



National Parks Centennial Initiative

National parks preserve majestic natural wonders. They keep watch over battlefields hallowed by red badges of courage. They keep culture alive ... offer recreation and discovery ... honor great leaders like Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Chief Joseph, and Martin Luther King, Jr. As havens of recreation, learning and personal renewal, national parks must endure.

Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of the Interior, August 25, 2006

National parks serve as living repositories of our heritage and history. They protect and celebrate a diverse array of natural and historic treasures. Parks are classrooms that educate and inform; they are panoramic settings for exercise, inspiration, and enjoyment for over 270 million visitors each year. Today, families organize their vacations around trips to national parks just as their parents and grandparents did in the last century.

The National Park Service, with its 390 park units, helps to ensure that present and future generations will be able to preserve and enjoy this heritage and these unique places. Yosemite and Yellowstone, Grand Canyon and Grand Teton, Great Smoky and Great Sand Dunes, and indeed all our park sites, refresh the American spirit and help define who we are as a Nation.

The National Park Service celebrated its 90th anniversary in August 2006. On August 24th, President Bush issued a memorandum to Secretary Kempthorne calling on NPS to *further enhance the national parks during the decade leading up to the 2016 centennial celebration.*

In his August 24 memorandum, the President continued: *Therefore, I direct you to establish specific performance goals for our national parks that when achieved, will help prepare them for another century of conservation, preservation, and enjoyment. These goals should integrate the assessments of the past five years used in monitoring natural resources and improving the condition of park facilities. You are to identify signature projects and programs that are consistent with these goals and that continue the National Park Service legacy of leveraging*

philanthropic, partnership, and government investment for the benefit of national parks and their visitors.

The 2008 budget begins this effort with the National Parks Centennial Initiative, which provides up to \$3 billion in new funds over ten years. It funds:

The President's Centennial Commitment— This is \$100.0 million a year—one billion over ten years—for activities to achieve new levels of excellence in our parks. This component of the \$230.0 million park operations increase will be used to hire more seasonal rangers, interpreters, and maintenance workers; repair buildings; improve natural landscapes; and enhance the Junior / WebRanger program.

The President's Centennial Challenge— 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 philanthropy and partnerships, the budget proposes a new National Park Centennial Fund of \$100.0 million that will match contributions with up to \$100 million of mandatory funding annually for the next ten years, historically high levels of funding for NPS. The total 2008 budget request for NPS and related accounts is \$2.4 billion, which is \$261.2 million above the 2007 continuing resolution level, and \$208.0 million above the 2007 President's budget.

Included within this request for the Park Service is a historic \$2.1 billion budget for park operations. This request is \$290.3 million above the 2007 continuing resolution level, including increases of \$230.0 million for program and fixed costs and an adjustment

A HISTORICAL SETTING FOR THE NATIONAL PARKS CENTENNIAL

Through history, American presidents have responded to the call of people to conserve and care for parks.

In 1908, nearly 100 years ago, President Theodore Roosevelt welcomed to the White House a diverse array of conservationists, resource experts, industrialists, and political leaders, including the governors of all the States, to consider the problems of conservation and uses of the Nation's natural resources. The conferees established a framework for a holistic approach to natural resource conservation, advocating the management of resources for prosperity, national defense, and undiminished access for future generations. From that framework, there emerged in 1916, during the Woodrow Wilson Administration, a uniquely American invention: the National Park Service.

President Roosevelt said, *There can be nothing in the world more beautiful than the Yosemite, the groves of the giant sequoias and redwoods, the Canyon of the Colorado, the Canyon of the Yellowstone, the three Tetons; and our people should see to it that they are preserved for their children and their children's children forever, with their majestic beauty all unmarred.*

In 1956 as the National Park Service approached its 40th anniversary, the Eisenhower Administration announced a ten-year program of investment in the parks. President Eisenhower called on the Congress in his 1956 State of the Union message to *re-emphasize the critical importance of the wise use and conservation of our great natural resources of land, forests, minerals and water, and their long-range development...* The objective was, by the golden anniversary of the Park Service in 1966, to ensure the American people had a system preserved and managed for the next 50 years for the benefit of their children and grandchildren.

of \$60.3 million related to the impact of the 2007 continuing resolution. This is the largest increase for park operations funding in history and is \$230.0 million above the 2007 President's budget level and an increase of \$258.3 million above the 2006 level.

