



2010 State of the Park





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Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
New Jersey / Pennsylvania

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Highlights

Dedications

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area held three major dedications this year.

DEWA celebrated National Trails Day on June 5 with the dedication of the recently completed **Cliff Park Trails** system near Milford, Pennsylvania. Guest speakers included Mr. Lorne Possinger, the Regional Recreation and Park Advisor for Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and Ms. Allison Stewart, acting Executive Director of the U.S Forest Service-managed Grey Towers National Historic Site, who both spoke about trails and partnerships. Following the ceremony, three guided hikes were led by DEWA employees from the Cliff Park Trailhead, the Milford Knob Trailhead, and the Hacker's Falls Trailhead.

Turtle Beach, the recently developed beach in New Jersey, was dedicated on July 16, in front of a crowd of local politicians, visitors, and kids from the Pocono YMCA summer camp. The planning for the beach, which originally began in 1999, had taken much longer than expected because of the numerous permitting issues. Speakers included Dr. Richard Roukema, husband of Congresswoman Marge Roukema and Ms. Joen Cianella, Congresswoman Roukema's long time aide. In 1999, Congresswoman Roukema was the driving force behind the initial FY01 congressional Add-on to begin planning a New Jersey swim beach.

The final dedication for 2010 was held on September 25, National Public Lands Day, with the dedication of the 32-mile multi-use **McDade Recreational Trail** that runs along the Delaware River on the Pennsylvania side of the park. Speakers included Carl Wilgus, the President of the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau; Peggy Howarth, the Executive Director of the Monroe County Transit Authority; Dave Lange, with the NER Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program; and Bill Kiger, a Milford resident who was instrumental in developing the Pinchot Greenway, a route that connects the Grey Towers National Historic Site to the McDade Trail at Milford Beach. Although Congressman Joseph McDade was unable to attend for health

reasons, he sent a congratulatory letter that was read during the dedication. Following the program, there were Ranger-led bicycles hikes and walks along the McDade Trail, Junior Naturalist and Junior Ranger Activities for kids, an NPS/PEEC BioBlitz Station, and free Bike Repair Clinics and Helmet Safety Inspections by three local bicycle vendors.

Public Land Corps – Student Conservation Association Crews

The park hosted two Public Lands Corps (PLC) crews in 2010. Again, the crews accomplished a great amount of trail work, and they were an integral part of the completion of the McDade Trail. They assisted in the creation of a temporary trail tread in steep terrain to provide connections between multi-use sections on the McDade Trail until those segments are constructed under Federal Highway projects. The crew also spent some time replacing failing steps on a popular section of trail at Pocono Environmental Education Center.

The crew was lucky to have daily opportunities for environmental education. As stated in the Crew Leader's final report,

'John Casey's [DEWA employee and PLC liaison] enthusiasm and interest in the crew made crew members excited to learn and explore. John took us on quite a few hikes after work, showing us the park and telling us about the environment. He was a walking encyclopedia for the trees, animals and plants of the Delaware Water Gap. He also organized a stream ecology lesson with another park ranger.'

Women on the Water

This year, DEWA and Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) partnered to present Women on the Water (WOW), a program supported by \$20,000 in funding from a National Park Foundation America's Best Idea grant. Through this program, nine young women from inner-city Philadelphia spent several weekends in the park learning about the outstanding natural and recreational resources we have to offer. While at PEEC, the young women also planned a 4-day, 3-night camping and paddling trip on the Delaware River. In July, they returned to the park and set out on their downstream journey in rafts,

canoes and kayaks. PEEC naturalists and park staff accompanied the group on the river and presented educational programs along the route. While it rained for most of the four days, their spirits were never dampened, although their gear was.

After completing the river trip, the participants joined 12 women who work for the NPS at DEWA for a National Park Service Women's Roundtable discussion on careers in the NPS. After joining the young women for lunch at PEEC, park staff members listened as the participants shared their experiences on the river and a little about who they are, what brought them to this program and what goals they have for the future. Each staff member then had the opportunity to share with the group and talk about who we are- as NPS employees and as women. We discussed the career and education paths that brought us all to this place at this time and we discussed how all of the different jobs we do support the NPS mission. Since then, one of the young women has contacted the park to inquire about summer employment through the STEP program, and a YPP or YIP proposal is being drafted in an effort to secure funding to allow several of them to have employment experiences with the NPS in 2011.

An unexpected highlight came in late July when several of the young women were invited to participate in the America's Great Outdoors listening session in Philadelphia.

WOW was a powerful and inspirational program for the young women who participated as well as for the women who facilitated the program.

Trekking the Trail for a Cause

The DEWA Safety Committee organized the program, "Trekking the Trail for a Cause", to support coworkers and their families that have been affected by cancer. The event was held on June 17 at Smithfield Beach in Pennsylvania. The American Cancer Society presented a brief program, survivors were recognized from both DEWA and the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, and participants had the opportunity to walk a portion of the McDade Trail. Shaded areas, water, and chairs were provided at various points along the trail, and Safety Committee members were

stationed at various checkpoints along the trail. 113 people participated in the hike on the McDade Trail and 77 walked the entire 4+ miles. Although health and support were the primary focus of this event, participants donated \$564.00 to The American Cancer Society to help fund programs that coworkers had utilized during their battles with cancer.

Water Safety Outreach and Education Internship Program/ Youth Internship Program

DEWA's interdisciplinary Water Safety Outreach and Education program continued to grow in FY10. Four members of the park staff attended the NER Water Safety Summit where they gained and shared valuable insight into water safety issues throughout the region. Park Safety Officer Phil Morgan, interpreter and Education Coordinator Kathleen Sandt and former employee Victor Perez were awarded the NER's Andrew Clark Hecht Public Safety Achievement award for their work in improving visitor safety as it pertains to water-based recreational activities in 2009.

For the second consecutive year, DEWA was selected to participate in the NPS/ SCA Public Risk Management Internship Program with a focus on water safety outreach and education. This year's program was supported by \$30,000 in funding from the NPS Youth Internship Program (YIP). With that funding, the park was able to double the number of interns dedicated to the program from one to two, including one SCA Intern and one GS-05 Park Ranger, STEP. We implemented recommendations made by the FY09 intern including the design and purchase of new warning signs that were based on research completed by the previous intern. The signs will be installed at high risk areas identified in the park's Statistical Analysis of Drowning Incidents, 1971 to 2008. With the assistance of the two interns, park staff members continued to build the foundation for a volunteer water safety corps to be launched in FY11. This year's interns:

- Contacted 2175 river users with the purpose of increasing visitor awareness of water safety
- Researched and evaluated potential volunteers and volunteer groups for the 2011 launch of the volunteer water safety corps
- Identified training needs for participants in the volunteer water safety corps



Water safety was an emphasis in 2010.

- Purchased equipment for volunteer water safety corps including canoes, kayaks and safety gear
- Purchased and distributed water safety promotional items (water bottles, whistles and floating key chains in the shape of a PFD) for distribution to visitors who were ‘caught’ demonstrating safe behavior on the river
- Participated in the annual Delaware River Clean-up event, assisted with the distribution of Visitor Survey Project (VSP) survey cards and escorted VIP’s on a river trip to evaluate the impacts of the proposed power line project. In all cases, the interns served as safety escorts. The interns also provided a safety escort for two ranger-guided canoe trips for the public
- Presented formal curriculum-based education programs on water safety to 800 kindergarten and first grade students at the annual Delaware Valley River Days education program
- Presented formal water safety programs and activities for a group of young women participating in Women on the Water- an

America’s Best Idea program funded by the National Park Foundation.

- Presented water safety programs and activities for the park’s Turtle Beach Dedication program and the Clymer Library’s Make a Splash at Your Library summer reading program
- Attended a week-long Public Risk Management training, including Operational Leadership certification for the STEP intern; both interns attended and received certification in Swiftwater Rescue

Park Break 2010

Conservation Policy was the subject of the March 15-19 Park Break session hosted by Delaware Water Gap NRA. The primary focus of this project is to aid in the 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 and Canada. Speakers included Destry Jarvis, former Special Assistant to the Secretary; Bill Werkheiser, Robin White, Dawn Dittman and John Young from the United States Geological

“...this program helped me realize how many other options there are out there for everyone that is interested in conservation.”

Survey; Nancy Michael Shukaitis, a founder of one of the groups opposed to the Tocks Island Dam project; and many other notable local, state, and federal officials and partners. The agenda also included a hike in the Park with noted Pocono naturalist John Serrao. In addition to the seminar program, the students were tasked with developing a National Scenic Byway proposal for U.S. Route 209, which runs parallel to the Delaware River on the Pennsylvania side of the park. Everyone involved agreed it was a great experience, and several students commented that they learned more than they ever thought possible in one week. Matt Heard, a fourth year Ph.D. candidate in Conservation Biology at Brown University, summed up his experience this way:

“Looking back, this was a truly unique experience for me. As a Ph.D. student, I often feel as though I am being led down a single path (that of academia). However, this program helped me realize how many other options there are out there for everyone that is interested in conservation.”

