



# National Park Service

## Mission

The Organic Act of 1916 created the National Park Service (NPS) “to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

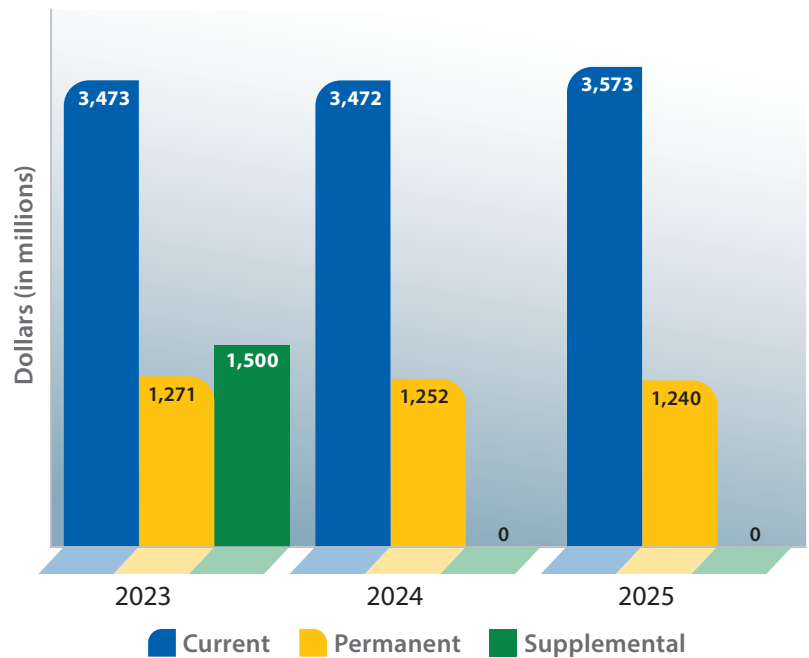
## Bureau Overview

The national park system covers 85 million acres at 429 park units, including 138 historical parks or sites, 84 national monuments, 63 national parks, 31 national memorials, 25 battlefields or military parks, and 88 otherwise designated national park units. NPS also helps administer affiliated sites and partnership organizations, the National Register of Historic Places, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Historic Landmarks, National Trails, and Heritage Partnership Programs, including National Heritage Areas. In addition, NPS works with communities across the Nation to help preserve local history and create recreational opportunities. NPS park units received 325.5 million visits in 2023.

## Budget Overview

The 2025 budget request for NPS is \$3.6 billion in current appropriations, a net increase of \$101.1 million over the 2024 continuing resolution (CR) level. NPS estimates the budget will support total staffing of 19,953 full-time equivalents (FTEs) in 2025, an increase of 134 over the 2024 CR level. The budget promotes

## NPS Funding



programs that improve the visitor experience, protect park visitors and employees, tackle climate change, advance racial equity, upgrade infrastructure, and promote conservation. Changes in the 2025 budget aid efforts to protect and preserve America’s national treasures and enhance visitor services, adaptively manage resources to increase resilience to the changing climate, use science to inform decisions, expand inclusion of historically underrepresented communities, and facilitate agreements with Tribes to collaborate in the co-stewardship of NPS lands and waters.

## Operation of the National Park System

The 2025 budget requests \$3.1 billion for operation of the national park system, an increase of \$166.9 million over the 2024 CR amount. The budget includes \$431.0 million for Resource Stewardship, \$299.5 million for Visitor Services, \$456.6 million for Park Protection, \$974.0 million for Facilities Operations and Maintenance, \$709.7 million for Park Support, and \$219.5 million for External Administrative Costs.

