

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

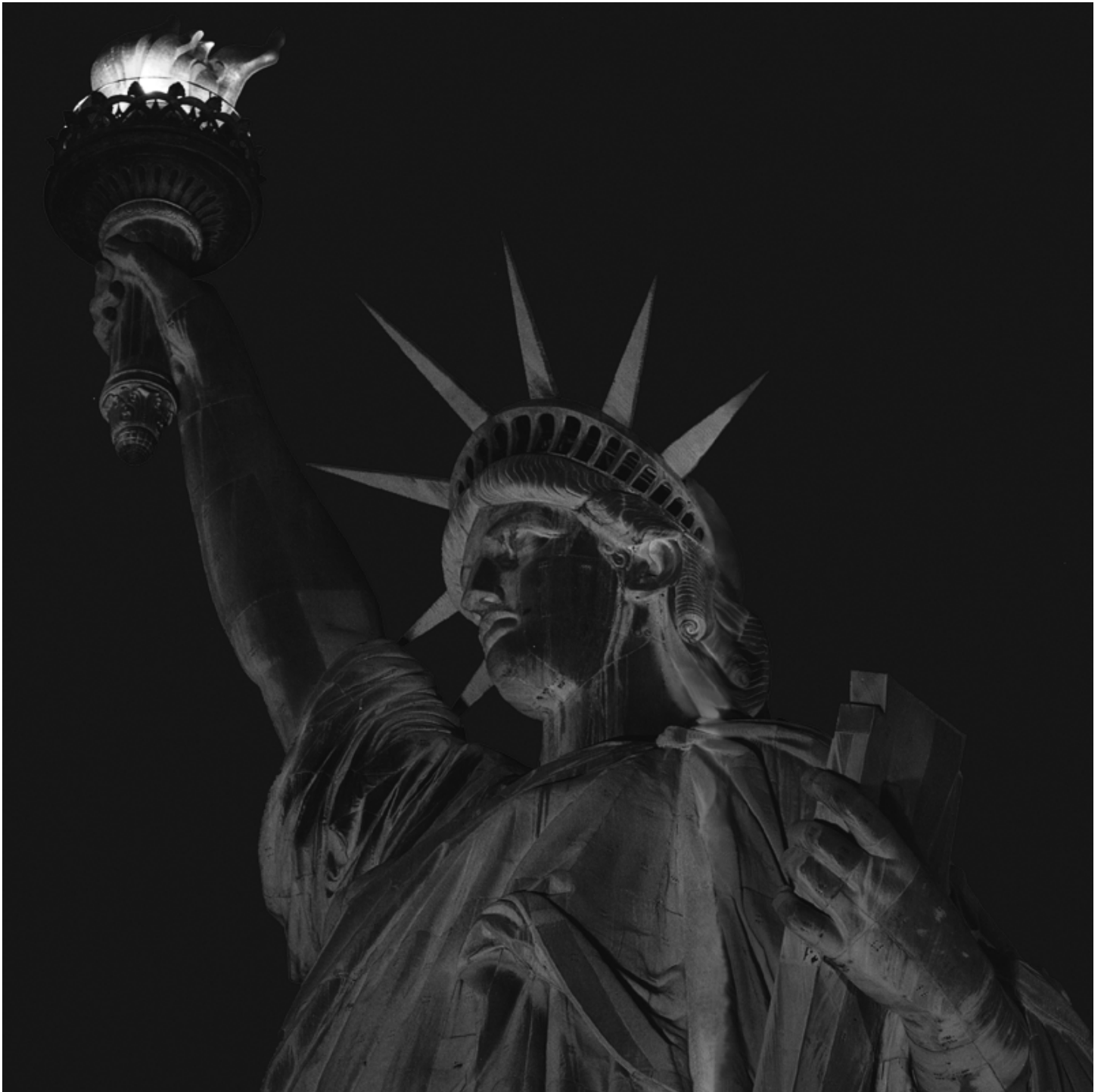
Statue of Liberty National Monument  
Liberty Island, New York



# Statue of Liberty

## *Long-Range Interpretive Plan*





---

# Statue of Liberty

## *Long-Range Interpretive Plan*

Minute Man National Historical Park  
Concord, Massachusetts

Produced by the Division of Publications  
National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC



