



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

SEP 06 2019

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva:

I hereby transmit the enclosed *Buffalo Soldiers Study*. The study was completed pursuant to Public Law 113-291 (Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015), which directed the Secretary of the Interior and subsequently the National Park Service (NPS) to conduct a study to examine the role of the Buffalo Soldiers in the early years of the national park system and evaluate ways to 1) enhance historical research, education, interpretation, and public awareness of the story of the stewardship role of the Buffalo Soldiers in the national parks, and 2) link the story to the development of national parks and the story of African-American military service following the Civil War.

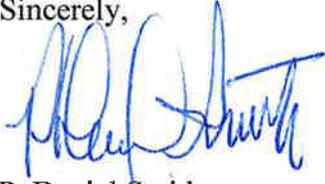
The study identified four priority actions to meet the study goals: 1) developing an online archive; 2) preparing a full historic context and annotated bibliography on the Buffalo Soldiers, including their stewardship of national parks; 3) developing a network program to leverage partnerships and provide support and technical assistance to parks, programs, and sites related to the Buffalo Soldiers; and 4) developing a servicewide Buffalo Soldiers Interpretive and Education Strategy and Toolkit. The study also identified 14 supporting actions, including two actions that may require Congressional authorization, seven actions that could be best organized at a national level by a NPS-wide program or similar, and five actions that could be best organized locally by individual parks.

It may be possible to accomplish some of the actions using the current NPS capacity and funding levels. Given the current deferred maintenance backlog and other budgetary challenges facing the NPS, funding associated with many of the identified actions may need to be found through partnerships or other external sources.

Thank you for your interest in the National Park Service. A similar letter is being sent to the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate; the Honorable Joe Manchin III, Ranking Minority Member, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate; and the Honorable Rob Bishop, Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, U.S. House of Representatives. The Honorable Jackie Speier,

who sponsored the legislation to authorize the study, will also receive a copy of the report and this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Daniel Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "P" and "D".

P. Daniel Smith
Deputy Director
Exercising the Authority of the Director

Enclosure



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The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman, Committee on Energy
and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski:

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P. Daniel Smith
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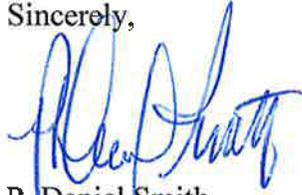
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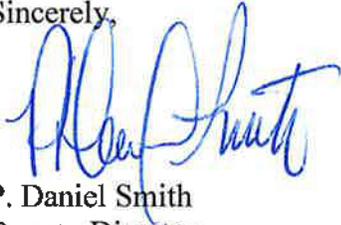
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