

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

First Annual  
Centennial Strategy for

# Grand Portage National Monument

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: GRPO

Year: 2007

### Vision Statement

Grand Portage National Monument is a large small park located along the North Shore of Lake Superior, a vacation destination area for urban residents in the Upper Midwest. It is uniquely located between the most heavily visited wilderness in the continental United States and largely pristine and vast Lake Superior. Grand Portage is also a traditional portal to and from Isle Royale National Park. The Monument is distinguished by its singular agreement with the Grand Portage Band of Minnesota Chippewa to share management of Monument resources.

Through the Centennial Initiative, by 2016, Grand Portage National Monument strives to make significant advances in resource stewardship and education and continue our operational partnership with the Grand Portage Band. For many decades infrastructure needs plagued Grand Portage National Monument operations and visitor services. The Monument's first visitor center was completed in 2007. Much of the Centennial Initiative will assist in the fullest operation of the Grand Portage Heritage Center as is possible. Changes will include: year round visitor services, a marvelous exhibit hall, heated bathrooms, an adequate artifact storage area meeting professional standards, and greater interpretive possibilities (both thematic and method of interpretation).

Resource stewardship can also be greatly enhanced by the replacement of a cramped and non-compliant Maintenance Shop. Built as temporary tin sheds in the late 1960s, the Maintenance Shop replacement is key to providing safe working space necessary to protect employees and house historic preservation efforts to maintain our historic structures. The Monument's first priority with the Centennial Initiative is the replacement of the tin sheds with an adequate size and fully compliant maintenance shop.

The Heritage Center will permit staff to work on site rather than commuting 72 miles daily. Working in Grand Portage will also permit greater communication and cooperation with our primary partner the Grand Portage Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Having more time on site and greater cooperative possibilities with the Grand Portage Band will increase resource stewardship (historic preservation, natural resource protection, and cultural and natural resource understanding).

The Grand Portage Band has sought our assistance in operating a public charter school in Grand Portage. Canoe Camps using the Grand Portage trail have also sought additional educational opportunities with the NPS. The Heritage Center will permit new, but limited, educational programming to Grand Portage and Twin Cities youth. The Heritage Center and our partnership with the Grand Portage Band will enhance the mentorship program we have with Grand Portage Indian youth.

### Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Timothy Cochrane

Site: GRPO

**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.

At Grand Portage construct a new Maintenance Shop (PMIS # 60177) and remove the handful of sheds that are presently inadequately providing that function. Restore the land on which the present shop is located, including a segment of the ancient Grand Portage trail. Help preserve national and local history by the operation of the historic buildings in the national monument. Work with the Grand Portage Band to recognize and preserve Grand Portage History.

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

Site: GRPO

**EDUCATION**

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Provide additional on-site educational programming for Grand Portage youth and canoe campers regularly visiting the Monument. Continue the mentorship program with Grand Portage youth. Work with the Grand Portage Charter School to provide heritage resource educational programs as requested by the school administrators.

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