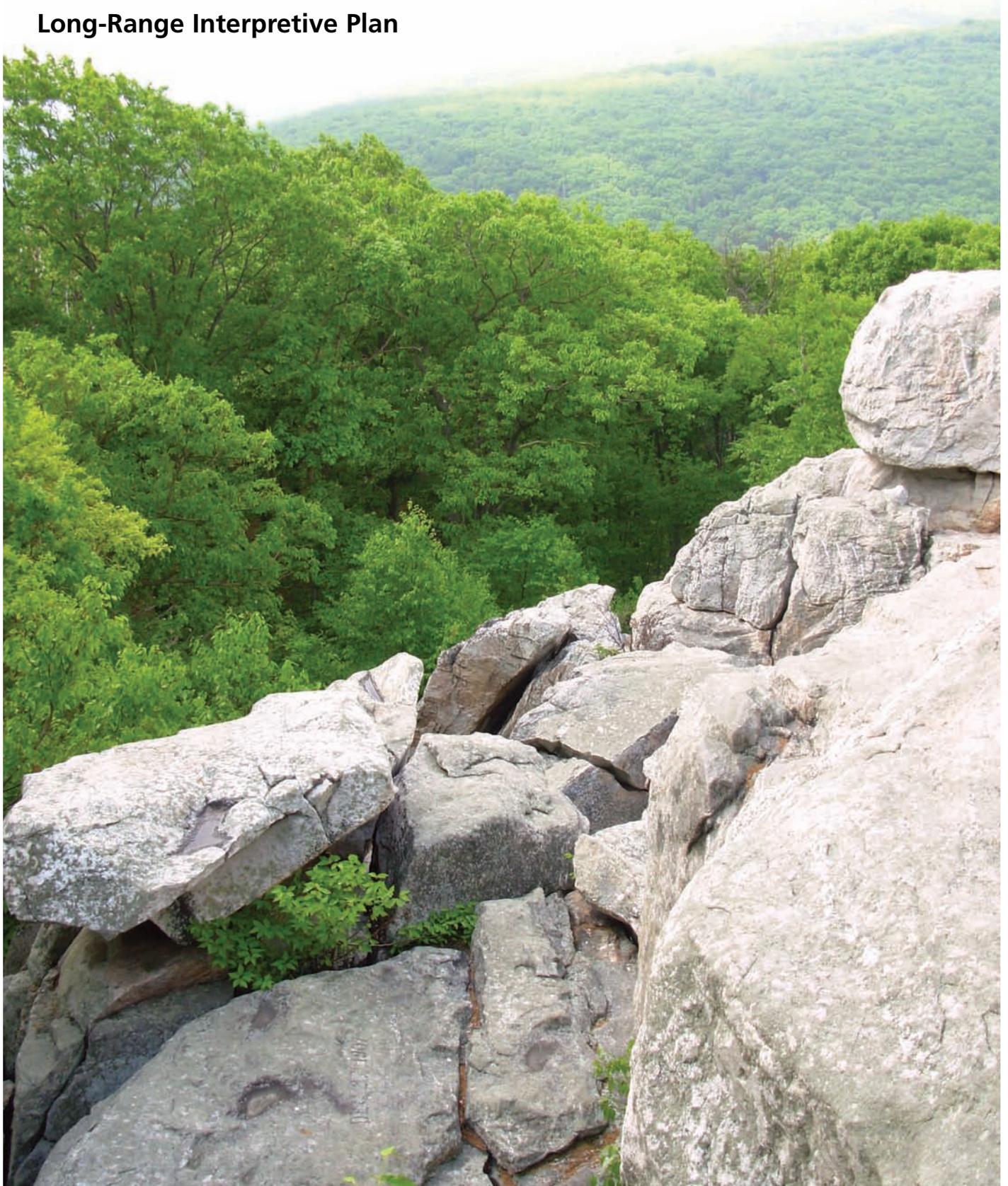
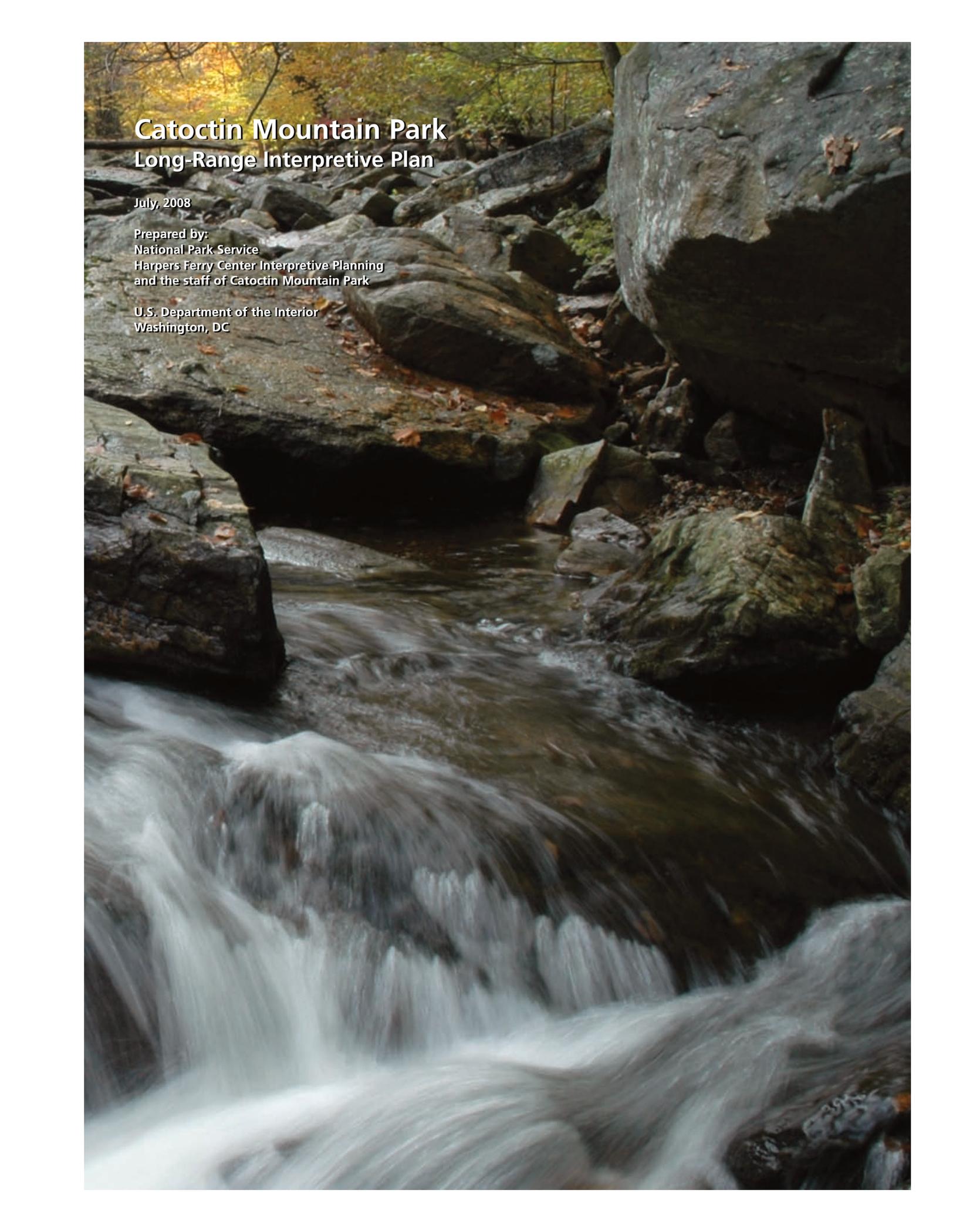




Catoctin Mountain Park Long-Range Interpretive Plan







Catoctin Mountain Park Long-Range Interpretive Plan

July, 2008

Prepared by:
National Park Service
Harpers Ferry Center Interpretive Planning
and the staff of Catoctin Mountain Park

U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, DC

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

—NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
MISSION STATEMENT

Right: Created by former Frederick County Outdoor School student, Aaron Ayler, this sculpture continues the tradition of totem poles at Camp Greentop.

Front cover: Catoclin Mountain Park lies within the mountainous area known as the Blue Ridge Province. This 5,810-acre hardwood forest park with its refreshing streams and scenic vistas, offers a rare haven in a rapidly developing area of the country.

Inside front cover: Big Hunting Creek in Catoclin Mountain Park has played a prominent role in the development of recreational fishing in Maryland. In 1940 it became the first "fly-fishing only" stream in the state.



PHOTO BY AARON AYLER

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Legislative Background

Unlike many National Park System units, Catoctin Mountain Park has no single comprehensive enabling legislation. Rather, the establishment and operation of the park is influenced by numerous pieces of federal legislation and executive orders. Created as a 10,000-acre Recreational Demonstration Area (RDA) within the New Deal legislation in the 1930s, the park was transferred to the National Park Service by Executive Order 7496 dated November 14, 1936. Public Law 2852, dated June 6, 1942, required that RDA project areas be maintained for “public park, recreational, and conservation purposes.”

In the spring of 1942, at the request of the White House, the National Park Service began to consider several areas for a presidential retreat as a result of the United States’ entrance into World War II. President Franklin D. Roosevelt selected an existing camp area within Catoctin Mountain RDA known as Camp Hi-Catoctin to be the presidential retreat, which he named Shangri-La. In 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower renamed it Camp David after his grandson, David Eisenhower.

In 1945, with the added significance of the establishment of the presidential retreat and “the historical events of national and international interest” that occurred there, President Harry S. Truman determined that this area would “be retained by the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior . . . in accord with the position expressed by . . . President Roosevelt.” Subsequently, in 1954, 5,770 acres of the RDA remained in the National Park System and the area was designated Catoctin Mountain Park by the Director of the National Park Service. The remaining 4,400 acres of the RDA south of Route 77 were transferred to the State of Maryland to become Cunningham Falls State Park.

Much of the legislation affecting Catoctin Mountain Park since that time has centered on Servicewide or Government-wide issues, such as accessibility for the disabled and various resource protection requirements including clean air and water, and habitat for threatened and endangered species. For a complete list of this legislation, go to Appendix A at the end of this plan.

Park Purpose

Purpose is derived largely from the park’s legislation and defines why the park unit was established and what its purpose is today (DO-6, page 6). Purpose is based on the park’s legislative history (DO-6, page 8.)

The purpose of Catoctin Mountain Park is to protect its natural and cultural environment while:

- Providing quality recreational facilities and activities including hiking trails, horse trails, scenic views, campgrounds, residential camps, and cabins.
- Providing resource education opportunities.
- Serving as a buffer to the presidential retreat.



Catoctin Mountain Park began as Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area, a New Deal program designed to provide gainful employment while building recreational facilities for the nearby urban population.

Part 1: Foundations

Reports had the president “very much pleased with the area.” One story had him exclaiming upon seeing the site, “This is Shangri-La,” a reference to James Hilton’s famed novel The Lost Horizon. The appeal of the site was clear. At an elevation of 1,800 feet, Hi-Catoctin offered seclusion and a spectacular view that included the Monocacy River. It offered cool breezes and temperatures five to ten degrees below steamy conditions in Washington DC.

—CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN PARK HISTORIC RESOURCE STUDY
MARCH, 2000

Park Significance

Significance statements describe the importance or distinctiveness of the area and its resources (DO-6, page 6).

The following significance statements will help park managers make decisions that preserve the resources and values present and represented in Catoctin Mountain Park.

Catoctin Mountain Park is significant because:

- It is a prime example of the resiliency and diversity of the eastern deciduous forest, and provides outstanding scenic beauty for all to enjoy at the transition of the Blue Ridge and Piedmont geologic provinces.
- It provides resource-compatible, outdoor recreation opportunities for visitors from the local region, several nearby metropolitan areas, and throughout the United States, as well as international visitors.
- It hosts the presidential retreat, Camp David. Catoctin Mountain Park is a place where international leaders have convened to discuss world peace and international diplomacy.
- It plays an important role in the ecological health of the watershed for the Monocacy and Potomac Rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay.
- It was one of 46 Recreational Demonstration Areas established in the 1930s, and represents an outstanding example of a New Deal Era program to recast the landscape for recreation and conservation purposes.
- It preserves and provides for continued use of Camp Greentop, home to the oldest operating camp for the disabled in the nation. Camp Greentop and Camp Misty Mount are both historic districts on the National Register of Historic Places.
- It includes diverse cultural resources that range from American Indian tool production to the nation’s first Job Corps Center.
- It played a supporting role in World War II in providing training areas, rest and relaxation opportunities, and Office of Strategic Services training facilities.



The Maryland League for the Handicapped has used Camp Greentop as a summer camp every available season since 1938. It is believed to be the longest running camp for disabled individuals in the United States.



Curriculum-based educational programs seek to connect children with nature assuring no child is left inside.

Interpretive Themes

Themes define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about Catoctin Mountain Park. Interpretation strives to establish a caring relationship between a person and Catoctin Mountain Park by provoking understanding, appreciation, and multiple perspectives. The chosen approach for the park’s interpretive and educational programs is to offer opportunities for visitors to make their own intellectual and emotional connections to meanings inherent in the park’s resources.

TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE CONCEPTS

Tangible resources are objects and places, or people and events that once had a physical presence. Intangible meanings are the universally felt emotions, relationships, or values associated with those tangible resources. Through the knowledge or

emotions that visitors have experienced before their visit to Catoctin Mountain Park, visitors are able to connect a personal meaning with the park’s resources.

The following list shows some of the park’s tangible resources and some intangible meanings that today’s visitors may relate to those resources. During a planning workshop in August 2006, the staff and partners of Catoctin Mountain Park developed this list as a first step in creating the park interpretive theme statements listed on the next page. The park’s interpreters, partners, and media specialists should use this list and the interpretive theme statements as a starting point when developing personal services programs, educational programs, and interpretive media for the park’s visitors.

Tangible Resources	Intangible Meanings
Mountains	Reflection, beauty, adventure, exploration, R&R, serenity
Forest	Survival, cycle of life, life and death, balance and impacts
Streams	Purity, therapy, relaxation, sport, personal health, exercise
Campgrounds	Recreation, family time, relationships, danger, escape
Wildlife	Awe, beauty, life cycle, reality, death, family sharing
Trails (Hiking and Horse)	Health, exercise, enjoyment, accomplishment, challenge, nature, escape, stress reduction, peace, reflection
Camp David	Loss of innocence, security, peace, frustration, curiosity
Artifacts (Charcoal)	Heritage, hard work, survival, struggle, unlimited resources, apprenticeships, ingenuity
Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)	Second chances, hardship, pride, rebirth, livelihood, and resourcefulness
Whiskey Still (moonshine)	Escape, fun, livelihood, protest, danger, excitement, thrills
Sawmill	Ingenuity, danger, livelihood, destruction, construction
Iron Works	Heritage, hard work, survival, struggle, unlimited resources, apprenticeships, ingenuity
Picnic	Escape, bonding, enjoyment, family, sharing
Scenic Overlooks	Reflection, memories, stress reduction, beauty, reward
Museum	Unique, nostalgia, education, taxidermy
Fish/Fishing/Streams	Frustration, relaxation, enjoyment, satisfaction, family memories, exaggeration, tradition, storytelling
Flora	The hunt, beauty, education, relaxing,
Fall color	Beauty, sense of wonder, cycle of life, inspiration, excitement, seasons
Skiing	Fun, exercise, danger, adventure, fitness, reflection, peace
Residential Camps	Beliefs, reflection, accomplishment, pride, adventure, independence, fellowship, social, spiritual
Photographs	Livelihood, artistic expression, memories
Books	Education, family, income, memories

INTERPRETIVE THEME STATEMENTS

Themes define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to the public about a park. They convey the tangible and intangible meanings and universal concepts inherent in the park's resources (DO-6, page 8).

1. People: Life on the Mountain

Basic skills once used for survival introduce today's visitors to traditional mountain occupations.

Sub-themes:

- Remnants of human activity may be as subtle as a flake from an arrowhead or as obvious as miles of stone walls.
- Group camps built as part of the Recreational Demonstration Area have been in continuous use since 1936.
- The land that became Catoctin Mountain Park was transformed into recreational areas for all to enjoy.

2. Fun: Making Memories

People from all generations and all walks of life discover opportunities for memorable experiences in Catoctin Mountain Park.

Sub-themes:

- Visitors can experience the thrill of discovery and a sense of adventure through a variety of resource-compatible recreational opportunities.
- Visitors seeking personal reflection, serenity, solitude, fitness, and renewal will find many opportunities at Catoctin Mountain Park.
- Recreational activities may change with the seasons, from identifying spring wildflowers through exploring the wonders of a winter snowfall.
- Recreation provides visitors with opportunities for social and family interactions.

- Recreational activities may be undertaken individually or with others; they may be planned or spontaneous; and they may be passive or active.
- All people can be stewards of the land.

3. Renewal: Second Chances

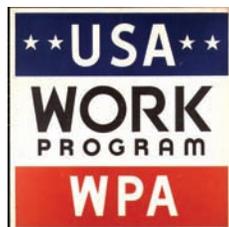
Catoctin Mountain Park dynamically demonstrates the regeneration of disturbed lands.

Sub-themes:

- The Works Progress Administration (WPA), Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), Job Corps, and Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) enrollees learned basic job skills while participating in projects contributing to the renewal of the forest environment.
- Catoctin Mountain Park is an evolving example of resource stewardship where interactions between natural resources and local cultures have shifted from subsistence to sustainability.
- Continued regeneration of disturbed lands is supported by resource protection, monitoring, and research.
- Catoctin Mountain Park is an outdoor classroom revealing relationships between nature and people.
- Increasing numbers of alien plant species, wildlife population imbalances, and human infringement issues continually demonstrate nature's reaction to external forces.

Although not directly related to the park's interpretive themes, there are additional areas of focus in the Interpretation Division's operations that are essential to the overall park operations. These include:

- Orientation Information.
- Safety.



Goals

Goals describe management's intent in offering interpretive and educational programs and services. This section may also contain objectives that define specific outcomes for interpretive and educational programs (DO-6, page 8).

MANAGEMENT GOALS

The Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), enacted in 1993, requires federal agencies to establish standards for measuring performance and effectiveness. The law requires federal agencies to develop strategic plans describing their overall goals and objectives, annual performance plans containing quantifiable measures of their progress, and performance reports describing their success in meeting those standards and measures.

The following long-term goals were prepared as part of the planning process required by GPRA. Annual Performance Plans prepared by the park staff establish future benchmarks for visitor satisfaction and visitor understanding. Attainment of these benchmarks is measured with annual park visitor surveys.

Long-term Goal IIa1a: By September 2008, 93 percent of visitors to Catoclin Mountain Park are satisfied with the appropriate park facilities, services, and recreational opportunities.

Long-term Goal IIb1: By September 30, 2008, 70 percent of Catoclin Mountain Park's visitors understand the significance of the park.

ACCESSIBILITY GOALS

The following acts and their amendments are the laws that apply to the federal government.

1. **The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-480)** requires all buildings and facilities built or renovated in whole or in part with federal funds to be accessible to, and usable by, physically disabled persons. Since 1968 official standards for making buildings accessible have been developed and the U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board has been created to monitor and enforce compliance with the law.



The combination of moderate weather and vibrant fall foliage attract visitors to Catoclin Mountain Park during autumn. Peak visitation traditionally occurs in October.



A visitor rests on the visitor center lawn. Some visitors come to the park strictly for the opportunities for rest and reflection.

2. **Section 512 of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) amends definitions applicable to the Rehabilitation Act.** Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-112), as amended, is more encompassing than the Architectural Barriers Act. While the Architectural Barriers Act requires physical access to buildings and facilities, Section 504 requires program accessibility in all services provided with federal dollars. The act itself is very brief. It states: “No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States shall, solely by reason of disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity conducted by Federal Financial Assistance or by any Executive Agency.”

Further, National Park Service (NPS) policy mandates that interpretive programming be developed in accordance with NPS Director’s Orders 42, and that interpretive media be developed within the NPS Accessibility Guidelines for Interpretive Media.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE GOALS

Visitor Experience Goals describe opportunities for the public and suggest how interpretation may change the way visitors will think, feel, or act as a result of their park experience (DO-6, page 9).

