

Chapter 1 : How much are national parks worth to you? | SOURCE | Colorado State University

GAO's study of the national park system: joint hearing before the Subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands of the House Committee on Resources, One Hundred Fourth Congress, first session, on the General Accounting Office's study of the national park system.

National Park Service Organic Act In , a portfolio of nine major parks was published to generate interest. Printed on each brochure was a map showing the parks and principal railroad connections. In , a series of ten postage stamps were issued to commemorate the reorganization and expansion of the National Park Service. National parks and national monuments in the United States were originally individually managed under the auspices of the Department of the Interior. The movement for an independent agency to oversee these federal lands was spearheaded by business magnate and conservationist Stephen Mather , as well as J. With the help of journalist Robert Sterling Yard , Mather ran a publicity campaign for the Department of the Interior. They wrote numerous articles that praised the scenic and historic qualities of the parks and their possibilities for educational, inspirational, and recreational benefits. On August 25, , President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill that mandated the agency "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and wildlife therein, and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. The act would allow the President to reorganize the executive branch of the United States government. Roosevelt , made use of this power. Deputy Director Horace M. President Roosevelt agreed and issued two Executive orders to make it happen. These two executive orders not only transferred to the National Park Service all the War Department historic sites, but also the national monuments managed by the Department of Agriculture and the parks in and around the capital, which had been run by an independent office. The demand for parks after the end of the World War II had left the parks overburdened with demands that could not be met. In , with the support of President Dwight D. Eisenhower , he began Mission 66 , a ten-year effort to upgrade and expand park facilities for the 50th anniversary of the Park Service. New parks were added to preserve unique resources and existing park facilities were upgraded and expanded. National Park Service[edit] This section does not cite any sources. Please help improve this section by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. January Grand Canyon National Park , south rim of canyon. Yellowstone National Park was the first national park in the United States. In , there was no state government to manage it, so the federal government assumed direct control. Yosemite National Park began as a state park ; the land for the park was donated by the federal government to the state of California in for perpetual conservation. Yosemite was later returned to federal ownership. At first, each national park was managed independently, with varying degrees of success. In Yellowstone, the civilian staff was replaced by the U. Due to the irregularities in managing these national treasures, Stephen Mather petitioned the federal government to improve the situation. In response, Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane challenged him to lobby for creating a new agency, the National Park Service, to manage all national parks and some national monuments.

Chapter 2 : National Park Service - Wikipedia

Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO addressed the following specific areas: (1) what a study of the land management and acquisition practices of the National Park Service at a few selected sites which are representative of different types of Federal lands would show; (2) what the interrelationships of the National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service with the nonprofit organizations.

Katey Burke, Penn State. Findings and outputs from the project, which concluded earlier this year, will be useful to food system planners, policy makers, researchers and advocates interested in advancing regional food systems. The researchers selected eight foods “ collectively referred to as the project market basket “ to serve as the focal point of their research efforts. Penn State All told, the team conducted dozens of analyses that have resulted in a much greater understanding of the capacity for regional food systems to supply regional, and in some cases, national food needs. Team members have presented their findings at more than venues and in 22 peer-reviewed publications, with several additional manuscripts planned for release later this year. Some key findings that have emerged include: A small number of crops occupy a large portion of the 27 million acres of farmland in the Northeast. Roughly 65 percent contributed directly to the food supply. More than half of that was devoted to feed and forage crops for animals, while less than 10 percent was devoted to crops eaten by people. The Northeast produces more animal-derived foods than plant-derived foods. For example, the region produced enough dairy and eggs to meet 76 percent and 71 percent of regional demand, respectively, and enough fruits and vegetables to meet 18 percent and 26 percent of demand. These findings illustrate how regional production compares to regional demand overall. It is not meant to imply that what was produced in the region was actually consumed in the region. Supply chain case studies, which looked at 11 independent supermarkets in low-income locations and traced how certain foods made their way from grower to store, revealed that supply chain activities for these foods add significant economic value to the region, even if the food is not produced in the Northeast. Economic demand is the largest contributor to the number of supermarkets in an area; that is, large stores shy away from areas where demand is not sizable. All except one of the food stores that participated in the study are independent supermarkets that have the capacity to cater to customers in a way that many national chain stores cannot. Some are losing market share to niche chain stores, dollar stores and superstores, and several closed during the life of the project. The concept of regional compared to local food systems is ambiguous and amorphous to most consumers. There are opportunities to grow support for regional food system expansion that do not rely on widespread consumer appreciation of the benefits of regional approaches. For example, several team members implemented a community-based experiential internship program at Penn State through which five undergraduate interns helped with data collection, analysis and outreach. Others implemented two new courses at Tufts University, and incorporated food system elements to existing courses at Penn State and Delaware State University. In addition to Goetz and Clancy, co-principal investigators on the project include: A complete list of the collaborators and alumni is available on the project website:

