

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park - Skagway

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: KLGO

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

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By the National Park Service Centennial, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park will be recognized as a model of partnerships, professionalism, preservation and public education and engagement.

Partnerships - relationships with local community, Parks Canada, other NPS sites and businesses/organizations are established and nurtured. These partnerships are recognized as being mutually beneficial through shared goals.

Professionalism - park staff is trained, coached and encouraged to maximize their roles within the organization. Teamwork, resource knowledge and professional expertise are rewarded.

Preservation - park resources are managed, maintained and inventoried to the lasting benefit of future generations

Public Education and Engagement - recreational opportunities, life-long learning and the ability to research, explore and experience the park are within reach of a wide diversity of audiences - both on-site and remotely through various media.

Park Purpose:

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park preserves for the benefit and inspiration of the people historic structures, trails, and objects associated with the Klondike Gold Rush on 1898. In support of this purpose, the park fosters preservation and interpretation of Gold Rush resources in and adjacent to park boundaries, through protection of cultural and natural resources and values, ownership of historic resources, preservation support, and provision of related recreational and visitor enjoyment opportunities. Further, collaborative efforts with units of the Canadian government programmatically connect related historic or scenic Klondike Gold Rush resources in Canada to the Klondike Gold Rush NHP. (The primary dates of "association" have been determined to be: for the Chilkoot Trail unit, including Dyea, 1884-1902; for the Skagway unit, 1887 to 1915; and for the White Pass Trail unit, 1897 to 1901)

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Robyn Burch, Acting Superintendent

Site: KLGO

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)

Complete the Dyea Management Plan:

By 2016 the Dyea Management Plan will be implemented. As a result of this planning effort, a new road will allow traffic through the area without harming the historic resources that litter the entire area. The Dyea Campground will be upgraded, a new Visitor Contact station will be in place with exhibits and information about the ghost town of Dyea. Improved trails will allow for multi-use activities such as bicycles, horseback riding, and walking. Partnerships with the Municipality of Skagway will be in place to continue to protect historic resources on both federal and municipal lands within the park and National Historic Landmark boundaries.

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

Site: KLGO

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.

By 2016 park will complete a new era of historic building restorations that have been donated to be preserved.

The famed outlaw "Soapy" Smith's Parlor will be restored and will provide a glimpse of the 1898 heyday of Skagway, where saloons were many, rigged gambling devices broke many a Stampeders, and scams were a way of life. (PMIS 82878 and 76496)

The "Ice House" will be restored to give the public a look at how foods and beverages were refrigerated in 1898 for commercial establishments - primarily saloons to keep their beer cold. (PMIS 117954 to complete HSR)

The Toll Cabin where thousands of Stampeders paid a toll to cross the Kinney Bridge will be rehabilitated as exhibit space, and will give visitors the opportunity to visit the last standing historic structure in Dyea - one that led straight to the famous Chilkoot Trail. (PMIS 117954 to complete HSR)

The Rapuzzi Collection of approximately 400,000 1898 Gold Rush artifacts and early 20th century memorabilia will be jointly owned and managed by KLGO and Skagway. The objects will be curated and available for researchers to study. This will be funded through grants and a partnership fundraising activity with ANHA.

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

Protect historic Dyea from flooding:

By 2016 the historic townsite of Dyea will be protected from the Taiya River. Nearly 50% of the remaining ruins of this townsite have been lost to the river. Riverbank stabilization will slow the process of erosion, and protect the townsite for the enjoyment of visitors into the future. (PMIS 117398)

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

Complete all cultural resource inventories for designated priority resources.

Cultural resource inventories will be completed for KLGO.

By 2008 all Dyea cultural resources will be inventoried, and represented on the parks GIS. By 2016 the rest of Chilkoot Trail and White Pass unit (PMIS 91151) resources will be inventoried, and represented on the park's GIS.

Site: KLGO

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

These records will be searchable, and allow management the opportunity to view, on their desktops, key historic areas that require protection from future development and to allow managers to prepare protocols for the treatment of historic sites should natural disasters strike.