The desired outcome of Catoctin Mountain Park’s operations is to manage visitor-resource interactions so that the resources will remain unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations while ensuring that opportunities exist for the widest variety of current visitors to forge meaningful connections with those resources. The park’s facilities, interpretive media, website, personal services, and education programs provide visitors with information as well as interpretive, educational, and recreational opportunities.

Visitor Experience Goals for All Park Visitors
All park visitors should have the opportunity to:

- Easily find orientation information on the website and within the park.

- Receive information on attractions and services in the nearby areas.
- Interact with volunteers and paid staff who are professional and courteous, and leave a positive impression of the park and the National Park Service.
- Understand that Catoctin Mountain Park is a unit of the National Park System.
- Access park facilities and programs reflective of the full range of visitor abilities and disabilities.
- Enjoy a variety of recreational activities that do not conflict with other visitors and their expectations and do not adversely impact the park’s resources.
- Safely enjoy their visit by learning about and following safety guidelines and park rules and regulations.
- Find opportunities for solitude and personal discovery.
- Gain an appreciation and understanding of Catoctin Mountain Park by learning about the park’s natural and cultural heritage.
- Discover their own personal connections to the meanings and significance inherent in the natural and cultural resources of Catoctin Mountain Park.
- Receive unbiased and accurate information that includes multiple points of view.
- Purchase publications and educational materials through the park’s Eastern National cooperating association that will enhance their experience.
- Demonstrate stewardship by using park resources in a manner that protects and enhances the natural and cultural resources.
- Contribute to the stewardship of Catoctin Mountain Park.

Visitor Experience Goals for Group Camp Visitors

Visitors within the organized groups that use Camp Misty Mount, Camp Greentop, or Camp Round Meadow should have the opportunity to:

- Understand the shared values of the National Park Service and their organizations.
- Easily find orientation information and group use information and opportunities

- on the park’s website and within the park.
- Interact with park staff who are professional and courteous, leaving a positive impression of Catoctin Mountain Park and the National Park Service.
- Enjoy a variety of recreational activities that do not interfere with other people and do not adversely impact the park’s resources.
- Safely enjoy their visit by learning about and following safety guidelines and park rules and regulations.
- Demonstrate stewardship by using park resources in a manner that protects and enhances the natural and cultural resources.
- Contribute to the stewardship of Catoctin Mountain Park.

Education Experience Goals

Visitors within educational groups should have the opportunity to:

- Participate in curriculum-based education programs that include pre-visit and post-visit activities.
- Use the park as an outdoor classroom and conduct educational activities on their own.
- Participate in teacher-directed programs using materials and resources provided by the National Park Service.
- Use Catoctin Mountain Park to conduct research and to provide internship opportunities.

- Safely enjoy their visit by learning about and following safety guidelines and park rules and regulations.
- Demonstrate stewardship by using park resources in a manner that protects and enhances the natural and cultural resources.
- Contribute to the stewardship of Catoctin Mountain Park.

Virtual Visitor Experience Goals

Visitors who access information about Catoctin Mountain Park through its website on the internet should have the opportunity to:

- Easily navigate the park’s website to plan a visit and/or to learn about the park’s natural and cultural resources.
- Gain an appreciation and understanding of Catoctin Mountain Park by learning about the park’s natural and cultural heritage.
- Print the park map, download forms, and print photos from the photo gallery.
- Contact Catoctin Mountain Park through an e-mail link.
- Access the National Park Service Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website to provide input into Catoctin Mountain Park planning projects.
- Access Freedom of Information Act procedures and forms.
- Link to local parks, partners, and other appropriate websites.



Visitors can gain an appreciation and understanding of Catoctin Mountain Park by learning about the park’s cultural heritage through blacksmith shop demonstrations.

Visitor Profiles

This broad description of park audiences includes both actual and potential audiences—in-park, out-of-park, and education audiences (DO-6, page 9).

Catoclin Mountain Park Annual Visitation Figures, 1995-2005							
1995	552,906	1998	483,762	2001	532,615	2004	699,274
1996	484,892	1999	459,002	2002	457,641	2005	515,193
1997	503,812	2000	508,539	2003	621,114		

Average visitation from 1995 to 2002 is 497,622; Average visitation from 2003 to 2005 is 611,860.

Catoclin Mountain Park Monthly Visitation Figures, 2005							
January	51,885	April	39,094	July	35,928	October	71,569
February	35,214	May	46,441	August	65,643	November	35,366
March	26,320	June	49,269	September	32,946	December	25,518

Total "Recreation Visits" for 2005 was 515,193.

SEASONAL TRENDS

Spring: As winter draws to a close in March, visitation from the general public becomes busy on most weekends, depending on weather conditions. On Memorial Day weekend at the end of May, the "summer season" begins, with the park being busy most days. The staff is especially busy in April in preparing the camps for the League for People with Disabilities (from Baltimore, Maryland) and other organized groups. Many sixth grade classes from Frederick County Public Schools take field trips to the park and its visitor center and other park facilities on weekdays during school hours from April through mid-June.

Summer: Once schools close in mid-June, the park can be busy every day with general visitors and numerous camp groups. From mid-June through mid-August, the League for People with Disabilities from Baltimore use Camp Greentop. The general public can camp at Owens Creek Campground, reserve cabins at Camp Misty Mount, or camp at two other campgrounds at nearby Cunningham Falls State Park.

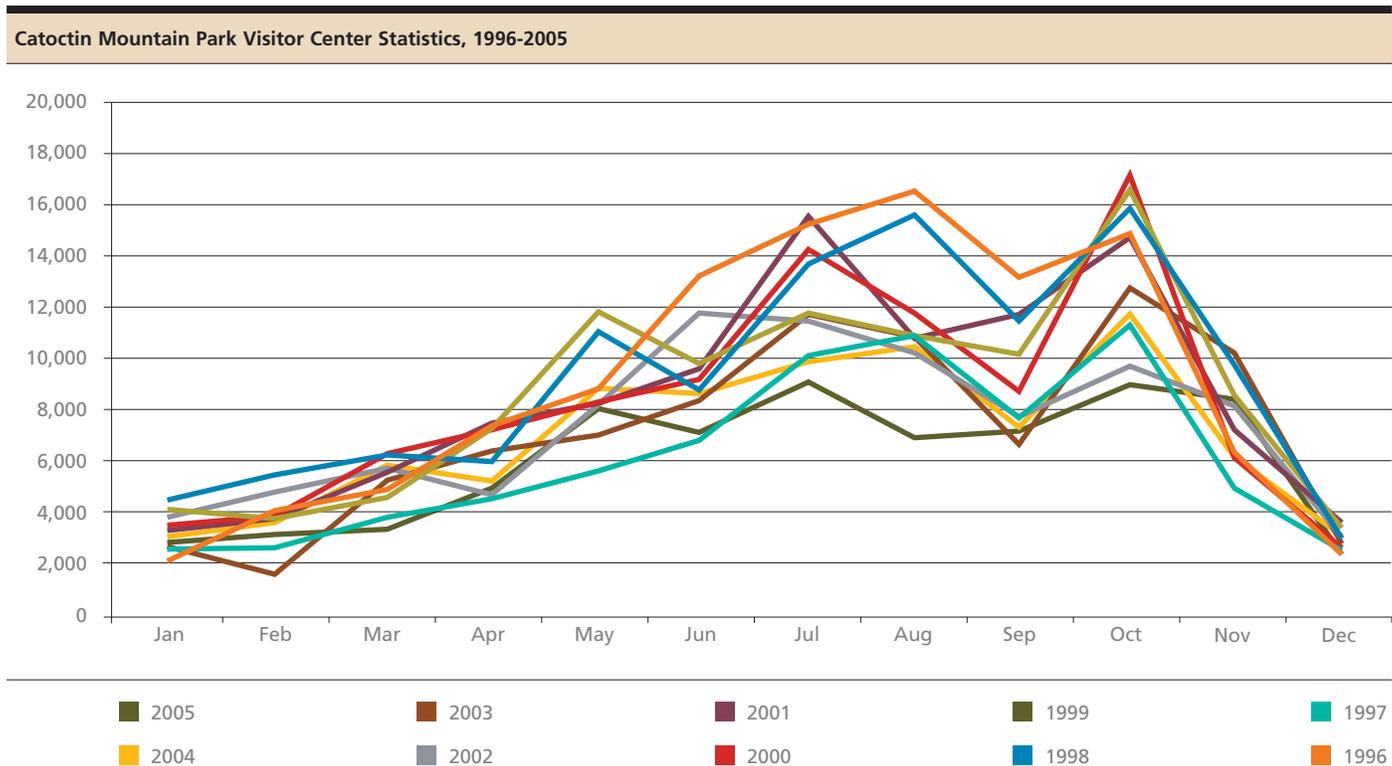
Autumn: After schools reopen in September, weekday visitation slows, but the weekends can still be very busy. October is the busiest visitation month because of the autumn colors that peak in late October and into November. Many sixth grade classes from Frederick County Public Schools come to the visitor center and use other park facilities and trails on weekdays from September through mid-November.

Winter: General park visitation is slowest during the winter. However, winter snowfalls can bring many cross-country skiers and other snow-related users to the park. Field trips from Frederick County's fifth grade classes (and many first and second grade classes) come to the park from mid-November through March to use the visitor center and the park's "traveling trunk" education program.

VISITOR CENTER VISITATION TRENDS

Catoclin Mountain Park Visitor Center Statistics by Month and Year, 1996-2005													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2005	2,805	3,040	3,625	4,957	8,055	7,215	9,041	7,094	7,259	9,111	8,288	2,393	72,883
2004	2,984	3,520	5,952	5,423	8,701	8,698	9,951	10,437	7,480	11,872	6,078	3,027	84,123
2003	2,518	1,542	5,182	6,247	6,782	8,311	11,887	10,704	6,685	12,738	10,169	2,535	85,300
2002	3,982	4,677	5,853	5,332	8,134	11,805	11,611	10,361	7,872	9,881	8,155	3,021	90,684
2001	3,564	3,851	5,513	7,313	8,137	9,604	15,519	10,442	11,844	14,366	7,391	3,783	101,327
2000	3,616	3,956	6,603	7,244	8,164	9,036	14,179	11,826	8,867	17,291	6,119	2,555	99,456
1999	4,035	3,838	4,533	7,380	11,976	9,874	11,801	10,999	10,193	16,980	8,515	3,413	103,537
1998	4,462	5,657	6,202	5,998	11,095	8,849	13,842	15,670	11,613	15,955	9,769	3,918	113,030
1997	2,665	2,604	3,965	4,577	5,795	6,962	10,063	11,271	7,869	11,326	5,956	3,327	76,380
1996	2,009	4,088	4,789	7,557	8,961	13,381	15,473	16,565	10,659	12,980	6,258	2,209	104,929

Park visitation fluctuates seasonally. The chart (above) and the graph (below) of the visitor center’s visitation by month show that peak visitation months are October, August, July, June, and April. October is the busiest month as visitors seek fall colors and enjoy the cool autumn air. Summer is a traditional busy season in parks, and April is often the first chance visitors have warm, “good” weather after cold winter months and search out wildflowers. April is also a busy season with the opening of the campground and group camps as well as coordinating volunteer projects with many larger groups.



ANALYSIS OF VISITOR GROUP TYPES

Local Recreational Users (about 60 percent of total visitors)

Characteristics: People who live in Frederick County, Maryland, and adjacent counties.

Use of Catoctin Mountain Park: Most go hiking, drive on park roads, and come into the visitor center; some camp in park campgrounds; some cross-country ski in winter.

Issues: During spring, some local residents collect or harvest morel mushrooms (for personal consumption only) in the park; while doing so, some park illegally along park roads and hike off the designated park trails. During security closures (based on Camp David's use), many local residents ask if Catoctin Mountain Park trails and facilities are open to the public.

Regional/National Vacationers (about 40 percent of total visitors)

Characteristics: Visitors from Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C., as well as some vacationers from other areas of the United States, mostly during the summer. Of the small percentage of annual visitors who are from minority groups, most are Koreans, African Americans, or Hispanics.

Use of Catoctin Mountain Park: Primarily hiking, camping, picnicking, and site seeing.

Issues: Many visitors ask "Where is Camp David?"—especially international visitors.

(Park employees do not divulge the location of Camp David.)

Education Groups (about one percent of total visitors)

Characteristics: Schools and other groups from Frederick County, Baltimore, and D.C.

Use of Catoctin Mountain Park: Some groups use only the park's camp facilities; others use the visitor center and other facilities, primarily during autumn and spring months.

Issues: NPS employees work with partners to help serve these education groups. These groups require park staff time to prepare the facilities and present programs. Also, park staff often respond to service calls from overnight visitors for maintenance, security, and first aid.

"Virtual" Visitors (not "counted" in the park's visitation data)

Characteristics: Local, national, and international visitors who "visit" the park through computers in their homes or offices via the park's website.

Use of Catoctin Mountain Park: These "virtual" visitors have no impact on Catoctin Mountain Park's tangible resources. However, they do impact park staff in the time required to create, update, and maintain the park website.

Issues: The numbers of virtual visitors are increasing each year; as these numbers rise, the importance the park's website increases.

The screenshot shows the NPS.gov website for Catoctin Mountain Park. At the top, it says "nps.gov (home)" and "National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior". There is a search bar with a "go" button and options to "Search this park" or "Search nps.gov". Below the search bar is a "view map" button and a "text size" selector with three options (A, A, A) and a "printer friendly" link. The main content area is titled "Directions" and includes a "Car" section with the text: "From Washington DC take the George Washington Memorial Parkway north to I495 beltway to I270 north 27 miles to Frederick, MD. Take Route 15 17 miles north to Thurmont, MD. Take Route 77 West, the exit sign is marked Catoctin Mountain Park. Travel approximately 3 miles west on 77 and turn right onto Park Central Road. The Visitor Center is on the right." To the right of the text is a small image of a building and a link that says "For Directions to Camp Round Meadow click on this link". On the left side of the page, there is a vertical navigation menu with links for "PARK HOME", "PLAN YOUR VISIT" (with sub-links for "Directions", "Operating Hours & Seasons", "Fees & Reservations", "Things To Do", "Things To Know Before You Come"), "HISTORY & CULTURE", "NATURE & SCIENCE", and "FOR TEACHERS".

Virtual park visits are on the rise, increasing the importance of the park website.

2006 GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS ACT VISITOR SURVEY

Each summer, Catoctin Mountain Park distributes visitor survey cards to selected visitors for one month, and the data is compiled by the University of Idaho as a report required by the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993. Each year's survey reflects visitor opinion about park facilities, services, and recreational opportunities. The results of the 2006 GPRA Visitor Survey are summarized below (the GPRA Visitor Survey results from 1998 through 2006 are available at www.psu.uidaho.edu/vsp.profile.htm):

2006 Overall Quality of Facilities, Services, and Recreational Opportunities					
Very good:	72%				
Good:	25%	(91% satisfaction: combined Very Good and Good)			
Average:	3%				
Poor:	0%				
Very Poor	0%				

2006 Specific Ratings of Facilities, Services, and Recreational Opportunities					
Category	Approval Ratings				
	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Park Facilities					
Visitor Centers	76%	21%	3%	0%	0%
Exhibits	56%	38%	4%	2%	0%
Restrooms	63%	29%	8%	0%	0%
Walkways, Trails, Roads	70%	28%	1%	0%	1%
Camp/Picnic Areas	67%	31%	2%	0%	0%
Combined Facilities:	67%	29%	4%	0%	0%
Visitor Services					
Employee Assistance	80%	18%	0%	2%	0%
Interpretive Programs	65%	30%	2%	0%	0%
Park Map or Brochure	68%	30%	2%	0%	0%
Commercial Services	55%	18%	23%	5%	0%
Combined Visitor Services:	68%	26%	5%	1%	0%
Recreational Opportunities					
Learning About Nature, History, etc.	59%	37%	5%	0%	0%
Outdoor Recreation (and Sightseeing)	76%	20%	4%	0%	0%
Combined Recreational Opportunities:	66%	29%	5%	0%	0%



Visitors practice photography techniques during Catoctin's winter photography workshop.

2002 VISITOR STUDY

An in-depth visitor study was conducted at Catoctin Mountain Park in August 2002 by the Park Studies Unit of the University of Idaho and the Denver Service Center. The report's summary noted that:

- Forty-one percent of visitor groups were in groups of two. 52 percent of the visitor groups were family groups. 47 percent of visitors were aged 31 to 55 years and 21 percent were aged 15 or younger.
- United States visitors were from Maryland (64%), Pennsylvania (10%), Washington D.C. (8%), and 26 other states
- This visit was the only time that most visitors (61%) had visited the park in the last 12 months. During their lifetime, 38 percent of visitors visited the park one time and 29 percent visited six times or more. Most visitor groups (78%) visited Catoctin Mountain Park for less than 24 hours on this visit. Of those, 70 percent spent two to four hours in the park.
- On this visit, the most common activities were viewing wildlife and scenery (82%), driving through (61%), and hiking for one hour or more (46%). Visitor groups also identified these activities as the three most common activities on past visit(s). In Catoctin Mountain Park and Cunningham Falls State Park, the most visited locations were Catoctin Mountain Park Visitor Center (80%) and Cunningham Falls (57%).
- Previous visit(s) (53%) and word-of-mouth/friends/relatives (31%) were the most used sources of information about the park before visiting.
- Most visitor groups (77%) indicated that Catoctin Mountain Park was the primary reason for visiting the area. Most visitor groups (68%) did not stay overnight in

the Catoctin Mountain Park area (within 50 miles). Of those who stayed overnight inside the park, 53 percent stayed two nights and 18 percent stayed one night. Of those who stayed overnight outside the park (within a 50-mile area), 46% stayed two nights and 19 percent stayed one night. Campgrounds/trailer parks were the most common type of lodging both inside the park (51%) and outside the park (45%).

- The majority of visitor groups (98%) used personal or rental vehicles as their form of transportation to arrive and visit the park. Thurmont (78%) was the most-used community for support services (groceries, ice, gas, etc.).
- The average visitor group expenditure was \$117. The median visitor group expenditure (50% of groups spent more, 50% spent less) was \$25. The average per capita expenditure was \$34. Forty-six percent of groups spent up to \$100 in total expenditures. Of the total expenditures by groups, 26 percent was for lodging, and 19 percent was for groceries and take-out foods.
- Most visitor groups (64%) felt "very safe" concerning personal property safety from crime; 70% felt "very safe" concerning personal safety from crime; and 52% felt "very safe" concerning personal safety from accident in Catoctin Mountain Park.
- Most visitor groups (97%) rated overall quality of visitor services at Catoctin Mountain Park as "very good" or "good." No visitor groups rated overall quality of visitor services as "very poor."

More in-depth analysis of the 2002 study is available in the Visitor Study final report, available at website www.psu.uidaho.edu/vsp.profile.htm.

Issues and Influences Affecting Interpretation

This section includes influences and opportunities inside and outside the park that affect interpretation and education (DO-6, page 9).

