



## News from NARRP

*This content is generated by members for members. Please send us your news, reports, job announcements, manuals and personal updates that may be of interest to other members.*

# The National Association of Recreation Resource Planners

## NARRP Seeking Award Nominations

NARRP is now accepting nominations for the 2011 Annual Awards to be presented at this year's conference in Breckenridge, Colorado. The awards recognize outstanding accomplishments in the field of recreation resource planning and management. All of the award categories are for individual achievement. The Excellence in Planning Award also considers achievements by agencies or organizations.

Only NARRP members can make nominations. However, nominees need not be NARRP members.

The deadline for submitting nominations is February 18, 2011.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[http://www.narrp.org/clubportal/images/clubimages/1431/Call\\_for\\_Nominations\\_2011.doc](http://www.narrp.org/clubportal/images/clubimages/1431/Call_for_Nominations_2011.doc)

## Request from a member

I am collecting economic impact studies of state parks and parks and recreation in general. I am looking for examples from states, cities, counties and COGs that have been completed since 2003.

If you have done an economic impact study or know of someone who has, please send me an email.

Bill Beckner  
NRPA Research Manager  
703-858-2142  
bbeckner@nrpa.org

## Webinar - Positioning Waterside Communities as Tourism Gateways to America's Great Outdoors

Growing international and domestic destination through water and nature based efforts.

January 19, 2011

2:15 - 3:45 PM Eastern

Click here to register: <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/500839598>

Washington, DC (December 20, 2010) – Our nation's natural water systems continue to emerge as iconic destinations for nature based and heritage tourism. These new tourism focused economies are helping water based cities and communities diversify their economic base while building a richer sense of place for residents. In many cases, tourism provides the financial safety net for communities losing their industrial/manufacturing ways of life.

This webinar will highlight efforts currently underway to establish tourism centered on water-based destinations, as well as the potential economic impacts of such efforts. The panel will explore the role that federal and state government can have to better assist local communities in marketing their waterside communities within a consolidated, regional approach.

Join us in this seminar to learn:

- Trends and forecasts for international visitation to the U.S.
- Ways waterside or nature based tourism destinations and attractions can translate the international forecasts into effective tourism strategies.
- How states and cities are developing nature based tourism and discussion of water recreation product and promotion.
- The economic importance of tourism to communities, especially those with unique, safely accessible natural and heritage attractions.

#### MODERATOR

Brett Stawar, President/CEO Alton Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau & Chairman of the Meeting of the Great Rivers National Scenic Byway

As President/CEO for a destination marketing organization, Mr. Stawar leads the tourism promotional efforts for the greater Alton, Illinois 13 community service area, just north of St. Louis. In addition, he serves as Chairman for the Meeting of the Great Rivers National Scenic Byway organization, providing tourism development and promotion guidance for the confluence region of the Illinois, Missouri and Mississippi rivers and riverside communities. He brings more than 15 years of strategic planning and marketing communications experience, with a background working for public relations agencies and non-profit organizations.

#### FEATURED SPEAKERS

Ron Erdmann, Deputy Director, U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Travel & Tourism Industries

Ron Erdmann is the Deputy Director at the U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Travel & Tourism Industries (OTTI). Mr. Erdmann is responsible for the oversight and improvement of the Office's travel and tourism research programs. These programs provide key market intelligence on the volume and characteristics of travelers to and from the United States. He is also responsible for providing clients with technical assistance on how to effectively use research data for the development of international travel market decisions to increase exports.

Jan Kostner, Deputy Director of Tourism, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic

Opportunity, Illinois Office of Tourism

As Deputy Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Tourism (IOT), Jan Kostner spearheads the state's tourism industry marketing and development efforts, contributing to sustainable and significant economic and quality-of-life benefits for Illinois residents. Her direction has helped Illinois achieve outstanding state tourism visitation records and significant increases in state tax dollars, with nearly 89 million domestic visitors and more than 1.1 million international visitors spending more than \$30 billion on transportation, lodging, food, entertainment, recreation and incidentals in 2008.

