

ANNUAL SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

FY 2006



SITKA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Approved: /s/ Gregory A. Dudgeon
Superintendent

February, 2007
Date

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PARK PURPOSE AND MISSION STATEMENT

Sitka National Historical Park was established in 1890 as the first federal public park in Alaska. Its purpose was broadened under subsequent enabling legislation in 1910 and 1972. The park preserves, protects, and interprets its natural and cultural resources for the benefit and inspiration of the public. These resources include a battleground, the site of the Kiks.ádi fort *Shiskinoow* (the “village”) and the Russian Memorial (“Russian graves”) associated with the 1804 Battle of Sitka; a collection of Tlingit and Haida totem poles; the grounds and structures associated with the Russian Bishop’s House (“Russian mission”); and the Indian River, tidal flats, and temperate rainforest that give context to the historical events that occurred here.

The park accomplishes its preservation mission and provides for the benefit and inspiration of the public by:

- Protecting and maintaining its resources in accordance with federal legislation including the Antiquities Act, the NPS Organic Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and other relevant conservation laws;
- Ensuring that the public has access to the park and its resources;
- Monitoring park resources to anticipate and respond to changing threats and impacts;
- Providing opportunities for the public to appreciate and experience these resources through authentic, relevant, quality interpretive and education programs and products;
- Adhering to appropriate federal Native American policies, such as maintaining a government-to-government relationship with the Sitka Tribe of Alaska;
- Fostering partnerships that demonstrate the context and relevance of park resources.
- Preserving museum collections that document and perpetuate the park’s natural and cultural history.

PARK SIGNIFICANCE

Sitka National Historical Park is significant for reasons including the following:

- It is the site of a major battle where the Kiks.ádi clan led Tlingit resistance to Russian colonization in Southeast Alaska and where cultural conflicts between these two rich and contrasting cultures are interpreted.
- It includes the Russian Bishop’s House, which is the most intact structure of the four that remain from the Russian-America period in North America. The building represents the role and influence of the Russian Orthodox Church on the people of Alaska, which continues into the present time.

- It contains totem poles that exemplify the talents, arts, and cultures of Native peoples throughout Southeast Alaska and are presented in an authentic historical context.
- It fosters the preservation and interpretation of Alaska Native cultures through its partnership with the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center, a nonprofit organization that since 1969 has preserved and perpetuated traditional art and culture for visitors and residents.
- It has a long-standing role in the storage, preservation, and display of tribally-owned artifacts that are still used by Native Alaskans for cultural purposes.
- The convergence of the Indian River, the coastal rainforest, and the sea provides an inspiring, biologically - rich environment that is critical to understanding the events that took place here.
- The hydrologic processes of the Indian River and tidal waters, along with good water quality, support important riparian and floodplain communities and intertidal wetlands which provide essential habitat for native fish and wildlife.

STRATEGIES FOR ACCOMPLISHING GOALS

In FY 2006, Sitka National Historical Park emphasized:

1. Strengthening relationships with formal partners including the Sitka Tribe of Alaska and affiliated Tlingit clans; the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center; the Alaska Natural History Association; the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, the City and Borough of Sitka, the Sitka School District, Sitka Trail Works, and the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium.
2. Providing a diverse range of interpretive and education programs for people and cultures from around the world.
3. Targeting key external audiences and stakeholder groups, reaching out to them with the park's mission, themes, and values.
4. Updating outreach strategies and plans.
5. Increasing interaction with the public to ensure greater understanding of the park purpose; its resource conditions including current needs and threats; and the opportunities for inspiration and recreation.
6. Expanding electronically available information about the park and its partners.
7. Upgrading presentation methods and the content of interpretive media.
8. Developing priorities for treatment of natural resources and mitigating impacts and threats.
9. Performing "year two" of the park-wide archeological sites inventory and developing priorities for treatment of cultural resources based on national significance and the degree of known threats to the resource.
10. Developing a realistic sustainable budget plan and staffing strategy for the park for FY 2006 – 10 using the Core Evaluation process.
11. Using the Servicewide Strategic Plan as the primary driver in budget decisions.
12. Maintaining the diversity of park staff.
13. Broadening the Environmental Management and Safety programs to improve results.

14. Using visitor surveys to measure current visitor understanding and satisfaction levels.
15. Serving as one of seven “pilot parks” for the National Park Service’s “Healthy Parks Initiative”. The purpose of the initiative is to champion parks as places for healthful recreation and physical activity.

KEY EXTERNAL FACTORS AFFECTING GOAL ACHIEVEMENT

1. Environmental Issues: Sitka National Historical Park is located within an area prone to earthquakes, tsunamis, torrential rain, and frequent high winds. Indian River, which flows through the park, can flood resulting in resource damage. Wind storms may damage natural or cultural resources and park infrastructure.
2. Human Caused Effects: The park is located within Alaska’s fifth largest community, a city of 8,500 people. As such, SITK experiences illegal activities including vandalism, drug and alcohol abuse, unlawful bicycle riding, illegal gathering of plant and animal materials, and has had two recent assaults on staff. Development upstream of the park has the potential to affect water quality and associated resources. Adjacent development affects historic viewsheds and natural soundscapes. The park's coastline is potentially affected by significant vessel traffic including large cruise ships. A fuel or oil spill could severely damage the park's resources. Large increases in cruise ship visitors or cruise ship infrastructure could affect park values, air quality, natural soundscapes, and visitor satisfaction.
3. Partner Relationships: SITK depends on its 38-year partnership with the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center (SEAICC) to help educate and inspire visitors. Positive relationships with the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, a federally recognized Tribal government, Tlingit clans, the City and Borough of Sitka, Sheldon Jackson College, the State of Alaska and other organizations and local institutions are critical for effective park management.
4. Economic Factors: The cost of living in Sitka is high. Housing is in short supply and expensive. SITK’s isolated location outside the road system results in higher than normal costs for travel. These factors can affect recruitment and retention of highly-skilled employees.

FY 2006 ANNUAL GOALS and PARK ACHIEVEMENTS

Ia01C. By September 30, 2008, 5 of 10 (50%) of SITK’s wetland acres achieve desired conditions where conditions are known and are specified in the General Management Plan.

Ia01C. FY06 annual goal: By September 30, 2006, SITK will inspect 5 acres of park wetlands and maintain inspected areas to desired conditions.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Goal met. The park's natural resource staff monitored wetlands health, water quality, and soils in and around the former asphalt plant and at a river control site in an effort to determine whether toxics were present. Test results show that park wetlands are within compliance parameters with all State and federal laws.

Intermittent ponds in the park were also sampled. These ponds are generally dry during most of the summer, but refill as the rainy season returns. Species of *Lenarchus* and *Limnephilus* caddisflies were found to colonize these ponds, usually hatching in late summer or early fall, growing through much of the winter, then pupating and emerging as adults before the ponds dry up in the spring or summer.

The park conducted water quality sampling of two drainages originating outside the park. Due to a past report of contamination around an old incinerator near the Indian River, cadmium, mercury, and iron were added as parameters for analysis for a river tributary in the park.

Resources Expended: ONPS \$9,000; All Other Sources \$0; FTE-NPS .1; FTE-Non NPS .1

Ia01D. By September 30, 2008, .61 miles of riparian habitat in SITK will be monitored and maintained to desired conditions.

Ia01D. FY06 annual goal: By September 30, 2006, .61 miles of riparian habitat in SITK will be monitored and maintained to desired conditions.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: **Goal met.** Many park studies have been completed along Indian River, most of which have focused on its hydrological, physical, and chemical aspects. Little attempt has been made to study the ecological relationships of the river system and riparian areas. The first step in understanding the system biologically is to complete inventories of key elements. Macroinvertebrates are critical in energy transfer both along the allochthonous (outside input) and autochthonous (produced within system) energy pathways. There has been a continuous effort to collect Indian River macroinvertebrates over the past five years in attempt to inventory and identify species present and to gain some knowledge of the importance of various groups. Macroinvertebrates tend to be sensitive to environmental change and are good indicators of ecosystem health.

Many taxa have been collected. Primary species identified were mayflies (*Ephemeroptera*), stoneflies (*Plecoptera*), and caddisflies (*Trichoptera*). Over 51 species have been identified, representing 24 families. A macroinvertebrate database was compiled and 123 specimens have been catalogued for inclusion in the park's museum collections. Species found in the Indian River have been consistent with what has been found in other studies in Southeastern Alaska, the Pacific Northwest, British Columbia, and the Yukon.

Water and soil samples were collected in and around the old asphalt plant site and at a control site during the spring and fall in a continuing monitoring effort to determine if toxics are leaching from the plant. Parameters tested at a commercial water quality testing lab included N-Hexane extractable material, oil and grease, hardness, pH, non-filterable residue, alkalinity, and iron. Conductivity, pH, temperature, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen were also collected onsite using a Hydrolab Quanta.

Water samples were collected during the spring monitoring period from two drainages originating outside the park that were suspected of contributing pollution inputs to the Indian

River within the park. Collection was in response to an observation of bacterial or algae growth in one drainage and an algal bloom in Indian River below the input of the other.

The water samples were tested for both drainages (three sites) by a commercial water quality lab for the following parameters: total and dissolved iron, total phosphorous, phosphate, total nitrogen, nitrate, sulfates, major cations and anions, pH, dissolved organic matter, BOD, fecal coliforms and others. Onsite data on conductivity, pH, temperature, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen was also collected at these locations using a Hydrolab Quanta.

Results indicated that the park's waters were within State standards during the time they were sampled.

During the reporting period, staff worked with local students and volunteers from the community to study the role of macro invertebrates in incorporating marine-derived nutrients into the aquatic/riparian ecosystem. The park provided formal presentations on Indian River stream ecology to University of Alaska and Sheldon Jackson College students to help them understand how natural stream systems work and what is required to maintain them in an unimpaired condition.

Resources Expended: ONPS \$8,000; All Other Sources \$2,000; FTE-NPS .1; FTE-Non NPS .1

Ia01E. By September 30, 2008, 25 of 50 (50%) acres of SITK uplands achieve desired conditions where conditions are known and specified in the park's General Management Plan.

Ia01E. FY06 annual goal: By September 30, 2006, 8 acres (16% of 50 acres) of SITK's uplands achieve desired conditions where conditions are known and specified in the park's General Management Plan.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: **Goal met.** Eight acres of park uplands were monitored and desired conditions maintained, which are delineated in the park's General Management Plan as: "The park's natural resources and processes are conserved and protected..." and, "The rainforest and other vegetation communities are preserved, protected, and interpreted."

SITK is located in a temperate rainforest that receives approximately 96 inches of precipitation annually. Forest overstory is primarily western hemlock and Sitka spruce. The area generally has cool, moist summers and relatively warm, wet winters. This climate provides an idea habitat for nonvascular plants, especially moisture loving bryophytes. Kitty LaBounty returned again in 2006 as the summer biological technician after having completed a two-year study in 2005 of the park's nonvascular plants. LaBounty's work was the first non-vascular plant study ever undertaken in the park.

Survey methods were devised for maximum species capture instead of quantitative information about each species' abundance. Some reassessment of bryophyte abundance was done in 2005 due to the availability of fallen trees from the extreme wind event on December 16, 2004. Dr.

Judy Harpel, Regional Interagency Bryologist for the USDA Forest Service verified identification of selected species. Collections of each bryophyte species encountered were deposited in the park's Herbarium. An additional 10 species of bryophytes were added to the list generated in 2004.

