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National Park Service News Release

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Clay James Appointed Chairman of the NPS Concessions Management Advisory Board

(Washington, DC) – Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne has selected Clay James to chair the National Park Service Concessions Management Advisory Board. James is a hospitality industry consultant with an extensive background of managing large scale concession and hospitality operations in national parks.

The Concession Management Advisory Board was established by the National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998. The seven member panel advises the Secretary of the Interior and the National Park Service on matters relating to the effective management of concessions in units of the National Park System. The Board analyzes and makes recommendations on concession policies, procedures, and programs.

Board members are experts in the hospitality, tourism, accounting, outfitting and guide industries, park concession management, traditional arts and crafts, and parks and recreation programs. Members are appointed to four year terms on a staggered basis. The Secretary selects members based on their outstanding professional qualifications and ability to represent important elements of concession management. The Secretary designates one of the seven members to service as chairperson.

James has held management positions in a variety of hotel and resort operations, including serving as the President and Chief Operating Officer of the Vail Resorts-Grand Teton Lodge Company. He is on a number of state tourism, hotel association, and environmental boards. In addition, he is a member of the Grand Teton National Park Foundation, Grand Teton Natural History Association, and the American Hotel/Motel Association.

Secretary Kempthorne also renewed the Board appointments of Dr. James J. Eyster, Richard Linford, and Ramona Sakiestewa. All three have been on the Board since its inception in 1999.

Eyster is vice chairman of the Board and the category representative for an individual privately employed in the accounting industry. He is a finance professor in Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration and owns a hospitality consulting practice.

Linford is the category representative for an individual privately employed in the outfitting and guide industry. He is the co-owner of ECHO: The Wilderness Company and is involved with national and international guide and cultural adventures.

Sakiestewa is the category representative for an individual active in the promotion of traditional arts and crafts. She is a Hopi weaver who has received extensive publicity and many awards for her tapestry and design work.

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