

Fund appropriations with funding from the Wildlands Conservancy to buy discounted land owned by the Catellus Development Corporation.

This expansion protected 200,000 acres of critical habitat for the endangered desert tortoise, 150,000 acres for bighorn sheep, the largest cactus gardens in the world at Bigelow Cholla Gardens and rights-of-way for 165 trails and access roads leading to 3.7 million additional acres of land used for hunting, hiking and camping.

Visitors have taken advantage of these abundant recreation and research opportunities in the California Desert. Last year, 2.8 million people traveled to Joshua Tree and Death Valley national parks and the Mojave National Preserve. In turn, these visitors provided an economic boost of approximately \$100 million at nearby hotels, restaurants, and other local businesses.

Now, as we celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the California Desert Protection Act, the preservation of our national park system has never been more important. Population growth, especially in the western United States, is placing increased pressure on our public lands. That is why it was so critical that we acted 10 years ago and why it is urgent that we continue to preserve our Nation's natural treasures today.

Unfortunately, there is much evidence that our national parks are not receiving the funding or attention they deserve. A recent survey of 12 national parks by the Coalition of Concerned National Park Service Retirees found that six parks had either reduced or planned to reduce visitor center hours or days of operation. The survey also found that all twelve parks had recently cut full-time or seasonal staff positions.

One of the parks surveyed, Death Valley, reduced its law enforcement positions from 23 several years ago to 15 at the time of the study. More than 600 miles of backcountry roads are inadequately secured leaving natural resources, wildlife and visitors less safe.

Meanwhile, the backlog of maintenance projects in our parks has grown to a range of \$4 billion to \$6.8 billion, according to the Government Accountability Office. Throughout our national park system, roads, bridges, and historic structures are falling into disrepair, trails and campgrounds are poorly maintained, and visitor centers are becoming outdated.

Additionally, a recent report by the Environmental Protection Agency designated eight national parks, including Joshua Tree, as containing excessively high levels of ozone. It is alarming to know that the air at some of our national parks is harmful, especially since the problem of poor air quality in these regions was identified for action under the Clean Air Act in 1977.

Our national parks are America's natural treasures. They make the beauty of our Nation accessible to all Americans and, indeed, visitors from

around the world. We have a responsibility to preserve these places for the enjoyment of generations to come.

Enacting the California Desert Protection Act was an important step toward that end. Now, we must continue to work to ensure that the parks we have already established, and those we may yet protect, have the resources they need.

RED RIBBON WEEK

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleague Senator MURKOWSKI in sponsoring a resolution commemorating the annual "Red Ribbon Week." Celebrated October 23-31, Red Ribbon Week encourages individuals, families, and communities to take a stand against alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drug use. I hope the rest of the Senate will join in supporting this resolution and support this very important campaign.

The tradition of Red Ribbon Week and wearing and displaying red ribbons started back in 1985 following the assassination of U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency Special Agent Enrique Camarena. In an effort to honor his memory and unite in the battle against illegal drugs, friends, neighbors and students from his home town began wearing red ribbons. In 1988 the National Family Partnership took the celebration nationwide. Since then, the Red Ribbon campaign has reached millions of children, families and communities across the country, spreading the message about the destructive effects of drugs.

In my State of Iowa, this year's theme for Red Ribbon Week is "Take a Stand—Help Iowa Be Drug Free." Schools and community groups across the State are organizing a variety of activities including pledges, contests, workshops, rallies, theatrical and musical performances, and other family and educational events all designed to educate our children on the negative effects of drugs and promote a drug-free environment.

Research tells us that if you can keep a child drug-free until they turn 20, chances are very slim that they will ever try or become addicted. This is why it is so important to maintain a coherent anti-drug message that begins early in adolescence and continues throughout the growing years. Such an effort must engage parents, communities, and young people. Red Ribbon week provides each of us the opportunity to take a stand by helping our children make the right decisions when it comes to drugs.

More than 80 million people across the country are expected to participate in Red Ribbon Week. I urge my colleagues to join us in passing this resolution to demonstrate our commitment to raising awareness about drugs and encourage everyone to make healthy choices.

U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the contribution that one of America's closest and most important allies is making to our Nation's efforts to help the Iraqi people build a safe and stable democracy.

In the very public discussions that we hear every day about Iraq we often do not hear about the extraordinary efforts of the United States' closest security ally in the Asia-Pacific Region. That ally is, of course, Japan. We are all aware of the limitations that Japan has imposed on its own military since World War II. What many of us are not aware of is the actions Japan has taken to work with the United States and other nations to bring peace and stability to Iraq.

One document published by the Japanese Embassy outlines the deployment of Japanese Self-Defense Forces to provide humanitarian assistance in Iraq. Many Americans would be interested to learn that there are about 1,000 Japanese troops in Iraq, including almost 600 ground troops. In addition, Japan has undertaken a very substantial humanitarian relief effort. Through the end of September, Japan's Air Self-Defense Force C-130 aircraft flew 66 missions between Kuwait and Iraq and delivered over 175 tons of relief supplies.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print that paper and two others—one on Japan's very substantial financial assistance for Iraq and the other describing Japan's cultural assistance for Iraq—in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Taken together, these papers demonstrate that one of America's most reliable security allies is truly dedicated to bringing stability and freedom to Iraq.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

JAPAN'S ASSISTANCE FOR IRAQ—FACT SHEET

(Note: All figures are approximate.)

1. Overview

At the International Donors' Conference on Reconstruction of Iraq held in Madrid on 24 October 2003, Japan announced its financial assistance package totaling up to \$5 billion.

The package comprises (a) \$1.5 billion grants for the immediate needs through 2004, and (b) up to \$3.5 billion, mainly in ODA loans, in order to meet the medium-term needs for a period approximately through 2007.

It's Japan's policy to make its financial assistance by ODA and the humanitarian and reconstruction activities by the Self-Defense Forces work in tandem for the reconstruction of Iraq.

2. \$1.5 billion grant

In the grant assistance, Japan gives priority to areas such as power generation, education, water and sanitation, health and employment, as well as others including improvement of the security, culture, sports and capacity buildings.

Out of \$1.5 billion, more than \$1150 million have already been disbursed or decided as following:

\$180 million have already been disbursed. (Attachment A);

\$490 million have been committed to the International Reconstruction Fund Facility