

NEW SUSTAINABLE SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING FOR
AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS
EXPLANATION OF THE PROCESS

WASHINGTON, DC (2/4/2013) Support for America's national parks is widespread and unites the nation geographically, politically, demographically and economically. Yet many challenges face the National Park Service today, include a need to outreach to Americans who now rarely benefit from park visits, deferred maintenance of infrastructure found in the current array of nearly 400 park units, rare integration of new technologies into park story-telling and more. Despite active support from elected and appointed officials at the national level in both parties, the financial resources of the National Park Service are in decline. Efforts to reduce large recent federal budgetary deficits, including preparation for a 5% cut in spending for 2013, are likely to put even current levels of appropriations in jeopardy, even as the agency prepares for its 100th anniversary and exciting new efforts to remain valued and relevant and to continue as a catalyst for strong local and regional economies, especially as a key element of domestic and international tourism activity.

Major national teammates of the National Park Service, including the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) and the National Park Hospitality Association (NPHA), are actively involved in exploring supplementary and sustainable strategies for funding the National Park Service and its programs. Together, they helped stage the first-ever America's Summit on National Parks in January 2012. Again together, they funded a survey of American voters in the summer of 2012 which demonstrated extraordinary support for parks and a willingness to support parks through general funding, through volunteerism and philanthropy and through park fees. NPCA and NPHA have also played organizing roles in stimulating unity and discussions of shared goals within the parks community.

Now, in March 2013, NPCA and NPHA are joining with the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) to identify specific tools needed to aid America's national parks in the 21st Century and to prepare well-crafted proposals to the Congress and the Administration for making these tools available. Some of these tools will require new legislative authority – perhaps as part of legislation clarifying goals for the National Park Service in its second century of operation. Others may be achievable through new policies and regulations. Tools range from an earmarked penny in federal motorfuel taxes to revisions in park entrance fees, from increased use of historic tax credits to expanded volunteerism and philanthropy.

On March 19, BPC, NPCA and NPHA will host a half day session in Washington, DC. White papers for more than a dozen possible tools will be released and will be discussed by a VIP panel of past Members of Congress and Cabinet members, business executives and others. Using this input, and additional information gathered from recreation, conservation, tourism, health, education and other national leaders, the white papers will be revised and then reviewed by a prominent group of Americans with business and political experience for efficacy and potential significance to aid America's parks. The resulting set of prioritized white papers will be delivered to Congress and the Administration for action. Transmittal of these recommendations is expected by June 2013.

The preliminary schedule for the March 19 session follows.

NEW SUSTAINABLE SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING FOR AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS

- Event Date: March 19, 2013 (Tuesday)
- Location: Bipartisan Policy Center, 1225 Eye Street, NW, 10th Floor, Washington, DC
- Time: 8:00 am Coffee and continental breakfast
- 8:30 am Welcome by Hon. Dan Glickman
- Opening Comments by Hon. Dirk Kempthorne: **“Challenges and Opportunities Face America’s National Parks”**
- 8:50 am **“Securing a Healthy Future for America’s National Parks: Finding a Consensus on Tools and Tactics”**
- Moderator: Hon. Dan Glickman
- Briefing: **Potential Sustainable Supplementary Strategies**
Lynn Scarlett, Conservation Leadership Council
Gary Kiedaisch, Igloo
- Discussion Panel:
Hon. Norm Dicks, former Member of Congress
Hon. Jim Oberstar, former Member of Congress
Hon. Rodney Slater, former Secretary of Transportation (*invited*)
Jeremy Jacobs, Delaware North Companies
Hon. Christie Todd Whitman
- Q&A from audience**
- 10:15 am **Park Issues in a Time of Political Controversy: A National Opportunity?**
Geoff Garin, President, Peter Hart Research Associates
Whit Ayres, President, North Star Opinion Research
- 10:45 am Next Steps: Hon. Mark Udall, US Senator (D-CO) and Hon. Mike Simpson (R-ID) (*invited*)

Nearly 150 national park and conservation community leaders, Congressional staff, National Park Service staff, media and health, education and tourism community leaders are expected to participate in the March 19 program and the white paper process.

For further information, contact the coordinators of the March 19 Bridgebuilder session:

Lisel Loy, Bipartisan Policy Center, Loy@bipartisanpolicy.org

Craig Obey, National Parks Conservation Association, cobey@npca.org

Derrick Crandall, National Park Hospitality Association, dcrandall@funoutdoors.com

***Derrick A. Crandall, Counselor
National Park Hospitality Association
1225 New York Avenue, NW Suite 450
Washington, DC 20005***

NEW ADDRESS EFFECTIVE MARCH 25:

1200 G Street, N.W. Suite 650

Washington, D.C. 20005

202-682-9530, F 202-682-9529