



**Selecting America's World  
Class Treasures:  
Revising the U.S. World  
Heritage Tentative List**

Participant Guide



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# Welcome

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Welcome to the Selecting America's World Class Treasures: Revising the U.S. World Heritage Tentative List TEL Course. We hope you gain valuable information today regarding the process to update the World Heritage Sites.



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# Course Overview

## Description

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The United States is currently developing a new "Tentative List" of candidate sites for the UNESCO World Heritage List, the official international list of the world's most significant natural and cultural sites. An application to be included in the U.S. Tentative List has been prepared and approved. The Secretary of the Interior will use those applications as a basis for selecting a limited number of sites that will compose the new U.S. Tentative List. The TELNET course will describe the World Heritage process and explain how to complete the application.

## Instructor

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The instructor for this TEL Broadcast is Jonathan Putnam from the Office of International Affairs, National Park Service, 1201 Eye Street, NW (0050) Washington, DC 20005.

The Office of International Affairs (OIA) provides the overall framework for the Service's international programs and coordinates the fulfillment of the Service's mandates, obligations, and responsibilities for international activities. It collaborates and coordinates with the Service's partners for international programs on major global conservation issues.

OIA evaluates requests for assistance to maximize the impact and effectiveness of the Service's limited resources. Finally, OIA enhances the Service's ability to accomplish its domestic mission through increased experience and professional growth of its employees derived from their participation in the international programs.

## **Target Audience**

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DOI employees, particularly site managers and decision-makers up to and including agency heads.

## **Program Timing**

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Broadcast will be from 1:00 – 2:30 pm EST.

## **Learning Objectives**

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After completing this program, you will be able to:

- To make available the information needed to prepare the Tentative List application form and secure the required approvals from agency heads.
  - More broadly, the course will provide information about the World Heritage program, a U.S. inspired international conservation treaty -- the most widely accepted such treaty in the world.

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## How to Interact with the Instructor

If you were physically in the classroom with the instructor, you would raise your hand to let her/him know you had a question or comment. Then you would wait for the instructor to recognize you and ask for your question. We are all familiar with that "protocol" for asking questions or making comments.

With TELNPS courses there is also a "protocol" to follow to ensure that you can easily ask questions and others can participate as well. It may seem a little strange at first asking a question of a TV monitor. Remember, it is the instructor you are interacting with and not the monitor. As you ask more questions and participate in more TELNPS courses, you will soon be focusing only on the content of your question and not the equipment you are using to ask it.

As part of the TEL station equipment at your location, there are several push-to-talk microphones. Depending on the number of students at your location, you may have one directly in front of you or you may be sharing one with other students at your table.

- When you have a question, press and hold down the push-to-talk button, maintaining a distance of 12-18 inches, wait a second and then ask you question or make your comment. It would sound something like this:
- Excuse me [instructor's first name], this is [your first name] at [your location]. I have a question (or I have a comment)."
- Then release the push-to-talk button. This is important because until you release the button, you will not be able to hear the instructor.



U.S. World Heritage Tentative List

## Selecting America's World Class Treasures: Revising the U.S. World Heritage Tentative List



U.S. World Heritage Tentative List

## UNESCO & the United States

- The U.S. was among the founding members of UNESCO in 1945.
- The U.S. was the first country to ratify the World Heritage Convention, in 1973.
- Although the U.S. withdrew from UNESCO in 1984, it remained a State Party to the World Heritage Convention.
- The U.S. rejoined UNESCO in 2003.



## The World Heritage Concept

- Promotes American ideals on natural and cultural heritage stewardship
- Recognizes sites of global significance
- Promotes international cooperation in the management and conservation of shared global heritage
- Leverages protection against threats through World Heritage in Danger list



## Core Principles of the Convention

- State Party Sovereignty
- International Duty to Conserve World Heritage
- Will Do No Harm



## World Heritage List

- 138 State Parties (out of 180)
- 830 World Heritage Sites
- 644 Cultural Sites
- 162 Natural Sites
- 24 Mixed Sites



## Benefits of World Heritage Listing

- Increased recognition and prestige for the site
- Potential for increased visitation and related economic benefits
- Higher visibility among donors
- Participation in global network of protected natural and cultural sites