A preliminary inventory of lichens was also completed in 2005-06. Upper canopy epiphytes were studied using fallen branches and trees. Trunk epiphytes of *Alnus sinuata* and *Picea sitchensis* were examined from trimmed shrubs. The lichens collected were largely species reported to occur in similar sites in the Tongass National Forest by Geiser et al. One previously unreported species, *Vulpicida pinastri*, was identified from one extremely small collection from trimmed *Alnus sinuata* adjacent to the Visitor Center. It has not been found elsewhere in the park. Notable is the absence of species considered common in coastal forests. *Lobaria oregana* and *Hypogymnia duplicata* were not found in the park and only one small population of *Lobaria linita* was located.

The nonvascular plant database was updated and museum specimens were prepared and added to the park's herbarium. Approximately 100 species of bryophytes, 67 species of moss, 33 species of liverworts and 12 fern and allied species were identified. Approximately 86 species of lichen were identified in SITK.

The 2004 December windstorm noted earlier felled 50+ mature spruce and hemlock trees in the park. Damage was widespread, but particularly heavy near the site of the Russian Memorial. \$15,000.00 was obtained from the AKRO's Repair and Rehabilitation emergency fund to repair trails and remove woody debris from park trails the following year. A hazard tree analysis was performed by trained staff from the USDA Forest Service. Trees tops and limbs posing risk to park users were removed, while damaged trees determined to be of no risk to humans were left to allow natural processes to continue.

An exotic plant survey and report completed for SITK by Whitney Rapp in 2005 was followed with a week-long eradication effort in 2006. Rapp returned this past summer with a Public Land Corps team comprised of Alaska Native high school youth. The team removed nearly one ton of Japanese knotweed, creeping buttercup, and European mountain ash - invasive plants that have established major footholds in the park and represent threats to the park's ecosystem if not contained. The number of exotic species in the park has increased since the original exotic survey was completed by Densmore et al. in 2001. Nine new exotic species have been documented. Reed canary grass, a highly aggressive species, is now growing near the park boundary along Sawmill Creek Road.

Resources Expended: ONPS \$27,000; All Other Sources \$2,000; FTE-NPS .2; FTE-Non NPS .2

Ia01F. By September 30, 2008, 20 of 50 (40%) of SITK's marine and estuarine acres for which conditions are known and specified in the park's General Management Plan achieve desired conditions.

Ia01F. FY06 annual goal: By September 30, 2006, 20 acres of SITK marine and estuarine habitat is maintained in desired condition.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Goal met. During the reporting period, 20 acres of the park's marine and estuarine habitat were monitored and determined to be in desired condition, as delineated in the park's General Management Plan. "The estuarine and other intertidal habitats and resources are preserved, protected and interpreted."

Intertidal monitoring protocols have been developed for the park's extensive intertidal zone to establish an inventory baseline and for continued monitoring to detect future changes or impacts to the resource. Final analysis and other fine tuning of the developed protocols remains to be done, but monitoring has continued since the early summer of 2005.

The park worked with Dr. Sandra Lindstrom of the University of British Columbia on a Coastal Grant Application to provide for a systematic, multi-seasonal, marine algae survey of the park's tidelines. While the grant has yet to be awarded as of 2006, SITK continues to seek funding for this important project.

In response to potential impacts from a proposed cruise ship pier that was to have been constructed adjacent to the park in 2005, an eelgrass monitoring study was conducted. The pier was to have been built through eelgrass beds adjacent to the park boundary on submerged lands leased by Sheldon Jackson College. Eel grass is a biologically sensitive habitat and vulnerable to disturbance. Eelgrass beds support a diverse ecosystem, elements of which can be used as indicators of ecosystem health and biological impacts over time. The pier proposal has been dropped for the time being – largely due to widespread concerns of impairments to the park and campus of Sheldon Jackson College, a National Historic Landmark – but could be revisited again in the future.

Resources Expended: ONPS \$12,000; All Other Sources \$0; FTE-NPS .1; FTE-Non NPS .1

Ia4A. By September 30, 2008, the surface water quality of the Indian River and all streams in SITK meet the state of Alaska's EPA-approved water quality standards.

Ia4A. FY06 annual goal: By September 30, 2006, .4 miles (65%) of the Indian River's stream surface miles in SITK are monitored routinely and meet the state of Alaska's and EPA-approved water quality standards.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Goal met. Approximately .4 miles (65%) of the Indian River was monitored in 2006, including tributaries and DEC-required monitoring locations. Water quality was also monitored through seasonal macroinvertebrate inventories.

To further improve monitoring, work continued on the development for macroinvertebrate sampling protocols. These efforts work toward the desired future conditions as described in the park's General Management Plan as "Water quality and minimum streamflows required to sustain the dependent biota in the Indian River."

Resources Expended: ONPS \$80,000; All Other Sources \$0; FTE-NPS .8; FTE-Non NPS .1

Ia4B. By September 30, 2008, 50 of 50 acres (100%) of estuarine and marine areas managed by SITK will meet state of Alaska and federal water quality standards, as defined by the Clean Water Act.

Ia4B. FY06 annual goal: By September 30, 2006, the surface water quality of 30 acres (60%) of estuarine and marine waters located in SITK are routinely monitored and maintained to meet state of Alaska and federal water quality standards as defined by the Clean Water Act.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: **Goal met.** The surface water quality of 30 acres (60%) of estuarine and marine waters within SITK were monitored and determined to meet state of Alaska and Federal water quality standards as defined by the Clean Water Act.

In 2006, 30 acres of the park's marine and estuarine habitat were monitored and maintained in desired condition, as delineated in the park's General Management Plan as "The estuarine and other intertidal habitats and resources are preserved, protected and interpreted."

Intertidal monitoring protocols were developed for the park's extensive intertidal zone to establish an inventory baseline for continued monitoring to detect future changes or impacts to the resource. Final analysis and other fine tuning of the developed protocols remains to be done, but monitoring has been performed since the early summer of 2005.

The park worked with Dr. Sandra Lindstrom, University of British Columbia, on a Coastal Grant Application to provide for a systematic, multi-seasonal, marine algae survey of the park's tidelines. The required grant has yet to be awarded, but the park continues to seek funding for this important project. SITK collaborated with Aaron Baldwin of Sheldon Jackson College, setting up a sampling transect that cut through the park's intertidal zone out to a depth of 200 meters. Non-destructive sampling of marine invertebrates was performed along the transect during the 2006 summer, and a marine invertebrates species list with common names was developed to make it more useful for interpreters and the park's educational specialist.

Resources Expended: ONPS \$15,000; All Other Sources \$0; FTE-NPS .2; FTE-Non NPS .1

Ia4C. By September 30, 2008, SITK will contribute to the protection of water quantity in Indian River through development and implementation of an instream flow agreement with river basin stakeholders.

Ia4C. FY06 annual goal: By September 30, 2006, SITK will:

- *Support and collaborate on a joint river gauging project with Sheldon Jackson College, the City and Borough of Sitka and the US Geological Survey.*
- *Seek to obtain official determinations by Alaska DNR of existing water rights of the Indian River.*

- Participate as a task group member of the Indian River Corridor and Watershed Master Plan for review of proposed developments in proximity to the river.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: **Goal met.** Monitoring of seasonal instream flows of the Indian River remains a very high priority at SITK. During the reporting period, the park provided staff time and \$10,000 from the NPS' Inventory and Monitoring program to obtain FY 2006 data from the U.S. Geological Survey for the partnership consisting of the City and Borough of Sitka, Sheldon Jackson College, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The year's products include 12 months of additional river flow data from Indian River to add to existing records.

This was the 20th year that an in-river gauge has been installed in the river. Data provided includes flow rate, conductivity, and temperature. Reading and maintaining the gauge has been a collaborative effort in the past involving park staff and USGS. Data from the gauge is collected and added to existing data sets for the purposes of conservation and eventual adjudication of instream flows among the partners.

The park continued to seek legal determination of existing water rights of the Indian River from the Alaska Division of Natural Resources. While official State determinations are still pending, constructive dialogue between federal, State and City/Borough agencies on water rights issues continues to improve.

The park had a hand in finalizing the Indian River Watershed Corridor Master Plan. The Plan was a product of collaborative effort between federal, State and City/Borough agencies and private landowners along the river. The Plan identifies ownership and boundaries, documents current environmental conditions, identifies potential impacts and future development plans, and recommends appropriate "Best Practice" techniques to achieve and maintain desired conditions in the watershed corridor.

SITK's superintendent continues to participate as a key member of the Plan's working group.

Resources Expended: ONPS \$16,000; All Other Sources \$0; FTE-NPS .2; FTE-Non NPS .1

Ia5. By September 30, 2008, 100% of Sitka National Historical Park's historic structures on the current List of Classified Structures (LCS) are in good condition.

Ia5. FY06 annual goal: By September 30, 2006, 24 of 24 (100%) of SITK's historic structures on the current List of Classified Structures (LCS) are in good condition.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: **Goal exceeded** (25 rather than 24). As of September 30, 2005, all of the park's 25 LCS structures have been evaluated, found in good condition and are accurately reported on the LCS. The annual goal of having 24 LCS structures in good condition was exceeded because a new structure in good condition was added to the database.

All 25 of the structures listed on the park's LCS were examined during 2006. All were found to be in "good" condition. SITK staff regularly check LCS structures. These include totem poles

and other large carvings, historic features (revetments) situated along the park's trail system, and historic buildings used by the park. The Russian Bishop's House received an annual detailed inspection by a historic architect, as well as daily environmental inspection using digital loggers. Curation staff inspects the structures on a monthly basis throughout the year, though during the visitor season (summer), staff inspect the RBH daily.

Based on a report completed by wood conservators at Harper's Ferry Center, the park began designing interpretive signs for an exhibit of the park's oldest totem poles, which are tangible records of the history of totem preservation. To create an educational component of the project, park staff developed and made available an interactive web learning tool for classrooms based "E-Field trip" on the history, culture, and preservation of totem poles. The product was titled: "Timeless Totems: The Carved History of Sitka National Historical Park." It was completed and available online in March of 2006, the 100th anniversary of the poles' initial placement in the park. Over 4,000 students used the program between March and June, 2006.

Security codes were reprogrammed again for the alarm systems in the park's historic buildings. Daily foot patrols of the park's trails were made to monitor totem poles and other historic structures. The park's Emergency Operations Plan, which includes security and fire protection procedures for historic buildings, was updated. The improved fire suppression system installed in the Russian Bishop's House, and mechanical and climate controls updated in 2005 were monitored and serviced. Emergency response kits have been bled and are strategically located to help protect cultural property and artifacts.

"Healthy Parks" project funding allowed our increased staff to provide more roving interpretation. This in turn helped the park serve more visitors more effectively than in previous years. Interpreters provided daily roves on park trails and in historic structures during the summer. Roves also occurred at the Russian Bishop's House grounds and museum as staffing allowed. Volunteer gardeners dressed in period costume also provided informal interpretation and monitoring at the RBH. With an increased emphasis on roving, informal interpretive contacts tripled this year from that of 2004.

SITK continued to participate in the very popular annual historic buildings walking tour of Sitka, with different buildings featured each year. This year's event provided staff with the opportunity to showcase the RBH, a National Register/NHL site that local residents may have been unable or unwilling to visit during the hectic summer tourist season.

