



NEWSLETTER

January/February 2018

"Don't wait for inspiration, build the foundation for it."
Casey Williams, CE Tech John Redmond Lake, Innovations Team Member

100% Deployment of the Park Ranger Mobile App by the end of Fiscal Year 2018



It all started with the first meeting in the Tulsa District Office in late October of 2015, with District Management, Park Rangers from the pilot program, and the District Commander. The vision was to create and expand the Park Ranger Mobile App all across the District, giving every Park Ranger and every Lake Office the same advantages as those demonstrated by the two successful pilot programs. From that meeting, the decision was made to improve and expand.

Entering the 2018 new year, there are only four areas left for expansion, and the App now reaches 85% of all Tulsa District field personnel. Expectations are now to complete full deployment of the Park Ranger Mobile App before September 30th, 2018.

So once we reach full deployment, where do we go from there? That's where the Park Ranger Mobile App Focus Team comes into play. The Focus Team is a PRMA working group that uses the app on a constant basis and pushes the limits to see what new directions, efficiencies, and capabilities are possible. Right now getting GIS and Google Maps layers on the app is priority number one. The capability to check boundary lines, shoreline permits, structures, parks, facilities, trails, and even leased areas all in the palm of your hand is a capability that all of our Park Rangers need in the field. So what all can the app do to make our work lives easier? Only our creativity, innovativeness, and time will tell.



Do you use the Park Ranger Mobile App at your Lake Office? Have ideas on how we can further develop PRMA or want to join the PRMA Focus Team?

Send an email to
jason.m.knight@usace.army.mil

How PRMA and Innovations are set up

Ever wonder how PRMA and Innovations interconnect and who all is involved. Well below is a current snapshot of everyone who is participating, what teams they fall under, and how it is all set up.

 PRMA PARK RANGER MOBILE APP	 PRMA FOCUS TEAM	 Innovations Tulsa District Team
Jason Knight (PRMA Designer & Lead/Innovations Team Leader)		
Kirk Webber - Oologah Lake POC	Matt Sexton	James Vincent - Sub Lead - Red River Area (2nd Year)
Colleen Thayer - Tenkiller Lake POC	Corey Bowlin	Jake Ellison - Hugo Area (2nd Year)
James Vincent - Lake Texoma POC	Vacant	Chris Gilliland - Fort Gibson Area (2nd Year)
Corey Bowlin - Fort Gibson Lake POC	Vacant	Matt Sexton - Eastern Area (2nd Year)
Matthew Cihaski - Keystone Lake POC		Shawna Polen - Sub Lead - Northern Area (2nd Year)
Matt Sexton / Eric Pearson - Eufaula Lake POC		Sara Emrick - Northern Area (1st Year)
Greg Bonnell - Kaw Lake POC		Casey Williams - Kansas Area (2nd Year)
Matt Schuffenhauer - Skiatook Lake POC		Brannen Parrish - District PAO (2nd Year)
Garrett Shock - Pat Mayse Lake POC		Matthew Cihaski - Sub Lead - Northern Area (1st Year)
		Garrett Shock - Hugo Area (1st Year)
		Eric Pearson - Eastern Area (2nd Year)
		Justin Smither - Northern Area (2nd Year)
		Sarah Noel - Red River Area (1st Year)

Team Highlights:

PRMA POCs: Localized point of contacts that manage their version of the Park Ranger Mobile App for their Lake Offices or areas. This is a year round commitment with scheduled updates at least four times a year.

PRMA Focus Team: This team is set aside to help research and develop the future direction of the Park Ranger Mobile App. This team plans to meet from May 1 to September 30th each year.

Innovations Team: This team is designed to provide resources to innovative ideas that are submitted by the local field offices and throughout the District. Beginning with the Innovations Summit the third week in October, this team has various workshops and does everything they can to pilot the idea by the closing of the Innovations Season on May 1 of each year.

Canton Lake hosts first 2018 Innovations Workshop

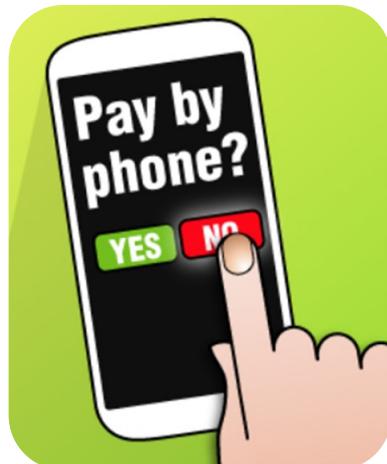


2018 Innovations Team: (Back Row from left) Matt Sexton, Jason Knight, Chris Gilliland, Eric Pearson, Shawna Polen, Garrett Shock, & Justin Smither (Front Row, from left) James Vincent, Matthew Cihaski, Sarah Emrick, & Sarah Noel. Team members not show in photo: Jake Ellison, Casey Williams, & Brannen Parrish.

