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Park Service Staffing Levels

Currently, there are 1500 park rangers, of whom 86 are female.

According to the President's proposal, the number of National Park Service personnel will be increased by 1,000 people to a total of 8,000 people.

The number of wildlife refuge personnel will be increased by 500, bringing the total to 4500.

Note: All of the personnel will be in field offices (parks, recreation areas), not in the Washington office.

Furthermore, the 400 increase in park personnel requested in the FY 77 budget may have been a replacement level for the attrition caused by the 1974 freeze on hiring new personnel, but the additional 1,000 proposed yesterday would be over and above.

For further info, call George Humphreys or Lou Churchville in DOI Public Information office. (456-6630 and 343-6416, respectively)



September 1, 1976

SUBJECT:

NATIONAL PARKS

	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Million</u>
Appalachian Trail Maine - Georgia	627,000	627,000 \$627.000
Big Cypress, Florida	128,000	\$30
Big Thicket, Texas	49,534	\$37
Canaveral, Florida	113	\$1.5
Cuyahoga Valley, Ohio	12,056	\$18
Dela. Water Gap New Jersey - Pa.	2,684	\$2.4
Indiana Dunes	400	\$1
Klondike Historical Park - Alaska	824	\$2.5
Lake Mead - Ariz. - Nev.	596	\$.5
Lower St. Croix - Minn. - Wisc.	1,000	\$400
Valley Forge, Pa.	156	\$6.2
End Lands	<u>2,809</u> <u>199,000</u>	<u>\$5</u> <u>\$110</u>

FY 77 priority
wildlife
refuges
+ \$31 M for

HERITAGE ACT LAND ADDITIONS

Q. What lands will the Bicentennial Land Heritage Act add to the National Park and Wildlife Refuge Systems?

A. We are talking about two specific things:

We are seeking an immediate supplemental appropriation of \$141 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the coming fiscal year. This money would be used to purchase lands within the authorized boundaries of existing units of these two land conservation systems.

We are also seeking Congressional action on the languishing legislative proposals for lands withdrawn for possible inclusion in national systems by the Secretary of the Interior under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Congress has an opportunity to ensure the preservation of 33 million acres of land in the National Park System and 31 million acres of land in the National Wildlife Refuge System if they enact our legislative proposals. The entire 64 million acres is public land in Alaska and would entail no direct purchase costs for either agency.

NPS/8-1-76



NATIONAL PARKS - SUPPLEMENTARY Q & A
ALASKAN LANDS

Q. The Alaska lands are already under the jurisdiction of the Federal government, and moving them into the Parks and Wildlife systems will impose no additional acquisition costs. What difference does it make if Congress takes action on the Bicentennial Heritage Land Act?

A. It is essential that funds for capital improvements be appropriated to ensure the preservation of these remarkable resources: that is the main purpose of the Bicentennial Land Heritage Act, although it also provides for the acquisition of about 300,000 new acres. While the Act would place those acres under the jurisdiction of agencies which can provide for public use and enjoyment, and effective management of the natural resources, it primarily provides needed resources to allow the maintenance and upgrading of facilities and extension of protection which they deserve. Alaska is the last great frontier of our Nation. This is the last chance to ensure that future generations of Americans will be able to see and appreciate vast landscapes unaltered by man.



NPS/9-1-76

September 1, 1976

SUBJECT:

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION ACT

The Land and Water Conservation Act is expected to be passed by both Houses of Congress and come to the President within the next ten days. Will the President sign the legislation?

GUIDANCE: As with any legislation, it is difficult to say what the President will do until the bill is actually in final form, arrives at the White House and is reviewed by staff.

However, it my understanding that Secretary Kleppe has said publicly that he will probably recommend that the President take favorable action on this legislation once it arrives at the White House.



JGC

Question: The President has been charged with "flip flop" on the National Parks proposal. What is the President's reaction to the characterization?

Usually "flip flop" means saying one thing that one audience wants to hear, saying the opposite thing to another audience that it wants to hear. In no sense is there any such "flip flop" here.

I think you should understand that the President's commitment to the maintenance and improvement of our National Parks System is very deeply held. Anyone who saw yesterday's clips of the President's remarks out at Yellowstone can see that.

There have been a number of indications over the last two years of the President's intense and growing concern about our National Parks.

Over strong opposition within the Administration last December, the President:

- o ~~funded~~ in full the Land and Water Conservation Fund at the Interior Department which provides monies for acquisition for park properties -- even though other capital acquisition programs were being cut back;
- o increased the National Parks Service budget by \$40 million or 6%, of which \$21 million was an increase for routine maintenance -- while other similar items in the budget were held constant or declined; *
- o added 400 new full-time, permanent Park Service rangers and other employees -- while the Federal personnel ceiling decreased .6%;
- o personally initiated a major, multi-year management improvement program at the Park Service to assure that all available resources are used as efficiently as possible.

Also over strong opposition within the Administration the President approved the Flat Tops, Alpine Lakes and Eagles Nest Wilderness areas, the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area and the Valley Forge National Historical Park.

* What other items declined? All controllable items in the budget -- like the Park Service -- declined, in the aggregate, 9.8%.

He has continually urged the Congress to act on proposals for 100 additional wilderness areas which have been proposed and the Congress has still failed to act on.

I would like also to dispel the notion that funding and personnel for the Park Service has been declining and the President's action at Yellowstone was a reversal.

To the contrary, on funding Park Service funds have increased since 1970 by 197% -- and even though visits have increased 51% and inflation has cost 35%, the amount of real dollars we are now spending for National Parks per visit is 28% higher than it was seven years ago.

The story is the same for personnel. Over that seven year period, total Federal employment has fallen 5%, but Park Service personnel has gone up 17%.

Over the last year the President's concern for the National Park Service has increased. During the Bicentennial ceremonies around the 4th of July, he was particularly struck by the need to assure that he has taken all reasonable action to assure future generations have the same kind of park experience that he and others of his generation have enjoyed. Shortly thereafter, he called in his key advisors and began development of the proposal announced yesterday.