



TRANSITION TO GREEN

**Leading the way to a healthy environment, a green economy
and a sustainable future**

**ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSITION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE
OBAMA ADMINISTRATION**

NOVEMBER 2008

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

TOP THREE ISSUES

1. PROTECTING AND REVITALIZING OUR HERITAGE WITH AMERICAN JOBS

In times of crisis as well as times when America could invest in its infrastructure, our nation built a better future for our national parks. With billions of dollars of backlogged infrastructure and maintenance needs, parks can, once again, help address some of our nation's pressing economic challenges. Every dollar invested in national parks produces at least \$4 in direct economic benefit to surrounding communities, with substantial additional indirect benefits to the economy.

2. ENSURING SOUND MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

The National Park System includes celebrated locations held in the highest regard by the public. Even so, the Bush Administration has undermined the Park System's mission in several ways—suppressing science, dismissing public input, refusing to follow laws and policies, and even attempting to reinterpret the mission of the system. The new Administration must reverse this trend and rebuild a workforce in the Park System that is trained to meet present-day challenges.

3. PROTECT AND RESTORE NATIVE BIODIVERSITY AND ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Park lands, particularly back country areas, serve as biodiversity incubators and preserves. In many locations, our national parks are wellsprings of abundant fish and wildlife. The scientific resources dedicated to the Park System must be greatly enhanced to provide the necessary expertise to protect the biodiversity of our national parks from the threat of global warming. In addition, federal policy should promote the movement of wildlife in a manner that fosters long term population viability while stemming the assault on park ecosystems caused by pollution, climate change and the degradation and fragmentation of natural systems.

KEY APPOINTMENT POSITIONS

- Director, National Park Service
- Deputy Director, National Park Service (there are 2 deputies—one political and one career)
- Director, Office of Congressional/Legislative Affairs
- Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks (above NPS)
- Deputy Assistant Secretary for Parks
- Special Assistant to the Secretary for Alaska
- Interior Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ISSUE 1

PROTECTING AND REVITALIZING OUR HERITAGE WITH AMERICAN JOBS

BACKGROUND

The National Parks are inherently optimistic places, with a commitment to stewarding America’s most special treasures for future generations of Americans. For too long, however, the parks have been allowed to wither from neglect, and have not been cared for as the American public has the right to expect. In past times of crisis, as well as at times when America needed to invest in its infrastructure, our nation built a better future for the parks—from the WPA/CCC in the 1930s and early ‘40s, through the “Mission 66” Initiative from 1956 to 1966. The next President may possibly preside over the 100th birthday of the National Park System, and polls show tremendous support for revitalizing our parks by then and for better usage of parks to address core societal challenges.

The National Park System has a maintenance backlog of \$8.5 billion (half facilities and half roads/bridges), an annual operations shortfall exceeding \$750 million, and a \$2 billion backlog in land acquisitions necessary to eliminate inholdings in parks. There is also a substantial “media” backlog, related to outdated interpretive materials, films, etc. Our national parks are poster children for our nation’s lack of investment in its infrastructure. We can choose to invest and improve them or gradually allow them to deteriorate. An initiative to reinvest in park infrastructures, if targeted effectively, will not only provide critically needed assistance to parks, but also help stimulate the economy and provide badly needed jobs.

Hundreds of millions of dollars worth of needed repairs to park facilities, roads, and trails are “ready to go” and can quickly produce good American jobs as the result of accelerated and higher transportation and construction funding. A new National Park Service Corps, through AmeriCorps, can also provide low-cost labor to remove invasive species, replant native vegetation (the CCC reforested millions of acres in the 1930’s), and help foster experiential educational opportunities that will strengthen our future economy. Finally, important opportunities exist to address critical park transportation needs while providing jobs through the upcoming rewrite of SAFETEA-LU, and by enacting legislation to facilitate public-private partnerships in addressing national park needs.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS - ADMINISTRATIVE

1. Executive Order—National Park Job and Education Opportunities

The new Administration should issue an Executive Order that would: reaffirm the core conservation/non-derogation principles of the National Park Service Organic Act and its subsequent amendment under the so-called Redwoods Act. The Executive Order should: (1) Direct NPS to report to the Secretary within 90 days with (a) an inventory of critical needs, such as the preservation of historic and cultural resources and the removal of invasive species, (b) an assessment of the appropriate roles that local economies can play in helping to meet these needs without outsourcing NPS jobs) (c) an estimate of the jobs that could be created in addressing the identified needs and (d) the resources needed to create those job opportunities; (2) Direct NPS and the Department of Education to develop a program that provides education-related employment while identifying ways to use the Park System to educate kids.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Responsible Officials: Secretary of Interior; Solicitor, Director of NPS; Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel; CEQ; OMB PAD for Natural Resources; White House General Counsel's Office; Secretary of Education