This is the third consecutive year that Delaware Water Gap NRA has hosted a Park Break session, and in fact it was the only park participating in 2010.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Partnership

In November 2009, a contractor hired by the Northeast Regional Office conducted a traffic safety study at DEWA, which provided a comprehensive picture of traffic safety issues within Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area by reviewing and summarizing the available traffic crash data from 2001 to 2007 and describing crash trends. During this study, DEWA adopted the goal of reducing total vehicle crashes in DEWA by 20 percent (35 crashes, which is 20 percent of the annual average number of crashes from 2001 to 2007) by 2016. This report presents crash trends for DEWA in terms of both total (fatal, injury, and property damage only) crashes and severe (fatal and injury) crashes. The study points out that alcohol or drugs was a contributing factor in 6 percent of the total crashes and 19 percent of the severe (injury plus fatal) crashes. It was noted that this may even be a low percentage based on staff resource limitations to follow up with hospitals relating to test results. The data analysis suggests reducing crashes resulting from human factors (impaired driving).

Early in 2010, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) entered into a partnership with Delaware Water Gap NRA (DEWA) along with two other parks, Great Smoky Mountains and Zion, has been chosen

A traffic safety study provided a comprehensive picture of traffic safety issues within the park.





The park was awarded a grant to plan and pilot a three year alternative transportation shuttle program.

for Phase II of this project. The NPS drafted a how-to-guide for implementing the HVE model, and DEWA staff will test the use of this guide. Activities are planned for the spring, summer, and fall of 2010 and 2011. Communicating and building partnerships with stakeholders (specifically, prosecutors, magistrates, neighboring local law enforcement agencies, local media and the State Highway Safety Officers) are critical to the success of these efforts.

Transit in the Park

In 2010, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area was awarded a grant from the Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in the Parks Program (TRIP) to plan and pilot a three year alternative transportation shuttle project for the park and the surrounding area. This grant stems from the Alternative Transportation Feasibility Study that was conducted by the National Park Service and the Federal Highway Administration in 2008 and 2009. DEWA has established a five year Cooperative Agreement with the Monroe County Transit Authority as part of the planning and pilot process. The first Task Agreement under this Cooperative

Agreement covers two shuttle services from Delaware Water Gap and East Stroudsburg to several locations within the park starting on September 25, in conjunction with the McDade Trail dedication, and running every Saturday through October 30. Park Rangers will be aboard the buses to provide information about the park and available activities.

BioBlitz

Beginning at 6 p.m. on Friday, September 24, and running for 24 hours, staff from both the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) and Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area held a BioBlitz on the PEEC campus and at several locations throughout the park, including Bushkill Access, the location of the McDade Recreational Trail Dedication. During this event, teams of scientists, volunteers, park staff and community members joined forces to find, identify and learn about as many plant and animal species as possible within a 24-hour period. One hundred volunteers contributed more than 800 hours to this event, and two new plant species were identified within the park.

Current Issues

Proposed Susquehanna to Roseland Transmission Line Environmental Impact Statement

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (C), the National Park Service (NPS) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the evaluation of construction and right-of-way permits requested in relation to the proposed Susquehanna (Berwick, Pennsylvania) to Roseland, New Jersey 500,000 volt (500 kV) Transmission Line project. PPL Electric Utilities (PPL) and Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G), jointly referred to as the Applicants, have requested permits from the NPS, in addition to authorizations from their respective state public utility commissions. The Regional Transmission Operator, PJM Interconnection (PJM), has mandated that the Applicants meet the proposed in-service deadline of June 2012. NPS received a completed, formal project proposal with the necessary permit applications and fees in March 2009.

The project proposes to upgrade the existing 230,000 volt (230kV) transmission line through the expansion of the existing right-of-way (ROW), the reconstruction of towers, and addition of a 500kV line as it crosses the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (APPA), Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA), and the Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River, in Pennsylvania (PA) and New Jersey (NJ). This project will transform an insignificant power line from 1929 into a critical element of the regional transmission grid with major operational ramifications on park lands and waters.

In August 2009, EA Engineering, Science and Technology, Inc. (EAEST) was selected as the NPS third-party consultant responsible for conducting all phases of the environmental review. In September 2009 the EIS process commenced with an internal scoping meeting. NPS anticipates a draft comment analysis report from EAEST by the end of September 2010.

EAEST continues data collection for the alternatives, essential for the evaluation of potential impacts associated with any proposed actions. An internal review of the draft EIS (DEIS) is anticipated in February 2011, with presentation to the public expected in summer 2011. The EIS schedule calls for a Record of Decision (ROD) in fall 2012. The Applicants continue to assert that their proposal can be constructed within the existing 100 foot ROW, NPS consultants continue to refute this claim. In August 2010, PPL filed suit in PA District Court seeking an injunction to allow vegetation management within the 100 foot ROW sections in DEWA. Settlement occurred on August 19, 2010 allowing cutting in 2010 however, resolution on the 100 ft ROW between NPS and the Applicants has not occurred. NPS staff continues to meet regularly with the Applicants to discuss potential construction related issues including existing and potential rights-of-way, NEPA requirements, special use permits (as required by 36 CFR), and research and data collection permits.

Tennessee Gas

Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP) has announced its intention to build approximately 37 miles of 30-inch diameter natural gas pipeline in five loop segments and other facilities in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The project would increase natural gas transmission capacity to the northeast region of the United States by tapping into the speculated Marcellus Shale natural gas resource of northern Pennsylvania and southern New York states, respectively. The

proposed loop, numbered 323, has potential to impact the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA) and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (APPA) as it traverses through High Point State Park in New Jersey. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has started a “pre-filing” of their National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements and, DEWA is “cooperating” with FERC on this part of the NEPA process. TGP has posted 3 alternatives for this loop either through or around the park. The existing line (and deeded right-of-way) through the DEWA is one alternative. The second alternative also crosses DEWA lands while the third alternative is just outside DEWA lands. TGP has stated that the third alternative is their preferred alternative. To date, the consultants for TGP have met with DEWA staff (and a DOI Solicitor) several times, including a site visit to the three areas being considered as alternatives through or around the DEWA. TGP is in the process of applying for permits to allow survey of natural and cultural resource concerns within the DEWA.

Dingmans Campground

The concessioner running the federally owned Dingmans Campground continues to struggle financially. A contract for the electric and water replacement project was finally awarded. Due to funding issues, only half of the original sites will be addressed under this contract. Additional funds will be sought to complete the project.



Accomplishments

Administration

Budget

The park's Budget Technician provided guidance and assistance to program managers, who collectively spent down to 0.002% of our available ONPS funds. The Budget Technician also coordinated the tracking and reporting of storm recovery, line item construction and centennial initiative obligations and expenditures. A Budget Analyst was hired October 1st, and she is already establishing new guidelines and tracking procedures to streamline the overall budget process.

Information Technology

The park's information technology unit—one IT Specialist and one Computer Assistant—operate and maintain networks at ten locations that connect to the park's servers 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 approximately 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 unit responds to emergency calls during off-hours in support of the park's 24/hour 7/days per week Communications Center.

Examples of user support activities include:

- Provided training and migrated entire park to Office 2007;
- Completed mandatory Role-based security training;
- Tracked the park's completion of other mandatory training;
- Attended Windows 7 and Server 2008 training;
- Provided guidance to divisions and coordinated the end-of-year IT purchases;
- Migrated entire park to Symantec End-Point protection for anti-virus and threat protection;
- Migrated entire park several times to most recent updates to Adobe and Java software/plugin-ins;
- Setup new computers, blackberrys and printers;

- Encrypted the hard drives on the Park's inventory of Laptop Computers per directive from WASO;
- Sought the upgrade of the wide-area networks data circuits in the Park's nine field offices;
- Resolved many "emergency" responses to computer failures.

Land Protection

Shawnee Valley Mosiers Knob Project

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is partnering with several local conservation groups to fund the acquisition of 176 acres of land in Pennsylvania adjacent to the park boundary. A Letter of Intent from the park service to TPL identifies the park interest in acquiring the land. TPL holds an option agreement with the landowner and is seeking stronger congressional support and local county programs for funding acquisition of the property.

Rosenkrans Farm

Earlier this year the park was contacted by the attorney for the estate of Delores Rosenkrans to determine the park's interest in acquiring a 130 acre farm located within the boundaries of the park in Walpack, New Jersey. For the past several months The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has been negotiating with the landowner to acquire the land on behalf of the park service. Protection of this farm located along the Delaware River bank would be a huge accomplishment.

Old Mine Road Settlement

Litigation was initiated by Department of Justice in 2008 on behalf of the park regarding gated closure of a 0.37 mile section of Old Mine Road by a private inholding. On August 30, 2010, options were presented at a settlement conference in Judge Madeline Cox Arleo's courtroom in Newark, New Jersey by representing attorneys. Final conditions of the settlement are ongoing.

