

Protecting America's Treasured Landscapes

We have been entrusted to serve as the stewards of America the Beautiful: purple mountains; fruited plains; and the landmarks of our history and the icons of our heritage.

*Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior
March 3, 2009*

The 2010 budget demonstrates the President's commitment to the national parks by providing funding that will restore and preserve these treasured landscapes. Restoring and preserving America's treasured landscapes is a priority for the Secretary as well. On March 30, 2009, Secretary Salazar joined the President for his signing of the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009. This signaled the Administration's significant commitment to preservation of landscapes in parks, refuges, the National Landscape Conservation System, and other public lands. The 2010 budget also signals this commitment with support for parks with an increase of \$100.0 million for operations and \$25.0 million in park partnership grants. The operations increase will address management challenges, and sustain or enhance visitor services, youth experiences, law enforcement, natural resource protection, and facility maintenance. Park partnership grants leverage Federal funding with private philanthropic donations for signature projects and programs. The budget also includes a commitment to reinvigorate the Land and Water Conservation fund, with a request of \$419.9 million for LWCF programs in Interior and U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service. The budget puts the LWCF program on track to attain full funding at \$900.0 million by 2014.

NATIONAL PARKS

National parks are a uniquely American invention. At the dawn of the 20th Century, when America was losing its forests, wildlife, and open spaces, President Theodore Roosevelt turned an environmental crisis into the legacy of stewardship that is enjoyed today. In 1908, he welcomed to the White House a diverse array of conservationists, resource experts,

industrialists, and political leaders, including the governors of all the States, to consider the problems of conservation and uses of the Nation's natural resources. The conferees established a framework for a holistic approach to natural resource conservation, advocating the management of resources for prosperity, national defense, and undiminished access for future generations. From that framework, there emerged in 1916, during the Woodrow Wilson Administration, the national park system.

National parks speak to the values of this Nation and beliefs of the people. National parks serve as living repositories of heritage and history: the Statue of Liberty was the beacon of liberty for many ancestors; Independence Hall in Philadelphia preserves the site where the forefathers proclaimed independence for a new Nation; and civil war battlefields serve as reminders of the struggle that pitted North against South.

Yosemite and Yellowstone, Grand Canyon and Grand Teton, Great Smoky and Great Sand Dunes, and Shiloh and Shenandoah, and indeed all of



the park sites, refresh the American spirit. Parks are classrooms that educate and inform; they are panoramic settings for exercise, inspiration, and enjoyment for millions of visitors each year; they protect and celebrate a diverse array of natural and historic treasures; and they are indicators of environmental health.

Overview — For generations, parks have represented a national commitment to conservation, preservation, and recreational enjoyment. The National Park Service is charged with preserving “unimpaired” the lands and historic features in 391 parks, 21 national scenic and national historic trails, and 58 wild and scenic rivers. The 2010 budget includes \$2.7 billion, an increase of \$171.0 million over the 2009 level, to provide NPS the resources to fulfill this charge.

In 2010, the National Park Service will continue to improve stewardship of the parks through programs that deliver natural and cultural resource protection and conservation, visitor programs and recreational experiences, youth experience and education; build park support capacity; and enhance professional excellence. The 2010 budget request includes \$2.3 billion for park operations, a program increase of \$100.0 million over 2009.

The budget focuses on three key components:

- Building a solid foundation for parks.
- Caring for America’s treasures.
- Enhancing leadership in park managers.

BUILDING A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR PARKS



Americans love the national parks. More than 270 million people visit the parks annually. Through the next century the National Park Service will provide a wide range of services to build park operational capacity to serve a diverse population through appropriate interpretive and recreational programs; protect and improve the condition of natural and cultural resources; effectively maintain and rehabilitate facilities; and develop and maintain a cadre of skilled managers. These outcomes can be achieved through park operations funding, including a combination of park base funding and project specific funding focused on the highest priorities.

