

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Lake Clark National Park & Preserve

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: LACL

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve will become more prominent and understood as the epitome of an Alaska wilderness landscape - a place to explore, see and experience a largely undisturbed natural region and a very unique chapter in our nation's history and cultures. Situated at the headwaters for Bristol Bay, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve is charged with protecting a composite of ecosystems and very specific resources unrivalled in Alaska.

We will fully complete baseline inventories and monitoring protocols and build a model for scientific research that provides a benchmark example against which human use within the park and elsewhere can be measured. In this effort LACL will become a window through which global climate change will be better understood, provoking the social conscience of an informed public and the solutions to follow.

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve will pursue new relationships and innovative technologies to connect with the public in new ways to advance the NPS charge for a meaningful national conservation ideal. This will require a significant departure from the isolation of our past efforts; we will explore and expand upon partnership opportunities with new gateway communities that improve the effectiveness of our outreach; we will solicit and encourage willing neighbors, area landowners and influential NGOs to share in efforts to preserve identified critical area resources and habitat through alliances on conservation easements and strategic land acquisition.

We will assure we remain relevant to an evolving American public by developing in our workforce a true composition and reflection of the public we serve. Professional, expertly trained and environmentally committed, LACL employees will become a resource of knowledge and example for others of environmental leadership. We will develop and evolve the necessary expertise to provide environmentally advanced and financially efficient park operations.

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve will nurture our important relationships with indigenous and rural residents, neighboring agencies and other parks, developing with them solutions to shared problems and conditions. These relationships will advance the seamless network concepts for parks to real-life example and understanding. In this initiative we will renew and redefine our commitments to shared park values, aspirations and expectations to assure conservation and public enjoyment thrive in the next century.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Joel L. Hard

Site: LACL

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)

To improve public understanding and support for LACL, we will build upon our partnerships with regional communities, advocating for a necessary relocation of the Anchorage office to a community with a defined and meaningful park connection and a strong conservation ethic at the government, corporate and public levels. Advancing relationships with a community of size with a proximity and historic connection to the park will assure that we can fully implement the expectations of the Centennial Initiative.

A relocation and formal presence in strategic gateway(s) will vastly improve our public outreach to audiences of all ages and a much larger visiting public than otherwise possible from Port Alsworth or from our Anchorage facility where significant other interests predominate and no specific park connection exists. Such a move is the single most important effort for LACL to meaningfully connect with potential visitors, and far beyond our capacity with the existing park structure.

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

Site: LACL

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.

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve will assure 100% of lakes, reservoirs, estuarine and/or marine areas will meet water quality standards.

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

Complete all cultural resource inventories for designated priority resources.

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve will assure 100% of LACL cultural landscapes are in good condition.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

By 2016, an inventory and population assessment of all harvestable wildlife will be completed to inform State and Federal harvest regulation development. By September 30, 2011, 100% of lakes, estuarine and/or marine areas managed by Lake Clark (LACL) will meet water quality standards.

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

Site: LACL

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)

LACL will seek necessary staffing and resources to implement the 2006 Interpretation and Education Renaissance Action Plan in support of the Centennial Initiative. Reasonable human capital investments will allow the park to reach interpretive standards we need and desire to be effective.

Through such resources we can increase the number of ranger-facilitated programs such as, school programs, hikes, living culture learning camps, village visits and Junior Ranger programs.

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Site: LACL

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)

LACL will welcome and participate wherever possible in scientific research that advances park resource understanding and ocean stewardship responsibilities. LACL enjoys largely intact and undisturbed ecosystems and will advance opportunities for research of these systems, ecological processes, species variability and genetic variation, serving as a context in understanding human influences on the environment here and elsewhere.

Establish a field laboratory within the SWAN (I&M) Network to enable us to better meet our resource management responsibilities, and support implementation of the NPS Alaska Region Ocean Park Stewardship Strategy and a multifaceted Climate Change Research program.

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

Site: LACL

STEWARDSHIP

Encourage children to be future conservationists.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

LACL will seek necessary staffing and resources to implement the 2006 Interpretation and Education Renaissance Action Plan in support of the Centennial Initiative. Reasonable human capital investments will allow the park to reach interpretive standards we need and desire to be effective.

Through such resources we can increase the number of ranger-facilitated programs such as, school programs, hikes, living culture learning camps, village visits and Junior Ranger programs. LACL will improve educational curricula and interpretive programs through the TERM Education Specialist position in Homer and target delivery to youth of all park resident zone communities. Educational outreach will also involve annual multi-day Wilderness hikes to provide opportunities for local youth to experience their natural environment to build future advocates or even employees.

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

Site: LACL

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

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

LACL will reduce emissions of essential vehicle use by evolving field operations to utilize only outboard and snowmobile technology that meets the best EPA standards.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

LACL will reduce its dependence on fossil fuels at all remote ranger stations, adapting facilities to utilize solar and/or wind powered energy for improved energy efficiency.

The park's recycling program will be formalized and supported by adapting with minimal reconstruction an existing structure for separation and temporary storage prior to shipment to Anchorage.

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

Site: LACL

ENVIRONMENT

Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

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

LACL will reduce its dependence on fossil fuels at all remote ranger stations, adapting facilities to utilize solar and/or wind powered energy for improved energy efficiency.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The park will replace its existing incinerator with a newer design that meets the latest exhaust emission standards and decreases the park's carbon footprint.