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Facts



- In 1916, Congress created NPS. The preservation of our most magnificent and meaningful places for the purpose of public appreciation and recreation is a uniquely American idea.
- The national park system includes 429 park units, encompassing 85 million acres in all 50 States and four territories.
- The NPS mission requires a diverse workforce, including archeologists, biologists, curators, engineers, historians, hydrologists, landscape architects, law enforcement officers, and many other disciplines.
- In 2023, NPS employed 21,639 full- and part-time employees.
- NPS served 325.5 million visitors in 2023.
- In 2023, more than 122,000 volunteers worked 3.7 million hours to preserve, protect, and share the history of this land and its people.
- NPS collaborates with Tribes, States, local governments, nonprofits, and owners of historic property, who share in preserving the Nation's heritage.

To support operational capacity at park areas, the budget includes increases totaling \$11.2 million to meet the NPS core mission objectives of preserving national treasures and making them available for today's and future generations of visitors. The increases support new and critical responsibilities, such as initiating operations at newly designated parks, increasing security, expanding recreational access, accelerating permitting and compliance activities at parks, and other emerging needs.

The request includes \$6.8 million to support cost increases resulting from the Office of Personnel Management changes to geographic boundaries of certain General Schedule locality pay areas and amendments to and redefinitions of a number of wage areas under the Federal Wage System. These changes raise the pay rates for a significant number of NPS employees, but these types of base changes in pay are not factors in the calculation of the annual change in pay that is part of the fixed costs request.

NPS is committed to the Increasing Representation on Our Public Lands initiative in support of Executive Order 13985—Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government and Executive Order 14091—Further Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government. The NPS budget includes increases to facilitate presenting an inclusive and

complete story of America in which everyone can see themselves reflected in national parks. The NPS operations account includes funding increases including \$3.1 million for targeted investments to preserve the stories of the cultures and history across America, engage new audiences, and expand access to America's national parks and programs. The budget also includes \$250,000 for the Japanese American World War II History National Network authorized in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023.

The budget reflects the Administration's commitment to strengthening Tribal communities by providing \$5.8 million for resources to increase Tribal participation in the management and stewardship of cultural and natural resources of significance and value to Indian Tribes and their citizens on Federal lands and waters. Funding will support collaborative and cooperative agreements with Tribal Nations, further implement the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience (NATIVE) Act, increase resources for subsistence management, and provide dedicated funding for a Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) coordinator.

