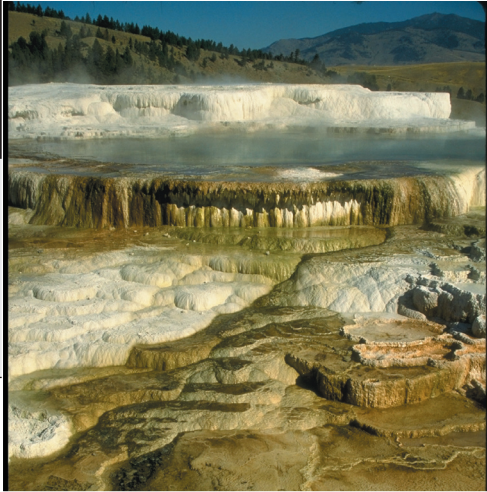


# National Parks Centennial

*Parks teach and inspire. Parks are America the beautiful...the cultural...the historical.*

*Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of the Interior  
October 15, 2007*



The 2009 budget for the National Parks Centennial Service initiative prepares our national parks for another century of conservation, preservation, and enjoyment with \$2.4 billion for National Parks. The 2009 budget request for park operations is a historic \$2.1 billion, an increase of \$160.9 million above the 2008 enacted level. This is the largest budget ever for park operations. The 2009 budget fulfills the National Parks Centennial promise by increasing funding for park operations and will allow the parks to:

- Preserve our Nation's heritage.
- Connect people to parks.
- Foster education and professionalism.

The budget request also supports the President's Centennial Challenge, which will encourage individuals, foundations, and the private sector to donate funding for signature projects and programs. These donations will be matched with up to \$100.0 million in dedicated, mandatory Federal funding. By leveraging government investment with private philanthropy, the Centennial Challenge will enhance park services and management, invest in high-profile, nationally recognized Centennial projects and programs, and develop park educational programs to benefit all Americans.

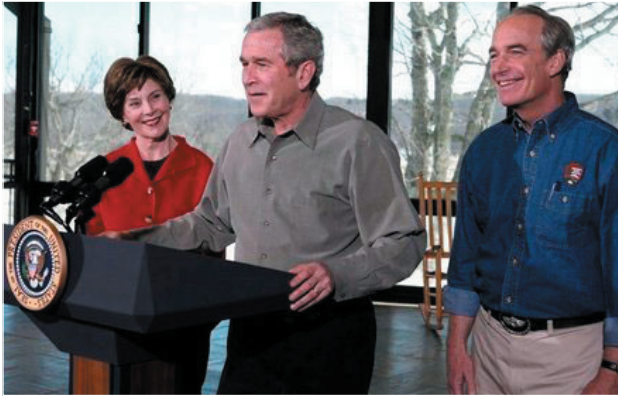
## CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE

Americans love their parks. Yosemite and Yellowstone, Grand Canyon and Grand Teton, Shiloh and Shenandoah, and other parks are sanctuaries of enjoyment, recreation, learning, and personal renewal. They preserve majestic natural wonders

and offer spectacular backcountry hiking. They are home to grizzlies, moose, spawning salmon, and birds of all feathers. They help us keep watch over battlefields hallowed by red badges of courage. They keep culture alive at sites dedicated to the performing arts, poetry, and music. Urban parks introduce inner-city children to outdoor wonders.

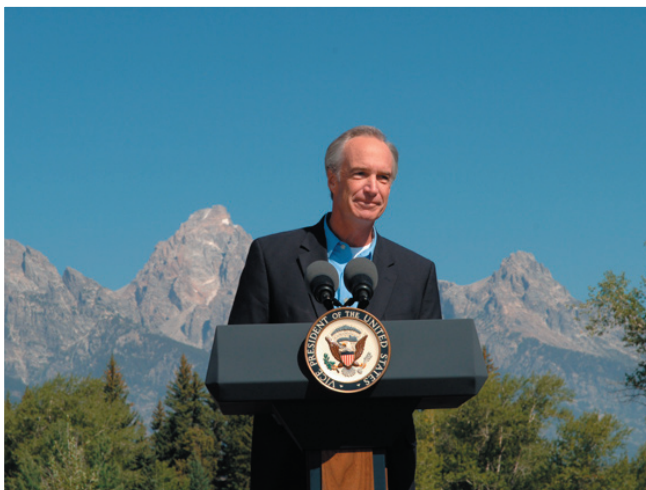
While we preserve the natural and cultural wonder of parks, we must also deal with the realities of the world in which we live. Changing landscapes, urban sprawl, and the impacts of climate change, fire, storms, fragmented habitat, and invasive species are but a few of the many challenges facing park managers today. We are also challenged to make parks relevant to younger generations and a more diverse population. Children are increasingly disconnected from the outdoors. Modern technology and virtual experiences compete with authentic learning adventures and personal exploration of our Nation's nature and history.

