



THE BEST OF AMERICA UNDER THREAT FROM UNDERFUNDING


NATIONAL PARKS RECEIVING MORE VISITORS AND LESS MONEY



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

America's national parks are the nation's most treasured places—where visitors can experience the best of America's great outdoors, wildlife, history and culture.

National parks are becoming increasingly popular. In 2009, overall visitorship was up by 4%, the highest level in nearly a decade.²³ Two-thirds of national parks, including parks in nearly every state, saw an increase in visitors in 2009.

However, even as more people are visiting parks, operating budgets for the majority of national parks are at risk of being cut. Nearly three-quarters of parks that saw an increase in visitorship last year face a budget cut in the next fiscal year.

As America's greatest places are becoming more popular destinations, now is the time to ensure that national parks have the resources they need to sustain valuable visitor programs and services, maintain the quality of park facilities, ensure safety and promote park stewardship. Proposed budget cuts for the coming year will only add to the National Parks Service budget shortfalls, created by years of underfunding.

Many national parks are also threatened by overdevelopment, pollution and other threats on lands adjacent to or within their boundaries. The Land and Water Conservation Fund was established to ensure funding for public lands agencies, like the National Park Service, to acquire private lands and other strategic parcels from willing landowners. Due to inconsistent funding, many of these critical purchases remain under funded, leaving these lands vulnerable to inappropriate development.

The administration's America's Great Outdoors Initiative should emphasize the need to provide necessary funding for the National Park Service. Elected officials should follow suit by fully funding the Park Service so that visitors can enjoy the best of America, both now and for generations to come. Our leaders in Washington should also act to permanently and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

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INTRODUCTION

Stretching from pristine coastlines to towering peaks, from the historic sites where our nation was forged to preserves of American culture, America's national parks protect the country's most valuable places. Our national parks have been called America's "best idea."

A surge of visitors came to enjoy national parks in 2009. Nationwide, visitorship was up by 4%, to the highest level in nearly a decade. Dozens of great parks, from the Petrified Forest to the Everglades to Glacier National Park, saw double-digit increases in numbers of visitors. Overall, two-thirds of parks, including parks in 48 states and the District of Columbia saw visitorship increase in 2009 (see Data Table, page 20.)

During a sluggish economy, national parks still provide families with affordable vacations. More people are taking trips to wild and remote places like Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming, while still more are visiting parks right in their back yard, like Golden Gate National Recreation Area in San Francisco. Parks provide invaluable opportunities to experience the country's natural and cultural heritage and unparalleled opportunities for outdoor recreation like hiking, paddling, camping and birding. Now, when so many more visitors are exploring national parks, is a time parks should be best protected and maintained.

Unfortunately, even as visitorship is increasing, parks' operating budgets face potential budget cuts. Overall, the administration has requested a nearly \$22 million reduction in the National Park Service budget for fiscal year 2011.²¹ While some parks are set to receive much-needed increases in their operating funds, nearly three-quarters of parks face a budget cut in the coming year (see Data Table, page 20.) If these budget cuts are put in place, park managers will have fewer resources to maintain the parks, will be able to provide fewer interpretive programs and could be forced to hire fewer park rangers.

For years the National Park Service has been chronically underfunded. The National Park Service budget currently falls short of what it needs to cover day to day operations by \$580 million dollars; this on top of a backlog of over \$9 billion dollars for parks maintenance projects. Since 2008, the annual appropriations to national parks have been increased in an effort to reduce this shortfall; if the proposed budget for FY11 is enacted, this will mark the first in three years that we are poised to add to the shortfall, rather than reduce it.²³

This report looks at the most recent available data for visitorship and operating budgets at national parks. It profiles many of the national parks around the country facing the bind of fewer resources at time of growing popularity.



AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS

This year, the administration launched an ambitious agenda to protect our treasured landscapes and reconnect Americans with the outdoors. This program, the America's Great Outdoors initiative, has emphasized gathering the ideas and opinions of people across the country. Cabinet secretaries and senior staff held listening sessions nation-wide, asking Americans about the places they value.

President Obama launched the America's Great Outdoors Initiative by declaring:

Americans are blessed with a vast and varied natural heritage. From mountains to deserts and from sea to shining sea, America's great outdoors have shaped the rugged independence and sense of community that define the American spirit.¹

No places better preserve this heritage than America's national parks. National parks encourage families to connect with the outdoors, to camp, hike, and paddle, and to explore some of the greatest sites of natural and cultural heritage.

Protecting national parks should be a central focus of the America's Great Outdoor Initiative. Americans are united on this point. In a recent poll, 86% of respondents said it was important to include protecting national parks in this initiative, agreeing that:

National parks provide us with some of the most beautiful, majestic, and awe-inspiring places on earth, but funding for our national parks has not been keeping up with what is required to adequately maintain the park system. National parks should be honored, cherished, and cared for, not left to crumble into disrepair.²

RECOMMENDATION

Now is the time that America's great places, from the summits of Glacier National Park to the shores of Acadia National Park, get the funding they need. As millions more people reconnect with the great outdoors at America's national parks, the funds these parks use to provide quality services and ensure stewardship should not be stripped away. Instead of adding to existing budget shortfalls, parks budgets should be increased in the coming year.

The America's Great Outdoors initiative should prioritize preserving our national parks. President Obama and our elected officials should fully fund the Park Service for FY11 so Americans can continue to enjoy the very Best of America for generations to come. Our leaders in Washington should also act to permanently and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund.



ARIZONA

Petrified Forest National Park

This remarkable Painted Desert landscape contains one of the world's largest and most colorful concentrations of petrified wood. Many visitors explore the unique landscape from vistas along the park road. Those feeling a bit more adventurous hike along park trails or venture into the trail-less wilderness area. Other visitors travel the park by horseback. Around the park, park rangers lead walks and programs on the park's incredible history and geology. Along the Giant Logs Trail rangers teach visitors how once-living trees turned to stone, while on the Puerco Pueblo Trail rangers lead walks to an ancestral home of the Pueblopeople. This park saw visitorship jump 16% in 2009, but in FY2011 it faces a budget cut of nearly 1%.

VISITORS: +16.2%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -0.9%

CALIFORNIA

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Golden Gate National Recreation Area is one of the world's largest urban parks, stretching along nearly 60 miles of coastline in San Francisco and around San Francisco Bay. The park is also one of the most heavily visited national parks, serving as the "backyard" national park for Bay Area residents and an attraction that draws visitors from around the world. It is a park where visitors can hike, run, windsurf, and explore the region's natural and cultural wealth. The park encompasses San Francisco icons, including Alcatraz Island, historic forts, and cable cars, as well as some of the most beautiful and undeveloped stretches of Pacific coast. Visitors come to hike miles of trails, watch the sunset over the Pacific Ocean, stroll through native wildflowers, and camp. Park rangers teach visitors how to go crabbing from piers, how to identify native plants, and lead tours to the park's historic sites. This treasured park offers something for each of its millions of visitors. In 2009, it drew more than fifteen million visitors, nearly half-a-million more than the previous year. But the park faces a budget cut of 1.5% in FY2011.

VISITORS: +3.3%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -1.5%

ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI, TENNESSEE

Natchez Trace Parkway

Weaving 444 miles from Mississippi, through Alabama, into Tennessee, the Natchez Trace Parkway follows the ancient path traveled by Native Americans and early European settlers. The parkway honors the route's ten-thousand-year history and offers today's visitors stunning vistas and opportunities for hiking, bicycling, camping, and horseback riding. The parkway drew 5.9 million visitors in 2009, up more than 3% from the previous year. Unfortunately, the park faces a budget cut of over 1% in FY2011.

VISITORS: +3.3%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -1.1%

ALASKA

Katmai National Park & Preserve

This area was first set aside to protect its active volcanoes and the lava flows, in the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes. The park's four million acres are now home to the world's largest protected brown bear population. Visitors come to see the park's stunning volcanoes, rugged coast, and wild bears. The park's abundant rainbow trout and sockeye and coho salmon also draw fishermen. The number of visitors coming to this remote park rose more than four-fold in 2009, yet the park faces a greater than 1% budget cut in FY2011.

VISITORS: +440%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -1.1%





COLORADO

Rocky Mountain National Park

Rocky Mountain National Park captures the majesty of the Rocky Mountains, rising from the 8,000-foot forested foothills to the 14,259-foot rocky summit of Longs Peak. This park protects habitat for elk, mule deer, black bear, and mountain lions and preserves the burst of wildflowers each spring and bright golden-yellow leaves each fall.

Rocky Mountain National Park is a haven for those who seek the outdoors. Three hundred-fifty-five miles of trails beckon hikers and horseback riders in the summer and snowshoers and skiers in the winter. Bicyclists are challenged by the park's steep roads and trails and rewarded with magnificent mountain views. Climbers face the imposing Longs Peak and other peaks in the park. Birders and photographers find great opportunities to take in the wonder of the park's wildlife. Campgrounds and picnic areas invite families to come enjoy the outdoors.

Rocky Mountain National Park had more than 2.8 million visitors in 2009, up 2.4% from the previous year. This is tens of thousands more hikers, birders, and picnicking families enjoying the outdoors. But the park faces a budget cut of nearly 1% in the coming year. Even at current funding levels, staffing has not kept up with increasing visitorship. The park does not have enough rangers to provide quality visitor services and ensure the park is protected.³

VISITORS: +2.4%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -0.8%

ARKANSAS

Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site

Little Rock Central High School was the first place the decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* was implemented, and the site of the first showdown over school integration, when the school's nine new African-American students had to face an angry crowd of protesters. The site's visitor center offers exhibits and presents oral histories so visitors can learn about the site's historic events from participants. Additionally, park rangers lead interpretive bicycle tours across Little Rock to significant Civil Rights sites. Rangers also host campouts on the site, where families can learn more about the site and practice their camping skills. Visitorship to the site was up more than 42% in 2009, but the park faces a budget cut of nearly 1% in FY2011.

