

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Point Reyes National Seashore

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: PORE

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

Point Reyes National Seashore will be a model of environmental stewardship - a coastal sanctuary where all park staff and the public are actively involved in the common goal of maintaining, protecting, restoring, and preserving the natural and cultural integrity of the park.

We will enhance stewardship through research and monitoring programs. We will use this knowledge to promote the natural vitality of a healthy ecosystem, with a resource management program which supports the native species and natural biologic and geologic processes which occur here. Threatened, endangered, and specially protected species will be given special attention to ensure they are perpetuated for future generations.

To acknowledge the historic, cultural, and ethnic diversity of the area, resources such as the Point Reyes Lighthouse and other maritime sites and structures, Coast Miwok sites, and cultural landscapes embodied in the historic ranches will be preserved.

By encouraging community participation, we will gain both assistance and support for the park. Visitors from all sectors of the public will have opportunities to recreate and enjoy this beautiful coastal sanctuary and to become meaningfully involved through resource-based interpretive programs and volunteer opportunities.

Point Reyes will be a place where you can visit and experience nature in peaceful solitude as it has existed for thousands of years. Visitors will be able to view the elk herds grazing the coastal headlands, watch the salmon and steelhead spawning in coastal streams, and walk through towering forests.

To expand awareness of the importance and value of Point Reyes National Seashore and the entire national park system, we will proactively share information with the media and the public. Through partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies, elected representatives, and public and private organizations, our effectiveness as stewards will be heightened.

Quality visitor facilities will be provided. Development will be minimal and have high standards, using appropriate architectural themes. Any rehabilitation of structures or facilities for the public use will attain the highest visual quality possible.

To provide superior, park management and operations, a diverse staff which is technologically up-to-date and meets the highest standards of professionalism will be developed and supported. As stewards of Point Reyes National Seashore, all employees will work cooperatively as a team dedicated to the park's preservation.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Don L. Neubacher

Site: PORE

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)

New public access opportunities and interpretive signage will be created at the Giacomini Wetlands Restoration project site.

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

Site: PORE

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.

Work on increasing condition of historic buildings from fair to good. Work includes historic Home Ranch repairs and painting of the Historic Life Saving Station, a National Historic Landmark.

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.

The Seashore is moving into the implementation phase of non native deer management plan and protection of the Seashore's native ecosystem. The goal is to remove over 1,000 non native deer through a combination of contraception and lethal removal over a 15-year period.

The Seashore has a plan to restore the native dune system by removing invasive plant species such as European beach grass from over 300 acres of dune habitat.

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

Improve high-priority assets to acceptable condition, as measured by the Facility Condition Index.

Development of new water system at Sacramento Landing. This area is the site of the Tomales Bay Marine Education Station where scientists conduct park related research. Additionally, the dock facility at Sacramento Landing will be rehabilitated. This station is significant because it supports marine operations at the Seashore and provides research access to partner scientists.

Replacement of the water distribution in the Bear Valley Headquarters area to provide adequate fire suppression needs.

At Drakes Beach, a deferred maintenance project which will replace the structural components of facilities which include a visitor center, restrooms, and concession-operated café, will be implemented.

Conduct major rehabilitation of the Limantour Beach water system for both distribution and storage. This project will also reduce safety hazards by modifying the valve facility and removing a confined space.

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

Site: PORE

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.

Monitor and improve water quality in several streams and water bodies within park boundaries. Identify threats and prioritize projects with partners such as the Tomales Bay Watershed Council.

Conserve rare plants through identifying new populations and monitoring of known populations. Complete monitoring protocols.

Develop monitoring protocol for landscape change and plant communities. Prioritize plant communities for long-term monitoring.

Monitor Federally-threatened snowy plovers and implement management strategies to increase population with protection areas, predator management and education through a docent program.

Conserve northern spotted owls breeding within park boundaries, the southern most breeding population. Include determination of presence and distribution of threats from Barred owls, and other sources.

