

APPENDIX

Contribution of Natural Resource Challenge Components to “Science for Parks” and “Parks for Science”

SCIENCE FOR PARKS	PARKS FOR SCIENCE
<p>Increase Park Base Funds</p> <p>Increases park budgets to expand their capabilities for applying scientific solutions to managing park natural resources.</p> <p>Create Biological Resource Management Division</p> <p>Restores an NPS capability for providing parks with technical management support in biology that augments park staff skills, by providing services of scientific specialties not found in parks. Specialties provided by this new, 12-person division include threatened and endangered species recovery; exotic species removal; integrated pest management; large wild animal live capture and tracking; veterinary services for wild animals; ecosystem restoration, including restoration of natural fire regimes; and migratory bird conservation.</p> <p>Increase Project Funding Available to Parks for Solving Specific Natural Resource Problems</p> <p>Improves opportunities for parks to secure one-time, project-specific funding to fill high-budget, non-recurring natural resource preservation needs.</p> <p>Create Exotic-Plant Management Teams</p> <p>Funds 16 teams of NPS and/or partner technical specialists to manage exotic plant infestations in parks, under the direction of the Biological Resource Management Division, and in consultation with superintendent committees. Each team is assigned a group of parks to support, and each team maintains the capability for finding exotic plants, and removing them, and restoring native vegetation to treated areas.</p> <p>Increase Funding for Inventorying and Monitoring</p> <p>Funds networks of parks in conducting GIS-based inventories of 12 categories of natural resources and long-term monitoring of selected indicator natural resources. Develops park conceptual ecosystem</p>	<p>Create Research Learning Centers</p> <p>Creates the capability for attracting researchers to work in park networks by providing for lodging, laboratory space, logistics support, and other needs. Creates the capability for helping visitors and residents of adjacent communities to learn what the researchers are finding out about park resources, by providing lecture rooms, teaching laboratory space, and direct access to researchers and research reports. NPS funds two positions for each learning center, one to provide science liaison, and the other to provide science education outreach. Partners provide funds and personnel to work alongside NPS personnel. NPS and/or partners provide, where necessary remodel, and equip existing facilities to serve the lodging, laboratory, and teaching needs of the centers. Thirteen learning centers have been funded and established, and another 19 have been identified as candidates for establishment.</p> <p>Provide Research Permit and Reporting System</p> <p>Invites researchers to work in parks by providing them with an internet-based, automated mechanism to apply to parks for Scientific Research and Collecting Permits and to submit their required Investigator’s Annual Reports; shares the resulting scientific information by providing other researchers and the public with access to multi-year database of Investigator’s Annual Reports submitted in past years.</p> <p>Establish Sabbatical-in-the-Parks Program</p> <p>Creates an Internet-based capability for attracting university professors who are conducting sabbatical scholarly activities to work in, and match them with, parks that are interested in providing support as a means of enabling the specialists to work on topics of benefit to the parks. Develops a process enabling university professors and parks to enter</p>

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<p>models and inventorying and monitoring protocols to guide park activities. Assigns three or more scientists to each network to provide inventorying, monitoring, and data management specialists to guide the network program. Seventeen networks supporting 153 parks have been funded out of a total of 32 networks supporting approximately 270 parks.</p> <p>Establish NPS Partnership in Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESUs)</p> <p>The NPS actively participates in interagency efforts to develop a 17-unit network of cooperative partnerships among federal and state agencies, universities, tribal governments, and non-governmental organizations, to jointly support and conduct scientific and scholarly research, technical assistance, and educational activities in physical, biological, social, and cultural resource sciences. Funds support one NPS position duty-stationed at the host university in each of 12 CESUs out of a planned total of 17 NPS positions for the 17 CESUs.</p> <p>Continue Canon USA, Inc., Support to Parks</p> <p>Continue the partnership with Cannon USA, Inc., to fund the Canon National Park Science Scholars for the Americas Program in support of doctoral research throughout the Western Hemisphere. Today’s Canon National Parks Science Scholars for the Americas Program is a collaboration among Canon U.S.A., Inc; the American Association for the Advancement of Science; and the National Park Service, which is structured to award eight dissertation research scholarships to Ph.D. students throughout the Americas for conducting research critical to conserving the national parks of the region. Research projects may be in the biological, physical, social, and cultural sciences, as well as in technology innovation in support of conservation science.</p>	<p>into agreements related to how each will benefit the other as part of the sabbatical in the parks partnership. More than 10 professors have submitted formal proposals for a partnership.</p> <p>Facilitate Mellon Fellowships</p> <p>A Mellon Foundation grant funds a partnership involving the Ecological Research Fellowship Program. This program provides 1- to 3-year post-doctoral fellowships to support research in any area of ecology related to the plant dynamics of national parks. The program awarded five fellowships in its first 2 years of existence.</p>