Through legislative change and community partnership, waste management systems will be improved in Port Alsworth to provide for an environmentally approved landfill to reduce future refuse incineration and costly air shipments of refuse to Anchorage.

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

Site: LACL

ENVIRONMENT

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

LACL will partner with the Conservation Fund (TCF) to work with willing landowners to provide conservation protection for parcels of strategic ecosystem importance. The goal of these efforts will be to sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations and thereby perpetuate the cultural, economic, recreational, social, and aesthetic uses they support through voluntary habitat conservation. Together, we will identify parcels that are essential to this charge and achieve with willing landowners, conservation easements and other forms of protection.

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

Site: LACL

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)

The park will seek a partnership with the community of Port Alsworth to relieve boat congestion and resource impacts on Hardenburg Bay through construction of a marina. This central protected moorage will improve the safety of recreational and park operational vessel and aircraft uses while restoring the aesthetic qualities of the shoreline and negating further resource damage from beachings on sensitive habitat.

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

Site: LACL

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.

By 2012, LACL will increase VIP hours by 10% over its 2006 volunteer hours.

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

Site: LACL

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)

LACL build upon existing relationships and actively seek other opportunities to partner with local governments and public and private entities on projects and programs of mutual interest that enhance the park's ability to provide children-focused visitor services and increase public understanding of park resources.

Such programs will focus on skills development through living culture camps, student participation in scientific research studies and monitoring, Junior Ranger programs, wilderness excursions and backcountry trails and facilities maintenance.

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

Site: LACL

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

LACL will develop educational curricula and interpretive programs through the TERM Education Specialist position in Homer and target delivery to youth of all park resident zone communities. Educational outreach will also involve annual multi-day nature hikes to provide opportunities for local youth to experience their natural environment with park staff.

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

Site: LACL

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.**

LACL will develop educational curricula and interpretive programs that utilize technology to connect people to parks. It will continue programs such as the McNeil River Grizzly Cam to maximize our ability to provide outreach and educational services via the internet to reach a global audience. LACL will incorporate park podcasts, webcams, blogs and other techniques to provide young people a way to virtually experience the park and learn about its significance.

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

- Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)**

To improve public understanding and support for LACL, we will build upon our partnerships with regional communities, advocating for a necessary relocation of the Anchorage office to a community with a defined and meaningful park connection and a strong conservation ethic at the government, corporate and public levels. Advancing relationships with a community of size with the proximity and historic connection to the park will assure that we can fully implement the expectations of the Centennial Initiative.

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Site: LACL

EDUCATION

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

Enroll an additional two million children in the Junior Ranger program.

The park will integrate the Junior Ranger program in its Interpretation/Education programs in both Port Alsworth and Homer, providing specific training and development for this purpose to interpretive staff.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The park will actively engage with Denali National Park and Preserve and its Murie Science and Learning Center to partner with and expand learning and interpretive programs that capture the unique qualities, attributes and living cultures of LACL that we hope to impart to a larger audience.

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

Site: LACL

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.

LACL will create a visitor center to support the park administrative headquarters office in Anchorage, Alaska. The visitor center will provide a necessary facility for public attraction and engagement for Lake Clark National Park and Preserve within the Alaska Region office building. Since the park's inception in 1980, the Lake Clark administrative and cultural resources staff have been physically located in Anchorage, where no public interaction has ever been specifically targeted.

Such an effort will establish and nurture a necessary presence within Alaska's largest community to improve the local and visiting publics' understanding of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. The park has been linked physically to Anchorage since the 1980s, though a meaningful relationship through public facilities has never before been a specific priority. Creating a visitor center within a vacant suite of the existing office building will provide a cost effective means to build and maintain an important community relationship that will encourage public involvement and advance cooperative conservation.

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

Site: LACL

PROFESSIONALISM

Use strategic planning to promote management excellence.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Each park Program Manager will participate in an annual development conference with the Superintendent to focus on their professional position, future goals and aspirations. Their specific strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and obstacles will be identified and reviewed and a plan established to minimize any weaknesses and eliminate obstacles to provide meaningful opportunities for growth and future advancement.

This plan will be used to prioritize training proposals, details and acting assignments.

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

Site: LACL

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.

LACL will lower the number of hours of Continuation of Pay below 160, and assure the Employee Lost Time Injury rate is reduced to 3 or lower for Lake Clark.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

LACL will put greater value on the benefits of the NPS aviation program by advocating for improved pilot recruitment and enhanced training and mentorship. Consistent with the Safety Leadership Council, LACL will participate in the creation, development and delivery of a regional aviation training strategy. An action of the strategy will be to make permanent the Regional Aviation Trainer position. With this effort, aviation program preparedness and safety will become and remain a critical operation focus for the entire region and strive for the lowest rate of accidents within DOI. This position will coordinate with all parks to provide:

- Improved decision making
- Specialized aviation training
- Park operational support
- Consistency of checkrides and attainment of flight standards
- Essential coordination with other DOI aviation programs

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

Site: LACL

PROFESSIONALISM

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

LACL will actively seek opportunities to partner with local governments and public and private entities on projects and programs of mutual interest that enhance the park's ability to provide visitor services and increase public understanding of park resources.

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