The 2008 budget and the National Parks Centennial Initiative emphasize three themes:

- To engage all Americans in preserving our heritage, history, and natural resources through philanthropy and partnerships, with a special emphasis on linking children to nature. An increase of \$100.0 million is proposed for these programs to fulfill the President's Centennial Commitment.
- To reconnect people with their parks through enhanced technology and the seamless network of the trails system. An increase of \$3.8 million is proposed for these programs.
- To build capacity for critical park operations to sustain these efforts through the next century. An increase of \$126.2 million is requested for these programs.

I am absolutely committed to finding and funding the best private and public projects that embody the spirit and values of our national parks. Once these projects are selected, they will be fast tracked and carefully monitored to ensure private and public funds achieve Centennial Challenge goals.

*Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of the Interior
February 5, 2007*

ENGAGING ALL AMERICANS THROUGH PHILANTHROPY AND PARTNERSHIPS

To prepare the national parks for another century of conservation, preservation, and enjoyment, the 2008 President's budget envisions a partnership of Federal, private, and public support with the potential to provide \$3 billion in new funds over the next ten years.

This partnership includes the President's Centennial Commitment of \$100.0 million per year over the next ten years for park operations. In addition, the budget includes a Centennial Challenge of up to \$100 million per year in private contributions for signature projects and programs to be matched by \$100.0 million in annual mandatory Federal spending. A legislative proposal will be transmitted to the Congress that proposes this new, dedicated source of funding for over ten years. Private contributions and the Federal matching funds will complement the annual increase in the park operating budget, paying for projects that inspire the American imagination and that offer national parks a new level of excellence.

The national parks have a strong history of philanthropic support and volunteerism. For the Nation's bicentennial, school children donating their dimes across the country joined with the generosity of philanthropic organizations and partners to help refurbish the Statue of Liberty. In that same spirit, the President's Centennial Initiative will challenge the American people to participate in preserving their parks, their heritage, and their history. A recent Harris poll found that the Park Service receives strong support from more than 80 percent of American adults surveyed, the highest level of support among all Federal programs.

PROTECTING THE SIGNATURE SITES OF THE AMERICAN STORY

The President's Initiative will increase resources to preserve, restore, and rebuild signature sites. The Centennial Challenge will engage private philanthropists in signature projects that protect park assets, preserve the historical story of America, enhance or improve park facilities through the provision of new facilities and assets, and improve the national park system and its services.

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. The NPS will identify these signature projects and programs in the Secretary's report to the President in May 2007, after public listening sessions.

Ellis Island National Monument, which protects the historic structures that comprise one of America's most visible national icons, offers one potential opportunity for a signature project. Federal operat-

ing funds combined with private funds raised by the Statue of Liberty / Ellis Island Foundation have made it possible to rehabilitate and re-use several major structures on the north side of the island for education and interpretation. However, a long-term preservation program has not been established for protecting buildings on the island's south side. Funding from private philanthropy could create sustainable uses for these historic buildings on Ellis Island and provide public programming for Ellis Island themes such as immigration, world migration, public health, and cultural/ethnic diversity.



Additional private-public partnership projects will build upon opportunities in other parks to serve as living repositories of history and heritage. These projects will adhere to the NPS partnership program requirements, ensuring that Federal investments are planned, budgeted, accountable, and sustainable.

