

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

May 10, 2018

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

I am writing about the Department of the Interior's (DOI) planned deployment of U.S. Park Police personnel to assist the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) with patrolling the U.S.-Mexico border. According to guidance issued by the U.S. Park Police Planning Unit, officers will be deployed to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Arizona and Amistad National Recreation Area in Texas to help, "stop illegal border crossing." Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument is in my district, and it is disappointing that I had to learn about this peculiar deployment in the newspaper.¹

The mission of the U.S. Park Police is to, "support and further the mission and goals of the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service by providing quality law enforcement to safeguard lives, protect our national treasures and symbols of democracy, and preserve the natural and cultural resources entrusted to us."² Patrolling the border and enforcing immigration law does not fall within the scope of this mission statement, and I am concerned this planned deployment will hinder current law enforcement activities across the National Park System.

To assist with my understanding and oversight duty as Ranking Member of the House Committee on Natural Resources, please provide answers to the following questions:

1. How much will this deployment cost?
2. Did DHS ask for additional assistance with U.S. Customs and Border Patrol enforcement objectives along the border? If so, how did the DOI coordinate with DHS to determine the appropriate personnel to deploy?

¹ Green, Miranda. "Interior sending officers to assist patrolling the US, Mexico border" *The Hill* 7, May 2018.

² Available online: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/uspp/mission-statement.htm>

3. What specific activity will be conducted by U.S. Park Police? Will NPS personnel be responsible for arresting, detaining or holding individuals? If so, please describe the relevant training that prepares U.S. Park Police to, "stop illegal border crossing."
4. Of the various National Park Service assets on the U.S. border with Mexico, how were these two sites selected?
5. The U.S. Park Police is traditionally located in three urban areas: San Francisco, New York, and Washington D.C. How will this deployment impact law enforcement personnel in these locations? How will the deployment impact law enforcement capabilities at other national parks?
6. You stated that this deployment is, "the first of many steps Interior will take to secure the homeland."³ What other steps does DOI plan to take?

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources

³ Green, 2018.