

# AMERICA'S HERITAGE

**FOR SALE**

A LACK OF FEDERAL FUNDS  
THREATENS LOSS OF SIGNIFICANT  
NATIONAL PARKLANDS



**National Parks Conservation Association®**  
*Protecting Our National Parks for Future Generations®*

# America's Heritage For Sale

Privately owned land within the congressionally designated boundaries of America's national parks creates gaping holes that shatter the integrity of individual parks and the system as a whole, and make it more difficult and expensive for the Park Service to protect wildlife and the parks' natural and cultural treasures. Our national heritage is at risk.

## Fast Facts

### Total National Park System acreage:

84,322,229.91

### Total acreage privately owned within park boundaries:

4.3 million

### Lands identified by the National Park Service for acquisition:

1.8 million

### Total cost to purchase National Park Service identified lands:

\$1.9 billion

### Ask to Congress for fiscal year 2009:

\$100 million

## Map key

Green  = Current national parklands

Purple  = Fiscal year 2009 asks

Orange  = Future acquisitions

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## A Lack of Federal Funds Causes National Parks to Lose Significant Lands within their Borders

### Executive Summary

During the winter of 1777-1778, only 20 miles separated the Continental Army at Valley Forge from nearly 20,000 British soldiers bent on its destruction. General George Washington had chosen Valley Forge as the site of the army's winter encampment because it was close enough to allow him to monitor the British forces occupying Philadelphia, yet far enough away to provide a relatively safe haven for his army. Some 2,000 Americans died that long winter at Valley Forge, but the Continental Army, hardened by its crucible, survived and ultimately won the war for independence.

Today, Valley Forge National Historical Park is recognized as the nation's premier classroom on the American Revolutionary War. Unfortunately, the site is now threatened by proposed commercial development on 78 acres of privately owned land within the park's boundary. If the local zoning board approvals survive legal challenges, a hotel, conference center, and museum complex would be located on the north bank of the Schuylkill River within cannon shot of General Washington's headquarters and inside the national park. For lack of funding, the Park Service never purchased the land, and it could now be lost forever to development.

Of the 391 units in the National Park System, a significant and growing number face some threat to wildlife habitat or the preservation of cultural treasures because of development on privately owned land within national park boundaries. The current list of National Park Service priority land acquisition needs includes 1.8 million acres at an estimated price tag of \$1.9 billion. The property on this list ranges in size from a less than one-acre tract needed to complete and open the historic Washington, D.C., home of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the founder of black history month, to a combined total of 125,000 acres required to fulfill congressionally mandated boundary expansion at Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona.

Some of these privately owned parcels were placed on the market by willing sellers and authorized for purchase decades ago. The Park Service, however, has lacked funding to close the deals, and even the

most public-spirited owners cannot be expected to forego their own financial needs indefinitely. As time races on and developers exert stronger pressure on owners to sell, the likelihood of inconsistent commercial or residential development within park boundaries increases.

At Valley Forge, one out of every ten acres inside the park's boundary is privately owned. At Gettysburg National Military Park the number is one in five. At Zion National Park in Utah, the acquisition of ten acres of land from willing sellers would help stem the tide of commercial and residential development that has already fundamentally changed the character of a portion of one of the most spectacular landscapes in the United States. And these park inholdings represent a much larger problem.

There are, of course, many examples where privately owned properties within park boundaries are managed compatibly with the preservation of park resources. In countless other instances, however, private inholdings become the staging ground for incompatible development, such as commercial real estate or luxury homes, that substantially degrades the ability of the Park Service to preserve the natural and cultural treasures in their care. And ultimately, the Park Service is expected to own and manage virtually all privately owned lands within park boundaries.

Once lost to incompatible development, private inholdings can disrupt or destroy park views, undermine the experience of visitors, and often diminish air and water quality while simultaneously increasing light and noise pollution. Park Service managers have stated and research by the Congressional Research Service confirms that privately owned land within park boundaries creates gaps that shatter the integrity of individual parks and the system as a whole, and make it more difficult and expensive for the Park Service to protect key resources.

At the heart of the matter is the failure of the Administration and Congress to make available adequate funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Established by Congress in September 1964, the purpose of the LWCF was to "conserve, develop, and utilize"

outdoor resources for the “benefit and enjoyment of the American people.” The Fund receives \$900 million per year—primarily from revenue generated from oil and gas leasing of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)—and Congress can provide up to that amount annually for a combination of a federal acquisition program and a state LWCF matching grant program for outdoor recreation needs. The federal LWCF is meant to serve as the primary source for funding the land acquisition needs of the Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Forest Service.

In the 43-year history of the program, lawmakers have traditionally approved just a fraction of the LWCF funds available, though many members of Congress have supported the program. For example, between fiscal years 1965 and 2006, roughly \$29 billion was credited to the LWCF account, but only \$14.3 billion of that total was appropriated for use. And unlike an actual “trust fund,” unused money is regularly diverted from the LWCF account to support other federal programs or budget priorities instead of being applied to conservation and recreation needs.

Further complicating matters, annual LWCF funding for National Park Service land acquisition needs has decreased by more than \$100 million in the past ten years, even before adjusting for inflation. From a relative “high” of \$147,925,000 in FY 1999, the amount of money appropriated to support the

purchase of park inholdings plummeted to \$44,366,908 in FY 2008. In the meantime, Park Service managers continue to identify inholdings as one of the most significant internal threats they face to the preservation of the natural and cultural resources in their charge.

This report contains individual fact sheets on ten national parks that represent examples of private inholdings that should be purchased in the very near future for the benefit of resource protection and the future enjoyment of park visitors. This selection of parks is not all-inclusive but is instead intended to illustrate the breadth of challenges posed by privately owned land within the boundaries of our parks, which require immediate funding from Congress in FY 2009.

Over the past two years, the attention of the Administration, Congress, and the American people has turned increasingly toward the 2016 centennial of the National Park System. A variety of initiatives, including Centennial Challenge legislation now under consideration in Congress, have the potential to bring together the citizens of this nation around a great, common purpose—preparing our National Park System for its second century. A central component of a successful effort to ready the parks for their centennial should be a significant increase in the annual appropriation for the Park Service’s share of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

In the 43-year history of the program, lawmakers have traditionally approved just a fraction of the LWCF funds available, though many members of Congress have supported the program.



**TABLE 1. National Park Service Land Resources Division Federal Land Acquisition FY 1998 to FY 2008 (Administration request and congressional appropriation)**

FISCAL YEAR	BUDGET REQUEST	APPROPRIATION
FY 1999	\$137,087,000	\$147,925,000
FY 2000	\$172,468,000	\$99,700,000
FY 2001 (Titles I and VIII)	\$147,468,000	\$124,840,000
FY 2002	\$107,036,000	\$130,117,000
FY 2003	\$86,057,000	\$73,984,000
FY 2004	\$78,623,000	\$46,766,000
FY 2005	\$84,295,000	\$55,134,000
FY 2006	\$52,880,000	\$34,395,000
FY 2007	\$22,718,000	\$34,402,000
FY 2008	\$22,529,000	\$44,366,908
FY 2009	\$21,832,000	

## Recommendations

- NPCA strongly recommends at least a \$100 million appropriation for the FY 2009 Park Service share of federal LWCF money to support the purchase of park inholdings. This amount is critical to the protection of the integrity of the park system.
- NPCA also believes the current backlog of 1.8 million acres of park inholdings slated for purchase should be eliminated by the centennial in 2016. This will require an ongoing investment in the Park Service LWCF share that significantly exceeds funding that has been available in recent years.
- Congress should ask the Park Service to produce a list of all of its priority inholdings to be acquired between now and 2016 from willing sellers and provide an annual update on inholdings faced with immediate development threats.

Friends groups, land trusts, and private investment also have an important role to play in acquiring privately owned land within park boundaries threatened by development. In Maine, the Friends of Acadia and the Maine Coast Heritage Trust are engaged in a partnership with Acadia National Park to acquire privately owned lands within park boundaries. The inventory of inholdings at Acadia consists of about 140 parcels valued at roughly \$40 million. Topping the list are Burnt Porcupine and Rum Key Islands, both privately owned, highly visible features from Cadillac Mountain and Bar Harbor, that if developed would fundamentally change the character of Acadia National Park for the worse.

At Gettysburg National Military Park, the Gettysburg Foundation (formerly the Friends of National Parks at Gettysburg) was instrumental in buying land in the middle of Pickett's Charge Field, and restoring the area to its historic 1863 appearance. In 2006, the Mojave Desert Land Trust raised nearly \$1,000,000 to buy Nolina Point, a "special square mile of desert wilderness," which they then donated to Joshua Tree National Park in California. All across the country, public and private partnerships are helping to fill in the gaps in our National Park System.

But while public and private partnerships provide a complementary means for acquiring privately owned land inside park boundaries, they cannot, and should not, replace the Land and Water Conservation Fund as the primary source for federal land acquisition.

If we are to ensure the preservation of the most significant natural, cultural, and historic places on the American landscape, Congress must act to make the purchase of inholdings and the acquisition of strategic adjacent lands a priority. Federal dollars must be used to preserve our national heritage, and that means more robust support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

## Conclusion

Commitment to the idea that our national parks are "the best idea America ever had," requires diligent protection of these national treasures against all threats. Incompatible development on private property within park boundaries results in resource fragmentation and seriously degrades the quality of our National Park System. But this crisis has a solution.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is the immediately available, yet underused source for funding the land acquisition needs of the National Park Service. By acting now to complete public ownership of our parks, we improve the management capacity of the Park Service, consolidate public ownership of critical lands, and help make the park system what it needs to be in time for the beginning of its second century.

Our national parks—our nation's heritage—deserve nothing less.

# CASE STUDIES

**FOR SALE**

A FOCUSED LOOK AT SOME  
SPECIFIC NATIONAL PARKLANDS  
THAT COULD BE SAVED BY  
PROPER FUNDING

Big Thicket  
National Preserve  
(TX)

Fiscal Year:  
2009

Acreege:  
2,800

Estimated Price  
to National Park  
Service:  
\$4,750,000

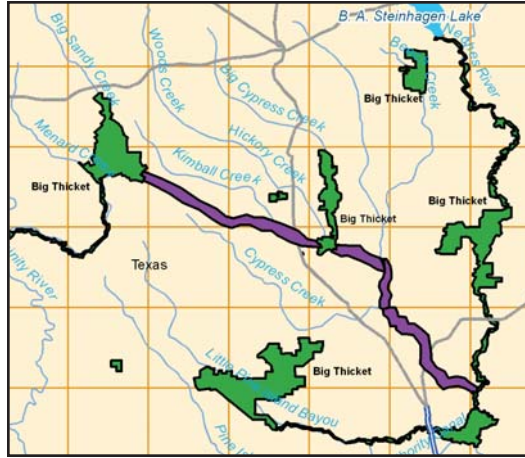
Natural  
Resources:

Rare and  
endangered  
species, contiguous  
greenways,  
Pleistocene  
terraces

Programmatic  
Significance:

Wildland canoeing,  
recreational  
opportunities,  
water quality  
protection,  
wildlife habitat  
preservation

# Big Thicket National Preserve (TX)



When most people think of Texas, they think of dusty, windblown plains, rodeos and cowboys, and the hustle and bustle of Dallas. Rarely do they envision towering pine trees, creeks winding through a maze of cypress sloughs, or bogs peppered with carnivorous plants. In other words, they rarely think about Big Thicket National Preserve.