#### CONTACT

For additional information, please contact Patrick McGinnis at [patrick.mcginnis@thehorinkogroup.org](mailto:patrick.mcginnis@thehorinkogroup.org)

## **Moving Outdoors in Nature Act would fund outdoor activity programs**

*Courtesy of American Trails*

The "Moving Outdoors in Nature (MONA) Act of 2010" (H.R. 6426) was introduced by Rep. Ronald Kind (D-WI). It would fund \$165 million over three years to "authorize the Secretary of the Interior to carry out programs and activities for connecting children and families with the outdoors." Trails, hunting, conservation education, and outdoor recreation are mentioned as being eligible for competitive grants or cooperative agreements. The bill has been referred to two House committees: Natural Resources and Energy and Commerce.

Read more about this legislation on our Supporting Trails page...

## **"Ask Interior" – New feature on the Dept. of Interior website**

The Department of the Interior recently launched the "Ask Interior" feature on our website as a way to engage directly with the public. If you would like to ask Secretary Salazar, or another member of the DOI Team a question, please submit your question to [askinterior@ios.doi.gov](mailto:askinterior@ios.doi.gov). We encourage you to send video questions or attach photographs.

You can view the first episodes via the links below. Thank you.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFEyxPz4oSk>.

<http://www.doi.gov/news/video/Secretary-Salazar-on-Ask-Interior.cfm>

## **Visitation Record Set at Yellowstone Park**

*Courtesy of RV Business*

For the second year in a row, and for the third time in the last four years, Yellowstone National Park has set a new annual visitation record, the Los Angeles Times reported.

During the calendar year, more than 3.64 million people visited the national park. Recreation visits in 2010 were 10.5% higher than recorded in 2009 — which itself was a record year — when almost 3.3 million people visited.

The park also set monthly visitation records in June, July, August, September and October.

All park entrances recorded annual visitation increases compared to 2009 levels, with the West Entrance continuing to be the park's busiest, hosting nearly 1.5 million recreational visitors in 2010.

Park managers say they believe the record visitation was due in part to the public's recognition that visits to national parks represent a good value for their travel dollar. Aggressive promotion by state tourism offices, stable gasoline prices and 2009's public television series on the national parks are also believed to have contributed.

Detailed park visitation information is available online at [www.nature.nps.gov/stats/](http://www.nature.nps.gov/stats/).

## **17 Days of Free National Park Entry in 2011**

*Courtesy of RV Business*

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar today (Jan. 5) announced that the National Park Service will waive admission fees on 17 selected dates throughout 2011 and encouraged all Americans to make a New Year's resolution to visit a national park this year.

"Many people have made resolutions to spend more quality time with loved ones and to get outdoors and unplug in 2011," said Secretary Salazar in a news release. "There's no better place than a national park to help keep those resolutions. Parks offer superb recreational opportunities, making them perfect places to enjoy our beautiful land, history and culture, and nurture a healthy lifestyle."

Salazar noted that with 394 national parks throughout the country, most Americans live within a few hours of a park, making them places for easy and affordable vacations any time of the year.

"In these tough economic times, our fee-free days will give families many opportunities to enjoy our nation's heritage and natural beauty in meaningful and affordable ways," he said.

The 2011 fee-free dates will be the weekend of Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan. 15-17), National Park Week (April 16-24), the first day of summer (June 21), National Public Lands Day (Sept. 24), and the weekend of Veterans Day (Nov. 11-13).

"Visitors can literally walk in Dr. King's footsteps at national parks such as Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site in Georgia, Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail in Alabama, or the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.," said National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis. "They are just a few of the dozens of national parks which trace the history of African Americans."

"Several parks will also honor Dr. King by hosting volunteer projects for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service on Jan. 17," added Jarvis. "It is the only federal holiday observed as a national day of service — a day on, not a day off."

