

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: GICL

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

As the only unit of the National park System specifically set aside to preserve, protect and interpret the Mogollon culture, Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument will continue to expand outreach education, cultivate new partnerships and develop creative programming to develop understanding of the significance the Monument, which ultimately leads to improved protection. The hundreds of years of occupancy of the Gila River valley includes both prehistoric and historic Native Americans, Spanish exploration, Mexican and American settlement, wars, mining, the fur trade and great visionaries in an environment shaped by unique geology and climate. The location of the Monument in the middle of the nation's first designated wilderness (the Gila Wilderness) has preserved the setting and varied cultural and natural resources to an extent not available in much of the rest of the country. With this background, the Monument plans to utilize our existing five partners and add several more to assist with a major upgrade to multi-agency Gila Visitor Center museum, construction of several new, low upkeep cost exterior waysides throughout the Gila Valley and provide the VIP staff with additional materials and equipment to continue and where possible improve our services to the visiting public and resource protection.

Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument promotes a culture of management excellence and safety for all employees and visitors to reduce the number of employee lost-time incidents and visitor accidents by continually engaging staff and opening seeking and implementing improvements. In the same manner we continuously identify ways to improve our programming, enhance our educational opportunities and improve our visitor and employee satisfaction.

Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument continues to develop and work with local friends groups and partners of the broadest possible spectrum to help achieve the goals of the park and the Centennial Initiative to develop a local, regional, and national philanthropic framework for national parks.

As a leader in the use of the VIP program the Monument's small full-time staff of two utilizes over 20,000 hours of volunteer time each year to further the mission of the Monument and the National Park Service.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Steven B. Riley, Superintendent

Site: GICL

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)

Through the use of FLREA and congressionally funded programs the Monument will continue improving buildings, trails outdoor facilities and exhibits to eliminate hazards, provide as much access to those who cannot make the strenuous climb to the Cliff dwellings as possible without adversely impacting the currently inspiring hike up the quiet, natural setting of Cliff Dweller Canyon. Where those goals cannot be met in the field, the Monument will work with partners and contractors to provide such activities as the 3-D view CDROM now available for viewing and given free to those who cannot reach the dwellings. The use of creative and through provoking tours will continue and be extended as the existing museum is enlarged and exhibits replaced over the next two years using FLREA, donated and grant funds.

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

Site: GICL

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.

Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument will continue with its aggressive program of annual condition assessments by professional archaeologists, active staff monitoring, wildland fire management and education to prevent deterioration of the Cliff Dwellings and the TJ Site and other significant cultural resources on the List of Classified Structures.

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

Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument continues to work with the surrounding Gila National Forest, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, other NPS programs and state and local groups to identify and control invasive species and maintain the ecosystems present in the Monument to provide habitat for endangered species that have been or could be reintroduced.

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

Complete all cultural resource inventories for designated priority resources.

Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument will maintain its currently complete inventory through creative use of the VIP staff available and continued close association with the professional archaeology community through partnerships and outreach programs.

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Site: GICL

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)

Established and enlarged as the ONLY NPS unit specifically to preserve cultural resources of the Mogollon Culture the Monument will continue to maintain partnerships with the Trail of the Mountain Spirits Scenic Byway, local archaeology societies and individuals, Gila National Forest and interested individuals to identify and protect sites that will help tell the stories of the all of the peoples who have lived in the valley. Currently the Monument is planning on a development program to provide access to the multi-cultural occupied West Fork Ruin site that spanned 1,500 years of occupation, develop an early pit house and develop tours of sites currently unavailable to the public. The Monument continues to be the source of professional assistance for local archaeological sites seeking project development funding assistance to provide further interpretive services to the visiting public both on and off the Monument.

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Site: GICL

STEWARDSHIP

Encourage children to be future conservationists.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

As opportunities for local educational groups to visit the Monument diminish budget shrinkage the Monument is partnering with educators, talented VIPs and other interested professionals to develop curriculum-based programs that can be taken by the Monument's volunteer staff into the schools and archaeological sites closer to the schools. Utilizing the Western National Parks Association, Junior Ranger Program funds and grants the Monument is developing travel trunks, a Senior Ranger program (to further the goal of developing additional persons who can educate and increase awareness of the value of cultural resources), finding/funding authors for new research and books. This work not only increases the educational level of citizens, but through that education improves the protection of cultural resource throughout the world.