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Road Improvement Project

PennDOT is moving forward with construction of section 401 within the boundary of the park. 15.63 acres of park land has been granted

Turtle Swim Beach was officially opened to the public in July.



for Highway Easement purposes for completion of this road section. Construction starts at the intersection of 209 and Bushkill Falls Road in Pike County, Pennsylvania continuing just north of Little Egypt Road. Steps have been taken to make the transfer of land to PennDOT. Construction of the wetland mitigation project location along Route 209 is near completion. The monitoring plan will be under review by the park.

MAINTENANCE

Line Item Construction Program Projects

- New Jersey Swim Beach – A construction project to build a new swim beach on the New Jersey side of the Delaware River was completed December 2009 for \$3.1M. The site was officially opened to the public at a ribbon cutting ceremony on July 16, 2010. This beach replaces the Depew Recreation Site which was closed several years ago due to safety and resource issues and severe flood damage.
- Joseph M. McDade Recreational Trail – After many years of planning, environmental assessment, and construction, the 32-mile trail was substantially completed and dedicated on September 25, 2010. Eleven trail bridges were constructed under contract and 5 others were built by park staff with assistance from volunteers.
- Childs Park Rehabilitation – The project to preserve a native hemlock ravine and correction of deferred maintenance deficiencies was awarded on September 24, 2010 for \$2.75M. The design/build project is expected to be completed by the spring

of 2012.

- Hazard Structure Removal – A contract is ready to be released for solicitation to deconstruct 33 to 50 excess structures at DEWA that pose a threat to visitors and to the environment. These structures are covered by a Categorical Exclusion and there are no Section 106 concerns. An environmental assessment is being prepared to address additional excess and hazardous structures.

American Resource Recovery Act Projects

- Peirce House Project Exterior Rehabilitation - A project consisting of exterior painting, carpentry repairs, and storm window replacement on this historic structure was completed in July 2010. The contractor was HF3 Construction, Inc from Dresher PA. Contract cost was \$167,500.
- Replace Headquarters Roof and Siding - The contract to replace the roof and siding on the park headquarters building is approximately 50% completed. Contractor is J H Contracting from Delaware Water Gap, PA and the contract cost is \$120,418.
- Toms Creek Bridge Replacement – The Federal Highway Administration is managing a project to replace a bridge on U.S. Route 209. The construction contract was awarded in Aug 2009 to MERCO, Inc. from Lebanon NJ for \$1,991,505.60. Target Completion is November 2010.
- Raymondskill Bridge Replacement - The Federal Highway Administration is managing a design/build contract to replace a bridge on U.S. Route 209 at MM18 in Dingmans Township, Pike County. The

contract was awarded August 26 to G.A. & F.C. Wagman, Inc. from York, PA for \$2,654,804.90 and design is underway with an expected completion of August 2011.

- In addition to these projects, many hours of effort were put into the planning, design and negotiations for two projects, HQ HVAC and the Vehicle Wash Station, but these were not awarded due to a break-down in negotiations with the contractor.

DEWA Traffic Safety Improvements

A contract was awarded on September 24, 2010 to Lane Construction Corporation from Cheshire CT for \$2,846,035, of which \$9,735 was ARRA funded. Scope of the project includes safety improvements on U. S. Route 209 consisting of intersection improvements, guardrail improvements, sign replacement/upgrade, wildlife warning signs, permanent variable message signs, and some pavement overlay.

Construction Planning and Management

Other projects awarded this year include the Dingmans Campground Utilities, traffic line painting, signage improvements, vehicle lift replacement, and a trash compactor. Planning and design are progressing on the PEEC wastewater system repair, regrading at several historic structures, and exterior rehabilitation at Dingmans School.

Roads, Trails, Grounds and Dams Program

- A project to repair the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) Pond Dam was completed through an inter-agency agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation, and an agreement is being developed to repair the Watergate #10 Dam.
- Ongoing road and shoulder maintenance and repairs on 173 miles of roads.
- Snow and ice control was conducted on approximately 75 miles of roadway and various parking areas.
- Mowed road shoulders and grounds, and maintained landscapes.
- Removed hazard trees in visitor use areas, along roadways and near structures as required.
- Conducted trail maintenance throughout the park. Enlisted the assistance of the Student Conservation Association and many volunteers.

Buildings and Utilities Program

- Based on the DEWA Park Asset Management Plan (PAMP), repair and maintenance resources were dedicated to our highest priority assets.
- Performed maintenance and repairs on HVAC systems throughout the park.
- Developing a plan of action to address critical water and wastewater system deficiencies identified by a U. S Public Health inspection.
- Seasonal Duty Station Program included building and grounds maintenance at 3 visitor centers, 8 boat/canoe launches, 2 group campsites, 4 picnic/beach areas, and historic Millbrook Village.

Facilities Management

- Asset Priority Index (API) Review - DEWA staff embarked on a comprehensive review of all assets/locations in the park to update and validate how critical each location is in support of the park mission. This is an arduous effort with almost 1500 assets within the park.
- Facilities Management Software System (FMSS) – Continuing enhancements to the FMSS consisting of additional asset condition assessments, updating of cost data, work order development, asset specification templates, and implementation of the Project Scoping Tool. Expanded FMSS through incorporation of other programs such as the Roads Portal, Federal Real Property, Fleet Management, and Housing Management. Worked with the NER Network Team on data cleanup and QA/QC issues. Generated reports through the AMRS for all requested data – for park, region and WASO level requests.
- Collaboration - Coordinated with various other agencies on projects both within and outside of DEWA to include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Forest Service, PA Department of Transportation, the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission, the Pike County Road Task Force, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, PA and NJ Department of Environmental Protection, County Conservation Districts, and the Student Conservation Association.
- Partners - Provided services and assistance to various partners to include the Pocono Environmental Education Center,



A new park housing plan was drafted this year.

- Millbrook Village Society, Peters Valley, Walpack Historical Society, Montague Grange, Van Campen Inn, and YMCA.
- Volunteer Program – Enlisted the assistance of volunteers to aid in management of the park infrastructure. Volunteers assisted with maintaining and repairing various trails, upgrading and maintaining of maintenance a visitor sites, stabilization and repair of historic buildings, and general building maintenance throughout the park.
- Regional Transportation Efforts – Participated in park programs relative to Alternative Transportation Planning, Highway Safety Study, and the Pike County Road Task Force
- Environmental Management Systems Program – Supported EMS efforts to include recycling, energy efficient lighting retrofits, installation of recycling containers at various visitor-use areas, and striving for LEED certified construction.

Park Housing Management

DEWA currently has 18 units in the housing inventory. Park staff made improvements and repairs in park housing with emphasis on health and safety issues. In coordination with NER and WASO, DEWA is updating the Housing Management Plan to guide the park’s housing program over the next five years. This document will provide policy and procedures for the operation, maintenance and use of government housing at DEWA. A draft has been reviewed by DEWA and expected completion of the document is January 2011.

Safety/Environmental Management

GPRG goals for employee COP and visitor safety were achieved. The overall number of reported injuries were reduced; however, the park did not meet its GPRG goal for employee injuries (DART cases). All employee injuries were evaluated for OSHA recordability, and initial and final reviews of all incidents in the SMIS database were completed in a timely manner. Recordable incidents were attributed to primarily to sprains/strains of the knee, ankle, back and shoulder. The majority of visitor injuries (65%) were the result of motor vehicle accidents (MVAs) with the remainder

attributed to recreational activities related to hiking, climbing, hunting and biking. There was one visitor fatality resulting from a drowning.

Efforts to emphasize employee and visitor safety continue and include the following measures:

- Accident investigation and review – The park is in the process of conducting accident/injury reviews in accordance with RM50B and will be implementing corrective actions as applicable.
- DEWA Traffic Safety Study (Federal Highways) has been completed. Recommendations have been provided to improve traffic safety improvements. The park will implement recommendations as funding permits.
- Defensive Driver Training has been provided to all employees. Bloodborne pathogen training provided to all EMS and First Responders.
- CPR/AED for park employees.
- Updated several safety programs – Safety Boot SOP, Tree Removal SOP, UST/UTV SOP, UST/UTV SOP.
- Job Safety Analysis – several new JSAs were developed and several existing JSAs reviewed and updated.
- Active Safety Committee – promote safety and health through promoting, developing and supporting various projects such as “flu shot program”, safety suggestion program, safety incentive program, CPR/AED training and Purchase of various safety personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Safety Inspections completed – public health inspections (food service and sanitation), fuel tank inspections, water and waste water system inspections, DEWA fire extinguishers inspections, and housing inspections.
- Public Safety Intern Program – participated in WASO public safety intern program. Intern worked directly with park safety officer, river district rangers and interpretation rangers focusing primarily on river safety and drowning prevention.
- The Park Safety Officer and three other employees participated in the NER Water Safety Summit.
- Provided routine safety tips to all employees on various topics such as Lyme

disease prevention, heat stress, cold injury prevention, driving and fatigue, west Nile Virus prevention, HiN1 updates and prevention, Holiday Safety, electrical safety, and Fire Prevention Tips.

