

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

First Annual  
Centennial Strategy for

# Wrangell - St. Elias National Park & Preserve

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: WRST

Year: 2007

### Vision Statement

As the nation's largest national park, Wrangell St Elias National Park and Preserve provides the opportunity for Americans to experience a wild, seldom-visited corner of Alaska. This vast landscape provides the opportunity to experience ecosystem processes - glaciers, volcanic activity, succession, and world class fish and wildlife resources - and awe inspiring scenery at a scale that is unique in the United States. The park is rich in historic and prehistoric resources and is set within a remarkable human context - small communities of people living in and around the park. Customary and traditional subsistence uses continue as they have since early days, allowing us to preserve the traditional cultural practices for future generations of Alaskans.

By the NPS Centennial, Wrangell St. Elias will meet its critical research, inventory and monitoring needs to better manage fish and wildlife and their habitats within the park. According to a recent NPCA study, the park has urgent population data needs for wildlife, including wolves, Dall sheep, moose and caribou. As the federal lead for the management of the Copper River Red Salmon subsistence harvest, the park has a need for additional information and data to support this management responsibility. The park will strive to provide improved protection for the wildlife species currently in jeopardy within the park. WRST will strive to prevent the spread of exotic plant and animal species into the park and preserve.

The park/preserve manages significant historic and prehistoric resources, which include 458 known sites. About 10% of these sites are eligible for the national register but the park has not had the capacity to complete these nominations. One percent of parklands have been inventoried; there is a critical need to inventory at least an additional 35% of parklands.

Half of all park visitors visit the Kennecott National Historic Landmark within the park. As part of this initiative, the park will strive to complete stabilization of the NHL, and provide a program of interpretation and visitor services at the site. Additionally, the park will expand its effort to protect all cultural resources currently without adequate protection within the park.

Although more than a quarter century old, Wrangell-St. Elias does not even have one campground completed. By the Centennial, we will strive to complete the trails, waysides, campgrounds, raft launches, informational signs, and toilet facilities to implement the GMP and other plans.

Wrangell-St. Elias includes the largest wilderness in the national wilderness system. As part of the Centennial, the park will complete an initial assessment of backcountry use. The park will expand its environmental education, collaboration and outreach efforts with local communities in order to strengthen American's connections to their national parks.

### Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Meg Jensen



Site: WRST

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 the Kennecott Mill Town National Historic Landmark(7,700 acres plus associated historic structures and features), complete stabilization currently underway of 13 primary structures and all secondary structures owned by the NPS. Rebuild the National Creek railroad trestle following 2006 flood damage. Completely implement management guidance in the Cultural Landscape Report for the Kennecott Mill Town.

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

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

Restore natural resources and processes within the aprk to avoid possible extirpation of two declining caribou herds and recover the Kittlitz's Murrelet population which is a candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

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.**

Using the vital signs process, implement program of effective inventory, monitoring and research programs for park and preserve wildlife. Ensure that wildlife populations of stellar sea lions, bears, dall sheep, moose, caribou, wolves and other species in the park are managed and conserved, using scientific data.

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

**Complete all cultural resource inventories for designated priority resources.**

Complete cultural resource inventories on 35% of park/preserve lands(only 1% is currently surveyed).

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

Site: WRST

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Completely process 30 national register nominations for historically significant properties.

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

Site: WRST

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)

Strengthen resource stewardship and science capacity to address climate change concerns and manage subsistence use of park resources most effectively by: conducting research/data collection and analyzing population science of hunted species in the park and completing research on the magnitude and extent of climate change effects on park's resources.

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

Site: WRST

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

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

Promote and provide site for solid waste transfer and recycling in the McCarthy, Alaska area as a partnership with the McCarthy area community.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Demonstrate environmental excellence through use of alternative fuels, reduction of energy consumption and conversion to "green" energy(diesel to propane) at the remote Kennecott Mill Town/NHL and support facility.

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

Site: WRST

ENVIRONMENT

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Demonstrate collaborative environmental leadership in the management of subsistence and other resource uses, including harvest of Copper River salmon, in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and other federal agencies.

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

Site: WRST

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.

Bring 100 miles of park trails up to NPS standard.

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

Site: WRST

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)

Expand environmental education efforts underway by developing collaborative education outreach with local school system which meets curriculum requirements.

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

Site: WRST

RECREATION

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

Increase visitation by 25 percent at lesser-known parks through a national tourism effort aimed at helping people to discover the breadth of parks and experiences.

Develop and/or upgrade visitor facilities in the park/preserve, including: signing along road corridors; three campgrounds; raft launch sites at four locations within park/preserve; 50 waysides along the McCarthy and Nabesna Roads and the Richardson, Edgerton and Glenn Highways. Bring up to NPS standard and/or reestablish 300 miles of trail, including facilities accessible to the disabled.

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

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

Triple the size of the park's day camp program .

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

Site: WRST

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.

Develop podcasts for the park/preserve to reach youth audiences.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Develop interpretive radio program for broadcast along park roads.

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

Site: WRST

EDUCATION

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

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

Double the size of the park's junior ranger program.

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

Site: WRST

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.

Implement ANILCA Access to Inholdings Guide and issue 75% of right of way certificates of access by 2016.

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



Site: WRST

**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 and hire local Alaska Natives as 5% of our workforce, year over year, through a partnership with AHTNA regional corporation.

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

**Attain the highest employee satisfaction rate of all federal agencies, as measured by Office of Personnel Management surveys.**

Establish an employee mentoring program within the park for seasonal and permanent employees.

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

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

Provide employees with adequate tools and funding to do their jobs effectively and enhance employee satisfaction. Provide adequate employee housing and work facilities at McCarthy and Slana.

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

Site: WRST

**PROFESSIONALISM**

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

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

Build one new and strengthen two existing partnerships to enhance private sector support to park operations.

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