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Site: KLGO

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

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

Increase green procurement:

By 2016 the Park will have adopted a green procurement plan. All purchases will be evaluated to incorporate post-consumer recycled content materials whenever the option is available. Supplies with no- or low-toxicity ingredients will be used for all Park needs. The Park will transition to alternative fuels and bio-lubricants.

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Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Share results of moldering privy project:

By 2016 the Park will transition to moldering privies at all back country campgrounds, reducing negative impacts to cultural and natural resources by eliminating the need to dig new pits every three years. The results will be shared with other Land Management Agencies.

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Site: KLGO

ENVIRONMENT

Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

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

Become a "Climate Friendly Park" participant:

By 2016 we will be certified as a Climate Friendly Park. Our historic facilities may not ever meet the LEEDs standard, however we will take several measures to become certified as a CFP. In 2008 we will have a park-wide meeting to educate the staff on climate change and air pollution and brainstorm ways we can address the problem. In future years we will develop and implement a strategy based on the brainstorming session to reduce the CO2 emissions. Currently we have two electric vehicles that have replaced fuel-run vehicles and are an exceptional means to address CO2 emissions since the town operates on hydro-electric power. As vehicles are due for replacement we will purchase electric vehicles that will meet our needs. This will be incorporated into the strategy. Interpretive programs and media will also incorporate the message of climate change and it's impact to not only natural resources but to our cultural resources as well.

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Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Leverage the vast collection of historic images to study and display the effects of climate change:

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park and its Canadian partner, The Chilkoot Trail National Historic Site, harbors the 35 mile-long Chilkoot Trail. In this short distance, the trail traverses a gradient of several bioclimatic zones going from temperate rainforest at sea-level, through alpine tundra, to dry interior spruce forests and muskegs. The historic condition of this climactic transect is well documented by an incredible photographic record beginning in 1898. During the Klondike gold rush, photographers created thousands of images that are now well preserved and accessible in the park's archives. A subset of historic images clearly displaying the condition of glaciers and plant communities would be selected for repeat photography.

By 2016 the resultant image pairs (historic and current condition) would be displayed and interpreted in a series of on-site wayside exhibits, in the Visitor Center, and on the park's web site. Leveraging the park's vast collection of historic images to study and display the effects of climate change would benefit researchers and the public.

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Site: KLGO

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.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Increase understanding and appreciation of the role of the Klondike Gold Rush in the development of Seattle and Alaska:

In 2016, the Klondike Trail project will be completed and the park will be designated (either formally or informally) as part of an International Historical Trail. The trail will be a continuous corridor of gold rush sites of the NPS in Seattle and Alaska linked with gold rush resources managed by Parks Canada and other Canadian government entities. The trail, whether formally or informally designated, will follow the routes the gold-seekers took from the 1860s through 1915, thematically linking the diverse resources associated with these rushes. Recreational opportunities, as well as visitor understanding and appreciation, will be enhanced by this formal designation of existing sites.

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Site: KLGO

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.

In 2016 we will be providing a more diverse array of interpretive programming, designed to appeal to a diversity of audiences. Non-personal interpretive media along the Chilkoot Trail will be enhanced to more fully tell the untold stories of the trail and to provide a fuller recreational/educational experience. In 2008, increased fte will be used to provide more programming in the Dyea area and to enhance interpretive media on the trail.

Park visitors will enjoy opportunities to explore the natural and cultural resources in both formal and informal interpretive settings, while benefiting from the safety and preservation integrity of a national park experience. The traditional park ranger presence and image will be reinforced and readily available for all park visitors to observe and engage and to enhance resource protection and public safety in the park front country and backcountry areas.

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Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

In 2008, public outreach will be done in communities along the trail corridor to determine what kind of trail designation may be best suited.

In 2016 we will have a certified guide training and documentation program in place in the park. This program will provide training in natural and cultural history and interpretive skills to our CUAs, allowing them to market their connection and certified affiliation with the NPS. In 2008 we will explore other such programs in the NPS and begin to develop training materials for such a program.

