



Lands Legacy

As communities keep growing and expanding, it's become every bit as important to preserve the small but sacred green and open spaces closer to home--woods and meadows and seashores where children can still play; streams where sportsmen and women can fish; agricultural lands where a family can produce the harvest that we often take for granted.

*President Bill Clinton
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At the start of this century, President Theodore Roosevelt called on Americans to save the best of our natural endowment for all time. His legacy is seen across the country in parks, forests, and wildlife refuges. This Administration has continued to fulfill Roosevelt's vision by protecting Yellowstone Park from mining, creating a 1.7 million-acre monument in Utah's spectacular red-rock country, forging an unprecedented Federal/State partnership to restore Florida's Everglades, and fashioning a historic agreement to save ancient California redwoods. President Clinton's Lands Legacy Initiative renews America's commitment to its natural environment. In addition, this Initiative moves the Department beyond preservation to the restoration of landscapes in concert with local communities, States, and Tribes through grant programs to improve livable spaces; restoration of oceans, coasts, and fishery resources; and restoration of endangered species. To implement the Administration's vision and commitment to res-

toration, the Administration will be working with Congress to create a permanent funding stream for this purpose, beginning in 2001.

This 2000 budget proposal—a 125 percent overall increase above 1999 for all the programs involved—expands Federal efforts to save America's natural treasures, provides significant new resources to States and communities to protect local green spaces, and provides increased protection for our oceans and coasts. This landmark proposal charts a new conservation vision for the 21st century to help reconnect people with the land by preserving irreplaceable pieces of our natural legacy within easy reach of every citizen. The initiative includes \$900.0 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), marking the first time any Administration has requested the full Congressionally authorized funding of LWCF in its annual budget. As its part, the Department of the Interior's 2000 budget includes \$579.0 million in the Lands

Legacy Initiative, focused on the land acquisition and conservation aspects.

A Conservation Vision for the 21st Century

The Lands Legacy Initiative expands efforts by the Administration to save nationally significant tracts of undeveloped land and preserve them for national purposes. This initiative requests \$413.0 million for Federal land acquisition, of which \$295.0 million is for Interior’s land managing bureaus.

Beyond saving America’s “crown jewels,” the Lands Legacy Initiative will work to preserve natural wonders in community backyards to restore the localities in which Americans live. Protecting local green spaces helps improve air and water quality, sustain wildlife, provide families with places to play and relax, and make communities more livable. The Lands Legacy Initiative provides the Department with \$284.0 million to assist States, local, and tribal governments to help protect and create park lands, open space, and wildlife habitat.



LANDS LEGACY (dollars in millions)	
LWCF Grants	
Land Conservation Grants	150.0
Open Space Planning Grants	<u>50.0</u>
Subtotal.....	200.0
Federal LWCF Land Acquisition	
BLM.....	48.9
FWS	73.6
NPS	<u>172.5</u>
Subtotal.....	295.0
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund	80.0
Urban Parks and Recreation Fund...	<u>4.0</u>
Total	579.0

Saving America’s Natural Treasures

In 2000, Interior LWCF efforts will focus particularly on five major areas: the California Desert, Civil War Battlefields, the Lewis and Clark Trail, the Northern Forest, and the Everglades. Funding for these five areas totals \$163.7 million. An additional \$130.3 million is requested to acquire lands and protect other critical natural and cultural resources, ranging from the addition of 31 acres at Florida’s Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge, established by Teddy Roosevelt in 1903, to the acquisition of 1,950 acres for an addition to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

California Desert - The proposed acquisition gives substance to the California Desert Protection Act, consolidating Federal ownership within the wilderness and national park unit areas in the California Desert by acquisition of more than 483,000 acres of private inholdings. Through a cost-sharing agreement among the Catellus Corporation, the Bureau of Land Management, and The Wild-

lands Conservancy, \$25.0 million in private contributions will be matched by \$36.0 million in public funds for a total of \$61.0 million.

This agreement will result in additions including 86,426 acres in the Mojave National Preserve, 40,000 acres in Joshua Tree National Park; and about 357,000 acres in BLM wilderness areas, critical desert tortoise habitat, recreation areas, and wildlife corridors.

Civil War Battlefields - Secretary Babbitt recognized the importance of protecting civil war battle-



fields in a speech commemorating the 134th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address on November 19, 1997:

Yet recognizing transcendent value of this blood soaked soil, and preserving 17 acres as public landscape, [Lincoln] turned the disputed turf between armies into sacred, ageless, common ground...It gave access to our shared heritage, opened a gateway to our past, and let us cross a threshold to understand, reflect upon, and honor our ancestors and the values for which they fought.

The National Park Service has 18 units, including National Battlefields, National Battlefield Parks, National Military Parks, and National Battlefield

Sites, that recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by citizens in battle during the period of the Civil War. The 2000 budget begins a three year initiative to fully complete acquisition of all authorized Civil War battlefields. The first year's installment is \$22.0 million for acquisition within the boundaries of seven of these historic units.

