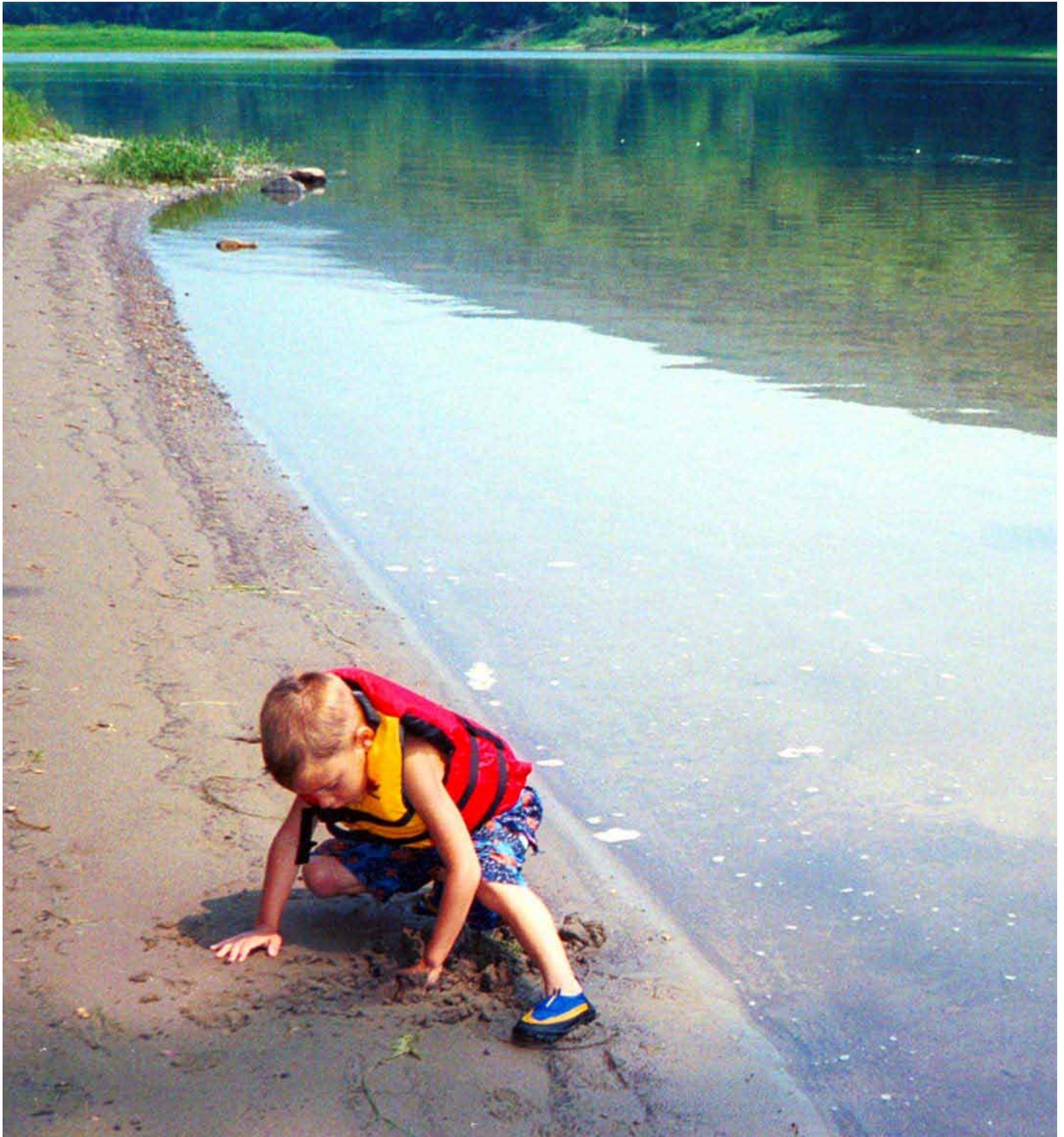




## 2008 State of the Park



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# 2008 State of the Park

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area  
New Jersey / Pennsylvania

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# Highlights

## **Park Personnel Honored**

Superintendent John Donahue was honored by the Student Conservation Association for his active conservation leadership, in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the Student Conservation Association (SCA) and in the spirit of enduring partnership. The plaque was presented to the Superintendent by Richard Seaman, Chief Financial Officer of the SCA, on July 31 during dinner at the SCA base camp at Camp Ken-Etiwa-Pec in Delaware Water Gap NRA. Seaman's comments included ".... John is a real star within SCA. We have worked with John for many years starting in Big Cypress with SCA's first Restoration Corps and now here in Delaware Water Gap. He has always had the ability to think of SCA in "out of the box" ways, with a high level of creativity in helping SCA be a solution provider. In that sense, we recognize his innovation in seeing how to come up with new program designs that make the best use of available resources and expertise. John also cares deeply about the experience of the SCA members. He ensures that they have the opportunity for meaningful conservation work. John has been an integral part in helping SCA create the next generation of conservation leaders."

Research and Resource Planning Division Chief Patrick Lynch received the 2007 Northeast Regional Director's Award for Resource Management. In the past year he led a coordinated effort in the development of a Tri-State Watershed Management Plan which included a number of municipalities in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Concurrently, he organized a Tri-State Black Bear Summit to address harvest and management issues. His five-year strategic plan for natural resource protection was critical in supporting protection efforts for endangered turtles in the park. These work efforts and successful results established a new threshold in water quality planning and wildlife management collaboration in leveraging cooperation with many local and state partners. In addition, Mr. Lynch played a key role in overseeing a complex Columbia Gas Pipeline maintenance and replacement project; he had the lead role in developing the NEPA compliance as well as project oversight. He also worked on the

many serious impacts associated with proposed cell towers throughout the park.

Park Ranger Joe Hinkes was selected by the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center as the Law Enforcement Instructor of the Year for 2007. Ranger Hinkes was also selected to assist with the NPS Agency-Wide Advanced Firearms Instructor Program and as a member of the NER Special Events Team.

Eleven year old park volunteer TJ Lasslett was selected as the 2007 Northeast Region Volunteer of the Year. TJ attended a special awards presentation at the regional office and was presented an arrowhead plaque by Regional Director Dennis Reidenbach. TJ contributed more than 300 hours of time in a variety of resource conservation activities in the Hidden Lake area, and encouraged his classmates' involvement with the Junior Ranger program. He serves as an excellent example of youth involvement in conservation.

On the afternoon of April 3rd, three fishermen from Morris County, NJ, were on an afternoon fishing trip when their boat overturned in the Delaware River just south of the Dingmans Ferry Bridge. One man was able to swim to shore, but the other two could not be located immediately. None of the three men were wearing life jackets. NER Divemaster Michael Croll and the DEWA Dive Team executed more than 150 operational dives over a two week period as they attempted to recover these two victims, including providing intensive liaison work with the families of the victims. As a result, the family of one of the victims gave the park a \$35,000 donation specifically earmarked for dive program improvement. Ranger Croll used this donation to procure equipment to ensure safety of park divers in difficult environments and circumstances.

## **Park Break 2008**

Conservation Policy was the subject of the March 10 - 14 session of Park Break 2008 that was hosted by Delaware Water Gap NRA. The primary focus of this project is successful preparation of the next generation of park managers and scientists through professional development. DEWA hosted eight graduate

students from universities across the United States, including students from China and Japan. Speakers included Don Barry, former Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; Destry Jarvis, former Special Assistant to the Secretary; Art Frederick, Deputy Director, Southeast Regional Office and former DEWA Park Ranger; and many other notable local, state, and federal officials and partners. The agenda also included a hike in the Park with John Serrao and a visit to the Delaware Valley Raptor Center. Everyone involved with this week's program considered it a resounding success.

