

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910821513003321
Autore	Mitchell Kerry
Titolo	Spirituality and the State : Managing Nature and Experience in America's National Parks // Kerry Mitchell
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, NY : , : New York University Press, , [2016] ©2016
ISBN	1-4798-6526-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (260 p.)
Collana	North American religions
Disciplina	201.763680973
Soggetti	National parks and reserves - United States Nature - Religious aspects Pilgrims and pilgrimages - United States Religion and state - United States Sacred space - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- CONTENTS -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- Introduction -- 1. Establishing National Parks: From Ideal to Institution -- 2. The John Muir Trail: The Properties of Wilderness -- 3. Yosemite National Park: The Spirit of Complexity -- 4. Muir Woods: The Living Cathedral -- 5. Theorizing Religious Individualism -- Conclusion -- APPENDIX. Research Methods -- NOTES -- BIBLIOGRAPHY -- INDEX
Sommario/riassunto	An exploration of the production and reception of nature and spirituality in America's national park system America's national parks are some of the most powerful, beautiful, and inspiring spots on the earth. They are often considered "spiritual" places in which one can connect to oneself and to nature. But it takes a lot of work to make nature appear natural. To maintain the apparently pristine landscapes of our parks, the National Park Service must engage in traffic management, landscape design, crowd-diffusing techniques, viewpoint construction, behavioral management, and more—and to preserve the "spiritual" experience of the park, they have to keep this labor invisible. Spirituality and the State analyzes the way that the state manages spirituality in the parks through subtle, sophisticated, unspoken, and

powerful techniques. Following the demands of a secular ethos, park officials have developed strategies that slide under the church/state barrier to facilitate deep connections between visitors and the space, connections that visitors often express as spiritual. Through indirect communication, the design of trails, roads, and vista points, and the management of land, bodies and sense perception, the state invests visitors in a certain way of experiencing reality that is perceived as natural, individual, and authentic. This construction of experience naturalizes the exercise of authority and the historical, social, and political interests that lie behind it. In this way a personal, individual, nature spirituality becomes a public religion of a particularly liberal stripe. Drawing on surveys and interviews with visitors and rangers as well as analyses of park spaces, Spirituality and the State investigates the production and reception of nature and spirituality in America's national park system.
