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 2019, eight Frank Lloyd Wright sites spanning the country were 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; Big Bend National Park in Texas; and Civil Rights Movement Sites in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, and Mississippi.

FY 2021 Appropriations Request
Please support $2 million for International Park Affairs, including the Office of International Affairs, in the FY 2021 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 2018 Enacted Funding: $1.648 million ($972,000 for the Office of International Affairs)
FY 2019 Enacted Funding: $1.648 million ($972,000 for the Office of International Affairs)
FY 2020 Enacted Funding: $1.903 million
FY 2021 President's Budget Request: $1 million
FY 2021 NTHP Recommendation: $2 million

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 again reject proposals to shift the Southwest Border Resource Protection Program into the Office of International Affairs and drastically reduce overall program funding.
The U.S. World Heritage Tentative List includes a proposal to inscribe sites associated with Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks in Ohio. Nearly 2,000 years ago, Native American cultures flourished in this region and created a rich network of economic, political, and spiritual practices and constructed remarkable earthworks, such as the Mound City Group (pictured above).

Current U.S. World Heritage Tentative List

**CULTURAL SITES**

- Brooklyn Bridge, New York
- Central Park, New York
- Civil Rights Movement Sites, Alabama [other sites to be considered for inclusion]
  - Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, Montgomery
  - Bethel Baptist Church, Birmingham
  - 16th Street Baptist Church, Birmingham
- Dayton Aviation Sites, Ohio
  - Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park
- Early Chicago Skyscrapers, Illinois [other properties may be added]
  - The Rookery
  - Auditorium Building
  - Monadnock Building
  - Ludington Building
  - Marquette Building
  - Old Colony Building
  - Schlesinger & Mayer (Carson, Pirie Scott) Department Store
  - Second Leiter Building
  - Fisher Building
- Ellis Island, New Jersey and New York
- Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks, Ohio
  - Fort Ancient State Memorial
  - Hopewell Culture National Historical Park
  - Newark Earthworks State Historic Site
- Moravian Bethlehem District, Pennsylvania (an extension to Christiansfeld, a Moravian Church Settlement, Denmark)
- Mount Vernon, Virginia
- Serpent Mound, Ohio
- Thomas Jefferson Buildings, Virginia (an extension to the Monticello and the University of Virginia Historic District)
  - Poplar Forest
  - Virginia State Capitol

**NATURAL SITES**

- Big Bend National Park, Texas
- California Current Conservation Complex, California
  - California Coastal National Monument
  - Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary
  - Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
  - Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary
  - Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge
  - Point Reyes National Seashore
  - Golden Gate National Recreation Area
- Marinas Trench National Monument, U.S. Territory, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam
- National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa/Rose Atoll National Marine Monument (Formerly Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary)
- Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Georgia
- Pacific Remote Islands National Monument, U.S. Territorial Waters
- Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona
- White Sands National Monument, New Mexico

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