



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Park of American
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National Park of American Samoa News Release

For Immediate Release
Mike Reynolds, Superintendent
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National Park of American Samoa Welcomes New Park Ranger to the Manu'a Islands

The National Park of American Samoa is investing more in the Manu'a Islands where half of the park lands are located. The first of these efforts are to continue to station a park ranger in Ofu to increase education and support for the national park lands and the people of Ofu, Olosega, and Ta'u Islands. The ranger station/ visitor center near the Ofu Airport was renovated last year to serve as a contact station for visitors, as well as a base for education, natural and cultural resource management efforts. To further support tourism and education, wayside exhibit panels were also installed on Ofu and Ta'u.

Carlo Caruso of North Carolina will follow Darren Dodderer as The Manu'a Park Ranger. Darren left last year for another job with the National Park Service in Alaska. Carlo has already spent a great deal of time in Ofu studying the coral lagoons with Stanford University. As park ranger, Carlo will work closely with park managers, village leaders, and island residents to identify and carry out education and resource management projects. These projects could include school programs, rubbish removal from beaches and trails, clearing brush from trails, monitoring natural and cultural sites to ensure their continued protection, and invasive species removal, such as the tamaligi trees and feral pigs, which harm the native forest. The national park already intermittently employs seven Ofu, Olosega and Ta'u residents as VIPs, whose work Carlo will oversee.

Special research equipment is also being installed in Ofu. This will help to encourage scientists from around the world to study the unique Ofu lagoon. This research will help examine climate change impacts to coral reefs, which in turn will both promote and protect this valuable natural and cultural resource.

It is hoped that the future will bring more National Park attention to the Manu'a Islands, increasing resource protection and tourism potential. Ta'u, with its wealth of terrestrial and cultural resources, will also be incorporated. "Carlo's addition to our staff and having attention brought to the Manu'a Islands will help to provide for both tourism and the protection of the Samoan rainforest, coral reef and Samoan culture through education and stronger partnerships with the people of Manu'a," says Superintendent Mike Reynolds.

The National Park of American Samoa was established in 1988 to preserve the coral reefs, tropical forest and archeological and cultural resources of American Samoa, to maintain the habitat of fruit bats, and to provide educational opportunities for visitors and residents. National Park lands and waters are leased from villages and the American Samoa Government through a long term agreement with the National Park Service.

For more information about visiting the National Park of American Samoa, email NPSA_Info@nps.gov or visit its website – www.nps.gov/npsa

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