



RECREATION

Whether you're hiking, biking, canoeing, or camping – exploring the outdoors is a part of the American life.

Secretary Gale A. Norton, August 17, 2001

Lands managed by the Department of the Interior attract nearly 500 million visitors each year. Interior provides an array of rewarding outdoor experiences and recreational opportunities for the public, including fishing, hiking, hunting, camping, canoeing, climbing, wildlife viewing, and photography. Surveys show that the Department delivers quality services to visitors, generating high customer ratings.

RECREATION MISSION

The Department of the Interior will work to enhance the quality of life, health, fitness, and enjoyment of individuals through recreation.

The 387-unit national park system offers many of the Nation's primary recreation destinations. Annually, over 39 million people visit our national wildlife refuge system of 540 units spanning 95 million acres. This year, as the Department celebrates the refuge system centennial, Interior is partnering with the National Wildlife Refuge Association in a special effort to promote volunteerism to help control invasive species that threaten so many refuges. The 262 million acres of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management bring additional recreational enjoyment. Over 60 million visitors will visit BLM lands in 2003.

FULL FUNDING OF THE LWCF

The Department is fulfilling the President's commitment for fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund with a comprehensive, partnership approach. The Department's 2004 LWCF program proposes \$662.4 million. The LWCF proposal emphasizes conservation partnerships with States, Tribes, local communities, and private citizens, while also including a strong State grant program and strategic Federal land acquisition. A total of \$238.3 million is requested for LWCF programs in the U.S. Forest Service budget, for a government-wide total of \$900.7 million.

RECREATION GOALS

On Department of the Interior managed or partnered lands and waters

- **Improve access to appropriate recreation opportunities,**
- **Ensure a quality experience and enjoyment of natural and cultural resources, and**
- **Provide for and receive fair value in recreation.**

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND
(dollars in thousands)

The 2004 budget fulfills President Bush's commitment to provide \$900 million annually from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

	<u>2004 Request</u>
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR	
Cooperative Conservation Initiative	
BLM	
Challenge Cost Share	20,973
FWS	
Refuge Challenge Cost Share ...	11,876
Partners for Fish and Wildlife .	38,378
Coastal Programs	9,639
Migratory Bird Joint Venture ...	10,355
NPS	
Challenge Cost Share	20,980
Take Pride in America	<u>1,000</u>
Subtotal	113,201
LWCF Grant Programs	
NPS	
State Assistance Grants	160,011
FWS	
State/Tribal Wildlife Grants	59,983
Landowner Incentive Grants ...	40,000
Private Stewardship Grants	10,000
Coop. Endg. Species Grants	86,614
NAWCF Grants	<u>49,560</u>
Subtotal	406,168
Federal Land Acquisition	
BLM	23,686
FWS	40,737
NPS	<u>78,623</u>
Subtotal	143,046
Subtotal, Interior	<u>662,415</u>
U.S. FOREST SERVICE	
State LWCF Programs	
Forest Legacy	90,797
Forest Stewardship	65,526
Urban and Community Forestry ..	37,771
Federal LWCF Land Acquisition ..	<u>44,158</u>
Subtotal, Forest Service	238,252
TOTAL	<u>900,667</u>

Partnerships are key to achieving LWCF goals to conserve, develop, and utilize resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people. Partnerships engage private landowners in stewardship, creating a Nation of citizen stewards and leveraging Federal conservation resources.

STATESIDE LWCF GRANTS

The Land and Water Conservation Fund, created in 1965, aims to develop and maintain a nationwide legacy of high-quality recreation areas and facilities and to stimulate non-Federal investments in the protection and maintenance of recreation resources across the United States.

Today, the LWCF State grant program is a cornerstone of the Secretary's commitment to partnerships in conservation and recreation. Through this program, Interior and its State partners provide recreational opportunities across the Nation. Matching grants to States fund the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. As a result, States have enhanced outdoor recreation planning, established and expanded their own scenic river, trail, and other systems, encouraged their cities and counties to improve planning and development of recreation resources, and initiated hundreds of recreational bond issues to fund State and local parks.

By partnering with States, recreation goals can often be accomplished in a more timely and cost-effective way than through direct Federal action. In addition, the States are able to prioritize how to best spend these funds. The President's budget requests \$160.0 million for the LWCF State grant program, a \$16.1 million increase over the 2002 level enacted by the Congress and \$10.0 million over the request for formula grants in 2003. The 2003 request for \$50.0 million in discretionary grants is not continued.

