



Protecting Habitat and History

**A 2008 Progress Report Responding to
Section 3(c) of Executive Order 13287, “*Preserve America*”**

**U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
September 2008**



Protecting Habitat and History

**A 2008 Progress Report Responding to
Section 3(c) of Executive Order 13287, “*Preserve America*”**

**U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
September 2008**

Cover photos: Pua Akala Cabin (Top left) Railroad Tie Cabin from Desert National Wildlife Refuge (bottom left), Volunteers excavating at Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge (lower right), Volunteers cleaning debris from the floor of the Railroad Tie cabin, Desert National Wildlife Refuge (upper right), Junior archaeologists at Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge (center)

Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall, by September 30, 2005, and every third year thereafter, prepares a report on its progress in identifying, protecting, and using historic properties in its ownership.

Section 3(c), Executive Order
13287

Table of Contents

Report Organization	5
Introduction	6
I. Identification, Evaluation, and Policies—Heritage Asset Identification and Reporting	7
A. Heritage Asset Reporting	7
1. Historic Structures	7
2. Archaeological resources	8
3. Museum Property	9
4. Reliability and Review of FWS Reports	9
B. Program and Policy Review	10
1. Current FWS Policies	10
2. Continuing Stewardship	10
II. Protecting and Promoting History	11
A. Archaeological and Historic Properties Monitoring	11
B. Site Stabilization	11
C. Law Enforcement	12
D. FWS and the Heritage Asset Partnership	12
E. Expanding Opportunities through Partnerships	13
1. Opportunities for the Public—Passport in Time Projects	13
2. Restoring Important Structures	14
3. Reusing Historic Structures	14
F. The FWS Preserve America Grant Program	15
1. Remembering the CCC—Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge	18
2. Hearing History—Podcasts from Iowa	19
3. Outdoor Laboratories	20
4. Getting Kids Outside—Making the Connection with Our History	20
G. Visitor and Partnership Programs	21
1. Geotourism Partnership	21
2. Old Road, New Directions	22
III. Future Directions	23

Report Organization

This report is organized under the following major headings:

I. Identification, Evaluation, and Policies—Heritage Asset Identification and Reporting

- Information about how many historic properties have been identified and evaluated by your agency in the past 3 years.
- Describe agency policies that promote and/or influence the identification and evaluation of historic structures.
- How goals are established for the identification and evaluation of historic properties.
- Describe internal reporting requirements your agency may have for the identification and evaluation of historic properties, including collections (museum and archaeological).

II. Protecting and Promoting History

- How have partnerships been used to assist in the identification and evaluation of historic properties.
- Specific examples of major challenges, successes, and or opportunities your agency has experienced in identifying historic properties over the past 3 years.
- Examples of how historic properties have been protected.

III. Future Directions

- Narrative address future directions on policy and partnerships

Introduction

In March 2003, the President issued Executive Order 13287 (E.O.) to reaffirm our nation's commitment to preserving heritage resources while assessing Federal land management agencies' approaches to overseeing and managing these important assets. In September 2004, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) submitted its report to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) as required by Section 3 of the E.O. That report detailed the FWS' efforts to preserve heritage resources and promote their use, where applicable, for tourism, interpretation, and education.

In keeping with Section 3(c) of the E.O., the FWS offers the following updates and highlights on initiatives involving the protection and use of heritage resources.

The FWS will focus on four categories of properties in response to the Executive Order's general requirements. Examples of each are provided as part of this report. These categories are:

- Historic buildings, structures, and sites.
- Historic trails or similar historic properties that cover broad landscapes.
- Archaeological resources.
- Museum collections.

With the exception of museum collections, all of the above are real property and are considered by FWS to be heritage assets, which are defined as those property, plant and equipment (PP&E) that are unique for one or more of the following reasons:

- Historical or natural significance,
- cultural, educational, or artistic (e.g., aesthetic) importance; or
- significant architectural characteristics.

I. Identification, Evaluation, and Policies—Heritage Asset Identification and Reporting

Structures owned by FWS, like all other FWS historic resources (archaeological sites and museum collections) are tracked by FWS through various reporting mechanisms.

