



A Quest for Life in Our National Parks



Searching for macroinvertebrates in Beaver Meadows at the 2012 Rocky Mountain National Park BioBlitz. NPS Photo.

Background: What is a BioBlitz?



A snapshot



Of living organisms



In a short time span

A BioBlitz is a quest to discover living organisms through public involvement. During these rapid biological surveys, scientists and volunteers of all ages and backgrounds work together to compile a "snapshot" of biodiversity in (usually) less than 48 hours.

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on our planet, including all living creatures, their habitats, natural processes, and the connections between these things.

A Call to Action

In August 2011, the National Park Service (NPS) released *A Call to Action*, which provides directional guidance to advance the mission of the NPS into its second century. *Call to Action* Item 7, "Next Generation Stewards" envisioned expanding the scope of BioBlitzes and other biodiversity discovery activities to:

Create a new generation of citizen scientists and future stewards of our parks by conducting fun, engaging, and educational biodiversity discovery activities in at least 100 national parks, including at least 5 urban parks.

Response from the parks was so enthusiastic that by August, 2014, this goal was exceeded, with participation by at least 114 parks.

The National Parks BioBlitz

To highlight its Centennial, the NPS is planning a National Parks BioBlitz on May 20-21, 2016, consisting of:

- A major BioBlitz at NPS sites in and around Washington, D.C. co-hosted with the National Geographic Society with an accompanying Biodiversity Festival on the National Mall,
- Six Regional Showcase BioBlitzes hosted by national park sites highlighting different regions of the United States,
- Hundreds of additional BioBlitzes and citizen science events of different sizes and scopes in NPS units across the country
- Species data and other updates (e.g., social media posts, event photos and video, and interesting finds) from concurrent events across the country displayed in real-time at on the National Mall and on event websites.

This service-wide event is a significant contribution to the NPS Centennial goal identified in 'A Call to Action', the 'Find Your Park' campaign, the NPS 'Go Digital' goal and the President's initiative to get 'Every Kid in a Park.'

More Information

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iNaturalist



The primary tool for data collection during the National Parks BioBlitz events is a digital app, hosted by the California Academy of Sciences, called iNaturalist.

Everyone at BioBlitz events can submit observations using iNaturalist so that real-time observation totals can be displayed at the Biodiversity Festival on the National Mall and on event websites.

www.inaturalist.org

National Parks BioBlitz - Washington, D.C.

The National Parks BioBlitz - Washington D.C. is the tenth annual BioBlitz, co-hosted by the NPS and the National Geographic Society.

- This two-day event will occur on May 20-21, 2016
- Species inventories will take place in multiple parks in and around Washington, D.C., including:



Rock Creek Park, Monocacy NB, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal NHP, Harpers Ferry NHP, George Washington Memorial Parkway - Dyke Marsh, Theodore Roosevelt Island NM, Catoctin Mountain Park, Piscataway Park, Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens, Antietam NB, President's Park, Prince William Forest Park, Wolf Trap NP for the Performing Arts, Manassas NB

- In addition to inventories open to the public, special inventories and activities will be planned to accommodate formal educational groups.
- An accompanying Biodiversity Festival will take place at Constitution Gardens on the National Mall, showcasing hands-on educational activities, speakers, and exhibits, and broadcasting species data from simultaneous BioBlitzes around the country.

Regional Showcase BioBlitzes

Locations of Regional Showcase BioBlitzes:

- ◆ **First State National Historical Park, Delaware**
- ◆ **South Carolina national parks**
Kings Mountain NMP, Cowpens NB, Ninety Six NHS, Congaree NP, Fort Sumter NM and Charles Pinckney NHS
- ◆ **Bandelier National Monument, New Mexico**
- ◆ **Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Ohio**
- ◆ **Pacific Northwest national parks**
Ebey's Landing NHR, Fort Vancouver NHP, Klondike Goldrush NHS (Seattle Unit), Lewis and Clark NHP, Mount Rainier NP, North Cascades NP, Olympic NP, San Juan Island NHS
- ◆ **Southern California coastal national parks**
Santa Monica Mountains NRA, Channel Islands NP, Cabrillo NM
- ◆ **Arctic national parks, Alaska**
Bering Land Bridge NP and Gates of the Arctic NP & PRES

Identified parks above in different regions of the country will host BioBlitzes simultaneously with the Washington, D.C. BioBlitz.

Planning and execution of the Regional Showcase BioBlitzes will be accomplished by the NPS and numerous partners. Thus far, the National Geographic Network of Alliances, The Nature Conservancy, Nature-Serve, park friends groups, numerous federal and state agencies, and many more are planning to collaborate.



"Whenever we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe."

- John Muir

One Hundred or More Strong

In addition to the Washington, D.C. BioBlitz and the Regional Showcase BioBlitzes, the NPS is encouraging parks across the country to host a BioBlitz, archeoblitzes, paleoblitzes, or other citizen science event during the NPS Centennial year.

These events will contribute to the overall National Parks BioBlitz and will have results of species inventories broadcasted on the National Mall and event websites.

Parks interested in hosting a BioBlitz or other citizen science event in 2016 can sign up at: go.nps.gov/centennialbioblitz.

