

1999 HIGHLIGHTS

Witness to the diversity of the NPS is the list of programmatic highlights of 1999. The “Natural Resource Challenge” was unveiled, outlining long-term NPS responsibilities and responses to the natural resources under its care. An initiative addressing vanishing archeological and historical treasures in southwestern parks allowed restoration of imperiled cultural resources. NPS continued its partnership among over 22 Federal, State, local, and Tribal government agencies in support of South Florida ecosystem restoration. A 5-year Maintenance and Capital Improvement plan identified deferred maintenance needs. The Recreation Fee Demonstration Program continued to provide additional funds to the parks for backlogged health and safety projects and other critical resource requirements. The Save America’s Treasures matching grant program heralded itself by announcing that \$5 million had been donated to restore the “Star Spangled Banner” that inspired the national anthem. Other exciting partnerships with corporate America, philanthropists, and state and local governments provided revenues for park improvements including structural rehabilitation of the Washington Monument and Crissy Field.

NPS supported Heritage Area partnerships started to take shape. Grants to preserve historic buildings of Historically Black Colleges and Universities allowed rehabilitation of significant structures on several campuses. Additional funds were made available to many parks to address a myriad of critical operational needs. Several parks attained milestones in longevity as parks including Mt. Ranier which celebrated 100 years as a National Park. An expanded employee safety program aspired to a “total safety culture.” New applications in information technology eased the management workload. The NPS prepared for anticipated problems associated with the year 2000. Throughout the year the NPS and its employees received recognition for its continuing dedication and leadership in the protecting and interpreting the vast array of Cultural and natural resources for which it is steward. The

complexity and breath of NPS responsibilities and accomplishments can only be skimmed by a look at the highlights of achievement in FY 1999.

Natural Resources Challenge

In FY 1999, NPS introduced its newest major initiative, the Natural Resources Challenge, a five-year program to strengthen natural resources management in the National Park Service. This is in response to the growing awareness that in the 21st Century, resource management styles of the past will be insufficient to save our natural resources. Parks are becoming increasingly crowded oases, threatened by invasions of nonnative species, pollution, and incompatible

NATURAL RESOURCE CHALLENGE The National Park Service's Action Plan for Preserving Natural Resources



The National Park Service issued the Natural Resource Challenge to expand existing inventory programs and develop efficient ways to monitor the vital signs of natural systems within the parks.

uses of resources in and around parks. The Challenge calls for expanded natural resource inventory programs to gather accurate information for sound, science-based decision-making. It includes development of efficient ways to monitor and evaluate impacts on natural systems, wherein specific environmental conditions, selected as “vital signs” of environmental health, are measured to determine changes over time. The third element is enlisting others in the scientific community to help and to share the benefits. In anticipation of the Challenge, steps were initiated in 1999 including development of an integrated web-based resource information system, environmental leadership in reducing environmental impacts from NPS operations within the parks, design of a new and uniform scientific research and collecting permit process on the web, and revision of water quality goals to prevent deterioration of the highest quality waters and improve degraded waters. Initial implementation of the plan will focus on intensifying inventory and monitoring efforts to enable all parks with significant natural resources to document the actual nature and distribution of their resources. Ultimately, the share of NPS human and financial resources devoted to natural resource management, currently at 5 and 7.5 percent respectively, is expected to nearly double. This will improve the NPS natural resource management function, and give the NPS better tools with which to fulfill its mandate to preserve the country’s natural wonders unimpaired for all to enjoy.

Vanishing Treasures

Vanishing Treasures is a program designed to address both the destruction of historic and pre-historic structures as well as the impending loss of already limited preservation expertise within the NPS. Three primary thrusts define the Vanishing Treasures Program. First, the program seeks to eliminate resource loss by addressing emergency project needs where structures are in immediate, imminent danger from natural erosive factors or the cumulative pressures of visitation. Second, it focuses on replacement of an aging workforce that has unique craft skills that will be lost unless these people can mentor new, younger workers

before they retire. Third, throughout its life span, the program strives to move to a proactive preservation program in which structures would be evaluated and ranked for treatment priority, and the best preservation options selected. As outlined in the “Vanishing Treasures Strategic Plan,” the program is led by a Management Team which defines policy, ensures program consistency and accountability, and provides overall program coordination. Additionally, four work groups address specific programmatic functions: developing a standardized system to measure inventory, condition assessment, and accomplishments; formulating a workforce augmentation and replacement plan; seeking appropriate avenues for providing adequate and consistent funding and other support; establishing guidelines for consistency in strategy and technical application, and defining the ruins preservation process. Since the program’s inception, 14 parks have received base funding to hire and train skilled preservation staff. Approximately 1/3 of the funds has been used for emergency projects and program management.

Vanishing Treasures Initiative	
Park Unit/Program	Program (\$000)
Aztec Ruins NM	\$ 88
Bandelier NM	113
Chaco Culture NHP	214
Chiricahua NM	36
El Malpais NM	68
Ft Bowie NHS	53
Mesa Verde NP	71
Montezuma Castle NM	106
Navajo NM	37
Salinas Pueblo Missions NM	181
San Antonio Missions NHP	71
Tonto NM	55
Tumacacori NHP	104
Wupatki/Sunset Crater/ Walnut Canyon NM	118
TOTAL, Vanishing Treasures at Parks	1,315
Emergency projects and oversight	672
TOTAL, Vanishing Treasures Initiative	\$ 1,987

Everglades Restoration and Research

In 1996, Congress passed the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) to guide the restoration of the Everglades and South Florida ecosystem. The law focuses on resolving water quality, water quantity, wetlands, and other issues in the South Florida ecosystem. As a result of the Act the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force was established. The task force is an inter-agency and intergovernmental entity that coordinates the input and expertise of 14 Federal Agencies, 7 State agencies, 16 counties, 2 sovereign tribes, and over 150 municipalities. This unprecedented partnership of the Federal government, State of Florida, and tribal, regional, and local governments is responsible for the largest restoration effort ever undertaken. The Department of the Interior, and the National Park Service in particular, is a major party to the restoration effort.