Page i GAO Operating Condition of the National Parks Contents Letter 1 Results in Brief 4 Background 8 Appropriations for the Operation of the National Park System.

The fundamental idea behind the parks Roosevelt National parks have been called "the best idea America ever had. He thought they might be preserved "by some great protecting policy of government Men came west in order to trap, hunt, and otherwise exploit the land. Later, as wagon trains began to cross the continent in mass numbers, the fragile land was feeling the effects. As time went on, appreciation for unspoiled nature grew. Spectacular natural areas in the American West were publicized, and the thought of preserving such places began to take effect. One such spectacular natural area was Yosemite Valley. There, the "national park idea" came to partial fruition in , when legislation was passed to transfer the federally owned valley, as well as the nearby Mariposa Big Tree Grove, to the state so they might "be used and preserved for the benefit of mankind. The geological wonders of the Yellowstone region, in the Montana and Wyoming territories, remained little known until to , when expeditions traversing the area, publicized their findings. Expedition members suggested reserving Yellowstone for public use, rather than allowing it to fall under private control. Wyoming and Montana had no state governments yet to which Yellowstone could be entrusted. The late 19th century also saw growing interest in preserving prehistoric Indian ruins and artifacts on public lands. While the early national parks were being established, a separate movement to protect the prehistoric cliff dwellings, pueblo ruins, and early missions found on public lands in the Southwest arose. Efforts to secure protective legislation began among scientists and leaders in the s and s. The Antiquities Act of was a general authority for presidents to set aside "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest" on lands owned or controlled by the United States as "national monuments. By the end of the century, presidents had proclaimed more than national monuments. By the Department of the Interior was responsible for 14 national parks and 21 national monuments but had no organization to manage them. Through the s, the National Park System dealt mostly with natural areas west of the Mississippi. In order for the system to benefit more people, however, it became imperative that expansion move eastward as well. The system also established many new historical parks in the East, which held a great number of battlefields, forts, and memorials, preserved through the auspices of the War Department. Roosevelt ordered all military parks transferred to the Park Service, which received 15 national monuments, national capital parks, including the Lincoln Memorial and White House, and nearly 40 historical areas in the East. During the s, the Park Service became involved with areas intended primarily for mass recreation, including parkways and waterways. Since , other parks and monuments have been placed under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, including National Seashores, National Recreation Areas, and National Lakeshores. Those properties, whether publicly or privately owned, and locally and nationally significant, receive special consideration in federal project planning, federal grants, and technical assistance. During the s, several new types of parks joined the system. The first national lakeshores were also introduced, as well as the National Trails Systems Act of , which made the Park Service responsible for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. The trail runs more than 2, miles from Maine to Georgia, traversing 14 states. The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of more than doubled the size of the national park system, by adding more than 47 million wilderness acres. Elias National Park comprises more than 8,, acres, while the Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve consists of nearly 4,, The National Park Service System now includes more than parks, covering more than 83 million acres, in nearly every state and U. The Park Service supports the preservation of natural and historic places as well as promotes outdoor recreation outside the system through grant and technical assistance.

Chapter 4 : National Parks Deteriorating, Says GAO

The report outlines just how daunting maintaining the National Park System and its more than 75, assets can be. In , the last time the GAO examined the Park Service's maintenance backlog, the dollar total was estimated at \$ billion, of which some \$ billion was tied to construction projects.

