



# **Example Centennial Proposals Certified Eligible for Funding Consideration in 2008**

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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# Stewardship

## Appalachian National Scenic Trail

### Implement an Appalachian Trail Environmental MEGA Transect Program

States: CT, GA, MA, MD, ME, NC, NH, NJ, NY, PA, TN, VA, VT, WV

Partner: Appalachian Trail Conservancy

Total Cost: \$486,000

Proposal #137832

### National Parks as Environmental Barometers

**Summary:** This effort will use the Appalachian Trail as an environmental indicator for the health of the Eastern United States. Scientists from across governmental agencies, as well as non-profits and education institutions, will detect and track changes in the wildlife of the Appalachian Trail to serve as an early warning for possible changes across the East.

**Description:** Scientists with the National Park Service, the United States Geological Survey, Smithsonian Institution, educational institutions, and non-profit conservation organizations held a symposium in 2006 to propose the Appalachian Trail as an indicator of the environmental health of the Eastern United States. With significant planning in 2007, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and its partners, including the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the NPS Inventory and Monitoring Program, are now prepared to establish the Appalachian Trail Environmental MEGA-Transect program to monitor, understand and respond to changes in the environment; engage partners, communities and visitors in shared stewardship of the trail and its wealth of natural resources; increase the number of volunteers involved with the trail; and tell the story of the health of the Appalachian Trail and surrounding lands to visitors, neighbors, and the American people.



Coyote caught on film by remote camera during the predator survey pilot program.



Harpers Ferry Middle School students and parents learning to use GPS on the Appalachian Trail.



# Stewardship

## Big Thicket National Preserve

### All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory in National Parks

States: AK, AL, AR, AS, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, GU, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MP, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, PR, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, VI, VT, WA, WI, WV, WY

Various Partners

Total Cost: \$3,294,300

Proposal #136557

### Environmental Stewardship through Discovery

**Summary:** This project will undertake an unprecedented examination of the species of wildlife that live in our national parks. Pairing scientists with students of all age groups, we will seek as yet unknown species in an effort to further our understanding of the country's wildlife and ignite a joy of science in children.

**Description:** There is a crisis concerning the growing disconnect between youth and the natural environment despite increasing evidence that youth may actually benefit greatly from exposure to the natural world (Louv 2005). The challenge for the national parks is to engage youth in the preservation and enjoyment of park resources. Environmental Stewardship through Discovery is a project that provides hands on experience with scientists in the discovery of new organisms, while learning about the delicate flora and fauna within protected areas. All Taxa Biodiversity Inventories engage the public by partnering citizens with scientists in the exploration and discovery of biological diversity. Such efforts lead to an understanding of the indicators of ecological shifts due to climate change, or detection changes in forest health due to parasites and disease species. This multi-park project will engage the public in the excitement of a nationally representative and scientifically credible tool to measure and compare the biodiversity throughout the National Park System. Creating Environmental Stewardship through Discovery is innovative because it focuses on the grassroots level, but uses a national forum to exchange new ideas that augment both scientific knowledge as well as citizen learning and creativity.



Student showing off fungi.



Volunteer keeping tally of species identified.



# Stewardship

## Padre Island National Seashore

### Restore the Endangered Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle for the 21st Century

State: TX

Various Partners

Total Cost: \$666,547

Proposal #137580

#### Ensuring Species Survival

**Summary:** This project will enhance efforts to save the world's most endangered sea turtle species from extinction at Padre Island National Seashore, the most important Kemp's ridley nesting beach in the United States. By engaging the public in observing and relocating nests, the National Park Service will greatly enhance its rehabilitation efforts and ensure that this species survives through the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Description:** If this project is conducted and recovery efforts continue, by 2016 a nesting colony will have been successfully re-established and thousands of people will come to view daytime nesting Kemp's ridleys and hatchling releases annually. On our 100th birthday, the NPS would be able to showcase and share this landmark accomplishment with the American people. Re-establishment efforts have been underway at Padre Island since 1978 in cooperation with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and other partners in the U.S. and Mexico. These efforts are very important to our partners, receive widespread media coverage and community support, and are a park priority. Nesting is doubling every 1-3 years and efforts must be maintained and intensified to locate and protect the nesting turtles, eggs, and hatchlings from various threats. This project would improve patrols to locate and protect nesting turtles and nests. Public participation and partnership would be continued and improved. At least 100 volunteers from the diverse local community would help with detection and protection each year. Also, this project would educate and involve more beach users in detection and protection. This project would unquestionably inspire, educate, and engage the American public in preserving this species for future generations through volunteerism, partnership, and public participation. It would reconnect children and families with the park, contribute to the local economy, and build sustainable capacity vitally needed to manage the species at Padre Island as nesting numbers continue to increase as this "endangered species success story in the making" unfolds.