The original Big Thicket of Texas covered between 1 million and 3 million acres. People have called the Big Thicket an American ark and the biological crossroads of North America. What is extraordinary is not the rarity or abundance of its life forms, but how many species co-exist here. This dense wilderness was so difficult to traverse that most people moving westward avoided the area. One exhausted traveler wrote in 1835, "This day passed through the thickest woods I ever saw. It...surpasses any country for brush." The few hardy souls who did settle here found an abundance of water and diverse plant life. Everything they needed for living was literally right out their front door. In the 1850s economic development began with the cutting of pines and cypress. Ancient forests were felled and replanted with non-native trees. Oil strikes around 1900 brought further forest encroachment as people flooded into the area looking to strike it rich. By the middle of the 20th century, the vast majority of virgin forest was gone.

Big Thicket National Preserve was established in 1974 "to assure the preservation, conservation, and protection of the natural, scenic, and recreational values of a significant portion of the Big Thicket area." This portion of Big Thicket consists of

nine land units and six water units, comprising approximately 100,000 acres that are not all connected to one another. At the time of the preserve's establishment, this fragmentation wasn't thought to be critical. The land between each unit was owned by timber companies, and with the preserve units, created a contiguous greenway. However, much of this land has or is being sold for development, and the greenways are in danger of being forever destroyed.

Fragmentation is arguably the biggest threat to Big Thicket National Preserve. Most of the 2,000 acres yet to be acquired within the 1993 authorized boundary addition are located in the Big Sandy Creek Corridor Unit. The acquisition of these lands would create a greenway connecting three units of the preserve: Big Sandy Creek Corridor Unit, Village Creek Corridor Unit, and Lower Neches River Corridor Unit. The entire Big Sandy/Village Creek waterway would be protected all the way to the Neches River.

The tracts offer significant biological diversity and one of the most outstanding wildland canoeing opportunities in the region. Not only would incredible recreational access be lost, but earthmoving activities would significantly impair the water quality and biological diversity of the preserve, including a number of rare or endangered species. Many of these species inhabit fragile Pleistocene terraces that could not be replaced or reconstructed if logging or development activities were to take place.



# Congaree National Park (SC)

Congaree National Park (SC)

**Fiscal Year:**

2009

**Project Name:**

Riverstone

**Acreage:**

1,840

**Estimated Price to National Park Service:**

\$5.88 million

**Natural Resources:**

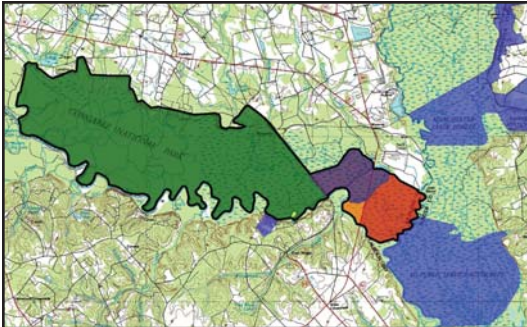
Swallow-tailed Kite, potential red-cockaded woodpecker habitat, bald cypress, planer tree, floodplain and bottomland hardwood forests, Congaree River and Wateree River watershed, 4-mile Oxbow Lake

**Cultural Resources:**

Part of the Lower Richland Heritage Corridor

**Programmatic significance:**

Connectivity to existing conservation lands, endangered and threatened species protection, scenic viewshed protection, recreation, public access, water quality protection, wildlife habitat protection, outdoor education and research, cultural and archaeological resources.



In recognition of the Congaree's extraordinary ecological and cultural significance, in 2003 Congress changed the designation from Congaree National Monument to Congaree National Park and expanded the park's eastern border to include an additional 4,576 acres. Resting on a floodplain of the Congaree River, the park is recognized as an International Biosphere Reserve, National Natural Landmark, Wilderness Area, and Globally Important Bird Area. Congaree encompasses the nation's largest tract of old-growth bottomland hardwood forest, is home to more than 75 tree species, including old-growth loblolly pine and bald cypress, and protects some of the tallest trees in the eastern United States, with some pines and sweetgums reaching higher than 160 feet.

With its dense overgrowth and high forest canopy, this area hosts more than 190 species of birds, making it a popular birding area. Most of the woodpecker species found in the Southeast find nesting and feeding sites in the standing dead trees within the forest. The park is recognized as a potential recovery habitat for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker, and, following unverified sightings of the ivory-billed woodpecker in Arkansas, Congaree is considered prime habitat for the possible recovery of this species. Several sightings of the state-listed endangered swallow-tailed kite have been reported at Congaree, and deer, river otters, turtles, and raccoons, are just a few of the animals that also inhabit the forest.

Congaree offers the public excellent recreation opportunities. The park has a 2.5-mile boardwalk trail, more than 20 miles of hiking trails, and plentiful opportunities for backcountry camping. Outdoor enthusiasts can also enjoy canoeing, birding, kayaking, picnicking, camping, and fishing.

The Congaree and Wateree Rivers recently have been designated as the first Blue Trail in the nation by the organization American Rivers. Included in the Lower Richland Heritage Corridor, Congaree's landscape plays an important role in interpreting the rich cultural heritage of the area. Each year, Congaree National Park joins the community in recognizing the plantation and post-emancipation history of the area at the SwampFest! celebration.

A broad coalition of national and South Carolina-based conservation and civic organizations have joined together to assist the Park Service in acquiring the properties included in the 2003 park expansion legislation. The last remaining large inholding to be acquired, the 1,840-acre Riverstone tract, is available for federal purchase and protection this year. The Riverstone tract is the key connector between the central portion of the park to the west and the Bates Fork tract (acquired by the National Park Service in FY 2005), thereby linking Congaree National Park to the adjoining Upper Santee Swamp Natural Area, owned by the South Carolina Public Service Authority. Water resources on the Riverstone tract—including Bates Old River, Big Lake, Little Lake, Running Creek and Running Lake—have significant natural, recreational, and archaeological value. The property harbors extensive areas of early and mid-successional plant communities rarely found in the Congaree National Park as well as dwarf cypress and planer tree communities.

Park Service acquisition of the Riverstone property in Congaree National Park offers a critical opportunity to protect and enhance the ecological integrity of this extraordinary park. Acquisition of the property will nearly complete protection of the park expansion area and buffer Congaree National Park from encroaching timbering and other incompatible uses while providing new recreational opportunities to park visitors.

**FOR SALE**

**Fiscal Year:**  
2009

**Acreage:**  
119

**Estimated Price  
to National Park  
Service:**  
\$3,600,000

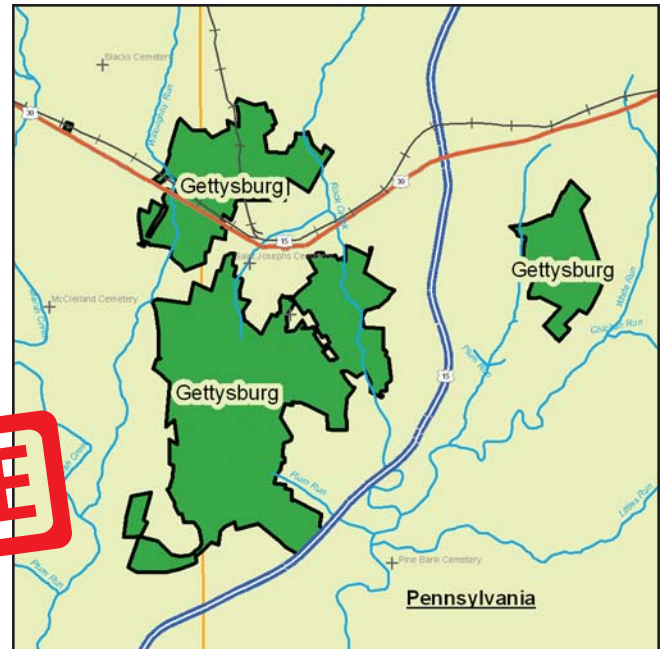
**Cultural  
Resources:**

Civil War  
battlefield,  
battle-era  
structures,  
battlefield  
hospital

**Programmatic  
Significance:**

Education,  
battlefield  
landscape  
preservation,  
cultural  
resources

# Gettysburg National Military Park (PA)



As a premier classroom, Gettysburg National Military Park tells the story of the largest battle of the American Civil War. Fought from July 1-3, 1863, the Battle of Gettysburg resulted in a victory for the Union Army, ending the second invasion of the North by Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Often referred to as the turning point of the Civil War, Gettysburg was the bloodiest battle of the war, with more than 51,000 soldiers killed, wounded, captured, or missing.

Gettysburg also serves as a strong economic engine for the local community. According to NPCA's December 2006 economic study, *U.S. National Park System: An Economic Asset at Risk*, Gettysburg provides a return of \$2.20 to Pennsylvania's state and local economies for every \$1.00 the federal government invests in the park's budget. In addition, the report found that the park generates more than \$15 million in annual economic benefits, and that park visitors generate more than \$95 million annually in local revenue while supporting nearly 3,000 local non-park jobs. The park's annual budget is \$7 million.

As Gettysburg is investing millions of dollars to rehabilitate the battlefield landscape to its 1863 appearance and in improving visitor education—a decision strongly supported by visitors and the community as the right investment in Gettysburg's future—inappropriate development threatens that future. Currently, one out of every ten acres inside the park's congressionally designated boundary is not owned by the National Park Service, making the land subject to incompatible development. Adams County, where Gettysburg is located, is the fourth fastest-growing county in Pennsylvania.

The Park Service has the opportunity to purchase and protect four parcels of land that are at risk of inappropriate development. These priorities total 119 acres, including battle-era structures and cultural landscapes, and the site of a battlefield hospital. Estimated value of the four parcels is \$3.6 million.

# Golden Gate National Recreation Area (CA)

Golden Gate  
National Recreation  
Area (CA)

**Fiscal Year:**  
2009

**Acreage:**  
4,076

**Estimated Price to National Park Service:**  
\$5,000,000  
(Total: \$13,050,000)

**Natural Resources:**  
Threatened and endangered species, coastal scrub and chaparral habitat, riparian habitat

**Cultural Resources:**  
Rancho Corral de Tierra

**Programmatic Significance:**  
Scenic viewshed protection, habitat preservation, public access



In 1839, a Mexican Land Grant was awarded to Francisco Guerrero y Palomares. On what is now known as “Rancho Corral de Tierra,” he built the first adobe on the San Mateo Coast. Located seven miles from San Francisco and 20 miles from the Silicon Valley, this 4,000-acre parcel in isolated and near undisturbed condition provides a unique habitat for a diverse array of plant and animal species. Peregrine falcons, San Bruno elfin butterflies, coast rock cress, Montara Manzanitas, and San Francisco wallflowers can be found in and around the coastal scrub and chaparral habitats. The headwaters of four major watersheds provide important riparian habitat as well as a vital source of water. Montara Mountain, visible for more than 25 miles, provides pristine views from the scenic Highway 1.

All of this is available for immediate acquisition by the National Park Service. Rancho Corral currently shares more than three miles of border with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Easily accessible by private and public transportation from Highway 1, adding this land to Golden Gate would establish a southern entrance, which the park is currently lacking. National park programs and

experiences could be extended to domestic and international visitors, especially the 6 million people who live within an hour’s drive of the Rancho Corral.