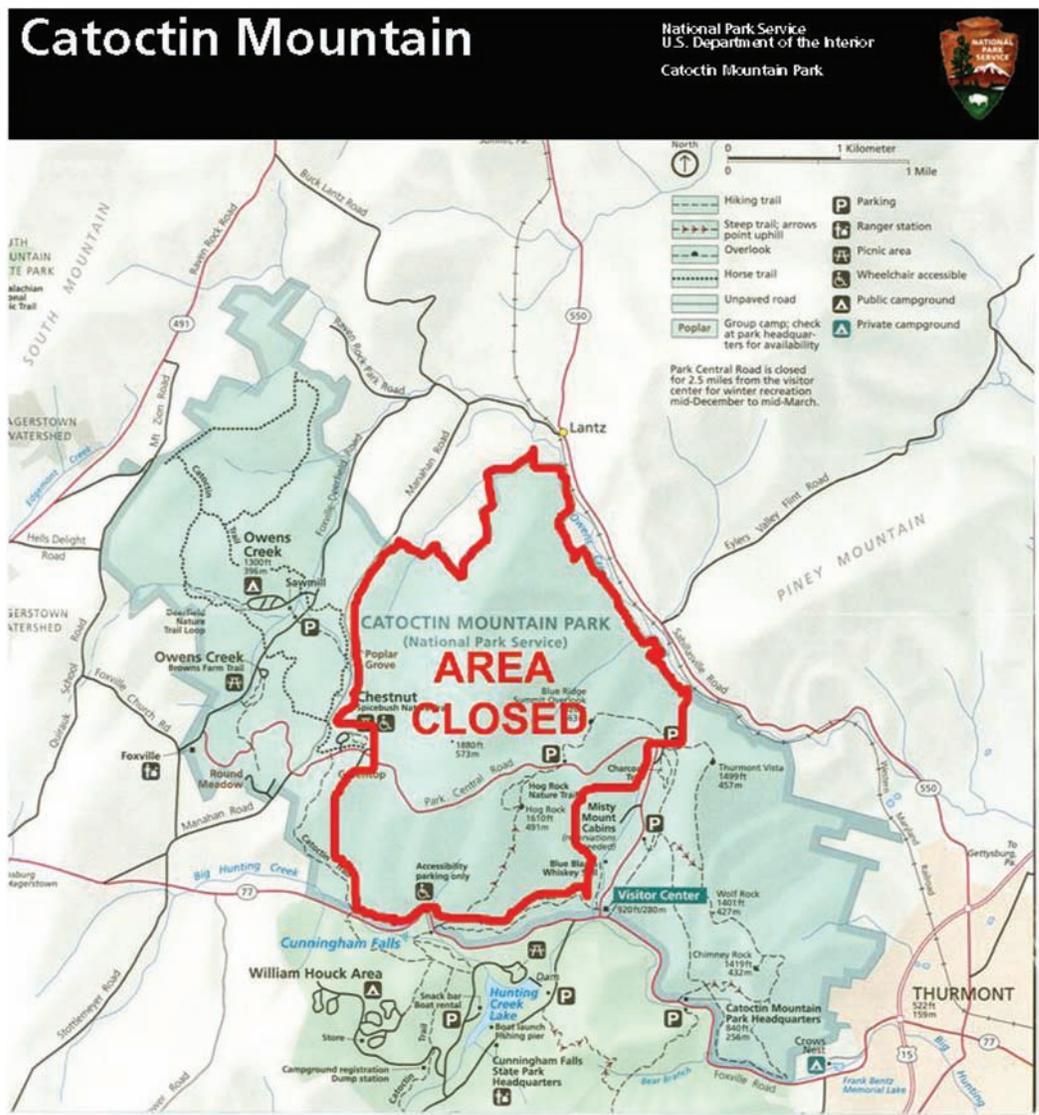
Issues and influences exist, both inside and outside the park, that affect Catoctin Mountain Park's interpretation and education programs. Many of these are issues that the park's interpretive efforts can help managers to solve or mitigate. Others are issues that may influence the park's interpretive programs, and park managers need to consider these when planning the park's future.

EXTERNAL: ISSUES AND INFLUENCES FROM OUTSIDE CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN PARK

Homeland Security and Closures

Since the terrorist attacks of September 11,

2001, and because of increased concerns about homeland security, Catoctin Mountain Park has experienced direct and indirect impacts. The location of the Presidential Retreat within the park has had direct effects on staff and the park itself. These impacts include frequent closures of significant portions of the park which affect hiking, camping, and other visitor activities. Interpretive staff members produce news releases for every closure, post information on the park website and bulletin boards, and answer questions and listen to complaints from visitors unable to access park areas. Additionally, because two of the three permanent park interpreters also provide law enforcement services, the resource education mission is effected when staff handles homeland security concerns.



Presidential visits impact the interpretive operation as visitors often need assistance to revise plans that are affected by security closures.

Beyond the park's boundaries, an increase in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's threat level may require the park's law enforcement rangers to travel to Washington, D.C. or other areas that are threatened.

State and Federal Park Boundaries and Jurisdictions

One of the challenges the park faces derives from its history when the original recreation demonstration area of the 1930s was split into Cunningham Falls State Park and Catoctin Mountain Park in 1954. This separation of the Recreation Demonstration Area into a state park and a federal park has caused confusion to many visitors and required the staff of both parks to explain to visitors that:

- The two parks are separate and distinct.
- The state park and the federal park have different missions and regulations.
- There are operational differences in recreational activities, fees, and camping.

Budget Restrictions

The total park personnel costs at Catoctin Mountain Park are not supposed to exceed 80 percent of operations. However, escalating fixed costs (such as utilities, supplies and materials, fuel, etc) as well as assessments from the National Capital Regional Office have made meeting the 80 to 20 percent requirements challenging.

General Management Plan

All divisions at Catoctin Mountain Park, including interpretation, will be providing input for the park's General Management Plan (GMP), which is scheduled to start in 2008. The GMP effort will be facilitated by NPS employees from the Denver Service Center and the National Capital Regional Office.

Servicewide Special Initiatives

There are often changes in special initiatives or focus of emphasis. Examples in the past decade include emphasis on Ranger Careers, Resource Careers, the Underground Railroad, and most recently, the National Park Centennial Challenge issued on August 25, 2006. Each new initiative has positive and negative effects on Catoctin Mountain Park interpretive operations. On one hand, the opportunity to contribute to new NPS areas of emphasis and to showcase the best interpretive efforts results in greater understanding and opportunities for visitors to form connections to park resources.

Core Operations is an internal National Park Service review of each NPS area's operations that is intended to help park managers understand the core work that park staff are currently performing, and decide what tasks the park staff might reduce or stop doing because it is no longer necessary. Core Operations is a process that challenges park staffs to find alternative



The limited number of interpretive rangers has restricted the park's capability to present programs.

ways of completing work and helps to support park management's requests for additional funds to accomplish all of the park's core work.

Core Operations is designed to:

- Focus employees and resources on functions that are most essential to the purposes of the park.
- Accomplish core operations in the most effective and efficient way through:
 - Efficiency.
 - Cost avoidance.
 - Cost recovery.
 - Elimination of low-priority activities.
- Provide a basis for long-term budget allocation and long-term goals.
- Link expenditures to the organization's annual and long-term goals.
- Identify management efficiencies to help the NPS work smarter.
- Provide credibility for park budget requests.

Catoctin Mountain Park is scheduled to start its Core Operations analysis in 2007.

All Risk/Special Events

As part of the National Park System, Catoctin Mountain Park participates in All Risk assignments and support, in addition to supporting National Capital Region and other nearby units of the NPS in special event and or detail support. When one of the three permanent interpretive employees responds to an All Risk assignment, it affects the entire interpretive operation. When wildland fire season reaches high alert, there may be times when the priorities in the park change to support the emergency, which also impacts the park's interpretive operations. The interpretive operation does take the opportunity to present programs and develop interpretive media to inform visitors of Catoctin Mountain Park's role as a part of the National Park System and its responsibilities to provide support during emergency situations.

INTERNAL: ISSUES AND INFLUENCES FROM WITHIN CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN PARK

Interpretive Staffing

The interpretive staff at Catoctin Mountain Park is comprised of:

- One GS-11 Supervisory Park Ranger*
 - One GS-9 Park Ranger (I)
 - One GS-9 Park Ranger (P)*
- * *Law Enforcement commissioned ranger. These two interpretive park rangers are required to provide protection duties for Catoctin Mountain Park in addition to their interpretive duties at the visitor center and delivering interpretive programs and cultural demonstrations.*

In 2006 one seasonal interpretive position was added; however, the park was unable to fully utilize the position because of constraints of fixed costs and overall park management. Visitor Use Assistants (VUA) are funded from fees collected from camp operations and are used to staff those operations. One VUA is assigned to provide interpretive programs at Camp Misty Mount. Whenever personnel shortages occur in the visitor center because of the law enforcement coverage for the park, VUAs from Camp Misty Mount are reassigned to staff the visitor center and provide some park interpretive programs.

Multiple Areas of Responsibility

Collateral duties for the three permanent interpretive rangers listed above include volunteer program manager, curator, webmaster, accessibility coordinator, cooperating association liaison, and library manager. Two of those permanent interpretive rangers maintain law enforcement commissions, and one of those positions is specifically designated to spend 51 percent of their time in law enforcement activities.

In a move towards professionalizing the workforce, several of the program areas that are assigned as collateral duties have increased their emphasis on training, overall program management, documentation, and workloads in general. Some parks now have full-time curators, webmasters, and volunteer coordinators to meet the needs of these growing program areas. However, the park's small staff size combined with the increasing complexity and demands of collateral duties and increased law enforcement responsibilities have resulted in increased demands on the interpretive operation, resulting in diminishing time and resources for interpretation. Staffing is



Historic buildings at Catoctin Mountain Park are log structures constructed in the late 1930s by the CCC. Interpretive programs are provided for campers using these historic facilities in Camp Misty Mount.

simply inadequate to maintain an effective interpretive program and a full-time visitor center operation. As a result, the interpretive staff is unable to fully use their skills and creativity when providing interpretive media and services for the public.

NPS Recreation Fee Program Funds

Catoctin Mountain Park collects approximately \$37,800 annually through the NPS Fee Program. When Catoctin Mountain Park's fee collection kiosk is built, NPS Recreational Fee Demonstration Program (Fee Demo) funds for interpretive projects and programs will increase. Projects are selected annually based on available funding. Projects are submitted by each division, and the park superintendent selects the final priority of projects. A final decision on how to fully implement the entrance fee program has not been made; however, there is potential for significant impacts on the interpretive operation in both physical implementation and in fielding visitor comments.

Eastern National

The bookstore/sales area at Catoctin Mountain Park does not, and is not likely to,

generate enough sales to merit an Eastern National salesperson. As a result, the ranger who is the liaison for Eastern National must complete inventory requests, review and approve new inventory, oversee daily operations, complete a sales ledger, and compile and make cash deposits. Since 40 hours or more per year are required to oversee the Eastern National operations, an equal amount of time is taken away from the interpretive operation.

Volunteer Program

Volunteers have become an integral part of park operations. They provide services in administration, resource management, maintenance, visitor services and interpretation, and resource protection. As the success of the Volunteers-in-Parks (VIP) program continues to grow throughout the National Park System, pressure to continue to increase and improve the program and form further partnerships and stewardship opportunities increases. Volunteers are also seeking more opportunities for training and enhancing their own experiences. The volunteer hours donated to Catoctin Mountain Park has shown a continual

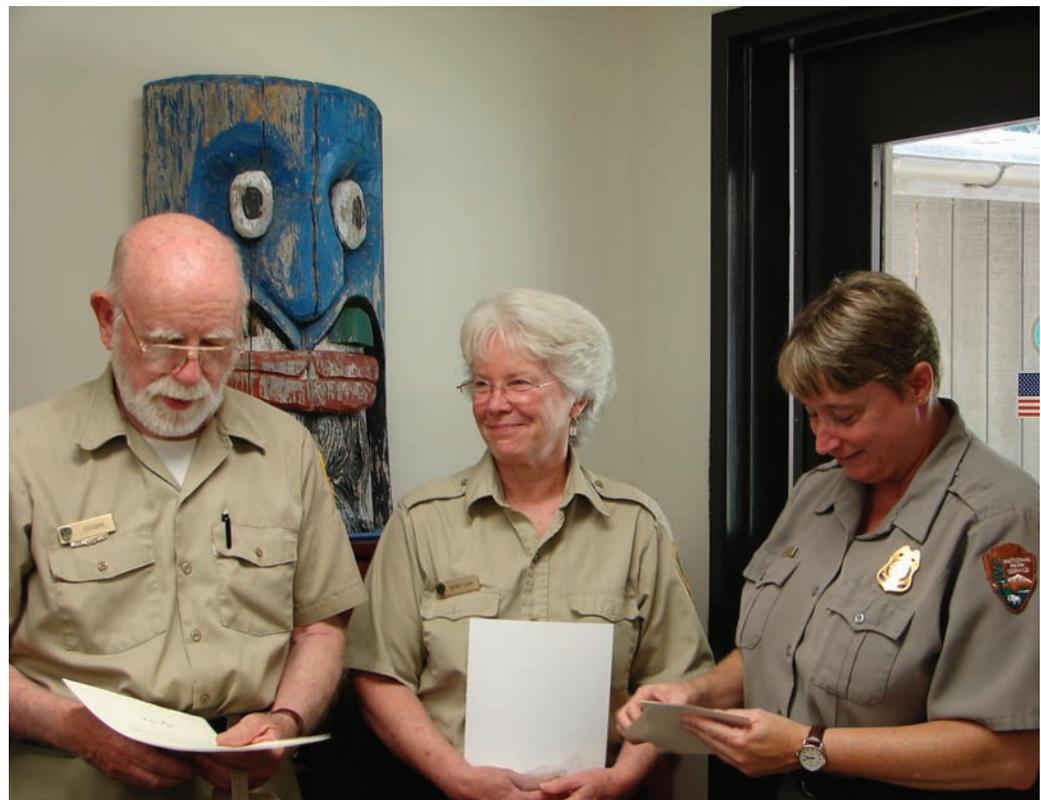
increase since 2000; the number of volunteers has also increased. The dedicated staff time to manage the volunteer program has not increased. The number of individual volunteers in the park has remained fairly constant since 2000; however, the number of groups that volunteer continues to increase. Organized groups seeking short-duration service projects continue to grow in addition to the park's traditional large group weekend projects. Volunteer projects require planning, coordination, and staff to assist and supervise during implementation. The benefits of the volunteer accomplishments are significant, but so is the amount of time and resources necessary for successful implementation of the volunteer program. In 2000, 7,864 volunteer hours were donated by 743 total volunteers. In 2005, 12,968 volunteer hours were donated by 1,125 total volunteers.

Frederick County Schools

The Frederick County Outdoor School at Camp Greentop closed in 1996, ending nearly 40 years of residential environmental education in Catoctin Mountain Park. Starting in 1997, the program was reconfigured into field trips that involve only cursory use of park facilities for fifth and sixth grade classes. Fifth graders use the

visitor center for bathrooms, to eat lunch, and to learn about American Indian stone tools during a classroom session conducted by an Outdoor School program teacher. Sixth graders sample stream waters and conduct simulated deer population studies in the Owens Creek Picnic Area. Park staff has no formal contact with either group.

The lack of a formal agreement between Frederick County Public Schools and Catoctin Mountain Park limits the park's influence on the school system's programming. A school system mandate has created "essential field trips" for each grade level. Essential field trips are standardized for each grade and funded as part of each school's budget. Individual schools or classes may take additional field trips when approved by the school administrator. These additional field trips must be funded outside the school budget and may be cancelled without notice if the bus is needed for an "essential" activity. There have been no field trips by Frederick County elementary schools since the implementation of the essential field trips in the 2005-2006 school year, which severely impacts implementing the park's education program.



Volunteers are an essential part of Catoctin's interpretive program. Long-time volunteers and campground hosts Ed and Wendy Carr receive recognition for their services from Volunteer Coordinator Sally Griffin.

Training (NPS Fundamentals, IDP, TelNet, Mandatory Training)

With the implementation of Ranger Careers, NPS Fundamentals, and the Interpretive Development Program, came an increase in training and certification requirements, as a way to professionalize the interpretive workforce of the National Park Service. Although all three of the park’s current permanent interpretive employees are exempt from the NPS Fundamentals program and Interpretive Development Program, they have participated in several training opportunities to keep current in NPS trends.

The TelNet station at the park has increased opportunities for all employees to participate in more training and, since there are no costs, it is one of the few opportunities for employees to attend training in career advancement or other career fields. The park’s two interpretive employees with law enforcement commissions must meet the ever-increasing mandatory training requirements in the law enforcement profession, and all three employees maintain current first aid certifications that also have mandatory training and recertification requirements. One employee also maintains firefighter

mandatory training requirements and serves as a fire instructor. As each program area makes training and certifications mandatory, there is a resulting impact on time and resources available for interpretive operations.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility

Great strides have been made to improve physical accessibility throughout Catoctin Mountain Park, especially at the primary visitor contact station and group camp facilities. Existing barriers to accessibility have been surveyed at many park sites and features. As the “Baby Boom” population ages, an increased demand will occur for accessible facilities and services throughout the park. Catoctin needs to extend accessibility into park areas that have not been brought up to ADA standards and complete accessibility at sites that have received partial improvements so that all visitors may fully experience and enjoy the park.

The park’s website provides visitors with information describing the park’s accessible facilities and programs and meets the ADA guidelines. The visitor center meets all ADA guidelines for structural accessibility



Catoctin Mountain Park is constantly working to make all facilities and programs accessible for all park visitors. The significant number of physically challenged residential campers makes accessibility a major issue in this park.

but needs more programmatic accessibility improvements. Closed captioning equipment is installed in the auditorium but not all audiovisual programs are available with closed captioning. The park also has assistive listening devices available for audio programs. Several large-print site bulletins are available, but not all site bulletins exist in large print. The park staff has removed most physical barriers in the Owens Creek campground and amphitheater, but improved seating is required to make it fully accessible.

Future improvements would enhance the park's ADA accessibility: Additional hands-on interactive exhibits in the visitor center and a primary park audiovisual presentation would aid those visitors with sensory impairments to better understand and enjoy the park's resources. Most interpretive walks, all but two outdoor interpretive exhibits, and all four of the park's scenic vistas are not accessible because of steep mountain terrain and rough natural trails. Higher challenge level trails systems need to be investigated.

Safety and Accidents

The National Park Service continues to focus on safety with employees and visitors. Because most of the park is a rugged, mountainous area, inherent dangers exist and visitors accept a certain level of risk.

The visitor center provides a logical point of contact to receive reports of accidents and missing visitors, and the interpretation staff assists park rangers by receiving these reports and calling for assistance, as well as providing first aid. Interpreters are used in the field during larger scale incidents, and also provide safety information to park visitors. Park managers allow the interpreters to maintain their first aid certification.

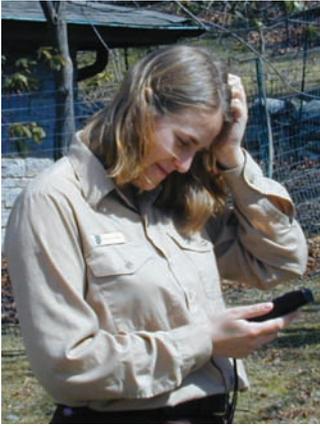
Traffic and Visitation Fluctuations

Daily visitation to the Catoctin Mountain Park Visitor Center ranges from single digits to more than 2,000 people per day, depending on the weather and season. Average daily visitation is about 150 people on weekdays and 500 to 800 on weekend days. Visitors arrive and depart from the park's visitor center parking lot throughout the day, and a small percentage park at the visitor center for several hours. The paved and gravel lots at the visitor center are adequate with the exception of a few weekends each year.

Traffic flow is primarily weather dependent. Overflows occur when traffic levels cause gridlock or backups. Overflows typically occur on April weekends when wildflowers and flowering trees bloom, and in October during fall foliage weekends. Overflows can happen, however, at unexpected times, too.



Bicyclists enjoy a road trip on Maryland State Route 77.



New technology such as GPS provides challenges for visitors and the rangers helping them. Catoctin Mountain Park includes a GPS component in orienteering programs.

Excessive traffic flow poses problems inside and outside the visitor center. Often, if only one person is working at the visitor center, law enforcement rangers must be called from the field to assist at the desk, or to set up cones in the parking lots. Extreme cases necessitate directing traffic away from the visitor center. Minimally, two people are required to effectively give information and direct traffic on Park Central Road—one person at the visitor center desk, and one to present scheduled interpretive programs.

Most visitors understand the physical limitation of parking areas and appreciate the personal service offered at curbside. The major issue, therefore, is providing the personnel needed. Since the need cannot be predicted, it is difficult to schedule volunteers to direct traffic. If the need does not develop, volunteers who have been called to help are hesitant to commit their time when asked to volunteer at a later date.

Public Demand for Activities

Cycling sports are very popular and their use in the region around the park has increased rapidly over the past two decades. Frederick County offers cyclists an opportunity to cycle on roads and trails in terrain that varies from flat urban areas to mountains. As the county's population increases, cyclists and motorists alike will need to be vigilant in sharing the roads and observing laws and safe riding practices. Within Catoctin Mountain Park, cycling is presently restricted to the paved and graveled park roads where riders share the roadway with vehicle traffic.

There are some recreational activities, such as off-road vehicles (ORVs), mountain bikes, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), skating, skateboards, and similar devices, that are not fully compatible with the purposes of Catoctin Mountain Park. No trails exist that are dedicated to mountain biking, and ATVs are not permitted in the park. Requests for areas in the park to mountain bike are often addressed by park staff through visitor contacts. Mountain bikes are not allowed in the park because of trail erosion caused by bikes, hiker-biker conflicts, the possibility of technical medical rescues that will be necessary in case of backcountry accidents, and

the lack of staff to deal with those incidents. Visitor center staff frequently responds to visitor inquiries and complaints on the use of mountain bikes and ATVs in the park.

