



FACT SHEET

Analysis of the Administration's 2008 Budget Request for National Parks *Updated 3/9/07 to reflect Congress's passage of the fiscal year 2007 budget*

The Administration's fiscal year 2008 budget request for the National Park Service is \$2.4 billion.

Operations of the National Park System (ONPS)

The Administration's funding request for the fiscal year 2008 Operations of the National Park Service is \$2 billion, which represents a \$219-million increase over the parks' enacted fiscal year 2007 budget—the largest dollar increase *ever* proposed for National Park Service operations in the agency's 90-year history.

NPCA's earlier analysis cited this budget request as a \$258-million increase over the Administration's requested fiscal year 2006 levels. Now that Congress has passed the fiscal year 2007 budget, we have updated our analysis.

This operating budget, which jumpstarts the Administration's National Park Centennial Initiative, requests:

- Nearly 500 permanent full-time employees
- 1,000 new seasonal maintenance employees
- 1,000 new seasonal rangers to provide interpretation and public education
- 1,000 new visitor and resource-protection seasonal rangers to address crime in the parks and meet law enforcement, medical services, search and rescue, backcountry patrols, and lifeguard needs. Of this, 63 rangers will be focused on deterring illegal activities at seven national parks that have been especially plagued by illegal drug running and cultivation activities
- \$8 million increase for Park Police operations

Within this proposed budget, the Administration is also requesting an increase of approximately \$50 million in various maintenance accounts for cyclic/ongoing maintenance needs, including an increase of \$10 million to maintain historic and prehistoric sites within the park system.

For comparison, the Administration's fiscal year 2007 funding request for the Operations of the National Park Service was \$1.74 billion—an increase of \$23 million over the parks' previous fiscal year 2006 enacted budget.

Construction/Major Maintenance

Funding for construction and major maintenance need in the parks, such as water and sewer treatment plant repair, is requested at \$201 million, a decrease of \$114 million from the enacted fiscal year 2007 level.

Land Acquisition

The funding request for land acquisition and state assistance is \$22.5 million, a decrease of \$24 million from enacted fiscal year 2007 levels. Of this, the Administration requested \$9 million specifically for national park land acquisition needs at Flight 93 and for Civil War battlefield grants.

Philanthropic Match

The Administration's proposed budget also includes a mandatory fund program of up to \$100 million to spur philanthropic support for projects in the national parks as part of the Centennial Initiative. This funding is in addition to the operating budget increase—not part of it.

In March, the Administration submitted draft legislation to Congress, the "National Park Centennial Challenge Fund Act," the purpose of which is to establish a fund in the Treasury that will provide federal funds up to \$100 million to match cash donations for signature projects and programs to enhance the National Park System as it approaches its Centennial celebration in 2016. As submitted, the bill specifies that private contributions must be in cash, as opposed to volunteer hours or other forms of in-kind contributions, to meet the federal match.

More Information

For more information about the National Park Service budget, please contact National Parks Conservation Association Legislative Director Blake Selzer at 202-223-6722, ext. 250.