

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Whitman Mission National Historic Site

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: WHMI

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

To protect the cultural and natural resources at Whitman Mission National Historic Site utilizing sustainable and environmentally sensitive practices in such a way that the resources will be accessible, available, and relevant to a diverse public both today and for future generations. This will be accomplished by employment of innovative partnerships, incorporating appropriate technologies (old and new), and evaluating past practices, making adjustment/corrections as necessary to protect resources.

This vision is rooted in, and grows from, the Organic Act of the National Park Service and the park's legislated mandate found in the Act of Congress (H.R. 7736, Public No. 840) on June 29, 1936. Public Law 80-543, passed in 1968, expanded the purpose of Whitman Mission NHS to include "westward expansion" through the creation of the National Trail System Act and specifically recognized Whitman Mission NHS as a site on the Oregon Trail.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Francis T. Darby

Site: WHMI

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)

Provide a safe visitor experience.
Develop and maintain electronic files so that remote users can access park resources.

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

Site: WHMI

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

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

Continue the long term project to reestablish the native habitat for Doan Creek. This once free flowing stream was completely diverted for agricultural purposes prior to the park being established. Native species, both plant and animal, were lost to agricultural uses. This project reestablished the original water course and requires an active long term management to reestablish native grasses and forbs to displace the exotic varieties that invaded during the agricultural use.

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.

Maintain park visitor use facilities in top 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.

Identify resource impacts and prioritize threats. Evaluate program effectiveness and adapt management actions accordingly.

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

Complete all cultural resource inventories for designated priority resources.

Collect and analyze data on cultural resource status and trends. Develop and implement actions to mitigate cultural resource threats.

Complete administrative requirements (site inspection) to have the park's cultural landscape inventory meet the specifications so it can be included in the national data base.

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

Site: WHMI

STEWARDSHIP

Encourage children to be future conservationists.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Conduct energetic Ranger lead, on-site visitor use programs that conveys the purpose and significance of Whitman Mission as both a cultural and natural resource. Maintain curriculum based off-site programs and workbooks that relate to primary school children such as the Archeological Week at a local middle school and the salmon egg hatching at the local Children's Museum. Maintain intern programs with local colleges to provide real world experience in the conservation field.

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

Site: WHMI

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

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

Install a grid tied photovoltaic system at the visitor center to reduce environmental impact on park operations.

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

Site: WHMI

ENVIRONMENT

Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

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

Demonstrate and inspire leadership and innovations in environmental stewardship and green practices. Develop an exhibit that details environmental saves of the grid tied photovoltaic system to be installed on the visitor center roof. Management team members will conduct educational/informational tours of the grid tied system installed on the maintenance facility for local government staff as well as contractors and interested individuals and incorporate Environmental Management System philosophy into management based programs with other professionals and organizations.

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.

Utilize photovoltaic and bio-diesel for heating and vehicle fuels, advance bulb designs for office and museum lighting, and other conservation measures to reduce the carbon footprint from park operations.

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

Site: WHMI

ENVIRONMENT

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Foster community participation in resource stewardship through education and action. Inspire public trust by properly managing park assets, people, and resources.

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

Site: WHMI

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.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Establish agreement with Washington State's Department of Fish and Wildlife for a no fee fisherman's access to Mill Creek on federal land.

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

Site: WHMI

RECREATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Foster volunteer community participation in a variety of resource stewardship activities.

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

Site: WHMI

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)

Deliver high quality and relevant education and intern programs that inspire and engage individuals.

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

Site: WHMI

RECREATION

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

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

Offer a variety of programs and experiences that engage the public in such a manner that attendance to these program increases when compared to program attendance in 2005.

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

Site: WHMI

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Deliver high quality and relevant education programs that inspire and engage. Serve as a catalyst and exemplar for delivering quality education programs through partners. Use appropriate evaluation tools and methods to evaluate and improve the education programs. Provide hands on resource stewardship with the Doan Creek restoration program.

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

Site: WHMI

EDUCATION

Introduce young people and their families to national parks by using exciting media and technology.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Use technology to create an interactive Interpretive Visitor Aide for visitors. Develop interactive web-based programs that link the park site with curriculum based education programs and resources.

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

Site: WHMI

EDUCATION

Promote life-long learning to connect generations through park experiences.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Engage diverse individuals through programs, publications, and educational materials.

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

Site: WHMI

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 significance of the park is understood by more than 86% (national goal) of park visitors as measured by the annual Visitor Use Survey. More than 95% (national goal) of the visitors are satisfied with park facilities, services, and recreation opportunities.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Deliver high quality and relevant education programs that inspire and engage. Foster community participation in resource stewardship through education and action. Engage diverse individuals through programs, publications, and educational materials

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

Site: WHMI

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 that represents the demographics of Southeastern Washington.

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

Site: WHMI

PROFESSIONALISM

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Foster an organizational culture where each individual staff member accepts responsibility for their safety and those that they work with. Analyzing potential job hazards and adjusting accordingly is part of each and every action.

The number of visitor accidents/incidents at Whitman Mission National Historic Site is no higher than the baseline number of 1 (the FY2000-FY2003 annual average, rounded up to accommodate data program).

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

Site: WHMI

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.

Inspire public trust by properly managing park assets, people, and resources. Foster community participation in resource stewardship through education and action.

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