Completion of data entry into several DOI environmental databases such ECL (Environmental Cleanup Liability) database for DEWA firing range; annual TRI (Toxic Release Inventory), i.e. lead release report to WASO/EPA and PADEP; EMS DOI database and DOI Sustainability report.

Continued lead/asbestos testing a various locations. Asbestos removal at Peters Valley Hilltop house.

Follow through on Cliff Park UST release gasoline tank release - developed Cliff Park Groundwater Investigation Project: due to leaking underground gasoline tank resulting in soil and groundwater contamination. Project on-going – groundwater monitoring wells have been installed and sampled. Results confirm the presence of groundwater contamination. Further investigation is required to determine the extent of the groundwater plume. Funding has been requested and approved to do additional sampling.

Layton sandpit UST removals – 2 large underground tanks discovered and removed. There was no evidence of leaking and the tanks were removed in accordance with NJDEP closure requirements.

Environmental Management Systems Team

DEWA has an approved Environmental Management Systems (EMS) plan with an active EMS committee comprised of eight active members from all divisions. The Park Safety Officer and the EMS committee have supported, participated in, and/or completed various projects in support of Director's Order #13, to include the following:

- Park recycling program improved and upgraded – purchased additional containers for office recycling.
- Planned and held an All Employee Meeting that was focused on green procurement training and recycling. The meeting was held in the Pocono Environmental Education Center's Visitor Activity Center, which is a model of sustainable con-

struction and energy efficiency. All employees were provided with a new 'green' procurement log for credit card purchases and updated instructions for the recycling of many commonly used items. All refreshments were served on compostable cups, plates and silverware.

- Worked to ensure a contract was awarded for the installation of a garbage compactor in order to make management of solid waste more efficient and cost effective, as recommended by the Solid Waste Management Plan.
- Recycled numerous items from all park buildings, including 400 tires, 59 pounds of fluorescent bulbs, 318 pounds of various types of batteries, 3,435 pounds of computers, printers, and other electronic equipment, all shingles from the Headquarters replacement roof contract, 71 toner cartridges, and several tons of scrap metal, refrigerators, stoves, and air conditioners
- Recycled 78 pounds of cardboard from boxes to create educational nature journals for students to decorate at the Delaware River Fun Days
- Purchased two recycling/trash containers that are made from 100% recycled milk jugs
- Installed a second recycling container that handles co-mingled plastic, cans, glass and cardboard
- Prepared requested information for park-wide building energy audits being contracted by NER
- Purchased recycled notebooks, pencils and pens to give to all park employees

Signs Workgroup

The DEWA Signs Workgroup was re-formed early in 2010, and it has been very active this year. All divisions in the park have at least one representative on the committee. After an inventory with GPS locations and pictures of all our signs was completed in 2007, we have begun spending money totaling \$72,000 from two PMIS projects. Wayfinding and facility identity signs were purchased and installed in time for the grand opening of Turtle Beach. Road guide signs for NJ have been purchased and installed as well as signs to mark the often looked for, but difficult to find and follow Old Mine Road. Street signs have been installed



Millbook Village allows visitors to see what life was like in the late 1800s.

on the NJ side of the park. Buttermilk Falls, one of the highest waterfalls in NJ, has been identified and wayfinding signs have been installed. Upgrades to nine facility identity signs for DEWA picnic areas are part of the next purchases. Work has begun on three new

PMIS projects – one for a comprehensive sign plan, one for deferred maintenance for signs, and one for a line item construction project to identify, purchase and install park identity signs on highways, major roads and park entrances.

Interpretation and Education

This year, the majority of seasonal positions were filled as GS-5 Park Rangers and GS-4 Park Guides, rather than GS-3 Visitor Use Assistants. The higher graded employees were able to conduct interpretive programs and take on more complex assignments, which were of greater benefit in meeting the goals of the division and the park. The majority of the I & E seasonal employees completed the following free, NPS courses offered by the Eppley Institute: The Organization of the NPS, The History of the NPS, The NPS and the Federal Government, and Foundations of Interpretation. A bulk purchase of interpretation courses enabled staff to initiate and complete additional interpretation courses, including

Informal Visitor Contacts and Interpretive Talks. Staff who received basic certification in the Informal Visitor Contacts or Interpretive Talks modules were matched with the park's certified interpretive coach or another coach in the region to complete assignments leading to advanced certification in these program areas. Four seasonal employees attended Leave No Trace training. Seven employees, permanent and seasonal participated in "Exceptional Visitor Experiences – Best Practices for Interpreters," a satellite training session. Several employees had the opportunity to attend canoe training at Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and bicycle training. Bicycle training was attended by seven employees.



For the fourth year, Bushkill Meeting Center (BMC) was operated from Memorial Day weekend through Columbus Day in partnership with the Friends of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. Fundraising efforts by the Friends group allowed the division to hire a seasonal employee raised funds dedicated to the BMC operation



About 3,100 visitors participated in a variety of interpreter-led programs and activities.

Over 82,000 visitors were contacted through formal interpretive programs and informal roving activities.

- Over 200 ranger-led programs were conducted in FY 2010, a 37% increase over FY 2009. Approximately 3,100 visitors participated in guided walks and hikes, stream studies, Millbrook Village tours, Junior Ranger and Junior Naturalist activities, and children's arts and crafts programs.
- Park Rangers conducted programs for participants in the Peters Valley Children's Day Camp program. These programs introduced children to the park and enhanced the connection between art and nature. Another opportunity to connect children to the park and nature was provided through ranger-led programs at the Pocono Family YMCA's Hidden Lake day camp in the park.
- I & E staff and volunteers contacted nearly 79,000 visitors through informal, interpretive roving activities at sites throughout the park, including the Dingmans Falls waterfall trail, popular hiking trails in NJ and PA, Millbrook Village, and on the river. These contacts served to increase visitor orientation to the park and available recreational opportunities, to foster public understanding and appreciation of the park's significance and resources, and to address safety and resource protection concerns.
- In conjunction with the Water Safety SCA intern, I&E staff emphasized water safety through dedicated roving activities at popular, but unguarded swimming areas throughout the park – along the river corridor and at lakes, creeks, and waterfalls. Water safety information was provided to almost 3,000 people.

DEWA Lecture Series

The annual park lecture series, now in its tenth year, presented five evening lectures and two Family Fun Days to more than 500 people

in FY 2010. The lectures series is sponsored by the Friends of the Delaware Water Gap NRA, and for the first time, the Friends took the lead in coordinating the series this year. With guidance from park interpretive staff, members of the Friends organized lectures on park resource-appropriate topics and publicized the series. Evening program topics included Exploring Local Graveyards, Black Bears of NJ and PA, Predators of Delaware Water Gap, Lenape-Delaware Indian Heritage, and Art & the Beginnings of the Recreation Area. The fall and spring Family Fun Days which are designed to introduce children to the park's resources through instruction and hands-on activities featured "For the Birds, Investigating Owls" and "Snakes & Scales & Turtle Tales." All programs drew capacity or near-capacity audiences and engaged all in attendance.

Millbrook Village

Seven special events were held during the year, during which interpretive staff and volunteers presented over 6,000 craft and skill demonstrations to more than 25,000 visitors. FY 2010 began with the annual two-day Millbrook Days folklife festival. Approximately 8,000 visitors enjoyed the demonstrations, exhibits, games, and music of the 19th century presented by costumed volunteers from the Millbrook Village Society and park staff. Other events included "Oactivities"- a fall harvest program for children, Victorian Christmas Celebration and Carol Service, Maple Sugar-ing Day, A Village at Play, and the annual Independence Day Celebration.

During Historic Activities Days (HAD) in October, more than 880 students, teachers, and chaperones from nine schools participated in participated in two days of living history demonstrations, historic building tours and hands-on activities at over 35 different locations within the village. The success of this annual education event was assured by the efforts of the following:

- 25 Evergreen Community School students volunteered at HAD. Evergreen Community School has been involved with HAD for several years now. During the course of the school year, the students learned about Millbrook and learned a variety of home skills and crafts (butter churning, ice cream making, wool processing, and rug braiding), which they demonstrated to the visiting students.

- More than 25 DEWA staff from all divisions served as greeters, ‘crossing guards’ and living history demonstrators, and helped with village maintenance, EMS, law enforcement, and other tasks.
- 15 NPS and Millbrook Village Society volunteers demonstrated a variety of crafts and skills.
- This year, an adult service-learning component was added to HAD. Seven volunteers from Shawnee Institute’s ‘Road Scholar’ program (formerly Elderhostel) arrived early in the week to learn about the park, Millbrook history, and care of collections. They assisted with the preparation of the buildings and demonstrations sites, and then worked as costumed interpreters during the programs.

