

To:
> > > > 04/01/2004 03:02

cc:

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PM EST

> > Subject:

> > Was there some directive out to Superintendents that
> > all media go through
> > Barna when it pertained to budget or "service
> > adjustments"?

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> > I had heard this rumor but can't believe all 380+
> > parks could possibly go
> > through Barna.

[Dave Barna is NPS Communications Chief]

To:

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04/07/2004 10:10

cc:

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AM

> > Subject: Re:

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> > Yes. Interviews with media regarding budget are to
> > be consistent with WASO
> > talking points on "service level adjustments" issued
> > several weeks ago.
> > Anything more in depth needs to be "blessed" at
> > region or WASO level.

BUDGET TALKING POINTS

In case you have not seen these, here are our talking points.

David B.

Question: The National Parks Conservation Association and other organizations claim that there are huge operations budget shortfalls in parks? Are there huge shortfalls and what are you doing to address the issue?

Recommended response/message:

This Administration is very committed to preserving the resources of the National Park System, and we are working hard to find creative solutions to addressing the challenges confronting parks today.

Despite the challenges, NPS has fared well under President Bush with steady increases to the agency's budget.

The FY 2005 request for the Operation of the National Park System appropriation that funds visitor services, resource preservation and protection and other park programs is \$1.686 billion, a net increase of \$76.5 million as compared to the FY 2004 estimate.

An increase of \$22 million is requested for park base operations, focusing on maintenance and security.

Funding of \$8.3 million is requested for new park responsibilities including \$365,000 to establish operations at the newly created Flight 93 National Memorial, Pennsylvania.

We are also tasking agency managers and park superintendents to think creatively about how to maximize appropriated dollars to address needs:

The Business Plan Initiative helps superintendents document the need for additional resources to meet their goals for the park. To focus only on operational shortfalls, however, is misleading and does the program an injustice.

Any superintendent in the National Park System will tell you that he or she needs more money. The business plans are designed to help superintendents undertake a process that engages all of his or her managers in a financial management overview of the park's programs; it is an accounting tool to help them identify how funds are being spent and how funds can be maximized or spent more efficiently.

Key point in addition to documenting parks needs (operational and other), the business plan requires the park manager to identify a financial strategy that includes consideration and use of non-appropriated funding opportunities, i.e., partnerships, creative approaches to staffing (hire a volunteer coordinator to make the best use of volunteer staff), etc.

Through partnerships -- under our leadership, a new senior level office of partnerships has been created to help parks establish partnerships that protect cultural and natural resources -- with

friends groups, cooperating associations, corporations, local communities (which benefit economically from their support to parks), the tourism industry, and so on.

We continue to build on the success of the Volunteers-in-Parks program in requesting an overall increase of \$850,000 in FY 2005. Of this amount, \$600,000 will provide for the costs of training, supervising, and utilizing an anticipated 4% increase of volunteers expected from new programs such as the Master Volunteer Ranger Corps and programs targeting "senior" volunteers. This funding will also support additional volunteer projects as part of the Take Pride in America program. The remaining portion of the increase, \$250,000, will provide for the creation of regional VIP/Partnership coordinators to assist in directing and managing the steadily increasing number of volunteer and partnership projects.

Currently, 125,000 Volunteers in Parks (VIPs) donate more than 4 million hours each, adding about 2,058 personnel equivalents to our employee base, valued at \$72 million.

Through preliminary planning and competitive review we are making our functions more efficient to save money, which in turn can be reinvested in other critical needs.

For instance, the Southeast Archeology Center was successful in a competition done in accordance with Circular A-76 (revised competitive review guidelines). The savings per year is approximately \$850,000, which over the 5-year term of the agreement, will save a total of \$4.2 million. The Southeast Region is reviewing how best to invest that savings.

We continuously meet with representatives of constituency groups to encourage constructive and collaborative dialogue, and to share with them measures being undertaken to accomplish mutual goals. We invite them to help us find realistic, innovative approaches to solving challenges...in a modern age where parks are vital to the well-being of our society, and to the communities that surround them and depend on them.

TALKING POINTS
AIR QUALITY AT OUR NATIONAL PARKS
April 14, 2004

BACKGROUND:

- On April 15, EPA will announce final designations for areas across the country for the new 8-hour ozone standard (the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Ozone), which is set at a level to protect human health.

- Despite the improvement in the nation's air quality since 1970 and the numerous air pollution control programs in place, some areas of this country are still in nonattainment with respect to ozone (smog) standards.

- Accordingly, when EPA announces this week which areas fail to meet the new, more stringent ozone standard, we expect to see a few national parks on the list.

- The National Park Service has been studying air quality in parks for more than 20 years and currently is conducting monitoring activities in 63 NPS areas. The NPS air quality monitoring program provides information on ozone levels, acid rain, and visibility impairment in parks.

- From 1990-1999, of the 28 parks that were monitored for visibility, 22 had improving visibility conditions on the clearest days.

- Acid rain monitoring was conducted in 29 parks; the primary components of acid rain are sulfates and nitrates. Twenty-five parks are showing a decrease in sulfate levels, while 14 show a decrease in nitrate levels. Fourteen parks showed lower levels of both sulfates and nitrates.

- Ground-level ozone concentrations were monitored at 32 parks, and the results indicate that ozone levels in eight parks are improving.

- NPCA has timed the release of a report on air quality at the Great Smoky Mountain National Park to coincide with EPA's announcement.

- The Park is coordinating a press tour tomorrow and will make the Acting Superintendent available to media.

TALKING POINTS ON AIR QUALITY:

- The Bush Administration is committed to dramatically improving air quality. The President has committed to cutting power plant pollution by 70%, and is reducing diesel fuel, and emissions from non-road diesel vehicles by more than 90 percent .

- This approach will help air quality in our national parks.

- Under these programs, major parks in the east are expected to come into attainment for smog by 2020, or earlier, and to see substantial improvements in visibility, and reductions in acid rain.

- The air in our most visited Park, the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, will be substantially improved by the strong new Bush Administration regulations, and areas in Tennessee that have struggled for years to get good air quality for residents will finally make it.

- Clear Skies should do for visibility in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park what the Acid Rain Trading Program did for acid rain reductions in the Adirondacks; namely, 100 percent compliance with no lawsuits.

- On December 31, 2003, The Department of the Interior provided comments to EPA concerning the impact of those designations on National Park Service units. The DOI letter indicated that 8 national parks have ambient air quality monitors measuring ozone levels that exceed EPA's national 8-hour ozone standard -- Shenandoah NP, Great Smoky Mountains NP, Yosemite NP, Sequoia/Kings Canyon NPs, Joshua tree NP, Cape Cod National Seashore, Cowpens National Battlefield, and Acadia NP. (Data available from EPA's website at: <http://www.epa.gov/air/data/>)

- DOI and NPS have committed to working with EPA to address these concerns, and we are working cooperatively through partnerships with a variety of stakeholders in developing air pollution control strategies and regulations; promoting pollution prevention practices in parks; and reviewing permit applications for new and modified air pollution sources near parks.