In addition, through programs such as Preserve America and Save America's Treasures, NPS will provide matching funds to renew heritage and historic sites and facilitate local heritage tourism. Philanthropic donations and Federal funds will also be used to curate and display Indian artifacts not currently accessible or on view.

A LEGACY FOR THE FUTURE: ENHANCED VISITOR OPERATIONS

A program of focused Federal investment is crucial in 2008 for a sustained, targeted financial commitment to ensure that park facilities and natural and cultural resources are well-maintained and preserved, park programs are relevant to its visitors, and the national park system is well-staffed and led by a cadre of dynamic and visionary managers. The overall \$230.0 million increase in the NPS operating budget, including the \$100.0 million Centennial Commitment, will be used to:

- Build upon current advances under the President's management agenda to fashion a more modern, business-oriented NPS focused on operation and facilities management, e-government, and modern interpretive practices to lead NPS into the 21st Century.
- Augment park relevance to youth and diverse visitors so parks are meaningful and enjoyable for future generations.
- Increase recreational opportunities.
- Improve the condition of the Nation's natural and cultural resources.
- Improve facility conditions from the recently completed baseline measures.

The \$100.0 million park operations Centennial Commitment will achieve new levels of excellence in the parks, including: \$40.6 million for 3,000 seasonal park rangers, interpreters, and maintenance workers; \$35.0 million for cyclic maintenance; \$20.0 million for flexible park base funding that will be focused on natural and cultural resource improvements, \$3.4 million to encourage and support park volunteers, and \$1.0 million for the Junior/Web Ranger program.

Seasonal Park Rangers

With an infusion of \$40.6 million in funding for 3,000 new seasonal employees, the park system would improve and expand visitor services, including interpretive and educational programs, staffing visitor centers, ensuring appropriate levels of security and safety at parks, and maintaining facilities and resources in acceptable or good condition. This investment will ensure that park visitors of all ages have an opportunity to interact with park rangers



and enjoy interpretive programs, participate in ranger-conducted programs and educational programs in the parks. These programs will attract school children and community groups and bring the message of park stewardship to the American public. The ranger corps will provide classic ranger programs, such as nature hikes, campfire programs, and cultural demonstrations. This funding will enhance the experience of 135 million park visitors annually. Peak month visitors will benefit from a 28 percent increase in contacts with interpreters, a 15 percent increase in maintenance, and a 30 percent increase in the presence of protection rangers.

Rangers for Protection — The NPS protects visitors and resources through backcountry and river patrols, climbing rangers, and law enforcement officers. Emergency management technicians are on staff to ensure that the public has adequate emergency services. The Centennial request includes an increase of \$15.6 million for 1,000 additional protection rangers. Currently there are approximately 1,900 rangers within parks. The increase in funding and staffing will be used to make protection rangers more visible and accessible to the park visitor, thereby protecting park resources more effectively and providing the visitor with increased levels of protection. The ranger corps will provide the visitor with increased levels of patrol on rivers and trails, monitor resources, conduct search and rescue operations, and provide other visitor safety services. In addition, protection rangers will provide increased education on visitor safety and resource stewardship to park visitors.

The 2008 NPS request for protection rangers and core operations will:

- Reduce Part 1 offenses (serious crime) by seven percent by 2012.
- Reduce visitor accidents/incidents by 14 percent by 2008.

The NPS will target the funding to parks with disproportionately high crime and incident rates and inadequate levels of protection staffing during the peak season. High crime parks account for the majority of serious crimes in NPS, and strategically placing additional rangers in these parks will deter criminal activity and reduce the number of visitor incidents for the Service as a whole.