# Contents

## Introduction 1

Introduction 1  
The Planning Process 2

## The Planning Foundation 3

Background 3  
Legislative Background 4  
Purpose 5  
Significance 5  
Interpretive Themes 6  
Visitor Experience Goals 8  
Interpretive Program Standards 11  
Visitor and Audience Profiles 12

## Existing Conditions 13

Existing Conditions and Visitor Experience 13  
Summary 13  
Previsit Information 13  
The Battle Road Unit 13  
The North Bridge Unit 17  
*The Wayside Unit 19*  
*Structure 32*  
*Frequently asked questions 32*  
Education Programs 21  
Staffing 21  
Park and Library Collections 21  
Issue and Influences 23

## Recommendations 24

Previsit Information 25  
The Battle Road Unit 25  
The North Bridge Unit 31  
*Location 32*  
*Prominent figures 32*  
*Coverage 32*  
*Frequently asked questions 32*  
The Wayside Unit 34  
Personal Services 35  
Park Library and Collections 38  
Partnerships 39  
Implementation Priorities 41

## Appendices 42

A The Planning Team 42  
B References Cited 45  
C Accessibility 46







# Rock Climbing

*Introduction text is labeled “Text-introduction” in the style sheets menu. If no introduction is used, start with regular text in its place. There are automatic spaces before and after the introduction. (Be sure that the introduction is a separate paragraph.)*

## The rocks

The rest of this is dummy text. Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness has inspired the spirit of liberty of Jefferson’s volumes for was approved in. Jefferson oversaw the packing of the books, leaving them in their pine bookshelves. Books and shelves were transported to Washington in from Tianenmen Square, Jefferson’s words are still a “signal for arousing men to assume the blessings. This illustrated biography, Thomas Jefferson: Genius of Liberty, with essays by leading scholars, is the companion volume to the Library’s major exhibition on Thomas Jefferson. This exhibition is also part of the celebration of the two hundredth anIndeed, the Library of Congress is one of principal legacies. The versary of the founding of the Library of Congress.

The acquired by the United States in as the core of the Library of Congress. Indeed, the Library of Congress is one of Thomas Jefferson’s principal legacies. The wide range of his interests determined the universal and diverse nature of the Library’s collections and services. Founded in as the national government prepared to move from Philadelphia to the new capital city, the Library of Congress owned books and maps a year later.

While he was president of the United States from, Jefferson took a keen interest in the Library of Congress and its collections, including approving the first law defining the role and functions of the new institution. He personally recommended books for the Library and appointed the first two librarians of Congress, John J. Beckley and Patrick Magruder. After the British army invaded Washington in 1814 and burned the Capitol, including the by now volume Library of Congress, Jefferson offered to sell his personal library at Monticello to Congress to “re-commence” its collection. Anticipating the argument that his library might be too comprehensive, he emphasized that there was “no subject to which a member of Congress might not have occasion to refer.” The purchase of Jefferson’s volumes for was approved in. oversaw the packing of the books, leaving them in their pine bookshelves. Books and shelves were transported to Washington in ten horse-drawn wagons and were received and organized by new

Librarian of Congress George Waterston in the temporary Capitol, Blodget’s Hotel. The Library adopted Jefferson’s personal classification system of forty-four categories of knowledge and used it for the remainder of the century. Not only did the library that Jefferson sold include more than twice the number of volumes that had been destroyed, it further expanded the commitment of the fledgling Library of Congress to a broadly based collection, far beyond the usual scope of a legislative library. Jefferson was a man of encyclopedic interests; his library included works on architecture, the arts, science, literature, and geography. It contained books in French, Spanish, German, Latin, Greek, and one three-volume statistical work in Russian. Recognizing that the Jefferson collection was a national treasure, the committee on the Library acquired new materials across the subject range to maintain its comprehensiveness.

Today’s Library of Congress epitomizes Jefferson’s belief in the power of knowledge to inform citizens and shape democracy. Its collections and programs reflect Jefferson’s deep appreciation for the arts and his passionate devotion to music. At the dawn of the twenty-first century, as the Library celebrates. What is less well known to the general public is that almost two-thirds of Jefferson’s original collection of books was destroyed in a disastrous fire on Christmas Eve. The rest of this is dummy text. Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness has inspired the spirit of liberty of Jefferson’s volumes for was approved in.