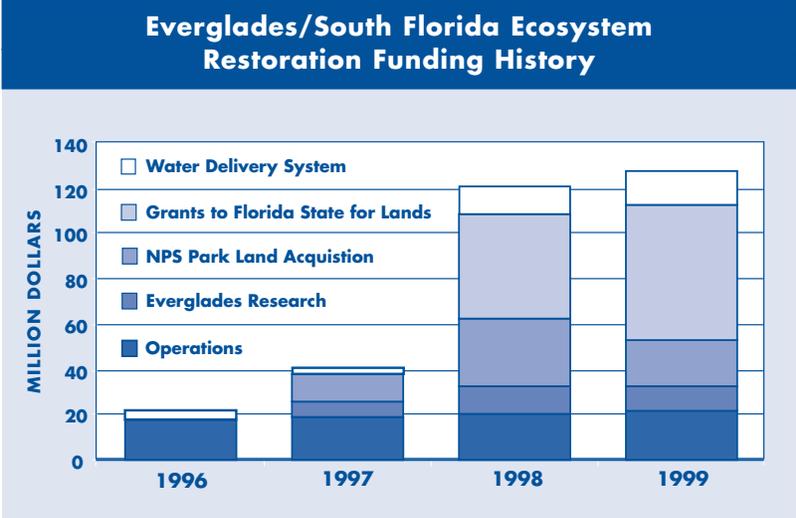
Operations. Four NPS parks are located in South Florida. Operations of these units is critical to continuing preservation and protection of the natural and cultural resources found in South Florida. The largest park unit is Everglades National Park which contains the largest remaining subtropical wilderness in the coterminous United States. It contains extensive freshwater and saltwater areas including Florida Bay, open sawgrass prairies, mangrove forests, and abundant wildlife including rare birds. Big Cypress National Preserve, next in size and to the north of Everglades NP, protects the watershed for the threatened ecosystem of South Florida. It contains subtropical plant and animal life and is home to endangered species like the Florida panther and the red-cockaded woodpecker as well as the ancestral home of the Seminole and Miccosukee Indians. Biscayne National Park

is located South of Miami. It includes a chain of subtropical islands with Biscayne Bay on the west and the Atlantic ocean on the east. The park protects interrelated marine systems including mangrove shoreline, bay community, subtropical keys, and the northernmost coral reef in the United States. Dry Tortugas National Park is located at the extreme western edge of the Florida Keys. It contains Fort Jefferson, the largest all-mason fortification of the Western world, as well as a bird refuge and marine life including coral reef.

Land. NPS lands in four parks located in South Florida represent almost 4,000 square miles of the 18,000 square mile Everglades “River of Grass” ecosystem. Land is a critical part of ecosystem restoration projects. Land is needed for water storage and aquifer recharge areas that will help restore natural hydrology. It is needed to construct water quality treatment areas and to preserve habitat for wildlife corridors. Land can also act as a buffer zone or as critical habitat for recovering threatened and endangered species.

In 1999, NPS purchased 10,732 acres at Everglades National Park and 1,898 acres at Big Cypress National Preserve—a total of 20 square miles. Money was also appropriated in FY 1999, as it was in FY 1998, to provide substantial grants to the State of Florida for land acquisition outside of park boundaries.

Modified Water Delivery System. Lands purchased in Everglades NP in FY 1999 are to implement the Modified Water Deliveries Project,





a construction effort currently underway, which will restore natural hydrologic conditions in the parks critical Shark River Slough drainage. In FY 1999, two new water control structures were completed that will help to reestablish flows to Northeast Shark River Slough which nourishes the Lower Everglades and, ultimately, the Florida Bay. The new water delivery regime required the Miccosukee Indian community of Tigertail camp to be raised to prevent flooding. This construction also included replacing substandard housing with new concrete homes

Everglades Research. The Task Force’s *Central and Southern Florida Comprehensive Plan*, known as the Restudy, is a blueprint for the restoration of the entire 18,000-square-mile ecosystem. The plan provides the opportunity to capture, clean, and distribute water in the right amounts and at the right time to the Everglades. The plan proposes to remove over 240 miles of internal levees and canals. When combined with other current water quality commitments, the efforts proposed by the plan will lead to improved quality and delivery of water going into the natural system and to the Florida and Biscayne Bays. The plan allows for the capture and use of over one million additional acre-feet of water, the result of which will be a significant improvement to the environment and the return of the abundant fish and wildlife that once thrived in the

area. It does all this while increasing the amount of water available to urban and agricultural users and without reducing flood protection.

In FY 1999, NPS participated in partnerships with multiple participants of the Task Force to develop the knowledge base needed for restoration of the South Florida ecosystem. Research included the development of improved integration of scientific databases and geo-spatial analysis, assessments of the influence of contaminants and biogeochemical processes, and landscape scale projects to examine patterns, processes and regional scale modeling. This research is in addition to ongoing efforts to plan and implement water quality improvement technologies and develop control strategies for exotic species.

Research is a prerequisite to restore disappearing habitats and remove barriers that block natural migration corridors. It will aid reintroduction of species and enhance the size of populations at risk. Habitat and wildlife restoration and preservation maintain the ecological connections and maximize the ecosystem’s biodiversity. Sustainable habitats and species populations also benefit humans in the forms of open spaces and recreational areas and perpetuate industries such as fishing, agriculture, tourism, and trade. The Everglades/South Florida Ecosystem Restoration project is ambitious and long term, but essential to restore the Everglades, the internationally renowned and important “River of Grass.”

5-year Maintenance and Capital Improvement Plan

In 1999, responding to concerns about a deteriorating infrastructure, the NPS, in concert with the Department of the Interior, committed to the development of a *Five-Year Maintenance and Capital Improvement Plan*. The plan covers the NPS repair and rehabilitation and line-item construction programs. The plan is designed to improve management and accountability for NPS infrastructure requirements and to focus maintenance and construction project funding on the highest priority health and safety and resource protection needs. Besides providing a framework for planning and management of these programs,



Cape Hatteras Lighthouse being moved from its original site.

the plan allows better definition and identification of accumulated, deferred maintenance funding requirements. Lists of proposed projects, beginning with the budget year and continuing for four additional years, are submitted to Congress with the annual budget request. The plan will be updated annually to reflect changes in priority or the identification of new needs. NPS endorsement of this approach resulted in increases in funding for the repair and rehabilitation program and construction programs in FY 1999.