SITK also provided a tour of the RBH for 40 Russian diplomats visiting Sitka, including an Aide to Russian President Vladimir Putin and most of the governors from Eastern Russia. Their visit to historic Russian America sites in Sitka may be a prelude to a formal meeting between Putin and President George W. Bush tentatively discussed for 2007.

Resources Expended: ONPS \$136,000; All Other Sources \$4,000; FTE-NPS 1.4; FTE-Non NPS 1.7

Ia6. By September 30, 2008, 380 of 420 (90.47%) applicable preservation and protection standards for SITK's museum collections are met.

Ia6. FY06 annual goal: By September 30, 2006, 354 (88.27%) of 401 applicable preservation and protection standards for SITK's museum collections are met.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: **Goal exceeded** (375 of 421 applicable standards met, or 88.57%). Since the number of applicable standards increased in 2006, the “percentage of standards met” gives a more realistic view of the progress SITK made in 2006. The goal was exceeded due to additional funding this year which allowed the park's STF Museum Specialist to work through most of her anticipated furlough, in addition to the contributions of several museum volunteers. In addition to other accomplishments, light levels in center exhibit case were lowered, and the hazardous material cabinet was stabilized.

The park continued collaboration with seven local Tlingit clan houses for museum care of their ceremonial objects. Ninety-five per cent of all objects exhibited in the park's visitor center are owned by local Tlingit clans. Three hundred thousand visitors each year benefit from these partnerships. At the same time local clans benefit – receiving museum care for their ceremonial objects, and retaining jurisdiction over traditional property. Several of these agreements have been in effect for almost forty years.

With the enactment of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) in 1990, local clans have actively pursued the return of clan property from museums throughout the country. Although these traditional owners wish to use their property when it is returned to them, they have turned to the park to provide local safekeeping for these items while they are not in use - and in some cases to provide advice on its care.

Since 1997, SITK has entered six additional agreements for care of fourteen items of clan property returned to Sitka through NAGPRA (six agreements with six clan houses from four clans). During 2006, clan-owned items were actively used by their traditional owners. Although the cumulative impact of this activity takes a toll on curatorial time, the park receives corresponding benefits. As staff consider an agreement with each house leader who requests museum care, they are asked to name a reciprocal service they wish to provide the park in return. This service is included in the written agreement for the care. Most House leaders are pleased to have their objects exhibited while not in use, and they have also written the interpretive text or otherwise assist with the exhibit.

Several who are exceptional in cultural knowledge and interpretive ability have agreed to speak yearly to park staff on the role of their *at.óow* in Tlingit culture, and others willingly do impromptu interpretation for visiting dignitaries. Several other “short term” park assisted storage arrangements have taken place during the past year – a carving for the Mother Coho house, and human remains and funerary objects for the Kiks.ádi.

SITK entered an agreement in June at the request of the Kiks.ádi clan of Sitka Tlingit for two shaman's masks and a shaman's headdress belonging to the clan. Originally from the Sitka area, the items were returned to the Kiks.ádi through NAGPRA by the National Museum of the

American Indian and the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, respectively. Under the clan's direction, these long term loan additions to the park's museum collection may be used for educational purposes.

The Park provided museum care for a new, forty-foot red cedar totem pole that was added to the museum collection this year. The pole, which was carved at the park during the summer, was raised at an entrance to the park trail in September. The pole is a replica of the original Yaadaas Crest pole erected in the park one hundred years ago. The new pole's carvers, Timothy and Joseph Young, are members of the Kaigani Haida Yaadaas clan whose crest is displayed on the original Yaadaas pole. The original Yaadaas Crest pole, which remains in the museum collection, has undergone a variety of conservation methods over the past century. It was retired from park trails several years ago, and is now featured in a park exhibit on totem conservation.

The park sustained its formal partnership with the Russian Orthodox Church of Alaska for loan of ceremonial and historic objects. These objects include original furnishings and icons of the Russian Bishop's House, a National Historic Landmark that the park maintains. Over half the furnishings of the Russian Bishop's House (eighty-two items) are made available through this partnership.

Park staff hosted five traditional Russian Orthodox services in the chapel of the RBH in 2006. As a condition of its sale to the NPS, the Orthodox Church of America retained the right to continue holding services during the year. The Alaskan Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church conducts the services, which require assistance from all divisions of park staff, and are enjoyed by park visitors as well as the local Russian Orthodox congregation.

SITK hosted the Joint Siberian-Alaska Research Group on Russian America. The group of four Irkutsk museum directors and archaeologists and two Alaska archaeologists were visiting significant Russian American sites in North America. The mission of their trip included sharing information across international boundaries and planning a 2007 Conference on Russian America to be held in Irkutsk. A member of the group, Natalya Volkova, directs the Shelikov Museum with whom the park entered a museum loan last year.

Resources Expended: ONPS \$152,000; All Other Sources \$5,000; FTE-NPS 1.5; FTE-Non NPS .2

Ia7. By September 30, 2008, 1 of 6 cultural landscapes on the current Cultural Landscapes Inventory for SITK are in good condition.

Ia7. FY06 Annual Goal: By September 30, 2006, 0 of 6 cultural landscapes on the current Cultural Landscapes Inventory for SITK are in good condition.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: **Goal met.** SITK's identified Cultural Landscape (Indian River Park) is in "Fair" condition. The park monitored the landscape condition and threats in 2006. One of the threats to condition noted in the CLI (impacts to viewshed) improved in 2006, a major proposed development project (a deepwater dock) was abandoned and the park is in the process

of erecting a fence to screen the view toward a private residential property adjacent to a park boundary. Other threats are currently being managed in accordance with the park's General Management Plan.

Resources Expended: ONPS \$41,000; All Other Sources \$1,000; FTE-NPS .5; FTE-Non NPS .6

Ia08. By September 30, 2008, one of one (100%) of SITK's archeological sites to be listed on the NPS Archeological Sites Management Information System (ASMIS), with a condition assessment, is in good condition.

Ia08. FY06 Annual Goal: By September 30, 2006, 0% of SITK's archeological sites are listed on the NPS Archeological Sites Management Information System (ASMIS).

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Goal met. 2006 was the second field season in the park's four-year archeological survey funded through the Systemwide Archeological Inventory Program (SAIP) and CRPP. The survey is designed to identify and document the full range of sites in the park, with special interest in locations and structures associated with the 1804 Battle (*Daawootl Tlein*) in which the Tlingit fought Russian fur traders for control of their territory. The project is being conducted in partnership with the NPS Midwest Archaeological Center (MWAC). The project has located evidence of the battle, Russian homesteads, and Tlingit subsistence activities.

In 2006, a variety of sites were located and archeological features were radiocarbon dated. The park has conducted the project with a spirit of open communication with the public and in consultation with the Sitka Tribe of Alaska and the Kiks.ádi clan, whose ancestors fought in the battle. This has been accomplished through collaboration with two Native Alaskan liaisons who serve as points of contact for the groups, and key staff responding to public requests for information, creating and delivering educational programs, creating and delivering programs for staff training, responding to media requests (national magazine articles, local public radio and newspaper), creating a news item for WASO's archeological eGram which is now posted on the WASO webpage on Archeology in the parks, and writing a "research in progress" item for CRM journal (to be published winter 2006).

These efforts have helped the park widely spread the word about the park, its resources and its strong commitment to the best practices in resource protection and civic engagement.

Resources Expended: ONPS \$80,000; All Other Sources \$7,000; FTE-NPS .7; FTE-Non NPS .1

Ib01. By September 30, 2008, 4 of 6 (66%) of primary SITK natural resource inventories identified in the Resource Management Plan or other park documents are completed.

Ib01. FY06 Annual Goal: By September 30, 2006, 1 of 6 (17%) of primary SITK natural resource inventories identified in the Resource Management Plan or other park documents are completed.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: **Goal exceeded.** Seven primary databases established for natural resource inventorying and monitoring were populated in 2006. These databases include: freshwater macroinvertebrate collections; wildlife observations; asphalt /tributary water quality monitoring; nonvascular plant survey; breeding bird survey; park bird list observations and updates; and a marine invertebrate species list.

Resources Expended: ONPS \$7,000; All Other Sources \$0; FTE-NPS .1; FTE-Non NPS 0

Ib2A. By September 30, 2008, the number of SITK sites inventoried, evaluated and listed in the Archeological Sites Management Information System (ASMIS) is increased from 0 in FY2004 to 1 (100% increase).

Ib2A. FY06 Annual Goal: By September 30, 2006, the number of SITK archeological sites inventoried, evaluated, and listed in the Archeological Sites Management Information System (ASMIS) remains at 0.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Goal met. The number of sites the park has recorded in ASMIS remained at 0, but SITK has now completed the second of a four year archeological inventory with the help of the Midwest Archeological Center.

While working closely with the MWAC, and Tribal and clan partners, approximately 500 artifacts have been collected, and a number of potential site locations were recovered for further examination. These areas included charcoal deposits along the base of the 20' terrace behind the visitor center (with one yielding a radiocarbon date of 2500 B.P.), and exposure of portions of the pre-1870 corduroy road. In all approximately 750 shovel test units were excavated and screened during the five weeks of fieldwork in 2006

The park-wide archeological inventory is designed to identify and document the full range of sites in the park, with special interest in locations and structures associated with the 1804 Battle (*Daawootl Tlein*). The initial (2005) field season located evidence of the battle, Russian homesteads, and possible Tlingit subsistence activities. This high profile project is being conducted with a spirit of open communication with the public and consultation with the Sitka Tribe of Alaska and the *Kiks.ádi* clan, whose ancestors fought in the battle. In addition to meetings and written communications, both the Tribe and the clan have appointed liaisons to work closely with project staff. These strategies worked well this past year and will continue throughout the project.

Resources Expended: ONPS \$116,000; All Other Sources \$87,000; FTE-NPS .4; FTE-Non NPS .4

Ib2B. By September 30, 2008, the SITK cultural landscapes on the Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) that have complete, accurate and reliable information are increased by 100% from FY 2003 (from 0 to 1 Landscapes).

Ib2B. FY06 Annual Goal: By September 30, 2006, SITK cultural landscapes on the Cultural Landscapes Inventory that have complete, accurate, and reliable information are increased by 100% from FY 2003 (from 0 to 1 Landscapes).

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Goal met. SITK added “Indian River Park” to the CLI in 2005 when the Alaska SHPO concurred with the CLI recommendation that the landscape be determined eligible for the National Register.

Resources Expended: ONPS \$3,000; All Other Sources \$0; FTE-NPS 0; FTE-Non NPS 0

Ib2C. By September 30, 2008, 24 of 24 (100%) of SITK’s historic structures on the FY2003 List of Classified Structures have complete, accurate and reliable information.

Ib2C. FY06 Annual Goal: By September 30, 2006, 24 of 24 (100%) of SITK’s historic structures on the FY2003 List of Classified Structures have complete, accurate and reliable information.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Goal met. All 24 resources on SITK's LCS during the 2003 base reporting year were recorded with complete, accurate, and reliable information. The LCS was updated to reflect revised determinations of significance documented by the park's completed CLI. Park consultation with ARO LCS staff resulted in a revised, more appropriate resource category for one resource (the WWII gun revetments).

Resources Expended: ONPS \$11,000; All Other Sources \$0; FTE-NPS .1; FTE-Non NPS 0

Ib2D. By September 30, 2008, the number of SITK museum objects cataloged and submitted to the National Catalog is increased from 109,751 in FY2001 to 124,645 in FY08.

