

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: HAFO

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument contains world-class paleontological resources. These fossils represent the last vestiges of species that existed before the Ice Age and the earliest appearances of modern flora or fauna. These phenomena are contained in a continuous, undisturbed stratigraphic sequence spanning 500,000 years, which represents an intact paleo-ecosystem, with a remarkable diversity of habitats, such as wetlands, riparian, and grassland savanna. The quantity, quality and magnitude of information in the monument's sediments and fossils (over 185 species represented) permit scientific analyses that allow comparisons with modern ecosystems and studies of environmental changes and biodiversity. The 4300 acre Monument contains more than 550 known fossil sites.

The Hagerman Horse, first collected in 1929-1932 by Smithsonian Institute, is the official Idaho State Fossil. Due to the remote location of the world renowned Horse Quarry and the other 550 known fossil sites, the Centennial vision for the park and its partners is to bring alive educational and interpretive programs for students and visitors in an accessible area of the park, including innovative displays at the Visitor Center. Bridging the gap between the Pliocene Epoch to the frontier of the Oregon Trail that runs through the monument will be new programs, waysides, displays and trails that will provide visitors and school groups a link from one age to another.

Over the next decade, HAFO will bring special emphasis to improving interpretive and educational materials and programs for all levels of visitors to enhance their appreciation and understanding of the earth processes. These efforts will run parallel with intensified actions to improve natural conditions.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Neil King, HAFO Superintendent

Site: HAFO

STEWARDSHIP

Provide inspiring, safe, and accessible places for people to enjoy - the standard to which all other park systems aspire.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Provide inspiring, safe and accessible places for visitors and students to enjoy the natural and cultural resources associated with the Pliocene Epoch represented at Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument through accessibility evaluations of all assets related to visitor services, such as trailhead, trail and wayside exhibits, educational service and visitor center exhibits and non-personal interpretive methods.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: HAFO

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

Restore native habitats by controlling invasive species and reintroducing key plant and animal species.

Extreme changes in land use practices on the Bell Rapids plateau (irrigation operations ceased in 2005) will profoundly impact the park ecosystem as the artificial perched aquifers dry up over the next decade. As the micro-ecosystems respond to the elimination of artificial surface water, dramatic changes in the flora and fauna will occur and provide opportunities to enhance natural conditions.

Development and implement a Weed Management Plan to guide management decisions, in partnerships with the Upper Columbia Basin Network Inventory and Monitory, the Environmental Plant Management Team and the County Weed Management Association- Idaho.

Implement a Tamarisk and Russian Olive eradication project. Eradicate both species within a 3-5 year span at 99% at all man-caused seep areas.

Improve the condition along the Oregon Trail/Paleo Path by restoring the native habitate and developing markers with plant information to highlight the native vegetation for visitors and education groups.

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Improve the natural resources in parks, as measured by the vital signs developed under the Natural Resource Challenge.

Hagerman Fossil Beds will demonstrate leadership stewardship through enhanced partnerships with the Upper Columbia Basin Network Inventory and Monitor Team during the phase III Inventory and Monitoring program implementation. The development of wildlife and plant habitat analysis and restoration projects related to areas associated with changing agricultural practices relies on determining species accommodation to a returning native semi--arid habitat rather than irrigated cropland.

Develop and implement additional profile and applicable criteria for monitor of affected ecosystem change, species divisity changes, and identificaiton of potential habitat restoration project, methods and parnerships, with a 10 year calendar of projects and fund requests. Species of interest include raptor populations, Sage Grouse, Coupie Buckwheat, Burrowing Owl and Pygmy Rabbits. In addition encroachment of native sage-steppe habitat to abandoned fields and grazed fields will be assessed and incorporated to monitor profiles.

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Site: HAFO

STEWARDSHIP

Encourage children to be future conservationists.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument will provide information related to global climate change through comparison of scientific findings about Pliocene climate in relation to current climate conditions. Presented in interpretive programs for children, climate change issues can be the catalyst for the further generation of conservationists.

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Site: HAFO

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

Reduce the environmental impacts of park operations on air and water quality.

Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument will continue to improve and intensify its recycling program to further reduce waste disposal that could result in reduced air and water quality. In addition to recycling common solid wastes such as paper and plastics, Hagerman Fossil Beds will recycle batteries, expended electronic devices, Universal Waste Fluorescent Lamps, and other potentially harmful wastes, as markets for such recycled materials become available. To reduce air pollution caused by the generation of electricity, the park will reduce its energy usage by upgrading existing lighting at its facilities with energy efficient lighting appropriate to the specific lighting tasks of each building, work area, and visitor facility. Hagerman Fossil Beds will expand its fleet of hybrid-technology vehicles to improve fuel efficiency and reduce generation of greenhouse gasses and air pollutants.

