


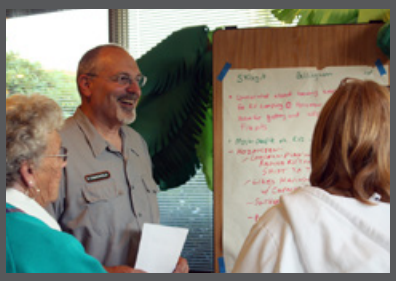



NPS Park Planning
February | 2021

Planning Catalog

PARK
PLANNING

Planning in the National Park Service guides informed and insightful decisions that provide relevant and timely direction to park management, and informs future decision-making for each national park system unit in accord with its stated mission.

Contents

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✳ = an assessment, study, or data collection effort that can contribute to the development of a planning document

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Planning Catalog User Guide

Introduction

What is the planning catalog?

On the following pages, you will find descriptions of products and services that reflect a range of park planning work undertaken throughout the National Park Service (NPS). There are a variety of national programs/offices represented in the catalog, including the Park Planning and Special Studies Division (PPSS), Park Facilities Maintenance Division, Denver Service Center – Planning Division, Business Management, Cultural Resources, Natural Resources, Interpretation, Partnerships, Sustainability, Visitor Use and Experience, and Wilderness. The description of each product or service includes its purpose, description, time frame, examples, potential funding sources, and a link to key contacts.

Director's Order #2: Park Planning

On January 11, 2021, Director's Order #2: Park Planning (DO #2) was issued, updating the overarching NPS policy for park planning. DO #2 clarifies that the totality of documents in a park's planning portfolio (described more below) fulfills a park's planning needs, including meeting the requirements for a general management plan (54 USC 100502). It also provides guidance on a variety of planning documents that guide park decision making, such as foundation documents, comprehensive plans, strategic plans, and implementation plans.

An accompanying reference manual, Reference Manual 2 (RM-2), is under development. It will be a dynamic document, updated as new resources and guidance emerge.

DO #2 is available online at: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/policy/upload/DO_2_1-11-2021.pdf. Additional information, including Frequently Asked Questions, a crosswalk chart illustrating where DO #2 supersedes NPS Management Policies (2006), and a detailed factsheet on the park planning portfolio can be found on the PPSS SharePoint site at: https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/sites/nps-ppss/SitePages/DirectorsOrder2.aspx. RM-2 updates will also be posted to this page.

Park planning portfolio

Many of the products in the catalog are critical components of a park's "planning portfolio." A park's planning portfolio is the assemblage of planning documents that guide decision making and satisfy law and policy; it extends from the foundation document to site-specific resource and visitor use management plans, and creates a logical, trackable guide for park management actions.

Through the planning portfolio, park planning needs are met by the totality of planning documents that provide current management direction for the park. Use of the portfolio structure for delivering planning products introduces greater flexibility for park managers, supporting formal planning efforts for some issues while acknowledging that existing plans and guidance are adequate for other issues. A park's planning portfolio can be visualized as a loose-leaf binder, in which particular planning elements can be updated, and new elements added, without revising the entire body of work.

For guidance on which plans contribute to a park's planning portfolio, please contact your regional chief of planning or regional planning portfolio manager.

Using the catalog

The catalog can be used as a reference for understanding the types of planning documents that may be elements of a park's planning portfolio. It may also be used to inform the preparation of individual project proposals (e.g., PMIS statements), although the scope, schedule, and budget will vary from project to project. Parks should coordinate with appropriate regional or national program leads for additional guidance and support; look for the link to key contacts found throughout the catalog.

For more information about the products and services listed in the catalog, program contacts, or any other related information, please contact npsparkplanning@nps.gov.

Accessibility

Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

Objective

To provide support to parks, regions, and programs through the development of a plan that addresses universal accessibility, both physical and programmatic. This planning product would aid parks with accessibility compliance.

Description of the Product or Service

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and NPS Director's Order 42: *Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities in National Park Service Programs and Services* commit park units to identifying barriers that limit access to park programs, facilities, and services; and to developing transition plans and identifying how these barriers will be removed (where feasible) and when. Parks, other NPS offices, and the public collaboratively prepare accessibility self-evaluation and transition plans. The self-evaluation part of the plan consists of the evaluation and assessment of barriers to accessibility, both physical and programmatic. The outcome of this holistic and program-based planning process is an accessible and spatially referenced document that will guide park staff and decision makers in assessing, prioritizing (with consistent criteria based on WASO policy), and implementing solutions for universal accessibility. Partnering with the following entities would be undertaken as required or needed: park staff and park leads for applicable program areas (e.g., interpretation), park accessibility coordinators, regional accessibility coordinators, and the disability community.

Time Frame

9–18 months

Example(s)

- Cabrillo National Monument Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan
- Joshua Tree National Park Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

Potential Funding Source(s)

Park-funded, region-funded, or part of a site plan/master plan

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Boundaries and Lands

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Boundary Adjustment Study

Objective

Through a boundary adjustment study, the National Park Service identifies and evaluates whether the inclusion of certain lands and resources may be necessary or desirable for carrying out the purposes of a national park system unit. The study investigates whether the subject of a proposed boundary expansion meets the eligibility criteria in section 3.5 of NPS *Management Policies 2006*.

Description of the Product or Service

The study precedes an NPS recommendation for a boundary revision. Boundary adjustments may be recommended for one of the following three purposes: 1) to protect significant resources and values, or to enhance opportunities for public enjoyment related to park purposes, 2) address operational and management issues, such as the need for access or the need for boundaries to correspond to logical boundary delineations such as topographic or other natural features or roads, or 3) otherwise protect park resources that are critical to fulfilling park purposes. A favorable boundary adjustment proposal should demonstrate the following:

1. The added lands must be feasible to administer, considering their size, configuration, ownership, costs, views of and impacts on local communities and surrounding jurisdictions, and other factors such as the presence of hazardous substances or nonnative species.
2. Other alternatives for management and resource protection are not adequate.

A boundary adjustment study may be undertaken as part of a general management planning process, or as a single-issue independent study. The boundary adjustment study has a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) component and is usually integrated with an environmental assessment when undertaken as an independent project. The NPS's recommendation to pursue a boundary adjustment is based upon a positive finding from the study process, and is generally carried forward as a legislative proposal from the Regional Office. Enactment of a boundary adjustment requires specific authorization by Congress. Please contact your regional Land Resources Program Center before initiating a boundary adjustment study.

Time Frame

1–2 years

Example(s)

- Appomattox Court House National Historical Park Boundary Adjustment Study/Environmental Assessment (https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=52495)
- Minute Man National Historical Park Boundary Study and Environmental Assessment (https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=18160)

Potential Funding Source(s)

Unit Management Plans; park-funded

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Please see https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/sites/nps-lrd?e=1%3a7a837ff0ee8e4821815467f07a0b2b7a for Land Resources Program technical and program center contacts

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Land Protection Plan

Objective

To ensure that the resources of each park unit are protected in a manner consistent with the stated purpose for which each unit was created.

Description of the Product or Service

For any park unit containing nonfederal land or interests in land within its authorized boundary, a land protection plan documents what lands or interests in land need to be in public ownership and what means of protection are available to achieve the purposes for which the unit was created. The land protection plan is designed to guide land acquisition priorities, which are subject to availability of funds and other constraints. Section 3.3 of NPS *Management Policies 2006* calls for land protection plans to document: (1) the lands or interests in land that would advance park purposes through public ownership, (2) the means of protecting these lands and interests that are available to achieve park purposes as established by Congress, (3) the protection methods and funds that would be sought or applied to protect resources and to provide for visitor use and park facility development, and (4) acquisition priorities.

A land protection plan should be simple and concise, and a park unit seeking to develop a land protection plan could start with a list of the nonfederal lands or interests in lands within its authorized boundary. Many parks have existing land protection plans, which are generally reviewed and updated periodically at the direction of the superintendent to reflect changing conditions. It should be noted that the template on which many existing plans were based is now outdated.

There is no dedicated funding source for the land protection plan. The development or revision of a land protection plan may be undertaken as a component of a general management plan, strategic plan, and other plans for resource management and visitor use.

Time Frame

Variable

Example(s)

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Land Protection Plan Update

Potential Funding Source(s)

Unit Management Plans; park-funded

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Please see https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/sites/nps-lrd?e=1%3a7a837ff0ee8e4821815467f07a0b2b7a for Land Resources Program technical and program center contacts

Business Management

Business Plan

Objective

The purpose of a business plan is to define the direction of a park or program for the next 3–5 years by developing a targeted strategy to address a park or program's most pressing business or operational challenges. A business plan will help to inform decision-making by using qualitative and quantitative analysis to identify gaps between current resource allocations and mid-term priorities. The process results in a set of strategies a park or program can take to better align their operations with stated priorities.

Description of the Product or Service

The Business Management Group has been completing business plans for parks and programs for more than 20 years, both directly and through the NPS Business Plan Internship (BPI) program. Business plans were initially focused on identifying funding gaps but have evolved to focusing on making the best possible use of available resources. The process of developing a business plan will depend on the specific needs of the client, but usually follows this general process:

- **Situation Analysis.** First, the park/program will define its current operating situation to understand its challenges and opportunities, and answering the question, "Where are we now?"
- **Vision.** Next, the park/program will articulate its goals for the future, perhaps through a facilitated priority-setting meeting, answering the question, "Where do we want to be?"
- **Strategy Development.** Once a park/program defines where it is now and where it wants to be, they can start to identify the gaps between the current and desired state, and brainstorm strategies for how to address these gaps. This answers the question, "How can we get there?"
- **Strategy Analysis.** After developing some strategies, a park or program must consider its operating constraints to determine if the strategies are viable and what impacts there may be on resources, visitors, and finances.
- **Implementation:** Leadership must decide on the best path forward, and what the action plan is to communicate and execute the strategy. They will also define metrics to determine if the process was successful in the future evaluation of the business plan and strategies.

Time Frame

3–4 months

Example(s)

- Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park 2013 Business Plan
- Fort Pulaski National Monument 2015 Business Plan
- Flight 93 National Memorial 2016 Business Plan

Potential Funding Source(s)

The Business Management Group (BMG) is also able to take on a limited number of off-season business plans for parks and programs. In general, costs to the benefitting park or program are limited and may include covering staff travel to BPI training or contributing to site visit costs for 1-2 BMG team members. Parks and programs may also consider engaging summer consultants through the National Parks Business Plan Internship. Contact the NPS Business Management Group for more information.

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Commercial Services Plan

Objective

A commercial services plan (CSP) is an implementation plan that provides direction to park management on commercial visitor services for the period of planning, usually 10 to 20 years.

Description of the Product or Service

The National Park Service develops commercial services plans to cover gaps revealed by a commercial services strategy or to implement that strategy, when appropriate. When developing or amending a general management plan or initiating other relevant planning documents (e.g., visitor use management plan, river management plan, wilderness stewardship plan, backcountry management plan, climbing management plan, etc.), park staff should consider the appropriateness of including commercial visitor services in the scope to avoid future duplication of effort in lieu of a stand-alone commercial services plan.

The commercial services plan will require appropriate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance and include appropriate civic engagement and a financial feasibility analysis. Although the result of an iterative process where the National Park Service develops and considers a variety of management strategies, a final commercial services plan should consider only those strategies proposing operations that likely would provide future commercial services operators a financially viable opportunity.

A commercial services plan typically:

- builds upon the park's planning portfolio including the foundation document, commercial service strategy, and prior planning decisions
- includes a table of existing permitted commercial visitor services
- identifies the park-specific criteria for necessary and appropriate based on criteria developed by the WASO program
- provides a history of commercial visitor services within the park
- evaluates existing and potential commercial visitor services against the necessary and appropriate criteria
- identifies commercial visitor services within park management zones and in relation to other visitor activities within the park and the authorities used to manage those activities
- includes an assessment of existing, planned, or potential commercial visitor services and facilities
- determines the extent necessary for commercial services in wilderness which are proper for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the areas pursuant to the Wilderness Act, Section 4(d)(5) and NPS *Management Policies 2006*, Section 6.4.4
- provides an assessment of visitor use demand and the local market and management strategies (if not already analyzed in existing visitor use management plan[s])
- identifies management strategies/alternatives and implementation of new, expanded, reduced, or altered commercial visitor services
- analyzes financial feasibility of proposed management strategies/alternatives

Time Frame

3–18 months

Example(s)

Ask regional commercial services program chiefs

Potential Funding Source(s)

Unit Management Plans; Concessions Franchise Fee (consistent with fund source criteria)

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Commercial Services Strategy

Objective

The National Park Service develops commercial services strategies (CSS) to determine whether existing or new services, including potential new facilities, are necessary and/or appropriate and to provide guidance for future management decisions on types of commercial visitor services and activities to be provided in a park.

Description of the Product or Service

NPS *Management Policies 2006*, section 10.2.2, requires parks to have commercial services strategies to ensure concession facilities and services are necessary and appropriate, financially viable, and addressed in approved management plans. The CSS process consists of reviewing and evaluating current approved management plans to determine whether the proposed commercial visitor services comply with those planning decisions. To the extent the approved plans do not support providing certain services, the National Park Service either must not pursue those services or complete additional planning to support a decision to provide them.

A commercial services strategy is not an implementation plan, but rather evaluates existing implementation plans to determine whether authority exists to provide a given commercial visitor service. The commercial services strategy also provides an opportunity for focused market research to identify potential for new commercial services and/or demand for additional existing services. Ideally, a commercial services strategy includes opportunities for civic engagement.

Park staff usually develops a commercial services strategy with assistance from the regional concessions program and park planning programs, as appropriate. An option for parks to develop a commercial services strategy is engaging interns through the National Parks Business Plan Internship; contact the NPS Business Management Group for more information.

A typical commercial services strategy considers or contains:

- the park's foundation document and relevant management plans
- a list of existing authorized commercial visitor services (concession contracts, commercial use authorizations, and/or leases)
- identification of park management zones in existing planning documents
- criteria for necessary and appropriate based on WASO developed program direction
- criteria to determine the extent necessary for commercial services in wilderness which are proper for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the areas pursuant to the Wilderness Act, Section 4(d)(5) and NPS *Management Policies 2006*, Section 6.4.4
- information on visitation data, tourism trends, and economic environment in the surrounding park areas
- commitments for managing and implementing commercial visitor use
- implementation considerations and future planning recommendations based on outstanding decisions (e.g., overall park visitor use management strategies, authorizing new commercial services, expanding or altering existing commercial services, constructing additional infrastructure or facilities, and/or additional staffing requirements)
- civic engagement
- identification of the external and internal factors that could significantly affect achievement of the goals

Time Frame

3–4 months

Example(s)

- Commercial Services Strategy (2013), Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site
- Commercial Services Strategy for Guided Climbing and Technical Mountaineering (2014), Rocky Mountain National Park
- Commercial Services Strategy (2018), Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve and New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park

(continued on next page)

Commercial Services Strategy (continued)

Potential Funding Source(s)

- Unit Management Plans; Concessions Franchise Fee (consistent with fund source criteria)
- An option for parks to develop a commercial services strategy is engaging interns through the National Parks Business Plan Internship; contact the NPS Business Management Group for more information.

Key Contact(s)

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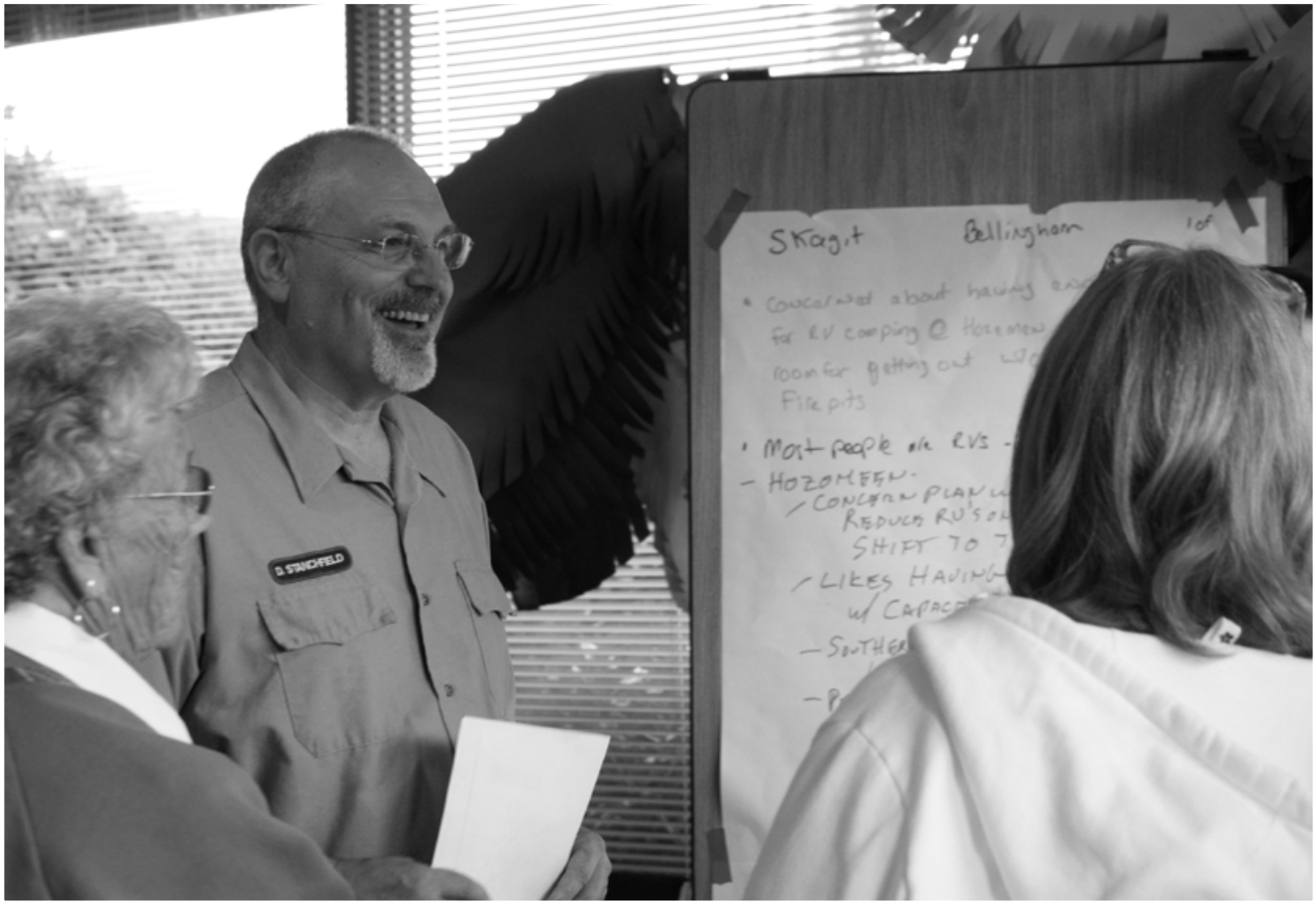

Comprehensive Management Planning

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

General Management Plan

Objective

General management plans set long-term goals for the park and provide broad direction for resource preservation and visitor use. In providing management direction at the broadest level, general management plans afford flexibility for decision making and serve as a basis for future implementation planning. As defined in Director's Order #2, "general management plan" refers to (1) a stand-alone general management plan, or (2) the planning documents in a park's planning portfolio that collectively meet the statutory requirements for a general management plan. The following product description below is specific to stand-alone general management plan efforts, with additional information in the General Management Plan Review section.