Mini-bikes, also known as scooters (motorized less than 50cc), are increasing in popularity for residents in nearby towns and have started to be used on park roads. They are permitted on established roads within the park, but not all riders realize they must follow state laws regulating their use. Unfortunately, riders are not required to wear any safety equipment even though they share the road with vehicle traffic.

Skates (inline and roller), skateboards, and non-motorized scooters are popular forms of recreation and transportation in nearby urban areas. However, in the park with no bike paths or trails and steep terrain, these activities can be dangerous. It is particularly hazardous when they are operated on park roads such as the campgrounds with vehicle traffic. For that reason the park established a policy published in the Superintendent's Compendium 36 CFR 1.5 to only allow skating and skateboarding in Camps Round Meadow and Greentop in designated areas. Protective equipment including, helmet, elbow and knee pads, and wrist guards are required. No ramps or structures are allowed and they cannot be used in Catoctin Mountain Park buildings.

The interpretive staff will be affected by these issues mainly through visitor contacts at the park visitor center. Safety messages and justifications for restricted use of several forms of recreational activities will be part of informal interpretive opportunities for all park staff.

A relatively new recreational activity, geocaching was first observed in the park several years ago. Geocaching activities in NPS areas are prohibited (*see text website below*); however, some activities are permitted under special conditions as determined by the park superintendent and after an environmental analysis has determined that unacceptable impacts on park resources will not result. This new form of recreation may become an issue for the park, and interpretation can influence

the effects of management's decisions through information dissemination to interested groups and individuals. The interpretive staff will respond appropriately to visitor inquiries and complaints on the availability of geocaching.

Geocaching can include activities such as placing an item in a location for someone else to find or simply publishing coordinates of locations for others to find and describe the item at that location. Geocaching activities on national park lands is prohibited, however some activities are permitted under special conditions as determined by the individual park. You are required to notify park headquarters if you are participating in this type of activity (from NPS/GPS website).

CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES WITHIN CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN PARK

Historic Building Preservation

The 62 historic buildings at Catoctin Mountain Park are basically log structures constructed in the late 1930s by the WPA and CCC. All are currently being used by the public and/or park staff. The wood is subject to decay from weather and insect damage, and in recent years several cabins have been hit by trees during storm events. The buildings also experience some vandalism and damage from everyday use.

The historic buildings require routine maintenance to keep them in good condition. Many of these buildings also require a significant amount of restoration work to bring them to good condition because maintenance has been deferred for a number of years because of insufficient funds.

Interpretation can play a role in the condition of these buildings by explaining their historical value as well as explaining the ongoing restoration efforts in order to increase visitor understanding and appreciation.

Cultural Interpretive Structures/Exhibits

Catoctin Mountain Park includes three outdoor structures/exhibits to interpret whiskey making, charcoal production, and water-powered sawmill operations.

All three structures/exhibit areas require periodic maintenance to maintain them in good condition. These exhibit areas have been developed for interpretive purposes; none are original structures. The sawmill exhibit also includes a lengthy wood boardwalk; the other two include trails that need to be maintained. Interpretation of these areas is mostly accomplished through wayside exhibits, but some guided walks are also offered. New wayside exhibits were developed and installed in 2006 for two of the outdoor exhibits; the sawmill wayside exhibits still need to be updated. The life expectancy of the new wayside exhibit panels is at least 10 years if they are not vandalized.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES WITHIN CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN PARK

Deer Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement

The White-tailed Deer Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) includes the use of interpretation of and education on deer management issues for the public. Once a management option is chosen and implemented, those same interpretation and education skills will help the public to understand deer management at Catoctin Mountain Park. Several interpretive programs on deer management are currently offered; however, there will likely be an increase demand placed on the current interpretive staff with the full implementation of the deer management plan.

Invasive/Exotic Species

Invasive/exotic species move in and take over the niches of native species by competing for water, food, light, and space. In the absence of natural enemies, many of these species can become major pests.

By educating park visitors about invasive/exotic species it may be possible to prevent accidental introductions of these species and the visitors may let park staff know of infestations within the park or the general area. Educated visitors may also decide to implement measures to limit populations of exotic species around their homes and communities. Interpretation and Resource Man-

agement currently produce informational posters, a site bulletin, and interpretive programs on invasive/exotic species.

Forest Pests

Forest pests such as the gypsy moth and hemlock woolly adelgid are exotic species which were introduced to the United States. The park is being affected by these species both ecologically and monetarily (control efforts can be costly). Education about these species may help to limit their spread and prompt visitors to better understand the need for control actions, both in the park and in their communities.

Water quality

Good water quality is one of the cornerstones of a healthy ecosystem. The visitors to the park expect the water to be clear and to be able to see vertebrate and invertebrate animals that live in water. High-quality trout fishing and water-based recreation are important. By educating visitors about the importance of good water quality, it may promote water conservation and other beneficial personal practices such as the importance of groundwater protection (e.g., proper disposal of motor

oil and other petroleum products). The Frederick County School System uses the park to teach units on water quality.

Storm and Weather-Related News Releases

The interpretive operation is responsible for development of news releases regarding emergencies. The information is provided by the superintendent, division chiefs, damage assessment team leaders, or incident commanders. Closure information will specify the locations and extent of closures and expected reopening dates if known. If a fatality occurs in the park, identification will not be released until next of kin has been notified. Information will be withheld when needed to comply with the Privacy Act, Health Information Privacy and Protection Act (HIPPA) or ongoing law enforcement incidents.

Preparation of emergency news releases becomes a top priority requiring flexibility in personnel and staffing. The interpretive operation has also provided thematic bulletin boards and exhibits as a result of storm impacts. Many informal interpretive opportunities at Catoctin Mountain Park arise when visitors ask about storm damages.



Storm damage from Hurricane Isabel at Camp Misty Mount.

Existing Conditions

This brief summary and evaluation establishes a point of departure for future personal services, media development, and facility proposals. The park's existing media should be inventoried and updated in the Media Inventory Database System (MIDS) (DO-6, page 9).

FACILITIES

Visitor Center

Catoctin Mountain Park's visitor center building was constructed in four phases. The first phase, containing the visitor center's current exhibit area, was completed in 1942 by the WPA and CCC. The second phase of the park's visitor center was the addition of the current lobby, restrooms, hallways, and auditorium as part of the NPS *Mission 66* program in 1965. The third phase was the addition of the current library, curatorial storage area, and interpretive offices in the early 1990s. The fourth phase includes accessibility and front entrance modification in 1996. This structure is the park's only visitor center. This 26,051-square-foot building is mostly visitor use space comprised of a lobby, exhibit room, restrooms, hallways, and an auditorium (total of about 25,000 square feet); the rest (about 1,000 square feet) is interpretive office space, library, and curatorial storage. This facility is in excellent condition.

The visitor center at Catoctin Mountain Park is open from 10:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays; from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Fridays; and from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The visitor center is closed on six federal holidays: Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday, and Presidents Day. Staffing and collateral duties of interpretive operations is addressed in the internal issues and influences section on page 20; only one of the three permanent park ranger positions in the park's Division of Interpretation is fully dedicated to interpretive operations, and that position has the collateral duties of cooperating association liaison and librarian.

Interpretive programs in or near the visitor center are scheduled on weekends throughout the year. Often, the person presenting the interpretive program is the only NPS person staffing the visitor center, so the park's law enforcement rangers frequently conduct visitor center desk duties while interpretive programs are presented. Because medical or law enforcement emergencies take top priority, it is possible that some interpretive programs can be interrupted while in progress, or that the visitor center would be summarily cleared and closed until park personnel become available.



The first phase of construction of the Catoctin Mountain Park Visitor Center was completed in 1941 by the WPA and the CCC. This was the last major New Deal project in the Catoctin RDA.

Due to increasing demands of multiple duties and assignments with limited human resources, staffing is inadequate to maintain an effective interpretive program and staff a full-time visitor center operation.

Camp Round Meadow Conference Room

The conference room (approximately 755 square feet) at Camp Round Meadow is a rental facility available to campers and camp groups on a rental basis. When used, this room seats up to 40 people. If rented, users are aware that the park's audiovisual equipment is not to be used. The park staff presents interpretive programs in this room if requested. The park also uses this room for training sessions for park staff.

Owens Creek Campground Amphitheater

The 75-seat amphitheater at Owens Creek Campground is used for campfire programs on Saturday evenings from Memorial Day weekend through late August each year.

INTERPRETIVE MEDIA

Media Conditions: MIDS Summary

Media conditions for all NPS areas are now listed in the Servicewide Media Inventory Database System (MIDS); the listing of media conditions for Catoctin is listed in MIDS under CATO in the National Capital Region. The park's 2006 MIDS summary reflects the center's current media conditions; updates were made as recently as 2006. As of 2006 there were 40 records for interpre-

tive media at CATO: two were summary records for audiovisual and historically furnished areas (that documented that the park does not have a park audiovisual program or historically furnished areas); two interpretive planning documents (for a 1967 GMP and a 1997 CIP); two exhibits records (for the visitor center and blacksmith shop); one publications record (for the park's ungrid brochure); and 33 wayside exhibit records (29 are for new wayside exhibits installed in 2006, and those 29 have an image file attached to each record). Catoctin Mountain Park's interpretive staff will continue to update their MIDS data when new media is installed.

Exhibits

The exhibit room in the visitor center was last updated in 1991 and the upgrades were done in-house by park staff. Additions to the taxidermy animal display have been added periodically with several specimens added in 2005; more specimens were due to be added in late 2006. There are shelves dedicated as a "touch table" and a tree slice on display in the lobby area. A 40-gallon river tank that holds native fish is in need of repair or updating as the silicone used to mount the dividers is breaking down. The sales outlet for Eastern National consists of multiple adjustable wood shelves that can be slightly reconfigured to adjust to stock. A TTY (telecommunications for the deaf) machine is in use for the visitor center's main phone number of 301-663-9388.



Centennial Challenge seasonal rangers learn about the park and interpretation while exploring the Charcoal Trail.

Audiovisual Programs and Equipment

Catoctin Mountain Park does not have a park orientation/overview audiovisual program for its visitors.

The audiovisual equipment in the visitor center's auditorium was upgraded in 2005. This included the installation of a LCD projector, a VCR and DVD player, speakers and sound system, a dedicated laptop computer, a closed captioning board, and an electronic white board (also called a "SMARTboard"). Internet access is also available in the auditorium, and assisted listening devices were purchased in 2002.

Camp Round Meadow's conference room was upgraded in 2005 with the installation of a LCD projector, speakers and sound system, a new screen, and a VCR and DVD player. A portable microphone is designated for the conference room and internet access is available in this room.

Owens Creek Campground Amphitheater received new audiovisual equipment which is portable and stored at the visitor center. This included a dedicated LCD projector with a special long-distance lens and an amplifier sound system with a portable microphone. The new speaker mounted at the campground is weather-resistant and designed to remain in place all year.

Wayside Exhibits

A major wayside exhibit replacement project was completed in 2006 for: the Spicebush Nature Trail, the Charcoal Trail, the Whiskey Still Trail, the stand-alone exhibits at Wolf Rock, the blacksmith shop, and two wayside exhibits outside the visitor center ("Charcoal Sled" and "Commitment to Conservation"). Also, an oversized welcome panel was mounted in the visitor center's outside bulletin board. All of these wayside exhibit bases and panels were designed, fabricated, and installed from 2004 through 2006. The five wayside exhibits at the sawmill exhibit remain in the old format; these five wayside exhibits were installed in 1985 and received minor text corrections in their panels and new bases and frames in 1995.

Outdoor Cultural Exhibits

The blacksmith shop is a historic structure originally built by the WPA in 1936. It is open for cultural demonstrations approximately three or four times each year and several artifacts (e.g., anvil, bellows, and vice) remain in the structure year-round. The displays inside the blacksmith shop were constructed and installed by park personnel in the early 1990s.

The charcoal exhibit was built by local volunteers, park maintenance staff, and members of the Catoctin Tourist Council in 1968 under the supervision of Elmer Cole, a coalier (collier) from Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site. The park held a formal dedication of the outdoor living history exhibits on the Charcoal Trail and the new visitor center expansion on October 20, 1968. Exhibits on the Charcoal Trail have been rebuilt a number of times by both park maintenance staff and through volunteer projects.

The Blue Blazes Whiskey Still exhibit was also created in the late 1960s as part of an integrated program of living history (to dispel the idea that the exhibit was "a monument to the distilling industry, legal or otherwise"). The park obtained a copper still from Tennessee (where it had been seized in a raid at Cades Cove in Great Smoky Mountains National Park), reassembled the still, and received permission to operate it from the Alcohol Tax Division of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The IRS required that "Bitrex" (a harmless bittering agent used in a wide range of household and commercial products) be added to the mash to make people vomit if they drank the product. The Blue Blazes Whiskey Still exhibit opened June 20, 1970. The Branch of Distilled Spirits and Tobacco, in the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms that had granted permission to operate small distilleries to make moonshine whiskey at living history exhibits in 1974, rescinded that permission effective January 1, 1989. The Cades Cove whiskey remained on exhibit in Catoctin Mountain Park in 2006.

A handicapped accessible boardwalk with resting benches leads to the Sawmill exhibit and waysides.



The sawmill exhibit was originally reconstructed by the Youth Conservation Corps in 1971-1972. The vertical sawmill is on an original site, but the structure itself is not original. Accessible ramps were installed by park staff and by volunteers from 1997-1999. The five wayside exhibit panels were installed in 1985 and received minor text upgrades and new mounts in 1995.

Website

Catoctin Mountain Park's website (www.nps.gov/cato) is linked to the National Park Service ParkNet website. In 2005-06, the NPS created uniform in-depth websites for all NPS areas using the CommonSpot content server. Catoctin Mountain Park's website home page presents: the park's basic background, climate, address, and phone numbers; quick links to information on the park's operations and facilities; and links to the park's natural and cultural resources, its education programs and materials; park management information; and news about the park.

Publications

The park's official brochure started out as a 16-panel mini-folder in 1970. In 1980 Harpers Ferry Center developed a "unigridd brochure" for Catoctin Mountain Park in an "A-6" size and printed it in a four-color

format. In 2004, when Harpers Ferry Center converted the brochure to a digital format, new text and images were inserted. In 2006 minor changes were made to the brochure's map (which is digital and is available for downloading at www.nps.gov/carto), and a supply of 40,000 brochures was shipped to the park in May 2006, which is the allotment for two years. This supply usually lasts one and a half years. The park staff produces in-house and distributes black-and-white copies until the next HFC shipment arrives.

The front of the current park brochure features a color photograph of Chimney Rock at the top and a montage of color photographs in the center that illustrate the park's resources through the seasons. The main text near the top of the front of the brochure summarizes the park's history, and text in the bottom front section provides visitor information on "Planning Your Visit." The brochure's back side contains a "Trail Guide" chart and a map of both Catoctin Mountain Park and Cunningham Falls State Park.

The park staff has also written, designed, and printed (using in-house resources) a series of two-fold site bulletins that provide a summary of specific park topics. Catoctin Mountain Park has also produced brochures

Catoctin Mountain Park Publications

Programs and Opportunities

Calendar of Events
 VIP Opportunities
 Education Programs

Resources

Wildflower Checklist
 Bird Checklist
 Deer Exclusion
 Geology
 Alien Species

Foreign Languages

CATO Unigrid Spanish
 CATO Unigrid German
 Greentop Spanish
 Round Meadow Spanish
 MM Folder Spanish
 MM Rack Card Spanish
 Camping Spanish

Activities

Camping
 Additional Camping
 OCCG Rules
 MM Folder
 MM Rack card
 Poplar Grove
 Camp Greentop
 Camp Round Meadow
 Cross Country Ski
 Horse Trail
 Fly-fishing Guide
 Junior Ranger ages 6-8
 Junior Ranger ages 9-11

Trail Guides

Blue Blaze Still
 Browns Farm Trail
 Nature in Winter
 Hog Rock
 Deerfield

that have been translated into some foreign languages, but these are all out of date as of 2006.

Other park-produced publications range from activities to trail guides to resources found in the park. Most of the activities information is also available on the park website. The Hog Rock brochure and Deerfield Nature Trail brochure were professionally printed several years ago using funds from Parks & History Association (PHA), a co-operating association that preceded Eastern National. As this supply of brochures runs out, the park will probably produce these

in-house. The alien species brochure was a specially funded project; as this supply of brochures runs out, the park will need to consider the need to produce these again and decide if this is the best media to present the alien species information.

Park staff also distributes a variety of free publications from other organizations such as Cunningham Falls State Park, local chambers of commerce, and the Frederick County Tourism Council. Beyond these, the Eastern National bookstore contains natural history guides, children's books, hiking guides, and some cultural history titles.

STAFFING, PERSONAL SERVICES, AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

PERSONAL SERVICES

The interpretive staff listed above presents formal interpretive programs year-round at the visitor center and at a variety of locations throughout the park. Programs are listed in the calendar of events that is

published each November for the following calendar year. Programs are held on weekends except for programs celebrating anniversaries (when those anniversaries fall on weekdays) of Catoctin Mountain Park or the National Park Service. Most

2006 Catoctin Mountain Park Interpretive Division Staff

Position Title	Status	Grade	FTE*	Incumbent
Supervisory Park Ranger (I & LE)	Permanent	GS-11	0.9	Sally Griffin
Park Ranger (I & LE)	Permanent	GS-09	0.5	Don Stanley
Park Ranger (Interpretation)	Permanent	GS-09	1.0	Debbie Mills
Seasonal Interpreter	Temporary	GS-07	0.3	position filled, but terminated early
Visitor Use Assistant	Temporary	GS-04	0.3	Jennie Pumphrey
Total FTEs:			3.0	

* FTE stands for Full-Time Equivalency (one work-year: 2,080 hours). Plus, in FY 2006, 13,106 volunteer hours were donated by 1,064 total Volunteers-In-Parks (VIPs). These volunteer hours include duties performed in the areas of campground host, maintenance, resource management, administration, and interpretation.

interpretive programs are one-half hour to one hour long, and generally address family audiences. Adult and children's programs are listed as such in the calendar of events.

Recreation (Winter Outdoor Sports, Camping Expo)

Recreational programs are presented by volunteers from local retail outfitters. The presentations are informal and are driven by the interest of the participating visitors. The outfitters provide examples of recreation equipment and basic instruction for its use.

Recreational Skills (Orienteering)

Formal orienteering classes are provided by park rangers; three in March and four in November. Rangers explain and demonstrate basic map and compass use in a one-hour indoor session. Participants then test their skills on a permanent, one and a half-mile course. The program is age-appropriate for sixth grade to adult.

Demonstrations (Blacksmith Shop, Whiskey Still, Fly-tying)

Demonstrations are presented in an "open house" format. Visitors determine when to arrive during the two-hour session. The volunteer or park staff member tailors the presentation giving cursory or in-depth

information according to the interest of the visitors present at the time.

Walks (Wildflower and Fall Color)

At least three wildflower walks are scheduled each spring. Rangers introduce visitors to the wildflower species found in the park, discuss traditional uses, and explain the ecology of their life cycle. Fall color walks are held twice daily on four dates in the fall color season. Rangers and Student Conservation Association (SCA) interns identify trees and explain the processes affecting the life cycle of deciduous trees. Weather and timing of seasonal changes can dramatically affect both the wildflower walk and fall color programs. These programs can also be affected by security closures which may necessitate a change of program location on very short notice.

Evening Programs (Owens Creek Campground and Camp Misty Mount)

Evening programs are presented on Saturday evenings from Memorial Day through Labor Day at the Owens Creek Campground Amphitheater. Programs are one-half hour long and are "ranger's choice." Topics include the natural and cultural history of Catoctin Mountain Park and the National Park Service. Programs at Camp



Recreational demonstrations, such as the Fly-tying Demonstration presented annually by volunteers from the Potomac Valley Fly-fishers are popular with park visitors.

This drawing, found on a wall in the oldest house in Thurmont, provides an emotional introduction to the adult African American influence program.



