

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Bryce Canyon National Park

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: BRCA

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

Bryce Canyon is set aside as a National Park to conserve and protect the scenic and scientific resources for the enjoyment of the public. Bryce Canyon is best known for its unusual geological formations of multi-colored spires, grottoes, windows, and fins, carved from the Limestone face of the Paunsaugunt Plateau by the erosional forces of nature.

Over the next decade we will utilize our staff and funds to the fullest extent possible, to address infrastructure and resource challenges and protect the resources entrusted to us. We will expand our efforts to educate the public and develop new partnerships dedicated to the parks mission.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Eddie L. Lopez, Superintendent

Site: BRCA

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)

Bryce Canyon National Park is known internationally for its unusual scenic beauty and scientific interest and importance. The park also contains a rich cultural background ranging from numerous archeological sites to nationally registered historic architecture in several developed areas.

A public transportation system has been implemented with the goal of reducing private vehicle use and allowing visitors the opportunity to enjoy the park without the stresses associated with vehicle congestion. The transportation system has proven to be a success and therefore will continue into the foreseeable future. The addition of a Bicycle Path, a Centennial Challenge Project, will further enhance the public's ability to access the park's scenic resources in a safe manner.

The park's protection staff will provide for security of park visitors and their property through patrols and high visibility in visitor use areas.

Additionally, the park proposes to use Recreational Fee money to improve accessibility to the most popular viewing areas.

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

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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.

Condition Assessments were conducted in 2006, to update the List of Classified Structures, and 38 out of 42 historic structures are in good condition. The structures are also listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The 4 listings that are in less than good condition are historic trail systems. Work on these trail systems is ongoing, however since Bryce Canyon is an erosional park, the trails are in continual need of repair after storms and are constantly changing.

The park goals over the next decade are to conduct preventive maintenance activities to the 38 structures in good condition to prevent their deterioration. Through Recreational Fees and other project funding, fully staff a trails maintenance crew to continue improving and maintaining the condition of the trails in the park.

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

Based on surveys by the Northern Colorado Plateau Network and in-park inventories, estimates are that there are 193 acres of land within the park that are in need of control measures on an ongoing basis, due to exotic weed infestation. Current projected funding levels will allow park personnel to treat approximately 80 gross acres per year for the next 2 years and 20 acres per year thereafter. Park personnel will continue to explore other alternatives in an attempt to increase the efforts to eradicate and control exotic vegetation in the park.

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

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

Park personnel have used the Facility Management Software System and Facility Condition Index to develop a prioritized list of deferred maintenance needs for the park. Project funding proposals have been submitted and we anticipate utilizing Recreational Fee money and other projects funds to correct the highest priority deficiencies.

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

Site: BRCA

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

Improve the natural resources in parks, as measured by the vital signs developed under the Natural Resource Challenge.

As specified in the 1a Goals of the GPRA 5 Year Strategic Plan, we plan to continue improvements in all areas of the parks natural resources. We will continue our partnerships with the Northern Colorado Plateau Network and the National Forest Service and take every opportunity to develop new partnerships.

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

Complete all cultural resource inventories for designated priority resources.

We are in the second year of a three year project to completely inventory and conduct condition assessments of 224 identified archeological sites within the park (PMIS #115448), funded with Recreational Fee revenue. Additionally, we continue to conduct annual condition assessments of all historic structures in the park, and conduct preventive maintenance activities as necessary.

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

Site: BRCA

STEWARDSHIP

Encourage children to be future conservationists.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Our park Interpretive staff makes over 350,000 personal contacts annually through facilitated programs and special projects. Of these contacts, approximately 20% are children. Additionally, the park has an Educational Outreach program, funded and staffed primarily through a Cooperating Association, that reaches approximately 3,500 school children each year, teaching them conservation methods and how to care for our natural resources.

The parks goal is to continue to expand the Education Outreach program as a joint effort between the park and the cooperating association.

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