

# National Park Service



## Research Learning Centers: Focus on Education

EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA





# National Park Service



EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA



... National Treasures



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... National Treasures



# National Park Service



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- *"...to promote and regulate the use of the...national parks...which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."*
- *National Park Service Organic Act, 16 U.S.C.1.*





# National Park Service



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Take care of  
this treasure!



# National Park Service



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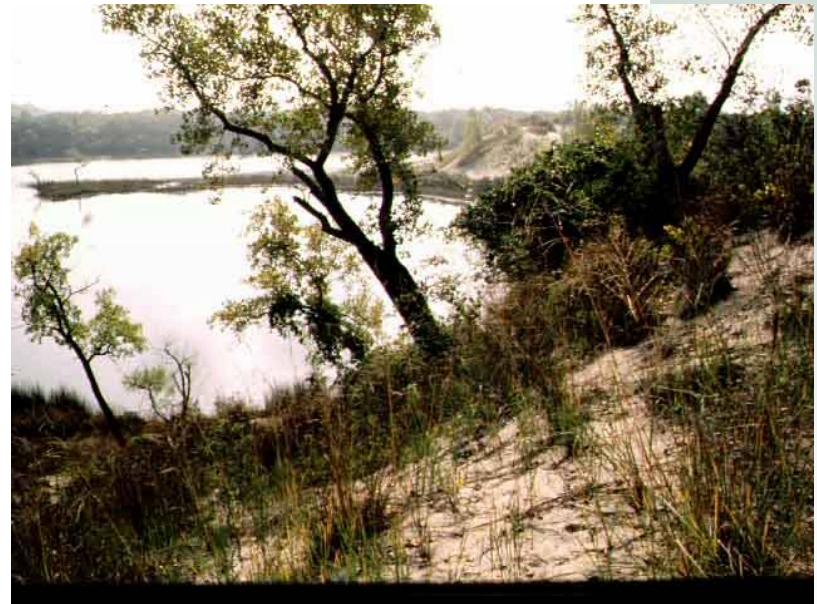
# National Park Service



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## Natural Resources Challenge

The Natural Resources Challenge is a National Park Service initiative focusing energy, commitment, and resources on the NPS mission to preserve and protect our natural heritage for the American people.



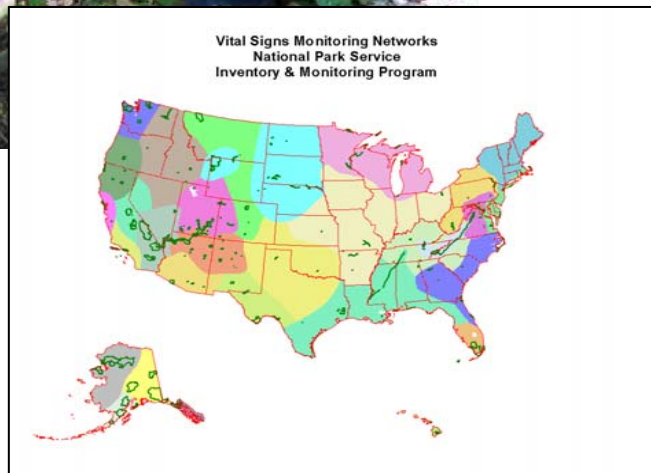
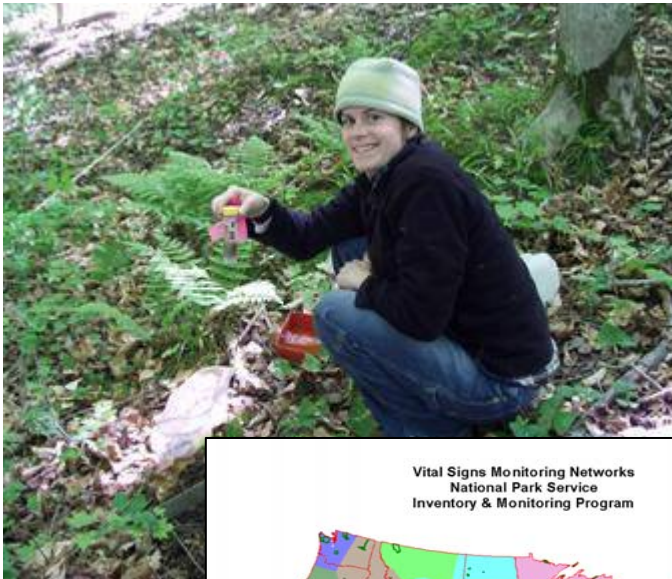


# Natural Resources Challenge Funded Programs



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## Inventory and Monitoring Networks



