

Fact Sheet for Roll Out

NPS Certified Eligible Centennial Challenge Proposals

August 21, 2007

May 31, 2007 – Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne and National Park Service Director Mary Bomar call for centennial project and program proposals based on five goals outlined in The Future of America’s National Parks.

August 23, 2007 – National Park Service certifies 201 projects with estimated costs of \$370 million and including \$215 million of partner matching fund commitments as eligible for centennial challenge federal matching funds. Proposals announced at Yosemite National Park by Secretary Kempthorne and Director Bomar.

These are the proposals that meet our criteria, stand the test of four rigorous reviews, and fulfill our desire to get started in 2008. The proposals are ready to go in fiscal year 2008.

The proposals are based on five over-arching National Park Centennial goals:

- Stewardship. The National Park Service leads America and the world in preserving and restoring treasured resources.
- Environmental leadership. The National Park Service demonstrates environmental leadership to the world.
- Recreational experience. National parks are superior recreational destinations where visitors have fun, explore nature and history, find inspiration, and improve health and wellness.
- Education. The National Park Service fosters exceptional learning opportunities that connect people to parks.
- Professional excellence. The National Park Service demonstrates management excellence worthy of the treasures entrusted to our care.

Certified eligible proposals originate at 116 parks in 40 states and the District of Columbia but touch parks nationwide. The “All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory” is a nationwide program to count every living thing in the national park system and it begins in 72 parks.

Proposal details for Fiscal Year 2008 project starts

- 201 proposals certified eligible for centennial challenge private/public match.
 - \$370 million estimated proposal costs.
 - \$215 million private commitments to certified eligible proposals.

Projects by State:

Alaska	2	Maryland	8	Oregon	5
Alabama	1	Maine	4	Pennsylvania	9
Arkansas	4	Michigan	2	South Carolina	5
Arizona	4	Minnesota	3	South Dakota	1
California	39	Missouri	5	Tennessee	15
Colorado	10	Montana	9	Texas	6
Connecticut	2	North Carolina	14	Utah	4
District of Columbia	3	North Dakota	4	Virginia	8
Florida	7	Nevada	2	Vermont	6
Georgia	7	New Hampshire	1	Washington	21
Hawaii	6	New Jersey	8	West Virginia	1

Idaho	6	New Mexico	2	Wisconsin	1
Louisiana	1	New York	14	Wyoming	5
Massachusetts	17	Ohio	2		

Proposals certified eligible for centennial challenge funds

- o Are for Fiscal Year 2008 with several that carry over into 2009.
- o The Secretary committed to the President that he would provide a list of Fiscal Year 2008 proposals.
- o Fiscal Year 2009 proposals were requested as a planning tool for the future.
- o Fiscal Year 2009 proposals vetted by NPS teams stand as the beginning of the pool of proposals for 2009.
- o It is anticipated that there will be another call for Fiscal Year 2009 projects once Fiscal Year 2008 appropriations are secured.

Centennial Vision

- In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016, America invites the world to discover the meaning of national parks to their lives and inspires people to both experience and become devoted to these special places.

The Centennial Initiative

- The Centennial Initiative will prepare parks for the next century, when new trends will reshape our society and make unprecedented demands of preservation, education, and recreation.
- The enduring legacy of the centennial will be to engage new generations of Americans in the values of their national parks and ensure their care for a second century.
- Centennial goals with supporting objectives, performance measures, and example actions are described in The Future of America’s National Parks – a vision document presented to the President and to the American people on May 31, 2007.

Two funding components: The President’s Centennial Commitment is \$100 million per year for 10 years in federal spending to bolster basic park operations. These funds will be used to hire 3,000 more seasonal national park rangers, guides, and maintenance workers; repair buildings; improve landscapes; and enroll more children in Junior Ranger and Web Ranger programs.

The President’s Centennial Challenge is \$100 million per year of federal mandatory funding to match \$100 million or more in cash donations to the National Park Service for centennial projects and programs.

Status of Centennial Challenge Legislation

The administration proposal was introduced in the House (HR 2959, by Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, and Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska) and Senate (S. 1253, by Sen. Jeff Bingaman, R-NM, and Sen. Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii) to create the National Park Centennial Challenge Fund Act. House Parks Subcommittee Chairman Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Arizona, and House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Rep. Nick Rahall, D-West Virginia, introduced HR 3094 on July 19. The bill adds additional requirements to the proposed Centennial Fund but does not call for private matching funds for centennial proposals. NPS Director Mary Bomar testified in favor of HR 2959 and S 1253 at House and Senate hearings on Aug. 2. Track the legislation at www.thomas.gov

Implementation Strategies

Superintendents and program managers completed centennial strategies, which describe their vision and desired accomplishments for their individual areas to support The Future of America’s National Parks.

Website

To experience the interactive version of The Future of America's National Parks and special features and to keep up with the Centennial Initiative visit the website at www.nps.gov/2016.

General Comments:

Between park- specific proposals and a national effort to inventory all living things in the parks, every state with national parks will benefit.

These proposals are both “big dollar, big impact” and “small dollar, big impact” – they illustrate the National Park Service centennial vision and goals described in The Future of America's National Parks. And they have undergone rigorous professional review.

The Review Process:

Park employees submitted their proposals through an existing NPS project management system where regional and associate directors reviewed them before releasing them to headquarters in Washington. A computer sort applied “screen out” criteria to eliminate proposals that were not ready.

A team of NPS professionals evaluated centennial proposals based on criteria which included a determination that proposals were imaginative and innovative, addressed critical Service needs, had a philanthropic partner, required little or no additional recurring operating funds to be sustainable, improved the efficiency of park management, operations and employees and produced measurable results. Proposals had to be consistent with all Federal, Department of the Interior, and National Park Service management policies and park planning and compliance documents and provided for authorized activities that benefit one or more of the 391 units of the National Park System, and contribute to at least one of the five over-arching goals in The Future of America's National Parks.

Team members represented all regions and headquarters and varied disciplines from landscape architecture, facility maintenance and park management, budget and information technology to interpretation and education, wilderness management, partnerships, science and resource stewardship. They used a rigorous process called “choosing by advantages” to identify proposals that met the criteria, furthered centennial goals of stewardship, environmental leadership, recreational experience, education and professional excellence, and brought significant benefit to the parks and their visitors. They kept an eye toward a proposal's potential to benefit many or all parks in the form of regional or national initiatives. The team verified that the proposals were supported by partner commitment letters.

Initially we received 376 proposals representing a public-private investment of more than \$1 billion. We certified only the very best proposals that had engaged a partner committed to providing at least a 50 percent financial match.

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