Description of Product or Service

Per 54 USC 100502 (https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid:USC-prelim-title54-section100502&num=0&edition=prelim), *"General management plans for each System unit shall include: (1) measures for the preservation of the area's resources; (2) indications of types and general intensities of development (including visitor circulation and transportation patterns, systems, and modes) associated with public enjoyment and use of the area, including general locations, timing of implementation, and anticipated costs; (3) identification of and implementation commitments for visitor carrying capacities for all areas of the System unit; and (4) indications of potential modifications to the external boundaries of the System unit, and the reasons for the modifications."* While park units may fulfill this statutory requirement through development of a single plan that addresses all four general management planning elements or a series of planning documents that collectively address the four general management planning elements, this product refers to a single plan that addresses all four general management planning elements.

A general management plan defines the desired natural and cultural resource conditions to be achieved and maintained over time and conditions needed for visitors to understand, enjoy, and appreciate the park's resources; identifies the types of management activities, visitor use, and development that are appropriate for maintaining the desired conditions; and investigates the need for boundary adjustments.

Through the planning process, which employs an interdisciplinary team approach and a robust civic engagement component, park managers and stakeholders develop a shared understanding of the conditions and level of development that will best achieve the park's purpose and conserve its resources. A general management plan is typically park-wide in scale.

Time Frame

1–3 years

Example(s)

Tule Lake Unit, World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, General Management Plan (PEPC 46412)

Potential Funding Source(s)

Unit Management Plans

General Management Plan Review

A general management plan review is a thorough examination of a park's planning portfolio to determine which documents address the statutory requirements for general management planning (54 USC 100502). This review results in written documentation of planning documents that contribute to meeting the requirements, typically issued as a memorandum signed by the park superintendent. If needed, the review includes a strategy to better meet the statutory requirements for general management planning.

As described in Director's Order #2, a general management plan will be reviewed every 10 to 15 years, or as necessary, to ensure the four general management plan statutory requirements are up to date.

Contact your regional planning portfolio manager for assistance in conducting a general management plan review.

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Wild and Scenic Rivers Comprehensive River Management Plan

Objective

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires completion of a comprehensive river management plan for a river designated as part of the national wild and scenic rivers system. The comprehensive river management plan sets long-term goals and implementation strategies to protect and enhance the river's values and to address development of lands and facilities, user capacities, and other management practices that are necessary or desirable to achieve the purposes of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The ultimate benefit of this planning effort is the long-term protection and enhancement of a designated wild and scenic river—attained through more focused resource and visitor use management and better articulation of the river's national significance and importance to the public.

Description of the Product or Service

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires comprehensive planning for designated rivers to protect and enhance their free-flowing condition, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values (i.e., river-related or river-dependent resources that are unique, rare, or exemplary), collectively known as the values that made the river worthy of designation. The first step is to identify these values in a wild and scenic rivers (WSR) values statement, described in this catalog. The plan establishes a river corridor management program to protect and enhance its WSR values and determines the appropriate types and levels of development within the corridor. It addresses user capacity, establishing the kinds and amount of visitor use on the river and its shorelands that are consistent with protecting and enhancing its WSR values, including recreation if that has been identified as an outstandingly remarkable value. The plan provides a framework for monitoring and decision-making, and may include implementation elements if visitor capacities are, or are close to, being exceeded.

Time Frame

3 years (plan must be completed within this time frame to comply with Wild and Scenic Rivers Act)

Example(s)

- Virgin River Comprehensive River Management Plan – PEPC 32068 (prepared jointly with BLM)
- Snake River Headwaters Comprehensive River Management Plan – PEPC 31397 (encompassing designated river segments in three park units—YELL, JODR, and GRTE—and a USFWS refuge)

Potential Funding Source(s)

Unit Management Plans

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Wild and Scenic River Values Statement

(a component of a comprehensive river management plan or standalone product)

Objective

The purpose of wild and scenic river designation is to protect the river's free-flowing condition, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values, collectively known as the river values which made the river worthy of designation. The values statement provides a narrative description of these fundamental characteristics to guide future planning, management, and protection.

Description of the Product or Service

This product is often based on a workshop approach that brings together subject matter experts including hydrologists, biologists, botanists, park managers, and wild and scenic river program leaders to define and evaluate outstandingly remarkable values, free-flowing condition, and water quality for designated wild and scenic rivers. Outstandingly remarkable values (i.e., river-related or river-dependent resources that are unique, rare, or exemplary) are defined by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act as the characteristics that make a river worthy of special protection. Free-flowing condition and water quality support the integrity of outstandingly remarkable values and are key components of future planning and management. The statement results in a better understanding of these resource values, including baseline and current conditions, trends, and threats; issues and opportunities; and stakeholder interests.

The values statement is the first step in the development of a comprehensive river management plan. It can also be done independently of the larger effort to provide foundational elements for the wild and scenic river unit.

Time Frame

3 years (plan must be completed within this time frame to comply with Wild and Scenic Rivers Act)

Example(s)

- Virgin River Comprehensive River Management Plan – PEPC 32068 (prepared jointly with BLM)
- Snake River Headwaters Comprehensive River Management Plan – PEPC 31397 (encompassing designated river segments in three park units—YELL, JODR, and GRTE—and a USFWS refuge)

Potential Funding Source(s)

Unit Management Plans

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Contaminated Sites

Contaminated Site Cleanup Resources ◊

Objective

To ensure all of the 500+ contaminated sites that comprise the Contaminated Sites Inventory follow a standard and efficient process to address contaminant impacts on the NPS environment, inclusive of the multi-year cleanup activities necessary to return a site to "unimpaired" conditions, as required by the NPS Organic Act and the park's enabling legislation.

Description of the Product or Service

The *CSPortal* (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/sites/ext-nps-csportal) is the agency's platform for accessing contaminated sites information and cleanup practice knowledge. This NPS intranet site is organized by the four phases of the Contaminated Site Cleanup Framework, which establishes a common frame of reference and vocabulary for the cleanup process, using phases and milestones applicable to all contaminated sites. The four phases of cleanup are:

1. **Site Scoping.** Identifying contaminated sites on NPS lands.
2. **Cleanup Action Selection.** Understanding the scope and type of the contamination.
3. **Cleanup Action Implementation.** Removing contaminants from NPS lands.
4. **Site Monitoring.** Ensuring over time the land returns to its natural condition.

Additionally, a Cost Recovery phase is included when a third party responsible for the contamination is identified. The *CSPortal* offers orientation, training, and guidance for leadership and contaminated site teams throughout the phases of cleanup. It contains a searchable Resource Repository with more than 250 tools, trainings, links, etc. that support the standard activities of site cleanup. The *CSPortal* is the first place to consult for questions about NPS cleanup practice, policy, and guidance related to contaminated site identification, funding, cleanup, and other matters.

Time Frame

Depending upon the complexity of the site (e.g., acreage, media impacted, extent of contamination, etc.), the time frame to clean up a site from alpha to omega may range from several years to decades.

Example(s)

See *CSPortal* "Featured Site" section to learn about a currently featured contaminated site https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/sites/ext-nps-csportal

Potential Funding Source(s)

Park-funded; region-funded; Environmental Management Program (listed under Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands fund sources); or Department of the Interior Central Hazardous Materials Fund (CHF)

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

◊ = assistance or service provided by a program or office

Emergency Action Plan

Objective

The purpose of developing an emergency action plan (EAP) is to assist parks in preparation for different types of emergencies including, but not limited to, fires, storms, earthquakes, hazardous materials spills, active shooter situations, power outages, etc., as required by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations.

Description of the Product or Service

Parks with 11 or more employees must develop an EAP and train NPS staff to ensure the plan will be implemented in the event of an emergency. A park with 10 or fewer employees may choose to forego a written EAP, and instead communicate the EAP verbally.

To begin the development process, a park must first consider the types of emergencies that may occur, as well as the potential impacts to human health and safety, resources, and assets and facilities. For each type of emergency consider:

- What ***prevention*** policies or procedures will be taken to help prevent the emergency from occurring or to mitigate potential impacts?
- What ***response*** policies and procedures will be taken during the emergency?
- What ***recovery*** policies and procedures will be taken in the aftermath of an emergency?

Time Frame

1–6 months

Example(s)

For more information visit https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/sites/ext-nps-csportal

Potential Funding Source(s)

Park-funded; region-funded; Environmental Management Program (listed under Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands fund sources)

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Emergency Response Plan

Objective

The purpose of developing a comprehensive emergency response plan (ERP) is to assist parks in preparation for emergencies that may impact human health and safety, resources, assets, and facilities.

Description of the Product or Service

An emergency response plan encompasses the contents of an emergency action plan (see related Planning Catalog page) and includes more robust planning information including, but not limited to, pre-emergency planning and coordination with outside parties, emergency recognition and prevention, site security and control measures, and decontamination procedures. Park employees must ensure that the emergency response plan is compatible with other federal, state, and local response agency plans and reviewed periodically for changes. Employees must be trained to implement the emergency response plan. Employees who respond to non-incidental oil or chemical spills are required to have training under the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) standard.

Time Frame

1–9 months

Example(s)

- For more information on emergency response plans, visit https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/sites/ext-nps-eccd/
- For more information on HAZWOPER training, visit https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/sites/nps-ecrb-env/SitePages/Training.aspx

Potential Funding Source(s)

Park-funded; region-funded; Environmental Management Program (listed under Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands fund sources)

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan

Objective

The purpose of spill prevention, control, and countermeasure (SPCC) plan is to assist facilities in the prevention of an oil discharge or spill into navigable waters and adjoining shorelines, consistent with the SPCC federal rule.

Description of the Product or Service

The storage and use of oil in larger quantities may heighten the risk of an oil spill within a park. Many parks are located near sensitive habitats, ecosystems, or waterways. As a result, oil spills have the potential to endanger public health, impact drinking water, devastate natural resources, and disrupt the economy. Further, the costs associated with spill prevention are often much less than the costs associated with spill cleanup, fines, and other civil liabilities.

To determine if a park is required to develop and implement a spill prevention, control, and countermeasure plan, a park should:

1. Inventory the total capacity of oil storage tanks and containers 55-gallons or larger. The inventory should include tanks mounted in the beds of pickup trucks, hydraulic hoist reservoirs, used oil tanks and drums, electrical transformers, and heating oil tanks for offices and other park facilities. The inventory should not include integral vehicle fuel tanks or heating oil tanks at single family residences.
2. Develop and implement a spill prevention, control, and countermeasure plan if the park exceeds the 1,320-gallon threshold for aboveground tanks and containers, or the 42,000-gallon threshold for underground tanks and containers.

The SPCC plan must include information and descriptions about oil handling practices, spill prevention procedures, and countermeasures to contain, clean up, and mitigate the effects of oil spills. An SPCC plan must be reviewed and evaluated at least every five years and amended within six months of a change that affects the potential to discharge oil. If the park has more than 10,000 gallons of total oil storage capacity, the SPCC plan must meet additional requirements and be certified by a professional engineer. Oil-handling park employees must also be trained annually on the plan.

Time Frame

1–6 months

Example(s)

For a template SPCC plan, visit https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/sites/ext-nps-eccd/

Potential Funding Source(s)

Park-funded; region-funded; Environmental Management Program (listed under Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands fund sources)

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Cultural Resources

Archeological Overview and Assessment*

Objective

An archeological overview and assessment identifies the present deficits in archeological research in the park and provides direction and recommendations for future work. This document falls within the SCC criteria of baseline documentation.

Description of the Product or Service

An archeological overview and assessment comprises a basic component of a park's cultural resources management program. The archeological overview and assessment report synthesizes information from existing records, archival documents, and published works to describe the known and potentially available archeological resources in an area. In addition, the overview and assessment identifies where archeological fieldwork is needed to locate, evaluate, and document other significant archeological resources. Finally, the document will place the park's cultural history within a broader regional framework.

Time Frame

The time frame of an archeological overview and assessment depends on the size of the park, the complexity of its archeological resources, and the location of the resources.

Example(s)

- Channel Islands National Park Archaeological Overview and Assessment
- Fort Pulaski National Monument: Archeological Overview and Assessment
- Archeological Overview and Assessment of Maritime Resources in Assateague Island National Seashore, Worcester County, Maryland, and Accomack County, Virginia

Potential Funding Source(s)

Cultural Resources

Key Contact(s)

For assistance in developing an archeological overview and assessment, please consult with the regional archeology program. Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts. (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

* = an assessment, study, or data collection effort that can contribute to the development of a planning document

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Architectural, Engineering, and Landscape Documentation*

Objective

Thorough, comprehensive documentation of park resources provides park cultural resource managers with baseline data—measured drawings, large-format photographs, and written historical reports—to assist in planning efforts for rehabilitation and restoration, and the interpretation of buildings, structures, and landscapes. In addition, data gathered in the documentation process through high-definition laser scanning and digital photogrammetry can be used to create digital interpretive and graphic presentations.

Description of Product or Service

Comprehensive documentation includes Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), and Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS). Documentation of historic sites, structures, and landscapes adhering to *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Architectural, Engineering, and Landscape Documentation* should be completed whenever alteration or demolition are considered, but can be done preemptively for planning and resource stewardship purposes, the creation of new interpretive materials, etc.

Measured drawings are rendered in CAD files that are available for maintenance, rehabilitation, and restoration purposes.

Large-format photographs provide detailed as-is information. Large format captures the equivalent of approximately 50 megapixels of data, providing exceptional details and crisp images.

Historical reports detail the initial construction/development of the site/structure and changes made to it over time, as well as significant contextual information.

Scanning byproducts: Not part of the official documentation created to meet the Secretary's standards, point cloud and other digital data are readily adaptable to electronic media presentations such as fly-throughs, pano-tours, etc.

Among the many products for which professional documentation is particularly useful are:

- Architectural Survey Report
- National Heritage Area Management Plan
- Cultural Landscape Report
- Cultural Landscapes Inventory
- Regional Land Use Planning
- Cultural Resource Management Plan
- Resource Stewardship Strategy
- General Management Plan
- Site Management Plan
- Historic Structure Report
- Special Resource Study
- Integrated Park Improvements Plan
- Visual Resources Inventory
- Visual Resources Management Plan

Documentation can be tailored to specific resources and for specific purposes. Prices may range from $2,000 for a selection of large-format photographs to $75,000 for a comprehensive set of drawings, large-format photographs, and a historical report. Resource size and complexity greatly influence project budget.

Time Frame

Approximately 12 months

Example(s)

Search the collections: http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh/

Potential Funding Source(s)

The NPS Heritage Documentation Programs work closely with resource managers to accommodate need and cost.

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

* = an assessment, study, or data collection effort that can contribute to the development of a planning document

Collection Management Plan

Objective

The collection management plan (CMP) provides short-term and long-term guidance to park and center staffs for the management and care of museum and archival and manuscript collections. Each park must have a collection management plan.

Description of the Product or Service

The collection management plan is one of the primary strategic planning documents for park museum collections. It captures current conditions and practices, identifies park museum management issues, and makes recommendations on how to remedy them, and how to improve the overall management and care of collections. The collection management plan is prepared by a team of experts from outside the park who have expertise in different areas, depending on the types of collections in the park. The team conducts an on-site assessment of collection needs including storage; museum environment; facilities housing collections; preventive conservation and maintenance; housekeeping and cyclic maintenance; documentation; security and fire protection; exhibits; access and use; staffing; and planning, programming, and funding.

The CMP team provides recommendations and identifies funding options to help the park improve its museum program. Once a collection management plan is approved, the park prepares a corrective action plan, which identifies corrective actions, specifies priorities and target dates for completion, identifies responsible individuals, lists needed resources (e.g., funds, staff, supplies), and indicates necessary advance steps (e.g., submitting programming documents to identify needed funding).

Time Frame

4–6 months

Example(s)

- See NPS *Museum Handbook*, Part I, Chapter 3, Section C. The Collection Management Plan; Appendix F, Section C, NPS Collection Management Plan Team Site Visit Checklist; and Section C, NPS Collection Management Plan Team Reference Document Checklist.
- Ask regional curator for examples

Potential Funding Source(s)

Cultural Resources; park-funded

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Collection Storage Plan

Objective

A collection storage plan is an official stand-alone document developed to help a park or center improve the storage conditions for a museum collection. It may be prepared to solve specific storage problems, guide renovation of an existing space into collection storage, or guide the design of a new facility.

In the National Park Service, the product of collection storage planning may be a collection storage plan, a chapter or section on museum collection storage in a collection management plan, a collection condition survey, or an archival assessment. Regardless of the product, some or all of the elements of a collection storage plan, described below, are incorporated into the planning process.

Description of the Product or Service

A collection storage plan must include the following core elements:

- a determination of the size of storage space needed
- a determination and listing of specialized storage equipment needed
- a floor plan illustrating a recommended layout of equipment
- an assessment of object storage techniques and methods and recommendations for improvement
- a solution for park-specified or urgent storage problems

A collection storage plan may also include the following:

- an assessment of the nature of the collection
- an assessment of the existing collection storage facility and/or space(s)
- an assessment of the existing storage conditions in comparison with NPS standards and requirements for storage
- identification and discussion of storage space alternatives

The specific nature of the collection and the availability of funding and staffing are factors to consider when selecting alternative storage options.

Time Frame

3–18 months

Example(s)

Ask regional curator for examples

Potential Funding Source(s)

Cultural Resources

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Cultural Landscape Report*

Objective
To guide park management and preservation treatment decisions for cultural landscapes and landscape features.

Description of the Product or Service
A cultural landscape report is the primary document for guiding management and preservation of cultural landscapes. The report provides managers with an in-depth understanding of the history, evolution, and significance of their properties to enable informed and thoughtful stewardship. A complete cultural landscape report typically includes a narrative site history, an inventory and assessment of existing conditions, an evaluation of significance and integrity using criteria established by the National Register of Historic Places or National Historic Landmarks programs, and most importantly, recommendations for future landscape treatment. Treatment recommendations may take different forms, depending on project objectives, from a set of design or management guidelines to a detailed site plan for rehabilitation or restoration. This content provides the basis for making sound decisions about management, treatment, and use. The cultural landscape methodology is described in the publication, *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports*. (https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/nps/cl_reports.pdf)

A cultural landscape report must be prepared by a team of qualified professionals. Qualifications for preservation professionals are found in "NPS-28: Cultural Resource Management Guideline," appendix E. (https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/nps28/28contents.htm)

Time Frame
12–36 months

Example(s)
See "Find a Cultural Landscape" website (https://www.nps.gov/subjects/culturallandscapes/find.htm)

Potential Funding Source(s)
Cultural Resources

Key Contact(s)
Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

* = an assessment, study, or data collection effort that can contribute to the development of a planning document

Cultural Landscapes Inventory*

Objective

The cultural landscapes inventory is primarily an inventory and analysis product. It has three primary functions: 1) identify cultural landscapes and provide information on their location; 2) record information about cultural landscape resources related to their identification, description, historical development, landscape characteristics and features, and management; and 3) assist managers and cultural resource specialists in determining treatment and management decisions and then to record those decisions.

