

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

First Annual  
Centennial Strategy for

# Mojave National Preserve

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: MOJA

Year: 2007

**Vision Statement**

Mojave National Preserve protects diverse desert ecosystems and will preserve the natural features unique to this transition of the Great Basin, Sonoran, and Mojave deserts, and its associated human history and cultural resources. It will also provide a place of discovery to young and old, to tourists and scientists, to local, regional, national, and international visitors alike.

Mojave is a focal point for scientific study by universities and a favorite destination for schools to bring students to an outdoor living classroom. Students find opportunities to learn about dark night skies and natural soundscapes, the desert environment, native American and western expansion history, and the NPS mission.

Mojave's facilities and operations set a high standard of excellence in their design and energy efficiency. Sustainable facilities are blended in visually to minimize their impact on the desert environment. Partnerships foster the expansion of Mojave's trail system and incorporate accessibility, sustainable materials and practices into trail designs. Mojave becomes a model of sustainable design and practices.

Mojave National Preserve offers varied recreational opportunities that appeal to many kinds of people, promoting the development of intellectual and emotional connections to the Mojave Desert. Visitors discover that the desert environment has had a profound effect on those who settled here, and that those pioneers in turn have left a lasting legacy.

Through satellite interpretive sites at Nipton, Barstow, Needles, and other adjacent communities, visitors are offered quality information about the Preserve through varied formats including outdoor exhibits and brochures. Partners provide overnight accommodations and commercial services that support park visitors and, with the NPS, provide common stewardship and education messages.

**Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager**

Dennis Schramm

Site: MOJA

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)

Volunteers will assess park infrastructure, trails, campgrounds, and interpretive displays to provide recommendations and site plans that improve accessibility for all people. Park staff will take the necessary steps to acquire funding and implement construction projects to meet these goals.

Mojave National Preserve will rehabilitate the Hole-in-the-Wall visitor center. Visitors will have safe and easy access to information on recreational opportunities and to desert ecosystems.

In a major network-wide partnership with the Resources Legacy Foundation Fund, Mojave National Preserve will continue to protect desert park resources from development through the acquisition of inholdings and their associated water rights. This is an active partnership dating back several years; it has resulted in over \$10 million in donations to Mojave National Preserve.

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

Site: MOJA

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.**

Mojave National Preserve will continue to rehabilitate the buildings associated with historic ranching and maintain corrals, tanks, troughs, and other ranching features for visitors to explore and enjoy. The Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company Historic District comprises nearly 850,000 acres of the Preserve and is scattered with hundreds of buildings, structures and features dating from the late 19th century to 2001 when cattle operations ceased. The district possesses historic integrity; due to its continued use over time, the extant features are generally in good to fair condition.

Historic mine sites will be completely inventoried and recorded and their condition assessed for possible historic preservation treatments. We will also record the cultural remains of historic homesteading in the Park following a similar methodology. These efforts will facilitate Mojave National Preserve's interpretation of the history of this part of the West.

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.**

Mojave National Preserve will actively engage its communities, visitors, and partners to remove and control invasive species and to restore key native species. The Park will encourage public education through park films, exhibits, and interpretive programming designed to reach visitors, partners, and communities about the impacts of invasives. The benefits of restoration efforts extend beyond Mojave National Preserve's borders to benefit adjacent landowners.

In partnership with California Department of Fish and Game and several federal agencies, Mojave National Preserve will introduce the endangered Mohave tui chub into new habitats to achieve recovery and downlist the species from endangered to threatened. Matching funds are available.

Mojave National Preserve will partner with Chevron to establish capacity for juvenile desert tortoise studies and to determine predation. They will together construct a state-of-the-art head-start facility to jump-start desert tortoise recovery efforts in Mojave National Preserve. This effort will include readily accessible visitor education and interpretation regarding the desert tortoise life cycle, threats, and recovery efforts.

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

Site: MOJA

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

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

Park staff will continue to implement the Facility Management Software System and develop a Park Asset Management Plan (PAMP). A 10- to 15-year strategic vision will be developed to enable better management of the Park's asset portfolio. The PAMP will identify assets that are at risk of failure and/or incur significant repair and replacement costs, and will document the most cost-effective approach to maintaining, repairing, or replacing the asset portfolio. Park management will continue to develop PMIS projects to support this initiative.

