

## Celebrating and Enhancing America's Great Outdoors



*One of the great legacies of this incredible country of ours is our national parks and national monuments. It is something that we pass on from generation to generation, preserving the incredible beauty of this Nation, but also reminding us of the richness of its history.*

**President Barack Obama**  
July 10, 2015

Each year national parks and monuments, wildlife refuges, and Interior's other public lands provide hundreds of millions of visitors the opportunity to recreate on America's land and appreciate the Nation's cultural and natural resources. In 2014, national parks, wildlife refuges, national monuments, and other public lands managed by the Department of the Interior hosted an estimated 423 million recreation visits. These visits contributed \$42.4 billion to the economy and supported nearly 375,000 jobs nationwide. These lands memorialize important historic events, such as the Manhattan Project National Historic Park with units in New Mexico, Washington, and Tennessee; provide important recreational access to urban populations, such as the Fish and Wildlife Service's John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge in Philadelphia; and protect areas that preserve historic landscapes and diverse habitat while providing recreational opportunities, such as the Bureau of Land Management's Fort Ord National Monument on California's Central Coast.

The 2017 budget bolsters the Administration's commitment to connect Americans to the great outdoors, proposing \$5.7 billion for programs that support getting Americans outdoors, an increase of \$287.4 million over 2016. In 2017, the budget provides a special focus on programs funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund to enhance recreational opportunities for visitors particularly in urban areas, protect the Nation's cultural resources, and leave a legacy for future generations.

**Conserving Public Lands and Providing for Recreation through the Land and Water Conservation Fund** – Congress enacted the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 as a bipartisan commitment to safeguard natural areas, water resources,

*For more than 50 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has made it possible for the Federal government and communities across the country to work in partnership to build and expand parks and other recreational facilities—including hiking and biking trails—and to conserve pristine areas. All of this has been accomplished by investing a small portion of revenues from oil and gas development in Federal offshore waters into projects that benefit all Americans—in essence, putting back into the land part of what we have taken from it. I ask Congress for their support for full funding and reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.*

**Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior**  
April 6, 2015

and cultural heritage, and to provide recreation opportunities to all Americans. The idea of this landmark program was to use the benefits from the depletion of one natural resource for the protection and conservation of another—the public lands and waters. Today, the LWCF is helping to provide for America's outdoor spaces—public and private, large and small, urban and rural—as envisioned by the American people.

The Administration continues to seek full mandatory funding and permanent reauthorization of revenue deposits for the 50-year program. The 2017 budget requests full funding for the LWCF, including \$672.0 million for Interior, with \$347.0 million requested as discretionary funding and \$325.0 million proposed as mandatory funding. Interior's 2017 discretionary

**AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS**  
(dollars in millions)

	2016 Enacted	2017 Request	Change
<b>LAND MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS</b>			
Bureau of Land Management .....	1,180.4	1,182.5	+2.1
Fish and Wildlife Service .....	1,238.8	1,309.9	+71.1
National Park Service.....	2,369.6	2,524.4	+154.8
<b>Subtotal, Land Management Operations .....</b>	<b>4,788.8</b>	<b>5,016.8</b>	<b>+228.0</b>
<b>LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAMS <sup>1/</sup></b>			
Federal Land Acquisition			
Bureau of Land Management .....	38.6	44.0	+5.3
Fish and Wildlife Service .....	68.5	58.7	-9.8
National Park Service.....	63.7	68.2	+4.6
Office of Valuation Services .....	12.6	12.6	0
Grant Programs			
Fish and Wildlife Service			
Coop. Endangered Species Conservation Fund <sup>2/</sup> ...	30.8	53.5	+22.7
National Park Service			
State Assistance Grants.....	110.0	110.0	0
<b>Subtotal, LWCF Programs .....</b>	<b>324.2</b>	<b>347.0</b>	<b>+22.8</b>
<b>OTHER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS</b>			
Fish and Wildlife Service			
North American Wetlands			
Conservation Act Fund Grants .....	35.1	35.1	0
Neotropical Migratory Bird Grants .....	3.9	3.9	0
State and Tribal Wildlife Grants .....	60.6	67.0	+6.4
National Park Service			
Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance .....	10.0	10.1	+0.1
Historic Preservation Fund Grants .....	65.4	87.4	+22.0
American Battlefield Protection Program Grants .....	1.2	1.2	0
<b>Subtotal, Other Assistance Programs.....</b>	<b>176.3</b>	<b>204.7</b>	<b>+28.5</b>
<b>SUBTOTAL, LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES .....</b>	<b>5,289.3</b>	<b>5,568.5</b>	<b>+279.3</b>
<b>BUREAU OF RECLAMATION RIVER RESTORATION</b>			
Water and Related Resources			
River Restoration Activities .....	123.9	95.0	-28.9
San Joaquin Restoration Fund			
River Restoration Activities .....	0	36.0	+36.0
California Bay Delta Restoration Fund			
River Restoration Activities .....	0	1.0	+1.0
Central Valley Project Restoration Funds			
River Restoration Activities .....	3.5	3.5	0
<b>Subtotal, Reclamation Projects.....</b>	<b>127.4</b>	<b>135.5</b>	<b>+8.1</b>
<b>TOTAL, AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS .....</b>	<b>5,416.6</b>	<b>5,704.0</b>	<b>+287.4</b>

<sup>1/</sup> The Administration will submit a legislative proposal to permanently authorize annual LWCF funding. For ease of comparison, the table does not display any mandatory funding.

<sup>2/</sup> The 2016 enacted level for the FWS Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund includes a total of \$53.5 million, of which \$30.8 million is derived from the LWCF.

request is \$22.8 million above the 2016 enacted level, maintaining the important commitment to LWCF demonstrated by Congress in the 2016 appropriation. Interior's 2017 discretionary funding request includes \$173.5 million for Federal land acquisition, of which \$45.9 million is for Collaborative Landscape Projects. Mandatory funding of \$185.0 million includes \$96.8 million for CLP. The CLPs are competitively selected projects that address specific conservation priorities identified through a collaborative process conducted by Interior's land management bureaus and the U.S. Forest Service.

The 2017 budget request of \$900.0 million includes \$413.5 million in discretionary and mandatory funding for LWCF grants to State and local governments. The discretionary request is \$475.0 million consisting of \$235.8 million for Federal grants to States, including \$53.5 million for FWS Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund grants, \$110.0 million for NPS State Assistance grants, \$62.3 million for U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy grants, and \$10.0 million for NPS American Battlefield Protection grants, making up 50 percent of the total discre-

tionary request. The mandatory proposal is \$425.0 million consisting of \$177.7 million in grants including \$55.0 million for FWS Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund grants, \$45.0 million for NPS State Assistance grants, \$10.0 million for NPS American Battlefield Protection Program grants, \$37.7 million for U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy grants, and \$30.0 million for NPS Urban Parks and Recreation Fund grants. These six grant programs within the LWCF leverage funding by requiring matching funds. Two of the Interior grant programs are included in the Federal land acquisition accounts: the FWS Highland Conservation Act and the NPS American Battlefield Protection Program.

Over its 50-year history, LWCF has protected conservation and recreation land in every State and supported tens of thousands of State and local projects. Conserving landscapes and meeting the present day needs of local communities requires collaboration among all stakeholders, including private landowners, conservation and recreation groups, and local, State, tribal, and Federal governments. The LWCF provides funding to secure

**LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANTS**  
(dollars in millions)

	2015	2016	2017		
	Enacted	Enacted	Discretionary	Mandatory	Total Request
<b>STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAMS</b>					
<b>DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR</b>					
<b>FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE</b>					
Coop. Endangered Species Conservation Fund <sup>1/</sup> .....	27.4	30.8	53.5	55.0	108.5
Highlands Conservation Act Grants.....	3.0	10.0	0	0	0
<b>NATIONAL PARK SERVICE</b>					
State Assistance Grants .....	48.1	110.0	110.0	45.0	155.0
Formula Grants to States .....	42.0	94.8	94.0	37.7	131.7
Stateside Administration .....	3.1	3.2	4.0	0	4.0
Competitive Grants to States .....	3.0	12.0	12.0	7.3	19.3
American Battlefield Protection Program ....	9.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	20.0
Urban Parks and Recreation Fund .....	0	0	0	30.0	30.0
<b>Subtotal, Interior Conservation Grants .....</b>	<b>87.5</b>	<b>160.8</b>	<b>173.5</b>	<b>140.0</b>	<b>313.5</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE</b>					
<b>U.S. FOREST SERVICE</b>					
Forest Legacy.....	53.0	62.3	62.3	37.7	100.0
<b>TOTAL, STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAMS .....</b>	<b>140.5</b>	<b>223.1</b>	<b>235.8</b>	<b>177.7</b>	<b>413.5</b>

<sup>1/</sup> The 2015 and 2016 amounts include only the funding appropriated by Congress from the LWCF for the Species Recovery and Habitat Conservation Plan land acquisition grants. The 2017 budget proposes to fund all of the Cooperative Endangered Conservation Fund from LWCF.

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access for the American people to their public lands for recreational opportunities—from hunting and fishing, to canoeing and bird watching. The Departments of the Interior and Agriculture work in cooperation with local communities, rely on willing sellers, and maximize opportunities to achieve recreation and conservation goals through rights-of-ways, easements, and fee simple lands. Of the \$900.0 million in discretionary and mandatory funding proposed for LWCF, \$506.5 million will support conservation, sportsmen access, and recreational opportunities on public land. Within this total is \$21.2 million in discretionary and mandatory funds dedicated to improve access for sporting and recreation. This includes \$2.0 million for recreational access in parks, \$10.5 million for improved access in refuge areas and BLM public lands, and \$8.7 million for improved access in national forests for sportsmen and hunters.

The 2017 LWCF request continues funding for the interagency Collaborative Landscape Projects. This interagency partnership brings Interior and Agriculture together with local stakeholders to identify large natural areas where LWCF funds can achieve the most important shared conservation goals in the highest priority landscapes across the Country. This collaborative approach encourages smarter leveraged investments to achieve conservation objectives. Conserving large-scale natural areas provides multiple resource and economic benefits to the public, including clean drinking water, recreational opportunities, protected habitat for at-risk and game species, and jobs generated on and off these lands. The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture follow a rigorous merit-based evaluation process to select landscapes for investment in the collaborative landscape planning process. After evaluation and prioritization of multiple ecosystems, seven landscapes are selected for discretionary and mandatory funding in 2017:

- Florida-Georgia Longleaf Pine.
- High Divide in Idaho and Montana.
- Island Forests at Risk in Hawaii.
- National Trails in California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Pennsylvania.
- Pathways to the Pacific in Oregon and Washington.
- Rivers of the Chesapeake in Maryland and Virginia.
- Southern Blue Ridge in North Carolina and Tennessee.

The Administration's mandatory funding proposal for LWCF provides \$900.0 million in full and mandatory funding beginning in 2018. Mandatory funding will increase the financial certainty needed to build and enhance local and community conservation partnerships and optimize valuable investments by leveraging other Federal and non-Federal funds. The proposal for mandatory LWCF funding will foster simpler, more efficient land management; improve access for hunters, anglers, and other recreation opportunities; create long-term cost savings; address urgent threats to some of America's special places; and better support State and local conservation priorities. It will enable efficiencies in managing LWCF programs and facilitate a more predictable, transparent, and inclusive process. Mandatory funding also will fully achieve the original intent of the LWCF Act—to take a small portion of the royalties paid by private companies to access the Nation's offshore oil and gas reserves and invest in the protection of the Nation's lands and waters for the benefit of all Americans, now and in the future.