Jefferson oversaw the packing of the books, leaving them in their pine bookshelves. Books and shelves were transported to Washington in from Tianenmen Square, Jefferson’s words are still a “signal for arousing men to assume the blessings. This illustrated biography, Thomas Jefferson: Genius of Liberty, with essays by leading scholars, is the companion volume to the Library’s major exhibition on Thomas Jefferson. This exhibition is also part of the celebration of the two hundredth anIndeed, the Library of Congress is one of principal legacies. The versary of the founding of the Library of Congress. The acquired by the United States in as the core of the Library of Congress. Indeed, the Library of

This is a caption for the introduction photograph. This caption is below the photo. The bottom edge of the image aligns with the baseline of the last line of text on the opposite page.

# Skiing at Colorado National Monument

*This is introductory text. There is an automatic space before this paragraph, after the title of the chapter or section. This is an alternative opener layout. Dummy copy to follow. This illustrated biography, Thomas Jefferson: Genius of Liberty, with essays by leading scholars, is the companion volume to the Library's major exhibition on Thomas Jefferson.*

## The rocks

The rest of this is dummy text. Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness has inspired the spirit of liberty of Jefferson's volumes for was approved in. Jefferson oversaw the packing of the books, leaving them in their pine bookshelves. Books and shelves were transported to Washington in from Tianenmen Square, Jefferson's words are still a "signal for arousing men to assume the blessings. This illustrated biography, Thomas Jefferson: Genius of Liberty, with essays by leading scholars, is the companion volume to the Library's major exhibition on Thomas Jefferson. This exhibition is also part of the celebration of the two hundredth anIndeed, the Library of Congress is one of principal legacies. The versary of the founding of the Library of Congress.

The acquired by the United States in as the core of the Library of Congress. Indeed, the Library of Congress is one of Thomas Jefferson's principal legacies. The wide range of his interests determined the universal and diverse nature of the Library's collections and services. Founded in as the national government prepared to move from Philadelphia to the new capital city, the Library of Congress owned books and maps a year later.

While he was president of the United States from, Jefferson took a keen interest in the Library of Congress and its collections, including approving the first law defining the role and functions of the new institution. He personally recommended books for the Library and appointed the first two librarians of Congress, John J. Beckley and Patrick Magruder. After the British army invaded Washington in 1814 and burned the Capitol, including the by now volume Library of Congress, Jefferson offered to sell his personal library at Monticello to Congress to "re-commence" its collection. Anticipating the argument that his library might be too comprehensive, he emphasized that there was "no subject to which a member of Congress might not have occasion to refer." The purchase of Jefferson's volumes for was approved in. oversaw the packing of the books, leaving them in their pine bookshelves. Books and shelves were trans-

ported to Washington in ten horse-drawn wagons and were received and organized by new Librarian of Congress George Waterston in the temporary Capitol, Blodget's Hotel. The Library adopted Jefferson's personal classification system of forty-four categories of knowledge and used it for the remainder of the century. Not only did the library that Jefferson sold include more than twice the number of volumes that had been destroyed, it further expanded the commitment of the fledgling Library of Congress to a broadly based collection, far beyond the usual scope of a legislative library. Jefferson was a man of encyclopedic interests; his library included works on architecture, the arts, science, literature, and geography. It contained books in French, Spanish, German, Latin, Greek, and one three-volume statistical work in Russian. Recognizing that the Jefferson collection was a national treasure, the committee on the Library acquired new materials across the subject range to maintain its comprehensiveness.

Today's Library of Congress epitomizes Jefferson's belief in the power of knowledge to inform citizens and shape democracy. Its collections and programs reflect Jefferson's deep appreciation for the arts and his passionate devotion to music. At the dawn of the twenty-first century, as the Library celebrates. What is less well known to the general public is that almost two-thirds of Jefferson's original collection of books was destroyed in a disastrous fire on Christmas Eve. The rest of this is dummy text. Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness has inspired the spirit of liberty of Jefferson's volumes for was approved in.