Monitor and preserve spawning coho salmon and steelhead trout by identifying habitat limitations and potential restoration projects.

Conserve pinnipeds breeding and resting at Point Reyes along shoreline. identify threats from human activities and manage adaptively. Monitor and model shoreline change which would have potential impact on seal colony sites.

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

Complete all cultural resource inventories for designated priority resources.

Work will continue on archeological site condition assessments and preparation of a National Register Nomination for pre-historic archeological sites. Consultation with the Federally-recognized tribe, the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, is moving forward on protection of endangered archeological sites.

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

Site: PORE

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The park will complete the 560 acre wetland restoration of the Giacomini Ranch site. This is a \$4.9 million project privately and publicly funded.

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

Site: PORE

STEWARDSHIP

Encourage children to be future conservationists.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Point Reyes National Seashore is embarking on an Ocean Education Strategy through a partnership with the Point Reyes National Seashore Association. A \$90,000 grant is available to the Seashore for education and outreach on the plight and dire condition of the ocean's resources with the goal of creating future conservationists to help protect these resources.

A funding request through the Centennial Initiative has been submitted by the Seashore staff.

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

Site: PORE

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

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

Point Reyes National Seashore is one of twelve Centers for Environmental Innovation. This status was bestowed upon the Seashore for the following reasons: use of photo-voltaic systems that currently generate approximately 15% of the park's energy; a donation from Toyota of five all electric Toyota RAV 4s (powered by the photo-voltaic systems which are also available to the public to charge their electric vehicles); use of bio-based alternatives for roads and trails machinery, including bio-based bar and chain oil, hydraulic fluid, and gear oil (resulting in reduced CO2 emissions, reduced/minimized environmental impact of potential spills). Point Reyes National Seashore also uses non-toxic, environmentally friendly janitorial supplies.

The Seashore has a very effective Environmental Management System focused on reducing our carbon footprint which will hopefully lead to becoming certified as a Climate Friendly Park.

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

Site: PORE

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.

Point Reyes National Seashore will continue to work with the Sustainable West Marin group on disseminating educational information on environmental practices going on within the Seashore and surrounding communities. To date, a large map with information as well as a brochure have been designed by NPS staff and printed.

Point Reyes National Seashore plans to update the park's website in order to showcase some of the sustainable activities we have participated in, and provide education to the public on sustainability and environmental consciousness.

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

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

The park held a Greening Charrette in 2005 which included park staff, park partners and ranchers within the Seashore. As a result, we now have replaced 10% of the GSA fleet with alternative fuel vehicles including a donation from the National Park Foundation and Ford Motor Company of a hybrid Ford Escape; a grant for a hybrid Toyota Prius; and a donation of five Toyota RAV 4 (all electric) vehicles. The Seashore will continue to reduce its dependence on gas-powered vehicles.

The park also has five operating photo-voltaic systems that generate approximately 15% of the park's energy. Point Reyes National Seashore has provided bicycles for staff to use instead of vehicles when making short trips within the park. The National Park Foundation and Ford Motor Company also donated six electric Ford Think Neighbor vehicles for use within the headquarters area.

Point Reyes National Seashore has developed a program with the West Marin Stagecoach, to provide public transportation for visitors and staff within the park and throughout the surrounding area.

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

Site: PORE

ENVIRONMENT

Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

Serve as a model for energy efficiency, under Executive Order 13423, by ensuring Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards.

The new restroom facility at the Bear Valley Headquarters is a model green demonstration facility. Numerous energy efficient and environmentally-friendly materials were used in its construction. This is celebrated with an educational panel posted in front of the facility.

Point Reyes National Seashore is establishing a partnership with the University of California, Davis California Lighting Design Center professors and students to complete a comprehensive redesign and retrofit of the lighting system at the Bear Valley Visitor Center to maximize energy efficiency in lighting.