Park rangers release Kemp's ridley hatchlings.



Kemp's ridley hatchling makes its way out to sea.



# Environmental Leadership

## Glen Canyon National Recreation Area & Grand Canyon National Park

### Accomplish Alternative Motorboat Propulsion Research

State: AZ, UT

Partner: NPS River Running Concessioners

Total Cost: \$840,000

Proposal #137836

### Cleaner, Quieter Boats

**Summary:** This collaborative effort at two environmentally sensitive parks looks to take the lead in innovation and invention, developing a brand new style of motor boat engine that will greatly reduce the environmental impact of boating and allow thousands of new visitors to enjoy the beauty of our nation's parks each year.

**Description:** This project is designed as a collaborative effort among the two parks' river concessioners and the National Park Service. These concessioners have already pledged a financial commitment to this effort. The ultimate goal is to develop, demonstrate, implement and utilize a motorboat propulsion system that offers measurable environmental gains over the conventional four-stroke outboard motors currently used. The hope is to develop a system suitable for use not only in Grand and Glen Canyons, but also in other areas within the National Park System and elsewhere. By working together, the river concessioners hope to capitalize on economies of scale to achieve a greater level of accomplishment in less time. This project holds the exciting promise of realizing the environmental benefits offered by alternative vehicle development and application to watercraft.



Rafting the Colorado River.



Current fuels and motors.



# Environmental Leadership

## Ozark National Scenic Riverways

### Renovate and Use Welch Lodge as an Environmental Education Center

State: MO

Partner: The Green Center

Total Cost: \$1,200,000

Proposal #137483

### Teaching "Green" in the Ozarks

**Summary:** This project will turn the Welch Lodge at Ozark National Scenic Riverways into a world-class environmental education facility, specifically designed to bring urban youth into a park setting. The dual benefits of this program, enhanced stewardship through education and reconnecting children with nature, will make the facility a leader in providing exciting access to our nation's beauty.

**Description:** This project would rehabilitate the 6,224 sq. ft. Welch Lodge as an environmental-education center. This project is one of the four learning centers specifically mentioned in *The Future of America's National Parks* as an example that furthers the centennial goal of education. It will bring urban youth into the park for educational summer camps that provide authentic learning adventures, increase the diversity of park users by providing this service to the St. Louis Public School District and other school districts; teach about stewardship of public resources and build future conservationists. Using sustainable green technology in retrofitted facilities and vehicle/equipment that significantly reduces the demand for fossil fuels and carbon emissions, it will connect people to parks and generations of families to the benefits of nature and green technology.



Welch Lodge today.



Students participate in a prairie study program.



# Environmental Leadership

## Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

State: AK

Partner: Propane Education & Resource Council

Total cost: \$250,000

Proposal #137448

### Replace Kennecott Power Generation with Battery/Propane Hybrid

**Summary:** This project will replace inefficient, constant running diesel generators with a battery/propane hybrid generating system. This project includes installing a 25kw and a 10kw generator in the Kennecott Power Plant, installing electrical transmission lines, and modifying an existing facility as a sub-station for housing an inverter, batteries and automated switch-gear.

**Description:** Propane eliminates exposure to contaminated soils from fuel spills, burns cleaner than diesel fuel reducing atmospheric contamination, and reduces the operational costs of fuel handling. This project will reduce diesel fuel spills by eliminating diesel piping and storage. With battery storage and inverted power, electricity will be available for operating computer servers and related equipment continuously thereby enabling a level of service unattainable with the existing facility. Generator run times will be reduced thus avoiding associated noise in the National Historic Landmark. The value of quiet improves focus on the historical educational experience. The design guideline for this project will be to reduce run-times for the generator by 50 percent, with a corresponding increase in quiet time by the same measure. The ability to provide lighting and powered displays will enable a more effective interpretive experience. Visitors will learn there are alternatives to diesel power generation that elevate the quality of operations and meet environmentally sustainable objectives.



The proposed facility at Kennecott is similar to this solar powered facility at West McCarthy.