Mojave National Preserve will build a new maintenance facility that will allow the maintenance staff to work safely and efficiently in a hot desert environment. Park staff will maintain visitor facilities in good condition, as measured by the Facility Condition Index and Asset Protection Index.

Mojave National Preserve will continue to incorporate sustainability and energy efficiency in all maintenance activities and new construction.

Mojave National Preserve will maintain the Park's system of solar generation in good condition, as measured by the FCI and API, through Cyclic and Preventive Maintenance.

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

Complete all cultural resource inventories for designated priority resources.

Native peoples have occupied various areas within the Preserve from at least 11,000 years ago until modern times. About 1,300 archeological sites, most of them dating to the prehistoric period, have been entered into Mojave National Preserve's ASMIS database. Mojave will prepare an Archeological Overview and Assessment that will provide a summary of previous research and a thorough synopsis of what is known about the prehistory of the area, including its abundant rock art, based on a study of the pertinent literature. Once completed, the NPS will then be able to identify gaps in both the geographical and temporal coverage of earlier work and prioritize the archeological research needs of Mojave National Preserve. This effort will make it possible to plan for future archeological research in the area, both by NPS staff and by potential research partners in educational institutions. Our efforts to complete our inventories of prehistoric cultural resources will then be prioritized by area based on potential visitor impacts combined with identified research needs.

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

Site: MOJA

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)**

Lured by a cycle of particularly wet years, settlers established homesteads and attempted dry land farming in the east Mojave beginning in about 1910, with the majority were centered in the Lanfair Valley. Because well drilling there proved to be only marginally successful, settlers there were forced to haul water overland. By the end of the 1910s, the more typical dry years had returned and many homesteaders were forced to leave the area, a process that was basically completed by 1923. Of particular interest is the fact that most of the homesteaders who moved to the Lanfair region were African Americans and their attempts at homesteading in the harsh environs of what is today the Preserve form a story that the park will make available to visitors based on sound historical research.

Mojave National Preserve will plan and develop onsite orientation and interpretation materials at historic ranches to tell the story of the early 20th century Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company Historic District. Similarly, the history of mining in the area will be highlighted by interpretive materials at historic sites in the diverse Standard Mining District.

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

Site: MOJA

STEWARDSHIP

**Encourage children to be future conservationists.**

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

Mojave National Preserve will plan and develop a residential outdoor program for school-age children. This program will be targeted at local schools and will offer schoolchildren the opportunity to experience the desert through participation in resource management monitoring programs.

In partnership with the Bureau of Land Management and the City of Barstow, Mojave National Preserve will support a research and educational display about the endangered Mohave tui chub at the Desert Discovery Center in Barstow, California.

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Site: MOJA

**ENVIRONMENT**

Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

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

Mojave National Preserve will institute a robust program of air quality monitoring to provide data that is completely comparable to those being acquired at other desert parks in order to track the growing effects of nearby metropolitan areas. The Park will continue to monitor its soundscapes and brilliant night sky to ensure that future visitors will be able to enjoy the silence and serenity that make Mojave National Preserve such a special place.

Mojave National Preserve will continue to minimize its impact on the environment through the use of alternative energy, green cleaning supplies, recycling and reuse, use of bio-base lubricating oils, purchase of recycled content papers and products, replacing all of its incandescent bulbs with fluorescent, conserving water and energy through education and action, and educating park staff and visitors on how to protect the environment from greenhouse gases. The Park will demonstrate and inspire leadership in innovation in environmental stewardship and green practices.

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

Site: MOJA

**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.**

Mojave will serve as a public forum to test new energy conservation materials and will provide constantly updated information to visitors about them. Visitors will be able to observe first hand sustainable construction materials and energy conserving vehicles in use and get information about their effectiveness from park staff.

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.**

Mojave National Preserve will replace all of its hydraulic fluids in park equipment with bio-based fluids to reduce potential impacts to the environment from accidental spills.

