Advancing Science in the National Parks

The National Park Service is fully committed to achieving the challenge set forth by Congress in 1997 to double the amount of natural resources protected by the National Park System over the course of the next 10 years. In 2009, the NPS was able to conserve additional resources, increase protective efforts, and improve our stewardship of fragile and unique natural environments. In the coming decade, we will work to solve the complex challenges that lie ahead.

The National Park Service has risen to the challenge by establishing parks, refuges, forests, and other protected areas for the benefit of all Americans. Today, we face a challenge of similar historical importance—future generations depend on us to ensure that America’s natural heritage and legacy remain intact.

As a result, a distinctive form of conservation requires action, and action requires organization. Confronted by a rapidly changing world, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science (NRSS) focuses on natural resources and ecosystem dynamics, and key institutions must increase their efforts to confront the challenges now faced by the National Park Service as we approach the National Park Service centennial in 2016.

Conclusion

The National Park Service core mission: the protection, preservation, and stewardship of our nation’s natural heritage and legacy intact. Natural resource programs must effectively engage partners and the public. Recessions and economic values will fall, and without the proper tools and knowledge, we will lose the battle. NRSS will be there to help. The National Park Service works in partnership to apply sound science, management decisions affect ecosystems.

Science Directorate provides:

Fiscal Year 2009

More Information

Natural Resource Stewardship and Science Program Highlights

Fiscal Year 2009

National Resource Stewardship and Science

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

Natural Resource Stewardship and Science

Rising to the Challenge

A Collection of FY 2009 Natural Resource Projects by National Park Service Region

Atlantic Region (AK, HI, IL, IN, IA, KY, MI, MN, MO, ND, OH, SD, WI)

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

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National Park Service

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Science Directorate provides:
Grand Teton National Park

www.nature.nps.gov/challenge.

For a full-length report, go to

management based on
active and informed
and future generations.

“This Action Plan
Stanton launches
Director Robert G.

information on
Public is com-

The first National
Resource Challenge
Congress authorizes
1999

significant natural
linking 270 parks with

National Park Service
Resource Challenge

The Air Quality
Program responds to
monitor condi-
tional air quality at
national parks. Collaborating
with states and tribes begins
improving visibility in
protected areas.

National Park
Service Director's
Order 14, “Resource
Damage Assessment and Evaluation,” is published.

the Appalachian
Highlands Science
Center, which in turn
were supported by
invasive plant
management Teams
Exotic Plant Man-
Rapid response

New initiatives
are offered by the
The Air Quality
Program forms to
monitor responsibility
and policies.

The Ocean and
Coastal Resource
Program begins to
monitor and manage
sea floor

After nine years, a
captain leading the
for the endangered
Bird Island National
Park Natural Resource

The Gulf Coast
Resource
Program began
immediately

The National
Park Service
understands the
importance of the

Gold level award National Park and
Region to recognize
outstanding work
within the park.

As a result of the National
Challenge Program, the
beauties of depleted
reserves in four ocean

The Climate Change
Program is established to
provide appropriate
guidance, technical
assistance, and
advice for planning
and adapting infrastructure
to the impacts of global
climate change.

A new Human
Learning Center
is established to
provide hands-on
experiences, and
impacts of global
climate change.

Natural Resource Stewardship and Science in the Parks

Natural Resource Stewardship and Science in the Parks

National Park Service natural resource programs operate on park, regional, and Servicewide levels to promote America's most scenic and ecologically diverse lands. The National Resource Stewardship and Science program is a multiagency reef sounds program and the Sounds Program. The Natural Resource Stewardship and Science in the Parks is a multiagency reef sounds program and the Sounds Program.

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66%

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100,000,000

50,000,000

200,000,000

300,000,000

$0

$50,000,000

$100,000,000

$150,000,000

$200,000,000

Total FY '09 Natural Resources Funding  $221,495,000

Total FY '99 Natural Resources Funding  $107,031,000

2009

2008

2007

2006

2005

2004

2003

2002

2001

2000

1999

Natural Resource Stewardship and Science in the Parks

The Climate Change Program is established to provide appropriate guidance, technical assistance, and advice for planning and adapting infrastructure to the impacts of global climate change.