**Recreation and Community Engagement** – Public lands managed by BLM provide a diverse range of recreational opportunities. While public lands are already a popular destination for recreationists, as evidenced by nearly 63 million visitors in 2015, visitation is likely to increase as population growth and the urbanization of the West continue to make these lands accessible to more and more visitors. The 2017 budget includes a program increase of \$2.0 million in Recreation Resources Management to support BLM's National Recreation Strategy by facilitating access to public lands and improving conditions at BLM facilities. The BLM developed its 2014-2019 National Recreation Strategy to address increased visitation and the need to provide outstanding recreational opportunities for visitors and help adjoining communities achieve their own desired social, economic, and environmental goals. The Strategy recognizes public lands are connected to and integrated with communities and help create many opportunities for BLM to collaborate in setting mutual objectives for proposed recreation opportunities and pooling resources toward shared goals. To achieve these goals, the Strategy focuses on proactive engagement with communities and locally based government agencies and businesses.

The FWS national wildlife refuge system delivers conservation on a landscape level, with benefits that include improved water quality, flood

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mitigation, and important habitat for the survival and protection of endangered species. It also offers recreational opportunities, such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching. With 80 percent of the U.S. population residing in urban areas, these activities and outdoor experiences are unfamiliar to many. The FWS is actively developing strategies to engage urban audiences in meaningful, collaborative ways that help develop the next generation of American anglers, hunters, and outdoor enthusiasts.

To address this challenge, FWS developed the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program and designated 17 Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnerships in demographically and geographically varied cities. The Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge—the location of the Southwest’s first urban refuge partnership—will serve as an oasis for both wildlife and people on a former dairy farm just a few miles south of Albuquerque, New Mexico’s largest metropolitan area. The partnership will provide meaningful nature-based activities for students from area schools. Students will engage in approximately six hours of instructional time over the course of four days, blending classroom and field science experiences at the refuge. This new refuge will offer unique environmental education and recreation opportunities while encouraging conservation of wildlife and their habitats for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans. The 2017 budget includes an increase of \$7.5 million to expand and improve the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program.

Across the Nation, national parks capture the public’s imagination and provide opportunities to enjoy natural and cultural resources, and historic sites. The date of August 25, 2016, marks the Centennial of NPS. The Centennial kicks off a second century of stewardship of America’s national parks and community engagement through recreation, conservation, and historic preservation programs and celebrates the achievements of the past 100 years. The 2017 budget proposes a \$190.5 million increase in discretionary funding to ensure the Centennial provides a venue for Americans, particularly youth, to embrace opportunities to explore, learn, be inspired, or simply have fun in their 409 national parks. The Centennial is also an opportunity to convey how the national park experience can be replicated in the daily lives of Americans through community-based recreation, conservation, and historic preservation programs. Additional details on these increases are included in the National Park Service Centennial section of this chapter.

In addition to the Centennial initiative, the 2017 request focuses on providing outdoor recreational opportunities on non-Federal public lands. The budget includes \$110.0 million in discretionary funding for NPS State Assistance grants—level with the significant increase provided by Congress in 2016. These matching grants to States fund acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities, creating and maintaining a nationwide legacy of high quality recreation areas and facilities, while stimulating non-Federal investments to protect and maintain recreation resources across the United States. The budget includes an increase of \$260,000 for the NPS Federal Lands to Parks program. This program is the only Federal program through which State and local governments may acquire at no cost, surplus Federal real property to meet local needs for close-to-home parks and recreation purposes. By transferring these assets out of the Federal portfolio, the program reduces the Federal Government’s costs and provides opportunities for communities. This increase is critical due to potential new opportunities through the upcoming Department of Defense Base Realignment and Closure rounds as well as additional opportunities created by the Administration’s focus on reducing unneeded Federal real estate holdings.

*In 2016, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act and the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. As we approach these important milestones, we are especially mindful of our charge to tell America’s story through places that house the histories of distinct communities that have come together to form one Nation with a common destiny.*

**Jonathan Jarvis, Director  
National Park Service  
November 6, 2015**

**Protecting America’s Cultural Resources**—Interior is part of a national preservation partnership working with other Federal agencies, American Indian Tribes, States, local governments, nonprofit organizations, historic property owners, educational institutions, and others to preserve our shared heritage.