A percentage of gasoline-engine vehicles will be replaced with alternative energy vehicles in the Park's vehicle fleet.

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

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

Mojave National Preserve will partner with both its Desert Network parks and with user groups to build and improve sustainable alternative energy systems. Mojave will partner with the California State University at Fullerton to expand the solar energy system that supports the Desert Studies Center at Zzyzx. Improving the system will eliminate the need for diesel electric power, reduce greenhouse gases and fuel costs, and become a showcase for visitors and education groups that visit Zzyzx.

Alternative energy design, systems, and sustainability will be included in all new construction projects. The future maintenance facility at Baker will incorporate sustainable design, construction, and include a solar system capable of providing all of its energy needs.

Mojave National Preserve will engage with partners at universities and landscape design firms to bring the best sustainable design concepts to the table for each new facility to be planned and constructed in the Park and for nearby gateway communities. These facilities will be very highly LEED rated, and will be built to complement the desert landscape. They will set a standard for other parks to follow.



Site: MOJA

ENVIRONMENT

Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Mojave National Preserve will continue to support the efforts of the California Conservation Corps and the Student Conservation Association by sponsoring their participation in resource management projects within the Park and providing them with training in the Leave No Trace ethic. In southern California, the Corps provides outdoor work experiences to inner city youth who otherwise would have little or no contact with the natural world. Working and camping in the Mojave Desert creates opportunities to broaden participants' awareness of the environment in fundamental ways.

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

Site: MOJA

ENVIRONMENT

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Mojave National Preserve will actively engage its communities, visitors, and partners through a combined effort to implement energy conservation and sustainable building practices throughout the desert and to educate all parties about the benefits of this program.

Mojave will engage its university and community partners to identify and adopt an environmental stewardship mentality that closely aligns with the NPS mission. Mojave will model the stewardship behavior that is desired and sponsor partnerships that serve to change improve practices or educate residents and visitors about stewardship values.

Mojave National Preserve will continue its participation and involvement in the Desert Managers Group to create partnerships that can help the Park to preserve the Desert's cultural and natural resources.

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

Site: MOJA

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.

Through its partnership with City of Barstow, Mojave National Preserve will continue to develop the Barstow-Kelso Railroad, a proposed excursion rail service to bring weekend visitors from the greater Los Angeles area to Barstow, then on to Mojave National Preserve's Kelso Depot Visitor Center via a scenic rail route.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

In partnership with our gateway communities, the Bureau of Land Management, and the California State Parks, Mojave National Preserve will build and maintain a network of accessible hiking, biking, equestrian and motor vehicle trails that provides a diverse variety of recreational experiences to visitors. Trails will connect to other public lands management units to form a seamless, inter- and intra-state network.

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

Site: MOJA

RECREATION

Establish "volun-tourism" excursions to national parks for volunteers to help achieve natural and cultural resource protection goals.

Increase annual volunteer hours by 100 percent, from 5.2 million hours to 10.4 million hours.

Mojave National Preserve will expand existing volunteer group programs, such as Volunteer Vacations. Seasonal staff will work in coordination with the Park's volunteer coordinator to advance these programs.

Mojave National Preserve will develop additional volunteer housing and campsites to facilitate expansion of volunteer program.

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

Site: MOJA

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)

Mojave National Preserve will rehabilitate the Kelso School for use as a field center. The Park will recreate the ambiance of a one-room classroom where facilities such as restroom and water are available to host class visits. Students will be able to study the desert in the field; they can then move inside the classroom to experience first-hand life in the small, isolated towns, as was common across the Mojave Desert 100 years ago.

Mojave National Preserve will reach out to urban children by partnering with gateway communities to develop a residential outdoor school for multi-day desert learning activities. Regional school districts, such as Las Vegas and Los Angeles, are being considered.

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

Site: MOJA

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.

Mojave National Preserve and California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) are working together to provide interstate highway welcome centers with tour information for Mojave National Preserve.

Mojave National Preserve will develop interpretive exhibits at high-profile venues leading to the Park. Examples include the Outlet Mall at Primm, Nevada, McCarren International Airport and the proposed Ivanpah Valley Airport, all of which serve or will serve the greater Las Vegas area.

