

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



2007

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Salute to service

A PASSION FOR PROTECTING THE NATION'S TREASURES



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Cover: Bird watching at Lands End in the Golden Gate National Parks. Ranger Nancy Caplan leads an after-school program at Crissy Field Center, an urban environmental facility that is a partnership of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and the National Park Service. **Right:** National Park Service staffers work with volunteers on the tall ship replica *Friendship of Salem* at Salem Maritime National Historic Site.

COVER TUNG CHEE/GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVANCY, RIGHT JOHN TLUMACKI/BOSTON GLOBE

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary of the Interior

Mary A. Bomar
Director, National Park Service

National Park Service
National Leadership Council
(January 2008)

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Special thanks to Sue Waldron, David Andrews, Joe Flanagan, and Meghan Hogan for their help in producing this report.

Read it online at www.nps.gov/2007DirectorsReport.

Foldout >>

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IN YOUR STATE

The National Park Service in Your State

STATE	HISTORIC REHABILITATION TAX CREDITS (1)	GRANTS AWARDED (2)	OBJECTS IN PARK COLLECTIONS (3)	FEDERAL ACRES TRANSFERRED FOR LOCAL PARKS (4)	NATIONAL REGISTER LISTINGS (5)	HISTORIC SITES DOCUMENTED (6)	NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS (7)	COMMUNITY RECREATION/ CONSERVATION/ PROJECTS (8)	NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARKS	NATIONAL PARKS (9)	NOTES
ALABAMA	\$333,178,044	\$98,124,837	275,070	4,068	1,201	1,225	36	22	7	7	1. Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits (1995-2007). Data for previous years not available by state. Total private investment leveraged since program began in 1976 is \$45 billion.
ALASKA	\$3,925,537	\$64,547,485	3,749,426	266	404	506	48	63	16	23	
AMERICAN SAMOA	\$0	\$5,742,192	1,193	0	21		2	0	7	1	
ARIZONA	\$58,113,492	\$83,807,210	4,180,026	832	1,271	489	40	43	9	22	2. Grants from the National Park Service include: Land and Water Conservation Fund grants (1965-2007), Historic Preservation Fund grants to State Historic Preservation Offices (1978-2007), Tribal projects grants (1990-2007), American Battlefield Protection Program planning grants (1992-2007), NAGPRA grants (1994-2007), National Center for Preservation Technology and Training grants (1994-2007), grants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (1995-2007), Historic Preservation Fund grants to Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (1996-2007), Save America's Treasures grants (1999-2007), American Battlefield Protection Program land acquisition grants (1999-2007), and Preserve America grants (2006-2007). Total includes grants to Palau (\$44,750), Northern Mariana Islands (\$3,499,971) and multi-state grants (\$519,700).
ARKANSAS	\$87,727,969	\$73,661,032	1,768,867	848	2,355	140	17	10	5	6	
CALIFORNIA	\$1,230,714,033	\$336,835,429	19,759,311	12,602	2,362	3,062	135	119	35	24	
COLORADO	\$378,208,925	\$85,975,432	4,471,153	3,014	1,310	871	20	53	11	13	3. Total includes 581 objects from the Northern Mariana Islands.
CONNECTICUT	\$407,648,161	\$85,827,361	205,971	297	1,488	633	59	31	7	2	
DELAWARE	\$71,416,111	\$51,520,973	0	2,444	676	390	12	15	0	0	
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	\$339,903,016	\$37,932,526	2,821,061	0	461	970	74	12	0	22	4. Federal Lands to Parks, surplus federal property transferred since 1948.
FLORIDA	\$445,988,061	\$152,904,302	7,965,051	11,449	1,545	628	39	44	18	11	
GEORGIA	\$503,143,877	\$112,099,770	3,488,116	3,802	1,947	880	47	31	10	11	
GUAM	\$0	\$8,518,670	11,271	88	115	3	0	0	4	1	5. There are also National Register listed properties in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (4), Federated States of Micronesia (26), Minor Islands (39), Republic of Palau (2), Northern Mariana Islands (36) and Morocco (1).
HAWAII	\$5,051,512	\$50,313,694	864,153	368	322	595	33	24	7	7	
IDAHO	\$11,296,885	\$54,367,242	385,619	2,915	994	369	10	26	11	7	
ILLINOIS	\$695,964,846	\$181,172,753	514,462	5,020	1,647	873	83	47	18	1	6. Documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey, Historic American Engineering Record, and Cultural Resources Geographic Information Systems.
INDIANA	\$426,234,509	\$100,624,237	166,604	12,565	1,601	407	37	38	29	3	
IOWA	\$262,565,834	\$74,498,220	152,118	906	2,055	481	24	31	7	2	
KANSAS	\$91,846,518	\$63,005,748	235,888	899	1,050	200	23	9	5	5	7. There are also national historic landmarks in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (2), Federated States of Micronesia (2), Midway Islands (1), Republic of Palau (1), Wake Island (1), Northern Mariana Islands (2) and Morocco (1). If totaled, the column would equal more than 2,444 as some NHLs are in more than 1 state.
KENTUCKY	\$250,934,910	\$92,817,622	1,288,624	7,262	3,225	393	30	17	6	4	
LOUISIANA	\$967,104,441	\$116,774,265	764,348	1,125	1,315	483	53	33	0	5	
MAINE	\$57,461,985	\$55,796,591	1,299,813	273	1,492	302	41	56	14	3	8. Projects of the Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program (1987-2007).
MARYLAND	\$756,992,944	\$107,210,330	1,185,027	1,407	1,427	1,517	71	63	5	16	
MASSACHUSETTS	\$1,103,172,886	\$138,836,785	5,264,893	6,835	4,027	1,593	183	47	11	15	
MICHIGAN	\$591,508,596	\$153,153,875	639,505	4,503	1,680	611	34	51	12	4	9. If totaled, the column would equal more than 391 as many parks are in more than 1 state.
MINNESOTA	\$310,375,544	\$95,269,662	294,668	508	1,559	560	22	43	7	5	
MISSISSIPPI	\$75,896,404	\$102,667,692	1,343,152	796	1,309	327	38	17	5	8	
MISSOURI	\$2,085,584,019	\$108,557,378	2,081,855	6,336	1,886	1,322	37	36	16	6	10. Data for previous years not available by state. Total private investment leveraged since program began in 1976 is \$45 billion.
MONTANA	\$32,711,170	\$59,405,572	692,451	120	1,018	398	23	18	10	8	
NEBRASKA	\$221,830,838	\$58,880,696	252,200	1,152	958	110	20	42	5	5	
NEVADA	\$7,133,996	\$55,715,646	249,064	432	354	289	7	32	6	3	11. Data for previous years not available by state. Total private investment leveraged since program began in 1976 is \$45 billion.
NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$27,980,987	\$50,956,077	55,293	184	713	278	22	57	11	2	
NEW JERSEY	\$504,767,758	\$136,910,046	6,106,464	2,143	1,541	1,564	55	32	11	8	
NEW MEXICO	\$13,633,974	\$68,045,961	5,746,177	1,808	1,068	244	43	40	12	13	12. Data for previous years not available by state. Total private investment leveraged since program began in 1976 is \$45 billion.
NEW YORK	\$2,086,482,274	\$292,122,853	3,014,748	6,452	4,901	1,908	258	67	25	22	
NORTH CAROLINA	\$693,141,247	\$114,404,055	1,409,723	245	2,586	492	38	31	13	10	
NORTH DAKOTA	\$40,517,883	\$48,235,780	756,463	100	400	125	5	5	4	3	13. Data for previous years not available by state. Total private investment leveraged since program began in 1976 is \$45 billion.
OHIO	\$1,265,533,984	\$180,226,057	708,412	2,623	3,692	835	69	39	23	7	
OKLAHOMA	\$119,101,210	\$82,041,378	90,037	1,350	1,117	66	20	16	3	3	
OREGON	\$271,900,042	\$79,263,274	402,790	3,472	1,861	444	16	69	7	5	14. Data for previous years not available by state. Total private investment leveraged since program began in 1976 is \$45 billion.
PENNSYLVANIA	\$1,949,585,408	\$208,450,773	9,849,176	9,709	3,206	3,662	158	120	26	18	
PUERTO RICO	\$0	\$53,004,214	237,160	1,523	278	165	4	0	5	1	
RHODE ISLAND	\$461,924,195	\$63,592,278	11,165	1,987	724	463	44	19	1	1	15. Data for previous years not available by state. Total private investment leveraged since program began in 1976 is \$45 billion.
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$168,654,604	\$91,506,420	604,202	7,850	1,398	1,102	77	13	6	6	
SOUTH DAKOTA	\$43,537,336	\$54,776,359	312,570	169	1,250	78	15	9	13	6	
TENNESSEE	\$366,338,106	\$101,020,555	1,971,675	3,227	1,935	306	28	39	13	12	16. Data for previous years not available by state. Total private investment leveraged since program began in 1976 is \$45 billion.
TEXAS	\$643,558,080	\$204,793,595	3,832,384	8,618	3,005	822	46	77	19	13	
U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS	\$0	\$10,556,311	1,018,909	2	88	183	5	2	7	5	
UTAH	\$108,643,945	\$65,645,412	1,632,561	2,765	1,422	634	13	40	4	13	17. Data for previous years not available by state. Total private investment leveraged since program began in 1976 is \$45 billion.
VERMONT	\$114,324,115	\$51,493,371	20,291	190	760	120	17	52	11	2	
VIRGINIA	\$946,383,727	\$145,443,795	3,403,061	5,465	2,569	1,815	118	86	10	21	
WASHINGTON	\$319,599,174	\$100,047,717	4,519,066	9,934	1,390	687	23	74	17	13	18. Data for previous years not available by state. Total private investment leveraged since program began in 1976 is \$45 billion.
WEST VIRGINIA	\$94,960,653	\$67,156,902	5,145,742	977	958	497	16	55	14	6	
WISCONSIN	\$399,764,896	\$101,950,286	289,804	531	2,093	642	39	59	18	2	
WYOMING	\$13,822,721	\$47,671,733	6,366,640	793	493	475	24	12	6	7	19. Data for previous years not available by state. Total private investment leveraged since program began in 1976 is \$45 billion.
TOTAL	\$22,467,791,382	\$5,289,944,852	123,876,054	165,250	82,598	38,234	2,444	2,086	582	391	



Salute to service



a passion for protecting the nation's treasures

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2007

Honored service

On October 17, 2006, at Congress Hall in Philadelphia, in the room



Above: Director Mary A. Bomar. **Right:** Bomar and Great Britain's Queen Elizabeth mark the 62nd anniversary of Victory in Europe Day on May 8, 2007, at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. They are accompanied by Prince Philip, former President George H.W. Bush, and former First Lady Barbara Bush. Bomar, born in England, is the first naturalized citizen to become Director of the National Park Service.

where Congress once met, where George Washington and John Adams took the Presidential oath of office, I was sworn in as the 17th Director of the National Park Service.

Say the words "National Park Service" to many Americans, and they conjure up the scenery of Yellowstone or the majesty of the Grand Canyon. And they would be right, for we preserve many of the nation's majestic natural wonders.

Some people will think beyond the great natural parks to include all 391 sites that span our country, including icons like the Lincoln Memorial, Mount Rushmore, and other places that tell the natural and cultural story of America.

But few realize that the scope and effect of the National Park Service extends far beyond real estate to encompass places, programs, and projects that affect us all. The parks are the system—but the National Park Service is our people—20,000 strong. Each day we embrace a sacred trust to preserve and protect our nation's special places, ensure outstanding opportunities for the public to enjoy them—and more.

We provide assistance to communities working on restoring a river, building a trail, or making an urban park flourish.

We document historic buildings, landscapes, and roads to preserve their images and design for future generations.

We leverage millions of dollars for historic rehabilitation by certifying private sector projects for federal tax credits.

And our scientists run the gamut of disciplines to make not just better parks, but a better world for us all, from restoring native species to preserving the majesty of a natural night sky.

"Service" will always be part of our name, and while we serve the nation by caring for special places, we also provide our visitors with rewarding experiences. A recent study comparing citizen satisfaction with government with that of the private sector stated, "The Department of Interior, home of the National Park Service, leads federal departments as a whole . . ." What better praise than the opinion of our own citizens?

It has been a great year in many other aspects as well. Visits to national parks are on the

rebound despite rising gas prices and the lure of electronic entertainment. Truly we are re-engaging the American public with their parks!

There are many wonderful achievements by the National Park Service team—in fact at least 20,000 such stories—one for each man and woman in the National Park Service. But we are not alone in our efforts. We are joined by over 150,000 volunteers and 170 "friends of the parks" organizations who selflessly give their support. And we work with a host of supporters, from the National Park Foundation to cooperating associations, concessioners, and public and private stakeholders who lend their talents to help care for our parks and our visitors.

We are helped by the President and the Congress in our efforts as well. This year to help prepare for the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016, the President proposed and Congress approved the largest operating budget in National Park Service history, plus funding to jumpstart the National Park Centennial Challenge. I am personally appreciative of the efforts by Representatives Todd Tiahrt, Norm Dicks, and Rob Bishop and Senators Dianne Feinstein and Richard Burr for their support over the past year.

No list of thanks would be complete without acknowledging Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne for his leadership to ensure our parks remain "America's best idea" for another 100 years. And I am eternally grateful to the lady I call our "champion," Mrs. Laura Bush, for focusing attention on two great national treasures—our children and our national parks—and working to bring them together.

On that fall day in Philadelphia, I was humbled by the honor of service, and invigorated by the opportunity to lead this highly professional corps of dedicated public servants. A year later, I am more humble, more invigorated. I salute them all.

There are special places that unite us all as Americans, and national parks are those places. And after a 17-year Park Service career, I remain prouder than ever of my National Park Service team and the job they do for America.