Many national park concessions will also offer discounts on fee free days, saving visitors money on food, lodging, tours, and souvenirs. More information is available at <http://www.nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm>.

## **Effort to Restore Children's Play Gains Momentum**

*Courtesy of NYTimes.com*

SARAH WILSON was speaking proudly the other day when she declared: "My house is a little messy."

Ms. Wilson lives in Stroudsburg, Pa., a small town in the Poconos. Many days, her home is strewn with dress-up clothes, art supplies and other artifacts from playtime with her two small children, Benjamin, 6, and Laura, 3. "I let them get it messy because that's what it's here for," she said.

Ms. Wilson has embraced a growing movement to restore the sometimes-untidy business of play to the lives of children. Her interest was piqued when she toured her local elementary school last year, a few months before Benjamin was to enroll in kindergarten. She still remembered her own kindergarten classroom from 1985: it had a sandbox, blocks and toys. But this one had a wall of computers and little desks.

"There's no imaginative play anymore, no pretend," Ms. Wilson said with a sigh.

For several years, studies and statistics have been mounting that suggest the culture of play in the United States is vanishing. Children spend far too much time in front of a screen, educators and parents lament — 7 hours 38 minutes a day on average, according to a survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation last year. And only one in five children live within walking distance (a half-mile) of a park or playground, according to a 2010 report by the federal Centers for Disease Control, making them even less inclined to frolic outdoors.

Behind the numbers is adult behavior as well as children's: Parents furiously tapping on their BlackBerrys in the living room, too stressed by work demands to tolerate noisy games in the background. Weekends consumed by soccer, lacrosse and other sports leagues, all organized and directed by parents. The full slate of lessons (chess, tae kwon do, Chinese, you name it) and homework beginning in the earliest grades. Add to that parental safety concerns that hinder even true believers like Ms. Wilson.

"People are scared to let their kids outside, even where I live," she said. "If I want my kids to go outside, I have to be with them."

Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, a developmental psychologist at Temple University in Philadelphia, concluded, "Play is just a natural thing that animals do and humans do, but somehow we've driven it out of kids."

Too little playtime may seem to rank far down on the list of society's worries, but the scientists, psychologists, educators and others who are part of the play movement say that most of the social and intellectual skills one needs to succeed in life and work are first developed through childhood play. Children learn to control their impulses through games like Simon Says, play

advocates believe, and they learn to solve problems, negotiate, think creatively and work as a team when they dig together in a sandbox or build a fort with sofa cushions. (The experts define play as a game or activity initiated and directed by children. So video games don't count, they say, except perhaps ones that involve creating something, and neither, really, do the many educational toys that do things like sing the A B C's with the push of a button.)

Much of the movement has focused on the educational value of play, and efforts to restore recess and unstructured playtime to early childhood and elementary school curriculums. But advocates are now starting to reach out to parents, recognizing that for the movement to succeed, parental attitudes must evolve as well — starting with a willingness to tolerate a little more unpredictability in children's schedules and a little less structure at home. Building that fort, for example, probably involves disassembling the sofa and emptying the linen closet. (A sheet makes an excellent roof.)

"I think more than anything, adults are a little fearful of children's play," said Joan Almon, executive director of the Alliance for Childhood, a nonprofit pro-play group. "Some people have a greater tolerance for chaos and have developed a hand for gently bringing it back into order. Others get really nervous about it." Megan Rosker, a mother of three (ages 6, 3 and 2) in Redington Shores, Fla., has learned to embrace the disorder. She set aside the large sunroom in her home for the children and filled it with blocks, games, crayons, magazines to cut up and draw in, as well as toys and dress-up clothes. "I think a big part of free play is having space to do it in, a space that isn't ruled over by adults," she said.

"The other key is not to instruct kids how to play with something," she said. "I can't tell you how many board-game pieces have been turned into something else. But I let them do it because I figure their imagination is more valuable than the price of a board game."