Ib2D. FY06 Annual Goal: By September 30, 2006, the number of Sitka National Historical Park museum objects cataloged and submitted to the National Catalog is increased from 128,150 in FY2001 to 137,857 (a 7.58% increase). Note written in Oct. 2005: corrected baseline number for FY01 is 109,751. See FY05 accomplishment comments for explanation.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Goal exceeded (new total: 155,5871208). 27,741 items were cataloged in 2006, when 1000 had been projected. Additional funding allowed a STF Museum Specialist to work additional weeks focused on backlog cataloging. During the project, the majority of items chosen among those waiting cataloging were Archival/Manuscript items (10.8 linear feet = 17,287 items), rather than anticipated historical items which are considerably more time consuming per item to catalog. Additionally, FY 2006’s archaeological inventory project items were cataloged for the park at the MWAC, then added to the museum collection this year.

Resources Expended: ONPS \$124,000; All Other Sources \$1,000; FTE-NPS 1.4; FTE-Non NPS .2

Ib2E. By September 30, 2008, the number of SITK's ethnographic resources inventoried, evaluated and entered on the NPS Ethnographic Resources Inventory (ERI) is increased from 5 in FY2001 to six (17% increase).

Ib2E. FY06 Annual Goal: By September 30, 2006, SITK will establish a consultation meeting with ARO staff responsible for maintaining the region's Ethnographic Resource Inventory (ERI). Result will be to identify one in-park ethnographic resource to include in the ERI.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: **Goal met** (6). Park staff, in partnership with the MWAC, the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, and the Kiks.ádi clan, continued a program of research focusing on the ethnographic resource previously selected for entry on the ERI (Indian River/Kasdaheen) in 2006. The research will support ARO's need for information to support the existing ERI entry. The research has included completion of an ethnobotany project in partnership with Sitka Tribe of Alaska, and continuing archeological investigations which have yielded previously unknown features and radiocarbon dates.

Resources Expended: ONPS \$14,000; All Other Sources \$1,000; FTE-NPS .2; FTE-Non NPS 0

Ib2F. By September 30, 2008, SITK's Historic Resource Study (HRS) and Administrative History are completed to professional, current (approved since 1985) standards.

Ib2F. FY06 Annual Goal: By September 30, 2006, SITK's Historic Resource Study (HRS) and Administrative History are completed to professional, current (approved since 1985) standards.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: **Goal met**. SITK's Administrative History (Hanable and Antonsen 1987) and Historic Resource Study (Griffin 2000) are current, accurate, and approved.

Additional research and communication of research findings in 2006 includes:

Park Archeological Survey

2006 was the second field season in the park's four-year archeological survey funded through the Systemwide Archeological Inventory Program (SAIP) and CRPP. The survey is designed to identify and document the full range of sites in the park, with special interest in locations and structures associated with the 1804 Battle in which the Tlingit fought Russian fur traders for control of their territory. The project is being conducted in partnership with the NPS Midwest Archaeological Center (MWAC). The project has located evidence of the battle, Russian homesteads, and Tlingit subsistence activities.

In 2006, a variety of sites were located and archeological features were radiocarbon dated. The park historian has supported the project in its efforts to conduct the project with a spirit of open communication with the public and consultation with the Sitka Tribe of Alaska and the Kiks.ádi clan, whose ancestors fought in the battle. This has been accomplished by responding to public requests for information, creating and delivering educational programs, creating and delivering programs for staff training, responding to media requests (national magazine articles, local public radio and newspaper), creating a news item for WASO's archeological eGram which is now

posted on the WASO webpage on Archeology in the parks, and writing a “research in progress” item for CRM journal (to be published winter 2006). These efforts have helped the park widely spread the word about the park, its resources and its strong commitment to the best practices in resource protection and civic engagement.

The Cottages Community

Planning and collection research continued for the third year of this three-year oral history based research project describing an historic Native community that borders the park. In 2006, the park historian conducted historical collections research in support of the project at libraries, archives and museums in Philadelphia and Washington State. Especially valuable was a research trip to the Presbyterian Historical Society archives in Philadelphia. As the main archive documenting the history of the Presbyterian mission that established the community, the research has helped expand our understanding of the little-known final years of the community. Also in 2006, the park historian began work on a formal presentation summarizing research findings at an upcoming Tlingit and Haida Clan Conference to be held in Sitka in March 2007. It is expected that this event will host a gathering of individuals with family ties to the community, generating additional oral history that will add to the project.

Technical History of Totem Preservation / eField Trip

Funding from this CRPP funded research project allowed the park historian and education specialist to collaborate on an innovative educational component of the project. The program was an interactive web learning tool for a classroom based “E-Field trip” on the history, culture and preservation of totem poles. The product, titled “Timeless Totems: The Carved History of the Alaskan Coast” was complete and available online in March of 2006, in time for the 100th anniversary of the poles initial placement in the park. Over 4,000 students in classrooms across the country used the program between March and June 2006. Based on the success of the program, the Totem eField Trip will be renewed for 2007, with expectation that many more students will experience the trip during the 2007 school year.

Alaska Art Project

In 2006, the park was the recipient of a painting with significant historical connections. The painting was a rare survivor of the 1937 WPA Alaska Art Project. The park historian conducted research about the project and the painting during the year and presented research to the park staff (annual interpretive training), the public (Cabin Fever lecture series), and to the state’s professional historian community (paper presented at historical conference). The research will be published in an upcoming proceedings volume summarizing the conference.

Special Exhibits and Programs

The park historian conducted research that contributed to several special exhibits in 2006, including the Saanaheit Fragment text (wrote text for temporary exhibit, incorporated into permanent exhibit); Alaska Archaeology Month exhibit (with education specialist and Forest Service archeologist, at Kettleon Library), Yaadaas Crest totem carving exhibit (display of historical photographs); Alaska on Display 2006 totem centennial exhibit; Romaine Hardcastle photograph exhibit (assisted with display). The historian also arranged a public showing of the family films of the A. Kashevaroff family, which were very well attended by those interested in local history.

Information Requests: In 2006 the park historian responded to approximately 24 public information requests that require research to provide in-depth responses. These include requests from teachers and students (for example, requests for help interpreting totem poles, northwest coast slavery, peopling the New World, Alaska Native languages, and providing guidance to a student interested in the field of archeology); requests from researchers and authors (for examples, providing information on Russian American symbols, the Cottages, National Register properties, and the possession plaque).

Alaska on Display Site Bulletin

Based on the interpretive there for 2006, the park historian developed a draft site bulletin telling the story of the park's totem pole collection. It was used as a handout to accompany the Alaska on Display 2006 totem centennial exhibit.

Yaadaas Crest Totem History

With the help of the resource management division, prepared a summary of the history of the Yaadaas Crest totem pole that was distributed at the totem pole raising ceremony.

Annual Interpretive Training

The park historian supported annual seasonal interpretive training by presenting the following seven programs: Historical Research, Reading and Writing; American Icons; Carving Out a New Landscape: How Totem Poles Came to Sitka National Historical Park; Introduction to Archeology – Sitka's Archeological Survey; Historian Update; Picturing the Great Depression: the 1937 Alaska Art Project.

Resources Expended: ONPS \$38,000; All Other Sources \$9,000; FTE-NPS .4; FTE-Non NPS 0

Ib3A. By September 30, 2008, SITK has identified its vital signs for natural resource monitoring.

Ib3A. FY06 Annual Goal: By September 30, 2006, SITK will initiate the process of identifying, evaluating, and synthesizing existing data. We will finalize our conceptual models and select the park's appropriate vital signs.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Goal not met. The Southeast Alaska Network of parks has selected appropriate "vital signs" for monitoring purposes, but the SEAN did not meet the requirement to complete the Phase 2 report, due to the extended medical leave and eventual resignation of the Network's coordinator and the vacant data manger position. The SEAN's Board of Directors has met with the National Monitoring Program Lead to discuss rescheduling delivery of the Phase 2 report and has accomplished steps toward refilling the vacancies. SITK's biologist was detailed into the coordinator position for the SEAN for four months in 2006.

Resources Expended: ONPS \$13,000; All Other Sources \$0; FTE-NPS .1; FTE-Non NPS 0

Ib3B. By September 30, 2008, SITK has implemented natural resource monitoring of key vital signs parameters.

Ib3B. FY06 Annual Goal: By September 30, 2006, SITK will have initiated preliminary work to implement park vital sign monitoring in FY2008.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: **Goal met.** SITK completed the necessary inventories and began initial water quality monitoring steps using macroinvertebrates and algae as water quality indicators in 2006. The park approached intertidal monitoring of its marine resources on three fronts: 1) developing intertidal monitoring protocols in cooperation with the USGS for establishing baseline conditions and for long-term monitoring; 2) Using coastal cluster funds to support eelgrass bed and marine invertebrate monitoring of the park's intertidal ecosystem to try to establish biological indicators of ecosystem health and determine impacts over time; and 3) Working with Dr. Sandra Lindstrom (University of British Columbia) to continue marine algae studies linked to ecosystem changes and biogeographically distribution.

In FY 2005, the park began implementing a continuous inventory of freshwater stream macroinvertebrates to better understand ecological relationships within the Indian River and to establish long-term biological indicators for stream health. Over 51 species have been identified, representing 24 families. A macroinvertebrates database was compiled and 123 specimens have been catalogued for inclusion in the park's museum collections. A network has been established with other researchers that study aquatic macroinvertebrates in Southeast Alaska, including John Hudson (ADF&G in Juneau) and Dan Bogan (Environment and Natural Resources Institute, UAA), who are working on completing stream macroinvertebrates inventories throughout Alaska and using this information for establishing biometrics to monitor the biological health of the state's streams and rivers.

SITK partnered with the local community to integrate work that resulted in the establishment of a Watershed Council for the Indian River Basin. As the most downstream stakeholder on the Indian River, the National Park Service needs to resolve complex watershed planning issues in cooperation with upstream stakeholders that include the City and Borough of Sitka (CBS), Sitka Tribe of Alaska, Sheldon Jackson College and other federal and state agencies that have jurisdiction in the basin.

Resources Expended: ONPS \$14,000; All Other Sources \$0; FTE-NPS .1; FTE-Non NPS 0

IIa1A. By September 30, 2008, 95% of visitors to SITK are satisfied with appropriate park facilities, services and recreational opportunities.

IIa1A. FY06 Annual Goal: By September 30, 2006, 92% of visitors to SITK are satisfied with appropriate park facilities, services and recreational opportunities.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: **Goal exceeded** (100%).

Visitor Contact Stations

As planned, the Visitor Center was open seven days a week from 8am to 5pm during the summer and six days a week during the winter. The Russian Bishop's House was open by appointment in the winter and 7 days/wk in the summer. Maintenance staff worked diligently to keep the structures clean, functional, and safe for visitors.

Personal Service

During the summer, interpretive staff offered daily guided walks and roving interpretation on park trails and grounds. Daily tours continued at the RBH during the summer. With additional funding provided through the pilot park "Healthy Parks Initiative", three additional seasonal interpreters were hired in 2006. On pre-determined days, rangers were assigned to the city's docks to meet disembarking cruise ship passengers. Rangers encouraged their contacts to visit SITK in order to engage in healthy activities like guided walks and tours of the trails and RBH during the day. In all, a total of approximately 335,000 people visited the park in 2006, a record number.