Mary A. Bomar, Director



ATLANTIC

ATLANTIC

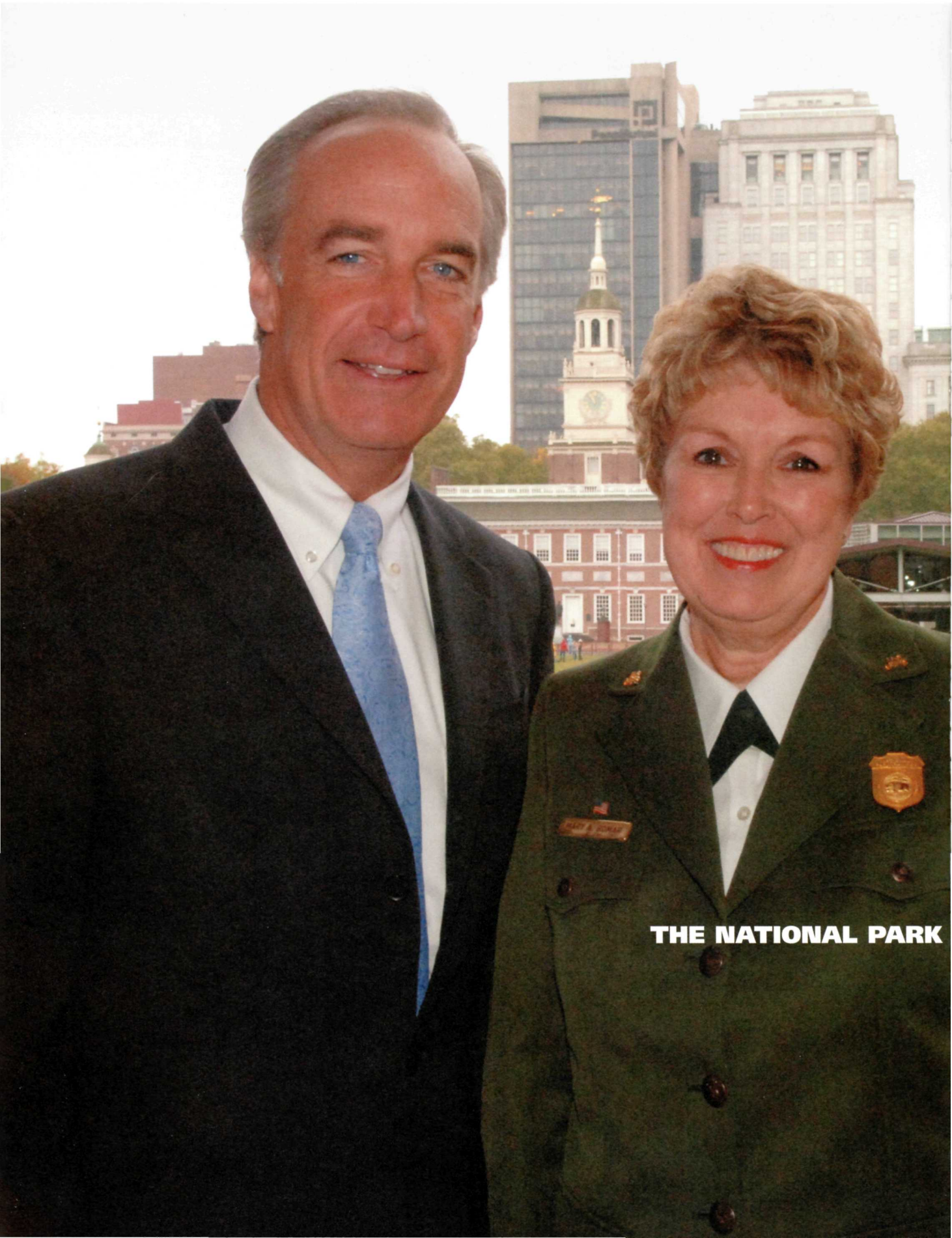
SDOUT

MICHIGAN

WISCONSIN

WE ARE DETERMINED
THAT BEFORE THE SUN SETS ON THIS
TERRIBLE STRUGGLE OUR FLAG WILL BE RECOGNIZED
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AS A SYMBOL OF FREEDOM
ON THE ONE HAND AND OF OVERWHELMING
FORCE ON THE OTHER

D-DAY JUNE 6, 1944
YOU ARE ABOUT TO EMBARK UPON THE
GREAT CRUSADE TOWARD WHICH WE HAVE STRIVEN THESE
MANY MONTHS THE EYES OF THE WORLD ARE UPON YOU.
I HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE IN YOUR COURAGE
DEDICATION TO DUTY AND SKILL IN BATTLE



The Next Century

Of all of our national institutions, few are so invested with meaning, so steeped in history, so loved, as the national parks.

Preserving this legacy into its second century is driving an agenda full of vision. The parks—and the American people—deserve no less.

The National Park Centennial Initiative, launched in August 2006, is a bold presidential call to prepare national parks for another century of conservation, preservation, and enjoyment. President Bush aims to infuse the National Park System with \$3 billion of public and private funding over the next 10 years. To get started, the President proposed the largest operating budget in National Park Service history and committed to an additional \$100 million in operating funds for the next 10 years. He also challenged our partners—led by the National Park

Foundation—to raise \$100 million per year for centennial projects and called for the government to match partner funds “dollar for dollar.”

We also asked Americans to share their ideas for the future of the national parks and the National Park Service mission. Thousands responded, taking part in 40 “listening sessions” across the nation. Their passion inspired *The Future of America’s National Parks*, a vision for our children and grandchildren’s national park experience, and a strategy for getting there developed by Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne and National Park Service Director Mary Bomar.

Presented to President Bush and the American people in May, the document embraces five goals: **Lead America and the world in stewardship**, preserving and restoring treasured resources.

Demonstrate environmental leadership to the nation.

Offer a superior recreational experience where visitors have fun, explore nature and history, find inspiration, and improve health and wellness.

Foster education through exceptional learning opportunities that connect people to parks.

Exemplify professional excellence worthy of the treasures entrusted to our care.

“This is not only a report to the president,” said Director Bomar, “but a pledge to the American people, who are the shareholders in the greatest system of parks and special places in the world . . . a pledge that the men and women of the National Park Service will continue to preserve these wonderful places for the generations yet to come.”

Within three months, more than 200 proposals for centennial projects and programs had been submitted, each one backed by our fundraising partners and teed up to help us meet these goals and fulfill our sacred trust to these places that are America’s essence and identity.



TAMI A. HEILEMANN/DOI

The centennial has focused our efforts to excel on behalf of the American people, and builds on the fine—and often unheralded—work done every day by National Park Service employees. While we plan for the future, we also celebrate today’s innovative, altruistic, practical, and inspired accomplishments. The following pages showcase some of our proudest achievements.

On the web

PARKS CENTENNIAL

To learn more about the National Park Service centennial, go to www.nps.gov/2016.

Left: Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne at the swearing in of Mary A. Bomar as Director of the National Park Service at Philadelphia's Independence National Historical Park. Right: Bomar with past directors. Standing: Gary Everhard (1975-77), James M. Ridenour (1989-93), Robert Stanton (1997-2001). Seated: Roger G. Kennedy (1993-97), George B. Hartzog, Jr. (1964-72).

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE, LAUNCHED IN AUGUST 2006, IS A BOLD PRESIDENTIAL CALL TO PREPARE NATIONAL PARKS FOR ANOTHER CENTURY OF CONSERVATION, PRESERVATION, AND ENJOYMENT. PRESIDENT BUSH AIMS TO INFUSE THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM WITH \$3 BILLION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDING OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS.



ABOVE DAN NG/NPS, LEFT TO RIGHT OPPOSITE NPS (2), TIM COONAN/CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

Above: Ranger Rik Penn speaks to a school group at California's Fort Point National Historic Site.

Salute to Service

The accomplishments noted in the upcoming pages are those of the 20,000 dedicated men and women who are the National Park Service. Every day we work with thousands of partners and more than 150,000 volunteers to carry out the mission entrusted to us by the American people—the care of our nation's heritage.

To the employees of the National Park Service, this is a sacred trust. Many of us feel called to this service, to the stewardship of our wild and hallowed places. We share America's love for the national parks and her commitment to preservation, conservation, and recreation in the parks, in communities, and around the world.

Each year, we recognize those who have gone above and beyond the call, exceeding all expectations of public service. Here are some of those we honored in 2007.

Harry Yount National Park Ranger Award
Gordon Wissinger, Chief Ranger
Shenandoah National Park, Virginia

Freeman Tilden Award for Excellence in Interpretation
Arvid Aase, Museum Specialist
Fossil Butte National Monument, Wyoming

Director's Appleman-Judd-Lewis Award for Excellence in Cultural Resources Stewardship and Management
Bob Mierendorf, Archeologist
North Cascades National Park, Washington

Johnnie Powell, Supervisor, Historic Preservation Crew
Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska
Alexa Roberts, Superintendent
Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site, Colorado

Director's Award for Natural Resource Stewardship

Fran Pannebaker, Chief, Resource Management
Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, Colorado
Chuck Stalker, Road/Fleet Supervisor
Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado

Dale B. Engquist, Superintendent
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Indiana

Don Swann, Wildlife Biologist
Saguaro National Park, Arizona

Dr. Glenn Plumb, Natural Resources Chief
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming
Darryll R. Johnson, NPS Research Coordinator
Pacific Northwest Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit, University of Washington

Dr. Norbert Psuty, Director
Sandy Hook Cooperative Research Programs of the Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University, New Jersey

George B. Hartzog Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service

Don Harrison, President
Friends of Historic Great Falls Tavern
Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, DC/Maryland/West Virginia

ARCH Yellowstone Volunteers
Yellowstone National Park,
Idaho/Montana/Wyoming

Volunteer Program
Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado

Observed

NPS AT WORK

Our 20,000 employees include:

Archeologists 201
Automotive mechanics 84
Botanists 42
Carpenters 145
Ecologists 218
Electricians 87
Facility managers 313
Fish biologists 31
Forestry technicians 320
Gardeners 132
Geologists 46
Historians 183
Human resources specialists 383
Hydrologists 55
Information management specialists 383
Landscape architects 173
Maintenance mechanics 2,080
Masons 112
Museum professionals 330
Park police 580
Park rangers 3,861
Small craft operators 48

Below left: Rangers on the steps of the White House. Below center: Botanist examines soil at Pinnacles National Monument. Below right: Fourth-generation ranger Kayci Cook Collins, shown here at Death Valley, is now superintendent of El Malpais and El Morro National Monuments.





©KEVIN STEELE/KEVSTEELE.COM

Above: National Park Service employees hover below Lincoln's nose during a training exercise to record the expansion and contractions of cracks in Mt. Rushmore prior to cleaning.

In memoriam In 2007 the National Park Service family was deeply saddened by the line-of-duty deaths of two of our own. **MARINA GIGGLEMAN** died while patrolling the beach in search of nesting Kemp's Ridley turtles at Padre Island National Seashore. Marina, 46, a biological technician at the Texas park, was beginning her second season with the park's Kemp's Ridley recovery project. She is survived by her husband Craig and a 14-year-old son. Wildlife biologist **ERIC YORK**, 37, was found dead in his residence at Grand Canyon National Park. An expert on mountain lion behavior, Eric died of plague believed contracted from an infected animal. As a National Park Service family, we mourn their passing and celebrate their passion for our mission. Their deaths remind us of the need to be safe and careful in the conduct of our day-to-day business. While such line-of-duty deaths are rare, we must balance carefully the NPS "can do" attitude with appropriate safety precautions. In 2007, National Park Service Director Mary A. Bomar established a Safety Leadership Council to identify, implement, and sustain service-wide changes to protect the safety of our employees.



LEFT TO RIGHT JIM HIGGINS, NPS, U.S. PARK POLICE

Key accomplishments

2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE

Conducted 40 listening sessions with the public to hear their hopes for the future of the national parks.

Certified more than 200 centennial projects backed by our fundraising partners that are ready to leverage the \$2 billion in public-private centennial funding proposed by the President.

CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Met species recovery targets for the sixth consecutive year, including bringing the Channel Island foxes back from the brink of extinction.

Implemented vital signs monitoring in 73 percent of the parks that need to keep tabs on the health of their ecosystems.

Gained the upper hand on non-native, invasive plants that had infested more than 74,000 acres of parkland, exceeding the goal for the year.

Created a 46-square-mile area off Dry Tortugas National Park as a sanctuary and research area.

Celebrated the Student Conservation Association's 50th anniversary and 50,000th volunteer in the parks.

Finished a 20-year project to restore the Giant Forest at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks to its natural state, removing 282 buildings and over 1 million square feet of asphalt.

Established a climate change program to study the effects of global warming in national parks.

CARING FOR HISTORY

Commemorated milestone events from the establishment of the Jamestown settlement 400 years ago to the 50th anniversary of the civil rights saga at Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site.

Completed major restorations including the ferry building at Ellis Island, Frederick Douglass' home, and a 110-year-old working train station at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

Introduced 300,000 visitors to archeology at the excavation of President's House in Philadelphia, which juxtaposed the symbols of freedom and slavery.

Opened the 391st national park, Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site.

Dedicated the first national water trail, named for John Smith's exploration of the Chesapeake.

IMPROVING VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Welcomed 275 million visitors to the parks.

Opened new visitor centers bringing state-of-the-art technology and scholarship to the 75 million people who walked through the doors of park visitor centers in 2007.

Tallied a 96 percent approval rating from visitors.

Added new ways to help students and teachers use our nation's treasures as learning tools, from electronic field trips, to teachers spending their summers as park rangers, to expanding the award-winning "Teaching with Historic Places" series.

Swore in 439,000 Junior Rangers.

Generated \$11 billion in spending by national park visitors in nearby gateway communities.

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

Provided research to designate 10 new national historic landmarks.

Awarded \$68.8 million in preservation grants through programs including Preserve America, Save America's Treasures, and the American Battlefield Protection Program.

Funded \$37.7 million in community recreation projects through Land and Water Conservation Fund grants.

Leveraged \$2.98 billion in private investment through Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits, creating more than 18,000 housing units.

Expanded the National Register of Historic Places by 1,398 listings.

Helped more than 900 communities protect local recreation opportunities through the work of the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program.

Partnered with 10 new congressionally-designated national heritage areas to get them up and running.

Above left to right: Students and ranger at Dead Horse Bay, Gateway National Recreation Area, learning about the environment by discovering the diversity of marine organisms; celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Student Conservation Association at Great Smoky Mountains National Park; U.S. Park Police.



Caring for the environment

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

—ALDO LEOPOLD, *A SAND COUNTY ALMANAC*



s our world grows smaller and warmer, understanding what is right for the environment—and all those who depend on its health—has never been more complicated. Or more important. To navigate the complexity and consequences of managing our natural resources, the National Park Service relies on good science—and great scientists. With their leadership, we are beating back an invasion of tiny but troublesome mussels before they take over Lake Mead National Recreation Area and other western lakes. We are reclaiming rainforest one acre at a time in the National Park of American Samoa. We are creating a 46-square-mile marine reserve at Dry Tortugas National Park that will support research and restore species that are suffering from over-fishing and the loss of their coral reef habitat. We are monitoring the effects of global warming on the melting ice pack in Glacier National Park. And, at Channel Islands National Park—North America's own Galapagos—we have brought the tiny island fox back from the verge of extinction.

Left: A young resident of the 46-square-mile marine reserve recently established at Florida's Dry Tortugas National Park. The reserve is part of the Ocean Park Stewardship Action Plan signed by National Park Service Director Mary A. Bomar on December 1, 2006.

*Right: A Channel Islands fox in its native habitat.
Below: A young fox.*



STEPHEN FRANCIS

Restoring a Delicate Balance

An isolated cluster of islands off the southern California coast is a case study in how human involvement can harm—and then help restore—an ecosystem's delicate balance.

For 16,000 years, foxes have lived on three of the Channel Islands—San Miguel, Santa Rosa, and Santa Cruz—much of the time in harmony with the other inhabitants. But that changed in the 1800s when ranching began. Cattle, sheep, and pigs destroyed much of the island's native vegetation and altered the ecological balance.

One hundred years later, in 1980, **Channel Islands National Park** was established. In the 1990s, biologists from the National Park Service and the Institute for Wildlife Studies noticed a significant drop in the number of island foxes. A range of causes was investigated—natural fluctuation, disease, parasites—but the mystery went unsolved until researchers found the feather of a golden eagle next to a dead fox.