The Administration is committed to connecting visitors to the rich and diverse heritage resources on public lands while conserving fragile and

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sensitive resources. Interior's bureaus and offices maintain a diverse and scientifically important body of cultural resources, ranging from prehistoric cliff dwellings, to rock art and sacred places of significance to Native Americans, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians; to historic mining structures and ranches; and to 20<sup>th</sup> century engineering works that transformed the West. These cultural resources are a record of over 12,000 years of human adaptation on the North American continent.

In addition to historic structures and other cultural artifacts on Departmentally managed lands, Interior museum collections consist of over 194 million objects. This includes archeological artifacts, natural history specimens, archives, ethnographic and historic objects, and works of art. Interior bureaus and offices work diligently to provide proper preservation, care, and accountability for the collections, while ensuring access to them for scientific research and education. In 2017, the appropriated portion of Interior's Working Capital Fund requests \$2.0 million for the care of collections Department-wide, an increase of \$1.0 million compared to 2016.

The BLM budget includes a \$1.1 million program increase in Cultural Resources Management to enhance the capability to manage thousands of unique, irreplaceable heritage resources on public lands. The funds will primarily support on-the-ground inventories, updating regional overviews, and implementing predictive modeling and data analysis.

The NPS budget request includes a \$2.0 million increase to expand the successful Vanishing Treasures program model, expanding it from parks in the desert Southwest and Pacific Northwest to the rest of the national park system. Established in 1998, the Vanishing Treasures program grew out of park efforts to compare and coordinate preservation efforts in response to the deterioration of the historic and prehistoric sites and ruins under NPS stewardship. Through project work, the program supports the preservation of traditionally built architecture, facilitates the transfer of and training in traditional skills, provides technical preservation assistance, and promotes connections between culturally associated communities and places of their heritage.

The NPS also provides technical assistance and funding for historic preservation outside of the national park system. It administers grant programs to State, territorial, tribal, and local governments, educational institutions, and non-profits in

addition to providing preservation planning, technical assistance, and policy guidance.

In 2017, the budget request includes a \$22.0 million increase for grants funded through the Historic Preservation fund. Of this amount, \$17.0 million is for competitive Civil Rights grants, providing a total funding level of \$25.0 million. This proposal significantly increases the resources available to preserve the sites and stories of the Civil Rights movement through activities, such as documentation, rehabilitation, and preservation of historic sites; and develops place-based interpretive and education materials. An additional \$3.0 million increase will reinvigorate funding for grants-in-aid to Historically Black Colleges and Universities. With these grant funds, HBCUs will have a source of funding available for bricks and mortar rehabilitation and preservation projects, as well as for the development of place-based interpretive and educational materials.

The remaining \$2.0 million increase is for grants-in-aid to Tribes. To be eligible for these grants, Tribes must have signed agreements with NPS that designate them as having an approved Tribal Historic Preservation Officer to protect and conserve important tribal cultural and historic assets and sites. This Preservation Officer and staff are key figures in the effort to preserve and protect tribal cultural traditions. Their offices work on the frontlines in protecting cultural resources and significant places important to the cultural identity of Native Americans. They also ensure activities reflect the knowledge and participation of tribal elders, spiritual leaders, and other preservation professionals; as well as assist Federal agencies in complying with the National Historic Preservation Act on reservations and within traditional homelands.

In 1996, twelve Tribes were approved by the Secretary of the Interior and NPS to assume the responsibilities of a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer on tribal lands. The number of designated Preservation Officers will grow to an estimated 175 in 2017. The amount granted to each Preservation Officer has not kept pace with the increasing number of eligible recipients, falling to approximately \$57,000 in 2015. In 2017, the budget proposes a \$2.0 million increase for NPS HPF grants-in-aid to Tribes, for a total of \$12.0 million. This will increase the average amount of funding for each Preservation Officer to \$64,000. With these funds, Tribes will conduct education programs and engage tribal youth, conduct comprehensive surveys of historic properties, nominate eligible properties to the National Register

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of Historic Places, complete oral history projects, ensure historic properties are taken into consideration during planning and development, and consult with Federal agencies on Federal undertakings that may affect historic resources.