On January 17th & 18th, the Canton Lake Office hosted the first Innovations Workshop of the 2018 Season. The team was able to spend time together and work on development of the team's selected Innovations, plus a new idea brewing for next year. Below is breakdown of where we stand with our Innovations for FY 18.

Self Service Campgrounds

Our newest Innovation for the FY18 season Self Service Campgrounds, has garnered the most excitement and the most controversy throughout the district. Knowing there are working pilots scattered across the nation, making this innovation work should be a breeze, right? Well throw day use facilities fees inside the campgrounds, questionable cell phone coverage, and the removal of cash, and this becomes a difficult pilot for the majority of the parks in the Tulsa District. However, it is not the mission of the Innovations Team to back down from a challenge but to explore new ways around every difficulty. Even with these issues, the sub-team has been able to secure more than enough parks for the pilot program. With



Self Service Campgrounds, continued

the maximum of four campgrounds for this initial pilot program, the sub-team is looking for a mix of different scenarios to help get around some of the conflicts we currently face. Some parks in the pilot will go straight to full on Self-Service in the pilot. Others will be on a three-year pilot to first offer the Self-Service feature as an added resource for visitors. Then, in year two or three, go completely cashless and volunteer run if we can innovate the day use facility fees in those parks. It is the goal of this innovation to give the visitor a reliable way of reserving and paying for campsites, while reducing the cost to keep those parks open by removing honor vault and cash workload and gate attendant contracts.

RETS Starter



This innovation we have carried over from FY17, and we have attempted to pilot it several times. However, the sub-team always felt like this one was just not ready yet. Turn the page to 2018, and with the advances we have made in the off season, including a beginner and an advanced setting, pre-made portfolios that walk you through all that is needed in the process, and a system that houses everything the project needs to submit, and we are in good shape for launching May 1. This innovation will be piloted at Lake Texoma, but we still need a second, mid-range lake who processes no more than 5-10 packages a year to also help test it out. There are many more advancements that are planned for RETS Starter, and this will more than likely be a work item for the Innovations Team for years to come as we get this process fully automated so that it is no longer a large burden on our field staff.

Jr. Ranger App

Carried over from the FY17 season, this innovation has had more success than any of the others to date. The original plan was to do all work including graphics, design, and coding inside the district. Attempting to get this done proved more time consuming than the sub-team could invest in this innovation. So in May of 2017, the sub-team agreed to regroup and carry this innovation over to the next Innovation Season.

The next idea was to either pay someone to build this for us or to partner with someone to get it done. Utilizing the training resources from the National PAC (Partnership Advisory Committee) Team and their Prospect course "Partnerships in Natural Resource Management", we be-



Ranger Eagleton

Jr. Ranger App, continued

gan our quest for University partnerships. Using the information from that presentation, the sub-team was able to contact Southwest Oklahoma State University and find the right people to put us in contact with the right department. Once that was established, great things began to happen. The sub-team was contacted by a Software Engineering professor who was looking for viable projects for their capstone students for their final senior projects.



Two days later, a meeting was set up at the University, and the sub-team presented their progress with the Jr. Ranger App and our current challenges to 20 capstone students and 2 Software Engineering Professors. The idea was an instant hit with the Capstone students and the professors. We already had three students assigned to our project and an additional 6 wanted to leave their assigned projects and work on ours. Of course the professors limited the team to 5, but in doing so gave those students a directive to tap into several other university departments to make this the best product possible. The professors also are requiring the students to not only provide developer notes on the app so that if we need to expand the app another group could pick up where they left off, but also to enter the Jr. Ranger App into the Heartland Gaming Expo competition in April in Tulsa Oklahoma with the expectation that they are going to win. According to the professors, they have won 2 out of the past 5 years. So there is a chance the Jr. Ranger App could be an award winning App even before its release this summer. It is truly amazing what you can get done through a partnership and a phone call.