Description of the Product or Service

Cultural landscapes are settings that people have created in the natural world, ranging from formal gardens to cattle ranches and from cemeteries and pilgrimage routes to village squares. They are special places—expressions of human manipulation and adaptation to the land. Cultural landscapes contain objects, both natural and constructed—plants, fences, watercourses, and buildings. In recent decades, awareness and recognition of cultural landscapes has expanded nationally and internationally. The identification, preservation, and management of cultural landscapes has become an increasingly important concern for the National Park Service. The inventory documents the features and qualities that make a particular cultural landscape significant and worth preserving.

The assemblage of park cultural landscape inventories will result in the comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system. It is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, or otherwise managed as cultural resources. Cultural landscape inventories provide landscape managers with an understanding of the history, evolution, and significance of their properties to enable informed and thoughtful stewardship.

Time Frame

3–18 months

Example(s)

See "Find a Cultural Landscape" website (https://www.nps.gov/subjects/culturallandscapes/find.htm)

Potential Funding Source(s)

Cultural Resources

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

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Cultural Resource Management Plan

Objective

A cultural resource management plan provides specific guidance and sets priorities for the long-term management of park cultural resources.

Description of the Product or Service

The cultural resource management plan is essential to guide overall management direction for cultural resources over a 15- to 20-year period. It provides guidance for management consistent with legislative and regulatory provisions and with implementing policies and procedures such as *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation* (48 Federal Register 44716-740), and *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act* (63 Federal Register 20497-508).

The scope of the plan may be limited to a single cultural resource type (i.e., archeological resources) or comprehensive, encompassing all of a park's cultural resource types. The plan may be developed in response to threats to cultural resources or other pressing management concerns. It identifies cultural resources, future research needs, the most appropriate uses for cultural resources and determines the ultimate treatment (preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, reconstruction), or in certain cases deliberate neglect or destruction. The plan explores alternative management options and provides site-specific direction for long-term management and monitoring. It can also present opportunities for resource-based interpretation and enhanced visitor experience.

Time Frame

1–2 years

Example(s)

- Isle Royale Cultural Resource Management Plan – PEPC 33691
- Knife River Indian Villages Archeological Resources Management Plan and EIS – PEPC 34314
- Cultural Resource Management Plan for Iyat, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve – PEPC 11413

Potential Funding Source(s)

Cultural Resources; Unit Management Plans; Environmental Quality Division – Environmental Impact Analysis (when costs are shared with other sources)

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Cultural Resource Stewardship Assessment*

Objective

The cultural resource stewardship assessment is an in-depth, interdisciplinary process. Regional experts in all cultural resource disciplines work with park staff to assess knowledge and condition of park resources, to discuss strengths and needs in resource management, and to identify and prioritize specific actions to improve stewardship. The results are published in a cultural resource stewardship assessment report.

Description of the Product or Service

A team of regional and park staff collaborate in this process. A set of worksheets focuses the background research and data collection (e.g., through NPS cultural resource databases), and a set of assessment tables focuses the subsequent analysis and serves as a jumping-off point for a broader discussion of cultural resource management program needs and initial actions for addressing them. Details of the process vary by region, but regional staff typically conduct most of the background research and document development.

The cultural resource stewardship assessment process is designed to provide an honest, in-depth assessment for the park superintendent and resource management staff. To facilitate this, it is not tied to any performance evaluation or park scorecard.

The cultural resource stewardship assessment is a valuable stand-alone process and report. It is also considered a prerequisite for conducting a Resource Stewardship Strategy.

Time Frame

Varies by region. Regional key contacts can provide estimates.

Example(s)

Regional key contacts can provide recent, regional-specific examples of cultural resource stewardship assessments.

Potential Funding Source(s)

The process is conducted by regional and park staff.

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

* = an assessment, study, or data collection effort that can contribute to the development of a planning document

Historic Structure Report*

Objective

A historic structure report is prepared to minimize loss of character-defining features and materials when existing information about the developmental history and condition of a historic structure does not provide an adequate basis on which to address anticipated management objectives, when there are alternative courses of action for impending treatment that could have adverse effects, or to record treatment.

Description of the Product or Service

The historic structure report is the primary guide for the treatment and use of a historic structure and its immediate environment. A separate historic structure report should be prepared for every major structure managed as a cultural resource, although groups of similar structures or ensembles of small, simple structures may be addressed in a single report. All plans for rehabilitation, restoration, or reconstruction of any historic structure must be undertaken with an approved historic structure report containing parts 1 and 2. Potential overlaps with other cultural and natural resources will be identified in the historic structure report. A historic structure report and analogous reports (e.g., cultural landscape report) may be combined to address multiple resource types at a single property or area.

Time Frame

6 months–1 year

Example(s)

- Historic Structure Report for Mine Support Structures, Gulf Islands National Seashore, PEPC 50583
- Historic Structure Report for Battery 234 CRF/BCS Tower, Gulf Islands National Seashore, PEPC 50582
- Youngsholm Historic Structure Report, Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Memorial, PEPC 47831

Potential Funding Source(s)

Cultural Resources

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

* = an assessment, study, or data collection effort that can contribute to the development of a planning document

Historic Structure Reuse Plan

Objective

The historic structure reuse plan investigates and identifies adaptive reuse alternatives for historic structures. This implementation plan includes an evaluation, cost analysis, and selection of effective strategies that protect historic resources and meet legal requirements.

Description of the Product or Service

The historic structure reuse plan evaluates alternative long-term uses of selected structures to determine their potential for accommodating the use requirements of the National Park Service. The plan may target individual buildings or structures in a park, specific areas of a park, or be inclusive of the entire park unit. The planning process includes the use of the Total Cost of Facility Ownership calculator for reused historic structures.

Time Frame

1–2 years

Example(s)

- Cape Lookout Village Structures Reuse Implementation Plan, Cape Lookout National Seashore
- East and South Vancouver Barracks Master Plan, Fort Vancouver National Historic Site
- Presidio of San Francisco: Historic Structures Adaptive Reuse Study

Potential Funding Source(s)

Cultural Resources

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Museum Feasibility Report

Objective

To provide to decision makers information in a report that includes the key interpretive goals, building requirements, collections management, cost projection, market analysis, funding analysis, and an implementation schedule for a museum concept.

Description of the Product or Service

The report provides an analysis of the long-term feasibility of a proposed museum. Common content includes the following:

- mission and vision statement
- background information and justification for need of facility
- museum collections and stewardship strategies
- facility programming and exhibits
- governance and organizational structure
- site assessment (locations, storage, facilities)
- capital and operating budget
- funding analysis
- public engagement

The process begins with developing a clear mission and vision for the museum. Once clear goals are set, potential museum collections and stewardship strategies, as well as facility programming and governance options are studied. A site assessment addresses potential locations, storage, and facilities operations. A capital and operating budget and funding analysis are completed, including application of the Total Cost of Ownership calculator for any new, acquired, or rehabilitated structures. Coordination with organizations, stakeholders, and the public is critical to further define the feasibility report.

Time Frame

Variable

Example(s)

Contact regional curator program managers for examples

Potential Funding Source(s)

Park-funded

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Preservation Maintenance Plan

Objective

A preservation maintenance plan addresses the recurring maintenance activities needed to sustain a long-term preservation treatment for a cultural landscape. A preservation maintenance plan is prepared after the completion of a cultural landscape inventory and an FMSS asset inventory. A preservation maintenance plan is also prepared after the implementation of a cultural landscape report treatment plan, to sustain the treated conditions.

Description of the Product or Service

A preservation maintenance plan is a dual product: an illustrated document and a set of FMSS data. It consists of the following four components:

1. The plan identifies the goals of preservation and the historic character to be preserved. It describes the landscape characteristics, contributing features and non-contributing, compatible features that will receive preservation maintenance.
2. The plan identifies cyclic preservation maintenance activities. These activities align with the Recurring Maintenance (RM) work type in FMSS. The plan identifies the objectives, timing, techniques, materials, quantities, and any special requirements for skilled labor for each activity. In addition, RM work orders are prepared and entered into FMSS for the corresponding assets.
3. The preservation maintenance plan includes life-cycle information for the landscape characteristics and features, and anticipates the need for periodic replacement in-kind. These activities align with the Component Renewal (CR) work type in FMSS. Component Renewal work orders are prepared and entered into FMSS for the corresponding assets.
4. The preservation maintenance plan provides inspection guidance for specific landscape characteristics and features for ongoing monitoring and assessment of condition over time.

Time Frame

Variable

Example(s)

None identified

Potential Funding Source(s)

Cultural Resources

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Resource Stewardship Strategy

Objective

A resource stewardship strategy (RSS) is a long-range planning tool for achieving desired natural and cultural resource conditions, which are derived from relevant laws and NPS policies identified in the park's foundation document, general management plan, or other park plans.

Description of the Product or Service

As part of a park planning portfolio, the resource stewardship strategy serves as a bridge between the foundation document and everyday management of natural and cultural resources. The strategy evaluates the major components of the park's priority resources that must be protected; establishes science- and scholarship-based methods to evaluate success in protecting these resources; determines measurable targets for success; and includes a comprehensive strategic plan and desktop application for achieving and maintaining those targets over time. Resource stewardship strategies are reviewed by NPS subject matter experts and decision makers before finalization and approval; however, they are not publicly reviewed decision documents.

A resource stewardship strategy provides a framework and coordinated process for (1) summarizing, evaluating, and communicating the condition of priority park resources and (2) determining what strategies are needed to get us "from where we are to where we want to be." The RSS process helps guide the allocation of financial and human resources for resource stewardship at the park, regional, and servicewide levels.

A coordinated RSS process has been established to provide a streamlined, consistent approach to RSS development. The WASO Directorates of Park Planning, Facilities and Lands; Cultural Resources, Partnerships and Science; and Natural Resource Stewardship and Science are managing this process in collaboration with regional offices and parks.

Time Frame

1 year

Example(s)

Current examples are found on the NPS Resource Stewardship Strategy Program site (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/sites/nps-resource-stewardship-strategy/SitePages/mainpage.aspx)

Potential Funding Source(s)

- Unit Management Plans; Natural Resources
- The Natural Resource Stewardship and Science Program and regional offices will provide additional staffing and travel support to the planning team. Although parks do not bear the costs of developing the resource stewardship strategy, a considerable time commitment is required from park staff during the year-long process.

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Scope of Collection Statement*

Objective

A scope of collection statement (SOCS) defines the scope of the park's museum holdings at the present and for the future. It identifies the scope of the park's collection activities, defines the purpose of the collection, and ensures the collections are relevant to, and support the park's mission. All parks must have an approved and current scope of collection statement.

Description of the Product or Service

The scope of collection statement is the key stand-alone museum planning document that defines the scope of the park's museum collection holdings at the present and for the future. It guides the park in the acquisition and management of those museum objects that contribute directly to the park's mission, as well as those additional collections that the National Park Service is legally mandated to preserve. All museum acquisitions must be consistent with the scope of collection statement.

The scope of collection statement defines the purpose of the museum collection; sets agreed-upon limits that specify the subject matter, geographical location and time period to which the collection must relate; evolves from legislation and planning documents specific to each park and from laws, regulations and NPS policies governing research and specimen collection conducted within park boundaries; states what types of collections will be acquired to fulfill the park's mission; and considers collection use and restrictions. The scope of collection statement is referenced in each park's general management plan, resource management plan, long-range interpretive plan, and other planning documents that may affect the collection of museum objects or their management and use.

Time Frame

4–6 months

Example(s)

See NPS *Museum Handbook*, Part I, Museum Collections, Chapter 2, Scope of Museum Collections and Appendix E: Figure E.1, Example Approved Scope of Collection Statement.

Potential Funding Source(s)

Cultural Resources

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

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FACILITIES

Site Plan / Development Concept Plan

Objective

A site plan, also referred to as a development concept plan or master plan, defines appropriate uses and functions for a site and coordinates the interrelationships among uses, site resources, and facilities; establishes a consistent, unified character for development; and establishes a road map to guide decisions on capital improvements, preservation, and development. The plan addresses issues such as access and transportation, facilities and siting, programmatic requirements, and community interactions.

Description of the Product or Service

Site plans are developed as stand-alone projects or subcomponents of other planning efforts. Often, a two-phase process is followed:

- Phase I includes the development and analysis of alternatives, including NEPA compliance; components of this phase are often combined in an environmental assessment. Products may include site selection and analysis, general program description, conceptual site plans, and general cost estimates.
- Phase II, sometimes known as the master plan phase, occurs *after* the preferred site planning direction has been determined. Usually, the master plan is developed only for the *selected* and *approved* alternative due to the time and cost involved in performing this level of planning for all alternatives. Phase II articulates the vision for the site in greater detail and typically establishes the preferred development character. Products may include a detailed design program, illustrative master plan (plan view), circulation plan, design guidelines, character sketches, phasing, and more detailed cost estimates.

Time Frame

Variable

Example(s)

- Desert View Inter-tribal Cultural Heritage Site Plan, Grand Canyon National Park (https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=65&projectID=53814&documentID=89530)
- Nature Center Complex Development Concept Plan, Rock Creek Park (https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=198&projectID=67384&documentID=93820)

Potential Funding Source(s)

Recreation Fee; Unit Management Plans

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Strategic Facility Investment Plan

Objective

The need for holistic planning that positions mission-critical facility projects for timely execution has become increasingly important for completing work through changes in park leadership, fund sources, and visitation trends. Through a strategic facility investment plan (SFIP), parks identify their highest-priority facility investment needs and determine a financially and operationally sustainable path to address them. The strategic plan guides parks through the process of creating a shared vision and goals with a comprehensive program of fiscally informed and well-sequenced facility projects to meet goals over a 5– to 10–year horizon. A strategic plan helps parks create stronger project justifications by (1) outlining how facility investments align with park and agency priorities; (2) acting as a roadmap for resolving complex facility management issues; and (3) preparing for major investments, as outlined in the Facility Investment Strategy. Given the increased focus and attention on infrastructure and modernization at a national level, the SFIP process also allows NPS leadership to better understand priority needs across the National Park Service and more effectively communicate those needs to Congress and the Department of the Interior and Office of Management and Budget. Ultimately, strategic facility investment planning helps decision makers produce sound facility investments and successfully obligate and execute projects.

Description of the Product or Service

Strategic facility investment plans are not a single process or product, but rather a suite of tools and processes to identify strategic investment priorities, develop a park's program of projects, and help inform and shape a more pragmatic project funding strategy. The strategic plan is a holistic approach that results in successful execution of work and a focused commitment, even through personnel transitions. The deliverables of a strategic facility investment plan are a strategic plan and a program of projects.

The strategic plan is a document that identifies the park's highest-priority facility needs and guides facility project development and execution to accomplish key goals, as identified by a multidisciplinary park-based team.

The program of projects is a list of projects and project concepts derived from the strategic plan. The program of projects guides project development by identifying, bundling, and sequencing projects annually to park priorities, operational needs, and anticipated funding/staffing levels to accomplish the strategic plan.

There are six overarching phases of the SFIP process: (1) initiate, (2) analyze, (3) plan, (4) adopt, (5) generate, and (6) implement. This structure provides the flexibility parks need to design a plan that aligns with both the resources and skills they have and the outcomes they desire to achieve.

The SFIP Toolbox (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/sites/nps-ppss/SitePages/SFIPToolbox.aspx) (in development) facilitates the SFIP planning process. This open-source toolbox provides a park with the resources to self-direct the process from start to finish with assistance from the Facility Planning Branch (FPB) team, which is part of the Park Planning and Special Studies Division.

Time Frame

6–12 months

Example(s)

The strategic facility investment plan was first piloted in 2019. Pilot parks included Mount Rainier National Park, Acadia National Park, and Hot Springs National Park. The SFIP Toolbox builds on the findings from these pilot plans.

Potential Funding Source(s)

The SFIP Toolbox allows parks to complete self-directed planning with only targeted assistance (i.e., meeting facilitation and consultation) from Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands (PPFL), and regional staff. Initially, the PPFL Directorate will focus planning resources and assistance to support strategic plans at the 50 units that account for the majority of the National Park Service's deferred maintenance backlog, units with the highest visitation, or other units nominated by regional directorates (the 50 units are listed in the appendixes of the "Facility Investment Strategy"). Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands will begin completing strategic plans for the 50 identified parks in fiscal year 2021 and complete them by the end of fiscal year 2025.

(continued on next page)

Strategic Facility Investment Plan (continued)

About the 2020-2021 GFIP Effort NEW

From November 2020 to April 2021, the Facility Planning Branch is supporting parks and regions in preparation for the Great American Outdoors Act's (GAOA) Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF). The Facility Planning Branch is conducting GAOA Facility Investment Plans (GFIPs) at 75 parks with high visitation and significant asset portfolios to identify a prioritized suite of LRF-eligible projects for fiscal years 2023–2025. Many parks undergoing the GFIP planning process are scheduled to complete a strategic plan by 2025. A park's approved LRF project(s) will serve as the cornerstone for its SFIP strategic plan and program of projects.

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Trail Management / Stewardship Plan

Objective

A trail management plan is a strategic tool to guide the future course of park trail management and development. The broad purpose of the plan is to identify management objectives and strategies to guide the development, protection, management, maintenance, and use of the trail system to meet new challenges and opportunities.

Description of the Product or Service

The trail management planning process typically encompasses identifying issues, assessing the existing trail system, establishing objectives, providing for engagement with the public, developing alternatives for the park's current and future trail network(s), and conducting the appropriate environmental analysis for compliance with NEPA. The planning document may discuss proposed locations for trails and trailheads; trail construction, management, and operation guidelines; and allowable uses. When applicable, it prescribes policies to streamline interagency management. Factors that influence the scope of the plan and project cost and time frame include data needs; size of the trail system; and extent of public involvement activities and level of public input, among others.

Time Frame

1–3 years

Example(s)

- Petroglyph National Monument Visitor Use Management Plan / Environmental Assessment (https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=66887)
- Cabrillo National Monument Trail Management Plan (https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=290&projectID=87485&documentID=94635)

Potential Funding Source(s)

Unit Management Plans; Park Facilities Management Division fund sources; Recreation Fees

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Transportation Plan / Long-Range Transportation Plan

Objective

In order for the National Park Service to utilize Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 23 highway funds, the Federal Lands Highway Administration requires consistency with a principal set of rules and regulations defined in CFR 23, regarding highways.

In response to these rules and regulations, the National Park Service established the Long-Range Transportation Planning Program to coordinate and align national, regional, and unit level transportation planning with national long-range transportation plan performance goals and strategies. The planning process typically includes the following:

- Initial scoping or preliminary planning to assess appropriate scale and complexity
- Comprehensive evaluation of the transportation systems needs
- Assessment of available transportation finance
- Financial scenarios that align prioritized need with available transportation funding
- Analysis of existing and future funding including fiscally sustainable investment strategies
- Define quantitative and qualitative targets to monitor the performance of the system and program
- Strategies and tools to effectively manage the transportation system, identify data gaps and communicate funding needs
- Analysis of transportation data from existing and future asset management systems
- Inventory and prioritization of transportation assets (including roads, bridges, trails, multi-model transportation systems, etc.)
- Long- and short-term performance targets and strategies

Strategic in nature, this type of planning is scalable and should align as well as support regional programming priorities.