### **Land Protection**

**National Park Service Land Exchange** At the completion of a three year process, DEWA swapped 1.22 acres of Park land in the center of the Borough of Delaware Water Gap for 6.67 acres of unimproved land adjoining the Park boundary on River Road in Smithfield Township. The land received by DEWA will provide a buffer from a major development on the Park's boundary. The Borough initially obtained funding from the Monroe County Open Space Bond to acquire the privately-owned Smithfield Township property.

**Neighborhood Development Consortium Workshop** Delaware Water Gap NRA, in conjunction with the Center for Park Management, held a one day workshop for local business operators and potential partners on June 3, 2008. The objective of the workshop was to build a common understanding of the many ways different interests can partner together for mutual benefit while achieving developmental projects and long-term support for our natural, cultural and recreational resources. The bulk of the workshop's discussion centered on generating ideas and opportunities for partnership. The participants expressed a desire to become familiar with the needs and identity of the Park. Further, they wished to understand not only how the business community can help meet the needs of the park, but also the constraints that dictate what can be done. Specific areas touched upon were transportation, marketing, generation of additional business opportunities within the park, vendor versus park-provided services, and green building technologies. DEWA staff reaffirmed their hope to use the workshop to begin a conversation on developing a shared

vision that balances future regional growth and protection of resources. Potential strategies were identified for all participants, and plans were made for a follow-up meeting. All participants felt the workshop was extremely informative and beneficial.

### **Student Conservation Association**

In one of the year's largest SCA programs in the National Park Service, 40 high school and college students from locations around the country came to work at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, joining the recovery efforts from three consecutive 100-year floods from '03-'06. Students helped to relieve some of the pressure from the tidal wave of work that flooded each division after these hard-hitting natural disasters. Maintenance work has included projects such as the rebuilding of dry-laid stone bridge abutments, rerouting a stream and rebuilding stone retaining walls to prevent erosion, and to help complete a backlog of repairs and improvements. Participants also assisted in natural and cultural resource projects such as invasive/exotic species removal, historic structures repair and documentation, a large landslide restoration project including planting over 200 native saplings, Delaware River campsite restoration, trail work, and controlled burn management.

### **Transportation Initiatives**

**Alternative Transportation Feasibility Study** Managers from the National Park Service and the Federal Highway Administration contracted with the Vanasse Hangen Bruslin/Jacobs Engineering Group team (VHB/Jacobs) to conduct an extensive Alternative Transportation Feasibility Study for the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and the surrounding areas in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. This study will be conducted over the next several months and it will result in several options for alternative transportation within the study area. A major component of the study includes gathering feedback from potential stakeholders and the public in both states.

**Traffic Safety Study** The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the National Park Service (NPS) are continuing their efforts toward development of an NPS Safety management System by conducting a traffic safety study for an individual park. The les-

sons learned and results of this study will be used to produce guidelines for future efforts at other parks. Delaware Water Gap NRA was chosen as the pilot park for the Northeast Region for these traffic safety studies because of its high accident rate and the comprehensive database maintained by the Park. The kickoff meeting was held in November, 2007, and the study is expected to be completed by the end of December, 2008???

#### **New Jersey Swim Beach**

After more than five years of effort, all the permits were secured from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for this project and the construction contract was awarded for \$3.1M. This swim beach will replace one that has been closed for several years due to flood damage and resource impact concerns.

#### **Human Resources Employees Excel**

The park's Human Resources Office continues to provide a full range of services to Delaware Water Gap NRA, Upper Delaware S&RR, Morristown NHP and Edison NHS. The total number of employees serviced is well over 250 employees. The DEWA office, which is staffed by three permanent full-time employees and one seasonal employee, completed a record number of human resources initiatives this year, with most statistics more than doubling FY07's figures. Our staff issued more than 30 vacancy announcements for DEWA, UPDE, MORR and EDIS (19 in FY07), reviewing and rating over 550 individual applications (225 in FY07), and prepared more than 1200 individual personnel actions for all parks serviced (770 in FY07). In addition to this enormous workload, HR staff members were able to participate in four recruitment events/job fairs as part of the Centennial Challenge seasonal hiring initiative.

#### **Congressional Affairs**

DEWA was very involved with Congressional visits, meetings, and affairs this year. Senior staffers from the offices of Senator Bob Casey (PA) and Senator Arlen Specter (PA) visited the park in August to discuss some of our more pressing issues. Besides a lengthy review of our briefing packets and current issues, they were able to spend time touring the park, both on land and the Delaware River, where they were able to view many of the current is-

sues firsthand.

DEWA staff is in regular contact with staffers from Congressman Scott Garrett's offices, both local and in Washington DC, throughout the year. Members of the Congressman's staff have visited the park on several occasions to discuss current issues and attend public meetings.

The Superintendent attended two Legislative breakfasts held in Pike County during FY08. The Superintendent, along with some of his staff, attended two town hall meetings held by Congressman Chris Carney (PA) held earlier this year.

The Superintendent continues to respond to numerous Congressional inquiries related to the status of historic structures, the proposed powerline, the Citizen Advisory Committee, and many other subjects.

#### **Centennial Challenge Seasonals**

In FY08, DEWA was able to meet its goal of hiring 24 Centennial Challenge seasonals. Three students from Slippery Rock University were hired for the Law Enforcement program, twelve were hired for the Interpretive and Education program, and nine were hired to supplement Maintenance Division staff, plus several other seasonals in all divisions had extended seasons thanks to CC funds. Their employment augmented permanent staff in a number of program areas; afforded the completion of project tasks by permanent personnel and allowed for the provision of lower priority services to other divisions and visitors.

- As a result of Centennial funding, DEWA's interpretive programs and services were enhanced and improved in many areas. The increased staffing allowed not only development of 2 new children's programs and the addition of regularly scheduled village tours, but also allowed research to be done for the future development of new rotating exhibits. The number of ranger-led interpretive programs this year more than doubled to 71 (37 in FY07). In addition, the number of days the park's three visitor centers were open increased by 34% over last year.
- The law enforcement seasonals assisted the permanent rangers by providing addi-

tional personnel in patrols of areas which would be considered as more hazardous for a single person foot patrol. They were able to provide additional coverage for foot patrols at Kittatinny Point, Milford and Smithfield Beaches, Van Campen's Glen, Hackers Falls, and Childs Park. They also permitted two person patrols for the River District staff and allowed them to have boats out on patrol more frequently.

- The additional assistance provided by the CC seasonals hired in the Maintenance Division helped reduce park deferred maintenance and increased visitor satisfaction with park facilities. These personnel performed maintenance and repairs on roads, trails, visitor centers, boat/canoe launches, group campsites, picnic, beaches, and historic buildings. They also assisted journeyman and maintenance mechanics in the repair and maintenance of various buildings and utility systems throughout the Park, and increased custodial/janitorial services at visitor sites.

## Current Issues

### **Budget and Staffing Challenges**

FY2008 brought more welcome relief from the trend of increasing erosion of park base buying power. The NPS Centennial Initiative was implemented in FY2008. Through that initiative, DEWA received funding for 24 additional seasonal employees and over \$800K in Flexible Base projects. With the additional hiring, a more intense recruitment plan was created and carried out. DEWA was able to recruit, hire and process background investigations for all of the additional employees. Moreover, DEWA received a \$375K base increase to help support the operation of new facilities within the park.

