

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

First Annual  
Centennial Strategy for

# City of Rocks National Reserve

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



**Site:** CIRO

**Year:** 2007

**Vision Statement**

In 2016, City of Rocks National Reserve (CIRO) operates as an efficient and respected model of an interagency partnership. Both the National Park Service and the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation are proud and confident to promote the values that each agency brings to the operation. The operation is so successful that visitors scarcely realize that both a state and federal agency are at work to: (1) protect resources, (2) interpret the nationally significant values, and (3) provide recreation. Although visitors see only seamless public service, other state and federal agencies across the US are aware of the unique partnership at CIRO, and desire to implement many of its partnership practices.

Further, the Reserve achieves its full potential as one of the best examples of the California Trail emigrant landscape of 1843-1869. Modern visitors come to appreciate the emigrant story, and can re-create in their minds eye what the emigrants felt as they viewed and traveled through the granite towers and monoliths.

Opportunities to experience the nationally significant resources by rock climbing, horseback riding, camping, hiking and auto touring are easily facilitated without impacts to those resources. Visitors to the CIRO website have the maximum experience possible, which leads to an onsite visit at least once in their lifetime.

**Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager**

Wallace Keck

Site: CIRO

**STEWARDSHIP**

**Improve the condition of park resources and assets.**

**Complete all cultural resource inventories for designated priority resources.**

CIRO is a partnership between the NPS, State of Idaho, Cassia County and local landowners. Properties within the boundary of the Reserve that comprise the cultural landscape of the Historic California Trail are owned by many entities. The NPS and its cooperator will take the lead to conduct and complete the cultural resource inventories, and then work with all of the entities to restore and preserve the historic scene. This may be accomplished through stabilization of landscapes and features, removal of modern structures, and the management of vegetation. The end goal is to provide visitors with nearly the same visual experience and feeling as California-bound emigrants of 1843-1869.

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

**Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)**

One of the more important goals in order to achieve a restored cultural landscape will be to place overhead powerlines to underground. Partnering with the local rural electrical cooperative, the NPS can restore the cultural landscape void of this modern intrusion, and the cooperative will achieve a better utility delivery system to its customers both inside and outside the park boundary.

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

Site: CIRO

**ENVIRONMENT**

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

**Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)**

CIRO will continue to lead the local community in establishing a recycling program, both in the Reserve and in the gateway town. CIRO staff will develop educational and promotional materials to assist the community and park visitors in understanding the importance of recycling and its value to them personally.

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

Site: CIRO

**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.

Although rugged in terrain, CIRO has the capacity to develop accessible trails to geological and scenic view points. A number of ADA projects are proposed, from the development of the Circle Creek Overlook Trail, Geology Trail, and the Camp Rock Trail. These efforts will continue to utilize our Public Land Corps partner.

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

Site: CIRO

**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.

CIRO staff will place a greater emphasis on reaching younger audiences by expanding its interactive features and incorporating new technologies into its website. The website will become the best and most authoritative source for learning about the nationally significant stories and resources at City of Rocks. Visitor trip planning will begin and end at the CIRO website.

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

Site: CIRO

**PROFESSIONALISM**

- Model what it means to work in partnership.
- Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Develop the park manager and staff's capacity to lead change and meet leadership opportunities associated with increasingly complex park management and operation at City of Rocks National Reserve and Castle Rocks State Park. This is accomplished through administrative transparency, and participation in training opportunities, meetings and budget appropriations of both agencies. CIRO staff will develop, recommend, and implement the best strategies and practices of both agencies to create the ideal park operation. Once the model is perfected, other similar partnerships across the country would develop.

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