Recreation Fee Demonstration Program

Beginning in FY 1997, the NPS expanded fee collection under the authority of the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program. The Fee Demo Program is now authorized through FY 2001. The law allows Federal land management agencies to test new fees across the geographic and program spectrum of sites managed by the

respective agencies. More significantly, the new law allows the NPS to retain 100% of the revenue collected for park use without the revenue being subject to appropriation.

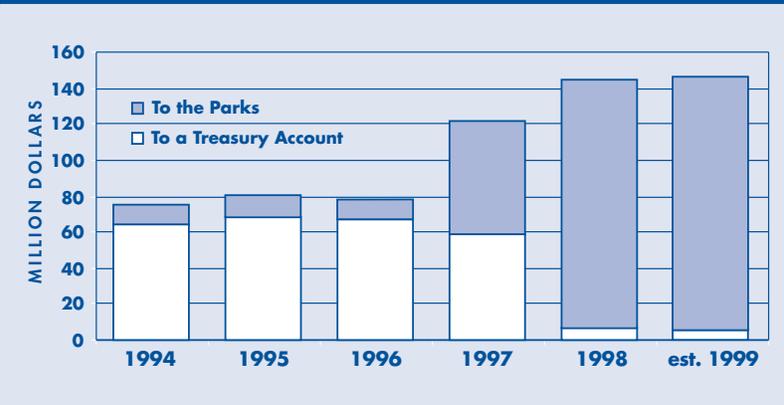
At present 204 of the 378 park units, over half, collect entrance fees and/or use fees. There are 100 participating fee demonstration “pilot parks.” Fee Demo pilot parks are allowed to retain 80 percent of all fee revenue collected at the park for immediate use. The remaining 20 percent goes directly to a central fund which is immediately available to the Director of the National Park Service for discretionary distribution to parks across the National Park System. Funds collected during the five-year test program are available for expenditure through September 30, 2004. The availability of additional monies to the NPS over the five-year period is estimated at approximately \$600 million.

NPS has welcomed the Fee Demo Program as an opportunity to test a variety of new fee prices, new types of fees, new collection strategies, and to institute fees in areas that were previously prohibited from charging fees. In its most basic implementation, parks such as Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, and Yosemite National Parks have raised their entrance fee to \$20 per vehicle or \$10 per person, good for seven days. NPS utilizes “point-of-contact” fee collection, usually at the park entrance to provide crucial park information and orientation.

One of the main tenets of NPS fee policy is to ensure that the public can see the results of their “contribution” to the park. The NPS has determined that the majority of the fee revenue will be dedicated to addressing backlogged maintenance, infrastructure, and interpretive exhibit projects, as well as critical resource management actions throughout the System. Beginning in 1998, Congress also authorized the use of these funds to cover the cost of collecting fees.

Since its beginning in FY 1997, the program has been responsible for nearly \$323 million in additional funding becoming directly available to the parks: \$45.1 million in FY 1997, \$136.8 million in FY 1998 and \$141.3 million in FY 1999. One of the more ambitious projects initiated in FY 1999 using fee revenue is the innovative

Impact of Fee Demonstration Program on Park Budgets



Canyon View Information Plaza Visitor Center at Grand Canyon National Park.

The revenue being generated over the course of the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program is critical to the financial health of the National Park System. It provides the NPS an opportunity to undertake and complete a wide variety of project work that would otherwise not be possible within the constraints of the appropriations process. By showcasing visible results of the fee program effort to the paying visitors, the NPS hopes to convey to the public a long-term sense of “ownership” of their parks through better protection of the irreplaceable park resources, as well as a more satisfying and complete visitor experience.

Save America’s Treasures

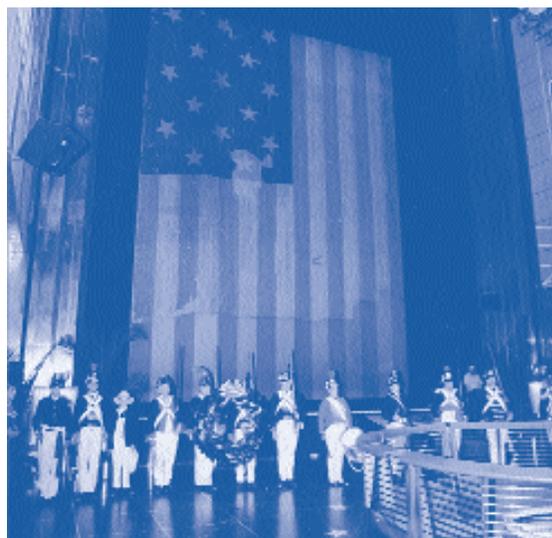
In FY 1999, Congress appropriated \$30 million for the Save America’s Treasures grant program, a public-private partnership initiated between the White House Millennium Council and the National Trust for Historic Preservation administered by the NPS. This partnership is dedicated to identifying and rescuing the enduring symbols of American tradition that define us as a nation. The program provides grants to Federal agencies for preserving cultural and historic projects. By law each award requires a dollar for dollar non-Federal match. States, localities, corporations, foundations, and individuals who value the American heritage have pledged support through financial contributions, donations,

and in-kind services. All projects require approval by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

The array of grants awarded in FY 1999 indicate the extent and diversity of America’s historical and cultural heritage. In FY 1999, grants were awarded to 12 Federal agencies for 62 projects in 24 states, the District of Columbia and the Midway Islands. The projects include preservation and protection

of buildings or groups of structures including historically or architecturally significant homes, schools, churches, industrial sites, a laboratory, a mining district, and a fort. Literary and artistic projects cover historical papers, oral histories, art, dance notation, poetry archives, books, photographs, film, and sculpture. Technological projects include an early airplane and artifacts from the Apollo Space Program.

The value of the FY 1999 Save America’s Treasures Grants range from as high as \$3,000,000 down to \$50,000. Eight of the 62 pro-



Ft. McHenry Guard standing before the flag on Defender’s Day, September 12, 1998, for the last official ceremony before the flag was lowered from its exhibit space at the Smithsonian’s Museum of American History on December 3, 1998.

jects account for half of the appropriation. Half of the 62 projects were for grants for \$200,000 and under. In dollar terms, the largest restoration and preservation projects include the “Star-Spangled Banner”, the flag that flew over Fort McHenry and inspired Francis Scott Key to compose America’s national anthem, the cliff dwellings at Mesa Verde National Park, and films from the Silent Era of moviemaking. Smaller projects include preserving photographs from the Hull-House and plant specimens at the Lewis and Clark Herbarium, and stabilizing shoreline at the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge in Florida.