Park Base Funding—The primary source of funding to support park activities is a park’s operating base budget. With these funds, parks conduct activities such as interpretive ranger programs, visitor facility operations, daily operations and maintenance activities, and other programs designed to enhance visitor services and protect park resources. The 2010 President’s budget includes \$57.5 million in park base increases, which will enhance core visitor services and improve resource protection at 212 parks. Planned park base increases include, for example, improving avalanche safety in Yellowstone National Park, increased operations and maintenance for water distribution and wastewater collection at Lake Mead National Seashore, and enhancing the protection of endangered Kemp’s Ridley Sea Turtles at Padre Island National Seashore.



My own experiences are precisely why I believe strongly that our national parks are one of America’s most precious treasures, and that we should do all we can to ensure that they are properly maintained and available for all Americans to enjoy.

Senator Barack Obama
February 21, 2008



Capacity Building — As a complement to the park base funding, the 2010 request includes \$3.2 million to increase the organization's capacity to serve customers better by enhancing the productivity and professionalism of the human resources program. This funding will be used to automate the labor intensive human resource processes that are critical to achieving efficient operations and recruiting new and diverse employees. Operations will be streamlined through a reduction in the number of servicing human resources offices. Elements of this request build on the 2009 investments in automation, information security, and streamlining that included deploying web based job application services provided by the Office of Personnel Management; centralizing organizational hiring for all seasonal employees; and the use of an electronic official personnel file system. Funding is also requested to produce an annual compilation of laws, proclamations, and executive orders affecting the National Park Service in electronic and hardcopy format to ensure employees are current in this information as they execute their responsibilities.

Asset Management — The National Park Service's asset management workload includes collecting and maintaining high-quality data on the condition of its assets, planning and scheduling maintenance projects, tracking completed projects, conducting analyses of system-wide performance, and making recommendations to improve productivity and efficiency. Currently, most park facility staff perform their asset management responsibilities as a collateral duty and are unable to devote sufficient time to important activities including inventory, condition assessment, monitoring, and reporting. The increasing complexity of asset management requires full-time dedicated staff, trained and familiar with industry-standard systems. In 2009, an increase of \$6.0 million was provided to support more effective use of the Facility Management Software System, the

system that park employees use to plan, execute, and report on their facilities work. The 2010 President's budget request builds on this investment with an additional \$5.0 million requested to capitalize on the accomplishments in condition assessment and park planning efforts over the last few years. This funding increase will allow NPS to hire 46 new support staff for this program. The new staff will be assigned to individual parks or groupings of smaller parks to take advantage of resource sharing opportunities where geographically feasible, and will result in more effective asset management through enhanced workload planning and tracking.

The United States Park Police – The U.S. Park Police is the Nation's oldest Federal law enforcement agency and has a long and distinguished history of protecting parklands in the Nation's capital.

In 2008, the Inspector General issued a report recommending that the USPP review its mission and core responsibilities. The IG recommendations addressed management, leadership, organizational structure, icon security, and employee safety, security, and training. The National Park Service has implemented improvements responsive to the issues cited, including training officers, procuring equipment, clarifying icon protection boundaries and responsibilities, promoting critical command staff, and improving communications with the Fraternal Order of Police, the civilian union, and the Labor Management Partnership Committee.



The 2010 budget request includes \$104.7 million for USPP, a programmatic increase of \$5.0 million over the 2009 enacted level. These funds will significantly assist the USPP to obtain the goal of a sworn officer force of 630 officers and a full support staff populated with civilians to meet the critical icon protection responsibilities and traditional law

enforcement services outlined in their mission. Park Police are responsible for visitor safety and icon security at large, urban parks in Washington, D.C., New York, and San Francisco. In addition, the Park Police continue to play key roles in the protection of the President and foreign dignitaries, and in the management of special events and demonstrations in the Washington, D.C. area.