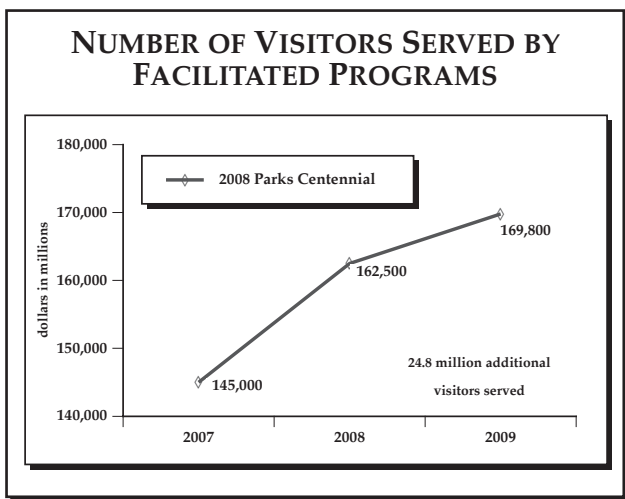
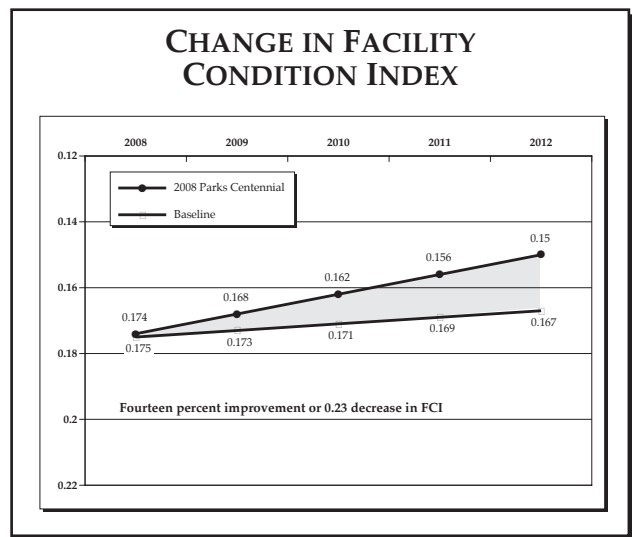


Rangers for Interpretation and Education — The Centennial Parks request includes an increase of \$13.0 million for 1,000 additional seasonal naturalist and education rangers in the parks. These funds will ensure that park visitors have an opportunity to interact with park rangers and enjoy interpretive programs. The NPS will target park operations funding to parks with a low ratio of ranger contact to visitor and outdated or limited interpretive programming. With this additional funding, NPS will expand its ability to interact with the public, provide ranger-conducted programs for visitors, conduct educational programs in parks to attract school children and community groups, and bring the message of park stewardship to the American public. The ranger corps will provide classic ranger programs, such as nature hikes, campfire programs, and cultural demonstrations.

employees. These employees will ensure that new and existing park facilities, trails, buildings, and landscapes are maintained in good condition. The rate of visitor satisfaction with facilities, visitor satisfaction with restroom facilities, and the ratio of visitors to maintenance personnel will be used to target parks for funding. The accomplishments of this additional maintenance workforce will be reflected in an improved facility condition index and natural and cultural landscapes maintained in good condition.

Cyclic Maintenance to Preserve Heritage and History

President Bush established a legacy for parks by investing over \$5.0 billion since 2002 to significantly improve the condition of park facilities. As a result, NPS 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 has been used to prioritize facilities maintenance investments and to link budget decisions to maintenance or achievement of target facility condition goals.

To facilitate the NPS preventive maintenance program and to protect the previous investments in deferred maintenance, the President's budget request includes an increase of \$25.0 million for regular cyclic maintenance and \$10.0 million for cyclic maintenance of historic structures. Cyclic maintenance funds ensure that recent investments to improve condition are protected and that the

Seasonals for Maintaining Park Assets — The Centennial Parks includes an increase of \$12.0 million to hire 1,000 additional seasonal maintenance

facilities do not begin deteriorating as soon as the projects are completed.