But, Ms. Rosker added, "I won't claim any of this has been easy for me or my husband," noting that her husband used to be "a total neat freak." She said they have learned to live with disarray and to take other difficult steps, like strict limits on screen time.

Ms. Rosker has also campaigned, although unsuccessfully, to bring recess to her son's elementary school. But school officials were too worried about potential injuries, unruliness and valuable time lost from academic pursuits to sign on to her idea and, she was surprised to find, many parents were similarly reluctant. "They said: 'I'm not going to sign that. I'm sure there is a good reason why this is good for our kids — our school has good test scores.'"

To try to reach more parents, a coalition called Play for Tomorrow this fall staged what amounted to a giant play date in Central Park. The event, known as the Ultimate Block Party, featured games like I Spy, mounds of Play-Doh, sidewalk chalk, building blocks, puzzles and more. The National Science Foundation was closely involved, advising organizers — and emphasizing to parents — the science and the educational value behind each of the carefully chosen activities. Organizers were hoping to attract 10,000 people to the event. They got more than 50,000.

"We were overwhelmed," said Roberta Golinkoff, a developmental psychologist at the University of Delaware and a founder of the event along with Dr. Hirsh-Pasek. They are now working with other cities — Toronto, Atlanta, Baltimore and Houston, among them — to stage similar events, along with making the Central Park gathering an annual one.

The goal, in some ways, is to return to the old days.

“When I was growing up, there was a culture of childhood that children maintained,” said Jim Hunn, vice president for mass action at KaBOOM, a nonprofit group that is a leading voice in reducing what it terms the “play deficit.” He noted that he learned games like Capture the Flag from other children. To revive that culture, he said: “Parents have to reassert themselves in this process and teach them how to play. It’s critical that parents take some ownership and get out and play with their children.”

But promoting play can be surprisingly challenging to parents. Emily Paster, a mother of two in River Forest, Ill., a Chicago suburb, tries to discourage screen time and encourage her children to play imaginatively. That usually works fine for her 7-year-old daughter, who is happy to play in her room with her dolls for hours. But her 4-year-old son is a different story, especially in the cold weather when he’s cooped up.

“If he wants to play, he always wants me to play with him,” Ms. Paster said. “This child has a million toys. Every kind of train you can imagine. But he really wants a partner. If I’m meant to get anything accomplished — dinner, laundry, a phone call — then it’s really difficult.”

Encouraging brother and sister to play together only goes so far. “It seems like there’s a ticking time bomb,” Ms. Paster said. “Someone’s going to decide they’re done before the other one’s ready.” Sometimes, a video screen is the unwelcome but necessary alternative.

“If I want to get anything done it’s like, ‘Here’s the Leapster,’ “ she admitted, referring to a Leapster Explorer, a video-like device for preschoolers.

But once they’re used to it, Mr. Hunn said, children will direct their play themselves — a situation Ms. Almon recalls from her own childhood. “Our neighborhood gang organized a lot of softball games,” she said. “There was no adult around. We adjusted the rules as we needed them. Once the adults are involved it becomes: Here are the rules, and we have to follow these rules. It still can be a good activity but stops being play.”

In the vast world of organized children’s sports, a few parent-coaches are getting that hands-off message. Ms. Almon knows of a soccer coach who started allowing children to organize their own scrimmages during practice while he stood silently on the sidelines, and a hockey coach in Chicago who ends practices by shooing all the adults off the ice and letting the kids skate as they please.

There are more formal efforts, in addition to the Ultimate Block Party initiatives. The US Play Coalition, a group of doctors, educators and parks and recreation officials, plans a conference next month at Clemson University on the value of outdoor play. KaBOOM has built 1,900 playgrounds across the country, most in low-income neighborhoods, and in September helped organize “Play Days” in 1,600 communities. It also has added do-it-yourself tools on its Web site to help parents organize and create neighborhood play spaces themselves. Another Web site scheduled to start this spring, LearningResourceNetwork.net, aims to create a broad educational source for parents and teachers.

“Our first big push will be on play,” said Susan Magsamen, the executive director of the group.

An important part of the movement is teaching children themselves how to play. The average 3-year-old can pick up an iPhone and expertly scroll through the menu of apps, but how many 7-year-olds can organize a kickball game with the neighborhood kids?

Toward that end, at the Central Park event, parents were given a 75-page “Playbook” outlining research on play and offering children ideas for playful pursuits — things that generations past did without prompting and that may evoke in today’s parents feelings of recognition and nostalgia.

“Climb on the couch with your friends and pretend you are sailing on a ship to a distant land,” reads one idea. Another, from the section on construction play: “Lay a toy on the floor and figure out how to build a bridge going over the toy with blocks.”

“Make paper doll cutouts from old newspapers and magazines,” a third suggests, “and let your imagination fly!”

## **Colorado may close state parks, lease for drilling**

*Courtesy of the DenverPost.com*

DENVER—Some state parks in Colorado may be closed, while others could be opened for oil and gas drilling to raise money for the cash-strapped parks system.

Deep budget cuts to the system have prompted a five-year plan to close several parks to save money. The Denver Post reports that the agency would save \$200,000 a year by closing at least four parks.

In the 2009 fiscal year, Colorado State Parks got \$6.7 million in general funds. That dropped to \$2.6 million in fiscal 2011. There may be no funding for state parks next year, according to the financial plan.

The report includes a suggestion that the parks explore leasing mineral rights in limited areas. The report didn't say how much the agency could raise through mineral leases.

State parks spokeswoman Deb Frazier told the newspaper that mineral leasing is controversial, and just one option being weighed to raise money.

"This is, in no way, a pathway we're set on pursuing," she said. "It remains a discussion point only as we examine methods to maintain a thriving parks system in challenging times."

The extraction proposal suggested that parts of 50,000 acres could be open to mineral leasing.

"In the very limited areas where State Parks does own mineral rights and there may be interest in extraction, State Parks should consider the potential for new revenues through leases," said the report.

The suggested closures include Bonny Lake State Park, north of Burlington near the Kansas border. The lake has been gradually drained to meet water demands in Kansas during drought years.

Shuttering Bonny would sting Burlington, a community of 3,500, said city administrator Bob Churchwell. When Bonny was in its heyday, it would attract plenty of anglers and boaters who would get their supplies in Burlington, he said.



"We do still get that clientele, so I can say there will be damage to the community," Churchwell said. "But realistically, I would much rather have that piece affected than the state taking away grant dollars because of a tight budget down the road."

Also on the possible closure list—Sweitzer Lake, Harvey Gap and Paonia.

Other options the state will explore include cost-sharing arrangements with other state and federal agencies, streamlining operations and looking for financial help from private groups.

## **Gregoire budget would slash programs, cut \$4 billion**

*Courtesy of the Seattle Times*

OLYMPIA — Gov. Chris Gregoire had four words to summarize the state spending plan she proposed Wednesday that would dump programs for the poor, slash education, close prisons and reduce ferry runs.

"I hate my budget," she said, her voice shaking with emotion.

"I hate it because in some places I don't even think it's moral," she said. "Who'd have ever thought that I would be doing this."

Just four years ago, when the economy was booming, Gregoire unveiled a proposed budget that poured billions into health care, education, state parks and more. "I love my budget," she said at the time.

Now, after a stock-market crash and deep recession, Gregoire is presiding over the demolition of programs she and other Democratic lawmakers helped create and grow.

The proposed cuts the governor announced Wednesday are unprecedented. No corner of the budget appeared untouched.

State Arts Commission, gone.

State Tourism Office, gone.

The Basic Health Plan, which provides subsidized insurance for the 66,000 working poor, gone.

Also eliminated: Disability Lifeline, a program that provides cash payments to thousands of disabled poor; programs for gifted students in public schools; McNeil Island Corrections Center; and the Maple Lane School for juvenile offenders in Rochester.

