

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Great Basin National Park

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: GRBA

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

From the sagebrush at its alluvial base to the 13,063-foot summit of Wheeler Peak, Great Basin National Park includes streams, lakes, alpine plants, abundant wildlife, a variety of forest types including groves of ancient bristlecone pines, and numerous limestone caverns, including beautiful Lehman Caves.

The mission of Great Basin National Park is to preserve for the benefit, inspiration, enjoyment and education of present and future generations a representative segment of the Great Basin of the Western United States, a 200,000 square mile area, and to promote an understanding of the natural and cultural heritage of the entire region. This vision for Great Basin National Park rests on a foundation of the park enabling legislation, the National Park Service Organic Act signed into law on August 25, 1916, and the goals of the National Park Service Centennial Initiative. Over the next decade, the Centennial Initiative at Great Basin National Park will focus on achievements in five areas -- Stewardship of Treasured Resources; Increasing Environmental Leadership of the NPS; Creating Superior Recreational Experiences in the Parks; Enhancing Educational Opportunities in America's Greatest Classrooms; and Assuring Professional Excellence of the NPS Staff who implement these goals and programs.

The park will continue to work with our many partners to achieve the park's mission and to support mutual goals.

We will expand our work with current partners and we will seek out new partners to aid us in implementing programs and projects which meet Great Basin NPS Centennial Initiative Goals.

Great Basin National Park will take a comprehensive approach to create a future as Leaders in Environmental Stewardship and Education. As we work with park partners, local schools, community stakeholders and each other, the foremost questions that precede any project will be: what is the right thing to do and what is the right way to do it. Not only should every proposal pass the litmus test of meeting the NPS mission statement, the manner in which we achieve any goal should be accomplished using the best technology, best environmental practices, and result in preservation of the signification resources of the park. The integrity of our stewarding environmental leadership, recreation education and professional excellence goals in turn gives the work of each employee integrity.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Cynthia N. Nielsen

Site: GRBA

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)

Fully implement the standards of condition and maintenance for all roads and trails in the park as specified by the approved General Management Plan.

Rehabilitate and retrofit facilities and upgrade personal services programs to maximize programmatic and physical access for park visitors of all ages and abilities.

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

Site: GRBA

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.

Enhance preservation and appropriate visitor access to the cultural and historic resources of Great Basin National Park

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

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

Restore native habitats by controlling non-native invasive species and encouraging the restoration and recovery of native plant and animal species.

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Site: GRBA

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)

Cooperate with Great Basin National Heritage Area Partnership to prepare and implement a Management Plan and associated projects which educate visitors about the nationally significant themes, cultural and natural resources of the Great Basin region and Great Basin National Park.

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Site: GRBA

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The Environmental Leadership goal set forth by Great Basin National Park is to achieve a ZERO NET CARBON FOOTPRINT for park facilities and park operations and to expand this goal to park concessions and partners, park employees, and the local businesses and communities. The idea behind this goal is a simple one: under present practices, Great Basin National Park is contributing to rather than mitigating the causes of global climate change. However, through reduction of energy usage (using the most efficient technology available), changing our energy sources (retrofitting buildings with PV panels), and changing our operational habits (adjusting schedules to reduce number of miles driven as part of park duties), it will be possible to greatly reduce the carbon emissions produced by the park. The park will achieve further net reductions by partnering with the local schools and community on projects such as community tree plantings, a community recycling center, and a community greenhouse. Great Basin National Park proposes to be a pilot park for this goal, which it hopes will be adopted as a Servicewide goal in the name of Environmental Leadership and "walking our talk."

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Site: GRBA

RECREATION

Expand partnerships with schools and boys and girls associations to show how national park experiences can improve children's lives.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Develop a portfolio of projects and targeted education messages which are available for youth groups and which result in the development of conservation ethics and stewardship commitment.

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Site: GRBA

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

In cooperation with University of Nevada Reno Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and other federal, state and academic partners in Nevada, deploy new technologies and develop urban opportunities to communicate park stories to rapidly growing populations of Las Vegas and Reno.

Build an Education Advisory Group and develop an Education Plan for development and implementation of education programs about the Great Basin region, particularly in Utah and Nevada.

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Site: GRBA

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Develop and sustain an Artists in the Park program which highlights both the visual and written arts of the Great Basin.

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Site: GRBA

PROFESSIONALISM

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

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

Assure that all permanent and term employees of Great Basin National Park will attend and complete all segments of NPS Fundamentals Training or other professional development opportunities and mission-oriented training certified by the National Park Service

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PROFESSIONALISM

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Establish an Employee Wellness Program which integrates a safety program that results in employees safeguarding the health and safety of each other; which encourages regular physical exercise for all employees to promote physical and emotional well-being; allows zero tolerance for drugs and alcohol abuse in the workplace; and assures that safety and wellness information and training are available to all employees as needed.

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