Partnerships

The NPS is privileged to enjoy extensive partnerships. NPS is joined by enthusiastic volunteers, businesses, cooperating associations, and foundations to achieve outcomes that couldn’t be met with appropriated funds alone. Partners provide NPS with money, donations of non-cash items and in-kind services, and millions of volunteers hours.

In FY 1999 one of the highest profile partnerships included the restoration of the Washington Monument on the National Mall in Washington, DC. More than \$6.0 million to fund the Washington Monument Restoration Project was raised by Target Stores in partnership with the National Park Foundation. The National Park Foundation, created by an Act of Congress in 1967, is the official national non-profit partner of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. In addition, General Electric assisted by providing temporary lighting for the scaffolding that covered the monument during restoration.

Discovery Communications, the media partner in the effort, pledged to expand the education initiatives of the overall project. The National Park Service Washington Monument Interpretive Center, a multi-million dollar 2,000 square foot multimedia facility made possible by the Discovery Channel through the National Park Foundation, remained open during the restoration project. Located on the grounds of the Washington Monument, the Interpretive Center contains entertaining and educational audio-

visual interactive displays about Washington the president, the city and the monument.

The National Capital Parks-Central; Target Stores and Vendor partners; Discovery Communications; General Electric Company and the National Park Foundation received the Director’s Partnership Award for the Washington Monument Restoration Project citing tradition in excellence that sets an example for all partnerships Servicewide.

Not all NPS partnerships are as ambitious as the Washington Monument Restoration Project, but they are equally important and cover the range of responsibilities connected with protecting and preserving the nation’s cultural and natural resources. Many NPS programs include elements of partnerships. Programs such as the Challenge-Cost-Share Program and the Volunteer-in-Parks (VIP) program could not exist without partners. In FY 1999, volunteers offered 4.2 million hours of services to NPS. Volunteers often staff informa-

National Park Service Programs with Partnerships Elements

- Archeology and Ethnography Program
- Challenge Cost-Share Program (CCSP)
- Cooperating Associations
- Federal Lands-to Parks Program
- Heritage Preservation Services
- Historic American Buildings Survey and Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- National Historic Landmark (NHL) Program
- National Natural Landmark (NNL) Program
- National Park Service History Program
- National Register of Historic Places
- National Park Service Youth Programs
- Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance
- Sharing a World of Resources—NASA and NPS
- University-National Park Energy Partnership Project
- Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR)
- Volunteer-in-Parks (VIP) Program
- Wildland Fire Management Program Center

tion desks but their contributions vary with the volunteer whose skills are used. Volunteers, for example, help advise and assist hikers, manage and restore wetlands, and conduct surveys. Examples of non-cash donations in FY 1999 include books and publications, museum objects, office equipment, loan of vehicles, artists' contracts, interpretive materials, and trail rehabilitation materials. In-kind services included database development, architectural design, brook trout restoration, web page development, and reforestation work.

In FY 1999, National Park Partnership Awards honored excellence in public/private partnerships in four categories: Education, Environmental Conservation, Historic Preservation, and Recreation. The award for Education went to Cuyahoga Valley NRA and the Cuyahoga Valley Association for the creation and development of the Environmental Center, which offers a broad range of programs and serves as a model for environmental programs throughout the country. The Environmental Conservation award went to Whiskeytown NRA and Shasta-Tehama-Trinity Joint Community College District for working side by side in the field and classroom to restore the Paige-Bar watershed and for providing opportunities for the sharing of knowledge, expertise, and technology. The award for Historic Preservation went to Glen Canyon NRA, Rainbow Bridge NM and the Rainbow Bridge Consultation Committee for the culturally sensitive management, maintenance, and interpretation of Rainbow Bridge NM. The award for Recreation went to Badlands NP and Telephone Pioneers of America (Chapter 119) for the adaptation of park interpretive trails with improved accessibility for those with mobility impairments by constructing three boardwalks over the last five years.

Heritage Partnership Areas

Heritage Partnership Areas are designated by Congress to conserve and promote natural, historic, scenic, and cultural resources associated with the history of a particular geographic area, and are managed by private or State entities, with assistance from the National Park Service. The Service contributes technical expertise and training, and it assists in the development of the management plans that each area is required to complete. NPS helps fund the implementation of the plans by Commissions that are established to manage the Heritage Areas. Federal funds are matched at least 1:1 by nonfederal funds derived from local, State, and nonprofit sources. Federal funds have been leveraged by as much as 10:1, showing that a small Federal investment can be significantly amplified by the enthusiasm and commitment of area residents. Participating areas realize significant benefits from this partnership strategy, including resource conservation and community attention to quality of life issues supported by developing sustainable economies.

Congress has established 18 National Heritage Areas around the country. In November 1998, the Automobile National Heritage Area was designated by Congress and added to NPS responsibility. Legislation may soon transfer responsibility of America's Agricultural Heritage Partnership from the Secretary of Agriculture to the Secretary of the Interior. Three areas (Essex, Steel, Ohio and Erie) have now completed their management plans. A total of seven should be complete by the end of FY 2000 and ready for full implementation to begin.

Sampler of National Heritage Areas and Corridors

Augusta Canal National Heritage Area

One of the best surviving examples of the 19th Century power and canal system

Essex National Heritage Area

Home of the maritime industry in the late 18th and 19th Centuries, and of important developments in the textile industry

Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

The healthiest tidal estuary in the Northeast, and an area of historical, scenic, cultural and recreational value

National Coal Heritage Area

Communities that retain much of their original form as coal mining “company towns”

Ohio and Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor

Preserves the canal and chronicles the evolution of transportation systems in America

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District

Eight counties and four incorporated cities with a variety of historically significant characteristics

South Carolina National Heritage Corridor

A wealth of African-American and antebellum history centered in and around historic Charleston

Steel Industry American Heritage Area

Important remnants of the steel industry and culture that made possible railroads, skyscrapers and shipbuilding nationwide

Tennessee Civil War Heritage Area

Sites of importance in the Civil War and communities that have maintained their historic character

Historically Black Colleges and Universities

The following table includes the status of funding for repair of significant structures at Historically Black Colleges and Universities authorized for funding in the 1996 Omnibus Act. The table includes the total dollar amount authorized, and appropriations enacted in FY 1998 and FY 1999 including a total funding to date by HBCU.