The NPS budget request includes a \$1.7 million increase for cultural programs funded in the National Recreation and Preservation account. Of this amount, \$903,000 will modernize the National Register Information System and data digitization to migrate important National Register data to a modern web-based platform. This will allow for more efficient management and provide the public with online access and search capabilities. This funding will make the records available for online public access in a searchable format, expanding use for academic research; review and compliance activities under the National Historic Preservation Act; and planning for community revitalization projects and other endeavors by local governments, Tribes, and community associations. An additional \$750,000 is requested to reinvigorate the Preservation Technology and Training grants program provided through the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training. These grants fund technical research and training in areas such as conservation of collections, sites, structures, and landscapes; the effects of climate change on historic resources; the application of new technologies to preservation; and disaster response and recovery. With the requested funding, NPS will more than double the number of grants provided each year, funding innovative science and technology solutions for cultural resource management ranging from disaster and oil-spill clean-up to the development of digital recording technology.

**A Legacy for Future Generations** – This summer, President Obama joined community members from California, Texas, and Nevada to announce the designation of the three newest national monuments.

- Berryessa Snow Mountain in California, a landscape containing rare biodiversity and an abundance of recreational opportunities.
- Waco Mammoth in Texas, a significant paleontological site featuring well preserved remains of 24 Columbian mammoths.
- Basin and Range in Nevada, an iconic American landscape that includes rock art dating back 4,000 years and serves as an irreplaceable resource for archaeologists, historians, and ecologists.

These newly designated monuments demonstrate the wide range of historic and cultural values that make America's public lands so beloved. With these new designations, President Obama used the Antiquities Act to establish or expand 19 national monuments. Altogether, this Administration protected more than 260 million acres of public lands and waters for future generations—more than any other President.

The 2017 BLM budget proposes significant investments in BLM's National Conservation Lands. These lands represent some of the Nation's most diverse and treasured landscapes, from mountain peaks to coastal shorelines, and arid deserts to redwood groves. These places offer boundless opportunities for education, scientific study, and recreation, thereby playing a vital role in reconnecting Americans to the great outdoors and instilling in them the respect and understanding of natural and cultural resources to better ensure the conservation and enjoyment of these precious landscapes for future generations. The month of June 2015 marked the 15th anniversary of BLM's National Conservation Lands. This milestone is an opportunity to appreciate the accomplishments in the history of the NCL and recommit to fully achieving the ideals on which these lands were created.

Thirteen new NCL units have been designated during the current Administration and visitation and visitor expectations and demands have increased for the entire NCL system during this period. Congress provided a \$5.0 million increase for the NCL in 2016 for foundational efforts at many of these newly designated units. The 2017 budget request builds on this momentum with a program increase of \$13.7 million to enable BLM to meet basic operating requirements at all of these new designations—for example, full staffing and development of management plans. This funding also will support critical and overdue investments at many more units to effectively fulfill critical roles in safeguarding the cultural, ecological, and scientific values for which they were designated; and provide the quality of recreational opportunities intended with NCL designation. The funds will be used for a wide variety of activities and projects, including conducting inventories of resources to better assure protection; implementing management, science, and travel plans; increasing law enforcement; and improving visitor services.

The 2017 NPS budget includes \$10.7 million for new responsibilities at park units, such as providing operational increases for initial management,

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visitor services, and interpretation at Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii, Waco Mammoth National Monument in Texas, and Pullman National Monument in Illinois. It also supports increases for the recently designated Manhattan Project National Historic Park, which has three sites located in New Mexico, Tennessee, and Washington.

