



PRESS RELEASE

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Park Service Denies Attempts to Reopen Biscayne to Jetskis Continued Prohibition Good News for Entire Park System

San Francisco, CA – In a stunning defeat for the personal watercraft industry, the National Park Service announced today that it is denying the Personal Watercraft Industry Association's (PWIA) request that jetskis be permitted in Florida's Biscayne National Park. Personal watercraft (PWC), better known by the trade name jetski, have been shown to cause significant damage to air and water quality, visitor enjoyment, public health and safety, natural soundscapes and wildlife.

In its response to the PWIA, the Park Service wrote that it had considered the impact of PWC to Biscayne's fragile natural areas, endangered manatees, and other visitors. As a result of that review the agency concluded that "no changes" in current PWC restrictions at Biscayne are warranted and the Park Service's ban on the thrillcraft will remain in place.

"Thankfully, the Park Service saw industry's rulemaking request for what it was: a selfish scheme designed to benefit a few local dealerships by forcing these inappropriate thrillcraft into one of our nation's premiere national parks," said Sean Smith Bluewater Network's public lands director and former National Park Ranger. "Hopefully, this denial will end industry's crusade to turn our national parks into nothing more than motorized amusement parks."

In August the PWIA submitted a rulemaking petition to the National Park Service requesting that all of Biscayne's waters be reopened to the thrillcraft. A careful review of industry's petition by Bluewater Network discovered that it contained faulty, outdated, and unsupported information. Earlier this week, Bluewater Network submitted a 400 page counter petition which provided the most up to date scientific evidence and government documents on the detrimental impacts of PWC and clearly showed that there is no rationale or legal basis for overturning Biscayne's current restrictions.

This denial sets a powerful precedent of upholding closures throughout the park system that resulted from the Park Service's 2000 rulemaking that banned PWC from all but a handful of the nation's parks.

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Bluewater Network is a national environmental organization dedicated to reducing dependence on fossil fuels & eradicating other root causes of air and water pollution, global warming, & habitat destruction. More than 20,000 members in all 50 states and four nations have already joined.

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