

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Oregon Caves National Monument

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: ORCA

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

Oregon Caves National Monument was originally set aside by proclamation in 1909 to protect the cave system for its scientific "curiosity" and aesthetic aspects. Over nearly the next century the Monument has revealed a wealth of features that add to its significance as a part of the National Park system. In addition to the twisted catacombs and cave formations the Monument preserves an excellent example of primeval forest of the Siskiyou Mountains containing incredible diversity and one of the highest percentages of endemic plants in the United States. The forest within the park provides a sustainable scientific study area as surrounding national forest land is utilized under multiple use management. The cave has been found to hold a collection of Pleistocene aged fossils, some scarce and some the oldest known in North America, representing the region's fauna during the last Ice Age. Five buildings and their associated landscape features and public use areas are listed in the National Register of Historic Places as an historic district. The Oregon Caves Chateau is on the Register of National Historic Landmarks.

By 2016 it is the goal of the Monument to protect and maintain the natural and cultural resources and associated values within their broader ecosystem and cultural context and to allow for interesting and stimulating resource-based recreation in subsurface areas that do not significantly impair monument resources. Visitors to the Monument will safely experience and be satisfied with the availability, accessibility, diversity and quality of the Monument's facilities, services and appropriate recreational opportunities and understand and appreciate the preservation of the Monument's resources and associated values. Keystone facilities as the Chateau and Chalet will be completely renovated and restored. Natural and cultural resources will be conserved through formal partnership programs such as the Illinois Valley Visitor Center, the Siskiyou Field Institute, the Deer Creek Center for Field Research and Education and cooperative agreements with Rogue River- Siskiyou National Forest, the Bureau of Land Management and community organizations. Local communities will be engaged with the Monument and its programs and understand the relationship of the Monument to their hertiage, social, educational and economic interests. The Monument will improve, utilize and maintain scientific baseline data to effect management decisions that achieve these outcomes by 2016.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Craig Ackerman

Site: ORCA

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)

Adapt No Name Trail to wheelchair access
Rehabilitate the primary visitor use facilities providing VC, lodging and food service to provide handicapped accessible to ADA standards.
Produce high definition virtual tour video to allow limited mobility or otherwise disabled visitors to experience the cave environs.

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

Site: ORCA

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.

The Chateau at Oregon Caves became the property of the National Park Service in 2003; it is a National Historic Landmark (NHL). The Monument will bring the Chateau into Life-Safety and Accessibility Compliance and replace obsolete mechanical, electrical, and other systems and finishes that threaten the survival of the building and its occupants. The Chateau is furnished with original paintings, hand tinted photographs by Kaiser, and highly collectible Monterey furniture. To protect these assets which belong to the American people, these items will be inventoried, labeled, their condition assessed, and where necessary, treatment undertaken. We will renovate the historic Chalet to correct code deficiencies and deterioration and rehabilitate for adaptive use. We will convert the first floor from gift shop to a visitor center and orientation facility, tour registration, and EMS/SAR cache, rehabilitate public restrooms and the second and third floors for continued use as employee housing to include reconfigured floor plan, replacement of all electrical wiring and plumbing. Adapt walkways, stairways and ramps to provide ADA compliant handicapped access to facility.

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.

To both help restore and preserve spotted owl habitat, increase fuel reduction to cover up to one quarter of Monument (120 acres) by 2012

In conjunction with BLM and USFS, pursue the possibility of reintroducing into the park's bioregion the wolverine (bones in the park's showcave) or adding to any remnant population.

Pursuant to developing NPS policies, find ways to reduce the number of barred owls on the Monument

Continue and expand the park's invasive early warning system in coordination with the Klamath Network. This includes several Phytoptera species, gypsy moths, barred owls, West Nile virus, and non-native plants. Develop a Klamath Cluster photo-library of potential invasive species and visual symptoms that indicate they are likely to be present.