### **Susquehanna to Roseland Power Line**

Representatives from Pennsylvania Power and Light (electricity supplier in PA) and Public Service Enterprise Group (electricity supplier in NJ) have scheduled several meetings with DEWA staff to discuss their future plans to increase power delivery to New York City and northern New Jersey. To meet that goal, the most direct route for the utility companies is

via rights-of-way within the Park. The path of the proposed transmission line will pass through four miles of park land. The park has identified 17 tracts of park land affected in Warren County then crossing the river onto 16 tracts of park land in Pike County. If this concept was to be implemented by the utilities, there would be very serious effects to park visitors and resources. Both power companies have provided DEWA with applications for several permits, such as research and NAG-PRA, as part of their planning process. DEWA staff is working diligently to respond to request for permits, but we have not yet received an actual proposal from the power companies. The discussion is expected to continue for quite some time.

### **Penndot Road Improvement Project**

Tracts 8710 Leviste and 10577 Presto Molly have been acquired by Penndot for use in the exchange of park land to be used in exchange of highway easements. A large billboard sign on TR10577, adjacent to Route 739, was condemned and removed by PennDOT. Acquiring mineral rights for the property are currently being addressed. The park continues to guide the project progress through established guidelines and requirements.

### **Connectivity Project**

The Superintendent has begun discussions with federal, state, and local organizations and agencies to identify priority areas and lands that connect state and federal lands. A series of meetings have been held both in the park and in the surrounding counties to further discuss this proposal with all interested parties. Participants in these meetings include the National Park Service, The Nature Conservancy, the Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources (Bureaus of State Parks, Forestry, and Conservation and Recreation), the Monroe County Planning Commission, and the Pennsylvania Game Commission. This group is focusing on creating a working group to share information and establish collaboration with other groups and agencies whose goals are to protect land, water and wildlife.

### **Santos Farm Project**

The 96 acre parcel of the Santos Farm property (Pike County, PA) that is located immediately along the river is the park's highest protection priority. Acquisition would pro-

tect the land from residential and commercial development and would help to solidify the NPS ownership of both sides of the Delaware River. The land also includes significant archeological assets and serves as prime hunting habitat. This parcel is under option with The Trust for Public Land for acquisition with the intention of the National Park Service managing the area.

#### **Del Grosso Farm**

This 95 acre tract in Sussex County, NJ is forest land with no structures. Most of the acreage is located within 1000 ft. of the Delaware River. Protecting the land from mining operations for sand and gravel brings additional justification for acquisition. Based on a 1992 archaeological investigation the likelihood of encountering unique prehistoric artifacts is very high. Several miles south of the property the oldest American Indian occupation site in the area was discovered. This land is also within the boundary of the Middle Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and protecting this land would be in keeping with conservation as defined in the Act creating this Scenic and Recreational River. Protection of this land would also help preserve the excellent water quality of this section of the Delaware River. Finally, this land protection effort would create a larger ecological sink for the continuation of rare and unique eastern riparian fauna and flora (see DEWA GMP). The Nature Conservancy has recently purchased the land with the intention of having the National Park Service acquire the property within the next year.

## **Accomplishments**

### **Administration**

#### **Volunteers in Parks**

The Volunteer in Parks program at DEWA continues to be great success, ranking second among all National Parks for volunteer hours for FY 2007. This year, more than 823 volunteers contributed more than 100,000 hours of service valued at over \$1,951,000. DEWA received \$15,000 in volunteer program support funds from the Region, which yielded a return of over \$130 for every dollar invested. VIP funds were used in the following areas: first aid and CPR training courses; trails main-

tenance workshop; purchase of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED); supplies for the volunteer Bike Patrol; VIP uniforms and recognition items; and VIP trail crew supplies. The park is requesting \$20,000 in volunteer program funds for FY 2009, to support the VIP program and its expected growth this year.

We received additional funding for an Assistant VIP Coordinator, and we are now in the process of interviewing candidates for that full-time position. FY 2008 funds for this position were used to backfill for the VIP and Partnerships Coordinator position while the incumbent was on active duty with the Air Force, and to purchase supplies, equipment and materials to support the position.

The park's volunteer bike patrol continues to be a model for success. DEWA has provided advice and support to other parks and agencies developing their own volunteer bike patrol programs. Examples of other organizations assisted include the George Washington Memorial Parkway and the Normal, Illinois Police Department.

Volunteers and partner organizations participated in the Park's annual open house celebrating National Parks Week. The open house theme, "Who We Are and What We Do," used interpretive and static displays to engage and educate visitors on park history, operations, and our volunteer and partnership programs. We also managed the annual river cleanup, which was again co-sponsored by all of the canoe liveries operating in the park. This continues to be a very successful event, drawing 368 volunteers who cleaned up trash and debris along the Middle Delaware National Scenic River.

The park's annual volunteer appreciation dinner was held October 30, 2007 and was attended by 173 volunteers. Appreciation plaques were awarded to the Park's volunteer of the year and youth volunteer of the year. Special recognition certificates were awarded to other volunteers and NPS staff who made substantial service contributions to the VIP Program. Special plaques were awarded to the Shawnee Inn and Kittatinny Canoes for their substantial volunteer involvement within the Park.

### **Partnerships Management**

The Park continues to maintain a variety very successful long-term partnership programs. This past year we added the Brandwein Institute and Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 to our list of partners. The Brandwein Institute's mission is to educate people to recognize their responsibility for sustaining a healthy and healing environment. The mission of Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 is to provide job training opportunities to children with special needs.

The Friends of DEWA Park Conservancy served more than 6,000 visitors this past year by operating the Bushkill Visitor Center, by providing a lecture series and family fun day, and through various other community events around the Park. Their total number of service hours was 4,210. Two members of the Friend's Board of Directors attended a workshop on developing and working with Friends, sponsored by the Association for Partnership of Public Lands, held at Minuteman National Park.

Peters Valley Craft Center continues to provide world-class crafts education programs in the park, and has begun planning for their 40th anniversary celebration in 2010. This long-term partner has seen growth in their Artist Residency, Youth and Work Exchange programs. Their Youth Day Camp was very popular for its second year in operation, focusing on ceramic and fiber art. Weekly interpretive nature walks were led by DEWA Interpretive ranger staff. Peters Valley served reports that they served 13,981 visitors.

The Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) reports that they served over 8,400 formal education visitors who participated in hands-on study of nature and natural systems. They estimate serving over 1,900 non-formal education visitors who took advantage of PEEC staff and visitor programs. PEEC reports that they served approximately 9,000 walk in visitors and Park trail users.

Now in its 15th year of operation as a Park partner, the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) reports serving 4,800 day time visitors, and 5,500 overnight guests. The AMC continued this year with including courses such as map & compass reading, backpacking, and wilderness first aid. In support of volun-

tourism AMC has initiated a new program called Mohican Weekend Getaways, which provides service learning opportunities for park visitors.

### **Recreation Fee Collection**

Despite a slow start due to weather and the high price of gasoline (it is thought), a total of \$188,199.26 in recreation fees were collected this year at five day-use areas, two group campgrounds, and sales of various passes (both DEWA specific and national) throughout the park. The cost of collection was maintained at 37%.

The automated fee collection machine at one high-use site failed; the site was staffed seven (7) days a week and visitors were asked to use fee envelopes when no staff was on duty. A new automated fee machine has been ordered and will be in place for next season.