VISITORS: +42.1%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -0.9%

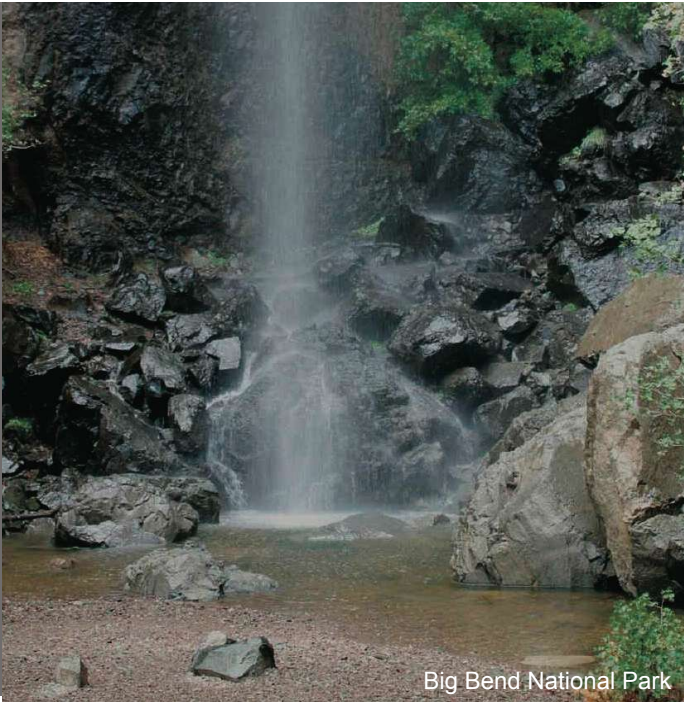
GEORGIA

Fort Pulaski National Monument

Fort Pulaski is the site of a key Civil War battle, where Confederate troops stationed at the fort were driven out after a two-day cannon assault by Union troops. Park rangers offer a slew of interpretive programs, helping visitors understand the fort's place in history. The park's coastal location also makes it a refuge for marine wildlife. The park is home to eleven protected species, including the loggerhead sea turtle, woodstork, manatee, and bald eagle. The park is popular with history buffs and birders, and with hikers, bicyclers, and kayakers. In 2009, the parks saw a nearly 24% increase in visitorship. But in FY2011, it faces a budget cut of almost almost 1%.

VISITORS: +23.5%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -0.7%



Big Bend National Park

TEXAS

Big Bend National Park

This park, stretching from the banks of the Rio Grande through the desert to lofty mountain peaks, preserves one of the most wild and remote corners of the country. Visitors come to explore the Chisos Mountain Basin scenery along the Window View Trail, or hike between the Rio Grande and the 1,500-foot walls of Santa Elena Canyon. Visitors looking to get even further afield take advantage of the park's 150 miles of backcountry hiking trails, spread across the park's vast 800,000 acres. The winding Rio Grande offers visitors opportunities for backcountry river trips through canyons and over rapids. The park saw visitorship increase by 0.4% in 2009, but it faces a budget cut of 1% on FY2011. The Texas Land Commissioner is also attempting to sell the adjacent Christmas Mountains in this beautiful area to private interests.

VISITORS: +0.4%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -1.0%

IDAHO

City of Rocks National Reserve

The unique geology that was once a landmark for westward pioneers today draws climbers, hikers, and campers. This park protects a truly unique landscape of granite spires, two-and-a-half billion years old and towering sixty-stories high. The site was a stop on the California Trail, from 1843 to 1869, and travelers noted their passage by signing their names on the rocks. Today, the park is a top destination for climbers, with seven hundred identified climbing routes. The park also protects the largest pinyon pine forests in Idaho, and the park's trails and campsites allow visitors to explore. In 2009, the City of Rocks drew nearly 13% more visitors. Unfortunately, the parks faces a 2.5% budget cut in FY2011.

VISITORS: +12.5%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -2.5%

FLORIDA, MISSISSIPPI

Gulf Islands National Seashore

The Gulf Islands National Seashore has been a refuge, protecting a stretch of pristine white sand beaches. These beaches are a place for relaxation and recreation and a haven for birds and other wildlife. The park's beaches are popular places for swimming, fishing, and boating. The park also offers nature walks and hiking and bicycling trails. Visitors can camp on drive-up campgrounds and primitive island sites. The beaches, dunes, and marshes host hundreds of bird species and draw birders, while undersea reefs are popular for snorkelers. This magnificent park drew double the number of visitors in 2009 as the year before—more than two million more visitors. Incredibly, the park is now facing a budget cut of nearly 1% on top of the devastating impacts of the BP oil spill.

VISITORS: +101.2%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -0.6%

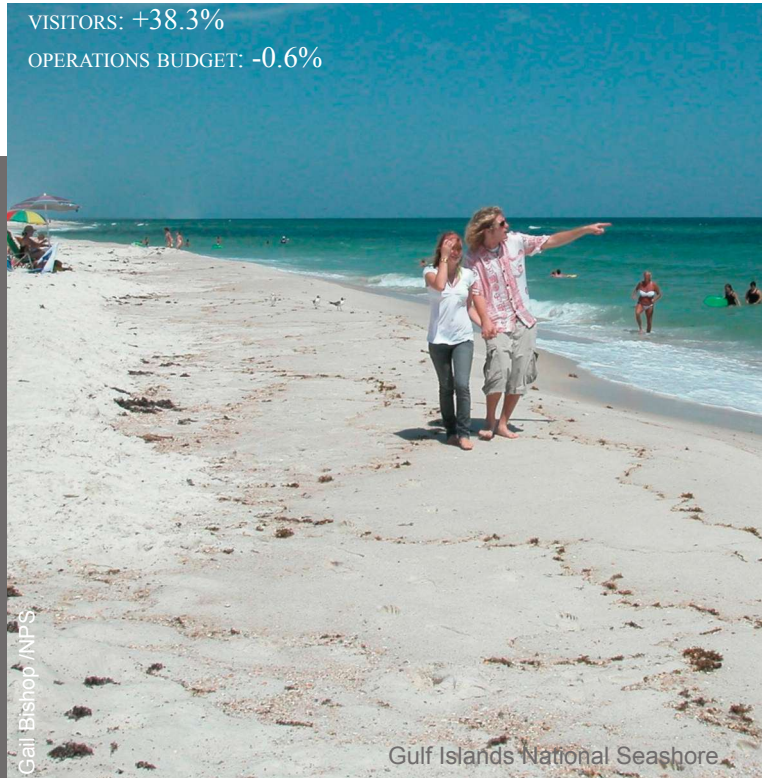
ILLINOIS

Lincoln Home National Historic Site

Illinois' sole national park site preserves the home of one of the state's most celebrated residents. The home of the Lincoln family and the surrounding neighborhood is preserved as it was when the family moved into the White House in 1860. Visitors explore the history of the Lincoln family and life in the mid-nineteenth century. In 2009, the year of Lincoln's 200th birthday, the Lincoln Home saw more than 100,000 more visitors than the previous year, an over 38% increase in visitorship. In FY2011, when the park will celebrate the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's inauguration, the park faces a budget cut of nearly 1%.

VISITORS: +38.3%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -0.6%



Gulf Islands National Seashore



INDIANA

Lincoln Boyhood Home National Memorial

The frontier homestead where Lincoln grew up is preserved at the Lincoln Boyhood Home National Memorial. The historic park features a living historical farm, with farm animals and gardens, tended by rangers in 1820s-era clothing. Visitors here learn about Lincoln's early life and the frontier life of the early nineteenth century. The park saw a nearly 24% increase in visitorship in 2009, but faces a budget cut of almost 1% in FY2011.

VISITORS: +23.8%
OPERATIONS BUDGET: -1.0%

IOWA

Effigy Mounds National Monument

This site protects more than two hundred sacred mounds, built by Native Americans between 700 and 2,500 years ago. Visitors can explore these massive symbolic mounds along self-guided trails, or join a park ranger on a guided hike or historic demonstration. Rangers demonstrate Native American tools and lead tours through a reconstructed Native American village and through the 81 acres of restored tall grass prairie in the park. In 2009, the park saw an almost 14% increase in visitorship, but in FY2011 the park faces a budget cut of 0.4%. The park needs more resources to complete stalled projects, including recording histories of the Native American groups associated with the site and performing archeological surveys on recently acquired lands.⁴ The park currently does not have the resources to employ staff to work solely on cultural resource preservation.⁵

VISITORS: +13.8%
OPERATIONS BUDGET: -0.4%

MAINE

Acadia National Park

From the top of Cadillac Mountain, the tallest mountain on the U.S. Atlantic coast, visitors can look out over Bar Harbor, Frenchman Bay, and an exceptional stretch of Maine's jagged, rocky coast. Below are miles of carriage roads, where visitors can ride horseback or bicycle. The carriage roads lead to the Jordan Pond House, where tea and popovers have been a tradition for more than a century. There are also miles of hiking trails, including the challenging climbs up the Precipice and Beehive. Park rangers lead hikes and nature walks from the nature center. The park also protects marine life, like seals and nesting bald eagles, and offers opportunities for kayaking and sailing. Park rangers offer boat tours around the island highlighting sea life and the island's history. Those who can brave the cold water find opportunities to swim. The park attracts millions of visitors each year and saw an increase of over 7% in 2009. But the park faces a 1% budget cut in FY2011. Inadequate funding means that the park won't be able to fill vacant park ranger positions.⁶ In addition to operations and maintenance funding, the park does not have resources to purchase the 130 parcels of privately held land within the park as they come up for sale. As a result, land within Acadia's boundaries could be sold to the highest bidder, leaving one of Maine's most treasured places vulnerable to inappropriate development.

VISITORS: +7.3%
OPERATIONS BUDGET: -1.0%

MARYLAND, VIRGINIA

Assateague Island National Seashore

The sandy shores and secluded bays of Assateague Island draw families who come to camp, swim, and relax on the beach. Visitors bicycle the length of the sandy island and paddle in the Atlantic surf. Along the beach, visitors collect seashells, or try fishing, clamming, or crabbing for their dinner. The park protects beach, dunes, and coastal marsh, the home of tens of thousands of marine birds, crabs, and the island's famed wild horses. The park provides unique opportunities for visitors to spot rare coastal wildlife from the beach. The park drew almost 6% more visitors in 2009, more than 100,000 more visitors than the previous year. But the park faces a budget cut of nearly 1%. Past underfunding of the park has meant that the park has been unable to fill vacant staff positions and has not had the resources it needed to best protect the park's endangered species.⁷

VISITORS: +5.9%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -0.8%

KENTUCKY

Mammoth Cave National Park

Mammoth Cave earns its name: with more than 367 subterranean miles explored, Mammoth is the longest known cave system in the world. The cave has been explored for hundreds of years, but is still not fully mapped. The park introduces visitors to the extensive history of exploration, from the first map of the cave, made by a slave in 1842 to present-day exploration. The cave is open for exploration, with paths and guided tours to some of the cave's most prominent features and off-path caving for more adventurous visitors. Above ground, the cave is complemented by miles of trails, wandering through the protected forestland of central Kentucky. In 2009 the park saw a nearly 13% increase in visitorship, but it faces a budget cut in of almost 2% FY2011.