Description of the Product or Service

Transportation planning is strategic and should identify transportation priorities and align investments in support of a fiscally constrained and sustainable investment strategy for both the short and long term. As a multidisciplinary product, transportation planning typically addresses the following components to prioritize transportation investments: visitor experience, natural and cultural resources, climate change / resiliency, sustainability and livability, asset management, funding and financial considerations, national - performance measures, and regional - goals and objectives.

Time Frame

6 months to 2 years (dependent on project scale and complexity)

Example(s)

- National Long Range Transportation Plan (2017) (https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/National_Long_Range_Transportation_Plan_508-Compliant-for-WEB_July_2017.pdf#page=11)
- Transportation Plan, Acadia National Park (https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=58482)
- Long Range Transportation Plan (2018), Denali National Park (https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=49953)

Potential Funding Source(s)

Federal Lands Transportation Program – 5% planning funds; Unit Management Plans

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Fire

Fire Management Plan

Objective

The purpose of a fire management plan (FMP) is to provide guidance for firefighters and provide for public safety; to develop fire management strategies, tactics, and alternatives; to identify significant values for protective management actions; and to maintain consistency with resource management objectives, area activities, and environmental laws and regulations.

Description of the Product or Service

A fire management plan defines a program to manage wildland fires (wildfire and prescribed fire). The development of a fire management plan follows an FMP Framework developed by the Department of Interior and further enhanced by the NPS. The required degree of detail mirrors the complexity of the park unit. The fire management plan contains management actions to suppress, contain, or allow it, both within and outside park unit boundaries. The plan describes fire management goals and objectives developed by park unit staff and should relate directly to the park's general management plan and natural and cultural resource management plans so that it can help to achieve resource management objectives. Parks with little historical occurrence of wildfire may be eligible to use a document known as the "Wildfire Emergency Response Procedures" (WERP) that fulfills the departmental requirement to have a "plan" for dealing with a wildfire response. The WERP is used for park units that do not have fire personnel, and therefore, the response is provided by other bureau or agency fire management units.

The fire management plan must be reviewed and updated annually to ensure currency with laws and management objectives and to evaluate conformity and compliance with the annual work program. Currently, fire management plans can be developed in a text-based format, spatially represented on mapsheets or in an online forum such as ArcGIS Online.

Fire management plans are considered implementation plans and therefore must be fully compliant with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. Environmental compliance for fire management plan development is typically completed in concurrence with procedures identified in Director's Order 12: *Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-Making*. Consult with the regional fire management officer for specific details.

Time Frame

Variable depending on complexity

Example(s)

Consult with regional fire management officer

Potential Funding Source(s)

Park and/or region wildland fire "support" dollars with contributed input from ONPS-funded staff; individual project requests for fuels project planning

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Foundation Document

Foundation Document

Objective

Each unit of the national park system is required to have a formal statement of its core mission that will provide basic guidance for all planning and management decisions—a foundation for planning and management. The development of a park foundation document provides the opportunity to integrate and coordinate all kinds and levels of planning from a single, shared understanding of what is most important about the park.

Description of the Product or Service

The park foundation is developed as a collaborative effort among park staff and specialists in various program areas. The multidisciplinary approach provides the opportunity for a variety of sources and hierarchies of information about a park unit to be compiled and integrated. The information is then refined and focused to determine the most important attributes of the park.

A park foundation describes the core mission of the park unit by identifying the purpose, significance, fundamental and other important resources and values, interpretive themes, special mandates and administrative commitments, and the unit's setting in the regional context. It also presents an assessment of planning and data needs that will guide future planning efforts for the park unit. These components are briefly described below:

- The park purpose statement identifies the specific reason(s) for establishment of a particular park.
- Significance statements express why a park's resources and values are important enough to merit designation as a unit of the national park system.
- Fundamental resources and values are those that warrant primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance.
- Other important resources or values are those that are determined to be integral to park planning and management, even if they are not related to the park's purpose.
- Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park.
- Many management decisions for a park unit are directed or influenced by special mandates and administrative commitments.
- The assessment of planning and data needs presents planning issues, the planning projects that will address these issues, and the associated information requirements for planning, such as resource inventories and data collection, including GIS data. The assessment includes: (1) an analysis of fundamental and other important resources and values, (2) the identification of key issues and associated planning and data needs, and (3) the identification of planning and data needs (including spatial mapping activities or GIS maps).

Time Frame

12–18 months

Example(s)

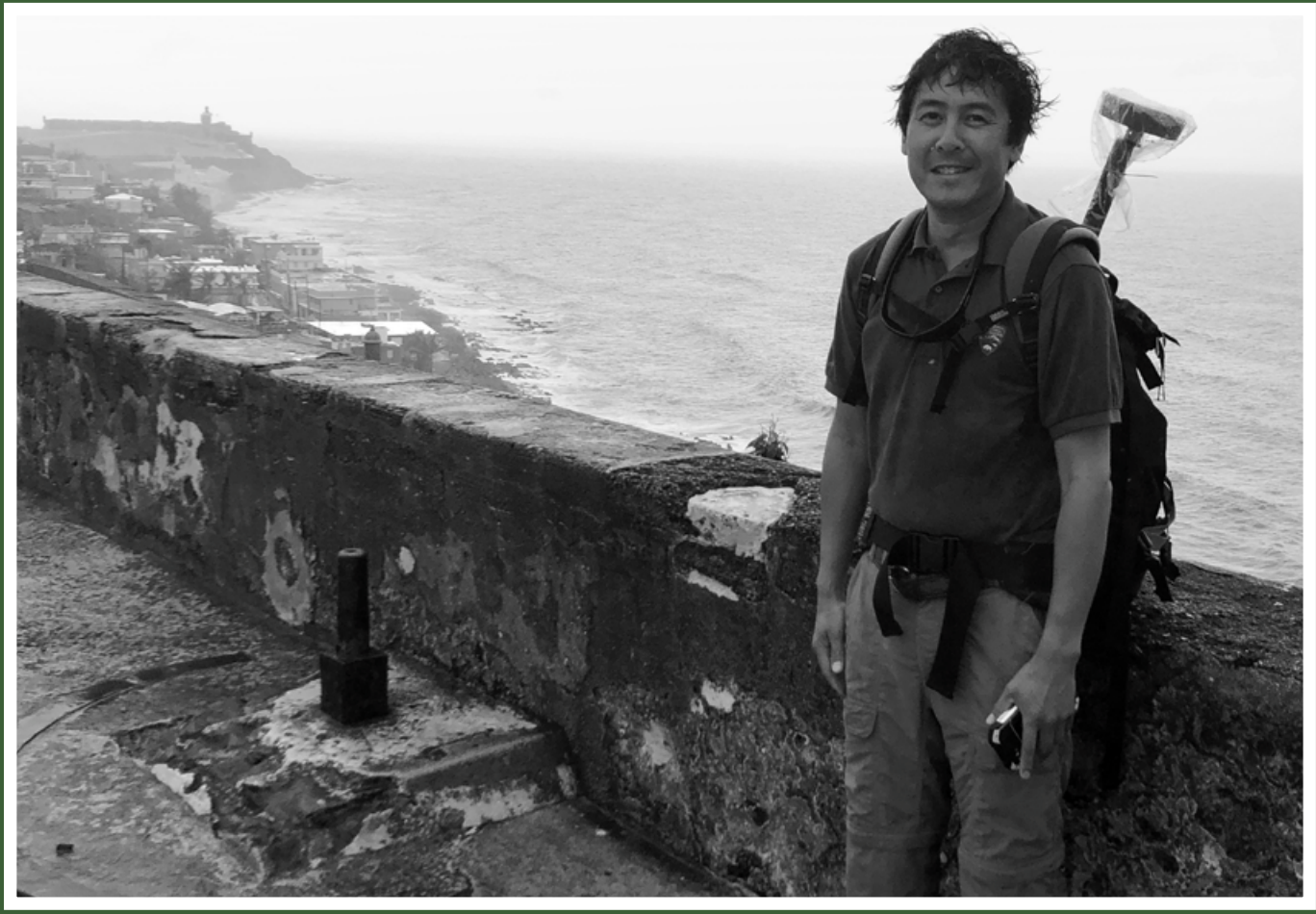
https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/sites/nps-ppss/SitePages/Foundations.aspx?csf=1&web=1&e=FV8FlS

Potential Funding Source(s)

Unit Management Plans

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)



GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

3-D Spatial Data Visualization and Modeling ◊

Objective

Create and provide three dimensional spatial data visualization to enhance understanding of project issues. Optionally with adequate data, visualizations can be created to demonstrate changes over time.

Description of Product or Service

In a manipulatable computer environment, spatial data may be depicted in a variety of three dimensional formats allowing greater insight and perspective of the data. Three dimensional computer models depicting proposed structures can be shown in relation to surrounding landscapes or other features in a topographically correct map setting. If needed, three dimensional renderings may be animated to show changes over time. Changes with time can be modeled or based on recorded data.

Time Frame

Variable: Minimum 2 weeks

Example(s)

- 3-D terrain visualization showing viewshed analysis results
- Modeled traffic visualization showing expected usage of roads over time
- 3-D model of proposed visitor center placed on aerial imagery draped on topographic data

Potential Funding Source(s)

Unit Management Plans; Special Resource Studies; park-funded; regional GIS programs

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

◊ = assistance or service provided by a program or office

ArcGIS Story Map ◊

Objective

To create project-targeted, multi-purpose, and shared ArcGIS story maps for parks, regions, and programs in support of short- or long-term project goals. For more information on ArcGIS story maps, visit https://storymaps.arcgis.com/en/

Description of Product or Service

Esri Story Maps let you combine authoritative maps with narrative text, images, and multimedia content. They make it easy to harness the power of maps and geography to tell your story. Story maps are used for communication to a wide variety of audiences and are effective complements to traditional plans, reports, and newsletters. Story maps may also be used to facilitate presentations replacing standard slide shows.

Time Frame

Variable

Example(s)

- The Park Atlas Program (https://arcg.is/1bPe08)
- Whiskeytown National Recreation Area Trail Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (http://bit.ly/2qAehpM)
- Denver Service Center Annual Report (https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1804/dscdirector.htm)

Potential Funding Source(s)

Variable

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

◊ = assistance or service provided by a program or office

GIS Analysis ◊

Objective

To provide geographic information systems (GIS) analysis, also known as spatial analysis, to parks, regions, and programs to better leverage location information and identify spatial trends and correlations. GIS analysis can markedly increase understanding of management proposals and actions through a scientifically based process.

Description of Product or Service

There are a variety of GIS analysis products available to serve a wide range of project needs. GIS analysis is typically completed as part of an existing project or plan, but can also be completed as a stand-alone GIS product to serve specific park or program needs. GIS analysis may use a variety of existing data sources from all sectors of government as well as private sources. Where needed data are not available, data can be created or collected from the field at additional cost. Analysis results are summarized along with methodology that clearly states data sources, quality, and assumptions or interpolations applied. The precise methods can result from iterative analysis with variable adjustment in close interaction with project staff. Final data products from analysis are formatted in established standards and fully documented with standard metadata. The following are just a few types of GIS analysis products:

- **Suitability Analysis.** Identify the locations most suitable for development, resource protection, etc., based on the relationship between multiple layers of GIS information.
- **Overlay Analysis.** Understand critical areas of need or "hotspots" based on the additive layering of several GIS layers. Similar to Suitability Analysis, Overlay Analysis allows for identification of spatial correlations that may not otherwise be readily evident.
- **Temporal/Change Analysis.** Identify spatial change over time by comparing time-stamped layers. Change Analysis may be used to identify trends and correlations over small or large areas.
- **Viewshed Analysis.** Understand what can and cannot be seen from a particular location; identify locations where new development can be seen.
- **3-D Analysis.** Visualize and analyze resources in a 3-D environment to increase understanding of planned management actions. (See "3-D Spatial Data Visualization and Modeling" in this catalog.)
- **Asset Analysis.** Link facilities management software system variables to spatial data to visualize and analyze facility condition, priority, and deferred maintenance.

The following are just a few of the typical planning products where GIS analyses can be applied throughout the project lifecycle:

- General/Unit Management Plan – identify management zoning and analyze impacts.
- Climate Change Scenario Planning – analyze and visualize climate change impacts (sea level rise, erosion, habitat change, etc.) on park resources.
- Fire Management Plans – identify management zoning and analyze and model impacts.
- Visitor Use Management Plans – identify, analyze, and visualize density and distribution of park visitors as well as analyze impacts of particular planned management actions.
- Visual Resources Inventory and Management – provide understanding of visual resources via viewshed and 3-D analyses.

Time Frame

Variable

Example(s)

Park Transportation Investment Needs Analysis (PaTINA)

Potential Funding Source(s)

GIS analysis may be a component of a larger project funded under Unit Management Plans and other fund sources; regional GIS programs

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

◊ = assistance or service provided by a program or office

GIS Park Atlas ◊

Objective

The purpose of the park atlas is to support park projects and daily operations as well as to facilitate planning decisions as a GIS-based planning support tool. The park atlas is used in several areas of operation including planning, law enforcement, and resource protection. See The Park Atlas Program story map at https://arcg.is/1bPe08 for detailed information.

Description of the Product or Service

A park atlas is a geographic information system (GIS) product that is published as electronic geospatial data in a web-mapping environment. The park atlas contains a variety of GIS data vetted by park and regional staff and is designed to synchronize with park, regional, and national data workflows. Data are organized and presented to facilitate park operations and conform to NPS cartographic standards. Park atlases provide for rapid data discovery and utilization for park projects. Park atlases may be used to create hard copy maps, display any data along with core park data, and perform basic geospatial operations such as spatial queries and overlays. Each park atlas also has a "save project" tool that allows a unique version of the atlas to be saved and shared interactively with project teams.

Discipline-Specific Atlas. For parks that already have the comprehensive "park atlas" product and want to focus more in-depth on a specific topic, there is the option to create an atlas that is focused on a particular discipline (i.e., cultural resources, climate change, climbing, fire management, etc.). The discipline-specific atlas can contain much more detail than the typical park atlas, often at a larger scale, and could also contain text descriptions and other media and could be paper and/or web-based.

Time Frame

Variable

Example(s)

http://insideparkatlas.nps.gov and public-facing park atlases at https://park-atlas-public-nps.opendata.arcgis.com/

Potential Funding Source(s)

Unit Management Plans (as part of the park foundation document project); regional GIS programs

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

◊ = assistance or service provided by a program or office

GIS Project Web Mapping ◊

Objective

To create project-targeted, multi-purpose, shared web maps to parks, regions, and programs in support of short- or long-term project goals.

Description of Product or Service

Web maps allow project teams to view relevant data in a dynamic interface via browser, tablet, or smartphone. Maps can be configured with specific permissions from small team only (including interagency) to publicly accessible. Dynamic web maps can be built to allow users to draw on the map or update critical site information that can be saved to a database and saved to the map in real time. Interfaces can be configured to allow printing of user-customized maps for meetings or field work. Web maps can also be simultaneously live-viewed and updated by multiple teammates in dispersed locations. Web maps have been successfully used in internal and public meetings, projected for common viewing. Depending on project needs, web maps can be configured to allow for measuring lengths and areas, spatial querying, simple geoanalysis, and data creation and collection. Web maps can also use external live data sources to view real-time conditions such as weather, stream flows, or other types of information.

Depending on project needs, the Denver Service Center – Planning Division can host web maps for short- or long-term. Web maps can be embedded in existing web pages (nps.gov, PEPC) or added as links.

Time Frame

Variable; as short as one week for simple web maps

Example(s)

See https://dscp-nps.opendata.arcgis.com/

Potential Funding Source(s)

Unit Management Plans; Special Resource Studies; park-funded; regional GIS programs

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

◊ = assistance or service provided by a program or office

Real-Time GIS Service ◊

Objective

To facilitate rapid geospatial recognition, insight, and query of project data via the application of geographic information systems (GIS) tools and geographic data browsing capabilities in real time during meetings and one-on-one cooperation with principal investigators and project managers.

Description of Product or Service

Real-time GIS consists of a skilled specialist providing on-the-fly application of GIS tools and data visualization capabilities during meetings or one-on-one work sessions. Denver Service Center GIS staff familiarize themselves with project goals and prepare project data for exploration during meetings to answer questions that arise during the course of discussion, and provide visual perspectives on project data and areas. Map views are projected in large-screen format and can be shared via web meeting software with remote meeting attendees. Capabilities of real-time GIS include:

- Explore geospatial options and juxtapositions such as with facility or zone placement.
- Instantaneous and accurate geometrics such as area, distance, and perimeter measurements. Real-time questions such as "How many acres would that be if we placed the boundary here?" can be reliably answered.
- Geospatial visualizations of project data including ground-level, oblique aerial and landscape fly-through perspectives.
- Documentation of iterative spatial configuration considerations and options that arise during the course of a meeting.
- Instantaneous answers to a variety of geospatial questions including simple intersections or correlations of project data. For example, provided the data are on hand, a skilled GIS specialist can quickly answer a question such as "How many deer were observed in this area?" or "What does 10 feet off each side of the trail look like over the whole area?"

Real-time GIS service can be scheduled for group meetings or individual sessions with project managers and principal investigators.

Time Frame

Variable

Example(s)

Not applicable

Potential Funding Source(s)

Park-funded; program-funded; component of a planning project funded under another fund source

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

◊ = assistance or service provided by a program or office

Interpretation

Long-Range Interpretive Plan

Objective

A long-range interpretive plan provides a vision for the future (5–10 years) of interpretation, education, and visitor experience opportunities at a park unit. The plan identifies and analyzes interpretation, education, and visitor experience goals and issues. The plan recommends the most effective, efficient, and practical way to address those goals and issues.

Description of the Product or Service

A long-range interpretive plan identifies the park's interpretive themes, describes visitor experience goals and recommends a wide variety of both personal (programs, personal contacts) and nonpersonal (interpretive media and facilities) interpretive services and outreach activities that will best communicate the park's purpose, significance, and themes. Plans match interpretive media to messages to make sure they work well individually and collectively. The interpretive planning process identifies interpretive themes for key park fundamental resources and values. A long-range interpretive plan is the heart of a park's comprehensive interpretive plan. The other two components are the park-produced annual implementation plan and the corresponding park-produced interpretive database. The comprehensive interpretive plan is a tool for making choices. It helps parks decide what their objectives are, who their audiences are, and what mix of media and personal services to use.

Time Frame

8–12 months

Example(s)

Numerous examples can be found at https://www.nps.gov/subjects/hfc/interpretive-planning.htm

Potential Funding Source(s)

Interpretation and Education; Recreation Fee; park-funded

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE • U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR • PLANNING CATALOG

National Heritage Areas

National Heritage Area Management Plan

Objective

The objective of the national heritage area management plan is to develop a roadmap for management, program/project implementation, and interpretation of the national heritage area for the planning period, typically 10–15 years.