Golden eagles were new to the Channel Islands. When DDT decimated the highly territorial native bald eagles in the 1950s and 60s, golden eagles took over their turf, enticed by a bumper crop of feral piglets. With much of the islands' natural chaparral cover destroyed by years of grazing livestock and the wild pigs' aggressive rooting, the daylight hunting habits of the island

Islands. Golden eagles have stayed away, the pigs are gone. And the foxes are back.

In what Lotus Vermeer, director of the Nature Conservancy's Santa Cruz Island Project, says could be "the most successful endangered species restoration effort in history," more than 200 pups have been born in captivity and released—accounting for more than a third of the approximately 500 foxes now living in the wild on the three islands. With the removal of predators, the reproduction and survival rate of foxes in the wild is so high that captive breeding has been shut down on San Miguel and Santa Cruz. The last 10 pups were released in the fall of 2007.

"Saving rare, unique and important species such as the island fox is what we do," said park biologist Tim Coonan. "We are here to save all the pieces that have been entrusted to us . . . We want our kids, our grandkids, and their kids to be able to see island foxes if they want to. Or at least know that they are out there."

Tropical Invader

The invasive tamaligi tree, which reaches over 120 feet, was rapidly shading out American Samoa's rainforest. Working with local villages, the **National Park of American Samoa** eradicated nearly all the tamaligi trees on parkland, and

BY 2002, THE ISLAND FOX WAS ON THE VERGE OF

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, THE INSTITUTE FOR WILDLIFE STUDIES, AND THE NATURE CONSERVANCY LAUNCHED A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM TO RESTORE BALANCE TO THE ISLAND ECOSYSTEM.

foxes made them easy targets for the golden eagle.

By 2002, the island fox was on the verge of extinction. The National Park Service, the Institute for Wildlife Studies, and The Nature Conservancy launched a comprehensive program to restore balance to the island ecosystem. The remaining island foxes were captured for a captive breeding program. Golden eagles were trapped and relocated to the mainland. Pigs were eradicated. Fennel and other invasive weeds were removed. Bald eagles were reintroduced.

The results are amazing. In 2006, for the first time in more than 50 years, a bald eagle chick hatched—unaided by humans—on the Channel

Islands. Golden eagles have stayed away, the pigs are gone. And the foxes are back. The process called "girdling" worked by removing a band of bark from around the trunks. The native vegetation quickly filled in, inhibiting the pest tree's return.

Muscling Out Mussels

In 2007, quagga mussels, cousins of the similarly invasive zebra mussels, were found for the first time west of the Rockies, in Lakes Mead, Mohave, and Havasu. **Lake Mead National Recreation Area** immediately developed a plan to limit infestations, the foundation for a Service-wide effort to stop the spread.



EXTINCTION.



THE CONCEPT OF THE BITE-SIZED

Above: When children get up close and personal with nature, they can't avoid science. This is part of the benefit of the "bioblitz"—like this one at Washington, DC's Rock Creek Park—a widespread survey to inventory as many species in a park in as short a time as possible. School children, along with volunteers, join biologists and other scientists in the field to log specimens.

Bioblitzing the Parks

They fly. They slither. They swim. They pad silently through the wilderness that is . . . Washington, DC. What lurks in a nature preserve in the center of the nation's capital?

There are nearly 700 answers to that question thanks to teams of scientists, volunteers, and community members who swarmed Rock Creek Park in a "bioblitz" in May 2007. The bioblitz, a 24-hour inventory of all living organisms in a park, is a way of inventorying a place's biodiversity and exposing volunteers to science.

At the Rock Creek bioblitz, more than 800 participants—many school children—joined forces to find, identify, and learn about the park's inhabitants. A blogger kept tabs on the species counted and shared photos online.

Making the World Better

At Vassar College in 1955, Elizabeth Cushman's senior thesis proposed bringing students into national parks as volunteer labor for necessary—but unfunded—conservation projects. Liz got an "A" on the paper—and the nation got the Student Conservation Association.

Launched at Grand Teton and Olympic National Parks in 1957 with 53 volunteers, SCA celebrated its 50th anniversary—and its 50,000th volunteer—in 2007. The event at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, SCA's largest partner for decades, honored founder Liz Cushman Titus Putnam and the newest generation of volunteers.

Today, SCA's operations reach beyond national parks, to developing urban programs and

SURVEYS, WHICH CAN BE CREATURE-SPECIFIC LIKE THE BEETLE BLITZ AT BOSTON HARBOR ISLANDS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA OR THE SPIDER BLITZ AT CONGAREE NATIONAL PARK, WAS CREATED BY THE RESEARCH LEARNING CENTERS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.

Rock Creek was the first in a series of annual bioblitzes in 10 urban parks sponsored by the National Geographic Society and the National Park Service. The concept of the bite-sized surveys, which can be creature-specific like the Beetle Blitz at Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area or the Spider Blitz at Congaree National Park, was created by the research learning centers of the National Park Service.

Observed

CITIZEN SCIENCE Through projects like the bioblitz, the National Park Service engages kids—and grownups—in understanding how we can be better stewards of the world in which we live.

building partnerships with government agencies, environmental groups, and conscientious corporations nationwide. The conservation ethic learned by SCA volunteers becomes a life-long practice of stewardship, often resulting in a career in the National Park Service. Liz said it best: "Empowering America's youth to take charge of their future is the best way to make our world a better place."

Sarah Logan Beasley, part of the high school conservation crew who completed a month of trail building in the Smokies backcountry, agrees. She said she wanted to be a part of SCA because she wanted to "be part of something great. I want to save the world."

The Student Conservation Association is indeed something great. And for that we thank another young woman—Elizabeth Cushman—who had an idea and made it a reality.

Left: The National Geographic Society teamed up with the National Park Service to launch a series of bioblitzes at parks around the country, like this one in Washington, DC's Rock Creek Park. The parks came away with a wildlife survey; the students and volunteers came away with a new appreciation of the parks and the world around them.



Environmental Leadership

Doing the right thing by the environment also means reducing the National Park Service's "footprint" on the places entrusted to our care by the American people. National parks are installing low-flow toilets in restrooms, switching to fluorescent light bulbs, and recycling everything they can. And they're looking for ways to do even more.

Right: The signature giant trees at Sequoia and King Canyon National Parks, California.

At Kenai Fjords National Park in Alaska, a prototype hydrogen fuel cell provided 1,100 hours of electricity—100 percent of the needs at Exit Glacier Nature Center. The successful test bodes well for the use of this emerging technology at similar remote locations.

A five-year rehab of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Contact Station at Gateway National Recreation Area in New York produced our first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rated building in the northeast. The building meets the highest standards for environmentally sensitive construction with its extensive use of natural light, passive solar heating, reduced water consumption, and renewable materials.

Parks in the Pacific West Region generated more than 500,000 kilowatt hours of power

A new, 65-foot-high, 2.5 kilowatt wind turbine generator at Cape Hatteras National Seashore not only supplies electricity to a park bathhouse, it automatically feeds North Carolina's power grid when the bathhouse is closed in winter. The project is a partnership with the state, North Carolina State University's Solar Center, North Carolina GreenPower, and Dominion Power.

A 20-year project to return the Giant Forest at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks to its natural state meant removing 282 buildings and more than 1 million square feet of asphalt. The unprecedented restoration required comprehensive planning, careful analysis, environmentally responsible solutions, and public support. The National Park Service was recognized with a 2007 honor award from the American Society of Landscape Architects. The awards jury said, "This shows true leadership, sustained vision, and solid commitment. It's done with great subtlety."

Blanket of Nitrogen

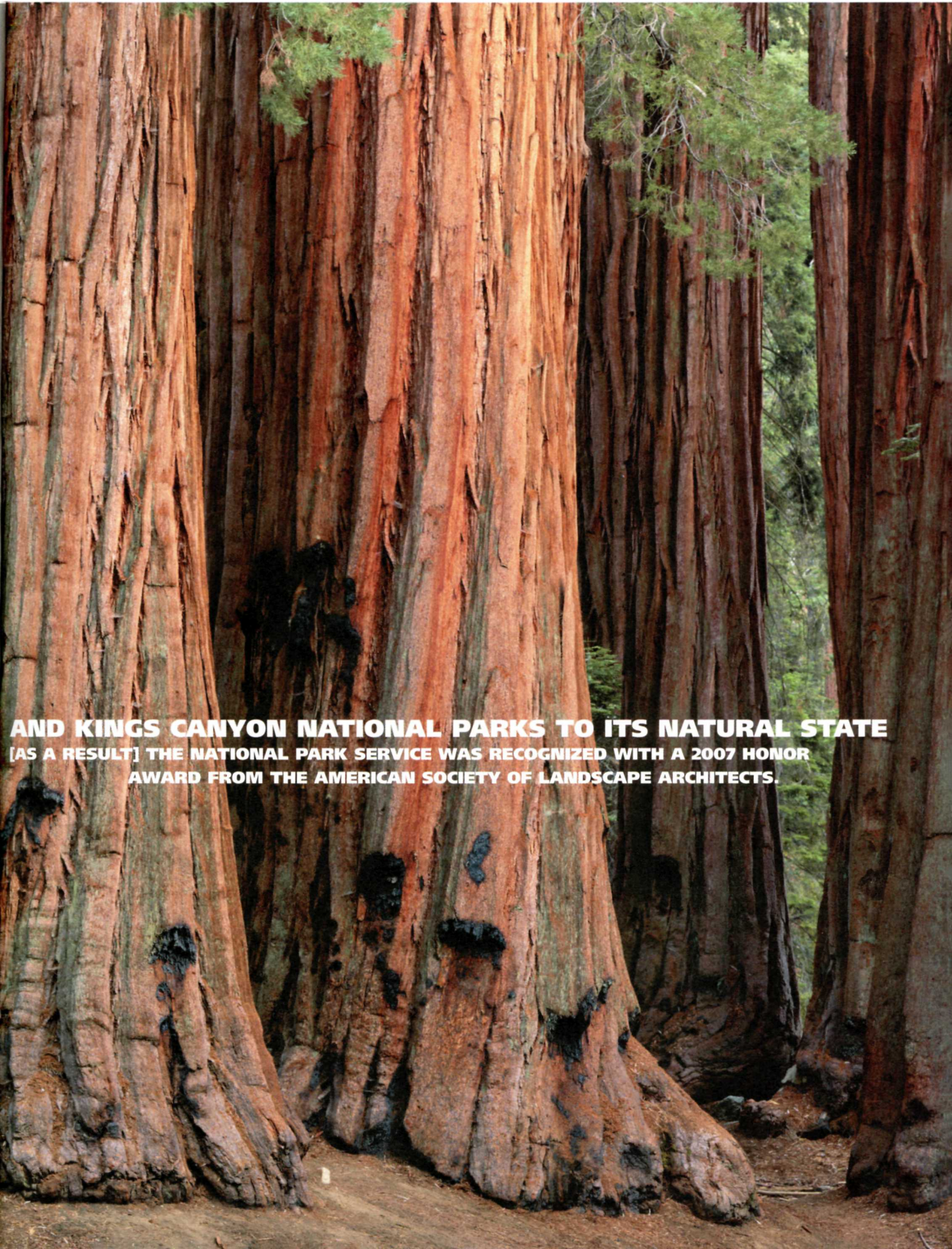
For years, wind and rain have carried nitrogen from car exhaust, power plant stacks, and the natural emissions of farm animals into Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park. The

A 20-YEAR PROJECT TO RETURN THE GIANT FOREST AT SEQUOIA MEANT REMOVING 282 BUILDINGS AND MORE THAN 1 MILLION SQUARE FEET OF ASPHALT

from renewable sources in 2007—enough to power 13 small parks for one year, save approximately \$50,000 in utility bills, and avoid putting 500 pounds of nitrogen oxides, 350 pounds of sulphur dioxide, and 425 tons of carbon dioxide into the air—annually.

In recognition of Whitman Mission National Historic Site's sustainable practices—including mixing its own blend of soybean oil-based biodiesel and diverting more than 46 tons of waste from landfills into compost for its landscaping—Washington State Governor Christine Gregoire presented the park with the Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Practices.

equivalent of 1 million bags of fertilizer at the highest elevations, the overload was harming the water, soil, trees, and algal communities. In 2004, the National Park Service, the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and entities that were key sources of the emissions started reviewing the science to develop ways to bring the nitrogen back to acceptable levels. In 2007, the effort paid off when the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission approved a 25-year plan to shrink the amount of nitrogen in the air. The first of its kind in the nation, the plan is an important first step in restoring balance to the mountain ecosystem.



AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS TO ITS NATURAL STATE
[AS A RESULT] THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WAS RECOGNIZED WITH A 2007 HONOR
AWARD FROM THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS.



ABOVE AND RIGHT MT. RAINIER NATIONAL PARK

Observed

MELTED GLACIER NATIONAL PARK? Less than 25 years from now, given climate trends, some scientists say there will be no more glaciers at Glacier National Park.

The photographs at the far right, taken a mere 92 years apart, show the demise of Boulder Glacier and its highly visited ice cave. In June 2007, the National Park Service set up a climate change program to deal with the issue. Some scientists also link violent storms like the one at Mount Rainier National Park (above and right) to weather shifts.



EXTENSIVE DAMAGE—ESTIMATES TOPPED \$36 MILLION—FORCED

After the Flood

Floods rocked Mount Rainier National Park after 18 inches of rain fell in 36 hours in early November 2006. As the weather subsided, the severity of the damage to roads, bridges, buildings, utility systems, campgrounds, and trails was sobering. The Nisqually River breached protective levees to reclaim five acres of the Sunshine Point campground, where little was left but road signs and a few picnic tables. A major road washed out in four places. In one spot a 70-foot-deep gash severed two lanes. More than 25 bridges and crossings were damaged or washed away. With the main utility lines destroyed, Paradise and Longmire campgrounds were without sewer, phone, water, and power. Three feet of silt were deposited on the roots of 1,000 year-old trees in the Grove of the Patriarchs.

Extensive damage—estimates topped \$36 million—forced the park to close, but the work to reopen was already beginning. Called Mount Rainier's "miracle workers" by outdoors columnist Chester Allen, park staff, partners, and volunteers spent the winter and spring re-building and restoring the park. Motivated by a connection to one of America's oldest national parks, they worked to repair washed-out trails, restore destroyed campgrounds, and help with revegetation projects. More than 1,500 volunteers gave

80,000 hours of work valued at \$1.6 million.

One of those volunteers, Jean Millan of Kent, Washington, said, "This is my mountain. It has given me so much over the years . . . I would do anything (to) give back to the park."

Congressman Norm Dicks (D-WA), who helped secure emergency funds, was on hand for the park reopening on May 5, 2007. The 93-mile Wonderland Trail, which circumnavigates the mountain, reopened in August.

With much work still to do, the comeback will continue to depend on the support of volunteers and partners like the Student Conservation Association, Washington's National Park Fund, the Mountaineers, and the Washington Trails Association. Thanks to staff ingenuity and the hard work of volunteers, the price for repairs has dropped to about \$27 million.