- Vegetation Maps
- Geology
- Vascular Plants
- Vertebrates
- Air Quality
- Water Resources



# Natural Resources Challenge Funded Programs

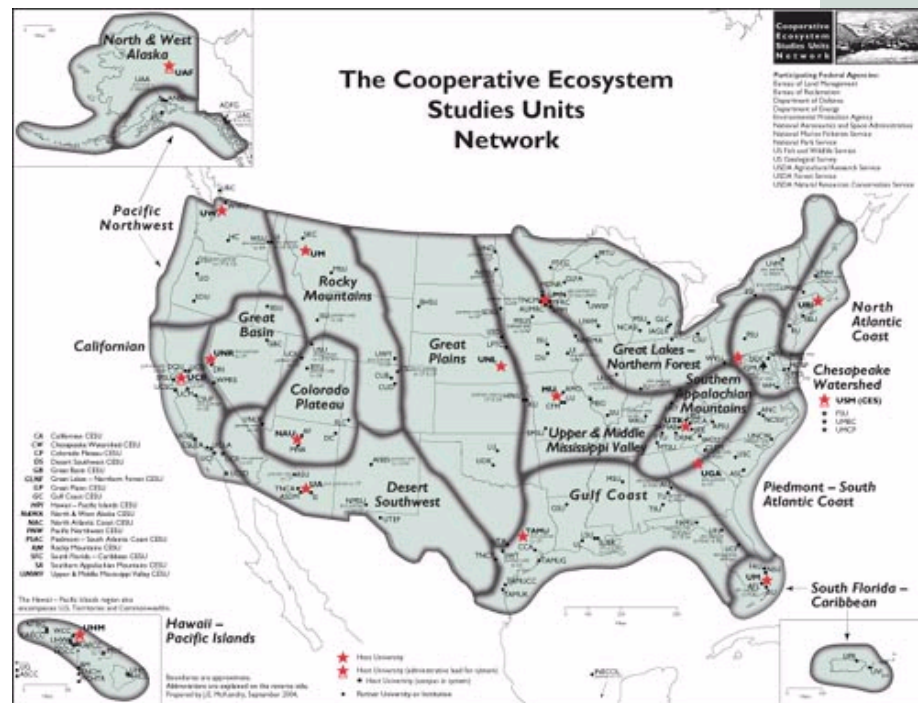


## Cooperative Ecosystem Study Units

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Federal land management, environmental, and research agencies, along with the nation's universities, share several science-based goals in the 21st century:

- high-quality science
- usable knowledge for resource managers,
- responsive technical assistance,
- continuing education, and
- cost-effective research programs.





# Natural Resources Challenge Funded Programs



## Research Learning Centers

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# NPS Research Learning Centers



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- Active, scientifically sound management of parks
- Involvement of the research community in providing scientific information and in using parks as scientific laboratories
- Engaging the public as partners in resource preservation through education



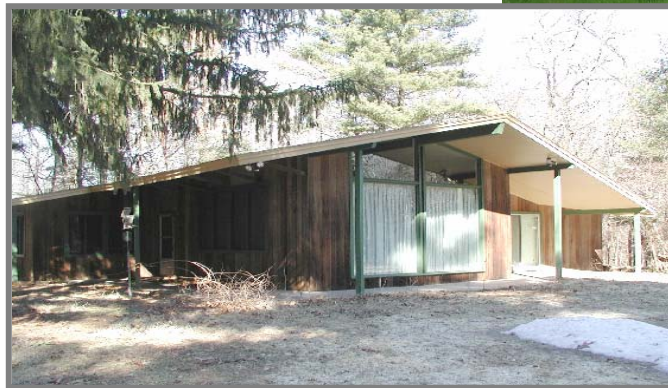


# NPS Research Learning Centers



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Provide visiting researchers with laboratories, offices, and dormitory space for use during their stay in the parks.





# NPS Research Learning Centers



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## Education





# Research Learning Centers Educational Programs



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Field Seminars

Newsletters, Articles, Websites

Teacher Workshops

Employee training events

Researcher brown-bags lunches

Development of educational  
curriculum and distance  
learning programs





# Appalachian Highlands Research Learning Center



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## Ozone Effects Research

### The science

- International team meets yearly
- 13 peer-reviewed publications, 6 in preparation
- 7 Graduate students





# Appalachian Highlands Research Learning Center



## Ozone Effects Education

### Ozone bio-monitoring gardens

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# Appalachian Highlands Research Learning Center



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Slime Mold Inventory  
part of a  
\$2 million NSF Grant  
for a planetary biodiversity  
inventory