2. Cooperative Agreement with Americorps

The new Administration should establish cooperative agreements with the Corporation for National and Community Service and with Americorps to help the National Park Service recruit and train paid and unpaid volunteers for: backlog and restoration projects in parks, to help educate kids using experiential learning techniques, to help develop new updated interpretive materials, and to provide translation services for non-English speaking park visitors.

Responsible Officials: Director, NPS; Director, Corporation for National and Community Service, Director of Americorps

3. Analysis Confirming NPS Transportation Funding Needs

NPS has identified \$825 million in annual needs under the most recent transportation bill. The new Administration should re-affirm this need and include this analysis in all transportation reauthorization recommendations it makes to Congress. The Administration's recommendations should include an effort to begin to address this shortfall, which will take many years to eliminate.

Responsible Officials: Director, NPS; Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Federal Highway Administration OMB PAD for Natural Resources

4. Everglades Restoration Czar at CEQ

The Everglades are hugely significant to the South Florida economy and public water supplies and particular projects there are also green job creators. The Everglades are also the sight of the largest ecological restoration effort ever undertaken within this country. Over the last decade, the National Park Service and other federal and state agencies have spent millions of dollars in a somewhat stalled and to date largely ineffective effort to restore the watershed at the Everglades. The Clinton Administration recognized that this park has unique and complicated needs that have demanded unique solutions and oversight. Unfortunately, the Bush Administration has dramatically underfunded the Federal side of the restoration effort and the senior leadership of the Army Corps of Engineers has chronically failed to make the success of this project a priority. The combined negative effect of these two factors has left parts of the Everglades at a tipping point where the opportunity for successful restoration may soon be lost forever. Two things need to happen to avoid this disaster from occurring. First, there needs to be a new Federal leadership structure to oversee the overall restoration effort for the Obama Administration. The project lead should be taken away from the Army Corps and pulled into the White House at CEQ. CEQ should appoint a person with the major responsibility of pulling the agencies together to overcome obstacles or agency disagreements (like Tamiami Trail). The second thing that needs to happen is that the new Administration needs to dramatically increase Federal funding for Everglades restoration work. Senator Obama endorsed this idea during the campaign and now President Obama should make the delivery on this promise a priority. Wetlands restoration sequesters far more carbon from the air than reforestation and Congress and the President-elect are now actively discussing an economic stimulus package designed to jump start the sagging economy. It would be a classic win-win solution if some of that stimulus money were channeled into Everglades restoration work: jobs would be created, the effects of climate change would be ameliorated and long stalled restoration benefits would finally be felt on the ground.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Responsible Officials: Secretary of DOI: Director of NPS, Chairman of CEQ, OMB PAD for Natural Resources; political appointee over the Army Corps of Engineers

5. Partnership to Restore our National Parks

The new Administration should develop and announce a new large scale partnership initiative that includes organized labor, the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, AARP, National Park Friends Groups, preservation and national volunteer organizations, and that launches a cross-cutting national effort to create jobs by restoring the national parks through maintenance and construction funding, volunteerism and philanthropy.

Responsible Officials: Interior Secretary, Labor Secretary, Director of NPS, OMB PAD for Natural Resources

6. Establish National Park Service Corps

A new National Park Service Corps should be created to complement the anticipated expansion of AmeriCorps and provide employment and volunteer opportunities directed at restoring our national parks. In the 1930's, thousands of young Americans worked to renew our national inheritance by planting trees to prevent soil erosion and by building roads and other facilities to help families access the national parks. President-elect Obama has proposed a substantial expansion of "national service" opportunities. We propose that 10,000 of the new positions under the Obama proposal or the Serve America Act be dedicated to the Corps. The NPS would administer the Corps and deploy new volunteer coordinators in national parks, and the new positions would be funded with living stipends and education awards through the Corporation for National and Community Service. Half the slots will be devoted to each of two successful models based on the current AmeriCorps program. The AmeriCorps State and National program "provides financial support through grants to public and nonprofit organizations that sponsor service programs around the country....These groups recruit, train and place AmeriCorps members to meet critical community needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment." The other model, the National Civilian Community Corps is a federally administered, full-time 10-month residential program for young men and women who receive intensive training and are deployed as teams for projects that range from disaster response to environmental protection. Projects using the NCCC model could include trail reengineering and repairs, erosion control, hiking bridges, "green" initiatives like reforestation and wetlands restoration, eradication of invasive species, rehabilitation of structures, etc. Projects using the State and National grant model could include enhanced services in parks, the design of service-learning projects to engage disadvantaged youth in learning history, biology, and other subjects, etc.

