

**STATEMENT OF JONATHAN JARVIS, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE,
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES OF THE HOUSE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERNING THE FISCAL YEAR 2011 BUDGET
REQUEST FOR THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

March 16, 2010

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today at this oversight hearing on the Fiscal Year 2011 President's budget request for the National Park Service (NPS).

We appreciate the support Congress has provided to help us in achieving our goals as stewards of America's treasures, including the various park units, national historic and scenic trails, and wild and scenic rivers. The NPS is charged with preserving unimpaired these lands and historic sites valued for their environmental resources, recreation and scenic worth, cultural and historical significance, and vast open spaces. We look forward to celebrating our 100th anniversary in 2016.

Through the President's FY 2011 budget request, the NPS will continue to advance our goals for the preservation, interpretation and restoration of this nation's most cherished natural and cultural resources. The budget supports the gains made with your help. It also supports several of the Secretary's goals, including preserving treasured landscapes, addressing the challenge of resource stewardship that could be made more difficult by global climate change, and engaging all Americans – especially the youth of our nation – to discover a personal connection to their national parks. My personal priorities – relevancy, education, stewardship and the NPS's extraordinary workforce – dovetail precisely with the goals of the Secretary and the Administration.

The FY 2011 budget proposal includes \$2.7 billion for discretionary appropriations and over \$3.1 billion when all sources, including recreation fee revenues and donations, are included. Essentially unchanged from FY 2010, the request reflects the difficult budget environment in which the country finds itself today. There are strategic increases in this budget, combined with selected program reductions and eliminations, made only after careful and serious deliberation.

I would like to briefly recap the key increases contained in the FY 2011 budget for the NPS. The FY 2011 budget request reflects the President's commitment to our national parks with an increase of \$50.9 million to protect our nation's treasured landscapes. As part of the Secretary's Treasured Landscapes Initiative, the NPS will build park operational capacity at over 100 parks, enhance critical stewardship programs at parks and ecosystems, enhance security at our national icons, effectively maintain NPS facilities, and ensure organizational capacity and professional development.

A further investment of an additional \$5.8 million will augment our efforts to engage our country's youth and instill in them an appreciation of the values of national parks. A total of 19 base increases affecting 27 parks comprise this effort. We have proposed this investment as part

of our park base funding to establish youth programs that provide educational experiences and employment opportunities on a continuous basis. The NPS also will dedicate \$6.4 million in recreation fee revenues collected at parks to youth projects that benefit the visitor experience. This is an additional \$2.0 million over the 2010 level. One goal of the Secretary's Youth in Nature Initiative is to provide opportunities for young people that could lead to careers in public conservation, such as that offered by the NPS.

The NPS plays a key role in supporting the goals inherent in the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965, which are to assist in the State and Federal land acquisition and enhancement of lands and waters for recreational and conservation purposes through a variety of programs within the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service. The Administration has committed to fully funding LWCF programs at \$900 million by 2014, using a multi-year incremental approach. Towards this effort, the NPS is requesting a \$30 million increase for Federal land acquisition and State conservation grants in FY 2011.

Climate change is among our greatest challenges in the parks, as in the nation and the world, and one for which I care most passionately. I fully support the Department of the Interior's decision to re-emphasize the role of science in Federal land management decisions. Our decisions must be formed and guided by good science. While no additional funds are proposed in the FY 2011 NPS budget request, the FY 2011 request supports the further development of adaptation strategies as part of the Climate Change Adaptation Initiative with the \$10 million provided in FY 2010. This funding will allow NPS to collaborate with other DOI bureaus in implementing the first of a series of planned Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC). This initiative will bring a range of stakeholders together at the landscape level to improve the resiliency and adaptation of natural resources to climate change effects, and work with the anticipated eight regional DOI Climate Science Centers to ensure that meaningful climate change research results and scalable information on anticipated climate change effects are available to park managers and programs. The LCCs will facilitate coordination among land and resource managers with the region that is defined by the LCC boundary. The LCCs are not limited by "hard" boundaries but will serve as catalysts for the identification and prioritization of key climate impact issues as well as modeling and data needs.

Mr. Chairman, you are certainly aware of the difficult economic challenges that face our country. Our FY 2011 budget request has faced that reality and made some hard choices. The \$87 million in critical increases highlighted above are offset by reductions totaling \$91 million. The proposed budget requests no funding for Save America's Treasures grants, Preserve America's grants, Challenge Cost Share grants, and the Competitive Sourcing Program. The request also eliminates FY 2010 Congressional earmarks for Statutory Assistance and proposes significant reductions in the NPS Construction and Heritage Area Programs.

In addition to the program reductions are management savings and efficiencies totaling approximately \$18 million. These savings are reflected through travel, information technology, acquisition, and energy efficiencies. The energy savings are expected to be realized from successful completion of projects funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) involving demolition of unneeded facilities and energy retrofits. In addition, the

NPS will also absorb \$32 million in pay increases and fixed costs, primarily in its operations appropriation.

The budget underscores cost containment, program consolidation and management efficiencies to meet Federal fiscal realities. In proposing the reductions and absorptions requested in the FY 2011 budget request, we have been careful to protect park operations as much as possible and we continue to advance innovative approaches to collaboration and cost savings. The consolidation of our workforce management, acquisition and contracting offices are prime examples of strategies that will, in future years, deliver greater service at less cost.

