

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

"Grand Teton Natl. Park

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: GRTE

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

The iconic mountain landscape of the Teton Range rises dramatically above the flat valley of Jackson Hole creating a compelling view that has inspired people to explore and experience the area for thousands of years. Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway are at the heart of one of the earth's largest intact temperate ecosystems with a full complement of native Rocky Mountain plants and animals, including one of the world's largest elk herds.

Within the park and parkway visitors can easily experience peaceful solitude, wilderness character, and a rare combination of outdoor recreational and educational activities, world renowned wildlife and landscapes, and the cultural amenities of a vibrant community throughout the year. The park and parkway represent one of the most notable conservation stories of the 20th century which continues to inspire present and future generations.

In 2016, these parks will:

- Complete the acquisition of critical inholdings to protect important viewsheds and to preserve critical wildlife habitat.
- Restore important ecosystems, including over 4000 acres of former rangelands, to their natural conditions.
- Enhance recreational access and improve visitor safety through the renewal of the parks' trails and the completion of priority phases of new pathways.
- Preserve and interpret significant historic properties, cultural landscapes and one of this country's premiere American Indian museum collections.
- Educate and inspire new generations of park stewards by utilizing new technology and providing a broad array of dynamic experiential learning opportunities.
- Showcase environmental leadership and sustainable design in all facilities, infrastructure and activities, inspiring this and future generations to be model environmental stewards.
- Create a diverse workforce that will develop environmental leadership, ensure management excellence and provide a safe working environment.
- Foster a world class volunteer corps through dynamic recruitment and training.
- Use scientific knowledge to respond to changing conditions and manage the parks effectively.
- Strengthen and expand partnerships within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem to provide for the preservation of ecological communities and aquatic resources.
- Strengthen and enhance partnerships with the Grand Teton Foundation the Grand Teton Association and other groups to provide philanthropic support.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Mary Gibson Scott

Site: GRTE

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)

We will partner to establish a \$10 million fund to facilitate the acquisition of inholdings within Grand Teton National Park. At present there are 110 unprotected private inholdings within the park. A significant number of these properties are of special concern since they are located directly within the important viewsheds of the Teton Range, along wildlife migration corridors, grizzly bear habitat, wolf denning sites, and other important resources.

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

Site: GRTE

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

Rehabilitate high-priority historic buildings to good condition, and help communities to preserve their history through programs like Preserve America.

In partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, develop a preservation center at historic White Grass Dude Ranch. The purpose of this partnership is to adaptively re-use the historic ranch and develop a cadre of NPS employees, partners and volunteer groups skilled in the art of maintaining rustic architecture.

A historic building reuse plan is being developed to assist the park in asset management of over 350 historic buildings in the parks.

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

Restore over 4000 acres of former rangelands with the parks. Exotic species will be eliminated and native species will be reintroduced. A native plant nursery facility will be constructed and maintained to provide plant materials for this effort.

Efforts will continue to remove invasive plant species from throughout the parks. Aquatic nuisance plants and animals will be controlled throughout the parks. Riparian habitat for native fish species including the Yellowstone cutthroat trout and Snake River cutthroat trout will be enhanced.

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Improve high-priority assets to acceptable condition, as measured by the Facility Condition Index.

The David T. Vernon Collection of American Indian Art and Artifacts contains 1400 objects representing more than 200 tribes from across the nation. The collection currently lacks museum and safety security systems, and code-compliant fire detection and suppression systems. We will design, construct and exhibit a new museum wing added to the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center. The museum wing would house park collections and display newly conserved Vernon objects in inspirational new exhibits open to park visitors throughout the year.

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Site: GRTE

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

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

Assure construction of new park auditorium, LSR Preserve education center, administrative headquarters complex and park pathways incorporating best available sustainable materials and design.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Develop and implement a parkwide water conservation plan.

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Site: GRTE

ENVIRONMENT

Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

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

Purchase and use hybrid or alternative fuel (E85) vehicles in 20% of park's passenger fleet.

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Site: GRTE

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.

Grand Teton Trails Forever is a multi-faceted, partnership approach to address critically needed trail maintenance. It would provide project funding and the long-term revenue stream required to rehabilitate and maintain 420 miles of highly popular, severely eroded trails. The initial component includes the establishment of a Youth Corps Program through a Grand Teton National Park Foundation grant. The program is designed to encourage young men and women to develop personal conservation values and ethics. The second component includes funding trail rehabilitation and establishment of an endowment.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

New pathways will be constructed along park road corridors, connecting the park with pathways in adjacent gateway communities.

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Site: GRTE

RECREATION

Establish "volun-tourism" excursions to national parks for volunteers to help achieve natural and cultural resource protection goals.

Increase annual volunteer hours by 100 percent, from 5.2 million hours to 10.4 million hours.

The hiring of a new paid volunteer coordinator will lead us in a parkwide effort to double the use of volunteers. A parkwide plan will identify strategies for recruitment and training. A volunteer housing plan will identify locations to house an increasing number of participants.

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Site: GRTE

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

We will work in partnership with the Teton Science School, the Murie Center, Teton County in Wyoming, and Teton and Fremont Counties in Idaho, to provide curriculum based education program which use established national and state outcome standards for science, math, social studies and english. We will provide all curriculum units and activities on the parks' website in multiple languages.

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Site: GRTE

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.

We will work cooperatively with Ball State University in developing a virtual field trip. This effort will provide outreach to thousands of classrooms across America. We will expand Grand Teton's and Wyoming's national parks educational and information capability by utilizing new technologies and formats. These formats would include interactive exhibits, new orientation signs system, podcasts, and file sharing websites where visitors can submit electronic photos, videos, and journal of their park experiences.

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

Site: GRTE

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.

We will open new visitor education centers at Moose and at the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve. These centers will provide engaging exhibits and multimedia to provide visitors with a greater understanding and appreciation of the parks.

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

Site: GRTE

PROFESSIONALISM

Be one of the top 10 places to work in America.

Meet 100 percent of diversity recruitment goals by employing people who reflect the face of America.

Increase recruitment efforts in multicultural communities in the multi-state area.

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

Attain the highest employee satisfaction rate of all federal agencies, as measured by Office of Personnel Management surveys.

-Provide high quality and affordable housing for all employees
-Increase the availability of new technology in the workplace in on the homefront
-Increase the availability of non-essential employees to telecommunte
-Survey our employees on their attitudes on the workplace
-Develop a formal mentoring progam
-Develop a program of internal internships and detail opportunities
-Start a quarterly leadership bookclub
-Allow for more flexibility in scheduling

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

Site: GRTE

PROFESSIONALISM

Use strategic planning to promote management excellence.

Establish a structured professional development curriculum to provide park managers with the skills to apply best business practices and superior leadership.

We will develop and implement a leadership mentoring program for park employees.

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Site: GRTE

PROFESSIONALISM

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

Reduce the number of employee lost-time incidents and serious visitor injuries by 20 percent.

We will hire a full time safety officer. We will reduce the number of loss time accidents by 20%. Through our parkwide safety committee and the commitment of every employee we will assure a safe working environment for every employee.

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

Site: GRTE

PROFESSIONALISM

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

We will continue to be a National Park Service model in effective partnership relationships at all levels in our organization.

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Site: GRTE

PROFESSIONALISM

Make national parks the first choice in philanthropic giving among those concerned about environmental, cultural, and recreational values.

Improve communications and marketing capacity to increase public understanding of our mission, opportunities, and benefits.

We will work with the Grand Teton National Park Foundation to finalize a strategic plan which will increase public awareness of the organization and its mission.

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