Responsible Officials: Secretary of the Interior; Director of the Corporation for National and Community Service; Director of NPS, OMB PAD for Natural Resources

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS - LEGISLATIVE

1. Roads to Somewhere

With 90 percent of park roads in poor or fair condition, and with the need for connected and appropriate trails infrastructure, the new Administration should recommend that Congress phase in a doubling of the \$240 million annual funding the parks received under SAFETEA-LU, over the period of the new

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

reauthorization. Even doubling current funding would leave parks short by nearly \$400 million annually. In preparation for the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU, the Park Service has identified an \$825 million annual funding need for park transportation systems. The new bill needs to address multiple transportation and transit needs in the parks, advance green alternatives, authorize the funding of maintenance of park roads through Federal Highways, and facilitate safe, enjoyable and appropriate access to our national parks (including trails and other enhancements), and provide the necessary funding to do so. This funding and structure should be part of a plan to significantly address NPS backlog needs by 2016, the Park Service's 100th anniversary.

Responsible Officials: Secretary of Interior; Director of NPS, OMB Director; Secretary of Transportation

2. Enact Centennial Challenge legislation

The National Park Service will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2016. Now is the time to demonstrate an investment in these national treasures. Legislation authored by Reps Grijalva and Rahall and Senator Salazar should be supported, enacted and funded, to facilitate public-private efforts to restore the national parks, at \$100 million per year for 10 years in mandatory spending. The bill was included in Senator Reid's economic stimulus proposal in September 2008. Rehabilitating and restoring areas of our National Park System would be a positive investment both in protecting these areas and in the economy, and many are ready to go.

Responsible Officials: Interior Secretary; Director, NPS, OMB PAD for Natural Resources

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS - BUDGETARY

1. Adding Parks into the Economic Recovery (Stimulus) Legislation

The Economic Recovery Package provides a tremendous opportunity to front load job-producing investments in the national parks that must be made at a later date if they are not made now. In July, the NPS produced a list of potential "ready-to-go" economic stimulus projects exceeding \$800 million. These include roughly \$430 million in road and bridge projects, additional facility, trail, energy conservation, high risk abandoned mine sites, and other projects that both would address genuine needs in the national parks and put people to work. With every dollar invested in the parks generating at least \$4 in direct economic benefits and many more dollars in indirect benefits, parks are an effective investment in an economic stimulus package.

Responsible Officials: Secretary of DOI, Director of NPS, OMB PAD for Natural Resources

2. National Park Service Corps

Funding for the Corps should be phased in until it reaches \$200 million per year. This cost would constitute a small percentage of the overall expansion of Americorps, and would comprise only 10,000 of the 175,000 new slots already proposed in "Serve America." The phase-in would ultimately provide \$110 million for positions in two different Americorps models—5,000 slots using the model of highly trained NCCC members and 5,000 slots using the State and national grant model. \$50 million would be necessary for Segal Education Awards at the conclusion of NPSC Service, and \$40 million to place full-

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

time volunteer coordinators at National Parks and provide for the costs of managing the program and optimizing its effectiveness.

Responsible Officials: Secretary of DOI, Director of NPS, OMB PAD for Natural Resources

3. Support House Interior FY 09 Funding Levels (and build on this in FY '10 budget proposal)

The bill passed by the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee is the only specific Congressional marker to date that is related to funding FY '09 appropriations. Those levels were excellent for park operations, and at a minimum, the new Administration should support those amounts. The FY '10 proposal should continue the commitment to add \$100 million annually to park operations and should significantly increase the amount of funding for park land acquisitions (the last Bush Administration budget for park land acquisition slashed this account by 92% compared to the amount proposed for park acquisitions in the last budget proposed by the Clinton Administration).