At the RBH, the ticketing system implemented in 2005 was continued this year. This placed limits on the number of visitors who could take tours of the furnished second floor. When available, interpreters provided roving interpretation at the RBH grounds and museum. This year we were able to resume a weekly evening program series during the summer that was well attended. During the winter the park co-hosted an evening lecture series with the USFS again. Additionally, the park hosted a number of exciting special events. Highlights included:

Yaadaas Crest Replica Totem Pole Raising

In September, the park planned and hosted a major historic event, the raising of the Yaadaas Crest replica totem pole, in front of the park visitor center. Over 300 people, including Haida people from Prince of Wales Island, officers from the Sitka Coast Guard base, and students from Mt. Edgecumbe high school, joined many community members, Regional Director Marcia Blaszak, and park staff to raise the 40-foot totem.

Pole raising events consisted of a welcome ceremony held in the visitor center theater attended by elders of the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimpsian nations. The formal welcome followed standard Tlingit protocol of opposites acknowledging each other. The welcome was followed by a luncheon provided by the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center. A celebration dinner and dance demonstration took place in the community house after the pole was raised, hosted by the Sitka Tribe of Alaska. Many in attendance called it one of the most enjoyable cultural events in recent memory.

Yaadaas Crest Exhibit

A special component of the Yaadaas Crest totem pole replication, the park staff developed an exhibit for the summer comprised of a display of historical photographs of the totem pole and later prepared an historical summary of the Yaadaas pole used as a handout during the totem raising.

Alaska on Display (celebrating the centennial of the park's totem pole collection)

The central interpretive theme this year was chosen to coincide with an important park anniversary: the 100th anniversary of the installation of the park's totem pole collection in 1906, after their exhibition at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair and the 1905 Louis and Clark Exposition in Portland. The exhibit was produced in-house by park resource management, education and interpretation staff, and the park's historian.

Lecture Series

SITK The park has continued to be successful in hosting free evening programs that feature park interpreters as well as park resource specialists and the work they do. The longer and more in-depth format of these lectures compliments the traditional programs offered during the day. Two of these lecture series were hosted in 2006, one in the summer and one in the winter. The winter series is held in partnership with the USDA Forest Service. In 2006 the park historian presented a program at the winter program, titled Picturing the Great Depression: Sitka and the 1937 Alaska Art Project.

Historic Walking Tour: In 2006 the park continued to participate in an annual historic buildings walking tour with different buildings featured each year. The tour is a chance to showcase National Register/NHL programs and recognize the efforts of those working to preserve local historic sites.

Trails

Maintenance staff partnered with the Sitka Tribe of Alaska who hired two local youth with Public Land Corps. funds to provide trail maintenance. They consistently ensured that trails were in good condition, clean, and free of hazards throughout the summer. A

Trail Watch volunteer was recruited who contributed over 100 hours to ensuring that trails were in good condition. Pending funding for this much-needed rehabilitation, maintenance staff this year repurposed old signs to provide better orientation along park trails and reduce visitor confusion. Interpretive staff began the planning process to upgrade and expand interpretive, informational, and orientation waysides. Interpretive staff provided daily guided walks and roving interpretation on park trails throughout the summer.

Restrooms

Maintenance took meticulous care to ensure that facilities were clean and well-stocked. On the busiest summer days, restrooms were checked and cleaned up to three times per day.

Commercial Services

The chief of interpretation, park historian, and superintendent coordinated with the new local Alaska Natural History Association bookstore manager, as well as with their regional staff, to expand the volume and variety of bookstore inventory. Discussions with the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center led to development of a new agreement to expand the representation of original Native art in the store. Two new sales cases were located in the store with art inventory by mid-summer. The new sales agreement called for cooperation between the SEAICC and ANHA in order to expand the scope and availability of sales items. The SEAICC received 10% of the proceeds from each sale of Native art.

Staff again engaged in joint seasonal training with Sitka Tribal Tours, enhancing the ability of park staff to communicate cultural issues. Park staff audited tours provided by commercial tour operators and offered feedback to tour guides to enhance the quality and accuracy of their presentations.

Demonstrations

Park partner, the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center (SEAICC), continued to offer on-going cultural demonstrations and classes and to expand on these programs. Cultural demonstrations were offered 7 days/wk at the visitor center during the summer and as often as staffing allowed throughout the winter.

The master weaver received permission from Glacier Bay National Park to harvest shed mountain goat wool for cultural projects for the second time. She also received permission from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to take two goats out of hunting season, at a time when the wool is most desirable for weaving. The hides were processed at the Sitka National Historical Park's carving shelter, where the public could view and learn about the process, and generated much excitement and enthusiasm.

Curriculum-Based Education

2006 saw the park's first electronic field trip, titled "Timeless Totems: The Carved History of the Alaska Coast". This "E-field trip" allowed over 4,100 students in over 240 classrooms in the United States, Canada, and Mexico to experience the history and science of totem pole carving and protection at the park. The large number of students reached through this innovative distance learning program provided an effective and efficient means by which thousands of young people who may never visit Sitka learn about the park's unique themes and cultural heritage resources.

The park's education specialist developed curriculum-based education programs that continued to be tapped this year for a large variety of pre-K through college-level classrooms. Over 20 park programs have become institutional in classrooms within the community, demonstrating their effectiveness as teachers request them annually as a part of their curricula. These programs are particularly effective because they provide students with hands-on activities that teach about authentic cultural, natural, and historic resources within their local national park. The effectiveness of the park's Education program expanded this year as additional institutional programs were developed, including new offerings in 2006 that focused on water quality and Russian-American history.

Along with the park biologist and staff of the US Forest Service, the education specialist provided the "Alaska Stream Team" state-wide water quality monitoring program to schools in Sitka for the first time. Sitka's entire 3rd grade, 7th grade, and Sheldon Jackson College's chemistry students participated in different levels of physical, biological, and chemical monitoring of the Indian River watershed.

This new program advanced the quality of science programming for students, while the two agencies utilized this innovative partnership to create age-appropriate ways of teaching Sitka's students about the importance of watershed protection. An especially innovative aspect of this

partnership is that for the first time, the federal agencies that manage sections of the Indian River are working collaboratively to prescriptively protect this resource for the larger benefit of the public through classroom-based education programming.

The education specialist and park historian co-created and co-presented a month-long archeology unit in classrooms to all area 6th grade students. The archeology unit introduced students to the concepts of ethical methods of discovery with a full mock-up archeological dig and analysis, in conjunction with the park's current four-year archeological survey. The archeology education program was developed to specifically fit the archeological resources of the local area and in a way that brought authentic, hands-on experiences to students. Students used creative educational methods to approach the dig site, map the site, gather evidence of what had happened at the site, and then put the story back together using their evidence in the manner of professional archeologists.

Resources Expended: ONPS \$369,000; All Other Sources \$54,000; FTE-NPS 5.6; FTE-Non NPS 3.7

IIa1B. By September 30, 2008, 78% of park visitors are satisfied with commercial services in the park (as measured by the VCS card.)

IIa1B. FY06 Annual Goal: By September 30, 2006, 81% of visitors are satisfied with commercial services a SITK.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: **Goal exceeded** (96%). Results of the Visitor Use Survey for the year documented that 96% of responders were "satisfied" with the commercial services available in the park.

Staff collaborated with and monitored activities of the six Incidental Business Permit (IBP) operators in the park during the reporting period. Compliance with permit stipulations was achieved and all operators performed safely and effectively. Staff provided interpretive training and continued to work closely with IBP holders throughout the year to ensure applicability of IBP services to the mission of the park and enhancement of the visitors' experience.

In late September, the park hosted a summit for all IBP operators to discuss FY05 operations and to determine where improvements could be made to enhance visitor safety and experience. Several alternatives were discussed including planning and construction of a fish viewing platform, improving parking and visitor information panels at the East Entrance and redesigning parking stalls in the upper parking lot at the Visitor Center. On the second day of the summit, a permittee brought ten tour buses to the park where they were arranged in several different ways to determine the optimal and safest model for use of the upper lot.

The exercise resulted in the park's modifying the upper parking lot at the visitor center in 2006. By extending an existing sidewalk on the south side of the lot, the park was able to provide parking for up to two additional 45-passenger tour buses.

SITK had six IBP holders authorized to provide commercial services at the park in FY06. Two of these operated tour bus services and were the primary way cruise ship passengers accessed the park. Both operated numerous vehicles of various lengths, from small(er) 10-passenger vans to 45-passenger buses.

The Native Alaskan owned non-profit operated a maximum of seven vehicles and concentrated on providing cultural tours. The larger tour operator had about 60 vehicles, but usually half that many buses were on the road at any given time.

In addition, the park had four smaller tour operators who provided walking and wildlife tours of the park to smaller (<10) groups.

Resources Expended: ONPS \$92,000; All Other Sources \$9,000; FTE-NPS 1.4; FTE-Non NPS .7

Ia2A. By September 30, 2008, the number of visitor accidents/incidents at SITK is no higher than its baseline number of the FY2000-FY2003 annual average of 1.

Ia2A. FY06 Annual Goal: By September 30, 2006, the number of visitor accidents/incidents at SITK is maintained at or below the FY 2000-2003 annual average of 1.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: **Goal not met** (2). In spite of an aggressive and proactive NPSafe program at the park, SITK was unable to prevent the mishaps of two park visitors during the reporting period. Both accidents involved poor judgment or decision making on the part of the victims, and had nothing to do with park infrastructure or unsafe conditions.

In the first accident, an elderly woman visiting by cruise ship walked off established trails into the rainforest to scatter her deceased husband's ashes. She had not notified park staff of her intentions to do so. On her way back to the trail, she slipped and fell onto a tree root, cutting her knee.

In the second accident, a grandmother was walking her young grandchild and a pet dog near a trailhead. She left the child momentarily to retrieve a dog excrement bag provided by the park at a convenience station located on the trail. In her haste to return to the unattended grandchild, she slipped and fell, twisting her knee.

In reviewing the two visitor accidents in 2006, the park's Safety committee could not determine how these accidents might have been avoided through staff actions. Informational and safety signage, in addition to staff on patrol on park trails, were widely available.

With an average of over 300,000 visitors annually (including many seniors with limited mobility), the park is preparing to revisit the goal of "no more than one visitor accident a year" and determine whether 1) the goal is still realistic, and 2) whether the goal was established with truly credible historical data. The annual goal of only one reportable EMS incident per year may be

shifted upwards given the large number of elderly visitors who experience the park primarily by walking along trails or the beach.

The park has a very proactive staff committed to everyone's safety and a prescriptive approach to protecting park visitors and employees.

The park's Safety committee will continue to emphasize and encourage NPSafe actions and attitudes using incentives and a proactive approach.

Resources Expended: ONPS \$96,000; All Other Sources \$6,000; FTE-NPS 1.2; FTE-Non NPS .9

IIa2B. By September 30, 2008, the number of visitor fatalities at SITK will remain at zero.

IIa2B. FY06 Annual Goal: The number of visitor fatalities at SITK will remain at zero.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: **Goal met** (0). The park met the goal of “zero” reportable visitor fatalities in 2006. Throughout the year, the park utilized the services of a very dedicated volunteer who regularly patrolled the park trails and reported on possible hazards and other visitor and resource-related issues. We also had three seasonal LE rangers providing visitor service and coverage of the park’s trails and facilities this year (two in summer, one during the winter), the most ever for SITK.

