International Park Affairs, Office of International Affairs

The United States was the world leader in the creation of the World Heritage Program in 1972 and was the first to ratify the Convention in 1973. Yellowstone National Park and Mesa Verde National Park were among the first 12 sites inscribed on the World Heritage List. In recent years, San Antonio Missions in Texas and Monumental Earthworks of Poverty Point in Louisiana have been inscribed.

Background
The Office of International Affairs (OIA) within the National Park Service (NPS) works to protect and enhance parks, protected areas, and cultural sites with outstanding cultural and natural resources and critical habitats. Among other responsibilities, OIA responds to issues relating to existing World Heritage sites in the United States, 18 of which are managed by the NPS. OIA is also responsible for selecting sites for the World Heritage Tentative List and shepherding them through the detailed nomination process. Examples include Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks in Ohio; Frank Lloyd Wright Buildings in Arizona, California, Illinois, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin; and Civil Rights Movement Sites in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, and Mississippi.

FY 2020 Appropriations Request

Please support at least $1.926 million for International Park Affairs, including at least $1.25 million for the Office of International Affairs in the FY 2020 Interior Appropriations bill.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
AGENCY: National Park Service
ACCOUNT: National Recreation and Preservation
ACTIVITY: International Park Affairs, Office of International Affairs

Recent Funding History:
FY 2017 Enacted Funding: $1.648 million ($972,000 for the Office of International Affairs)
FY 2018 Enacted Funding: $1.648 million ($972,000 for the Office of International Affairs)
FY 2019 Enacted Funding: $1.648 million
FY 2020 President’s Budget Request: $975,000
FY 2020 NTHP Recomendation: $1.926 million (including at least $1.25 million for the Office of International Affairs)

JUSTIFICATION: A modest increase in funding for Office of International Affairs within International Park Affairs is necessary to ensure robust engagement in the World Heritage Program and support the dozens of communities and sites across the country seeking nomination to the World Heritage List. Inclusion in the World Heritage List brings communities and sites substantial social, cultural, and economic benefits. The World Heritage Program builds mutual respect for the cultural and natural heritage and peaceful coexistence of all humanity. Congress should reject proposals to shift the Southwest Border Resource Protection Program into the Office of International Affairs and drastically reduce overall program funding.
Located in Mill Run, PA, Fallingwater was designed by world renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright in 1935. Fallingwater is now among eight Wright buildings nominated to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

PHOTO BY VIA TSUII

For additional information, contact Janelle DiLuccia, Associate Director of Public Lands Policy, JDiLuccia@savingplaces.org, (202) 588-6140.