## Criteria for World Heritage Sites

- Outstanding universal value
- Authenticity
- Integrity
- On state party's tentative list
- Must meet at least one of 10 specific criteria



## “Outstanding Universal Value”

“Outstanding Universal Value means cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all mankind. As such, the permanent protection of this heritage is of the highest importance to the international community as a whole.” ~ *World Heritage Operational Guidelines*



## World Heritage Sites in the U.S.

### Natural Sites:

- Yellowstone National Park (1978)
- Grand Canyon National Park (1979)
- Everglades National Park (1979)
- Kluane/Wrangell-St Elias/Glacier Bay/Tatshenshini-Alsek
- Redwood State and National Parks (1980)
- Mammoth Cave National Park (1981)
- Olympic National Park (1981)
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park (1983)
- Yosemite National Park (1984)
- Hawaii Volcanoes National Park (1987)
- Waterton/Glacier International Peace Park (1995)
- Carlsbad Caverns National Park (1995)



## Cultural Sites

- Mesa Verde National Park (1978)
- Independence Hall (1979)
- Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site (1982)
- La Fortaleza / San Juan Historic Site (1983)
- Statue of Liberty (1984)
- Chaco Culture (1987)
- Monticello / University of Virginia (1987)
- Pueblo de Taos (1992)



## **Statement of Significance – Mammoth Cave**



## **Statement of Significance – Independence Hall**



## NPS Roles and Obligations

### **Roles:**

- Secretary of the Interior Administers Program
- NPS Directly Administers 17 of the 20 Current WH Sites
- NPS/OIA Provides Staff Support

### **Obligations:**

- International Assistance and Cooperation
- Periodic Reporting
- Reactive Monitoring and State of Conservation Reports



## What is the Tentative List?

- Inventory of properties
- Property must be on list to be nominated
- Used by advisory bodies for comparative studies
- Former tentative list developed in 1982



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## How Does a Property Get on the New Tentative List?

Proponents will be required to:

- prepare a nomination application
- demonstrate authenticity and integrity
- document adequate legal protection and management plans
- certify support of all owners and at all levels of government



## Pre-requisites for Consideration

- National significance
- All property owners concur
- Legal protection
- Stakeholder support



## How Will the New Tentative List Be Developed?

- Applications screened
- External review
- Complete by end of 2007
- First nomination possible by Feb. 1, 2009



## For Further Information

**NPS World Heritage Home Page**

[www.nps.gov/oia/topics/worldheritage/worldheritage.htm](http://www.nps.gov/oia/topics/worldheritage/worldheritage.htm)

**Tentative List Page**

[www.nps.gov/oia/topics/worldheritage/tentativelist.htm](http://www.nps.gov/oia/topics/worldheritage/tentativelist.htm)

**UNESCO World Heritage Center**

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/home/>

**Contact:** Stephen Morris, Chief of International Affairs,  
202-354-1803 ~ [Stephen\\_Morris@nps.gov](mailto:Stephen_Morris@nps.gov), or Jonathan  
Putnam,  
202-354-1809 ~ [Jonathan\\_Putnam@nps.gov](mailto:Jonathan_Putnam@nps.gov)

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## Appendix A:

### Useful Websites regarding the U.S. World Heritage Tentative List Project:

#### NPS World Heritage Main Page

<http://www.nps.gov/oia/topics/worldheritage/worldheritage.htm>

#### NPS Tentative List Page

<http://www.nps.gov/oia/topics/worldheritage/tentativelist.htm>

#### Frequently Asked Questions About the Tentative List

<http://www.nps.gov/oia/topics/worldheritage/faqtentativelist.htm>

#### Tentative List Application Form

<http://www.nps.gov/oia/topics/worldheritage/Application%20for%20Tentative%20List.doc>

#### Guide to the U.S. World Heritage Program

[http://www.georgewright.org/uswh\\_guidebook.pdf](http://www.georgewright.org/uswh_guidebook.pdf)

#### IUCN Website on U.S. Tentative List Project

<http://www.iucn.org/places/usa/webdocs2006/programs/programsWH.htm>

#### George Wright Society Website on Tentative List

<http://www.georgewright.org/tentativelist.html>

#### World Heritage Convention

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/convention/>

#### Criteria for Selection to the World Heritage List

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/criteria/>

#### World Heritage Sites in the United States

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/worldheritage/map.htm>

#### Complete World Heritage List

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list>

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## **Appendix B:**

### **World Heritage List Criteria**

To be included on the World Heritage List, a site must be of outstanding universal value and meet at least one of the ten selection criteria enumerated below:

- i. represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;
- ii. exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;
- iii. bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;
- iv. be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;

- v. be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
- vi. be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria);
- vii. contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;
- viii. be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;
- ix. be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;
- x. contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

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## Appendix C:

### Mammoth Cave NP Statement of Significance

Mammoth Cave is the most extensive cave system in the world, with over 285 miles (456 km) of surveyed cave passageways within the property (and at least another 80 miles [128 km] outside the property). The park illustrates a number of stages of the Earth's evolutionary history and contains ongoing geological processes and unique wildlife. It is renowned for its size and vast network of extremely large horizontal passages and vertical shafts. Nearly every type of cave formation is known within the site, the product of karst topography. The flora and fauna of Mammoth Cave is the richest cave-dwelling wildlife known, with more than 130 species within the cave system.

#### Criteria

- (vii) Mammoth Cave exhibits 100 million years of cave-forming action and presents nearly every type of cave formation known. Geological processes involved in their formation continue. Today, this huge and complex network of cave passages provides a clear, complete and accessible record of the world's geomorphic and climatic changes. Outside the cave, the karst topography is superb, with fascinating landscapes and all of the classic features of a karst drainage system: vast recharge area, complex network of underground conduits, sink holes, cracks, fissures, and underground rivers and springs.
- (ix) Mammoth Cave is the longest cave system in the world. The long passages with huge chambers, vertical shafts, stalagmites and stalactites, splendid forms of beautiful gypsum flowers, delicate gypsum needles, rare mirabilite flowers and other natural features of the cave system are all superlative examples of their type. No other known cave system in the world offers a greater variety of sulfate minerals.
- (x) The flora and fauna of the cave is the richest cavernicolous wildlife known, numbering over 130 species, of which 14 species of troglobites and troglaphiles are known only to exist here.

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## **Appendix D:**

### **Independence NHP Statement of Significance**

The Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776 in this fine 18th century building in Philadelphia, to be followed in 1787 by the framing of the Constitution of the United States of America. Although conceived in a national framework and hence of fundamental importance to American history, the universal principles of freedom and democracy set forth in these documents were to have a profound impact on lawmakers and political thinkers around the world. They became the models for similar charters of other nations, and may justly be considered to have heralded the modern era of government.

#### ***Criterion***

- (vi) The universal principles of the right to revolution and self-government as expressed in the U.S. Declaration of Independence (1776) and Constitution (1787), which were debated, adopted, and signed in Independence Hall, have profoundly influenced lawmakers and politicians around the world. The fundamental concepts, format, and even substantive elements of the two documents have influenced governmental charters in many nations and even the United Nations Charter.

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## **Appendix E:**

### **Talking Points: U.S. World Heritage Tentative List/Inscription to List of World Heritage**

#### **Background:**

As a signatory to the World Heritage Convention, the United States of America participates in the deliberations that lead to cultural, natural, and mixed properties being inscribed on the World Heritage List. These properties, known as World Heritage Sites, are the most outstanding examples of the world's cultural and natural heritage.

Currently, there are 830 World Heritage Sites in 138 countries. Cultural sites number 644 and natural areas 162. There are 24 mixed sites that were nominated for both nature and culture. In the United States, there are 20 World Heritage Sites, 8 of which are cultural and 12 natural. There are more natural sites listed in the United States than from any other single country.

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks of the Department of the Interior, through the National Park Service, conducts the U.S. World Heritage Program, including selecting and submitting nominations to the World Heritage List. The Office of International Affairs of the National Park Service is the responsible staff-level program office.

The World Heritage List as a whole is managed by a World Heritage Committee made up of representatives from signatory countries, supported by a secretariat, known as the World Heritage Centre, which is based in the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris.

**Issue:** There is a misconception by the media and the public that being added to the Tentative List is the same as actually being inscribed on the List of World Heritage. Being on the Tentative List only means that a site appears to meet the criteria for inclusion on the List of World Heritage and that the US intends to nominate it– it does not guarantee that a site will eventually make the list. The World Heritage Committee, not the US,

makes the final decisions on which sites are designated as World Heritage Sites.