# Environmental Leadership

## Acadia National Park

State: ME

Partner: Maine Department of Transportation

Total Cost: \$3,780,000

Proposal #137657

### "Car Free" Acadia

**Summary:** This project seeks to eliminate the harmful effects of automobiles in Acadia National Park by providing a variety of means of public transportation. The project looks also to revitalize and expand the trail system at the park to include multiple use trails in order to provide a diverse and more hands on experience for visitors.

**Description:** This project would provide voluntary, multimodal access to and within Acadia National Park for present and future generations of park visitors. The project would offer the public the voluntary opportunity to access and explore Acadia by foot, bicycle, shuttle bus, commercial tour bus, private and commercial vessels or private automobile. Funding would: (1) provide the National Park Service share of funds for the proposed Acadia Gateway Center an intermodal transportation center located on state owned land, four miles north of the park, (2) help to construct and maintain in perpetuity fully accessible, multiple use trails connecting the gateway communities with the park, (3) rehabilitate and maintain in perpetuity seven miles of historic carriage roads surrounding Eagle Lake and (4) implement a visitor use management plan to ensure that visitors continue to have a quality park experience for the next 100 years.



Island Explorer Shuttle currently operating at Acadia.





# Environmental Leadership

## Mount Rainier National Park

State: WA

Partner: Washington's National Park Fund

Proposal #137688

### Install Solar Power at Ohana to Increase Use of Alternative Energy

**Summary:** This project will construct a 10kw grid-connected solar array on the roof of the Ohanapecosh Maintenance/Ranger Building. The goal is to offset rising electrical costs by using one of the better solar sites in the park to generate electricity.

**Description:** Nowhere in the lower 48 states will global warming alter mountain ecosystems more dramatically than at Mount Rainier. A warming climate has severe implications for park ecosystems, the regional hydropower industry, and the Pacific Northwest economy, placing Mount Rainier squarely in the forefront on this issue. Because of this unique position, the park is the perfect climate change laboratory to study the impacts on ecosystems and the physical environment; educate the public about the effects that global climate change will have on their lives; and demonstrate National Park Service leadership through sustainable practices.

This project demonstrates environmental leadership by developing sustainable energy by using a renewable energy source. This project will decrease the park's consumption of electrical energy created by fossil fuel and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The project will lower operations costs by helping to decrease the park's electric bill. Using solar power will be more reliable than commercially-provided power because newer array controls are able to provide power even during times of commercial outage.



Mount Rainier National Park's solar-powered White River facility is similar to the one proposed at Ohana.



# Recreational Experience

## Yosemite National Park

### Rehabilitate Premier Visitor Use Trails

State: CA

Partner: Yosemite Fund

Total Cost: \$4,000,000

Proposal #137690

### Creating Safer, More Beautiful Trails

**Summary:** This project will revitalize and enhance more than 50 miles of trails at Yosemite National Park, all with the goal of providing visitors with better access to the beauty, wonder, and diversity of landscapes the park has to offer. By letting visitors safely visit more of the park, they will have a chance to appreciate the beauty of not only this park, but the whole of the National Park System.

**Description:** This project will restore important trails in Yosemite in order to enhance public access, improve safety and protect natural and cultural resources. Approximately 80 percent of Yosemite's four million visitors per year stop at Yosemite Valley destinations, and this project will improve popular trails for those visitors. The western end of the Valley includes such attractions as the El Capitan granite wall, the Bridalveil Fall, several meadows, and four popular picnic areas. The project will rehabilitate the trail, providing visitors with improved access to west Yosemite Valley destinations while protecting the adjacent natural landscape. The John Muir Trail is one of the best known and loved trails in the United States. Approximately 33 miles of the trail are in Yosemite. Twelve miles of the trail also serve as one of the most heavily used segments of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. This project will restore the condition of the trail corridor to a level commensurate with its stature as a premier American trail. The Red Peak Pass Trail is the only trail to provide a route over the Clark Range within the park. The experience of hiking over the Clark Range is widely regarded as one of the most spectacular wilderness experiences in Yosemite. This great trail resource is currently in a deteriorated condition requiring substantial reconstruction to restore it to a safe and sustainable condition. The approximately 7.5 mile trail system associated with the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias will be restored to an acceptable condition.



Erosion and wear on the Mist Trail - a popular hiking route.