In addition, the budget provides support for Bureau of Reclamation projects that contribute to the restoration of important watershed ecosystems in the West. Reclamation river restoration projects are funded at \$135.5 million, an increase of \$8.1 million compared to 2016. Funding within this total includes \$36.0 million for Reclamation's San Joaquin River Restoration program, an increase of \$1.0 million primarily for the Mendota Pool Bypass. The budget requests \$19.9 million for the Endangered Species Recovery Implementation program on the Platte River, including an increase of \$2.4 million to advance efforts on the J-2 Re-Regulation Reservoir Project. Additionally, the budget requests \$1.8 million for Cooperative Watershed Management, an increase of \$1.5 million to fund watershed management projects to meet competing demands and avoid conflicts exacerbated by drought; and \$6.3 million for the Cle Elum Fish Passage along the Columbia River, an increase of \$1.4 million.

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CENTENNIAL

*The Centennial is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the National Park Service to reflect on our accomplishments and to use all of our parks and programs to connect all Americans and visitors from around the world with the natural, cultural, and historic treasures in our care.*

***Jonathan Jarvis, Director  
National Park Service  
March 30, 2015***

The late nineteenth and early twentieth century was a time of great growth and change in the Nation. As farmers, ranchers, and miners replaced explorers, the Western experience was forever changed. Cities and towns sprung up across the West. Railroads now stretched across all parts of the region, from the Canadian border, through the desert southwest, to the Pacific coast. The 1890 census confirmed the closing of the western frontier; or as Frederick Jackson Turner stated, "The frontier has gone, and with its going has closed the first period of American history."

However, with the beginning of the new century, a new appreciation of the environmental, cultural, and scenic values of the West grew. By early 1916, America already had 14 national parks. Those first parks are still considered some of the crown jewels of our natural and cultural heritage, ranging from the dramatic hydrothermal features of Yellowstone and the towering splendor of Yosemite's Mariposa Grove in California to the somber commemoration of the Civil War's bloodiest battle at Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania.

The protection of these sites was the result of a growing awareness the Nation's natural wonders were not inexhaustible. The late nineteenth and early twentieth century conservation movement became increasingly vocal in its desire to protect the great outdoors. This movement included celebrated conservationists such as John Muir, Theodore Roosevelt, and Frederick Law Olmsted. Concerned citizen groups, such as the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association, also advocated for protection. Additionally, archaeologists pushed the government to protect priceless archaeological sites, such as Mesa Verde in Colorado and Chaco Canyon in New Mexico, from looting and vandalism.

Despite some successes in designating national parks and monuments, many more sites remained unprotected. Protection at designated sites remained inadequate. With the energy and talent of future Park Service directors Stephen Mather and Horace Albright, the time was finally ripe. On August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Park Service Organic Act creating NPS.

The purpose of this legislation still holds true one hundred years later, "...to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild-life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

The centennial year of 2016 kicks off a second century of stewardship of America's national parks and community engagement through recreation, conservation, and historic preservation programs. The opening event of the Centennial took place on January 1, 2016 with the Tournament of Roses annual Rose Parade. The parade's theme was "Find Your Adventure" in a national park, setting the stage for the American public to connect with NPS and experience the Nation's tremendous public lands.

The rest of the Country will join the celebration in February 2016 when “National Parks Adventure” begins playing at IMAX theaters. The film, sponsored by Brand USA, Expedia, Subaru, and REI, includes scenes from dozens of national parks, including Yellowstone in Wyoming, Glacier in Montana, Yosemite in California, and Arches in Utah. It will play in giant-screen, 3D, and IMAX venues in science and natural history museums over the next year with the potential to reach millions of viewers and inspire active exploration of parks and public lands.

The NPS is developing Centennial Challenge projects and programs to benefit visitors in the NPS second century. For example, NPS recently announced the opening in Ohio of the first phase of Cuyahoga Valley National Park’s first mountain biking trail. This 2.3-mile section of the East Rim Trail system gives mountain bikers, hikers, and runners a challenging new trail to explore in the Cleveland/Akron, Ohio area. Designed to follow the natural topography of the valley, the trail passes through dense woodlands and open meadows. When complete, the full East Rim Trail system will measure nearly 10 miles and connect to a system of bike trails over 100 miles long.