Observed

NATURAL LEGACY The national parks include:
 2,261,274 acres of lakes and reservoirs
 1,969,205 acres of ocean
 83,094 miles of perennial rivers and streams
 32,576 miles of lake and reservoir shoreline
 6,804 miles of ocean coastline
 1,930 miles of national scenic & historic trails
 Over 85 percent of park land is managed as wilderness.



ABOVE LEFT W.C. ALDEN/USGS, ABOVE BLASE REARDON/USGS

Opposite page: Flood damage at Mount Rainier National Park: a ranger surveys a washed-out roadway while a cabin sits in a sea of mud. Near left: Ice melt at Glacier National Park shown over 92 years.

THE PARK TO CLOSE, BUT THE WORK TO REOPEN WAS ALREADY BEGINNING. CALLED MOUNT RAINIER'S "MIRACLE WORKERS" BY OUTDOORS COLUMNIST CHESTER ALLEN, PARK STAFF, PARTNERS, AND VOLUNTEERS SPENT THE WINTER AND SPRING RE-BUILDING AND RESTORING THE PARK. MORE THAN 1,500 VOLUNTEERS GAVE 80,000 HOURS OF WORK VALUED AT \$1.6 MILLION.

SPOTLIGHT **ENDANGERED SPECIES***Observed*

WEALTH OF SPECIES Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona provides habitat for 1,737 plant species, more than any other park. Guadalupe Mountains National Park in west Texas safeguards the world's finest example of a fossilized reef, plus 143 species of mammals, more than any other national park.

275

Thousands of animal and plant species inhabit

national parks. Some of these populations are at risk or in serious jeopardy; 275 species are listed as endangered, 122 others as threatened. The road to recovery is navigated by National Park Service biologists and botanists. More than 1,700 specialists uncover the causes of diminishing populations . . . and then look for solutions.

National parks are becoming the last, best place to restore endangered species. In recent years the National Park Service has successfully restored 19 species in parks, including the Channel Island foxes, 4 endangered plant species at **Hawaii Volcanoes National Park**, and an experimental research population of black-footed ferrets at South Dakota's **Wind Cave National Park**. In 2007, the servicewide goal for progress in species recovery was met for the sixth consecutive year.

Part of the long-term solution is to keep close tabs on the health of park ecosystems. As of 2007, 73 per-

species are listed as endangered, 122 others as threatened. The road to recovery is navigated by National

Near right: In the wetlands of American Memorial Park on Saipan, a species of snail that may soon be on the endangered list. Far right: A cutting from one of the rarest trees in Hawaii, which are being restored at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

*On the web***PARKS AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

To learn more about how the National Park Service cares for the environment, visit www.nature.nps.gov.



cent of national parks with significant natural resources have implemented vital signs monitoring, using environmental indicators to assess and track ecological health. Restoring habitat is also key, including controlling non-native, invasive plants that have infested nearly 2.6 million acres of park lands. In 2007, the National Park Service gained the upper hand on over 74,000 acres, exceeding the goal for the year.



Park Service biologists and botanists.



Caring for history

"I do not believe that any man can adequately appreciate the world of to-day unless he has some knowledge of—a little more than a slight knowledge, some feeling for and of—the history of the world of the past."

—THEODORE ROOSEVELT



From frontier forts to Edison's invention factory to the USS Arizona, America honors the places where history happened. We make them national parks. In these parks you can see, feel, and experience our past. Trace the steps of a Civil War soldier on the battlefield at Gettysburg. Climb a 32-foot ladder to Balcony House and watch the morning light glide across this prehistoric cliff dwelling. Celebrate the artistic vision of Augustus Saint-Gaudens. The National Park Service preserves these places and tells their stories so that the struggles, sacrifices, and successes of those who came before us are never forgotten. Some stories are inspirational, some are hard to hear. And sometimes stories evolve, expand, and change as more is learned—which is what happened at Independence National Historical Park last spring.

Above: A baling seal—mark of approval for bales of tobacco and flax—uncovered during a five-year National Park Service archaeological assessment of Jamestown, which celebrated its 400th anniversary in 2007. Left: Bottles on display at the Jamestown museum of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, a long-standing National Park Service partner.

*Observed***ARCHEOLOGISTS AT WORK**

There are 201 National Park Service archeologists who care for the nearly 70,000 archeological sites that have been identified in national parks. Beyond the parks, the National Park Service has the lead in setting policies that govern the activities of more than 40 federal agencies and partners responsible for more than 6 million archeological sites on public lands.

*Presidential Archeology*

In a city that is one of the richest troves of American history, archeologists made a stunning discovery in March 2007. Beneath Philadelphia—one block north of Independence Hall—are the remains of a house occupied by Presidents George Washington and John Adams before the White House was built. Independence National Historical Park began a five-month archeological dig that exposed not only the foundations of what was known as “the President’s House” but the lives of nine enslaved Africans kept by Washington. Finds included the basement below the kitchen where Hercules—an enslaved African who later escaped to freedom—worked as George Washington’s chef. There was also the foundation from a bow window believed to be the inspiration for a similar window in the Oval Office and an underground passage from the kitchen to the main house.

The site has the potential to become a Philadelphia icon. The national news media and more than 300,000 visitors showed up to watch the archeologists at work. Mayor John Street described the project as “a rare opportunity for our community and our students to discover history first-hand.”

The sensational find, just a short distance from the Liberty Bell, turned into an unprecedented

The Facts of High Plains Life

Last summer, more than 140 volunteers participated in the Kansas Archeology Training Program field school at an 1877 homestead near the national historic landmark community of Nicodemus, Kansas. Cosponsored by the Kansas Anthropological Association and the Kansas State Historical Society, the annual event is documenting the lives of African American settlers who created the town in the final year of Reconstruction after the American Civil War.

In the 1980s, a National Park Service Historic American Buildings Survey team mapped the town’s old dugouts and sod houses (“soddies”)—a type of pioneer housing once prevalent across the Midwest—and interviewed local residents to build an oral history. Archeological research began in earnest in 2006 at the Johnson-Williams homesite. Artifacts recovered from the excavations—including a broken jar containing a cluster of peach pits, ceramic pieces, a door hinge, and frog bones—are providing valuable insight into the homesteading experiences of Thomas and Zerena Johnson, who arrived in September 1877 with more than 300 other African American settlers. The findings are being shared with the community in special evening lectures and in programs at Nicodemus National Historic Site, which partially funded the excavations.

ARTIFACTS RECOVERED FROM THE EXCAVATIONS—INCLUDING*Observed***PARK SNAPSHOT**

National parks have:
123,876,054 objects in
park museum collections
68,237 archeological sites

opportunity for dialogue and a deeper understanding of the past. The juxtaposition of the symbols of freedom with slavery touched off intense public debate, confronting complicated aspects of American history whose repercussions are still felt today. In 2008, a permanent outdoor memorial will be built that will incorporate a presentation on this uneasy yet compelling tale of individual lives and nationhood.

Above: An archeologist works at the site of the President’s House in Philadelphia, once the home of George Washington and John Adams. **Right:** Ruins at Nicodemus National Historic Site, in Kansas, site of a 2007 archeological field school. The town was established by African Americans in the 19th century in the hopes it would be their promised land.

Excavating Manzanar

The Vanishing Treasures Program excavated and restored the remains of a mess hall garden at California’s Manzanar National Historic Site. An internee built it to boost the morale of Japanese American fishermen held there. Among the volunteers in the 2007 project was 89-year-old Henry Nisi, who helped his father build gardens during his family’s internment at the camp.

Civil War in Washington

An archeological inventory of Rock Creek Park discovered 51 sites, including bullets and shell fragments from the Battle of Fort Stevens, July 1864. The only Civil War battlefield in the nation’s capital, much of it was thought lost to development.



A BROKEN JAR CONTAINING A CLUSTER OF PEACH PITS, CERAMIC PIECES, A DOOR HINGE, AND FROG BONES—ARE PROVIDING VALUABLE INSIGHT INTO THE HOMESTEADING EXPERIENCES OF THOMAS AND ZERENA JOHNSON, WHO ARRIVED IN SEPTEMBER 1877 WITH MORE THAN 300 OTHER AFRICAN AMERICAN SETTLERS.

Also in 2007 **ALASKA ARCHEOLOGY** In partnership with Texas A&M University, Washington State University, and the University of Nevada-Reno, an archeological survey at Alaska's Yukon Charley Rivers National Preserve documented 64 new sites. **SPANISH SHIPWRECKS** The National Park Service and the government of Spain signed an historic agreement whereby the artifacts from two ships that sunk off the Maryland/Virginia coast, what is now Assateague Island National Seashore, will be cared for by NPS specialists. *La Galga*, lost in 1750, and *Juno*, sunk in 1802, were the focus of a lengthy legal battle and a precedent-setting ruling on maritime salvage and national sovereignty in which the National Park Service played a prominent role.

LEFT JED LEVIN/NPS, ABOVE CLAYTON B. FRASER/NPS/HABS



House on the Hill

When Robert E. Lee's oldest daughter, Mary Custis Lee, left the family estate to visit, she announced her arrival with a calling card, as was the etiquette of the day. Until recently, tourists calling on her childhood home, Arlington House, could see Mary's silver card case, engraved with her initials. Today, though they can't see it in person—the house, while open during renovation, has its belongings in storage—they can do the next best thing: take a look at a new online exhibit. Produced by park staff and the National Park Service Museum Management Program, the exhibit features over 200 of the park's more than 15,000 objects.

Though most people associate the general with the Civil War, the exhibit documents a more care-free time of his life at his Virginia estate with wife Mary Anna Randolph Custis, great-granddaugh-

Painting Zion

A 1903 oil landscape painting of Zion Canyon by Frederick S. Dellenbaugh, an assistant topographer with Major John Wesley Powell's second expedition of the Colorado River (1871-1873), was donated to Zion National Park in Utah by the Zion National Park Foundation. The painting, purchased with a grant from the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation, is undergoing conservation treatment in preparation for exhibit during the centennial of the park in 2009.

Chaco Teamwork

New Mexico's Chaco Culture National Historical Park teamed up with the University of New Mexico to create a new curation facility on the college's Albuquerque campus. The new venue offers state-of-the-art fire detection and protection, security systems, and environmental

Observed

CHALLENGED STAFF Fewer than 400 National Park Service staff manage and conserve the more than 120 million objects preserved in the world's largest system of museums.



ter of Martha Washington. The artifacts are a clear window into 19th century life. The candlesticks, snuffer, and crystal two-light candelabrum make it easy to picture the house shrouded in darkness much of the time, and while the Lees were a wealthy family, such contrivances as the foot stove, brass bedwarmer, and chamber pots are all reminders of the lack of today's modern conveniences.

Visitors to the website can take a look at 2007's other online exhibit, on Gettysburg's Eisenhower National Historic Site. By showcasing history where it happened, National Park Service collections—including over 120 million cultural objects, specimens, documents, and photographs—bring the past to life for people around the globe.

controls and is large enough to allow the consolidation of the park's collections in one spot. National Park Service curators from across the country helped park staff move 1.5 million archeological and archival items.

Lincoln Tintype

An 1865 tintype of the Springfield, Illinois, home of Abraham Lincoln draped in mourning for the president's funeral was purchased for the collection of Lincoln Home National Historic Site. The tintype came complete with its original embossed leather case.

Far left: Sauceboat bearing the squirrel and acorn crest of Robert E. Lee's family. Above left: Calling card case belonging to Lee's daughter, Mary Custis Lee. Above right: Sheffield silver salt dishes also adorned with the crest.

Observed

INDIAN HISTORY There are more than 50 national parks that commemorate significant aspects of Indian history and culture, from the Northern Plains Indians at Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site in North Dakota to an ancient village at Arizona's Hohokam Pima National Monument on the Gila River Indian Reservation, which is under tribal ownership.

Witness to Infamy

In 1999, then U.S. Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell—a Cheyenne—sponsored legislation in Congress to recognize the site of the Sand Creek Massacre. On the rural southeastern plains of Colorado, this infamous field is where Colonel John Chivington and his 700 volunteer soldiers ignored a waving white flag and brutally attacked a Cheyenne and Arapaho village on November 29, 1864. Taken by surprise, the Indians were defenseless; more than 100 people, most of them women, children, and the elderly, died.

Chivington and his men were hailed as heroes until the ugly truth led to three federal investigations. No one ever spent a day in jail, however, and the only justice was a U.S. Army condemnation calling the attack “a cowardly and cold-blooded slaughter.”

“The massacre was such a defining moment in tribal history—its untold story is long overdue,” says Alexa Roberts, the first superintendent of the park. But turning the land into a national park was not an easy task. For years, the exact location of the massacre was uncertain. It was finally pinpointed through oral histories and old maps, confirmed by the discovery of artifacts from the Indian village and the remnants of the

Spreading Out Far and Wide

The first stop for visitors to Cape Cod National Seashore is often Fort Hill, a former farm offering panoramic views of the Atlantic. The land is frequented by hawks and the rare grasshopper sparrow, both of which favor the open space. Box turtle nests are common. Milkweed pods provide nourishment for migrating monarch butterflies. The 200-year-old farmstead also includes a sharpening rock used by Native Americans, archeological sites, long stone walls delineating the fields, and the historic Captain Penniman house. The Eastham, Massachusetts, farm, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, is part of a national historic landmark archeological district.

Maintaining the openness of the land was a challenge for staff trying to beat back an invasion of woody vegetation and non-native shrubs without imperiling the farm's character. A treatment for the 100-acre cultural landscape—developed with the National Park Service's Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation—alternated controlled burns with seasonal mowing. By the fall of 2007, most of the non-native invasive plants were gone, the landscape restored with its sweeping views of Nauset Marsh.

ON THE RURAL SOUTHEASTERN PLAINS OF COLORADO, THIS

ALLEN MEMORIAL ART MUSEUM, OBERLIN COLLEGE, OHIO, GIFT OF MRS. JACOB D. COX, 1904

ammunition used against them. The 12,488-acre tract had 17 different owners. Key to the negotiations to acquire the site were the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes, the Conservation Fund, and the Colorado Historical Society.

On April 23, 2007, Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site became the 391st national park. Former senator Campbell says “It's now a sanctuary and a place to pray.”

Right: “Witness trees” at Sand Creek. Plans are underway for an archives and research center, “a place where people can reflect on the relevance of the massacre to the timeless issues of fear, territorialism, and genocide that afflict people all over the world throughout history,” says former superintendent Alexa Roberts. **Above:** Cheyenne artist Howling Wolf depicts himself fighting the militia in an example of “ledger art,” pictures that Indians drew on sheaves of accounting paper they got through trade or capture.



INFAMOUS FIELD IS WHERE COLONEL JOHN CHIVINGTON AND HIS 700 VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS IGNORED A WAVING WHITE FLAG AND BRUTALLY ATTACKED A CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO VILLAGE ON NOVEMBER 29, 1864. TAKEN BY SURPRISE, THE INDIANS WERE DEFENSELESS; MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE, MOST OF THEM WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND THE ELDERLY, DIED.