The park's group campground policy was updated, bringing that program into compliance with Director's Order #20. Use of the group campgrounds increased this summer, particularly in August which saw both campgrounds full to capacity every weekend. One campsite site was regularly reserved for weeknight use by one canoe livery.

### **Commercial Vehicle Management**

Commercial vehicle use fees received from U.S. Route 209 totaled \$55,235. The volume of paying commercial vehicles has not returned to pre-2006 levels, when the legislation authorizing commercial vehicle use lapsed for over three months. The resulting drop in revenues may require additional funding to ensure adequate staffing levels to enforce commercial use restrictions. Unannounced commercial vehicle safety inspections continued with the assistance of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

### **Human Resources Management**

The park's Human Resources Office is staffed by three permanent full-time employees and provides a full range of services to Delaware Water Gap NRA, Upper Delaware S&RR, Morristown NHP and Edison NHS. The total number of employees serviced is well over 250 employees. DEWA does not charge its sister parks for these services, and was one of only two Servicing Personnel Offices (SPO's) in

the NER that actually implemented the USA Staffing program after most of the SPO's were given the license to use the program. DEWA HR staff have been requested to assist in training the other SPO's in our region to use USA Staffing, which will be mandatory by FY 2010.

The Human Resources Assistant also prepares Bills for Collection for our Budget Office, in order to ensure adequate internal controls through separation of duties.

Activities this year included:

- Attended four recruitment events/job fairs, including events at or sponsored by colleges.
- Issued over 30 vacancy announcements for DEWA, UPDE, MORR and EDIS.
- Reviewed and rated over 550 individual applications
- Prepared over 1200 personnel actions for all parks serviced
- Prepared over 170 bi-weekly payroll submissions; and all corrections as needed were submitted hard copy
- Processed over 40 OWCP claims
- Processed three retirements and a line-of-duty death, and provided over 40 retirement estimates to employees
- Submitted all paperwork and fingerprints for approximately 115 background investigations
- Prepared organizational structure charts and staffing plans as needed and classified positions as needed.
- Advised and counseled employees and supervisors on benefits, training, employee performance management, employee relations, disciplinary actions, and awards
- Provided counseling and support to the family of a park employee who was stricken and died while on duty
- Prepared over 160 Bills for Collection for Special Use Permits, commercial fees, agricultural permits and leasebacks in the park
- Took training and began recruiting through USA Staffing.
- Requested 15 Certificates of Eligibles from the Franchise Office for centennial seasonals for all the parks we service. Hired 18 seasonals from these certificates.
- Continued to take proactive measures promoting good communications with NAGE Local R3-68.

### **Acquisition and Property Management**

The DEWA acquisition office continued to provide services to Edison National Historic Site and Morristown NHP. Following the mid-year retirement of the Contracting Officer at Saratoga, we began servicing Women's Rights NHP and Fort Stanwix NHP as well. The total workload consisted of 249 actions processed in IDEAS. Two additional procurement actions were made in support of Salem Maritime, which is not one of the parks we have pledged to assist.

Thirty-six of the 249 actions exceeded the warrant authority of the DEWA CO, who prepared the paperwork and forwarded the packages for obligation by contracting officers outside the park. These actions totaled \$637,303.39, including an SCA agreement for several crews for \$289,952.00, roof repairs at Morristown NHP for \$106,000.00, and an Interagency Agreement with the US Army Corp for \$101,800.00.

The DEWA Contracting Officer also made credit card purchases totaling \$386,000.04 during the fiscal year. This figure includes relatively large dollar payments for gasoline, fuel oil, and portable toilet rentals.

Purchases obligated locally totaled 213 actions for approximately \$1,515,063.42. The larger contracts were for restoration of the chemical lab at Edison NHS, archeological test pits at Women's Rights NHP, and underground tank removals at Morristown NHP and Delaware Water Gap NRA. Actions by park were as follows: SAMA 2; FOST 4; WOR1 5; EDIS 14; MORR 19; and DEWA 169. By division actions at DEWA were as follows: Resource management 12; Protection 31; Admin and Management 55; Maintenance 62; and Agreements 9.

The DEWA CO recognized deficiencies in the quality and completeness of purchase requests received by this office, and developed a training syllabus to address the problems. This training was presented three times, in NJ, PA and NY. Despite this effort there were still problems with weak scopes of work and non-adherence to acquisition deadlines which resulted in a few requests not being processed. Additional training is being developed for FY 2009 to ensure that parks currently serviced by DEWA are able to get all their needs met

promptly and efficiently when they are transitioned to the MABO business model.

Property disposal actions (particularly vehicles) continue to be processed promptly, ensuring that maximum value from the resulting sales is returned to the Equipment Replacement Fund. Annual physical inventories were completed on time, and thanks to more aggressive management support inventory discrepancies were resolved more rapidly than in the past.

### **Information Technology**

The park's information technology specialists (one permanent, one half-year assistant) operate and maintain networks at ten locations that connect to the park headquarters and provide access to the NPS wide area network. Dial-up internet access is also supported for four sites. Support and assistance are provided on a daily basis to app. 130 users who collectively use about 150 computers. Support is also provided to Steamtown NHS and Upper Delaware S&RR, and to a contracted publications editor who coordinates the daily publication of InsideNPS and Today at DEWA. The assistant transferred to Apostle Islands in March 2008 leaving the IT Specialist to support the program alone until the position is refilled (early FY 2009).

Examples of user support activities include:

- Support the R&RP office in the restoration of a file server after a complete failure;
- Support of users after the STIG was applied including reformat of computer in Dispatch for recording of radio/phone transmissions;

- Supported the Communications Center to access JNET for criminal histories;
- Installation and provided training to the Protection Division to download data from the traffic speed sign;
- Worked with R&RP Staff to develop a Sharepoint Site for the park's Intranet site;
- Completed mandatory Role-based security training;
- Tracked the park's completion of the other mandatory training;
- Coordinated the end-of-fiscal year IT purchases;
- Resolved many "emergency" responses to computer failures.

### **Budget and Fiscal**

The park's Budget and Fiscal staff of two permanent full-time positions provided guidance and assistance to managers through a period of change in FY 2008. The Financial Technician, in her duties as Travel Coordinator, pre-audited travel vouchers from May through August. Then, she aided park staff through the transition to the new travel management system throughout the rest of the year. Also, staff supported nearly 100 charge card holders and travelers, and conducted reviews on Third-Party Draft, Imprest Fund, Fee Collection and Charge Card programs.

The park obligated almost \$20 million this fiscal year. At the close of the fiscal year we left a balance of \$44.88 in our base accounts (0.00047% of our total budget). The Budget Office also coordinated the tracking and reporting of storm recovery, line item construction and centennial initiative obligations and expenditures.

## **Maintenance & Construction Management**

### **Line Item Construction Program Projects**

- New Jersey Swim Beach – After years of effort, all the permits were secured from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for this project and the construction contract was awarded for \$3.1M. This swim beach will replace one that has been closed for several years due to flood damage and resource impact concerns.
- Sustainable Comfort Stations - This project consisting of replace plastic portable chemical toilets throughout the park with 22 sustainable comfort stations called "Sweet Smelling Toilets" was awarded for \$1.07M and work is expected to start very soon and will be completed by late spring.
- Childs Park Rehabilitation – Preservation of a native hemlock ravine and correction of deferred maintenance deficiencies is

the focus for this project at a very popular visitor-use site. A Finding of No Significant Impact was signed in July for the Environmental Assessment and a design contract has been issued for this FY 10 project.