A. Heritage Asset Reporting in FWS

1. Historic Structures

Historic structures are listed on the FWS Real Property Inventory (RPI) with their maintenance needs tracked in Service Asset Management and Maintenance System (SAMMS). Both systems track historical status (historical status is synonymous with National Register of Historic Places designations) and condition information for the structures. Table 1 lists totals by Historic Indicator code for 2005 through 2008. The 2008 totals represent some appreciative changes from those reported in previous years, but really represents counting changes corresponding to adoption of new performance measures for cultural resources (see table 2).

Table 1. Comparison of 2005 and 2008 Totals for FWS Real Property Inventory with Historic Indicator Information (note: variation between 2006 and 2008 are the result of performance measure definition changes)

	2005	2006	2007	2008
National Register Listed	112	144	87	169
National Register Eligible	2119	873	2065	1454
National Historic Landmark	30	30	30	30

These systems also document maintenance funding priorities and monies allocated for stabilization of a historic structure. The information contained in these databases follows guidance established by the Department of the Interior (DOI) Asset Management Plan.

In addition to the Real Property databases, historic structure information is also tracked by FWS Regional Historic Preservation Officers and is reported annually as part of the Refuge Annual Performance Plan (RAPP). The RAPP contains benchmarks (Table 2) that are tracked by FWS to correspond to DOI benchmarks established in the Departmental Strategic plan. Targets for upcoming years are determined by previous year totals. RAPP information is then rolled up to the FWS Operational plan and then up to the DOI level.

Table 2. RAPP and DOI Performance Measures Crosswalk

RAPP Benchmark	DOI Benchmark
Total number of archaeological sites	Number of archaeological properties in good condition
Number of archaeological sites in good condition	
Total number of historic buildings or structures	Number of historic structures in good condition
Number of historic buildings or structures in good condition	
Not applicable—FWS has none	Number of cultural landscapes in good condition
Total number of known paleontological sites	Number of paleontological sites in good condition
Number of known paleontological sites in good condition	
Total number of accessioned museum property collections	Number of museum collections in good condition
Number of curation facilities housing FWS collections under good conditions	

In FY 2008, 2065 historic structures and buildings were reported in the RAPP. Approximately 750 of these are currently scheduled to receive Deferred Maintenance funds for repair and upkeep. The RAPP has created an accurate inventory of structures, allowing the Regional Historic Preservation Officers to coordinate work more closely with FWS facility counterparts. Additionally, in FY 2006, FWS released an updated Asset Management Plan (AMP). The AMP provides clear guidance on the protection of historic structures consistent with historic preservation requirements and guidelines.

2. Archaeological Resources

Since the FY 2005 Preserve America report, the FWS has surveyed approximately 130,000 acres, which resulted in the identification of nearly 900 new archaeological and historic sites. The FWS currently lists over 18,000 sites in its inventory.

Since FY 2005, the FWS has nominated the Wallace Bottom archaeological site located on the White River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Arkansas and the Pua Akala cabin historic site located on the Hakalau Forest NWR in Hawaii to the National Register of Historic Places (figure 1).



Figure 1. Pua Akala Cabin from Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in August 2008

3. Museum Property

Each year, the FWS reports information on its museum property collections through a DOI data call (Table 3). Collections have been steadily increasing since FY 2005. For FY 2008, FWS reported 2,196,423 items in 119 Federal repositories and 3,997,086 items in 214 non-Federal repositories.

Several DOI audits have focused on museum property have ensued since our FY 2005 report. These audits have been useful in focusing attention on the most pressing information and collection preservation needs. Based on recent audit findings, the FWS has taken steps to evaluate its repositories to ensure that they meet DOI standards for long-term storage of museum property.

Table 3. 2008 Museum Property Data as reported to the Department of Interior

Year	Number of Objects in FWS Facilities	Number of Objects in Non-Federal Facilities
2005	1,396,432	3,924,479
2006	1,508,617	3,941,168
2007	1,614,145	3,987,524
2008	2,196,423	3,997,086

4. Reliability and Review of FWS Reports

Information reported through the RAPP and collected for the Secretary of the Interior's Annual Report on Archaeological Program Activities is reviewed by the Regional Historic Preservation Officers and the Washington Office. Additionally, the FWS continues to make progress on internal improvements to tracking accurate information about the cultural resources program. Two FWS Regions now employ a version of the GIS-based database to identify archaeological site information. The database has helped in terms of data consistency between the two Regions. For FY 2008, we are giving some consideration to building a national management database system to collect information that responds to various legal requirements and data calls.

