Relation of Federal legal authorities

U.S. Constitution is the fundamental law of the U.S. and takes precedence over every other source of law (e.g. property clause – power to make rules and regulations to manage federal property)

Laws enacted by Congress (e.g. Organic Act, Redwoods Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, NEPA)

Treaties to which the U.S. is a party (e.g. MBTA)

Executive Orders

Agency regulations (e.g. for NPS Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)),

Detailed statements of how laws, or policies prescribed by the NPS Director (or higher authorities), will be applied to the public who use the parks, are non-discretionary and apply to everyone, violation may invoke a fine or imprisonment.

Superintendent's Compendium

Authorized by 36 CFR, provide notice more specifically of allowed and prohibited activities or of emergency closures.

Violation may result in a fine

Agency guidance (e.g. Management Policies 2006, Director's Orders and their Handbooks) are mandatory for NPS employees, provide guidance for park staff in applying law, regulation and policy