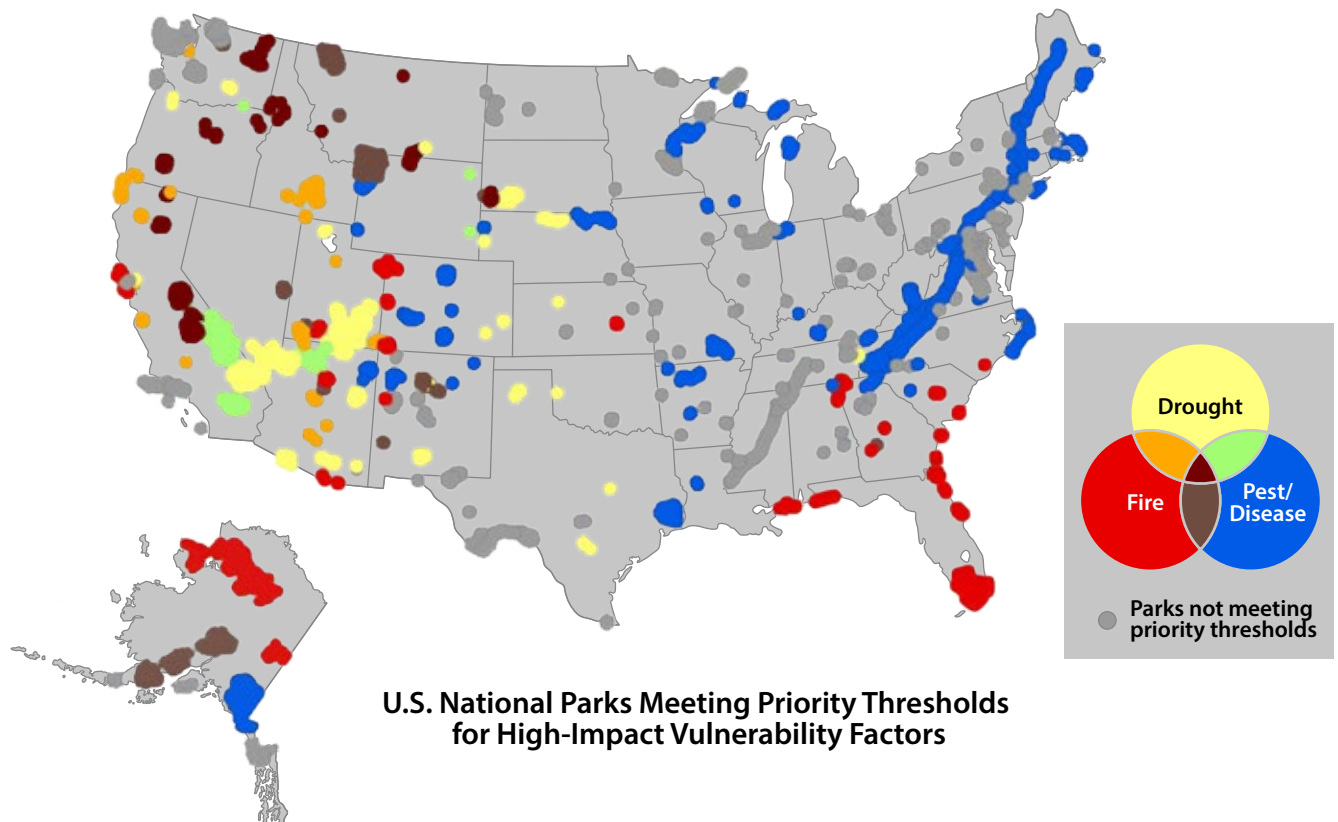
DOI is committed to the Biden-Harris Administration priorities laid out in Executive Order 14008—Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, which supports developing climate resilience and adaptation capabilities. NPS is an

essential component of governmentwide actions to address the impacts of climate change on the Nation’s natural areas. The NPS budget includes an additional \$2.5 million to fund varied NPS natural resources projects to better understand and address resource challenges on park lands stemming from climate change and to implement adaptation strategies that protect the Nation’s treasured natural resources from 21st-century threats. Projects will include management and control of non-native invasive species, restoration of damaged and/or sensitive ecosystems, mitigation of threats to significant at-risk resources, and tactical natural resource studies necessary to understand resource conditions and apply appropriate management actions.

To further strengthen the Department’s ability to meet its conservation mission in the face of a changing climate, the 2025 Department budget includes a total \$1.0 million increase to establish experts within NPS, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to

implement a nature-based solutions (NBS) policy. NBS promotes sustainable management of healthy ecosystems to protect the environment, which leads to numerous economic and social benefits. Dedicated funding for NBS experts has the potential to improve flood resilience, water quality, carbon sequestration, biodiversity, and habitat connectivity to strengthen the overall climate resilience of communities and natural resources.

NPS sustains the condition of thousands of assets in a manner befitting their status as America’s treasures while making them available for public enjoyment. The Facility Operations and Maintenance Program maintains, protects, restores, and rehabilitates natural and cultural resources, visitor and employee facilities, and other infrastructure. The Cyclic Maintenance Program is a central element of NPS efforts to curtail the growth of deferred maintenance and promote asset lifecycle management. The budget includes an additional \$5.0 million, for a total of \$193.2 million, for routine cyclic maintenance projects, which are



NPS evaluated 47 indicators to measure park unit exposure to climate change. The analysis found that 57 percent of park units are at high risk from at least one potentially transformative, high-impact factor, such as fire, drought, and forest pests/disease.