B. Program and Policy Review

Although not part of its mission, the FWS recognizes its responsibilities for managing historic resources and promoting their public enjoyment. The FWS follows numerous historic preservation laws and regulations, the Secretary of the Interior's Historic Preservation Standards and Guidelines, and DOI policies to identify and protect historic resources for the public's benefit.

1. Current FWS Policies

The FWS has in place six major policies that govern, promote, or influence the identification and evaluation of heritage assets.

340 FW 1-4, Policy on Real Property. It contains sections that focus on special categories of FWS buildings, including a historic category. The section on disposal of buildings also speaks to special consideration of historic buildings prior to undertaking the disposal process.

602 FW 3, Policy on Comprehensive Conservation Plans on National Wildlife Refuges. These plans include a section addressing historic resources.

603 FW 1-2, Policy on Refuge System Appropriate Uses. This guides managers in determining if activities, such as the restoration of historic buildings is in keeping with allowable activities on Refuges.

605 FW 6 and 7, Policies on Environmental Education and Interpretation. Each policy addresses the potential for historic resources to be used and maintained for public enjoyment.

614 FW 1-5, Policy on Cultural Resource Management. The policy outlines FWS' compliance responsibilities and guidelines. Its primary focus is on compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), including the evaluation and nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places.

126 FW 1-3, Policy on Museum Property Management. It outlines FWS' responsibilities for accessioning, cataloging and conserving museum collections generated as part of our mission and work.

2. Continuing Stewardship

For the past 3 years, the FWS has continued to address its responsibilities for protecting historic structures in compliance with legislation, regulations, and DOI policies and strategic plans (Table 2).

Additionally, the FWS has sought to build new partnerships with national organizations and community partners to protect historic resources effectively for public visitation and enjoyment.

The FWS has also provided new training opportunities for employees to address the management and preservation of historic resources. These include classroom training on Section 106 compliance, on-line cultural resource training modules, and working to offer mini-training orientation sessions in other management and technical courses offered through the National Conservation Training Center. Module 3 of the on-line series focuses on managing historic buildings and structures.

II. Protecting and Promoting History

A. Archaeological and Historic Properties Monitoring

Given FWS' conservation mission, many archaeological resources and historic properties are protected by limiting access and general monitoring. In many areas, local community partners, volunteers, and Tribal partners (see monitoring information above) help our law enforcement personnel by monitoring known historic properties for violations of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act.

The FWS employs a limited monitoring program to evaluate the condition of its archaeological sites, which consists primarily of limited, albeit regular, inspections by Regional Historic Preservation Officers (RHPO) and refuge staff, or in cooperation with State historic preservation agencies. Some of our sites in Alaska are monitored by volunteers from Native communities. For example, the Alutiiq Museum sends volunteers (figure 2) to the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge and the Kodiak Refuge to monitor archaeological sites. A report is then generated for the FWS and the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer.



Figure 2. A volunteer begins to survey sites at Alaska Maritime and Kodiak National Wildlife Refuges

B. Site Stabilization

In 2007, FWS archaeologists in Virginia worked with the State Historic Preservation officer under a State grant to help stabilize an underwater archaeological site. The Virginia Archaeological Society partnered with FWS to

identify and map eroding prehistoric and historic remains at the Maycocks Site (figures 3 and 4) on the James River National Wildlife Refuge.



Figure 3. Volunteers conduct emergency stabilization of the Maycocks site



Figure 4. View of erosion to the main portion of the Maycocks site

C. Law Enforcement

Like other DOI Bureaus, FWS is in need of professionally trained Law Enforcement Officers to protect archaeological resources. To help supplement these personnel, FWS works with other partners, universities, and States to monitor sites and employ remote protection technologies.