Acquisition Management — Behind the scenes, there are core administrative functions that enable the parks to meet the demands of the public and achieve the mission of the Service, including acquisition and procurement professionals that ensure adherence to legal and regulatory requirements in a transparent and accountable manner.

The NPS has experienced a high rate of turnover in its contracting and purchasing staff in recent years. Combined with increasing responsibilities across the Service, many parks are experiencing significant delays in contracting and procurement. In addition, a recent assessment identified material weaknesses in the NPS contracting function. In response to the assessment and as a means of improving its efficiency, NPS developed a corrective action plan which included the reorganization of contracting professionals into a network of regional, park-focused major acquisition buying offices. The structure of the major acquisition buying offices was included in the corrective action plan responding to the review. Major acquisition buying offices will provide technical oversight of the acquisition function and workload management across NPS by servicing clusters of parks. The 2010 budget request includes an increase of \$8.5 million for major procurement and contracting services in parks. With this funding, NPS will immediately begin filling positions identified in approved acquisition reorganization plans at parks and regions, and provide required training to maintain compliance with contracting certifications. The re-structuring will cultivate a professional and accountable acquisition workforce, while reducing the workload at individual parks.

CARING FOR AMERICA'S TREASURES

The NPS manages many of America's greatest national treasures, stretching from the coral reefs at Dry Tortugas National Park in Florida to Point Reyes National Seashore in California and north to the Gates of the Arctic National Park in Alaska. To carry out increasingly complex stewardship responsibilities, the Park Service's 2010 budget includes

increased funding for the following: 21st Century Youth Conservation Corps, Tackling Climate Impacts, Resource Stewardship, Facility Maintenance, and Visitor Services. These programs build capacity to protect resources and allow for their continued appreciation, understanding, and enjoyment.

21st Century Youth Conservation Corps — The future of NPS rests in its ability to teach a new generation about the value of wildlife conservation and wise management of the Nation's natural resources, and develop an interest in careers as public conservators of America's vast environmental wealth. The 2010 budget request includes an increase of \$5.0 million for the youth internship program, which introduces high school and college age youth to career opportunities in the National Park Service through internships related to occupations in natural and cultural resource management. This increase is part of a Department-wide 21st Century Youth Conservation Corps initiative to fully leverage the expertise of the Department's land management bureaus—the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and NPS—and the U.S. Geological Survey to increase the engagement of youth in nature and conservation. The 21st Century Youth Conservation Corps initiative is discussed more fully in a separate chapter of this book.

Climate Impacts — With extensive land holdings and broad stewardship responsibilities, Interior plays a key role to better understand climate change impacts, develop strategies to adapt to climate-induced changes, and pioneer adaptive management approaches. In 2010, the Department is proposing a Climate Impacts initiative to address the need for land management agencies to plan and implement activities that will help plants and wildlife to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The 2010 NPS budget request includes \$10.0 million to assess risks to park resources and identify climate change adaptation or mitigation; build a climate



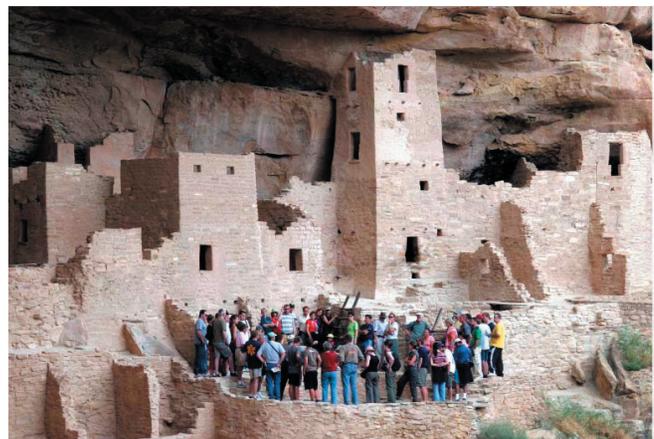
change monitoring system using the existing NPS natural resource network coordinated with USGS and other land management agencies; and establish a NPS-wide climate change office. These tactics will inform wildlife adaptation strategies and actions which will be integrated into land management plans and endangered species recovery plans. The NPS will also implement priority short-term wildlife adaptation plans. The Climate Impacts initiative, an integrated Departmental effort by BLM, USGS, FWS, BIA, and NPS, is discussed more fully in a separate chapter of this book.

