

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: GLBA

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve will protect and enhance an extraordinary natural and cultural environment for studying geological dynamics, successional processes, climate change, the complex dynamics of marine and terrestrial plant and animal communities in a pristine natural setting, and many other important areas of scientific inquiry. With a tradition of over a century of scientific research, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve provides an unparalleled baseline for applying knowledge from diverse disciplines - biological, physical, social and cultural values - to contributing to science-based decision making and to communicating research results to diverse audiences. It is a prime location for the study of the co-evolution of landscapes, ecosystems and culture. A place of superlative scenic grandeur and wilderness values, the park has inspired generations of visitors and researchers alike, and is a proven natural laboratory where humankind's connection to nature can be understood, appreciated, managed and passed on to future generations.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Tomie Lee

Site: GLBA

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)

In Bartlett Cove NPS will build a new 3500 square foot Huna Tlingit Tribal House and a 10,645 sq ft Visitor Center as facilities where the Park story is told. The Huna Tribal House will be designed and built using traditional materials and methods to achieve, to the maximum extent, the fabric and feel of the traditional clan house, a structural form that has not existed in the Park for over 125 years. In other settings, such as Aztec National Monument and Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, authentic structural recreations are proven as places that inspire students and visitors with a sense of the past, and studies have proven that lessons learned in such settings are longer lasting and more meaningful than similar lessons taught in a classroom setting. The Huna Tribal House will be an interpretive and learning center where the history, values and arts of Tlingit culture will be taught and preserved. The Glacier Bay Visitor Center will provide a safe, universally accessible learning center where park visitors will hear the interpretive message of the park, and where the park's visitors will hear operational and safety instructions regarding their visit to Glacier Bay.

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

Site: GLBA

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.

With construction of the Visitor Center the Glacier Bay Lodge, which has been nominated to the National Register and which currently houses a de-facto visitor center in a cobbled-together second story adaptation, will be rehabilitated to its historic design and condition. This de-facto visitor center is listed as a non-contributing element in the NRHP nomination, and inclusion of a plan for its removal in the nomination form is a mitigating factor. This project will help the Park achieve its legal mandate to manage historic structures. The Park also owns 4 structures of an 11 building WWII era, NRHP eligible historic district in the gateway community of Gustavus. NPS will continue to maintain 3 of its structures in good condition, while exploring restoration of a fourth structure to original fabric, and good condition (currently fair condition). Furthermore, NPS will initiate discussions with the community of Gustavus to help them gain "Certified Local Government" status with the Alaska State Historic Preservation officer, and develop a plan to rehabilitate the three structures in the historic district which they currently own.

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

Since 2004 an intensive inventory, monitoring, and control efforts for invasive plants have focused on areas frequented by people both currently and historically, the coastline, areas previously not surveyed, and revisiting areas with previous control work. In 2006, new species were documented. In addition, other species that were collected in the past were relocated for the first time in the past three years, bringing the total count of non-native plant species observed to 48. Glacier Bay is working to ensure that all future anthropogenic disturbances be mitigated in the most ecological manner, including pre-construction removal and storage of native vegetation for replanting, collection of local native seeds, restoration, and subsequent control of non-native species. A nursery area and seed bank should be created to facilitate revegetation areas. Resources, including time, money, equipment, and personnel has been available on the short-term. However, a longterm commitment for these resources is the challenge. Without these resources, maintaining the unique assemblage of native species and preserve wilderness in its natural condition will be futile.

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Site: GLBA

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

Improve the natural resources in parks, as measured by the vital signs developed under the Natural Resource Challenge.

Insert Park Text

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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)

Tlingit culture is a tradition long associated with place, and so profoundly influenced by the process of dynamic and rapid landscape change that the culture itself has become a reflection if you will, of the history of landscape change. This compelling story - one of a people rooted in place for so long, and living so intimately with the landscape that they have become a part of their surroundings, and it in them - is rarely told in the American experience. This project will be development in collaboration with partner the Hoonah Indian Association of an interpretive story, exhibits, displays and materials, that will tell this cultural story. This interpretive program will be housed and dispersed collaboratively through two structures, the Huna Tribal House in Bartlett Cove and the Huna Heritage Center in Hoonah, Alaska. The intent is to provide Park visitors, staff, and Huna children an appreciation of Huna culture, and impart all with a deeper sense of place.

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Site: GLBA

ENVIRONMENT

Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

Establish programs to showcase exemplary environmental practices and increase visitor awareness of how the practices apply to their daily lives, as measured by surveys.

GLBA will continue to provide interpretive programs that speak directly to the impacts on park resources from climate change, including providing information as research data becomes available. As the park finds new ways to reduce its own GHG emission we will share those as well. The park has agreed to be a test site for installation of a hydrogen fuel cell in Bartlett Cove. The park will continue to pursue the possibility of tying into the Gustavus hydro power when it goes on line. Park staff will continue to incorporate green procurement through all park purchasing.

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Site: GLBA

ENVIRONMENT

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

GLBA will continue to work closely with employees, visitors and local community members to improve our recycling program, including continuation of the partnership with the City of Gustavus.

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Site: GLBA

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.

The City of Gustavus, The Nature Conservancy and local land owners desire collaboration with RTCA and other entities to connect and expand existing trails throughout the Park and Gateway zone to enhance all-season visitor and resident recreation access. Trail improvements and expansions discussed thus far include the existing Bartlett Lake and Coopers Notch trails, as well as development of trail access in the recently developed Falls Creek area. An ADA accessible trail from the VIS to the Lodge is proposed as well.

