

U.S. National Park Service International Programs Quarterly Bulletin



January – March 2010

Welcome to the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) International Programs Quarterly Bulletin issued by the NPS Office of International Affairs (OIA). Additional information on NPS international activities can be found at the NPS OIA webpage: <http://www.nps.gov/oia>

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Pinnacles National Monument Establishes Sister Park

U.S. National Park Service Director Jarvis and Argentine National Parks President Gandini, along with U.S. Congressman Farr, Argentine Environment Minister Perez Gabilondo, State Department staff and Argentine and U.S. park managers were on hand for the establishment of a sister park relationship between Argentina's Quebrada del Conderito National Park and America's **Pinnacles National Monument**. Both parks are home to endangered condors and have much to share with each other on management of these rare raptors. For more information, contact Denise Louie, at denise_louie@nps.gov



NPS Hosts Former Haitian Prime Minister

NPS hosted former Haitian Prime Minister Pierre-Louis and Foundation FOKAL Executive Director Mangones during a visit to Washington to discuss collaboration and introduce them to models of public-private urban park partnerships, such as has been created by Washington Parks and People at Marvin Gaye Park in northeastern Washington, DC. Foundation FOKAL is a Haitian NGO that provides management at, and innovative community development projects around, **Parc Martissant**, which is located amidst one of the poorest neighborhoods of Port-au-Prince. For more information, contact Rudy D'Alessandro, at rudy_dalessandro@nps.gov



Canada Aids Species Reintroduction at Olympic NP

Working with the British Columbia Ministry of Environment, staff from **Olympic National Park** have completed a three-year project to transplant *fishers* – a member of the weasel family, related to otters and minks – from Canada. Trapped to extinction for their pelts by the 1920's, approximately 90 reintroduced fishers are now spreading out to all corners of the park. Biologists from the park, as well as from the U.S. Geological Survey and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, are monitoring the dispersal of the fishers, mostly via radio telemetry. For more details, contact Patti Happe, at patti_happe@nps.gov or visit the park's fisher reintroduction page at <http://www.nps.gov/olymp/naturescience/fisher.htm>



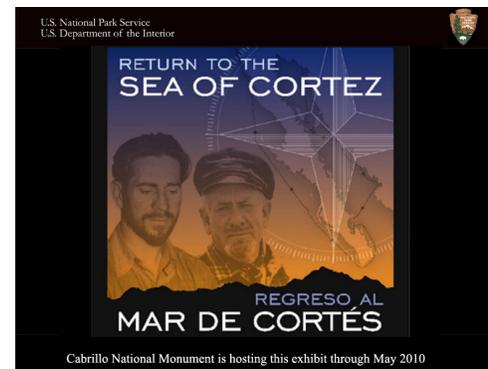
Secretary Visits Site of Potential International Park

U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and Congressman Ciro Rodriguez highlighted more than \$10 million in projects that are creating jobs at **Big Bend National Park** under President Obama's economic recovery plan during a visit to the park. Joining them were Interior Assistant Secretary Tom Strickland and NPS Director Jon Jarvis. During a tour of the park, Salazar and Rodriguez also strongly supported expanded international cooperation between Mexico and the United States in conserving and managing the unique natural areas on both sides of the border, including the potential establishment of a Big Bend/Rio Bravo International Park. Salazar and his Mexican counterpart Juan Rafael Elvira Quesada also are considering a proposal first put forward by Franklin Roosevelt and then-Mexican president Manuel Ávila Camacho more than 70 years ago to establish an international park along the U.S.-Mexican border. In the decades since, the National Park Service and its Mexican counterpart, the National Commission for Natural Protected Areas, have worked closely to coordinate management of the area. For more information, contact Jon Putnam, at jonathan_putnam@nps.gov.



Cabrillo NM Hosts Sea of Cortez Exhibit

Baja Expeditions of Baja, California, has loaned **Cabrillo National Monument** an exhibit, "Return of the Sea Cortez." The bilingual English-Spanish exhibit tracks the journey of three scientists, a journalist, a photographer, and a cook through Baja, California's Sea of Cortez in the spring of 2004. The inspiration behind this recent journey was to discover the world that author John Steinbeck and marine biologist Edward F. Ricketts described in their jointly-authored book, *Sea of Cortez*. This book, which recounts an intertidal collecting expedition they undertook in 1940, is part travelogue and part natural history. The exhibit is on display in the park's auditorium, through the end of May 2010. For more information, see <http://www.nps.gov/cabr/parknews> or contact Rich Jenkins, at rich_jenkins@nps.gov



