



National Park Service
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Pacific West News Release

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Steven Mietz named Redwood National & State Parks superintendent

SAN FRANCISCO - The National Park Service has named Steven Mietz superintendent of Redwood National & State Parks. He is currently the superintendent of Great Basin National Park in Nevada. Mietz replaces Steven Prokop who retired earlier in the year.

“Steve is an exceptional leader who is passionate about building positive relationships to preserve our parks,” said Laura E. Joss, regional director for the National Park Service’s Pacific West Region. “He has a proven track record of collaborating with partners. Along with his strong science background, this makes him an excellent fit for Redwood.”

Mietz has more than 18 years with the federal government, including time with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Geological Survey. He joined the National Park Service in 2003.

“I am humbled by the opportunity to be a partner in the stewardship of the ecosystem that supports the tallest trees in the world,” Mietz said. “I am very excited about working with the staff and our partners to preserve this awe-inspiring place for the enjoyment and appreciation of all.”

Under Mietz’s watch, Great Basin National Park was designated an International Dark Sky Park. The park and its nonprofit partners raised \$800,000 to construct the Great Basin Observatory. It will take advantage of some of the best night sky viewing in the nation. He has overseen the completion of several large-scale campsite rehabilitations and ecological restoration projects.

Throughout his National Park Service career, Mietz has served in a variety positions, including as the Midwest Region’s acting associate regional director for natural resources, the superintendent of Missouri National Recreational River, and the deputy chief of science and resource management at Grand Canyon National Park. Prior to working at Grand Canyon, he worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Grizzly Bear Recovery Program, the University of Montana’s Flathead Lake Biological Station, and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Mietz is currently on temporary assignment as the superintendent of Point Reyes National Seashore in the San Francisco Bay Area. He will return to Great Basin National Park before taking the reins at Redwood, which is expected to be sometime in late fall.

Mietz earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Cornell University and his masters from the University of Montana. His personal interests include hiking, camping, and cross-country skiing with his wife, Stephanie, and sons, Jack and Ben.

Most people know Redwood as home to the tallest trees on Earth. The parks also protect vast prairies, oak woodlands, wild riverways, and nearly 40 miles of rugged coastline. For thousands of years people have lived in this verdant landscape. Together, the National Park Service and California State Parks manage the lands for the inspiration, enjoyment, and education of all.

For more information visit: <https://www.nps.gov/redwood>.

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The National Park Service has more than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 417 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities.

Learn more at www.nps.gov.