

# land protection plan



## SUMMARY

Current ownership (acres):

Federal	5,958,025
Nonfederal	2,597
Land under application	67,979
Total	<u>6,028,091</u>

Number of tracts remaining to be protected: 527

Methods of protection proposed (acres\*):

fee-simple acquisition through exchange, donation, or purchase	85,292
acquisition of surface estates through exchange, donation, or purchase	627
acquisition of mineral interest through exchange, donation, or purchase	1,300
acquisition of scenic/habitat easements through exchange, donation, or purchase	27,954
fee-simple acquisition of state lands currently outside the park boundary	95,000
zoning	0
regulation	5,290
adequately protected	1,248

Statutory acreage ceiling: 0

Funding status as of December 1, 1984:

Authorized acquisition ceiling:	0
Appropriated to date:	0
Obligated to date:	0
Unobligated balance:	0

Top priorities:

Wolf townships  
Kantishna Hills surface estates

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\*The acreages listed in this section exceed the total nonfederal land acreage because they include mineral interests on federal lands.

## INTRODUCTION

In May 1982 the Department of the Interior issued a policy statement for use of the federal portion of the Land and Water Conservation Fund which requires that, in carrying out its responsibility for land protection in federally administered areas, each agency using the fund will follow the procedures listed below:

Identify what lands or interests in land need to be in federal ownership to achieve management purposes consistent with the public objectives for the unit.

Use to the maximum extent practical cost-effective alternatives to direct federal purchase of private lands and, when acquisition is necessary, acquire or retain only the minimum interests necessary to meet management objectives.

Cooperate with landowners, other federal agencies, state and local governments, and the private sector to manage land for public use and resource conservation.

Formulate, or revise as necessary, plans for land acquisition and resource use or protection to ensure that sociocultural impacts are considered and that the most outstanding areas are adequately managed.

In response to this policy, the National Park Service requires that a land protection plan be prepared for each unit of the national park system that contains private or other nonfederal lands or interests in land within its authorized boundary.

The guiding principle of each land protection plan is to ensure the protection of that unit of the national park system consistent with the stated purpose for which it was created and administered. Land protection plans are intended to accomplish several tasks:

Determine what lands or interests in land need to be in public ownership and what means of protection other than fee acquisition are available to achieve the purpose of the unit as established by Congress.

Inform landowners of National Park Service intentions to buy land or protect it through other means.

Help managers identify priorities for making budget requests and allocating available funds to protect land and unit resources.

Find opportunities to help protect the unit by cooperating with state or local governments, landowners, and the private sector.

A major issue addressed by this plan is the potential for increased traffic on the park road associated with new visitor accommodations that might be built on private lands in the Kantishna Hills. It has been demonstrated that traffic causes avoidance behavior by some wildlife, and one of the objectives of the general management plan is to reduce traffic levels on the road (see the discussion of visitor use and general development in the "General Management Plan" section of this document). Another issue is the protection of important habitat for caribou and wolves that inhabit lands inside the park for much of the year but also utilize adjacent lands.

This plan does not constitute an offer to purchase lands or interests in land; neither does it diminish the rights of nonfederal landowners. The plan is intended to guide subsequent land protection activities subject to the availability of funds and other constraints.

The land protection plan will be reviewed every two years by the superintendent to determine if revisions are required. The superintendent will maintain current land status information, which will be available for review at the park headquarters. If the plan requires revision other than routine updating of land status information, all affected landowners and the general public will be notified and provided a 60-day public comment period.