BioBlitz

A park-wide BioBlitz, sponsored by the NPS, Friends of DEWA, Pocono Environmental Education Center, and Patagonia was held on September 25, 2010 after more than a year of planning. The goal was to locate and identify as many species of plants and animals as possible, at fifteen ecologically diverse sites throughout the park during a 24 hour time period. The I & E division’s park ranger/education coordinator was an integral member of the planning committee and served as a team leader and data reporter during the event. More than 300 volunteers, scientists, and community members participated.

Education Programs

Delaware Valley River Days: Now in its second year, the curriculum-based Delaware Valley River Days education program reached 800 first and second grade students from the Delaware Valley School District. The overall program consists of 16 different individual education programs presented on a two-year rotation (eight stations each year). Topics included learning to fish, water safety, NPS jobs, Lenape legends, green crafts, camping and Leave No Trace, wildlife identification and habitat, and fire prevention presented by Smokey Bear. Staff from all park divisions and from partner organizations contributed to make this program a huge success.

Teacher-Ranger-Teacher

A new Interagency Personnel Agreement was established with the Delaware Valley School

District in Pennsylvania in 2009. In addition to funding from the Northeast Region, DEWA’s FY 2010 TRT program received additional financial support from the first annual Aardvark Amble, a 5-mile run/5K walk held in the park in November 2009. Cindy Bachmann was selected as the park’s TRT for 2010. She worked for eight weeks and was active in all areas of visitor center operations and interpretive programs. Because of her experience as a certified Water Safety Instructor, she was integrated into the park’s Water Safety Outreach and Education (WSOE) program. She was paired with the park’s WSOE interns/SCA’s for weekend paddling roves on the Delaware River to provide general park information, as well as water safety outreach and education to river users. Her main project for the summer was the development of a children’s water safety activity book. The guide will incorporate general water safety principles, while also providing safety information specific to DEWA’s water resources (river, lakes, streams, and waterfalls). In addition to the water-safety activities, TRT Bachman staffed park visitor centers, provided orientation and interpretation through informal visitor contacts on park trails, conducted nature walks for children attending the Pocono Family YMCA’s summer day camp in the park, and represented the park and the TRT program at the second annual Aardvark Amble. The TRT worked closely with the Education Coordinator to develop instructional objectives for each of the Delaware Valley River Days programs and evaluated them for compliance with PA Standards of Learning.

Exhibits and Media

Fee Demo funds have been allocated for the planning, design, and fabrication of permanent exhibits at Dingmans Falls Visitor Center. The Interpretive Specialist prepared an exhibit project definition/concept plan. Seasonal staff researched, developed, and prepared several temporary bulletin boards and exhibits for the Dingmans Falls and Kittatinny Point Visitor Centers.

At Kittatinny Point Visitor Center, a display on the Appalachian Trail through the recreation area was completed. The archeology and Lenape Indian culture exhibit was updated, and two new exhibits were created. The ‘Amphibian Life Cycle’ features an indoor, working

ecosystem with live plants, amphibians, and insects common to DEWA wetland habitats. Visitors were able to observe the animals as they progressed through their life cycles and gain a better understanding of the importance of amphibian species in the ecosystem. A new Beaver Exhibit, containing a beaver skull, pelt, molded claw and tracks, hand puppet, and beaver-chewed twigs gives visitors a glimpse into how the park's largest rodent manipulates its environment.

Interpretive Media & FMSS

Work is underway to integrate interpretive media into the asset management database,

the Facility Management Software System (FMSS). Preparation of interpretive media data and input into FMSS on interpretive media was ongoing throughout the year. Phase I: Outdoor media (wayside exhibits, etc.) is nearly complete. Phase 2: Visitor center and visitor activity spaces; media deficiencies in visitor centers, visitor program/activity spaces, and "structures" were addressed during the year with acquisition of equipment, exhibit supplies, and furnishings for program/activity area. Minor maintenance and repair of exhibits and program areas at Millbrook Village was ongoing during the year.

Natural Resource Management

Alien species continue to invade the park at an alarming rate.

Inventory and Monitoring Program

The Eastern Rivers & Mountains Network (ERMN) coordinates biological inventory and long-term ecological monitoring programs for Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA) and nine other member parks. Park staff and partners monitor local populations of rare, threatened and endangered species. Site-specific surveys target rare species and habitats that may be affected by park projects.

Long-term Ecological Monitoring (Vital Signs Program)

We continued a phased implementation of the long-term ecological monitoring plan. Field crews monitored vegetation, streamside birds, water quality, and aquatic macroinvertebrates in watersheds throughout the park. An invasive species early detection and reporting system was implemented. Preliminary data analyses depict current conditions of our forests and riparian systems:

- Forest regeneration is compromised and favors birch, maple and white pine over oaks. Invasive species dominate the understories of mesic and riparian forests. Dry oak forests are relatively invasives free.
- Riparian habitats host a diverse song-bird community typical of mature, extensive forest stands. The five highest-rated streams are Raymondskill, Adams, Conashaugh, and Dunnfield Creeks, along with VanCampens Brook.
- Wadeable stream conditions are above

average for our ecoregion. Water quality is typical of forested watersheds with similar geology. The five highest-rated streams are Adams Creek, Little Bushkill, VanCampens Brook, Vandermark Creek and a Flat Brook tributary.

- Alien species continue to invade the park at an alarming rate. Additional resources are needed to manage invasives - targeting high priority sites, utilizing biological controls, and responding rapidly to detections of new-to-the-park species.

A new report from NPS Air Resources Division cites high levels of nitrogen and sulfur deposition at DEWA to be of significant concern. Annual weather reports from ERMN summarize long-term trends. The current report cites a lengthening of the growing season as the most pronounced regional trend. Seasonal trends include warmer autumn temperatures and more frequent cold air outbreaks.

Threatened and Endangered Species Management

State- and federally-listed threatened and endangered species are managed to maintain or restore stable populations. NPS Management Policies require that appropriate consideration is given to these species in all plans and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents.

- Bald eagle populations in the park remain stable. The annual winter count in January yielded ten adults and four immature birds. A total of six young II-14 were successfully

fledged from four occupied nests. One nesting pair failed when an intruding adult eagle attempted to take over the territory and disrupted incubation.

- Bog turtles continue to occupy a few of the park's wetlands but remain at risk. Invasive plant control remains a top priority and is ongoing. New patches of suitable habitat were discovered at two sites not previously surveyed.
- The Flatbrook supports a significant population of dwarf wedgemussel. Studies to estimate population size and habitat use are near completion.
- Surveys conducted in planning for park projects documented new occurrences of longtail salamander (NJ-threatened) and three rare plants.
- Marsh bird surveys conducted in cooperation with NJ Div. of Fish & Wildlife detected sora and Virginia rail, two migratory species suspected to breed in the park.

Water Quality Monitoring

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA) conducts water quality monitoring of the mainstem Delaware River and its tributaries within the boundaries of the park. This monitoring is conducted in partnership with the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) and the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River (UPDE) in support of the Special Protection Waters Regulations (DRBC, 1993). This year, the Vital Signs Program of the Eastern Rivers and Mountains Network provided much needed assistance by coordinating sampling efforts with the Scenic Rivers Monitoring Program. This year, the combined program monitored seven sites on the mainstem and seven tributaries biweekly from May through September in support of the regulations. DRBC funded the analysis of nutrients and bacteria at the 14 sites during the monitoring season. The Vital Signs program provided much needed field and laboratory support, and equipment to collect and process samples. In essence, the water quality of the mainstem Delaware River and its major tributaries remains in good condition.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Section of the Resource Management & Science Division (RM&S) coordinates the GIS

programs at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA) and the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River (UPDE) park units. The GIS Section is responsible for supporting and enhancing natural and cultural resource management, providing support to all other divisions within the parks, coordinating with regional GIS programs and technical support units, creating and maintaining spatial datasets, as well as purchasing and maintaining GIS related software and hardware. The GIS team completed over 200 maps and other products in support of both parks. The following projects stand out as major contributions to DEWA and UPDE park mission(s): hazardous structure database, regional planning projects, river campsite and trails planning efforts, and lands/property issues.

Strategic Planning and Community Outreach

Strategic Planning and Community Outreach Office is the DEWA contact for the Common Waters Partnership. It is an effort designed to create partners and dialog for those involved in community growth and natural resource conservation in the interstate region associated with DEWA. The park views this effort as being critical to mission accomplishment, especially in regards to protecting the values of the Middle Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. DEWA as a 'bottom of the watershed park' experiences the results of major land management decisions from the surrounding communities which have the potential to impact the water quality of the river. Most of the regional landscape is forest cover which supports the ecological integrity of the river. Land-use decisions are often made in traditional isolation and generally lack constructive dialogue between adjacent municipalities, counties, states and the parks. In addition to the three states, the region also includes nine counties and 115 municipalities.