VISITORS: +12.9%

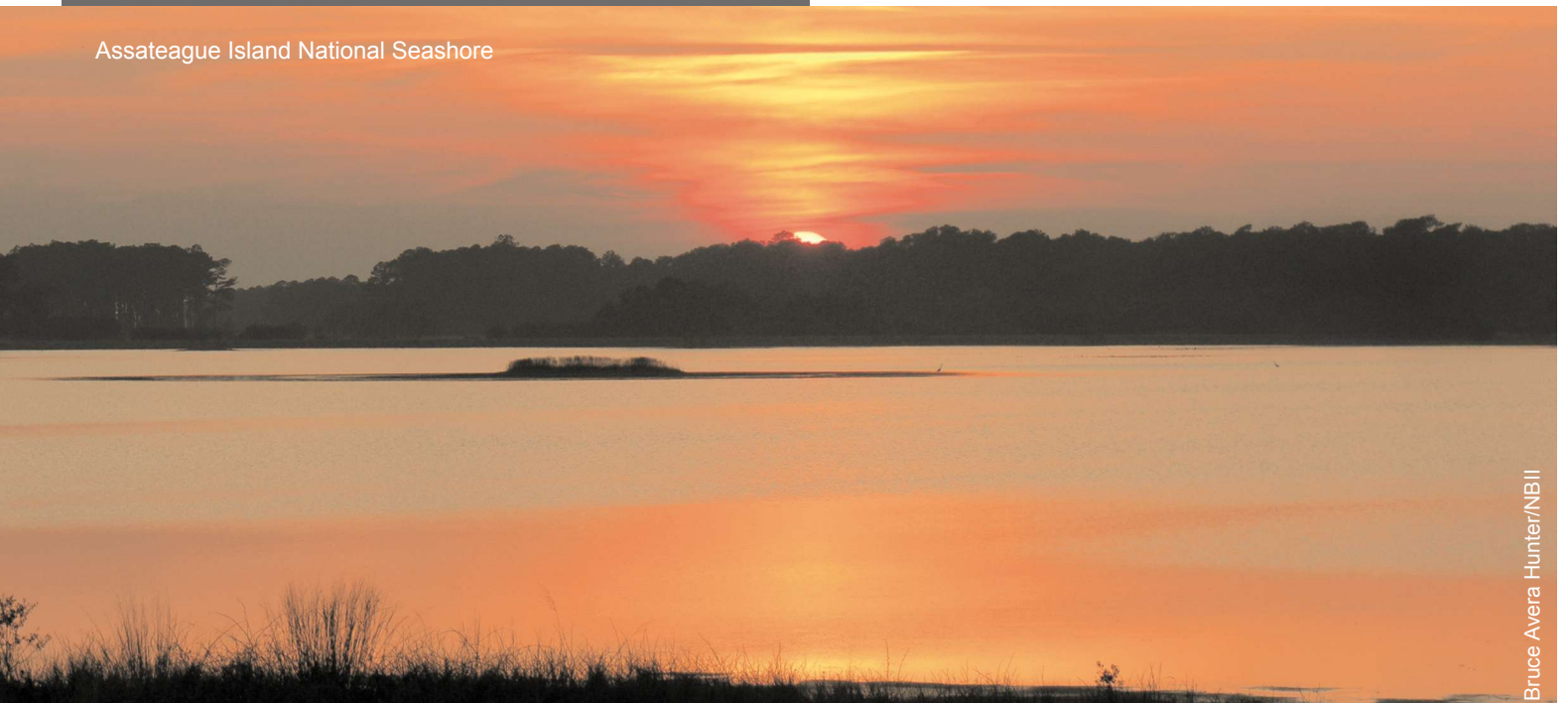
OPERATIONS BUDGET: -1.6%

LOUISIANA

New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park

In the heart of the French Quarter, this park celebrates a history

Assateague Island National Seashore



Bruce Avera Hunter/NBII

KANSAS

Fort Larned National Historic Site

Fort Larned, in the heart of the vast western-Kansas prairie, helped ensure safe passage along the Santa Fe Trail. Today park rangers interpret the site's history for visitors with artifacts, displays, and by presenting living history programs dressed in 1860s-era clothing. The park also features a history and nature trail, through restored prairie and the Pawnee River woodland. The park's dozens of bird species also make for great birding. Visitorship at the park surged almost 28% in 2009, but the park faces a budget cut of nearly 1% in FY2011.

VISITORS: +27.8%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -0.8%

of cultural integration and innovation, experimentation, and emotion. The visitor center hosts live jazz concerts five days a week, along with ranger-led discussions and walks through the places that helped form jazz music. The park's oral history project is working to collect and share the personal histories of musicians, and has collected over one hundred histories to date. In the midst of all the city of New Orleans has faced in recent years, the park serves as a critical site, collecting, protecting, and sharing a unique musical history. In 2009, the park drew more visitors than ever before, seeing more than a 21% increase in visitation. But the park faces a budget cut of nearly 1% in FY2011.

VISITORS: +21.1%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -0.6%



MISSOURI

Ozark National Scenic Riverways

The beautiful, spring-fed Jacks Fork and Current Rivers were the first rivers to be protected by the park service, and these clear waters offer a wealth of recreational opportunities. The rivers are great places for canoeing, kayaking and tubing. On shore, there are trails for hiking, horseback riding, and bicycling as well as campsites throughout the park. Rangers run many programs at the park, like tours of the historic Alley Mill and trips into Round Spring Cave. Rangers also host cultural events celebrating the traditions of the Ozark frontier, like fiddle-making and basket-weaving.

While visitorship has surged, the park's ability to keep up has been hampered. The Parks Service doesn't have the resources to keep the park clean and visitors complain of trash accumulating in the rivers. Overdevelopment, overcrowding, and intensive motorized vehicle use threaten the native habitat and make the recreational experience less welcoming for families. While the park saw an over 5% increase in visitors in 2009, the park faces a budget cut of nearly 1% in FY2011, cutting further into the park's already-inadequate funding.

VISITORS: +5.2%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -0.9%

NEVADA

Great Basin National Park

Great Basin National Park preserves an extraordinary landscape. Five-thousand-year-old bristlecone pines grow on the rocky glacial moraines in the shadow of 13,000-foot Wheeler Peak. Visitors come to take in views of spectacular flowering cactus in spring, crisp, clear night skies in summer, groves of yellow and gold aspen trees in autumn, and the striking, snow-covered landscape in winter. The park offers challenging hiking and backpacking trails, campsites, and great spots for fishing. Many visitors come just to see the park's natural beauty, by birding, wildflower viewing, and stargazing. The park saw a nearly 23% increase in visitorship in 2009, but is faces an almost 1% budget cut in FY2011. These budget cuts will harm the park's ability to best protect the park's natural resources. Already, many crucial natural resources positions, including hydrologist, caves specialist, and geographic information analyst, are vacant.⁸ Additionally, park managers would like to be able to provide more interpretive programming at the park's campgrounds and visitor centers, so that visitors can hear the park's story from expert park rangers, but the park lacks the funding and staff to expand these services.⁹

VISITORS: +22.7%

OPERATION BUDGET: -0.6%



Ozark National Scenic Riverways

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston African American National Historic Site

This park protects homes, businesses, schools and churches in Boston that together represent the largest area of pre-Civil War African American-owned buildings in the country. The park honors a community that battled slavery and oppression, including abolition leaders and those who sheltered self-emancipated slaves. Visitors can learn about the pivotal history of this area by following the Black Heritage Trail, or by joining one of several ranger-led thematic tours of the park's sites. In 2009, the park saw visitorship increase nearly 7%, but in FY2011, the park faces a budget cut of 0.4%.

VISITORS: +6.5%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -0.4%

NEBRASKA

Scotts Bluff National Monument

Scotts Bluff National Monument preserves three thousand acres of remarkable landscape, where rocky bluffs tower eight hundred feet above the prairie land and the North Platte River. Five rocky outcroppings—Crown Rock, Dome Rock, Eagle Rock, Saddle Rock, and Sentinel Rock—served as signposts for 19th century settlers migrating west on the Oregon Trail. Now, the park welcomes history buffs and hikers who come to explore prairie country and its history. Park rangers lead interpretive hikes and living history programs. The park welcomed almost 9% more visitors in 2009, but in FY2011 faces a budget cut of over 1%. Several staff positions are unfilled and existing staff must juggle protecting the park, offering valuable programming to visitors and maintaining the park's cultural resources.¹⁰

VISITORS: +8.5%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -1.1%

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site

The home, gardens and studio of the great Irish-American sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens, creator of iconic sculptures of Civil War generals, are preserved at this historic site. This park displays over one hundred of Saint-Gaudens' works, and preserves his home and classical, terraced gardens. The park also hosts sculptors-in-residence and offers sculpting classes at all levels, so visitors can discover their hidden talents, sculpting in a master's studio. The site drew 16% more visitors in 2009, but faces a budget cut of nearly 1% in FY2011.

