



# NPS Overview



## Leadership

Fran P. Mainella, Director  
A. Durand Jones, Deputy Director  
Donald W. Murphy, Deputy Director

## Administration

The National Park Service is a bureau of the Department of the Interior. Directly overseeing its operation is the Department's Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks - Craig Manson.

## Budget

- κ Total National Park System Budget (FY2003 Enacted) - \$2.239 billion)
- κ Total National Park System Budget (FY2004 Enacted) - \$2.259 billion)
- κ Total National Park System Budget (FY2005 Requested) - \$2.361 billion)

**The Mission of the National Park Service:** The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

**How Old is the System?** The National Park Service was created

by an Act of Congress and signed by President Woodrow Wilson on August 25, 1916. Yellowstone National Park was established by an Act signed by President Ulysses S. Grant on March 1, 1872, as the Nation's first national park.

**How Many Areas are in the National Park System?** The National Park System comprises 388 areas covering more than 84 million acres in every state (except Delaware), the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These areas include national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House. On average, 4 to 5 new park units are established with every 2-year congressional session. The number of park units has grown by almost 50% since 1970.

**Who Are the People of the National Park Service?** The National Park Service employs approximately 20,000 diverse professionals – permanent, temporary, and seasonal. They are assisted by 125,000 annual Volunteer in Parks (VIPS) who donate over 4 million hours each year which adds about 2,058 personnel equivalents to our

employee base, valued at \$72 million. Cooperating associations enhance educational and interpretive experiences at the parks by offering park-related retail items in their shops. There are 65 cooperating associations, which provide \$26 million to the National Park Service in annual contributions. Friends groups are non-profit partners of the parks.

There are about 150 Friend Groups supporting 160 parks and provide approximately \$50 million in support annually. The National Park Foundation is the National Park Service's Congressionally chartered partner and has given \$137 million in grants and program support in the past seven years.

## Concessions

The National Park Service contracts with 630 concessioners (in 128 different park units) that vary in size from small, family-owned businesses to huge corporations.

Concessioners provide visitors with lodging, transportation, food, shops, and other services.

- κ employ approximately 25,000 people (more than NPS total)
- κ gross revenue is approximately \$800 million per year.
- κ return to government in fees, special accounts (in lieu of franchise fees), estimated at approximately \$39 million for FY2002

## Contracting

- κ 95% of construction planning is done via contract
- κ nearly 100% of actual construction is contracted out, as is nearly 100% of construction project supervision and management
- κ 80% of our headquarters IT funds are contracted

## Examples of types of NPS activities conducted via contract include:

- κ Custodial services; trash pickup; boat and auto repair; personnel services (classification); web site maintenance; NEPA compliance; cultural resource studies and reports; tree service; trail rehabilitation.

## Creative partnership arrangements involving the sharing of services or resources to accomplish our work. For example:

- κ Cooperative agreement for revenue collection, ticketing functions, and reservation activities at the Gateway Arch in St. Louis;
- κ Administrative groups or clusters with shared services that remain close to the customer and the public;
- κ New strategies in natural resources management, such as exotic plant management teams that serve multiple, not single parks. (144 NPS personnel are aided by 122 FTEs through cooperative agreements and contracts) Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) Network includes the National Park Service, 12 federal agencies, over 120 universities and other partners. CESUs integrate academic expertise with land management experience.

CESUs provide the National Park Service with research, technical assistance and educational resources.

- κ Joint visitor facilities with other Federal, State, and local entities (North Cascades/Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest; Apostle Islands/USFS/FWS/State of Wisconsin, etc.)

## The National Park Service Preserving & Protecting

- κ Habitat for 364 threatened or endangered species
- κ More than 100 million items in museum collections
- κ 1.5 million archaeological sites
- κ 27,000 Historic Structures
- κ Historic Preservation Tax Incentives (more than \$2 billion leveraged annually in private investment to bring back inner cities and towns)

## Use -Recreational visit statistics

2002 ► 277 million  
1989 ► 256 million  
1969 ► 164 million  
1949 ► 32 million  
1929 ► 3 million  
1919 ► 811 thousand

## Fees

Total recreation fee \$147.4 million in FY2002, 85% of that from Fee Program

\*note: \$15.3 million for the Federal Recreation Passport Program is included in Fee total.

## Camping Facilities

More than 120 areas in the National Park System have camping opportunities. The campsites can accommodate most every camping style from tent camping and recreation vehicle spaces to more primitive types of

camping such as backcountry, where no facilities are available. Campgrounds are operated either by the National Park Service or concessioner.

## Largest Area (acres)

In Alaska's Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve: 13.2 million In the contiguous U.S., Death Valley, CA: 3.3 million

## Smallest Area (acres)

Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial, PA: 0.02

## National Park Service Asset Inventory (as of September 30, 2003)

MAIN ASSET TYPES	QUANTITY
Paved Roads	5,456 Miles
Unpaved Roads	4,758 Miles
Trails	16,741 Miles
Campgrounds	1,168
Buildings	17,454
Employee Housing Units	4,783
Water Treatment Systems	1,282
Waste Water Treatment Systems	1,433

These eight categories are comparable to the asset portfolios of other institutional and industry facility stewards. The National Park Service manages over thirty categories of assets in total; including maintained landscapes, picnic areas, waterways, monuments and fortifications, ruins, and aviation and railroad systems. Protecting many of these assets into perpetuity is a challenge unique to the National Park Service.