# Recreational Experience

## Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park

### Construct Cheatham Hill Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail Phase 1

State: GA

Partner: Cobb County, Georgia

Total Cost: \$4,800,000

Proposal #127504

#### A Path to History

**Summary:** This project will develop a bicycle/ pedestrian path at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, bringing the park to life for thousands of new visitors. The path will connect the battlefield to existing community trails, allowing local residents access to the American history the park has to offer.

**Description:** This project will construct a 2.8 mile accessible bicycle/pedestrian trail parallel to Cheatham Hill and Powder Springs Roads from Cheatham Hill battle site to connect with adjacent residential areas south of the park boundary. About one mile of the trail will be within the park and will provide access to the Cheatham Hill and Kolb's Farm battle sites, interpretive facilities and trailheads. The 10-12 ft. wide hard-surfaced multi-use trail will connect with Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area via the county multi-use trail network, and will join trail segments to public transit in downtown Marietta and west to connect other city and county parks.



Traffic congestion makes it difficult for community members to get to the park. A biking and walking trail would welcome visitors, provide healthful recreation and reduce traffic.



Walker on existing section of trail.



# Recreational Experience

## Biscayne National Park

### Coral Reef Rejuvenation: A Community Program

State: FL

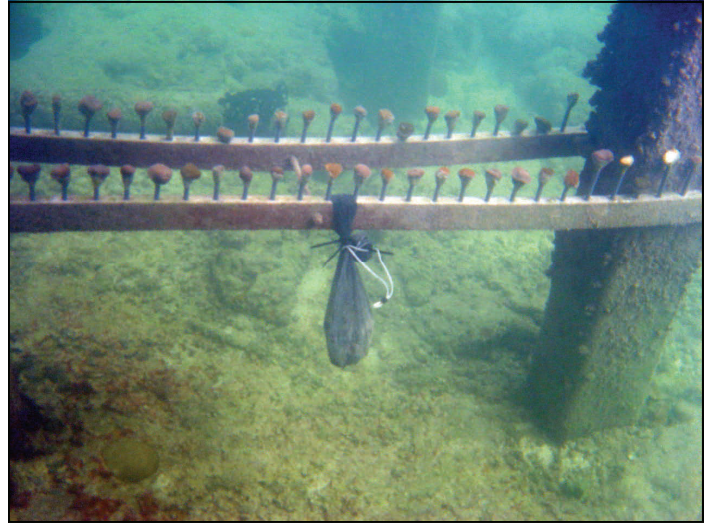
Partner: South Florida National Parks Trust and Cordis Corp.

Total Cost: \$110,000

Proposal #137536

### Growing Coral, Engaging People

**Summary:** This multi-year, community based, volunteer project develops a large source of coral colonies needed for coral reef restoration and enhancement. The program will seek to re-grow previously unsalvageable branches of coral, eventually reintroducing the coral to the reef when they have reached a size when they are able to survive. Through this cutting edge technology, Biscayne National Park will look to protect and revitalize the coral reef system off Florida.



Coral "popsicles" in a coral nursery.



Students from the University of Miami preparing to tend the coral nursery.



# Recreational Experience

## Alaska National Parks

### National Park Marketing

State: AK

Partner: Alaska Travel Industry Association

Total cost: \$1,500,000

Proposal #137665

### Discover and Enjoy Alaska's National Parks

**Summary:** This multi-faceted education and marketing campaign will focus on lesser-visited parks, park activities with the capacity to enjoy growth, and on audiences currently under-represented in park visitation. This effort will include a mix of advertising, targeted mailings, media and industry tours of parks, acquisition of video, photography and other public domain media products, web-based material on parks and products and events aimed at educating independent travelers and travel planning professionals about the resources and opportunities in Alaska's national parks.

**Description:** Visitation to Alaska's parks is growing, but the growth is focused on parks and activities of primarily cruise ship-based visitors. This marketing effort would reach independent travelers who are planning trips outside of cruise itineraries. The campaign would also focus on Alaska residents, particularly in the Anchorage-Fairbanks rail belt area. This area has a large percentage of the state's population, including more than 60,000 school aged children and an increasingly diverse ethnic mix of potential visitors. The program would also provide public domain photography and video for use by media and the NPS in educational and marketing efforts.

**Your America. Your Parks.**

**Alaska's National Parks** unlike any other destination in the world

With 17 National Park areas, Alaska is home to two-thirds of the land in the entire National Park System. Spanning nearly 55 million acres of diverse terrain – Alaska's National Parks dwarf many U.S. states. Come visit some of the nation's most impressive landscapes.