In 2008, FWS participated in a Government-wide symposium on the use of remote protection technology for cultural resources and will be assisting in the preparation of a briefing for the NPS' Chief of Law Enforcement and the Departmental Consulting Archaeologist to raise awareness of the need for remote site protection and resources that are available for use of these tools.

D. FWS and The Heritage Asset Partnership

Since 2006, the FWS has served as the chair (2006) and as an active member of the DOI Heritage Asset Partnership (HAP). The HAP is a chartered DOI committee comprised of cultural resource experts who interact with their facilities management counterparts and advise the DOI's Property and Acquisition Management Division (PAM) on heritage asset issues.

Since becoming a member of the HAP, the FWS has assisted the committee in developing several products currently in use by the DOI and other bureaus. These include the DOI Asset Management Plan, which addresses heritage assets, a guidance document for deferred maintenance of heritage assets, and a planning tool for assessing average costs for heritage assets construction and replacement materials. The HAP has also assisted in editing and updating DOI manuals with a focus on asset management.

Participating in the HAP has also resulted in increased attention on the need to protect DOI historic structures and improved communications among cultural resource and facilities management staff. The HAP has assisted in offering guidance and information for DOI-wide asset management documents and bureau level plans.

E. Expanding Opportunities through Partnerships

Since FY 2005, a number of Refuges and community partners have undertaken volunteer, interpretive, education, and research heritage-related projects. These partnerships have allowed the FWS to integrate heritage-related work with key fish and wildlife conservation programs and land management activities.

Such projects embody the goals of Preserve America—taking Federal historic resources and making them available and useable to the American public. The following examples help illustrate key elements of these partnership programs.

1. Opportunities for the Public—Passport in Time Projects

In 2005 and again in 2007, the FWS partnered with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to host archaeological investigations at Fort Ruby on the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge through the “Passport in Time” program (Figure 5). Originally constructed to protect the Overland Stage and Mail Service, Fort Ruby was eventually abandoned once the Transcontinental Railroad became operational in the 1860’s. The primary goals of the FWS project focused on identifying the location of the original officers’ row of housing and finding materials indicative of the lives of officers and their families. The interactions between the military and the local Native Americans who camped nearby were also examined during the research. Information retrieved from the work will be used to interpret the Refuge for visitors and assist in Refuge planning.



Figure 5. Volunteers excavating an archaeological site at Ruby Lake NWR in 2007

2. Restoring Important Structures

Rehabilitation of the Corn Creek Railroad tie cabin took place on Desert National Wildlife Refuge in 2007 (Figure 6). Unlike a log cabin, the railroad ties were stacked rather than notched at the corners and spikes were used to secure the ties together. The building was originally used as a residential cabin. The cabin has been used by the FWS for storage since it purchased the ranch in 1939. Repairs have included the removal of a wood shingle roof added at a later date, replacement of deteriorated railroad ties (along the foundation), leveling and improving the foundation-footing by adding additional footing stones, and replacing the eaves and original corrugated metal roof. Interior repairs included repairing broken window panes, doors and the tongue and groove flooring that rested on railroad ties (Figure 7). The project, funded by a grant under the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA), was completed largely by Refuge staff and volunteers.



Figure 6. View of the railroad tie cabin, Desert National Wildlife Refuge



Figure 7. Volunteers clean the railroad cabin prior to restoration

3. Re-Using Historic Structures

There are some instances when the best course of action involving a historic structure is its disposal in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act.

A recent example helps illustrate this type of work and how a historic structure can be used to tell history even when it is damaged in its original setting. A historic barn at our Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge in West Virginia needed to be demolished for safety reasons (figure 8). Following review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Refuge's staff and Friends organization contacted the Antietam National Battlefield Park in Maryland to see if they would be interested in dismantling the barn and reusing portions of it to restore similar historic buildings at the Park. In May 2008, a team moved pieces of the structure to the Park for the restoration work (figure 9). This was a great example work that benefited both agencies. In the near future, the Park plans to erect an interpretive panel citing the re-use of the FWS barn for the restoration work. A similar interpretive panel will be given to the FWS for their contribution and will be placed on the original site of the barn.