- Hazard Structure Removal – Preliminary planning continues on this project to demolish 150 excess building assets to include associated outbuildings, wells and septic systems. Natural and cultural resource compliance, State Historic Preservation Office consultation, and National Environmental Policy Act planning are underway.
- Joseph M. McDade Recreational Trail – After the FONSI was issued for realignment of portions of the trail, construction work has resumed on this 32-mile-long trail on the Pennsylvania side of the river. Most of the trail has been cleared and almost 19 miles of the trail have been completed to date. A contract for installation of 11 trail bridges is under solicitation. The entire trail with the exception of sections dependent upon Federal Highways projects (approx 3 miles) is expected to be completed in the summer of 2009.

#### **Federal Lands Highway Program Projects**

- Over the past 5 years, over \$13M was spent on DEWA roads and bridges from various funding sources. This has greatly improved the ride-ability of our major roadways. Most of the work was managed by DEWA.
- The Federal Highway Administration, Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division awarded a contract for \$1.78M to rehabilitate the Bushkill Bridge on Route 209. This is the most heavily traveled bridge in the park. The project will take 10 months to complete.
- Route 209 – Several roadway and bridge reconstruction projects are in various stages of design by the Federal Highway Administration.

#### **Roads, Trails, Grounds and Dams Projects**

- Ongoing road and shoulder maintenance and repairs on 173 miles of roads.
- Snow and ice control on approximately 75 miles of roadway, eight administrative buildings, and six park residences

- Conducted dam maintenance and inspection, coordinated dam repair design for 2 dams with the Bureau of Reclamation, and issued a contract for tree removal from one dam. Enlisted the volunteer services of retired WASO Dams Engineer to assist in dams management. DEWA has 114 dams in its inventory.
- Mowed road shoulders, grounds, and maintained landscapes.
- Cliff Park Trails have been completed through the collective efforts of DEWA and volunteers. This consists of 10 miles of trail, 4 vista viewing areas, 2 bridges, and elimination of social trails. A DEWA interdisciplinary team managed the planning and compliance, and construction was completed by DEWA personnel, and almost 900 hour volunteer hours including the Student Conservation Association.
- The DEWA Maintenance Division Trails Coordinator managed approximately 4700 volunteer hours for the maintenance, repair, and correction of deferred maintenance on over 100 miles of trails throughout the park including portions of the Appalachian Trail. Volunteer groups included the Appalachian Mountain Club, New York/New Jersey Trails Club, Batona Hiking Group, Wilmington Hiking Group, and the Northeast Pennsylvania Equine Society- Pike County Chapter. The Student Conservation Association also provided 2300 hours of assistance funded through the Public Land Corps which over the past years has been a tremendous asset in reducing major trail maintenance backlog through their terrific trail expertise.
- Hazard Tree removal throughout the park was performed with seasonal employees funded through Cyclic Maintenance funds for \$112,000.
- Continued a Recreational Fee project to replace potentially dangerous cable gates with steel pipe gates.
- Seasonal Duty Station Program included building and grounds maintenance at 3 visitor centers, 8 boat/canoe launches, 2 group campsites, 3 picnic/beach areas, and Historic Millbrook Village
- Performed tree and brush removal from historic structures.
- A fishing dock at Loch Lomond that is assessable to persons with disabilities

was repaired and restored to meet current ADA standards. This work was performed by volunteers.

#### **Buildings and Utilities Projects**

- Based on the DEWA Park Asset Management Plan (PAMP), Maintenance and Construction Management Division has been concentrating our limited repair and maintenance resources on our highest priority assets. Over the past 5 years, \$114K has been spent on Park Headquarters, which has a high Asset Priority Index and is in our PAMP Priority 1 band.
- Performed maintenance and repairs on HVAC systems throughout the park.
- Improvements were made to several park water systems. A systematic evaluation and plan of action for correction of deficiencies to the 135 park water systems is underway.
- Repairs were completed on the visitor contact stations on Route 209.

#### **Storm Recovery Work**

- An Interagency Agreement was issued to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Philadelphia District for \$2.28M to do various additional storm recovery projects including boat and canoe ramp repairs, flood-proofing comfort stations, river and stream stabilization, and roadway embankment stabilization. streambank along Johnny Bee Road.
- An Interagency Agreement was issued to the U. S. Forest Service for \$250,000 for planning, design, and implementation of river campsite rehabilitation.
- Five crews from the Student Conservation Association assisted DEWA with flood recovery work this summer.
- A contract to stabilize a stream washout threatening a portion of the roadway leading to Dingmans Falls Visitor Center was completed.
- Stabilized a portion of Route 209 (the main thoroughfare in the park) that was threatened by erosion from the Bushkill Creek. The erosion was within 3 feet of the pavement edge and DEWA expedited permitting, NEPA compliance and completed the work in less than one month from initiation.
- Several miles of gravel roads in the park were regraded by Roads and Trails crews including shoulder drainage improvements

and culvert maintenance.

- A contract for stabilization and repair of 15 historic structures that were damaged from the storms is in progress. Cost of the project is \$630,000 and the work is being managed by DEWA.
- Through an Interagency Agreement with the Philadelphia District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, approximately 48 Tons of debris was removed from the river, including drums containing hazardous waste.
- Volunteer River Clean-Up with 400 Volunteers managed removed 124 tires and 23 tons of trash.

#### **Facilities Management**

- Park Asset Management Plan (PAMP) - Park staff is steadily progressing towards implementation of the PAMP to prioritize our maintenance and repairs on high priority assets at the park. This is an arduous effort with over 1700 assets within the park.
- Facilities Management Software System (FMSS) - Enhancements to the FMSS as an ongoing and challenging effort consisting of additional asset condition assessments, review of Asset Priority Indices, updating of cost data, asset specification templates, implementation of the PMIS project bridge, and much more.
- Recycling – Made significant progress in implementing the DEWA Recycling program in accordance with recommendations from the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan. Obligated \$48,600 for purchase of bear proof recycling containers for visitor sites, recycle bins for offices, housing recycle containers, and implementation of a recycling awareness campaign.
- Budget - The Maintenance Division ONPS budget was \$3.46M in FY08. In addition, the division managed \$4.36M in flood recovery funds, and various project funded efforts.
- Despite the fact that there are currently 14 vacancies in the Maintenance and Construction Management Division compared to 5 years ago (including the 2 project manager positions), the remaining 25 personnel in the Division have managed to keep most of the park high priority assets in satisfactory condition through dedication and perseverance.

### **Centennial Challenge Seasonal Employees**

CC Seasonal Personnel performed road maintenance on Route 209, the most heavily traveled roadway in the park. This work included shoulder tree and brush clearing, guiderail maintenance, sign repair/replacement, culvert maintenance, and traffic control for road repair operations on this 21 mile roadway. They also worked on gate repairs, clearing brush around historic buildings, trail maintenance on the McDade Trail and assisted in the alignment and construction of the Cliff Park Trails, trail heads, and trail parking areas. They installed bulletin boards, split rail fencing, and trail signs.

One CC Seasonal Personnel served as leader of 8 personnel who performed buildings and grounds maintenance, custodial services, and

trash collection at 3 visitor centers, 8 boat/canoe launches, 2 group campsites, 3 picnic/beach areas, and Historic Millbrook Village. This person performed inspection of these sites and assured critical deficiencies were addressed in a timely manner to enhance the visitor experience at the park.