Chapelle Administration Building in Columbia, South Carolina is one of the HBCU buildings under repair with grants from the National Park Service.

Funding for Repair of Structures at Historically Black Colleges and Universities

		(\$000)			
Institutions authorized for funding	State	Total Amount Authorized	Appropriations		Total Available Funding to date
			FY 1998	FY 1999	
Allen University	South Carolina	\$ 2,900	\$ 800	\$ 839	\$ 1,639
Claffin College	South Carolina	1,000	0	944	944
Concordia College	Alabama	200	0	277	277
Fisk University	Tennessee	5,000	800	1,012	1,812
Knoxville College	Tennessee	2,500	800	825	1,625
Miles College	Alabama	2,000	0	506	506
Rust College	Mississippi	1,000	0	249	249
Selma University	Alabama	1,550	800	0	800
Stillman College	Alabama	250	0	296	296
Talladega College	Alabama	1,500	0	595	595
Tougaloo College	Mississippi	3,000	800	659	1,459
Voorhees College	South Carolina	2,000	0	589	589
Unspecified Schools	NA	6,100	0	0	0
Subtotal		29,000	4,000	6,791	10,791
Condition Assessment			200	209	409
Total		\$ 29,000	\$ 4,200	\$ 7,000	\$ 11,200

Park Specific Increases

Many parks received permanent operational budget increases to meet the higher demands of servicing increased visitation and protecting resources. Overall, the appropriation for Operations of the National Park System increased 3.2% from FY 1998 to FY 1999. NPS received \$16.799 million in park specific increases in FY 1999. There were 112 separate increases affecting 95 park units and the U.S. Park Police. About one out of four park units received an operational increase. The average value of increase was \$150,000 although many were much smaller and some were over a million dollars. Causes for increases covered the spectrum of operational needs from increased maintenance needs to outreach to youth at risk. A sampling of the budget increase at the parks follows:



Antietam NB seeks to preserve the natural setting of the 1862 battle that marked General Lee's first invasion of the North.

Antietam National Battlefield

The battle at this Civil War site was one of the most crucial of the war and was the impetus for Abraham Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. As a result of the FY 1999 increase an additional 8 seasonal maintenance workers were recruited and hired, increasing the maintenance workforce by more than 80%. The new positions allowed the park to nearly double its previous years' accomplishments in repairing or constructing historic fence line (including a historically accurate picket fence at the Union Headquarters Site) and removing non-historic fence. Restoration began at the historic Georgian Rifle Pits, which allowed park visitors to view this critical defensive position for the first time in 11 years. Painting operations were conducted at the Visitor Center, Headquarters, National Cemetery Lodge and at four historic structures.

Capitol Reef National Park

Taking its name from dome-shaped white-cap rock along the Fremont River in Utah, Capitol Reef features narrow high-walled gorges cut through colorful sandstone cliffs. Additional funding received in FY 1999 was used to increase interpretation and protection of resources. The quality of visitor contacts was improved by staffing the park visitor center with paid employees, which also reduced the park's dependency on volunteers. The number of daily interpretive activities offered to the public was increased and the Fruita schoolhouse, a highly visible historic structure, was kept open for several hours a week. Foot and vehicle patrols to areas not frequently patrolled in the past resulted in an increased number of visitor contacts, improved NPS visibility, additional data about backcountry visitation and activities, and expanded routine monitoring of archeological sites and areas with threatened and endangered species.

Chiricahua National Monument

The varied rock formations here were created millions of years ago by volcanic activity, aided by erosion. Faraway Ranch, an early dude ranch, has been restored. The FY 1999 base increase for Chiricahua National Monument enabled the park to increase road and trail patrols, keep both of its visitor contact stations open during normal operating hours, keep Faraway Ranch House open most of the year, and administer a base-level research and resource management program. This was a welcome restoration of resource and visitor protection programs to levels that the park had enjoyed in previous years.

Effigy Mounds National Monument

The monument preserves a significant phase of the prehistoric American Indian culture. It protects over two hundred mound sites that range in age up to 2500 years. The FY 1999 operating increase provided the impetus for development of a multi-discipline, comprehensive, long-term mounds maintenance program. The Park was able to begin to slow the forest encroachment near the mounds. In addition, building and custodial maintenance was restored to seven-day service for the first time in over four years and portions of the trail system previously closed for safety concerns were repaired, re-opened, and maintained. The increase also helped support a cultural resources management trainee to maintain the monument's museum collections and contribute professional expertise to long-term cultural resources management and preservation.

Fort Donelson National Battlefield

The first major victory for the Union Army in the Civil War occurred here in February 1862 under the leadership of Ulysses S. Grant. With an addition to base funds at the park an ongoing preservation maintenance program was initiated. In FY 1999, five historic structures on the List of Classified Structures received stabilization and preventive maintenance. Work was begun on a three-to-four year project to repoint and stabilize the cemetery wall where deteriorating mortar allows rocks to separate from the foundation. Tin and guttering were replaced on the cemetery lodge kitchen roof, and the gutter ledge was repaired. Vegetative removal and repairs to the powder magazine took place at the Confederate River Batteries. The historic Dover Hotel received new wood siding on the west and south sides, and the entire exterior was painted. Cultural landscaping was done in the old fort interior conforming to the current cultural landscape plan.

Fort Pulaski National Monument

The strategy of warfare changed forever when new, experimental rifled cannon tore into Fort Pulaski and forced the Confederates garrison there to surrender in 1862. New base funding provided in FY 1999 allowed establishment of a comprehensive maintenance program. Base



Work teams rebuild exterior walls of the historic Cockspur Island Lighthouse at Fort Pulaski National Monument.

funds were combined with public donations to stabilize the Cockspur Island Lighthouse. Work teams rebuilt exterior walls, and repaired interior stairs and walls. A contract was awarded to repair damage to the lantern-cap, ventilator, and iron railing, and to replace the lighthouse cap once work is completed. FY 1999 funding also enabled the park to complete preservation maintenance on nine rooms in the fort. Work included plaster repairs, removal of mold and mildew, and encapsulation of lead paint.