Tuition at colleges and universities would continue to increase at a double-digit pace to partially offset across-the-board cuts.

Money for state parks from the operating budget — a major source of overall parks funding — would be nearly eliminated in two years. Park visitors would pick up a larger share of the tab.

Ferry service would be trimmed, while fares would climb 10 percent.

"This is a budget that is meant for the worst economic downturn in eight decades. It uses the word 'eliminate' about 80 times," Gregoire said at a news conference.

The Governor's Office projects the cuts would result in the loss of around 3,800 full-time equivalent job positions in public schools, higher education and state agencies.

Overall, the proposed budget closes a projected \$4.6 billion shortfall in the next two-year budget — which runs through June 2013 — with nearly \$4 billion in cuts and suspended initiatives, plus about \$680 million from reserves and raiding accounts outside the state general fund.

The shortfall is the gap between what the state projects it will collect from taxes and what it would need to spend to maintain existing state services, provide employee pay increases and handle growing demand. The cost of providing services grows, especially during recessions, because more people turn to the state for help.

Gregoire's proposal would spend about \$32.4 billion. That's expected to be tens of millions less than the current budget, even after efforts to cut costs this fiscal year. The governor's budget would leave \$881 million in reserves.

State officials say they're not aware of another time in state history, at least since the Great Depression, when state spending dropped from one budget to the next.

#### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

The governor, under state law, takes the first stab at writing a budget. The House and Senate will follow with their own proposals after they go into session in January. Then all the sides will get together and, presumably, reach a compromise.

They'll have to come to terms with the cuts amid a barrage of protests by the folks who would get hit. Advocates for education, health care and social services were hard at work Wednesday, imploring lawmakers not to cut their programs, but remaining largely silent on what to do instead.

"I don't know what the answer is," Mary Lindquist, president of the Washington Education Association, said when asked how lawmakers should avoid cuts to education. "I'm not an economist, but I know we have to do better. We don't have a choice. Any parent will tell you, when times are tough, you take care of your kids."

State Sen. Joe Zarelli, the ranking Republican on the Senate Ways and Means Committee, said overall "the governor has to be given credit for taking a very tough and delicate situation and actually presenting a list of options ... that get us where we need to be."

Sen. Ed Murray, D-Seattle, the new chairman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, said the governor's budget proposes the "type of things we're going to have to consider cutting." But making the cuts won't be easy, he said.

"It's going to be very hard for members to cut programs they helped to create," he said, noting that "if liberals just walk away from the table and say they won't vote for it, then the Republicans will get to shape those cuts. There are significantly different approaches to how you can cut this budget."

Gregoire said she expects lawmakers will largely end up where she did.

"They will learn what I've learned and they will find ... there aren't any options," she said. "What options there are are ugly."

#### NO NEW TAXES, NO FEDERAL BAILOUT

Unlike the last budget, higher taxes are not being considered. A Tim Eyman initiative approved by voters in November requires a two-thirds vote in the Legislature or voter approval to increase taxes. It's hard to imagine a supermajority of Democrats and Republicans agreeing to boost taxes.

In addition, Congress has made it clear that no more bailouts will be coming to prop up state budgets. The federal government helped soften the blow of cuts in the last budget with more than \$3 billion in aid.

That leaves state lawmakers with cuts.

Gregoire has proposed eliminating programs that have proved politically untouchable in the past, like the Basic Health Plan and Disability Lifeline.

Funding for K-12 education is largely off-limits because of constitutional protections, but there are still significant cuts.

The governor proposes to continue suspension of the class-size reduction initiative, I-728, to save \$860 million. The same is true for I-732, which mandates annual raises for teachers, pegged to inflation. That saves another \$253 million.

The K-12 cuts don't stop there. Gregoire's budget would eliminate funding to reduce class sizes in kindergarten through fourth grade, suspend bonuses to teachers who go through national teacher certification, and suspend step increases for teachers.