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Site: GLBA

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)

We propose a new program "Healthy Heart-Healthy Park" that will provide field trips connecting children physically, mentally, culturally and spiritually to the park. Because access to the Park is by plane or boat, schools and youth organizations beyond the gateway zone find field trips logistically challenging and cost prohibitive. This program would provide opportunities for children to be physically-active in the park through hiking and camping, mentally-challenged through creative place-based education activities, spiritually-inspired by a sense of solitude and wildness in the park's wilderness, and culturally-stimulated by the stories of Tlingit people who consider Glacier Bay their ancestral homeland, of early explorers, scientists, writers, artists and others. For Tlingit people this program would have a profound effect on the health of their children and the preservation of their living culture. The program will consist of day camps, culture camps, boat trips and wilderness kayaking. Youth immersed in this program will have a greater appreciation and understanding of themselves and the park leading to a greater stewardship of our national parks and healthier citizens.

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Site: GLBA

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.

Visitors to the park and our neighbors in nearby communities will be provided interpretive opportunities, orientations and informal contacts that will enhance their understanding and enjoyment of park resources, increase their safety, and reduce their impacts. Interpretive opportunities will include restoring ranger-facilitated programs in Juneau, Alaska's capitol, Hoonah and Yakutat. With the demand for interpretive services increases, there has not been an associated base-funded increase in at least 20 years. Due to a loss of positions we provide fewer-landed based activities, cruise ship visitation has quadrupled since 1987 but our staffing has remained relatively constant, our outreach position in Juneau has been eliminated and programs connecting Huna Tlingit to their homeland are very limited.

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Site: GLBA

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The park will produce education and outreach programs through partnerships including long-distance learning curriculum, electronic and on-site field trips and school programs. The Park will continue to expand its unique Tlingit Heritage field trips which take groups of elders and youth to traditional sites for park-based learning. The Park will develop Tlingit cultural curriculum with local schools that deepen student's appreciation of their cultural heritage. Glacier Bay's Web Quests will be developed as an interactive curriculum exploring the park's dynamic story, delivered via the Internet. The curriculum will use existing long-distance learning templates, enriched with the latest interactive technology. This program will introduce students to the scientific research, both natural and cultural, that is conducted at the park. Scientists, native elders and teachers will collaborate to make activities exciting and relevant. The multi-disciplinary curriculum will meet national and state standards. A marine environment curriculum exists, and others will be developed. The curriculum will be available through the park and NPS websites reaching thousands of students and teachers.

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Site: GLBA

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.

Google, Flickr, Blog, Oh My! In addition to reaching families on NPS websites, this park will look for opportunities to connect people to the park from websites they are frequently visiting. The park will produce a series of podcasts for families that will bring the dynamic story of Glacier Bay to life via our website whether they travel to the park or not. Interactives will be placed as features on the park website inviting children and their families to actively engage in learning about the park. We will provide Google Earth with more specific information about the park that families can access. We will look at blogs and other sites to see how we can market or place information about our National Park at the fingertips of the American public. Glacier Bay has developed, and will continue to expand, a multi-media Tlingit cultural atlas and post it on the web to make it available to a wider audience. With the rapid change in technology today, we need to constantly explore new technology and sites to keep connected to young people in meaningful ways.

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Site: GLBA

EDUCATION

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

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

Expand our current award-winning Cruise Ship Junior Ranger to include preschool age children and develop a web-based Junior Ranger program. More than 400,000 cruise ship passengers visit Glacier Bay and the number of families is increasing. The cruise lines have requested a PeeWee Junior Ranger Activity Booklet and children's activities to bring Glacier Bay's story to life for young visitors. This program would complement the NPS Junior Ranger (ages 6-11) and the NPS Explorer Ranger (ages 12-18) already presented on board. The park would also develop a Glacier Bay Virtual Junior Ranger Program on the web consisting of activities introducing them to the park's dynamic glacial landscape. The Park will continue to sponsor Tlingit cultural field trips into the park for grades 4-12 so that each generation experiences meaningful connections to their homeland in the company of elders, experiencing Tlingit culture as a living thing, and preparing them to pass their culture along to future generations. These trips will enroll each student as a Junior Ranger, about 150 per year.

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Site: GLBA

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 park will build an visitor center and Huna Tribal House in Bartlett Cove. The 10,645 square foot multiple-use visitor center will be built to replace the existing deficient visitor, curatorial and emergency services facilities now scattered through the Park. The proposed facility will include space for interpretive exhibits, theater, information, backcountry and boater orientation, curatorial facilities, dispatch and emergency response, ANHA book sales, and staff workspace. The Park now uses a makeshift area on the mezzanine of the concessioner lodge for visitor contact, exhibits and an inadequate 40-person theater, which detracts from the historic structure. Furthermore, there is no facility for representing Tlingit culture, a significant Park resource. The Park will construct a 3500 square foot traditional Huna Tlingit Tribal House in Bartlett Cove that will serve as a learning center for teaching Tlingit culture and language to Tlingit youth and visitors alike. Design and construction of the facility will be orchestrated as a learning exercise, so that Tlingit youth are taught traditional design, construction, and cultural norms involved in building a plank house.

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Site: GLBA

PROFESSIONALISM

Be one of the top 10 places to work in America.

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

The cooperative development of a statewide workforce planning strategy for all the NPS units in Alaska will be the first step towards identifying how recruitment and retention needs can be met. Training and professional development of the NPS workforce in Alaska has not been well-coordinated creating inefficient and ineffective use of the limited training funds. With all NPS units in the state undertaking sustainable budget planning, which includes developing a target organization, adequate levels of funding for training and professional development should follow. Development of a holistic strategy for the NPS workforce in Alaska will have the benefit of improving every employee's opportunity for training and advancement.

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Site: GLBA

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.

Ensure that all tasks have safety-appropriate equipment, and all employees have essential training. Each division will continue to ensure that safety is at the forefront of each project and that safety is discussed at division meetings.

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