Resource Stewardship— The 2010 President’s budget request includes a total increase of \$4.9 million that will enhance critical stewardship programs at parks through research, operations, and education activities. Seventy-four of the 391 parks units are adjacent to an ocean or the Great Lakes and attract over 75 million visitors annually. The NPS requests \$2.5 million to establish an integrated ocean and coastal program that will implement the Ocean Park Stewardship Action Plan at these parks, support inter- and intra-agency program coordination, and provide leadership for resource protection and management issues specific to these parks.

Historic and Archeological Inventories— The 2010 budget request also includes an increase of \$1.0 million to develop an inventory of cultural landscapes and historic and prehistoric structures, and \$1.0 million for archeological identification, evaluation, and documentation projects in parks, providing the first step to preserve important cultural resources. The 2010 request includes \$401,000 to accelerate the preparation of recreation and resource regulations that are needed to ensure continued recreational enjoyment in balance with the protection of park natural and cultural resources.

Facility Maintenance — The 2010 budget request includes a programmatic increase of \$2.2 million for emergency storm damage response and repair. During a typical operating year, parks sustain damage to resources due to severe storms, floods, fires, hurricanes, or earthquakes. The NPS ensures that facilities and infrastructure are repaired quickly to provide for safe, uninterrupted visitor use of facilities. Current annual funding for these types of emergency repairs to reopen parks after an event is budgeted at \$2.8 million. In fiscal year 2008, over \$6.0 million was needed for immediate response to storms and flooding. The funds requested in 2010 will help close the gap in funding.

Visitor Services — An increase of \$1.5 million is included in the 2010 request to implement the NPS Interpretation and Education Renaissance Action Plan and increase capacity to protect the health and safety of visitors and employees. This funding will allow NPS to develop measurable operating standards and core functional statements for the interpretation and education program. The Park Service will develop a process for implementing standards, measuring results, assessing outcomes, and prioritizing investments. Funding will allow NPS to pilot a website that will house and synthesize geographic information-based travel maps, data collected from studies and programs, downloadable ranger talks, iPod tours, curricula, lesson plans, and field trips to increase visitor knowledge and awareness. Funding will also be used to develop a program to track visitor injuries.



ENHANCING LEADERSHIP

The National Park Service Advisory Board described the NPS as “a sleeping giant—beloved and respected yes; but perhaps a bit too cautious, too resistant to change, too reluctant to engage the challenges that must be addressed in the 21st century.” One of the challenges facing the Park Service is the need to develop a workforce that reflects the changing and diverse face of America and demonstrates management excellence worthy of the treasures entrusted to its care.

Park managers must be skilled in the oversight and leadership of parks, both large and small, with complex operational policy and political issues. Park rangers and other park employees must be skilled in addressing the interpretation and education needs of visitors, protecting park resources,

ensuring the safety of employees and visitors, and restoring natural and cultural resources. As part of its second century, NPS will establish a structured professional development curriculum that will provide park managers with the skills to recruit and train a more diverse workforce and apply best business practices and superior leadership in human resources, business and asset management; e-government functions; and modern interpretive practices.

Some of the greatest adventures that we experience in life here in this Nation – like family vacations, and camping, and hiking, and fishing, if you’re blessed to have access to those resources – are possible because of the work that you do right here in the Interior Department.