Other CC Seasonal Personnel assisted in carpentry repairs and alterations, repair and general maintenance of utility and plumbing systems, electrical systems, painting and refurbishing of building exteriors and interiors, roof and gutter cleaning, HVAC PM, water systems repair and maintenance, and window repairs. CC Seasonal Personnel also performed increased custodial and janitorial duties at visitor sites and high priority assets throughout the park.

## **Interpretation and Education**

The division hired 12 additional Centennial Challenge seasonals, bringing the total seasonal interpretive seasonal staff to 22. As a result of CC funding, DEWA's interpretive programs and services were enhanced and improved in many areas:

- Contacted 48,774 visitors at Dingmans Falls VC, Kittatinny Point VC, and Bushkill Information Center, an increase of 4,965 visitors from FY 2007.
- Operated Dingmans Falls and Kittatinny Point Visitor Centers seven days a week during the peak summer season from Memorial Day through Labor Day and weekends through the end of September. Dingmans Falls was open for 95 days, 9 days more than in FY 2007. Kittatinny Point was open for 109 days, 47 more than FY 2007.
- Operated Bushkill Information Center, in partnership with the Friends of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and the Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau. The center was open for 52 days, up from 22 days in FY 2007.
- Millbrook Village was open a total of 76 days, an increase from 48 days in the 2007 fiscal year. This was made possible by an increase in staff with 2 seasonal employees working 5 days each week instead of 1 seasonal for 3 days a week in the previous year. Offered 71 ranger-led interpretive programs, attended by 1,485 visitors. Programs included guided walks and hikes, tours of Millbrook Village, stream studies, and youth arts and crafts programs. (In FY 07, 37 formal interpretive programs were provided for 1,342 visitors).
- Presented 8 programs for 224 participants in the Shawnee Institute's Elderhostel program. Rangers conducted evening programs, led bike and river trips, and guided hikes. One ranger worked with an inter-generational group (grandparents and their teenage grandchildren) over a two-week period.
- Contacted 5,438 visitors through roving assignments, such as bicycling on the McDade Trail, hiking popular trails in PA and NJ, and water safety patrols along the Delaware River.
- Developed new bulletin board exhibits for the visitor centers, maintained outdoor bulletin boards throughout the park, prepared an exhibit on the area's Native American inhabitants using artifacts from the park's museum collection.
- Developed a new Junior Naturalist booklet.
- Dedicated one seasonal position to manage and administer the park's Eastern National Operation. The job comprised ordering and receiving stock, item pricing, stock distribution and replenishment for three visitor center sales outlets, inventory accountability, funds accountability, making bank deposits, securing cash and change for the

visitor centers, servicing and troubleshooting cash registers and credit card system, serving as liaison between the “field” and the Eastern Coordinator, and providing guidance to staff on proper EN operations procedures.

#### **Teacher to Ranger to Teacher Program**

DEWA was one of ten NER parks to pilot the Teacher to Ranger to Teacher (TRT) program. A local 7th/8th grade science teacher was selected as the park’s candidate. The process to develop and approve an Interagency Personnel Agreement was initiated in November 2007 and was approved in June 2008. The TRT worked for eight weeks and was active in all areas of visitor center operations and interpretive programs. In addition, the TRT undertook the development of 24 podcasts detailing the geologic history of the water gap, as evidenced along the Mt. Tammany trail. Staff from the Research and Resource Planning Division provided GPS and mapping assistance; interpretive staff were involved with script development, filming, on-camera presentations, and editing. The TRT’s school district invested in the project, purchasing computers, software, a digital camera, GPS unit, and an iPod, as well as making school facilities available for project work. The podcasts will be available on the park’s website and via a link from the school district’s website.

#### **Educational Programs**

Interpretive staff, with assistance from other divisions conducted 85 curriculum-based education programs to 30,857 students, teachers, and adults.

- The annual Historic Activities Day programs, presented over two days at Millbrook Village, represented over 29,000 of the total education contacts.
- Two additional Archeology Traveling Trunks were completed. The park’s archeology and geology traveling trunks, along with the geology curriculum were used by over 800 local fourth through sixth grade students.

#### **Lecture Series**

The lecture series, now in its eighth year, presented seven lectures to 490 visitors in FY 2008. Three lectures (Butterflies, Raptors, and Devastation on the Delaware – the 55 Flood) drew audiences of 90 to 100 people, filling Bushkill Meeting Center to capacity. A four-speaker panel discussion on the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. Two family and two Family Fun Days were also very well attended.

#### **Millbrook Village Activities**

- Interpretive staff and volunteers conducted over 6,000 craft and skill demonstrations to more than 16,000 visitors.
- Better staffing gave the visiting public an improved experience while also providing better care of the facilities with general daily upkeep (cleaning in the curatorial recommended manner, safety and security inspections). Research on the genealogy of Millbrook families, occupations of past Millbrook residents, some common daily chores of rural women of the late 19th century and the use of lime kilns was done by the seasonal staff. This information improved the seasonal staff’s ability to provide a broader range of information during formal village tours.

#### **Special Events**

Nearly 8,000 visitors participated in 10 special events during FY 2008. Many of the events highlight the important partnerships between the park and volunteer historical organizations. FY 2008 began with the annual two-day Millbrook Days folklife festival. Approximately 6,000 visitors enjoyed the demonstrations, exhibits, games, and music of the 19th century presented by costumed volunteers from the Millbrook Village Society and park staff. The 18th century came to life with Van Campen Day, an annual fall event involving park staff and volunteers from the Walpack Historical Society. Over 500 visitors viewed a re-enactment of a military encampment from the 7-Years War (the French and Indian War), frontier life, and participated in guided hikes and tours.

**Exhibits/Media:**

- The park's Appalachian Trail site bulletin and map was converted to electronic format. All standard park site bulletins are now in electronic format for easy updating and revision.
- Organization of the Interpretive Slide File (10,000 slides) is now 75% complete.
- Researched and designed ten new interpretive wayside exhibit panels; organized changes required for a new edition of the parkwide orientation panel.
- The Interpretive Specialist was detailed to the Northeast Regional Office for four months as the Regional Web Coordinator.

## Environmental Planning and Compliance

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) completed 32 project reviews and began planning 13 additional park projects using the Environmental Screening Form (ESF) in the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) database in compliance with NEPA and following guidance provided in Director's Order #12, and associated handbook. Park staff also completed planning and produced an Environmental Assessment for Construction of a Curatorial Storage Facility for Large Objects, resulting in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Park staff also participated in the scoping, planning, analysis and review of Environmental Assessments for the Raymondskill Dams #3 and #4, as well as Rehabilitation of the Child Park Recreation Site, also resulting in a FONSI.

Additionally, staff participated in planning meetings and site visits for environmental planning and permitting related to large storm recovery projects being completed through Inter-Agency assistance, including a planning workshop for the rehabilitation of river campsites damaged during flooding, boat launch repairs, comfort station facility repairs and flood-proofing, and streambank stabilization projects. Planning reviews also continued for Line Item Construction projects and Federal

Highway Administration roadway projects in the park. Projects performed by park staff included buildings and facility repairs, roadway and culvert repairs, and park trail maintenance and construction.

Environmental Planning and Compliance staff in conjunction with Research & Resource Planning staff began data collection and research for planning in relation to a proposed electric transmission line expansion (Susquehanna to Roseland line) crossing the park in Pennsylvania and New Jersey and its relation to the Department of Energy National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors (NIETC). Several conference calls with other park within Northeast Region were held to discuss potential projects proposed since the designation of the Mid-Atlantic NIETC.

