

California State Parks Directors & Parks Division Chiefs: 1927 – 2013

By Michael G. Lynch
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Department of Parks and Recreation (established 1961)
Natural Resources Agency



November 13, 2012:
**Major General Anthony L. Jackson,
USMC (Ret), Director**



July 20, 2012 - November 13, 2012:
Janelle Beland, Acting Director



2002-July 19, 2012: **Ruth Coleman, Director**



1999-2002: **Rusty (John) Areias, Director**



1997-1999: **Patricia Megason, Director**



1992-1997: **Donald W. Murphy, Director**



1987-1992: **Henry Agonia, Director**



1983-1987: **William S. Briner, Director**



1983-1983: **Carol Hallett, Director** (Appointed / Not Confirmed)



1983: **Les McCargo, Acting Director**



1980-1983: **Peter Dangermond, Jr., Director**



1977-1980: **Russell W. Cahill, Director**



1975-1977: **Herbert Rhodes, Director**



1967-1975: **William Penn Mott, Jr., Director**



1965-1966: **Fred L. Jones**



1961- 1965: **Charles A. DeTurk**

Department of Natural Resources (1927-1961)

Division of Beaches and Parks (1941-1964)



1959-1961: **Charles A. DeTurk, Division Chief**



1951-1959: **Newton B. Drury, Division Chief**



1950-1951: **Earl P. Hanson, Acting Division Chief**



1943-1950: **A.E. Henning, Division Chief**



1941-1943: **Darwin Tate, Division Chief**

Division of Parks (1927-1941) – Department of Natural Resources



1939-1941: **Darwin Tate, Division Chief**



1937-1939: **A.E. Henning, Division Chief**



1934-1936: **James A. Snook, Division Chief**
(? Picture might not be correct)



1928-1934: **Charles B. Wing, Division Chief**

Department of Natural Resources (1927 – 1961) - Directors



1953-1961: **Dewitt Nelson**, Director



1944-1953: **Warren Hannum**, Director

No
Known
Photo

1943-1944: **William H. Moore**, Director



1941-1943: **Kenneth I. Fulton**, Director



1939-1941: **Richard Sachse**, Director



1934-1939: **George Nordenholt**, Director



1931-1934: **Daniel H. Blood**, Director



1927-1931: **Fred G. Stevenot**, Director

Department of Natural Resources

Agency History: The Department of Natural Resources was created in 1927 (Chaptered 128) combining under a single agency the state's interests in the fields of fish and game conservation, forestry, mining, parks, and resources management. Under the 1927 law, four Divisions were specified: Fish and Game; Forestry; Mines and Mining; and Parks. A division of Oil and Gas was added in 1929 (Ch. 535). Various divisional name changes occurred in succeeding years and additional programs in recreation and soil conservation were added. Fish and Game attained separate departmental status in 1951 (Ch. 195). The Department of Natural Resources was reorganized in 1961 and renamed as the Department of Conservation (Ch. 2037). The same law created a new Department of Parks and Recreation in 1961.

Sources:

- California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR)
- CDPR *News and Views* newsletters
- *California Conservationist* magazine (California Department of Natural Resources 1935-1941)
- *California Blue Books or State Roster* (1928 to 1971)
- *State Parks of California* by Joseph H. Engbeck, Jr.
- Michael Whitehead