

News!

SEPTEMBER 25, 2009

VOL III, No. 32



SENATE PASSES FY10 APPROPRIATIONS BILL

The Senate yesterday approved, 77-21, a \$32.1 billion spending bill funding Interior and environmental agencies for FY10. H.R. 2996 would provide \$11.1 billion for the Interior Department, \$10.2 billion for U.S. EPA and \$5.3 billion for the Forest Service. The Senate bill is \$225 million below President Obama's request and \$200 million below the House-approved package.

The Senate bill would provide \$46.5 million for SHPOs, \$8 million for THPOs, \$20 million for Save Americas Treasures and \$3.175 million for Preserve America. An amendment offered by Senator McCaskill (D-MO) to strike the earmarks for the Save America's Treasure program and to provide criteria for the distribution of grants under that program, failed. Senator Coburn (D-OK) offered and then withdrew an amendment to cancel \$1 million directed to the Sewall Belmont House in Washington, D.C., and instead give the money to the National Park Service for its maintenance backlog. Senator Dorgan (D-ND) had an amendment accepted that provides guidelines for including property in or removing property from the Northern Plains Heritage Area.

A House-Senate conference will now be needed to reconcile the differences between the two measures before a final version is sent to the White House for signature. It is unclear if this can be completed before next Wednesday, the end of the federal fiscal year. Anticipating that numerous spending bills will not be completed before September 30th, on Friday the House is expected to pass a continuing resolution, keeping all agencies operating at their FY09 levels until October 31st.



NATIONAL PARKS 2ND CENTRY COMMISSION REPORT CALLS FOR GUARANTEED HPF FUNDING

On Thursday the National Parks Second Century Commission released a sweeping report laying out a plan to carry the National Park Service through the 21st century and to confront the challenges that threaten to undermine the park system. Interior Secretary Salazar vowed to use the commission's report as a kind of blueprint for guiding the park system. He said "we are going to take these recommendations seriously," and to "figure out ways to implement as many of them as we can."

The report contained three key budget recommendations - **guaranteed funding for the Historic Preservation Fund**, the Land and Water Conservation Fund and revenues to pay for park operation and maintenance. The commission also recommended two other fund-raising initiatives: (1) the President should convene a commission of Americans to lead and campaign for voluntary contributions, and (2) a new Parks Centennial Committee should use voluntary contributions to provide an endowment for the parks. It also called

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| JARVIS CONFIRMED AS NPS DIRECTOR | 2 |
| HISTORIC HOMEOWNER TAX BILL | 2 |
| H.R. 3534 CLEAR ACT/ | 2 |
| SATURDAY IS NATIONAL PUBLIC | 2 |
| NEW THPO | 3 |
| UPCOMING EVENTS | 3 |

for a greater emphasis on cultural resources, education in the parks, and guarantees that park policy would be based on independent science.

The report was commissioned by the National Parks Conservation Association and conducted by a panel of distinguished individuals including co-chairmen and former U.S. Senators Howard Baker Jr. (R-TN) and J. Bennett Johnston (D-LA), as well as retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and Jerry Rogers, former NPS associate director for cultural resources and keeper of the National Register of Historic Places.

A copy of the full report can be found at: http://www.doi.gov/documents/Second_Century_Commission_Report.pdf

HISTORIC HOMEOWNER TAX BILL TO BE INTRODUCED NEXT WEEK

On Tuesday, Reps. Russ Carnahan (D-MO) and Mike Turner (R-OH) will introduce the Historic Homeowners Revitalization Act of 2009. The bill creates a 20 percent tax credit -- up to \$60,000 -- for homeowners who make expenditures to rehabilitate certified historic structures in a way consistent with the historic character of the home and neighborhood in which the home is located.

To qualify, the taxpayer must make qualified rehabilitation expenditures over a 2 year period that exceed the greater of \$5,000 or the taxpayer's basis in the property, and must use the home as his/her principal residence. The credit is also available for developers who rehabilitate homes and sell them to individuals who use them as their principal residence. Expenditures to enlarge properties are not qualified rehabilitation expenditures. (A more detailed one-pager on the legislation is attached)

Please reach out to your Representatives and ask that they co-sponsor the bill. Representatives interested in co-sponsoring should contact Ken Reidy in Rep. Carnahan's office at 202-225-2671.

Current co-sponsors include: Reps. Mike Turner (R-OH), Allyson Schwartz (D-PA), Shelley Berkley (D-NV), Joe Crowley (D-NY), Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), Jim Langevin (D-RI), Steve Cohen (D-TN),

Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Ike Skelton (D-MO), Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), Michael Capuano (D-MA), and Bill DeLahunt (D-MA).

JARVIS CONFIRMED AS NPS DIRECTOR

Thursday evening, the Senate confirmed Jon Jarvis by voice vote as the National Park Service Director. Jarvis has spent more than 30 years at the Park Service, most recently as the agency's Pacific West regional director, where he oversaw 56 national parks and supervised 3,000 employees.

Jarvis also has served as superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park, Craters of the Moon National Monument in Idaho and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve in Alaska. He also was head of natural and cultural resources for more than five years at North Cascades National Park.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar hailed Jarvis' confirmation as "a great day for the National Park Service," calling him a "career professional who has consistently stood up for protection of national parks."

Jarvis also has recently participated in several hot issues including clashing with Interior Appropriation Subcommittee Chairwoman Feinstein (D-CA) over allowing CA's last oyster cannery to operate through 2022 in Point Reyes National Seashore, warning the BLM that approving dozens of solar power plants in southern Nevada could dramatically affect water supplies, and warning CA Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger that the Park Service might take over six CA state parks, which formerly were federal properties, if they were closed under a proposal for addressing state budget shortfalls and warning that CA could lose millions of dollars in federal grants if it closes other state parks.

H.R.3534 CLEAR ACT/NCSHPO TESTIMONY

On Friday, NCHPO submitted testimony on H.R.3534, The CLEAR Act. The testimony recommends that the House Natural Resources committee include in the bill, full and guaranteed funding for the HPF, along with the LWCF. It also contains proposed legislative language, additional background on ties between the HPF and LWCF, information on recent reports showing the need

for permanent HPF funding, and how historic preservation benefits the U.S. both economically and socially. A copy of the testimony can be found on NCSHPO's website.



SATURDAY IS NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

In honor of Public Lands Day, this Saturday, September 26, 2009, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced a variety of planned activities, including: cleaning up rivers, lakes and wetlands; mulching the Lincoln Memorial; restoring fish and wildlife habitat; a wild horse auction, and free entrance at hundreds of federal recreation sites on public lands nationwide.

To mark the 16th Annual National Public Lands Day federal agencies, the National Environmental Education Foundation, and tens of thousands of volunteers will be participating in the nation's largest one-day public lands volunteer event in history. The U. S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and dozens of other federal land management agencies will be holding events from coast to coast, focusing on the need for shared stewardship of public lands and educating the public about the importance of natural resources.



NEW THPO

On September 21ST the NPS formally approved the Oglala Sioux as the 85th Tribal Historic Preservation Office. The Tribe has assumed formal responsibility for reviewing Section 106 projects and all other SHPO functions under the NHPA except assisting in the certification of local governments and assisting in the tax credit evaluation process. The Oglala Sioux Tribe, is located on the Pine Ridge Reservation, the second-largest reservation in the United States and borders the Badlands National Park.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- October 13-17, 2009 – National Preservation Conference, Nashville, TN
- October 14-15, 2009 – NCSHPO Winter Board Meeting, Nashville, TN
- March 1-5, 2010 – NCSHPO annual meeting and Advocacy Day