Covering over 13 million acres, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve is the largest park in the National Park System. It equals six Yellowstones, with four major mountain ranges that include nine of the 16 highest peaks in the United States.

Or visit Kenai Fjords National Park, sweeping from rocky coastline to glacier-crowned peaks on the world famous Kenai Peninsula. The park is accessible by land or water and capped by the Harding Icefield, the largest icefield entirely within U.S. borders.

It's the trip of a lifetime. It's your dream destination.  
It's all here in Alaska's National Parks.  
[www.ParksAlaska.com](http://www.ParksAlaska.com)  
Visit our website for more information or to request a FREE Alaska's National Parks Guide.

Marketing, like this example, will draw new visitors to experience Alaska's national park wonders.



Travel industry professionals enjoy a familiarization tour.

# Education

## Lewis and Clark National Historical Park

States: OR, WA  
Partner: Lewis and Clark National Park Association  
Total Cost: \$120,000  
Proposal #137524

### Adopting the Class of 2016: Students to Stewards

**Summary:** “Students to Stewards” will adopt local students in the Class of 2016 and create a foundation for adopting future classes. Beginning in fall 2007, and continuing until their graduation in 2016, almost 500 fourth grade students of diverse nationalities and backgrounds, and representing 20 rural schools in Oregon and Washington will visit Lewis and Clark National Historical Park annually to build understanding and stewardship through learning activities. The students will begin a relationship with the park in fourth grade by participating in curriculum-based education programs, connecting yearly with the park until graduation. They will engage in river, forest and watershed conservation; Native American cultural activities; trail recreation, camping and wilderness skills practice; park career investigation and service learning. Each will become a Junior Ranger.



Ranger welcomes a class of students.



Boys in period costume.

# Education

## Acadia National Park

State: ME  
Partner: Acadia Partners for Science and Learning, Friends of Acadia, and Eastern National  
Total Cost: \$740,000  
Proposal #137593

### Engaging Youth: No Child Left Inside Initiative

**Summary:** Building on Maine’s first statewide No Child Left Inside workshop, this program will establish community partnerships to develop an educational curriculum at Acadia National Park designed to bring children to the park to experience and interact with nature on a continual and structured basis.

**Description:** Acadia National Park recently convened a No Child Left Inside workshop to address the national issue concerning youth’s disconnection from nature. Participants from federal, state and local government agencies, schools and academic institutions, commercial tourism companies, nonprofit organizations, and the medical field discussed this growing problem and possible solutions. The need to work collaboratively to reverse this trend was strongly endorsed.

As part of this collaboration, this centennial project will enhance, expand and ensure continuity of curriculum-based and Junior Ranger programs, and other youth services at Acadia National Park. Proven programs with families, educators, and learners will be strengthened while reaching out to new audiences.



Helping a ranger with park research.



A new Junior Ranger shows off the trademark ranger hat.

# Education

## Yosemite National Park

### Create a Signature Yosemite Institute Environmental Education Campus

State: CA  
Partner: Yosemite National Institute  
Total Cost: \$3,100,000  
Proposal #76026

### Teaching “Green” in Yosemite

**Description:** Yosemite Institute’s immersive educational programs inspire a personal connection to the natural world and foster future generations of stewards of our national parks. The purpose of this cooperative project is to create a model sustainable environmental education campus within Yosemite, where thoughtfully designed educational facilities, programs, and accommodations will better serve the growing needs of students and park visitors, and enhance their learning experience.



Kids enjoy hiking and stewardship learning opportunities through Yosemite National Institute programs.





# Education

## Everglades National Park *with* Big Cypress National Preserve and Biscayne and Dry Tortugas National Parks

### Creating Future Park Stewards through Education

State: FL

Partner: South Florida National Parks Trust, Everglades Association, Friends of Big Cypress, The League of Naples

Total Cost: \$1,629,848

Proposal #137504

### South Florida Educational Park Partnership

**Summary:** Working together, the national parks of South Florida are looking to enhance and expand their educational programs, providing opportunities for nearly 50,000 local children to learn from experience in nature. The program will develop relationships with local schools, sponsoring events like science fairs and interactive demonstrations, as well as trips to the local parks to highlight the vast learning potential of the parks and to stimulate in the students a lifelong love of nature.