In higher education, tuition would jump by more than 22 percent over the next two years at the University of Washington, Washington State University and Western Washington University. The other institutions would see double-digit increases as well.

State aid to help lower-income students pay for college would be increased by \$92 million to offset costs for low-income students.

Even with the additional tuition dollars, colleges and universities will see more than \$220 million in cuts.

#### STATE EMPLOYEES

State workers, under an agreement reached with unions Tuesday, would pay more for health care and take a 3 percent cut in pay through unpaid leave.

Under the tentative agreement, which has to be ratified by the unions and approved by the Legislature, state workers would pay 15 percent of their health-care premium costs, with the state picking up the other 85 percent in the next two-year budget. The state currently pays 88

percent of the premium, and state workers pay 12 percent.

The contract would not eliminate step increases, which are bumps in pay based on years of service. About 20,000 state workers would get those increases at a cost of around \$26 million. However, that cost is expected to be covered through a hiring freeze and attrition, according to the Governor's Budget Office.

As deep as the cuts would go, there are some things the governor said she would not touch, such as a program that helps certain people who can't get on Medicaid, including illegal immigrants, obtain lifesaving medical treatments.

"I'll tell you where I wouldn't cut. I was going to cut a program that was kidney dialysis and cancer treatment. Then I looked into the program and I found out that if I cut kidney dialysis they'll die within 48 hours," she said.

"I can't do that. There's a limit to what I'm willing to do."

## **Job Announcement – Bureau of Land Management**

**OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNER (NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM PROGRAM LEAD)**

**SALARY RANGE:** \$68,809.00 - \$89,450.00 /year

**OPEN PERIOD:** Friday, January 07, 2011 to Friday, January 28, 2011

**SERIES & GRADE:** GS-0023-12/12

**POSITION INFORMATION:** This is a full-time position. This is a permanent position in the competitive service.

**PROMOTION POTENTIAL:** 12

**DUTY LOCATIONS:** 1 vacancy(s) in one of the following locations: Billings, MT

**WHO MAY BE CONSIDERED:** All current or former federal employees with competitive/reinstatement eligibility, or persons eligible under Special Hiring Authorities. All VEOA-eligible veterans may apply. U.S. Citizenship is required.

**JOB ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER:** MT MERIT-2011-0050

### **JOB SUMMARY:**

BLM is seeking a dynamic and energetic individual to join the team to serve as an Outdoor Recreation Planner (National Landscape Conservation System (NLSC) Program Lead). This position is located in Billings, Montana. Information about the Billings area can be found at <http://www.billingschamber.com/>.

Explore a new career with the BLM - where our people are our greatest natural resource. The BLM manages more land - approximately 253 million acres - than any other Federal agency.

This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estates throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. For additional information about the BLM, please visit our website.

#### DUTIES:

This position serves as the senior technical specialist and program lead for the NLCS program for the states of Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The incumbent is responsible for performing a variety of duties including, but not limited to, the following:

- Developing policies, standards, and priorities which are consistent with bureau-wide objectives and compatible throughout the multi-state region with other federal, state, tribal, and local agency's objectives.
- Developing and implementing all aspects of the wilderness, national monuments, national scenic and historic trails, and the Wild and Scenic River (WSR) programs.
- Initiating and serving as the project leader for major related studies and research related to NLCS components.
- Monitoring and reviewing the management and cost effectiveness of program actions at the field level.
- Being involved with, and reviewing, major planning and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) efforts e.g., Resource Management Plans (RMP) revisions to ensure NLCS programs are adequately addressed, including lands with wilderness characteristics, wilderness study area management, national monument proclamation direction, visual resources, and WSR guidance eligibility and suitability reviews.
- Providing program leadership and assisting field offices in the development of interpretive and educational programs and displays that educate and improve the public's understanding about BLM's history and mission.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=95327432&aid=90127670-11111&WT.mc\\_n=125](http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=95327432&aid=90127670-11111&WT.mc_n=125)