PARK VISITATION

The National Park Service makes recreational opportunities available by providing and maintaining a vast infrastructure of about 8,000 miles of roads, over 13,000 miles of trails, almost 7,600 administrative and public use buildings, and managing over 2,800 miles of scenic rivers.

The primary source of funding to support recreational activities within the parks comes from the park operating base. With these funds, parks offer services such as interpretive ranger programs, staffing at visitor centers, daily maintenance activities, and other programs designed to enhance the visitor experience.

The NPS 2004 budget proposes an increase of \$14.2 million for operational funding needs in parks to support increased recreational access and opportunities and to protect lives and property, as well as provide educational opportunities.

With this increase, parks can enhance the services and recreational opportunities offered to visitors, and ensure that visitors have a safe experience. For example, the 2004 budget proposes a \$590,000 increase to celebrate the centennial of the first powered flight at the Wright Brothers National Memorial. The park plans to recognize this historic event through a series of special activities on the site of the first flight. The budget request will provide expanded and enhanced interpretation, protection, and maintenance services at the Wright Brothers National Memorial to handle the increased visita-



tion and special events. Visitors to the site would have a safer, more enjoyable visit, and gain a better understanding of an event that changed the world forever.

FEDERAL LANDS TO PARKS

In 2004, the Department of the Interior will generate additional recreational opportunities for communities with a \$300,000 increase for the National Park Service's Federal Lands to Parks program, which helps communities obtain, for public parks and recreation use, those Federal properties that have been declared surplus. Through this partnership with local communities, the Park Service

has helped expand recreational amenities, protect open spaces, and preserve historical and natural resources. Since the program's inception in 1949, over 1,400 properties, approximately 150,000 acres, have been transferred to State and local governments for parks and recreation areas.

With the assistance of State and local governments, NPS works

with communities interested in using the surplus land for park and recreation use, aiding them in filing their application. The Park Service acts as a broker between the applicant and the Federal agency that owns the property (usually the General Services Administration or the military). The NPS secures approval of the community's application, recommends the property transfer, prepares the deed, and conveys any restrictions associated with the deed.

For example, NPS facilitated the 12.5 acre transfer of surplus U.S. Coast Guard property to Dorchester County, Maryland for public park and recreation use. This property, located on the Chesapeake Bay, valued at over \$150,000, will be developed for nature trails with elevated boardwalks, wildlife observation stations, a picnic area, a playground, and an open grassy play area.

NPS PROFILE

Parks	387
Administrative and Public Use Buildings	7,580
Historic Buildings	5,771
Housing Units	4,389
Miles of Roads	8,000
Miles of Paved Trails	763
Miles of Unpaved Trails	12,250
Bridges and Tunnels	1,804
Water and Wastewater Systems ...	680

LEWIS AND CLARK TRAVELING EXHIBIT

The Lewis and Clark bicentennial began at Monticello on January 18, 2003 with commencement of the first leg of Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future. Partners in Corps II include the National Park Service, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, and various other Federal, State and local partners, as well as 68 Indian Tribes. Corps II is a dynamic, interactive traveling exhibit tracing the route that Meriwether Lewis and William Clark followed across the continent from 1803 to 1806. The exhibit will conclude a nationwide tour in St. Louis in September of 2006 after traversing 19 States.



Corps II serves as the unifying component of the bicentennial observance from 2003 to 2006. This traveling exhibit seeks to develop the widest possible audience for the story of the expedition, bringing the history of the bicentennial directly to communities across the continent and will augment local bicentennial events associated with the expedition. The Tent of Many Voices, a prominent feature of Corps II, is a self-guided orientation exhibit with a performance tent containing a stage, an audiovisual system, lighting, and seating capacity for 150 individuals. The Tent of Many Voices enables visitors to explore cultural and natural resource themes through live interpretation, cultural demonstration, folklore, and music.

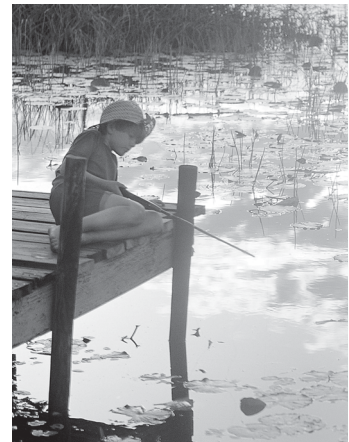
The traveling bicentennial centerpiece will also offer off-site learning opportunities with internet and satellite long-distance learning capabilities.