Flexible Park Operations Allocated to Cultural and Natural Resources

The 2008 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. The goal of this flexible park base funding is to enhance financial support for cultural and natural resources at parks where there is a history of organizational efficiency and demonstrated results with specific changes in performance measures. Proposed projects include work relating to historic structures, cultural landscapes, museum collections, archeological sites, disturbed lands, exotic plants and animals, species of management concern, or water quality. By enhancing support for cultural and natural resources at these sites, NPS will improve performance at individual parks and across the Park Service and improve the visitor experience.

An example of a park where additional funding could be applied is the Cape Cod National Seashore. By targeting Cape Cod National Seashore with flexible park base funding NPS would be able to improve the condition of the Old Harbor Life-Saving Station from fair to good condition. By funding the interior and exterior restoration work, Cape Cod National Seashore would be able to protect the only station out of thirteen original life-saving stations that continues to possess the same defining features as it did at the turn of the 19th Century. Once restored, the park has a standing philanthropic commitment from the Friends of Cape Cod National Seashore to undertake a fundraising campaign to furnish the historic building, which would enhance visitor satisfaction and understanding.



Expanding the Call to Service

The 2008 budget request proposes a \$3.4 million increase to the Volunteers-in-Parks program, which will capture an untapped reserve of volunteers. Volunteers currently provide over five million hours of service at national parks throughout the United States. These volunteers work with park scientists to protect endangered species, assist in the repair of facilities, remove invasive plants, assist with archeological surveys, and assist rangers operating and maintaining campgrounds and visitor centers. These volunteers use their knowledge of local places and people to provide unique insights for visitors to the national parks. There remains, however, an untapped reserve of capacity in the communities surrounding parks that can contribute to enriching the parks experience for visitors. As a result of this increase, the program would gain an estimated 19,000 volunteers and an increase of one million hours in interpretive and visitor services, an increase of 50 percent in volunteer hours for these services over four years. Using industry standards, the value of this increased volunteer time is estimated at \$19.0 million annually.



The NPS has successfully used volunteers through the Public Land Corps to expand its youth service opportunities to carry out needed repairs and restoration projects within the national park system. This program employs college age youth, directing them into gainful employment through a structured program that gives them employable skills and teaches them about potential careers in areas including natural resources, education, and maintenance. The NPS regards the Public Land Corps program as an important and successful example of civic engagement and conservation. The program is unique because nonprofit agencies such as the Student Conservation Association and the National

Association for Service and Conservation Corps serve as the primary partners in administering the Public Land Corps program. Each year, more than 300 parks apply for work grants of up to \$25,000. The nonprofit youth organizations assist NPS in its efforts to attract diverse audiences to the parks by recruiting youth 16 to 25 years of age from all socioeconomic, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds. Since 1997, the Public Land Corps has funded more than 2,000 work projects with more than 100 parks participating on an annual basis.

The NPS currently utilizes the Public Land Corps, in partnership with a variety of non-profit youth organizations, to employ 964 volunteers at 90 parks. In 2008, through the use of recreation fees, NPS will

RECREATION FOR CHILDREN

The national park system offers a wealth of recreational opportunities for children and their families, and promotes a seamless network of parks by linking outdoor recreation opportunities in park units and with other open spaces in local communities. Working with these local communities through the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program and other programs, NPS also assists community groups and local and State governments to conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways as pathways to health. The 2008 President's budget includes an increase of \$2.8 million for programs that will directly expand recreational opportunities for America's children and families. The President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports recommends incorporating regular physical activity into our children's daily lives. Besides providing physical health benefits, physical play and recreation aids children's cognitive and social development.



increase the use of this program by 1,000 volunteers and will enlist their services at a total of 160 parks.

Linking Children to Nature

The Parks Centennial will also provide enhanced educational opportunities through an increase of \$1.0 million to the Junior / WebRanger program. In addition to learning about the parks, the program educates younger generations about natural and cultural resource stewardship, fosters a sense of conservation within the parks and their surroundings, and encourages youngsters to observe and explore their environment. The WebRanger program allows children to learn more about the national parks even if they cannot visit them,



to learn about parks before they visit, and to care for the national parks and their world. Through an interactive internet-based tour of a park, children can become certified as a WebRanger.

