

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Badlands National Park

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: BADL

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

Congress authorized the creation of Badlands National Park in 1978. In 1929 Congress approved the formulation of Badlands National Monument for the benefit and enjoyment of the people. In 1968 the park boundaries were expanded by 133,300 acres of land located on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, some of that land previously used by the Air Force as a bombing range. Under the provisions of this act and the subsequent memorandum of agreement between the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Secretary of the Interior, 133,300 acres of land in the reservation was added to the national monument and redesignated Badlands National Park.

Badlands National Park is to be managed to accomplish the following:

- * Protect the unique landforms and the scenery of the White River Badlands for the benefit, education, and inspiration of the public.
- * Interpret the archeological and contemporary history of use and settlement of lands within the park, with special emphasis on the history of the Sioux Nation and the Lakota People.
- * Preserve, interpret, and provide for scientific research of the paleontological and geological resource of the White River Badlands.
- * Preserve the flora, fauna and natural processes of the mixed grass prairie ecosystem
- * Preserve the Badlands wilderness area and associated wilderness values.

The vision of the Badlands National Park is to continue to not only fulfill the legislative intent of the Park and as with any living document continue to explore greater numbers of partnerships and programs that give voice and shed light on new perspectives that continue to move the park into the world community. It is critical that we continue to explore the question of relevance to all people and assist communities, schools, and universities in looking at the assets of the park as a teaching model while maintaining the integrity of place, the natural beauty of the park, the solitude, and its cultural importance to all people.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Paige Baker, Ph.D

Site: BADL

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

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

BADL will restore native prairie ecosystems by controlling infestations of the highest priority invasive plant species (Canada thistle), replanting native plant species wherever possible, and working in cooperation with park neighbors to limit spread of non-native plant species. BADL will continue cooperative long term restoration efforts of the black-footed ferret and swift fox. BADL will seek to restore a healthy and sustainable bighorn sheep population and will work to expand the bison herd across the entire park.

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.

BADL is taking legitimate steps to ensure that all Facility Management Software System (FMSS) capabilities are fully integrated into both our operational and planning maintenance programs. This database tool calculates the Facility Condition Index (FCI) and the Asset Priority Index (API), which BADL has successfully used within project justifications to leverage cyclic and repair rehab monies for its highest priority assets. In 2008 or 2009, the park will seek to fill a full time position dedicated to FMSS data entry process including, Asset Entry, Work Order Entry, Report Analysis, Inspection Documentation, and PMIS project connectivity with FMSS support data. This will ensure that all BADL assets are properly ranked by API, and that critical deferred maintenance, as indicated by the assets' FCI, is addressed in a cost effective and timely manner.

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.

BADL will improve the condition of natural resources through research and monitoring, in cooperation with and as part of the Northern Great Plains Inventory and Monitoring Program. BADL presently lacks adequate information on the extent and location of its fossil resources and will institute a paleontological site inventory to obtain baseline data including stratigraphic position (place in time), depositional environment (how fossils were deposited) and preservational environments (how fossils were preserved).

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

Site: BADL

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

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

Operational efforts have been made to use green products throughout the park where use of environmentally safe products can reduce the impact to the environment. We will strive to continually reduce our 'carbon footprint' with efforts to improve overall energy efficiency by reducing the amount of electricity and fuels utilized to support the operation.

BADL has developed a recycling program using recycling trailers to haul materials to recycling centers. The program is currently handling waste generated from park offices and park residences and has expanded to waste items generated by park visitors.

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

Site: BADL

ENVIRONMENT

Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

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

BADL demonstrates its commitment to environmental stewardship through a variety of sustainable practices which often incorporate alternative energies or fuels. The park seeks to further reduce impacts by purchasing/leasing environmentally friendly vehicles for other park operations, such as electric, biodiesel, and hybrid vehicles. The park currently has several hybrids within the fleet and plans to expand their use by replacing additional vehicles with these types of vehicles wherever practical.

BADL plans to research and develop wind technology. The environment and geography of the open prairie grasslands of South Dakota provide possibilities for wind power generation for use at the Cedar Pass Headquarters area..