VISITORS: +15.9%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -0.8%

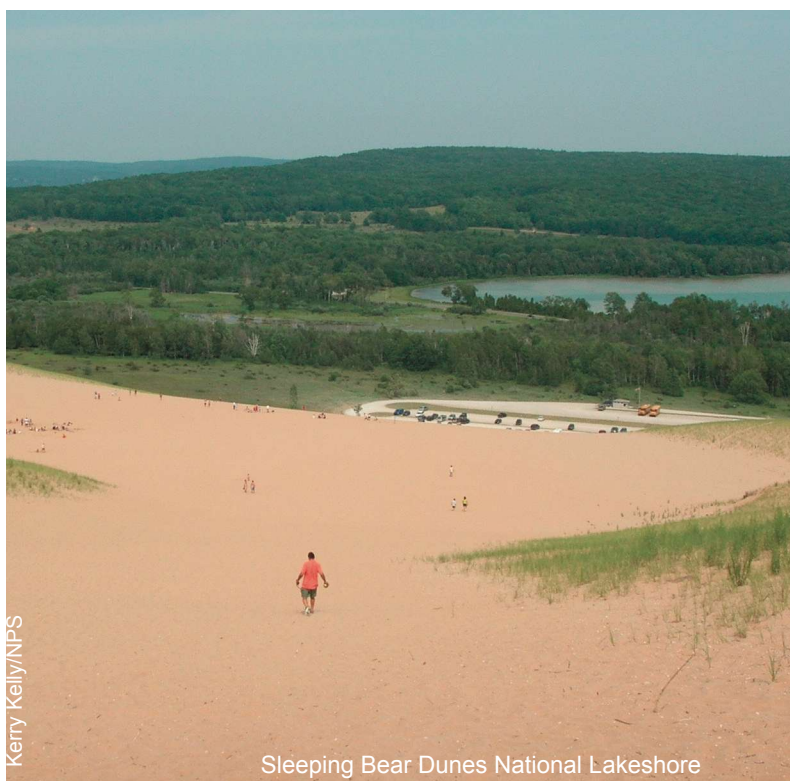
NEW YORK

Governors Island National Monument

Sitting just off the end of Manhattan, where the Hudson and East Rivers meet in New York Harbor, this island played an important role in the city's history. The island's fortifications, Fort Jay and Castle Williams, were crucial to defending an emergent New York City in the nineteenth century. Now the island is a destination for recreation and for exploring New York City's history. On weekends, park rangers lead programs like historic orientations, living history programs designed for kids, and bicycle tours. This relatively new park is quickly growing in popularity. In 2009 it saw an almost 60% increase in visitorship, an increase of more than 120,000 visitors. But in FY2011, the park faces a budget cut of 0.4%.

VISITORS: +58.9%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -0.4%



Kerry Kelly/NPS

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

MICHIGAN

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

This park protects a beautiful, sixty-five-mile stretch of shore along Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The park offers a wealth of outdoor activities for families, from hiking up the signature 110-foot sand dune, to canoeing and kayaking, to just enjoying the stretches of beach and swimming in Lake Michigan. Park rangers lead programs like taking visitors to see a beaver lodge, hike to historic farmsteads, explore glacial remains, or howl for coyotes. The park is also a refuge for old-growth white cedar and for endangered piping plover. Visitors can explore this protected landscape, and keep an eye out for the rare shorebirds, which are now recovering in the park. The park saw more than 150,000 more visitors in 2009 than in the previous year, an almost 16% increase. But in FY2011, the park faces a budget cut of 2%.

VISITORS: +15.6%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -2.1%

MINNESOTA

Voyageurs National Park

This remarkable park protects a landscape of lakes and northern woodlands. Two hundred years ago this chain of interconnected lakes served as a route for *voyageurs* traveling in birch bark canoes loaded with trading goods. Today it now provides visitors with unmatched opportunities for boating and fishing. Visitors come for the unique opportunities for canoeing, kayaking, and motor boating. Lakeside campsites give visitors a chance to sleep outdoors serenaded by the calls of loons; trails through the forests offer great hiking. During the winter, visitors explore frozen lakes on skis and snowshoes. The park is also a protected home for black bears, moose, gray wolves, and hundreds of species of birds. In summertime, park rangers lead guided boat tours and naturalist programs exploring the park. The park saw an increase in visitorship of 0.4% in 2009, but in FY2011, it faces a 15% budget cut. Voyageurs National Park is also near the Boundary Waters. In the past two years more than 100 mining exploration permits were issued for areas adjacent to the waterways; if these mining leases are developed, they could pollute what is arguably Minnesota's most treasured landscape.

VISITORS: +0.4%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -15.3%



Steve Conry

NORTH DAKOTA

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

This park preserves and celebrates the landscape that inspired a young Teddy Roosevelt. "It was here that the romance of my life began," Roosevelt said of the rugged badlands that are home to bison, mule deer and wild horses. This landscape inspired Roosevelt to become one of America's great leaders in conservation. The Little Missouri River, which flows through the park, is a popular river for multi-day boating trips in the summer and route for cross-country skiers in the winter. Park rangers lead guided walks and evening campfire programs, teaching visitors about the park's natural and cultural landscape. In 2009, the park drew almost 14% more visitors, but it faces a budget cut of nearly 1% in FY2011.

VISITORS: +13.6%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -0.9%

OHIO

Hopewell Culture National Historic Park

This park preserves prehistoric earthen mounds, built in geometric patterns across the landscape by earlier inhabitants of this land. These earthworks were built by the Hopewell between 200 BC and AD 500, and were used for a variety of ceremonial and social activities. Visitors are invited to see the mounds and learn about those who built them thousands of years ago. Park programs, like park ranger-led hikes and events on significant dates in the solar calendar help visitors understand the significance of this site. The park saw a nearly 22% visitorship increase in 2009, but faces a budget cut of nearly 2% in FY2011.

VISITORS: +21.5%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -1.8%



MONTANA
Glacier National Park

This beloved park, now celebrating its 100th year, protects more than one million acres of forests and alpine landscape. The park is located at the Crown of the Continent, or at what was known to Native Americans as the ‘backbone of the world.’¹¹ The park is home to grizzly bears, grey wolf and, bighorn sheep. Hikers come to hike the park’s seven-hundred-fifty-miles of trails, which climb to the peaks on the continental divide and the glaciers that give the park its name. Visitors also find great opportunities for bicycling, canoeing, rafting, and cross-country skiing. The remarkable Going-to-the-Sun Road cuts through the heart of the park and allows visitors to drive or ride through the center of this vast and rugged landscape. Visitors can stay in the park’s nearly one thousand campsites or at one of the park’s historic hotels. In 2009, Glacier National Park saw a greater than 12% increase in visitorship, an increase of more than 200,000 visitors. But in FY2011, the park faces a budget cut of nearly 1%. This adds to years of underfunding at the park. In total, there is backlog of maintenance projects totaling \$280 million, preventing the

park from fully maintaining park icons like the Going-to-the-Sun Road and the historic Many Glacier Hotel.¹² Budget cuts have even meant that the park has had to stop providing clean drinking water at some campgrounds.¹³ In addition, many of the lands adjacent to the park are open to oil and gas drilling. Drilling and mining will pollute the Flathead River Valley watershed-threatening the pristine waters and harming wildlife inside and outside the park, as well as marring many of the most beautiful vistas visitors can see from inside the park.

VISITORS: +12.4%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -0.9%



NPS

OKLAHOMA

Chicasaw National Recreation Area

The Chicasaw National Recreation Area offers boundless opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts. Lakes and rivers are popular spots for boating, fishing, swimming, and water skiing. The park also has miles of hiking trails, and great spots for camping and picnicking. The park is located at the transition where eastern forests and western prairies meet. The overlapping ecosystems and the park's location on the central migratory flyway make the park a unique place for birding and wildlife viewing. The park drew over one million visitors in 2009, up nearly 1% from the previous year. However, the park faces a more than 1% budget cut in FY2011.

VISITORS: +0.6%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -1.1%

NORTH CAROLINA

Cape Hatteras National Seashore

The Cape Hatteras National Seashore protects a ribbon of Atlantic shore along the North Carolina coast. The beautiful stretch of beach is a great place for visitors to enjoy the outdoors. The beach provides great opportunities for swimming, birding, and collecting seashells. The ocean and bay invite canoeists, kayakers, and windsurfers. The park also offers beachside camping. The park is a refuge for sea birds like terns, osprey, oystercatchers, and endangered piping plover, and for crabs and loggerhead turtles. Rangers lead programs exploring the park's flora and fauna, hands-on programs especially for kids, and tours to the park's shipwrecks and lighthouses. In 2009, the park's visitorship was up more than 6%, but it faces a budget cut of nearly 1% in FY2011.

VISITORS: +6.3%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -0.7%



Cape Hatteras National Seashore

John J. Mosesso/NBII

PENNSYLVANIA

Fort Necessity National Battlefield

The battle at Fort Necessity in 1754 launched the French and Indian War, a clash between the French, British, and Native Americans for control of North America that set the stage for the American Revolution. Now visitors come to experience the site's history, from the fort and the Great Meadow where a young George Washington led his troops, to the Mount Washington Tavern, a nineteenth-century stagecoach stop. Around the fort and visitor center, park rangers offer tours of the site's buildings and interpretive programs. Five miles of hiking and cross-country ski trails around the historic site let visitors explore the great outdoors as they explore the area's history. This park saw a nearly 55% increase in visitorship in 2009, but in FY2011, the park faces an almost 2% budget cut.

VISITORS: +54.5%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -1.9%



Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

Mike Parker

NEW MEXICO

Carlsbad Caverns National Park

Carlsbad Caverns National Park protects an incredible stalactite- and stalagmite-filled underground network of 117 caves. Visitors can walk along paths through the Big Room, which, at more than eight acres, is the cave's largest chamber. This walk offers a view of some of the cave's most famous features, including the Painted Grotto and the Bottomless Pit. Another route into the cave descends more than 750 feet from the cave's natural entrance, past the Bat Cave, Devil's Spring, and Iceberg Rock. Park rangers also lead park tours, including tours through some of the cavern's most challenging, labyrinthine passages, like Spider Cave. Above ground, the park serves as one of the few protected areas of the Chihuahuan Desert and its diverse ecosystem. Visitors have spotted more than three hundred bird species in the park, and the caverns themselves are home to seventeen different bat species. The park saw visitorship increase more than 8% in 2009, but it faces a budget cut of 1% in FY2011.

VISITORS: +8.1%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -1.0%



NPS

Carlsbad Caverns National Park

NEW JERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

The scenic Delaware River cuts through the Appalachian Mountains at the Delaware Water Gap. The 40 miles of protected rivers that flow through the park are a popular destination for canoeing, kayaking, and tubing. The park offers campsites along the river, allowing boaters to take multi-day river trips. The river also offers great fishing opportunities, especially during the spring shad run. Lifeguarded beaches along the river offer places to swim. The park also features one hundred miles of hiking trails, including twenty-seven miles of the Appalachian Trail, and trails for mountain biking, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing. Birders, sightseers, and photographers can spot bald eagles and hawks and take in the river scenery and dramatic waterfalls. The park is also home to white-tailed deer, black bear and gray fox. The park drew more than five million visitors in 2009, an increase of almost 2% from the previous year. But the park faces a budget cut of nearly 1% in FY2011.