Also in 2007 **CARIBOU INTERCEPT** For 5,000 years, Agiak Lake in Alaska's Brooks Range was used as a place to intercept migrating caribou. A dense and well-preserved complex of archeological features remained, preserved in *Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve*. More than 800 were identified and mapped, showing how the function and position of hunting structures were integrated with the topography and vegetation, in a cultural landscape inventory report completed in 2007. **STORY UNDER THE LEAF LITTER** High on a hill overlooking the Hudson River, the encampment where the British surrender ended the decisive Battles of Saratoga lay forgotten for more than 200 years. A blanket of leaves and ferns obscured this chapter of Revolutionary War history. A new archeological and cultural landscape study gave Saratoga National Historical Park guidance on how to protect the history while opening the site to the public.



Jamestown 400th

The much-anticipated 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown culminated spectacularly with a visit from Queen Elizabeth II. The first permanent English settlement in America was celebrated with speeches—including a keynote from President George Bush—performances, exhibitions, and ceremonies during a weekend that drew some 400,000 visitors and international media coverage. The queen's visit was a reprise of her first trip to the United States in 1957 for the 350th anniversary of the colony.

Activity focused around the wooded peninsula on the James River, where a decades-long partnership between the National Park Service at Jamestown National Historic Site and the

Little Rock Central High at 50

The sight of American troops escorting black students to school through hostile crowds is one of the most unsettling and galvanizing in our history. Fifty years after President Eisenhower ordered the 101st Airborne to enforce desegregation at an Arkansas high school, the anniversary of this watershed in race relations in America was marked at the place where it happened: Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site. The event coincided with the opening of a new visitor center at the site, today both an active high school and a national park. The very students who took that historic walk up the school steps participated in the ceremonies.

68,237

archeological sites are within the boundaries of the national parks.

THE ANNIVERSARY EVENTS HIGHLIGHTED THE WAYS IN WHICH JAMESTOWN ESTABLISHED THE DEFINING AMERICAN CHARACTERISTICS OF DEMOCRACY, FREE ENTERPRISE, AND A MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities has preserved what remains of the original settlement.

The anniversary highlighted the ways in which Jamestown established the defining American characteristics of democracy, free enterprise, and a multicultural society. The NPS-APVA partnership has resulted in an exhaustive body of research, major archeological discoveries, state-of-the-art curation, and interpretive exhibits that bring to life this early chapter in the nation's history. The Historic Jamestowne Research Center, an 18,000-square-foot visitor center and curation facility, provides cutting edge conservation and storage for the more than 2 million objects that have been excavated from Jamestown over the years.

Dred Scott Decision at 150

On March 6, 1857, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against Dred and Harriet Scott in their quest for freedom from slavery. Public outrage over the decision hastened the start of the Civil War. To mark the 150th anniversary of the decision, Jefferson National Expansion Memorial opened a new exhibit on the cause and effects of the landmark civil rights case at the Old Courthouse in St. Louis where the original decision was handed down.

Above left: A replica of the Susan Constant, one of the three ships that brought the Jamestown settlers across the Atlantic. Above: Maryland's Point Lookout, at the confluence of the Potomac and the Chesapeake, noted by Captain John Smith during his exploration of the bay and part of the water trail that now bears his name.

Also in 2007 **CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH WATER TRAIL** While the English were settling in at Jamestown, their leader, Captain John Smith, was off making some history of his own. In a small vessel known as a shallop, Smith made two exploratory—and very risky—trips into the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. He traveled as far north as present-day Baltimore, along the way making some of the first maps of the region. To commemorate Smith's accomplishments, Congress established the country's first national water trail, a 3,000-mile network to spotlight the historical, natural, and Native American heritage of the Chesapeake. The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail includes "talking buoys"—provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—that give real-time weather and water observations, provide interpretive information, and collect scientific data about the health of the bay. The National Park Service trail was dedicated during the Jamestown 400th celebration.



CLOSED FOR 50 YEARS AND IN DEPLORABLE CONDITION, THE NEWLY

Above: The Ellis Island Ferry Building, where more than 12 million immigrants first entered their adopted country. It functioned from 1892 to 1954. Right: The historic train depot within Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in West Virginia. The much-altered landmark, built in 1894, was restored to its original appearance. Passengers now use the station daily.

SPOTLIGHT HISTORIC STRUCTURES

Three projects, all from 2007, typify the wealth of heritage embodied in national park historic structures.

A 110-year-old train station in West Virginia's Harpers Ferry National Historical Park—after making a 1999 list of the most endangered stations because of its serious disrepair—is now open for commuters, passengers, and park visitors. The \$2.35 million rehab, with \$320,000 from the state, used 70 percent of the station's original wood.

Closed for 50 years and in deplorable condition, the newly restored ferry building at New York's Ellis Island—part of Statue of Liberty National Monument—will soon be open to visitors. The rehab, a partnership between the National Park Service and Save Ellis Island, was funded by a combination of federal and New Jersey state funds plus private financing. The funding included grants from the Hudson County Open Space Trust Fund, Save America's Treasures, Phillips-Van Heusen Corporation, and Tourism Cares.

A three-year, \$2.7 million restoration of Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, home of one of this



RESTORED FERRY BUILDING AT NEW YORK'S ELLIS ISLAND—PART OF

STATUE OF LIBERTY NATIONAL MONUMENT—WILL SOON BE OPEN TO VISITORS. THE REHAB, A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND SAVE ELLIS ISLAND, WAS FUNDED BY A COMBINATION OF FEDERAL AND NEW JERSEY STATE FUNDS PLUS PRIVATE FINANCING.

27,000

historic structures are within the national parks.

On the web

CARING FOR HISTORY

To learn more about how the National Park Service cares for our heritage, go to www.nps.gov/history.

nation's most prominent African American leaders of the 19th century, includes new historically accurate paint colors, wallpaper, carpeting, and wood graining. The house also got a fire protection system and computerized climate control to protect the artifact collection. A symbol of the man's prominence, the house is a landmark for the residents of its Washington, DC, neighborhood. Couples have wedding photos taken there and families bring children and grandchildren to learn about history.





Improving visitor experience

"Who will gainsay that the parks contain the highest potentialities of national pride, national contentment, and national health? A visit inspires love of country; begets contentment; engenders pride of possession; contains the antidote for national restlessness . . . He is a better citizen with a keener appreciation of the privilege of living here who has toured the national parks."

—STEPHEN T. MATHER, FIRST DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (1917-1929)

Whether in search of solitude or science, exercise or enlightenment, history or hikes, people visit our national parks nearly 275 million times a year. And like our first director, quoted opposite, we hope that each experience has a lasting effect. Put simply, we want every visitor to have fun, be safe, and learn something. We start by helping visitors plan their trip online. Once in the park, we have a top-notch corps of employees, volunteers, and concessioners who can answer any question, capture the imagination with a well-told story, and keep these special places working well and looking great. They have dedicated their careers to the preservation of the things visitors come to see—and some they may be surprised to find. Most park visits don't require a lot of advance planning, or a tent, or a week's vacation. There are 391 national parks, many of them right next door, places like George Washington Carver National Monument in Diamond, Missouri.

Left: With an award-winning plow-shaped design symbolizing the act of breaking ground, its curved roof pointing west, the new visitor center at Nebraska's Homestead National Monument of America embodies the nation's westward expansion triggered by the Homestead Act of 1862.

From Slavery to Scientist

Born into slavery during the Civil War, George Washington Carver overcame poverty and prejudice with hard work and a thirst for knowledge. In 1896, Booker T. Washington, the founder of Tuskegee Institute, asked Carver to start an agriculture department at the school. "I cannot offer you money, position or fame," he said. "The first two you have. The last . . . you will no doubt achieve. These things I now ask you to give up. I offer you in their place work—hard, hard work—the task of bringing a people from degradation, poverty and waste to full manhood."

Carver spent over 40 years developing innovative agricultural practices. His work improved the condition of African Americans in the South and inspired generations of Tuskegee students.

Today, his story continues to inspire those who visit his birthplace, now a national monument. Walking the land where he walked as a child, where Carver's fascination with nature was sparked, the magnitude of his journey from slavery to scientist starts to sink in. The National Park Service's ability to share Dr. Carver's story grew

Keeping Visitors Safe

Ensuring the safety of visitors is a priority for every park employee and Park Police officer. This means that while the charismatic megafauna stopping traffic at a "bison jam" are amazing at a distance, it's a distance that should be kept. The price of the perfect picture could be a visitor's life.

It also means keeping infrastructure free of hazard. This year, nearly 100 miles of roads were repaired, including 10 miles in Lake Mead National Recreation Area where curves were reconstructed for safer driving. For staff at Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park, which straddles Washington, DC, Maryland, and West Virginia, concern for visitors drove the stabilization of an 1830s-era dry laid stone wall. At Alaska's Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, a recently acquired mine produced an unwanted discovery: old dynamite, soon detonated by NPS specialists.

Safety can also mean crowd control. As tens of thousands gathered at the July 4th celebration on the National Mall in Washington, DC, a dangerous thunderstorm approached, threatening

Left below: Carver as a young man. His determination to find out, as he expressed it, "what makes it rain and why sunflowers grow so tall," earned him a Ph.D. at a time when few African Americans were admitted to college. Below: Carver's bible, watch, and typewriter are part of an artifact collection at his birthplace, a national monument designated by Congress in 1943, the year of his death. These and other objects are in a web exhibit developed by monument staff and the National Park Service Museum Management Program. Right: Statue of Carver as a boy at the monument.



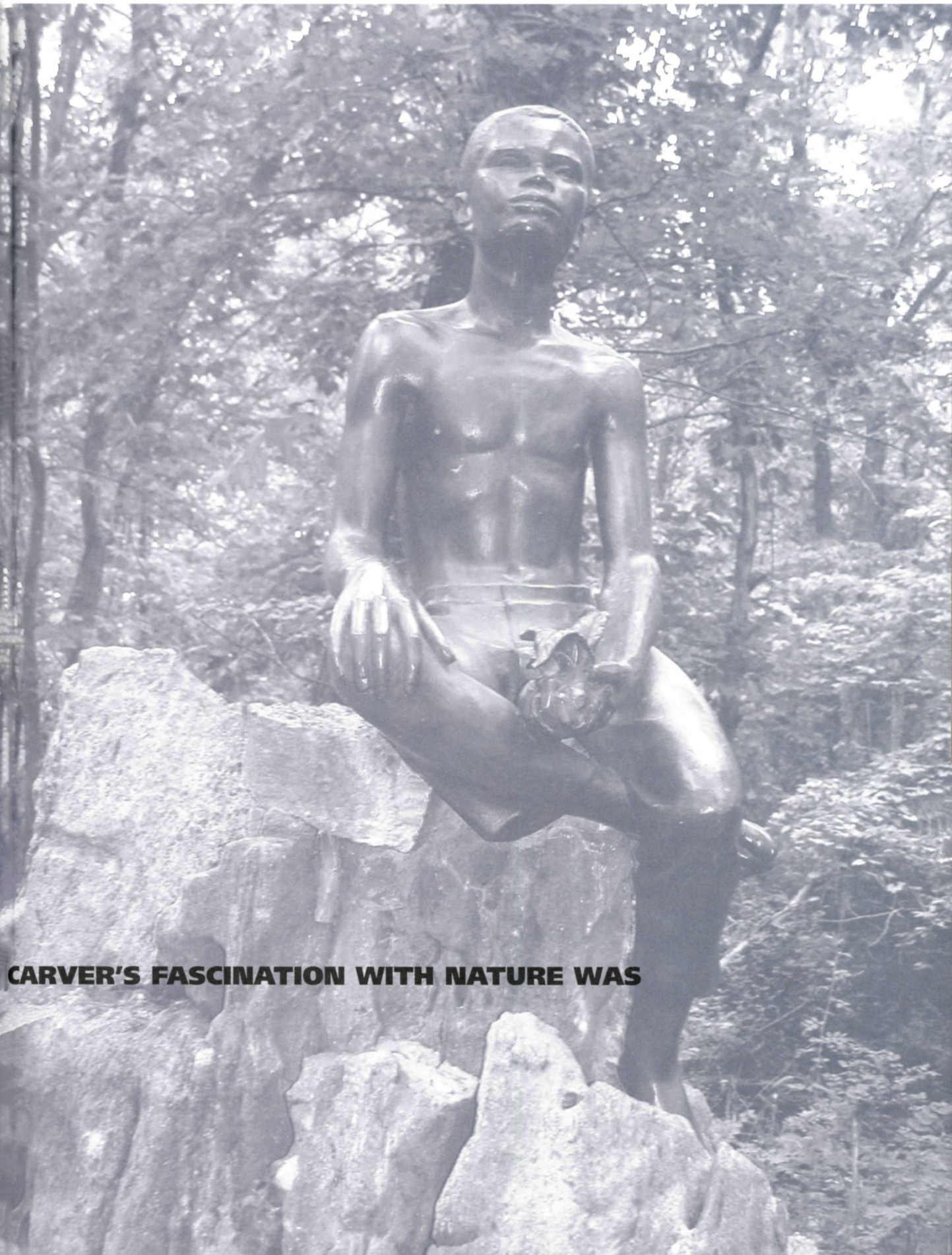
ABOVE AND FAR RIGHT GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER NATIONAL MONUMENT, ABOVE CENTER AND ABOVE RIGHT ERIC LONG FOR THE NPS MUSEUM MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

WALKING THE LAND WHERE HE WALKED AS A CHILD, WHERE

as well this year, with the opening of a new visitor center. "Carver's legacy can teach us a lot about science and agriculture," said Senator Kit Bond (R-MO). "Even more important is what he can teach today's children about the qualities needed for a successful career, like persistence and creativity—and for success in life, including curiosity and compassion for all."

SPARKED, THE MAGNITUDE OF HIS JOURNEY FROM SLAVERY TO SCIENTIST STARTS TO SINK IN.

revelers in the wide open space. Park Police and National Mall & Memorial Parks staff swung into action, implementing an evacuation plan, clearing the Mall for two hours, then reopening for the celebration without injury or incident.



CARVER'S FASCINATION WITH NATURE WAS



NAMED FOR THE U.S. SENATOR FROM WYOMING AND LONGTIME ADVOCATE FOR THE NATIONAL PARKS WHO DIED IN JUNE 2007, THE

\$18.5 MILLION CRAIG THOMAS DISCOVERY AND VISITOR CENTER AT WYOMING'S GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK WAS FUNDED IN PART BY THE GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION AND THE GRAND TETON NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION.

Above: The new Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center at Grand Teton National Park.

Central to Visiting a Park

Named for the U.S. Senator from Wyoming and longtime advocate for the national parks who died in June 2007, the \$18.5 million Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center at Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park was funded in part by the Grand Teton National Park Foundation and the Grand Teton Natural History Association.

The new visitor center at Oklahoma's Washita Battlefield National Historic Site helps interpret the place where Lt. Col. George A. Custer led the 7th U.S. Cavalry in a surprise dawn attack against the Southern Cheyenne village of Chief Black Kettle on November 27, 1868.