The same characteristics that make this property ideal for the National Park Service also make it very attractive to developers. Accessibility along Highway 1 could easily lead to housing tracts with amazing views. The opportunity to give permanent protection to many threatened and endangered species, continue a history of unmatched views, and provide enhanced visitor experience could be lost forever.

In 2003, the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) purchased the land in a series of payments, bringing the total cost to about \$30 million. Through matching grants from state and private funding sources, POST is able to make these 4,076 acres available to the National Park Service for slightly more than \$13 million. This is an opportunity that the National Park Service cannot afford to pass up, and Congress should move immediately to ensure that this natural landscape continues to be preserved for future generations.

Harpers Ferry  
National Historical  
Park (VA, WV)

**Fiscal Year:**  
2009

**Acreage:**  
65.84

**Estimated Price  
to National Park  
Service:**  
\$7,150,000

**Natural  
Resources:**

Jefferson Rock,  
Potomac and  
Shenandoah  
Rivers, eastern  
deciduous forest,  
peregrine  
falcon, bald  
eagle, section of  
Appalachian Trail

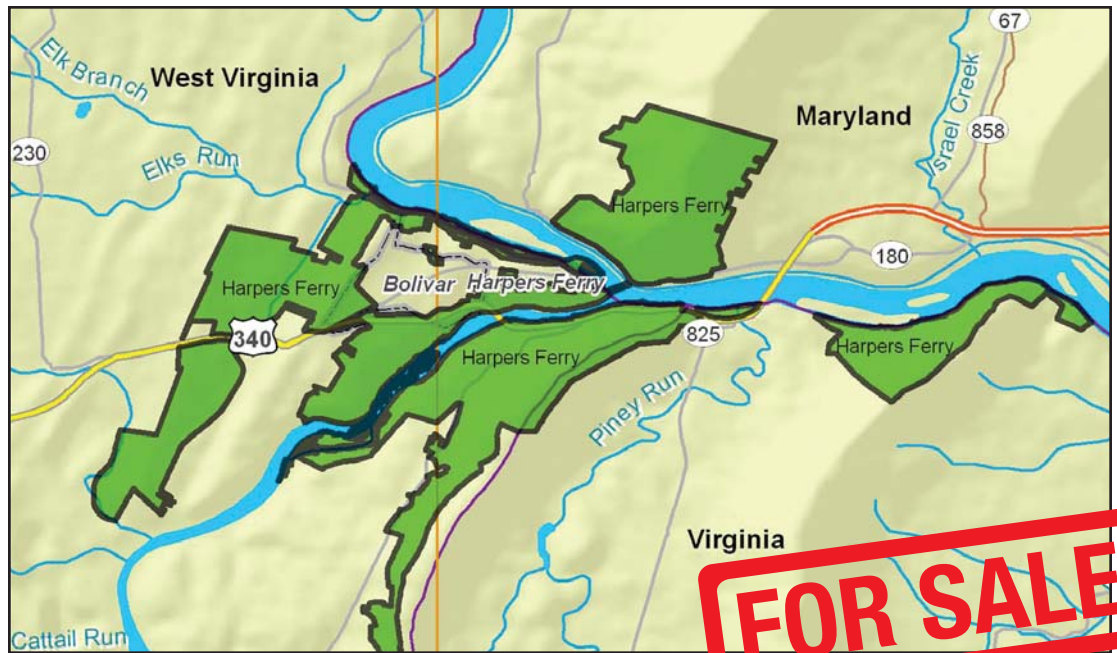
**Cultural  
Resources:**

Historic  
downtown, Civil  
War battlefields,  
site of John  
Brown's raid and  
early meetings  
of civil rights  
movement,  
adjacent to  
C&O Canal

**Programmatic  
Significance:**

Education,  
scenic viewshed  
protection,  
wildlife habitat  
preservation, public  
recreation access

# Harpers Ferry National Historical Park (VA, WV)



Located at the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers, Harpers Ferry witnessed the first successful application of interchangeable manufacture, the arrival of the first successful American railroad, John Brown's attack on slavery, the largest surrender of Federal troops during the Civil War, and the education of formerly enslaved people in one of the earliest integrated schools in the United States.

In order to protect and interpret these remarkable chapters from our American heritage, Harpers Ferry was designated a national monument in 1944 and a national historical park in 1963. Every year more than 250,000 visitors come to Harpers Ferry to explore America's rich cultural heritage and enjoy the picturesque landscape. Visitors stroll back in time while visiting the historic downtown and the surrounding battlefields, and walk in the footsteps of people who made history.

The ability of visitors to enjoy this crossroads of history and the Blue Ridge foothills depends heavily on the preservation of the essential Harpers Ferry landscape, which remains threatened. Key parcels adjacent to and inside of the Harpers Ferry region have been proposed for large-scale development. Through the efforts of a broad coalition and the

actions of neighboring communities, several potentially damaging developments have been averted. However, to tell the full stories of these historic events, key lands in and around Harpers Ferry National Historical Park need to be protected and managed.

To this end, NPCA seeks \$7 million to allow the National Park Service to acquire 65.84 acres. Lands available for acquisition include an essential piece of the view in town from "Jefferson's rock," where an awestruck Thomas Jefferson stood in 1783 and stated "this scene is worth a voyage across the Atlantic." Other parcels are essential to preserving historic views across Bolivar Heights and School House Ridge, the respective Union and Confederate battle lines. These tracts also would help enhance trail corridor protection and connections, river access, Civil War history, and/or opportunities for interpretation.

# Mt. Rainier National Park (WA)

Mt. Rainier  
National Park (WA)

**Fiscal Year:**

2009

**Project Name:**

Carbon River  
Valley

**Acreage:**

800

**Estimated Price  
to National Park  
Service:**

\$4,500,000

**Natural  
Resources:**

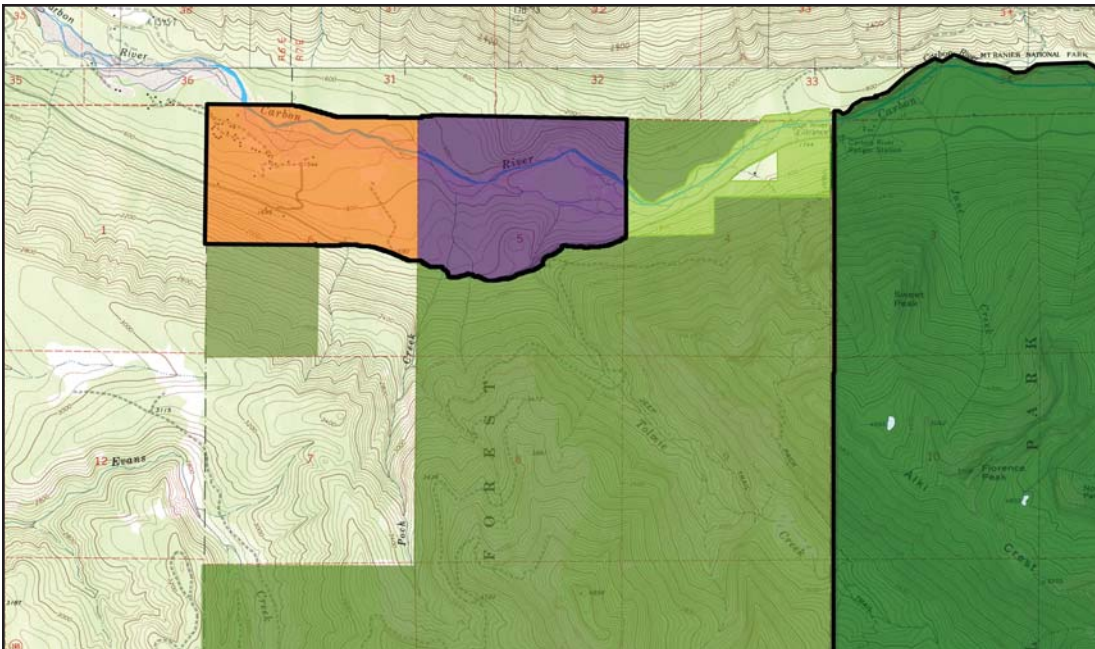
Pine forests,  
biodiverse  
watershed and  
river corridor,  
old-growth  
forest, Chinook  
salmon, black  
bear, northern  
red-legged frog,  
northern spotted  
owl, marbled  
murrelet

**Cultural  
Resources:**

Example of  
early park  
planning, national  
park rustic  
architecture

**Programmatic  
Significance:**

Wildlife migration  
corridor,  
scenic viewshed  
protection,  
recreation,  
public access,  
wildlife protection  
and habitat  
preservation,  
education, lake  
and stream  
protection



For more than a century, visitors to Mount Rainier National Park have been hiking its trails, climbing the summit, cross-country skiing, camping, photographing, or just admiring the view. The 235,625-acre park encompasses an active volcano, old-growth forests, and wildflower meadows, as well as cultural resources stemming from its historical position as one of the country's first national parks.

Mother Nature has presented an ongoing challenge to ensuring visitor access to the park's many resources. This is especially true at the park's northwest entrance where the Carbon River Road has frequently washed out. In 2004, President Bush signed legislation that extends the park's northwest boundary three miles along the Carbon River Valley. This expansion will allow the National Park Service to build new roads, ensuring visitor access to new campgrounds, hiking trails and parking, as well as improved access to the Carbon Glacier, Wonderland Trail, and backcountry camping at the Ipsut Creek campground. The expansion will also afford much-needed protection to the beautiful Carbon River Valley, conserving habitat for endangered and threatened species such as the marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, and Chinook salmon. The valley contains one of the last inland old-growth rainforests in the United States,

and connects wildlife corridors from the park to Puget Sound.

Among the properties included within the newly expanded park boundary is the Carbon River Gateway. Acquisition of this 440-acre parcel is critical to the expansion, as it lies adjacent to Forest Service lands that link current Park Service lands with the privately owned parcels within the expansion area. The property is easily accessible from the road and contains a small knoll commanding a beautiful view of the Carbon River Valley, making it ideal as an overlook and interpretative site. A timber company currently owns this land, and logging could occur on the site. Not only would this degrade the parcel's value to park visitors, it could have serious repercussions for the habitat surrounding the Carbon River.