*First Lady Michelle Obama
February 9, 2009*

Leadership and Management Succession — An increase of \$2.7 million is requested for a comprehensive leadership development program that will help NPS pursue and sustain leadership and development opportunities for all employees. The requested funding would be used cooperatively among regions, other agencies, contractors, and universities to create a national leadership development program to provide managers with the skills necessary to effectively lead the Service during its second century.



Superintendents Academy and Other Training — An increase of \$1.2 million will train new superintendents hired each year. Training programs will combine classroom learning, distance learning, experiential learning, assessments, mentoring and coaching to provide both common and individual-



ized developmental experiences for participants. In addition, an increase of \$500,000 is requested to enhance the skills of procurement, contracting, and financial assistance personnel.

PARTNERING TO PRESERVE AMERICA’S PARKS

The National Park Service enjoys a rich tradition of philanthropy. Thirty national parks were created through philanthropic donations. In that same spirit, the 2010 budget request includes \$25.0 million in Federal funds to leverage contributions from private groups and citizens. This will result in a combined benefit to the NPS of over \$50.0 million for signature projects or programs. Private contributions and Federal matching funds will complement increased park operating funds, paying for projects that inspire the American imagination and that offer national parks a new level of excellence that would not be possible without this added level of investment.

In 2008, Congress provided \$24.6 million for signature projects and programs that was matched with \$27.4 million in private donations for a total of \$52.0 million. This funding was invested in 75 parks across the country and included the preservation of 11 historic buildings, construction of seven new



GRANTS PROGRAMS IN THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Park Service grants help protect the Nation's significant historic and cultural sites and preserve its diverse cultural heritage. More than \$1 billion has been awarded to Federal, State, and local governments, Tribes, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions for preservation projects in all 50 States and the U.S. Territories.



American Battlefield Protection

Grants to governments, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions in support of the preservation of America's historic battlefields.



Preservation Technology and Training

Grants to nonprofit organizations, universities, and Federal agencies for historic preservation research, information management, and training projects.



Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Grants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities for preservation work on historic campus buildings.



Save America's Treasures

Grants to government agencies and nonprofit organizations for preservation and conservation work on nationally significant artifacts, collections, and historic properties.



Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

Grants to American Indian Tribes, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian organizations,



Tribal Heritage

Grants to American Indian Tribes, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian organizations for cultural and historic preservation projects.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICES

The Historic Preservation Fund promotes public-private and Federal/non-Federal partnerships to identify and protect irreplaceable historic and archeological resources. The NPS grants-in-aid to States, Territories, and Tribes support State Historic Preservation Offices and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, which provide grants for local historic preservation. The SHPO and THPO activities include:

- Comprehensive survey and inventory of historic properties.
- National Register of Historic Places nomination.
- Assistance to governments at all levels to develop and implement preservation plans and programs.
- Assistance to property owners in repairing properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Assistance evaluating commercial property rehabilitation proposals for Federal tax incentives.

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS

National Heritage Areas expand on traditional approaches to resource stewardship by supporting large-scale, community centered initiatives that connect local citizens to the preservation and planning process. Committed to protecting and promoting the cultural, historical, and natural assets of a region, NHAs play a vital role in maintaining both the physical character and the cultural legacy of the United States. A National Heritage Area is not a unit of the National Park Service, nor is the land owned or managed by NPS. The NPS provides technical, planning, and limited financial assistance to NHAs. The NPS is a partner and advisor, leaving decisionmaking authority in the hands of local people and organizations.

hiking trails, design of 15 new interpretive exhibits, and development of 20 new programs for children with special efforts to reach those in underserved communities. One of the many projects started in 2008 addressed safety issues at Yosemite National Park in California. With \$1.1 million in Federal funds and \$1.7 million from The Yosemite Fund, the park remedied safety issues at the Tunnel View Overlook, rehabilitated the viewing area, and restored iconic views including Yosemite Valley, El Capitan, Bridalveil Falls, Cloud's Rest, and Half Dome. The scenic overlook at the end of the Wawona Tunnel has been a "required stop" for Yosemite's visitors for nearly 75 years. During the height of the tourist season, up to 5,000 people each day arrive by tour buses, tram tours, and cars to visit this overlook.

