



San Juan National Historic Site

Foundation Planning Open House

June 28, 2012



What is a Foundation Document?

The basis for all management and planning decisions in a national park unit





Why Do We Plan?

The planning process has multiple benefits:

- Provides **opportunities to raise awareness and educate stakeholders** about management
- A **framework for involving others** in a decision-making process
- Provides an opportunity to **address emerging issues, changing park conditions**, or other new things headed our way
- Identifies **general priorities** for addressing the multitude of tasks facing a park
- Provides a **logical, trackable process** toward decisions that promote the efficient use of public funds



Why Do We Plan?



"... to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations"

-from Organic Act of 1916



National Park Service Director's Initiative

Servicewide goal of completing a foundation document for each park unit by the 100th anniversary of the NPS, August 25, 2016





What Does a Foundation Document Include?

- Park Unit Purpose
- Significance Statements
- Fundamental Resources and Values
- Interpretive Themes
- Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments
- Rapid Planning Needs Assessment
- Park Atlas





PURPOSE – “*what the park unit is for*”

- Identifies the specific **reason(s)** for **establishing** a particular NPS unit
- Grounded in the park’s **legislation**
- Documents **shared assumptions about what the law means** in terms specific to the park
- May only be changed by **Congress**
- Will be copied word for word in **future planning documents**





SIGNIFICANCE – “*what is most important*”

- Describes what is **special and/or unique**
- Directly linked to the **purpose** of the park unit
- Conveys **importance within a global, national, regional, and/or system-wide context**
- Is **substantiated** by data or consensus
- Reflects the **most current** science or scholarship





FUNDAMENTAL RESOURCES AND VALUES

- Warrant primary consideration because they are **critical to achieving the park's purpose** and maintaining significance
- **Tangibles** (resources) or **intangibles** (values). May include features, systems, processes, visitor experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, views
- Are identified by an **interdisciplinary team**





Why are Foundations Useful?

Opportunity to coordinate all types of planning and decision making from a single, shared understanding of what is most important:

- **Communication tool for public and stakeholders** (including for NPS employees)
- Provides a basis for **ensuring consistency in all subsequent park planning and decision making**
- **Focus efforts** on protecting the park's most important resources and values before turning to items that may also be important but are not critical to achieving the park purpose and maintaining park significance
- Facilitates discussion of **desired conditions, threats, and issues**
- **Identifies plans, data** that are needed for a park





Park Atlas

- GIS product: map atlas
- Reference to support daily operations and planning
- Hardcopy paper atlas and web-mapping component
- **Comprehensive** – compiles and presents data on variety of topics

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DRAFT

Map Index

1. Overview
2. Facilities
3. Natural Resources
 - General
 - Impact of Alternative Energy Development
 - Geology
 - Vegetation
4. Cultural Resources
 - Mining
5. Property Ownership
6. Aerial Imagery

Park Overview

Regional Overview

Park Atlas

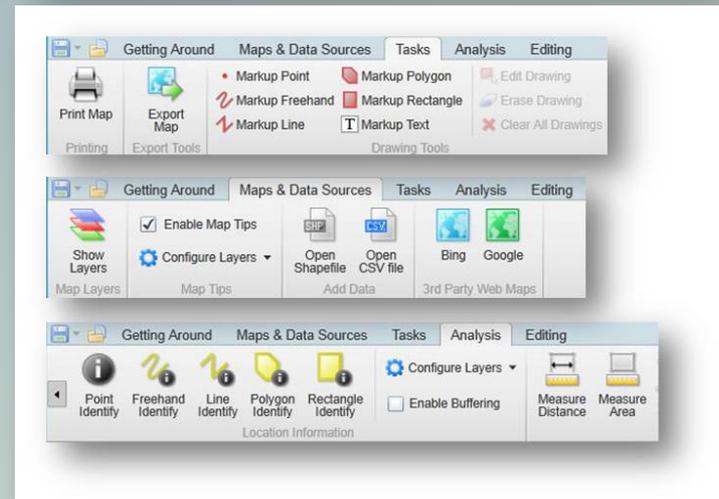
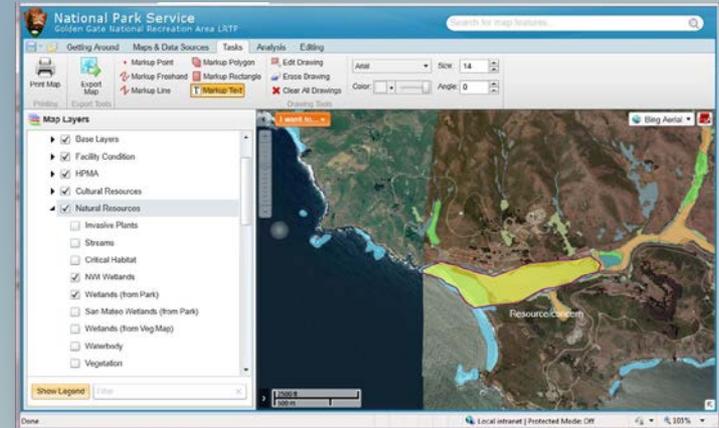
Mojave National Preserve QR Code
Scan this QR code with your smart phone or tablet to download the Mojave National Preserve GIS Mapping Site. (Requires Internet access.)

Disclaimer: This map atlas was created and assembled by the National Park Service for informational, planning, reference, and illustrative purposes only. None of these materials should be relied on for any other action without the benefit of additional and appropriate professional services. These materials are not verified by a professional geospatial data manager and are not intended to be used as such. The NPS makes no warranty, express or implied, related to the accuracy or content of these maps.



Park Atlas: Web Mapping Component

- Web maps **enable non-GIS users** to interactively **view, analyze, and map** geographic data
- Can be used in workshops and meetings as a tool to help **visualize park resources, develop alternatives, and provide QA/QC** for data accuracy
- Web maps can be public or internal:
 - Internal web mapping site: <http://insideparkatlas.nps.gov>
 - Public web mapping site: TBD





What is the Finished Product?

- Foundation Document
- Foundation Brochure
- Park Atlas





What is the Timeframe?

- Complete Foundation documents by end of calendar year (December 2012)





Other Planning Efforts at San Juan National Historic Site





Questions?





Thank You



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