

News!

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS

On Thursday, May 14, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies heard testimony on funding for the National Park Service in the President's 2010 Budget, which was released last week.

Testifying for the National Park Service were C. Bruce Schaeffer, Comptroller, and Dan Wenk, Acting Director. Wenk answered questions from members Cole on the Administration's rationale behind proposed spending levels which include an increase for state and tribal historic preservation offices. Representative Dicks noted that the budget this year makes up for "years of neglect" to cultural programs within the NPS. Wenk stated that cultural programs had not been disproportionately effected by diminished support in recent years, but acknowledged the program had been neglected. To the question by Representative Dicks on the National Academy of Public Administration's (NAPA) report on cultural programs within the NPS Wenk stated that the report provided direction for correcting long-neglected programs.

Representative Olver noted the increasing number of National Heritage Areas (funded through the National Preservation and Recreation Program, the rate of funding has not kept pace.

The Civil War Battlefields program was discussed as an anti-sprawl measure. The Presi-

dent's budget includes \$4 million for preservation, conservation and enhancements of nationally significant Civil War battlefields.

The subcommittee will likely mark up their spending proposal shortly after the Memorial Day recess.



Thank you letters delivered to Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar

Following the release of the President's 2010 budget, and the news that funding for SHPOs had received a significant increase in the request, 27 states and territories sent 'thank you' letters to Secretary Salazar expressing their appreciation for his support of their programs. These letters were delivered by Executive Director, Nancy Schamu, to the Office of the Secretary during a meeting with a key staffer on Tuesday, May 12.

NCSHPO will deliver any additional letters received before the close of business on Monday, May 18th, to the Secretary's office. If your SHPO office has not yet sent a letter to the Secretary, we encourage you to do so. Letters can be sent in a pdf file to Schamu@sso.org or Belleville@sso.org.



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Salazar Appoints Robert Stanton to be Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Budget and Management

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar today appointed former National Park Service Director Robert G. Stanton as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Policy, Management, and Budget. Concluding a long career with the National Park Service, Stanton served as the agency's director from 1997 to 2001.

As director, he oversaw major planning and resource preservation programs at the White House, Yellowstone, Yosemite, Gettysburg, and other national parks and inaugurated and oversaw the National Resource Challenge, a plan to revise and expand the agency's natural resource programs.

Since 2001, he has served as an executive professor at Texas A&M University and a visiting professor at both Howard University and Yale University. He also has provided consulting services to the National Resources Council of America on increasing cultural diversity in conservation organizations and programs. From 1988-1997, Stanton served as the regional director of the Park Service's National Capital Region, which includes 40 national park units in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area and surrounding states.



Sustainability Conference

On Monday, May 11, the National Endowment for the Humanities, in partnership with the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR) of Italy, hosted a free day-long conference on the effects of climate change on cultural heritage. Experts from both the United States and Italy spoke of their research on sustainability and climate change issues with regards to building materials and artifacts.

Of special interest to historic preservationists was the research presented by Italian scientists examining the effects of changing weather patterns and atmospheric pollutants on different architectural elements and building materials. Much of this research can be found at their website: <http://noahsark.isac.cnr.it/>.

Presentations and additional materials from the conference will be released by the NEH soon, and an announcement will be sent out on the NCSHPO Listserv when it has been added to the NCSHPO website.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS



July 8—12: NCSHPO Board Meeting, Big Bend, Texas