

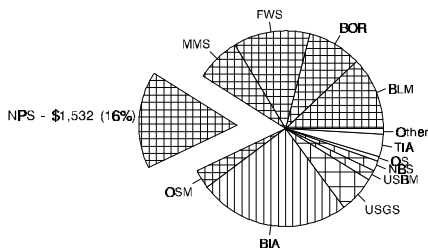


National Park Service

Our Nation recognized the value of preserving our heritage when it created the world's first National Park, Yellowstone, in 1872. The subsequent establishment of the National Park Service on August 25, 1916 reflected the Nation's recognition that natural and cultural resources must be set aside to be preserved for future generations.

The National Park Service (NPS) protects and manages the nation's most scenic and awesome places, including the Grand Canyon, Denali, and the Redwood forests, the same places that have come to dominate our national sense of place and our image of nature, timeless and unbound, beckoning explorers to her across a virgin continent.

FY 1994 NPS Budget Authority (\$ in millions)



Total DOI Budget Authority - \$9,663

The National Park System includes 368 vastly diverse units that embrace over 80.7 million acres across the country. The National Park System celebrates significant aspects of our country's heritage, including:

Natural Diversity: Displaying the great natural wonders of our country that range from the granite domes of Yosemite to the volcanos of Haleakala National Park and the beaches of Virgin Island National Park.

Cultural Diversity: Commemorating American Indians, Pacific Islanders, Alaska Natives, African Americans, Spanish pioneers, and European and Asian immigrants, all of whom were integral to the

development of our country.

Historic Diversity: Celebrating the pioneering efforts of homesteaders and ranchers who settled the country, and the individuals who have protected our freedom since the first shots of the Revolutionary War.

Professional Diversity: Celebrating the contributions of nationally significant individuals, ranging from sculptors, writers and performers, to politicians, statesmen and bankers.

Recreational Diversity: Embracing 18 national recreation areas from the Cape Cod National Seashore in Massachusetts to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in California. National Rivers, Scenic Trails and Seashores: these are the Nation's playgrounds.

National Park Resources in Peril: "Loving our parks to death" has become a popular expression for the troubled state of natural and cultural resources within the National Park System. The annual 273 million visitors often unintentionally, and occasionally intentionally, cause resource damage that results, over time, in significant damage to resources.

In Mesa Verde National Park, for example, years of cumulative impacts at the Cliff Palace have weakened ancient walls and caused the build up of harmful oils on ruin surfaces.

In the last five years, intentional resource violations on National Park Service lands have increased 123 percent, ranging from the purposeful cutting of live trees to the theft of Native American pottery and Civil War relics. Crimes against natural resources include poaching, collecting and damaging wildlife, plants, minerals, and fossils.

At Petrified Forest National Park, studies show that approximately 12 tons of petrified wood have been removed by park visitors yearly either as souvenirs

or black market sales items.

Employees: The main backbone upholding the agency and carrying out its mission are Park Service employees. Total staffing in 1995 is approximately 19,200 full time equivalent employees, of which more than 75 percent are employed in park units. Park employees serve a diverse clientele of visitors and function in multiple roles as both caretakers and interpreters of natural and cultural sites.

Park Rangers are law enforcement officials and protectors of visitor safety. In 1993 alone, there were 6,200 search and rescue actions in the parks and more than 5,000 serious law enforcement incidents.



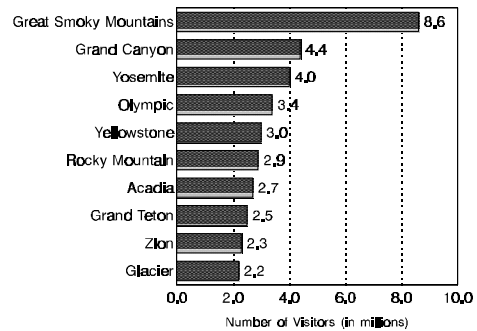
North Carolina Monument sculpted by Gutzon Borglum (Gettysburg National Military Park).

In the area of cultural resource preservation, park staff serve as historic preservation specialists, undertaking specialized repairs in unique surroundings such as replacing the original plaster ceiling at Arlington House, the ante-bellum home of Robert E. Lee.

One of the most visible functions of all is serving the visitor. From the ranger at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, who explains lava activity while it flows only a few feet away from the visitor, to the interpreter at Independence National Historical Park, who details the historic deliberations of the Continental Congress, the park employee serves as the link between the past and the present.

Park Fees: Entrance fees are charged at 186 of

Most Visited National Parks in 1994



the 368 National Park System units, ranging from \$3 per person or \$5 per vehicle at most locations to \$10 per vehicle at Yellowstone, Grand Tetons, and the Grand Canyon. In addition, recreational use fees for facilities such as campgrounds and boat launches also are charged at parks throughout the System.

In 1994, fees generated \$76 million, equalling five percent of the total National Park Service budget. Although most of this revenue goes into the general Treasury, beginning in 1993, 15 percent was retained without further appropriation to offset the costs of fee collection.

By historical standards, the National Park Entrance fees are extremely low. The 1916 auto permit prices at Yellowstone (\$10), Yosemite (\$8) and Mount Rainier (\$6) are equivalent to over \$83, \$65, and \$50 in current dollars. The National Park Service is committed to continued review of the fee structure and other means of revenue generation to ensure the availability of the resources necessary to manage and protect the treasures entrusted to it.