

Summary: NPS Management Responded Appropriately to Sexual Misconduct Complaints

Report Date: January 17, 2018

The OIG investigated whether National Park Service (NPS) management appropriately handled sexual misconduct complaints at a National Recreation Area (NRA) in Texas. The initial complainant reported that an employee at the NRA exposed himself to her and sexually assaulted her on multiple occasions between 2012 and 2014. The complainant alleged she reported the incidents to NPS management when they occurred, but they failed to take any action.

Our investigation did not find any evidence that the complainant reported the incidents to her supervisor as she reported in her complaint. We determined that once management learned of the allegations in 2016, they took swift action to address the issues and handled the complaint appropriately.

During our investigation, another employee reported that she had also been a victim of sexual misconduct by the same NRA employee. She acknowledged that she did not report the incident to management when it occurred. Again, we determined that management took decisive and immediate action as soon as they learned of this additional allegation.

We also found that NPS management had received three additional allegations of sexual misconduct at the NRA in previous years that were unrelated to this employee. Our review concluded that those previous incidents were reported and appropriately handled.

A criminal investigation into the actions of the NRA employee is ongoing by the NPS.

This is a summary of a report of investigation that we provided to NPS.