In 2009, nine partnership projects or programs with matching private contributions are planned. One of these featured projects is the BioBlitz! Discovering New Species, a project that is being planned with the National Geographic Society. A BioBlitz!, also known as an All-Taxa Biodiversity Inventory, invites citizens and scientists to explore a park and perform systematic scientific surveys of living things that can be used to help manage park resources. This year's effort at Indiana Dunes follows a successful BioBlitz! at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area in 2008, and is the next in a series in partnership with the National Geographic Society. This project is funded by \$150,000 in Federal funds and \$150,000 in partner funds.



INVESTING IN THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

As Americans, we possess few blessings greater than the vast and varied landscapes that stretch the breadth of our continent. Our lands have always provided great bounty – food and shelter for the first Americans, for settlers and pioneers; the raw materials that grew our industry; the energy that powers our economy. What these gifts require in return is our wise and responsible stewardship.

President Barack Obama
March 30, 2009

President Theodore Roosevelt's legacy of conservation is seen across the country, not only in our national parks, but in national forests, wildlife refuges, and public lands. America's commitment to the natural environment is as strong today as it was at the beginning of the 20th century. Today, Federal, State, and local municipalities work together with private landowners to preserve, restore, and protect our vast green spaces, natural habitats, and complex ecosystems. Although our history of conservationism is long, and we take great pride in our existing national parks and other public lands, there are still many landscapes and ecosystems that require protection for future generations.

One way to protect these landscapes is through programs and grants supported by the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The 2010 President's budget includes \$419.9 million for LWCF programs, including \$300.1 million for Interior and \$119.8 million for the U.S. Forest Service. This puts the Administration on track to attain full funding of LWCF programs at \$900.0 million by 2014. The 2010 increase focuses on acquiring and conserving new parks, refuges and public lands, with a focus on ecosystems that do not yet have the protection they deserve.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

(dollars in millions)

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>Change from 2009</u>
Federal Land Acquisition			
Bureau of Land Management	14.8	25.0	+10.3
Fish and Wildlife Service	42.5	65.0	+22.5
National Park Service	45.2	68.0	+22.8
Forest Service	49.8	28.7	-21.1
Interior Appraisal Services	<u>8.0</u>	<u>12.1</u>	<u>+4.1</u>
Subtotal	160.2	198.8	+38.6
Conservation Grants			
FWS Coop. Endangered Species	75.5	100.0	+24.5
NPS State Grants	19.0	30.0	+11.0
Forest Legacy (Forest Service)	<u>49.4</u>	<u>91.1</u>	<u>+41.6</u>
Subtotal	<u>143.9</u>	<u>221.1</u>	<u>+77.1</u>
Total LWCF	304.2	419.9	+115.8



A Legacy of Conservation — The Land and Water Conservation Fund was created in 1965 to acquire land, water, and conservation easements. During its first 45 years, \$13.3 billion has been appropriated from the Fund to set aside lands for recreation, conservation, and management purposes and to assist States, Tribes and local governments to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities. The funding for these purchases comes primarily from revenues received from offshore oil and gas drilling. Other funding sources include the sale of surplus Federal property and taxes on motorboat fuel.

From majestic forests and snow-capped mountains, to wild rivers and lush grasslands, these acquisitions become part of our parks, wildlife refuges, public lands, national forests, and other public areas. The State LWCF grants provide States, communities, organizations, and individuals with resources and tools to meet conservation needs in cooperation with the Federal government.

Federal Land Acquisition — The Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service, acquire important properties available for purchase through fee title and easement. Lands are acquired through purchase from willing sellers at fair-market value or through partial or outright donations of property. Landowners can also sell or donate easements on their property that restrict development while keeping the land in private ownership.