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

Site: KLGO

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Expand school outreach through Skagway day school programming and day care centers:

In 2016 the park will be considered a trusted and valuable partner in the education of Skagway children. A full menu of curriculum-based educational programming will be available to teachers, allowing them to enhance their classroom teaching with field experience. In 2008 the park will begin to build curriculum-based programming and will use research obtained through universities to explore audience needs.

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Site: KLGO

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.

Expand our web pages to include educational outreach for a diverse audience:

In 2016 the park web pages will reflect the current trends in web design and will include interactive pages. In 2008, the park will expand the pages to include more information about park resources and programs and will be enhanced to provide a broader range of educational opportunities, including Jr. Ranger pages, lesson plans for teachers and pdf files of more of the park's brochures.

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- Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Explore use of technology in interpretive operations (pod casts, GPS Rangers, etc):

In 2016 the park will be using interpretive devices designed to provide experiences to many people in many places at the same time. Podcasts, GPS Rangers, radio broadcasts and other technological advances will be used to their best advantage appropriate to the resource. In 2008, the park will explore options for such technology and begin the process of seeking funding to provide such services.

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Site: KLGO

EDUCATION

- Promote life-long learning to connect generations through park experiences.
- Enroll an additional two million children in the Junior Ranger program.

Evaluate the Jr. Ranger program developed by the Junior Ranger Ambassador:

In 2016 the park will have a multi-tiered Jr. Ranger program designed to suit many age groups and learning styles. The program will have been evaluated for effectiveness and modified to reflect current knowledge of audience needs. In 2008, the park will print materials designed by the 2007 Jr. Ranger Ambassador and evaluate the program.

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

Site: KLGO

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.

Establish formal career counseling for seasonal staff:

By 2016, the seasonal workforce is routinely cultivated as a valuable and talented applicant pool for future needs, both seasonal and permanent. Supervisors will adapt the permanent employee IDP process for use with seasonal staff by identifying their individual career interests and objectives. When in the best interests of the Service, supervisors will counsel the employees regarding potential career paths and practical options for furthering or achieving related long term goals, without necessarily committing the Service to advancing the goals so outlined.

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

Make housing for increased seasonal staff a priority:

By 2016 KLGO will have housing that meets the park's summer employment needs. Lack of sufficient and suitable seasonal employee housing in Skagway has become a significant barrier to recruitment of a diverse and well qualified workforce for KLGO. Overcrowded conditions strain employee morale. Prior housing needs assessments have identified the need for additional housing quality and capacity owing to the lack of availability of suitable housing in the local market. Any additional staff which may be hired as a result of this initiative will only aggravate the need. In 2008 NPS will continue to remediate backlogged maintenance of seasonal residences at the Dyea campground so that they will be functional and comfortable for the upcoming summer. Additionally we will review and revise our housing management plan to reflect on our additional needs. Project proposals for new & replacement housing units for KLGO will be given elevated priority in funding requests. In the absence of major project funding, NPS will research and pursue other alternatives for securing adequate summer housing.

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

Site: KLGO

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.

Establish a formal orientation program for new permanent employees:

By 2016, new Klondike Gold Rush employees will routinely receive thorough orientation to the park, its staff and resources, the community, Alaska, and the National Park Service. In 2008 KLGO will develop a supervisor's checklist of subjects, courses, or programs to consider for new permanent employee orientation, including NPS Fundamentals courses for employees new to the Service. This "So, You Work Here Now" orientation checklist will incorporate a system for new employees to be paired with a peer immediately following their selection. This peer would contact the new employee and be available for questions/information about the park and area; someone aside from the supervisor that the new employee can learn even the basics of living in a remote community and thus know better what to expect. KLGO managers and supervisors will incorporate any future new employee orientation programs developed at the Regional or Service-wide levels with the best Park and local orientation practices.

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Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Implement new IDP process:

By 2016 employees, supervisors, and managers of Klondike Gold Rush NHP will routinely identify and address skill and capability gaps in the current and anticipated workforce. Realistic and achievable Individual Development Plans (IDP's), identifying important competency goals, will be developed by employees working in close cooperation with supervisors. Managers will assure consistent support for implementation of the plans, which will support agency, park, and employee objectives. In 2008, KLGO will achieve full permanent employee participation in the Alaska Region initiative.

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