Obed Wild and Scenic (TN)

**Fiscal Year:**

2009

**Acreage:**

750

**Estimated Price to National Park Service:**

\$3,000,000

**Natural Resources:**

Threatened and endangered species, rugged and undeveloped terrain, whitewater, large cliffs, and boulder fields

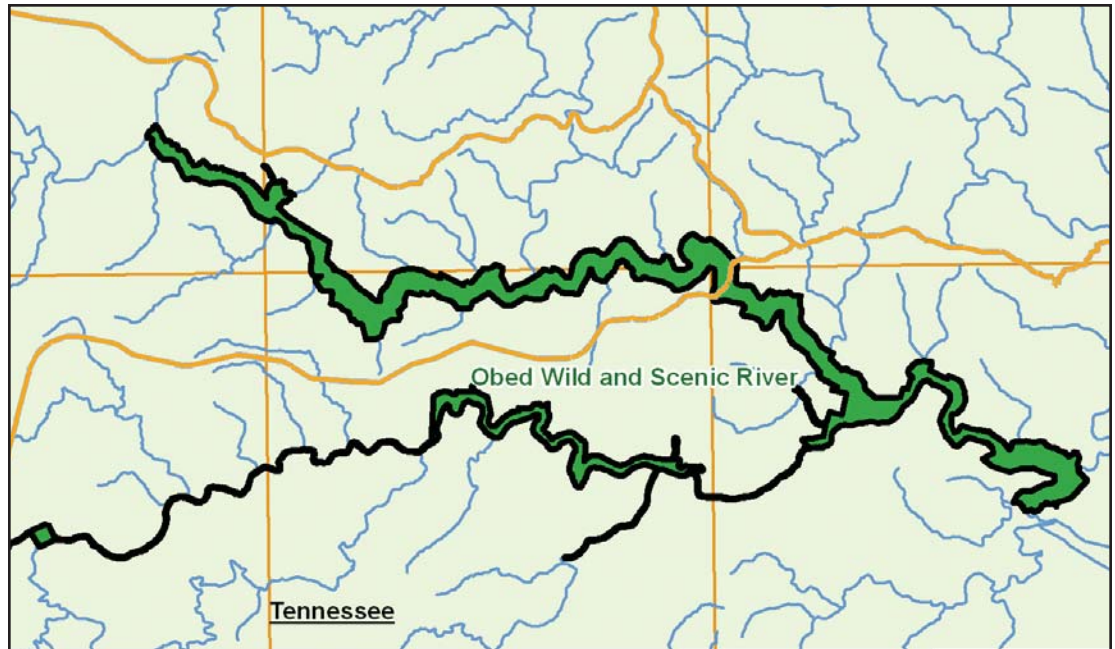
**Cultural Resources:**

Historic fords and river crossings

**Programmatic Significance:**

Water quality protection, scenic viewshed protection, river access, recreation, winter access

# Obed Wild and Scenic River (TN)



The Obed Wild and Scenic River looks much the same today as it did when the first European settlers strolled its banks in the 1700s. The park encompasses 45 miles of streams that offer world-class kayaking, canoeing, and fishing, as well as abundant opportunities for hiking, technical climbing, and wildlife observation. The Obed is one of the “last remaining wild rivers in the eastern United States,” and the only “Wild & Scenic” river administered by the National Park Service in Tennessee.

Three decades after its establishment, however, 20 percent of the land set aside for the park has yet to be either acquired or protected, and threats from development (internal and external) jeopardize the future of this priceless resource. There are 34 parcels of in-holdings totaling 1,050 acres inside the park’s boundaries, and an additional 2.5 river miles of bluff top property just outside the park that are threatened with residential development.

The Park Service has made progress towards acquiring some of these lands; however, incomplete funding has resulted in incomplete protection. In fiscal year 2004, Congress appropriated \$750,000 to acquire a series of tracts totaling nearly 300 acres but that initial sum was insufficient to complete purchase of

those properties. If acquired, these lands could provide visitors with access to river camping and hiking and increased river and trail access.

The most recent land management plan for the Obed Wild and Scenic River calls for the readjustment of its boundary to incorporate the bluff top to avert the construction of homes along one of the most scenic and widely viewed portions of the river. Willing sellers constitute the majority of private owners with tracts inside park boundaries; 750 acres of endangered land is available for purchase at an overall price of about \$3,000,000. But after three decades of waiting, some owners are losing hope and patience. Developers are standing by to pick up the property, and they have no shortage of clients eagerly awaiting the chance to buy a house with a view.



# Petrified Forest National Park (AZ)

Petrified Forest  
National Park  
(AZ)

**Fiscal Year:**  
2009

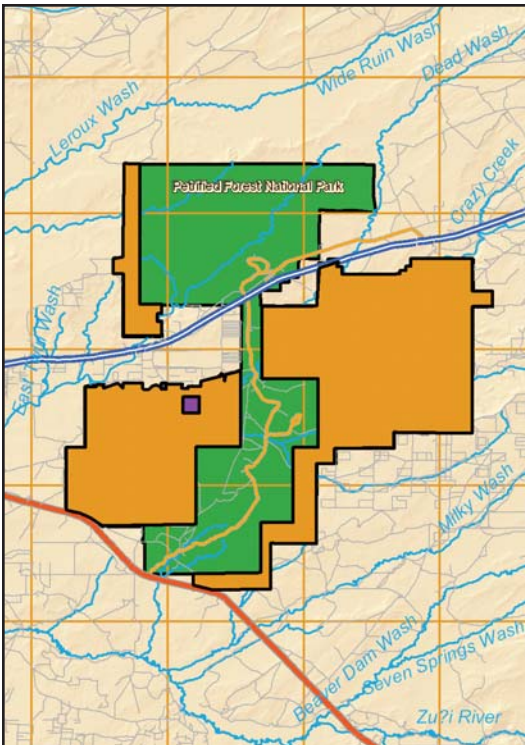
**Acreage:**  
28,000

**Estimated Price  
to National Park  
Service:**  
\$6,000,000

**Natural  
Resources:**  
Paleontological  
resources,  
petrified wood,  
shortgrass prairie  
ecosystem, scenic  
viewsheds

**Cultural  
Resources:**  
Archaeological  
sites, prehistoric  
cultures

**Programmatic  
Significance:**  
Riparian  
restoration,  
wildlife habitat  
preservation,  
recreation,  
outdoor education,  
scenic viewshed  
protection



In 1992, the Petrified Forest National Park General Management Plan (GMP) identified approximately 97,800 acres for potential inclusion in the park that, at the time, encompassed approximately 93,500 acres. Scientific research revealed that petrified wood was only one part of the globally significant record contained within the Chinle escarpment that the park was established to protect. The Chinle escarpment, which is the name given to the geologic formation containing the “mineralized remains of the Mesozoic forest” is now known to constitute the best record of Triassic period terrestrial ecosystems found anywhere in the world. In 1992, only six miles of the 22-mile escarpment was included in the park, with the segments of the greatest research and interpretive value located outside the park. Additionally, hundreds of important archaeological sites related to several prehistoric cultures were identified adjacent to park boundaries, many of which appeared to have significance equal to or greater than the sites known to exist inside the current boundary.

Most of the private lands adjacent to the park were managed as cattle ranches for more than a century. Although this land use preserved the scenic views from the park, cattle ranching is no longer viable because of serious droughts in the region and mineral exploration and mining operations have been increasing—including large-scale, mechanized petrified wood mining. These uses are incompatible with the long-term preservation of paleontological or archaeological resources. These resources are also seriously threatened by illegal activities, such as theft of petrified wood from public lands, pot hunting, and vandalism.

In 2004, a strong bipartisan effort resulted in passage of the “Petrified Forest National Park Expansion Act,” which authorized the acquisition of more than 125,000 acres of private and public land for addition to the park. This was a triumph not only for Petrified Forest National Park but also for the landowners, the local community and the members of Congress who worked so diligently to get the expansion authorized. However, four years after authorizing the expansion, Congress has yet to allocate any of the funds to buy the land.

Although there are multiple landowners motivated to sell or trade their property, some are quite rightfully getting tired of waiting for the government to supply the funds and may start to look elsewhere for a buyer. The Twin Buttes Ranch—one parcel among the 80,000 private acres to be acquired—is a good example. When a heavy drought devastated the owner’s herd in 2002, he quit the cattle business. Twin Buttes is included in the boundary expansion and the owner wants to sell to the Park Service. However, the longer the owner is forced to wait, the more he needs the money from the sale and the more attractive other offers become. Meanwhile, priceless artifacts go unprotected, scenic viewsheds are threatened, and a great accomplishment by Congress could go unfulfilled.

**FOR SALE**

Sleeping Bear  
Dunes National  
Lakeshore (MI)

**Fiscal Year:**  
2009

**Acreage:**  
434.5

**Estimated Price  
to National Park  
Service:**  
\$5,000,000

**Natural  
Resources:**  
Massive sand  
dunes, bog  
habitat, glacial  
features, Great  
Lakes

**Cultural  
Resources:**  
Maritime  
navigation history,  
rural historic  
district, 1860s  
harbor for trade  
and travel

**Programmatic  
Significance:**  
Recreation,  
education  
opportunities,  
public access,  
scenic viewshed  
protection

# Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (MI)



On the northwestern shores of Michigan's Lower Peninsula lies Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, a hilly region fringed with massive shoreline sand dunes. It is a diverse landscape, home to quiet, birch-lined streams, dense beech and maple forests, sandy beaches, and rugged bluffs towering as high as 460 feet above Lake Michigan. North and South Manitou Islands also sit within the park's boundaries, surrounded by the unpredictable waters of one of our Great Lakes.

The distinctive features of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore include the scenic and recreational assets of more than 60 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline. The park is home to massive sand dunes, pristine undeveloped beaches, forested hills, and quiet rivers and secluded inland lakes; and tells the geological history of continental glaciation, and the story of agricultural settlement, commerce, and maritime navigation.

Sleeping Bear Dunes is located in a rapidly developing area. Northern Michigan is a major destination for tourists, and the Leelanau Peninsula, on which the park is situated, is a very popular place for second homes and retirement living. There are nearly 150 private inholdings at the park, and park legislation directs the National Park Service to pursue acquisition of land within the park boundary when it becomes available from willing sellers. In FY09 the National Park Service has the opportunity to acquire seven parcels totaling a little more than 434 acres.

One parcel—180 acres in the Bow Lakes area—is of particular significance and importance to the Park Service. The Bow Lakes area was specifically identified as a "Resource Preservation Area" in 1982 by amendment to the Sleeping Bear Dunes legislation. The 975-acre area contains excellent examples of kettle lakes and long forested valleys that were formed when the great glaciers retreated, leaving behind immense ice blocks that melted into these kettle-like depressions. The area contains prime examples of plant succession, including a floating leatherleaf bog, an open marl lake, meadows and forest. These glacial features and bog habitat are found nowhere else in the park. The Bow Lakes area would be used as a day use area. The Glen Lake Schools is an adjacent landowner and although not able to fund land acquisition, it is a park partner and is supportive of acquiring the property and of the environmental education opportunities that would result.

Two additional parcels, although smaller, are just as vital to the park. The first parcel is a 36-acre property that was once part of an orchard. The park already purchased the house that formerly occupied the property but not the orchard. The land is highly visible from M22, a Michigan scenic heritage route, and as a result is vulnerable to either residential or commercial development. The second parcel is only half an acre but it is on the shore of Big Glen Lake. Big Glen is often referred to as one of the most beautiful lakes in the nation, but it has very little public access. Acquisition of all of these properties would help ensure not only the integrity of the park but also a high quality visitor experience.

**FOR SALE**



# Virgin Islands National Park (VI)

Virgin Islands  
National Park (VI)

**Fiscal Year:**

2009

**Acreage:**

105

(Total: 207)

**Estimated Price  
to National Park  
Service:**

\$4,500,000

(Total: \$9,000,000)

**Natural  
Resources:**

Maho Bay,  
beachfront, brown  
pelicans, migratory  
warblers and  
terns, coral reefs

**Cultural  
Resources:**

Archaeological  
resources, colonial  
plantations, and  
sugar mills

**Programmatic  
Significance:**

Public access,  
threatened and  
endangered  
species protection,  
scenic viewshed  
protection, water  
quality protection



Virgin Islands National Park, located on the island of St. John, is a tropical paradise preserved for the enjoyment and edification of the public. One of St. John's most popular eco-campgrounds sits on a cliff overlooking Maho Bay and its pristine white sand beaches. The bay's campgrounds offer visitors the opportunity to spend time in paradise while at the same time protecting the delicate ecosystem of the island. The natural habitat and inhabitants of the island are extremely diverse—hundreds of tropical plant species, more than 50 species of tropical birds, offshore seagrass beds, green turtles, magnificent coral reefs, nesting colonies of brown pelicans, and migratory warblers and terns. The island's largest concentration of historic plantations and ruins from the period of Danish colonization are located in the Maho Bay area.