In 2007, DEWA provided seed money for this project and helped support it in the initial stages. The services of the Pinchot Institute for Conservation were procured as the meetings convened. This organization originated at the Grey Towers National Historic Site (USFS) and excels in developing collaborative dialog among governmental agencies, non-profit organizations and key individuals involved in nationally recognized forest conservation projects.



Hemlock forests, like the one at Childs Park, are monitored for the hemlock woolly adelgid.

The establishment of this partnership has resulted in a cohesive framework to work more cooperatively as seen in the recent grant proposals and other funding applications. DEWA received \$15,000 from the Natural Resource Preservation Program (NRPP) - Regional Program Block Allocations. Funding was used to develop GIS layers for the study area. Most of these maps will serve as the base maps for the online database and they were used to develop the hardcopy “Atlas of the Upper Delaware Region” that was distributed throughout the partnership organizations. Funding to print the hardcopy Atlas was received from the National Park Service Challenge Cost Share program. The Pinchot Institute received a grant from the Heinz Endowments, William Penn Foundation, and Nestlé Waters of North America to facilitate a dialogue about proposed gas development in the Marcellus Shale, and how to best minimize the potential for impacts on water quality. They also received a generous grant from the US Endowment for Forestry and Communities to collaborate with water utilities to link water consumers in downstream communities with the resources

in the upper Delaware River watershed that provides clean water. The three state offices of The Nature Conservancy also collaborated with the partnership to apply for a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation under their Delaware River Basin Restoration Initiative.

Hemlock Forest Management

Since 1993, the park has conducted a program to address the threats that hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) and hemlock forest decline poses to valued park resources and visitor experiences. This program includes annual monitoring of HWA populations and hemlock tree health in permanent hemlock forest plots, studies of ecosystems and biodiversity associated with hemlock dominated forests, and efforts to suppress HWA infestations and maintain hemlock dominated ecosystems and visitor use areas in the park. The USDA Forest Service (Morgantown, WV Field Office) has provided vital financial, logistic, and technical support for this program since its inception. This year for the first time since 2003, we evaluated all the hemlock trees in all of our per-

manent plots. Overall mortality of trees in the plots reached 31%. Mortality at VanCampens Brook was only 12%, but mortality at Donkeys Corner and Dunnfield Creek was 40%, and at Adams Creek it was 39%. Surviving plot trees show a definite trend of decline in crown conditions since the plots were established in 1993 and 1994. This trend does not bode well for this Pennsylvania state tree.

Purple Loosestrife Control

Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is an invasive alien weed that degrades wetland plant communities and wildlife habitat. The main goal of the park's control program is to suppress *Lythrum* populations and allow native species to return. Our biological control approach utilizes four species of introduced beetles, all of which specifically target purple loosestrife for feeding and reproduction. Releases totaling 119,750 leaf-eating *Galerucella* beetles, 3,035 root-boring *Hylobius* beetles, and 4,338 flower-feeding *Nanophyes* beetles were made from 1996 through 2007. *Galerucella* beetles have established at release sites and dispersed throughout the park. By 2009, purple loosestrife abundance decreased to acceptable levels at 9 of 14 monitoring sites. Diverse arrays of primarily native species have replaced purple loosestrife at all locations where biocontrol has been effective. At a few sites, *Galerucella* populations have remained small and ineffective. But at Bushkill Access wetlands, for the first time since releases were made in 2002, beetle populations were up and purple loosestrife abundance and flowering were down. Results of plot-based studies at Birchenough wetlands demonstrate the relationship between host plant and herbivore populations observed at many of our release sites. *Galerucella* populations built up gradually for a few years, then more rapidly for a few more years, finally decimating the purple loosestrife.

Common Reed (Phragmites) Control

Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) is a perennial grass ranging over five continents. A non-native strain was probably introduced along the Atlantic coast in the late 1800's and now occupies thousands of acres of brackish and freshwater wetlands, altering ecological processes, degrading wildlife habitat, and decreasing biological diversity. Infestations

have been confirmed in 26 of the park's marshes, wet meadows, and shrub swamps. These open-canopy wetlands support rare plant communities along with marsh birds like Virginia rail and American woodcock, small mammals including southern bog lemming; special concern reptiles such as wood turtles, spotted turtles, and bog turtles; and the silver-spotted fritillary, a rare butterfly. Habitat for these species is put at risk when *Phragmites* is left unmanaged. Our management goal is to find occurrences of common reed while they are still small and manageable, then use integrated pest management techniques to suppress or eliminate patches of the non-native genotype wherever they occur in the park. We plan to complete initial herbicide treatments of 20 priority sites over a five-year period from 2008-2012 and to contain the invasive weed on 70% of sites within three years of initial treatment. Contained sites will continue to receive periodic "maintenance" treatments. In 2009, we treated ten sites, including initial treatments at three new locations – Blue Mountain Lake, Long Pine Pond, and Woods Road Pond (near Hemlock Pond). By September 30th, *Phragmites* was contained at a cumulative total of 11 sites, protecting over 50 acres of high-value wetlands and lake shores.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a process one follows to determine first whether a pest problem exists, how bad it is, and then decide what integrated approach can be used to either eliminate the problem or reduce it to tolerable levels. The National Park Service (NPS) policy establishing integrated pest management as the preferred method for managing pest species evolved from previous policies, executive orders, and a presidential memorandum. IPM integrates compatible techniques to maintain pest damage below an unacceptable injury level while providing protection from threats to public health and safety and to the natural environment. IPM makes maximum use of such naturally occurring pest population regulating factors as weather, predators, parasites, and pathogens. It also utilizes genetically resistant hosts and environmental modification, as well as various physical, cultural, biological, and chemical control techniques. Following these directives, in the past year, we have completed the following:

- Provided assistance, coordination and direction for the Northeast Region's Exotic Plant Management Team (EPMT) for invasive plant control projects in the park
 - Investigated and advised on the following pest problems: ticks, spiders, gypsy moths, powder post beetles, termites, cicada killer wasps, hornets and ladybug beetles
 - Updated, tracked and tallied pesticide use proposals through the NPS Pesticide Use Proposal System (PUPS) along with actual use within the park - by park divisions, cooperators, and farmer permittees
 - Updated and compiled pesticide labels and Material Safety Data Sheets for park use
 - Provided compliance (National Environmental Policy Act-NEPA) assistance and input as needed for park projects in regard to integrated pest management
 - Consulted with county and state mosquito control agencies regarding West Nile virus monitoring
 - Completed post-release monitoring of bio-control weevils (*Rhisoncomimus latipe*) for the control of mile-a-minute vine (*Polygonum perfoliatum*)
 - Maintained database of interested agricultural cooperators – this meets nearly half of the park's yearly open space goal
 - Completed 12 agricultural/open space Special Use Permits (SUP) providing for the protection and maintenance of park open space areas
 - Monitored compliance with 19 agricultural SUPs including evaluating for erosion, adequate field and riparian buffers, mowing requirements and any obvious animal damage
 - Prepped and planted a seven-acre former agricultural field in a native grass and forb mix with the assistance of the NER EPMT and park volunteer
 - Assisted with planning with the park's Fire Management Officer for two prescribed burning sites to control invasive species, maintain open space, and maintain wildlife habitat
 - Supervised park volunteer who assisted in controlling invasive exotic shrubs on over 50 acres of heavily infested park land
- Assisted other parks with agricultural special use permits, native grass plantings, etc. including C&O Canal

Agriculture and Open Space Management

Agriculture is tightly interwoven into the historical fabric of DEWA. Today, agriculture continues in the park for a number of reasons as outlined in the park's General Management Plan (GMP): (1) to maintain open space - as the park does not have the personnel nor the equipment to do so on its own; (2) to maintain the (historical) cultural landscape; and (3) to benefit wildlife by providing a diversity of habitats, which in turn helps provide for recreation called for in the park's enabling legislation (i.e. bird watching, hunting, and other activities). Abandoned farm fields, in many cases overrun with invasive exotic (brushy) plant species, are being targeted for restoration with native grasses and forbs in coordination with the Northeast Region's (NER) Exotic Plant Management Team (EPMT) and the park's prescribed fire program with the intent of maintaining these fields as open space. In order to maintain and restore open space in the park, this year we:

- Managed 2,700 acres of agricultural fields as open space and an additional 1,500 acres in various stages of early successional habitat to maintain the historic scene and for wildlife habitat; responded to inquiries and

Wildlife Management

Wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, scientific studies, and wildlife education all continue within the context of conservation and recreation as directed by the park's various mandates. Habitat management is the primary element in the park's wildlife management program.

- Responded to public inquiries concerning wildlife species and management within the park, as needed
- Assisted with a study correlating invasive exotic plant invasions in the forest understory of declining hemlock stands with deer herbivory.

Cultural Resource Management

The Cultural Resources Branch of the Resource Management & Science Division (RM&S) performs or coordinates all cultural resource-related activities at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA). This includes activities in the program areas of American Indian Affairs, Anthropology, Archeology, Cultural Landscapes, Ethnography, Historic Structures, History, and Museum Management. The Cultural Resources



Initial planning for a Cultural Landscape Report and treatments at Zimmerman Farm began this year.

