



MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

BECKY KELLEY
DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: PARK MANAGEMENT AND REGION MANAGERS
FROM: JAMES HAMILTON, Asst. Director PRHS *JH*
SUBJECT: PAINTED ROCKS AT GEORGIA STATE PARKS
DATE: AUGUST 22, 2017

As many of our managers and employees have become aware, a popular activity has evolved that involves decorating rocks, (typically by painting), and leaving them behind in public areas for others to find or exchange. Several managers have been approached about allowing this activity to take place at state parks and historic sites.

The Division has determined painted rocks is not appropriate for our state parks and historic sites, and therefore not permitted. This scavenger-hunt style activity is not consistent with our “leave no trace” policy regarding the protection of natural resources on the properties in our care. Authority for this determination is granted through DNR Board Rule 391-5-1-03 (2-a).

Several state park systems, and the National Park Service, are responding in similar manner. Two related links are listed below;

<http://www.whas11.com/news/local/indiana/national-park-urges-painted-rocks-to-be-taken-somewhere-else/464465892>

<http://www.tylerpaper.com/TP-News+Local/295832/painted-rocks-not-welcome-at-texas-state-parks>

Park programs related to painting rocks are permitted, provided the rocks are not gathered from the park, and are not left behind on the park for others to find. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions.