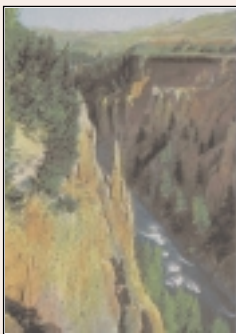


A New Mandate for Performance

In 1993, Congress passed the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), aimed at making the federal government more accountable for how tax dollars are spent. Similar to the “performance management revolution” embraced by private industry and many state and local governments, the act requires agencies to develop strategic plans and measurable goals, and to report progress on them to Congress in 2000.

As in other walks of life, the gap between what we wish to accomplish—indeed, what we have a mandate to do—and what we can accomplish under current conditions often seems vast. We have big dreams for what we hope to accomplish through improved resource and visitor protection, educational programs, recreational opportunities, visitor access, and accommodations. We also want to ensure a safe and productive work environment, in which a diverse park staff can effectively carry out the park’s mission.

Under Yellowstone’s Strategic Plan, developed in 1997 to comply with GPRA, the park developed a mission statement and set goals to be achieved by September 30, 2002. These short-term goals, which fall within three broad categories established for the entire National Park Service, assume that budget resources will remain limited, staffing levels will remain nearly the same, and no major new legislation affecting the park will be enacted. In this State of the Park Report, we highlight the park’s primary program areas, their current status, and what is needed for us to reach longer-term goals.



MISSION STATEMENT

Preserved within Yellowstone National Park are Old Faithful and the majority of the world’s geysers and hot springs. An outstanding mountain wildland with clean water and air; Yellowstone .is home of the grizzly bear and wolf and free-ranging herds of bison and elk. Centuries-old sites and historic buidings that reflect the unique heritage of America’s first national park are also protected. Yellowstone National Park serves as a model and inspiration for national parks throughout the world. The National Park Service preserves, unimpaired, these and other natural and cultural resources and values for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.