The 2004 budget maintains strong support for the Lewis and Clark bicentennial and the Corps II exhibit. An increase of \$600,000, bringing total Corps II funding in 2004 to \$1.6 million, will provide for the purchase of a three-tent display exhibit and additional transportation expenses.

RECREATION ON PUBLIC LANDS

Public lands managed by BLM provide recreational venues for a growing population in the West. The 2004 BLM budget request includes a net increase of \$5.2 million to continue to provide recreational opportunities that protect natural and cultural resources, ensure public health and safety, and resolve user conflicts.

Foremost among BLM's challenges is providing quality access to public lands and managing off-highway vehicles. The 2004 increase will support transportation and public access on BLM lands through comprehensive planning, improved signing and mapping, and off-highway vehicle monitoring. The BLM will improve visitor experiences through facility and access improvements and expanded educational and interpretive ser-



The Object of your mission is to explore the Missouri river and such principal stream of it as by it's course and communication with the waters of the Pacific ocean, whether the Columbia, Oregon, Colorado, or any other river may offer the most direct and practicable water communication across this continent for the purpose of commerce.

*President Thomas Jefferson, June 20, 1803 to Meriwether Lewis Esq.,
Captain of the first regiment of infantry of the United States of America*



vices and programs. Funding for partnership efforts and volunteer recruitment and training will help BLM develop collaborative approaches to managing recreation activities.

NATIONAL RECREATION RESERVATION SERVICE

Through a multi-agency initiative, Interior is partnering with the Department of Agriculture and the Army Corps of Engineers to integrate the National Park Reservation Service into the National Recreation Reservation Service, currently run jointly by Agriculture and the Corps, by fiscal year 2004. The goal is to make the recreation reservation process more accessible, easier to use, less time consuming, and more cost effective. In addition to consolidating the National Park Reservation Service into NRRS, Interior, Agriculture, and the Corps are laying the foundation for BLM,

the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation to incorporate their respective reservation needs into NRRS in the future. Recreation reservation possibilities will range from reserving tours for the Washington Monument to reserving campsites, day use areas, and cabins on a wide array of popular Federal public lands.

RECREATIONAL FEE PROGRAM

One important tool that Interior uses to deliver quality recreational experiences to the American public is the Recreational Fee Demonstration program. Operating since 1996, this program offers expanded opportunities for recreational use of the Nation's parks, refuges, and public lands. Annual Departmental collections exceed \$150 million from recreation fee programs. Most of these collections are used on site. Collected fees primarily address deferred health and safety maintenance projects, resource protection, visitor services, and help to defray the costs of current and future fee collections. Each year Interior works with other Federal agencies, Tribes, States, local communities, and other organizations to improve its fee structure and to ensure an affordable, consistent value for services provided. Department-wide surveys suggest strong public support for the Recreational Fee Demonstration program. Current legislation for the Recreational Fee Demonstration program will expire in 2004. The Administration will work with the Congress to make the recreational fee demonstration program authority permanent legislation.

Words are too tiny and pictures too small to give a description of the grandeur of the Canyon — the fascinating color changes as the sun rises; the impossible understanding of elevation and space. It is a tapestry we longed to reach out and touch that took millions of years to create and is unfathomable in its spectrum of colors, shapes and sizes.

No electricity, no city lights, nothing but nature all around...and, as I lay on the ground looking up, I felt an incredible sense of peace come over me. Seeing the stars, hearing the crickets, knowing all is well in this moment in time. This is the kind of healing moment ... that this type of experience on Public Lands can offer anyone coming to visit... .

*Secretary Gale A. Norton, September 28, 2002 quoting Cathy Kiffe,
member of the Southern Trekkers Team*

VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS PROGRAM

The Department depends on the services of volunteers to help accomplish its mission. Each year, approximately 200,000 volunteers, almost three times the Department of the Interior's Federal workforce, help address resource protection and public recreation needs. The dollar value of the hours contributed by these volunteers is estimated at nearly \$100 million annually.



Today, over 126,000 volunteers work in over 350 National Park Service sites across the country. Others work on wildlife refuges or recreation sites across the U.S.

In 2004, volunteers will assist paid NPS staff with important park projects such as the Lewis and Clark bicentennial, the Powered Flight centennial, and the Jamestown 400th anniversary. The 2004 budget includes an increase of \$1.5 million for volunteer programs. A \$1.0 million increase is aimed at bolstering volunteer participation and enhancing park capacity to supervise, train, utilize, and reward ad-

ditional volunteers. An increase of \$500,000 will allow NPS to establish full-time regional coordinators to manage the enhanced program.