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park

The park features active volcanism and rare and endangered plant and animal communities. Additional base funding was used to control alien invasive plant species in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. The park contains over 20 alien plant species that are capable of forming single species stands and displacing all native vegetation. These are too widespread to be controlled park-wide; however, they are controllable in selected biologically significant areas of the Park. Funding specifically was used for follow up management of alien plants, which must be repeated every 1-4 years because of long-lived seed banks or dispersal of weed seeds from outside areas. Funding was



HAVO natural resource management crew in a stand of the alien invasive species, kahili ginger.

also used for maintenance of a biological control research facility staffed by the U.S. Forest Service and to monitor the spread and evaluate the impact of alien plant species.

Minute Man National Historical Park

The park encompasses the scene of the fighting on April 19, 1775, opening the American Revolution. The FY 1999 operational increase for Minute Man NHP was used to manage the new Battle Road Trail between Lexington and Concord, and associated new facilities. The funding was particularly significant as the visitation doubled this year at the visitor center adjacent to the trail. Benefits from the funding included: maintenance of the trail and its adjacent restrooms and parking lots; 90 new interpretive walks, 50% increase in Resource Management Specialist's services; additional seasonal rangers during peak season providing interpretation, living history, and regular patrols; and new programs incorporating volunteers.

Ocmulgee National Monument

Traces of 12,000 years of Southeastern culture from Ice Age Indians to the historic Creek Confederacy are preserved at Ocmulgee National Monument. Ocmulgee's goal is to interpret not only the prehistoric people who have inhabited the area for over 10,000 years but also those current Native American Cultures that have ties to the area. With the increase the first full-time interpreter since 1993 was hired, who in the process of expanding the park's outreach and other educational programs, established an educational program with the Boys and Girls Club associated with a nearby housing complex to increase their understanding and appreciation of another culture. This interpreter has also increased improved interpretive programs to the 30,000 to 40,000 school children that visit the site each year. More of these students now receive personal, curriculum-based educational/interpretive programs.

Pu'uhonua o Honanau National Historical Park

This is the premier Hawaiian culture park, a sacred ground where, until 1819, vanquished Hawaiian warriors could escape death if they could reach this spot. The park initiated a program to control invasion and regrowth of non-native plant species that put resources at serious risk. Staff cleared a total of 22 acres of alien vegetation, eradicated six alien plant species and restored 7 native species. Exotics were removed and controlled on 16 sites on the List of Classified Structures to prevent structural damage. The park hired its first Resource Manager, as well as three temporary laborers for year-round vegetation management program. Funding was used to hire a native Hawaiian graduate student to conduct research. Educational, outreach and protection programs also benefited.

Thomas Stone National Historic Site

Thomas Stone was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and a delegate to the Continental Congress. This site preserves his Georgian Mansion built in 1771. Thomas Stone NHS opened to the public on November 2, 1997, with six historic structures, after \$4 million in restoration and construction. Visitor facilities were completed in the summer of 1998. Because of the additional funding in FY 1999, the park was able to hire staff to provide essential interpretation for visitors and protection of the structures, artifacts, collections and other resources. Visitor services have increased to include visitor orientation/information seven days per week and comprehensive interpretive tours. The park is now fully open to the public.

William Howard Taft National Historic Site

William Howard Taft, the only person to serve as both President and Chief Justice, was born and raised in this restored home. A base funding

increase in FY 1999 allowed the park to fully staff the new Taft Education Center (located adjacent to the Taft Home,) to provide interpretive services, and to expand the site's educational outreach program. Under a new contract, a local bus company now provides transportation to many inner-city schools at no cost to the school, thus allowing numerous at-risk children to visit the site and take part in activities there. The additional funding has also given the park the flexibility to participate in special events throughout the Greater Cincinnati area. These activities introduce literally hundreds of thousands of potential visitors to the National Park Service and its mission.

Milestones

Several parks celebrated anniversaries in FY 1999 either of their entrance into the Park System, or of a date that is important to the significance of the park. A few examples follow.

Mount Rainier National Park, 100 Years

In the year 1899, Mount Rainier was established as a National Park to preserve this majestic landscape of volcanic mountain, glaciers, forests



Visitors at Nisqually Entrance, Mt Rainier National Park, c. 1915.

and meadows. A full year of special events was organized to mark its Centennial this year both in the park and the surrounding Washington State communities of Seattle and Takoma. Several special weekend festivals and activities took place, including a Centennial Climb to the summit led by famed mountaineer Lou Whitaker. The nearby Seafirst gallery presented 100 works of art in all media including performances of music, poetry and prose written especially for the Centennial. Commemorative activities at the Park reflected its chosen theme, "A Century of Resource Stewardship." Signature projects were undertaken to highlight and enhance natural and cultural resources: ecological restoration of the former Sunrise Campground area, rehabilitation of the historic White River Patrol Cabin and its re-opening as a visitor contact and information station, and completion of the final mile of the Wonderland Trail. Trinity Camp, an alliance between the Park and public, private and corporate entities, brought 100 at-risk children from local school districts in a program that combined wilderness experiences with computer technology training to enable them to produce a CD ROM about the park. Mount Rainier's web page features information about these and other Centennial celebration events, as well as historical people, places and events.

Vicksburg National Military Park, 100 Years

Vicksburg was the focus of a Civil War campaign that included battles in west-central Mississippi and a 47 day Union siege. Its surrender on July 4, 1863, coupled with the fall of Port Hudson, Louisiana, divided the South and gave the North undisputed control of the Mississippi river. Vicksburg National Military Park was established on February 21, 1899 to commemorate one of

the most decisive battles of the American Civil War. One of many activities sponsored by the Park to mark the Centennial this year was an art contest among school children in the Vicksburg area to design a logo for the occasion. Among the more than 200 entries, the one selected as winner features the Memorial Archway, erected as a result of a 1917 reunion of survivors. The legend "Commemorating American Valor" reflects the growing awareness that the park's significance extends beyond the events of a single war. The valor displayed then by individuals on both sides of the conflict is seen time and again throughout American history in times of war, struggle, and disaster. In that spirit, people and organizations throughout the city joined with the Park this year to stage an inspiring Forth of July celebration and parade. For the first time ever, participants and supporters included people from every segment of Vicksburg's population, and those with family and emotional ties to both sides of the Civil War, honoring all Americans who have made sacrifices for their country.