At Yellowstone National Park, the Gardiner Gateway Project is an unprecedented partnership between local, State, and Federal agencies to restore and enhance the original and only year-round entrance to the world’s first national park, Yellowstone National Park, and the Nation’s first gateway community of Gardiner, Montana. The project will improve the connection from the town of Gardiner and the park entrance through the iconic Roosevelt Arch by reconstructing roads, parking, walks, signs, and pedestrian areas to meet park road standards, accessibility standards, and historical context.

At Yosemite National Park in California, the park and the Yosemite Conservancy are working together to restore the Mariposa Grove

of giant sequoias. The Mariposa Grove is the largest of three groves within Yosemite, containing approximately 500 mature giant sequoia trees. The big trees so inspired early visitors that in 1864 in the midst of the Civil War, Congress passed landmark legislation to permanently preserve both the Mariposa Grove and Yosemite Valley, creating the first federally protected scenic areas in the Country. The restoration project will reconfigure the Mariposa Grove Road near the South Entrance to enhance safety and traffic flow, add new accessible parking spaces, provide new pedestrian trails, and restore giant sequoia and wetland habitats.

In 2017, the budget proposes a robust Federal investment of discretionary and mandatory funding, underscoring this Administration’s commitment to maintaining the Nation’s shared natural and cultural resources. This significant investment will include:

- An increase of \$150.5 million to address high priority deferred maintenance needs across the national park system. This investment will address work beyond the reach of NPS at current funding levels and will protect those investments for future generations through ongoing preventive maintenance. Along with an additional \$300.0 million in the deferred

<b>NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE</b>	
(dollars in millions)	
	2017 Request
<b>DISCRETIONARY</b>	
Construction - Deferred Maintenance .....	+54.7
Operation of National Park System	
Deferred Maintenance	
Repair and Rehabilitation .....	+49.2
Cyclic Maintenance .....	+46.6
Every Kid in a Park	
Transportation .....	+11.5
Coordinators .....	+8.5
Centennial Challenge - Federal Project Match .....	+20.0
<b>TOTAL, DISCRETIONARY .....</b>	<b>+190.5</b>
<b>MANDATORY</b>	
Centennial Challenge - Federal Project Match .....	+100.0
Second Century Infrastructure Investment .....	+300.0
Departmental Operations	
Public Lands Centennial Fund .....	+100.0
Second Century Fund - New Revenue Source .....	+40.4
<b>TOTAL, MANDATORY .....</b>	<b>+540.4</b>

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maintenance legislative proposal discussed below, over ten years NPS will be able to make targeted, measurable, and quantifiable upgrades to all of its highest priority non-transportation assets and restore and maintain them in good condition.

- An increase of \$20.0 million for NPS operations to engage youth through the Every Kid in a Park program.
- An increase of \$20.0 million for the Centennial Challenge program, providing an important Federal match to leverage partner donations for projects and programs at national parks in support of the Centennial.

The proposed National Park Service Centennial Act complements these discretionary investments, proposing mandatory funding of \$500.0 million a

year for three years with authority to collect additional fees through the NPS Second Century Fund. This proposal includes: \$100.0 million a year for three years for the Federal matching portion of the Centennial Challenge program; \$300.0 million a year for three years for Second Century Infrastructure Investments in high priority deferred maintenance projects; and \$100.0 million a year for three years for the Public Lands Centennial Fund, which will award project funding competitively to Interior's public lands bureaus and the U.S. Forest Service. The proposal also includes the authority to collect additional camping or lodging fees, and funds from purchases of the lifetime pass for citizens 62 years of age or older. Receipts for this Second Century Fund will be matched by donations in order to fund visitor enhancement projects. The impact of this new revenue source is estimated at \$40.4 million in 2017.

