

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

First Annual  
Centennial Strategy for

# Crater Lake National Park

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



**Site:** CRLA

**Year:** 2007

**Vision Statement**

Crater Lake National Park will forever preserve the beauty of Crater Lake and its unique ecological and cultural heritage. We will foster understanding and appreciation through visitor use and enjoyment, special educational programs and through creative partnership opportunities. The Park's world class resources will remain unimpaired, while it's role in the broader educational and scientific communities becomes increasingly more relevant to future generations.

**Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager**

Chuck Lundy - Park Superintendent

Site: CRLA

**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)

The park's enhanced education program will provide students at many different grade levels with an inspiring, safe, and accessible visit to a national park. It will also increase their knowledge about the national park system, and encourage them to visit other parks.

The park's first ever Visitor Center will be accessible to all visitors.

Provide accessibility information on all park publications, website, exhibits and trailheads.

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

**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 Munson Valley Historic District buildings and landscape. Develop Historic Structure Reports for all historic buildings, and develop Preventive Maintenance programs to ensure those structures are properly cared for.

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

100% of park acreage is surveyed for the presence of invasive plants. Plants that pose the highest threats to native habitats are controlled and monitored to maintain them below damage thresholds. Future disturbed acreages including orphaned sites are identified and restored using site specific genotypes. Natural fire is allowed to reclaim its ecological role in fire dependent ecosystems in park natural areas or is reintroduced as a management tool. Whitebark pine is monitored for signs of alien blister rust and disease resistant individuals are propagated to replace lost stocks. Threatened or endangered species are making progress toward recovery in the park. Bull trout populations are stabilized, and protected from competition from exotic brook trout and further reintroduced into native habitats.

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.**

Develop a Park Asset Management Plan to ensure that a strategic reinvestment method is used with limited funding. Demonstrate the improved condition of the high priority assets by bringing those assets into or keeping them in good condition.

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.**

Monitoring is initiated and sustained on park vital signs to anticipate and recognize human induced changes to ecosystem resources. Potential new vital signs are identified as additional inventory and research information reveals new keystone species or processes sensitive to evolving threats.

Data collected from inventory, monitoring and research efforts are managed collectively in a comprehensive spatial and relational information management system available for future science inquiry and management problem solving.

Site: CRLA

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

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Complete all cultural resource inventories for designated priority resources.

Increase number of surveyed archeological sites within the park, and include all surveyed sites in ASMIS. Additionally, all known archeological sites are maintained in good condition.

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Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Increase suitable storage space to meet archives and museum collections needs, maintaining all objects in good condition.

Create an endowment to support the Hartell Historic Preservation Internship program at the park.

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

Site: CRLA

STEWARDSHIP

Encourage children to be future conservationists.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The park's enhanced and expanded park education program will not only help students learn a variety of concepts by tying closely to the Oregon State Content Standards, it will also provide an exciting connection to park resources through place-based learning and will encourage children to be conservationists. Students will also learn about the mission of the National Park Service, and about career options with land management agencies.

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Site: CRLA

**ENVIRONMENT**

Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

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

The park staff maintains vigilance over air and water quality monitoring to evaluate potential threats to air and water resources from park operations. Air and water quality measures exceed state standards. New project proposals and operational procedures are evaluated against air and water quality impacts. The park is an active participant in evaluating new area emission sources that would threaten park air and water quality and provides early, practical and effective mitigation strategies. Potential impacts to emerging air quality related values such as night skys and natural sounds are evaluated and mitigated with equal vigor as criteria pollutants. New recreational pursuits are evaluated against air quality related values and water quality and limited or prohibited if they pose unacceptable impacts. Alternative fuels for boats on Crater Lake are evaluated and utilized as practical technology advances. The park is proactively prepared to prevent and/or clean up an accidental spill or release of hazardous substances into the park's air or watersheds.

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Site: CRLA

**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.

Include an Energy & Environmental Practices article in the park newspaper, and place conservation messages on all bulletin boards and kiosks and include them in interpretive programs.