Several key properties at Maho Bay, although within park boundaries, have not been fully acquired by the National Park Service. The Maho Bay properties offer spectacular views of the bay and feature approximately a quarter-mile of beachfront. The land was historically used during the plantation era for agricultural activities such as sugar cane, coconut, and cotton cultivation. With increasing growth and investment throughout

the Caribbean—including places not far from the unspoiled beauty of St. John—these vulnerable lands have become the focus of intense development threats. In recent years, more than one investor has envisioned private development along these shores, which would jeopardize the unique character of Maho Bay.

The largest property, Estate Maho Bay, was originally owned by 11 interests. The Park Service currently owns three of these interests, and one will remain in private hands. The remaining seven were recently purchased by the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and, along with two additional properties, have an estimated total value of \$25 million. Because of significant private donations, TPL is offering these 207 acres to the Park Service at a discounted cost of only \$9 million. In fiscal year 2009, \$4.5 million is needed to purchase the first 105 acres. This acquisition is crucial in order to begin the protection of critical properties at Maho Bay, to ensure public access to the beach, and to protect ecologically and historically significant land from development. Once this land is acquired by the park, future visitors will be treated to spectacular views and some of the most accessible and scenic shoreline and waters on St. John.

# NEEDS LIST

**TO BUY!**

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
LAND ACQUISITION NEEDS  
FISCAL YEAR 2009

# National Park Service Land Acquisition Needs Fiscal Year 2009

## Antietam National Battlefield (MD)

**Acreage:** 90

**FY09 Ask:** \$1,600,000

**Description:** Antietam National Battlefield protects the landscape and interprets the actions on the single bloodiest day in the American Civil War. More men were killed or wounded at Antietam on September 17, 1862, than on any other single day in the Civil War. Much of Antietam's 1862 landscape and scenic viewshed have been protected through an innovative partnership among private interests and government at all levels but several holes remain. This project includes acquisition of scenic easements in the northwestern end of the park, as well as protecting lands near the visitor center and along Harpers Ferry Road.

## Appalachian National Scenic Trail (VA)

**Acreage:** 765

**FY09 Ask:** \$2,877,000

**Description:** The Appalachian National Scenic Trail is a continuous marked footpath that extends from Katahdin in Maine to Springer Mountain in Georgia, a distance of about 2,160 miles. Two properties in particular are prime candidates for acquisition. The first is a 400-acre inholding in Jefferson National Forest on the New River in Virginia. Purchase of this parcel on which the Trail would be relocated would solve some serious safety and public access issues while protecting some significant natural resources, including unique karst features. The second property is near Catawba Mountain just west of Roanoke, Virginia, and should be acquired to preserve the scenic views from one of the most outstanding peaks on the entire trail.

## Appomattox Court House National Historical Park (VA)

**Acreage:** 5

**FY09 Ask:** \$350,000

**Description:** Appomattox Court House National Historical Park protects and interprets the site of General Robert E. Lee's surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia to General Ulysses S. Grant, general-in-chief of all U.S. forces. Lee's surrender signaled the end of the southern states' attempt

to create a separate nation. Three days later, the men of the Army of Northern Virginia marched before the Union Army, laid down their flags, stacked their weapons, and then began the journey back to their homes. Acquisition of this tract would allow the Park Service to move primary maintenance facilities away from the park's historic core, including the site where Confederate soldiers laid down their arms. The property includes a house and outbuilding in good condition that the park would use for administrative purposes.

## Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site (CO)

**Acreage:** 39

**FY09 Ask:** \$200,000-\$300,000

**Description:** Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site features a reconstructed 1840s adobe fur trading post on the mountain branch of the Santa Fe Trail where traders, trappers, travelers, and Plains Indian tribes came together on peaceful terms for trade. Acquisition of this inholding is important to protect the viewshed from development. Once acquired, the lands could be converted to a native prairie ecosystem.

## Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (TN/KY)

**Acreage:** 1,351

**FY09 Ask:** \$8,118,000

**Description:** One property available for acquisition at Big South Fork is in the Darrow Ridge area of the park surrounding the Laurel Fork Canyon drainage. The park's Land Protection Plan describes the area as possibly the most pristine and environmentally sensitive area in the entire park. It is exceptionally scenic and, though it has not been surveyed, probably provides habitat for threatened and endangered species. A separate acquisition, known as the "remainder tracts," includes several additional tracts of land in the Darrow Ridge area that are threatened by development. One tract has already been subdivided by the current owner for development. These areas are in the scenic North White Oak Creek drainage where threatened and endangered species are known to exist. Researchers recently discovered nearby the first or second largest population of white fringeless orchids known to exist anywhere.

Antietam  
National  
Battlefield  
(MD)

Appalachian  
National  
Scenic Trail  
(VA)

Appomattox  
Court House  
National  
Historical Park  
(VA)

Bent's Old Fort  
National  
Historic Site  
(CO)

Big South  
Fork National  
River and  
Recreation  
Area  
(TN/KY)

## Big Thicket National Preserve (TX)

### Big Thicket National Preserve (TX)

**Acreage:** 2,800

**FY09 Ask:** \$4,750,000

**Description:** Fragmentation is arguably the biggest threat to Big Thicket National Preserve. Most of the 2,800 acres yet to be acquired within the 1993 authorized boundary is located in the Big Sandy Creek Unit and the Turkey Creek Unit. The acquisition of these lands would create a “greenway” connecting three units of the preserve: Big Sandy Creek Unit, Turkey Creek Unit, and Lower Neches River Corridor Unit. The entire Big Sandy/Village Creek waterway would be protected all the way to the Neches River. The tracts offer significant biological diversity and one of the most outstanding wildland canoeing opportunities available in the region. Not only would incredible recreational opportunities be lost, but development (which includes earthmoving activities) would significantly impair the water quality and biological diversity of the tracts, including a number of rare or endangered species. Many of these species inhabit fragile Pleistocene terraces that could not be replaced or reconstructed if logging or development activities were to take place. Significant and rare biologic and geologic features would be permanently lost.

## Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park (CO)

### Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park (CO)

**Acreage:** 113

**FY09 Ask:** \$1,000,000 (conservation easement) (\$4,000,000 for fee acquisition)

**Description:** No other canyon in North America combines the narrow opening, sheer walls, and startling depths offered by the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. Three parcels within the park are in danger of development. On one of the parcels, one home has been built that is visible from the north rim of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. Additional parcels would be visible from selected overviews on the south rim. Acquiring these lands within the park is a high priority of the Park Service.

## Blue Ridge Parkway (NC)

### Blue Ridge Parkway (NC)

**Acreage:** 1,300-2,500

**FY09 Ask:** \$5,000,000-\$10,000,000

**Description:** The 470 mile-long Blue Ridge Parkway traverses some 217 miles in Virginia and 253 miles in North Carolina. It also has more than 1,000 scenic vistas, two-thirds of which look out at unprotected forest and rural farm lands. Viewing these scenes is the primary reason that 20 million visitors

give in surveys as their reason for coming to the parkway each year. The conservation of the parkway's scenic views through land protection efforts is key to the Park Service protecting scenic resource values and sustaining tourism in the region.

## Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park (MD)

**Acreage:** 44

**FY09 Ask:** \$130,000

**Description:** C&O Canal National Historical Park provides a link to a time when America's prosperity depended upon its waterways. Intended to be 460-miles long and connect the eastern seaboard to the western frontier, the canal was already obsolete by 1850 when it reached Cumberland, Maryland, from Georgetown, D.C.—less than half its aspired length. Today the park preserves the longest intact canal from that period of America's industrial and transportation history, and provides outstanding wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities for more than 3 million visitors annually. Acquisition of these properties would protect scenic lands in the Paw Paw bends area.

## Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park (MD)

### Cape Cod National Seashore (MA)

**Acreage:** 57

**FY09 Ask:** \$2,000,000

**Description:** The great Outer Beach described by Thoreau in the 1800s is protected within this national seashore that offers 40 miles of pristine sandy beach and numerous marshes, ponds, and uplands. Acquisition of the North of Highland Camping Area is important to preserving recreational opportunities and public access and ensuring that the site is not further developed. Additionally, acquisition of properties around the Herring Flood Plain will be important to conserve wetlands, important wildlife habitat, and water quality.

## Cape Cod National Seashore (MA)

### Capitol Reef National Park (UT)

**Acreage:** 640

**FY09 Ask:** \$1,280,000

**Description:** The Waterpocket Fold, a 100-mile long wrinkle in the earth's crust known as a monocline, extends from nearby Thousand Lakes Mountain to the Colorado River (now Lake Powell). Capitol Reef National Park was established to protect this grand and colorful geologic feature, as well as the unique natural and cultural history found in the area. Section 16, within Capitol Reef National Park, offers unspoiled natural and scenic values adjacent to the historic Burr Trail. This sec-

## Capitol Reef National Park (UT)

tion is under threat of development by Garfield County who has stated that it will upgrade/pave the trail itself. This section has been a very high priority for acquisition by the park since Garfield County first moved to acquire this property from the state of Utah more than 20 years ago.

### **Carter G. Woodson National Historic Site (DC)**

**Acreage:** > 1

**FY09 Ask:** \$900,000

**Description:** The Carter G. Woodson Home at 1538 9th Street, N.W. in Washington, D.C., was Dr. Woodson's home from 1915 until his death in 1950. He directed the operations of the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History and pursued his own studies of African-American history from there. After his death, the home continued to serve as the national headquarters of the association until the early 1970s. Dr. Woodson began his work in a world in which Americans of African descent had little written history, and what existed was incomplete and frequently incorrect. The National Park Service acquired his home in 2005. This funding would complete acquisition of the tracts associated with the house and facilitate the Park Service's plans to interpret and manage the site for the public, including providing an at-grade entrance, which will facilitate handicapped entrance into the Woodson Home, and save significant construction costs for retrofitting.

### **Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (GA)**

**Acreage:** 95

**FY09 Ask:** \$3,000,000

**Description:** Established in 1978, the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area provides much-needed recreational opportunities and river watershed and floodplain protection in the Atlanta metropolitan area. If acquired, Hyde Farm would provide visitors with a window into the traditional farming culture that has largely disappeared in Cobb County because of development. The property is adjacent to the northern end of the popular Johnson Ferry unit and represents one of the "dwindling opportunities to protect the scenic, recreational, natural and historic values" of the Chattahoochee River corridor as proposed by 1999 legislation.

### **Congaree National Park (SC)**

**Acreage:** 1,840

**FY09 Ask:** \$5,880,000

**Description:** The only National Park in South Carolina protects the largest remaining pristine old-growth bottomland hardwood forest in the United States. The dense forest growth and high canopy attracts more than 165 species of birds, including all eight woodpeckers found in the Southeast, one of which is the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. In addition to supporting diverse bird life, the park attracts visitors who enjoy its diverse recreational opportunities. The Riverstone tract's water resources, several oxbows, swamps, and lakes support rare plant and forest communities and significant habitat for birds and land species. Acquisition of the tract is important to maintaining this valuable natural resource by buffering the national park from encroaching timbering and other incompatible uses. The tract currently completely separates the western and eastern portions of the park. The property would also provide new and diverse recreational and historical preservation opportunities, and protect significant ecological resources.

