



Stewardship

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National Park Concessionaires Go Green

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National parks protect and showcase some of North America's most spectacular natural wonders, as well as cultural and historic treasures. It seems only fitting, then, for park concessionaires—private companies that contract with national parks to cater to visitor needs for food, lodging, and recreation—to make a commitment to good stewardship. In fact, the U.S. National Park Service stipulates that concessionaires take “measures necessary to ensure the protection,

conservation, and preservation of resources” of the parks in which they serve. Participation in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP) is helping fourteen National Park Service and Parks Canada concessionaires to meet that mandate and provide exceptional services to park visitors.

On the pages that follow, we feature two certified ACSP members and some of the outstanding environmental management practices they have initiated to improve visitor services and protect the environment.

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Involvement in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program helps concessionaires meet national park conservation requirements, enhance visitor services, and gain a competitive edge when bidding on park service contracts. We salute the following members for their outstanding participation in the ACSP:

U.S. National Parks

- Bandelier Trading Company, Bandelier National Monument, NM (Certified)
- East Potomac Park Golf Course, National Capital Parks-Central, Washington DC*
- Furnace Creek Golf Course, Death Valley National Park, CA (Certified)
- Jackson Hole Golf and Tennis Club, Grand Teton National Park, WY (Certified)
- Langston Golf Course, National Capital Parks-East, Washington DC*
- Presidio Golf Club, Presidio of San Francisco, CA (Certified)
- Rock Creek Golf Course, Rock Creek Park, Washington DC*
- Wawona Golf Course, Yosemite National Park, CA (Certified)
- White Sands Trading Company, White Sands National Monument, NM*

Canadian National Parks

- Fundy National Park Golf Course, Fundy National Park, NB*
- Highland Links Golf Course, Cape Breton Highlands National Park, NB (Certified)
- The Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge, Jasper National Park, AB (Certified)
- The Fairmont Banff Springs Golf Course, Banff National Park, AB (Certified)
- Waskesiu Golf Course, Prince Albert National Park, SK*

*Certification in progress

NPS, BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT, NM

National Park Concessionaires Go Green *Continued from page 1*

NATIONAL PARK: Bandelier National Monument, New Mexico

CONCESSIONAIRE: Bandelier Trading Company

When it comes to environmental champions, Bandelier Trading Company is a leader. The company recently became the first property in New Mexico and the fourth concessionaire serving the National Park System to earn designation as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. Bandelier Trading Company operates the concession area and gift shop for Bandelier National Monument, located in Los Alamos.

"By initiating this partnership with Audubon International, we commit to being conscientious stewards, actively preserving the natural balance of life which surrounds us at Bandelier National Monument," shares Shane Ortega, Environmental Manager for Bandelier Trading Company. Bandelier National Monument encompasses 32,000 acres across northern New Mexico and is home to hundreds of ruins of Anasazi cliff houses and pueblo-style dwellings. Pueblo ancestors called this area home around 600 years ago, and many archeological sites are scattered across the region.

Environmental Education and Action

Housed in historic Civilian Conservation Corps buildings at the entrance of the park, the restaurant and gift shop are run in an environmentally-friendly manner under the guidance of Environmental Manager Shane Ortega, General Manager Sarah Wilson, and Store Manager Melanie Paytiamio. The company is an U.S. EPA Green Power Partner, purchasing green power as a way to reduce the environmental impacts associated with conventional electricity use. It also places a strong emphasis on reducing waste, and its staff works with suppliers to ensure that materials

purchased and packaged are made from recycled materials or can be recycled once used.

"The return on investment for some of our recycling and reuse procedures is extremely high," reports Ortega. "Supply and utility costs are decreased drastically. Because of technological advances and rising energy costs, many environmental procedures that didn't make financial sense a couple decades ago are now paying off within a very short time frame. Well thought-out conservation procedures can green the bottom line by keeping supply and utility costs low across the board."

In addition to ensuring environmental performance in all aspects of its operations, Bandelier Trading Company staff works to educate the park's 300,000 yearly visitors about local Native American cultures, native plants and wildlife, and the benefits of energy and water conservation and recycling to local environment. Employees undergo intensive training to understand and articulate local environmental and cultural concerns. In addition, information is displayed throughout the restaurant and gift shop regarding the historical significance of the region and the efforts that Bandelier Trading Company is taking to help preserve and protect the environment.

Bandelier Trading Company's many efforts have not gone unrecognized. In addition to its certification from Audubon International, the company also is designated as a Certified Green Restaurant by the Green Restaurant Association, and recently passed its first ISO 14001 audit, which recognizes organizations for their environmental management practices. It also received an award from the Governor of New Mexico in 2006 for its conservation measures.