VISITORS: +1.7

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -0.9%

RHODE ISLAND

Roger Williams National Memorial

This site honors Rhode Island's founder and a champion of religious freedom in early American history. The memorial is on the site where Roger Williams founded Providence, Rhode Island as a refuge of religious freedom, after being banished from Massachusetts for his beliefs. Interpretive historic programs take visitors through the important sites of the seventeenth-century settlement and define Williams' importance to the cause of religious freedom. In 2009, the park saw a more than 9% increase in visitorship, but it faces a budget cut of almost 1% in FY2011.

VISITATION: +9.4%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -0.5%

SOUTH CAROLINA

Congaree National Park

In the heart of the South Carolinian lowland, Congaree National Park preserves the largest old-growth flood plain forest on the continent. This forest of towering trees—some of the largest in the country—rising up from the floodplain swamp is a place of beauty and tranquility. The park not only protects the trees, but the fish, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals that make their home in the forested wetlands, creeks, and sloughs. The park welcomes visitors who hike, camp, and paddle through an environment of giant pines and hardwoods. Canoe and kayak trails lead paddlers through the park, and park rangers lead guided canoe tours. Boaters get an up-close view of some of the park's wildlife, like turtles and river otters. Trails and boardwalks take hikers through the lowlands' many distinct ecosystems. Park rangers lead nature walks, "tree treks" and "owl prowls" to introduce visitors to the park's flora and fauna. In 2009, the park drew over 17% more visitors than the previous year, but in FY2011 it faces a budget cut of almost 1%.

VISITORS: +17.2%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -0.7%



Crater Lake National Park

SOUTH DAKOTA

Badlands National Park

This park lets visitors explore the rich, rugged, rocky landscape of the Badlands. The sharp and towering buttes and spires, run through with bands of red, orange, and white sandstone, preserve an incredible geologic history and create a magnificent landscape. The signature rock outcroppings rise from the mixed-grass prairie, home to bison, pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep, and black-tailed prairie dog. The park offers visitors opportunities for hiking, camping, birding, and taking in the unique landscape from lookouts along the park road. Park ranger-led programs allow visitors to examine a fossilized turtle shell, climb rocky badlands formations, and stargaze in the clear night sky. The park is a place to explore a unique and wild landscape. The saw a greater than 10% increase in visitorship in 2009, but in FY2011 it faces a budget cut of 1%.

VISITORS: 10.4%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -1.0%

UTAH

Bryce Canyon National Park

Bryce Canyon National Park offers visitors a chance to explore a stunning desert landscape. The park is known for its signature towering hoodoos, rock spires ground away by millennia of wind, water, and ice. Bryce Canyon itself is a massive and inspiring natural amphitheatre carved into the rocks. The mottled red, orange and white sandstone forms a remarkable landscape. The park is also a refuge, protecting a wealth of threatened desert plants and animals, including endangered species. Visitors to the park can explore the landscape on foot from the park's miles of trails, or by car or park shuttle. Visitors can also ride by horse or mule down into the canyon, and ski or snowshoe along the rim. In 2009, the park saw a nearly 17% increase in visitorship; in FY2011, it faces a budget cut of 1%. Underfunding has already meant that the park has been unable to fill important staff positions, including trail crews, and law enforcement, and park managers have been unable to complete resource management plans.¹⁴

VISITORS: +16.6

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -1.0%

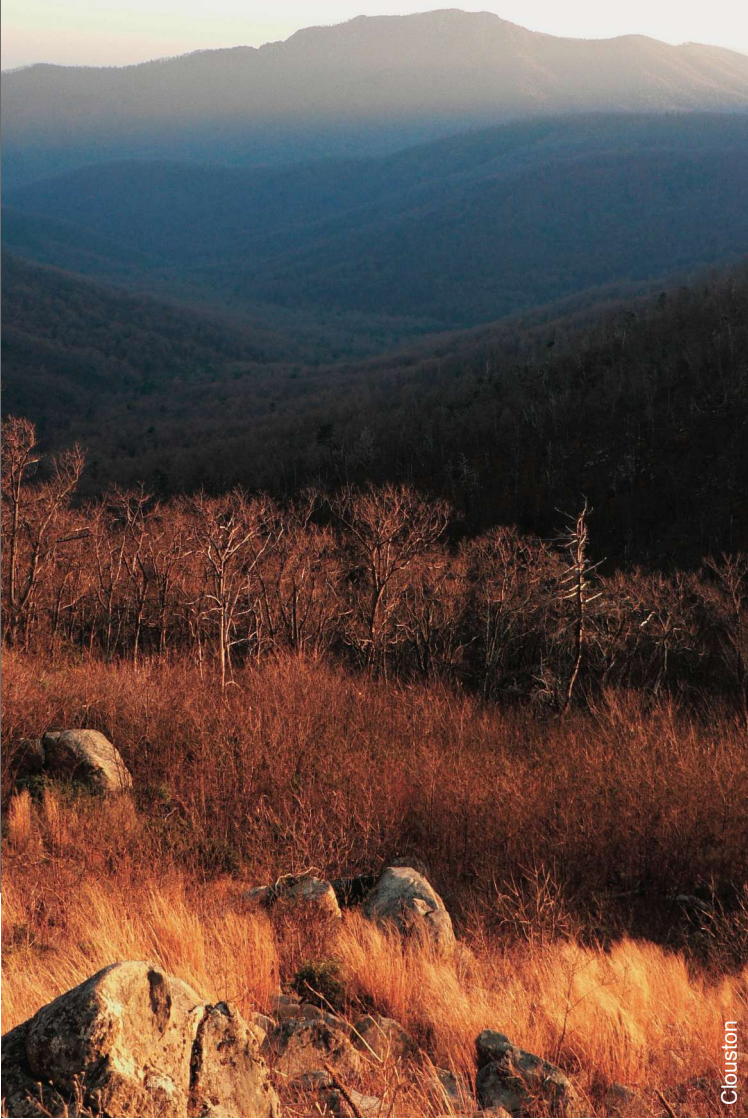
OREGON

Crater Lake National Park

Crater Lake is Oregon's crown jewel with its magnificent deep blue waters surrounded by 2,000-foot sheer cliffs. During the summer, the park draws hikers and campers looking to explore the rim of the ancient extinct volcano and its surrounding mountains, old growth forests and wildflower meadows. Scenic routes through the park give all visitors great opportunities to gaze down at America's deepest lake, and park rangers lead hikes and snowshoe walks year-round. The rest of the year snow blankets the park as it receives an average of 44 feet of snowfall. Like many of Oregon's national lands, the park is under-protected and underfunded. Two proposed clearcuts in the surrounding national forest land threaten the park's ecosystem for Roosevelt elk, black bear, and bald eagles. Crater Lake drew over 7% more visitors in 2009, but faces a budget cut of 1% in FY2011. In the past, underfunding has forced the park to cut both full-time and seasonal ranger positions in order to fund fixed costs.¹⁵

VISITORS: +7.4%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -1.0%



Clouston

VIRGINIA

Shenandoah National Park

For many Virginians, Shenandoah National Park is a place to visit with their families. For some it's where they hike Old Rag, while others value the park for its historical significance. Still others come for the weekend to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Many visitors are drawn to Skyline Drive for striking views of Shenandoah Valley. Visitors of all ages find great opportunities for hiking, camping, cycling and fishing along the wooded mountainsides.

Visitorship increased more than 4% in 2009, but the park faces an over 1% budget cut for FY11. Proposed budget cuts would reverse the trend toward increased funding for Shenandoah; jeopardizing the park's ability to maintain overlooks along Skyline Drive and to keep campgrounds and visitor centers open. Until recently, Shenandoah was facing sizeable budget shortfalls that impeded park managers' ability to maintain the park. At a time when Virginians are flocking to Shenandoah, it is even more important to provide it with the resources it needs to serve its visitors.

VISITORS: +4.2%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -1.1%

WYOMING, MONTANA, IDAHO

Yellowstone National Park

America's first national park, and an icon of the national park system, Yellowstone protects a bold landscape and an array of wildlife. Visitors come to see some of the world's most incredible geysers and hot springs, including the legendary Old Faithful, and the park's array of wildlife, including grizzly bears, wolves, bison and elk.

The park also offers many outdoor activities. Hikers find more than one thousand miles of wilderness trails. Campers find a range of easily accessible campgrounds and hundreds of backcountry campsites. Trails also offer great opportunities for bicyclists, skiers, and horseback riders. Some of the most popular sights in the park are Mammoth Hot Springs and Norris Geyser Basin, along with the park's charismatic wildlife.

In 2009, the park drew nearly 8% more visitors, an increase of more than 200,000. Yet in FY2011, the park faces a budget cut of over 1%. While park rangers still offer a range of interpretive programming in the park, previous budget cuts have forced the park to charge for some of its popular ranger-led programs and raise entrance fees.¹⁷ In 2007, it was estimated that federal funding covered only 70% of the park's fixed costs, forcing the park to close roads to balance its budget.¹⁸ Further budget cuts will reduce the park programs and maintenance.

VISITORS: +7.5%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -1.2%

WEST VIRGINIA

Harpers Ferry National Historic Park

This park protects an historic community, significant battlefields, and a section of Appalachian ecosystem. Visitors can hike up the water gap where the Shenandoah River meets the Potomac River. Other trails lead up to Maryland Heights and lookouts over Harpers Ferry, through forests that are a refuge for peregrine falcons and raptors. The park also offers a wealth of cultural resources for families, from museum exhibits to ranger-led tours. The park is the site of early American industry, railroads, a key Civil War battlefield, and an early site in the Civil Rights fight. The park saw an over 8% increase in visitorship in 2009, but in FY2011 faces a budget cut of nearly 1%. Underfunding has prevented the park from hiring necessary staff.¹⁶ Additional budget cuts will further cut staff needed to manage and protect the park's vital resources.