Responsible Officials: Secretary of DOI, Director of NPS, OMB PAD for Natural Resources

THE FIRST 100 DAYS

Announce a National Heritage Restoration Initiative that includes:

- A National Park Service Corps proposal
- Include a substantial national park component in any Economic Recovery (stimulus) plan, focusing on “ready to go” projects in national parks to restore historic sites, roads and trails, as well as fund energy conservation projects and purchases that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce energy consumption.
- The appointment of a new Everglades Restoration Czar in CEQ and the inclusion of the Everglades in an economic stimulus package
- An Executive Order on National park job and education opportunities, with appropriate funds then proposed in the Administration’s first presented budget
- Announce support for the Centennial challenge program in the Administration’s budget and for moving the Grijalva and Salazar bills.

Many or all of these elements would comprise an appealing initiative to restore the parks while also creating jobs and facilitating economic recovery. Such an announcement could take place at a well-known park where past CCC or Mission 66 work employed Americans while providing a better future for our parks.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ISSUE 2

ENSURING SOUND MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

BACKGROUND

The National Park Service has a clear mission to “conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” This time-tested mission governs 391 national parks, preserves, seashores, battlefields, monuments, and heritage areas. Collectively, in one system, these are celebrated locations held in the highest regard by the public. Even so, the Bush Administration has undermined this mission in many ways- suppressing science, dismissing public input, refusing to follow laws and policies, and even attempting to reinterpret the mission of the system. In addition, years of neglect towards the NPS training regimen and needed management systems make it very difficult for many park managers to employ modern personnel management techniques, build a workforce that is trained to meet present-day challenges, and handle delicate situations related to the needs and desires of surrounding communities.

Many decisions in the last eight years have contributed to the degradation and commercialization of our National Park System. Furthermore, many decisions were designed to weaken the major tenets of Park Service law by allowing harmful activities and development under the guise of “agency discretion.” In addition, years of neglect have stretched NPS management systems to the brink and have left NPS personnel without the critical training they will need to deal with the challenges of the 21st century.

Fortunately, the most egregious policy initiative proposed by the Bush Administration, a massive overhaul of the National Park Service Management Policies, failed. Even with this victory, however, several important management decisions and proposals at the park and national level are at odds with the Management Policies that sparked concern from every living former Park Service Director. From planning winter use in Yellowstone to a failure to sufficiently address the air pollution problems plaguing much of the park system to uranium mining adjacent to Grand Canyon, the Bush Administration has made illegal or ill-advised decisions that do not comport with science or the public interest. These decisions must be corrected in the Obama Administration, with new initiatives undertaken to accomplish what is needed.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS - ADMINISTRATIVE

1. Moratorium on Implementing Regulations

The Bush Administration plans to complete several regulations just before they leave office. As a matter of general policy, these regulations should be reviewed by the new Administration to ensure they are legally sound, and any that are not finalized and effective by January 20th, should be postponed, withdrawn or rewritten. Examples include the proposed regulation allowing concealed weapons in National Parks that was initiated without any study on wildlife impacts such as poaching. The new Administration should conduct an expedited review of any harmful Bush Administration regulations affecting the Park System that have not become effective as of January 20th and to the maximum extent allowed by law, either withdraw or rewrite those regulations.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Responsible Officials: Executive Office of the President, Director of NPS

2. Settle Outstanding Lawsuits and Other Major Issues

NPS is currently defending many lawsuits that are directly related to detrimental Bush Administration policies. Efforts should be undertaken to settle as many of those lawsuits as possible in order to realign Park Service policies as quickly as possible with the environmentally protective policies of the Obama Administration. The new Administration should also reverse Departmental regulations on recordable disclaimers of interest to ensure that R.S. 2477 “highway” claims cannot be given away in parks through the administrative disclaimer process.

Responsible Officials: DOI Solicitor; Assistant Secretary of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Director of NPS, Director of BLM, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals, Assistant Attorney General for Natural Resources at DOJ

3. Enforcing National Park Clean Air Protections

Bush Administration political appointees prevented numerous adverse impact determinations from being made by NPS in cases where NPS analysis established that a proposed coal-fired power plant would cause significant adverse air quality impacts in a national park. The NPS permit review process needs to be de-politicized by creating, through regulation, numerical standards for visibility impairment, sulfur deposition, and nitrogen deposition in national parks and other “Class I areas”. These regulations should also authorize enforcement by the public through Clean Air Act citizen suits should NPS fail to fulfill its legal duties to protect national park air quality.

