

THE  
**FUTURE**  
OF  
**AMERICA'S**  
**NATIONAL**  
**PARKS**

First Annual  
Centennial Strategy for

**National Trails System Office**  
**Intermountain Region**

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: NTSF

Year: 2007

**Vision Statement**

The National Trails System Office - Intermountain Region will implement trail activities with trail related parks along nine national historic trails for mutual benefit of both the trails and the parks through cooperative efforts. Trails tie parks together across geographic distances, distinct cultural areas, multiple themes, and resources.

Trails offer an opportunity to make parks relevant to cultural and ethnic populations that are not traditional park visitors by extending park and trail stories into diverse urban and rural American communities including American Indian lands, and beyond the borders into Mexico and Canada. Trail educational efforts done in partnership with trail organizations and others bring the joint trail and park stories to schools across America. Trails expose many people outside parks to the National Park Service conservation and education ethic.

Trail partnerships bring a broader national constituency and potential source of philanthropic activities to the National Park Service as a whole. Trail partnerships are true equal partnerships that can serve as one model for NPS partnership activities.

Trails work closely with parks to identify vital, but often overlooked, resources in and out of parks, that help tell the broader story of American history.

**Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager**

Aaron Mahr

Site: NTSF

STEWARDSHIP

Assure that no compelling chapter in the American heritage experience remains untold and that strategically important landscapes are acquired, as authorized by Congress.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Inventory all trail resources in existing park units along nine national historic trail.

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

Site: NTSF

ENVIRONMENT

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Bring the National Park Service environmental stewardship vision to partners along the trails and use trail parks as examples of this ethic.

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

Site: NTSF

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.

Continue efforts with the City of Kansas City and other partners to develop a greenway along the route of the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California National Historic Trails, and efforts such as with the State of Tennessee, the Tennessee Greenway Foundation, Friends of Moccasin Bend, and others to tie trail and parks together through greenway development, and use these projects as models for other trails/parks.

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Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Continue ongoing efforts on all trails to tie NPS sites to those managed by other federal, state, and local agencies; organizations; and private landowners through a comprehensive highway signing program.

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Site: NTSF

RECREATION

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

Increase visitation by 25 percent at lesser-known parks through a national tourism effort aimed at helping people to discover the breadth of parks and experiences.

Introduce trail visitors to parks through ongoing and future efforts such as the emigrant trail auto tour route guides, web sites, rack cards, auto tour route and directional signing and site signing programs, Santa Fe Trail informational "trail-head" exhibit program, and other techniques.

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Site: NTSF

**EDUCATION**

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Develop a trailwide educational program in conjunction with the Santa Fe Trail Association including a trail related Junior "Ranger/Wagonmaster" program to encourage families to visit the trail and trail related parks.

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Site: NTSF

**EDUCATION**

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

Increase the number of web hits through the introduction of advanced, interactive features that attract young people to national parks.

Develop a fully interactive web based trail data base of trail resources, locations, stories, and so forth that connects people with trails and associated parks.

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**PROFESSIONALISM**

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Provide opportunities for parks to work collaboratively with trail staff and partners, such as supporting a meeting of all Santa Fe Trail park superintendents and select staff with trail staff and selected partners to share mutual goals and project ideas.

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