VISITORS: +8.2%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -0.8%

WASHINGTON

Olympic National Park

Stretching from the Pacific coast, through rainforests, to towering glacier-capped mountains, Olympic National Park protects an area of unmatched coastal wilderness. The protected old-growth rainforest is home to elk, mountain lions, and bears, while just offshore whales, sea lions and starfish make their home. Many animals native to the park, like the Olympic marmot, are found nowhere else in the world. The park's natural wealth makes it an incredible destination for hiking and backpacking, and hiking trails run along the coast, through forested valleys, and up the park's rugged peaks. The park's many campgrounds are popular places for camping. The drive up to the park's Hurricane Ridge visitor center takes visitors through many of the park's ecosystems, climbing nearly a mile in elevation and offering views of the park's stunning scenery and wildlife. In 2009, the park drew more than 6% more visitors, but in FY2011, it faces a 2% budget cut. This cut will hurt the park's maintenance and services. Six permanent positions are already unfilled due to insufficient funding, including positions in maintenance and management, and a conservation biologist.¹⁹

VISITORS: +6.3%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -2.0%



WISCONSIN, MINNESOTA

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

These two-hundred-fifty-five protected miles of the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers allow visitors to float, paddle, or sail through the wild north woods. The cool waters up the Namekagon River and the upper St. Croix River offer great opportunities for canoeing, kayaking and fishing. The wider lower section of the St. Croix River is a popular spot for sailing; visitors also come to favorite swimming and tubing spots. Campsites along the river offer visitors secluded places to camp and allow for days-long trips down river. From the river, visitors can spot much of the area's wildlife, including beavers, deer, Great Blue herons and bald eagles. Birders keep their eyes peeled for the park's dozens of bird species. The

forests alongside the river also offer great recreation opportunities, including trails for hiking and horseback riding, campgrounds, and popular picnic spots. The park drew almost 8% more visitors in 2009 than in the previous year, but in FY2011 it faces a nearly 1% budget cut.

VISITORS: +7.8%

OPERATIONS BUDGET: -0.8%



CHANGE IN VISITORS (2008-2009) AND BUDGETS (2010-2011) AT NATIONAL PARKS

State	Park	Change in visitorship (%)	Change in budget (%)
AK	Katmai NP & PRES	440.0%	-1.1%
AK	Lake Clark NP & PRES	42.8%	3.0%
AK	Aniakchak NM & PRES	40.0%	-1.1%
AK	Yukon-Charley Rivers NPRES	30.1%	10.6%
AK	Kobuk Valley NP	20.1%	2.1%
AK	Noatak NPRES	15.2%	2.1%
AK	Cape Krusenstern NM	14.9%	2.1%
AK	Glacier Bay NP & PRES	4.6%	-1.1%
AK	Bering Land Bridge NPRES	3.4%	2.1%
AK	Sitka NHP	2.3%	-0.7%
AK	Klondike Gold Rush NHP Alaska	-5.9%	-0.7%
AK	Wrangell-St. Elias NP & PRES	-8.7%	-0.8%
AK	Gates of the Arctic NP & PRES	-12.5%	8.2%
AK	Denali NP & PRES	-17.2%	2.4%
AK	Kenai Fjords NP	-19.8%	4.5%
AL	Horseshoe Bend NMP	42.4%	-0.9%
AL	Tuskegee Airmen NHS	16.1%	9.8%
AL	Little River Canyon NPRES	-4.3%	-7.4%
AL	Russell Cave NM	-33.8%	-1.0%
AL	Tuskegee Institute NHS	-39.7%	-1.0%
AL, MS, TN	Natchez Trace PKWY	3.3%	-1.1%
AR	Little Rock Central High School NHS	42.1%	-0.9%
AR	Buffalo NR	8.3%	0.4%
AR	Hot Springs NP	3.8%	3.1%
AR	Pea Ridge NMP	0.4%	-0.6%
AR	Fort Smith NHS	-15.5%	-0.8%
AR	Arkansas Post NMEM	-25.4%	-1.2%
AS	National Park of American Samoa	-12.0%	-0.5%
AZ	Hubbell Trading Post NHS	60.2%	45.2%
AZ	Walnut Canyon NM	26.0%	-0.9%
AZ	Coronado NMEM	16.9%	-0.9%
AZ	Petrified Forest NP	16.2%	-0.9%
AZ	Chiricahua NM	7.6%	-1.1%
AZ	Navajo NM	5.1%	-0.8%
AZ	Pipe Spring NM	4.2%	-0.5%
AZ	Casa Grande Ruins NM	3.5%	-0.8%
AZ	Tuzigoot NM	3.3%	-0.5%
AZ	Montezuma Castle NM	-0.4%	-0.5%
AZ	Canyon de Chelly NM	-1.1%	-1.1%
AZ	Grand Canyon NP	-1.7%	1.1%
AZ	Wupatki NM	-2.5%	-0.9%
AZ	Organ Pipe Cactus NM	-3.0%	-1.1%
AZ	Fort Bowie NHS	-4.5%	10.9%
AZ	Tonto NM	-4.8%	20.5%
AZ	Saguaro NP	-4.8%	-0.7%
AZ	Tumacacori NHP	-9.9%	-0.7%
AZ	Sunset Crater Volcano NM	-10.5%	-0.9%
AZ, UT	Glen Canyon NRA	0.7%	-0.9%
CA	Eugene O'Neill NHS	48.7%	-0.4%

State	Park	Change in visitorship (%)	Change in budget (%)
CA	Whiskeytown NRA	26.3%	-0.6%
CA	John Muir NHS	20.0%	-0.7%
CA	Santa Monica Mountains NRA	19.6%	-2.1%
CA	Manzanar NHS	13.7%	-1.4%
CA	Redwood NP	12.0%	4.7%
CA	Yosemite NP	8.9%	0.4%
CA	Cabrillo NM	8.8%	20.1%
CA	Lava Beds NM	8.0%	-0.8%
CA	Kings Canyon NP	6.0%	-1.7%
CA	Channel Islands NP	5.0%	3.4%
CA	Sequoia NP	3.8%	-1.7%
CA	Golden Gate NRA	3.3%	-1.5%
CA	Pinnacles NM	2.5%	-5.2%
CA	San Francisco Maritime NHP	1.6%	4.5%
CA	Fort Point NHS	-0.4%	47.8%
CA	Lassen Volcanic NP	-3.1%	-0.9%
CA	Point Reyes NS	-3.4%	-1.1%
CA	Death Valley NP	-5.0%	-1.7%
CA	Joshua Tree NP	-6.3%	-0.6%
CA	Muir Woods NM	-7.0%	55.7%
CA	Mojave NPRES	-14.5%	-0.7%
CA	Devils Postpile NM	-17.8%	-0.6%
CO	Florissant Fossil Beds NM	12.7%	-0.8%
CO	Bent's Old Fort NHS	12.5%	10.5%
CO	Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP	7.0%	-0.7%
CO	Great Sand Dunes NP & PRES	5.9%	25.6%
CO	Colorado NM	2.4%	-0.7%
CO	Rocky Mountain NP	2.4%	-0.8%
CO	Mesa Verde NP	-0.2%	-1.3%
CO	Curecanti NRA	-5.4%	-1.0%
CO	Sand Creek Massacre NHS		-1.2%
CO, UT	Hovenweep NM	9.6%	40.8%
CO, UT	Dinosaur NM	1.1%	-4.6%
CT	Weir Farm NHS	4.7%	20.1%
DC	Ford's Theatre NHS	96.0%	-0.9%
DC	National Capital Parks Central	43.7%	11.4%
DC	President's Park	25.1%	-0.7%
DC	Mary McLeod Bethune Council House NHS	23.7%	-0.4%
DC	White House (President's Park)	18.9%	-0.7%
DC	Frederick Douglass NHS	14.9%	-0.4%
DC	Lincoln Memorial	12.3%	0.0%
DC	Pennsylvania Avenue NHS	7.1%	
DC	Vietnam Veterans MEM	4.6%	
DC	Washington Monument	0.7%	0.0%
DC	Rock Creek Park	0.0%	10.3%
DC	World War II Memorial	-0.8%	

State	Park	Change in visitorship (%)	Change in budget (%)
DC	Thomas Jefferson MEM	-1.1%	0.0%
DC	Franklin Delano Roosevelt MEM	-1.2%	0.0%
DC	Korean War Veterans Memorial	-14.7%	
DC, MD	National Capital Parks East	-1.9%	2.1%
FL	Timucuan EHP	15.0%	-0.6%
FL	Everglades NP	9.6%	2.7%
FL	Castillo de San Marcos NM	7.9%	-0.7%
FL	Fort Caroline NMEM	3.1%	-0.6%
FL	Canaveral NS	0.7%	-0.7%
FL	Big Cypress NPRES	-0.2%	6.6%
FL	Fort Matanzas NM	-2.4%	-0.7%
FL	De Soto NMEM	-7.3%	-1.0%
FL	Dry Tortugas NP	-18.7%	-0.2%
FL	Biscayne NP	-36.2%	-62.5%
FL, MS	Gulf Islands NS	101.2%	-0.6%
GA	Fort Pulaski NM	23.5%	-0.7%
GA	Fort Frederica NM	19.4%	-1.3%
GA	Ocmulgee NM	8.0%	-0.9%
GA	Chattahoochee River NRA	0.2%	11.4%
GA	Martin Luther King, Jr. NHS	-1.3%	-0.5%
GA	Kennesaw Mountain NBP	-3.1%	7.5%
GA	Cumberland Island NS	-6.3%	8.3%
GA	Andersonville NHS	-14.6%	-0.9%
GA	Jimmy Carter NHS	-15.1%	10.5%
GA, TN	Chickamauga & Chattanooga NMP	-0.1%	-0.7%
GU	War in the Pacific NHP	45.2%	-1.0%
HI	Kaloko Honokohau NHP	58.7%	7.4%
HI	Pu'ukohola Heiau NHS	7.0%	27.9%
HI	Hawaii Volcanoes NP	-2.9%	-2.0%
HI	Pu'uhonua o Honaunau NHP	-4.1%	-0.7%
HI	Haleakala NP	-6.4%	-0.8%
HI	World War II Valor in the Pacific NM	-9.3%	-1.6%
HI	Kalaupapa NHP	-49.7%	-1.2%
IA	Herbert Hoover NHS	14.2%	-0.9%
IA	Effigy Mounds NM	13.8%	-0.4%
ID	Hagerman Fossil Beds NM	17.7%	-0.5%
ID	City of Rocks NRES	12.5%	-2.5%
ID	Craters of the Moon NM	-14.6%	17.9%
ID	Nez Perce NHP	-15.0%	-0.6%
IL	Lincoln Home NHS	38.3%	-0.6%
IN	Lincoln Boyhood NMEM	23.8%	-1.0%
IN	Indiana Dunes NL	6.1%	1.6%
IN	George Rogers Clark NHP	-9.2%	13.7%
KS	Fort Larned NHS	27.7%	-0.8%
KS	Nicodemus NHS	22.4%	32.1%
KS	Tallgrass Prairie NPRES	18.1%	7.7%
KS	Brown v. Board of Education NHS	13.4%	-0.9%
KS	Fort Scott NHS	12.7%	-0.9%
KY	Mammoth Cave NP	12.9%	-1.6%
KY	Abraham Lincoln Birthplace NHP	10.3%	-0.6%