### **Cumberland Gap National Historical Park (KY, TN, VA)**

**Acreage:** 1,900

**FY09 Ask:** \$2,300,000

**Description:** Located where the state borders of Tennessee, Kentucky, and Virginia meet, Cumberland Gap is the first gateway to the American West. It stretches for 20 miles along Cumberland Mountain and shelters significant natural, cultural, and historic resources. Permanent acquisition of properties in Fern Lake will complete protection of this significant watershed and secure the continued supply of safe, clean drinking water to Middlesboro residents.

### **Cuyahoga Valley National Park (OH)**

**Acreage:** 900

**FY09 Ask:** \$8,000,000

**Description:** Located between Cleveland and Akron, Cuyahoga Valley National Park conserves the Cuyahoga River Valley and the parallel historic canal and railroad corridors in Summit and Cuyahoga Counties. The National Park Service has the opportunity to acquire several key inholdings to preserve historic areas for interpretation and education and conserve the scenery in the valley for recreational users. Among these properties is the 215-acre Brandywine Golf Course, currently on the market for sale as a potential subdivision

Carter G.  
Woodson  
National  
Historic Site  
(DC)

Chattahoochee  
River National  
Recreation  
Area  
(GA)

Congaree  
National Park  
(SC)

Cumberland  
Gap National  
Historical Park  
(KY, TN, VA)

Cuyahoga  
Valley  
National Park  
(OH)

## Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (NJ, PA)

development that would suddenly and irreparably change this property's history of compatible land use with the park. The Musical Arts Association is looking to divest itself from 600 acres at the Blossom Music Center and is interested in selling those acres to the Park Service. These and other properties, including the last major large-acreage inholdings in priority areas within park boundaries, are under imminent threat of development, and the park is seeking working conservation solutions for these threats. Acquisition of these important properties by the National Park Service would be a signature accomplishment and would enhance trail access, viewsheds, and historic preservation.

## Denali National Park and Preserve (AK)

### Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (NJ, PA)

**Acreage:** 201.26

**FY09 Ask:** \$2,400,000

**Description:** The Delaware Water Gap, a significant geologic site in the northeast United States, is the largest national park site between Maine and Virginia and is one of the most visited in the National Park System. The park's popularity comes from its proximity to nearby metropolitan areas, its scenic and recreational resources, including 27 miles of the Appalachian Trail, and the clean waters of the Delaware River. One farm, located on the western bank of the Delaware River at the northern end of the park, is one of the last undeveloped farmland tracts in Pike County and provides significant waterfowl habitat. Borough, township, and county officials have expressed strong support for protecting this property, which could otherwise be developed into a commercial zone along Route 206 or second home residential lots. If developed, the loss of scenic, recreational, and habitat resources would be significant. Another tract lies within 1,000 feet of the Delaware River. Only 70 miles from Manhattan, it is a highly attractive location for development. Acquisition by the Park Service would provide continuous wildlife habitat and enhance the overall biodiversity of the region.

### Denali National Park and Preserve (AK)

**Acreage:** 215

**FY09 Ask:** \$3,500,000

**Description:** At more than 6 million acres, Denali contains the highest mountain in North America and encompasses a complete sub-arctic ecosystem of high mountains, glaciers, and an abundance of wildlife in the lower elevation forest and tundra, such as brown bears, Dall sheep, moose, caribou, and wolves. A number of parcels in and around

the old Kantishna mining district are available. Part of this appropriation would help secure the last unpatented mining claims in the Kantishna area and would allow the Park Service to be in a position to negotiate purchase of the remaining few patented claims, should those become available from a willing seller. Acquiring these parcels reduces the opportunity for construction of a remote lodge, with its access impact on the park road, and reduces the possibility of resumed mining. The Park Service is currently negotiating with owners of three parcels in Kantishna to acquire conservation easements on land already developed into visitor amenities. This acquisition would prevent any further development of these lands.

### Fire Island National Seashore (NY)

**Acreage:** 11.61

**FY09 Ask:** \$985,000

**Description:** Ocean-washed beaches, dunes, Fire Island Lighthouse, and the nearby estate of William Floyd, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, make this park a blend of recreation, conservation, and preservation. The area is known for its high scenic values and provides essential habitat for such federally listed species as the least tern, the piping plover, sea-beach amaranth and state listed species such as sea-beach knotweed. Two willing sellers of parcels located on primary oceanfront dune properties have applied for building permit applications in light of the Park Service's lack of purchasing ability. The Town of Brookhaven Board of Zoning Appeals just approved the development of one of the two, which sets a dangerous precedent for the second application as well as for others in the future. The park is working with local communities and the Army Corps of Engineers Fire Island Inlet Montauk Point Storm Damage Protection Plan Process (Reformulation Study) to eliminate as many structures as possible over the long-term to protect sensitive dunes. An appropriation is also needed for the Park Service to pay for administrative costs associated with a ready donation of 63 parcels of land from Suffolk County, most of which are located on the dunes and beach. If the park cannot acquire the donation, the county may choose to sell the parcels at auction, which would open the properties to development.

## Fort Davis National Historic Site (TX)

**Acreage:** 60

**FY09 Ask:** \$650,000

**Description:** The entire western viewshed of Fort Davis is protected by federal and state land with the exception of a very prominent bluff that is currently for sale. Fort Davis is regarded as the best preserved fort in the American Southwest and critical to telling the national stories of westward expansion and the civil rights story of the Buffalo Soldier. Any structure on that bluff, which looms over the officer's row, would greatly impair the sense of history the fort now offers. The entire character of the setting for the fort will likely be forever altered if this bluff is not protected. This funding would acquire this tract and a small adjoining strip that will result in this pristine historic viewshed being protected in perpetuity.

## Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania County Battlefields National Military Park (VA)

**Acreage:** 230

**FY09 Ask:** \$5,500,000

**Description:** Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields National Military Park commemorates numerous battles, including the Battle of Fredericksburg, the Chancellorsville Campaign, and the Battle of the Wilderness. The Battle of Chancellorsville is considered Gen. Robert E. Lee's greatest victory, although at the cost of the death of Gen. Stonewall Jackson, who executed the Flank Attack that is studied by today's military leaders. The landscapes of these battlefields already have been significantly affected by increasing development. Saving the context of what remains is especially important and challenging. Acquiring these lands would protect key landscapes of the Wilderness Battlefield, and if acquired, the Park Service would manage this property to provide visitor access to walk from Union to Confederate lines. These acquisitions would also protect significant and critically threatened lands along Jackson's Flank Attack zone along today's busy Route 3, with extensive road frontage.

## Gauley River National Recreation Area (WV)

**Acreage:** 1,972.94

**FY09 Ask:** \$3,453,500

**Description:** Gauley River National Recreation Area protects 25 miles of the free-flowing Gauley River and six miles of the Meadow River. The Gauley is known for its spectacular white water. It contains numerous challenging class V+ rapids and is a major East Coast destination for white water

enthusiasts. Multiple properties are available for acquisition. These include tracts adjacent to the Meadow River, river access points in the Upper and Lower Swiss Areas, and other lands along the rim of the river gorge. Acquisition is needed to protect the landscape, ensure public access, and prevent the occurrence of illegal activities that threaten park resources.

## Gettysburg National Military Park (PA)

**Acreage:** 120

**FY09 Ask:** \$3,600,000

**Description:** A premier classroom on the American Civil War, Gettysburg National Military Park tells the story of its largest battle. Often referred to as the turning point of the Civil War, it was the bloodiest battle of the war, with more than 51,000 soldiers killed, captured, or missing. At the dedication of the park's cemetery on November 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln delivered his timeless Gettysburg Address. Acquisition of four tracts would protect original historic structures and cultural landscapes, a field hospital, an historic farm, and a Union battle line.

## Golden Gate National Recreation Area (CA)

**Acreage:** 4,076

**FY09 Ask:** \$5,000,000 (Total: \$13,050,000)

**Description:** From the Native American cultures, the Spanish Empire frontier, and the Mexican Republic, to maritime history, the California Gold Rush, the evolution of American coastal fortifications, and the growth of urban San Francisco, Golden Gate National Recreation Area chronicles 200 years of history. The Rancho Corral de Tierra parcel encompasses the majority of an 1839 Mexican Land Grant and is a historic ranch that embodies the essence of the central California coastal landscape. It contains the headwaters of four major watersheds, provides habitat for numerous threatened and endangered species, and important recreational opportunities.

## Grand Teton National Park (WY)

**Acreage:** 35.67

**FY09 Ask:** \$3,100,000

**Description:** Known for its scenic grandeur and awe-inspiring views, Grand Teton National Park is one of the most iconic landscapes in the United States. Acquisition of the Snake River Ranch property is the top priority of Grand Teton National Park. The 35.67-acre Snake River Ranch Tract 3 property, one of four inholding tracts, is strategically

Fort Davis  
National  
Historic Site  
(TX)

Fredericksburg  
& Spotsylvania  
County  
Battlefields  
National  
Military Park  
(VA)

Gauley River  
National  
Recreation  
Area  
(WV)

Gettysburg  
National  
Military Park  
(PA)

Golden Gate  
National  
Recreation  
Area  
(CA)

Grand Teton  
National Park  
(WY)

## Gulf Islands National Seashore (MS)

located in the foreground of the dramatic Grand Teton Range at the southwestern entrance to Grand Teton National Park. The Snake River Ranch property has important wildlife and scenic values and is a key part of one of the only unprotected properties within Grand Teton National Park. Visitors entering the park through the popular Southwest entrance at Granite Creek gaze across this property. Inappropriate development of this property could scar the views across a vast expanse of open lands.

### Gulf Islands National Seashore (MS)

**Acreage:** 271

**FY09 Ask:** \$2,500,000

**Description:** A string of barrier islands from Mississippi to Florida, Gulf Islands National Seashore offers blue waters, white sand dunes, coastal marshlands, historic forts, and outdoor recreation possibilities. Two of the Mississippi islands within the National Seashore, Horn Island and Petit Bois Island, have been designated as Wilderness areas. Although most of Horn Island is federally protected, the remaining 271 acres are available for acquisition by the Park Service, ensuring permanent protection of the entire island and completing an acquisition program begun in FY 2004. Horn Island serves as important habitat for more than 250 species of birds. Beaches and dunes protect patchworks of lagoons, salt marsh, and pine and palmetto forests, and marine life is abundant. Thirty miles of hiking trails cross the island. If not fully acquired by the Park Service, the island may not be protected for visitors in its entirety and could be developed, diminishing its outstanding resources.

### Harpers Ferry National Historical Park (VA, WV)

**Acreage:** 65.48

**FY09 Ask:** \$7,150,000

**Description:** Located at the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers, the town of Harpers Ferry changed hands eight times during the Civil War. Harpers Ferry witnessed the first successful application of interchangeable manufacture, the arrival of the first successful American railroad, John Brown's attack on slavery, the largest surrender of Federal troops during the Civil War, and the education of former slaves in one of the earliest integrated schools in the United States. To fully tell the stories of these events, key lands in and around Harpers Ferry National Historical Park need to be protected and managed for their park

values. Lands available for acquisition include an essential piece of the view from "Jefferson's Rock," where an awestruck Thomas Jefferson stood in 1783 and stated "this scene is worth a voyage across the Atlantic." Other parcels are essential to preserving historic views across Bolivar Heights and School House Ridge, the respective Union and Confederate battle lines. These tracts also help enhance trail connections, river access, Civil War history, and/or opportunities for interpretation.

