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## **National Park Service to continue maintaining Sitka state historical parks**

(Sitka, AK) – The National Park Service and the state Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation have entered into a cooperative management agreement for the Sitka National Historical Park to provide grounds maintenance and litter removal at the state-owned Baranof Castle State Historical Site and Old Sitka State Historical Park.

Due to FY 2016 and proposed FY 2017 budget reductions, no state funding is available to operate any of the Sitka area state parks. Because of the historical link between the Sitka National Historical Park and these two state historical parks, the Park Service has agreed to maintain these two popular areas for the use and enjoyment of residents and visitors through the end of October 2016. Last year, the Park Service maintained the two parks under a similar agreement.

“It is critical to provide a safe and clean environment for visitors at the core historic sites around Sitka during the summer season, and we are happy to help the State of Alaska park system during these times of severely constrained budgets,” said interim National Park Superintendent Wayne Challoner.

“We are thrilled that these facilities will be maintained for another season and we are grateful to the National Park Service for supporting Alaska state parks and the community of Sitka,” said Mike Eberhardt, Southeast Area State Park Superintendent.

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