State	Park	Change in visitorship (%)	Change in budget (%)
LA	New Orleans Jazz NHP	21.1%	-0.6%
LA	Cane River Creole NHP	11.5%	-0.7%
LA	Jean Lafitte NHP & PRES	-1.4%	-0.5%
MA	Frederick Law Olmsted NHS	68.6%	-1.1%
MA	John F. Kennedy NHS	61.9%	-0.2%
MA	Boston African American NHS	6.5%	-0.4%
MA	Adams NHP	5.0%	-0.4%
MA	Minute Man NHP	2.7%	6.7%
MA	Springfield Armory NHS	2.4%	-0.7%
MA	New Bedford Whaling NHP	-0.6%	23.2%
MA	Lowell NHP	-1.5%	0.6%
MA	Boston NHP	-3.5%	-0.7%
MA	Cape Cod NS	-7.2%	-0.8%
MA	Saugus Iron Works NHS	-15.3%	-1.0%
MA	Salem Maritime NHS	-15.6%	-0.7%
MA	Longfellow NHS	-34.7%	-0.2%
MD	Clara Barton NHS	22.0%	-0.5%
MD	Greenbelt Park	14.6%	-1.0%
MD	Hampton NHS	11.6%	20.0%
MD	Monocacy NB	10.5%	-0.6%
MD	Thomas Stone NHS	9.6%	-0.5%
MD	Antietam NB	7.5%	-0.7%
MD	Fort McHenry NM & HS	1.3%	13.4%
MD	Catoctin Mountain Park	-5.7%	38.1%
MD	Piscataway Park	-27.8%	-0.6%
MD	Fort Washington Park	-29.9%	-1.0%
MD, DC, WV	Chesapeake & Ohio Canal NHP	20.6%	-0.9%
MD, VA	Assateague Island NS	5.9%	-0.8%
ME	Acadia NP	7.3%	-1.0%
MI	Sleeping Bear Dunes NL	15.6%	-2.1%
MI	Pictured Rocks NL	12.4%	-0.9%
MI	Isle Royale NP	4.4%	7.5%
MN	Voyageurs NP	0.4%	-15.3%
MN	Grand Portage NM	-1.7%	-2.0%
MN	Pipestone NM	-13.2%	-5.2%
MO	Wilson's Creek NB	29.5%	-0.8%
MO	Jefferson NEM	20.7%	-0.8%
MO	Ozark NSR	5.2%	-0.9%
MO	George Washington Carver NM	-3.7%	-0.8%
MO	Harry S Truman NHS	-8.0%	9.5%
MO	Ulysses S. Grant NHS	-11.4%	-0.8%
MS	Vicksburg NMP	5.2%	-0.8%
MS	Natchez NHP	-6.2%	10.5%
MT	Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS	20.8%	-0.8%
MT	Glacier NP	12.4%	-0.9%
MT	Little Bighorn Battlefield NM	7.3%	-0.9%
MT	Big Hole NB	-9.1%	17.2%
MT, WY	Bighorn Canyon NRA	15.0%	0.4%
NC	Carl Sandburg Home NHS	293.5%	-0.8%
NC	Moores Creek NB	53.6%	-0.7%
NC	Cape Lookout NS	23.6%	-1.2%
NC	Fort Raleigh NHS	8.5%	-0.7%
NC	Cape Hatteras NS	6.3%	-0.7%

State	Park	Change in visitor-ship (%)	Change in budget (%)
NC	Wright Brothers NMEM	-9.7%	-0.7%
NC	Guilford Courthouse NMP	-18.0%	18.7%
NC, TN	Great Smoky Mountains NP	4.9%	0.3%
NC, VA	Blue Ridge PKWY	-2.3%	-1.1%
ND	Fort Union Trading Post NHS	31.3%	-0.8%
ND	Knife River Indian Villages NHS	18.5%	-0.9%
ND	Theodore Roosevelt NP	13.6%	-0.9%
NE	Scotts Bluff NM	8.5%	-1.2%
NE	Agate Fossil Beds NM	2.2%	-0.8%
NE	Homestead NM of America	0.0%	-1.0%
NE	Niobrara NSR	-3.1%	-6.0%
NH	Saint-Gaudens NHS	15.9%	-0.8%
NJ	Thomas Edison NHP	237.1%	-0.4%
NJ	Morristown NHP	7.5%	12.5%
NJ, PA	Delaware Water Gap NRA	1.7%	-0.9%
NM	Salinas Pueblo Missions NM	21.1%	-0.9%
NM	Fort Union NM	20.7%	-0.6%
NM	Capulin Volcano NM	12.7%	13.0%
NM	Gila Cliff Dwellings NM	10.3%	83.8%
NM	Carlsbad Caverns NP	8.1%	-1.0%
NM	White Sands NM	7.4%	16.6%
NM	El Malpais NM	7.1%	-1.2%
NM	El Morro NM	6.8%	-0.8%
NM	Pecos NHP	5.6%	-0.6%
NM	Bandelier NM	2.4%	-0.9%
NM	Petroglyph NM	1.8%	7.4%
NM	Chaco Culture NHP	0.5%	16.0%
NM	Aztec Ruins NM	-1.2%	12.6%
NV	Great Basin NP	22.7%	-0.6%
NV, AZ	Lake Mead NRA	0.9%	-0.9%
NY	Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural NHS	1307.1%	0.0%
NY	Governors Island NM	58.9%	-0.4%
NY	Fort Stanwix NM	30.7%	-0.8%
NY	General Grant NMEM	10.3%	-0.2%
NY	Castle Clinton NM	9.5%	-0.5%
NY	Martin Van Buren NHS	9.4%	12.9%
NY	Statue of Liberty NM	7.7%	5.8%
NY	Vanderbilt Mansion NHS	5.6%	-1.2%
NY	Eleanor Roosevelt NHS	1.4%	-0.6%
NY	Saratoga NHP	0.6%	-0.7%
NY	Sagamore Hill NHS	0.1%	22.8%
NY	Saint Paul's Church NHS	-0.7%	0.0%
NY	Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt NHS	-0.8%	-0.8%
NY	Federal Hall NMEM	-3.6%	-0.3%
NY	Fire Island NS	-5.8%	-1.2%
NY	Women's Rights NHP	-10.7%	26.0%
NY	Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace NHS	-22.6%	0.0%
NY	Hamilton Grange NMEM	-78.3%	160.1%
NY	African Burial Ground NM		0.0%

State	Park	Change in visitor-ship (%)	Change in budget (%)
NY, NJ	Gateway NRA	-4.5%	1.1%
OH	Hopewell Culture NHP	21.5%	-1.8%
OH	William Howard Taft NHS	10.8%	-0.5%
OH	Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP	9.4%	-0.6%
OH	First Ladies NHS	7.1%	0.0%
OH	Perry's Victory & Intl. Peace MEM	-1.8%	-0.7%
OH	Cuyahoga Valley NP	-8.4%	5.3%
OH	James A. Garfield NHS	-37.3%	-0.6%
OK	Chickasaw NRA	0.6%	-1.1%
OK	Washita Battlefield NHS	-27.8%	7.6%
OR	Oregon Caves NM	20.0%	-0.8%
OR	John Day Fossil Beds NM	16.3%	-1.3%
OR	Crater Lake NP	7.4%	-1.0%
OR	Lewis & Clark NHP	-1.8%	-0.8%
PA	Fort Necessity NB	54.5%	-1.9%
PA	Edgar Allan Poe NHS	34.7%	0.0%
PA	Valley Forge NHP	13.6%	0.6%
PA	Flight 93 NMEM	10.0%	-0.6%
PA	Hopewell Furnace NHS	7.8%	-0.6%
PA	Allegheny Portage Railroad NHS	4.3%	-0.9%
PA	Friendship Hill NHS	2.7%	-0.7%
PA	Independence NHP	-2.7%	-0.5%
PA	Steamtown NHS	-8.4%	-0.9%
PA	Eisenhower NHS	-9.2%	-8.6%
PA	Thaddeus Kosciuszko NMEM	-14.3%	0.0%
PA	Johnstown Flood NMEM	-15.5%	-1.7%
PA	Gettysburg NMP	-30.4%	-0.8%
PA, NY	Upper Delaware S&RR	-9.2%	3.0%
PR	San Juan NHS	-5.8%	-0.8%
RI	Roger Williams NMEM	9.2%	-0.5%
SC	Congaree NP	17.2%	-0.7%
SC	Kings Mountain NMP	8.9%	-1.0%
SC	Fort Sumter NM	5.5%	-0.8%
SC	Charles Pinckney NHS	-1.4%	-0.7%
SC	Cowpens NB	-4.6%	-1.0%
SC	Ninety Six NHS	-11.5%	-0.8%
SD	Jewel Cave NM	29.0%	-0.8%
SD	Mount Rushmore NMEM	26.3%	-1.1%
SD	Minuteman Missile NHS	20.1%	-2.7%
SD	Missouri NRR	14.9%	-0.6%
SD	Badlands NP	10.4%	-1.0%
SD	Wind Cave NP	2.5%	-0.8%
TN	Shiloh NMP	13.1%	-1.1%
TN	Obed W&SR	10.8%	-0.5%
TN	Fort Donelson NB	-2.5%	-0.7%
TN	Stones River NB	-4.5%	-0.8%
TN	Andrew Johnson NHS	-8.8%	-0.8%
TN, KY	Big South Fork NRA	1.6%	-1.1%
TX	Amistad NRA	30.0%	-1.1%
TX	Alibates Flint Quarries NM	27.0%	-1.1%
TX	Lake Meredith NRA	23.5%	-1.1%
TX	Guadalupe Mountains NP	21.5%	-1.1%

