



Great Smoky Mountains National Park
www.nps.gov/grsm

Environmental Leadership, Stewardship

The following centennial proposal is certified as eligible for Centennial Challenge funding consideration in fiscal year 2008. Funding for the Centennial Challenge requires legislation.

Advance Science and Education Through Completion of All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory

Location: Tennessee-North Carolina

Partner(s): Friends of the Smokies, Great Smoky Mountains Association

Partner Website: www.friendsofthesmokies.org; www.smokiesstore.org

Total Cost: \$400,000

Proposal # 137466

Summary: The park has been a leader in developing the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI) to evaluate biodiversity in parks. Indices of biodiversity can be used to estimate relative health of a park. Changes in biodiversity can be indicators of climate change or other stressors to the environment. Understanding the rates of loss of diversity in parks is one of the most comprehensive assessment tools NPS has available. Structured sampling methods need to be defined under this effort and then made available to other parks across the nation that are interested in starting an ATBI. Currently, at least seven other parks are initiating ATBI activities and the Smokies serves as their principle advisor. The park believes that structured sampling using a statistical sampling design which is habitat based will reduce the time necessary for parks to “complete” an ATBI.

For more information contact:

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A jumping spider (*Phidippus mystaceus*) found in the park by ATBI researchers. Fred Coyle photo.