendents, resource managers, natural and social science researchers, interpreters, maintenance staff, visitor and resource protection rangers, and other technical and nontechnical personnel of National Park System units. The secondary audience includes other federal agencies; state departments of fish and game, parks and recreation, and natural resources; international parks; private conservation organizations; the academic community; and interested public.

General guidelines

Articles should emphasize the utility of natural or social science research in park planning and management. Moreover, they should describe a scientific process, technique, or development that is of substantial novelty, practicality, or refinement. Research findings should be described in such a way that generalists can grasp their significance and understand their application. Articles should be written primarily in the active voice and in the first person, using nontechnical language; sexist language, provincialism, jargon, and acronyms should be avoided. Measurements should be reported in English units followed by metric in parentheses. Citations should be given in the text using the author-date method followed at the end of the article by a brief reference list giving complete information for the author-date citation. *Park Science* style (including citations) is based on *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th edition.

Article content and organization

Articles should clearly demonstrate the application of science to park resource management. Authors may wish to consider: (1) describing the resource management problem(s) that prompted the need for a scientific investigation for a solution; (2) discussing the complexity and management considerations related to the issue(s), such as relevant legislation (enabling, NEPA, ARPA, Endangered Species Act, etc.), pertinent park planning documents, planning procedures, and political realities; (3) briefly explaining the investigation methodology; (4) sharing the research findings and their implications for park management; (5) describing how findings were applied in the field; (6) detailing costs for materials and staffing related to the research and any resulting resource management field projects; (7) explaining the role of NPS funding, grants, or other sources of non-NPS funds and partners in carrying out the research or resource

management project; (8) briefly appraising the applicability of the findings to other park areas; and (9) acknowledging the study sponsors and participants.

Length

The table addresses the length of manuscripts for various article types.

Author Information

Complete contact information for each author should be included with each manuscript submission: name, position, park area or other affiliation, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address.

Deadlines

Park Science typically has a backlog of articles in the publication queue. Articles are normally published one or two issues after being submitted. Check with the editor about pertinent deadlines as they vary. Upon receipt, all articles are reviewed by the *Park Science* editorial board. Approved articles not published in the upcoming issue will be considered for inclusion in subsequent issues on a space-available basis.

Form of submission

Manuscripts and related illustrations should be e-mailed to the editor as digital file attachments. (Please use multiple e-mails to send file attachments that total more than 10 MB.) Illustrations and text should be saved to separate digital files (i.e., no graphics embedded in the word-processing document). Alternatively, you can mail, fax, or ship (e.g., Fed Ex) a double-spaced, laser-printed manuscript (11-point type) to the editor along with the digital file of the article on a 3½" floppy disk, Zip disk, or CD-ROM.

Review and acceptance

All articles about a park unit should be reviewed and approved by the area manager (superintendent) and the appropriate associate regional director (natural resources) before submission. Articles primarily concerning technical support programs of the Natural Resource Program Center (NRPC) are reviewed and approved by the appropriate NRPC division chief before submission. After submission, the *Park Science* editorial board reviews submissions for final approval. Acceptance for publication is based on peer review and editorial criteria that include article appeal, contribution to the field of resource management, completeness, clarity, scientific soundness, policy considerations, and merit. Accepted manuscripts are edited for grammar and clarity. Authors are contacted if substantive revisions to content are necessary.

Illustrations

Please submit several illustrations that reinforce the article's main points by showing personnel at work, project equipment in use, techniques, locator maps, species portraits, data, etc. Photographs, line art, maps, charts, and technical drawings are all acceptable formats. The table provides further guidance on illustrations.

Captions

Please include a caption for each illustration that describes the relationship of the image to the subject of the article. Consult recent editions of *Park Science* for guidance in preparing captions. Please provide any necessary credits for illustrations and secure and forward copyright permissions as needed.

Format for illustrations

Original color slides are best, but color prints (with negatives, if possible) and black-and-white prints (also with negatives) are also acceptable. Digital photographs are also acceptable, but only the highest-resolution images are reproducible in the print edition. Ideally, digital images will have been made at 300 pixels per inch resolution and saved in TIF format, which does not degrade image quality. (If a digital photo is saved as a JPG, its quality will be degraded noticeably unless it is saved in the camera initially at the highest-quality JPG setting.)

Drawings, such as line art, should be forwarded in their original format or a high-quality photostat or photocopy.