Resources Expended: ONPS \$30,000; All Other Sources \$2,000; FTE-NPS .4; FTE-Non NPS .5

IIb1. By September 30, 2008, 87% of SITK visitors understand the significance of the park

IIb1. FY06 Annual Goal: By September 30, 2006, 85% of SITK visitors understand the significance of the park

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: **Goal exceeded** (93%). The following activities were undertaken to enhance visitor understanding of park significance:

The visitor center was open seven days week from 8am to 5pm during summer and six days a week during the winter. The Russian Bishop's House was open by appointment in the winter and 7 days/wk in the summer.

During the summer, interpretive staff offered daily guided walks and roving interpretation on park trails and grounds. Daily tours continued at the RBH during the summer, although we continued using a ticketing system for the second year in a row. The ticketing model provides a more formal tour for visitors, but does limit the number of visitors who can take tours of the furnished second floor during regular business hours. Interpreters also provided roving interpretation at the RBH grounds and museum as available.

The park has continued to be successful in hosting free evening programs that feature park interpreters as well as park resource specialists and the work they do. The longer and more in-depth format of these lectures compliments the traditional programs offered during the day. Two of these lecture series were hosted in 2006, one in the summer and one in the winter. The winter series is held in partnership with the USDA Forest Service. In 2006 the park historian presented a program at the winter program, titled Picturing the Great Depression: Sitka and the 1937 Alaska Art Project.

Historic Walking Tour: In 2006 the park continued to participate in an annual historic buildings walking tour with different buildings featured each year. The tour is a chance to showcase National Register/NHL programs and recognize the efforts of those working to preserve local historic sites.

Yaadaas Crest Replica Totem Pole Carving and Installation

Haida carvers Timothy and Joseph Young, members of the Kaigani Haida Yaadaas clan whose crest is displayed on the original Yaadaas pole, carved a replica of the Yaadaas Crest Pole during the summer of 2006. The project, funded through the NPS 20% Fee Demonstration program, was sponsored by the Sitka Tribe of Alaska and the park. The pole's raising took place on September 30, 2006, as Haida, Tlingit, and Tsimshian, along with many others from the local community, helped raise the pole.

The project commemorated the 100-year anniversary of the historical totem pole collection brought to reside in the park by territorial Governor John G. Brady in 1906. The re-carving of the Yaadaas Crest pole also demonstrates active partnerships between the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, the Haida people, Sitka National Historical Park, and the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center.

Alaska on Display (celebrating the centennial of the park's totem pole collection)

This year, a central interpretive theme was chosen to coincide with an important park anniversary: the 100th anniversary of the installation of the park's totem pole collection in 1906, after their exhibition at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair and the 1905 Louis and Clark Exposition in Portland. The exhibit was produced in-house by park resource management, education and interpretation staff. Historian research contributed to the exhibit and a historical handout.

Russian Orthodox Church

The park continued to work closely with the Orthodox Church opening the Russian Bishop's House for services to be held in its chapel. Five were held this year with the Bishop of Alaska attending three of them. The park continues the tradition of working with their partners and the partner's cultural properties.

Park Archeological Survey

2006 was the second field season in the park's four-year archeological survey funded through the Systemwide Archeological Inventory Program (SAIP) and CRPP. The survey is designed to identify and document the full range of sites in the park, with special interest in locations and structures associated with the 1804 battle in which the Tlingit fought Russian fur traders for control of their territory. The project is being conducted in partnership with the NPS Midwest Archaeological Center (MWAC). The project has located evidence of the battle, Russian

homesteads, and Tlingit subsistence activities. In 2006, a variety of sites were located and archeological features were radiocarbon dated. Staff supported the project in its efforts to conduct the project with a spirit of open communication with the public and consultation with the Sitka Tribe of Alaska and the *Kiks.ádi* clan, whose ancestors fought in the battle. This has been accomplished by responding to public requests for information, creating and delivering educational programs, creating and delivering programs for staff training, responding to media requests (national magazine articles, local public radio and newspaper), creating a news item for WASO's archeological eGram which is now posted on the WASO webpage on Archeology in the parks, and writing a "research in progress" item for CRM journal (to be published winter 2006). These efforts have helped the park widely spread the word about the park, its resources and its strong commitment to the best practices in resource protection and civic engagement.

The Cottages Community

Planning and collection research continued for the third year of this three-year oral history based research project describing an historic Native community that borders the park. In 2006, the park historian conducted historical collections research in support of the project at libraries, archives and museums in Philadelphia and Washington State. Especially valuable was a research trip to the Presbyterian Historical Society archives in Philadelphia. As the main archive documenting the history of the Presbyterian mission that established the community, the research has helped expand our understanding of the little-known final years of the community. Also in 2006, the park historian began work on a formal presentation summarizing research findings at an upcoming Tlingit and Haida Clan Conference to be held in Sitka in March 2007. It is expected that this event will host a gathering of individuals with family ties to the community, generating additional oral history that will add to the project.

Technical History of Totem Preservation / eField Trip Funding from this CRPP funded research project allowed the park historian and education specialist to collaborate on an innovative educational component of the project. The program was an interactive web learning tool for a classroom based "E-Field trip" on the history, culture and preservation of totem poles. The product, titled "Timeless Totems: The Carved History of the Alaskan Coast" was complete and available online in March of 2006, in time for the 100th anniversary of the poles initial placement in the park. Over 4,000 students in classrooms across the country used the program between March and June 2006. Based on the success of the program, the Totem eField Trip will be renewed for 2007, with expectation that many more students will experience the trip during the 2007 school year.

Alaska Art Project

In 2006, the park was the recipient of a painting with significant historical connections. The painting was a rare survivor of the 1937 WPA Alaska Art Project. In 2006, the park historian conducted research about the project and the painting and presented research to the park staff (annual interpretive training), the public (Cabin Fever lecture series), and to the state's professional historian community (paper presented at historical conference). The research will be published in an upcoming proceedings volume summarizing the conference.

ACE: American Colonial Experience (formerly EASN)

The park has continued to support the development of the development of a soon-to-be-launched important this new web- network of National Park Service units and other historic sites (including many National Historic Landmarks) that preserve and interpret sites dealing with colonial history. Using technology and a partnership involving many scholars and institutions, the website will make the latest scholarship in colonial history, an important chapter in American history, widely available to researchers, educators, and students. The key activity in 2006 was editing drafted text for the website, including sections written by the park historian regarding Alaska and Alaska's Native people. Also helped identify and provide copies of images to illustrate the website.

Archeology Education

In 2006 the park historian continued to use different versions of PowerPoint programs on the Archeology Survey. October 2006 saw the continuation of the 6th grade archeology education program begun in 2005 at the request of local teachers. This program reached six classes (about 150 students) over a period of weeks. , the program included an in-class PowerPoint program that included an overview of archeology, a field trip to the park to talk about park history and the park's archeological survey and view park museum objects collected by archeologists; a mock excavation held at the school; a chance to "screen" matrix and identify artifacts, and finally a session devoted to analyzing the results of the excavation in which the students identified the site environment, and different time periods and activities. The park provided teachers with a glossary that they used to develop archeology-themed language arts worksheets. The park developed a worksheet to guide the analysis activities.

Special Exhibits

In addition to its permanently installed exhibits at the visitor center and the Russian Bishop's House, park staff developed a series of exciting temporary exhibits at the visitor center. These included: **Ambassadors in Wood** – an exhibit in honor of the carvers of totems; **Yaadaas Totem Pole Carving Project** – a living arts program to restore to life a historic totem pole that had been removed from use along the park trail; **Gifts from Our Attic** – Native and Russian items given to members of the local communities; **School Days at the Russian Bishop's House** – a grouping of drawings, poems, doodles and other items from the old school housed in the Russian Bishop's House connecting the lives of today's children with those of years past.

The park historian conducted research that contributed to several special exhibits in 2006, including the Saanaheit Fragment text (wrote text for temporary exhibit, incorporated into permanent exhibit); Alaska Archaeology Month exhibit (with education specialist and Forest Service archeologist, at Kettleton Library), Yaadaas Crest totem carving exhibit (display of historical photographs); Alaska on Display 2006 totem centennial exhibit; Romaine Hardcastle photograph exhibit (assisted with display). The historian also arranged a public showing of the family films of the A. Kashevaroff family, which were very well attended by those interested in local history.

In honor of Native American Heritage Month, a variety of theme-oriented films were shown during the lunch hour throughout November. This year the park Historian and Education

Specialist helped with an exhibit for the Alaska Archeology Month which was on display at the Kettleton Library. This exhibit received a visitation of over 6,000 people.

Work was accomplished towards a rewrite of the trail guide used to interpret totem poles and other carvings along the park's Totem Loop Trail, the visitor center and Totem Hall. Titled "Carved History", the publication is expected to be completed and printed in 2007.

Park maintenance staff consistently ensured that trails were in good condition, clean, and free of hazards. Two local youth were employed by the Sitka Tribe of Alaska using Public Land Corps. Funding secured by the park to provide trail maintenance throughout summer. A major effort was put forth for Public Land Days, resulting in 18 volunteers removing more than a ¼ ton of garbage including building materials and automotive parts from the park's beach and trails

Moreover, 2 Trail Watch volunteers were recruited who contributed over 200 hours to ensuring that trails were kept in good condition. Pending funding for much-needed rehabilitation, maintenance staff repurposed old signs to provide better orientation along park trails and reduce visitor confusion. Interpretive staff began the planning process to upgrade and expand interpretive, informational, and orientation waysides. Interpretive staff provided daily guided walks and roving interpretation on park trails throughout the summer.

The chief of interpretation, park historian, and superintendent coordinated with the new local Alaska Natural History Association bookstore manager, as well as with their regional staff, to expand the volume and variety of bookstore inventory. Discussions with the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center led to development of a new agreement to expand the representation of original Native art in the store. Two new sales cases were located in the store with art inventory by mid-summer. The new sales agreement called for cooperation between the SEAICC and ANHA in order to expand the scope and availability of sales items. The SEAICC received 10% of the proceeds from each sale of Native art, while enabling purchasers to take home tangible and meaningful connections with park theme with them.

Staff again engaged in joint seasonal training with Sitka Tribal Tours, enhancing the ability of park staff to communicate cultural issues. Park staff audited tours provided by commercial tour operators and offered feedback to tour guides to enhance the quality and accuracy of their presentations.

Demonstrations

Park partner, the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center (SEAICC), continued to offer on-going cultural demonstrations and classes and to expand on these programs. Cultural demonstrations were offered 7 days/wk at the visitor center during the summer and as often as staffing allowed throughout the winter.

The master weaver received permission from Glacier Bay National Park to harvest shed mountain goat wool for cultural projects for the second time. She also received permission from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to take two goats out of hunting season, at a time when the wool is most desirable for weaving. The hides were processed at the Sitka National Historical

Park's carving shelter, where the public could view and learn about the process, and generated much excitement and enthusiasm.

Curriculum-Based Education

The park's education specialist developed curriculum-based education programs that continued to be tapped this year for a large variety of pre-K through college-level classrooms. Over 20 park programs have become institutional in classrooms within the community, demonstrating their effectiveness as teachers request them annually as a part of their curricula. These programs are particularly effective because they provide students with hands-on activities that teach about authentic cultural, natural, and historic resources within their local national park. The effectiveness of the park's Education program expanded this year as additional institutional programs were developed, including new offerings in 2006 that focused on water quality and Russian-American history.

