

**California State Parks**  
**List of Directors & Division Chiefs 1927 to 2013**

*By Michael G. Lynch - Rev. 9/15/13*

Natural Resources Agency - Department of Parks and Recreation (established 1961)

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2012 - current: Major General Anthony Jackson, USMC (Ret)  
July 20, 2012 - November 13, 2012: - Janelle Beland, Acting Director  
2002-2012: Ruth Coleman, Director  
1999-2002: Rusty (John) Areias, Director  
1998-1999: Patricia Megason, Acting Director  
1993-1997: Donald W. Murphy, Director  
1987-1993: Henry Agonia, Director  
1983-1987: William S. Briner, Director  
1983-1983: Carol Hallett, Director (Appointed/Never Confirmed)  
1983: Less McCargo, Acting Director  
1980-1983: Pete 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 (1928-1961)

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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 of Parks (1928-1941) Department of Natural Resources  
1939-1941: Darwin Tate, Division Chief  
1937-1939: A.E. Henning, Division Chief  
1934-1936: James A. Snook, Division Chief  
1928-1934: Charles B. Wing

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Department of Natural Resources (1928 - 1961) - **Directors**

1953-1961: Dewitt Nelson, Director  
1944-1953: Warren Hannum, Director  
1943-1944: William H. Moore, Director  
1941-1943: Kenneth I. Fulton, Director

1939-1941: Richard Sachse, Director  
1934-1939: George Nordenholt  
1931-1934: Daniel H. Blood, Director  
1928-1931: Fred G. Stevenot, Director

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Agency History: The Department of Natural Resources was created in 1927 (Ch. 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.