The challenge facing park managers is to conserve what is timeless while keeping pace with the modern needs of Americans. The Park Service is making a 21<sup>st</sup> century commitment to work in partnership to preserve parks, while making them more accessible and connecting adults and children to the outdoors, history, and culture. An inner-city child in Washington, D.C. who catches a bluegill in a cement-lined pond in Constitution Gardens may one day explore the wilds of Alaska fishing for king salmon. Furthermore, within a framework of competing financial needs, park managers require consistent training and experience to manage the budget, identify more effective and efficient ways to deliver services to visitors, and recruit and retain a skilled workforce.



## A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Laying the groundwork for the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, President Bush announced a National Parks Centennial initiative on August 25, 2006. He directed Secretary Kempthorne to report by May 31, 2007, on specific performance goals to be achieved so our parks enjoy “another century of conservation, preservation, and enjoyment.” The 2008 President’s budget set forth the initial investments to achieve the goals of the Centennial initiative, with \$100.0 million in operating funds for new levels of excellence in parks. The budget also proposed up to \$100.0 million per year of Federal mandatory funding to match \$100 million or more in private philanthropic donations to the National Park Service. With an unprecedented proposed \$2.4 billion budget for the Park Service—the largest budget ever for operations and programs that benefit parks—the President affirmed his commitment to a bold public lands agenda to protect the vast treasures of the national park system for this and future generations.



During a series of nationwide listening sessions, the public expressed enthusiastic support for the Nation’s vast open spaces, natural wonders, and cultural landscapes. Drawing on the comments, recommendations, and ideas of thousands of Americans, including park visitors, current and retired NPS employees, experts, and advocates, Secretary Kempthorne’s May 2007 report to the President, *The Future of America’s National Parks*, outlined five overarching goals to guide the Park Service as it prepares for its centennial anniversary in 2016. Broad objectives, supported by specific performance goals, and potential actions and examples accompany each goal. In August 2007, NPS certified 201 project proposals as eligible for funding through the Centennial Challenge in fiscal year 2008. These projects represent a total potential investment of \$369.9 million, \$215.9 million from partners, and \$154.0 million in Federal funding.

### CENTENNIAL GOALS

- **Stewardship** — Lead America in preserving and restoring treasured resources.
- **Environmental Leadership** — Demonstrate environmental leadership to the Nation.
- **Recreational Experience** — Offer superior recreational experiences where visitors explore and enjoy nature and the great outdoors, culture, and history.
- **Education** — Foster exceptional learning opportunities connecting people to parks, especially children and seniors.
- **Professional Excellence** — Achieve management and partnership excellence to match the magnificence of the treasures entrusted to its care.

*Secretary Kempthorne’s Report to the President,  
The Future of America’s National Parks  
May 2007*

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The President's proposal received broad bipartisan support in Congress as well, with full funding for the initiative provided in the 2008 appropriation. With the funding for 2008, NPS is taking the first steps in attaining new levels of distinction in park stewardship, recreational and educational opportunities, environmental leadership, and management and partnership excellence. With these funds, NPS is hiring 3,000 more seasonal national park rangers, guides, and maintenance workers; repairing buildings; enrolling more children in Junior Ranger and Web Ranger programs at the parks; and expanding the use of volunteers in parks.