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Site: HAFO

ENVIRONMENT

Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

Establish programs to showcase exemplary environmental practices and increase visitor awareness of how the practices apply to their daily lives, as measured by surveys.

Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument will develop programs to demonstrate to visitors and local communities the environmentally friendly practices that are incorporated into our park operations, such as the use of fuel efficient hybrid-technology vehicles, a robust recycling program, and our multi-park Environmental Management System to integrate environmental goals when planning, purchasing, and making operational decisions.

Develop a special web page highlighting invasive species infesting the park and explaining the methods for removal. In coordination will be a special display area in the Visitor Center highlighting the problem species and safe recommended methods for eradicating them.

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Demonstrate environmental excellence through increased use of alternative energy and fuels at every park.

Replace park owned gasoline vehicles with hybrid technology vehicles.

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Site: HAFO

ENVIRONMENT

Engage partners, communities, and visitors in shared environmental stewardship.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument will develop a program to enable members of the local community to participate in the park's recycling program.

Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument and Idaho Power have developed a strong partnership related to visitor use and activities associated with the Snake River corridor. We will demonstrate engaging partners and the local community by developing and implementing partnership recreation and interpretive messages and visitor service facilities.

Create a series of bird walks that focus on the variety of species that visit Hagerman due to favorable conditions and availability of clean water.

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Site: HAFO

RECREATION

Encourage collaboration among and assist park and recreation systems at every level—federal, regional, state, local—to help build an outdoor recreation network accessible to all Americans.

Rehabilitate over 2,000 miles of trails within or connected to national parks, including trails accessible to those with disabilities.

Provide inspiring, safe and accessible places for visitors to enjoy the natural and cultural resources associated with the Pliocene Epoch represented at Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument through accessibility evaluations of all assets related to visitor services, such as trailhead, trail and wayside exhibits, educational service and visitor center exhibits and non-personal interpretive methods.

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Site: HAFO

RECREATION

Focus national, regional, and local tourism efforts to reach diverse audiences and young people and to attract visitors to lesser-known parks.

Increase the number of visitors that attend ranger-facilitated programs such as campfire talks, hikes, and school programs.

Conduct a series of native plant programs in a diverse ecosystemss that demonstrate healthy natural conditions. Conduct seed collection activities with volunteers for use in other ares of the Monument.

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Site: HAFO

EDUCATION

Cooperate with educators to provide curriculum materials, high-quality programs, and park-based and online learning.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Revise the park educational travelling trunk program to include new and innovative materials providing educators with web links for classroom interaction with the Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument.

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Site: HAFO

EDUCATION

Introduce young people and their families to national parks by using exciting media and technology.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Construct an interpretive trail and mini-amphitheater at Carnivore Cove, providing an opportunity for school groups and visitors to interact with a park ranger out on the resources.

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Site: HAFO

EDUCATION

Promote life-long learning to connect generations through park experiences.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Extend Paleo Path into a loop trail providing visitors and educational groups the opportunity to experience both the Pliocene Epoch and the ancient ecosystem and then the Oregon Trail, within a short one mile walk.

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Site: HAFO

EDUCATION

Impart to every American a sense of their citizen ownership of their national parks.

Increase visitors' satisfaction, understanding, and appreciation of the parks they visit.

Conduct a series of native plant programs, designed to encourage family units to attend. Incorporate plant activities for participants to ensure that they 'take home' the message regarding the benefits of native plants and healthy natural conditions.

Develop educational programs aimed at school groups focusing on both the natural flora and fauna at Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument now, and then comparing those conditions that existed during the Pliocene Epoch.

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Site: HAFO

PROFESSIONALISM

Promote a safety and health culture for all employees and visitors.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

HAFO has an excellent safety record. We will continue to refine and improve our safety program through development of a revised Safety and Emergency Operations Plan to insure safety training regimes for all employees, using current and professional standards.

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Site: HAFO

PROFESSIONALISM

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Maximize efficiencies in administration and management for Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument and Minidoka Internment National Monument with same staff; provide fiscal and administrative oversight to City of Rocks National Reserve; share professional staff (Curator) with City of Rocks National Reserve, Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument and Minidoka Internment National Monument.

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