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

Seek philanthropic mechanisms whereby Crater Lake National Park can elect to purchase all of it's electrical needs from renewable resources.

Perform a fleet analysis to determine optimal fleet size and replace rental and Interior Owned vehicles with hybrid or electric vehicles wherever possible.

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

Use Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards in all projects that have building, energy, sustainability, or conservation components.

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

Site: CRLA

**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.

Rehabilitate lesser used trails that have little use, but have had significant long-term investment and have not been base funded. Rehabilitate limited sections of existing trails that can be made accessible in part, such as the Castle Crest Wildflower Trail.

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Site: CRLA

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.

Work with the Friends of Crater Lake National Park and the Crater Lake Ski Patrol on volunteer projects that provide assistance to park visitors and help protect park resources.

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Site: CRLA

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)

Enhance and expand current partnerships with schools and universities to reach more students at all grade levels.

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

Site: CRLA

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 enhanced education program will (1) expand the program to serve all 5,000 eligible students who live within a half-day's travel of the park, (2) make the program available to more students outside the immediate region, in part by incorporating "distance learning" technologies and web-based curricula, and (3) deepen the Classroom experience by involving older students in additional activities, including teaching of younger students.

Our partners include the Southern Oregon Education Service District to understand curriculum needs and best practices for testing learning success and to select participating teachers, Southern Oregon University to help set and assess student and teacher performance, and the Crater Lake National Park Trust as a fundraising partner. All curriculum is closely connected to Oregon State Content Standards for multiple subjects.

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



Site: CRLA

**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.

One of the key features of the park's enhanced education program will be distance learning experiences and the development of interactive web-based curricula.

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

Site: CRLA

**EDUCATION**

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

All students that participate in the park's enhance education program will also be given information about our recently updated Junior Ranger program. The hope is that students will be inspired to return to the park for a visit with their families and become Junior Rangers.

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- Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

By promoting life-long learning of NPS employees, they will become better park advocates.

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Site: CRLA

**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.**

The park's enhanced and expanded education program will increase the students' understanding and appreciation of Crater Lake National Park, both through park field trips and pre- and post-visit lessons done in the classroom. It will also increase the number of students reached, and through them, their families.

Provide visitors with high quality interpretive programs and media that facilitate intellectual and emotional connections between the visitor and the park resources.

The park's new Rim Visitor Center will be equipped with state-of-the art interpretive exhibits to increase visitor satisfaction and understanding.

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

Site: CRLA

**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.**

Use effective recruitment methods to maintain a diverse workforce that represents the demographics of Southern Oregon.

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

Site: CRLA

**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.**

Encourage park managers and leaders at all park levels to pursue professional training and certifications through recognition and flexible work environments that demonstrate efficiencies. Encourage staff to seek grants for professionalization efforts.

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

Site: CRLA

**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.

Stress the importance of employee and visitor safety and wellness. Maintain the employee lost time injury rate at or below the previous 5-year average. Reduce the # of COP hours from previous 5-year average. Promote a park employee wellness program in which employees are encouraged to exercise.

Ensure that all employees receive safety training relevant to their duties and positions. Ensure that regular safety meetings are held to keep employee safety foremost in our worker's minds.

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Site: CRLA

**PROFESSIONALISM**

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Maintain an organizational structure where collaboration is used to achieve mutual goals. Crater Lake National Park will maintain the existing 12 community partnerships it has currently in place, in order to enhance the park's ability to operate with neighboring communities.

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Site: CRLA

**PROFESSIONALISM**

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

Improve communications and marketing capacity to increase public understanding of our mission, opportunities, and benefits.

The park will work in close partnership with the Crater Lake Trust to explore a full spectrum of philanthropic opportunities. The Trust is currently completing a feasibility analysis to examine the potential of raising approximately \$ 12 million dollars. The funds would be targeted for several parkwide needs, but especially to fund the completion of the park's first ever Visitor Center , which would be adaptively located into the historic 1928 building on the rim of the caldera. The Crater Lake Trust will be the Park's principal source for funding special needs and projects throughout the Centennial Celebration period.

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