Responsible Officials: Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks (as the Federal Land Manager), Director of NPS, EPA Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation, Chairman of CEQ

4. Sound Management, Not A-76 Outsourcing

From the perspective of agency morale and its effect on the future of the Federal workforce, one of the most destructive initiatives launched by the Bush Administration was its attempt to privatize many DOI career positions, including those in the Park Service. Congress pushed back against many of these initiatives, and they have slowed in recent years, but the overall initiative has not stopped. NPS has hemorrhaged many positions over the years as a result of this ill-guided initiative. A consequence of the Bush Administration’s outsourcing push and its failure to invest in NPS personnel, is that NPS employees rated the Park Service 160th out of 222 federal agencies in the bi-annual federal employee survey on the Best Places to Work. This begs for initiatives that address this problem and ensure national parks are models of excellence, exemplars of green design and world class in community outreach and education. It is also imperative that park managers receive improved training and development and that NPS management systems be refined. In addition, the new Administration should issue an order exempting national parks from A-76 competitive sourcing requirements.

Responsible Officials: Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, Director of NPS, OMB PAD for Natural Resources

5. National Parks Reflecting Society’s Diversity

The Bush Administration rejected out-of-hand many candidate areas for national park status, because it argued the federal government had insufficient resources to add them to the System. Not only did it keep

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

superb natural areas out of the system, but it also prevented or delayed the addition of cultural sites that would help the Park System become more fully representative of our evolving history and culture. The new Administration should reverse this policy and seek out the addition of Park System quality units that would expand the diversity and cultural relevance of our nation's parks.

Responsible Officials: Secretary of the Interior; OMB PAD for Natural Resources; Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Director of NPS

6. Prevent Uranium Mining Adjacent to the Grand Canyon

The new Secretary of Interior should immediately respond to Congressman Grijalva's mining withdrawal resolution pursuant to section 204(e) of FLPMA and withdraw more than 1 million acres adjacent to Grand Canyon from the threat of uranium mining. Late last year, the Administration authorized a permit for exploratory uranium drilling on federal land just two miles from Grand Canyon—risking this national treasure. The Secretary should take all legal measures at his or her disposal to block mining on the claims which might already exist and prevent the future filing of new claims in the future.

Responsible Officials: Secretary of the Interior; Solicitor, Director of BLM; Director of NPS, Chief of the Forest Service

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS - LEGISLATIVE

1. Properly Implement Air Tour Management Act

No air tour management plans have been completed due to the FAA consistently challenging the authority of the Park Service to determine the significance of noise impacts from air tours over national parks. The FAA needs to be directed to stop delaying the completion of such management plans authorized under prior landmark legislation regarding air tours and our national parks. In addition, when the FAA reauthorization bill is considered by Congress, the original intent of the National Parks Air Tour Management Act should be reaffirmed in statute—that the NPS has the final say regarding resource impacts on the ground.

Responsible Officials: Secretary of the Interior; Secretary of Transportation, FAA Administrator; OMB Director, Chairman of CEQ, Director of NPS

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS - BUDGETARY

1. The Road to Nowhere Settlement for the Great Smokies

The 65 year dispute about whether to build this notorious road through the heart of Great Smoky Mountains National Park is on the verge of being settled if the next Administration plays a constructive role and provides for an enforceable settlement. The new Administration should support and seek funding for achieving a final resolution of this controversy at the level negotiated with Congressional representatives of this region of North Carolina.

Responsible Officials: Interior Solicitor; Director of NPS, OMB PAD for Natural Resources

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

2. **Fund New Parks and Park Additions**

Additions to and the expansion of the National Park System require that significant additional financial resources be made available for important land acquisitions. With the decline in land values, now is the time for an acceleration in acquisitions.