Lands and waters purchased are used to:

- Provide recreational opportunities.
- Provide clean water.
- Preserve wildlife habitat.
- Enhance scenic vistas.
- Protect archaeological and historical sites.
- Maintain the pristine nature of wilderness areas.

Over the life of the program, the LWCF has provided \$6.7 billion to acquire land for Interior bureaus including parks, wildlife refuges, and additions to other public lands. In 2010, the budget request of \$170.1 million for Interior land acquisition will support 76 projects in 41 States and the Virgin Islands. The 2010 request includes \$25.0 million for BLM, \$65.0 million for FWS, \$68.0 million for NPS, and \$12.1 million for appraisal services. Appendix F includes a complete listing of the land acquisition projects to be funded by the 2010 budget by Bureau and State.

NPS State Grants – Since 1965, more than 41,000 matching grants to States and Territories have been approved for acquisition, development, and planning of outdoor recreation opportunities in



the United States. These grants have supported the purchase and protection of 2.6 million acres of recreation lands and over 29,000 projects to develop recreation facilities in every State and Territory of the Nation. Approximately 61 percent of the total funds obligated have supported locally sponsored projects to provide close-to-home recreation opportunities that are readily accessible to America's youth, adults, senior citizens, and the physically or mentally challenged.

The NPS 2010 request includes \$30.0 million to assist States, local, and tribal governments to protect and create park lands, open space, and wildlife habitat through competitively-awarded NPS State grants. This is an increase of \$11.0 million over the 2009 enacted level of \$19.0 million. The 2010 budget request includes \$27.2 million for grants and \$2.8 million for administration.

Beginning in 2009, mandatory funding for NPS State grants becomes available from certain Outer Continental Shelf revenues. The 2009 amount available to States is \$8.4 million and the estimate for 2010 is \$10.0 million. These grants to States will be allocated and used in the same manner as the appropriated funds.

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund — The FWS 2010 budget request includes \$100.0 million, an increase of \$24.5 million over 2009, for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund. This program provides grants to States for activities that conserve threatened and endangered species. States can, in turn, pass the funding on to municipalities, Tribes, and private landowners to enlist their support in species conservation efforts.

Conservation Grants — The CESC program includes funding for conservation grants to States. With this funding, States implement recovery actions for listed species, develop and implement conservation measures for candidate species, and monitor species to ensure conservation activities are having the desired outcome. The 2010 budget includes \$14.0 million, an increase of \$4.0 million that will allow an additional 128 grants to be funded.

Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants — Grants are provided to States to assist local governments and planning jurisdictions to develop regional, multi-species habitat conservation plans. Through habitat improvement, habitat acquisition, monitoring, and other activities, HCPs facilitate and support recovery actions and minimize threats to species. The 2010 budget of \$12.6 million, is an increase of \$5.0 million over 2009, and will allow an estimated 28 grants to be funded.

Species Recovery Land Acquisition — This program component funds land acquisition to promote species recovery, as one of the most effective means to address the loss of habitat for threatened and endangered species is through land acquisition. These grants to States are matched by States and non-Federal entities to acquire habitats from willing sellers. Approximately 46 grants will be funded in 2010 at the proposed level of \$29.7 million. This is an increase of \$15.5 million over the 2009 level.



PROJECTS COMPLETED WITH NPS STATE GRANT FUNDING

Rotary Community Park, Washington — Close-to-home recreation improvements to the 18-acre Rotary Community Park provide an inviting urban forest environment, pedestrian and bicycle trails, and a wide variety of active recreational opportunities. The heavily forested park, which features a half-mile trail along the creek was designed as an outdoor environmental classroom with interpretive facilities, salmon viewing platforms, wetland boardwalks, and paths. The park also features components designed to serve at-risk youth and support latch-key programs. These facilities include a concrete BMX/skatepark with a barrier-free events plaza, picnic tables, and a multi-purpose play court. In addition, there are trails, a playground, picnic shelter, and a pedestrian/bicycle path that connects the park to adjacent neighborhoods.