The Administration also introduced the Centennial Challenge Fund legislation that would authorize the use of \$100.0 million per year of Federal mandatory funding to match \$100 million or more in private philanthropic donations to the National Park Service. Both the House and Senate introduced bills based on the Administration's legislative proposal. While the Congress continues to work on final passage of the bill, the 2008 appropriation included \$24.6 million in discretionary funding to begin the Centennial Challenge and match private philanthropic contributions for signature projects.

*We've hiked in Yellowstone and Glacier and Yosemite and Olympic National Park in Washington and Denali in Alaska...the national parks have been a very important part of our family life.*

*First Lady Laura Bush*

## NATIONAL PARKS CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE THE DETAILS

For the second year, our budget supports a ten-year effort to strengthen visitor services and other programs in parks and prepares us to address the needs of the public in time for the NPS centennial in 2016. The 2009 budget request proposes net program increases of \$125.1 million for park operations. Combined with fixed cost increases of \$35.8 million, the 2009 President's budget is \$160.9 million above the 2008 enacted level. This increase will allow NPS to capitalize on the enthusiasm and the momentum gained in 2008.

The 2009 Centennial initiative will provide:

- A total of \$79.4 million to build park operational capacity, including increases

for core operations, facility management, Park Police operations, and youth partnership programs. An increase is also included for parks along the southwest border.

- An additional \$45.8 million to care for America's treasures. Using a combination of flexible park base dollars and focused project funding, the Park Service will improve the health of natural and cultural resources and continue to manage park facilities and assets in good condition using a predictive maintenance cycle.
- An additional \$8.0 million to develop a 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce. Funding will strengthen organizational capacity and employee development through Service-wide employee development programs and enhanced performance management tools.
- Up to \$100.0 million of mandatory funding annually through 2016. As proposed in the 2008 President's budget, the Challenge invites individuals, foundations, businesses, and the private sector to contribute at least \$100 million annually to support signature programs and projects in our national parks. To encourage these public-private partnerships, the 2009 budget proposes to match these contributions with up to \$100.0 million of mandatory funding annually through 2016.

## BUILDING PARK OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

At the core of the Centennial initiative is a commitment to provide enhanced visitor services to the more than 270 million people who visit the parks annually. Effective park management through the next century requires a wide range of services to build and maintain park operational capacity, connect people to parks through appropriate interpretive and recreational programs for visitors of all ages, protect and improve the condition of the Nation's natural and cultural resources, and develop strong management tools, while investing in the next generation of park managers and leaders. These outcomes are supported through park operations funding, including a combination of park base funding and project funding focused on the highest priorities.





**Park Base Funding: Setting a Solid Foundation for Parks**

The primary source of funding to support park activities comes from the park operating base. With these funds, parks offer services such as interpretive ranger programs, visitor facility operations, daily maintenance activities, and other programs designed to enhance visitor services and protect park resources. The 2009 President’s budget includes \$44.8 million in targeted park base increases, which would enhance core visitor services and resource protection needs at 218 parks.

The Park Service formulates and evaluates park base funding needs using a suite of financial and organizational management tools, including the NPS scorecard, as a means of ensuring park funds are allocated to operations that support each park’s primary mission and Service-wide priorities. As in the 2008 process, for formulation of the 2009 budget, NPS identified high-priority needs and established priorities based on park and regional manager assessments. These decisions were informed by management processes, such as park business plans, which involve analyzing spending patterns, identifying cost recovery strategies and efficiencies, focusing efforts on core mission activities, and working toward high priority performance goals.

Using the financial and organizational data in the NPS scorecard, the relative efficiency of parks was evaluated, providing the basis for allocation deci-

sions. The requested funding will be allocated to highly efficient parks, parks facing significant fiscal constraints, parks with new responsibilities, and for collaborative opportunities in park management. Funding is allocated based on composite scores of multiple criteria. About 62 percent of the scoring is for core operations at parks with high efficiency scores. Increased funding will enable these parks to sustain or improve performance by providing positive visitor experiences and preserving park resources. Another 46 percent of the scoring is for high-priority needs at parks with a high percentage of base funding devoted to fixed costs, which will enable them to achieve a more balanced budget with sufficient funding to address project-related needs. Of the park operating requests included in this proposed budget, 35 promote collaborative efforts that benefit multiple parks. Funding these requests will improve performance at more than 165 parks and promote cooperation with at least 29 non-NPS entities.