Misty Mount are presented on Saturday evenings from Memorial Day through the end of September. A family-level and children's program have been prepared for this purpose. A visitor use assistant working at Camp Misty Mount presents the program most suitable for that evening's audience.

Adult Level Presentations (Franklin Delano Roosevelt, New Deal, African American Influences, Alien Species, etc.)

PowerPoint presentations are provided at the visitor center about six times each year. Topics include current management issues and historical events affecting Catoctin Mountain Park.

Children's Programs (Deer Discovery, Junior Ranger, Misty Mount Kid's program)

Rangers guide children through interactive computer programs and the Junior Ranger booklet in formal settings scheduled about six times per year. A children's program is presented at Camp Misty Mount each Sunday morning from Memorial Day through the end of September. Camp Misty Mount programs are provided by visitor use assistants and are activity-based.

Stream Ecology

The stream ecology program at Catoctin Mountain Park gives visitors a chance to "get their feet wet" and to learn how the number and kinds of organisms in a stream can be used to determine the overall health of a stream. This program is scheduled as a public program once a year.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Ranger Programs

Education programs are usually conducted at the park. Occasionally, rangers will travel for off-site programs. These programs include both pre-visit and post-visit materials and are curriculum-based. In 2005 the park staff started to revise and upgrade the education programs. However, the entire upgrade was not completed because use of seasonal staff did not have the anticipated results and additional staffing limitations did not allow for completion of the project.

- Catoctin Critters (first grade, ages 5-7)
- Growing Up (second grade, ages 6-8)
- Everybody Eats (third grade, ages 7-9)
- Seasonal Signals (fourth grade, ages 8-10)
- Autumn Leaves (first through fourth grade, ages 5-10)

Loan Programs

Catoctin Mountain Park offers two computer software programs that were developed on older computers. These programs are available for loan through the mail at no cost. The Deer Discovery program is PC-compatible. The National Park Links to the Chesapeake Bay program is PC- and Mac-compatible. Both of these programs need to be updated and upgraded.

- Deer Discovery (sixth grade, ages 10-12)
- National Park Links to the Chesapeake Bay (seventh grade, ages 11-13)

Traveling Trunk

An educational traveling trunk is filled with treasures and pieces of the past that link local school curriculum with Catoctin's heritage. Five discovery units, objects, artifacts, teacher background information, and suggested student activities are included. Teachers are responsible for trunk pick-up and return to the park. This free program is used regularly by the Frederick County Outdoor School program for fifth grade students. They do not use all lesson opportunities provided and might be interested in a trunk designed to meet their specific needs.

- Close Encounters of the Catoctin Kind (fifth grade, ages 9-11)

Curriculum Materials and Lesson Guides

The blacksmith shop, built by the Works Progress Administration, is open only on specific dates identified in the annual calendar of events. However, the stories of the blacksmith and his contributions to society can be universally studied. A series of lesson plans are available from the park at no cost and are also available to download from the park website: (1) Economic Incentives for Economic Development; (2) Mapping Your Community; (3) The Cost of Wages; (4) The Price of Freedom; (5) Revitalizing the Spirit; and (6) Suggested Additional Activities. An additional lesson plan was developed specifically for the Teaching with Historic Places program and is available from the park website and the Teaching with Historic Places website.

- Camp Misty Mount: A Place for Regrowth

There is no tracking of use for the lesson plans available through the park website.

PARTNERSHIPS

Individuals

Volunteers-In-Parks (VIPs): Catoctin Mountain Park's paid staff is supplemented through the Volunteers-In-Parks (VIP) program which provides volunteers to all park divisions. Volunteers are recruited through word of mouth, local partner organizations and publications, and NPS websites. The

park continues to show steady increases in volunteer support both in hours worked and numbers of individuals.

Institutions

Catoctin Mountain Park staff work closely with a number of federal, state, and local agencies, local or distant universities, and several non-profit entities. These include:

U.S. Secret Service: The park management has a reimbursable agreement with the U.S. Secret Service for personnel services rendered while any protectee is in the park.

Maryland State Police and Frederick County Sheriff's Department: Cooperative agreements with state and local law enforcement agencies such as Maryland State Police and Frederick County Sheriff's Department are needed to clarify jurisdiction and response issues. Frederick County Sheriff's Department also provides Alternative Sentencing workers who complete many projects within Catoctin Mountain Park.

Maryland Department of Natural Resources: Catoctin Mountain Park visitor protection staff maintains a joint fisheries protection program for Big Hunting Creek with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Natural Resources Police, and the State Park Service.

Friends of Big Hunting Creek: This non-profit group supports the protection of trout habitat and works closely with the Resource Management Division.

Monocacy and Catoctin Creek Watershed Alliance: This alliance is composed of interested organizations wishing to protect the Monocacy River watershed in northern Frederick County.

Fire Companies: In addition to cooperative agreements with the four local fire companies in the primary response area, the park is allowed under the Northeast Compact to provide mutual aid for forest fires.

U.S. Forest Service, Forest Health Unit: This unit is a cooperator who provides control measures for gypsy moth and other forest insect and disease outbreaks when needed.



Eastern National has been Catoctin Mountain Park's cooperating association for sales of interpretive publications and educational products since 2003. Sales generated by Eastern National sales outlets fund a donation account that is available to the park for interpretive purposes.

Boy Scouts of America: Under a national NPS agreement with Boy Scouts of America (BSA), the park has maintained a 35-year relationship with both the Appalachian and Catoctin Districts of the National Capital Area Council of the BSA. Each spring the districts complete several major work projects in the park. Also, numerous Eagle Scouts have completed projects in the park.

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club: This club, affiliated with the Appalachian Trail, and the South Mountaineers conduct trail maintenance and clearing work on the 26-mile Catoctin Trail located in the park.

Greater Washington National Parks Fund: This group is a non-profit fundraising organization, affiliated with the National Park Foundation, that is seeking to create an endowment for the national park areas of the Greater Washington, D.C. region.

Tourism Council of Frederick County: The park has a long involvement with the Tourism Council of Frederick County both in developing and marketing tourism products and working with the Catoctin Area Tourism Council. The Frederick Historic Sites Consortium functions as a part of the Tourism Council and acts as clearinghouse for operational information for historic sites throughout the county.

The League for People with Disabilities: Each summer, this organization continues to op-

erate Camp Greentop, one of the oldest (70 years) camps for the disabled in the nation.

Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS): The FCPS system has a long history of environmental education in the park. From the mid-1960s to the mid-1990s, FCPS conducted week-long residential camps at Camp Greentop. Currently, all FCPS fifth and sixth graders receive day-use environmental education programs in Catoctin Mountain Park.

The Catoctin Center for Regional Studies: Located at Frederick Community College, this office operates under a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service and provides research and symposia support for regional history studies.

Cooperating Association

Eastern National (EN): EN has been Catoctin Mountain Park's cooperating association for sales of interpretive publications and educational products since 2003. Sales generated by Eastern National sales outlets fund an EN donation account that is available to the park for interpretive purposes. In the future, Catoctin Mountain Park hopes that EN's revenues will be sufficient to support a sales staff, and that EN obtains a greater diversity of inventory.

Concessions

There are currently no concessions operating in Catoctin Mountain Park.

Catoctin Mountain Park Superintendent Mel Poole receives a representative check from park partners as part of the National Parks Across America event.





Part 2: Future Interpretive Program

This part of the long-range interpretive plan describes the mix of facilities and services, both non-personal (media) and personal (programs), that are necessary to communicate park themes and facilitate identified visitor experiences (DO-6, page 9).

Note: Part 1 (the “Foundations” section) of this plan was developed and written after an LRIP workshop in August 2006 and approved as the park’s “Foundations Plan” in February 2007.

The Comprehensive Interpretive Planning Process at Catoctin Mountain Park

The Comprehensive Interpretive Planning process is not a recipe, but a guide to effective, goal-driven planning. The LRIP defines the overall vision and long-term (5 to 10 years) interpretive goals of the park (DO-6, page 6).

In developing Catoctin Mountain Park's Long-Range Interpretive Plan (LRIP) as part of the Comprehensive Interpretive Planning (CIP) process, an individualized planning process was devised. The first part of this LRIP was written and approved during the winter of 2007, based on a three-day LRIP Foundations Workshop held at the park in August 2006. The funding for this "Foundations Plan" that was printed and distributed in February 2007 came from park planning funds from Harpers Ferry Center (HFC).

In April 2007 funding requested from the Washington Office of Interpretation and Education through the NPS Fee Program became available to complete this LRIP. Because Catoctin Mountain Park is only 40 miles from HFC, the park and HFC decided to hold the media-related recommendations workshop on three non-consecutive days in June 2007. Workshops related to personal services and education programs were held on August 16 and September 27, 2007.

The ideas and recommendations from these recommendations workshops are summarized on the following pages along with a chart that shows an approximate timeline of when these recommendations will be accomplished over the next five to seven years. Later in the CIP process, the park staff will devise a series of implementation plans that will be based on this LRIP.

CORE MISSION AND THE NPS CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE

After the Foundations section of the Comprehensive Interpretive Plan (CIP) was written and approved in 2006, two important areas of National Park Service emphasis emerged that directly impact the Resource Education operation at Catoctin Mountain Park. These two areas of NPS emphasis—Core Mission and the NPS

Centennial Initiative—have the potential to significantly impact the park's resource education and were considered while creating the Long Range Interpretive Plan portion of the CIP.

Core Mission

The Intermountain Region leadership developed a process designed to assist park management in their ongoing efforts to make fully informed decisions and to be aware of potential staffing and funding alternatives. The core operations analysis is part of a planning and analysis process which can be used on an ongoing basis in conjunction with the budget cost projection module to evaluate the state of the park in terms of its financial management and efficiencies. The core operations analysis is part of a long-term process to ensure park financial sustainability. (From the Core Analysis Workshop training materials.)

Catoctin Mountain Park conducted a core analysis workshop February 27 through March 1, 2007, and held multiple meetings throughout the winter and spring of 2007. The park's Core Mission report was finalized in December, 2007.

Centennial Initiative

The Centennial Initiative is a program to prepare parks for the one hundredth anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016.

"The 21st-century National Park Service will be energized to preserve parks and welcome visitors. Stewardship and science will guide decisions. An inventory of all wildlife in parks will be completed, a vital baseline to monitor change and adjust management. Strategic acquisitions will protect landscapes. Parks will be known as America's best classrooms. . . . A new era of private-public partnerships will bring greater excellence to parks. More volunteers will add value to park experiences. . . . Children will reconnect to the outdoors and lead healthier lives. A new generation of conservationists will convey parks unimpaired to the next generation. (From the Centennial Initiative website—Secretary of the Interior's report.)

Non-Personal Services

FACILITIES

The potential use of facilities or media for education purposes should be explored here (DO-6, page 9).

Visitor Center

No changes were recommended to the “footprint” of the visitor center during the recommendations workshop held in 2007. However, workshop participants agreed that—because the visitor experience for this facility already extends beyond the building’s footprint to bulletin case displays on its front porch and wayside exhibits along its walkway from the parking lot—future recommendations for this facility might also extend into areas outside the visitor center’s footprint. One of the issues related to this facility is the park’s future plan to collect fees from visitors at this location—either by staff inside the visitor center, or at a collection machine to be located on or near the visitor center’s front porch.

In January 2008, as an addition to the LRIP recommendations workshop, a one-day workshop was conducted at the park to develop early concept plans for the visitor center and its exhibits. Because the park’s visitor center had been added on to and adapted many times during its history, this workshop provided an opportunity to evaluate and weave together the visitors’ arrival experience with visitor flow patterns, experience zones, accessibility, and NPS identity challenges inside and outside the building.

During this one-day workshop, the team identified the following desired visitor experience zones that should be included in any future reconfiguration of the visitor center:

Arrival: A safe unloading place should exist in the vehicle parking area, as well as parking for bicycles. The arrival area also should include a meeting place for hikers and small groups. A new exterior entrance to the bathrooms is desired.

Orientation: Both outdoor and indoor information is needed for 24-hour coverage.

Some information should be flexible because of partial park closures due to safety and security.

Discovery: Outdoor and indoor opportunities also should allow visitors to discover tactile models, specimens, and reproductions that interpret the park’s natural and cultural history.

Exhibits: Interactive exhibits should connect visitors to Catoctin Mountain Park’s interpretive themes of People (Life on the Mountain), Fun (Making Memories), and Renewal (Second Chances).

Retail: Visitors should easily locate interpretive items to purchase in a secure and accessible sales area, as well as locate the park’s fee collection machine or cash register attendant.

Indoor Program Space: An indoor, multiple-use room should be available for school programs and other education groups, as well as a place to show audiovisual programs. The theater area should be located on the east end of the building.

Outdoor Gathering Place: A roofed area outside the Catoctin Mountain Park Visitor Center should provide a place where visitors can receive park orientation, meet friends, or join an interpretive program. A “Mountain Gateway Pavilion” is suggested with its orientation and roof line matching the visitor center.

Administrative Space: This space should be expanded and abut or be adjacent to the information desk to minimize staff movement and move current outdoor storage of materials to more convenient locations inside the building. The employee parking area needs to be relocated.

Using the visitor experience zones described above, the Catoctin Mountain Park staff and HFC drafted an exhibit proposal after the one-day workshop. For more information on this proposal’s conceptual options, contact the park staff or Harpers Ferry Center for a final proposal copy.

Camp Round Meadow Conference Room

No changes were recommended for this facility during the 2007 recommendations workshop.

Owens Creek Campground Amphitheater

No changes were recommended for this facility during the 2007 recommendations workshop.

INTERPRETIVE MEDIA (NON-PERSONAL SERVICES)

This section assesses the need for interpretive media which includes exhibits, waysides, signs, publications, audiovisual programs, historically furnished areas, mass and/or electronic media (DO-6, page 9).

Website

An ever-increasing percentage of park visitors are web users who visit the park's website (www.nps.gov/cato) to access pre-visit information. Many of these "virtual visitors" never actually come to the park, but have their needs met solely through the park's website. Other visitors contact the park by telephone or mail to ask for basic park information and orientation materials. The objective of all pre-visit contacts is the same: to help visitors make informed choices before they leave home.

To satisfy the information needs of visitors who contact the park before they visit, park staff will continue to answer phone calls and mail requests in a courteous and timely manner. To satisfy the basic and in-depth needs of website visitors, the staff will implement the following recommendations:

- Change the website's link to the park map to go directly to the map, not its welcome page.
- Adjust the statistics pages so that data can be obtained about which website pages are used most. This data can be used to provide background information on interpretive projects that are needed, and to strengthen and update the justifications for those projects.
- Add a photo gallery to the park's website.
- Add site/camp slide shows to the park's website. Add more photos of Owens Creek Campground. Add virtual tours of the park's residential camps.
- Add "flash files" with education curriculum materials (Junior Ranger activities, etc.).



Evening programs are presented at the Owens Creek Campground Amphitheater weekly, June through August.

- Upgrade the site’s nature and science page to include research results.
- Highlight handicap access opportunities with site descriptions and more images—especially of the campgrounds.

IDENTITY AND ORIENTATION SIGNS

Before visitors can have a meaningful park experience, they need to find their way to the park, determine where to begin their park experience, and take care of their basic needs. These visitor experience issues such as agency identity, wayfinding, and orientation must be addressed before interpretation can be effective. Effective highway and road guide signs, as well as pedestrian orientation and information, are the first steps toward providing basic visitor experience needs.

Catoctin Mountain Park uses traditional stone base and routed wood entrance signs in the style used at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Blue Ridge Parkway, and Shenandoah National Park. The park’s current entrance signs do not comply with present National Park Service sign program standards. Considering widespread public confusion with neighboring Cunningham Falls State Park—and the absence of “National” in its name—Catoctin Mountain Park needs to enhance its NPS identity.

Identity and orientation signs will address several visitor experience goals. Adding the NPS arrowhead logo to entrance signs will reinforce the idea that Catoctin Mountain Park is a unit of the National Park System. Road guide signs will allow visitors to easily find and access the park’s facilities and enjoy its full range of recreational activities. Signs within the park will help visitors safely enjoy their visit by learning about and following safety guidelines and park rules.

Overall Recommendations

- Arrange for NPS sign program staff to visit Catoctin Mountain Park to survey existing sign conditions, and provide a conditions plan that proposes a location for each new sign that is recommended.
- Design a parkwide sign master plan that identifies Catoctin Mountain Park as a unit of the National Park System and provides orientation for all visitors, whether they arrive by vehicle or on foot.
- Secure funding and implement a park-wide sign plan as described in the NPS UniGuide Sign Standards. The standards include park identity, motorist guidance, and visitor information signs. All NPS arrowhead logos should be updated to the new style.



The primary park entrance sign consists of a stone base and wooden sign designed to represent the iron furnace in Thurmont. Industrial activities at the furnace stripped the mountain of its resources and led to selection of the area for a Recreational Demonstration Area.

WAYSIDE EXHIBITS

Park Entry Points and NPS Identity

After visitors arrive at Catoctin Mountain Park, many stop at the visitor center along Route 77. However, most visitors drive past the visitor center to go to a trailhead parking area, or the park campground, or to one of the cabin camps, or they just drive and sightsee along the park roads.

No matter where visitors enter the park, the National Park Service needs to reinforce its NPS identity and orient visitors to the park's opportunities. Standardized waysides quietly remind visitors that any place preserved by the NPS is something of value to our nation. Much effort has been invested to have a distinctive, easy-to-read, comprehensive NPS sign system. Visual hierarchy gives readers clear clues as to the relative importance of blocks of information. The NPS sign system provides solutions from formal entrance signs to trail direction markers and campsite numbers. Using current wayside exhibit hardware and typographic standards reminds visitors that

the NPS presence is felt at locations beyond the park visitor center and headquarters.

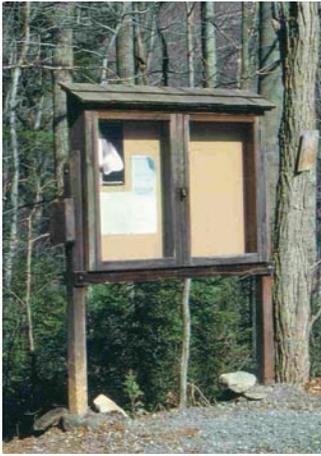
Potential Future Wayside Exhibits

Orientation and agency identity are often accomplished by upright waysides at the park's parking lots. Orientation upright panels (whether singly, in pairs, in trios, or in a four-sided configuration) placed at prominent locations near parking lots will provide a minimum level of park orientation and interpretation at the onset of a visitor's park experience. The park might also explore the development of a single upright unit with a bulletin case on one side and safety warnings on the other side that can be used at certain park locations.

It is recommended that at least nine places at Catoctin Mountain Park feature upright wayside exhibits that introduce visitors to the immediate site, the overall park, and clearly link Catoctin Mountain Park to the greater National Park System. The following list names the places where many visitors or campers first leave their cars and are receptive to park orientation messages:

Catoctin Mountain Park Parking Locations and Orientation Messages		
Location	Wayside Content	Type of Base
Falls Nature Trail Parking*	parkwide orientation*	upright wayside
Camp Misty Mount	parkwide orientation site orientation/trailhead bulletin board safety messages	upright wayside upright wayside (as small as possible) upright wayside
Hog Rock Parking	parkwide orientation site orientation/trailhead safety messages	upright wayside upright wayside upright wayside
Chestnut Picnic Grounds	parkwide orientation safety messages	upright wayside upright wayside
Camp Greentop Parking	parkwide orientation site orientation/trailhead safety messages	upright wayside upright wayside upright wayside
Owens Creek Campground	parkwide orientation site orientation/trailhead safety messages	upright wayside upright wayside upright wayside
Owens Creek Picnic Grounds	parkwide orientation safety messages	upright wayside upright wayside
Poplar Grove Campground	parkwide orientation site orientation/trailhead safety messages	upright wayside upright wayside upright wayside

* The Falls Nature Trail/Blue Blazes Trailhead is included in this general list because a significant percentage of park visitors who hike these trails do not go into the park visitor center. The preferred entrance experience for these visitors is to proceed directly from their motor vehicles to the trails or destination sites; this preference does not diminish either their need for parkwide orientation or the NPS's need to identify the site as a national park unit for this subset of visitors.



Aging wooden bulletin boards are being replaced with recycled plastic units that are similar in appearance.