The NPS has made investments in our future and put Americans to work using the \$750 million in additional funding under ARRA. Also, another \$170 million in NPS road work will be accomplished through ARRA funding provided by the Department of Transportation. This funding, which will be completely obligated by September 30, 2010, is anticipated to result in the completion of nearly 1,000 capital investment and deferred maintenance rehabilitation projects for NPS facilities, roads, and other resources. Projects include the restoration of facilities and roads, abandoned mine land restoration and mitigation, renewable energy retrofits in parks, trail maintenance and equipment replacement. The addition of this level of funding to the NPS budget for these types of projects was unprecedented and of great benefit to the NPS and the nation. The level of ARRA funding was the major determining factor in the National Park Service's FY 2011 construction request levels.

Operations of the National Park System (ONPS)

The FY 2011 budget requests \$2.3 billion for ONPS, an increase of \$35.3 million (+2%) over the 2010 enacted level. This includes \$37.3 million for park base increases which benefit a total of 127 parks. The increases target youth programs, collaborative efforts, new responsibilities, and critical park operational activities. Other increases address oceans and coastal stewardship (\$1.25 million), enhanced security at park icons by the U.S. Park Police (\$1.8 million), workforce management and acquisition offices consolidation (\$6.8 million), and enhanced cyclic maintenance efforts (\$3.2 million).

Park Partnership Project Grants

The FY 2011 budget request continues to support the partnership aspect of the Treasured Landscapes initiative through a \$5 million Park Partnership matching grants program, the same amount appropriated in FY 2010. The program invites individuals, foundations, businesses, and the private sector to contribute donations to support signature programs and projects in our national parks. Partners in these projects are required to match the Federal funding, at a minimum of 50 percent of the cost, with private philanthropic donations. In FY 2011, the NPS is committed to augmenting this matching grant program with an additional \$5 million in matching grants using recreation fees revenue. All told, this will result in at least \$20 million being invested in signature projects.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The NPS FY 2011 budget proposes funding totaling \$156.3 million for Federal land acquisition and State Conservation grants funded through the LWCF, an increase of \$30.0 million from the FY 2010 enacted level for this appropriation. Of the total amount, \$106.3 million is available for Land Acquisition projects and administration, including \$6.0 million to provide grants to States

and local communities to preserve and protect Civil War battlefield sites outside the National Park System through the American Battlefield Protection Program.

For FY 2011, the Department has instituted an integrated process for prioritizing Federal Land acquisition projects among the three DOI land-managing bureaus. The cross-bureau criteria emphasize landscape level conservation, especially river and riparian conservation and restoration, and conservation of wildlife and their habitat, as well as recreational opportunities in urban landscapes, and cultural and historical preservation of significant events. Additional criteria for these projects include the leveraging of funds, the degree of involvement with other DOI bureaus for the project, and the urgency for project completion. The NPS Federal land acquisition request includes 27 projects among which one would preserve riparian habitat at Petrified Forest NP, Arizona; another would enhance the viewshed at the urban Golden Gate NRA, California; and another would protect cultural resources at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania Battlefields NMP in Virginia.

The request also provides \$50.0 million, including administrative costs, for State Conservation Grants funded by the LWCF. An additional \$700,000 for State Conservation grants is available from the LWCF in mandatory appropriations.

Construction

The \$195.2 million requested for Construction includes \$109.0 million for line-item construction projects. The line-item request, along with recreation fee revenues and park roads funding will provide substantial resources for protecting and maintaining existing park assets. Funding through ARRA and previous fiscal years has enabled the NPS to make significant gains in addressing its backlog of construction projects. The request funds 13 projects including continuation of ecosystem restoration at Olympic and Everglades National Parks and key new projects at Statue of Liberty National Monument, Big Cypress National Preserve and the National Mall.

Historic Preservation Fund

The NPS plays a vital role in preserving the Nation's cultural history through a variety of programs that address preservation needs nationwide. The FY 2011 budget for the Historic Preservation Fund is \$54.5 million, a decrease of \$25 million from the FY 2010 enacted level. The budget requests \$46.5 million for Grants-in-Aid to States and Territories and \$8.0 million for Grants-in-Aid to Tribes, level with the FY 2010 enacted level. No funds are requested for the Save America's Treasures grants program.

National Recreation and Preservation (NR&P)

The National Recreation and Preservation appropriation funds programs that support local and community efforts to preserve natural and cultural resources. For FY 2011, \$51.0 million is requested, a decrease of \$17.4 million from FY 2010. The budget is highlighted by a request of \$2.0 million for the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Water Trails grants program. This proposal reflects the Administration's continuing commitment to ecosystem restoration, including stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay, pursuant to E.O. 13508. The funds would provide technical and financial assistance for conserving, restoring and interpreting natural, cultural and recreational resources within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Over 10 million visitors explore

the Chesapeake Bay watershed each year through the Gateways Network's 150 parks, refuges, historic sites, museums and water trails. The budget proposal eliminates funding for Statutory Assistance earmarks, does not fund Preserve America Grants, and reduces funding available for Heritage Partnership Program grants.

Performance Integration

In formulating the FY 2011 budget request, the NPS used a variety of tools to incorporate performance results into the decision-making process. These tools include the Budget Cost Projection Module, the Business Planning Initiative, and the NPS Scorecard, as well as continued program evaluations. These tools are used to develop a more consistent approach to integrating budget and performance across the Service, as well as to support further accountability for budget performance integration at all levels of the organization. Given the far-reaching responsibilities of the NPS, we must remain strategic in our thinking and decision-making.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my summary of the FY 2011 budget request for NPS. We would be pleased to answer any questions you and the other members of the subcommittee may have.