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

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

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

The operation of the commercial visitor service facility suffers due to no available space for groups to conduct meetings. There is also no available space on the Monument to conduct public meetings of any type with stakeholders, partners, or general civic engagement. We will restore the historic guide dormitory, which is currently in poor condition, to good condition to create a facility in which to conduct meetings, both public and commercial, that will allow stakeholders to be more directly involved with management and planning on the Monument and will allow visitors another, different opportunity of interacting with the site.

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.

Research whether the present reduction of anthropogenic organics in the park's showcave helps to restore the cave's macroinvertebrate biodiversity

Complete surface resources management plan

Continue cave impact mapping and broken speleothem inventories

Ensure through hand pulling that the acreage of vascular plant invasives continue to decline and that there is no area in the Monument that has >20% coverage by non-natives.

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

Complete all cultural resource inventories for designated priority resources.

Complete the park's administrative history.

Inventory historic roads and trails in a regional context and nominate for historic designation

Increase from 12 cubic feet to 24 cubic feet the number of historical documents that are listed by title and as such archived into the park's museum collections.

Obtain the remaining ethnohistoric and ethnographic materials (mostly linguistic and interviews) not covered in or recommended by a recent ethnographic study of the Monument

Site: ORCA

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

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

Site: ORCA

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)

Incorporate Native American Ethnographic/Affiliation Study into interpretive themes at the Monument.

Provide public information and education on the GMP recommendation for a boundary expansion of 3400 acres to protect watershed and highly aesthetic landscapes in Bigelow Lakes Basin.

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Site: ORCA

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)

Complete paleoclimate research to determine effects of climate change on ancient cave environments.
Research whether the present reduction of anthropogenic organics in the park's showcave helps to restore the cave's macroinvertebrate biodiversity
Monitoring of the abiotic and biologic effects of increases in carbon dioxide and temperatures in the cave and overlying soils will be completed by 2007
An assessment that combines all biodiversity on area species curves for all counties and NPS units in the Klamath Network will be completed in 2009
An assessment of vascular plant diversity based on area species curves for all counties, NPS, BLM, and USFS units in the Klamath Network will be completed in 2008

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

Site: ORCA

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

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

Work with USFS to develop alternatives to grazing allotments in Lake Creek watershed
Upgrade and monitor waste water treatment system improvements. Through a sewer system upgrade, ensure that all .9 miles of the Monument's streams are in the highest water quality level in terms on dissolved oxygen, main ions, temperature, and turbidity.

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Site: ORCA

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.

Demonstrate leadership through application of practical environment stewardship practices throughout the Monument that may be duplicated by visitors at home.

Replace all incandescent bulbs in cave with diodes to reduce heat loading exasperated by global warming and to reduce off-trail impacts caused by bulb replacement.

Install solar panels to power historic kiosk and flagpole lighting

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

Develop micro-hydro power system utilizing effluent from Cave Creek/River Styx to replace some grid power in historic Chateau.

Replace gasoline vehicles with bio-diesel, propane, hybrid or electric vehicles

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.

Insure major rehabilitation projects (LIC) at Chalet and Chateau achieve a minimum "silver" LEED rating

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Site: ORCA

ENVIRONMENT

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Double the current number of Monument staff hours devoted to teaching environmental classes for the Siskiyou Field Institute

Work with the Siskiyou Field Institute and scientists to publish a book on the natural and cultural history of southwestern Oregon.

With written reports on natural history and resource management concerns, increase the word content (natural and cultural history, resource management) of the Siskiyou Field Institute websites by 500%

Increase tenfold the yearly number of articles about the park's natural and cultural history, recreation and volunteer activities, and resource management.

Encourage Friends Group to partner and fundraise for vegetation restoration and cooperate with USFS in areas adjacent to the Monument within the proposed expansion

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

Site: ORCA

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.

Rehabilitate over 2,000 miles of trails within or connected to national parks, including trails accessible to those with disabilities.