Park visitors today see dramatic, full-color, site-specific outdoor exhibits on the Blue Blazes Whiskey Still Trail, the Charcoal Trail, and the Spicebush Nature Trail that the staff of Catoctin Mountain Park developed and produced with HFC and two of its contractors in 2005. These new wayside exhibits are great improvements over the waysides that had existed along those trails.

However, the LRIP planning team found that site-specific wayside exhibits are conspicuously absent from the immediate environs of the oldest camps in Catoctin Mountain Park. One of the richest untapped veins of storytelling and memory making to mine at Catoctin Mountain Park is its 70 years of recreation history. Reminding today's visitors in the long-term camps that they benefit directly from the dreams of the Roosevelt Administration adds a venerable patina to the outdoor experience. Catoctin Mountain Park is the place where generations of people have been introduced to nature and outdoor adventures; this has influenced their views of conservation and stewardship, and what is important in one's national life.

Therefore, it is recommended that the following site-specific interpretive waysides discussed during the LRIP workshop be planned and produced to tell additional site-specific stories.

Camp Greentop

- Generations of Recreationists/Continuity of Use.
- The Outdoors is for All Disability (Ability) Levels.
- Training for World War II—OSS.

Camp Misty Mount

- Recreation Demonstration Area.
- Historic Outdoor Architecture of the FDR era.

Owens Creek Sawmill

- Upgrade quality of waysides seen to match Charcoal Trail.

Bulletin Boards

Although the current bulletin boards at Catoctin Mountain Park are generally

well-maintained and visually attractive, the following information serves as a reminder to future park interpreters:

Investing staff time in making the bulletin boards look better is the quickest (and cheapest) thing that can be done to improve the park visitors' overall impression of the park and its ability to communicate. Keeping the bulletin board looking organized and legible must be a regularly assigned, reoccurring duty. An overcrowded, unkempt, or hastily prepared bulletin board, like poorly maintained restrooms, leaves a lasting negative impression on arriving park visitors. Bulletin boards should be used sparingly, and only to display information of a temporary nature.

Many bulletin boards in NPS units are crowded with too much information that is often unorganized, unattractive, and difficult to read. This is not the case at Catoctin Mountain Park. A park's ungrid brochure should not be posted on a bulletin board because its type is sized to be read at a distance for something held in a visitor's hands—about 18 inches from the reader's eyes. Because visitors read bulletin boards at distances of 30 to 48 inches, their type sizes need to be made significantly larger. Park brochures also convey far too much content to read outdoors, and the maps on park brochures are too small and too complex for outdoor reading. Most visitors will only spend 20 seconds at any bulletin board. Fonts and type sizes for bulletin boards should follow National Park Service wayside standards to comply with ADA legibility requirements.

Maps posted on National Park Service bulletin boards often fail because most maps follow the convention of marking north at the top of the map. This map orientation can work if the bulletin board also faces north. However, putting north at the top of a map in a bulletin case creates confusion if the map does not match the orientation of the view seen. Maps for outdoor trailhead exhibits (or bulletin boards) cannot be universally oriented with north pointing up as with maps in a book, because trailheads often face east, south, or west. A map posted outdoors must match the view.



While simple in design, a visitor center exhibit of common forest animals receives many positive visitor comments. The picture was taken during the annual Museums by Candlelight Program.

One of the most important functions for the park’s bulletin boards—especially in its more remote locations away from the visitor center—will be to answer the questions “*What is this place?*” and “*What can you do here?*” for newly arriving visitors. The bulletin boards and/or orientation panels need to answer these basic orientation questions before any safety warnings, resource protection messages, or deeper subject matter can be conveyed to visitors.

Recommendations

During the next five to seven years, the park staff should work on the following tasks:

- Request funding for a parkwide wayside exhibit proposal (that lists and describes the agreed-upon wayside exhibits that will be produced), a wayside exhibit plan (that includes final text and layout designs for each wayside exhibit), and production (that will produce the final panels and bases, as well as create any art or maps that may be recommended).
- Once funding is secured for the proposal stage, arrange for an HFC wayside exhibit planner to visit the park and, along with the park staff, develop a parkwide wayside exhibit proposal.
- Once funding is secured for the wayside planning stage, let a contract through HFC to plan, design, and prepare production-ready files for all the newly proposed wayside exhibits.
- Once funding is secured for the wayside production stage, let a contract through HFC to produce and ship the final panels and bases to the park to be installed by a contractor.
- Maximize visitor flow by moving the information desk towards southeast area of the lobby, and consider ways of opening up the primary exhibit space.
- Establish visitor experience zones of arrival, orientation, discovery, and primary exhibit space.
- Develop an accessibility strategy that includes audio description of the new exhibits, more tactile elements, and design factors that promote and cater to multiple learning/sensing styles.
- Consolidate orientation exhibits in the lobby and consider producing a tactile topographic relief model, creating experiential orientation exhibits (associated with the topographic model), introducing the park’s themes, and providing changeable elements to the topographic model, to clearly indicate closed areas of the park when there are closures due to presidential visits.
- Place objects in thematic context such as cultural artifacts in association with enlarged historic images, and natural history specimens with visual backdrops of their respective habitats.

EXHIBITS

Visitor Center

Most of the exhibits in the park’s visitor center are in a room that was one of the original WPA structures built in the park in the 1930s. These exhibits—which are primarily taxidermy animals and wall-mounted text and graphics on wood plaques—were updated in 1991 with more recent upgrades and animal specimens added in 2005 and

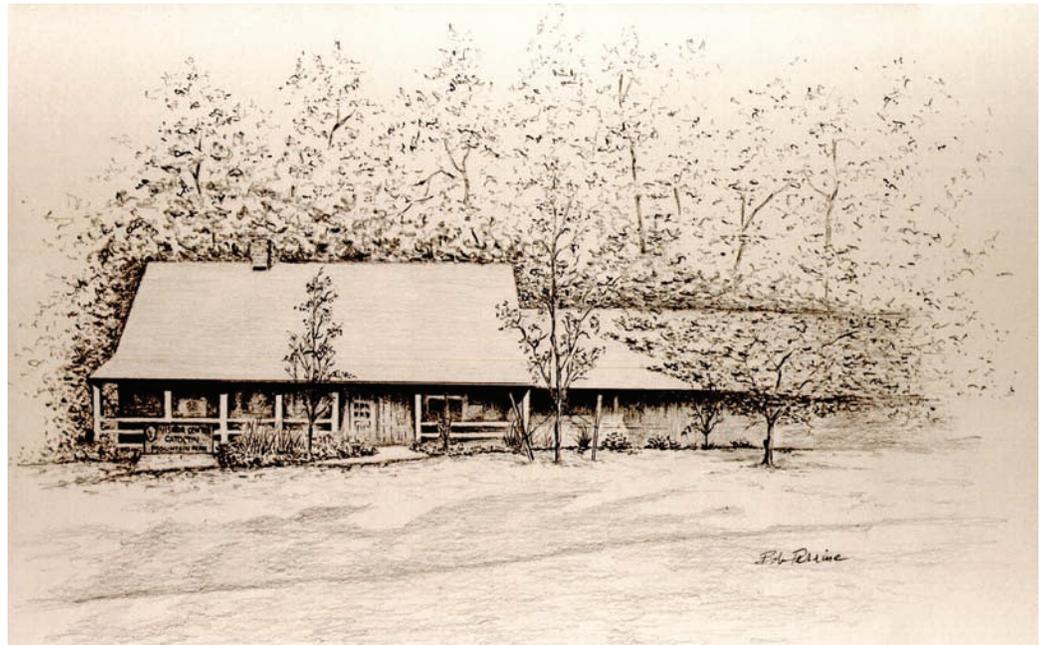
2006 by park staff. Outside the exhibit room, there is a lobby area with “touch table” shelves, a tree slice with labels, a 40-gallon river tank that holds native fish, and a sales outlet for the Eastern National cooperating association sales items.

Potential Future Exhibits

It is recommended that the visitor center be completely rehabilitated to improve visitor flow, use the existing space more effectively (while staying within the current building’s footprint), and develop new exhibits. While planning for the visitor center’s future, the following concepts should be considered:

- Make strong connections between the cultural and natural history stories.
- Increase the number of tactile and low-tech interactive exhibits that might include touchable natural history models, tactile reproduction/replica

Results of planning sessions recommend that the visitor center be completely rehabilitated to improve visitor flow, use the existing space more effectively (while staying within the current building's footprint), and develop new exhibits.



objects, and lift-up flap interactive exhibits to increase inquiry-based learning.

- Minimize design solutions requiring maintenance (and therefore the burden on staff time and budgets) by being prudent in using high-tech design solutions and audiovisual elements.
- Incorporate updateable/changeable components to the exhibits that will allow new research to be shared with visitors (e.g., results of the archeological work conducted in the park).
- Determine the impact of new exhibits on historic fabric (especially the fireplace) of the space and involve a historic architect early in the planning process to ensure solutions are appropriate.
- Explore critical questions/issues that challenge Catoclin Mountain Park managers.
- Estimate life-cycle and long-term costs of design solutions as they are developed.
- Develop alternatives early in the planning process that will consider a range of creative media solutions and assess the impact of exhibit designs on the visitor flow and staff operations.

- Incorporate evaluation (audience research) as an integral part of the design process.

The Blacksmith Shop

It is also recommended that the exhibits in the blacksmith shop be rehabilitated. While planning for the visitor center's future, the following concepts should be considered:

- Include images that relate to the operation of the blacksmith shop.
- Potential use of reader rails that might feature more prominent interpretive flip panels.
- Develop an accessibility strategy for this exhibit area.

Exhibit Recommendations

During the next five to seven years, the park staff should work on the following recommendations:

- Work with HFC to complete a preliminary exhibit schematic proposal for the existing visitor center (including exhibits that may extend outside the building) that will include a cost estimate.
- Submit a Project Management Information System (PMIS) statement for new exhibits in the park's visitor

center. Within this submission, include estimates for a tactile map in the visitor center and new exhibits for the blacksmith shop.

- Submit a PMIS statement or seek other funds for a front-end evaluation project.
- Consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) about historic portion/s of park visitor center where potential new exhibits may be placed.
- Compile resource notebooks (under guidance from HFC media specialists) with images, objects, and a bibliography in preparation for planning and designing new exhibits.
- Do a front-end evaluation to determine knowledge and needs of park visitors.
- Contract for the planning and design of new exhibits for the park’s visitor center.
- Complete new exhibit planning and design, then contract exhibit fabrication.
- Complete exhibit fabrication and install them in the park’s visitor center.

AUDIOVISUAL PROGRAMS

Because the park has never had a primary park audiovisual program, a PMIS statement was submitted in 2006 to request funding for an “orientation/interpretive video.” During the next five to seven years, the park staff should work on this project and other audiovisual recommendations:

- **Produce a 15-20-minute orientation/interpretive video** – This project has been identified as a need in PMIS #118621. This audiovisual program would address the park’s history, significance, recreational opportunities, and preservation objectives. The program should be produced in high-definition video with stereo soundtrack, original score, closed captioning, and audio description. The park’s cultural history (e.g., American Indian quarries, charcoal and iron industry, farming, sawmills, blacksmithing, moonshine stills, Works Progress Administration, OSS, and the

presidential retreat) should be portrayed through historic photos and “light” reenactments. The park’s natural history (e.g., second growth forest ecosystem, wildlife, geology, and streams) should be portrayed through historic photos, original high-definition videography and (possibly) computer-generated animation. The program should include four seasons of shooting. Target budget for this project should be \$180,000.

Park management would also like a shorter version (7-12 minutes) to give the interpretive staff more options. (An estimate is needed to edit the long program into this shorter version.)

- **Upgrade AV equipment in theater (HFC recommendation)** – These upgrades should include a high-definition projector and player, an AV control system, audio upgrades, and accessibility upgrades such as the following:
 - Display captions on the caption board at all times.
 - Audio describe the new audiovisual program.
 - Provide equipment for assistive listening and audio description upon request.
 - Advertise Catoctin Mountain Park’s accessibility features in multiple formats, including at the visitor center’s front desk, on the park’s website, and in any future park newspapers and/or site bulletins.
- **Produce a series of video podcasts** – Podcasts could be assembled from footage shot for the orientation/interpretive video. They should be short (1-3 minute) segments that would highlight specific topics of interest such as reforestation, charcoal production, moonshine still operation, the WPA, the OSS, recreational opportunities, and fall color. They could be streamed from the park website and/or downloaded from commercial websites such as iTunes and YouTube.
- **Produce a podcast for the seventy-fifth anniversary of the New Deal with the Catoctin Center for Regional Studies.**

- **Produce a series of audio podcasts** – These audio podcasts should be narrated guides to the various hiking trails and park roads. They should have a relatively low-tech approach (rangers talking, with sound effects and music as needed), and could be park-produced. They could make use of audio assets gathered during production of the interpretive video (e.g., interviews, sound effects, and original music). They could be downloadable from the park website or from commercial websites such as iTunes, and/or from a kiosk in the visitor center.
- Develop a publications plan to justify adding and/or eliminating site bulletins.
- Request HFC update the map on the Catoctin Mountain Park unigrid brochure before its next reprint.
- Communicate with the National Capital Region regarding a section in the revised Washington, D.C., handbook that covers Catoctin Mountain Park’s natural and cultural resources.
- After the current PMIS statement for a NPS Handbook for Catoctin Mountain Park is approved, contract (via HFC or another source) for an author and designer for this new publication.
- Consider development of a Catoctin Mountain Park newspaper to consolidate the park’s site bulletins. This park newspaper might be published in partnership with Cunningham Falls State Park.

PUBLICATIONS

Visitors typically use publications in two ways: for information and orientation during their visit, and for in-depth interpretation following their visit. The majority of on-site publications are free-of-charge, with the primary one being the park’s NPS unigrid brochure. To help upgrade the park’s free publications program, the interpretive staff should take the following actions:



Publications such as the Catoctin Mountain Park fall colors poster assist visitors with seasonal information requirements.

Personal Services

INTERPRETIVE STAFF

Catoctin Mountain Park's interpretive staff (2.23 FTEs after law enforcement responsibilities are subtracted from two of the three permanent interpreters) present interpretive programs, staff the visitor center, plan and support special events, and perform a myriad of other interpretive duties. Two of these rangers have law enforcement commissions and provide a variety of protection duties. Because of this small staff, any further reductions will result in fewer interpretive programs and services. A list of core interpretive programs and products needs to be developed along with a list of priorities on what can be accomplished with additional staff levels.

The general consensus at the time of developing this LRIP is that the permanent staffing level for interpretation will remain the same, with the possible shift of law enforcement duties out of interpretive operations in the next five to seven years. The Centennial Challenge will likely provide seasonal positions. In order to move forward in the interpretive operations and to accomplish elements of this plan, the permanent staff will need to change how they conduct business. Instead of three people doing everything, it is recognized that the permanent staff will need to develop

into project managers to maximize the opportunities, to enhance partnerships, and to engage new audiences through the use of technology.

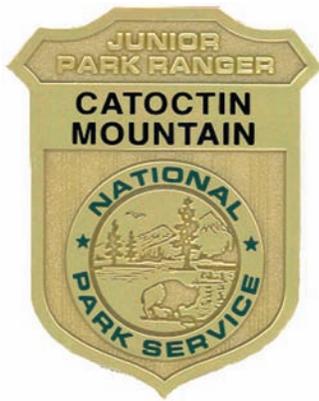
Park management wants the park's future interpretive program to expand the park's use of the following:

Partnerships

The challenge is to develop partnerships that will equally enhance interpretive and educational programs and products to benefit both the partner and Catoctin Mountain Park. Past partnerships have often focused more on the partner benefits and were not truly equal relationships. These partnerships need to be specific to meeting LRIP identified needs and should be sought by park staff. A primary area to explore with the addition of seasonal staff will be to strengthen partnerships that already exist, specifically those with D.C. schools and Frederick County Schools. The partnerships would increase the role of the NPS in their programming, likely in the form of personal services. The park should seek opportunities to accomplish interpretation through our partners as well, reaching out to regional opportunities and influencing the messages, but not always featuring the "green and grey" as the primary presenters. Non-



Rangers Sally Griffin and John Wy-song record the park's first attempt at podcasting.



personal services partnerships would likely focus on information technology projects.

Technology

Through the use of partnerships and service contracts, Catoctin Mountain Park will be able to connect with a wider audience and perhaps a different audience than currently uses the park. The use of technology has the potential to increase visitor services and interpretive opportunities with a smaller impact on the park staff. The amount of staff time used to develop one new PowerPoint program that is presented one to two times for 30 people is far outweighed by the same amount of time developing a podcast for park trails with a much larger potential audience. Expanding the park web pages to include pre-visit and post-visit materials and activities related to the education programs have a long-lasting potential benefit.

Increasing the science information on the web pages and incorporating the results of park research could have a significant affect on adult audiences and their understanding and appreciation of the value of national parks. The staff will change their role to interpretive product manager, developing and evaluating the messages, leaving technology to either the partner or the contractor.

Interpretive Media

Although many improvements have recently been made in the park's interpretive media, there remains much to accomplish. With a focus on partnerships and technology, there remains a desire and need to continue improvements to interpretive media. There is no overall plan or order to how visitors experience the park; sign plans along with visitor center exhibits and welcome plans need to move forward so that visitors can easily plan their visits, enjoy the park, and better understand the significance of the park and the National Park Service. The five remaining wayside exhibits need to be updated. A park video is still desirable but unlikely due to funding and would be a large time and resource commitment should the opportunity become available. Depending on which projects are funded and when they are funded, careful consideration and discussions on priorities will need to take place.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

The recommendations for the park's future interpretive programs include the following:

Staffing Needs

- Confirm that the park's OFS Request is in the National Capital Region and that it includes 3.7 positions (3.0 FTE include justifications for specialty work in partnership development, volunteer program coordination, and information technology support. The other 0.7 FTE supports implementation of the White-tailed Deer Management Plan/EIS).
- Confirm that the park's NPS Centennial Initiative seasonal allotment includes four seasonal positions for the Interpretive Division.
- Pursue funding and an additional FTE from WASO's Interpretation/ VIP Coordinator's office for a full-time volunteer coordinator to be assigned to Catoctin Mountain Park.
- Investigate challenge cost share or additional partnering opportunities to maximize current personnel staffing.

Parkwide Reorganization (from Catoctin Mountain Park's 2007 Core Mission meetings)

- When park entrance fees are initiated, Interpretation is to manage fee collections. Fees may be collected in the visitor center or by a fee machine on the visitor center's porch until a fee booth can be designed and constructed. It is planned that a seasonal position will be added to help collect fees. However, even with an increase of a seasonal position, this change will be a "loss" in terms of hours available for Interpretation when covered over the period of an entire year.
- Remove all law enforcement responsibilities (but not the positions) from Interpretation and consolidate all law enforcement responsibilities to the Law Enforcement Division. This recommendation may need to wait for vacancies to occur in some Interpretation positions and/or an increase in funding. Without waiting for additional positions and/or funding,

this recommendation would result in a net loss of two law enforcement commissions.

- A proposal to merge the Interpretation and Resource Management Divisions together is under consideration; however, it is unlikely this would happen before 2012 and such an action would require additional budget for implementation.

Changes in Interpretive Programs

- Establish a core level of interpretive/ education programs and visitor services for Catoctin Mountain Park.
- If/when permanent and/or seasonal staff positions increase, increase types/ frequency of interpretive programs back up to core levels.
- Devise a chart/matrix that describes the interpretive programs levels that could be scheduled depending on the factors described in areas (2) and (3) above.

Visitor Center Hours and Staffing

- Consider closing the park's visitor center on Wednesdays (the "slowest" days) during the winter and spring and, perhaps, other times of the year. This would provide some flexibility in scheduling staff and/or may allow staff time for program/product development.

- Use Law Enforcement rangers (when available) to staff the visitor center information desk as part of the required resource education portion of their grade.
- If/when the Catoctin Mountain Park Visitor Center is closed (on Wednesdays, or Mondays and Tuesdays), direct visitors on those days to the park headquarters building as a temporary visitor contact station (staffed by management and administration).
- If/when the visitor center is closed, conduct a survey to ask visitors and park staff about their reactions to the visitor center being closed on its slowest day/s.
- Discussions on visitor center services and hours will depend on the direction chosen for the Interpretive Division operations. It is preferred that funding and staffing levels fully support visitor services, education programs, and interpretive opportunities, along with support and development of non-personal services. If this is not the case, decisions will need to be made balancing personnel and services. (For example, if Catoctin Mountain Park determines it wishes to place a higher emphasis on non-personal services, the visitor center might close one day per week to allow Interpretive staff the time to develop these products.)