For many years, park rangers and volunteers at Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument in Texas made-do with a makeshift visitor center: Two pickup trucks with a tarp across the roofs to shade interpretive programs and flint-knapping demonstrations. This year, make-do gave way to done-right with the opening of a real wood and stone building where the park can preserve and interpret the park's flint deposits and quarries and share the story of the local indigenous peoples.

A local construction company donated more than \$200,000 of excavation work for the new heritage center at Minnesota's Grand Portage National Monument. Park staff hand-picked the rock used in the building. Visitation increased by 32 percent in the first two months.

The grand opening ceremonies at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site in St. Louis included honorary park ranger awards for longtime volunteers Jeannine Cook and Jack Goldman, who were integral to saving the property and its transition into a national park.

The new visitor center at Maryland's Monocacy National Battlefield offers interactive displays, including a fiber-optic map of the course of the historic battle that delayed a Confederate attack on Washington in the summer of 1864.

A traditional Hawaiian blessing ceremony and the symbolic cutting of a *maile lei* opened the new visitor center at Pu'ukoholā Heiau National Historic Site. The park is dedicated to sharing the remarkable breadth and depth of native Hawaiian culture and history.

The first major new facility to be built in Great Smoky Mountains National Park since

75 million people

learned about the nation's treasures at national park visitor centers in 2007.

the 1960s, the new science and education lab includes space for park and visiting scientists, climate-controlled curatorial space to house the park's natural history collection, and classrooms. The \$4.5 million project was funded by the NPS, donations from the Friends of Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Great Smoky Mountains Association, and in-kind support from the City of Gatlinburg.

The Florida Keys Eco-Discovery Center allows visitors to explore the marine world of the keys without getting their feet wet. The interagency facility serves as the mainland visitor center for Dry Tortugas National Park,

which lies 70 miles off Key West and is only accessible by boat or seaplane.

Ohio's Cuyahoga Valley National Park opened a new visitor center in an historic 19th century train depot. A good example of uniting preservation with practical use, the building also serves as exhibit space for the history of the Valley Railroad.

Above: Visitors view the exhibits inside the new Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center at Grand Teton National Park.

Electronic Field Trips

Electronic field trips brought the national parks to millions of school children in 2007. Students made these educational visits via cyberspace through the following NPS productions:

"Desert Diamonds Behind Barbed Wire," created by California's Manzanar National Historic Site, Ball State University, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, and the National Park Foundation.

"Freedom in America: Some Assembly Required," produced by Independence National Historical Park in Pennsylvania and Ball State University. Freedom in America won a gold medal from the Federal Executive Board, Excellence in Government program.

"Getting Into Hot Water," produced by Yellowstone National Park with support from the National Science Foundation and the Yellowstone Park Foundation.

"Eruption: An Island Rising From the Sea," produced by Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and Ball State University.

Also among the online offerings was "Honored Places: the NPS Teachers Guide to the American

"A Trail to Every Classroom" is an excellent example. Developed by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the National Park Service, the multidisciplinary program for K-12 teachers helps them link academic subjects to the trail through field experience with park biologists and other experts. By the end of its first full year in 2007, 75 teachers had been trained, with more than 1,200 students given the chance to learn in the ultimate outdoor classroom.

Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, said: "The Trail to Every Classroom program engages young people in nature. It brings together trail managers, teachers, and children, allowing a safe place to engage in physical exercise, explore nature, learn about the trail as a natural and cultural resource . . . this is exactly the kind of program we need to see more of as a way to connect children to nature."

Explore. Learn. Protect.

In 2007, 439,000 children participated in the National Park Service's 297 Junior Ranger pro-

ELECTRONIC FIELD TRIPS BROUGHT THE NATIONAL PARKS TO

Near right: First Lady Laura Bush with Junior Rangers at Balboa Magnet Elementary School in Northridge, California. Far right: Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne takes part in the Manzanar electronic field trip.



SHEALAH CRAIGHEAD/WHITE HOUSE

Revolution," a web-based resource with 5 lesson plans involving 19 national parks.

Parks Teach

"You have transformed me, transformed my teaching, and transformed our school," said one sixth grade teacher and participant in the National Park Service "Trail to Every Classroom Program." Kids love hands-on learning, which presents rich opportunities for the parks. The National Park Service works with teachers around the country, inviting them and their students for unprecedented hands-on educational experiences.



TAMI A. HEILEMANN/DOI

grams. Completing activity books prepared by NPS staff, the kids learn what the park protects, embracing the Junior Ranger motto: Explore. Learn. Protect. Then they are sworn in and given a patch or badge to signify the accomplishment.

Web Rangers

Thousands of kids also take part in WebRangers, with many staying online for a half hour or longer, an eternity in the web world. More than 800 children completed the exercises to earn the new WebRanger patch. "My Community," introduced in 2007, allows kids to post their own park stories and pictures in a moderated setting.



**MILLIONS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN 2007, [INCLUDING]
 "DESERT DIAMONDS BEHIND BARBED WIRE," CREATED BY CALIFORNIA'S MANZANAR
 NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, BALL STATE UNIVERSITY, THE NATIONAL BASEBALL
 HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM, AND THE NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION.**

Above: First Lady Laura Bush and National Park Service Director Mary A. Bomar with new Junior Rangers on the White House steps.

Also in 2007 **TEACHER-RANGER-TEACHER** The Intermountain Region's Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program hires teachers as summer employees who then share their knowledge with students when they return to the classroom. In 2007, the program expanded to 11 states. **TEACHER-TO-TEACHER** More than 180 teachers from throughout the nation were in Anchorage, Alaska, in August for a Teacher-to-Teacher workshop, one of a series offered by the U.S. Department of Education and National Park Service. Teacher-to-Teacher is a program where educators share strategies successful in raising student achievement. **TEACHING WITH HISTORIC PLACES** The National Park Service series added several lesson plans in 2007: "Independence Hall: International Symbol of Freedom," "The Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March: Shaking the Conscience of the Nation," "New Philadelphia: A Multiracial Town on the Illinois Frontier," and "Navesink Lighthouse and Robbins Reef Lighthouse: Lighting the Way through New York Bay." There are now 133 lesson plans in the award-winning online series.



Above: Volunteers, mostly retirees with an interest in woodworking and maritime history, lend a hand at Salem Maritime National Historic Site in Massachusetts, as part of an 11-year project to build a replica of an 18th century vessel. Today, alongside the staff, they serve as crew during tours.

Volunteers

On July 19, the final rigging was hoisted into place on the tall ship *Friendship of Salem*, a full-sized replica of a 1797 cargo vessel. The vessel at Salem Maritime National Historic Site in Massachusetts sports 17 sails with an area of nearly a quarter acre. More than 50 miles of lines are used to operate the sails. NPS staff, contractors, and hundreds of volunteers have worked on the ship for 11 years.

Of the 2,175 miles of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, the three-mile segment across Bear Mountain, just west of New York City, merits several superlatives: the first built, the most heavily used, and in the worst condition. After years of planning and training, the most ambitious rehab ever got underway in April 2006, with major work completed this year thanks to more than 180 volunteers logging over 6,000 hours and partners like the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

Since the 2001 reintroduction of long-absent elk in Great Smoky Mountains National Park,

Experience Your America

Part slogan, part invitation, *Experience Your America* is the National Park Service's wish for all visitors: that they take advantage of the opportunities to discover first-hand the places and people that make this nation great.

Alaska's Denali National Park and Preserve exemplified the concept in extending a special invitation to members of the military and their families to drive the Denali Park Road and experience the heart of this Arctic wilderness. Permits were distributed through internal military channels and 245 families came out on a cold, clear day. Fifty park staff were stationed along the road to ensure that these special visitors had an enjoyable and safe visit.

"My family and I had a great time," wrote Coast Guardsman Paul Moyer. "I would just like to send a big Thanks to the NPS and the local businesses that make the program available, as well as a thank you for the work and sacrifice the members of the NPS do every day for this great Republic."

Observed

VOLUNTEERS-IN-PARKS

The Volunteers-in-Parks program was created in 1970 to combine America's tradition of volunteering and American's love of national parks. VIPs work shoulder-to-shoulder with park employees to preserve what makes parks special and share their passion with the public. In 2007, 157,000 volunteers donated 5,200,000 hours to make their parks better.

ON THE TALL SHIP FRIENDSHIP OF SALEM, A FULL-SIZED REPLICA OF A 1797 CARGO VESSEL. THE VESSEL AT SALEM MARITIME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE IN MASSACHUSETTS SPORTS 17 SAILS WITH AN AREA OF NEARLY A QUARTER ACRE.



National Park Owner's Manual

Mike Soukup headed the NPS natural resources programs, so it wasn't unusual for him to be talking about forest management as he got into a cab to head to a meeting. What happened next was. The driver, a new American citizen, lamented that his son wanted to visit a forest, but could not since they did not own one. Soukup told him that "you own many of them—all over the country." Soukup got to thinking that new citizens needed to understand that they are owners of something wonderful—America's national parks. *The National Park Owner's Manual for New Citizens* was born. The booklet provides basic information about the parks and an introduction from National Park Service Director Mary A. Bomar, herself a naturalized citizen. It was distributed at more than 20 naturalization ceremonies held in national parks this year.

visitation to the Cataloochee Valley—an area they frequented—has nearly doubled. Visitors want to see and learn about the animals, especially during the fall bugling season, when the elk mate and are very visible. To meet this need, park staff trained a 44-member Elk Bugle Corps, volunteers who shuttle up and down the three-mile-long valley answering questions and offering information. In the first five months, volunteers talked to more than 32,000 visitors.



GRABOWSKA SEES THE FILM'S VALUE EXTENDING BEYOND TODAY'S

Also in 2007 **MASSACHUSETTS FOLKLIFE** More than 150,000 attended the 21st annual Lowell Folk Festival produced by Lowell National Historical Park, the City of Lowell, the National Council for the Traditional Arts, the Greater Merrimack Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Lowell Festival Foundation. **RESTORED STORE** After seven years of research and planning, the sutler's store at Fort Laramie National Historic Site in Wyoming is completely restored. The main supply point on the Oregon, California, and Mormon Trails, the store offers visitors an authentic experience of the Old West. The painstaking restoration was based on original store inventories and first-hand accounts.

Above: A shot from Ribbon of Sand. Near right: NPS filmmaker John Grabowska with cinematographer Steve Ruth. Far right: Narrator Meryl Streep.

Ribbon of Sand

For many people, a visit to a national park starts in a darkened theater in the visitor center with a short video that showcases places to go or how to be safe in bear country. But sometimes, when the lights are lowered, visitors are treated to an award winning documentary by John Grabowska, a world-class filmmaker at the National Park Service Harpers Ferry Center in West Virginia.

Ribbon of Sand, written, produced, and directed by Grabowska with cinematography by Steve Ruth, captures the essence of the wild, undeveloped barrier islands that make up Cape Lookout National Seashore on North Carolina's Outer Banks. Narrated by Meryl Streep, reading excerpts from the writings of Rachel Carson,

because of rising sea levels." *Ribbon of Sand* premiered at the 2007 Environmental Film Festival in Washington, DC, and was a finalist in the Sondrio International Documentary Film Festival on Parks. It was also a finalist for the prestigious Pare Lorentz Award, given by the International Documentary Association, and will be seen nationwide on PBS in late February.

Premiering in the Parks

Other notable park films premiering in 2007 included *Never Lose Sight of Freedom*, produced for the Selma-to-Montgomery National Historic Trail in Alabama; *Remembered Earth*, a film on New Mexico's El Malpais National Monument; and *On Great White Wings*, produced for Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park in Ohio.

Suite Exhibits

On May 24, 2007, the historic Yavapai Observation Station on the south rim of Arizona's Grand Canyon National Park was re-



LEFT JOHN GRABOWSKA/NPS, ABOVE NPS, ABOVE RIGHT BRIGITTE LACOMBE

BEACHGOERS. "FILM IS AN ARCHIVAL MEDIUM," HE SAYS, "SO THE

81,000

education programs were offered by national parks in 2007.

and with a score by Oscar-winning composer Todd Boekelheide, the film opened in spring 2007 at the park's Harkers Island Visitor Center.

Grabowska sees the film's value extending beyond today's beachgoers. "Film is an archival medium," he says, "so the negative will be there for future generations to see what this ecosystem was once like. This is particularly important for coastal areas like these in the midst of dramatic changes due to global warming. Many of these islands are doomed to disappear

opened with a suite of exhibits to explain the geology of this powerful place.

Understanding Ecosystems

Everglades National Park installed nine bilingual roadside exhibits along the 38-mile drive between the park's main entrance and Flamingo to help visitors understand the complex ecosystems. The exhibits were funded by the South Florida National Parks Trust.

NEGATIVE WILL BE THERE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS TO SEE WHAT THIS ECOSYSTEM WAS ONCE LIKE. THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR COASTAL AREAS LIKE THESE IN THE MIDST OF DRAMATIC CHANGES DUE TO GLOBAL WARMING. MANY OF THESE ISLANDS ARE DOOMED TO DISAPPEAR BECAUSE OF RISING SEA LEVELS."

SPOTLIGHT NATIONAL PARK VISITORS

Observed

PARKS BY THE NUMBERS

Acres 84 million
Buildings 16,500
Miles of trail 17,000
Miles of road 10,000
Housing units 4,100
Campground areas 1,150
Waste water treatment systems 1,700
Water treatment systems 1,450
Concessioners 600 provide food, lodging, transportation, and other visitor services; employ 25,000 people; have gross revenues of \$800 million annually; return \$50 million annually to the government

In 2007, more than 275 million people visited

America's nearly 400 national parks, discovering firsthand the places that capture our heritage and our hearts. Many visitors used a new America the Beautiful pass that provides entrance to national parks and approximately 2,000 federal recreation areas nationwide. In the first nine months of sales, the pass generated more than \$18 million in revenue for the National Park Service.

Once inside the park, visitors look for the ranger in the flat hat. In 2007, 445,396 ranger programs served 13 million visitors, and 81,000 education programs were offered to 4.7 million visitors. The result: 85 percent of those surveyed understood and appreciated the park's significance. Even better, 96 percent of visitors were glad they came, expressing satisfaction with the facilities, services, and recreational opportunities.