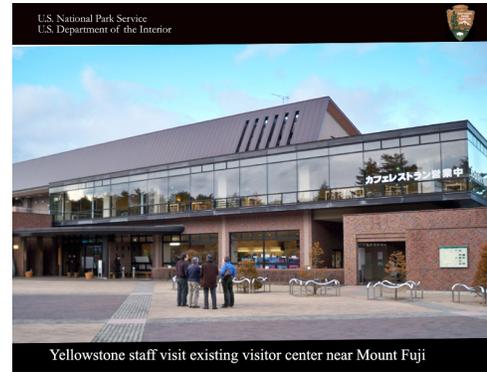
Parks Canada Addresses NPS Leadership Council

The **NPS National Leadership Council** (NLC) hosted a presentation by a representative of another national park agency, Parks Canada, at its most recent meeting. Held bi-monthly to consult on major policy and program issues confronting the agency, the NLC is composed of the Director, Deputy Directors, Associate Directors and Regional Directors of the NPS. Parks Canada's Steven Woodley shared with the NLC a presentation on the Canadian "State of the Parks," linking monitoring to park management by looking at ecological integrity. For more information, contact Maureen Foster, at maureen_foster@nps.gov



Sharing Lessons Learned With Mount Fuji

At the invitation of the Yamanashi Institute of Environmental Sciences, a **Yellowstone National Park** interpretation ranger attended a symposium titled “Mount Fuji as a Nature Park” and provided an overview of the inspiration behind U.S. national parks, with concentration on visitor education through the creation, function, and management of visitor centers. With Mount Fuji now included on its World Heritage Tentative List, Japanese site managers plan to improve visitor facilities at the mountain. NPS also shared lessons learned in park visitor center development on a visit to Fujiyoshida City the year before. For more information, contact Sally Plumb, at sally_plumb@nps.gov



Mammoth Cave Forges Link With Slovenia

A signing ceremony between **Mammoth Cave National Park**, Western Kentucky University, and the Karst Research Institute of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts established a cooperative arrangement to share scientific research. Dr. Janez Mulec traveled to Kentucky representing the Slovenian partners – Skocjan Caves, Postojna Cave, and the Slovenian Karst Research Institute. Skocjan is a World Heritage Site and Postojna annually receives 500,000 visitors, making it a top tourist destination. The Slovenian karst landscape is very similar to south central Kentucky with numerous sinkholes and limestone caves. Mammoth Cave and its Slovenian counterparts also share a concern about eradication of **lampenflora**, or algae and green plants that grow around cave lighting, which not only detract from the beauty of caves, but also disrupt cave ecosystems by introducing a new source of energy into the food chain. For more details, contact Dr. Rick Toomey, at rick_toomey@contractor.nps.gov



Acadia NP Participates in Italy's Child & Nature Launch

Thanks to digital video conferencing (DVC) equipment, staff at **Acadia National Park** and NPS' Office of International Affairs were able to virtually meet and talk with Italian colleagues for the launch of Italy's children and nature program, “Equilibri Naturali,” which is inspired by the American “No Child Left Inside” initiative, itself inspired, in part, by Richard Louv's seminal book, “Last Child in the Woods.” NPS and EPA participants shared their children and nature program experiences in the U.S. with the 300 online participants from all over Italy who accessed the Equilibri Naturali website and the 50 Italian park officials and journalists who attended in person at the U.S. Embassy in Rome. For more information, contact Sheridan Steele, at sheridan_steele@nps.gov



International Year of Biodiversity

2010 was declared by the United Nations as the International Year of Biodiversity (IBY) - <http://www.cbd.int/2010/welcome/>. In a nod to the IBY, NPS and National Geographic Society continue annual 'bioblitzes' at select U.S. national park units with the next bioblitz in late April 2010 at **Biscayne National Park**. A bioblitz is a twenty-four hour event in which a team of volunteer scientists, families, students, teachers, park



staff and other community members work together to find and identify as many species of plants, animals, microbes, fungi, and other organisms as possible in a given park. For more details, visit <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/field/projects/bioblitz.html?nav=A-Z>

Other News and Information

Capacity Building for Haitian Science/Education - NPS Science Advisor Dr. Gary Machlis is co-leading an international workshop entitled "Advancing Capacity for Haitian Science and Science Education," sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The workshop will take place in May 2010, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. For more details, contact Gary Machlis, at gary_machlis@nps.gov

Chile's National Parks and Staff Affected by Earthquake - The 8.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Chile on February 27, 2010 had significant impacts on some of Chile's national parks. Perhaps the most affected was the Archipelago of Juan Fernandez National Park, which was struck hard by a tsunami shortly after the tremor hit the mainland. Much of the park's infrastructure was destroyed, including staff housing. Here and in several other Chilean parks, there is a great need both for help in reconstruction and in resupply of basic ranger equipment, including binoculars, radios, GPS equipment, etc. For more information, contact Jon Putnam at Jonathan.Putnam@nps.gov