

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

2006

Draft

Management Policies

To Guide the Management of the National Park System

This draft of NPS Management Policies has been edited based on comments received during the 127-day comment period that ended February 25, 2006. Substantive changes from the 2001 edition are highlighted; most minor edits are not.

June 16, 2006

[Internal NPS Review Draft]

[Inside Front Cover]

Management of National Park Service Programs

This volume of *Management Policies* focuses exclusively on management of the national park system. Beyond managing the national park system, the National Park Service administers a broad range of programs that serve the conservation and recreation needs of the nation and the world. Examples include the following:

- National Register of Historic Places
- National Historic Landmarks Program
- National Natural Landmarks Program
- Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants Program
- Historic American Building Survey
- Historic American Engineering Record
- Historic American Landscape Survey
- American Battlefield Protection Program
- National Maritime Heritage Grants Program
- Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
- Tribal Heritage Preservation Grants Program
- Preserve America Grants
- National Heritage Areas

Although these programs operate mainly outside the national parks, they form a vital part of the National Park Service mission. Information about the policies and procedures that govern these programs may be obtained from the appropriate NPS program managers (who are generally located in Washington, D.C.), or by visiting the NPS web site at www.nps.gov.

U. S. Department of the Interior

The Department of the Interior protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its special responsibilities to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated Island Communities.

National Park Service

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

Management Policies 2006

When there is a conflict between conserving resources unimpaired for future generations, and their use, conservation will be predominant.

The National Park System was created to conserve unimpaired many of the world's most magnificent landscapes, places that enshrine our nation's enduring principles, and places that remind us of the tremendous sacrifices Americans have made on behalf of those principles. They are the most remarkable collection of places in America for recreation and learning. Visitors can immerse themselves in places where events actually happened, and enjoy some of the most significant natural and historic places in America. These special places must be managed in a special way—a way that allows them to be enjoyed not just by those who are here today, but also by generations that follow. Enjoyment by future generations can be assured only if these special places are passed on to them in an unimpaired condition. And that is the challenge that faces all the men and women of the National Park Service. It is a challenge eagerly embraced, but employees must have the tools required to perform the job successfully. The Management Policies contained in these pages represent one of the most important tools available. Through their judicious and consistent application, these policies will set a firm foundation for stewardship that will continue to earn the trust and confidence of the American people.

Key Principles Guiding the National Park Service's Development of the 2006 Management Policies

1. A key tenet of park management is preventing the impairment of natural and cultural resources.
2. When there is a conflict between the conservation of resources and use, conservation will be predominant.
3. Park resources should be passed on to future generations in a better condition than currently exists.
4. The policies will clarify the NPS commitment to the appropriate use of parks and public enjoyment of park resources and values.
5. The policies should reflect NPS legacy goals, cooperative conservation, and civic engagement.
6. The NPS will place greater emphasis on consultation and cooperation with local, state, tribal and federal entities.
7. The NPS will pursue the best contemporary business practices.
8. Key authorities and decision making are the responsibility of the NPS.
9. The policies will encourage consistency across the system—"one" National Park System.
10. The policies will comply with all laws, regulations, and executive orders.