

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

First Annual  
Centennial Strategy for

# Capitol Reef National Park

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: CARE

Year: 2007

### Vision Statement

Capitol Reef National Park protects the 100-mile long Waterpocket Fold, the largest exposed monocline in North America. This geologic uplift (or, colloquially, reef) creates a topographic obstacle across south-central Utah from Thousand Lake Mountain to the Colorado River. Along with the reef-like barrier to travel, the park derives its name from the many white sandstone domes that tower over the Fremont River and resemble the U.S. Capitol dome. The park also protects a significant cultural heritage spanning thousands of years from the earliest occupation by Native peoples, through more recent settlement by Mormon pioneers. The park protects this heritage wherever the imprint of the past exists, be it evidence of prehistoric occupation, extensive pictograph and petroglyph panels, or the historic orchards which were planted by the earliest Euro-American settlers.

The park's vision for the Centennial Initiative involves actions that contribute to the achievement of the park's priorities. These priorities are:

1. Natural and cultural resource and associated values are protected, restored and maintained in good condition and managed within their broader ecosystem and cultural context.
2. Capitol Reef National Park contributes to knowledge about natural and cultural resources and associated values; management decisions about resources and visitors are based on adequate scholarly and scientific information.
3. Park visitors and the general public understand and appreciate the preservation of the park and its resources for this and future generations.
4. Visitors enjoy and are satisfied with the availability, accessibility, diversity and quality of park facilities, services and appropriate recreational opportunities.
5. Visitors are provided a safe experience through information, infrastructure and services.
6. Employees are provided a safe work environment based upon modern facilities and a system of safe work practices.

To achieve this vision the park will pursue projects that enhance its current program of education and interpretation, particularly as it relates to the historic orchards that are central to the existing National Register Historic District; improvements to facilities that enhance the visitor experience and that provide a safe and healthful work environment for park staff, and; the protection and restoration of resources for the benefit and inspiration of today's visitors, as well as generations to come.

### Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Albert J. Hendricks

Site: CARE

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.**

Rehabilitate the Pendelton Barn, Gifford House, and Holt House to restore them to good condition.

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.**

Remove exotic plant species to preserve native habitats. Reintroduce the extirpated round-tailed chub back into the Fremont River.

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.**

Improve the condition of the Scenic Drive, Fruita Campground, visitor center restrooms and water and sewer lines that serve the visitor center, headquarters and park housing areas.

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

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

Continue attempts to procure funding to restore habitats degraded by past grazing in Cathedral Valley.

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

Site: CARE

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)

Continue to work toward implementation of the Fruita Plan to maximize the potential for a variety of interpretive opportunities to highlight the cultural history of the area.

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

Site: CARE

STEWARDSHIP

Serve as the Preeminent resource laboratory by applying excellence in science and scholarship to understand and respond to environmental changes.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Capitol Reef has the largest orchard system in the NPS but the orchards are deteriorating. The heritage trees and associated cultural landscape could be restored and offer a prime resource lab for studying heirloom varieties of trees.

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

Site: CARE

STEWARDSHIP

Encourage children to be future conservationists.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Maintain an effective variety of other on-site programs developed for children including the self-guided Junior Ranger program, the ranger-guided Junior Geologist, and the Family Fun Packs.

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Site: CARE

**ENVIRONMENT**

Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

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

Continue and expand the recycling program to prevent solid wastes from impacting air and water quality.

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

Site: CARE

**ENVIRONMENT**

Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

Establish programs to showcase exemplary environmental practices and increase visitor awareness of how the practices apply to their daily lives, as measured by surveys.

Consider creating a site bulletin highlighting the "green" practices and energy-saving programs used in the construction and on-going operation of the Capitol Reef Field School (CRFS).

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

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

Continue use of solar and wind power for remote and front country assets and features such as radio repeaters, well pumps, air quality and weather stations, and outdoor lighting.

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

Serve as a model for energy efficiency, under Executive Order 13423, by ensuring Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards.

All future line item construction will strive for LEED certification. Replacement of current asset features will be based on environmental designs such as waterless urinals, interior light sensors, high efficiency light bulbs, efficient window replacements, energy star appliances, and SEER rating HVAC systems.

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

Site: CARE

ENVIRONMENT

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Continue to expand opportunities for community and other partnerships to improve effective working relationships as well as achieve mutual goals of environmental stewardship.

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

Site: CARE

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)

The park's Education Outreach Coordinator will maintain the park's strong and active education outreach program, conducting school programs reaching students (K-12) in counties adjacent to the park, offering off-site day camp presentations, school field trip orientations, adult education programs, and material loans to schools.

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Site: CARE

RECREATION

Focus national, regional, and local tourism efforts to reach diverse audiences and young people and to attract visitors to lesser-known parks.

Increase visitation by 25 percent at lesser-known parks through a national tourism effort aimed at helping people to discover the breadth of parks and experiences.

The park will continue to maintain a web page with expanded pages focusing on various administrative, resources, educational and interpretive topics at [www.nps.gov/care](http://www.nps.gov/care). The park will also maintain its relationship with the county and state travel councils to work toward raising public awareness of the area and its resources.

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

Increase the number of visitors that attend ranger-facilitated programs such as campfire talks, hikes, and school programs.

Current staff levels will need to be increased in order to achieve this goal.

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Site: CARE

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The park's Education Outreach Coordinator will maintain the park's strong and active education outreach program, conducting school programs reaching students (K-12) in counties adjacent to the park, offering off-site day camp presentations, school field trip orientations, adult education programs, and material loans to schools.

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Site: CARE

**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.

The park will continue to maintain a web page with expanded pages focusing on various administrative, resources, educational and interpretive topics at [www.nps.gov/care](http://www.nps.gov/care). Many information requests, especially those from students, are directed to the web site. The park will explore opportunities to incorporate new and effective technologies to current web offerings.

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Site: CARE

**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.

Recent projects include the on-going rehabilitation of some visitor center exhibits and the finalization of a new video production for presentation and sale at the visitor center. The park will continue to conduct an annual Visitor Survey during the month of June to measure visitor satisfaction, understanding and appreciation. The findings of this survey in combination with the park's Comprehensive Interpretive Plan (CIP) will help direct both personal and non-personal interpretive strategies.

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



Site: CARE

**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.**

We will continue our efforts to advertise vacancies to a broader audience and recruit people who reflect the face of America.

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.**

We will continue to seek line item construction to replace the temporary office spaces that have been utilized since the 1980's and expand and improve the visitor center facility and utilities in the headquarters area.

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