

## JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE

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Activity: International Park Affairs

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Program Components	2000 Estimate	Uncontr/ Related Changes	Program Changes (+/-)	2001 Budget Request	Change From 2000 (+/-)
A. Office of International Affairs	924	+17	0	941	+17
B. Southwest Border Program	759	+6	0	765	+6
<b>Total Requirements \$(000)</b>	<b>1,683</b>	<b>+23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,706</b>	<b>+23</b>

### AUTHORIZATION

16 U.S.C. 1	National Park Service Organic Act
16 U.S.C. 470a-1	National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (Title IV)
42 U.S.C. 4332	National Environmental Policy Act
16 U.S.C. 1537	Endangered Species Act, as amended
	North American Free Trade Agreement

### OVERVIEW

The National Park Service, through the **International Park Affairs** activity, coordinates a number of mandated international assistance and support functions that meaningfully complement the Service's domestic role. These include: support to Regional Offices and park units so that they can effectively collaborate with neighboring countries to protect and manage resources shared across international boundaries; development and support of training workshops and technical assistance projects for other nations to aid in the protection and management of their national parks and protected areas; facilitation of the transfer of park and protected area management information and technology worldwide; and formation of a partnership with Mexico to provide for maximum protection of significant shared natural and cultural resources on the United States/Mexico border.

### APPLICABLE NATIONAL PARK MISSION GOALS

- Ia Natural and cultural resources and associated values are protected, restored, and maintained in good condition and managed within their broader ecosystem and cultural context.
- Ib The National Park Service contributes to knowledge about natural and cultural resources and associated values; management decisions about resources and visitors are based on adequate scholarly and scientific information.

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#### *A. Office of International Affairs FY 2000 Estimated Program and Anticipated Accomplishments*

**Enacted: \$924,000**

In response to directives from the Executive (United States bilateral, environment, and economic agreements) and Legislative (conventions, treaties, and acts) branches, the National Park Service works to protect and enhance the world's parks and protected areas through strengthening the management, operation, and preservation of outstanding natural and cultural resources and critical habitats. It exports America's recognized leadership in

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natural and cultural heritage resource management worldwide and assists in the attainment of United States foreign policy objectives. Through international cooperation, the NPS also improves its own capabilities to achieve its domestic mission.

Through the Office of International Affairs (OIA), the NPS exchanges technical and scientific information, shares knowledge and lessons learned, and provides technical assistance to other nations and United States territories on park and heritage resource management issues. The OIA coordinates the placement of international volunteers-in-parks and the visitation of international park professionals and high-ranking officials to NPS sites. It also assists in implementation of international obligations that arise from legislative mandates and executive initiatives.

### **Key Long-Term Programs**

The National Park Service must focus its resources on key international partners to maximize the impact and effectiveness of each other's limited resources. The Office of International Affairs develops and implements cooperative international agreements to conduct long-term programs for protected areas conservation and resource management with key international partners. In FY 1998, long-term cooperative programs with NPS counterparts in Argentina, Venezuela, China, and South Africa were proposed for development and implementation over the course of five years. It is envisioned that upon conclusion of these programs, these countries shall have shared significant experience and knowledge on protected areas' issues that will increase their viability as regional role models for and partners with other nations.

<b>International Park Affairs Workload Factors</b>	<b>FY 1999 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2000 Estimate</b>	<b>FY 2001 Estimate</b>
Response to outside stakeholder requests	100%	100%	100%
Number of new or renewed contacts	18	10	10
Number of new long-term programs implemented	2	2	Maintain existing programs
Response to technical assistance requests	100%	100%	100%
Response to park requests	100%	100%	100%
Number of personnel and information provided to Strengthen NPS resource management	138	100	100

- In FY 1999, collaboration and cooperation in geographic information systems (GIS) and global positioning systems (GPS), interpretive facility planning and design, interpretation and environmental education programs, concessions operations, firefighting, and resource management monitoring were initiated in Argentina and Venezuela. In FY 2000, it is anticipated that the following issues will be addressed: visitor impact management, interpretive skills, trails maintenance, search and rescue training, and follow-up training in GIS.

- In FY 1999, a two-year work plan was negotiated and concluded with the National Park Agency of the People's Republic of China. Additionally, several exchange visits in the fields of environmental education, park planning and operations, and visitor management took place under the auspices of the memorandum of agreement signed in FY 1998. The visits included the Vice Minister of the Ministry of Construction spending a week in the United

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States exploring issues such as transportation systems and planning, natural resource management, and park-community participation and involvement.

- In FY 1999, the NPS Director visited South Africa and agreed to long-term cooperation and collaboration to address a wide-range of park issues. These issues include, but are not limited to: social ecology and community involvement, visitor and information management, commercialization and alternative park management strategies, invasive species, youth programs, and the 2002 World Park Congress. Collaborative activities that occurred in FY 1999 include: a team of NPS natural resource specialists traveling to South Africa and a South African National Parks staff member traveling to Lake Mead National Recreation Area to collaborate on invasive species eradication methods and processes; the Chairman of the Board of South African National Parks conducting a workshop on Geographic Information Systems and planning for NPS staff; and Rocky Mountain National Park and Golden Gate National Recreation Area hosting a Cape Peninsula (South Africa) staff member to observe NPS volunteers-in-parks programs.