Small, family operated stills in the region were similar to the one currently on display on the Blue Blazes Whiskey Still trail. Interpretive staff present programs on-site according to a published schedule.

EXISTING PERSONAL SERVICES PROGRAMS

The accompanying chart shows the park’s existing personal services programs, who provides them (i.e., permanent NPS rangers, seasonal interpreters, partners, and VIP-volunteers), which of the park themes they address (see the Interpretive Theme Statements section of this plan), their intended audience (e.g., adults, children, or both), and other program notes. Also noted is whether each program is considered “core” or “not core” to the park’s purpose and significance).

- Core – Core program, product, or service. A must-do item.
- 1st – Program, product, or service would add if more staff/funding. (Priority 1 to add.)
- 2nd – Program, product, or service to add at some point in future if funding and resources available. (Priority 2 to add or wish list.)
- Audience – A- Adult, C-Children, M-Mixed Audience
- Presenter – N-NPS Permanent Staff, S-Seasonal Staff, V-Volunteer, P-Partner

Catoctin Mountain Park	Core	1st	2nd	Presenter	Theme People	Theme Fun	Theme Renewal	Orient/Safety NPS Mission	Audience	Comments
Personal Services										
Visitor Center										
Information Desk	✓			NV				✓	M	
Informal Contacts										
Foot Patrols		✓		NV		✓		✓	M	
Junior Ranger	✓			NS	✓	✓	✓	✓	C	
Formal Programs										
Campfire	✓			NS	✓	✓	✓	✓	M	Ranger choice
Fall Color Walks	✓			NV		✓	✓		M	
Wildflower Walks	✓			N		✓	✓		M	
MM Evening		✓		NS		✓	✓	✓	M	Variable topics
MM Kids		✓		NS		✓	✓	✓	C	Variable topics
Whiskey Still		✓		NSV	✓				M	
Junior Ranger	✓			NSV	✓	✓	✓	✓	C	Walk-ins
African American		✓		N	✓				A	
FDR New Deal		✓		N	✓		✓		A	
Alien Species		✓		N			✓	✓	A	
Deer		✓		N			✓	✓	A	
Nature Discovery		✓		N		✓	✓		C	
WWII & OSS			✓	N	✓		✓		A or M	Future program?
Community and Outreach Programs										
Parades (3)		✓		NSV		✓		✓	M	
Smokey Bear	✓			NSV				✓	CM	
NPLD	✓			N			✓	✓	M	
Nat’l Jr. Ranger	✓			N	✓	✓	✓	✓	C	
Community Show		✓		NSV				✓	M	Themes vary
Museum Candle		✓		N		✓			M	
Bus Tours		✓		N	✓		✓	✓	A	
Saints & Sinner Bus tours		✓		N	✓		✓	✓	A	
Group Requests		✓		N	✓	✓	✓	✓	M	Themes vary
Education Program										
Catoctin Critters	✓			N			✓		C	1st grade
Growing Up	✓			N			✓		C	2nd grade
Everybody Eats	✓			N			✓		C	3rd grade
Seasonal Signals	✓			N			✓		C	4th grade
Autumn Leaves	✓			N			✓		C	1st-4th grade
Demos & Recr.										
Photography	✓			V		✓			A	
Blacksmith Shop	✓			V		✓			M	
Camping Expo	✓			V		✓			M	
Orienteering	✓			N		✓			M	
Future Programs										
D.C. Schools		✓		N			✓		C	Partnership TBD
FCPS Outdoor		✓		N			✓		C	Partnership TBD
Non-Personal Services										
Catoctin Brochure	✓			N	✓	✓	✓	✓	M	
Web Pages	✓			N	✓	✓	✓	✓	M	
Site Bulletins										
Calendar of Events	✓			N		✓		✓	A	
Camping	✓			N		✓			A	

Catoctin Mountain Park	Core	1st	2nd	Presenter	Theme People	Theme Fun	Theme Renewal	Orient/Safety NPS Mission	Audience	Comments
Non-Personal Services										
Site Bulletins (continued)										
Additional Camping	✓			N		✓			A	
Misty Mount	✓			N	✓	✓	✓		A	
XC Ski	✓			N		✓		✓	A	
Fly-fishing Guide		✓		V			✓		A	
Wildflower Check List		✓		N			✓		M	
Bird Checklist		✓		N			✓		M	
Geology		✓		NV			✓		A	
Browns Farm	✓			N	✓		✓	✓	M	
Hog Rock	✓			N		✓	✓		M	
Deerfield	✓			N			✓		M	
Jr. Ranger 6-8	✓			NV	✓	✓	✓	✓	C	
Jr. Ranger 9-11	✓			NV	✓	✓	✓	✓	C	
OCCG Rules	✓			N				✓	A	Compendium
Adirondack Rules	✓			N				✓	A	Compendium
Horse Trail	s			N		✓		✓	A	Compendium
NOTE: A number of site bulletins are being eliminated as of 2007 as the information is available on the park website. Foreign language brochures are too out of date to be included. Extremely low demand exists for foreign language brochures.										
Bulletin Boards										
VC 2 exterior	✓			NS	✓	✓	✓	✓	M	Themes Vary
Headquarters	✓			N				✓	M	4x per year
Misty Mount	✓			N				✓	M	1x per year
Thurmont Vista		✓		N				✓	M	1x/yr--close wtr.
Chestnut PA	✓			N				✓	M	1x per year
OC Picnic Area		✓		N				✓	M	Uncertain
OC Campground	✓			N				✓	M	1x per year
Poplar Grove	✓			N				✓	M	1x per year
Wayside Exhibits										
VC Welcome	✓			N		✓		✓	M	VC bull. board
Charcoal sled VC		✓		N	✓			✓	M	
Conservation VC	✓			N			✓	✓	M	
Whiskey Still (6)	✓			N	✓	✓	✓		M	
Charcoal (8)	✓			N	✓	✓	✓		M	
Spicebush (8)	✓			N	✓	✓	✓		M	
Wolf Rock	✓			N	✓		✓	✓	M	
Blacksmith Shop	✓			N	✓			✓	M	
Sawmill (5)	✓			N	✓			✓	M	Old format
Outside Exhibits										
Whiskey Still	✓			N	✓		✓		M	
Charcoal exhibits	✓			N	✓				M	
Sawmill	✓			N	✓				M	
Blacksmith Shop	✓			N	✓		✓		M	
MM Light box		✓		NV		✓		✓	M	
WWII - OSS			✓	N	✓				M	Propose for GT
Exhibits VC										
Exhibit Room	✓			N	✓	✓	✓	✓	M	
Touch/Explore area	✓			N		✓	✓		C	
River Tank		✓		N		✓	✓		M	Poor condition
Desk display cases		✓		NS		✓	✓		M	Visual qty only
Eastern Sales	✓			N	✓	✓	✓	✓	M	
African. Am. Month		✓		N	✓	✓			M	Temp. display
Women's Month		✓		N	✓	✓			M	Temp. display
Display Map	✓			N				✓	M	Not Accessible
Education										
Trunk		✓		N	✓		✓		C	Needs update
NP Links to C. Bay			✓	N		✓	✓	✓	C	Needs update
Deer Discovery		✓		N		✓	✓		C	Needs update
MM - TWHP			✓	N	✓				C	Web only
Blacksmith Shop			✓	N	✓				C	Web only
Media FUTURE										
Educ. pre-post web	✓			N			✓	✓	C	Need on web
Jr. Ranger web			✓	NVP	✓	✓	✓	✓	C	New web only
Podcasts										
Trail podcasts	✓			NSVP	✓	✓	✓	✓	M	New programs
Web podcasts	✓			NSVP	✓	✓	✓	✓	M	
Orientation Movie			✓	NP	✓	✓	✓	✓	M	Depend Fundg.
Web-based Adult Learning			✓	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	Distant Project



Partnerships

VOLUNTEERS-IN-PARKS (VIP)

The park's paid staff is supplemented through the Volunteers-In-Parks (VIP) program which provides volunteers to all park divisions. Volunteers during the past 10 years have donated an average of 10,400 hours per year. The park plans to continue this successful program by seeking additional volunteer management support. A full-time volunteer coordinator is desired to maximize the potential use of volunteers in the park and to explore the possibility of creating a volunteer friends organization. Until a full-time volunteer coordinator is available, the park will work towards creating a tiered program of management with an overall program coordinator supported by operational volunteer recruiters, supervisors, and special project managers.

INSTITUTIONS

Park staff work closely with a number of federal, state, and local agencies, local or distant universities, and several non-profit entities. Park management plans to continue and expand the following partnerships:

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

NPS Director Mary Bomar stated at a recent National Leadership Council (NLC) meeting, "This meeting also marked the first joint meeting in many years with our state counterparts in the National Association of State Park Directors. We have many issues in common, but our major thrust was on 'Bringing Children Back to Nature.' Many of our parks are already working with their state parks on this issue, and the NLC pledged to continue supporting this effort."

Catoctin Mountain Park—with an increase in its interpretive staff—will explore the following cooperative efforts with the state of Maryland's Department of Natural Resources at Cunningham Falls State Park:

- Cooperative Junior Ranger programs.
- Joint seasonal training and exchange of campfire programs.
- Concession sharing or crossover possibilities (e.g., sale of firewood, expanding Eastern National sales to both parks).
- Joint training/sharing of volunteers.

Tourism Council of Frederick County and Frederick Historic Sites Consortium

These partnerships have typically involved promotion of special events and sharing of information resources. Park staff has also participated in reviews of brochures and exhibit plans. Participation involves a regular time commitment that the park has not been able to maintain because of staff size. Many projects focus on the City of Frederick and/or on historic sites. The park participates in the "Museums by Candlelight" event even though public participation is low. Avenues of future interests to explore include education, advertising large volunteer events, and marketing regional themes and activities.

The League for People with Disabilities; District of Columbia Public Schools; and Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS)

These three organizations are long-term users of the park. The League and D.C. Schools continue to rent group camp facilities and FCPS regularly uses the park for outdoor school programs. Opportunities to increase NPS presence in these organizations will be explored depending on park staffing levels. Projects could include:

- Provide NPS mission orientation to the fifth grade geology program. Update the traveling trunk to meet FCPS needs and Catoctin interpretive themes.
- Developing a partnership with Thurmont Middle School to develop interactive web pages or podcasts with/for kids.
- Long-term goals would return the Outdoor School of FCPS to a residential camp or a multi-day field trip integrating the NPS into their experience.
- Work with Environmental Science Academy at Catoctin High School.

The Catoctin Center for Regional Studies

This partnership will likely remain in the form of individual project proposals dependent on funding and staffing levels. In Fiscal Year 2008 Catoctin Mountain Park is developing a podcast through the Catoctin Center to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the New Deal.



The park insect and herbarium collection are housed in curatorial cabinets at the visitor center. The collection is managed by an interpretive ranger as a collateral duty.

Library Needs

Catoctin Mountain Park's library consists of approximately 1,200 volumes of hardbound books, with other material in the form of periodicals, bound and unbound reports, binders of other papers and reports, and a host of other reference materials. It is recommended that park staff take the following steps to upgrade the library:

- Continue to digitize and upgrade/update the image library.
- Consider how best to manage audio files and implement the strategy. Audio files

consist of oral history tapes, royalty-free music purchased, and royalty-free sound effects downloaded from the internet.

- Update the library scope of collections. Continue to cull library of dated materials (specifically, look at video tapes).
- Make better use of the NPS library catalog system Voyager and the NPS Focus public image library (including PMIS images). Define how Catoctin Mountain Park will participate in these Servicewide programs.

Collection Needs

Catoctin Mountain Park has more than 1,300 objects in its museum collection, which consists of cultural resources, artifacts, and natural resource specimens. Historic artifacts include a variety of blacksmith shop tools that relate to the Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps. These tools are stored in the park along with a small assortment of bottles, broken pottery, and metal objects that have been field collected over time. The archeological collection consists of a few stemmed points and a number of rhyolite flakes that are associated with lithic tool making. There are also archeological objects and documentation from small surveys conducted in the park and a four-year parkwide survey began in 2007.

The natural history collection currently consists of a small insect collection (butterflies and moths), a working herbarium, and items collected from a small mammal survey. As NPS resource inventory and monitoring programs increase, the natural history collection will also continue to expand.

The collection facilities have sufficient environmental controls to maintain the optimum environmental conditions (temperature, humidity, and light). The storage space is also adequate as of 2007. It is recommended that park staff take the following steps to upgrade the park's collections:

- Review historical documents and decide to catalog or not catalog them as archives. Review long-term storage needs of historical documents.
- Monitor development of a second regional storage facility at/near Harpers Ferry and consider use.
- The Inventory and Monitoring program may have significant impact on park collection and storage. Needs to be closely monitored with Resource Management staff.
- Investigate adding research documents/report to NPS Focus.
- Complete the transcription of all oral history tape recordings.

Research Needs

The Superintendent and management staff of Catoctin Mountain Park suggests the following research needs:

Historical research

- Archeological survey, which has been ongoing, will continue through 2011.
- Office of Strategic Services research project ongoing as of 2008. This study may lead to identifying additional research needs on the role Catoctin Mountain Park played in World War II.
- Special emphasis groups (i.e., women's history, African American history, Hispanic heritage, Native American history, etc.).

Natural Resource Research

- The next area of focus in the Inventory and Monitoring program will be insects.
- A watershed condition assessment is scheduled for 2009.

Social Science Research

- The last in-depth visitor survey was conducted in 2002. The park should work towards conducting another in 2012.
- Catoctin Mountain Park has long played a role in environmental education. A study to determine any relationships between the loss of the Frederick County Public School overnight environmental education programs and "nature deficit disorder" may help determine the park's future role in outdoor education.



Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) enrollees learn basic job skills while participating in projects contributing to the renewal of the forest.

Implementation Plan

Actions, divided into annual, achievable steps are reproduced in the Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) (DO-6, page 6).

The measure of success of any plan is the extent to which it is implemented. Initial implementation of strategies needs to be both realistic and flexible. The charts on the following pages outline an initial blueprint for the park’s interpretive programs. Because funding opportunities and priorities often change, park management may need to adjust the implementation strategies to adapt to changing conditions.

The park interpretive staff and key park partners should meet each year to draft an Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) for each new fiscal year based on funding opportunities and coordination with other projects.

Catoctin Mountain Park Interpretive Media – Non-Personal Services								
Tasks	Short-Term			Long-Term			Out Years (6 & 7)	
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Facilities								
Make alterations to the visitor center based on an Exhibit Schematic Proposal for new exhibits.			✓	✓				
Website								
Change the website’s link to the park map to go directly to the map, not its welcome page.	2007							
Adjust the statistics pages so that data can be kept on which of the site’s pages are used most.	2007							
Add a photo gallery to the park’s website, and add site/camp slide shows to the park’s website.	✓							
Write PMIS statement for video podcasts	✓							
Add “flash files” with education curriculum materials, Junior Ranger activities, etc.			✓					
Upgrade the site’s nature and science page to include research results.			✓					
Look for partners, contractors, other staff, or volunteers to assist in website maintenance.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Identity/Orientation Signs								
Arrange for NPS Sign Program staff to visit the park to survey existing sign conditions, and provide a conditions plan that proposes a location for each new sign that is recommended.	✓							
Design a parkwide sign plan that identifies the park as a unit of the National Park System and provides orientation for all visitors, whether they enter the park in a vehicle or on foot.	✓							
Secure funding and implement the parkwide sign plan as described in the National Park Service UniGuide Sign Standards. The standards include park identity, motorist guidance, and visitor information signs. All NPS arrowhead logos should be updated to the new style.			✓					
Wayside Exhibits								
Request funding and for a parkwide wayside exhibit proposal, a wayside exhibit plan, and production.	✓							
Once funding is secured for the proposal stage, arrange for a HFC wayside exhibit planner to visit the park and—along with the park staff—develop a parkwide Wayside Exhibit Proposal.			✓					
Once funding is secured for the wayside planning stage, let a contract through HFC to plan, design, and prepare production-ready files for all the newly proposed wayside exhibits.				✓				
Once funding is secured for the wayside production stage, let a contract through HFC to produce and ship the final panels and bases to the park (for park maintenance to install).							✓	

Cost estimates for interpretive media can be provided by Harpers Ferry Center in a separate document; call (304) 535-5050 to request estimates.

Catoctin Mountain Park Interpretive Media – Non-Personal Services

Tasks	Short-Term			Long-Term			Out Years (6 & 7)	
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Exhibits								
Work with HFC to complete a preliminary Exhibit Schematic Proposal for the existing visitor center (including exhibits that may extend outside the building) that will include a cost estimate.	✓							
Submit a PMIS statement for new exhibits in the park's visitor center. Within this submission, include estimates for a tactile map in the visitor center and new exhibits for the blacksmith shop.	✓							
Submit a PMIS statement or seek other funds for a front-end evaluation project.	✓							
Consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) about the historic portion/s of the park's visitor center where potential new exhibits may be placed.	✓							
Compile resource notebooks (under guidance from HFC media specialists) with images, objects, and a bibliography in preparation for planning and designing new exhibits.	✓							
Do a front-end evaluation to determine the knowledge and needs of the park's visitors.			✓					
Contract for planning and designing new exhibits for the park's visitor center.				✓				
After new exhibits' planning and design is complete, contract for the exhibits' fabrication.					✓			
Complete the exhibits' fabrication and install them in the park's visitor center.							✓	
Audiovisual Programs								
Produce a 15- to 20-minute orientation/interpretive video (and a 7- to 12-minute version)				✓	✓	✓		
Submit a PMIS statement for an upgrade of the Audiovisual equipment in theater to assure Audiovisual Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities	✓							
Submit a PMIS statement to produce a series of video podcasts	✓							
Develop a podcast for the 75th Anniversary of the New Deal with the Catoctin Center for Regional Studies	✓							
Submit a PMIS statement to produce a series of audio podcasts	✓							
Publications								
Develop a Publications Plan to justify adding and/or eliminating Site Bulletins in the park.	✓							
Request that HFC update the map on the park's unigrid brochure before its next reprint.		✓						
Assure that NCR's handbook covers the resources at Catoctin Mountain Park.	✓							
After the current PMIS statement for a NPS Handbook for Catoctin Mountain Park is approved, contract (via HFC or ?) for an author and designer for this new publication.			✓	✓				

Cost estimates for interpretive media can be provided by Harpers Ferry Center in a separate document; call (304) 535-5050 to request estimates.

Catoctin Mountain Park Personal Services

Tasks	Short-Term			Long-Term			Out Years (6 & 7)	
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Personnel/Staffing Needs								
Confirm that the park's OFS Request is in NCR and that it includes 3.7 positions (3.0 FTE for partnership development, volunteer program coordination, and information technology support; and 0.7 FTE for implementation of the White-tailed Deer Management Plan/EIS.)	✓							
Confirm that the park's NPS Centennial Initiative seasonal allotment includes four seasonal positions for the Interpretive Division.	✓							
Pursue funding and an additional FTE from WASO's Interpretation/ VIP Coordinator's office for a full-time volunteer coordinator to be assigned to Catoctin Mountain Park.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Investigate challenge cost share or additional partnering opportunities to maximize current personnel staffing.				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Parkwide Reorganization								
When park entrance fees are initiated, Interpretation is to manage fee collections. Fees may be collected in the visitor center or via a fee machine on the visitor center's porch until a fee booth can be designed and constructed. (A seasonal position will be added to help collect fees.)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Remove all Law Enforcement responsibilities (but not the positions) from Interpretation and consolidate all Law Enforcement responsibilities to the Law Enforcement Division.				✓	✓	✓		
A proposal to merge the Interpretation and Resource Management Divisions together is under consideration; however, it is unlikely this would happen before 2012 or until budget supports it.							✓	✓
Interpretive Programs								
Establish a core level of interpretive/education programs and visitor services for Catoctin Mountain Park.	✓							
In order to absorb Fee Collection duties, it may be necessary to reduce types/frequency of interpretive programs.	✓	✓	✓					
If/when permanent and/or seasonal staff positions increase, bring types/frequency of interpretive programs back up to core levels.				✓	✓	✓		
Devise a chart/matrix that describes the interpretive programs levels that could be scheduled depending on the factors described in areas (2) and (3) above.	✓							
Visitor Center Hours and Staffing								
Consider closing the park's visitor center on Wednesdays (the "slowest" days) during the winter and spring and, perhaps, other times of the year. This would provide some flexibility in scheduling staff and/or may allow staff time for program/product development.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Use Law Enforcement Rangers (when available) to cover the visitor center's information desk as part of their required Resource Education portion of their grade.	✓	✓	✓					
If/when the visitor center is closed (on Wednesdays, or Mondays and Tuesdays), direct visitors on those days to the park's headquarters building as a temporary visitor contact station (staffed by management and administration).	✓	✓	✓					
If/when the visitor center is closed, conduct a survey to ask visitors and park staff about their reactions to the visitor center being closed on its slowest days.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Discussions on visitor center services and hours will depend on the direction chosen for the Interpretive Division operations. It is preferred that funding and staffing levels fully support visitor services, education programs, interpretive opportunities, along with support and development of non-personal services. If this is not the case, decisions will need to be made balancing personnel and services.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Cost estimates for interpretive media can be provided by Harpers Ferry Center in a separate document; call (304) 535-5050 to request estimates.

Planning Team

Catoctin Mountain Park

Mel Poole	Superintendent
Holly Rife	Chief, Visitor Protection and Resource Education
Sally Griffin	Supervisory Park Ranger, Branch Chief of Resource Education
Debbie Mills	Park Ranger – Interpretation
Don Stanley	Park Ranger – Protection (assigned to Interpretation)
Jim Voigt	Biologist – Chief of Resource Management
Becky Loncosky	Biologist
Marcia Johnson	Property Manager – Administration
Bob Wilhide	Buildings and Utilities Foreman
Jennie Pumphrey	Visitor Use Assistant
Brett Spaulding	Park Ranger – Interpretation

National Capital Region

Sue Hansen	Chief of Interpretation and Education
George Vasjuta	Interpretive Specialist
Pat Jones	Chief of Interpretation, Manassas National Battlefield
Sean Denniston	GIS Specialist, NCR

Harpers Ferry Interpretive Design Center

Jack Spinnler	Interpretive Planner (Team Captain)
Mark Southern	Chief of Audiovisual Arts
Michael Lacome	Exhibit Designer
Neil Mackay	Exhibit Planner
Mark Johnson	Wayside Exhibit Planner
Winnie Frost	Project Manager
Melissa Cronyn	Chief of Publications

Park Partners

Bob Robinson	Park Volunteer, Catoctin Mountain Park
Jacob Doyle	Park Ranger, Cunningham Falls State Park
Eddie Main	Outdoor School Coordinator, Frederick County Public Schools



Catoctin Mountain Park Permanent and Seasonal staff for the 2007 Summer Season.



Appendices

“ . . . we can develop new and innovative strategies to help many people from many walks of life to get outdoors and engage in healthy, fun recreation. The overarching goal of the collaborative effort will be to reconnect our youth and their families with the land, to create a new generation of stewards, and improve the physical and mental health of our nation.”

—MARY BOMAR , DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
and GREG BUTTS, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE PARK DIRECTORS

Legal Requirements

PARK ENABLING LEGISLATION	Date	Description
Emergency Relief and Construction Act of 1932 47 Stat. 717.	July 21, 1932	Authorizes the acquisition of land by purchase, condemnation, or otherwise that would be needed for “emergency construction of public building projects outside the District of Columbia.”
Federal Emergency Relief Act	May 12, 1933	Created Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) with responsibilities to conduct investigations dealing with problems of employment relief,” provide “grants to several States to aid meeting the costs of furnishing relief and work relief ...”
National Industrial Recovery Act 48 Stat. 200.	June 16, 1933	Authorized the President to establish agencies for the purpose of implementing the Act with termination of agencies, etc. ..., “at the expiration of two years after the date of enactment of this Act ...”Also authorized the establishment of public works programs and projects.
Fourth Deficiency Act	June 16, 1933	During Fiscal Year 1933 this act provided funding for activities approved under the National Industrial Recovery Act.
Emergency Appropriation Act	June 19, 1933	During Fiscal Year 1935, authorized appropriations pursuant to title II of the National Industrial Recovery Act and the Federal Emergency Relief Act of 1933 for the benefits of public works and “to meet the emergency and necessity for relief in stricken agricultural areas.”
56 Stat.326 Public Law 2852	June 6, 1942	Authorized the conveyance of “recreation demonstration project lands to the States with the approval of the President.”
Public Law 640	August 3, 1950	“To authorize grantees of recreation demonstration project lands to make land exchanges relating to such properties, and for other purposes.”
68 Stat. 791 Public Law 654	August 24, 1954	Authorizes the exchanges of lands acquired by the United States of Catoctin Recreation Demonstration Area, Frederick County, Maryland for the purposes of exchanging lands therein.

PARK ENABLING EXECUTIVE ORDERS	Date	Description
6747	June 23, 1934	Allocated funds to “meet the Emergency and Necessity for relief in stricken Agricultural Areas” and specifically to FERA for making grants to States ...”
6910-B	December 1, 1934	Allocated to FERA the sum of \$5,000,000 for the purpose of affording relief through the purchase of submarginal lands in the stricken agricultural areas including the necessary costs of administration of such lands as may be acquired for such purpose, and to the Emergency Conservation Fund the sum of \$10,000,000, for the establishment and maintenance of Civilian Conservation Corps camps.
6983	March 6, 1935	Authorizes FERA to acquire property “connection with the construction or carrying on of any project or program financed by allocations, allotments, or transfers made, or to be made, to FERA under the authority and in accordance with the provisions of the said National Industrial Recovery Act...”
7027	April 30, 1935	Established the “Resettlement Administration” to “initiate and administer a program of approved projects with respect to soil erosion, stream pollution, seacoast erosion, reforestation, forestation, and flood control.”
7028	April 30, 1935	Transfers from FERA to the Resettlement Administration all the real and personal property or any interest therein ..., acquired by the FERA administrator and the Director of the Land Program.
7496	November 14, 1936	Transferred recreation demonstration project lands from the Resettlement Administration to the Secretary of Interior for NPS to complete and administer the projects being transferred.
10752	February 12, 1958	Designates the Secretary of the Interior To execute certain powers and functions vested in the President by the Act of February 22, 1935, 49 Stat. 30, as Amended. Supersedes: EO 6979, February 28, 1935; <u>EO 7756</u> , December 1, 1937; <u>EO 9732</u> , June 3, 1946; <u>EO 10250</u> , June 5, 1951 (in part).
Presidential Letter	December 4, 1945	From President Harry S Truman to MD Governor O’Connor indicating that Catoctin would remain in federal ownership as per the authority found in a Federal act dated June 6, 1942.
Letter from the Secretary of Interior	February 29, 1952	Requesting approval from President Truman of “that portion of the Catoctin area that lies south of the Thurmont-Foxville Road, paralleling Hunting Creek ... are no longer essential as a part of the National Capital Parks System.”

GENERAL LEGISLATION	Date	Description
National Parks Omnibus Management Public Law 105-391	November 13, 1998.	Authorized new natural resources and concessions policies.
Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) 7 U.S.C. s/s 136 et seq.	1996	The primary focus of FIFRA was to provide federal control of pesticide distribution, sale, and use.
Hazardous Materials Transportation Act of 1994, as amended by Section 1711 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002. 49 CFR Part 172.101	1994	The Hazardous Materials Transportation Act designates specific materials as hazardous for the purpose of transportation and specifies requirements pertaining to its packaging, labeling, and transportation.
Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 (P2)	1990	Establishes P2 as national environmental policy. Codifies the pollution prevention hierarchy of approaches to waste management: source reduction is the preferred approach, followed by recycling, treatment, and disposal as the last resort. Pollution Prevention: "... any practice which reduces the amount of any hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant, entering any waste stream or otherwise released into the environment (including fugitive emissions) prior to recycling, treatment or disposal; and any practice which reduces the hazards to public health and the environment associated with the release of such substances, pollutants, or contaminants."
Oil Pollution Act of 1990	1990	SPCC Plans-Required
Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act 42 U.S.C. 11001 et seq.	1986	Also known as Title III of SARA, EPCRA was enacted by Congress as the national legislation on community safety. This law was designated to help local communities protect public health, safety, and the environment from chemical hazards.

GENERAL LEGISLATION	Date	Description
Conservation Programs on Military Installations 16 USC 5 § 670a <u>Public Law 99-561, § 2, Oct. 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 3149.</u>	Oct. 27, 1986	(a) (1) (B) Integrated natural resources management plan To facilitate the program, the Secretary of each military department shall prepare and implement an integrated natural resources management plan for each military installation in the United States under the jurisdiction of the Secretary.
Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief Act 42 USC 5195-5197g	1984 as amended in 1988	Title VI requires that each agency develop a program of emergency preparedness. Active duty soldiers can be deployed by FEMA after governor requests a Presidential declaration of a state of emergency.
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act P.L. 96 - 510, 94 Stat. 2767 42 USC 4321-4347	Dec. 11, 1980 as amended in 1996	Section 6002 requires agencies to develop affirmative procurement programs to purchase EPA-designated recycled content products. Requires Hazardous Waste Generator Number Hazard Communication Plan Emergency Response Plan Annual Environmental Audit
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)	December 11, 1980 as amended <u>Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA)</u> on October 17, 1986.	Commonly known as Superfund, this law created a tax on the chemical and petroleum industries and provided broad Federal authority to respond directly to releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances that may endanger public health or the environment.
Archaeological Resources Protection Act 16 USC 470aa-mm Public Law 96-95;	October 31, 1979	ARPA was specifically designed to prevent looting and destruction of archeological resources. ARPA has both an enforcement and a permitting component.



Interpreters strive to educate visitors about elements of the Catoctin ecosystem, including the timber rattlesnake.

GENERAL LEGISLATION	Date	Description
Redwoods Act 16 USC 1(a) 1 Public Law 95-250	March 27, 1978	<i>“Congress further reaffirms, declares, and directs the promotion and regulation of the various areas of the National Park System . . . shall be consistent with and founded in the purpose established by the first section of the Act of August 25, 1916, to the common benefit of all the people of the United States. The authorization of activities shall be construed and the protection, management, and administration of these areas shall be conducted in light of the high public value and integrity of the National Park System and shall not be exercised in derogation of the values and purposes for which these various areas have been established, except as may have been or shall be directly and specifically provided by Congress.”</i>
Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976	1976	
Safe Drinking Water Act	1974 as amended in 1986 and 1996	The Act establishes standards and treatment requirements for drinking water, controls underground injection of wastes that might contaminate water supplies, and protects ground water.
Noise Control Act		Authorizes the establishment of Federal noise emissions standards for products distributed in commerce.
Endangered Species Act	1973 as amended by P.L. 94-325, June 30, 1976; P.L. 94-359, July 12, 1976; P.L. 95-212, December 19, 1977; P.L. 95-632, November 10, 1978; P.L. 96-159, December 28, 1979; 97-304, October 13, 1982; P.L. 98-327, June 25, 1984; and P.L. 100-478, October 7, 1988; P.L. 100-653, November 14, 1988; and P.L. 100-707, November 23, 1988; and P.L. 108-136, November 24, 2003.	Established a federal list of threatened and endangered species
Clean Water Act 33 USC 1251	1972	Established NPDES Permits
General Authorities Act 16 USC	August 18, 1970	Unites all areas under NPS jurisdiction into one system governed by a single set of policies.

GENERAL LEGISLATION	Date	Description
<p>National Environmental Policy Act. Public Law 91-190, 42 USC 4321-4347</p>	<p>January 1, 1970 as amended by Public Law 94-52, July 3, 1975.</p>	<p>NEPA also identifies requirements for Federal agencies. Federal agencies are directed to integrate the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the environmental design arts in planning and decision making, through a "systematic, interdisciplinary approach" (Section 102(2)(A)). And for major Federal actions, agencies are directed to prepare a detailed statement on the impact of the proposed action, and of alternatives to the proposed action (Section 102(2)(C)).</p>
<p>Clean Air Act 42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q</p>	<p>1970</p>	<p>The majority of the amendments to the Clean Air Act were enacted in 1977 and are known as the Clean Air Amendments of 1977 (P.L. 95-95; 91 Stat. 685). The primary objective of the Clean Air Act is to establish Federal standards for various pollutants and to provide for the regulation via state implementation plans. Federal facilities are required to comply with air quality standards to the same extent as nongovernmental entities (42 U.S.C. 7418). Part C of the 1977 amendments stipulates requirements to preserve air quality in national parks, national wilderness areas, national monuments and national seashores (42 U.S.C. 7470).</p>
<p>Historic Preservation Act 16 USC 470</p>	<p>1966</p>	<p>Section 106 directs historic resource compliance efforts.</p>
<p>NPS Organic Act 39 Stat. 535 16 USC 1 et seq.</p>	<p>August 25, 1916</p>	<p>The National Park Service Organic Act of 1916 created today's National Park Service (NPS) within the U.S. Department of the Interior. The Organic Act charges the NPS with a dual mandate to promote and regulate the use of the national parks "by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purpose to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment for the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."</p>

EXECUTIVE ORDERS AFFECTING ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AT FEDERAL FACILITIES	Date	Description
13123		Sections 202-206 set goals for various environmental initiatives
13101	1998	Greening the Government through Waste Prevention and Recycling created the White House Task Force on Waste Prevention and Recycling.
13031		Federal Alternative Fueled Vehicle Leadership
12969		Federal Acquisition and Community Right-to-Know
12902		Energy Efficient and Water Conservation at Federal Facilities
12898		Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations
12875		Enhancing the Intergovernmental Partnership
12873	1993	Acquisition, Recycling and Waste Prevention: created the position of the Federal Environmental Executive (designated by the President), as well as Agency Environmental Executives. This order also set the standard that all federal office paper is to contain at least 30 percent post-consumer recycled content.
12866		Regulatory Planning and Review
12856		Federal Compliance with Right-to-Know Laws and Pollution Prevention: Directs Federal agencies to develop pollution prevention strategies that commit each agency to incorporate P2 through source reduction in facility management. Establishes the Federal Government Environmental Challenge Program, under which EPA developed the Code of Environmental Management Principles for Federal Agencies (CEMP).
12845		Requiring Agencies to purchase Energy Efficient Computer Equipment
12844		Federal Use of Alternative Fuel Vehicles
12843		Procurement Requirements and Policies for Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972.
12759		Federal Emergency Management

AGENCY REGULATIONS

1. 29 CFR 1910 part 1200 – Federal Hazard Communication
2. 36 CFR Parks, Forests and Public Property

DOI/NPS POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

1. Directors Orders 12 Environmental Impact Analysis
2. Directors Orders 13A Environmental Management Systems
3. Directors Orders 25 Land Protection
4. Directors Orders 30B Hazardous Spill Response Training
5. Directors Orders 48A Concession Management
6. Directors Orders 50B Occupations Safety and Health Program
7. Directors Orders 50C Public Risk Management Program
8. Directors Orders 77-2 Floodplain Management
9. Directors Orders 77-1 Wetland Protection
10. Directors Orders 77-7 Integrated Pest Management
11. Directors Orders 77-8 Endangered Species
12. Directors Orders 80 Facility Management
13. Directors Orders 83 Public Health
14. Hazardous Waste Management
15. Pollution Prevention Plan
16. Fuel Storage Management Handbook
17. Solid Waste Management Handbook
18. Environmental Audit Program Operation Guide
19. Responding to Hazardous Substances Releases Handbook

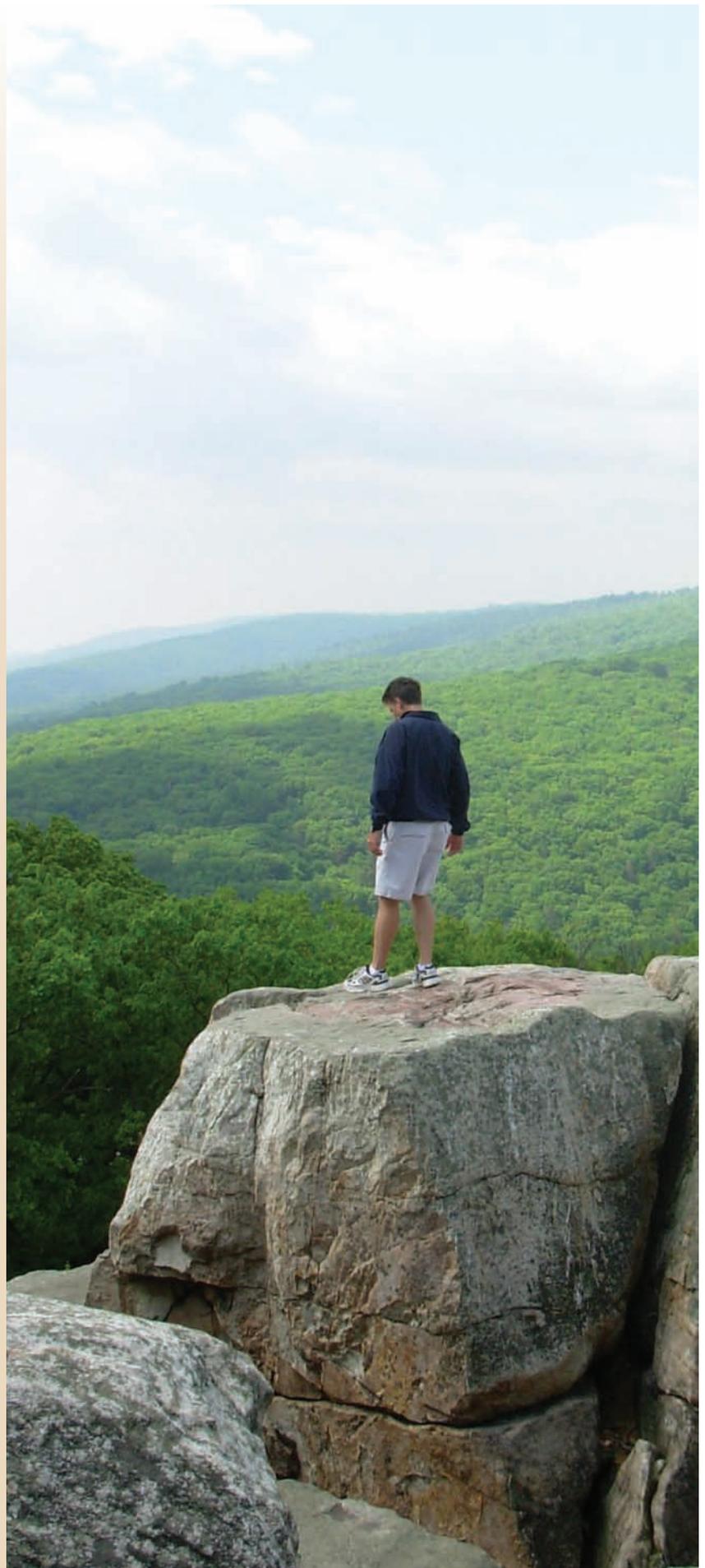
STATE LAWS

1. Environment Article, Title 9, Subtitle 3; COMAR 26.08.01 through 26.08.04.
2. Environment Article, Title 9, Subtitle 3; COMAR 26.08.03.02
3. Environment Article, Title 9; COMAR 26.03.12
4. Environment Article, Title 5, §5-203 and §5-501 through §5-514, Annotated Code of Maryland; COMAR 26.17.06
5. Environment Article Title 9, Subtitle 13; COMAR 26.04.04
6. Nontidal Wetlands (Nontidal Wetlands and Waterways Permits)
7. Erosion/Sediment Control and Stormwater Management Plan Approvals
8. Environment Article, Title 9, Subtitle 3; COMAR 26.08.04
9. Environment Article - Title 9, Subtitle 2, Annotated Code of Maryland; COMAR 26.04.07



“There is nothing so American as our national parks. . . . The fundamental idea behind the parks . . . is that the country belongs to the people, that it is in process of making for the enrichment of the lives of all of us.”

—PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT



Left: Catoctin Mountain Park provides personal interpretation year round. An early snowfall blankets the fall foliage at Hog Rock parking area.

Right: Thousands of visitors come to Catoctin Mountain Park every year to experience the natural beauty and serenity of this national treasure.

Please reduce, reuse, and pass this publication along to other readers.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



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