# Appalachian Highlands Research Learning Center



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## Education

- EPA Grant
  - Slime Mold Training for Park Partners
- Students are Good at finding Fruiting Bodies
- Lessons in Cellular Development
  - Can Culture Samples
- Hands on the Land

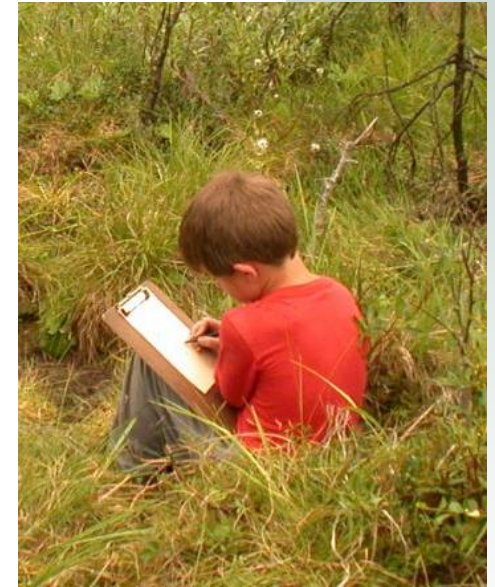




# Murie Science and Learning Center



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Digital Storytelling Camp

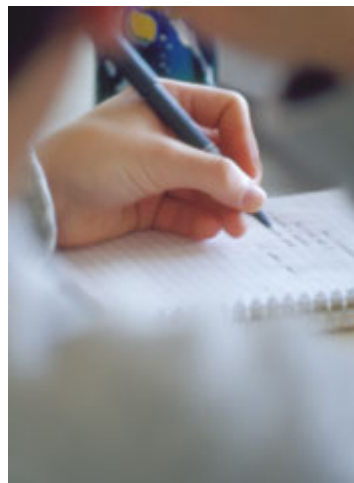


# Center for Urban Ecology



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## Natural Resources Non-fiction Creative Writing and Web Design Fellowships





# Center for Urban Ecology

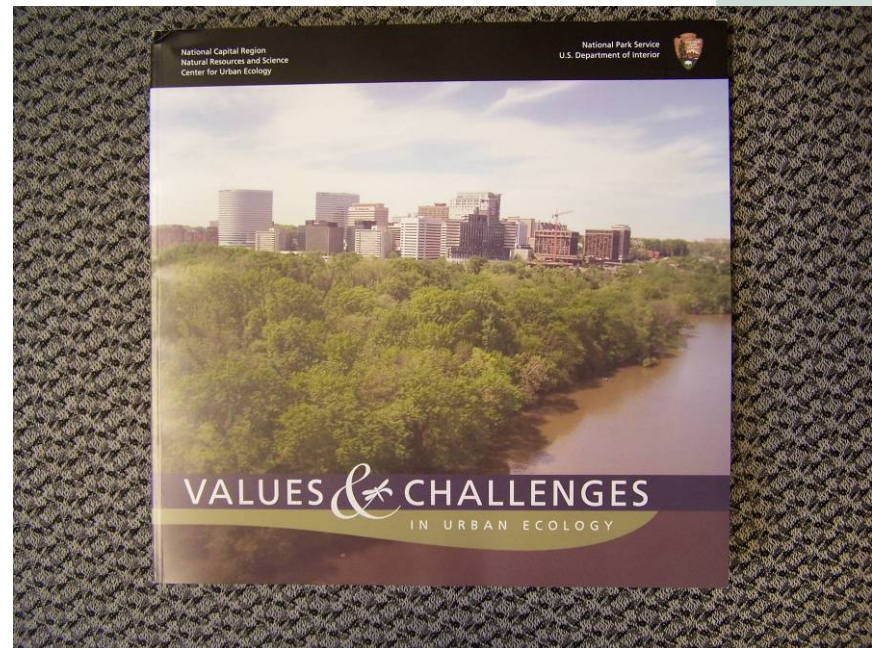


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University students designed new NPS publication, Values and Challenges in Urban Ecology.

Semester 1:

- Learn about design
- Produce a design concept
- Present design proposal



Semester 2: Layout the publication and prepare it for production.



# Great Lakes Research and Education Center



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## Oak Savanna Restoration Research

- Research Demonstration Plot
- Teachers Workshop & Student Activities
- Interpretive Signage





# Great Lakes Research and Education Center



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## Great Lakes Educator Workshops





# Great Lakes Research and Education Center



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## Great Lakes Educator Workshops





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## Great Lakes Educator Workshops





# NPS Research Learning Centers



## Science: The Next Generation



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