



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Sitka National Historical Park

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## Sitka National Historical Park News Release

**Date:** March 3, 2014

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### Park Hosts Voices of the Wilderness Exhibit

**Sitka National Historical Park (March 3, 2014)** – Sitka National Historical Park welcomes the *Voices of the Wilderness* traveling art exhibit March 7th through April 7th, 2014. The multimedia pieces that make up the exhibit celebrate the diversity of Alaskan wilderness and were created by artists from across the United States and the world, many of whom were artists-in-residence hosted by agencies that manage federally designated wilderness. This exhibit is sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The traveling show was created to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Wilderness Act.

Managers of Alaska's public lands have hosted artists in wilderness areas throughout our state. Through the *Voices of the Wilderness* artist residency program, artists spend up to two weeks in one of Alaska's spectacular wilderness areas with a ranger participating in stewardship duties, such as pulling invasive weeds, helping with wildlife research, cleaning up garbage and marine debris, and monitoring air quality. Through a variety of media, including poetry, sculpture, painting, photography, fiber arts and music, artists translate how the wilderness has inspired them.

The exhibit displays artwork inspired by twenty different wilderness areas, including pieces from the nearby West Chichagof-Yakobi, South Baranof and St.Lazaria Wilderness areas. Come experience the wild beauty and varied perspectives of Alaskan wilderness.

Special Events:

#### ***Gallery Walk***

Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>

The exhibit will be open from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. in honor of the Arti-Gras Arts and Music Festival Gallery Walk.

#### ***Opening Reception***

Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>

Guest speaker Doug Scott, former wilderness lobbyist for The Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, and Pew Charitable Trust will discuss John Muir and the road to the Wilderness Act and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

After Sitka, the exhibit will travel to six other Alaskan cities throughout 2014: Ketchikan, Juneau, Fairbanks, Homer, Kenai and Anchorage. The *Voices of the Wilderness* Traveling art exhibit is made

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possible with funding by Rasmuson Foundation through the Harper Arts Touring Fund, and is administered, under contract, by the Alaska State Council on the Arts. Additional support for this show is provided by Sitka Conservation Society and Alaska Geographic.

Sitka National Historical Park is open Tuesday through Saturday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. For more information please visit [www.nps.gov/sitk/](http://www.nps.gov/sitk/).

*About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 401 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).*

*Learn more at [www.nps.gov/sitk](http://www.nps.gov/sitk) or visit our Facebook page:*

*<http://www.facebook.com/#!/SitkaNationalHistoricalPark>.*

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