Description of the Product or Service

National heritage areas (NHA) are designated by Congress as places where natural, cultural, and historic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important landscape. Through public-private partnerships, NHA entities support historic preservation, natural resources conservation, recreation, heritage tourism, and educational projects. The National Park Service provides technical, planning, and limited financial assistance to national heritage areas. It serves as a partner and advisor, leaving decision-making authority in the hands of local people and organizations.

National heritage area management plans are conducted in accordance with the law designating a national heritage area and with guidelines of the National Heritage Area Program. The named local coordinating entity is responsible for the preparation of national heritage area management plans. The plan describes comprehensive policies, strategies, and recommendations for telling the story of the region's heritage and encouraging long-term resource protection, management, and development of the national heritage area. Typical plan components include: resource inventory; foundation vision, mission, goals, and interpretive themes; comprehensive policies, strategies, and recommendations; actions and commitments of partners, existing and potential sources of funding; implementation and interpretation plans; and a business plan.

Time Frame

3–4 years

Example(s)

- Northern Plains National Heritage Area Management Plan, PEPC 78223 (https://parkplanning.nps.gov/documentsList.cfm?projectID=78223)
- Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Management Plan, PEPC 22438 (https://parkplanning.nps.gov/documentsList.cfm?projectID=22438)

Potential Funding Source(s)

The NHA local coordinating entity and heritage area partners fund the plan

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Natural Resources

Cave and Karst Management Plan

Objective

The purpose of this management plan is to provide a consistent framework for managing cave and karst resources in and around a park and to work cooperatively with partners within the broader region. The plan provides direction to protect and conserve all caves in the park and its entire karst groundwater system through the use of science to promote stewardship and understanding. The plan is needed to address resource protection issues and support sustainable public enjoyment, education, and research efforts.

Description of the Product or Service

A comprehensive park cave and karst management plan should guide the following:

- Clarify park policies to protect cave and karst resources while providing an appropriate level of access.
- Develop management strategies to address resource protection of good quality cave and karst resources and restoration of degraded cave and karst resources, where needed.
- Provide safety information for accessing caves, while recognizing that some desire an experience that is more challenging, and that research activities can carry inherent risks.
- Develop visitor use management strategies that ensure valuable visitor experiences within the cave, while also mitigating levels of impact to the natural and cultural resources.
- Include a compilation of management policies, practices, and actions related to resource protection, physical security, safety, operations, and maintenance.
- Identify restoration, rehabilitation, and modification objectives for natural or man-made cave entrances for resource protection and visitor access.
- Identify structural upgrades and management strategies to mitigate impacts from infiltration of poor quality or inappropriate quantities of water.
- Promote accessibility and universal access where appropriate.
- Develop and maintain partnerships to promote responsible research, resource protection, and sustainable use at the park.
- Develop monitoring strategies using sound science to ensure quality visitor experiences and protection of the sensitive cave and karst resources in addition to informing park management decisions.
- Promote scientific and cultural study of the park's caves and karst environment to develop a greater understanding and better protection of caves and karst worldwide.

Time Frame

1–3 years

Example(s)

Mammoth Cave National Park Cave and Karst Management Plan / Environmental Assessment

Potential Funding Source(s)

Natural Resources; region-, network-, or park-funded; Unit Management Plans

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Technical Assistance ◊

Objective

This technical assistance service assists and supports park staff in addressing specific issues related to fishing, fisheries management, aquatic species and habitat restoration and conservation, and aquatic invasive species prevention and mitigation.

Description of the Product or Service

The most common product resulting from a technical assistance request is a trip report with recommended actions and activities. Other work products that may result from technical assistance requests include reviews of current literature or data, technical reports, study/sample design, development of study proposals or plans, memoranda of understanding or agreement, and representation in interagency forums or at public meetings.

People and offices likely to be involved in a technical assistance request include:

- **Internal Involvement.** Park unit, Denver Service Center NEPA staff, network inventory and monitoring staff, regional planning staff, Environmental Quality Division, Water Resources Division staff, and solicitor.
- **External Involvement.** State fisheries management agency and/or department of natural resources, tribal governments, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (if coastal unit with marine fish), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, other federal agencies, and various nongovernment stakeholders.

To obtain technical assistance, enter a request in Solution for Technical Assistance Requests or STAR (https://irma.nps.gov/Star/). Requests can be submitted annually through the Natural Resources Stewardship and Science technical assistance call or as an ad-hoc request throughout the year.

Time Frame

Assistance may consist of single consultations or multi-year efforts

Example(s)

- Cuyahoga Valley National Park – Virginia Kendall Reservoir Study Report
- Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve – Topeka Shiner Management

Potential Funding Source(s)

Initial and short-term costs may be borne by the NRSS Water Resources Division. Additional funds may be required to cover costs related to multiple site visits (trips to the park) or for the publication of reports and plans.

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

◊ = assistance or service provided by a program or office

Fisheries Management Plan/Aquatic Resources Management Plan

Objective

A fisheries management plan provides guidance for recreational fishing opportunities for visitors, while ensuring conservation of native species and aquatic ecosystems. An aquatic resources management plan may be desirable to address issues that are not directly related to fishing such as native species reintroduction or habitat restoration.

Description of the Product or Service

The process for developing the plan includes the review, analysis, and summary of existing data; internal and public scoping; participation of interdisciplinary teams; alternatives development; environmental assessment or impact analysis; and preparation of the decision document. The scope of the plan reflects the scale of the fisheries management area(s), the level of participation of and provision of technical assistance from partners, the availability of current data on the distribution and abundance of species and habitats, and the need for interaction with potential threatened and endangered species. These factors influence the project's cost and time frame.

People and offices likely to be involved in a fisheries management planning effort include:

- **Internal Involvement.** Park unit, regional natural resources and planning staff, Denver Service Center NEPA staff, network inventory and monitoring staff, Environmental Quality Division, Water Resources Division staff, and solicitor.
- **External Involvement.** State fisheries or natural resources management programs, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (if the park is a coastal unit with marine fish), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, other federal agencies, and nongovernmental organizations.

Time Frame

2–3 years

Example(s)

Biscayne National Park Fisheries Management Plan

Potential Funding Source(s)

Natural Resources; Water Resources High Priority Fund (for limited or pilot plans); Challenge Cost Share

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Hunting Management Plan

Objective

Hunting is strictly prohibited in national park units unless there is specific park legislation that lifts the prohibition against hunting. For a park where hunting is permitted, the objectives of the plan are to present alternatives that are in the best interest of park resources and the public, while meeting the requirements set forth by the National Park Service, the park enabling legislation, and all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Description of the Product or Service

Internal scoping, public scoping, facilitation of interdisciplinary team, alternatives development, appropriate environmental analysis, and preparation of the decision document are among the products/ services provided. The scope of the plan depends on the level of public involvement, number of species that will be hunted, the scale of wildlife management area, whether there is already hunting at the unit, cooperation of partners such as states and others, whether current data are available on modeling of population of game/wildlife species, interaction with potential threatened and endangered or other at-risk species, and whether facilities will be required for access. These factors influence project costs and time frame.

People and offices likely to be involved in a hunting management planning effort include:

- **Internal Involvement.** Park unit, Denver Service Center NEPA staff, network inventory and monitoring staff, regional planning staff, Biological Resources Division staff, and solicitor.
- **External Involvement.** State wildlife agency and/ or department of natural resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other Federal agencies.

Time Frame

Variable

Example(s)

Big Cypress Hunting Management Plan

Potential Funding Source(s)

Environmental Quality Division – Environmental Impact Analysis; Unit Management Plans

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Integrated Pest Management Plan

Objective

Integrated pest management planning is a decision-making process that coordinates knowledge of pest biology, the environment, and available technology to prevent unacceptable levels of pest damage by cost-effective means while posing the least possible risk to people, resources, and the environment.

Description of the Product or Service

There is no standard format for integrated pest management (IPM) plans because they are site specific and should be designed to help meet a park's specific pest management objectives. However, IPM plans have several key components:

- **Background.** Briefly discuss the need to manage pests at the park site.
- **Site description(s).** Document the conditions at the park site.
- **Objectives.** Identify the specific pest(s) that require management and indicate the condition(s) to be attained to consider pest management at the site a success. Pest management objectives should be attainable, time-specific, and measurable.
- **Consensus building and partnerships.** Identify partnerships the park will use to help meet the park's pest management objectives. Build consensus with potential stakeholders in deciding pest management plans, actions, and goals.
- **Pest biology.** Describe the life history of each pest species, including factors relevant to its introduction, growth, dispersal, reproduction, etc.
- **Monitoring and mapping.** Clearly define monitoring and mapping protocols and who will be responsible for these activities.
- **Action thresholds.** An action threshold is the point at which action is taken to reduce the pest population. Establish clear action thresholds before implementing management strategies to reduce the pest populations.
- **Review of management options and tools.** Include a comprehensive review of known management options and their efficacy, and approval and reporting requirements for use of pesticides.
- **Compliance with applicable authorities.** Before implementing any pest management strategy, ensure that the park is complying with applicable authorities.
- **Select pest management strategies and prioritization.** Identify the management strategies the park will employ to manage pest(s) based on the analysis of available tools and their associated benefits and risks.

Some IPM plans may rise to the level of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement if the pest management issue is more complicated. Regional IPM coordinators and Biological Resources Division staff can provide examples of plans, templates, and guidance to park staff.

Time Frame

Less than 12 months for a typical IPM plan and associated compliance

Example(s)

Numerous IPM related resources can be found by contacting your Regional IPM coordinator

Potential Funding Source(s)

Park-funded; regional funding support

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Integrated Vegetation Management Plan

Objective

To provide one or more parks with frameworks and specific technical support for integrated vegetation management planning.

Description of the Product or Service

There is not a template for an integrated vegetation management plan. Integrated vegetation management plans:

- provide opportunity for parks to clearly define desired conditions for appropriate plant communities and species.
- provide coordination of existing vegetation-related plans or operations, including but not limited to fire management plans, rights-of-way management agreements, invasive species management plans, hazard tree plans, highway revegetation projects, and plant material assessments.
- provide coordination with threatened and endangered or other species specific plans and projects, and native ungulate and/or domestic livestock management plans or operations.

Biological Resources Division staff can provide a variety of resources and expertise to help parks that are interested in developing this type of plan, but the division does not have dedicated resources to develop plans or plan components for parks.

People and offices likely to be involved in integrated vegetation management planning efforts include:

- **Internal Involvement.** Park unit, regional natural and cultural resources staff, fire program staff, inventory and monitoring network staff, Biological Resources Division, Environmental Quality Division, Exotic Plant Management Team (EPMT) liaisons, and Denver Service Center.
- **External Involvement.** State departments of natural resources and/or state natural heritage programs, tribal governments, other federal land management agencies, state or county weed districts, private land owners surrounding parks, managers of rights-of-ways through parks, U.S. Geological Survey, and university experts.

Time Frame

2–12 months

Example(s)

Check with Landscape Restoration and Adaptation Branch, Biological Resources Division, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science

Potential Funding Source(s)

Park-funded

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Invasive Species Management Plan – Terrestrial

Objective

To provide one or more parks with tools, techniques, and approaches to reduce the risk of terrestrial invasive species introduction, establishment, and spread.

Description of the Product or Service

There is not a template for an invasive species management plan, but there are a variety of resources available for both invasive plant and animal management. Example documents describe the current best practices for prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, and monitoring of one or more invasive species, and identify activities and approaches to minimize the introduction and spread with optimal use of NPS staff and funding. The scope of the plans, and therefore the time frame and cost, will vary depending on the scope and complexity of the issue, species addressed, and sources of expertise.

The Invasive Plant Management Planning – Technical Considerations Natural Resource Report (https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2257574) provides an overview of key technical concepts and critical information needed to develop the content of an effective invasive plant management plan; the core concepts apply to invasive animal species as well.

People and offices likely to be involved in invasive species management planning efforts include:

- **Internal Involvement.** Park unit, regional natural and cultural resources staff, network inventory and monitoring staff, Biological Resources Division, Environmental Quality Division, and Exotic Plant Management Team (EPMT) liaisons.
- **External Involvement.** State departments of natural resources, tribal governments, other federal land management agencies and private landowners surrounding the park, U.S. Geological Survey, and university experts.

Time Frame

3–16 months

Example(s)

Look in PEPC for:

- Invasive Plant Management Plan/EA for National Capital Region (NCR) parks (2016)
- Invasive Plant Management Plan and Environmental Assessment for Redwood National Park and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (2017)
- Management and Removal of Feral Animals in Upper Elevations of Nu'u, Maui (2016)

Potential Funding Source(s)

Park-funded

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Invasive Species Plan – Aquatic Resources

Objective

To provide one or more parks with tools, techniques, and approaches to reduce the risk of aquatic invasive species introduction, establishment, and spread.

Description of the Product or Service

This plan or guidance document describes the current best practices for prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, and containment of one or more invasive species and identifies activities and approaches to minimize the introduction and spread with optimal use of NPS staff and funding. The document will identify available resources for monitoring, analysis, training, and education/outreach. The scope of the plan, and therefore, the time frame and cost, will vary depending on the scope and complexity of the issue, species addressed, and sources of expertise.

People and offices likely to be involved in an invasive species planning effort include:

- **Internal Involvement.** Park unit, regional natural resources staff, network inventory and monitoring staff, Biological Resources Division, and Water Resources Division.
- **External Involvement.** State fisheries or department of natural resources, tribal governments, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (if coastal unit with marine fish), NOAA Sea Grant, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and/or university experts.

Time Frame

Variable

Example(s)

- Quagga/Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention and Response Planning Guide
- Emergency Prevention and Response Plan for Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (http://www.nps.gov/piro/naturescience/upload/VHS%20Plan%20-%20Final%202008Mar14.pdf)
- Lionfish Response Plan: A Systematic Approach to Managing Impacts from the Lionfish, an Invasive Species, in Units of the National Park System (http://lionfish.gcfi.org/sites/default/files/documents/NPS.pdf)

Potential Funding Source(s)

Park-funded

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Paleontological Resource Inventory Report*

Objective

Paleontological resource inventories have been developed by the National Park Service in order to compile information regarding the scope, significance, distribution, and management issues associated with fossil resources present within parks. This information is intended to increase awareness of park fossils and paleontological issues in order to inform management decisions and actions that comply with laws, directives, and policies. This report provides baseline paleontological resource data to NPS administration and resource management staff. The report contains information regarding the location of non-renewable paleontological resources within NPS units. It is not intended for distribution to the public.

Description of the Product or Service

Park-focused paleontological resource inventory projects are initiated to provide information to NPS staff for use in formulating management activities and procedures that would enable compliance with related laws, regulations, policy, and management guidelines. Additionally, they facilitate future research and resource management associated with park-specific paleontological resources. Methods and tasks addressed in inventory reports may include: locating, identifying, and documenting paleontological resource localities through field reconnaissance using photography, GPS data, and standardized forms; relocating and assessing historical localities; assessing collections of park-specific fossils maintained within the park collections and in outside repositories; and a thorough search for relevant publications, unpublished geologic notes, and outside fossil collections.

Time Frame

1–2 years

Example(s)

Nelson, M., M. Antonioni, V. L. Santucci, and J. S. Tweet. 2019. National Capital Parks-East: Paleontological resources inventory. Natural Resource Report NPS/NACE/NRR—2019/1862. National Park Service, Fort Collins, Colorado. https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2258825

Potential Funding Source(s)

Natural Resources; region-, network-, or park-funded

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

* = an assessment, study, or data collection effort that can contribute to the development of a planning document

Resource Stewardship Strategy

Objective

A resource stewardship strategy (RSS) is a long-range planning tool for achieving desired natural and cultural resource conditions, which are derived from relevant laws and NPS policies identified in the park's foundation document, general management plan, or other park plans.

Description of the Product or Service

As part of a park planning portfolio, the resource stewardship strategy serves as a bridge between the foundation document and everyday management of natural and cultural resources. The strategy evaluates the major components of the park's priority resources that must be protected; establishes science- and scholarship-based methods to evaluate success in protecting these resources; determines measurable targets for success; and includes a comprehensive strategic plan and desktop application for achieving and maintaining those targets over time. Resource stewardship strategies are reviewed by NPS subject matter experts and decision makers before finalization and approval; however, they are not publicly reviewed decision documents.

A resource stewardship strategy provides a framework and coordinated process for (1) summarizing, evaluating, and communicating the condition of priority park resources and (2) determining what strategies are needed to get us "from where we are to where we want to be." The RSS process helps guide the allocation of financial and human resources for resource stewardship at the park, regional, and servicewide levels.

A coordinated RSS process has been established to provide a streamlined, consistent approach to RSS development. The WASO Directorates of Park Planning, Facilities and Lands; Cultural Resources, Partnerships and Science; and Natural Resource Stewardship and Science are managing this process in collaboration with regional offices and parks.

Time Frame

1 year

Example(s)

Current examples are found on the NPS Resource Stewardship Strategy Program site (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/sites/nps-resource-stewardship-strategy/SitePages/mainpage.aspx)

Potential Funding Source(s)

- Unit Management Plans; Natural Resources
- The Natural Resource Stewardship and Science Program and regional offices will provide additional staffing and travel support to the planning team. Although parks do not bear the costs of developing the resource stewardship strategy, a considerable time commitment is required from park staff during the year-long process.

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Shoreline Management Plan

Objective

To manage the changing shoreline and plan for restoration where needed.

Description of the Product or Service

Shoreline management plans may address the entire park shoreline or a section of it. The scope of the project will depend on the needs of the park. Some plans are closely tied to certain park uses, such as off-road vehicles, while other plans address certain restorations needs (sediment budget). Determining an appropriate NEPA pathway is part of a shoreline management planning effort.

Time Frame

1–3 years

Example(s)

Indiana Dunes National Park Shoreline Restoration and Management Plan (https://parkplanning.nps.gov/documentsList.cfm?projectID=33151)

Potential Funding Source(s)

Natural Resources

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

Ungulate Management Plan

Objective

The objective is to develop an integrated plan and an appropriate NEPA document, whether it is a categorical exclusion, an environmental assessment, or environmental impact statement, for managing a wide variety of native and non-native ungulate species such as deer, elk, bison, feral horses, feral swine, or other ungulate species to address present or future issues associated with overpopulation.

Description of the Product or Service

The planning effort involves NPS units, regions, the WASO Biological Resources Division, state wildlife management agencies, other cooperating agencies or organizations, and the public in the development of a collaborative and science-based plan.

The planning document is tailored to address the specific issues associated with the park, including habitat degradation, changes in vegetation or wildlife communities, or adverse impacts on crops or property. When appropriate, a science team composed of individuals from the WASO Biological Resources Division, region, park, other federal or state agencies, and academia would be assembled early in the process to participate in the project. The experience and processes developed by the Environmental Quality Division for other ungulate management plans (i.e., ungulate plans for Valley Forge, Theodore Roosevelt, or others) would be used as a model in conducting the project.

Individual project schedules will vary depending on whether the project is conducted in-house or through a contractor; whether an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement is being prepared; the number and nature of issues to be addressed; the number and participation level of cooperating agencies; the level of public interest and controversy; and the quantity and nature of public comment received during scoping and the document review period.