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.

Mojave National Preserve will develop ranger-facilitated programs to be offered at campgrounds and visitor centers.

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

Site: MOJA

**EDUCATION**

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Mojave National Preserve will strengthen its partnership with the Desert Discovery Center, a community-based education consortium of federal, state, local, and non-governmental agencies providing environmental education programming and activities in Barstow, California. We will professionalize our programming to create compelling experiences and to meet State standards.

Mojave National Preserve will invite local teachers for an overnight workshop in the Park to open discussions about Mojave's potential as a place of learning.

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

Site: MOJA

**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.

Mojave National Preserve will design, create and launch an interactive webpage for children.

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

Site: MOJA

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Mojave National Preserve will plan and develop a residential outdoor program for school-age children. This program will be targeted at local schools and will offer schoolchildren the opportunity to experience the desert through participation in resource management monitoring programs.

In partnership with the Bureau of Land Management and the City of Barstow, Mojave National Preserve will support a research and educational display about the endangered Mohave tui chub at the Desert Discovery Center in Barstow, California.

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Site: MOJA

EDUCATION

Impart to every American a sense of their citizen ownership of their national parks.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Mojave National Preserve will develop a series of satellite interpretive sites along paved roads that describe major park themes. Sites may include short, accessible walking or driving trails, shade structures, and outdoor exhibits to facilitate a connection between visitors and the hidden but compelling stories of the Mojave Desert.

Mojave National Preserve will develop a high quality orientation film to be shown at the Kelso Depot Visitor Center. A longer version that provides a broader and deeper understanding of the Park will be developed for Internet or DVD. The latter will extend the Mojave National Preserve experience into the home.

Mojave National Preserve will develop quality orientation exhibits for park headquarters in Barstow.

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Site: MOJA

**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.

Mojave National Preserve listens to its employees' concerns and desires to provide a working environment that is highly satisfying and a corresponding wage and benefits package that is competitive in the area. Mojave offers flexible work schedules, telecommuting and part-time employment to meet employee needs and preferences.

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

Site: MOJA

**PROFESSIONALISM**

Use strategic planning to promote management excellence.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Mojave National Preserve will engage partners in strategic visioning to align the goals and objectives of the Preserve closely with future trends in order to stay in step with emerging issues. Mojave will be leaders and innovators and will actively solicit and encourage innovation in all areas of park management.

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

Site: MOJA

**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.

Mojave National Preserve provides a safe and healthy work environment for employees and visitors by sponsoring regular safety training, providing personal protective equipment, and eliminating safety hazards when discovered. In partnership with local health vendors Mojave will sponsor local health fairs to provide regular screening tests and educational materials. Mojave recognizes the benefits of ergonomics and provides training and equipment to ensure safe office work. Employees in the field are equipped with the necessary tools to do the job correctly and safely.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Mojave National Preserve has over 17,000 abandoned mining claims. The park has documented over 4,000 mine shafts, adits, and other open excavation related to these claims. The park will develop and implement an abandoned mine lands safety program through partnerships with other land management agencies in the desert and with the California Department of Conservation. Park visitors who explore abandoned mines and associated historic sites - close to 20 percent of approximately 600,000 visitors annually - will have safer experiences in Mojave National Preserve.

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

Site: MOJA

**PROFESSIONALISM**

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Mojave National Preserve currently has several partnerships through which it is developing educational, recreational, resource protection, and endangered species recovery projects. The Park shares staff and resources with neighboring desert parks in the Mojave Network, and partners through the Desert Managers Group with multiple land management agencies on a wide spectrum of projects. Two of our partners operate in-park higher education research and education facilities. Mojave will increase cooperative initiatives both through existing partnerships and new relationships.

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

Site: MOJA

**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.**

Mojave National Preserve will establish a Friends Group to develop fund raising efforts. This group will ensure that philanthropic givers are aware of the mission and purpose of Mojave National Preserve and are provided accurate, timely and relevant information regarding the Preserve's special resources and values.

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