After spending the day exploring history and experiencing nature, national park visitors spend money in nearby gateway communities. A National Park Service report, *National Park Visitor Spending and Payroll Impacts, 2006*, found that national parks play a major role in attracting and sustaining local businesses and communities. According to the report,

96 percent

of visitors were glad they came to the park, expressing satisfaction with the facilities

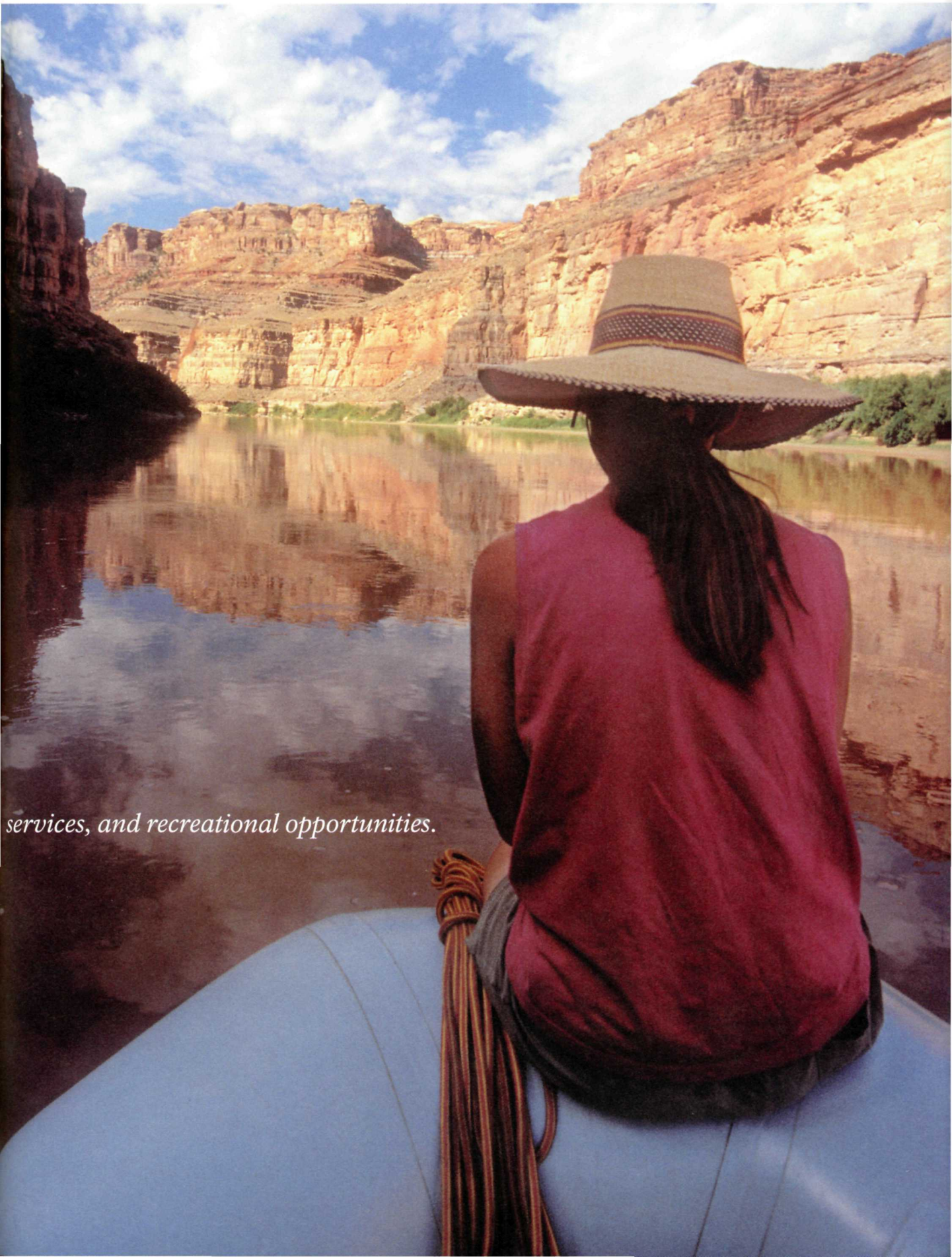
On the web

VISITING NATIONAL PARKS

To learn more about visiting the parks, go to www.nps.gov.

prepared by researchers at Michigan State University, in 2006 visitors spent \$11 billion in communities near national parks, a sum that translates into almost 250,000 local jobs.

Right: The Colorado River flowing through Canyonlands National Park.

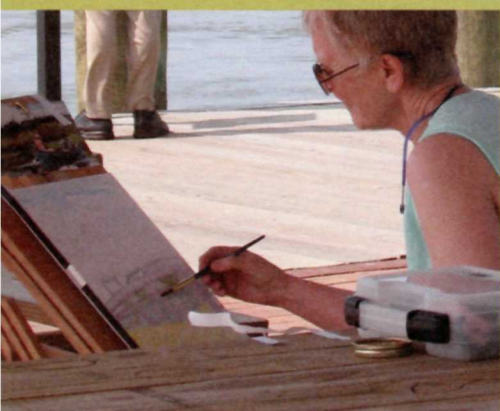


services, and recreational opportunities.

Working with communities

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

—MARGARET MEAD



Every town has heritage it wants to honor. Every town has kids who need a place to play. But the resources to make these dreams come true are often beyond what is available locally. Those on the frontlines of preserving community history and providing close-to-home recreation know that when they need help, they can call on an experienced partner: the National Park Service. Offering grants to preserve battlefields, surplus federal property for community parks, national recognition for local landmarks, federal tax incentives to rehab historic properties, and funds to build playgrounds and trails, the National Park Service has provided support and guidance to virtually every county in America. Sometimes a place is so important that its stature exceeds local boundaries and has significance for all Americans. Consider Topaz.

Left: A painter enjoys the newly completed waterfront park on Chincoteague Island, Virginia, thanks in part to a National Park Service Land and Water Conservation Fund grant. Right: A child tries on a period costume as part of Cuyahoga Valley National Park's recreation initiative for local residents.



Remembering Topaz

In the wake of Pearl Harbor, more than 8,000 Japanese Americans were forced from their homes in the San Francisco Bay area and shipped to the Central Utah Relocation Center, better known as the Topaz internment camp. Frightened and weary, the internees arrived by train with only the possessions they could carry. Many of the camp's buildings—barracks and schools—were unfinished; completing them was the first task of the new residents.

Topaz was one of 10 internment camps set up by the U.S. government. More than 100,000 men, women, and children were rounded up in what Utah Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr., called a time of “wartime hysteria, prejudice and failure of political leadership.” National Park Service historians documented this dark period, providing the basis for Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne to designate Topaz a national historic landmark, a distinction reserved for places of exceptional value in telling our national story.

At the dedication, Governor Huntsman said, “I like to think we have come a long way since then, but I have the suspicion we are still making those mistakes. This site allows the future generations to learn from the past.”

Other NHLs designated in 2007:

Aline Barnsdall Complex (Hollyhock House)
Los Angeles, California

Washington Place
Honolulu, Hawaii

Hegeler Carus Mansion
LaSalle, Illinois

House of the Seven Gables Historic District
Salem, Massachusetts

Naumkeag
Stockbridge, Massachusetts

Field House
St. Louis, Missouri

Spring Grove Cemetery
Cincinnati, Ohio

Village of Mariemont
Hamilton County, Ohio

Price Tower
Bartlesville, Oklahoma

Beth Shalom Synagogue
Elkins Park, Pennsylvania

Fig Island
near Charleston, South Carolina

National Natural Landmark

Not all landmarks are historic. In October 2006, Secretary Kempthorne named the Irvine Ranch in California as the newest of the country's 582 national *natural* landmarks. The 36,000-acre property in Orange County boasts a landscape of coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and rare Tecate cypress, and remarkable geology offering a complete record of 80 million years, from the late Cretaceous period to the present. The natural landmark provides unprecedented opportunities for research and education and is also open for recreational use. Rigorous evaluation by independent scientists, the National Park Service, and the National Park System Advisory Board led to the designation, which was supported by landowners within its boundaries and the local and state governments.

Right: An issue of "Trek," a literary magazine produced by the Topaz internees.

Left: Scenes from life at the Topaz internment camp in the Utah desert.



FRIGHTENED AND WEARY, THE INTERNEES ARRIVED BY TRAIN WITH ONLY THE POSSESSIONS THEY COULD CARRY.



THREE

FEBRUARY 1943



106 million dollars

Above and right top: Improved parks, reconditioned playgrounds, and updated recreational equipment are just some of the ways NPS Land and Water Conservation Fund grants help to get kids outdoors.

No Picnic in Booneville

Our country is full of small towns where there are more days in the year than people. Booneville, Kentucky, is one of those. In places like Booneville, folks work hard to stay even so coming up with money to replace the aging playground equipment was even harder. Some pieces were a danger to the kids. The deteriorating picnic pavilion was rarely used. Walkers had to take their exercise along a major highway. County residents deserved better.

A \$75,000 grant from the National Park Service-administered Land and Water Conservation Fund made the difference. Congressman Geoff Davis (R-KY) praised the program: "Land and Water Conservation Fund

grants are an important source of funding for the development of recreation facilities. Parks and picnic areas help make our communities more attractive places to live and improve the quality of life for all Kentuckians."

In 2007, the National Park Service awarded \$37.7 million in Land and Water Conservation Fund grants to more than 250 projects, including:

Bellevue State Park
New Castle County, Delaware

Central Park
Dubois County, Indiana

Children's Pond Park
Penobscot, Maine

Pontiac Lake
Recreation Area
Oakland County, Michigan

Beulah Bay Recreation Area
Mercer County, North Dakota



ABOVE AND ABOVE LEFT NPS LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

Jail Call

Deep in the basement of the massive stone building on the corner of 8th Street and Central Avenue in historic downtown Dubuque, Iowa, is something you might not expect—a dungeon. A remnant of the building's previous incarnation, the dungeon is just one of the stops on a tour of the Old Jail Museum. An outstanding example of the Egyptian Revival style of architecture, the Old Jail is now a repository of photographs, oral history, and other artifacts of local history run by the Dubuque County Historical Society.

The citizens of Dubuque have made preserving their history a priority, and in the process, the city has become one of the National Park Service's most successful local partners. From recognition as a Certified Local Government in 1985, to listings in the National Register of Historic Places, to three national historic landmarks, Dubuque has leveraged NPS preservation programs to not only save its history but to share it as well.

In 2007, a \$125,000 Save America's Treasures grant helped stabilize the old jail's foundation

Mississippi's Old Capitol

When Hurricane Katrina roared through the Gulf Coast in August 2005, it peeled back the copper roof of the Old Capitol building in Jackson, Mississippi. Driving rain severely damaged the plaster walls and ceilings of the 1839 national historic landmark, and ruined its oak floors and twin spiral staircases. Saturated insulation and plaster grew mold and mildew.

The structure already needed restoration. It had moisture problems. Walls and exterior limestone were cracking, and the wear and tear of public use were taking their toll. After Katrina, there was no choice but to close it down.

Save America's Treasures, a grant program administered by the National Park Service, made its largest award for 2007 to help restore the treasure. The \$525,000 grant, added to \$14.2 million from the Mississippi legislature, will eliminate the moisture problem, repair the dome's rotting ribs, stabilize the building, and update mechanical systems. The structure, also a museum, is expected to reopen in January 2009.

Observed

HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANTS

In 2007, the National Park Service awarded \$68.8 million in preservation grants, including:

American Battlefield Protection Program
Elkins Ferry and Prairie D'ane Battlefield Preservation Plan, Nevada County Industrial Development Corporation (AR) \$28,097

Battle of Mystic Fort Documentation Plan, Mashantucket Pequot Museum (CT) \$27,000

Save America's Treasures Read House & Gardens, Historical Society of Delaware \$400,000

Coeur d'Alene Old Mission State Park (ID) \$220,000

John Brown House, Rhode Island Historical Society (RI) \$243,000

Ashton Villa, Galveston Historical Foundation (TX) \$150,000

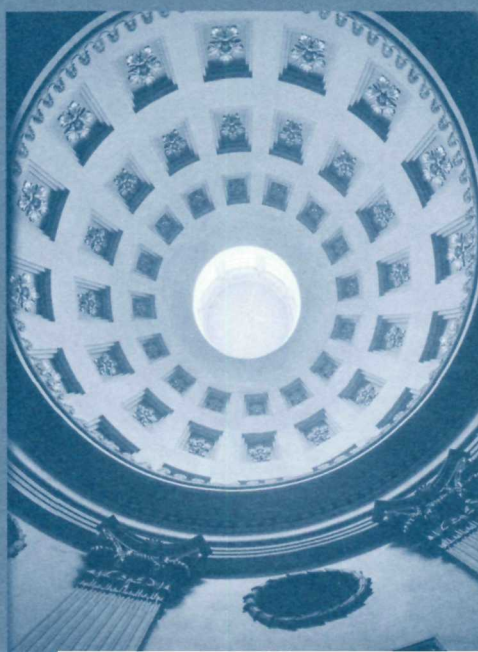
Preserve America West Virginia Thematic Tours, State Historic Preservation Office (WV) \$100,000

Bringing Back History: Municipal Building Historic Structures Report, Mineral Point (WI) \$25,000

in recreation and preservation grants were awarded by the National Park Service in 2007.

and a \$150,000 Preserve America grant supported an exhibit and education program at the national historic landmark Mines of Spain. The NHL preserves a major concentration of archaeological sites related to the mining of lead, an industry started in 1788 by French trader Julien Dubuque.

Right: Severely damaged by hurricane Katrina, the dome of the 1839 Old Capitol building, a national historic landmark in Jackson, Mississippi, was restored with assistance from Save America's Treasures, a grant program administered by the National Park Service.



Observed

HURRICANE GRANTS

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the National Park Service has awarded \$53 million in grants from funds appropriated by Congress to help restore damaged historic buildings in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

Right: The respectfully remodeled Farmers and Mechanics Bank building in Minneapolis, reincarnated as an upscale hotel and restaurant using National Park Service tax credits.

Observed

LOCAL PRESERVATION

In 2007, 58 communities—from Los Angeles to Mason County, Washington—signed on with the National Park Service to promote historic preservation locally. These Certified Local Governments are eligible for state grants from funds received from the NPS. There are now 1,608 CLGs.

There are 2,444 national historic landmarks.

There are 82,598 listings in the National Register of Historic Places.

Banking on Preservation

Open the vault at the old Farmers and Mechanics Bank on Sixth Street in Minneapolis and you won't find currency or jewels, but a collection of fine wines to serve diners at the new Westin Hotel's B.A.N.K. restaurant.

Housed in what was once the bank's grand lobby, the eatery is part of a \$32 million rehab of the 1942 Streamline Moderne building and adjacent office tower added in the '60s. Clad in blue-tinted porcelain enameled steel panels, the tower now holds 214 hotel rooms and frames the main entrance to the original three-story building, where muscular relief sculptures of a farmer and mechanic evoke the bank's hard-working first customers.

For the conversion from bank to hotel, developers agreed to retain the building's historic character, adhering to standards set by the Department of the Interior—an accomplishment certified by the National Park Service making the work eligible for federal historic rehabilitation tax credits. The program promotes the adaptive reuse of historic buildings that otherwise might have an appointment with the wrecking ball. Income-producing properties such as the Westin are eligible for a federal tax credit equal to 20 percent of the cost of their rehabilitation.

Abandoned and vacant for nearly a decade, the Farmers and Mechanics Bank is once again open to the public. The project received the

Silicon Valley Startup

In 1938, William Hewlett and David and Lucile Packard rented space at 367 Addison Avenue in Palo Alto, California. Friends from Stanford, the men had \$538 in working capital, freshly minted degrees in electrical engineering, and dreams of turning their ideas into useful inventions. One of their former professors, Dr. Frederick Terman, encouraged them to turn one idea, a variable frequency oscillator, into a commercial product. They sold their first one to Walt Disney Studios for the production of the soundtrack of the animated film "Fantasia." Products were assembled in the garage and the shed became the newly-formed Hewlett-Packard Company's first business office. The company grew quickly, becoming the nucleus of the Stanford Research Park, sparking the development of Silicon Valley as a high technology center. The Hewlett-Packard House and Garage were listed in the National Register of Historic Places—which is administered by the National Park Service—on April 20, 2007. Today the historic house is used as a corporate conference center by Hewlett-Packard Corporation.