**Description:** This 2 to 3-yr program allows the geographically related South Florida National Parks to continue and expand their ecosystem and curriculum-based education programs at no cost to the underserved, culturally diverse students of the area by hiring a total 24 seasonal/temporary rangers; transporting students to the parks and purchasing needed supplies. These programs include student exploration of the parks natural and cultural history through ranger-teacher developed curricula for grades K-12 that comply with Florida's curriculum standards via day-long student field trips; overnight camping experiences; on-site recreation and ecosystem based programs and science based classroom programs; a focused program for the Miccosukee Indian School and other student populations; teacher workshops; participation in science fairs and career day events, developing curriculum guides, traveling trunks and interactive web based programs. All components of these programs will be developed and offered in collaboration with local county schools.



Students participate in the cypress slough study.



Education program on the Anhinga Trail.



# Education

## Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

### Establish Gateway Interagency Visitor Center at New Gillette Ranch Property

State: CA

Partner: California Department of Parks and Recreation &  
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

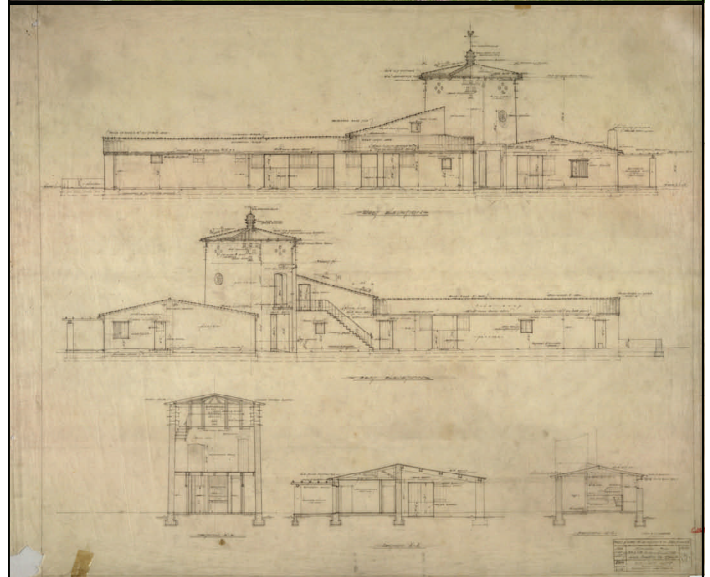
Total Cost: \$8,447,690

Proposal #121528

### Gillette Ranch: Gateway to the Santa Monica Mountains

**Summary:** Rising from the historic Gillette Ranch property, this project will develop and build 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.

**Description:** The historic Gillette Ranch property was purchased in April 2005 by the National Park Service, California State Parks, and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to serve as gateway information and operations center for the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. A new interagency visitor center will be established in a historic building at the site to provide visitors with accessible information about local, state, and federal parklands and their respective resources, use opportunities, and management issues. High quality interpretive exhibits are needed to appropriately convey the national recreation area's themes, and to share with 35 million annual visitors the various agency missions, critical resource issues, and mutual goals and objectives.



Gillette Ranch building to be adaptively reused as an interagency visitor center.



# Professional Excellence

## Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park

### Developing the Next Generation of NPS Leaders

State: VT

Partner: Center for Park Management,  
National Parks Conservation Association

Total Cost: \$1,000,000

Proposal #137696

**Summary:** The program builds a national leadership network that reflects the face of America and prepares the next generation of NPS leaders to face the complex issues that our parks will have to address in the next century. By taking an active, coordinated role in developing leaders from within, the National Park Service is committed to addressing the needs of its parks, not just today, but tomorrow and well into the future.

**Description:** This national, multi-park, multi-year collaborative program develops the National Park Service's capacity to lead change and meet leadership opportunities and challenges associated with increasingly complex park management. The program builds a national leadership network that reflects the face of America and prepares the next generation of NPS leaders to negotiate complicated issues, embrace innovation, and build the collaboration and commitment of a diverse public required for the stewardship of our national system of parks into the next century. All three closely integrated program components apply state-of-the-art leadership frameworks for adaptive learning at both the individual and organizational levels. The curriculum incorporates real-world problem solving, professional coaching, strategic thinking, and emotional intelligence applied to complex agency management. Roundtable Developmental Program trains a cadre of emerging and diverse leaders through a 2-year leadership curriculum and mentoring by the network of Leadership Roundtable superintendents.

New superintendent helps  
to chart the course for the future  
of the National Park Service.