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

Site: PORE

ENVIRONMENT

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The Seashore will foster community participation in resource stewardship through education and action. The park will be a model of environmental stewardship and lead by example for the public. Examples of this include photo-voltaic systems, use of alternative energy vehicles, use of bio-based oils for equipment, and use of waterless urinals.

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

Site: PORE

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.

Continue to work with the County of Marin on development of public access along the Giacomini Wetlands which connects the NPS property to the community of Point Reyes Station.

A Centennial project has been submitted to match the existing \$1.5 million to finalize this project.

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

Site: PORE

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)

Point Reyes National Seashore is one of seven pilot parks for the Health & Recreation Initiative. This program is to help inform the public that using their national parks is also a physical health benefit through hiking, biking and walking on the numerous beaches.

This program is working in conjunction with a group of hospitals and other Marin County businesses called the Healthy Marin Partnership which has one goal of reducing childhood obesity. This program hopes to improve the health of all park users including children.

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

Site: PORE

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.

Point Reyes National Seashore staff is looking to further the number of people on facilitated programs by continuing to work with local and regional newspapers to promote interpretive programs. Additionally, park staff have segments on local radio stations talking about various events and issues.

Staff has also initiated on-line reservations for curriculum-based programs for school teachers.

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

Site: PORE

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.

The Point Reyes National Seashore staff is using newer technologies through our website to attract the younger generation to experience the outdoors. This method will be used to capture their attention then once they have experienced the resources of the park, they will have a greater understanding and appreciation of the resources.

We will be purchasing equipment and necessary software to create podcasts and vodcasts of various resources to entice this generation that is technology-savvy to come to the Seashore.

Interpretation and Resource Education staff are looking into the feasibility of a new technology where visitors can rent a device that they can take on a trail which is GPS activated and will give them more in-depth information about the resources on that trail.

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

Site: PORE

EDUCATION

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

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

Point Reyes National Seashore is one of a handful of park's with an on-line Junior Ranger program. This program is done by children from across the country.

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

Site: PORE

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 Seashore has been implementing the NPS Visitor Survey since 1999. Visitor satisfaction with park facilities, services, and recreational opportunities has been at 100% for several years (2003 - 2006) and the visitor's understanding and appreciation of the significance of the Seashore is at 95%.

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

Site: PORE

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.

Point Reyes National Seashore has developed the Point Reyes Leadership Academy to enhance staff leadership abilities and motivation. The four week course (over two years) utilizes the Office of Personnel Management competencies to develop individual skills.

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

Site: PORE

PROFESSIONALISM

Use strategic planning to promote management excellence.

Establish a structured professional development curriculum to provide park managers with the skills to apply best business practices and superior leadership.

Point Reyes National Seashore has developed the Point Reyes Leadership Academy to enhance staff leadership abilities and motivation. The four week course (over two years) utilizes the Office of Personnel Management competencies to develop individual skills.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The Seashore is finalizing the writing of our Business Plan which was originally written in 1999 and updated in 2004.

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

Site: PORE

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.

Park staff, especially Law Enforcement and Interpretation, will post notices in various visitor use locations as hazardous issues become known. We will also work with the horse concession operation to notify them of trail conditions, especially during the winter season.

To reduce lost-time injuries, the Seashore's Safety Committee will remain very active in educating park staff on how to prevent accidents/injuries. A Near Miss form has been instituted and additional learning for staff is being conducted through this method.

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

Site: PORE

PROFESSIONALISM

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The Seashore currently has 25 community partnerships with various groups and stakeholders such as Federal, State and County agencies, Universities and other educational institutions, as well as numerous non-profit groups for education, science, and other efforts.

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Site: PORE

PROFESSIONALISM

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

Improve communications and marketing capacity to increase public understanding of our mission, opportunities, and benefits.

Continue working with the Seashore's cooperating association (the Point Reyes National Seashore Association) for fund raising efforts like the recent \$6 million raised for wetlands restoration and public education along the Giacomini Wetlands. The Seashore association is continuing a tradition of large-scale fund raising efforts for educational and resource protection projects.

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