Responsible Officials: Secretary of the Interior; Director of NPS; OMB PAD for Natural Resources

THE FIRST 100 DAYS

- The new Administration should issue on January 20th a memorandum modeled after the one issued by Andrew Card on January 20, 2001 establishing a freeze or moratorium on finalizing the outgoing Administration's regulations that have not yet been finalized and made effective.
- The new Administration should immediately begin a review of ongoing litigation and seek to settle cases in those instances where it believes that its interpretation of the law is similar to that of a given set of plaintiffs.
- The new Administration should issue an order exempting national parks from A-76 competitive sourcing requirements
- NPS should prepare a new management initiative to train NPS employees and develop/update management systems
- The Secretary should withdraw more than 1 million acres adjacent to the Grand Canyon from mining or mineral entry in order to stem the threat of uranium mining.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ISSUE 3

PROTECT AND RESTORE NATIVE BIODIVERSITY AND ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

BACKGROUND

The degradation of national park ecosystems is one of the most critical challenges facing the Park System. A solution will require the Park Service and other federal agencies to work together to achieve the highest protection for natural systems within our parks. Park lands, particularly back country areas, serve as biodiversity incubators and preserves. The scientific resources available to the Park Service must be greatly enhanced to provide the necessary expertise to fully protect the plants and wildlife in these park based natural systems. In addition, federal policy should promote the movement of wildlife in a manner that fosters long term population viability while stemming the assault on park ecosystems caused by pollution, climate change and the degradation and fragmentation of natural systems.

This means enhancing the ability of NPS to work with those outside its borders on initiatives that foster wildlife movement, allowing wildlife to adapt to climate change. It means developing forward looking response plans for minimizing or mitigating the affects of climate change, and conducting biodiversity policy reviews to ensure that park policies are maintaining biodiversity. And it means ensuring that federal agencies be required to engage in eco-region level coordination and collaboration in the management of all ecosystems, including those containing national parks.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS - ADMINISTRATIVE

1. System-Wide All Taxa Inventory

Protecting national park and surrounding ecosystems depends on understanding what is there to protect. The NPS should conduct a low-cost, system-wide, citizen All-Taxa Biodiversity Inventory modeled after the All-Taxa Biodiversity Inventory for Great Smoky Mountains National Park and others that are beginning to be funded through the Centennial Challenge. The ATBI in the Smokies discovered 4,467 newly found species living in the park and 612 species new to science altogether.

Responsible Official: NPS Director

2. Biodiversity Policy Reviews

All national park units with significant natural resources should review their policies and plans and adjust as necessary to ensure full protection of native biodiversity. This review should include the monitoring of wildlife migration patterns for shifts due to climate change and identification of impediments to the free flow of plants and animals. It should also include additional science staff in significant natural areas of the parks.

Responsible Official: NPS Director

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

3. National Park Climate Adaptation Plan

NPS should develop an adaption plan that includes administrative actions and recommended legislative and other policy changes necessary to help park wildlife adapt to climate change. This should include connecting parks with the newly created USGS National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center, as well as enhanced capacity for the Park Service to lead adaptation efforts within the Interior Department.

<http://nccw.usgs.gov>

Responsible Officials: Director, NPS; Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks

4. Continuing the Park Service's Wilderness Legacy

Since the inception of the 1964 Wilderness Act, the NPS has made a clear commitment to study all of the lands under its management for wilderness designation suitability, but many recommendations have languished. In addition, the Alaska National Interest Lands Act of 1980 designated 32.4 million acres of wilderness in NPS units in Alaska, and directed the NPS to study the wilderness suitability of an additional 21 million acres. The NPS found 18 million acres of these additional lands suitable for wilderness. Designating wilderness can be a valuable tool to protect land, air, and water to stem the impacts from global warming.

The Park Service Director must conduct necessary wilderness studies and forward her recommendations to the Assistant Secretary. For those studies that have sitting in limbo, the Director with the help of Regional Directors, must finalize them and forward them to the Assistant Secretary. Furthermore, the Interior Secretary must forward wilderness recommendations to Congress.

Responsible Officials: Park Service Director; Assistant Secretary of Fish Wildlife and Parks; Interior Secretary

5. Federal Agency Cooperation—Executive Order

An E.O. should require federal agencies to engage in eco-region level coordination and collaboration in all ecosystems where it is necessary to preserve national park fish and wildlife populations and other natural resources. DOI should have lead responsibility to identify eco-regions. Management of each eco-region project should be undertaken by an interagency working group, and the Park Service should have lead responsibility where a major national park is involved. In addition, the administration should also assert the primacy of Interior/NPS in Everglades restoration, given frequent disputes with the Army Corps of Engineers that have tended to impede progress in restoring the Everglades.

Responsible Officials: Executive Office of the President; DOI Solicitor; Interior Secretary

6. Public Climate Adaptation Education Initiative

NPS is uniquely positioned to educate the American public about wildlife adaptation needs and the necessity of enabling wildlife movement. NPS must reach out and work with neighboring landowners to develop cooperative agreements that foster wildlife movement, as well as acquire easements and in-fee land acquisition for wildlife corridors from willing sellers.

