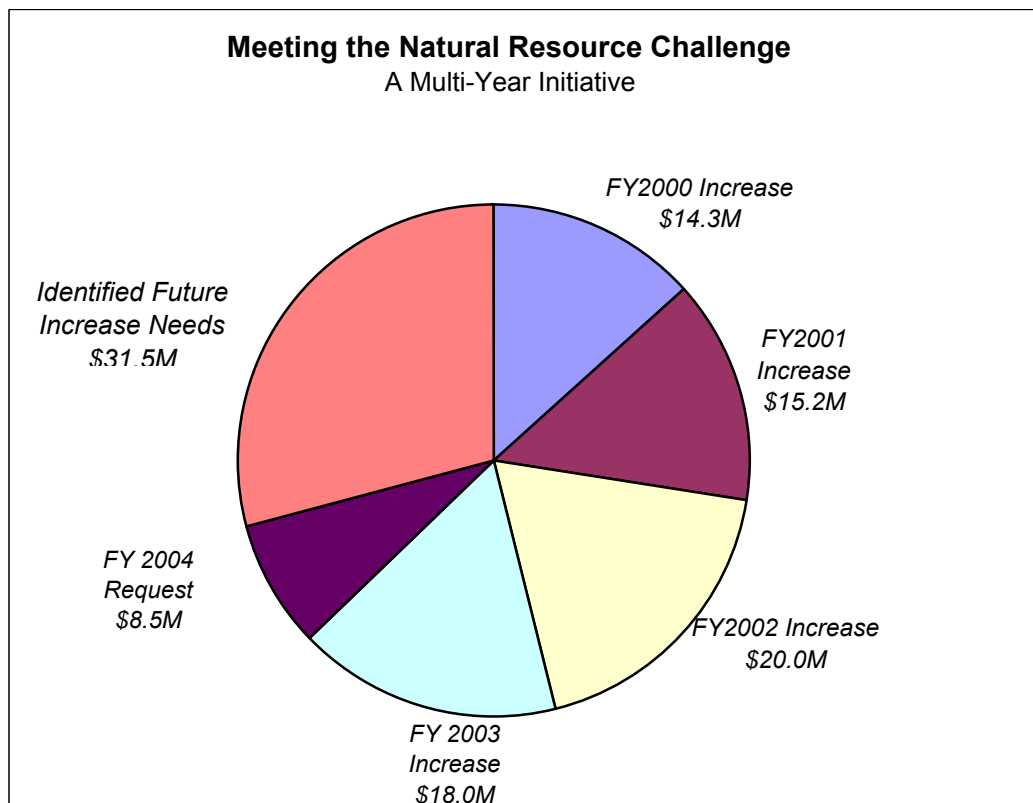


**National Park Service**  
**NATURAL RESOURCE CHALLENGE FUNDING HISTORY**  
**Program Summary\***  
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Challenge Elements by Budget Programs	Increase FY 2000	Increase FY 2001	Increase FY 2002	Increase FY 2003	Request FY 2004	Total Increases To Date	Identified Future Increased Needs	Identified Total Challenge Increase
Complete Inventories and Monitor Resources	7,309	8,507	6,800	14,750	8,524	45,890	12,013	57,903
Eliminate Most Critical Mitigation Problems	7,020	4,218	11,400	2,350	-	24,988	13,996	38,984
Attract Accomplished Scientists to Address Park Science Issues	-	2,494	1,800	400	-	4,694	5,500	10,194
Alaska Natural Resource Projects	-	-	-	500	-	500	-	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,329</b>	<b>15,219</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>8,524</b>	<b>76,072</b>	<b>31,509</b>	<b>107,581</b>
<b>Percentage of Total Identified Needs</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>29%</b>	

\* Enacted across-the-board reduction not reflected in FY 2003; amount would be restored in FY 2004 to allow Challenge to remain on track.



[You May Click Here for Detailed Program Funding Information on the Natural Resource Challenge](#)

[Not Sure What the Natural Resource Challenge Is?... Click Here for a Brief Description](#)

[Please Click Here to View Funding Information on Resource Stewardship](#)

