

National Park Service Comprehensive Assessment of Federal Land Acquisition Program and American Battlefield Protection Program

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BACKGROUND

As it prepares to celebrate the 106th anniversary of its establishment, the National Park Service (NPS) faces new challenges in land acquisition and management. NPS is responsible for protecting existing national parks and monuments and those yet to be formally established as well as for protecting lands outside the Federal footprint through financial assistance for non-Federal acquisitions, supported by NPS's American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) and stewardship. Land acquisition is managed by the Lands Resource Division (LRD). Park units often have non-federally owned lands within their authorized boundaries. Acquisition of those lands and interests in land is often necessary and appropriate to protect and manage park resources. When acquisition is not necessary or appropriate, the Service must consider and pursue cost-effective alternatives. A project report is due June 2023.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The study will include:

- Organizational assessment of the Land Acquisition Program.
- Evaluation of the land acquisition process.
- Assessment of the role of the Department of the Interior solicitor in the acquisition process.
- Analysis of external stakeholder engagement.
- Overall review of the appraisal process as well as an operational review of the NPS Right of Way Program).
- Analysis of the LandsNet system.
- Analysis of land acquisition priorities, specifically for lands outside of NPS unit boundaries and eligible for non-Federal assistance.
- Strategic assessment of preservation priorities and programmatic guidance for non-Federal battlefield acquisitions and how the fee and less-than-fee interest acquisitions fit into the larger context of NPS's preservation efforts.
- Development of metrics to assess the success of non-federal battlefield acquisitions.
- Risk assessment of the current program practices in reviewing due-diligence products and costs for non-fed battlefield acquisitions.
- Assessment of compliance processes for non-federal battlefield acquisitions, identifying potential efficiencies and resource needs to streamline regulatory requirements for compliance.

ACADEMY STUDY PANEL

John Koskinen (Chair)*

Former Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Department of the Treasury. Former Chairman of the Board and Director, Freddie Mac; President, U.S. Soccer Foundation; City Administrator, Government of the District of Columbia; Assistant to the President of the United States and Chair, President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion; Deputy Director for Management, U.S. Office of Management and Budget; President and Chief Executive Officer, The Palmieri Company; Administrative Assistant to Senator Abraham Ribicoff; Assistant to Mayor John Lindsay and to New York City; Special Assistant to Deputy Executive Director, "Kerner Commission."

Hannah Sistare Clark*

Policy Implementation Consulting. Former positions with the National Academy of Public Administration: Vice President for Academy Affairs; Director, Human Resources Management Consortium. Former Executive Director, National Commission on Public Service Implementation Initiative; Majority Staff Director, Minority Staff Director, Counsel, Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, U.S. Senate; Legislative Director, Senator Fred Thompson; Independent Research and Writing Consultant; Vice President for Public Policy, Joseph E. Seagram and Sons, Inc.; Special Counsel to the Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Chief of Staff to Senator Charles Percy.

Norman Dong*

Managing Director, FD Stonewater. Former Commissioner, Public Building Service, General Service Administration; Deputy Controller, Office of Management and Budget, The White House; Chief Financial Officer, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Former Positions with ACS: Vice President-ACS State and Local Solutions, Inc., Vice President-ACS Public Safety Solutions, Vice President/Managing Director-ACS Government Records Management, Vice President/Chief Operating Officer-ACS Finance and Revenue Solutions; Former Managing Principal, Governmentum Partners, LLC; Former Positions with the District of Columbia Government: City Administrator/Deputy Mayor, Director-Office of Grants Management and Development, Chief of Staff-Office of the Chief Financial Officer; Special Assistant, Policy Development and Research, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Executive Assistant, State of Connecticut Office of the State Comptroller; Senior Analyst, ZS Associate

Ingrid Reed*

Founding Board Member and Senior Fellow, New Jersey Future; Chair of Board, New Jersey Spotlight. Former Director, New Jersey Project, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University; Vice President for Public Affairs and Corporate Secretary, Rockefeller University; Administrative Director, Rockefeller Public Service Awards; Assistant Dean and Lecturer, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University; Assistant for Special Projects to the Deputy Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Yan Tang*

Frances R. and John J. Duggan Professor of Public Administration and Chair of the Department of Public Policy and Management, Sol Price School of Public Policy, University of Southern California

PROJECT STAFF

Brenna Isman, *Director of Academy Studies*

Roger Kodat, *Senior Project Director*

Kate Connor, *Senior Analyst*

Kyle Romano, *Research Analyst*

Sean Smooke, *Research Analyst*

***Academy Fellow**