Time Frame

- 1 year (if the NEPA document is an environmental impact statement)
- 6 months (if the NEPA document is an environmental assessment)

Note: extensive pre-NEPA work may be required depending on the data needs and social environment; please consult EQD for current standards.

Example(s)

- White-tailed Deer Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, Valley Forge National Historical Park, 2009
- Theodore Roosevelt National Park Elk Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, 2010
- Hawaii Volcanoes National Park Plan for Protecting and Restoring Native Ecosystems by Managing Non-native Ungulates and Environmental Impact Statement, 2013
- Fire Island National Seashore Deer Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, 2016
- Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and Harpers Ferry National Historical Parks Deer Management Plan and Environmental Assessment, 2018

Potential Funding Source(s)

Environmental Quality Division – Environmental Impact Analysis

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Unstable Slope Management Program for Federal Land Management Agencies ◊

Objective

To provide rapid geotechnical assessment, evaluation, and management methodologies to assist federal land management agencies (FLMAs) and lower annual daily traffic transportation departments to manage their unstable rock and soil slopes. Management tools include condition assessments that consist of hazard and risk evaluation, digital field data collection applications and an Internet-based searchable database, examples of performance measures, and scalable and flexible cost/benefit and quantitative risk assessment prioritization techniques as part of this research and development project.

Description of the Product or Service

An Unstable Slope Management Program (USMP) is critical for the National Park Service's ability to proactively and transparently address geologic hazards such as rockfall and landslides that affect our transportation corridors, facilities, and points of interest. This program includes tools for identifying, prioritizing, and managing slope hazards throughout the National Park Service.

Time Frame

Variable

Example(s)

- Rockfall and Landslide Assessments and an Unstable Slope Management System, Zion National Park (pages 50–55), http://npshistory.com/newsletters/crossroads-in-science/spring-2018.pdf
- Unstable Slope Management Program for Federal Land Management Agencies, Publication No. FHWA-FLH-19-002, January 2019 https://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/geotech/documents/usmp-field-manual.pdf

Potential Funding Source(s)

Natural Resources; network-, region-, and/or park-funded

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

◊ = assistance or service provided by a program or office

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Visual Resources Inventory*

Objective

The objective is to provide consistent evaluation of park visual resources by assessing the scenic quality and important characteristics of key views within and beyond park boundaries. This will make it easier to incorporate visual resources into informed and effective park management.

Description of the Product or Service

The NPS Visual Resources Inventory is a systematic process for inventorying views within and beyond park boundaries important to park visitors and park management. Inventory data can provide:

- a baseline for monitoring visual changes over time
- data for evaluating potential visual impacts of projects
- a basis for incorporating visual resources in park management and planning
- needed information for engaging in collaborative scenic conservation

How it works:

- **Planning phase.** Park resource managers identify an inventory purpose and select viewpoints that address potential challenges and resource goals.
- **Inventory part one.** Teams visit identified viewpoints, spatially define each view, describe them in a systematic way, and rate scenic quality on defined criteria.
- **Inventory part two.** A team of local experts document viewpoint and viewed landscape significance before rating the importance of each view for park purpose and visitor experience based on established metrics.
- **Wrap up.** Scenic quality and view importance ratings are then combined into an overall scenic inventory value. Park staff enter inventory data in the online Enjoy the View (ETV) spatial database where the data are archived and can be used for standard reports, mapping, and a variety of visual analyses.

Time Frame

Variable

Example(s)

Park inventory data and reports are available at https://irma.nps.gov/ETV/

Potential Funding Source(s)

The NRSS Air Resources Division provides funding for Visual Resources Program staff to assist parks with visual resources inventory training and initiation. Additional funding is not usually required.

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

* = an assessment, study, or data collection effort that can contribute to the development of a planning document

Visual Resources Management Plan

Objective

The objective is to identify critical views within and beyond park boundaries and recommend steps to preserve them for scenic and historic/cultural values.

Description of the Product or Service

With ever-expanding residential and commercial uses, traditional power lines, and renewable energy structures, park views can be dramatically altered in ways that diminish scenic or historic/cultural values. In developing this plan, key park views are identified and assessed. Visible areas from each viewpoint, strategies, and recommendations for preserving the important characteristics of the views are also identified. Although historically parks have dealt with visual resource management only when mitigating a proposed project, many parks can benefit from having a comprehensive visual resources management plan. A strategic approach to managing visual resources will enable a park to evaluate specific proposals that may impact important views more effectively.

A visual resources management plan may be undertaken as a component of a general management plan, resource stewardship strategy, or other plans for resource management and visitor use.

Time Frame

Variable

Example(s)

Manassas National Battlefield Park – Manassas Viewshed Plan

Potential Funding Source(s)

Unit Management Plans; regional GIS and other programs

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Wetland Impact Analysis and Protection Compliance Assistance ◊

Objective

The objective is to help park natural resources staff meet project-specific wetland compliance requirements for construction or other activities that would have adverse impacts on wetlands. The objective also includes assistance with wetland impact mitigation strategies.

Description of the Product or Service

Wetland impact analysis and Director's Order 77-1: *Wetland Protection* compliance assistance provides:

- evaluations of physical and biological conditions and functional values of specific wetland areas that could be impacted by construction or other activities
- interpretation of the extent and magnitude of impacts to the physical and biological conditions of the wetlands from proposed construction or other activities
- identification of opportunities to avoid, minimize, and compensate for wetland impacts
- review and evaluation services to guide successful completion of wetland statements of findings and their incorporation into NEPA documents as required by Director's Order 77-1: *Wetland Protection*

Time Frame

Variable

Example(s)

Contact Water Resources Division, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science

Potential Funding Source(s)

The wetland impact analysis and Director's Order 77-1: *Wetland Protection* compliance assistance requires NRSS Water Resources Division and park staff time to identify wetland areas that will be impacted by construction or other activities on NPS lands. The NRSS Water Resources Division's Wetlands Program can provide staff to complete the on-site evaluations and produce the products.

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

◊ = assistance or service provided by a program or office

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Wetland Management Strategy Report*

Objective

The objective is to provide park natural resource staff with site-specific wetland management actions that can be implemented immediately and/or over the long term.

Description of the Product or Service

The wetland management strategies report requires an assessment of the physical and biological conditions and functional values of specific wetland areas within the park, the magnitude of degradation, and the likely conditions that will evolve as a result of adverse impacts from climate change. In order to complete the overall description of the wetland resources, park staff are asked to contribute an understanding of their land-use management requirements that impact the wetlands. Management strategies are then defined to complement park staff's land-use management requirements while incorporating opportunities to enhance or restore wetland functional values and natural conditions.

Typical wetland management strategies include:

- steps to enhance physical and biological conditions of the wetlands or streams
- construction steps necessary to complete the restoration of specific wetland, dam removal, or stream restoration projects
- identification of studies and field data collection necessary to complete the projects
- identification of nonnative species removal needs
- recommendations to modify surface or groundwater hydrology, monitoring protocols, and sampling and/or survey work are recommended, if necessary

Time Frame

Variable

Example(s)

Contact Water Resources Division, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science

Potential Funding Source(s)

Development of a wetland management strategies report requires time from park natural resource staff to identify wetlands that are stressed, those that require active management, and those that may need substantial restoration. The NRSS Water Resources Division's Wetlands Program can provide staff to complete the on-site evaluations and produce wetland management strategy reports.

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

* = an assessment, study, or data collection effort that can contribute to the development of a planning document

Wetland Restoration Services ◊

Objective

The objectives are to help park natural resource staff identify wetland sites in need of restoration and provide staff with guidance, products, and services needed to complete wetland restoration projects.

Description of the Product or Service

Wetland restoration services provide the following:

- on-site identification of degraded wetlands, evaluation of physical and biological conditions of degraded wetlands, restoration potential of each site, and prioritization of potential restoration projects according to cost and physical and biological benefits
- guidance and assistance in collecting restoration design data including wetland delineations, topographic surveying, and surface and groundwater monitoring
- wetland restoration design plans and specifications, including grading plans, planting plans, construction sequencing, and cost estimation
- technical advice and oversight during the design and construction process, including serving as on-site construction monitors

Wetland restoration products include the following:

- hydrologic data analyses and groundwater contour maps
- wetland design plans and specifications (e.g., grading plans, planting plans)
- post-construction monitoring plans

Time Frame

Variable

Example(s)

Contact Water Resources Division, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science

Potential Funding Source(s)

Wetland restoration services require NRSS Water Resources Division and park staff time to coordinate and complete these and other tasks required to complete a restoration project, including funding acquisition for construction and other implementation steps and assistance with wetland compliance. The NRSS Water Resources Division's Aquatic Systems Branch can provide staff time to complete the on-site services and produce the products.

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

◊ = assistance or service provided by a program or office

PARTNERSHIPS

Park Partner Action Strategy

Objective

Partnerships are vital to effective stewardship of the national park system and require significant time and effort to implement and sustain. A park partner action strategy uses a facilitated process to improve the effectiveness of a partnership, and results in prioritized actions to meet partnership goals over a specified period of time.

Partners may include any organization with a shared interest with a park such as friends groups, cooperating associations, community groups, museums, other government agencies, and others. The strategy is ideal for parks and partners that seek to:

- establish a clear direction to help guide new relationships between organizations
- energize existing relationships between organizations
- formally define roles and responsibilities among partnership participants
- develop a plan for effective and collaborative partnership
- organize an upcoming event

Description of the Product or Service

A step-by-step process guides participants through the development of the action strategy, which includes pre-workshop preparation, a one- to two-day workshop, and completion of the strategy document. The entire process is designed to be efficient and cost effective, while producing a useful product that can be implemented immediately.

Time Frame

1–6 months

Example(s)

Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail Partner Workshop Report (2012)

Potential Funding Source(s)

Concessions Franchise Fee; partner organizations; park-funded

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

RTCA – Active Transportation Planning Assistance ◊

Objective

This product is one of several types of assistance provided by the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) to aid communities and parks. This planning assistance provides, to parks and program staff, professional transportation planning support and technical assistance for partnership and capacity building, particularly for efforts that reach outside NPS boundaries.

Description of the Product or Service

Planning, funding, and implementation of successful alternative transportation systems and projects within and connecting to national park units increasingly requires working with state and local governments and other partners. By coordinating and working collaboratively with partners, the National Park Service will benefit from leveraged resources and enhanced capacity to achieve alternative transportation goals. Planning assistance can help parks identify and engage partners and stakeholders, evaluate constraints, and/or develop collaborative action plans to coordinate park and partners' commitments to project implementation. Guidance on local and state transportation planning and funding processes (e.g., Metropolitan Planning Organization and State Department of Transportation funding programs and call for projects) is also provided.

Time Frame

Time required will depend on scope and complexity of project – minimum of 6 months.

Example(s)

Planning assistance has been used for the following types of projects: Walkability Assessments, collaborative development of Bike Share Programs, Signage/ Wayfinding Planning, Online Mapping Tools planning and development; Regional Bike/Pedestrian Planning; Bike/ Pedestrian Trail, Route, and/or Facilities Planning and Development; Studies and Plans for Transit Connections to NPS Areas.

Potential Funding Source(s)

WASO Park Facility Management Division fund sources (various); Unit Management Plans; FHWA, state, and local transportation funding programs

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

You may also contact RTCA staff in your region. To find regional staff, please visit: https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/contactus.htm

◊ = assistance or service provided by a program or office

RTCA – Building Gateway Partnerships ◊

Objective

This partnership development process is one of several types of assistance provided by the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) to aid communities and parks. The objective is to provide citizens of gateway communities, managers of nearby public lands, and gateway neighbors with a process to develop meaningful partnerships to improve their gateway area based on shared goals for the future.

Description of the Product or Service

RTCA staff work with gateway community stakeholders and public land managers to (1) gain a better understanding of their unique place, (2) develop a strong voice and act on a common vision, and (3) build partnerships with gateway neighbors based on shared goals. Assistance is based on the content in a user-friendly notebook, *Building Gateway Partnerships, A Process for Shaping the Future of Your Community*. The notebook outlines four key steps designed to define needs and desires and then to interact, cooperate, and collaborate with gateway neighbors to achieve shared goals within a regional landscape.

RTCA services are available at no cost via a competitive application process. The costs associated with carrying out the process vary considerably as gateway residents, businesses, and stakeholders are potential technical and financial supporters. Basic expenses of public outreach, meeting space rental, and workshop sponsorship can range from a few hundred to several thousand dollars.

Time Frame

The time required to conduct the Building Gateway Partnership process is up to the particular gateway area and depends on how quickly the diverse interests in the area commit to using the process and the extent of motivation and consensus reached during the workshop.

Example(s)

See the partnership profiles in the Building Gateway Partnerships notebook, chapter 4

Potential Funding Source(s)

Challenge Cost Share; Centennial / Partnership Programs; regional and national resources listed in the Building Gateway Partnerships notebook and in the Conservation Study Institute's Opportunities for Communities that Neighbor Public Lands

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

You may also contact RTCA staff in your region. To find regional staff, please visit: https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/contactus.htm

◊ = assistance or service provided by a program or office

RTCA – Community and Regional Trails Plan ◊

Objective

This product is one of several types of assistance provided by the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) to aid communities and parks. Communities develop plans for trail corridors and systems to provide important transportation links, enhance recreational experiences, and support healthy physical activity. Well-planned trail systems can buffer adjoining land uses, help define and shape community boundaries, and benefit the local economy by attracting visitors and creating business opportunities. By participating in trail planning for gateway communities and adjacent lands, NPS area managers help community leaders to define common goals and objectives, evaluate potential impacts, and support design and implementation of beneficial trail linkages.

Description of the Product or Service

RTCA staff works with local leaders to design and carry out trail planning processes that establish the vision, goals, and objectives for trails development; identify issues and opportunities; and prioritize feasible action strategies for trail development. The planning process provides an opportunity for the implementation partners and stakeholders to engage with the public to incorporate their ideas. The plan identifies and evaluates proposed locations for trails and trailheads; types of trail use; entities and agencies involved; and maintenance guidelines. The recommendations produced are typically adopted by local authorities as formal plans or policies or incorporated as components of city or county general land use or management plans.

RTCA services are available at no cost via a competitive application process. Park and partner investment in leading, planning, and implementation will vary widely, but the investment for NPS employees is typically limited to staff time and technical support. The NPS role can include helping to identify and secure financial support (from the National Park Service and other sources) for trail implementation.

Time Frame

1–3 years

Example(s)

Aztec Trails System (AZRU), Brownsville Historic Battlefield Trail (PAAL), El Camino Real (SAAN), Hubbell Wash Trail (HUTR), Monument Road Corridor (COMO), Red Canyon Trail (BRCA)

Potential Funding Source(s)

Recreation Trails Program; Federal Lands Access Program; Connecting Trails to Parks

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

◊ = assistance or service provided by a program or office

RTCA – Regional Conservation Planning ◊

Objective

This product, also known as community conservation implementation planning, is one of several types of assistance provided by the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) to aid communities and parks. Regional conservation planning seeks to protect and restore networks of natural lands and waters, advancing through partnerships the protection and stewardship of large natural landscapes, including parks, open spaces, and working lands.

Description of the Product or Service

RTCA staff provide technical assistance to parks, conservation partners, and communities undertaking locally led strategic conservation actions to protect and restore large natural landscapes through collaboration, joint action, and shared investments. Supporting services include facilitation; strategic planning; stakeholder engagement; and partnership development, mapping, and preparation of planning documents. Products have included regional and statewide conservation and open space plans, watershed and wildlife habitat conservation plans for regional connectivity, protection and restoration of natural lands and waters, and recreation planning across networks of public lands.

Time Frame

RTCA technical assistance is awarded on an annual basis with support for a regional conservation project typically spanning at least 1 year, but more typically 2–3 years.

Example(s)

- Chesapeake Bay – Cacapon Valley Land Conservation Strategy (West Virginia)
- Chesapeake Bay Resource Lands Assessment
- Southern Maryland Land Protection Priorities
- Intertwine's Oregon/Washington Regional Land Conservation Strategy
- Saginaw Bay Green Infrastructure Plan (Michigan)
- Mississippi River Connections Collaborative

Potential Funding Source(s)

Challenge Cost Share; Centennial / Partnership Programs; Unit Management Plans; see also the Conservation Study Institute's "Opportunities for Communities that Neighbor Public Lands." (https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1412/upload/Opportunities-for-Communities-that-Neighbor-Public-Lands-508.pdf)

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

◊ = assistance or service provided by a program or office

Public Comment Analysis

Public Comment Analysis ◊

Objective

The objective is to organize and analyze public comments on plan documents to fulfill the public comment requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Description of the Product or Service

The NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) database is a comprehensive catalog of all NPS documents undergoing NEPA-based environmental compliance. The database includes a public-facing website that allows the public to comment on documents that are open for review. Comment analysis is useful in processing small and large numbers of public comments and producing comment summaries, responses to comments, and final comment analysis reports. In addition, GIS can be used to evaluate location information. Comment analysis typically takes place after public scoping and public review of a NEPA document.

The PEPC system is able to collect information on how the commenter heard about a specific planning document. The distribution of comments in relation to public involvement marketing strategies, including e-mail programs, social media, and websites, can now be investigated, and the correlation between these technologies and comment distribution tested.