Along with the park biologist and staff of the US Forest Service, the education specialist provided the "Alaska Stream Team" state-wide water quality monitoring program to schools in Sitka for the first time. Sitka's entire 3rd grade, 7th grade, and Sheldon Jackson College's chemistry students participated in different levels of physical, biological, and chemical monitoring of the Indian River watershed.

This new program advanced the quality of science programming for students, while the two agencies utilized this innovative partnership to create age-appropriate ways of teaching Sitka's students about the importance of watershed protection. An especially innovative aspect of this partnership is that for the first time, the federal agencies that manage sections of the Indian River are working collaboratively to prescriptively protect this resource for the larger benefit of the public through classroom-based education programming.

The education specialist and park historian co-created and co-presented a month-long archeology unit in classrooms to all area 6th grade students. The archeology unit introduced students to the concepts of ethical methods of discovery with a full mock-up archeological dig and analysis, in conjunction with the park's current four-year archeological survey. The archeology education program was developed to specifically fit the archeological resources of the local area and in a way that brought authentic, hands-on experiences to students. Students used creative educational methods to approach the dig site, map the site, gather evidence of what had happened at the site, and then put the story back together using their evidence in the manner of professional archeologists.

Publications

Park staff developed a professional-quality site bulletin featuring recreational opportunities at the Visitor Center. Park staff also coordinated with the Alaska Natural History Association to complete final revisions to a new Russian Bishop's House site bulletin.

Resources Expended: ONPS \$309,000; All Other Sources \$50,000; FTE-NPS 4.9; FTE-Non NPS 2.5

IVa10A. By September 30, 2008, SITK will have 3 of 3 (100%) of its heritage assets in fair or good condition, as measured by the Facility Condition Index.

IVa10A. FY06 Annual Goal: By September 30, 2006 SITK will provide preventative maintenance, custodial services, and necessary repairs to keep 3 of 3 heritage asset buildings in good condition.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Goal met. The park's Facility Management team implemented a preventative maintenance model for our historic structures that emphasized incremental repairs. This approach minimized the possibility of major facility repairs or breakdowns. During the reporting period, staff performed "spot painting" and refinishing that extended the life of the paint envelope and reduced unnecessary paint buildup.

Staff also performed a comprehensive cleaning of the roofs and siding of the buildings to protect the surfaces from biological impacts including algae and fungi, recurring threats in our temperate rainforest environment.

All three historic structures received comprehensive condition assessments in FY 2005. The official findings determined that all are in "good" condition.

Resources expended: Not reportable (Type "IV" goal).

IVa10B. By September 30, 2008, SITK will have 5 of 6 (80%) of its non-historic buildings in fair-to-good condition, as measured by the Facility Condition Index.

IVa10B. FY06 Annual Goal: By September 30, 2006, SITK will have 5 of 6 (83%) of its non-historic buildings in fair-to-good condition, as measured by the Facility Condition Index.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Goal met. The park has six buildings that are non-historic. Five of these documented to be in "good" condition, while one is in poor condition. The building in poor condition is FMSS asset #68544, the BPR building. The cost of repairs exceeds the value of the building. The BPR is scheduled to be replaced in the next five years.

The park's Facility Management team implemented a preventative maintenance model for all structures that emphasized incremental repairs. This approach minimized the possibility of major facility repairs or breakdowns. During the reporting period, staff performed "spot painting" and refinishing that extended the life of the paint envelope and reduced unnecessary paint buildup.

All buildings were also cleaned and maintained with professional-level custodial services which further increased the service life of structural features.

Staff also performed a comprehensive cleaning of the roofs and siding of the buildings to protect the surfaces from biological impacts including algae and fungi, recurring threats in our temperate rainforest environment.

All park structures received comprehensive condition assessments in FY 2005.

Resources expended: Not reportable (Type “IV” goal).

IVa10C. By September 30, 2008, 11 of 11 (100%) of SITK’s non-building, non-historical assets are maintained in fair-to-good condition, as measured by the Facility Condition Index.

IVa10B. FY06 Annual Goal: By September 30, 2006, 11 of 11 (100%) of SITK’s non-building, non-historical assets are maintained in fair-to-good condition, as measured by the Facility Condition Index.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: **Goal met.** During the reporting period, the Facility Management team performed prescriptive maintenance on all park assets with an emphasis on visitor and employee safety, protecting resources and extending the service life of park infrastructure.

Park trails were resurfaced as necessary. Bridges were cleaned and inspected for structural integrity. Parking lots were cleaned and storm drains cleared. Hazard trees were either removed or modified to mitigate threats to visitors and staff. Beach access was improved as a safety measure for pedestrians.

Additional trail signage was improved to better orientate visitors. Fencing was installed to protect natural resources and to prevent social trails from becoming established on park grounds.

The park's annual condition assessment determined that these assets are all in "good" condition.

Resources expended: Not reportable (Type “IV” goal).

IVa3. By September 30, 2008, 34 of 34 (100%) of SITK’s employee performance plans are linked to appropriate strategic and annual performance goals and position competencies.

IVa3. FY06 Annual Goal: By September 30, 2006, 34 of 34 (100%) of SITK’s employee performance plans are linked to appropriate strategic and annual performance goals and position competencies.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: **Goal exceeded.** 100% (37 of 37) of SITK’s employee performance plans were linked to appropriate strategic and annual performance goals and position competencies in 2006.

Goal IVa3 was exceeded this year in that the park employed 37 staff at peak visitor season with the receipt of unanticipated “Healthy Parks Initiative” funding. All 37 employees had performance plans in place with standards linked to appropriate strategic and annual performance goals and position competencies.

Resources expended: Not reportable (Type “IV” goal).

Iva6A. By September 30, 2008, the number of SITK’s employee lost-time injuries is maintained at or below the previous 5-year annual average number of 3.

Iva6A. FY06 Annual Goal: By September 30, 2006, the number of SITK’s employee lost-time injuries is maintained at or below the pervious 5 year average number of 3.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: **Goal exceeded** (0). SITK had no employee lost time injuries in 2006.

SITK’s excellent safety record in 2006 is due in large part to the following factors:

- All park staff participated in the NPSafe program, completing mandatory training, attending seasonal orientation training, and were regularly encouraged to remain vigilant for and report all potential safety hazards
- All employees used Job Hazard Analysis measures and utilized appropriate PPE for any potentially dangerous or risky work assignments.
- All staff, especially those dealing directly with visitors susceptible to communicable diseases (cruise ship passengers), were updated as to current threat levels and received appropriate training concerning precautions. They were also provided with antiseptic towlettes and other materials to keep shared work space and equipment clean.
- Park protection staff received annual training and PPE (respirator fit testing) certifications prior to going on special assignments.
- LE employees met physical fitness standards as per required medical examinations and any other required certifications (“pack test” for fire fighters) before performing strenuous or arduous duties or assignments.
- The park's Safety committee met monthly in order to prescriptively mitigate potential safety hazards.
- The Safety committee performed detailed accident/incident reviews in FY 2005, helping prevent recurrences in 2006.

Resources expended: Not reportable (Type “IV” goal).

Iva6B. By September 30, 2008, the number of SITK hours of Continuation of Pay is reduced from the FY 1997-2001 5-year annual average of 2.4 to 1.8.

Iva6B. FY06 Annual Goal: By September 30, 2006, the number of SITK hours of Continuation of Pay is reduced from the FY 1997-2001 5-year annual average of 2.4 to 2.2.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: **Goal exceeded** (0 hours). As described, the park has a very proactive Safety management program. There were no COP hours for park staff in 2006.

Resources expended: Not reportable (Type “IV” goal).

Iva6C. By September 30, 2008, SITK will report any employee fatality as an actual number.

Iva6C. FY06 Annual Goal: SITK will emphasize and make a safe, healthful work environment its highest priority.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Goal met. There were no employee fatalities at the park during the reporting period. Staff remain vigilant and proactive about working safely and maintaining a safe and healthful work environment as the highest priority.

Resources expended: Not reportable (Type "IV" goal).

Ivb1A. By September 30, 2008, SITK has implemented and maintained five formal partnerships with local or regional stakeholder groups for the purpose of protecting park resources and enhancing opportunities for cooperative conservation.

Ivb1A. FY06 Annual Goal: By September 30, 2006, SITK will implement a newly signed Memorandum of Agreement with the Sitka Tribe of Alaska and renew a Cooperative Agreement with the South East Alaska Indian Cultural Center for the purposes of protecting park resources, enhancing cooperative conservation activities and providing heritage resource education opportunities.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Goal exceeded (26 partners). Sitka National Historical Park continued to seek and formalize partnerships with local and regional stakeholders for the purposes of protecting park resources, enhancing cooperative conservation and providing educational outreach.

Through collaboration with the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center, the Kiks.ádi clan and the Haida people of Southeast Alaska, an exact replica of the historically significant Yaadaas Crest totem pole was carved during the summer visitor season and installed in the park in September. Over 500 people representing the Tlingit and Haida peoples, the Alaska Regional Director of the National Park Service, US Coast Guard, Alaska State Troopers, students of local high schools and area residents participated in the memorable raising of the totem. This was the first totem to be installed in the park since 1999. The special event was capped with an evening celebration of dance, food and song at the Sheet'ká Kwaan Naa Kahídi community house by a capacity crowd of over 300 people.

The park initiated an agreement with Noel DeChambeau of the Holland America Line, Inc., to deploy park rangers onboard Holland America cruise ships while at anchor in Sitka to provide interpretation and outreach to passengers. The "marine ranger" program will be a first for the park. In addition, DeChambeau offered professional assistance to develop and produce a short informational program on Sitka National Historical Park to be broadcast on all cruiseship lines with Sitka as a port of call.

The park facilitated a formal agreement between the Alaska Natural History Association and the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center for the sale of original northwest Coast art by SEAICC artists and members. The agreement provides an opportunity for SEAICC members to market their work directly to park visitors, while connecting visitors with the park through world-class art that conveys park themes. It is anticipated that art sales will improve ANHA's income over the years - a critical need - while 10% of each sale goes back in the form of direct aid to the SEAICC.

The park collaborated with the Sitka Tribe of Alaska and the Kiks.ádi clan by designating formal liaisons who served as communication links between park managers and Native Alaskan stakeholders during year two (of four) of a comprehensive archeological survey of the park.

The park and Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center implemented the newly enacted Cooperative Agreement. The Agreement continues the 37-year tradition of Native Alaskan artisans demonstrating their skills and educating visitors in the park's visitor center.

Managers collaborated and assisted the Sheldon Jackson Historical Preservation Society, Inc. with preservation efforts and rehabilitation plans for a National Historic Landmark building on campus.

The park was a cooperator in a joint funded, multi-agency river gauge and monitoring program on the Indian River. Partners included the City and Borough of Sitka, Sheldon Jackson College, the US Geological Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Staff performed and provided a large number of conservation-related education programs for local and area students from Kindergarten through college. The park continued the 20+ year tradition of hosting local grade schoolers who plant heritage vegetables in the Russian Bishop's House garden and then return the following fall to harvest the vegetables to share with their families and the community.

The park helped plan and perform the community-wide historic buildings tour as a partner with the Sitka Historical Society. The tour included an interpreted visit of the former experimental agricultural station in Sitka, now the geomagnetic field station for the US Geological Service.