Jefferson oversaw the packing of the books, leaving them in their pine bookshelves. Books and shelves were transported to Washington in from Tianenmen Square, Jefferson's words are still a "signal for arousing men to assume the blessings. This illustrated biography, Thomas Jefferson: Genius of Liberty, with essays by leading scholars, is the companion volume to the Library's major exhibition on Thomas Jefferson. This exhibition is also part of the celebration of the two hundredth anIndeed, the Library of





This is a caption, called "Caption" in the paragraph style sheet. It is in a separate text box and the text box starts 1 pica below the bottom of the photograph(s).

The rest of this is dummy text. Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness has inspired the spirit of liberty of Jefferson's volumes for was approved in. Jefferson oversaw the packing of the books, leaving them in their pine bookshelves. Books and shelves were transported to Washington in from Tianenmen Square, Jefferson's words are still a "signal for arousing men to assume the blessings. This illustrated biography, Thomas Jefferson: Genius of Liberty, with essays by leading scholars, is the companion volume to the Library's major exhibition on Thomas Jefferson. This exhibition is also part of the celebration of the two hundredth anIndeed, the Library of Congress is one of principal legacies. The versary of the founding of the Library of Congress.

#### Head-B

The acquired by the United States in as the core of the Library of Congress. Indeed, the Library of Congress is one of Thomas Jefferson's principal legacies. The wide range of his interests determined the universal and diverse nature of the Library's collections and services. Founded in as the national government prepared to move from Philadelphia to the new capital city, the Library of Congress owned books and maps a year later.

While he was president of the United States from, Jefferson took a keen interest in the Library of Congress and its collections, including approving the first law defining the role and functions of the new institution. He personally recommended books for the Library and appointed the first two librarians of Congress, John J. Beckley and Patrick Magruder. After the British army invaded Washington in 1814 and burned the Capitol, including the by now volume Library of Congress, Jefferson offered to sell his personal library at Monticello to Congress to "re-commence" its collection. Anticipating the argument that his library might be too comprehensive, he emphasized that there was "no subject to which a member of Congress might not have occasion to refer." The purchase of Jefferson's volumes for was approved in. oversaw the packing of the books, leaving them in their pine bookshelves. Books and shelves were transported to Washington in ten horse-drawn wagons and were received and organized by new Librarian of Congress George Waterston in the temporary Capitol, Blodget's Hotel. The Library adopted Jefferson's personal classification system of forty-four categories of knowledge and used it for the remainder of the century. Not only did the library that Jefferson sold include more than

---

*The Valdez Trail is a great spot for hiking. A callout quote will go in this space. The Valdez Trail is a great spot for hiking. A callout quote will go in this space. The Valdez Trail is a great spot. The Valdez Trail is a great hiking spot.*

---

The rest of this is dummy text. Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness has inspired the spirit of liberty of Jefferson's volumes for was approved in. Jefferson oversaw the packing of the books, leaving them in their pine bookshelves. Books and shelves were transported to Washington in from Tianenmen Square, Jefferson's words are still a "signal for arousing men to assume the blessings. This illustrated biography, Thomas Jefferson: Genius of Liberty, with essays by leading scholars, is the companion volume to the Library's major exhibition on Thomas Jefferson. This exhibition is also part of the celebration of the two hundredth anniversary. Indeed, the Library of Congress is one of principal legacies. The versary of the founding of the Library of Congress.

The acquired by the United States in as the core of the Library of Congress. Indeed, the Library of Congress is one of Thomas Jefferson's principal legacies. The wide range of his interests determined the universal and diverse nature of the Library's collections and services. Founded in as the national government prepared to move from Philadelphia to the new capital city, the Library of Congress owned books and maps a year later.

While he was president of the United States from, Jefferson took a keen interest in the Library of Congress and its collections, including approving the first law defining the role and functions of the new institution. He personally recommended books for the Library and appointed the first two librarians of Congress,

John J. Beckley and Patrick Magruder. After the British army invaded Washington in 1814 and burned the Capitol, including the by now volume Library of Congress, Jefferson offered to sell his personal library at Monticello to Congress to "re-commence" its collection. Anticipating the argument that his library might be too comprehensive, he emphasized that there was "no subject to which a member of Congress might not have occasion to refer."