Time Frame

Variable

Example(s)

http://parkplanning.nps.gov/

Potential Funding Source(s)

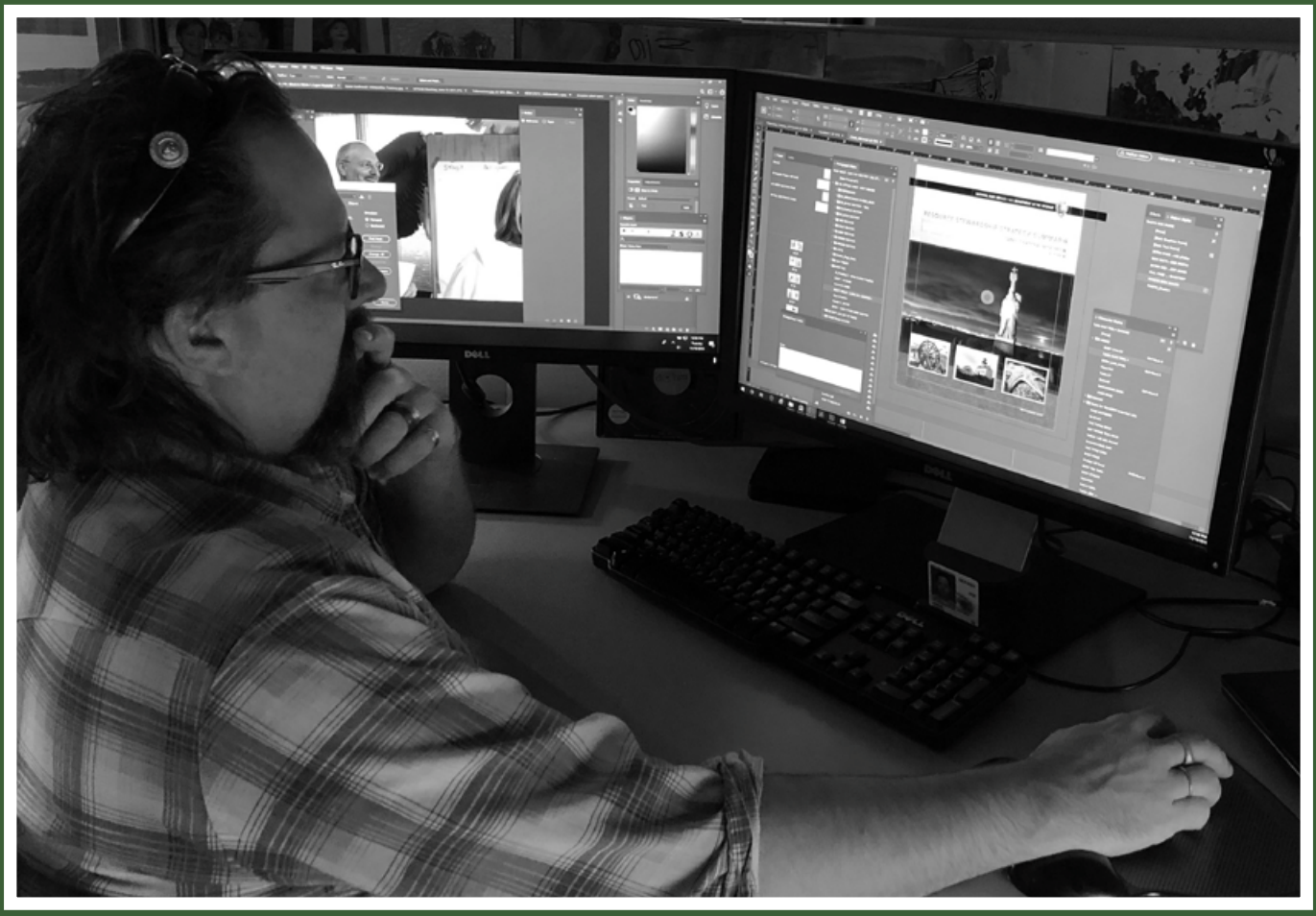
Comment analysis is usually included in the cost of preparing a NEPA document that can be funded by a park, WASO Park Planning and Special Studies, or Environmental Quality Division.

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

This product is also known as PEPC comment analysis.

◊ = assistance or service provided by a program or office



Publications Assistance

Design Concept Graphics and Illustrations ◊

Objective

This is intended to illustrate complex design concepts, such as those presented in a plan proposal, so that decision-makers and the public have a clear idea of how a design would be executed on the ground.

Description of the Product or Service

This product develops presentation graphics (e.g., diagrams, infographics, etc.) that will serve to "bring to life" in an illustrative format ideas and concepts in management plans, master plans, and similar documents. Presentation graphics are often more understandable to many audiences than a typical plan view. They can be used as a tool for promoting or marketing an idea to the public, stakeholders, or potential tenants, building support, and even inspiring these audiences.

Time Frame

Variable

Example(s)

- Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, Site Plan and Perspective Drawings, June 2014
- IVUMC Diagrams (https://visitorusemanagement.nps.gov/Home/About)
- Foundation Document Workflow (http://share.inside.nps.gov/sites/WASO/PPFL/PSS/FD/Guidance/FLOWCHART_12.31.12-CURRENT.pdf)
- RSS Program Workflow

Potential Funding Source(s)

Unit Management Plans (as part of a planning project); park-funded

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

◊ = assistance or service provided by a program or office

Editing Services ◊

Objective

To ensure that text in DSC-edited documents and other printed or posted text is clearly written, grammatically correct, conforms to the *Denver Service Center Editorial Style Guide*[1] and Director's Order 52B: *Graphic Design Standards*, and complies with Section 508 and accessibility standards.

Description of the Product or Service

DSC editing services range from copyediting (spelling and grammar corrections, usually 5 to 10 pages per hour), to substantive editing (significantly rewording/reorganizing text and fact checking, usually 1 to 5 pages per hour), to formatting (usually 10 to 15 pages per hour). Editors can edit a variety of materials—postcards, flyers, posters, web text, newsletters, brochures, and small to large documents. Editing is performed in-house by on-site editors or is contracted out to prescreened vendors. Editing services also include formatting materials to a camera-ready format for printing, posting on the web, or importing into desktop publishing software, such as InDesign.

The cost of editing services is driven by (1) level of editing desired/needed, (2) number of pages, and (3) editor's hourly rate (approximately $89.00/hour). For example, the cost for editing a 350-page document could be

substantive editing: 350 pages @ 5/hour = 70 hours
formatting: 350 pages @ 15/hour = 23 hours
TOTAL: 93 hours × $89.00 = $8,277

If editing services are contracted out, additional funding is needed for project management and clerical support.

Time Frame

Variable

Potential Funding Source(s)

Unit Management Plans (as part of a planning project); park-funded

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

1. The *Denver Service Center Editorial Style Guide* is based on *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 16th Edition, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, IL, 2010; and Scientific Style and Format—*The CSE Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers*, Seventh Edition, Council of Science Editors, Rockefeller University Press, Reston, VA, 2006.

◊ = assistance or service provided by a program or office

Publications ◊

Objective

DSC Publications provides the Denver Service Center, parks, and regions with professional in-house graphic design, original illustrations, visual treatment, accurate formatting, and professional editing of information and documents. Publications also provides superior reproduction for paper-based printing and web-based publications that comply with Section 508 and accessibility standards.

Description of the Product or Service

Publication products include park planning information enriched with eye-catching visuals, communicated to the public by hard-copy documents; newsletters; posters; portable electronic files for web, e-mail, and tablets; and compressed video formats for web and personal device viewing. DSC Publications partners with planning specialists and project managers to establish a work relationship and a commitment to a shared goal. DSC Publications editors review, edit, and format a variety of materials to comply with industry standard editorial guidelines and DSC in-house editorial style guide to meet NPS standards of excellence.

Publication services begin with a formal request for services, which is documented and amended as needed for tracking purposes. A consultation follows to confirm production instructions, including project manager, project name, project alpha and account number, graphics and editing requirements, task hours, level of complexity and design, materials to be provided, and publication milestones (i.e., hard deadlines, printing dates, and review dates). Publication services closely follow the milestones established by the project manager to ensure objectives are met.

For preparation of a document for internal, park, region, and WASO review processes: 25% of labor costs occur before the first draft review and 75% occur after changes/edits have been requested by the client. Projects with materials, text, and images that are near completion or have been finalized usually have fewer changes/edits and therefore, labor costs are lower.

Time Frame

Variable

Example(s)

NPS System Plan (2017) (https://parkplanning.nps.gov/NPSSystemPlan.cfm)

DSC Annual FY 2019 Annual Report (https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1804/upload/2019_DSCAnnualReport_v508.pdf)

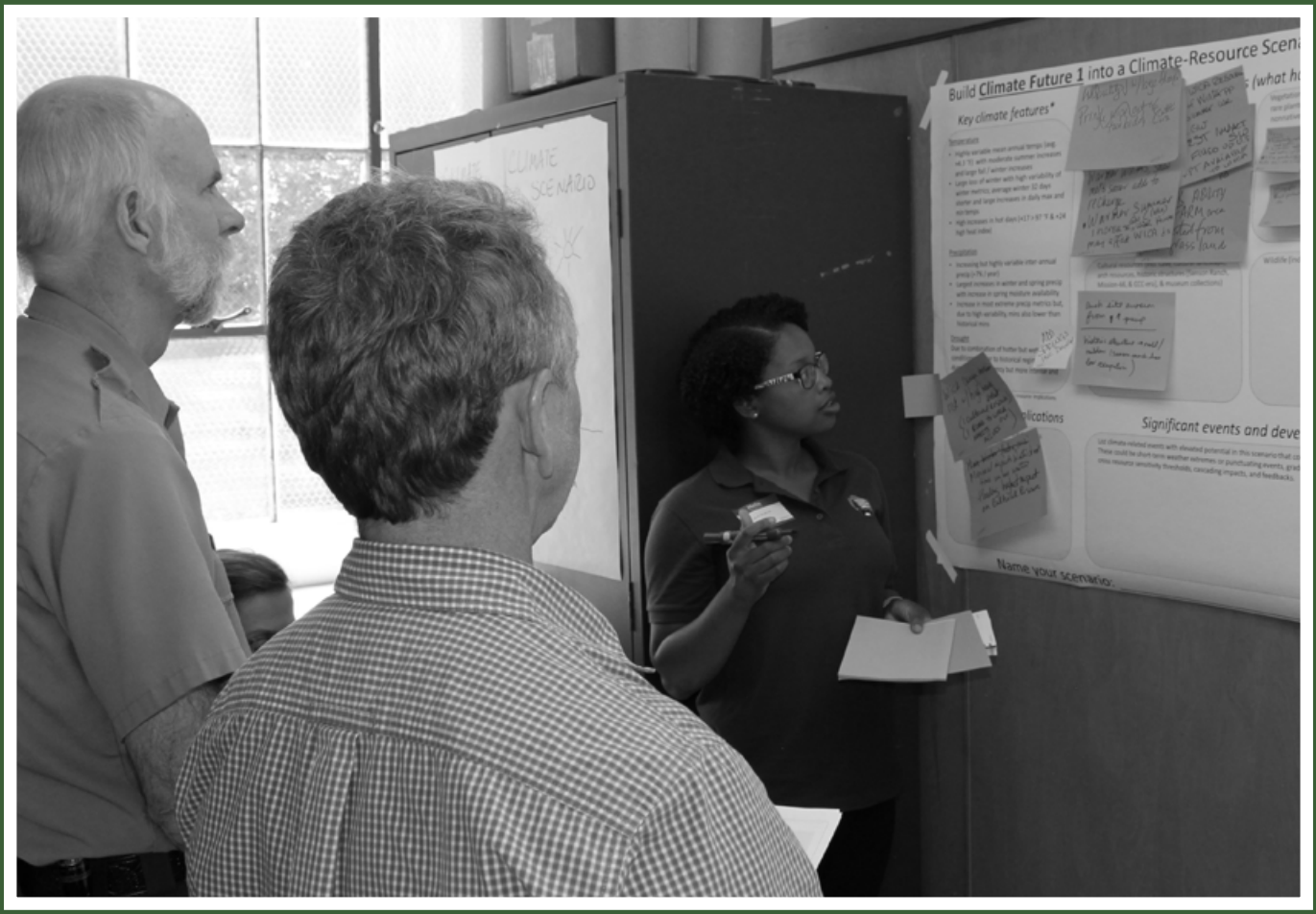
Potential Funding Source(s)

Publication services are often a component of a planning project and included in the total project cost

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

◊ = assistance or service provided by a program or office



Strategic Planning

Park / Program Strategic Plan

Objective

Strategic planning is designed to help a park or program answer three questions: (1) where are we now, (2) where do we want to be in the near future (typically 3–5 years), and (3) what are the most important things we need to accomplish to get there? The overall intent of strategic planning is to focus employee attention and energy on effectively addressing major operational, organizational, administrative, and resource issues in a timely manner.

Description of the Product or Service

The strategic planning process is designed to help NPS managers establish a clear direction for their park or program, and then set goals and priorities accordingly. Preliminary information about the park or program's key issues is gathered through a survey of staff and managers. This is followed by a short workshop, where representatives from all the management divisions work collectively to create various components of the plan. The workshop results are compiled into a draft plan and then refined in review by workshop participants. By the end of the process, the park or program will have accomplished an initial major step toward an ideal future and will have a clearly written plan to implement. Parks may choose to update their strategic plan regularly as they adapt to evolving conditions and their needs and priorities change.

The strategic planning process is flexible and adapted to meet the needs of each individual park or program. Managers work with planning staff to select strategic plan components appropriate for their unique situation—commonly selected components of a strategic plan are key issues and opportunities for the park or program, a mission statement, a vision statement, goals, priorities, actions, and a framework for reviewing progress.

Time Frame

3–6 months

Example(s)

- Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve/ Jazz New Orleans National Historical Park Strategic Plan
- EQD Strategic Plan

Potential Funding Source(s)

Park-funded; program-funded; Unit Management Plans

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

SUSTAINABILITY

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Climate Change Scenario Planning*
Planning for a Changing Climate

Objective
Use a range of plausible science-based scenarios (based on the most current climate projections for the park) to develop climate change adaptation strategies that serve park planning needs, resources, and visitors in a rapidly changing environment. These scenarios may accompany and inform any type of park plan, including natural and cultural resource management, as well as facilities (design, siting) and visitor use management.

Description of the Product or Service
Scenario planning is a strategic planning process to support decision making under uncertain and uncontrollable conditions associated with dynamic change. Developing a range of plausible climate futures that encompass current climate projections allows a park and stakeholders to proactively prepare for multiple scenarios, strengthening the ability of park management to recognize, adapt to, and take advantage of changes over time. The planning process includes:

- assembling an interdisciplinary core team
- defining the current planning issue(s), scale, and time frame
- developing plausible climate change scenarios based on downscaled climate projections provided by the NPS Climate Change Response Program
- determining appropriate strategies to support adaptation of park resources and facilities, and provide for visitor use under changing environmental conditions

Based on the goals of park management, products may include specific climate projections based on downscaled climate data, a narrative description of plausible future scenarios, supplementary information regarding projected impacts, public communication tools (such as public outreach and education materials), and a final comprehensive document. Factors affecting the scope of the project, and therefore its cost and time frame, include the size of the park or region, the availability of technical and scientific information needed to develop the scenarios, the desired final products, the inclusion of a public involvement component, and travel and workshop facility expenses.

Time Frame
Less than 1 year (if conducted as stand-alone effort). May be a stand-alone effort, or accompany development of a specific park plan, such as Fire Management Plan, Wilderness Stewardship Plan, Cultural Landscape Management Plan, Resource Stewardship Strategy, General Management Plan, Historic Structure Report, Integrated Park Improvement Plan, Invasive Species Plan, Long-Range Transportation Plan, Natural Heritage Area Management Plan, etc.

Example(s)
To be provided based on specific park need

Potential Funding Source(s)
Project fund sources that support planning, design, or understanding impacts to resources, facilities, and visitor experience; park-funded; or smaller efforts may be supported through technical assistance requests to NPS Climate Change Response Program. Applications in conjunction with another park planning process are most economical.

Key Contact(s)
Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

* = an assessment, study, or data collection effort that can contribute to the development of a planning document

Climate Friendly Parks – Climate Action Plan

Objective

To provide support, management tools, and resources to address sustainability and climate change aspects within park boundaries and in partnership with surrounding communities. Climate action plans are a primary tool supporting the goals in the NPS Green Parks Plan (https://www.nps.gov/subjects/sustainability/green-parks.htm).

Description of the Product or Service

The Climate Friendly Parks (CFP) Program provides a context in which parks have the ability to become more sustainable, teach visitors about climate change while using parks as demonstrations, and communicate to park visitors the steps parks have taken to make a difference.

The program follows a three-tiered approach focusing on the following goals:

1. Measure park-based greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
2. Educate park staff and the public about climate change and demonstrate ways individuals and groups can take action to address the issue.
3. Develop strategies and specific actions to address sustainability challenges, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and anticipate and adapt to the impacts of climate change on park resources.

The program offers a range of services including the development of a climate action plan. This is an outcome from a Climate Friendly Parks workshop that is designed around the specific needs of a park unit. The workshop incorporates the following:

- Park-Specific Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory – a carbon management inventory tool designed specifically for national parks called the Climate Leadership in Parks (CLIP) tool.
- Technical assistance developing park-specific action ideas to be placed in either a comprehensive EMS or an action plan, including tools to help develop action items. Assistance in identifying, implementing, and complying with Green Parks Plan goals.

Parks indicate their interest in being scheduled for a CFP workshop and climate action plan by emailing cfp@nps.gov

Time Frame

Allow four months for planning and implementing a CFP workshop, which includes developing the GHG inventory using the CLIP tool. Workshop scheduling is dependent on WASO funding and other park requests.

Example(s)

A list of participating parks with climate action plans is available on the Climate Friendly Park website (https://www.nps.gov/subjects/climatechange/cfpprogram.htm).

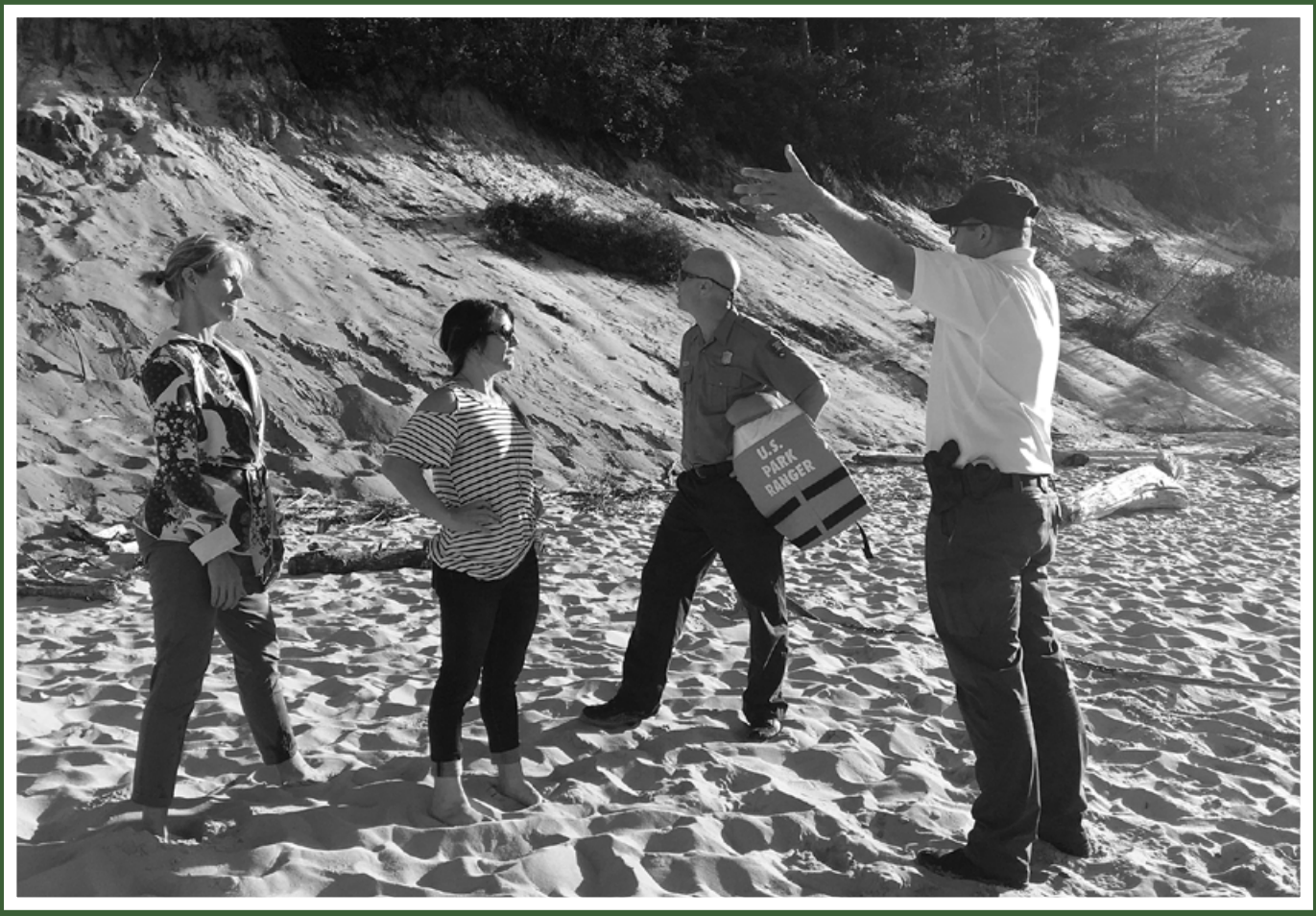
Potential Funding Source(s)

Not applicable for becoming a Climate Friendly Park. The CFP process helps identify funding opportunities common to all park programs to implement actions.

