


APPENDIXES

Appendix A: REPORT FROM CONGRESS

106TH CONGRESS 1st Session	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	REPORT 106-479
<p>MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND OTHER ACTIVITIES CHARGEABLE IN WHOLE OR IN PART AGAINST REVENUES OF SAID DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2000, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES</p>		
<hr/> <p>CONFERENCE REPORT</p>		
<p>TO ACCOMPANY</p>		
<p>H.R. 3194</p>		
		
<p>NOVEMBER 16 (legislative day, NOVEMBER 17), 1999.—Ordered to be printed</p>		
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vided quarterly to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations. Once the lists have been provided to the Committees for approval, any subsequent changes to these lists must also be forwarded to the Appropriations Committees for approval.

The Committees are aware of proposals to address needs in parks through the pursuit of non-Federal sponsors. The Committees have been, and continue to be, supportive of partnerships that further the Service's mission. The need for a certain degree of flexibility in order to respond to private philanthropic opportunities is understood. However, the conference agreement reiterates that partnerships should be linked to the accomplishment of service-wide goals and not pursued strictly for enhancing park infrastructure.

Partnership arrangements, including those where no Federal funds are involved, are not to be viewed as a way to bypass compliance with or adherence to existing policies, procedures, and approval requirements. Partnerships that benefit NPS sites or programs must have active involvement by NPS managers, and should be subject to the same review and approval requirements as projects funded with NPS funds. Review by the Development Advisory Board is expected for all partnership donation projects with a total cost above \$500,000. While some projects may be proposed to be accomplished without any Federal funds, the operation and maintenance requirements are frequently assumed to be the responsibility of the Service, and for this reason full review is expected before commitments are made.

Within the amounts provided, not less than \$500,000 is for maintenance activities at Isle Royale National Park to address infrastructure and visitor facility deterioration.

The National Park Service is directed to prepare a General Management Plan for the Lower East Side Tenement National Historic Site by November 2000 pursuant to section 104(c) of Public Law 105-378.

South Florida.—The conference agreement retains bill language in the land acquisition and state assistance account, as proposed by the House, that makes the \$10,000,000 grant to the State of Florida in the land acquisition account and the \$35,000,000 in Title VI subject to a fifty percent match of newly appropriated non-Federal funds. The State may not use funds for land acquisition which were previously provided in another fiscal year as the match. These funds are also subject to an agreement that the lands to be acquired will be managed in perpetuity for the restoration of the Everglades and other natural areas.

The conference agreement includes modified bill language in the land acquisition account which makes the release of the \$10,000,000 State grant funds subject to the Administration submitting legislative language that will ensure a guaranteed water supply to Everglades National Park and the remaining natural system areas located in the Everglades watershed, including but not limited to Big Cypress National Preserve, Biscayne National Park, Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and Water Conservation Areas 2 and 3, as well as Biscayne Bay. While there has been recent testimony by the other partners, including the Army Corps of Engineers and the Florida Water Management District, assuring

the Congress that there will be adequate water supply to the natural areas, the water supply must include high-quality water and not merely storm water runoff.

It would be useful to have a complete estimate of the total costs to restore the South Florida ecosystem. The House and Senate Committees on Appropriations believe that this new estimate will exceed the \$7,800,000,000 estimate that has been used over the last five years. This recalculated estimate should include all three goals of this initiative, namely, (1) getting the water right, (2) restoring and enhancing the natural habitat, and (3) transforming the built environment. The Congress and the American people are committed to this project. Over \$1,300,000,000 has been appropriated to date; however, and the public deserves to know how much this project will truly cost. This information should be submitted to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations no later than February 1, 2000, and should be updated biennially.

The Secretary of the Interior, in his capacity as Chair of the South Florida Restoration Task Force, is directed to develop a region-wide strategic plan as recommended by the General Accounting Office. The plan should coordinate and integrate Federal and non-Federal activities necessary to achieve the three ecosystem restoration goals. The Secretary is directed to submit a progress report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations in February, 2000, and the final strategic plan no later than July 31, 2000. This plan should be updated every two years.

The timely resolution of disputes regarding South Florida ecosystem restoration is important to avoid cost overruns and unnecessary delays in attaining the goals and benefits of the initiative. The Secretary of the Interior is directed to develop recommendations for resolving the most difficult conflicts and submit recommendations to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations by February 15, 2000. These recommendations should be developed in consultation with the other major partners in this effort.

The Committees, through previous appropriations, have supported the preparation of a new General Management Plan for Gettysburg NMP to enable the NPS to interpret more adequately the Battle of Gettysburg and to preserve the artifacts and landscapes that help to tell the story of this great conflict of the Civil War. Accordingly, the conference agreement acknowledges the need for a new visitors facility and supports the proposed public-private partnership as a unique approach to the interpretive needs of our National Parks.

NATIONAL RECREATION AND PRESERVATION

The conference agreement provides \$53,899,000 for National recreation and preservation instead of \$49,449,000 as proposed by the House and \$51,451,000 as proposed by the Senate. The agreement provides \$533,000 for Recreation programs, the same as the House and Senate. The agreement provides \$10,090,000 for Natural programs as proposed by the House instead of \$10,555,000 as proposed by the Senate. This includes a \$500,000 general program increase and a \$285,000 increase for hydropower relicensing. While the conference agreement has not earmarked the River and Trails Conservation Assistance program, consideration should be given to