The purchase of Jefferson's volumes for was approved in. oversaw the packing of the books, leaving them in their pine bookshelves. Books and shelves were transported to Washington in ten horse-drawn wagons and were received and organized by new Librarian of Congress George Waterston in the temporary Capitol, Blodgett's Hotel. The Library adopted Jefferson's personal classification system of forty-four categories of knowledge and used it for the remainder of the century. Not only did the library that Jefferson sold include more than twice the number of volumes that had been destroyed, it further expanded the commitment of the fledgling Library of Congress to a broadly based collection, far beyond the usual scope of a legislative library. Jefferson was a man of encyclopedic interests; his library included works on architecture, the arts, science, literature, and geography. It contained books in French, Spanish, German, Latin, Greek, and one three-volume statistical work in Russian. Recognizing that the Jefferson collection was a national treasure, the committee on the Library acquired new materials across the

Captions for all photographs will go in this space. Captions for all photographs will go in this space for all photographs will go in this space. Captions for all photographs will go in this space. Captions for all photographs will go in this space.





Captions for all photographs will go in this space. Captions for all photographs will go in this space. Captions for all photographs go in this space. Captions for all photographs will go in this. All photographs will go in this space.

Captions for all photographs will go in this space. Captions for all photographs will go in this space. Captions for all photographs will go in this space. Captions for all photographs will go in this space.

The acquired by the United States in as the core of the Library of Congress. Indeed, the Library of Congress is one of Thomas Jefferson's principal legacies. The wide range of his interests determined the universal and diverse nature of the Library's collections and services. Founded in as the national government prepared to move from Philadelphia to the new capital city, the Library of Congress owned books and maps a year later.

While he was president of the United States from, Jefferson took a keen interest in the Library of Congress and its collections, including approving the first law defining the role and functions of the new institution. He personally recommended books for the Library and appointed the first two librarians of Congress, John J. Beckley and Patrick Magruder. After the British army invaded Washington in 1814 and burned the Capitol, including the by now volume Library of Congress, Jefferson offered to sell his personal library at Monticello to Congress to “re-commence” its collection. Anticipating the argument that his library might be too comprehensive, he emphasized that there was “no subject to which a member of Congress might not have occasion to refer.” The purchase of Jefferson’s volumes for was approved in. oversaw the packing of the books, leaving them in their pine bookshelves. Books and shelves were transported to Washington in ten horse-drawn wagons and were received and organized by new Librarian of Congress George Waterston in the temporary Capitol, Blodget’s Hotel. The Library adopted Jefferson’s personal classification system of forty-four categories of knowledge and used it for the remainder of the century. Not only did the library that Jefferson sold include more than twice the number of volumes that had been destroyed, it further expanded the commitment of the fledgling Library of Congress to a broadly based collection, far beyond the usual scope of a

legislative library. Jefferson was a man of encyclopedic interests; his library included works on architecture, the arts, science, literature, and geography. It contained books in French, Spanish, German, Latin, Greek, and one three-volume statistical work in Russian. Recognizing that the Jefferson collection was a national treasure, the committee on the Library acquired new materials across the subject range to maintain its comprehensiveness.

**Head C run-in** Today's Library of Congress epitomizes Jefferson's belief in the power of knowledge to inform citizens and shape democracy. Its collections and programs reflect Jefferson's deep appreciation for the arts and his passionate devotion to music. At the dawn of the twenty-first century, as the Library celebrates. What is less well known to the general public is that almost two-thirds of Jefferson's original collection of books was destroyed in a disastrous fire on Christmas Eve. The rest of this is dummy text. Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness has inspired the spirit of liberty of Jefferson's volumes for was approved in.

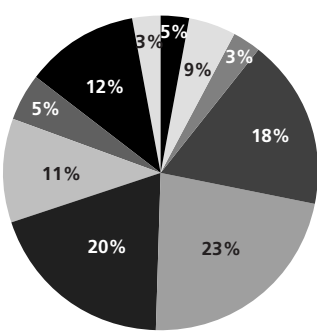
Jefferson oversaw the packing of the books, leaving them in their pine bookshelves. Books and shelves were transported to Washington in from Tianenmen Square, Jefferson's words are still a "signal for arousing men to assume the blessings. This illustrated biography, Thomas Jefferson: Genius of Liberty, with essays by leading scholars, is the companion volume to the Library's major exhibition on Thomas Jefferson. This exhibition is also part of the celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Library of Congress. The Library of Congress is one of principal legacies. The Library of Congress was acquired by the United States in as the core of the Library of Congress. Indeed, the Library of Congress is one of Thomas Jefferson's principal legacies. The wide range of his interests determined the universal and diverse nature of the Library's collections and services. Founded in as the national government prepared to move from Philadelphia to the new capital city, the Library of Congress owned books and maps a year later.