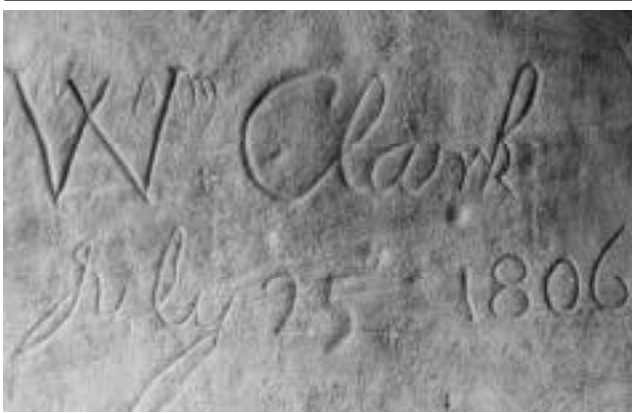
At Gettysburg NMP in Pennsylvania, \$5.7 million is requested to acquire three tracts to eliminate adverse commercial development and prevent further development at key sites in the Park. The \$6.3 million proposal at Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania NMP in Virginia will permit acquisition at the Chancellorsville Battlefield, the Battle of the Wilderness, the Lyons Farm, as well as sites of Union rear guard actions and hospitals. At Manassas NBP in Virginia, \$400,000 will allow acquisition of six high-priority acres at the battlefield site.

The 2000 budget will complete acquisition at four units: Pecos NHP Glorieta Unit in New Mexico (\$1.8 million); Stones River NB in Tennessee (\$4.3 million); as well as Monocacy NB (\$1.5 million) and Antietam NB (\$2.0 million), both in Maryland.

Lewis and Clark Trail - The bicentennial of the 8,000 mile trek that became known as the Lewis and Clark Expedition is approaching. The anniversary will be celebrated in 2003. The Corps of Discovery's mission, established by President Thomas Jefferson, began in 1803 as Meriwether Lewis began the accumulation of boats and supplies. The expedition with 32 soldiers and ten civilians left St. Louis, Missouri in July 1804 and lasted two years, four months and 10 days with Meriwether Lewis and William Clark as co-commanders. Its findings contributed vital new knowledge concerning the vast western lands, resources, and native inhabitants along the major east-west river passages of the Louisiana Purchase.

In 1978, Congress established the 3,700 mile Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail as a component of the National Trails System. It extends from the Mississippi River in Illinois to the Pacific Ocean at the mouth of the Columbia River in Oregon. Water routes, hiking trails, and marked highways follow the explorers' out-bound and return routes.

In 2000, the Department proposes \$8.5 million to begin a multi-year initiative for creative partnerships with States, local communities, and private landowners to protect viewsheds and historic sites



along the corridor. When acquisition of land is required, it will be conducted in partnership with local communities. Agencies will work with these communities and towns along the Trail in the identification of acquisition priorities and to complete Federal, State, and local ventures.

For 2000, BLM proposes \$5.0 million for the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River in Montana that includes the Judith River, one of the last free-flowing rivers along the Missouri. The Upper Missouri River is one of the very few landscapes along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail that looks much the way it did 200 years ago. In his journal of May 31, 1805, Meriwether Lewis described this section of the Upper Missouri:

The hills and river Clifts which we passed today exhibit a most romantic appearance. With the help of a little imagination...are made to represent elegant ranges of lofty freestone buildings...it seemed as if those scenes of visionary enchantment would never have an end.

As part of this partnership approach, FWS proposes \$2.5 million in North Dakota Prairie National Wildlife Refuge for easements to protect native grasslands that supported the wildlife that made winter survival with the Mandan Indian Tribe possible; and \$1.0 million in the Western Montana NWR for lands in the Blackfoot Valley that Lewis and Clark traveled through on the way to the Bitterroot Mountains.

Northern Forest - Some 26 million acres of Northern Forest stretch westward from coastal Maine through New Hampshire, Vermont, and upstate New York. Within easy driving distance of major urban centers including Boston, Hartford, and New York City, these wildlands offer tremendous outdoor recreation opportunities to millions of

city dwellers, as well as a home for black bears, deer, eagles, black ducks, and stopover areas for migratory birds. Tracts that have been held for large landowners for the last decade, mostly timber companies, are beginning to come on the market and are susceptible to development.

A coalition of Federal and State agencies, conservation organizations, and private landowners will identify the best way to provide a balanced use of the resources for humans and wildlife and will implement a comprehensive protection and management strategy for the area's timber, wetlands, and wildlife resources.

For 2000, FWS proposes \$13.2 million for acquisition within four refuges: the multi-State Silvio O. Conte NWR in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont along the upper Connecticut River Valley and its uplands; and Maine national wildlife refuges including Lake Umbagog located at the headwaters of the Androscoggin River, Sunhaze Meadows, and Moosehorn. These acquisitions will complement recent agreements for



the sale of 300,000 acres in New York and Vermont by major timber companies to national conservation organizations.