San Juan National Historic Site, 50 Years

The massive masonry fortifications of San Juan National Historic Site, oldest in the territorial limits of the United States, were begun by the Spaniards in the 16th Century to protect a strategic harbor guarding the sea lanes to the New World. They became headquarters of the U.S. Army after the Spanish American War of 1898. On February 14, 1999 celebrations were



In FY 1999 the National Park Service celebrated 50 years of stewardship of the San Juan National Historic Site located in Puerto Rico.

conducted to mark 50 years since the National Park Service took over stewardship in 1949. An exhibit about the history of the area was inaugurated at El Morro, one of the major fortifications. It offered maps, information, and photographs of the installations through history. Special interpretive programs in both English and Spanish were conducted throughout the day, and the first fifty visitors to each fort received commemorative pins. An evening ceremony featured messages from NPS officials, Puerto Rico's Secretary of Natural Resources and the President of the Senate of Puerto Rico. The keynote speaker, the Mayor of the City of San Juan, spoke of the friendship between the National Park Service and San Juan.

Rivers and Trails – 30 Years of Recreation and Preservation

FY 1999 marks the 30th anniversary of two significant pieces of legislation: the National Trails System Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. On October 2, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt canoed down the Lamprey River in Durham, NH to celebrate the protection of many of America's most outstanding free-flowing rivers from dams and other inappropriate development. To date, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act has resulted in the designation of 155 river segments in 36 states as National Wild and Scenic Rivers, for a total of almost 11,000 miles. The National Park Service participates in the rivers program by conducting feasibility studies of rivers and river segments, providing technical assistance to partners to enhance the river corridors, and operating 20 of the segments as units of the National Park System including the Charley River in Alaska and the Bluestone River in West Virginia.

Senator Gaylord Nelson, who fathered the National Trails System Act, described its goal as being, "to provide all of us, no matter where we live, with easy access to a wide variety of trails suited to our tastes and needs – whether we are

grandparents on a Sunday stroll, kids on bike or horseback, or veteran hikers." Thus far, eight national scenic trails have been established for a combined total of 14,000 miles, when completed. In addition, 12 national historic trails comprising 23,000 miles have been designated to convey and evoke the important stories represented by such trails as the Oregon, Santa Fe, Trail of Tears and Iditarod. More than 800 national recreation trails foster local trail achievements and highlight some of America's premier trails. Authorities that were added to the act in 1983 and 1988 have made possible the conversion of an additional 10,000 miles of abandoned railway lines to trails. The NPS provides technical assistance to hundreds of trail and greenway projects in local communities nationwide each year in keeping with this act, as well as providing administrative leadership for 15 of the 20 national scenic and historic trails.

Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site, Double Anniversary – 25 and 100 Years

Booker T. Washington founded this college for African Americans in 1881. Preserved here are the brick buildings that the students constructed themselves, as well as Washington's family home, and the George Washington Carver Museum. The college, Tuskegee University, is still an active institution. The park and the school this year celebrate both the site's 25th anniversary as a National Historic Site, and the 100th year of "The Oaks," as the Booker T. Washington's family home is named. An open house at the museum and The Oaks included free posters, donated by Eastern National, to the first 25 visitors on the day of celebration. A special program at The Oaks, open to the public, presented Mrs. Margaret Washington Clifford as the guest speaker. Civil War re-enactors representing the 54th Massachusetts Regiment appeared in full regalia to discuss their relationship with Dr. Washington.

Employee Safety

In 1998, the National Leadership Council re-committed themselves to their original Risk Management priorities, with a special focus on developing programs to implement the Director's Order #50A, "Workers' Compensation Case Management," in all parks and offices. In FY 1999, action on this commitment continues with improvements to the Service's management of workers' compensation claims. An Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) Manager is in place for overall program oversight, and three OWCP Coordinators have been hired to assist regions in implementing D.O.#50A, addressing specific cases and collaborating with OWCP field offices. NPS has established a formal Servicewide contract to investigate possible fraud and abuse of workers' compensation benefits. Savings that have resulted from these investigations have already been sufficient to fund a new hot-line for people to report suspected fraud. OWCP training continues for supervisors/managers and park coordinators and a case management handbook has been developed for supervisors.

In keeping with the Interior Department's safety initiative launched earlier this year, the NPS strives to focus the attention of all its employees on issues of safety in the workplace. A proactive behavior-based approach is being applied in some parks, with promising results. Employees coach one another about safe and at-risk behaviors that they observe. This promotes safety communication and provides positive reinforcement to motivate safe work. Olympic and Grand Canyon National Parks are among the trial parks and both report a drop in average lost-time injury rates since the program began.

Information Technology

The National Park Service has two primary systems for identifying ongoing operational and non-recurring project requirements for budget formulation. In FY 1999, a major effort was undertaken to modify and update the systems utilizing new technologies to better serve managers' needs in planning, analysis, and accountability.

Operations Formulation System (OFS)

OFS is a widely used NPS database containing identified operational funding needs at NPS park units. With changes made during FY 1999, OFS serves as the sole source of information for formulating NPS budget requests. Field areas and central offices can now input funding requirements as they are identified so the system can account for all known on-going operational budgetary requirements of the Service at any given time. Changes made to OFS in FY 1999 include the migration of the database into a web-based system on the NPS intranet. The system streamlines the process of inputting operational needs, prioritizing projects, and formulating the NPS budget. Furthermore, the new environment contains features to address security and internal control concerns.

OFS data and reports automate much of the paperwork associated with presenting a budget and identifying unfunded needs. In the first application of the new OFS, the budget office was able to construct a budget submission more rapidly and thoroughly than before. The new OFS has further proven its functionality in the development of subsequent budget submissions. New search functions in the system were especially helpful in this regard. In addition, the information contained in OFS has been used to prepare official NPS responses to internal and external inquiries about identified unfunded NPS budgetary needs and the strategies for addressing these needs.