Branch provides support to all other divisions within the park, coordinating with regional Cultural Resource programs and technical support units, creating and maintaining cultural resource datasets (Archeological Sites Management Information System [ASMIS], Ethnographic Resource Inventory [ERI], Cultural Landscape Inventory [CLI and CLAIMS databases], List of Classified Structures [LCI], and the Interior Collection Management Information System [ICMS]), as well as purchasing cultural resource-related equipment and supplies. The Cultural Resource team completed the following:

- Continued discussions with tribes about hiring American Indian interns and staff
- Obligated funds (\$150,000) through the Chesapeake Cooperative Ecosystem Study Unit (CESU) to conduct mitigation research at the Manna Site
- Updated Archeological Site condition information on 70+ sites in park
- Reviewed over 20 projects for Cultural Resource impacts through Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC)
- Wrote Scopes of Work for two major NHPA Section 106 excavations
- Wrote PMIS projects for 6 Cultural Landscape studies needed to establish effects of the proposed Pennsylvania Power and Light (PPL) and Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G) power line expansion
- Began preliminary planning for 2011 Cultural Landscape Report and treatments at Zimmerman Farm
- Obligated \$450,000 to fund Phase I of the Ramirez Solar House Restoration project
- Programmed 6 high-priority PMIS projects to stabilize and/or restore historic buildings in the park
- Re-housed 90 boxes of archeological objects
- Re-housed over 2000 history objects in appropriate storage containers
- Cleaned over 2000 history objects to remove agents of deterioration
- Photographed over 600 museum objects to improve access to collections
- Oversaw construction of Supplemental Curatorial Storage Building (2400 sq. ft.) to improve storage of museum objects.

Environmental Planning and Compliance

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) completed planning and compliance documentation on nine projects in Fiscal Year 2010 using the Environmental Screening Form (ESF) in the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) database and following guidance provided in Director's Order #12, and associated handbook. The IDT met monthly to review new and on-going projects.

Significant on-going projects in the planning or construction phases included: storm recovery projects including data analysis and review of a draft Environmental Assessment for the Restoration of Flood-damaged River Campsites, as well as boat launch repairs; Line Item Construction projects including Turtle Beach, the Joseph M. McDade Recreational Trail, Childs Park Rehabilitation and Hazard Structure Deconstruction; American Recovery Re-investment Act projects; roadway and bridge repair projects; and the continued work associated with the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed electric transmission line expansion Susquehanna-to-Roseland project, which is being led by the park's Resource Management & Science Division, and includes compliance specialists from Delaware Water Gap and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Environmental planning staff also worked with an interdisciplinary team on trail planning and design. Additionally, the IDT reviewed special use permits, partner projects including several at the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC), and other park facility repairs.

The Environmental Planning & Compliance Specialist coordinated project planning in the park, and also participated in broad-scale conservation planning initiatives with partner conservation organizations as well as site specific planning with adjoining communities affecting park resources including the Bushkill Village Comprehensive Transportation and Land Use Plan with Lehman Township, and the Santos Farm Park Planning project with Pike County officials and committee members. The Compliance Specialist also participated in regional open space and trail and greenway planning initiatives and workshops as served as the co-chair for the park's Trails Workgroup.

Trails Workgroup

The park Trails Workgroup, an interdisciplinary team, continued to work together in lieu of a trails program manager. One notable accomplishment was the completion of several years of planning and implementation with the dedication of the trail system at Cliff Park. The planning process was used to determine which trails to designate as official from a maze of old roads and trails covering the area. A trail system including overlooks was defined, marked, mapped to provide visitors an enjoyable experience while protecting the sensitive natural resources located along some of the trails.

A plan was also developed to acquire bulletin boards for all trailheads and design a plan for information in those bulletin boards to provide trail maps and visitor information in a clear and consistent manner park-wide. Trails workgroup co-chairs worked closely with Interpretation & Education Division staff to develop the plan and bulletin boards were procured. Additionally, roadway signs for

way-finding to trailheads were assessed and developed for procurement with other park signs.

A rule for bicycling for Blue Mountain Lakes Trail System was further refined through work with Washington Office, Special Regulations and Park Uses and should be finalized in the coming fiscal year. This will be an important first step in further developing relationships with biking stakeholders and establishing effective trail stewardship. Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) worked on two timber bridges along the McDade Trail as well as working on trail tread improvement projects on various park trails in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

The Trails Workgroup also assessed trail issues at Van Campens Glen, vandalism of trail signage at Cliff Park, and escalating visitor use and resource damage at Adams Creek. The Workgroup plans to develop short-term and long-term strategies to resolve or mitigate the issues in FY2011.

Visitor and Resource Protection Division

Emergency Medical Services

Delaware Water Gap has 9 First Responders, 15 EMTs and 1 Park Medic, and an additional 3 seasonal First Responders and 2 seasonal EMTs.

Notable EMS incidents include:

- A 14 year old male fell down Buttermilk Falls and sustained critical head injuries.
- A male in his 20s fell while climbing above Indian Ladders Falls and broke his femur.
- A male in his 50's crashed his motorcycle into a utility pole on Old Mine Rd and amputated his leg and nearly amputated his second leg, while also sustaining significant internal injuries. He was flown to the hospital.
- A tractor trailer hit two cars at the intersection of Route 209 and 739 causing injuries including one female who was critically injured and flown from the scene.
- A bicyclist on Route 615 was critically injured when she was struck by a car. She sustained numerous injuries and fractures and was flown from the scene.
- A male in his 50s camping on the Dela-

ware River called 911 stating he was having difficulty breathing, chest pain and numbness radiating from his shoulder. He was taken by NPS Vessel to a waiting ambulance.

There were nine carry outs at numerous locations in the park, including Adams Creek, Childs Park, Buttermilk Falls, Indian Ladders, and the Coppermine Trail.

The EMS Cache for the park was damaged when a pipe burst in the room where supplies were stored. However, with year-end funding the damaged supplies were replaced and the EMS cache is now better stocked than in recent history.

AEDs were purchased to place an AED in almost every Ranger vehicle, significantly increasing the likelihood that they could be effectively utilized. Now, out of 14 Ranger vehicles, 10 have AEDs in their vehicles. In the winter months, all Ranger vehicles will have an AED in their vehicle.

EMS Training

The park held specific training last fall related to preventing disease transmission and H1N1 precautions as well as purchasing products such as masks, hand sanitizer, disinfectant spray and gloves to help keep employees healthy during flu season.

Last winter the park invited Jon Politis, an EMS Educator who works extensively with many of the NPS' EMS Programs, including the Tetons and Grand Canyon, to conduct an EMS Refresher for Park EMTs. All of the staff who attended from DEWA, as well as Rangers from 4 other NPS units, commented on how much they gained from the EMS training session.

This year the park implemented new "Law Enforcement Bleeding Control" protocols that were approved by our Medical Director, appropriate training and gunshot trauma kits to protect employees in the event of an employee encountering a gun-shot wound. Delaware Water Gap is one of the first of three NPS Units to implement these protocols. The NPS will be introducing service-wide protocols next year.

DEWA converted to a new online EMS documentation system, EMS Charts, which makes the Park HIPPA and DOH compliant, as was required by WASO. This also included implementing a new employee EMS credentialing system through Shenandoah EICC.

This year, the park also implemented a Quality Assurance/Quality Investigation Board consisting of field and management members, to

recommend improvements in EMS Education needs and review EMS Patient Care as well as be compliant with NPS Policy Requirements.

Communications Center

In December 2009, the UPDE Chief Ranger contacted DEWA concerning the possibility of having the DEWA Communications Center assume the full dispatch operation for UPDE. Over the next few months, details of the changeover of operations were considered, and there were several meetings with staff from both parks. Once DEWA reviewed the SOPs and other paperwork for UPDE operations, tours were provided for the DEWA Communications Center Staff to familiarize them with locations at UPDE. DEWA assumed full dispatching duties in mid-May 2010.

The Telecommunications Manager spent several days Pete Casinias, NER Telecommunications Branch Manager, inspecting various radio repeater sites, base stations, and dispatch services at DEWA and UPDE. All aspects of the radio system were discussed including site conditions, aging equipment, and potential improvements to both increase performance of the existing system and expand the area served by the DEWA Communication Center.

The Chief Ranger and the Telecommunications Manager visited the control centers in the counties surrounding DEWA to renew relationships and review their processes for receiving and relaying incidents to the DEWA Communications Center. Improvements to the current processes were begun with the use of a pager system and text messaging.

Staff participate in various types of training to keep their skills sharp.





Prescribed burn on Minisink Island.

Trainees at DEWA gain invaluable experience ... critical to the job.