In 2007, 1,398 listings joined the Register, including:

Guam Congressional Building
Hagatna, Guam

Lorena Duling School
Jackson, Mississippi

FOR THE CONVERSION FROM BANK TO HOTEL, DEVELOPERS AGREED

2007 Restoration/Rehabilitation Award from the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota.

Tax Credit Program 2007 Highlights

Average project cost
\$4.16 million

Average number of local jobs created per project
39

Total number of housing units completed
18,006

Total low/moderate income housing units created
6,553

Since 1976, the National Park Service's Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program has leveraged more than \$45 billion in private investment.

The Margaret
Omaha, Nebraska

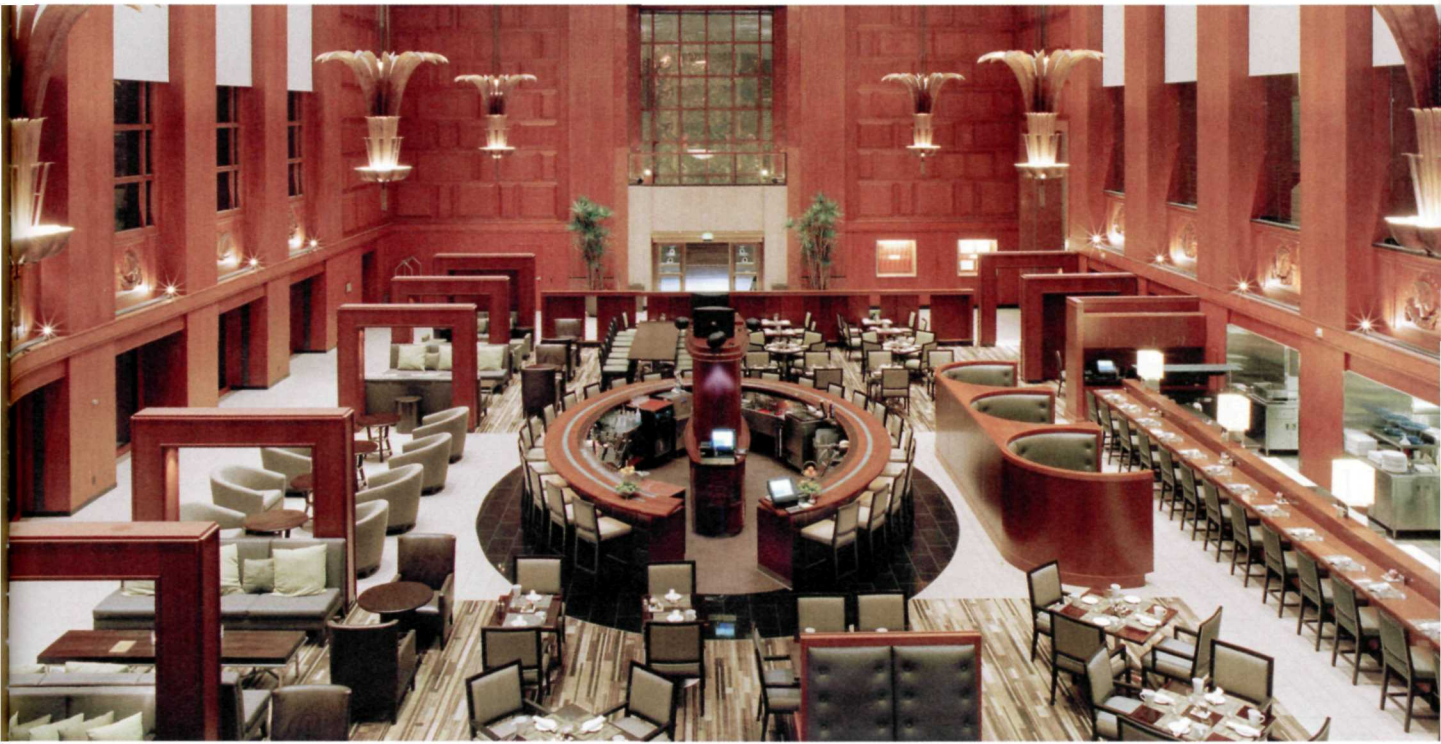
Princeton Ice Company
Princeton, New Jersey

William Metzger House
Portal, North Dakota

John Yeon
Speculative House
Portland, Oregon

Brown Beach One Japanese
Defensive Fortifications Site
Saipan

Georgia-Pacific Plywood
Company Office
Olympia, Washington



©BOB PERZEL

45 billion dollars

in private investment have been leveraged by the Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program since 1976.

TO RETAIN THE BUILDING'S HISTORIC CHARACTER, ADHERING TO STANDARDS SET BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR—AN ACCOMPLISHMENT CERTIFIED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MAKING THE WORK ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL HISTORIC REHABILITATION TAX CREDITS.

THE ERIE CANAL CARRIED MORE THAN CARGO—IT CARRIED PEOPLE

*Observed***RECORD OF AMERICA**

In 2007, the Historic American Engineering Record, along with its sister programs the Historic American Buildings Survey, Historic American Landscapes Survey, and Cultural Resources Geographic Information Systems, documented 477 places, including:

HABS

Maryland's Historic Barns
Partner: Society of Architectural Historians & the Catoclin Center for Regional Studies

HAER

Arkansas Bridges
Partner: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department

HALS

Arneson River Theatre, San Antonio Riverwalk (TX)
Partner: Texas Tech University

CRGIS

Revise NHL Boundaries of Bodie, California
Partner: University of Nevada-Reno and the California State Parks Division

Right: The Erie Canal in Lockport, New York, photographed by Jet Lowe of the Historic American Engineering Record.

Erie Canal

"An admirable work of science and patriotism."

That is how the Marquis de Lafayette described the Erie Canal, widely considered an engineering marvel of its time. Laborers broke ground on July 4, 1817, and 8 years, 18 aqueducts, and 83 locks later, the canal was finished.

The canal lived up to its promise, opening up the country west of the Appalachians. Business along the waterway was so good, the canal's size nearly doubled in the mid-1800s. A second expansion in 1918 created the New York State Barge Canal System. Now 14 feet deep and some 200 feet wide, the canal wound through more than 360 miles of countryside from Albany to Buffalo, handling barges carrying up to 3,000 tons of cargo.

The Erie Canal carried more than cargo—it carried people and ideas. It was the internet of its day, knitting the young nation together to help forge an identity. Along the way, it solidified New York City's place as America's principal seaport and commercial center.

Today, the canal is used more for recreation than commerce, but reminders of its formidable past are everywhere. One of the challenges in its construction was the 568 feet rise in elevation between the Hudson River and Lake Erie. In Lockport, two sets of historic locks sit side-by-side, tangible evidence of the engineering required to overcome the massive ridge near the canal's western terminus. The locks from the first expansion offer a rare example of 19th-century technology, the most complete surviving artifact from the period. Nearby locks from the World War I-era expansion are also intact, an excellent example of early-20th-century, electrically powered, concrete lock design.

In partnership with the City of Lockport, the National Park Service Historic American Engineering Record documented the locks with measured drawings, large-format photographs, and a detailed history. The work will be used by the city to restore the locks as an historic attraction, part of its economic revitalization plan.

Kent State Wins Peterson Prize

There is no collection of architectural drawings quite like that of the National Park Service's Historic American Buildings Survey.

Maintained by the Library of Congress, the HABS collection includes the famous, the obscure, the iconic, and the long-demolished structures that tell the architectural story of America. The drawings set the standard for historical documentation.

Each year, HABS, the American Institute of Architects, and the Athenaeum of Philadelphia sponsor a measured drawing competition in which students of architecture and preservation demonstrate their skill. The drawings are donated to the HABS collection.

In 2007, a team from Kent State University took the prize for its drawings of the Arms family



house, an early 20th century Craftsman style structure in Youngstown, Ohio, that now serves as a museum of local history. A team from Clemson University earned second place for its drawings of the Othniel Beale House, in Charlestown, South Carolina; the University of Texas at San Antonio took third for its renditions of the Magazine Building at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio; Texas Tech received fourth place for its work on the JA Ranch in Palo Duro, Texas; and honorable mention went to The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Louisiana Tech University.

**AND IDEAS. IT WAS THE INTERNET OF ITS DAY, KNITTING THE
YOUNG NATION TOGETHER TO HELP FORGE AN
IDENTITY. ALONG THE WAY, IT SOLIDIFIED NEW
YORK CITY'S PLACE AS AMERICA'S PRINCIPAL SEA-
PORT AND COMMERCIAL CENTER.**





Community Assets

When the U.S. Navy closed its base at Roosevelt Roads on Puerto Rico's east coast, the National Park Service's Federal Lands to Parks Program saw a chance for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to convert the land into parks. Thanks to a NPS partnership with the Navy, the commonwealth, and local communities, 3,127 acres valued at more than \$19 million were assigned for perpetual park use in 2007: 141 acres of beachfront for the municipality of Ceiba and 2,986 acres of waterfront and wetlands for the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources. "The chance to acquire undeveloped beachfront land in the heart of our community is virtually unheard of," said local mayor Gilberto Camacho Parrilla. "This park will have a profound effect." The mayor envisions families relaxing on the beach, enjoying outdoor concerts and festivals a few miles from home. "Our community is grateful for the efforts of the National Park Service to make this parcel of land available for our citizens," he said.

Adopt a Lighthouse

Since early days, lighthouses have served as the sentinels of our shorelines. Under the watchful eye of dedicated lightkeepers, they have guided mariners to safe harbor. But technology has changed; beacons and foghorns are now activated by computers, not lightkeepers.

No longer staffed but still needing care, the lighthouses are given to those able to ensure their long-term preservation. The Maritime Heritage Program of the National Park Service works with the U.S. Coast Guard and the General Services Administration to find caretakers.

In 2007, the National Park Service recommended that the Secretary of the Interior approve the transfer of "Big Red" on Lake Michigan. The 1907 lighthouse, notable for its Dutch architectural elements and vivid red color, was given to the Holland Harbor Lighthouse Historical Commission. Also in 2007, the Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico took possession of the 1882 Las Cabezas de San Juan lighthouse, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

If You Build It They Will Come

The grading was done and 126 loads of hard-pack had been delivered and spread. The finishing touches needed to transform the former Boston & Maine railroad bed into a trail were underway, just in time for its first customers. "Immediately after the last load was delivered," said Charles Martin, "two guys from Concord showed up on mountain bikes. Amazing how quickly people discover and use the rail trail!"

Martin is on the board of Friends of the Northern Rail Trail in Merrimack County, New Hampshire, the group spearheading the project with the help of the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program. The program provides technical assistance to communities so they can conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails.

Students from Andover Elementary/Middle School used the recently completed trail segment to celebrate National Walk to School Day. Given its broad width, the trail is a year-round attraction for hikers, bikers, equestrians, and cross country skiers. Ultimately, 59 miles of trail—all along the former rail bed—will allow people to ride their bikes or hike from the Connecticut River Valley to the Lakes Region.

Honoring a Hero of 9/11

On September 11, 2001, Rich Guadagno was flying home from a vacation with his family in New Jersey. Rich, who worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and was a federal law enforcement officer, is believed to have been among those on United Flight 93 who stopped the terrorists from crashing the plane into the nation's capital. His badge was found in the wreckage.

To honor his memory and a career devoted to conservation, a trail was named for him in Oregon's Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge, which he had managed. It is the country's 1,000th national recreation trail—a program coordinated by the National Park Service—and part of a network of trails covering more than 11,000 miles.

Left: The historic Las Cabezas de San Juan lighthouse was transferred to the Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico in 2007.

Observed

LIGHTHOUSE ADOPTION

Nearly 300 lighthouses have been identified as eligible for transfer under the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000. Applicants must agree to the requirements of the law and be financially able to maintain the light. The National Park Service evaluates applications and makes recommendations on transfers to the Secretary of the Interior.

Observed

HAPPY TRAILS In 2007, the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program helped 900 communities protect more than 336 miles of river, develop 2,198 miles of trail, conserve 62,000 acres of open space, and leverage \$40 million in funding, including:

Casa Grande Mountain Park
Partner: City of Casa Grande (AZ)

Shafer Butte Trail System
Partner: Southwest Idaho Mountain Bike Association (ID)

Groundwork Trust New Orleans
Partner: Groundwork Trust USA (LA)

Terra Alta Park & Trail Links
Partner: Terra Alta Betterment, Inc. (WV)

Lake Superior Water Trail/Wisconsin segment
Partner: Northwest Regional Planning Commission (WI)

SPOTLIGHT NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS

79 million people

toured the national heritage areas in 2007, seeding investment in communities across the country.



ABOVE LEFT CARLIN TIMMONS/NPS, ABOVE RIGHT CYNTHIA PORCHER, RIGHT CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/DIEDRA LAIRD

Above left and far right: The new heritage area, one of 37 spread across the country, celebrates the language, religious beliefs, folklore, rituals, and foodways of the Gullah/Geechee people. **Above:** Queen Quet, a Gullah/Geechee chieftess.

On the web

VISITING HERITAGE AREAS

To learn more about national heritage areas, go to www.nps.gov/history/heritageareas.

It was a small public meeting, in a church near Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, on the progress of the National Park Service's study of how best to preserve the Gullah/Geechee heritage. Afterwards, an elder approached the lead researcher, held both her hands and said, "Write down your name for me 'cause I'm gonna remember you. I'm goin' home and tell my grands about you. You tol' me about my culture; you tol' me my history. When I say my prayers tonight, I'm gonna thank God for you."

The work that inspired such gratitude resulted in the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, a way to share and preserve the tradition of an African American culture that has existed in relative isolation along the southeastern coast for hundreds of years.

This new national heritage area was authorized by legislation sponsored by Congressmen James Clyburn (D-

SC), Henry E. Brown, Jr. (R-SC), and others. The Secretary of the Interior appointed a commission of experts in historic preservation, anthropology, and folklore to oversee the heritage area's development.

Nine other **national heritage areas** were also established when President Bush signed the National Heritage Areas Act into law on October 12, 2006:

Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area (CT, MA)

Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area (GA)

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area (KS, MO)

Atchafalaya National Heritage Area (LA)

Great Basin National Heritage Route (NV, UT)

Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area (NJ)

Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area (NM)

Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (NY, VT)

Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area (UT)

National Parks Map





275 *million visitors*

*came to the national parks in 2007, America's special places cared for by the National Park Service family—
20,000 employees and 150,000 volunteers.*

Visit the National Park Service online at www.nps.gov.

Below: *Sunrise at the visitor center, Haleakalā National Park, Maui.* PHOTO RESEARCH HI/DANITA DELMONT AGENCY/DRR.NET