Source: NPS Natural Resource Report. <https://doi.org/10.36967/nrr-2287214>

periodic in nature and help to ensure that assets and resources can meet their intended design lives.

The 2025 NPS budget includes \$750,000 in new funding to support mental health and wellness coordinators in the NPS law enforcement rangers program and U.S. Park Police. The funding implements a primary recommendation of the Interior Law Enforcement Task Force to strengthen the law enforcement workforce and programs. The Department budget includes \$1.7 million to address this recommendation for bureau law enforcement programs across Interior.

The NPS budget also includes \$280,000 to contract psychological screening of law enforcement personnel to be compliant with Department policy

and Executive Order 14074—Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Criminal Justice Practices to Enhance Public Trust and Public Safety. Testing is required for all newly hired law enforcement officers and is a best practice for hiring in public safety positions.

NPS proposes one-time funding totaling \$4.2 million for visitor services needs relating to the Presidential Inaugural Celebration in 2025. The Presidential Inauguration serves as an enduring symbol of American democracy, and nearly all inaugural activities occur on or adjacent to NPS sites and grounds. Funding will ensure ranger presence throughout the inauguration site and adjacent areas to provide visitors with interpretive and general information and for the logistical,

## Inflation Reduction Act: Supporting Restoration and Resilience Programs

Nature is one of our best tools in improving our resilience to climate change and creating a thriving sustainable economy. NPS is making coordinated investments to safeguard the National Park System, advance nature-based solutions in our efforts to address the climate crisis, protect endangered species, and ensure clean air and clean water for all. These Restoration and Resilience projects, funded through the Inflation Reduction Act, are guided by the Department's Restoration and Resilience Framework to support coordination across agency programs and ensure collaborative, strategic, and measurable landscape-scale benefits that advance climate resilience.

The projects infuse much-needed funding to address critical ecosystem needs to restore healthy and resilient parklands while benefiting the communities surrounding parks. The investments are restoring iconic redwood forests and watersheds to improve biodiversity and sequester carbon; helping prevent the extinction of Hawaiian forest birds by suppressing invasive mosquitoes that spread avian malaria; restoring threatened whitebark pine at five national parks in Montana, Wyoming, and California; restoring Sonoran Desert habitats; and supporting healthy forests in Appalachia. In Midwestern parks, NPS is building

forest resilience by remediating legacy forest management practices that have created conditions favorable to climate-driven stressors, such as fire and insect outbreaks that kill trees.

IRA Restoration and Resilience projects in national park units for FY 2023 totaled \$43.9 million. Projects include broad-scale and impactful resource investments to strengthen climate resilience across the Nation to every corner—from Alaska to California to Florida to Maine—as part of the goal to restore and conserve 30 percent of the Nation's lands and waters by 2030.



A healthy stand of giant sequoia trees bears the signs of a previous fire. Iconic species like the giant sequoia face pressure from intensifying wildfires and snow drought. One solution is to protect climate change "refugia." These are areas that experience more gradual effects from climate change than other places. Conserving refugia could allow precious resources to survive, but understanding how to identify and protect them can be difficult.

NPS Photo.

material, and operational support necessary for hosting a public event expected to draw hundreds of thousands of attendees.

NPS is a High Impact Service Provider (HISP) as part of the ongoing whole-of-government approach to improve Federal service delivery and the Customer Experience (CX). NPS has highlighted two programs as designated services. The first program, Volunteer.gov, is a digital platform administered by the NPS Volunteers-in-Parks program and used by other land management agencies to serve more than 122,000 people who annually provide volunteer services. The second program, NPS Digital Experience, focuses on engaging visitors as they virtually explore or plan trips to national park sites using NPS.gov and the NPS App. As part of efforts to build CX capacity, the 2025 NPS budget includes an additional \$800,000 to expand the Volunteer.gov site. Funding will enable the program to design and implement future-thinking communications strategies, as well as updated application forms and electronic processes. NPS will continue the development, refinement, successful operation, and promotion of the NPS App using available funding.