Computer-generated illustrations, such as charts and graphs, should be transmitted in their native file format (e.g., Microsoft Excel), accompanied by an original laser-printed printout (approximately 8" x 10" in size). The data for charts and graphs should also be transmitted so that the illustration can be redrawn in-house, if needed.

Other digital drawings, including GIS maps, should be forwarded in both digital (Adobe EPS format, if possible) and hard-copy (high-quality laser-printed original) formats. GIS maps should be exported in color at 600 pixel-per-inch resolution at a size of approximately 8"x10". Color information should be saved with the file (i.e., not converted to grayscale).

Delivery of illustrations

Digital files can be sent as attachments to e-mail as long as they are less than 10MB in size. Alternatively, they can be forwarded on CD-ROM, Zip disc, or by FTP. (Digital files can be sent as attachments to e-mail as long as they are less than 10MB in size. Alternatively, they can be forwarded on CD-ROM, Zip disc, or by FTP. (NPS authors who wish to transfer files by FTP should contact the editor for instructions on this option.) Overnight or second-day delivery allows tracking of materials. Label the electronic transfer medium with the article title and park name; label illustrations (sticky notes work well) with article title, park name, and placement information (e.g., figure 1). Indicate whether materials should be returned.

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Table 1. Guidelines for contributors to Park Science

Article Type	Description	Length	Illustrations
<i>General</i>	Report of recent or ongoing research or resource management project. Addresses a park or general resource management issue, objectives, methods, results, and management implications, as applicable. Written in lay language with managerial application in mind. Attributed to author.	Up to 2,500 (target=1,500)	3-5, showing staff at work in field, equipment, & focal subject matter
<i>Feature</i>	Science-based articles of broad interest featuring some human-interest twist. Attributed to author.	750-1,500	2-3
<i>Short Article</i>	Subjects of interest to researchers, resource managers, and other park staff on science-based park management. Attributed to author.	750	1-2
<i>Book Review</i>	Commentary by subject area expert on the relevance and applicability of a book to the work of park resource managers and park research partners. Includes synopsis of book, author's credentials, and publication information. Attributed to reviewer.	750-1,500	Send dust jacket for publication with the review
<i>Conference Corner</i>	Reviews and news of recent conferences, symposia, and meetings. Commentary acceptable as it pertains to applicability of sessions to park management problems. Attributed to author.	750-1,500	1-2, illustrating park project or prominent issue discussed at conference
<i>Highlights</i>	Brief reports on contributions of all park operational functions (i.e., resource management, interpretation, law enforcement, facility management, administration) and research to resource preservation goals. Submitted to editor or through designated regional. Attributed to author.	1-5 paragraphs (up to 350 words)	Desirable; photographs preferred

<i>Information Crossfile</i>	Synopses of longer, often scholarly works describing interesting scientific or management-type articles in recent publications and describing location of source material. Editorial comment is acceptable here, where appropriate, pointing out the usefulness of such information in view of certain park problems, for instance. May be attributed.	1-3 paragraphs (target = 200 words)	Optional
<i>Letters to the Editor</i>	Reader's comments about the scientific content or factual nature of information published in <i>Park Science</i> . Edited for brevity, clarity, and tone. Attributed to author of letter. (Article author whose ideas are criticized is invited to respond.)	35-150	Not applicable
<i>MAB Notes</i>	General update on the MAB program of UNESCO or a re-port on specific MAB program developments in a park. Attributed to author.	750-1,500	1-2, showing aspects of program discussed
<i>Meetings of Interest</i>	Calendar detailing dates, locations, and brief synopses of upcoming conferences, symposia, and meetings, including who should attend and how to register. Unattributed.	75-150 words per item	Not applicable
<i>News and Views</i>	Resource management and research news items of national interest and importance. May be attributed.	150-350 words per item	Desirable; photos preferred
<i>Notes from Abroad</i>	Personal accounts of international resource management and research work assignments, assessing the value of the experience to the locales visited and to resource stewardship in the national park system. Attributed to author.	750-1,500	2-4, showing location and focal subject matter
<i>Publications Roundup</i>	Listing of technical or natural resource reports, scientific monographs, and other publications in the previous six months, either by park, region, program office, or by some general environmental category, e.g., riparian, forest, wetlands, etc. Includes author(s), title, date, place of publication, report number, cost of method described, and information for obtaining copies. One sentence explaining the material may also be appropriate. May be attributed.	35-100 words per item	Not applicable