

National Park Service Issues Proposed Rule on Service Animals in National Parks

The National Park Service recently issued a proposed rule concerning admission of service animals onto national park areas that updates regulations which have not been amended since 1983. The changes are meant to ensure that the Park Service rules comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act [which covers federal agencies] and align with the regulations for the Americans with Disabilities Act issued by the Department of Justice [DoJ] in September 2010. Those latter rules limited the definition of service animals to dogs that are "individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual or other mental disability." The DoJ regulations also state that comfort animals do not qualify as service animals. In addition, DoJ extended the definition of service animal to include miniature horses. Certain exceptions were included to provide for animals that are not housebroken or are out of control or if the miniature horse would "fundamentally alter" the program or services provided. Further information available at:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/04/18/2014-08563/areas-of-the-national-park-system-general-provisions-resource-protection-public-use-and-recreation>

This is a proposed rule allowing you to make comments and suggestions. All comments must be submitted by June 17, 2014. Your comments must include the Regulation Identifier Number (RIN) 1024-AE06; and maybe be submitted by the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- Mail to: A.J. North, Regulations Program, National Park Service, 1849 C Street NW.,MS-2355, Washington, DC 20240.