



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

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.

Implement Monitoring of Airborne Mercury Pollution to Assess Risk to Human Health

Location: Tennessee-North Carolina

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

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

Total Cost: \$360,000

Proposal # 137453

Summary: The Great Smoky Mountains National Park proposes a study that would expand wet deposition mercury monitoring in the park, as well as evaluate whether mercury is accumulating at elevated levels in biota as a result of atmospheric inputs. Mercury deposition has been found to be highly elevated in the park, yet the park only has limited data. The park is collaborating with state and local regulatory agencies on this more recently recognized threat to the park's resources. Current monitoring efforts have already shown that air pollution is significantly affecting park resources (streams, soils, vegetation and visibility), visitor enjoyment, and public health. The park experiences some of the highest measured air pollution of any national park. The new data collected from the mercury study will allow more effective modeling to be used during regulatory processes such as air pollution permitting actions.

For more information contact:

Bob Miller, Public Information Officer, (865) 436-1207, bob_miller@nps.gov



The Look Rock Air Quality Monitoring Station.