Key Contact(s)

The Climate Friendly Parks Program is led by the Sustainable Operations Branch of the Park Facility Management Division (PFMD), with the NPS Climate Change Response Program, cfp@nps.gov. (NOTE: Shawn Norton is contact in Sustainable Operations.)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)



Visitor Use and Experience

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Off-Highway Vehicle Management Plan

Objective

This plan guides the management of recreational off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in a park unit.

Description of the Product or Service

An off-highway vehicle (OHV) plan defines the locations where and the times when travel by an off-road vehicle is permitted within the park. The plan typically defines the types of vehicles that may be permitted to operate within the park boundary and may include certain specifications for vehicle types, restrictions on utility / camping trailer use on designated OHV routes. They also typically include the development and description of a permitting system and associated fee structure. Permits may be defined for certain locations, times of day, and/or seasons. There is often a ceiling placed on the number of permits allowed to be issued within a given time frame—as a means to protect natural and cultural resources that may be damaged as a result of OHV use. Where routes and areas designated for OHV use are promulgated as special regulations, the National Park Service carries out the rulemaking process concurrently with the development of the OHV management plan and NEPA analysis.

The scope of the plan and its cost and time frame are influenced by such factors as the level of controversy, the number of acres involved, issues addressed, and other factors. The plan may be combined with a general management planning process.

Time Frame

Variable

Example(s)

Cape Hatteras National Seashore Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan / EIS and Rulemaking, PEPC 10641 (https://parkplanning.nps.gov/documentsList.cfm?projectID=10641)

Potential Funding Source(s)

Environmental Quality Division – Environmental Impact Analysis; Unit Management Plans

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

This plan is also known as an Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) plan. The term OHV is replacing ORV. In coastal parks, the term Oversand Vehicle (OSV) may be applied in planning.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Visitor Use Management Plan

Objective

A visitor use management plan develops a collaborative vision for providing for and managing visitor use by aligning visitor opportunities and experiences with the park's purpose and providing direction for protecting fundamental resources and values. Proactively planning for visitor use supports more responsive management that maximizes the ability of the National Park Service to encourage access, connect visitors to the park's fundamental resources and values, and manage visitor use. The plan incorporates best practices for visitor use management, while meeting associated legal requirements. Visitor use management plans help park units to:

- assess the opportunities for and appropriateness of new visitor activities
- enhance opportunities to connect visitors to the park's fundamental resources and values
- align public expectations with visitor opportunities
- analyze existing visitor use characteristics and patterns
- minimize impacts to resources and visitor experiences caused by visitor use
- manage visitor demand at popular destinations
- balance tradeoffs between different visitor use management strategies

Description of the Product or Service

The visitor use management planning process examines current and potential visitor opportunities and use patterns and identifies implementable management strategies. Depending on visitor use opportunities and needs at the park unit, the visitor use management plan may include the following elements:

- documentation of desired conditions along with relevant indicators, thresholds, and visitor capacities
- an analysis on the feasibility and appropriateness of providing new or expanded recreation opportunities (e.g., more direct access to key visitor experiences, introducing new recreation activities in an area)
- detailed guidance on providing for and managing particular visitor activities or changes to existing facilities (e.g., climbing, overnight use, motorized use)
- an assessment of the need for new visitor use facilities or changes to existing facilities (e.g., campsites, trails, day use areas)
- identification of strategies for addressing various visitor use issues (e.g., crowding, visitor conflicts, resource impacts)

A visitor use management plan addresses the requirements of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, which mandates that the National Park Service complete general management plans that include "identification of and implementation commitments for visitor capacities for all areas of the System unit" (54 USC 100502). The National Park Service follows the Interagency Visitor Use Management Council's Visitor Use Management Framework (https://visitorusemanagement.nps.gov/VUM/Framework) to develop visitor use management plans.

The visitor use management planning process brings in the opportunity for collaboration with other NPS programs. Further, the elements of the planning process can be integrated into other types of plans such as general management plans, commercial services plans, wilderness plans, wild and scenic river plans, comprehensive trail plans, and transportation plans. Several of the examples below illustrate the opportunity for integration; while some are not titled a visitor use management plan, they have incorporated most elements of the visitor use management planning process.

Time Frame

2– 3 years depending on project complexity and compliance needs

(continued on next page)

Visitor Use Management Plan (continued)

Example(s)

- Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Visitor Use Management Plan (in progress in 2019) – PEPC 55912
- Moose-Wilson Corridor Comprehensive Management Plan / EIS (2016) – PEPC 48252
- Ozark Roads and Trails Management Plan / EA (in progress in 2019) – PEPC 56591
- Chaco Culture National Historical Park GMP / EA (2012) – PEPC 21575
- Acadia Transportation Plan / EIS (2019) – PEPC 58482
- Petroglyph National Monument Visitor Use Management Plan (2019) – PEPC 93728

Potential Funding Source(s)

Unit Management Plans; Environmental Quality Division – Environmental Impact Analysis; Recreation Fee; park-funded

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Visitor Use Planning Support ◊

Objective

The purpose of this effort is to support development of key visitor use management components such as indicators, thresholds, and visitor capacity as well as development of an associated monitoring strategy. These key components of visitor use planning support and contribute to successful visitor use management efforts in a park. A monitoring strategy can ensure for transparency, communication, and potential cost savings through efficiencies and possibly cost sharing during implementation. These components inform and provide a defensible basis for long-term management efforts and are typically included as elements in a larger planning process.

Description of the Product or Service

The project typically includes conducting background research, a facilitated workshop, and developing a visitor use monitoring strategy. The project elements:

- provide lessons learned and reference materials from other park implementation programs to use in refinement of a park's use and impact-related indicators, thresholds, management strategies, and identification and implementation of visitor capacity.
- facilitate discussions and provide technical expertise to develop a visitor use monitoring strategy including identifying indicators, establishing thresholds, and management strategies, including visitor capacity (and implementation strategies for capacity), to achieve and maintain desired conditions. Monitoring strategy development could also include the identification of routine, systematic observations or data collection of the indicators over time as well as associated documentation and analysis.
- assist the park, through a facilitated workshop and other discussions, in identifying resources/methods available and an appropriate level of commitment for NPS staff.
- facilitate dialogue on how monitoring results will be incorporated into the process for informing management actions as identified in various park plans.
- provide outcomes that contribute to visitor use management as an outcome of larger planning processes rather than as standalone products.

Time Frame

6–12 months

Example(s)

- Ninety Six National Historical Park Equestrian Management Plan – PEPC 93388
- Rocky Mountain National Park Literature Review and Needs Assessment to Support Day Use Planning

Potential Funding Source(s)

Unit Management Plans; Environmental Quality Division – Environmental Impact Analysis; Recreation Fee; park-funded

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

◊ = assistance or service provided by a program or office

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Visitor Use Studies and Surveys*

Objective

The objective is to gather and evaluate data on visitor characteristics, behaviors, visitor perceptions of strategies, and/or baseline conditions related to visitor use levels and patterns to inform ongoing park management and future decision making. A park may need this information to address questions such as the following:

- Who are our visitors and what are they doing during their visit?
- What motivates visitors to visit the park or participate in specific activities?
- What are fundamental characteristics of visitor experiences and opportunities?
- What do visitors think about specific management issues and potential strategies?
- How are current visitor use patterns affecting resources and visitor experiences?

Description of the Product or Service

Studies and surveys provide assessments of visitor characteristics, visitor preferences and motivations, and baseline conditions relating to use levels and patterns. They can also be used to gather and evaluate visitor input on management issues and associated strategies. The products may include the modeling of visitor use patterns and spatial analysis of visitor use issues. Findings help guide the park in determining the best path for addressing visitor use issues, including assessing visitor capacity, or undertaking a subsequent planning effort. A visitor study or survey could be a component of a larger planning process. Studies are conducted by researchers through contracts or agreements with firms and universities. NPS Denver Service Center – Planning Division, Regional, and Social Science Program staff can help inform scope development, manage contracts/agreements, and serve as technical specialists on research efforts.

Time Frame

1–2 years

Example(s)

- Brownlee, M., Sharp, R., Cribbs, T, and Peterson, B. 2017. *Visitor Use and Associated Thresholds at Buffalo National River*. Denver, CO: Report prepared for the National Park Service. On file at Denver Service Center.
- Roberts, M., Stinger, P., and Bender, C. *Yellowstone National Park Transportation and Vehicle Mobility Study*. Mammoth Hot Springs, WY: Report prepared for the National Park Service. https://www.nps.gov/yell/getinvolved/upload/Yellowstone-Transportation-Mobility-Study_lo-res.pdf
- Park, Logan. 2011. Assessment of Visitor Related Impacts and Potential Management Strategies at Ozark National Scenic Riverways. Denver, CO: Report prepared for the National Park Service. On file at Denver Service Center.
- Pettebone, D., P. Newman, and S. Lawson. 2010. Estimating Visitor Use and Attraction Sites and Trailheads in Yosemite National Park Using Automate Visitor Counters.
- Whittaker, D. and B. Shelby. 2012. Boats, Beaches, and River Banks: Visitor Evaluations of Recreation on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley: Final Study Report. Confluence Research Consulting. July 2012.

Potential Funding Source(s)

Unit Management Plans (as a component of a unit management plan project); Recreation Fee

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

* = an assessment, study, or data collection effort that can contribute to the development of a planning document

WILDERNESS

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Wilderness Basics* (including Wilderness Character Narrative)

Objective

As described in *Keeping it Wild in the National Park Service: A User Guide to Integrating Wilderness Character into Park Planning, Management and Monitoring* (2014), wilderness basics is the first of three building blocks needed to integrate wilderness character into park planning, management, operations, and monitoring. Wilderness basics are composed of background wilderness information, the wilderness character narrative, and a future wilderness stewardship planning issues section. This product brings these components together in one concise document. The content can be incorporated into the park foundation document, provide the substance of the first chapter of a wilderness stewardship plan, and otherwise provide useful information for other plans.

Description of the Product or Service

The first section of a wilderness basics document is background wilderness information, which (1) describes how the wilderness was established based on wilderness legislation and legislative history, or for non-designated areas a history of the wilderness eligibility assessment, wilderness proposal, or wilderness recommendation and its current status; (2) references park purpose, significance, and fundamental resources and values related to wilderness; (3) describes the relationship of wilderness planning to existing and ongoing plans; and (4) presents a GIS map of the wilderness area. The wilderness character narrative section is a qualitative description of what is unique and special about the wilderness, organized by each of the five qualities of wilderness character. The issues for future wilderness stewardship planning section is a preliminary identification of key issues facing the wilderness area to be addressed to avoid/minimize major conflicts or degradation of wilderness character, and of wilderness specific planning and data needs.

Time Frame

3–6 months

Example(s)

- Bandelier National Monument Foundation (included as an appendix to the foundation)
- Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore Wilderness Basics
- Saguaro National Park Foundation (included as an appendix to the foundation)
- Shenandoah National Park Foundation (included as an appendix to the foundation)
- Yosemite National Park Wilderness Basics
- Zion National Park Foundation (included as an appendix to the foundation)

Potential Funding Source(s)

Wilderness Stewardship Program; Unit Management Plans; park and regional sources

Key Contact(s)

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Wilderness Character Baseline Assessment*

Objective

As described in *Keeping it Wild in the National Park Service: A User Guide to Integrating Wilderness Character into Park Planning, Management and Monitoring* (2014), a wilderness character assessment is the second of the three building blocks needed to integrate wilderness character into park planning, management, operations, and monitoring. This assessment enables park staff to understand conditions and trends with regard to the five qualities of wilderness character, and to track changes over time. Information from the assessment will be fed into the NPS wilderness character monitoring database. The assessment can be incorporated into a wilderness stewardship plan, and it should also provide useful information for other plans.

Description of the Product or Service

A wilderness character baseline assessment consists of selecting relevant measures, collecting baseline data, establishing a monitoring framework, and implementing long-term monitoring. This product focuses on the selection of relevant measures. The collection of baseline data and monitoring are separate ongoing implementation tasks and the responsibility of park staff. Entering data into the national wilderness character database are the responsibility of the Wilderness Stewardship Division.

The assessment consists of developing a table that reflects nationally standardized indicator(s) and park-specific measure(s) for each quality of wilderness character. The measures are based on data that are already being collected or that are readily available as well as other selection criteria. Additional information includes an assessment of wilderness character condition (including brief descriptions of the current condition of wilderness character, condition status, and data sources and needs) and information for developing a wilderness character monitoring framework that identifies changes and trends in wilderness character over time.

Time Frame

3–6 months

Example(s)

- Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park / Curecanti National Recreation Area Wilderness and Backcountry Management Plan and Environmental Assessment 2011 – PEPC 16726
- Death Valley National Park Wilderness and Backcountry Stewardship Plan and Environmental Assessment 2013 – PEPC 23311
- Petrified Forest National Park Wilderness Stewardship Plan / Environmental Assessment 2013 – PEPC 33669
- Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement 2015 – PEPC 33225

Potential Funding Source(s)

Wilderness Stewardship Program; Unit Management Plans; park and regional sources

Key Contact(s)

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Wilderness Eligibility Assessment*

Objective

According to NPS *Management Policies 2006* (6.2.1), all lands and waters administered by the National Park Service, including new units or additions to existing units since 1964, are to be evaluated for their eligibility for inclusion in the national wilderness preservation system. The objective of an eligibility assessment is to identify lands and waters that possess the characteristics and values of wilderness as defined in the 1964 Wilderness Act. Lands and water found eligible for wilderness can then be formally studied to determine if they should be proposed to the Department of the Interior and recommended to Congress for wilderness designation.

Description of the Product or Service

The eligibility assessment is a general evaluation of park lands and waters that is preliminary to a wilderness study. This is typically conducted as an internal assessment. It typically consists of a brief memorandum from the regional director to the NPS director that conveys the managerial determination regarding whether park lands and waters meet eligibility criteria for wilderness designation as outlined in NPS *Management Policies 2006*, Section 6.2.1.1 and 6.2.2.2. The memorandum includes a brief description of the study area(s) within the park unit, and the analysis and findings for each area determined to be eligible or determined not to be eligible. The assessment may be combined with a wilderness study or other planning products as appropriate. Notifications to the public of the wilderness eligibility assessment process and of the publication of a final eligibility determination in the Federal Register are required. An eligibility assessment may also be included in a broader public planning process such as a general management plan, wilderness stewardship plan, or wilderness study. Factors such as size of the area, and the availability of baseline data and other information influence the scope of the analysis and therefore cost and time frame.

Time Frame

3 months–1 year

Example(s)

- Wilderness Eligibility Assessment for Kahuku Unit of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park (2012)
- City of Rocks National Reserve Wilderness Eligibility Assessment (2012)
- Wilderness Eligibility Assessment for Channel Islands National Park (2015)
- See chapter 2 of the Channel Islands National Park Final General Management Plan / Wilderness Study / Environmental Impact Statement – PEPC 11063

Potential Funding Source(s)

Wilderness Stewardship Program; Unit Management Plans (if included in a larger planning effort); park and regional funding sources

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

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Wilderness Stewardship Plan or Strategy

Objective

According to NPS *Management Policies 2006* (6.3.4.2), the superintendent of each park containing wilderness resources is to develop and maintain a wilderness stewardship plan or equivalent planning document to guide the preservation, management, and use of these resources. Wilderness stewardship planning is focused on the preservation of wilderness character, the primary affirmative mandate of the 1964 Wilderness Act. The overarching goal of a wilderness stewardship plan is to restore, protect, and enhance the area's wilderness character.

Description of the Product or Service

The wilderness stewardship plan sets long-term goals and objectives, identifies issues and opportunities, and provides a decision-making framework and appropriate actions to preserve and maintain wilderness character now and into the future. The plan identifies desired future conditions and establishes indicators, measures, and standards beyond which management actions would be taken to maintain or restore desired conditions for wilderness character. The plan is subject to an appropriate environmental compliance process and document.

A park wilderness stewardship plan may be developed as a separate document or as an action or implementation component of a general management plan.

Time Frame

1–3 years

Example(s)

- Petrified Forest National Park Wilderness Stewardship Plan (2013) – PEPC 33669
- Apostle Islands National Lakeshore General Management Plan / Wilderness Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement (2011) – PEPC 10903
- Lake Mead–Jimbilnan, Pinto Valley, Black Canyon, Eldorado, Ireteba Peaks, Nellis Wash, Spirit Mountain, and Bridge Canyon Wilderness Areas Draft Wilderness Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement (2014) – PEPC 16820

Potential Funding Source(s)

Wilderness Stewardship Program; Unit Management Plans; park and regional sources

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

This plan is also known as wilderness management plan.

Wilderness Study*

Objective

Section 6.2.2 of NPS *Management Policies 2006* requires that all lands and waters determined eligible for wilderness designation be formally studied to develop a recommendation to Congress for wilderness designation. The objective of a wilderness study is to determine if and where eligible lands and waters within a national park unit should be proposed for wilderness designation. Wilderness studies serve as the basis for the NPS director to propose wilderness designation to the secretary of the interior. The ultimate result of the study may be a recommendation to Congress for wilderness designation.

Description of the Product or Service

A wilderness study involves a much more intensive review of wilderness resources than a wilderness eligibility assessment, which is a precursor to a wilderness study. A wilderness study identifies a range of possible wilderness configurations within a park unit and evaluates their effects on the human environment. A wilderness study includes a range of alternatives, including a "no action" alternative. An appropriate environmental compliance process and document is required to accompany all wilderness studies that propose legislation to designate a wilderness, and a public hearing(s) must be held as part of the process. The complexity of a park's wilderness, availability of information, the presence of controversy, extent of public comment, and the level of involvement by park and regional staff all affect the cost and time frame for the study.

Time Frame

2–3 years

Example(s)

- Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Final Wilderness Study / Environmental Impact Statement (2004) (http://www.nps.gov/apis/parkmgmt/wild-study.htm)
- Everglades National Park Final General Management Plan / East Everglades Wilderness Study / Environmental Impact Statement (2013) – PEPC 11170
- Channel Islands National Park Final General Management Plan / Wilderness Study / Environmental Impact Statement (2013) – PEPC 11063

Potential Funding Source(s)

Wilderness Stewardship Program; Unit Management Plans (if included in a larger planning effort)

Key Contact(s)

Please see the PPSS SharePoint site for a list of key contacts (https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nps-ppss/Shared%20Documents/Planning_Catalog?csf=1&web=1&e=4K6HIY)

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