ONPS appropriations language includes a provision to extend the period of availability of funding in the Operation of the National Park System account to 2 years. Two-year funding availability will allow NPS to improve park operations management, manage available resources more efficiently and effectively, and adjust for disruptions in the fiscal year. This period of availability is consistent with that of the operating funds at other Interior bureaus.

In addition, language is added to enable NPS to use up to \$15,000 of appropriated amounts for courtesy and social responsibilities associated with official duties, primarily for outreach, engagement,



A team of sled dogs waits outside Thorofare Cabin in Denali National Park and Preserve. The park's historic patrol cabins shelter staff on long patrols into Denali's backcountry.

*NPS Photo.*

and consultation with Tribal partners to honor traditions. This request would provide NPS similar authority provided to other DOI agencies to extend hospitality to official visitors without bureau employees bearing expenses from their personal funds.

### **National Recreation and Preservation**

The 2025 request includes \$84.4 million, a decrease of \$8.1 million below the 2024 CR level, for programs that provide technical and financial assistance to local community efforts to preserve natural and cultural resources. The budget proposes \$3.0 million for the African American Burial Grounds Preservation Program established in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 and authorized for appropriation through 2027. The budget also includes \$500,000 in additional resources for NPS administration of grant programs commensurate with recent increases in funding for National Recreation and Preservation (NR&P) grant programs for Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation, Japanese American Confinement Sites, American Indian and Native Hawaiian Art and Culture, the 9/11 Memorial Act, and multiple Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) programs that provide competitive grants to preserve the stories

of civil and equal rights and underrepresented communities. The budget requests \$18.1 million for the Heritage Partnership Program.

### Historic Preservation Fund

The 2025 budget includes \$151.4 million for HPF programs, a decrease of \$53.1 million from the 2024 CR level in grants and projects. HPF programs support the preservation of non-Federal historically and culturally significant sites and entities. In support of the Administration's priority to strengthen Tribal communities, the budget proposes \$2.5 million in dedicated funding for the Tribal Heritage Grants program, which awards competitive grants to support Indian Tribes, Alaska Native villages and corporations, and Native Hawaiian organizations for the preservation and protection of their cultural heritage. Funding also supports formula-funded State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices and competitive grants to rehabilitate Historically Black Colleges and Universities, historic properties that help foster the economic development of rural communities, and historic sites that tell the stories of the struggle for African American civil rights and equal rights in America. The funding also facilitates surveys and nominations of properties associated with communities currently underrepresented in the National Register of Historic Places and as National Historic Landmarks. The budget requests \$10.0 million for the Save America's Treasures grant program.

### Construction

The budget requests \$237.2 million, a decrease of \$2.6 million below the 2024 CR amount, in current funding for the NPS Construction program. The request includes \$120.7 million for line-item construction projects to address high-priority needs on mission-critical assets. The construction account request includes an increase of \$9.0

million for new construction or rehabilitation of existing employee housing where local market data show limited availability of affordable housing for purchase or rent. Housing is a critical factor in recruiting and retaining park employees, especially those in lower General Schedule grades, who make up the bulk of staff needed to manage higher visitation levels during peak seasons. In addition to using the Housing Improvement Program, NPS leverages multiple sources of funding to satisfy housing needs, including the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund; regular appropriated programs, such as Repair and Rehabilitation and Cyclic Maintenance; rents collected to support the operation and maintenance of quarters; and funding that supports employee leasing in gateway communities. The net decrease in funding is due to changes in funding strategies to modernize field communications and transition motor vehicle fleets to include a larger number of clean and zero-emission vehicles.

### Centennial Challenge

The 2025 budget proposes \$13.0 million, \$2.0 million below the 2024 CR amount, to support partnership projects that leverage private funding with a minimum 1:1 match from a non-Federal



As part of an ongoing effort to "Green our Rides," NPS partnered with the U.S. Dept. of Energy to procure electric motorcycles for the United States Park Police fleet shown here in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC.