Wifi Opportunities inside the Tulsa District

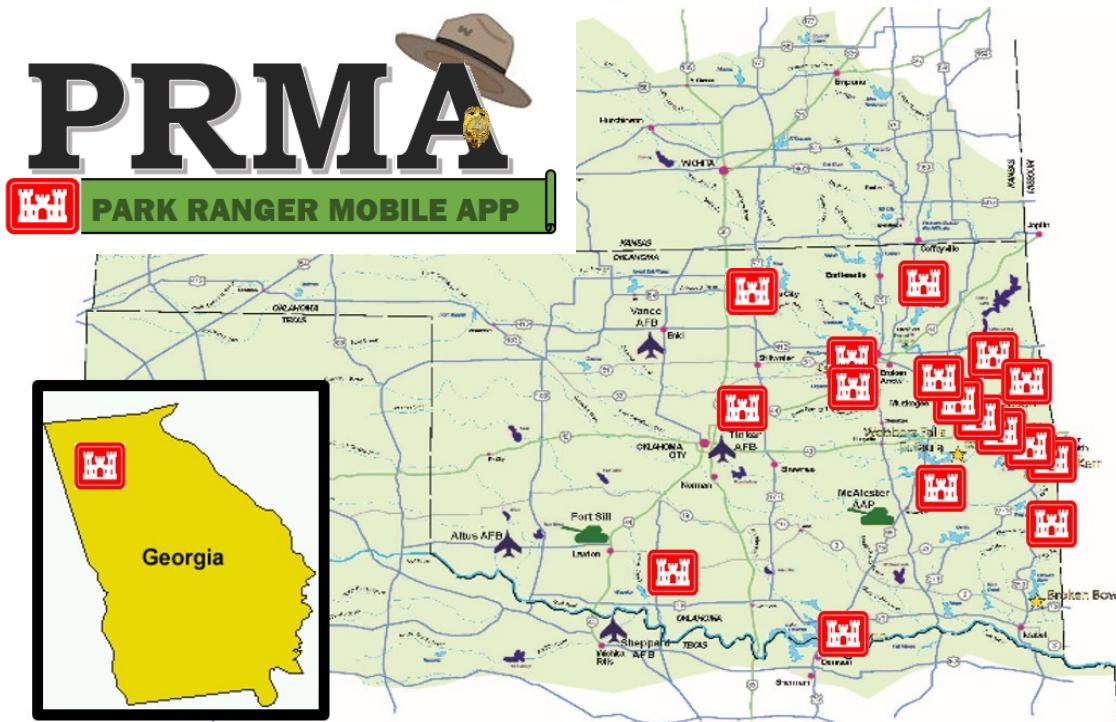
Need free Wifi in your parks? Well you now have viable options, both of them through Partnerships that are pretty easy to get set up.

Option 1: Use those old radio towers that everyone is trying to dispose of. In 2017 Hulah Lake partnered with Osage Innovative Solutions to install wifi on the old tower at the dam. OIS applied for the grant that is for bringing wifi to areas with no service to assist with Emergency Operations. This grant pays for the equipment, installation, and future maintenance without having to lease the tower out.



Option 2: Though our Partnership with SWOSU for the Jr. Ranger App, one of the University professors informed us that there is a grant out there for "Wifi for Public Education" which the University is going to try to get for us to ensure that the public will have access in our parks to download and properly run the app. Hopefully this will be continued and expanded with other lakes rolling into the Jr. Ranger App in the future.





PRMA Current Participants:

Allatoona Lake (SAM) 2013
 Oologah Lake (SWT) 2015
 Tenkiller Lake (SWT) 2015
 Webbers Falls L&D (SWT) 2015
 Keystone Lake (SWT) 2016
 Arcadia Lake (SWT) 2016
 Heyburn Lake (SWT) 2016
 Lake Texoma (SWT) 2016
 Waurika Lake (SWT) 2016
 Truscott Lake (SWT) 2016
 Ft. Gibson Lake (SWT) 2017
 Newt Graham L&D (SWT) 2017
 Chouteau L&D (SWT) 2017
 Eufaula Lake (SWT) 2017
 RS Kerr L&D (SWT) 2017
 W.D. Mayo L&D (SWT) 2017
 Wister Lake (SWT) 2017

Kaw Lake (SWT) 2017
 Skiatook Lake (SWT) 2017
 Birch Lake (SWT) 2017
 Copan Lake (SWT) 2017
 Hulah Lake (SWT) 2017

Up Next in 2018:
 Hugo Lake (SWT)
 Sardis Lake (SWT)
 Pat Mayse Lake (SWT)
 Broken Bow (SWT)
 Pine Creek (SWT)

Carter's Lake (SAM)

AS ALWAYS feel free to share this email/newsletter with any USACE Employee. If they would like to be part of the Users Group and receive updates please forward their email address [HERE](#) and I will add them to the distribution list.

The Park Ranger Mobile App...Inspired, Developed, Created, & Maintained by Park Rangers...Always.