

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Agate Fossil Beds National Monument

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: AGFO

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

Agate Fossil Beds National Monument is a landscape that reflects many players past and present—from early animals roaming the valleys and hills, to tribal nations calling the High Plains home, to explorers and ranchers passing through or settling in the American West. It was authorized in 1965 because scientists in the 1890's rediscovered what the Lakota Sioux already knew—the area contains bones preserved in one of the most complete Miocene mammal sites in the world. Congress established Agate in order to protect the Miocene fossils, assorted quarries, and related geological phenomena; to provide a center for continuing paleontological research, to curate, display and protect the James Cook Red Cloud Native American Collection; and to protect the cultural landscape and interpret the interaction between cultures, landscapes, and science during the early reservation/pioneer ranching period.

Yet, Agate is a relatively unknown by the American public. All that it offers impress those who visit. Nevertheless, most visitors stumble onto the site on their way to other national park sites in the area. Agate is truly one of the hidden gems of the national park system.

The Centennial vision for Agate is the fulfillment of its long-term goals in order to meet the park's mandate as specified by Congress. The goals are:

- To protect, manage, and monitor the cultural, paleontological, and natural resources in the park to ensure they remain unimpaired.
- Promote the significance of Agate Fossil Beds National Monument by actively engaging various publics in its educational endeavors, and to utilize emerging technology to reach out to the non-visiting public.
- Develop citizen commitment for the preservation of the cultural, paleontological, and natural resources of the park through the creation of partnerships and special park events.

Create a culture of excellence where employees provide outstanding customer service, engage in continual learning, and practice evaluative thinking.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Blanca Alvarez Stransky

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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.

Hire a resource management professional to assist the park with its natural resources needs and complete a Natural Resource plan.

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

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STEWARDSHIP

Encourage children to be future conservationists.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Develop, instruct and lead the High Plains Science Adventure Camp in partnership with local educational organizations.

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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.

Host several "Park Ranger Days" throughout the year in partnerships with local colleges, universities and high schools. Students would be introduced to all the different fields in the NPS and shadow a Ranger during the day.

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