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

Site: BADL

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.

BADL will continue to replace boardwalk with the recycled plastic boardwalk as time and funding permits. Visitors use the existing trails heavily as they visit and enjoy the park and they are essential to limiting impacts and reducing social trails. BADL will strive to make all trails assessable to all visitors wherever practical.

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

Site: BADL

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.

In 2006, over 61 individuals provided over 9816 hours of volunteer service to BADL. By 2016, BADL is seeking to increase these numbers by providing additional RV Pads to attract a larger group of retirees who can provide a wide variety of services to the parks.

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

Site: BADL

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)

BADL is participating in a program called Common Ground. The common ground effort brings together Native American students from the Pine Ridge Reservation and Anglo students from the surrounding BADL communities which are adjacent to Pine Ridge. The purpose of this project is to bring these students together with Arab and Israeli students and northern Ireland Catholics and Protestants as well as students from mixed ethnic groups from the US. (The Common Grounds Program is an ongoing program located in Denver, CO. and it has operated for 17 years internationally.) BADL's effort is to bring together these students to examine world issues through dialog. The first stage is the domestic program which looks at common projects for joint effort. The second stage is to expose these students to international issues in countries that have faced civil strife and look at how a community is impacted by a lack of communication and factualism. The intent is creating a community that reflects cooperation, dialog and an understanding between cultures in South Dakota.

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

Site: BADL

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Badlands has the technology to teleconference with classrooms across the country and around the world. During each curriculum-based interpretive program students will engage in a discussion with a ranger or resource professional over the distance learning system. The park will provide pre and post visit information packets. The distance learning programs will be delivered to South Dakota students and teachers through an established state-wide delivery system, the Dakota Digital Network 4 Virtual School (DDN). It will also be delivered to students in Nebraska through a partnership with K-Necton. The program may also reach students in Arizona through a partnership with Northeast Arizona Technological Institute of Vocational Education (NATIVE). Best practices and techniques in distance learning will be implemented.

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

Site: BADL

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.

BADL plans to create multimedia experiences on nps.gov and expand the BADL Virtual Experience on Views of the National Parks. Sections of the taxonomy under nps.gov will be completed to provide additional opportunities to view and read about the park. At this time, BADL has only a very minimum amount of information available on the nps.gov website. Evaluation of what our visitors want and expect from the BADL website before, during, and after their visits to the park will be conducted to ensure an effective final product.

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

Site: BADL

EDUCATION

- Promote life-long learning to connect generations through park experiences.
- Enroll an additional two million children in the Junior Ranger program.

BADL would like to expand the Junior Ranger program to adapt to several age groups and to offer junior ranger programs more often and at several locations throughout the park. Currently the program is given once a day and is targeted for ages 3-12, but it is generally attended by all ages. By expanding the program to target children from preschoolers to high school and even adults, many more visitors would have the opportunity to interact and learn about the resources of the park. BADL would like to develop exploring packets for families who are unable to spend a great deal of time in the park. The packets would include games, activities and challenges for the junior rangers. The packets would also include directions and maps with a few designated stops. They would receive their badge when they return the packet. These packets would be available at the entrance stations and possibly the local motels and campgrounds.

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

Site: BADL

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.

One of the areas of focus for interpretive and educational programs at BADL is to reach out to diverse audiences. Through these programs, the park creates partnership networks that we will leverage for recruitment for employment. We will also build youth leadership and mentoring opportunities into interpretive and educational programs to create interest in NPS careers.

A second set of performance actions will expand relationships with local colleges that will enable the park to recruit and develop a diverse workforce that reflects the demographics of South Dakota.

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

Site: BADL

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.

BADL is interested in the well-being of its employees and places great emphasis on maintaining a safe and efficient work environment. All employees must be properly trained do their jobs safely and effectively. Visitors should better understand the less obvious risks in the park to avoid unnecessary injury and property damage.

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

Site: BADL

PROFESSIONALISM

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

BADL has established a Friends Group. The group is working at defining its mission and purpose and seeking opportunities and projects for fund raising events.

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