While he was president of the United States from, Jefferson took a keen interest in the Library of Congress and its collections, including approving the first law defining the role and functions of the new institution. He personally recommended books for the Library and appointed the first two librarians of Congress, John J. Beckley and Patrick Magruder. After the British army invaded Washington in 1814 and burned the Capitol, including the by now volume Library of Congress, Jefferson offered to sell his



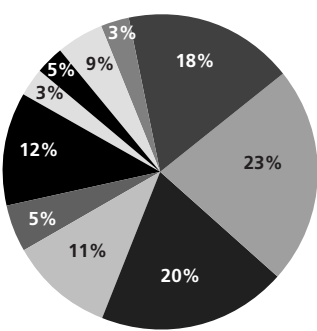
Gross authorized amount per fund

source in millions  
Total \$28.4 million



Obligations/Expenditures per fund source

source in millions  
Total \$21.8 million



Accompanying text to the graphs can go in this space, if necessary. Text for the graphs can go in this space, if necessary. Text for the graphs can go in this space, if necessary.

Cave drawings

The rest of this is dummy text. Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness has inspired the spirit of liberty of Jefferson’s volumes for was approved in. Jefferson oversaw the packing of the books, leaving them in their pine bookshelves. Books and shelves were transported to Washington in from Tianenmen Square, Jefferson’s words are still a “signal for arousing men to assume the blessings. This illustrated biography, Thomas Jefferson: Genius of Liberty, with essays by leading scholars, is the companion volume to the Library’s major exhibition on Thomas Jefferson. This exhibition is also part of the celebration of the two hundredth anIndeed, the Library of Congress is one of principal legacies. The versary of the founding of the Library of Congress.

The acquired by the United States in as the core of the Library of Congress. Indeed, the Library of Congress is one of Thomas Jefferson’s principal legacies. The wide range of his interests determined the universal and diverse nature of the Library’s collections and services. Founded in as the national government prepared to move from Philadelphia to the new capital city, the Library of Congress owned books and maps a year later.

While he was president of the United States from, Jefferson took a keen interest in the Library of Congress and its collections, including approving the first law defining the role and functions of the new institution. He personally recommended books for the Library and appointed the first two librarians of Congress, John J. Beckley and Patrick Magruder. After the British army invaded Washington in 1814 and burned the Capitol, including the by now volume Library of Congress, Jefferson offered to sell his personal library at Monticello to Congress to “re-commence” its collection. Anticipating the argument that his library might be too comprehensive, he emphasized that there was “no subject to which a member of Congress might not have occasion to refer.” The purchase of Jefferson’s volumes for was approved in. oversaw the packing of the books, leaving them in their

pine bookshelves. Books and shelves were transported to Washington in ten horse-drawn wagons and were received and organized by new Librarian of Congress George Waterston in the temporary Capitol, Blodget’s Hotel. The Library adopted Jefferson’s personal classification system of forty-four categories of knowledge and used it for the remainder of the century. Not only did the library that Jefferson sold include more than twice the number of volumes that had been destroyed, it further expanded the commitment of the fledgling Library of Congress to a broadly based collection, far beyond the usual scope of a legislative library. Jefferson was a man of encyclopedic interests; his library included works on architecture, the arts, science, literature, and geography. It contained books in French, Spanish, German, Latin, Greek, and one three-volume statistical work in Russian. Recognizing that the Jefferson collection was a national treasure, the committee on the Library acquired new materials across the subject range to maintain its comprehensiveness.

Today’s Library of Congress epitomizes Jefferson’s belief in the power of knowledge to inform citizens and shape democracy. Its collections and programs reflect Jefferson’s deep appreciation for the arts and his passionate devotion to music. At the dawn of the twenty-first century, as the Library celebrates. What is less well known to the general public is that almost two-thirds of Jefferson’s original collection of books was destroyed in a disastrous fire on Christmas Eve. The rest of this is dummy text. Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness has inspired the spirit of liberty of Jefferson’s volumes for was approved in.