### Hawaii Volcanoes National Park (HI)

**Acreage:** 1,951

**FY09 Ask:** \$2,800,000

**Description:** Due to the loss of the sugar industry on the island of Hawaii, strong efforts are being made to find a new economic base for the communities in the portion of the island near Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. The current land owner will develop the area if he does not sell. Geothermal power, a civilian satellite launch facility, a resort, and a private prison have been considered for this area. Any such development will not only directly degrade the resources of the area but also indirectly threaten adjacent park resources through uncontrolled access and use, increase threat of fire, ground disturbance and development, spread of exotic plant and animal species, and degradation of the scenic and natural quiet values of the wilderness. The value of all the resources cannot be overemphasized; however, the cultural resources are unmatched and irreplaceable. Extensive undisturbed areas of platforms, petroglyphs, lava tubes with cultural remains inside, and other features may date from the earliest arrivals from Polynesia that occurred around 700 AD. This rare cultural assemblage complements other sites in the area which together tell the story of early Polynesian settlement through the classic Hawaiian period to modern times. Pockets of rare and endangered plant and animal communities, as well as two miles of coastline and marine resources, also exist in this area and need protection.

### John Muir National Historic Site (CA)

**Acreage:** 1.98

**FY09 Ask:** \$940,000 (contingent on authorization)

**Description:** The John Muir Gravesite Unit of the John Muir National Historic Site is facing an immediate threat from residential development along its western boundary as a result of the installation of a new sewer line through the gravesite unit. A 1.98-acre residential parcel, with a small one-story house at the westernmost end of the property



(away from the gravesite), could be subdivided into as many as three parcels because of the sewer line. This property contributes to the historic scene because it contains the larger portion of the same historic Muir/Strentzel pear orchard that survives within the gravesite unit. Subdividing the adjacent parcel would destroy a large portion of the surviving historic orchard with new homes that could tower over Muir's and his family's graves. The new construction, additional traffic, and noise would adversely affect the tranquil setting.

### **Katmai National Park and Preserve (AK)**

**Acreage:** 6,500

**FY09 Ask:** \$3,000,000

**Description:** Katmai National Park and Preserve is one of the three original national parks in Alaska originally established to protect an area of high volcanic activity. It now offers excellent fishing, bear viewing, and other recreation opportunities. The local village corporation is interested in selling conservation easements on the western shore of Kukaklek Lake, which would ensure protection of important wildlife habitat and scenic resources.

### **Kenai Fjords National Park (AK)**

**Acreage:** 4,710

**FY09 Ask:** \$1,800,000

**Description:** Sweeping from rocky coastline to glacier-crowned peaks, Kenai Fjords National Park is one of the most visited national parks in all of Alaska. The lands in question are owned by the Port Graham Corporation, a native village corporation located on the west side of the Kenai Peninsula. A conservation easement on these three parcels along the Aialik Bay coastline would secure accessible lands in Aialik Bay, the closest bay to Seward and a popular destination for park visitors.

### **Manassas National Battlefield Park (VA)**

**Acreage:** 10

**FY09 Ask:** \$1,000,000

**Description:** Manassas National Battlefield Park, just 30 miles outside of Washington, D.C., protects the landscapes of the First and Second battles of Manassas. Two tracts encompass resources of primary significance to the park, including archaeological features and cultural landscape features. Acquisition of these lands will protect this area of the Battlefield from the adverse effects of incompatible development. The development pressures here are severe,

with the battlefield at risk of becoming a green island among a sea of sprawling concrete, asphalt, and rooftops.

### **Minute Man National Historical Park (MA)**

**Acreage:** 3.5

**FY09 Ask:** \$2,500,000

**Description:** When British troops left Boston to march through Lexington and on to Concord on April 19, 1775, their destination was Colonel James Barrett's Farm. Located just two miles from Concord, the farm was the home of the Commander of Concord as well as a suspected cache site for hidden guns and ammunition. As the destination of the British regulars, this farm and farmhouse played a significant role in the story of the opening battle of the American Revolution. In 2006 Congress authorized a study to assess the appropriateness and feasibility of expanding the park's boundary to include Barrett's Farm. The study demonstrates the benefits and simplicity of the acquisition. Today, the acquisition of Barrett's Farm from a willing seller to Minute Man National Historical Park is also supported by the local community, preservation organizations, historians, and Senators Kennedy and Kerry and Congresswoman Tsongas. Senators Kennedy and Kerry introduced legislation to expand Minute Man National Historical Park's boundary to include the James Barrett House and farm in December 2007. Property which falls within the proposed boundary expansion includes additional land that was historically part of Barrett's Farm, which has been farmed continuously since the 18th century. The legislation would enable the Park Service to purchase Barrett's Farmhouse and some land from a willing seller. Other lands would be cooperatively protected through agreements with private landowners and the Town of Concord.

### **Missouri National Recreational River (SD)**

**Acreage:** 32

**FY09 Ask:** \$40,000

**Description:** The Missouri has a history like no other river. This great waterway reflects the history of American Indians, fur trappers, Lewis and Clark, and many others. The dynamic character of the river's ever-changing nature is evident from its banks and the natural beauty of the river extends along 100 miles of the Nebraska-South Dakota border. There are currently two tracts of land identified for acquisition to preserve scenic easements along the river.

**Katmai  
National Park  
and Preserve  
(AK)**

**Kenai Fjords  
National Park  
(AK)**

**Manassas  
National  
Battlefield Park  
(VA)**

**Minute Man  
National  
Historical Park  
(MA)**

**Missouri  
National  
Recreational  
River  
(SD)**

**Mojave  
National  
Preserve  
(CA)**

**Mojave National Preserve (CA)**

**Acreage:** 3,247

**FY09 Ask:** \$3,000,000

**Description:** Singing sand dunes, volcanic cinder cones, Joshua tree forests, and carpets of wildflowers are all found at this 1.6-million-acre park. Acquisition of the Kelso Depot area would protect a significant designated historic district within the Preserve. Acquisition of the Cima area would conserve critical desert habitat.

**Mt. Rainier  
National Park  
(WA)**

**Mt. Rainier National Park (WA)**

**Acreage:** 800

**FY09 Ask:** \$4,500,000

**Description:** Mt. Rainier National Park encompasses 235,625 acres, ranging in elevation from 1,610 to 14,410 feet above sea level. This greatest single-peak glacial system in the United States radiates from the summit and slopes of an ancient volcano, with dense forests and subalpine flowered meadows below. President Bush signed legislation in 2004 extending the park's northwestern boundary three miles along the Carbon River Valley. The expansion will ensure the conservation of one of the last inland rainforests in the United States, and connects important wildlife corridors from the park to Puget Sound. In addition to protecting habitat for such species as the marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, and the Chinook salmon, the addition will allow for the establishment of several new campgrounds, hiking trails, and fishing areas. The Carbon River Gateway property is about half of the area included in the boundary expansion and is currently owned by a timber company.

**New River  
Gorge National  
River  
(WV)**

**New River Gorge National River (WV)**

**Acreage:** 914.29

**FY09 Ask:** \$2,581,000

**Description:** New River Gorge National River includes more than 70,000 acres of land along the New River, one of the world's oldest rivers, which has flowed north through the region for more than 300 million years. The park boasts breathtaking scenic beauty, a rich coal and railroad history, and a diverse, nationally significant assemblage of flora. Furthermore, the national river is a premier eastern recreation destination for rock climbers, white water enthusiasts, mountain bikers, and anglers. Lands available for acquisition include a tract adjacent to an historic family farm, one near Sandstone Visitor Center, and more than 600 acres of unfragmented forest. If not purchased by the

Park Service, there is a significant threat of development on all of these properties.

**North Cascades National Park (WA)**

**Acreage:** 150

**FY09 Ask:** \$2,250,000

**Description:** This year North Cascades National Park complex is celebrating its 40th anniversary. Over the last 40 years, the park has created a solid resource management program that is, in part, documenting the effects of climate change. This has documented a significant increase in magnitude and frequency of floods in the park. These changes are affecting roads and recreational facilities in the park. The flooding and changing river dynamics are also effecting inholdings in the community of Stehekin. Approximately ten private property owners have asked the Park Service for either a purchase or trade so they could move out of the flood plain. The park has an approved Land Protection Plan that identifies these parcels as high priority for resource preservation to either buy or acquire by trade. (Suitable land for trade has also been identified.)

**North Cascades  
National Park  
(WA)**

**Obed Wild and Scenic River (TN)**

**Acreage:** 750

**FY09 Ask:** \$3,007,500

**Description:** Obed Wild and Scenic River looks much the same today as it did when the first white settlers strolled its banks in the late 1700s. While meagerly populated because of poor farming soil, the river was a hospitable fishing and hunting area for trappers and pioneers. Today, the Obed stretches along the Cumberland Plateau and offers visitors a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities. There are currently 34 threatened parcels of land totaling approximately 1,050 acres inside the Obed's boundaries. Additionally, 2.5 miles of bluff top property overlooking the Obed, property that has been valued at approximately \$7,500, is just outside the authorized boundary of the Wild and Scenic River. Situated between the Daddy's Creek/Clear Creek confluence, this area is one of the most scenic areas of the river and is heavily used by paddlers.

**Obed Wild and  
Scenic River  
(TN)**

## **Petrified Forest National Park (AZ)**

**Acreage:** 28,000

**FY09 Ask:** \$6,000,000

**Description:** The Petrified Forest National Park Expansion Act, signed into law by President Bush in 2004, authorized the acquisition of more than 125,000 acres of private and public land for addition to the park. This expansion is one of the most significant and scientifically important expansions of a national park in years. It will protect world-class paleontological resources from the Triassic Period, as well as nationally significant archaeological resources. It is critically important to begin acquiring the 79,000 acres of privately owned land within the expansion boundary. One particularly valuable 28,000 acre parcel—the Fitzgerald property—is currently available for acquisition from a willing seller. Land values in this region are increasing, and there is pressure on some landowners to subdivide and sell their land.

## **Point Reyes National Seashore (CA)**

**Acreage:** 74.36

**FY09 Ask:** \$6,258,000 (partially contingent on authorization)

**Description:** From its thunderous ocean breakers crashing against rocky headlands and expansive sand beaches through its open grasslands to its brushy hillsides and forested ridges, Point Reyes National Seashore supports more than 1,000 species of plants and animals. Tomales Bay is one of the most important estuaries in California and provides critical winter habitat for 50,000 shorebirds and waterfowl as well as critical habitat year-round for several other species. Olema Campground is a developed campground adjacent to the park. Acquisition of these sites is needed to protect against further development and ensure the health of vital habitat.

## **Prince William Forest Park (VA)**

**Acreage:** 180

**FY09 Ask:** \$7,000,000

**Description:** Prince William Forest Park, about 20 miles outside of Washington, D.C., protects more than 15,000 acres of the watershed of Quantico Creek and was a Recreation Demonstration Area. The park protects the largest example of eastern Piedmont forest ecosystem (one of the most heavily altered ecosystems in North America) in the National Park System. The park offers 37 miles of trails, 21 miles of paved and unpaved roads, and 153 historic structures, many of them built or associated with the Civilian Conservation Corps. This funding

would allow the park to acquire property along Route 234 and protect the integrity of the forest and of archaeological sites that tell stories of the diverse inhabitants of the area over time. This area is under severe development pressure, and at least one of the owners has been engaged in conversations with local officials about rezoning the property for more intensive development. These acquisitions would help secure the green buffer along the park's northern edge and are critical to protecting investments already made.