Figure 8. View of the Beale Barn at Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge



Figure 9. Demolished barn being salvaged by National Park service crew

F. The FWS' Preserve America Grant Program

In its third year, the FWS' Preserve America grant program has helped support meaningful heritage-related work on refuges throughout the country.). A new Preserve America web site offers updated information on properties, projects underway, and grants information to meet the goals of EO 13287 (<http://www.fws.gov/historicPreservation/preserveAmerica/index.html>).

The grants program offers support for projects on Refuges that creatively blend habitat conservation and historical education and interpretation. The grant program is jointly administered by the FWS and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. It has funded a number of projects undertaken by Friends organizations and was recognized by the Chairman of the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation as a national-level Preserve America accomplishment.

The projects awarded over the past 2 years are included in Tables 4 and 5.

Table 4. 2006 Preserve America grant recipients

Organization	Project Name	Location	Project Description
Friends of Blackwater	Travel Destination Web Based/Electronic Kiosk Program	Blackwater Refuge, MD	Participate for 5 years in the Dorchester County Travel Destination Web Based/Electronic Kiosk program to help attract visitors to the Refuge. Dorchester County was one of the first eight communities designated as a Preserve America community.
Friends of the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge	Preserve America - Assabet River Refuge	Assabet River Refuge, MA	Prepare interpretive presentations of the major historical periods of land-use/occupancy of the Refuge. This will include the cultural history of colonial, small family farmstead, military and Refuge ownership.
Norwalk Seaport Association	Sheffield Island Adventure Weeks and Refuge Exhibit	Steward McKinney Refuge, CT	In partnership with Norwalk YMCA, two one-week education workshops for children 5-16 will take place on the Refuge. A focus will be placed on the history of the Sheffield Island Lighthouse and on the wildlife that inhabit the island.
Klamath Basin Wildlife Refuge Association	Rehabilitation and Interpretation of the Mess Hall at the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp	Tula Lake Refuge, CA	Rehabilitate, and open to the public, a CCC mess hall to serve as a secondary visitor contact station. The building will serve to educate visitors about the establishment of the Refuge and the work of the CCC during the Great Depression.
Friends of Kenai National Wildlife Refuge	Public Use Historical Cabin Interpretive Panel Project	Kenai Refuge, AK	Research, design and produce educational interpretive panels for 10 historic cabins. The panels will detail the refuges purpose and history.
Iowa Academy of Science	Iowa's Science Guide-Iowa National Refuge Audio Series	Statewide, IA (work with all 7 Refuges)	Develop a series of 21 (3 per Refuge) downloadable audio files about the history of the Refuge with a focus on the geology, flora and fauna and human efforts to conserve the site. The clips will be made available to each Refuge and Friends Group.
South Georgia Regional Development Center	Banks Lake Educational Outreach	Banks Lake Refuge, GA	In partnership with the University of Georgia, develop a science and history interdisciplinary curriculum focused on the Banks Lake Refuge. A focus will be on the evolution of the site from a grist mill to a Refuge.

Manitou Bluff Mid Missouri Chapter Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.	Arrow Rock Landing Educational/Historical Interpretation	Big Muddy National Fish & Wildlife Refuge, MO	Design and develop five interpretive signs and a brochure for trails located on the Big Muddy Refuge. The signs and brochure will focus on the history of the area and the difference between the flora & fauna on the Refuge in the 1800's vs. today.
South Eastern Wildlife & Environmental Education Association	Interpretation of the Cultural History Within Waccamaw NWR	Waccamaw Refuge, SC	Create an exhibit in the new Environmental Education Center at Waccamaw NWR about how humans have been involved along the rivers of the Refuge since the early Native Americans tribes through the present day.
Friends of Rydell Refuge Association, Inc.	Retrieving the Past: An Oral History of the Rydell NWR	Rydell Refuge, MN	Compile information and produce a 20-30 minute DVD oral history program for public viewing on the natural and human history of the Rydell Refuge.
The Past Foundation	Maritime Heritage in the Pacific Islands: Teacher's Heritage Workshop	Pacific Islands	Develop two Podcasts from existing media product tailored to compliment lesson plans on management jurisdictions and technology related to maritime heritage and the marine environment.