Cooperate with USFS to develop Lake Creek trail and improve maintenance and connectivity of trails in the Lake Mountain Mount Elijah area with Monument trails.

Collaborate with States of Oregon and California, BLM, USFS and community support groups on development of "Caves to Coast Trail".

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Site: ORCA

RECREATION

Establish "volun-tourism" excursions to national parks for volunteers to help achieve natural and cultural resource protection goals.

Increase annual volunteer hours by 100 percent, from 5.2 million hours to 10.4 million hours.

Conduct three cave-restoration weekends each year by e-mailing to all potential participants on a volunteer directory list and by local advertising and invitations to regional chapters of the National Speleological Society.

Aggressively market and support research (such as dissertations and master theses) and other paid or volunteer opportunities of the Klamath Cluster by sending listings of the most important research needs and what support is likely available to all colleges and universities in Canada and the U.S.

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Site: ORCA

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)

Through partnerships with the Deer Creek Center, Siskiyou Field Institute, and local school districts, increase the number of student involved in directly linked, core curriculum environmental education programs to 5000 by the NPS Centennial.

Involve the Grant's Pass Boys and Girls Club in removing non-natives species above and below ground.

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

Site: ORCA

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.

Work as Executive Board Member of Southern Oregon Visitors Association to incorporate Monument into tourism promotion and planning.
Connect the Chateau with two other publicly owned lodges in Oregon (Timberline and Crater Lake) to promote connected tourism of the three sites.

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.

Increase number of visitor programs by 25%
Increase by 20% special recreation and interpretive programs in the cave, Candlelight and Introduction to Caving, to provide unique experiences that will attract additional visitors and extend the length of stay of existing visitors.

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

Site: ORCA

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Create a four year term, full time Youth Activities Coordinator position in partnership with the Siskiyou Field Institute (SFI). The coordinator would help build a full time youth activities/education program, stationed at the Deer Creek Center for Education and Field Research (DCC), a cooperative venture between SFI and Southern Oregon University. DCC will have the capacity for overnight accommodation of program participants. Additional outreach and education opportunities will be provided for the NPS and SFI. The position would also coordinate youth activities as related to the ORCA Centennial Celebration through 2009 and continue to plan and coordinate youth activities for the 2016 NPS Centennial Challenge with emphasis on the Education Renaissance and Civic Engagement threads of the Challenge. We will conduct outreach that encourages new groups to come utilize the programs at the Monument and the DCC; engage youth participants in research and restoration opportunities at DCC and build hands-on outdoor biological learning stations at the different habitats at DCC and coordinate interpretive themes with the Monument.

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

Site: ORCA

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.

Create an interactive, virtual tour of the cave accessible through the website. Investigate installation of infrared web or other non-impacting technology cam that could provide streaming video of bats utilizing cave entrances during periods of high activity.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Develop and install interactive display and media in Monument visitor center and on Cliff Nature Trail that are activated by GPS locator devices such as "Pocket Ranger" commercial devices.

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

Site: ORCA

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.

Maintain visitor satisfaction with facilities and programs at 99% or above. Increase visitor understanding of significance of the Monument to 80%

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

Site: ORCA

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.

Recruit develop and retain a diverse workforce through use of outreach, and a variety of hiring authorities. Increase utilization of STEP and SCEP programs to enable develop of candidates for permanent positions.

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

Site: ORCA

PROFESSIONALISM

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

Reduce the number of employee lost-time incidents and serious visitor injuries by 20 percent.

Reduce employee injury lost time rate from base line to zero

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Site: ORCA

PROFESSIONALISM

Make national parks the first choice in philanthropic giving among those concerned about environmental, cultural, and recreational values.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Work with Friends of the Oregon Caves Chateau to expand knowledge of the Chateau throughout the state.
Complete fundarising agreement with Friends Group for capital campaign of up to \$1,000,000 to support restoration of NHL and historic furnishings.

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