Planning and Compliance staff participated in planning and permitting of infrastructure repair and improvement projects in adjoining communities with potential park resource impacts. Staff also participated in several regional open space and greenway planning efforts.

NEPA Awareness training was provided to seasonal staff during park orientation in June 2008.

## Research and Resource Planning

- Sustainable Water Quality - the park maintained its leadership role of directing, coordinating and reporting on the Significant River Waters Monitoring program in concert with the Delaware River Basin Commission. Additionally, park ecologists worked with the DRBC and other tri-state regulatory agencies to help promulgate new regulations for water volume quantities in the Delaware River.
- Threatened & Endangered Species Management - R&RP staff directed research for dwarf wedge mussel, bog turtle and monitoring of bald eagle nesting. Additionally, park biologists helped model water flows in the Delaware River to define sustainable flow targets for the federally listed dwarf wedge mussel.
- Hemlock Forest Management - R&RP staff maintained its leadership role in coordinating research, monitoring and actions to manage hemlock forests and abate the loss of this forest from exotic infestations. Park ecologists established a hemlock forest restoration plan as the primary component to the line item construction project “Rehabilitate Childs Park”. This plan is based on the cultural landscape report for this satellite park area.
- Inventory & Monitoring - R&RP staff maintained its leadership role within the Eastern Rivers and Mountains I&M Network. This past year, the park acquired the last of its nominal data sets, the geology base map, for the park.
- Sustainable Development Consortium. The park has been the instrumental lead agency in the development of the Common Waters group, a non-profit consortium of planners, community leaders and citizens of the tri-state region that surrounds DEWA. This project initially funded by the NER chief scientist and this past year funded by DEWA has received a grant from the William Penn Foundation to conduct development analysis as well as a tri-state open forum planned for May of 2009.
- Invasive Plant Management - the park exceeded its GPRA goal of controlling 40 acres of infestation by invasive exotic species. The park continues to house and support the NER Exotic Pest Management Team (EPMT) and the results from this investment are extraordinary.
- Integrated Pest Management – reviewed and approved pesticide use proposals for park staff and special use permittees.
- GIS Management - R&RP GIS staff maintained its support of DEWA and UPDE for GIS management. Of particular note is the GIS-based “Greenway Corridor” that connects the DEA lands with other protected lands (i.e. state forest lands). Components of this project have been incorporated into
- Watershed Condition Assessment Program - DEWA R&RP staff are the lead park in the region to “test-drive” this new WRD initiative. This program will become a template for other parks in the NE Region to follow as we assemble, analyze and prioritize watershed based on their ecological integrity. This past year saw refinement of the model to be used as well as the initiation of desired future condition work for park natural resources.
- Managing Research - R&RP staff oversees and directs more than 40 separate research and monitoring programs in the park.
- Wildlife Management - R&RP staff continue to meet with and work with other state wildlife biologists primarily on game species management. The park did complete a report on wood turtle populations post the recent river floods using storm damage monies.

## Cultural Resources

- List of Classified Structures: Worked with several employees on finalizing the 2008 LCS listings.
- ASMIS: A contract was issued for the completion conducting baseline archeological site condition assessments of 150 archeological sites in DEWA. To date, 100 of these assessments have been completed on previously registered sites in ASMIS and the data was provided to DEWA.
- Child's Park LIC Project: An Environmental Assessment and a Cultural Landscape Report have been completed to be used as guide to future development and restoration efforts.
- Hazard Structures Demolition: The park is also working on a database for evaluating various considerations (wetlands, T&E, cost of restoration/repair, compliance costs, etc) that will be used in the considering the cost vs. benefit of removing the structures
- Collections Management: Moved collections out of inadequate storage facilities at the Tott's Gap Candle Factory.

## Land Protection

- Land Acquisition Ranking System (LARS)
  - The park submitted thirteen areas of private land within or adjacent to the park that would be best protected by fee acquisition or easements. Working with partnering agencies, non-profits and private funding sources the park is hopeful to accomplish goals for protecting many the resources within the park and surrounding community.
- Rickard Family LP - A private land owner has offered a conservation easement on a 300 acre parcel of land within the Delaware Water Gap boundaries to the local municipalities. Several interested parties are seeking funding possibilities to protect this land from the becoming part of the continuing residential developed area. The park has given full support to assist in this project.

## Environmental Management (EMS):

- Dingmans Maintenance Fuel Tank project – follow up with contractor to replace faulty fuel pump completed (follow up from previous year's project).
- DEWA firing range project – rifle range bullet block containment system installed.
- PMIS request for the removal of 4 abandoned underground fuel tanks and 4 abandoned aboveground fuel tanks at Cliff Park Inn awarded. Contract is currently still ongoing. Modifications to the contract necessary due to leaking underground gasoline tank resulting in soil and groundwater contamination. PADEP notification required. Submitted additional justifications for additional funding required in order to complete the cleanup.
- ECL (Environmental Cleanup Liability) database maintained for DEWA firing range.
- Annual TRI (Toxic Release Inventory), i.e. lead release report to WASO/EPA and PADEP.
- Asbestos clean-up and disposal at the Dingmans School (North Zone office).
- PMIS request funded to upgrade DEWA recycling program (\$48,600) – bear saver recycling containers purchased for visitor use areas, recycling bins for office locations and educational material was purchased.
- Two new PMIS submissions prepared for 2009 – “Removal of Abandoned Fuel Storage Tanks” at the old Thunder Mt. Hotel Site and the former Walpack Environmental Education Center and Excavation and the “Removal of Lead Shot from the DEWA Firing Range”.
- Active EMS Committee - funding provided (\$5,000) to support EMS committee proj-

ect – purchase and install energy efficient lighting at several locations throughout the park, a Green Procurement Plan for the park has been developed, a newsletter and “Green Tips” memo has been developed to communicate with park employees on various environmental issues that affect the park and the environment. The committee is actively working on completing the tasks in Environmental Goals and Tasks Action Plan, and preparing PMIS requests for funding to complete other goals.