Responsible Officials: Director, NPS; Secretary of the Interior

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS - LEGISLATIVE

1. **Protecting Native Habitats**

Propose legislation that promotes the prevention, control and eradication of invasive species that occupy lands and waters within and adjacent to units of the National Park System. This can be free-standing legislation, but the National Park Service Corps should also have as its charge the removal of invasive species and the restoration of native species by a massive volunteer corps led, in part, by volunteers from the millennial and baby boomer generations.

Responsible Official: NPS Director

2. **Federal-State Climate Adaptation Partnership**

Propose federal legislation that provides significant new funding for state and federal agencies to coordinate a national strategy that will assist national park fish and wildlife to successfully adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Responsible Official: NPS Director

3. **Wildlife Adaptation Funding in Climate Change Legislation**

Any climate change legislation proposed by the Administration should also propose that a portion of any generated funds be provided to foster the adaptation of wildlife and natural systems to a changing climate. Such adaptation should prioritize ecosystems with the most potential to be resilient, and include the means to foster wildlife migration between parks and other natural areas. This should include the creation of a special subcategory of the Land and Water Conservation Fund similar to the in-holdings fund for corridor easements and acquisition allowing for greater flexibility.

Responsible Officials: Director, NPS; Director, EPA; Executive Office of the President

4. **Educating the Next Generation**

Support/Propose legislation to create a vibrant Park Ranger-School partnership as proposed by Senator Salazar and Represent Holt. Their legislation can be expanded well beyond last year's important but modest proposal. This should also be done while supporting the enactment of "No Child Left Inside", and ensuring that legislation capitalizes on the educational power of the national parks.

Responsible Officials: Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Director, NPS; Secretary of Education

5. **Increase Science Education Funding for Climate Friendly Parks**

With their core education mission and more than 270 million annual visitors, national parks can play a powerful role in educating Americans about climate change and inspiring us to take action to stop it. Dozen's of "Climate Friendly Parks" are developing education programs to help visitors, gateway communities, and schools understand how climate change threatens the cultural and biological treasures protected by our National Park System. National parks like Glacier, Yosemite, the Smokies, and the Everglades are showing visitors how melting glaciers, sea level rise, increasing wildfires, disappearing wildlife, and other effects of climate change are diminishing some of America's most treasured landscapes and wildlife sanctuaries. And they are asking each visitor to "Do Your Part" to reduce

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

greenhouse gas emissions, and guiding visitors in easy actions they can take in their homes, businesses and schools to help reduce the threat of climate change.

Responsible Official: Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS - BUDGETARY

1. National Park Climate Data Collection Initiative

The Park Service needs the funds to gather and analyze the data necessary to make wildlife management decisions that would ensure the protection of wildlife and the systems on which they depend. Adequate baseline data will be invaluable to park managers in protecting natural systems and in leading the Department of Interior's efforts. If data do not exist, management actions can sometimes be a "best guess." The current lack of data underscores the funding shortfalls that affect the entire National Park System.

2. National Park Wildlife Migration Initiative

NPS should have a fund to facilitate the acquisition of land or interests of land, as well as provide grants to adjacent landowners, which facilitate the movement of wildlife and the elimination of harmful invasive species that compete with park wildlife. NPS should take all necessary steps to connect their key habitats to those on other public and private lands. More and more critically important habitat adjacent to parks is being lost and corridors are being severed by actions at the state and local level as well as actions by other federal land management agencies. Parks cannot function as ecological islands because they are constantly being threatened by outside influences. If parks are to serve as the backbone of many natural systems, they need to be connected to those systems.

Responsible Official: NPS Director

3. Climate Change Legislation Adaptation Funding

Climate Change legislation should fund wildlife adaptation needs for national parks and other ecosystems. The adaptation funding should focus on the need to build resilient ecosystems that have significant protected areas at their core, and seek ways both to fund federal, state, and private ventures to foster wildlife adaptation.

THE FIRST 100 DAYS

- Announce an expanded Climate Friendly Parks Initiative
- Issue an order requiring Other Interior agencies to cooperate with NPS in management decisions that could impact wildlife and other park resources
- Announce a citizen partnership to inventory species in national parks through the All Taxa Biological Inventory effort
- Continue the National Park System commitment to ecosystem protection by forwarding wilderness recommendations to Congress.