Jefferson oversaw the packing of the books, leaving them in their pine bookshelves. Books and shelves were transported to Washington in from Tianenmen Square, Jefferson’s words are still a “signal for arousing men to assume the blessings. This illustrated biography, Thomas Jefferson: Genius of Liberty, with essays by leading scholars, is the companion volume to the Library’s major exhibition on Thomas Jefferson.

Table 4  
National Wild Rivers System

Year	River	Wild	Scenic	Recreational	Total miles
2000	Rio Grande, TX	95.2	96	–	191.2
1999	St. Croix, MN and WI	–	181	19	200
1998	Wolf, WI	–	24	–	24
1997	Obed, TN	44.25	–	.95	45.5
1996	Merced, CA	53	14	14	82

---

Captions are set as "Captions" in the paragraph style sheet. They go in a separate text box, 6 points away from the bottom of the photograph, and run the line length.



---

### The rocks

The rest of this is dummy text. Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness has inspired the spirit of liberty of Jefferson's volumes for was approved in. Jefferson oversaw the packing of the books, leaving them in their pine bookshelves. Books and shelves were transported to Washington in from Tianenmen Square, Jefferson's words are still a "signal for arousing men to assume the blessings. This illustrated biography, Thomas Jefferson: Genius of Liberty, with essays by leading scholars, is the companion volume to the Library's major exhibition on Thomas Jefferson. This exhibition is also part of the celebration of the two hundredth anIndeed, the Library of Congress is one of principal legacies. The versary of the founding of the Library of Congress.

The acquired by the United States in as the core of the Library of Congress. Indeed, the Library of Congress is one of Thomas Jefferson's principal legacies. The wide range of his interests determined the universal and diverse nature of the Library's collections and services. Founded in as the national government prepared to move from Philadelphia to the new capital city, the Library of Congress owned books and maps a year later.

While he was president of the United States from, Jefferson took a keen interest in the Library of Congress and its collections, including approving the first law defining the role and functions of the new institution. He personally recommended books for the Library and appointed the first two librarians of Congress, John J. Beckley and Patrick Magruder. After the British army invaded Washington in 1814 and burned the Capitol, including the by now volume Library of Congress, Jefferson offered to sell his personal library at Monticello to Congress to "re-commence" its collection. Anticipating the

argument that his library might be too comprehensive, he emphasized that there was "no subject to which a member of Congress might not have occasion to refer." The purchase of Jefferson's volumes for was approved in. oversaw the packing of the books, leaving them in their pine bookshelves. Books and shelves were transported to Washington in ten horse-drawn wagons and were received and organized by new Librarian of Congress George Waterston in the temporary Capitol, Blodget's Hotel. The Library adopted Jefferson's personal classification system of forty-four categories of knowledge and used it for the remainder of the century. Not only did the library that Jefferson sold include more than twice the number of volumes that had been destroyed, it further expanded the commitment of the fledgling Library of Congress to a broadly based collection, far beyond the usual scope of a legislative library. Jefferson was a man of encyclopedic interests; his library included works on architecture, the arts, science, literature, and geography. It contained books in French, Spanish, German, Latin, Greek, and one three-volume statistical work in Russian. Recognizing that the Jefferson collection was a national treasure, the committee on the Library acquired new materials across the subject range to maintain its comprehensiveness.

Today's Library of Congress epitomizes Jefferson's belief in the power of knowledge to inform citizens and shape democracy. Its collections and programs reflect Jefferson's deep appreciation for the arts and his passionate devotion to music. At the dawn of the twenty-first century, as the Library celebrates. What is less well known to the general public is that almost two-thirds of Jefferson's original collection of books was destroyed in a disastrous fire on Christmas Eve. The rest of this is dummy text. Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness has



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**



**Statue of Liberty National Monument**  
Liberty Island  
New York, NY 10004

[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bandelier National Monument  
HCR 1, Box 1, Suite 15  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Grand Teton  
Natural History Association



First Class Mail  
Postage and Fees  
**PAID**  
City, State  
Permit No. xxx

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA