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For Immediate Release
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President's Budget Requests \$3 billion for National Park Service

BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK, UTAH – President Obama's budget request for fiscal year 2016 – the centennial year of the National Park Service – includes \$3 billion for the bureau's critical conservation, preservation, and recreation mission. The budget boosts the National Park Service's essential programs and operational needs by \$432.9 million. The President's budget highlights the importance of investing in a historic effort to attract and host more visitors as well as leverage additional private philanthropy for the parks.

"In 2016, the National Park Service will celebrate its Centennial by inviting hundreds of millions of Americans to find their park by visiting a park and sharing their favorite park story," said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. "This budget will prepare the National Park Service to ensure that every one of those visitors has a wonderful and safe experience."

"We are pleased at the support for the National Park Service shown in the President's budget as we look forward to celebrating the Park Service Centennial and the next 100 years of stewardship of America's national parks," said Acting Park Superintendent, Wade Vagias. "Like the more than 400 other parks across the country, Bryce Canyon National Park is a cornerstone for both conservation and regional economic vitality, contributing an estimated \$321 million in revenues for Garfield County and southern Utah communities." Over 1.3 million visitors enjoy the many wonders of Bryce Canyon National Park and southern Utah each year.

Jarvis said, "This is an investment in America's Best Idea" that pays dividends in gateway communities across the nation. For every dollar appropriated to the National Park Service in the President's 2016 Centennial budget, \$10 is returned to the American economy in the form of visitor spending, travel and tourism and construction jobs.

The President's budget proposal supports the National Park Service as it works to engage those individuals who will be the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates. It includes funding to put hundreds more seasonal employees in the familiar Green and Gray uniform to work to serve visitors. It also would provide \$40 million in federal matching funds for NPS Centennial Challenge projects, which are designed to leverage partnerships with outside organizations to bring additional funding to support our national parks.

Bryce Canyon is just one of 405 national parks, 23 national scenic and national historic trails, and 60 wild and scenic rivers that National Park Service is charged with preserving for their cultural and historic significance, scenic and environmental worth, and educational and recreational opportunities.

Bryce Canyon National Park protects and conserves resources integral to a landscape of unusual scenic beauty exemplified by highly colored and fantastically eroded geological features, including rock fins and spires, for the benefit and enjoyment of the people. Additional information can also be obtained by visiting the park's website at www.nps.gov/brca or by calling the park's main information line at (435)834-5322.



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