Everglades - Land acquisition is a key component of re-establishing a healthy and sustainable ecosystem in the buffer between natural and urban areas. Adequate land is needed to provide habitat protection and additional recreation, and to provide a protective buffer between natural and urban areas. Lands are necessary for improved



water storage capacity and for water quality improvement. The 2000 budget is the third year of the Administration's four-year initiative to accelerate Everglades restoration. In 1998 and 1999, Congress appropriated over \$150 million for critical land acquisition in south Florida, to help complete land acquisition in Everglades and Big Cypress National Parks and provide funds to the State of Florida for the purchase of high priority tracts in the ecosystem. The 2000 budget includes \$80.0 million in LWCF funds in the National Park Service and \$4.0 million in the Fish and Wildlife Service for continued acquisition in south Florida.

The \$80.0 million request for NPS includes \$20.0 million to complete a multi-year, Federal and State funding effort to acquire almost 110,000 additional acres in Everglades National Park, an acquisition authorized by Congress in 1989 and crucial to restoring ecosystem productivity in the southern Everglades. This will complete acquisition within the authorized boundaries of the park. The budget also includes \$11.8 million for acquisition in Big Cypress National Preserve. In addition, \$45.6 million will continue the important partnership with the State of Florida in acquiring land to support Everglades restoration. The \$4.0 million FWS proposal will allow for the protection and preservation of a portion of Sanibel Island's unique

subtropical vegetation and habitat for shore birds, wading birds, and migrating waterfowl in the J.N. "Ding" Darling NWR.

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund - This initiative provides a \$66.0 million increase over the 1999 enacted budget for State and local land acquisition to protect and restore threatened and endangered species; for increased grants to states for habitat conservation planning; and for recovery of listed and candidate species. By supporting Habitat Conservation Plans, Candidate Conservation Agreements, Safe Harbor Agreements, and other flexible tools under the Endangered Species Act, the Fund promotes collaborative strategies that sustain both wildlife and economic development. The program is administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Federal grant assistance will help facilitate smart growth by reconciling development needs with the conservation of listed species. The recently validated HCP land acquisition program is proposed to be funded at \$26.0 million. The Section 6 grants program is funded at \$50.5 million. These funding levels address the exploding demand by States, municipalities, and private parties for the innovative programs the Administration has developed to reconcile economic growth with species conservation. Twenty-five Safe Har-



bor agreements are in various stages of development and are expected to cover an additional 302,000 acres (over a baseline of 36,000) of private land for the benefit of listed and declining species.

Land Conservation Grants - This initiative proposes a \$150.0 million LWCF appropriation for matching grants to State, local, and tribal governments for acquisition of land and easements for open spaces, greenways, outdoor recreation, urban parks, wildlife habitat, and coastal wetlands. The program revives the LWCF state sharing program with a new emphasis on open space preservation. Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis with priority going to projects consistent with statewide open space plans. This program is funded in the National Park Service and will be coordinated with the Interior bureaus and other Federal agencies. The Administration will work in partnership with the Congress on developing selection criteria for this competitive program.

Open Space Planning Grants - Open space protection and land acquisition is gaining momentum at State, regional, and local levels as a means to protect farmland, maintain natural surroundings in communities, and combat sprawl. The Lands Legacy Initiative includes \$50.0 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for matching grants to States and Indian Tribes to develop open space plans emphasizing smart growth strategies. States will use a variety of data and tools to identify priority areas for open space protection including a broad spectrum of uses such as farmland, parks, greenways, and wildlife habitat. The program will award grants competitively with priority on proposals tying State open space protection plans to regional strategies for balancing growth, infrastructure development, quality of life concerns, and avoiding land use conflicts.

Urban Parks and Recreation - This initiative proposes \$4.0 million in matching grants and technical assistance for the restoration of parks in eco-

nomically distressed urban communities. UPAR, which is administered by the National Park Service, awarded over 1,200 grants from 1978 to 1995, but has not been funded since 1995.

Community/Federal Information Partnership

In 2000, the Interior Department is also supporting the implementation of the Administration's comprehensive Livable Communities Initiative. This Initiative will help communities across America grow in ways that ensure a high quality of life and strong, sustainable economic growth. The Community/Federal Information Partnership (C/FIP) proposal reflects Interior's continued efforts to enhance and expand the applicability of USGS science in assessing the Nation's most pressing environmental, social, and economic issues.

The Department will lead this new, multi-agency program to provide grants for easy-to-use geospatial data and information tools to help States and local governments develop strategies for future growth that ensures a high quality of life for those affected by such growth. The 2000 budget includes \$12.0 million for the Department to assist communities in making natural resources information available and provide local managers with better tools for decision making.

Geospatial data compiled by USGS and others is an invaluable national asset used by all levels of government and the private sector. It is used in a wide variety of applications, from the siting of landfills to the design of highways to the ranking of contamination cleanup projects. It is becoming an increasingly important tool in the effective resolution of the growth debates that are raging in many communities across America. C/FIP will make this geospatial data more usable and accessible to the public at large.