

The Student Conservation
Association's Invasive Species
Project and the
National Park Service:
A Partnership for the Future

The SCA ISP and the NPS:

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A Promising Partnership

- History between the Student Conservation Association (SCA) and the National Park Service (NPS).
- Mission statements of the organizations.
- Challenges NPS has encountered.
- Why the partnership has been so successful and what it holds for the future.
- Information on developing collaborative partnerships.

Partnership Between SCA and NPS

- The NPS and the SCA have been partners for almost 50 years.
- Volunteers have provided service with:
 - Trail Projects
 - Backcountry Patrol
 - Interpretation
 - Mapping
 - Many other projects



Student Conservation Association

■ Mission ~

- To build the next generation of conservation leaders and inspire lifelong stewardship of our environment and communities by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land.



National Park Service

■ Mission ~

- "...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 a 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.*



SCA and NPS Overlap

■ SCA ~

- Building the next generation of conservation leaders and stewards via hands-on service to the land.

■ NPS ~

- To conserve the scenery and wildlife in such a way to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.



Invasive Species Branch

- Challenges that the Invasive Species Branch needs to address:

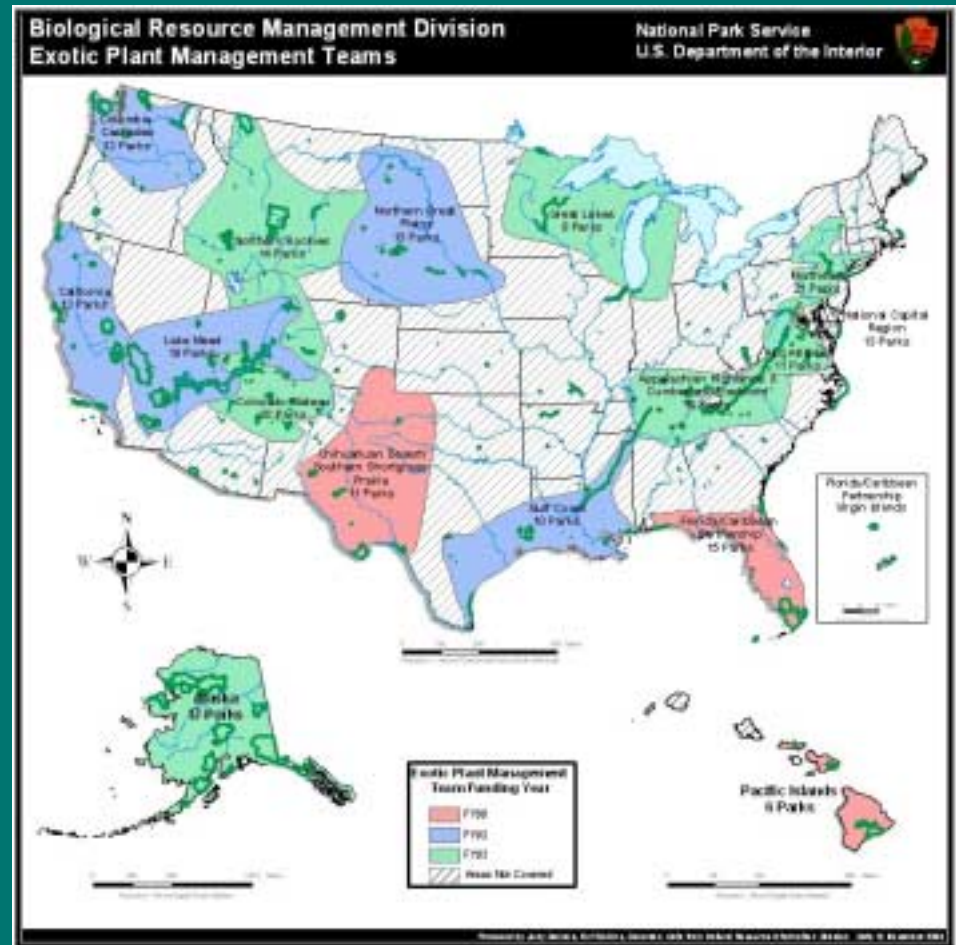
- Terrestrial Invasives
 - Plants and animals
- Aquatic Invasives
 - Plants and animals



- Exotic Plant Management Teams were created to address the need to manage invasive terrestrial plants.

Exotic Plant Management Teams

- NPS initiated the EPMT's beginning in 2000 with four teams.
 - Modeled after the rapid response approach of wildland fire crews.
- Duties
 - Identification
 - Eradication
 - Restoration
 - Education
- Considered park staff.



Invasive Species Project

- The NPS partnered with SCA to initiate the Invasive Species Project (ISP) in 2004.
 1. Provide leadership opportunities in land management for young adults.
 2. ISP's have been a low cost program enhancement for EPMT's.



- Services Provided
 - Mapping
 - Monitoring
 - Eradication
 - Restoration
 - Education

- Benefits of Collaboration - SCA



- Hands-on learning
- Professional development
- Stewardship ethic
- Potential career opportunities
- Volunteer service
- Variety of training opportunities

- Benefits of Collaboration - NPS

- Increased capacity and human resource
- Cooperative agreement
- Cost effectiveness
- Motivated members
- Future staff prospects



Partnership for the Future

- Greatest impact of collaboration:
 - Building Leaders
- There is great public benefit in developing future generations of conservation leaders.
 - Almost 60% of SCA interns go on to work in the conservation field.
 - The other 40% are going into other non-related fields.



Collaboration Thoughts: Land Managers

- Be volunteer friendly.
- Seek out organizations that are willing to support your core mission.
- Focus on public outreach and education.
- Be clear about expectations.
- Be realistic about expectations.



Collaboration Thoughts: Conservation Organizations

- Make yourself and your mission known to land management agencies.
- Be flexible in program development; meet the site's needs.
- Base business models off of other successful programs.
- Seek collaborative grants; receive money for developing a relationship.
- Engage the community and focus on public education.
- Make the service cost effective.

Questions?

- To receive more information on the collaboration between SCA and public lands please contact:

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