- Environmental Audit was conducted in October of 2006. A total of 53 findings were identified. There were no priority 1 findings identified. However, there were 25 priority 2 findings, 12 priority 3 findings, 15 priority 4 findings and 1 positive finding (P). The priority 2 findings were associated with EPA and OSHA requirements. The priority 3 findings were associated with EOs, DOI, and/or NPS policies. Priority 4 findings are associated with non-regulatory BMPs (best management practices). Audit findings are incorporated into the DEWA EMS Goals and Tasks section and are used as references when developing the park action plan for accomplishing the goals identified in the EMS plan.
- 3 recordable incidents under OSHA reporting guidelines for the FY08 reporting period, up 6 incidents from last year (17 recordable incidents). Recordable incidents include lost work time, restricted work activity, medical treatment other than first aid.
  - Most of the recordable incidents involved tick bites with treatment, and strains/sprains of the elbow, ankle back, neck, and shoulder. The injuries that resulted in days away from work and/or work restrictions were mostly result severe bruises due to falls, sprains/strains and one fracture.
  - 14 non-recordable incidents, (first aid or no treatment) – mostly insect bites (ticks) and bruises due to falls. This is down from 19 for last year.
- GPRA reporting:
  - Visitor injuries: 49 (goal of 50).
  - Visitor fatalities: 5 (not to exceed 0 fatalities above the baseline of 4). drownings contributed to all the visitor fatalities. One of the incidents, a cap-sized boat during a high water event in April, resulted in multiple fatalities.
- Employee DART (days away from work/restricted work status) rate: 7 (met goal of 8). DART cases were the result of severe bruise due to falls, sprains/strains and one fracture.
- Employee COP: 494 (goal of 420). Over half the COP hours (248 hrs.) were attributed to one employee who sustained a fracture clavicle and shoulder separation. Due to the nature of the injury the physician would not release the employee for light duty work early in the recovery process. The employee is back to work in light duty status.
- Technical board of investigations (TBIs): 15 accident reviews completed for employee motor vehicle damage incidents and employee lost work time injuries. 36 employee injuries reviewed in SMIS database. 49 visitor injuries reviewed in CI database.
- Traffic Safety Study (Federal Highways) is on-going.
- CPR/AED – 50 employees trained, CPR for the professional rescuer – 35 employees
- Park Sponsored 24-hr. Hazwoper Training for the region – 8 employees participated in the 24-hr. course, 19 employees participated in the 8-hr. refresher.
- Updated several safety programs – Safety Boot SOP, Lockout/tagout, Bloodborne Pathogens.
- Job Safety Analysis – on going, several new JSAs developed, several existing JSAs reviewed and updated.
- Safety Committee – DEWA Health Fair for employees and dependents. Local organizations provided health and safety information such as Canoe Safety, Ticks and Lyme disease, Poisonous snakes, cancer information, nutrition, AED and Blood Pressure checks.
- Safety Inspections completed – employee housing, public health inspections (food service and sanitation), fuel tank inspections, Cliff Park Sprinkler system and fire hydrant system. Contract developed and awarded for inspection and servicing of DEWA fire extinguishers. Contract developed and awarded for Fire Protection Condition Assessments at DEWA.

- Safety Committee - coordinated and implemented safety programs for employees and visitors in the park, including the DEWA Health Fair, CPR, First Aid and AED training.
- Coordinated purchase of safety equipment; reviewed employee safety suggestions and initiated recommendations for implementation/action, programmed safety budget and approved expenditures.

## Resource Protection/Visitor Management

### Field Training Program

DEWA hosts one of the 23 field training parks throughout the NPS. Our program consists of one Field Training Lead and four Field Training Rangers. Six trainees were assigned to DEWA in 2008, one of the heaviest FTEP workloads in the country. During the past year, these trainees have made 16 arrests, 23 drug cases, issued 334 violation notices, investigated 13 motor vehicle accidents, and investigated 370 incidents. Trainees have assisted in search and rescue operations, wildland fire suppression operations, dive operations, drowning and other death investigations, and with provision of emergency medical services.

### Firearms /Taser/Defensive Tactics Programs:

The RP&VM Division at DEWA has several Firearms, Defensive Tactics, and Taser instructors. These DEWA instructors coordinated and/or conducted nine firearms qualifications, 4 six hour Control Tactics and Firearms Tactics Training sessions, and 3 “Response to Active Threats “ Training programs for law enforcement officers from DEWA, UPDE, MORR, STEA, GATE, Sullivan County Sheriffs Department, Wayne County Sheriffs Department, Lumberland Township PD, Monticello, NY PD and Honesdale PD. They also provided defensive tactics classes at Slippery Rock University for 30 students.

DEWA’s two Taser instructors initiated, developed, and wrote the justification and Standard Operating Procedure for the Taser X-26 Program. They were instrumental in acquiring Tasers and providing instruction for all field personnel leading to certification. Coordinated and instructed a Taser X-26 class to NPS LE Basic students at FLETC.

DEWA continues to coordinate and/or assist with firearms training and qualifications at the DEWA Firearms Range for USFWS Refuge Officers and Special Agents.

### High Angle Rescue

The park’s High Angle Rescue team planned, conducted and coordinated 12 training programs for interagency team including: Ice Climbing, Ice Familiarization, Rappelling, Hauling Systems (helicopter), Hauling Systems (mechanical), High Line, Night Operations, Rock Climbing, Equipment Maintenance, Use of Industrial Devices, and Use of Gas Winch. DEWA personnel also conducted three training programs for the inter-agency evacuation team including hauling systems, ascending and orientation at High Point SP (NJ) and two surface ice rescue training programs for staff rangers to improve efficiency and employee safety during operations.

### SCUBA

Mike Croll was appointed as the NPS - Northeast Region Dive Officer and member of the National Dive Control Board (NCB). Subsequently, Ranger Croll attended the NCB meeting to review/revise national policy, review incidents, ensure agency wide park program compliance and review/develop training curriculum. He completely retrofitted and outfitted a maintenance box truck, significantly improving response efficiency and operational efficiency for divers.

### Lifeguarding

The River District Ranger hired and trained 12 NPS lifeguards to staff 2 beaches Mid-June to Labor Day. The lifeguards successfully executed multiple water rescues throughout the summer, including one near drowning with a positive outcome after short hospital stay, and 1 bonafide life saved with no further medical treatment required.

### Emergency Medical Services

DEWA’s two CPR/EMT/First Aid instructors conducted EMS core training program for DEWA staff to maintain National Registry certifications as EMT’s or First Responders

and in CPR as professional rescuers. The park's EMS coordinator maintained EMS equipment/supplies cache to ensure available resources to manage EMS workload.

#### **Fire Management**

The park's Fire Management Officer and staff conducted six Fire Refreshers and one I-200 Basic ICS course, and they held the Annual Interagency Fire Management Meeting with individuals from surrounding local, state, and federal agencies. Fire Management staff served on various fire assignments for a total of 125 days, and they were able to process 39 resource orders for the park and region.

#### **Fitness Program**

DEWA's two Fitness Coordinators continue to publish a monthly health and fitness newsletter – for the benefit of all DEWA employees. They also ensured that all rangers participated in the required semi-annual physical efficiency batteries consisting of a one and a half mile run, bench press, agility run, and stretch testing.

#### **Special Park Uses**

The park's 2008 workload included 55 Special Use Permits, 44 Commercial Use Authorizations, 12 Rights of Way projects), completion of two General Agreements, and several issues involving our Dingmans Campground, our one concession.

#### **River Services**

DEWA continues to maintain an extremely proactive River Services program. Employees maintained more than 60 river corridor campsites, and they developed a prototype for alternative regulatory sign attachments, to reduce resource damage. Staff members also provided assistance, logistical support and techni-

cal expertise to the USFS and the Army Corps of Engineers in planning for rehabilitation and reconstruction of river corridor campsites lost or damaged and location, and evaluation of hazardous materials deposited in the river corridor during the 2006 flood .

#### **Communications Center**

The Communications Center was staffed 24 hours per day, year round, and provided park-wide services for Delaware Water Gap NRA, Steamtown NHS, and Upper Delaware NSRR. Staff serve as the initial contact point for all requests for emergency or other assistance; they coordinate operations and maintain routine and other documentation related to criminal violations, warnings and incidents which occurred within DEWA .

Staff contributed significantly to protection programs through accomplishment of collateral duties including processing evidence, coordinating radio and telephone repairs, capturing incident documentation from remote ranger stations and processing information requests from outside agencies and organizations.

The development of a text messaging system for contacting High Angle Rescue Team members for HAR incidents significantly improved the park's operational efficiency through reduced response time and consistent and precise messaging.

Working with NPS personnel both within DEWA and outside the park, the staff was able to implement access to PA's JNET system, resulting in the more efficient retrieval of criminal information and significantly improving law enforcement field operations and officer safety.

**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**



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**Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area**  
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