Avila Ranch, California — Acquisition of 2,355 acres near the City of Avila Beach will protect habitat and open space, and will create new outdoor recreation opportunities in an area threatened by residential development and habitat fragmentation. This acquisition supports a larger conservation vision of protected coastal landscapes by creating a corridor of connected lands that stretch from Avila Beach through the hills to Montana de Oro State Park and provide a 20 mile extension of the California Coastal Trail. It is one of the largest tracts of unprotected lands within the Irish Hills and its protection has been identified as a top priority by State agencies, local community members, and conservation groups.

PROPOSED 2010 FEDERAL LAND ACQUISITION

King Range National Conservation Area, California — Funding would be used by BLM to acquire 395 acres at a spectacular meeting of land and sea. Mountains appear to thrust out of the Pacific surf; a precipitous rise rarely surpassed on the continental U.S. coastline. King Peak, the highest point at 4,087 feet, is only three miles from the ocean. The King Range NCA covers 68,000 acres and extends along 35 miles of Pacific coastline between the mouth of the Mattole River and Sinkyone Wilderness State Park. The remote region is known as California's "Lost Coast" and is only accessed by a few back roads. The recreation opportunities here are as diverse as the landscape. The Douglas Fir-peaks attract hikers, hunters, campers and mushroom collectors, while the coast beckons to surfers, anglers, beachcombers, and abalone divers.

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois — Funds would be used by FWS to acquire approximately 200 acres in the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. The Refuge consists of wooded islands, sandbars, deep water, wet meadows, and other wetlands. It starts at Wabasha, Minnesota and extends 260 miles down the Mississippi River to Rock Island, Illinois. Winding through the midst of a settled, busy Midwestern landscape, the Refuge is influenced more and more by urbanization and development. The Refuge offers excellent opportunities for sightseeing, outdoor recreation, hunting, and fishing. Nearly four million people visit the Refuge each year. Up to 500,000 canvasback ducks and 30,000 tundra swans use portions of the Refuge during migration. A wide variety of other wildlife is also present, including 306 bird, 119 fish, 42 mussel, and 45 reptile and amphibian species. There are currently 200 active Bald Eagle nests on the Refuge.

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE

The Environmental Protection Agency, in concert with its Federal partners on the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force, has included within its 2010 budget request a Great Lakes Restoration initiative. The initiative begins in 2010 with \$475.0 million for programs and projects strategically chosen to target the most significant problems in the Great Lakes ecosystem and to demonstrate measurable results. The EPA has used the strategic planning work of the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force to identify five principal environmental problems for which urgent action is required.

The initiative will focus protection and restoration activities on:

- Toxic substances and areas of concern.
- Invasive species.
- Nearshore health and nonpoint source pollution.
- Habitat and wildlife protection and restoration.
- Information for decisionmaking and accountability.

In a competitive process, EPA and the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force evaluated and selected projects to be funded in 2010. There are a total of 52 projects selected for Interior bureaus at an estimated cost of \$85.9 million. Collectively, Interior’s projects target all of the five key areas. The request includes \$57.5 million for the Fish and Wildlife Service, \$15.0 million for the U.S. Geological Survey, \$10.5 million for the National Park Service, and \$3.0 million for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Interior will use this funding to restore habitats that are important to the health of the Great Lakes region including wetlands, islands, and tributaries. Cooperative projects will eradicate invasive species and conduct scientific research to identify environmental threats to the region and develop mitigation strategies.

**GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE
INTERIOR PORTION OF EPA REQUEST**
(dollars in millions)

Bureau	Projects	Funding
U.S. Geological Survey	19	15.0
Fish and Wildlife Service	20	57.5
National Park Service	12	10.4
Bureau of Indian Affairs	1	3.0
Total	52	85.9