State	Park	Change in visitorship (%)	Change in budget (%)
TX	San Antonio Missions NHP	20.3%	-0.8%
TX	Chamizal NMEM	9.1%	9.0%
TX	Big Thicket NPRES	7.3%	11.3%
TX	Lyndon B. Johnson NHP	5.4%	-0.9%
TX	Fort Davis NHS	3.4%	-0.8%
TX	Padre Island NS	1.0%	-0.9%
TX	Big Bend NP	0.4%	-1.0%
TX	Palo Alto Battlefield NHP	-7.6%	-1.0%
TX	Rio Grande W&SR	-41.0%	0.0%
UT	Rainbow Bridge NM	18.7%	0.0%
UT	Bryce Canyon NP	16.6%	-1.0%
UT	Golden Spike NHS	13.4%	-0.9%
UT	Timpanogos Cave NM	12.0%	-1.0%
UT	Arches NP	7.3%	-0.9%
UT	Capitol Reef NP	2.0%	20.7%
UT	Zion NP	1.7%	-1.1%
UT	Natural Bridges NM	0.2%	85.5%
UT	Canyonlands NP	-0.1%	2.4%
UT	Cedar Breaks NM	-8.5%	-1.1%
VA	Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania NMP	91.2%	5.1%
VA	Maggie L. Walker NHS	33.7%	-0.8%
VA	Theodore Roosevelt Island	29.7%	0.0%
VA	Arlington House The R.E. Lee MEM	16.4%	-0.5%
VA	George Washington Birthplace NM	13.1%	-0.9%
VA	Richmond NBP	11.4%	14.3%
VA	Prince William Forest Park	6.7%	-0.9%
VA	Booker T. Washington NM	6.1%	-0.9%
VA	Petersburg NB	5.7%	-0.7%
VA	Shenandoah NP	4.2%	-1.1%
VA	Appomattox Court House NHP	3.7%	-0.7%
VA	Colonial NHP	-0.2%	-0.9%
VA	George Washington MEM PKWY	-1.0%	2.0%
VA	Manassas NBP	-2.8%	-0.8%
VA	Wolf Trap NP for the Performing Arts	-4.2%	-0.9%
VA	LBJ Memorial Grove on the Potomac	-18.9%	
VA, KY	Cumberland Gap NHP	4.7%	-1.2%
VI	Salt River Bay NHP & Ecological Pres	16.3%	25.2%
VI	Christiansted NHS	9.1%	14.5%
VI	Buck Island Reef NM	2.9%	14.5%
VI	Virgin Islands NP	-11.3%	-1.0%
VT	Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller NHP	-16.1%	-0.8%
WA	North Cascades NP	44.0%	9.2%
WA	Lake Chelan NRA	37.5%	9.2%
WA	Ross Lake NRA	13.9%	9.2%
WA	Fort Vancouver NHS	13.7%	20.8%
WA	San Juan Island NHP	7.5%	-0.5%
WA	Olympic NP	6.3%	-2.0%
WA	Lake Roosevelt NRA	3.4%	-1.0%
WA	Mount Rainier NP	-1.0%	-1.0%

State	Park	Change in visitorship (%)	Change in budget (%)
WA	Whitman Mission NHS	-1.4%	15.1%
WA	Klondike Gold Rush NHP Seattle	-7.1%	-0.4%
WI	Apostle Islands NL	4.5%	-1.1%
WI, MN	Saint Croix NSR	7.8%	-0.7%
WV	Harpers Ferry NHP	8.2%	-0.8%
WV	Gauley River NRA	0.8%	-0.4%
WV	Bluestone NSR	-2.2%	0.0%
WV	New River Gorge NR	-5.7%	-0.8%
WY	Fort Laramie NHS	17.9%	-1.0%
WY	Devils Tower NM	16.3%	-1.2%
WY	Fossil Butte NM	5.4%	-0.9%
WY	Grand Teton NP	3.8%	0.3%
WY	John D. Rockefeller, Jr. MEM PKWY	3.7%	-0.8%
WY, MT, ID	Yellowstone NP	7.5%	-1.2%

METHODOLOGY

Visitorship data in this report comes from data collected and published by the National Park Service.²⁰ Budget information in this report comes from the National Park Service's fiscal year 2011 budget justification.²¹ Budget amounts for FY2010 represent the budget as enacted, amounts for FY2011 represent the President's budget request. The data table above shows visitorship and budget data for all national parks from the most recent years available (2008 to 2009 for visitorship, FY2010 to FY2011 for budgets), sorted by state and increase in % visitorship.

While the data revealed that most parks have seen both visitorship increase and face budget cuts, parks that most vividly represent this trend were selected for the above profiles.

CONCLUSION

Over the past year, visitors flocked to national parks. Yet even as we see our parks increase in popularity, budget proposals for the coming year would cut the overall parks budget by nearly \$22 million.²¹ When added to the significant operations and land acquisition budget shortfalls and maintenance backlog, proposed budget cuts would further inhibit the Parks Service from providing essential services and maintenance to an already over-strapped park system.

The America's Great Outdoors initiative is an ideal opportunity to put funding our national parks at the top of the Administration's preservation agenda. Elected officials should fulfill the promise of our national parks by fully funding the National Park Service for FY11 and permanently and fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Our leaders in Washington should recognize what citizens around the country have known all along: our national parks truly are the Best of America.

NOTES

¹ "America's Great Outdoors: A 21st Century Strategy for America's Great Outdoors." Presidential Memorandum. 27 Jul 2010
<<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/presidential-memorandum-americas-great-outdoors>>

² "NPCA Survey, Study #9877." Hart Research Associates. June 2010. 27 Jul 2010.

<http://www.npca.org/media_center/pdf/AGO-Poll_topline-results.pdf>.

³ "NPCA Fact Sheet on the Existing Funding Needs of America's National Parks." National Parks Conservation Association. 2007. Jul 27 2010.

<www.npca.org/.../NPCA_Fact_Sheet_on_National_Park_Needs.pdf>

⁴ "Effigy Mounds National Monument: A Resource Assessment." National Parks Conservation Association Center for the State of the Parks. 2009. Jul 27 2010.

<http://www.npca.org/stateoftheparks/effigy_mounds/EFMO_Report.pdf>.

⁵ ibid

⁶ "NPCA Fact Sheet on the Existing Funding Needs of America's National Parks,"

⁷ "Assateague Island National Seashore" (fact sheet). National Parks Conservation Association Center for the State of the Parks. 2007. Jul 27 2010.

<http://www.npca.org/stateoftheparks/assateague/assateague_facts.pdf>

⁸ "Great Basin National Park" (fact sheet). National Parks Conservation Association Center for the State of the Parks. 2009. Jul 27 2010.

<http://www.npca.org/stateoftheparks/great_basin/GRBA-summary-WEB.pdf>

⁹ ibid

¹⁰ "Scotts Bluff National Monument" (fact sheet). National Parks Conservation Association Center for the State of the Parks. 2009. Jul 27 2010.

<http://www.npca.org/stateoftheparks/scotts_bluff/SCBL-onepager.pdf>

¹¹ "Glacier National Park: Nature & Science." U.S. National Park Service. Jul 27 2010.

<<http://www.nps.gov/glac/naturescience/index.htm>>

¹² "NPCA Fact Sheet on the Existing Funding Needs of America's National Parks" 6.

¹³ ibid

¹⁴ "NPCA Fact Sheet on the Existing Funding Needs of America's National Parks," 7.

¹⁵ "NPCA Fact Sheet on the Existing Funding Needs of America's National Parks," 6.

¹⁶ "Harpers Ferry National Historic Park" (fact sheet). National Parks Conservation Association Center for the State of the Parks. 2009. Jul 27 2010.

<http://www.npca.org/stateoftheparks/harpers_ferry/HAFE-summary-WEB.pdf>

¹⁷ "NPCA Fact Sheet on the Existing Funding Needs of America's National Parks," 9.

¹⁸ ibid

¹⁹ "NPCA Fact Sheet on the Existing Funding Needs of America's National Parks," 8.

²⁰ Reports of the National Park Service Public Use Statistics Office, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. 23 Jul 2010.

<<http://www.nature.nps.gov/stats/park.cfm>>

²¹ "Budget Justifications and Performance Information, Fiscal Year 2011: National Park Service." Office of Policy, Management and Budget, U.S. Department of the Interior. 23 Jul 2010.

<http://www.doi.gov/budget/2011/data/greenbook/FY2011_NPS_Greenbook.pdf>

²² Hardner, J and B McKenney. 2006. The U.S. National Park System: An Economic Asset at Risk. Washington, DC: National Parks Conservation Association.

²³ U.S. Congress. House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies. "Holds Hearing Regarding the Department of the Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2011" (Date: March 26, 2010). Text from: NPCA website. Available from: http://www.npca.org/media_center/testimonies/testimony-of-thomas-c.html.

^a Aniakchak NM, Katmai NP & PRES, and Alagnak budgeted together

^b Lake Chelan NRA, North Cascades NP, and Ross Lake NRA budgeted together

^c Alibates Flint Quarries NM and Lake Meredith NRA budgeted together

^d budgeted together as Flagstaff Area Parks

^e budgeted together as Western Arctic National Parklands

^f Fort Caroline NMEM and Timucuan EHP budgeted together

^g Buck Island Reef NM and Christiansted NHS budgeted together

^h budgeted as the Cape Hatteras Group

ⁱ budgeted with Lower Saint Croix NSR

^j Kings Canyon NP and Sequoia NP budgeted together

^k Tuzigoot NM and Montezuma Castle NM budgeted together

^m budgeted with Brices Crossroads, Tupelo

ⁿ Castillo de San Marcos NM and Fort Matanzas NM budgeted together

^p Chiricahua NM and Fort Bowie NHS budgeted together

^q budgeted with Middle Delaware NSR