An increase of \$6.0 million will result in more effective use of the Facility Management Software System. Currently, most park facility staff conduct asset management 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 adequately trained and familiar with industry-standard systems. This funding increase will allow



NPS to hire 220 new support staff with specialized skills in data management and analysis. Consisting of both term and permanent employees, the new staff will be assigned to individual parks or groupings of smaller parks to conduct the necessary inventory and condition assessment activities in order to meet Federal Real Property Profile reporting requirements and to more effectively manage assets.

As a complement to the park base funding, the 2009 request includes a \$13.9 million increase to provide additional capacity to parks by centrally funding information technology, security, and employee development programs. Centrally funding these items will provide parks with greater flexibility in meeting the needs of park visitors. An increase of \$2.0 million will fund space rental costs; \$300,000 for the Brown Foundation, which supports the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site; and \$50,000 to support the Lower East-Side Tenement Museum in New York.

**Protecting Visitors and Employees on the Southwest Border** — As a part of the Department’s Safe Borderlands initiative, the 2009 President’s budget includes an increase of \$5.2 million for law enforcement in park units along the southwest border. Increased border security in urban areas has pushed illegal immigrants and drug smugglers into more remote locations. These lands offer recreational opportunities that include hunting, camping, hiking, and bird watching. At these parks, once pristine landscapes and untouched wilderness areas bear the impacts of illegal traffic.



The increased funding in 2009 will enhance safety for park employees and visitors by deploying 34 additional law enforcement rangers. These rangers will patrol and protect employee housing areas, recreational areas, and other high-use sites. The additional funding will also allow the Park Service to improve communications with Interior and other law enforcement entities within the region and mitigate environmental damage, including restoring high-priority habitat and wilderness areas, maintaining access roads, and removing debris resulting from illegal activities.

**Ensuring Visitor Safety at Our Nation’s Iconic Sites** — The U.S. Park Police are responsible for visitor safety and icon security at large, urban parks in Washington, D.C., New York City, and San Francisco. The Department completed a mission review of the Park Police in 2005. The review concluded that a sworn officer force of 639 officers was needed to meet the critical icon protection responsibilities and traditional law enforcement services provided by USPP. Though funds were appropriated in 2007 to meet these staffing needs, subsequent increases in pay costs and the application of across-the-board reductions have reduced the force’s ability to fully adopt the staffing plan.



The 2009 President’s budget includes \$94.4 million for U.S. Park Police operations, an increase of \$7.6 million above the 2008 enacted level. Included within the request is an additional \$4.8 million to increase the number of sworn officers. At the proposed funding level, the USPP will remain aligned with its core mission responsibilities and the long-term staffing plan developed in 2006.

An increase of \$2.0 million in nonrecurring funding will support security needs related to the presidential inaugural celebration in 2009. Within the total for the presidential inaugural, \$1.0 million funds the USPP to provide essential law enforcement at events accompanying the presidential inaugural and



## BRINGING U.S. STUDENTS TO OUR PARKS (BUS STOP)

American children, and specifically those who are less economically privileged, are increasingly cut off from their natural, cultural, and outdoor recreational heritage. National parks offer an ideal venue to reconnect children with the outdoors through active education and recreation.

The BUSSTOP program provides motorcoach bus transportation to NPS units for economically less advantaged students in grades 4-6.

The pilot program helps students come to better understand their shared American heritage, and their responsibility to be stewards of that heritage, hopefully leading to a deeper understanding of civics and their citizenship. The pilot program begins in 2008. The program focuses on students from economically disadvantaged Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia schools. National park units between Jamestown and Philadelphia and as far west as Harpers Ferry, WV, including Jamestown National Historical Park, Manassas National Battlefield, Independence National Historical Park, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, and George Washington's Birthplace National Historic Site, participate in the program.

A number of park units have adopted similar approaches in the past. This program provides a systemic and consistent approach that will be adopted Service-wide. The pilot will result in approximately 1,500 school students visiting units of the NPS within easy driving distance of the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. In the future, as this program moves beyond the pilot to a nationwide program, NPS expects to cooperate and collaborate with the National Park Foundation and other educational foundations in both fundraising and program operation.

Through the BUS STOP program, the Park Service will ensure and expand a national commitment to conservation, preservation, and family enjoyment through the NPS Centennial initiative. This program fits seamlessly within the concepts outlined in the Centennial report and within the interests expressed by NPS Directors, past and present, to create and maintain park relevance for all Americans.

to review permits for the use of NPS lands at the request of the Inaugural Committee. The remaining \$1.0 million will provide material and logistical support for inaugural activities held on the National Mall and Memorial park lands.

**Connecting People to Parks** — Adequate knowledge of public attitudes about parks and specific visitor preferences, experiences, and assessments of facilities and services is needed to improve park programs. Many park exhibits and interpretive programs are outdated and are unappealing to the interests and learning habits of a younger, more diverse, and technologically savvy generation. Some parks also need to broaden their reach to diverse audiences through greater use of e-learning technologies. Investments in interpretive and educational programs, exhibits, and technology will attract young people and reach broader audiences with more varied interests.

During 2007, NPS dedicated funding to strengthen its capability to understand opinions about parks by expanding and refining the visitor services survey program. In 2008, NPS is analyzing these data and using the information to better target its public programs. The 2009 budget request includes \$175,000 to better market park programs to youth in the U.S. and around the world. Information on all NPS youth-oriented programs will be available through the NPS website. By making the information available to the public, potential users will be able to find appropriate activities of interest, with the expected outcome of increasing the participation of young people in educational, recreational, and volunteer activities.

## CARING FOR AMERICA'S TREASURES

The NPS manages many of America's greatest national treasures, including the vast and awesome vistas of the Grand Canyon and the symbols of democracy and freedom represented by national icons

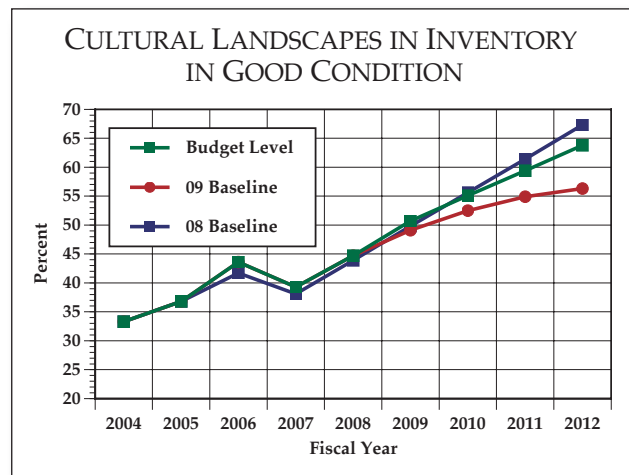


such as the Liberty Bell and the Statue of Liberty. The Park Service maintains a strong commitment to conserve, protect, and restore the Nation's historic, cultural, and natural resources, including these national icons, for generations to come.

The Park Service employees are stewards of these treasures. To carry out this stewardship responsibility, the parks inventory, evaluate, document, preserve, protect, monitor, maintain, and interpret natural and cultural resources at 391 park units. Park professionals also conduct systematic and intensive investigations that address complex management issues. These activities help to protect resources and allow for their continued appreciation, understanding, and enjoyment.

**Improving Cultural and Natural Resource Health** — The 2009 budget includes an increase of \$20.0 million that will be allocated to individual parks for one to three years to accelerate the improvement of cultural and natural resource health. This flexible park base funding will enhance financial support for protection and conservation of cultural and natural resources at parks where there is a history of organizational efficiency and results, as demonstrated by specific changes in performance metrics. Proposed projects include improvement of historic structures, cultural landscapes, museum collections, disturbed lands or water quality. By enhancing support for cultural and natural resources at these sites, NPS will improve the visitor experience.

Project-focused funding, for example, could be applied to invasive species control at Lewis and Clark National and Historical Park. Tidal estuarine wetlands are one of the most impacted habitats in the Young's Bay watershed of Lewis and Clark National and Historical Park. Restoration of these



wetlands is a priority for the park because, once restored, they will provide habitat for endangered salmonids. The control of invasive, non-native reed canary grass and Himalayan blackberry to promote the growth of native estuarine vegetation is a key factor in the restoration of these wetlands. Additional funding will allow the park to control 235 acres of invasive plants in this area by 2011, a 30 percent increase over current levels of control.

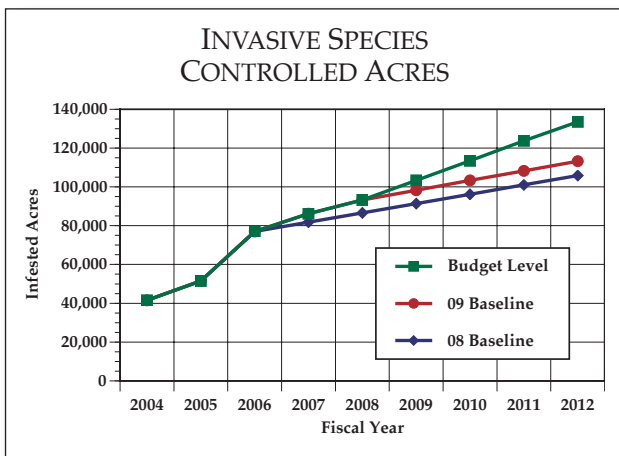
**South Florida's Everglades** — The South Florida Everglades is a complex ecosystem that hosts a wide array of upland, lowland, and marine habitats that support thousands of species of plants and animals, including numerous threatened and endangered species. Since the early 1900s, flood control, water supply systems, agriculture, and development have disrupted the region's hydrological patterns. Half of the original Everglades ecosystem has been drained. The Interior Department has significant roles and responsibilities in Everglades restoration that include coordinating the development of consistent inter-agency and intergovernmental strategies, policies,

### HERBERT HOOVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Herbert Hoover National Historic Site will use flexible park funding to bring the Isaac Miles Farmhouse, a park-owned historic building that is in poor condition, up to good condition. The restoration and rehabilitation work will include drainage and foundation repairs, exterior siding repair and replacement, upgrading utility systems to code, roof repair and replacement, window and door repair and replacement, and interior repairs and improvements as necessary. The project will begin in 2008 and be completed in 2009.







projects, and programs to address the restoration, preservation, and protection of the South Florida ecosystem. The 2009 budget includes \$10.0 million to continue construction of the Modified Water Deliveries features along the 8.5 Square Mile Area component. For the Tamiami Trail component, the Army Corp of Engineers is currently determining the appropriate modifications needed for the Trail to ensure that the goals of the Modified Water Deliveries project are achieved. It is anticipated that a plan will be selected by July 2008.



**Managing Park Facilities** — Operations and maintenance of over 7,500 facilities used by more than 270 million visitors annually present a perennial challenge to the Park Service. In previous decades, parks did not have the tools to effectively manage these facilities. In 2002, President Bush established a legacy for parks that has significantly improved the management and condition of park facilities. Since 2002, the Administration has invested \$6.6 billion in NPS asset management programs and undertaken 6,600 projects. As a result, NPS has significantly improved the condition of facilities

and developed an industry-standard approach to facilities management. The NPS now has information about its assets that it has never had before: systematic information about its inventory, the value of its assets, comprehensive condition assessments of all assets, and the investment required to sustain these assets over time. This information is used to prioritize facilities maintenance and construction investments and to link budget decisions to achievement of facility condition goals.

To maintain park assets, the President's budget request includes an increase of \$17.8 million for regular cyclic maintenance and \$5.0 million for cyclic maintenance of historic structures. These cyclic maintenance activities are key components in the NPS comprehensive asset management program. At the requested levels of funding, park units will have the ability to sustain recently rehabilitated or repaired assets in a state of good condition using a predictive maintenance cycle and prevent assets from falling into a state of disrepair.



Effectively operating a diverse range of recreational, public use, historic, and support facilities also requires services that support the continued use of park assets. The 2009 President's budget includes an increase of \$800,000 to pay increased costs for water and sewer services in Washington, D.C. The funding will be used to fund increased billings resulting from rate increases and the increased use of water due to the addition of new sites, such as the World War II Memorial.

**Promoting Employee Health and Safety** — The most valuable assets available to the Park Service are its dedicated 21,649 employees. An efficient and effective parks system requires constant up-



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to-date training, equipment, and adequate staff to assure the safety and well being of NPS employees. Currently, injuries directly cost NPS and the U.S. taxpayers over \$21 million each year. The Park Service is committed to reducing taxpayer liability and the incidence of preventable injuries and deaths among park employees through risk management, training, and promoting safe work practices.

The 2009 budget request includes an increase of \$1.0 million to improve structural fire prevention and mitigation. The NPS will update fire training for employees, conduct annual fire inspections of fixed fire protection systems, and install adequate fire detection and suppression systems. A GAO report on the NPS structural fire safety responsibilities identified a need to increase investments in this area.

## A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY WORKFORCE

As the Park Service approaches its second century, park managers experience the challenges related to recruiting, retaining, training, and equipping employees. Park rangers and other park employees need to be skilled in addressing the interpretation and education needs of visitors, protecting park resources and ensuring the safety of employees and visitors, restoring natural and cultural resources, and many other aspects of park operations. To meet these challenges, NPS is fashioning a workforce skilled in human resources, business and asset management, e-government, and modern interpretive practices.

*The men and women of the National Park Service will transform these goals into reality. We will be accountable to the American people for our actions and develop benchmarks to measure our success. We will report back to the citizens to tell them how we are doing.*

*Mary Bomar, Director  
National Park Service  
May 31, 2007*

**Developing the Leaders of the Future** — The National Park Service Advisory Board described the Service 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 21<sup>st</sup> century.” One of the challenges facing NPS is the need to develop a workforce that reflects the changing and diverse face of America. The Park Service is developing a workforce that will be able to demonstrate management excellence worthy of the treasures entrusted to its

care. As part of its second century, the Park Service will establish a structured professional development curriculum that will provide park managers with the skills to apply best business practices and superior leadership associated with increasingly complex park management.

The President’s budget includes \$1.8 million to establish a Service-wide development program with three components, including training for new superintendents and continuing education for existing superintendents; a comprehensive mission-oriented training program for new employees; and distance learning capabilities to improve training opportunities for remote locations. Training for new superintendents will require a 16-month course of study for 48 superintendents per year. Using a combination of established university curriculum, training from other entities, NPS-specific training, and mentoring from experienced park managers, new superintendents will be prepared for the rigors of managing the diverse issues of the national park system. The Park Service will also provide comprehensive training to all employees within their first two years of service. The Park Service will increase its offerings of the highly successful Fundamentals program, including providing sessions on-line, which will make the program more widely available to both permanent and temporary employees. An additional \$190,000 will allow the Park Service to enhance its distance learning capabilities.

**Using New Management Tools** — With funds provided in the 2008 appropriation, the Park Service is hiring 3,000 seasonal rangers and guides, maintenance workers, and protection rangers. Maintaining a large seasonal workforce over multiple years will require an ongoing, robust process for recruitment, intake, security screening, orientation, and separation. To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of these efforts, the budget request includes \$5.6 million to automate these labor-intensive processes and execute contracts in a timely manner. The NPS will implement the new system developed by the Office of Personnel Management called the Electronic Official Personnel Folder; optimize NPS recruitment efforts by acquiring and implementing the automated USA Staffing tool to receive on-line electronic applications; and strengthen Washington contracting and procurement office capabilities to improve NPS acquisition and financial assistance programs. An additional \$340,000 will support improved accountability with additional staff needed to collect, analyze, and manage data generated by budget and financial systems.

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## REALIZING THE FULL POTENTIAL OF THE CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE

*We need to ignite a new era of giving to national parks. The cause is noble, the need is great, the opportunities are immense.*

*Dirk Kempthorne  
Secretary of the Interior  
October 15, 2007*

The National Park Service enjoys a rich tradition of philanthropy. Thirty national parks were created through philanthropic donations. For the Nation's bicentennial, school children donating their dimes across the country joined with philanthropic organizations to help refurbish the Statue of Liberty. In that same spirit, the President's Centennial Challenge will inspire the American people to participate in preserving their parks, their heritage, and their history. A legislative proposal submitted to Congress will make up to \$100 million of mandatory funding available annually through 2018 to match private donations. Private contributions and Federal matching funds will complement the annual increase in the park operating budget, paying for projects that inspire the imagination and that offer national parks a new level of excellence that would not be possible without this added level of investment.

Private contributions will be directed toward signature sites that reflect some of America's most significant stories. These projects will involve protecting park assets, including renovating existing facilities, and constructing new facilities where appropriate. In August 2007, NPS certified 201 project proposals as eligible for funding through the Centennial Challenge. These projects represent a total investment of \$369.9 million, \$215.9 million from partners, and \$154.0 million in Federal funding.

Restoring the Benjamin Franklin Museum in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania is just one of 201 Centennial Challenge projects selected by a team of NPS career employees. Texans committed their funds to save endangered sea turtles at Padre Island. In Missouri, at a park in the Ozarks, an unused lodge will be transformed into a world class environmental education facility to teach urban children about parks. In Florida, citizens committed to a multi-year project using state-of-the art science to start new coral reef colonies. These new colonies will help recover damaged coral reefs at Biscayne National Park.

Centennial goals can be realized with the passage of supporting legislation. The House and Senate have introduced Centennial legislation and held hearings on it. To lay the groundwork for the next century of the National Park Service it is critical that this legislation be enacted into law.





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## FOSTERING HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND HERITAGE TOURISM

The NPS plays a vital role in preserving the Nation's cultural history through a variety of stewardship programs that address unmet preservation needs nationwide including Preserve America, Save America's Treasures, the Heritage Partnership program, National Inventory of Historic Properties, and Historic Preservation grants to States and Tribes.

The combination of these programs allows local communities to determine which strategies best suit their heritage needs; apply the most appropriate programs to repair historic buildings, conserve museum resources, and promote heritage development; and effect better coordination and allow for greater efficiencies in meeting the goals to enhance and expand opportunities for cultural resource preservation throughout the Nation.

**Preserve America** — The 2009 budget request includes \$10.0 million for grants that help local communities find sustainable uses for historic assets, such as through heritage tourism.

The Preserve America program has been well received by States and is achieving positive results. For example, communities Colorado's southeastern plains, devastated by the loss of jobs and residents, are looking to heritage tourism for revitalization. A \$130,000 Preserve America grant secured by Colorado Preservation, Incorporated and the Colorado Historical Society sparked a partnership among several counties to develop a regional marketing program. The result has been an amazing synergy among the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site, the Amache Japanese-American internment camp, the Santa Fe National Historic Trail, Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, Boggsville Historic Site, and local historic and pre-historic sites, including numerous petroglyphs and the largest dinosaur tracksite in North America. In addition, the six participating counties – Baca, Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero, and Prowers – have been designated as a pilot project for Colorado's newly created Heritage Tourism Initiative. The Preserve America funding, matched by Colorado's Department of Local Affairs, has also leveraged additional financial contributions from Colorado foundations, the six counties, the Colorado Tourism Office, and the regional economic development district for a total of \$355,500 in support.

**Save America's Treasures** — The budget requests \$15.0 million for grants to fund the restoration of important cultural landmarks across the Nation.

**Heritage Partnership Program** — The budget request includes \$7.1 million for the Heritage Partnership program, which provides seed money for congressionally designated, but locally managed, national heritage areas.

**Historic Preservation Fund Grants** — The 2009 budget also includes a request of \$39.7 million for Historic Preservation Fund grants to States, Territories, and Tribes to preserve historically and culturally significant sites. These grants promote public-private partnerships to identify and protect irreplaceable historic and archeological resources by providing funding to State Historic Preservation Offices.

**National Inventory of Historic Properties** — The budget includes \$3.0 million to establish a national inventory of historic properties, as recommended by historic preservation experts at the October 2006 Preserve America Summit.