

Group says Park Service stalls on faith displays

by [Adelle M. Banks](#) in the [June 14, 2011](#) issue

A national alliance of public employees is accusing the National Park Service of "leadership paralysis" for not addressing questions about religious displays at federal parks.

The group Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility had asked the Park Service last September about plaques containing biblical psalms at Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona and a stupa (a Buddhist religious monument) at Petroglyph National Monument in New Mexico.

The organization questions whether the displays are constitutional. "When it comes to religious displays, Park Service leadership reacts like a deer in the headlights—afraid to move but frozen in an indefensible position," said Jeff Ruch, executive director of the alliance, in a March 31 statement.