### **Technical Assistance**

Every year park directors and numerous protected areas managers from other countries request technical assistance from the National Park Service. Responses to these requests for assistance are designed to match the international partner's unique needs. The National Park Service responds to these ad hoc requests if funds are available.

The National Park Service also shares management responsibility for preservation and conservation of natural and cultural resources with international park authorities along United States borders with Canada and Mexico as well as with neighboring Russia and the Caribbean Basin. The NPS accomplishes these responsibilities through decentralized activities initiated directly between NPS park units and field offices and their counterparts across the border.

- In FY 1999, the Directors of Parks Canada and the National Park Service convened the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee to discuss mutual interests and issues as per the memorandum of agreement signed in FY 1998. The discussions ranged from resource management initiatives to joint training efforts and cultural resource initiatives.
- In FY 1999, two meetings were held to implement the agreement signed in FY 1998 between the NPS and Mexico's National Institute for Anthropology and History (INAH) for technical exchange and cooperation in cultural resource management. In FY 2000, a biennial work plan for implementation of the NPS-INAH agreement will be developed. It is also anticipated that a new memorandum of agreement between the NPS and Mexico's National Institute of Ecology will be signed, authorizing continuing cross-border cooperation in the protection and management of national parks and natural resources.
- In FY 2000, negotiations will be concluded for an agreement with Chile's National Forest Corporation to establish a five-year program of technical exchange and cooperation in national parks and protected areas management. Upon signature of the agreement, the Office of International Affairs will plan and implement technical exchange activities in visitor facility planning, search and rescue operations, and park interpretive skills.
- In FY 2000, an agreement will be developed between the NPS and Spain's National Park Service to authorize a program of technical exchange and cooperation. Anticipated topics for collaboration include visitor use management, natural resources management, and park interpretation skills.

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- In FY 2000, the existing World Heritage regulations (36 CFR 73) will be revised to make necessary changes, such as correcting or eliminating the annual calendar for preparing and submitting United States nominations (now outdated), correcting the criteria for selecting sites (also outdated), and providing more explicit procedures for public participation.

### International Resource Management Support to Parks

The National Park Service's effectiveness and accountability in preserving America's natural and cultural resources and to meeting the needs of its visitors and various publics is assured and supported through internal coordination activities by its Washington and field office staffs. The Office of International Affairs enhances the Service's ability to provide training, both domestically and abroad, to park and conservation professionals. Park Service employees benefit from the direct interaction with their professional colleagues.

- The OIA also facilitates the exchange of information domestically by coordinating the international volunteers-in-parks program that enables international park professionals and university-level students to volunteer their expertise in National Park Service areas. This program provides major assistance to the NPS units at a very modest cost to the Service. In FY 1999, a total of 138 volunteers assisted NPS field staff through a variety of work/study opportunities. Some of their activities included, but were not limited to: translation of park information into French at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, black bear management studies at Big Bend National Park, water quality testing at Everglades National Park, environmental education at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, migratory bird studies at Gateway National Recreation Area, trail maintenance at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and historic interpretation at Colonial National Historical Park.

- Seven national parks in five other nations (Slovak Republic, Russia, Mexico, Bahamas, and Poland) have established "sister park" relationships with NPS units. These partnerships increase information sharing and direct professional contacts between parks and protected areas primarily through the use of improved communication technologies. The sister park matches are determined by the commonality of issues confronting each park and protected area in lieu of strict bio-geographical pairing. The number of matches is expected to expand slowly as appropriate pairings are made between NPS sites and parks abroad.

- Protected areas and heritage resource professionals, with various study objectives, travel to the United States from all over the globe to learn from the National Park Service. In collaboration with field units, the Office of International Affairs plans and develops specialized programs designed to meet both the objectives of the traveler and the Service's units and program offices. In FY 1999, OIA staff provided assistance and information to 92 individuals in 31 delegations from over 20 countries. These activities included personal briefings and/or assistance in developing the most effective itinerary to visit field units and meet NPS field staff to discuss common issues and needs.