**National Park Service**  
**Natural Resource Challenge Funding - Detailed Program**  
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Challenge Elements by Budget Programs	Increase FY 2000	Increase FY 2001	Increase FY 2002	Increase FY 2003	Request FY 2004	Total Increases To Date	Identified Future Increased Needs	Identified Total Challenge Increase
<b>COMPLETE INVENTORIES AND MONITOR RESOURCES</b>								
Inventory and Monitoring Program								
Complete basic natural resource inventories, except vegetation	7,309			2,000		9,309	-	9,309
Vegetation mapping cost-share with USGS		1,746		2,250		3,996	-	3,996
Monitor vital signs in networks of parks		4,191	4,200	6,900	7,924	23,215	4,485	27,700
Water Resources								
Monitor water quality in parks and assess watershed conditions		1,272		3,600	600	5,472	528	6,000
Air Resources								
Inventory air emissions in parks		200				200	-	200
Expand air quality monitoring and related activities			2,600			2,600	3,300	5,900
Natural Resource Data and Information								
Make natural resources data useable for mgmt. decisions and public		1,098				1,098	-	1,098
General Management Planning								
Synthesize resource information for park planning and monitoring							3,700	3,700
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>7,309</b>	<b>8,507</b>	<b>6,800</b>	<b>14,750</b>	<b>8,524</b>	<b>45,890</b>	<b>12,013</b>	<b>57,903</b>
<b>ELIMINATE MOST CRITICAL MITIGATION PROBLEMS</b>								
Natural Resource Preservation Program								
Expand NRPP project fund, specialized inventories, training	2,875		4,000			6,875	5,475	12,350
Native and Exotic Species Management								
Create native/nonnative program and field teams for nonnative species management	3,449		2,400	2,150		7,999		7,999
Resource Damage Restoration Program								
Implement Resource Protection Act to restore resources			500			500	1,000	1,500
Establish resource protection fund			300			300		300
Geologic Resources Program								
Protect geologic resources	696					696	-	696
Park Bases								
Invasive Species Control/Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery at Parks -- <a href="#">Please Click Appropriate Fiscal Year to right</a>		3,395	3,200			6,595	5,494	12,089
Water Resources Program								
Expand water resource protection and restoration		823	1,000	200		2,023	2,027	4,050
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>7,020</b>	<b>4,218</b>	<b>11,400</b>	<b>2,350</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>24,988</b>	<b>13,996</b>	<b>38,984</b>
<b>ATTRACT ACCOMPLISHED SCIENTISTS TO ADDRESS PARK SCIENCE ISSUES</b>								
Learning Centers								
Establish learning centers		898	1,800			2,698	4,500	7,198
Cooperative Ecosystem Study Units								
Establish Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units		1,596		400		1,996	-	1,996
Attract Accomplished Scientists								
Involve Scientists with Parks							1,000	1,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,494</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,694</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>10,194</b>
<b>OTHER</b>								
Natural Resource Projects - Alaska								
Alaska Natural Resource Projects				500		500	-	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,329</b>	<b>15,219</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>8,524</b>	<b>76,072</b>	<b>31,509</b>	<b>107,581</b>

**National Park Service  
Natural Resource Challenge  
FY 2001 Park Base Increases  
(In Thousands of Dollars)**

<b>Park</b>	<b>Increase Title</b>	<b>Increase Amount</b>
Antietam NB	Increase Inventory and Monitoring of Natural Resources	150
Big Cypress NPres	Control Invasive, Non-native Vegetation	399
Buck Island Reef NM	Improve Natural Resource Management Program	100
Catoctin Mountain Park	Professionalize Resource Stewardship Capability	89
Coronado NMem	Monitor Endangered Species and Manage Geologic Resources	60
Curecanti NRA	Professionalize Resource Management Program	141
Great Smoky Mtns NP	Control Alien Species	402
Haleakala NP	Establish Endangered Species Protection and Monitor Sites	480
Jewel Cave NM	Fund Expanded Resource Management Program	50
John Day Fossil Beds NM	Expand Resource Management Program	95
Mojave NPres	Protect Desert Tortoise Habitat	470
Rock Creek Park	Control Invading Pest Plants in Prime Natural Areas	163
Saugus Iron Works NHS	Establish Natural Resource Management Program	58
Sequoia & Kings Canyon NP	Control and Monitor Exotic Plants	112
Theodore Roosevelt NP	Establish Exotic Plant Control Program	133
Virgin Islands NP	Protect Visitors and Resources from Feral Animals	399
Zion NP	Monitor Endangered Species	94
<b>Total, Park Base, Invasive Species Control/ Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery at Parks</b>		<b>3,395</b>

