



DSC@work

April - May 2006 ■ Issue Fifteen

National Park Service Projects Honored by the American Planning Association

The American Planning Association's (APA) Federal Planning Division has honored two National Park Service (NPS) projects as part of the 2005 APA Awards Program: The Lewis and Clark Transportation System; and the Mount Rainier Transportation Corridor Project.

For Outstanding Sustainable Planning or Design Project, the APA awarded **The Lewis and Clark Transportation System** in Oregon and Washington for its “comprehensive and interdisciplinary approaches to problem solving with an emphasis on conservation.” Local communities and stakeholders in the Lower Columbia River region developed and implemented a regional visitor transportation system to manage the large influx of bicentennial visitors in 2003-2006, while serving local community needs.

By adapting and enhancing existing infrastructure, the decentralized transportation system increased the region's transportation capacity while helping to interpret the Lewis and Clark story. This created a more positive visitor experience, reduced negative impacts to the cultural and natural resources, and increased revenue opportunities in local communities through increased lodging, additional services, and longer visitor stays. The sustainable transportation system designed and implemented from this project will support local economies and serve the transportation needs for visitors and residents long after the bicentennial festivities end.

For Outstanding Collaborative Planning Project or Program, the APA awarded **The Mount Rainier Transportation Corridor** in Washington for “providing an exemplary exploration of using public participation as a tool to find solutions for regional planning issues.” Mount Rainier National Park sponsored a series of charettes focusing on the park's four gateway corridors. The project identified partnership opportunities between corridor communities and land managing agencies, and shaped a shared vision for sustainable tourism and economic development. The corridor studies were completed over the course of four years, with one corridor being completed each year.

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Site drawing from Lewis and Clark planning documents



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK:

As a federal design and construction office, our work often follows the industry trends of those in the private sector, and unfortunately this has been true in the area of cost estimating. Denver Service Center cost estimating and scope management projections for outyear projects has been a systematic challenge, just as it has been in the private sector.

This is a critical challenge for us and we are fully committed to overcoming this challenge. We have done a number of things in the past few months to address this issue. *The Cost Estimating Requirements Handbook* was released in March, and is available to our A/E's on our DSC Workflows WebPages. This handbook provides specific instructions and specifications for DSC estimating methods. In addition to this manual, we established new policies and guidance which we will adhere to for Service Center projects to improve our cost estimating capabilities. We are working under this draft policy for now, and after we receive feedback from our partners in the private sector, our internal staff, and our clients, we will make the necessary modifications to our process.

We also hosted a meeting with many of our A/E's in early April to talk about the need and means to improve our cost estimating capabilities, and DSC Deputy Director Sam Whittington, Sue Masica, Associate Director for Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands, and I recently briefed the House Appropriations Committee about the actions we have taken to improve both cost estimating and scope management projections. We are also utilizing contracting strategies that provide greater flexibility to obtain more savings in a project where possible.

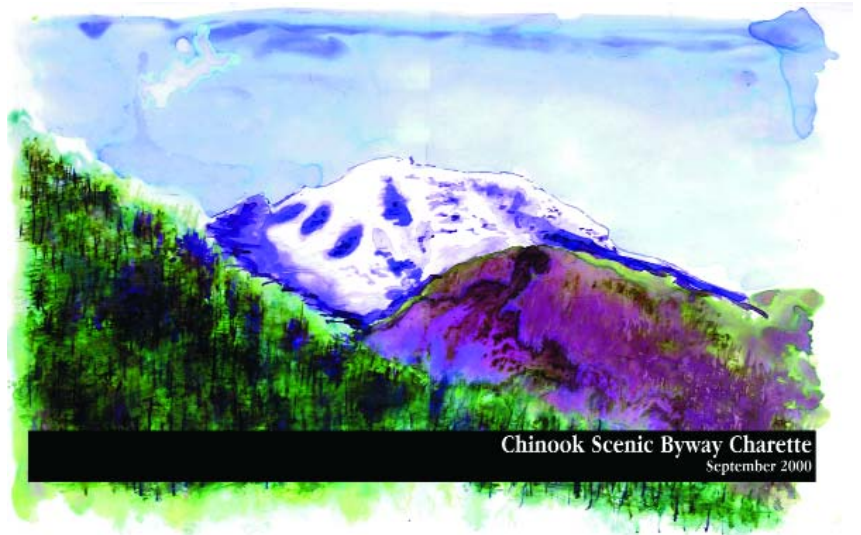
These actions will not have immediate results, and we realize the remainder of this fiscal year will be a transition period as the estimating methods are applied to our projects. We do expect to see positive results from these actions in fiscal years 2007 and beyond.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the National Park Service.



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The studies produced ideas to improve quality of life for corridor residents and helped communities successfully compete as tourism destinations. The partnerships forged during the studies are continuing to work collaboratively to implement the shared regional vision developed through the corridor studies.



One of the four corridor studies completed for the Mt. Rainier Transportation Corridor Project

The Mount Rainier Transportation Corridor Project is the third consecutive Denver Service Center-sponsored project honored in this category. Previous projects recognized from the APA's Federal Planning Division include *The Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement*, and *The Cane River National Heritage Area Management Plan*. The Denver Service Center teams associated with these projects were honored at the APA's Federal Planning Division conference in San Antonio, April 19-21, 2006.

For descriptions of other DSC Transportation projects underway, please visit the [Transportation Planning intranet site](#). □

Information Management Division News

TIC Assists with Archiving, Records Management Project for Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Staff from the Technical Information Center (TIC) of the Denver Service Center were assisting the Golden Gate National Recreation Area with an archives and records management project. After several office moves, some files at the park have been intermingled and stacked in file drawers. DSC archives technicians traveled to the park in January 2006 to assist in sorting more than 94 linear feet of files. These files included Presidio records from before and during its merge with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Presidio files were separated and placed into boxes to be kept in the park's Archives Building.

After the documents were sorted, selected reports and studies were sent to the Technical Information Center for cataloging into the Highview database. Public meeting table charts were also scanned and transferred back to the park program manager. A total of sixteen boxes containing files for the Comprehensive Transportation Management Plan were also shipped to the Technical Information Center for processing. Staff will continue to organize and arrange these files into an Administrative Record. The project will be completed by June 1, 2006. □



Boxes of files that were sent to the TIC in Denver.



Archive Technician Catherine Kisluk sorting through papers and project files at an office at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Planning Division News

Manhattan Project Sites Special Resource Study Underway

Public open houses began in March for the Manhattan Project Sites Special Resource Study. This study, headed by the Denver Service Center Planning Division, was Congressionally authorized by the 108th Congress in 2004. It will include the evaluation of the significance of selected U.S. Department of Energy sites, and the suitability and feasibility of designating one or more of these sites as units of the National Park System. The four sites being studied are Hanford, Washington; Los Alamos National Laboratory and town site in New Mexico; the Oak Ridge Reservation site in Tennessee; and sites in Dayton, Ohio.



Facility at Department of Energy Hanford Site in Washington State

As part of the study, a range of alternatives will be developed to examine various means of ensuring long-term preservation and interpretation of the sites, including those not involving the National Park Service. The study will result in final recommendations to Congress for appropriate levels of National Park Service involvement.

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More than 150 people attended the first public open house meetings in Richland, Washington, March 22. Citizens were asked to provide their thoughts and suggestions about the future of the B Reactor. Other scoping meetings are planned for April 11-12 in Oakridge, Tennessee; May 24 in Dayton, Ohio; and June 7- 8 in Los Alamos, New Mexico.



Stakeholders at public open house in Richland, Washington

The Manhattan Project was a top-secret program implemented during World War II designed to win the race in the construction of the first atomic weapon. Operating from December 1942 until September 1945, the Manhattan Project was a \$2.2 billion dollar effort that employed 130,000 workers at its peak, and was kept largely out of public view and knowledge. □

Employee News

Passing of Jim Pazalos

James (Jim) Pazalos, 63, Engineering Technician within the Design and Construction Division of the Denver Service Center, passed away March 20. Jim is survived by his wife, Maggie, his mother, Eugenia, and his sister, Jane (Tom) Costigan. Jim was a career employee with 27 years of service with the Denver Service Center. Throughout his career he contributed to the quality of National Park Service designs. Jim was very devoted to his wife Maggie and enjoyed keeping in touch with National Park Service alumni. His hobbies included model airplanes. Messages of condolence may be sent to Maggie Pazalos at the following address:

Mrs. Maggie Pazalos
12229 Berry Avenue
Littleton, CO 80127

DSC Director's Award

Denver Service Center Director Dan Wenk presented **J. Patrick Shea Jr.** with the Director's Award for his outstanding work on behalf of the DSC and the National Park Service. This award is an acknowledgment from the Service Center's Director, above and beyond divisional awards within the DSC, and is presented for individual excellence and dedication.



DSC Director Dan Wenk and Project Manager Patrick Shea

As a Project Manager in the DSC's Transportation Division, Patrick was cited for his skills and demonstrated leadership as both a project manager and technical specialist with numerous complex projects. He was the project manager for the new Willett Center at Fort Stanwix National Monument in New York, a \$6 million visitor and curatorial facility completed in July 2005. Patrick has also taken a lead role in many other high profile projects this past year. He has also been working with the WASO Concessions Management Program, where he has been providing both organizational assistance and project management for concession prospectus development at five parks. □

New Employees

Brandie Litreal has joined the Denver Service Center as an Office Assistant within the Information Management Division, and is supporting the Design and Construction Division. Brandie is joining the Service Center from the Intermountain Region, where she worked in the Fire and Aviation Department. She began her career with the federal government as student with the Department of Transportation. Brandie has two business certificates from Red Rocks Community College.

Miki Stuebe has rejoined the Denver Service Center as a Senior Planner/Landscape Architect within the Planning Division, where she will be leading the

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore general management plan. Miki has worked on National Park Service planning efforts for the past six years for a local consulting firm. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from Indiana University, a Masters in Science in Biology -Ecology from Utah State University, and a Masters in Landscape Architecture in Land Resource Planning from University of Illinois.

Transitions

Bob Felker of the DSC Transportation Division is now a Senior Field Technical Specialist at the Natchez Trace Parkway.

Carol Simpson has been chosen as the Chief of the Technical Information Center/Library/Micrographics and Imaging Services Branch within the Information Management Division. **Jannette Wesley**, formerly in that position, has moved to a new position within Information Management where she will focus on system capital asset plans, revision of the NPS-19 Records Disposition schedule, and the scheduling of electronic records/systems.

Terry Urbanowski is now a Project Manager in the Eastern Branch of the Design and Construction Division. □

e-fyi...

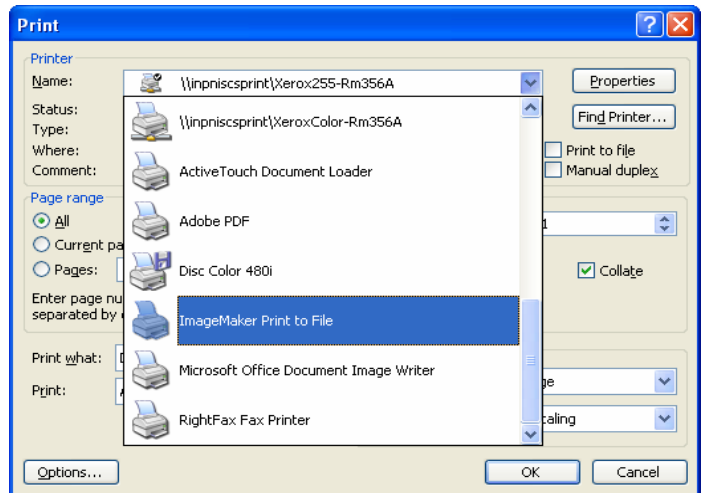
Convert Word, Excel, PowerPoint and other document file types to PDF, TIFF, JPEG and more

To ensure the integrity of an original file, as we share electronic information with others, it is often necessary to create an image file of the document. The Denver Service Center has purchased ImageMaker print drivers that will convert native documents to various file formats by printing from the native applications.

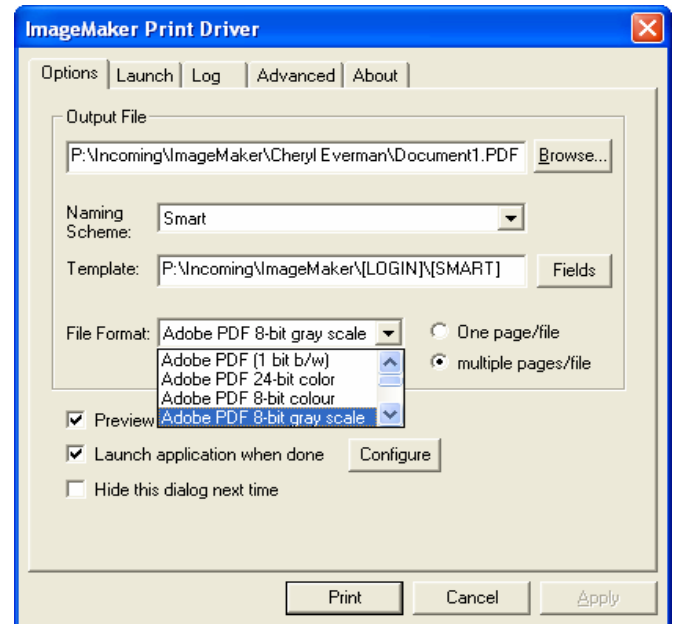
There are a number of conversion options when determining the file type you need. The most common file types are PDFs or TIFFs, both of which have black/white and color options. Your files will be converted to rasterized images (not documents that can be edited).

To convert your files:

- Open your file in Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Notes Email, etc.;
- Click **File > Print** from the pull-down menu;
- Choose “ImageMaker Print to File” from your printer list;
- Click **OK**



After clicking OK, the ImageMaker dialogue box will open, as shown below. Under “Output File,” select the location for your converted file (the default being P:\Incoming); Naming Scheme and Template will always remain the same – don’t change; File Format is where you will select the file type you want. Then click **Print**.



Your converted file will have been saved to your specified location, and a viewer will display the converted file. Simply exit the viewer – and access your file through Windows Explorer – or your application.

This is a great option for saving individual emails as a PDF, and placing them on the P: drive in project folders. Please note that if you use this tool for converting emails, any attachments to the message need to be saved separately.

For questions or more information, please contact Cheryl Everman at extension 6660. □

NPS Development Advisory Board Update

Major park facility construction projects exceeding \$500,000 are subject to review by the members of the NPS Servicewide Development Advisory Board (DAB) and non-NPS External Advisors to the NPS Director. The recommendations of the Board and the External Advisors assist the Director and the National Leadership Council in ensuring that projects are of high quality, incorporate sustainable practices appropriate to their settings, and demonstrate defensible cost-conscious decisions focused on cost reduction.

The External Advisors are drawn from federal, state, or local agencies with natural and cultural resources management expertise. They are professional and technical experts with experience in park management and operations, and facility management and design who provide external professional and technical advice to the Director. Their comments and recommendations on all projects are made independently without requiring consensus among Advisors or with the Board.

The new External Advisors, who will serve a three-year term with the DAB, are listed below, followed by the current NPS Board Members. The External Advisors will rotate as they attend Board meetings. Typically only three External Advisors will be present at any given Board meeting.

Director's Advisors:

Scott Bradley, Landscape Architect Supervisor,
Minnesota Department of Transportation

Ed Dailide, Deputy Director for Facilities and
Infrastructure, Office of Engineering and Construction
Management, U.S. Department of Energy

Michael McGill, Senior Project Manager, Public
Building Services, General Services Administration

Barbara Petrarca, Supervisory Landscape Architect,
Rhode Island Department of Transportation

Gail van der Bie, Deputy Director, Recreation and
Heritage Resources, Forest Service, Washington, D.C.

Steve Kemper, Superintendent, Buffalo Bill Ranch State
Historical Park, North Platte, Nebraska

NPS Board Members:

Sue Masica, Chair / Associate Director for Park
Planning, Facilities, & Lands, WASO

Mary Bomar, Regional Director, Northeast Region

Dale Ditmanson, Superintendent, Great Smoky
Mountains National Park

Christopher Jarvi, Associate Director for Partnerships,
Interpretation & Education, Volunteers & Outdoor
Recreation, WASO

Joe Lawler, Regional Director, National Capital Region

Suzanne Lewis, Superintendent, Yellowstone
National Park

Jan Matthews, Associate Director for Cultural
Resources, WASO

Mike Snyder, Regional Director, Intermountain Region

Mike Soukup, Associate Director for Natural Resources
Stewardship & Science, WASO

The next DAB Board meeting is scheduled for June 20-23, 2006, at the Sheraton Hotel in Lakewood, Colorado. Project submissions will be posted on the FTP site by May 16, 2006. Upcoming DAB meetings are scheduled for November 7-9, 2006, in Washington D.C., and March 13-15, 2007, at a location to be determined.

DC Corner

Planning Branch Chief **Jan Harris** started a 90-day detail April 2 as acting Chief of Park Planning and Special Studies within the Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands WASO Directorate. □

2006

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April ...

3	▪ Director's Brown Bag Lunch (11:30 – Room 283)
4	▪ House Interior and the Environment Subcommittee Appropriation Hearing (Washington D.C.)
6–7	▪ CEO Roundtable Spring Meeting (Syracuse, New York – Wenk)
18–19	▪ Pacific West Work Session (Denver)
22–30	▪ National Park Week

May ...

1	▪ Director's Brown Bag Lunch (11:30 – Room 283)
16–17	▪ Superintendent's Council Meeting (Washington D.C. – Wenk)
16–17	▪ NPS Partnership Council Meeting (Washington D.C. – Wenk)
18–19	▪ Friends Alliance Meeting (Washington D.C. – Wenk)
22–24	▪ National Capital Work Session (Denver)
29	▪ Federal Holiday: Memorial Day
31	▪ NPS Advisory Board Philanthropy Committee Meeting (Washington D.C. – Wenk)



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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<http://inside.nps.gov/programs/dsc>

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