



## National Park Centennial Challenge Projects and Programs Approved for Fiscal Year 2009

### ALASKA

**Park:** Kenai Fjords National Park  
**Title:** Improve Exit Glacier Visitor Facilities  
**Total Investment:** \$200,000  
**Partner:** Alaska Geographic  
**Partner Contribution:** \$100,000  
**Description:** This project will provide visitor services infrastructure improvements at the Exit Glacier Area. Under Phase I, construction of an 800- square foot education pavilion adjacent to the Nature Center will provide staging areas for educational groups and facilitated programs. Planning and design of exhibits and interior modifications to accommodate them will maximize the small public area in the Nature Center and replace temporary exhibits. Phase I of this project will also include planning and compliance associated with relocating the picnic area to enhance visitor access and safety. The park will also study renewable energy options for the Exit Glacier facilities. These improvements will provide for greater public enjoyment and increased understanding of the park and its unique ecosystem and resources.  
**Centennial Goal:** Recreational Experience

**Park:** Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve  
**Title:** Transportation Gateway and Exhibit Development in the Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark District  
**Total Investment:** \$100,000  
**Partner:** Stephen and Mary Birch Foundation, Inc.  
**Partner Contribution:** \$50,000  
**Description:** This project will develop a gateway transportation hub at the entrance to the Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark District, the most heavily visited area within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, and create exhibits for the Kennecott Visitor Center. Most visitors arrive via private shuttle and disembark at a variety of nondescript locations that lack interpretive and orientation services. The improvements will create a memorable gateway that will include a shuttle turn-around, covered waiting area and interpretive exhibits for visitors to Kennecott and the park lands for which Kennecott is a gateway.  
**Centennial Goal:** Recreational Experience

### CALIFORNIA

**Park:** Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area  
**Title:** Gillette Ranch Visitor Center  
**Total Investment:** \$5,280,000

Partner: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Partner Contribution: \$2,640,000  
Description: Rising from the historic Gillette Ranch property, this project will develop and create a new visitor center, providing high quality interactive exhibits and next generation learning tools. Visitors will be able to learn about the local, state, and federal parks that surround them and the history, resources, and beauty they provide. The visitor center will seek to include cutting edge technology.  
Centennial Goal: Education

## HAWAII

**Park:** Haleakala National Park  
Title: Control Invasive Vegetation and Restore Rare and Endangered Plants  
Total Investment: \$1,200,000  
Partner: Maui Invasive Species Committee  
Partner Contribution: \$600,000  
Description: Contain and reduce the number of invasive weeds to increase the conservation footprint of the park. Funds will also be used for staff, tools, plant propagation supplies, weed control supplies, logistics and personal protective equipment.  
Centennial Goal: Stewardship

## INDIANA

**Park:** Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore  
Title: BioBlitz!  
Total Investment: \$300,000  
Partner: National Geographic Society  
Partner Contribution: \$150,000  
Description: BioBlitzes or All-Taxa Biodiversity Inventories (ATBI) engage the public by inviting citizens and scientists to the parks to explore and perform systematic scientific surveys of all living things. The effort at Indiana Dunes is the next in a series of BioBlitzes with National Geographic. In 2008, National Geographic partnered with Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area for a highly successful event.  
Centennial Goal: Stewardship

## MISSOURI

**Park:** Jefferson National Expansion Memorial  
Title: Replace Arch Tram Operating System  
Total Investment: \$370,000  
Partner: Metro Business Enterprises  
Partner Contribution: \$185,000

Description: Replace the Arch Tram System electrical controls with a stand-alone programmable logic controller and upgrade the tram-monitoring device.  
Centennial Goal: Stewardship

## PENNSYLVANIA

**Park:** **Independence National Historical Park**  
Title: Rehabilitate the Ben Franklin Museum at Franklin Court  
Total Investment: \$18,000,000  
Partner: The Pew Charitable Trusts (lead donor)  
Partner Contribution: \$12,000,000  
Description: Project will completely rehabilitate the 1976 Bicentennial-era museum and facility. New exhibits and new HVAC will drastically improve visitor experience, comfort and safety. Approximately 270,000 people visited the museum in 2008.  
Centennial Goal: Education

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Park:** **National Capital Parks - East**  
Title: Expand “Bridging the Watershed” Education Program  
Total Investment: \$400,000  
Partner: Alice Ferguson Foundation  
Partner Contribution: \$200,000  
Description: Conduct teacher/ranger workshops, purchase supplies and materials, hire educators, and provide transportation services to expand the successful “Bridging the Watershed” education program into under-served District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia high schools.  
Centennial Goal: Education

## WYOMING

**Park:** **Yellowstone National Park (Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho)**  
Title: Environmental Stewardship through Discovery: A Molecular All-Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI) for Yellowstone Lake  
Total Investment: \$1,000,000  
Partner: Yellowstone Park Foundation  
Partner Contribution: \$500,000  
Description: This Molecular All-Taxa Biodiversity Inventory is a large scale, interdisciplinary study of the complex life in Yellowstone Lake. A main focus of the study is to understand the effect of environmental selection factors on genetic diversity. To perform the study, an interdisciplinary team will conduct research in an integrated way from geophysics to geochemistry and biological diversity.  
Centennial Goal: Stewardship