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### *B. Southwest Border Program FY 2000 Estimated Program and Anticipated Accomplishments*

**Enacted: \$759,000**

The National Park Service manages seven park areas along the 2,000-mile border shared between the United States and Mexico. They include Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Coronado National Memorial, Chamizal National Memorial, Big Bend National Park, Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River, Amistad National Recreation Area, and Palo Alto National Historic Battlefield. The Service administers roughly 18 percent of the land on the

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United States side of the border. Mexico manages nine protected areas adjacent in the United States/Mexico border region. They include Paque Nacional Constitution de 1857, Alto Golfo y Delta del Rio Colorado, El Pinacate, Gran Desierto de Altar, Reserva Federal Sierra de los Ajos, Canyon de Santa Elena, Maderas del Carmen, Paque Nacional los Novillos, and Reserva de Cuatrocieneegas. Memoranda of Understanding have been established between the NPS and two Mexican federal agencies for collaboration on the protection, preservation, and conservation of shared natural and cultural resources along the border. 1/

The NPS United States-Mexico Affairs Office (MEAF) was established to fulfill the mission of strengthening cooperation between the two countries for the design and implementation of strategies for the conservation of natural and cultural heritage shared by both countries. The MEAF unit located at New Mexico State University facilitates the completion of the Service's responsibilities related to border park protection and responds to environmental concerns . This is being accomplished through the following international activities:

- (1) Park management and park planning education and field training courses, wildlife research, environmental education, organization and support for international forums on conservation, and providing technical assistance on natural and cultural resource management plans.
- (2) Continue leadership and support for international forums on the Management of Protected Areas and Wildlife (i.e., Conference of the United States/Mexico Borders States on Parks, Recreation, and Wildlife; International Symposium on the Management of Wildlife at Protected Areas; IberoAmerican Conference on Environmental Education)
- (3) Continue leadership role on the United States Department of the Interior Field Coordinating Committee to achieve a unified agency approach to bi-national management issues with Mexico.
- (4) Continuing to support the formation of an Ecological Binational Partnership within the Sonoran Desert Region.
- (5) Assisting New Mexico State University to form a Binational Educational program for the conservation and management of natural resources along the United States/Mexico border region.
- (6) Collaborating with Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History for the establishment of a binational Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Historic Trail in both countries.
- (7) Continue working with United and Mexican federal, state, municipal, and private entities on the Mimbres-Paquime Connection Trail located in southern New Mexico and Northern Chihuahua, and La Ruta De Sonora located in Southwestern Arizona into Baja, California, and Sonora, Mexico.
- (8) Collaborating with Mexican colleagues on research projects, inventories, and the development of appropriate protection strategies for archeological and paleontological resources in border region.
- (9) Continue partnership role and support for International forums that focus on the protection, management, and conservation of historic and cultural areas (i.e., International Symposium for the Conservation of Historic Adobe

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1/ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the National Park Service and the Secretariat for Ecology and Urban Development, signed October 1989 and resigned, 1994. An MOU was also signed between the National Park Service and the National Council for Culture and the Arts through the National Institute of Anthropology and History of the United Mexican States, June 1998.

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Structures, International Symposium on the Application of Limestone on Historic Structures, United States/Mexico Archeology Conference, United States/Mexico World Heritage Sites Symposium, etc.)

(10) Collaborating with Mexican colleagues on working with communities located adjacent to protected areas in both countries.

**Performance Goals**

Long Term Goal IIIb2	By September 30, 2005, 85% of communities served are satisfied with NPS partnership assistance program in providing recreational and conservation benefits on lands and waters.
Annual Goal IIIb2	By September 30, 2001, 79% of communities served are satisfied with NPS partnership assistance program in providing recreational and conservation benefits on lands and waters.

<b>Southwest Border Program Performance Information</b>	<b>FY 1999 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2000 Estimate</b>	<b>FY 2001 Estimate</b>
Percent of communities served are satisfied with NPS partnership assistance in providing recreation and conservation benefits on lands and waters.	75%	77%	79%

The FY 2000 program includes the design and implementation of educational courses, international forums, and research for United States and Mexican assigned at protected areas. This will be facilitated in full partnership with colleagues from the National Institutes of Ecology and Anthropology and History. The following table illustrates the FY 2000 and FY 2001 programs of planned international border activities.

<b>International Border Activities Workload Factors</b>	<b>FY 1999 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2000 Estimate</b>	<b>FY 2001 Estimate</b>
Percent of communities served are satisfied with NPS partnership assistance in providing recreation and conservation benefits on lands and waters.	75%	77%	79%
Participation in international technical assistance projects (i.e., training courses, research, specialized educational forums, Monarch Butterfly Workshop, etc.)	3	5	7
Response to DOI interagency partnership requests (i.e., Arizona/Sonoran Desert Ecosystem Monitoring Program)	5	8	12
Participation in International Forums on Natural Resources (i.e., United States/Mexico Border Conference, NPS/National Institute of Ecology Workshop, Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute Symposium, Border Wildlife Conference, etc.)	4	4	6
Participation in international forums on Cultural resources (i.e., Camino Real, Seminario Internacional de Conervacion Y Restauracion de Arquitectura de Tierra (SICRAT), International Workshop of Lime (TICAL), etc.),	4	4	7

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Participation in Mimbre-Paquime Connection Projects (i.e., Tourism workshop, conservation planning, promotion, environmental education, signing, infrastructure, United States/Mexico Customs)	2	2	6
Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Projects (i.e., mapping, database projects, inventories, baselines studies)	4	3	3
International Wildlife Research Program (i.e., Monitoring of Chihuahuan Desert Bird species, Alomado Falcon, White-sided Jackrabbit, Gambusia gagai, etc.)	4	5	6