



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

MAY 18 2018

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

Dear Representative Grijalva:

Thank you for your letter of May 10, 2018, to Secretary Zinke regarding the deployment of U.S. Park Police officers to secure southern border lands in Texas and Arizona, specifically at Amistad National Recreation Area and Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. The Secretary has asked me to respond on his behalf.

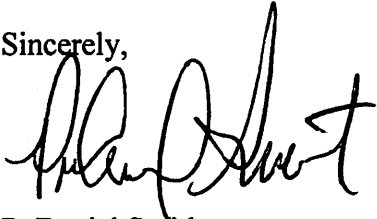
As you know, both President Trump and Secretary Zinke have made it a high priority to protect our borders. Several weeks ago, Secretary Zinke visited Department of the Interior lands along the southern border and met with Department of Homeland Security and National Park Service personnel first-hand to assess the problems. Secretary Zinke has now directed the National Park Service to support the President's agenda to protect the border by increasing law enforcement staffing on targeted lands within the National Park Service's jurisdiction. The deployment has already demonstrated success.

The U.S. Park Police and other National Park Service Law Enforcement staff, will patrol these lands doing precisely what you articulated in your letter, "... 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..." I believe that our U.S. Park Police officers will be accomplishing this mission during their assignment on National Park Service lands along the border.

Our officers are trained for deployments like this, and they participated in similar deployments to our Indian Reservations during the Obama administration. As with other specialized assignments, deployed staff are receiving specialized training when they begin their assignment on site. Given the national priority placed on protecting our border by both President Trump and Secretary Zinke, the National Park Service is poised to manage any fiscal, logistical and staffing issues associated with this deployment and keep people safe and resources protected both along the border and back at their home parks.

Thank you for your interest in our role to support this effort to protect our nation, especially as we commemorate National Police Week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Daniel Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "S".

P. Daniel Smith
Deputy Director
Exercising the Authority of the Director
of the National Park Service