Field Training Evaluation Program

The Field Training Evaluation Program (FTEP) at DEWA trained and evaluated six trainees during the past year. DEWA has eight certified field training officers (FTR's) and one Field Training Lead (FTL) who provide instruction, coaching, mentoring, training, counseling and overall guidance for each trainee during their eleven weeks in the park. DEWA is one of the most active field training parks in the FTEP due to high visitor use throughout the year and a heavy case load. These six trainees investigated 372 case incidents, made 21 arrests, 27 drug cases, issued 352 violation notices, and investigated 15 motor vehicle accidents.

Trainees at DEWA gain invaluable experience in criminal investigations, traffic stops, arrests for DUI's and drug cases, motor vehicle accident investigation, hunter contacts including decoy and hunter checkpoint operations, high risk/felony stops, knowledge of agency regulations, report writing, communication, interagency relations, driving under stressful situations, ICS, and officer safety tactics critical to the job. These are skills they will need throughout their career and DEWA provides an ideal setting for this training and experience.

Fire

The DEWA Fire Management staff managed 7 park fires and completed 565 acres of

prescribed fire/fuels management treatments in fy2010. DEWA staff continued to provide management assistance to area parks with their fire related needs including management of a large fire at GATE. The staff provided training and maintained fire qualifications for approximately 100 area personnel. In completing field operations the fire management staff's strong safety emphasis resulted in no lost time accidents occurring again this year.

DEWA Fire Management staff conducted numerous region-wide training sessions, including S130/190 Firefighter Training, five RT130 Firefighter Refreshers, S212 Wildfire Chainsaw, S290 Intermediate Fire Behavior, and High Reliability Organizing.

Fire Management staff presented several Fire Safety programs for Delaware Valley School District and Pocono Mountain School District.

The 2010 Fuels Management Program included six open space prescribed burns for a total of 399 acres, clearing of 55 acres of fire roads, and fuels reduction on 111 acres.

Recreation Fee Collection

Recreation fee collection got off to a rocky start in fiscal 2010 with the closure of Dingmans Launch in October (September 7, 2009) for boat launch repair and with the closure of all fee sites in April and May for comfort sta-

tion restoration. Thanks to an extremely hot, dry summer and the opening of a new swim beach in New Jersey (Turtle Beach), a total of \$212,360.52 was collected this year at our six day-use areas, two group campgrounds, and sales of various passes (both DEWA specific and national) throughout the park. This amount was over \$35,000 more than the estimated income for FY2010. Cost of collection was maintained at 41%.

Three automated fee machines (AFMs) were upgraded to comply with the credit card platform used by Fifth-Third Bank, and a new AFM and iron ranger were installed at Turtle Beach.

Use of the group campgrounds increased this summer, including an increase in mid-week stays by many visitors and one canoe livery. There are many repeat visits to the campgrounds by long-time users.

Commercial vehicle fees from U.S. Route 209 totaled \$ 49,690.00, well below the average of the past few years. Hours of collection were

curtailed in order to comply with DO-22 and concerns about employee safety when no law enforcement rangers are on duty. Using the security cameras, it is demonstrated that many otherwise paying operators transit 209 between 0000 and 0600, when no fee collection personnel are on duty, in order to avoid paying fees. The resulting drop in revenues may require additional funding to ensure adequate staffing levels to enforce commercial use restrictions.

Fitness Program

The fitness program at DEWA is very active. The park's physical fitness coordinator distributes a monthly health & fitness newsletter park wide. Protection rangers use one of two fitness facilities in the park and have logged over 400 hours of fitness time during the past year. Two physical efficiency batteries (PEB's) are administered each year for the protection staff. Non mandatory DO/RM-57 participants also utilize the DEWA fitness facilities which include free weights, tread mills, bikes, stair stepper, and elliptical machines along with other weight lifting machines.

Partnerships

DEWA continues to maintain effective and dynamic relationships with numerous national and locally based community organizations. DEWA strengthened partner relations by holding a partner symposium in which key members of park staff conducted a roundtable meeting with the directors of park partner organizations. The symposium helped to identify park objectives and expectations for partner organizations and it focused on establishing a partnership alliance. Increased communication and the development of partner work plans were resultant from the symposium.

Partner organizations held numerous events in collaboration and support of the park and our visitors. The Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) received America's Best Idea grant for \$20,000 and a First Bloom grant for \$6,500 from the National Park Foundation, which supported Women on the Water Program and a native garden planting project. A 24 hour Bio-Blitz was held at PEEC, engaging more than 125 park volunteers with park staff performing field surveys of plant and animal species.

The park has recently forged new relationships with the Marie Zimmerman Foundation and the Ramirez Solar House organization. DEWA and the Friends of Marie Zimmermann (FOMZ) renewed drafting of a General Agreement to allow FOMZ to use the Marie Zimmermann Farm as a base of operations. Pending the approval of this agreement, FOMZ has been working under individual volunteer agreements and the direct supervision of park staff in completing work items that will make the first floor of the Marie Zimmermann House available to the public for tours and events. FOMZ has submitted work order items for approval, met with park managers on a regular basis, provided productive input into the general agreement drafting process, and reported volunteer hours as required. Principal activities of FOMZ volunteers this year were cleaning, painting, electrical, and plumbing of the Marie Zimmermann House first floor and removal of invasive vegetation from the Marie Zimmermann House grounds.

The Ramirez Solar House (RSH) organization, a 501(c)(3) started by Frederick Schwartz of Frederick Schwartz Architects (<http://www.schwartzarch.com/>), has continued to provide architectural and engineering assistance to the park in the restoration of the Ramirez Solar House. Park staff and RSH are drafting a General Agreement with RSH to occupy the Ramirez Solar House as a sustainable residential design center and interpret the house's sustainable design elements to the public both on-site and through outreach. The work performed by contract on the the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing in the house is almost complete and the facility should be available to RSH for work on interior and landscape elements in FY2011. Frederick Schwartz Architects won a prestigious NPS design award from the DSC in 2010 for renovations of the Santa Fe Railroad Yard in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Several living history displays were held this year, and the highlight continues to be Millbrook Days, sponsored by the Millbrook Village Society, engaging more than 6,000 visitors with a living history display of early 1800's living in Millbrook Village, New Jersey. The Walpack Historical Society held Walpack Day in May and helped to bring early 1900's history alive to visitors in Walpack Center, New Jersey. The Montague Association for the Resto-

ration of Community History (MARCH) held a wide variety of open houses and sponsored guest speakers on subject matters such as covered bridge building and Revolutionary War history of Montague, New Jersey. MARCH also coordinated a large scale volunteer event performing landscaping and building upkeep to the historic Foster Armstrong House. Peters Valley Craft Center provided artist in residence grants and performed public craft displays engaging visitors with the crafts of blacksmithing, weaving, and woodworking.

The Friends of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area provided donations to support the park hiring a seasonal Park Ranger and to support the opening the Bushkill Meeting Center to serve as a seasonal visitor center. The Friends also staffed the Bushkill Meeting Center providing visitor information. They also sponsored fundraisers for other park partners in need of financial support for their operations.

Volunteer In Parks Program

The VIP program continues to be a robust program involving volunteers from the community and abroad in opportunities related to preserving the park's natural and cultural resources. Over 1,100 volunteers contributed 146,138 hours of service, at a value of \$3,046,977 to DEWA. DEWA's volunteer

Over 1,100 volunteers contributed 146,138 hours of service, at a value of \$3,046,977 to Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.



service hours continue to be first in the Northeast Region and third in the nation. The large number of hours is a direct reflection of the community's interest in the park, and the numbers also reflect DEWA's strong interest with boosting the visitors' and local communities' interest in the park.

Individuals and groups of volunteers and volunteers from within 20 park partner organizations distinguished themselves in providing: community and interpretive programs; living history displays at historic park villages; maintenance work on historic buildings, structures, and grounds; trail maintenance on more than 200 miles of trail; performing bike patrols along the McDade Trail, providing visitor information and responding to medical incidents on the trail; participating on the High Angle Rescue (HAR) Team, responding to emergency callouts for search and rescue and attending monthly training; providing water safety which helped to educate visitors and mitigate incidents with river recreation.

Exceptional accomplishments were made in the volunteer program as seen in:

- DEWA staff received the Northeast Region Andrew Clark Hecht Public Safety Achievement Award in May 2010, for working with volunteers from the Student Conservation Association and the Youth Internship Program, all working in collaboration to increase visitor safety along the Middle Delaware National Scenic River.
- Recognition for achievements in "Take Pride In America" by receiving a letter and certificate of appreciation from the Director of Take Pride In America
- Recognition by local media for hosting a recuperating veteran volunteering with the park through the Wounded Warrior Program
- Leveraging of volunteer funds to help support training for volunteers at DEWA including VIPs from other parks within the Northeast Region. Some examples of these joint training courses are: Historic Preservation and Care of Museum Collections; Historic Preservation of Photographs and Paper; and, a Historic Crafts Interpretation Workshop Series.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
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