Project Management Information System (PMIS)

This system provides a standardized method for collecting information on non-recurring projects. This web based system allows the user to develop detailed information about needed projects and to sort and retrieve information based on a variety of criteria such as category of need (health and safety, resource protection, for example), park, and year of need. Additionally, the system documents the review and approval of projects so park managers can track their progress. PMIS has been used initially by the NPS to formulate the Five Year Facilities Maintenance and Capital Improvement Plan budget submissions.

Y2K Compliance

Similar to all government agencies, the NPS made Year 2000 computer conversion a number one priority. NPS replaced non-Y2K-compliant software in office automation and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and non-compliant equipment for its telecommunications and Global Positioning Systems. Most non-Y2K compliant personal computers (NPS has almost 20,000 desktop and laptop personal computers) had been replaced by end of FY 1999 and this effort will be completed prior to January 2000. The Y2K compliance of the Federal Financial System (the main-frame accounting system used by NPS and other agencies) was assured with an upgrade that was installed during 1998. Its desktop companion, the Administrative Financial System II, used Servicewide for local financial planning and tracking, was similarly modified at the start of FY 1999.

Awards

Rangering Award

Dale Antonich, Chief Park Ranger at Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Nevada and Arizona, is this year's recipient of the Harry Yount National Park Ranger Award for excellence in "rangering." The national award was presented by President Clinton during National Park Week in April.

Named after Harry Yount, who is generally given credit for being the first Park Ranger, the Harry Yount National Park Ranger Award is the hallmark of recognition as a NPS Ranger. Made possible by a gift from The Eureka Company to the National Park Foundation, the official non-profit partner of the NPS, the award not only seeks to recognize and honor outstanding Rangers, but to encourage high standards of performance; foster an especially responsive attitude toward public service; enhance the public's appreciation of the Park Ranger profession; and further the art and science of "rangering." The national honoree is selected from Rangers nominated by their peers in each of the Service's seven geographic regions.

Ranger Antonich received his degree in recreation from the University of Montana. He began his Service career in 1972 as a seasonal ranger at Grand Canyon National Park. After several seasons there and at Death Valley NP and Lake Mead NRA he achieved permanent status in 1977 at Golden Gate NRA. Later assignments included serving at Santa Monica Mountains NRA, and Grand Teton NP. In 1986, he was selected as the Chief Park Ranger at Death Valley NP and assumed his current position at Lake Mead NRA in 1991.

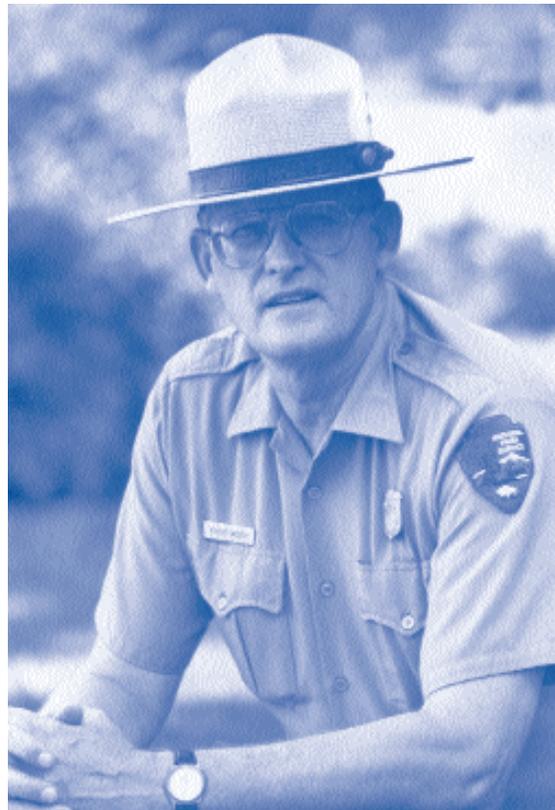
Recognized throughout his career with numerous awards for performance and outstanding achievements, Ranger Antonich received the Department of the Interior's Valor Award in 1991 for his participation as a team member in a rescue in Death Valley NP.

Widely known across the Service for his leadership, Ranger Antonich is committed to ensuring that park resources are fully protected while at the same time providing a full measure of service and protection to park visitors. He was instrumental in providing integrity leadership training to the Ranger staff at Lake Mead NRA that resulted in their recognition by the National Institute of Ethics; the first Federal law enforcement program to attain this recognition.

Ranger Antonich credits his father, John Antonich, who was a U.S. Forest Service Ranger until his retirement, with instilling the values of working with people. He considers the Yount award a “tribute to all that I believe in and especially to all the Rangers in the NPS with whom I have worked. My ability to achieve what I have is a direct result of the support of my fellow Rangers and the encouragement of the managers who I have worked for.”

Interpretation Award

NPS Director Robert Stanton presented Robert E. Woody the 1999 National Park Service Freeman Tilden Award, the highest competitive award in interpretation. Woody received the award for his outstanding work in managing the mass media campaign for the moving of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. His proactive media campaign turned the engineering adventure of moving the lighthouse 2,900 feet into a learning experience for the whole country which emphasized the importance of heritage preservation as part of everyday lives. A web site he established to post accounts of lighthouse moving events as they transpired received 365,000 hits in less than six months. His work led to the creation of 1,500 hours of high definition video, 6,000 slides, a 60-minute video, and definitive study publication so that the adventure is recorded and remembered for all time. As a result of this project, the public



1999 Tilden Award recipient Robert Woody.

was able to identify with the universal values of tradition, pride, concern, care, hope, trust, determination, courage and commitment. The Tilden award was presented in recognition of his use of the moving of the lighthouse story to convey the higher meanings and values of heritage preservation.

Regional Freeman Tilden Winners included Janet Ambrose, Carlsbad Caverns NP, Intermountain Region, Fawn Bauer, Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve, Alaska Region, Alyssa Baltrus, Rock Creek Park, National Capital Region, John Stanwich, Adams National Historic Site, Northeast Region, Michael Vouri, San Juan Island National Historical Park, Pacific West Region, Kipton V. Walton, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Midwest Region