- A Tentative List is a national list of natural and cultural properties that appear to meet the eligibility criteria for nomination to the World Heritage List.
- It is an annotated list of candidate sites which a country intends to nominate within a given time period. In order to be nominated to the World Heritage List, a property must already have been included on a country's tentative list.
- The World Heritage Committee has issued Operational Guidelines asking participating nations to provide Tentative Lists, to evaluate properties for the World Heritage List.
- The Operational Guidelines recommend that a nation review its Tentative List at least once every decade.
- The U.S. Tentative List under development is expected to serve as a guide for a decade (2009-2019) of U.S. nominations to the World Heritage List.
- The Tentative List will be structured to meet the World Heritage Committee's request that allows for no more than two nominations per year by any one nation, at least one of which must be a natural nomination.
- The number of individual sites included in the new Tentative List may be significantly larger than 20 to permit discretion in selecting nominations and because some sites may be grouped together as a single nomination.
- The new U.S. Tentative List will be a relatively short list of sites that have been proposed for consideration by their owners and that have been carefully examined for their potential to meet the legal requirements for nomination by the United States as well as the revised World Heritage criteria, during the next 10 years.
- Inclusion in the U.S. Tentative List will not affect the legal status of a property in any way. Even if the property is eventually inscribed in the World Heritage List, only U.S. Government laws and regulations will apply to it.
- The National Park Service Office of International Affairs (NPS-OIA) and the George Wright Society (GWS) are working cooperatively to prepare a new U.S. Tentative List. After various reviews and approvals, NPS-OIA will forward the list through the Secretary of the

Interior to the U.S. Department of State for submittal to the World Heritage Committee.

### Process for Developing the Tentative List

- The National Park Service proposes to use a two-step process to prepare the new Tentative List, starting with willing owners or their representatives being asked to express their interest by completing an Application, which has been available to the public since September 2006.
- Completed applications will be used to determine whether their properties meet the legal prerequisites for World Heritage nomination.
- In addition to satisfying one or more of the World Heritage Committee's criteria, U.S. law requires that all three of the following requirements be met:
  1. Each property must previously have been determined to be nationally significant for its cultural values, natural values, or both (i.e., formally designated as a National Historic Landmark, a National Natural Landmark, or as a Federal reserve of national importance, such as a National Park, National Monument, or Wildlife Refuge).
  2. All of the property's owners must concur in the proposal.
  3. It must appear likely that the owners and the Department of the Interior will be able to agree on and present full evidence of legal protection for the property at the time of final nomination.
- Only properties appearing to meet one or more of the World Heritage criteria and the three specific U.S. legal prerequisites can be considered for inclusion on the revised U.S. Tentative List.
- The deadline for receipt of applications is April 1, 2007.
- Following an initial review of applications submitted, the NPS Office of International Affairs will notify owners of properties that appear to be the most likely candidates for inclusion in the Tentative List.
- Owners who are selected for the second step of the process should be notified around May 1, 2007, with an estimated deadline for their further responses of June 15, 2007.
- Owners whose properties are not selected for further consideration for inclusion in the Tentative List will also be notified of the results and provided with a statement of the reasons their properties were not included.

- After various reviews and approval by the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks in accordance with the program regulations, the U.S. Tentative List will be forwarded, through the Secretary of the Interior to the U.S. Department of State for submittal to the World Heritage Committee by February 1, 2008. An accompanying report will explain in detail how the sites included in the final U.S. Tentative List were selected.

#### Being Inscribed on the List of World Heritage

- According to the World Heritage Operational Guidelines, countries are requested to wait for one year after submitting their tentative list, before sending forward any nomination for a site on the tentative list.
- It is anticipated that the first US World Heritage nomination of a site included on the new tentative list will be submitted by February 1, 2009 for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its annual session in 2010. During the period between submission of the nomination by the US and the Committee's review of it, the nomination will be evaluated by the appropriate advisory body—the World Conservation Union (IUCN) for natural sites, and the International Council for Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) for cultural sites. The advisory bodies make formal site visits and consult with experts before giving their recommendation to the Committee as to whether a nominated site meets the eligibility criteria.