"I am particularly excited about working with Audubon International because of its strength in dovetailing resource conservation with wildlife

protection," reflects Ortega. "It is relatively easy to recycle or to put up a solar panel. It is more difficult to approach the larger picture and to ask how every little thing that I do impacts wildlife habitats."

"I saw my first wild bear at Bandelier when I was six years old," continues Ortega, "and I will never forget the thrill of it. I love that the ACSP is bringing us the tools to not only preserve on a larger level, but to protect those treasures that I saw when I was a boy."



Bandelier Trading Company employees undergo intensive training to understand and articulate local environmental and cultural concerns, including the protection of Ancestral Pueblo dwellings found among the pink mesas and sheer-walled canyons of the park.

Congratulations to Shane Ortega and the staff at Bandelier Trading Company for becoming the first Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in New Mexico! Ortega is also currently working with the staff at White Sands Trading Company in Alamogordo, New Mexico, which should soon be joining Bandelier as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary.



NATIONAL PARK:
**Grand Teton National
 Park, Wyoming**

CONCESSIONAIRE:
**Grand Teton Lodge
 Company/Jackson Hole
 Golf & Tennis Club**

**BY JUSTIN BROWN,
 Golf Course Superintendent**

If you are planning a round of golf at the Jackson Hole Golf & Tennis Club in the Grand Tetons, you needn't worry about whether you'll be playing in an extraordinary setting. Panoramic views of the Teton Range and great playing conditions combine to make the course one of Wyoming's best. Golfers also enjoy playing in an environmentally friendly setting, where we take our special responsibility to the land seriously.

Because the club borders Grand Teton National Park, there has always been a conscientious effort by the club and its operator, the Grand Teton Lodge Company, to do its part to sustain the spectacular environment around us and be good stewards of the land and resources we rely on. Among the many things we have done to maintain this synergy with the environment is to embark on an aggressive recycling effort, which now serves as a hub for the entire north end of Jackson Hole.

Our efforts began modestly when, several years ago, the club purchased a self-contained recycling trailer for use by club members and guests. Parked in the maintenance yard, the trailer was used regularly.

At first, we recycled aluminum and tin cans, plastic and glass bottles, newsprint, and magazines. After several months of operation, it became apparent that the community wanted to recycle more. Several users frequented the golf maintenance shop and requested that we take their other recyclables to the town recycling center when we serviced the trailer. We began to accept cardboard boxes, large bottled water containers, and office pack (paper, envelopes, file folders, junk mail, etc.).

Soon, the recycling effort grew beyond the capacity of Jackson Hole Golf & Tennis Club. Use of the recycling trailer was so overwhelming that it needed to be emptied at least once a week. As a result, we formed an alliance with Jackson Hole Community Recycling, a non-profit organization that seeks to decrease demand for raw materials by minimizing the amount of waste that reaches the landfill. We opened our facilities and asked them to supply and service another recycling trailer, offering different recycling options and helping to hold some of the overflow from our trailer.

Because of the increased activity and overwhelming support from the community, we decided to find a permanent location for our new recycling center. The golf course had recently donated a piece of land to Teton County to be used as school bus turnaround—and this proved to be a perfect location. Jackson Community Recycling services the trailer weekly, while the golf course provides regular maintenance, including clean up and snow removal.



Top, left: ASCP members find it easy to make the connection between their management actions and the natural resources they are protecting when surrounded by the stunning scenery of a national park. Credit: Jackson Hole Golf & Tennis Club, WY

Above, right: Jackson Hole Golf & Tennis Club's recycling initiative continues to grow, thanks to the dedication of its staff, including Superintendent Justin Brown.

It keeps growing...

Having had such great success, the club decided to expand its efforts again in 2006 with the addition of a set of recycling receptacles for every golf hole. Alongside the usual ball washer, bench, and garbage can, there now stands a recycling bin. A member of the maintenance team picks up the recycling from around the course and takes it to the trailers each morning.

Club General Manager Guy Evans further expanded the efforts into the restaurant, clubhouse, and pro shop. The restaurant now has a designated location to store and sort all of its recyclables and the pro shop has a complete set of recycling receptacles beside the comfort station.

"Everywhere you look, there is recycling happening at the club and the community is responding very well to our efforts," says Evans.

Indeed, the partnership with Jackson Community Recycling has helped the club and lodge to divert nearly 150 tons of cardboard, paper, glass, metals, and plastics each year. The recycling trailer investment was fairly inexpensive and requires only minimal weekly maintenance—a small price compared to how much the community uses the facility and how much the environment benefits from our efforts. ●