**National Park Service  
Natural Resource Challenge  
FY 2002 Park Base Increases  
(In Thousands of Dollars)**

<b>Park</b>	<b>Increase Title</b>	<b>Request Amount</b>
Acadia NP	Improve Protection of Park Natural Resources	345
Appalachian NST	Protect Threatened and Endangered Species	142
Channel Islands NP	Provide Natural Resource Protection and Restoration	498
Dinosaur NM	Control Invasive Species and Restore Habitat	189
Gates of the Arctic NP & Pres	Protect Fish and Wildlife	148
Great Basin NP	Restore and Preserve Listed and Endangered Species	126
Great Sand Dunes NP & Pres	Protect Natural Resources	180
Homestead National Monument of America	Control Exotic Plant Species	82
Hopewell Cultural NHP	Control Invasive Exotic Vegetation/Restore Native Vegetation	105
Kalaupapa NHP	Preserve Endangered Species and Native Habitat	211
Lake Clark NP & Pres	Establish Wildlife Protection Projects	147
Little River Canyon Npres	Inventory and Preserve Threatened and Endangered Species	85
Monocacy NB	Monitor Endangered Species	118
Obed WSR	Protect Endangered Species	195
Padre Island NS	Protect Endangered Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle	95
Pictured Rocks NL	Control Non-native/Protect Threatened and Endangered Species	55
San Juan Island NHP	Inventory Threatened and Endangered Species	95
Stones River NB	Monitor Exotic and Endangered Species	132
Sunset Crater NM, Walnut Canyon NM, and Wupatki NM	Expand Natural Resources Management Capabilities	100
Zion NP	Monitor and Restore Threatened Resources	152
<b>Total, Park Base, Invasive Species Control/ Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery at Parks</b>		<b>3,200</b>

## *Natural Resource Challenge*

The best hope to restore and retain the rich heritage found in the national park system is to be fully informed about park plants, animals, ecosystems and their interrelationships. Accordingly, in FY 1999, NPS announced the Natural Resource Challenge, a 5 year program to strengthen natural resource management. The NPS strategy to meet the challenge identifies these actions to sustain the natural resources in our parks:

- Accelerate natural resource inventories
- Expand monitoring efforts including air and water quality monitoring
- Protect native and endangered species and their habitats
- Aggressively control non-native species
- Improve resource planning
- Assure fully professional staff
- Enhance environmental stewardship
- Increase collaboration with scientists and others
- Enhance use of parks for scientific research
- Use parks for learning

The single biggest undertaking of the Challenge is to expand the inventory and monitoring effort. Inventories will provide baseline information about natural resources in the parks. Biologists have identified twelve basic natural resource inventories needed in some 265 parks. The inventories will initially focus on mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles and vascular plants.

Monitoring is a way to become familiar with the condition of park resources. Scientists and resource managers in each park will identify the basic indicators of ecosystem health for their ecosystem. They will monitor vital components of the ecosystem such as the presence of pollinators, threatened and endangered species, air and water quality, erosion and slope stability – whatever is necessary to better assess the condition of park resources and reveal important trends.

The introduction or invasion of non-native species is one of the biggest threats to the natural ecosystems in national parks. Alien species can invade native ecosystems, disrupt ecological balance, reduce diversity, and destroy natural succession. Invasive exotic plants have gained a foothold and are now infesting large areas in many parks. Beginning in FY 2000 NPS put new emphasis on exotic plant management. NPS established four Exotic Plant Management Teams that will begin to control or, when possible, eradicate non-native plant species. The first four teams will work in the Hawaiian Islands, Florida, the National Capital Region and the Chihuahuan Desert/Short-Grass Prairie.

The Natural Resource Challenge has resulted in many natural resource preservation projects and stepped up NPS work with threatened and endangered species. It has expanded the Service's geologic expertise, including our capability regarding geologic hazards and coastal and cave restoration.

New and expanded partnerships are underway too. NPS is working with other agencies, including the U.S. Geological Survey. Some regions have already established Cooperative Ecosystem Study Units at colleges and universities to provide technical assistance, research, and education support for parks.

New learning centers are envisioned as part of the Challenge. The learning center concept varies from park to park, but the basic idea is to provide laboratory space for visiting scientists and encourage scientists to work in parks and share their scientific knowledge directly with the public. These learning centers will either be located outside parks or developed on park lands through the adaptive reuse of existing facilities. The initial learning centers will be in Rocky Mountain National Park, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Point Reyes National Seashore, Cape Cod National Seashore, and Seward, Alaska, near Kenai Fjords National Park.

In the long term, park managers anticipate having the wherewithal to access critical information, initiate better resource management practices and restore damaged resources so that the people of today and future generations may enjoy them. For more information about NPS natural resource management and the Natural Resource Challenge visit the Nature Net web site at [www.nature.nps.gov/](http://www.nature.nps.gov/)