

"The parks are the Nation's pleasure grounds and the Nation's restoring places...The National Parks are an American idea; it is the one thing we have that has not been imported. Each one of these National Parks is the result of some great man's thought of service to his fellow citizens. These great parks, are, in the highest degree, a sheer expression of democracy.

J. Horace McFarland  
-1916 -

*The Birth of the National Park Service*



Printed by  
Eastern National Park and Monument Association  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

# THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

75 Years of  
Preserving the Past  
Managing the Present  
Investing in the Future



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



1916 - 1991

The Organic Act that created the National Park Service in 1916 was remarkable in its simplicity and directness. It was no-frills legislation, but it summoned a high calling and equally high purpose. The Act addressed the twin-purposes of preservation and public enjoyment, so susceptible to conflict, yet so eloquently compatible. It stated, in effect, that the purpose of the National Park Service is "...To conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and wildlife...and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired ...for future generations."

Now, 75 years later, on the occasion of its Diamond Anniversary, the National Park Service reaffirms and redirects the principles of its founding mission:

- PRESERVING THE PAST
- MANAGING THE PRESENT
- INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

Enhancing these principles, now and into the future, is firmly imbedded in the Service's 1992 budget request, the largest ever in its seventy-five year history. It addresses seven initiatives that will keep faith with the past, reinforce the present, and ensure a viable National Park System into the 21st century.

- BATTLEFIELDS
- TARGET PARKS
- SCIENCE
- PARK OPERATIONS
- REHABILITATION
- OUTDOOR RECREATION
- PARTNERSHIPS



## BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION

"Battlefields represent some of America's most hallowed ground. They are essential in conveying to citizens of every age how our ancestors fought for our closest held ideals: freedom, democracy, human rights and independence."

Thus spoke Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan in 1990 when he launched the American Battlefield Protection Plan.

The 1992 budget request advanced for the National Park Service directs funding to bring order in the struggle to protect battlefields from unprecedented development pressures and to marshal the limited available resources in effective protection plans based on public and private cooperation and planning. The Service's battlefield initiative will focus, at the beginning, on civil war sites and involve Federal and state governments, state historic preservation offices and local protection groups.

## TARGETED PARKS

There are a number of parks that have nationally and globally significant natural resources and face threats of a similar magnitude. To begin resolution of some of the primary issues facing these major natural resource parks, NPS proposes to focus significant funding at a few targeted sites; Big Bend, Everglades, Grand Canyon, Isle Royale, Olympic, Sequoia and Kings Canyon, Yellowstone and Yosemite National Parks; and Cape Cod National Seashore and Death Valley National Monument. The funding would provide opportunities to address a backlog of research, mitigation, and restoration projects.



## SCIENCE

Not long after he assumed the Directorship of NPS, Jim Ridenour told employees "I plan to emphasize the creation and structuring of a solid, scientifically generated data base upon which we can make sound natural and cultural management decisions. As a public agency, we have the responsibility to make decisions that best serve the public interest, and to defend and explain those decisions. I believe good scientific information is both a necessity and an ally." This major initiative, a centerpiece of the 1992 budget request, deals with natural science programs Service-wide and will aid scientific research and resource management at the park level.

The science initiative also will be enhanced with funding for its involvement in President Bush's global change research program. Under this effort National Parks will serve as laboratories where changes in environmental conditions can be monitored.

## PARK OPERATIONS

In urging the National Park Service to oversee the natural and cultural treasures unique to our Nation, William Howard Taft said "The first step...is the establishment of a responsible bureau, which shall take upon itself the burden of supervising the parks and making recommendations as to the best method for improving their accessibility and usefulness."

In the 75 years of its existence, the National Park Service has strived to be a responsible custodian of the valuable sites entrusted to its care. Those sites now exceed 350 and attract more than 250 million visitors. Increased funding for Park Operations would enable the National Park Service to become better prepared to make decisions that protect these valuable areas while ensuring that the public's recreational demands are met.

For instance, Park Operations funding, which envisions a substantial boost in the 1992 budget, would be used to make parks safer for visitors as well as improve visitor interpretation programs. These funds would also help support resource management efforts—enabling park staff to inventory and monitor plants and animals native to park sites.

## REHABILITATION

In July of 1989, Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan said, "My goal is to leave the land and the agencies in better shape than they were at the time I accepted office."

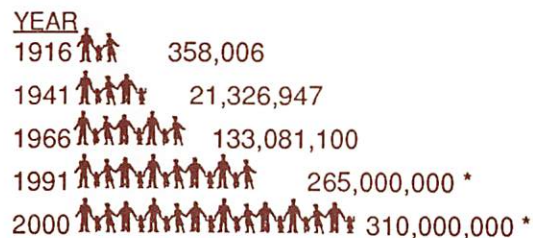
Keeping faith with his word, the Secretary championed the efforts of the National Park Service to add substantial funds in the 1992 Budget Request for repair and rehabilitation of facilities in the National Park System, which today encompasses more than 80 million acres across America.

This funding would be used to pay for high-priority construction projects such as rehabilitating the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials in Washington, D.C., and continuing work to restore waterflows to Everglades National Park in Florida. This funding would also be used to remove warehouse facilities from Yosemite Valley in Yosemite National Park, California. And it would pay for rehabilitation of NPS roads and parkways and employee housing.

## OUTDOOR RECREATION

Since the birth of our nation, enjoyment of the great outdoors has been a fundamental part of the American Experience. During its diamond anniversary year, the National Park Service will seek to assure that all lands under its stewardship will be made available to *all* people, regardless of disability, by increasing outdoor recreational opportunities and events. Special emphasis during 1991 will be given to improved fishing access

### RECREATION VISITS TO THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM



\* PROJECTED FIGURES

and recreational facilities for disabled visitors. Also, the Service's 1992 budget request, in keeping with Interior Secretary Lujan's Outdoor Recreation initiative, will target funds to improve, and provide for a host of opportunities, such as expanded hiking-biking trails, campgrounds, boating, cross-country skiing, and swimming. Director Ridenour has committed NPS "to ensuring that all Americans can enjoy these enriching experiences."

## PARTNERSHIPS

"Without the active involvement of state and local governments and the private sector, we could not begin to preserve—let alone manage the amount of land needed to meet the outdoor recreation and open space needs of our population." —*Director Ridenour*

Partnerships will play a major role in the Service's management thrusts as it observes its 75th Birthday and provides leadership in creating a national system of parks. For the first time in 10 years, NPS' 1992 budget includes a request for stateside grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The re-uniting of this partnership between the federal and state governments will stimulate acquisition and development of local outdoor recreation areas.

Another partnership, created in the 1992 budget request, the "challenge cost-share program," will establish, formalize, and make permanent an activity that will involve individuals, the private sector, and other non-federal sources in shared arrangements aimed at accomplishing the mission and goals of the National Park Service.

During 1990, more than 65,000 individuals contributed almost 1,350 work years to 280 Federal parks—a value of approximately \$31 million—through one of the Services most viable "partnerships:" The Volunteer in the Parks (VIP) program. The 1992 budget will give greater impetus to this partnership, which covers all aspects of park management, and returns to the NPS \$41 worth of volunteer work from every dollar spent on this effort.