Currently, Junior Ranger programs in 297 parks serve 368,000 visitors, and 23 parks have online WebRanger programs. There is the potential to reach one million 7 to 12 year olds annually through these programs. Expansion provides the potential to leverage large donations from corporate sponsors in order to enhance opportunities to get youth involved in conservation of natural, historical, and cultural resources.

RECONNECTING PEOPLE TO PARKS

This component of the Parks Centennial focuses on the need to realize the potential of parks as repositories of history, heritage, and learning. A total of \$3.8 million is requested to enhance the role of parks as a unique source of education and learning about the American story—learning about the

natural world, our cultural heritage, and ourselves. Through technology, parks can tell the stories of how we grew as a Nation—like the stories told at sites commemorating early European settlements like Jamestown in Virginia or celebrating the journey of Lewis and Clark. Trails can relate the history and culture of the first Americans at sites like the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, which commemorates the forced removal of more than 16,000 Cherokee Indians from their ancestral homes on the east coast.

NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM

Millions of Americans hike, bike, and drive in national parks and adjoining communities. The 2008 budget request proposes \$1.0 million to expand trails through public/private partnerships. The national trails system provides 43,500 miles of trails through 47 States. With the increased funding in 2008, the trail system will be more tightly connected to existing Federal areas at interpretive facilities, offering unmatched opportunities for recreation and preservation. The NPS will also augment family friendly facilities, activities, and adventures by creating child centered trails and activities. Through investments in outdoor programs in the parks, activities such as canoeing, kayaking, bird watching, and bicycling can become part of everyone's experiences.



This effort will enhance visitor experiences, provide better directional information, and promote health and fitness initiatives, such as *HealthierUS*. The projects funded would be completed by 2018, the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act.

ENHANCING TECHNOLOGY IN PARKS

The 2008 budget will focus resources on the effective use of park facilities coupled with developing relevant interpretive programs for the next generation. The Parks Centennial includes \$2.8 million to modernize park interpretive programs and technologies

and to develop partnerships with youth programs to provide work experiences in the park setting.

The graduating classes of 2016 are now third graders and will be the leaders of the future. With investments to enhance information technology-based media, national parks can offer phenomenal untapped opportunities to serve as laboratories for education, where these children can learn about and aspire to become historians, scientists, engineers, and teachers.

Interpretation and educational programs are fundamental to the visitor experience because they help people understand and identify with the historical and cultural meaning of the national parks and connect to nature and the outdoors. However, investments are needed to improve park exhibits and interpretive programs and make them appealing to the interests and learning habits of younger generations. Parks can also reach broader audiences through greater use of e-learning technologies.

Today's youth are technologically adept and comfortable with a host of interactive tools. They spend hours every day communicating through the use of instant messaging, researching information via the internet, playing complex video games, and downloading music and other forms of entertainment into iPods and MP3 players. The budget will invest in enhancements at parks that have not kept pace with these methods of learning and communication and as NPS nears its centennial celebration, its relevance to the next generation of visitors will be improved.

The budget also includes an increase of \$1.8 million to develop partnerships for youth, through such programs as the Youth Conservation Corp. In addition, the budget proposes an increase of \$1.0 million to improve the content of all information technology based interpretation and informational media.



BUILDING CAPACITY FOR CRITICAL PARK OPERATIONS

In addition to the \$100.0 million increase as part of the Centennial Initiative, the President's 2008 NPS budget provides \$126.2 million in operating program increases that will fund critical park needs. These programs lay a solid foundation that will ensure the national park system is a vibrant, living testament to the unique American natural, cultural, and historic landscapes for every visitor in the 21st Century and beyond.

PARK BASE FUNDING: SETTING A SOLID

The Centennial Challenge will propel us as an agency into a new era distinguished by sound government, citizen, and philanthropic partnerships that create a better park experience for all visitors and raise the conservation bar for the generations yet to come.

*Mary A. Bomar, Director,
National Park Service
September 21, 2006*

FOUNDATION FOR PARKS

The 2008 President's budget includes \$40.6 million in specific park base increases, which would enhance core visitor services and resource protection by funding high priority needs at 135 parks. In order to ensure the integrity of this request and to affect the greatest performance change, the NPS proposes funding for parks that meet specific criteria.

During the annual budget call, high-priority needs were identified and prioritized by park and regional managers. These decisions were informed by management processes, such as core operations analysis and business plans, which involve analyzing spending patterns, identifying cost recovery strategies and efficiencies, focusing efforts on core mission activities, and working towards high priority performance goals.

As the next step in the budget review process, the relative efficiency of parks was evaluated using the financial and organizational data in the NPS scorecard. About 60 percent of the funding goes to parks with high efficiency scores to enable them to sustain and improve performance by providing a positive visitor experience and preserving

park resources. About 20 percent is proposed for high-priority needs at parks that have experienced the greatest impact on fixed costs to improve their financial flexibility.

By improving their financial flexibility, the parks will be better able to respond to changing situations and adjust operations to result in the maximum performance. The remaining 20 percent of the funding is requested for high priority park needs which either: improve the capacity to handle responsibilities for new or dramatically rehabilitated facilities, newly acquired lands and resources, and developing units, or promote collaborative efforts that benefit multiple parks.

Besides full-time permanent employees, NPS uses a large number of seasonal hires to aid in providing interpretive and educational programs to park visitors. There are currently approximately 1,500 seasonal interpretive employees within parks. Interpretation and education programs are fundamental to NPS activities, which help people understand and identify with the tangible histories and intangible meanings inherent in the national park system. The budget request includes an increase of \$13.0 million for 1,000 additional seasonal naturalist and education rangers in the parks.



INCREASING VISITOR CONTACT AT CHAMIZAL NATIONAL MEMORIAL

At Chamizal National Memorial in Texas, the NPS plans to develop a host of bilingual programs to serve visitors. Funding would allow Chamizal to institute a comprehensive, educational interpretive program with bilingual on-site education-based programs, 50 off-site programs, and six teacher workshops per year, increasing on-site contact with visiting students by 500 percent and off-site contact by 300 percent.

REPAIR AND REHABILITATION

The 2008 budget request includes an increase of \$15.0 million, or 17 percent, to increase repair and rehabilitation of park facilities. Repair and rehabilitation projects address park maintenance needs and this funding increase will accelerate the Park Service's capability to improve the condition of physical assets. This increase of 17 percent will address projects including campground and trail rehabilitation, roadway reconditioning, bridge repair, wastewater and water line replacement, and rewiring of buildings. Projects will be selected by the Park Service based on a prioritization of projects using the facility condition index, the asset priority index, and preventive maintenance programs.



PARK SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

The 2008 budget includes increases totaling \$16.4 million for programs and activities that support park operations, maintenance, and management. An increase of \$300,000 is requested to establish a Centennial Implementation office that would manage the philanthropic aspects of the Centennial Challenge, including ensuring the appropriate match and the competitive project selection process. An additional \$300,000 is requested to restore funding for the Vanishing Treasures program, which protects and preserves cultural resources throughout the park system. The program targets the preservation of Native American architectural ruins in the parks of the desert southwest.

An increase of \$4.0 million is requested to centrally fund connectivity to the Enterprise Services Network. The connection to this network backbone for the Department is critically important for remote access by parks. Directly funding this would remove the need to assess individual parks. An increase of \$4.8 million is requested to fund the Financial

CARING FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES AT WEIR FARM

At Weir Farm National Historic Site in Connecticut, funding in 2008 will allow NPS to assume operation of the historic Weir properties, including the operation of the Weir house, studios, and barn for the first time in the history of the park. The Weir house and studio are the park's most significant structures. For the last 15 years, these historic features have been in private ownership and not publicly accessible. As of July 2005, the park assumed the costs associated with these structures and their contents, which represent over 120 years of use by three major American artists. These buildings are scheduled for total restoration in the repair and rehab program over a four year period. Funding would provide for collections management, interpretation, and preservation of the historical landscape.



and Business Management System, through the Department's Working Capital Fund.

An increase of \$7.0 million is requested to conduct environmental and economic assessments of the potential removal of O'Shaughnessy Dam, which is located in Yosemite National Park's Hetch Hetchy Valley. Drawing from the recently completed California State sponsored evaluation of the issue, the study will begin in 2008.

FOSTERING HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND HERITAGE TOURISM

The Preserve America, Save America's Treasures, and Heritage Partnership programs complement the goals of the Centennial Initiative. These historic preservation programs help to attain historic preservation and heritage tourism goals by encouraging States and local communities to partner with the Federal government to preserve the fabric of

the American story. 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. The 2008 budget request includes \$10.0 million for Preserve America grants that help local communities find sustainable uses for historic assets, such as through heritage tourism. The budget also requests \$10.0 million for Save America's Treasures grants comparable to the amount of competitive funds in the 2006 enacted budget.

The 2008 budget request includes \$10.0 million for heritage areas, which is an increase of \$2.6 million from 2007. The Heritage Partnership program provides seed money for congressionally designated, but locally managed, national heritage areas. The combination of these programs allow local communities to determine which strategies best suit their heritage



needs; apply to 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.

The 2008 budget also includes a request of \$39.7 million, the same as 2007, for the 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.

The 2008 request includes funding to establish a national inventory of historic properties, as recommended by historic preservation experts at the October 2006 Preserve America Summit. Of the \$5.0 million requested, \$4.0 million will provide competitive matching grants to States, Tribes, local governments, and Federal land managing agencies for inventory development. The remaining \$1.0 million will be provided under the National Register Programs for NPS to develop data format requirements and protocols, in coordination with State Historic Preservation Officers.

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM

The American Battlefield Protection program promotes the preservation of battlefields and sites associated with armed conflicts that influenced the course of American history. These sites are symbols of individual sacrifice and a rich national heritage. The 2008 President's budget proposes an increase of \$1.5 million for the American Battlefield Protection program, which would allow for 50 grants to be awarded in 2008 through competition. This program encourages and assists communities in planning for the preservation, management, and interpretation of these sites and raises awareness of the importance of preserving battlefields and related sites for future generations. These grants are operational grants that focus primarily on land use, cultural resource and site management planning, and public education. They are complemented by the Civil War Battlefield land acquisition grants funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The 2008 budget includes \$4.0 for grants to States and local communities to acquire lands or interest in lands to preserve and protect battlefield sites.

The American Battlefield Protection program projects are conducted by Federal, State, local and tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, and academic institutions. Types of projects include:

- Historical research.
- Cultural resources surveys.
- Archeological surveys.
- National Register of Historic Places documentation and nominations.
- Assessment of the condition of battlefields and potential threats to their continued survival.
- Battlefield acquisition plans and preservation plans.
- Local land use strategies for sensitive planning.
- Technical assistance for organizations and governments needing help to protect battlefields.
- Public education.

Since 1990, the American Battlefield Protection program and its partners have helped to protect and enhance more than 100 battlefields by co-sponsoring 306 projects in 37 States and the District of Columbia. In 2006, the program awarded 11 grants totaling \$350,000 to support a variety of projects at battle sites in Florida, Georgia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming, and Palau. Funded projects include battlefield surveys, site mapping, updating National Register of Historic Places nominations, preservation and management plans, educational materials, and archeological studies.