Table 5. 2007 Preserve America grant recipients

Organization	Project name	Location	Project Description
VA Tech	Outdoor Laboratories for Student Scientists	Mason Neck	high school students will collect land use and culture history information from Mason Neck and research it with VT professors
Harney County Historical Society	Historic P Ranch	Malheur	develop 4 interpretive panel for Historic P ranch as part of Malheur's centennial
University of Alaska Fairbanks	Ice Age Alaskan Archaeology	Koyukuk	develop an exhibit for and archaeological site on Koyukuk
Friends of Deer Flat NWR	Deer Flat NWR Centennial Trail and Pamphlet	Deer Flat	Use historical documents and photos to gather information about the history of the refuge--develop panels and pamphlets from the research
Montana Preservation Alliance	Whaley Homestead Interpretive Project	Lee Metcalf	develop an interpretive plan for a historic homestead, protect the building and secure the grounds for the public

1. Remembering the CCC—Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge

A 2006 grant was used to support a more traditional “brick and mortar” project involving the Klamath Basin Wildlife Association, a long standing conservation partner with Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge. The work focused on restoring the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Barracks building (figures 10 and 11), which was originally built in 1936, for use as a secondary visitor contact station and as a museum for Service and CCC related historical materials. The goal of the restoration is to provide visitors with an understanding of how the CCC affected the Refuge and the Refuge System. Much of the restoration work will focus on the repair or replacement of historically accurate building materials for the barracks building. The project involves Service volunteers, staff, and members of the local community. The Refuge will maintain and staff the facility once restoration work is complete. The project helped highlight the 75th anniversary of the CCC in 2008.



Figure 10. CCC era barracks currently being restored at Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge



Figure 11. Restoration work underway at Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge

2. Hearing History—Podcasts from Iowa

The Iowa Academy of Science is working with the Service to develop podcast education lectures addressing the history, biology, geology, and archaeology of refuges in Iowa (figure 12)(<http://www.scienceiniowa.org/>).

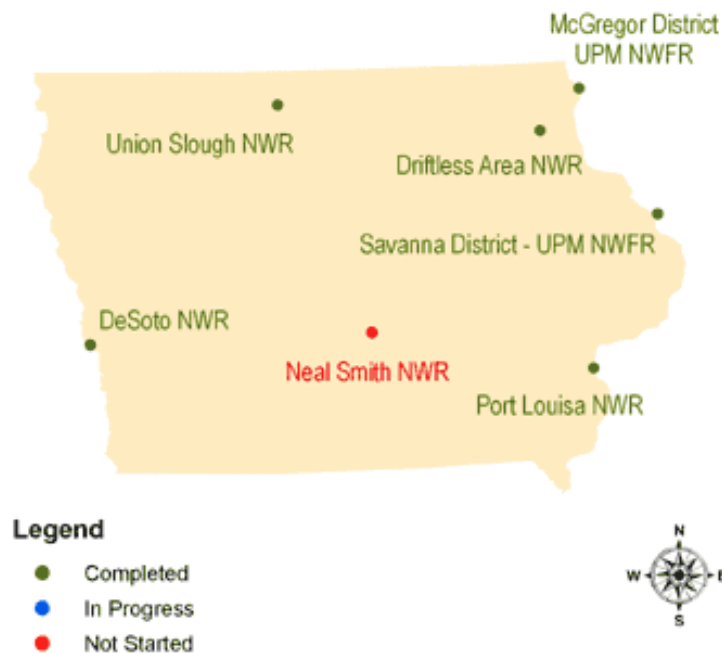


Figure 12. Iowa Refuges involved in the podcast development project

Taking advantage of this new and increasingly popular communications technology, the project will help set an example on new ways to communicate with mobile and digitally-connected visitors. The podcasts will be available for downloading and can be used before or during a visit to one of the refuges. Each refuge will supplement the information with other interpretive materials and information. The podcasts will also be placed on other non-FWS travel-related web sites to market refuge programs and attract new visitors.

3. Outdoor Laboratories

The Virginia Tech University is working with Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge on a program for high school students to collect land use and culture history data on the Refuge. The information will be analyzed and used as part of the Refuge's comprehensive conservation plan. This project will yield useful information for the Refuge, support young-adult oriented outdoor learning programs, and offer students first hand experience in documenting local history.

4. Getting Kids Outside—Making the Connection With Our History

For the 2008 grant period, the FWS has added a separate youth category. Projects like Outdoor Laboratories as well as successful archaeology for kids programs run from some of our Refuges (figure 13) illustrate the opportunities for youth to learn more about local history and archaeology.



Figure 13. Junior archaeologists excavating a mock archaeological site at Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge

The addition of this component to our Preserve America grants will also mesh with current efforts to get children connected with the outdoors (<http://www.fws.gov/letsgooutside/>). The addition of a youth category complements the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's (ACHP) program to link youth, education, and historic preservation projects.

G. Visitor and Partnership Programs

Tens of millions of visitors participate in Refuge System interpretive and education programs each year. Visitor numbers are increasing each year and FWS economic studies document how important visitors and travelers are to local communities in terms of revenue, jobs, and taxes. The FWS' 2006 "Banking on Nature" report demonstrated that our visitor programs contribute \$4 to local economies for every appropriated dollar supporting the Refuge System. We are learning that our visitors are interested in many programs, including bird watching, hiking, fishing and history.

1. Geotourism Partnership

In July 2008, the FWS, other DOI bureaus, and the U.S. Forest Service signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Geographic Society to promote Geotourism on Federal and Tribal lands. Geotourism is tourism helps sustain and enhance the geographical character of a place, including its environment, culture, aesthetics, and heritage, and the well-being of its residents. This MOU establishes a framework to collaborate on projects pertaining to Federal and Indian lands and will, in part, heritage and cultural preservation and interpretation.

More information about interpreted heritage sites can be found at <http://www.fws.gov/historicPreservation/preserveAmerica/index.html>.

2. Old Roads New Directions

Since our 2005 update report, FWS has also focused on identifying and promoting the importance of roads and trails that cross national wildlife refuges.



Figure 14. View of a portion of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail as it crosses Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge

The FWS successfully used support from the Federal Highways Administration's Transportation Enhancements Program to identify and evaluation portions of the Trail of Tears which crosses several of our National Wildlife Refuges; stabilize historic artifacts associated with the Steamboat Bertrand at the DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, and participate in the development of the Comprehensive Management Plan for the Captain John Smith National Historic Trail, which is associated with 13 FWS field stations in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

In 2008, the FWS' involvement with the National Historic Trails System resulted in recognition by the Advisory Council on Historic Chairman's Award for Federal Achievement in Historic Preservation for Exemplary Tourism, History Education Public Benefits. The award underscores the importance of the National Historic Trails System for enhancing heritage tourism, public history education, and creating unique local links to our shared national story.

III. Future Directions

The FWS has identified a number of actions to improve the identification and management of heritage assets in future years.

- A. Develop additional national and local partnerships with key preservation organizations and local communities to assist in studying and interpreting significant historic properties on FWS lands. Partnerships are being developed with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to promote our programs and information is being developed for FWS Friends organizations interested in preserving historic properties. We will also examine opportunities to collaborate with designated "Preserve America" communities around the country and explore programs aimed at "volun-tourists."
- B. A number of FWS policies are out of date and need revision to address new requirements and guidelines. We will begin to review the policies cited in this report during 2008 to address such topics as asset management, museum collections, and pending Preserve America legislation.
- C. Where appropriate, we will identify refuges and historic properties that can be highlighted and promoted through the Geotourism initiative and key partners such as the Southeast Tourism Society and Western States Tourism Council.
- D. We will continue to assist in the overall management of heritage assets within the DOI, including developing new guidance and technical information, as appropriate. This is a result of the growing interest in heritage asset management by DOI Auditors and the Office of the Inspector General, both of which are currently conducting audits of FWS programs.

References Cited

2007 Carver, Erin and James Caudill
Banking on Nature: The Economic Benefits to Local Communities of National
Wildlife Refuge Visitation. FWS Economics Division, Washington, DC