U.S. Park Police Photo.



Cultural Landscape Reports and Historic Structure Reports are planning tools for NPS staff that document historic resources that are important to preserve and the steps to care for them. This is the cultural landscape of Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site. For more information go to <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/culturalallandscapes>.

*NPS Photo.*

source. In addition to this appropriated funding, the NPS Centennial Act established the permanent National Park Centennial Challenge Fund for high-priority projects or programs that enhance the visitor experience to be funded through amounts exceeding \$10.0 million from the sale of age-discounted Federal Recreational Lands Passes, known as Senior Passes. Amounts deposited into the fund are used for projects subject to the same matching requirement as other Centennial Challenge projects. Senior Pass revenues are estimated to generate \$7.5 million for the fund in 2025.

### **Recreation Fees**

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) (Public Law 108–447) authorizes recreation fees to be collected, retained, and expended by NPS and other land management agencies to provide benefits and services to the visitor. NPS uses revenue generated by recreation fees to repair, maintain, and enhance facilities;

provide interpretation, information, and other visitor services; restore habitat directly related to wildlife-dependent recreation; and provide law enforcement related to public use and recreation at the park where the fee is collected and throughout the national park system. FLREA fee receipts depend on visitation, which varies on the basis of many factors. In 2025, FLREA revenue at NPS units is estimated at \$365.5 million. The 2025 budget proposes appropriations language to extend the authorization of FLREA through 2026.

### **Fixed Costs**

Fixed costs of \$46.1 million are fully funded. The request also includes \$117.3 million for baseline capacity, which reflects the incremental amount needed to cover the fixed costs associated with mission operations in 2024. This request in combination with the 2025 fixed costs will allow NPS to meet must-pay requirements without affecting program activities.

## SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS <sup>1/</sup>

(dollar amounts in thousands)

### Comparison of 2025 Request with 2024 CR

	2024 CR		2025 Request		Change	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
<b>Current</b>						
Operation of the National Park System .....	13,973	2,920,124	14,083	3,087,050	+110	+166,926
Centennial Challenge .....	14	15,000	13	13,000	-1	-2,000
National Recreation and Preservation .....	202	92,512	205	84,423	+3	-8,089
Historic Preservation Fund .....	5	204,515	5	151,400	0	-53,115
Construction (and Major Maintenance) .....	309	239,803	306	237,183	-3	-2,620
Subtotal, Current .....	<b>14,503</b>	<b>3,471,954</b>	<b>14,612</b>	<b>3,573,056</b>	<b>+109</b>	<b>+101,102</b>
<b>Permanent</b>						
Operation of the National Park System .....	891	0	891	0	0	0
Construction (and Major Maintenance) .....	3	0	3	0	0	0
Land Acquisition and State Assistance .....	146	547,744	163	532,885	+17	-14,859
Visitor Experience Improvements Fund .....	0	14,145	0	0	0	-14,145
Recreation Fee Permanent Appropriations .....	1,827	365,819	1,827	365,829	0	+10
Other Permanent Appropriations .....	398	241,619	398	259,630	0	+18,011
Miscellaneous Trust Funds .....	251	83,003	251	82,003	0	-1,000
Subtotal, Permanent .....	<b>3,516</b>	<b>1,252,330</b>	<b>3,533</b>	<b>1,240,347</b>	<b>+17</b>	<b>-11,983</b>
<b>Allocation and Reimbursable</b>						
Allocation .....	1,041	0	1,049	0	+8	0
Reimbursable .....	759	0	759	0	0	0
Subtotal, Allocation and Reimbursable .....	<b>1,800</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,808</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+8</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE .....</b>	<b>19,819</b>	<b>4,724,284</b>	<b>19,953</b>	<b>4,813,403</b>	<b>+134</b>	<b>+89,119</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Current funding amounts include transfers. For further details, see Highlights of Budget Changes tables for each account.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES

By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity

### APPROPRIATION: Operation of the National Park System

	2023 Actual	2024 CR	2025 Request	Change
Park Management				
Resource Stewardship .....	387,520	419,717	431,035	+11,318
Visitor Services .....	279,979	308,487	299,498	-8,989
Park Protection .....	430,578	429,396	456,594	+27,198
Facility Operations Maintenance .....	937,347	938,677	974,005	+35,328
Park Support .....	670,367	609,514	709,688	+100,174
Subtotal, Park Management .....	2,705,791	2,705,791	2,870,820	+165,029
External Administrative Costs .....	217,633	217,633	219,530	+1,897
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/o transfers) .....	2,923,424	2,923,424	3,090,350	+166,926
External Mandated Transfer .....	-3,300	-3,300	-3,300	0
Other Transfers .....	+1,537	0	0	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/ transfers) .....	2,921,661	2,920,124	3,087,050	+166,926

### APPROPRIATION: Centennial Challenge

	2023 Actual	2024 CR	2025 Request	Change
TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....	15,000	15,000	13,000	-2,000

### APPROPRIATION: National Recreation and Preservation

	2023 Actual	2024 CR	2025 Request	Change
Natural Programs .....	18,579	18,579	19,572	+993
Cultural Programs .....	39,327	39,327	44,172	+4,845
Environmental Compliance and Review .....	465	465	496	+31
International Park Affairs .....	1,990	1,990	2,093	+103
Heritage Partnership Programs .....	29,232	29,232	18,090	-11,142
Statutory and Contractual Aid .....	2,919	2,919	0	-2,919
TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....	92,512	92,512	84,423	-8,089

**APPROPRIATION: Historic Preservation Fund**

	2023 Actual	2024 CR	2025 Request	Change
Grants-in-Aid				
Grants-In-Aid to States and Territories .....	62,150	62,150	62,150	0
Grants-In-Aid to Indian Tribes .....	23,000	23,000	23,000	0
Tribal Heritage Grants .....	0	0	2,500	+2,500
Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants .....	12,500	12,500	12,500	0
Grants-in-Aid to Historically Black Colleges & Universities .....	11,000	11,000	11,000	0
Competitive Grants-in-Aid				
African American Civil Rights .....	24,000	24,000	24,000	0
History of Equal Rights .....	5,000	5,000	5,000	0
Underrepresented Communities .....	1,250	1,250	1,250	0
Subtotal, Competitive Grants-in-Aid .....	30,250	30,250	30,250	0
Semiquincentennial Preservation Grants .....	10,000	10,000	0	-10,000
Subtotal, Grants-in-Aid .....	148,900	148,900	141,400	-7,500
Grants-in-Aid—Save America's Treasures .....	26,500	26,500	10,000	-16,500
Historic Preservation Fund Projects .....	29,115	29,115	0	-29,115
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....</b>	<b>204,515</b>	<b>204,515</b>	<b>151,400</b>	<b>-53,115</b>

**APPROPRIATION: Construction (and Major Maintenance)**

	2023 Actual	2024 CR	2025 Request	Change
Line-Item Construction Projects .....	126,700	126,700	124,700	-2,000
Special Programs .....	45,949	45,949	41,898	-4,051
Construction Planning .....	15,183	15,183	15,183	0
Construction Program				
Management and Operations .....	34,891	34,891	37,749	+2,858
Management Planning .....	17,080	17,080	17,653	+573
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/o supplemental) .....</b>	<b>239,803</b>	<b>239,803</b>	<b>237,183</b>	<b>-2,620</b>
Disaster Relief Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328) .....	+1,500,000	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/ supplemental) .....</b>	<b>1,739,803</b>	<b>239,803</b>	<b>237,183</b>	<b>-2,620</b>