Park managers continued to partner and meet regularly with the City of Sitka's Parks and Recreation Board and Sitka Trails Work, Inc. to share expertise and provide mutual aid and support. The park developed a web-based inventory and message site on local trail and cabin conditions for Sitka Trails Work and STW partners, including the US Forest Service and Alaska State Parks.

The park implemented an MOU established with the US Geological Service that provided free office space on USGS property for park resource and science staff.

2006 marked the centennial anniversary of the arrival of the Brady Collection of totem poles to the federal park that was to become Sitka National Historical Park. A special exhibit was planned

and installed commemorating the poles' arrival, and visitors welcomed to see one of the poles being replicated in the park's carving shelter.

During the reporting period, SITK partnered with a number of local stakeholders and organizations for the purpose of protecting park resources and communicating park and conservation themes. Formal partnerships included:

1. Sitka Tribe of Alaska
2. Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center
3. US Geological Survey
4. City and Borough of Sitka
5. Midwest Archeological Center
6. Sitka Trails Work

The park recruited additional partners for mutual aid and benefit of the park's conservation mission. These included:

1. Kiks.ádi Clan
2. Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium
3. The Holland America Line, Inc.
4. Haida people of Southeast Alaska
5. Sheldon Jackson Historical Preservation Society
6. Sitka School District
7. Sitka Historical Society
8. Isabelle Miller Museum
9. Sitka Parks and Recreation Department
10. Alaska State Parks
11. US Forest Service
12. US Geological Service
13. Sheldon Jackson College
14. University of Alaska Southeast
15. Alaska Natural History Association
16. Sitka Job Corps.
17. Cub Scouts
18. Girl Scouts
19. Boy Scouts
20. McDonalds Restaurant of Sitka

Resources expended: Not reportable (Type "IV" goal).

IVb2. By September 30, 2008, attendance at SITK's facilitated programs will increase to 220,870 (5%) over the 210,352 average for the period from 2000-2003.

IVb2. FY06 Annual Goal: By September 30, 2006, attendance at facilitated programs at SITK will increase by 1% from 210,352 to 212,456.

FY06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: **Goal exceeded.** (Attendance = 287,587)

Visitor Contact Stations

The visitor center was open every day during the summer, including Memorial Day, Labor Day and the Fourth of July. It was open 6 days/week during the winter, and closed winter holidays. Visitation was 128,138.

The Russian Bishop's House was open by appointment in the winter and 7 days/wk in the summer. Visitation was 12,263.

Informal Interpretation

Interpreters provided daily interpretive roves on park trails during the summer. Roves also occurred at the Russian Bishop's House grounds and museum as staffing allowed. Volunteer gardeners dressed in period costume also provided informal interpretation at the RBH. This year as part of the Healthy Parks Initiative Rangers engaged visitors at the lightering docks and provided informal interpretive services. This greatly increased our contacts this year. Interpretive contacts this year were 14,584.

Formal Interpretation

Daily tours of the Russian Bishop's House and park trails continued this summer and park walks and RBH tours were available in the winter by appointment. We resumed our weekly evening program series during the summer that was well attended and much-appreciated. We once again partnered with the USFS to sponsor and present a winter lecture series. Attendance was 10,336.

Audio-Visual/Electronic Media

The park film was available on-demand at the visitor center and continues to be one of our most requested services. This year the park offered regular showings of Alaskan Native Cultural films through the Month of November for Native American Heritage Month.

Attendance was 39,035.

Community Programs

Park staff continued to be available to present programs to local groups as requested and participated in local events, such as parades. This year park staff and volunteers took part in both the 4th of July and the Native American Heritage Month parades. The staff also provided presentations for the Rotary club.

This year the park Historian and Education Specialist helped with an exhibit for the Alaska Archeology Month which was on display at the Kettleson Library. This exhibit received a visitation of over 6,000 people. The park staff also had the opportunity to take part in a community function at the Sheet'ka Kwaan Naa Kahídi (the local Native community house). This function was in honor of the totem pole raised during a special event at the park. The Superintendent had the opportunity to address the people, then he and the Regional Director, Chief of Interpretation and other staff members danced with local and visiting tribes.

Also, once again a park ranger narrated the re-enactment of the transfer ceremony that gave Alaska to the United States in 1867. This is a major annual event in Sitka that takes place at Castle Hill State Historic Site.

Attendance was 9900.

Junior Ranger

The Park Education Specialist continued to refine a new Jr. Ranger booklet designed last year and the booklets were available throughout the year at both the visitor center and Russian Bishop's House.

Participation was 287.

Demonstrations

We continued our effective 36-year partnership with the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center. Their staff of master artist-demonstrators offered cultural demonstrations every day in the summer and as funding and staffing permitted through the winter. They operated every weekday during November in honor of American Indian Heritage Month. The cultural center offered classes in traditional arts and worked with a variety of educational groups for field trips, often in coordination with the park's education specialist.

Attendance estimated at 64,069

Special Events

The park hosted a variety of special events this year. Highlights from a few follow:

The park hosted a special event for Ms. Hardcastle a past Museum Technician at the park from 1963 through 1967 who worked with Native elders to record their oral histories during a critical time. She was also an active member of the Chamber of Commerce and helped revive the Alaska Day Festival while president of the organization.

The reception was sponsored by the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center and the National Park Service. Reception events included a showing of selected photographs of Sitka from the mid-twentieth century collected by Ms. Hardcastle. Native Alaskan dancing, storytelling and light food refreshments are also planned.

Also this summer season, Haida carvers carved a replica of the Yaadaas Crest Pole in the carving shelter behind the park visitor center. This project, sponsored by the Sitka Tribe of Alaska and Sitka National Historical Park, culminated Saturday, September 30 as the community was invited to help raise the Yaadaas Crest Pole and to join in its celebration.

The project commemorates the 100-year anniversary of the historical totem pole collection brought to reside in Sitka by territorial Governor John G. Brady in 1906. The re-carving of the Yaadaas Crest pole also demonstrates active partnerships between the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, the Haida people, Sitka National Historical Park, and the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center.

The park continued to work closely with the Orthodox Church opening the Russian Bishop's House for services to be held in its chapel. Five serves were held this year with the Bishop of

Alaska attending three of them. The park continues the tradition of working with their partners and the partner's cultural properties.

Attendance was 1180.

Education Programs

Education staff continued to make available a broad variety of programs that are requested year after year by schools, grades pre-K through college, in which students learn about the park's natural, historical, and cultural resources both in the classroom and in the park. In particular, the park education specialist, park historian, and park biologist worked extensively on curriculum-based education projects this year.

The three most important highlights for the park's education program for FY 2006 include:

- The park education specialist and historian co-created and managed the park's first electronic field trip called "Timeless Totems: The Carved History of the Alaska Coast". The e-field trip helped students in classrooms all over the United States, Canada, and Mexico experience the history and science of totem pole carving and protection. This electronic field trip reached over 246 classrooms and 4,129 students during the 2005-2006 school year.

- The park education specialist and historian co-created and presented a month-long 6th grade archeology unit, assisted by the curator, museum specialist, and resource manager. The archeology unit introduced students to the concepts of ethical archeology methods with a full mock archeological dig and analysis in conjunction with the park's current 4-year archeological survey project.

- The park education specialist and biologist partnered with the U.S. Forest Service to bring the "Alaska Stream Team" state-wide water quality monitoring program to schools in Sitka. Sitka's entire 3rd grade, entire 7th grade, and Sheldon Jackson College chemistry class participated in different levels of physical, biological, and chemical testing of the Indian River watershed, appropriate to the different ages, to learn the importance of protecting watersheds and to improve the quality of science programming in the park.

Both on and offsite programming continued and expanded. Some of the new programs included:

- 2nd grade Russian history outreach program upgraded with a new play written for the classroom with more tie-ins to multi-cultural Russian America and a new interactive tour of the Russian Bishop's House appropriate for their age.
- 8th grade Russian colonialism outreach program created for the classroom as a lead-in to their RBH tour.
- Boy scouts learning about school life in the past using the hands-on artifacts and graffiti book at the RBH .
- 2nd and 3rd grade Tlingit storytelling program presented at the VC.
- Russian abacus program presented in 5th grade classroom.
- Both outreach and RBH-based programs made part of the new mandatory Alaska Studies course.
- Super Saturday edible wild foods program given to K-2nd grade.
- Sitka High School "ancient time" program on totems given in the classroom.

8,065 students participated in 260 education programs, up 41% over FY 05.

Resources expended: Not reportable (Type "IV" goal).

Sitka National Historical Park Staffing, FY 2006

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Bennett	S. Park Ranger	GS-5
Brewer	PFT IT spec.	GS-9
Craig	S. Visitor Use	GS-4
De Armond	S. Park Ranger	GS-5
Dudgeon	PFT	GS-13
	Superintendent	
East	PSTF Museum	GS-9
	Specialist	
Fish	S. Visitor Use	GS-5
Geiger	S. Laborer	WG-3
Gorman	S. Park Ranger	GS-5
Graham	S. Office Asst.	GS-4
Griffin G	PFT Chief RM	GS-12
Griffin K	PSTF Historian	GS-11
Hallum	S. Park Ranger	GS-5
Hudson	S. Park Ranger	GS-5
Jefferies	S. Park Guide	GS-4
Johnson	PFT Maint	WG-5
	Wrkr	
Kincaid	S. LE Ranger	GS-5
Komakhuk	S. Park Ranger	GS-5
LaBounty	S. Biologist	GS-7
Liddle	S. Statistician	GS-9
Matlock	PSTF Ed Spec	GS-9
Miller	PFT Chief	GS-11
	Interp	
Parker	S. Visitor Use	GS-4
Peterson Loren	PFT Maint	WG-5
	Wrkr	
Peterson Lori	S. Park Guide	GS-4
Roberts C	PFT Chief	GS-11
	Ranger	
Roberts L	PFT Chief	GS-11
	Admin	
Rodgers	PFT Chief	WS-8
	Maint	

Salinas	S. Park Ranger	GS-5
Smith	PSTF Biologist	GS-11
Strecker	S. Park Guide	GS-3
Swanson	S. Park Guide	GS-4
Thorsen	PFT Curator	GS-11
Tydingco	S. Park Guide	GS-4
Wadkins	PFT Lead	GS-9
	Ranger	
Weir	S. LE Ranger	GS-7

Sitka National Historical Park Budget, FY 2006

<u>Fund Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
ONPS Base Funding	\$ 1,614,600
80% Fee Revenue	\$ 171,414 (\$109,410 to SEAICC for operations support)
ONPS Project Funding:	
• VIP Program	\$ 2,695
• Collections Mgmt	\$ 7,326
• Cultural Resource Preser	\$ 158,895
• Natural Resource Preser	\$ 9,405
• Repair/Rehab	\$ 53,810
Donations Income	\$ 3,389
20% Fee Money	\$ 445,638
TOTAL	\$ 2,467,172

Report Prepared By

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Kristen Griffin, Historian
Sue Thorsen, Museum Curator
Ramona East, Museum Specialist
Lisa Matlock, Education Specialist
Gene Griffin, Chief, Resource Management
Clair Roberts, Chief Ranger
Alden Miller, Chief, Interpretation and Education
Clarence Wadkins, Lead Interpretive Ranger
Bonnie Brewer, IT Specialist
Randy Rodgers, Chief, Facility Manager