Carriage Barn Visitor Center — home of the Conservation Studies Institute.





# Professional Excellence

## Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park

### Create Centennial Collaborative Conservation and Environmental Leadership Program

State: VT  
Partner: University of Vermont  
Total Cost: \$450,000  
Proposal #137678

### NPS C.A.N. – Conservation and Accountability in Nature Training

**Summary:** This national program will serve as a resource and continuing education center for managers within the National Park Service, helping them to assess and respond to the variety of issues they face in park management. The program will focus on preparing managers to be good stewards of the nation’s parks and allow them to learn from one another, accessing best practices, new technologies and “trade secrets” along the way. A fully informed National Park Service is one that is able to meet the challenges of its second century.

**Description:** This national program will benefit the Service by developing an environmental leadership academic curriculum focused on current NPS management issues, including new directions and paradigms for conservation, emerging models and strategies for 21st-century relevancy, and national park and community partnerships for stewardship, visitor use, and landscape-scale conservation. This curriculum will combine technical content, knowledge, and dialogue on challenges facing the NPS with expertise in leadership theory and practice. This rigorous program will identify best practices through evaluation, incorporate cutting edge scholarship from graduate fellowships conducting applied research in direct response to NPS management needs, and offer NPS staff professional development through opportunities such as university-based visiting practitioners and close collaboration with faculty and students. Through a variety of program delivery models including direct experience and technology, information on best practices for conservation leadership will be made readily available throughout the Service so that national parks can more effectively realize their role in environmental leadership and better serve the needs of all Americans.



Education area at the Conservation Studies Institute at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park.



# Professional Excellence

## National Mall & Memorial Parks

State: DC

Partner: Trust for the National Mall

Total Cost: \$2,200,000

Proposal #89115

### Plan, Design, Construct, and Implement a Comprehensive Park Signage and Way-finding System

**Summary:** This project seeks to take the wide variety of historical and cultural parks within the greater Washington, D.C. area and provide visitors a more coordinated experience. By increasing the visibility of national parks within the city and providing a framework by which those parks can be linked, this project will help visitors discover all that the national capital region has to offer.

**Description:** This project will contract a design firm to conduct inventory and condition assessment of existing signage and waysides within the National Mall & Memorial Parks. This includes more than 1,000 acres of parkland that is an integral part of the fabric of the larger city.

The plan will include motor vehicle signs, including directional, parking and information, and future park transit signs. Interpretive waysides, pedestrian direction signs and National Park Service Identity signage will also be included and updated as needed. Coordinated with the city and other destinations, the system will elevate the National Park Service's identity.

Washington, D.C is the ideal environment to incorporate state-of-the-art technology that is engaging and flexible. It could include recognizable and easy to use interactive media and kiosks, touchable, tactile models of the National Mall, on-site orientation map/kiosks and multi-lingual welcome components. Other related actions will upgrade park websites so they are coordinated and will be more inviting, to entice youth into authentic experiences in the parks. Additional related media could include cell phone tours, pod casts and the park traveler system/radio which can be geared to specific audiences to augment educational experiences



Bicentennial-era way finding sign.



Temporary map station on the National Mall.



# Professional Excellence

## Stephen T. Mather Training Center

### Initiate the George and Helen Hartzog Institute for Parks

State: SC

Partner: Clemson University, George and Helen Hartzog Institute

Total Cost: \$92,376

Proposal #137727

**Summary:** This project will create a comprehensive park research agenda, allowing the National Park Service and the country to fully understand the depth and breadth of natural, historical, cultural and recreational treasures offered by the National Park System and to recognize the importance of the connections between people and their environment.

**Description:** The Hartzog Institute will pursue a comprehensive park research agenda including research on natural, historical, cultural and recreational values of parks, and how best to protect and preserve these public treasures. The Hartzog Institute will continue its work on The Park Partnership Project, which was initially funded through a National Park Service research grant to identify training competencies needed to promote partnerships as a strategic management tool.

The Hartzog Institute will develop The Leadership Academy, a professional development academy to prepare park leaders of the future. The Hartzog Institute will build upon The Environmental Socialization Project, which was initiated in 2000 and consists of a series of research projects designed to illuminate our understanding of the connections and disconnections between humans and their environments, and how park education and interpretation can promote a better understanding of human/environment interdependency.



Mather Training Center and training staff members.



George Hartzog,  
7th director of the  
National Park Service.