National Parks Deteriorating, Says GAO by Jeff Elliott Our national parks are falling apart at an increasing rate with little being done to repair or even monitor the damage, much less prevent further destruction, according to a GAO report issued today, August 23rd. Half of the damage is already considered extensive or permanent, with nonrenewable resources -- such as Native cultural sites and historic buildings -- suffering mostly irreparable harm. Most park managers interviewed by the GAO said that conditions had worsened in the last ten years. Texas park managers worry about frequent repair and production problems at about active oil and gas sites inside park Threats to National Park Resources The GAO study identified different "internal" threats, defined as impacts that could directly harm park resources. Most threats fell into one of five categories: Private inholdings and commercial development 25 percent The largest single cause is commercial activity inside the park, along with private property inside or adjacent to the park. According to the GAO, managers at Olympic National Park in Washington State said that homes inside the park threatened groundwater systems and the lake water quality. At Lake Meredith National Recreation Area in Texas, the managers were concerned about the impact of the frequent repair and production problems at about active oil and gas sites and the development of additional sites. Exotic wildlife and plants 21 percent At Arches National Park in Utah, managers told the GAO about an invasive plant called tamarisk, which can consume about gallons of water a day and choke out native vegetation. At Olympic National Park, nonnative mountain goats introduced decades ago have caused significant damage, eliminating or threatening the survival of many rare plant species, including some found nowhere else. Illegal activities 18 percent Poaching and hunting are well-known problems, but at both Crater Lake and Olympic national parks, managers complained to the GAO about illegal mushroom harvesting. Impacts from visitation 18 percent Tourism adds wear and tear, but damage to native plants from the illegal use of off-road vehicles and hikers leaving trails was worst in the west, where desert soil is highly fragile. Vandalism and looting of Native cultural resources was cited, as was damage to historic American structures. Six percent of the causes did not fit in any of these categories. Few park managers have data on the extent and severity of the threats inside their own parks Most permanent was the damage to cultural resources, according to the GAO. Native rock paintings have been defaced, sometimes with bullets, and archeological sites were found looted. Historic buildings and cemeteries were also found to be in disrepair or neglected. Rock Art Used for Target Practice, Arches National Park Managers told investigators that some action has been taken to mitigate most resource threats, but the GAO noted that these measures have generally been limited to closing trails to reduce erosion, installing more rugged equipment to reduce vandalism, and posting signs. Like the Park Service, those agencies said maintenance and and repair tasks were given a low priority because of limited funding and agency staffing. Three times since , the GAO reported that the Park Service had made limited progress in meeting the information and monitoring needs identified in GAO findings included incomplete, out-of-date, or missing resource management plans and an incomplete inventory of threats, their sources, or mitigating actions. In a report, the GAO recommended that the Park Service revise its resource management planning system to identify threats, plan actions to mitigate them; and monitor resulting efforts. Such an inventory was never implemented, according to Park Service headquarters officials, because of funding and hiring freezes. In commenting on a draft of the current GAO report, the Park Service said that implementing those recommendations are no longer appropriate.

Chapter 5 : National Park Service: History of Visitor Fees

Find the latest news and events, search for images and videos, and discover facts and figures about the national parks. Photos, Videos, Webcams & More Explore the national parks through multimedia.

Chapter 6 : calendrierdelascience.com Homepage (U.S. National Park Service)

The General Accounting Office Study, Prompted by the congressional freeze on park entrance fees, the General Accounting Office (GAO) conducted an independent study of those fees in

Chapter 7 : The U.S. National Park System: An Economic Asset at Risk Â· National Parks Conservation As

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representative Martha McSally today introduced legislation to help address the National Park Service's growing billion-dollar maintenance backlog.

Chapter 8 : List of national parks of the United States - Wikipedia

The U.S. Congress established and maintains the National Park System to conserve our nation's most significant lands and landmarks. Yet, the U.S. Congress is jeopardizing this valuable asset by not adequately funding the National Park Service.

Chapter 9 : National Park Service History eLibrary

The National Park Service (NPS) is an agency of the United States federal government that manages all national parks, many national monuments, and other conservation and historical properties with various title designations.