## **Redwood National Park (CA)**

**Acreage:** 6

**FY09 Ask:** \$890,000

**Description:** This property was converted from old growth forest and riparian vegetation to one of hundreds of small 'camps' associated with the expansion of north coast logging activities that followed World War II. This area is still referred to, locally, as Geneva Camp and originally housed mill and woods-workers. Over the years, the five houses and RV/trailer sites have been available for rent, while the 'permanent' mobile home has been occupied by the same family for many years. The property is bounded by Prairie Creek on the west, Lost Man Creek to the north, Little Lost Man Creek to the south, U.S. Highway 101 on the east. Redwood National Park property bounds the other side of Highway 101 and the opposite bank of Prairie Creek. Consequently the property has significant development potential. Only remnant riparian vegetation exists on the property. No agricultural activities are conducted on the property. Prairie Creek provides prime spawning habitat for the federally threatened coho salmon, Chinook salmon, and steelhead trout. In addition, it is an important corridor to the more valuable habitat within the state park. The habitat values of Prairie Creek are comprised by the existing site conditions which contribute to potential stream instability and bank erosion. The existing site conditions also severely compromise the visual qualities of the area which are inconsistent with those of the surrounding parklands.

## **Petrified Forest National Park (AZ)**

## **Point Reyes National Seashore (CA)**

## **Prince William Forest Park (VA)**

## **Redwood National Park (CA)**

**Richmond National Battlefield Park (VA)**

**Richmond National Battlefield Park (VA)**

**Acreage:** 356

**FY09 Ask:** \$2,000,000

**Description:** Richmond National Battlefield Park covers multiple sites in a wide area around the Richmond metropolitan area. The unit requires cooperative planning and protection as well as site management. The mission of the park is to protect and interpret individual battle sites, the campaigns of 1862 and 1864, a hospital and naval battle. The battle is regarded as one of the most significant battles where Gen. Robert E. Lee was in command and had a chance to destroy the forces of the Army of the Potomac but failed. Properties include sites critical to understanding the influential Seven Days Campaign, such as the Battle of Glendale (also known as Frayser's Farm) fought on June 30, 1862.

**San Juan Island National Historical Park (WA)**

**San Juan Island National Historical Park (WA)**

**Acreage:** 312

**FY09 Ask:** \$2,500,000

**Description:** San Juan Island National Historical Park protects 1,752 acres in two units, American Camp and English Camp, which encompass the historic military camps from the period of joint occupation of the island by the United States and Great Britain (1860-1872) and their dramatic landscape settings. Mitchell Hill is a 312-acre school trust parcel owned by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), located adjacent to the English Camp unit of the park. It encompasses a portion of the old Military Road that connected English Camp and American Camp during the joint military occupation of the island. San Juan County is one of the fastest growing areas of the state. Development pressure and housing construction threaten to change the historically open, rural character of the area. This parcel is part of the largest remaining block of undeveloped land on San Juan Island. Mitchell Hill provides recreation to a wide variety of users, including hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders. This watershed is also home to anadromous fish and contributes to the health of a crucial coastal marine habitat.

**Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (CA)**

**Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (CA)**

**Acreage:** 521

**FY09 Ask:** \$8,300,000

**Description:** This recreation area near Los Angeles offers rugged mountains, a coastline with sandy beaches and rocky shores, canyons covered with chaparral, and abundant wildlife. The Malibu Creek property is comprised of 13 parcels and is almost completely surrounded by federal and state parkland. Acquisition of the Malibu Lake property would help link the Peter Strauss Ranch, a restored children's park with horseback riding and cultural activities, and Malibu Creek State Park. Multiple properties within Upper Solstice Canyon watershed are under active threat of development. Acquisition of the Upper Solstice Creek property is important for the conservation of pristine riparian habitat.

**Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (MI)**

**Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (MI)**

**Acreage:** 434.5

**FY09 Ask:** \$5,000,000

**Description:** Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore encompasses more than 60 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline featuring massive sand dunes, pristine undeveloped beaches, forested hills, quiet rivers, and secluded inland lakes as well as the geological history of glaciation and the story of human prehistory, the history of settlement, commerce and maritime navigation. Sleeping Bear is located in the heart of the Michigan resort communities and is a very popular destination for retirees and second home builders. There are eight parcels currently on the market that are vital to protect the seashore from the rapid development of the area. Two of the parcels are in a specifically identified "resource protection area." Some parcels are lakefront properties and 212 acres are in the Benzie Corridor—a ridgetop area with spectacular views of three lakes that would be used to connect visitors to Lake Michigan at the southern end of the park.

**Theodore Roosevelt National Park (ND)**

**Theodore Roosevelt National Park (ND)**

**Acreage:** 243.61

**FY09 Ask:** \$135,000

**Description:** The colorful Little Missouri River Badlands provides the scenic backdrop to Theodore Roosevelt National Park, which memorializes the 26th president for his enduring contributions to the conservation of our nation's natural resources. The river has shaped the land, which is home to a variety of prairie plants and animals including bison, elk, and wild horses. The land available is

located on the north side at the entrance of the park, and is vital to acquire because of its proximity to a highly traveled park entrance.

### **Valley Forge National Historical Park (PA)**

**Acreage:** 96

**FY09 Ask:** \$8,177,000

**Description:** Valley Forge National Historical Park provides a premier classroom on the American Revolution, allowing visitors a glimpse into the perseverance and commitment to freedom that General George Washington and the Continental Army demonstrated during their 1777-78 encampment by the Schuylkill River. Nearly 400 acres within Valley Forge's boundary remains in the hands of private owners and other jurisdictions in one of the fastest-growing areas in the state. The largest remaining inholding was bought recently by the chairman of the American Revolution Center, who intends to use the site for construction of a museum and associated conference center and hotel, which are strongly opposed by NPCA and others. There are significant archaeological and natural resources on the site which are important to telling the park's story.

### **Virgin Islands National Park (VI)**

**Acreage:** 105 (Total: 207)

**FY09 Ask:** \$4,500,000 (Total: \$9,000,000)

**Description:** Located on St. John, Virgin Islands National Park is a tropical paradise with beautiful white sand beaches, protected bays of crystal blue-green waters, coral reefs rich in colorful aquatic life, and an on-shore environment filled with a breath-taking variety of plants and birds. Several key properties at Maho Bay lie within the boundaries of the park and are high priorities for acquisition by the National Park Service. These properties are extremely important because of their relationship to the entire undeveloped area and its cultural resources. The land was historically used during the plantation era for agricultural activities. With increasing growth and investment throughout the Caribbean, these vulnerable lands have become the focus of intense development threats. Federal funding to acquire these properties will ensure public access to the beach and protection of ecologically and historically significant land from development. Once this land is acquired by the park, future visitors will be treated to spectacular views of Maho Bay and some of the most accessible and scenic shoreline and waters on St. John. As these properties are valued at \$25 million, this \$9 million discounted acquisition is an excellent deal for the park.

### **Voyageurs National Park (MN)**

**Acreage:** 9.5

**FY09 Ask:** \$1,550,000

**Description:** Voyageurs National Park, located in the boundary waters of northern Minnesota, is home to more than 30 lakes and supports populations of wolves, moose, bear, deer, and other wildlife. The park lies in the southern portion of the Canadian Shield where ancient sediments represent some of the oldest exposed formations anywhere in the world. The two parcels currently available are beautiful shoreline properties rich in natural resources, including the 6-acre Horseshoe Island, the only island in Lake Kabetogama not owned by the Park Service. Both properties are important acquisitions, providing shoreline access to visitors and preventing development. Acquisition will also improve wildlife protection.

### **Whiskeytown National Recreation Area (CA)**

**Acreage:** 3

**FY09 Ask:** \$420,000

**Description:** Whiskeytown National Recreation Area is located at the juncture of the Klamath Mountain range and the northern edge of the Sacramento Valley, making it home to a special collection of animal and plant life, while providing excellent recreational opportunities to citizens. The Auture ownership features an improved residential property with dramatic views of Whiskeytown Lake as well as a closed and vacant general store and post office. The site is part of the Whiskeytown Lake watershed, the primary water source for the park and has direct implications for the water quality of the lake.

### **Wind Cave National Park (SD)**

**Acreage:** 5,555

**FY09 Ask:** \$7,416,000

**Description:** One of the world's longest and most complex caves and 28,295 acres of mixed-grass prairie, ponderosa pine forest, and associated wildlife are the main features of Wind Cave National Park. The park is a sanctuary for wildlife, including pronghorn antelope, mule deer, and prairie dogs. The large parcel has tremendous development potential and important wildlife values, making it a high priority to acquire.

Valley Forge  
National  
Historical Park  
(PA)

Virgin Islands  
National Park  
(VI)

Voyageurs  
National Park  
(MN)

Whiskeytown  
National  
Recreation  
Area  
(CA)

Wind Cave  
National Park  
(SD)

## Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (AK)

## Zion National Park (UT)

### Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (AK)

**Acreage:** 1,420

**FY09 Ask:** \$4,000,000

**Description:** At 13.2 million acres, Wrangell-St. Elias is the largest unit of the National Park System and has the largest number of private acres within its boundaries. The Chugach, Wrangell, and St. Elias Mountain Ranges converge here in what is often referred to as the "mountain kingdom of North America." It holds the continent's largest assemblage of glaciers and the greatest collection of peaks over 16,000 feet. There are three separate projects on the priority list. The first project would allow the Park Service to acquire two key parcels along the 59-mile McCarthy Road and have some additional remaining funds for other critical parcels that will come on the market. McCarthy Road acquisitions would provide for resource protection—acquiring lands at Long Lake to prevent subdivision development in a fragile watershed; and visitor services—acquiring the land at the end of the road to provide for orientation/information and public toilets at the gateway entrance to the national park. Securing mining claims in the park, of which there are dozens, would remove the threat of a remote lodge, resumed mining or other development. There are several willing-seller opportunities currently being pursued that a mining claim opportunity fund could help purchase. With help from groups like The Conservation Fund, the Park Service has been steadily acquiring land in and around the historic Kennecott mine and mill site. However, much of the property in and around the mill is still in private hands. Reducing private property ownership would protect the historic scene and improve the opportunity for the Park Service to interpret the story of the mine complex.

### Zion National Park (UT)

**Acreage:** 10

**FY09 Ask:** \$800,000

**Description:** Zion National Park includes colorful canyon and mesa scenery which highlights erosion and rockfault patterns that create phenomenal shapes and landscapes. In recent years, several inholdings along the Kolob Terrace Road of the park have been sold. New owners have constructed a large addition and remodeled an old building on one of the parcels. They are advertising the property for commercial lodging. Another inholding was purchased by their real estate agent who advertised wilderness/survival training and commercial guiding in the park around the inholding. There is concern that these actions may trigger other inholders to sell or develop their lands, changing the character and natural setting along a popular scenic drive within the park boundary. If private land within the boundaries of Zion National Park is sold to private parties, including developers, one of the most spectacular landscapes in the United States could be further affected by development. Two five acre properties at the foot of Tabernacle Dome are available for acquisition and are critical to protecting the viewshed in this portion of the park.

## Acknowledgments

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Trust for Public Lands

### Design

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a downloadable copy of this report.



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