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Site: GICL

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

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

Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument's unique situation of having all of the operational functions within a one mile radius gives it a chance to showcase all electric and plug-in electric hybrid vehicles. With that opportunity the Monument currently runs one all electric vehicle and is aggressively seeking funding for another and a plug-in hybrid as well as a trailer-mounted solar charging system which can also be used as a superlative educational tool-PMIS package #82887.

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

Site: GICL

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)

The Monument is partnering with local educators and schools, talented VIPs and other interested professionals to develop curriculum-based programs that can be taken by the Monument's volunteer staff into the schools and archaeological sites closer to the schools. Through such programs as the Junior Photographer program launched as part of the 45th anniversary of the addition of the TJ Site, local students participated in a day of workshops and field work with cameras sponsored by Wal-Mart, and coordinated by the Grant County Archaeological Society, as part of their community outreach and the resulting photographs were displayed as a part a display of the local museum and in the Gila Visitor Center. Boy and Girl Scout groups routinely participate in work days for both the Monument and in the surrounding Gila Wilderness as part of various merit badge programs.

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Site: GICL

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.

The Monument's first partnership was with the Trail of the Mountain Spirits Scenic Byway and it remains the most important as a source of area tourism promotion funding for both projects and programs to bring visitors to the area as well as projects to preserve and protect the Monument's resources. The Monument continues to provide the Byway and its partners with professional expertise in project formulation, utilizing PMIS, and project scope development and work assistance.

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Site: GICL

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

As opportunities for local educational groups to visit the Monument diminish due to school budget shrinkage, the Monument is partnering with educators, talented VIPs and other interested professionals to develop curriculum-based programs that can be taken by the Monument's volunteer staff into the schools and archaeological sites closer to the schools. Utilizing the Western National Parks Association, Junior Ranger Program funds and grants the Monument continues to refine its new Junior Ranger program and increase visitor and educator awareness of the program, is developing travel trunks, and finding/funding local authors for new research and books.

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Site: GICL

EDUCATION

Introduce young people and their families to national parks by using exciting media and technology.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

As part of the planned Gila Visitor Center museum rehabilitation (PMIS #133417) which will begin in 2008, new interactive exhibits will be installed as well as a section for rotating exhibits that will feature specific types of artifacts to challenge visitors to look at how previous peoples were able to live and prosper in the area. Through the use of the Monument's web site these new exhibits will encourage people to visit both the Monument/Visitor Center, but to also research on their own through links and further reading identified on the "new Exhibit" section of the site. The Monument stands ready to participate in the web-based Junior Ranger program and will encourage participation as was done by using drawings exclusively from participants in 2006 when the new Junior Ranger booklet was designed.

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Site: GICL

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 Monument continues with thought provoking tours and a personal attention to each visitor to assure that each person leaves the Monument with a renewed sense of connectedness with the resource and its value, both to them personally and to future generations which resulted in 99% Visitor Understanding and Satisfaction ratings in 2006. Staff continues to do research both to provide themselves with better understanding and education capabilities, but also to provide that information to the entire staff to further increase the Monument's effectiveness in its mission.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The Monument is currently developing a Senior Ranger program to further the goal of developing additional persons who can educate and increase awareness of the value of cultural resources.

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Site: GICL

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.

Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument will continue to strive to employ and retain employees and volunteers that reflect the diversity of the face of America, while developing a cadre of former VIPs who will spread the message of the value to America as well as the quality and personal fulfillment of the work experience at the Monument.

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Site: GICL

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.

With the small, "family" staff available, the Monument continues with an aggressive program of safety verbal messages every week at staff meetings, posting of both immediately applicable and thought provoking safety message postings, an "open door" policy of encouraging suggestions for improvements and corrections of safety hazards, and a continuously proactive management review of operations. Funding will continue to be always available for personal protective equipment and training as noted as being needed or as requested.

If or when a lost time incident occurs the appropriate supervisor will use SMIS to record the incident and will conduct a vigorous root cause analysis which will be shared among the Monument staff for "lessons learned."

NPS staff will conduct regular "tail-gate" safety training sessions prior to the execution of non-regularly and reoccurring tasks or projects as well as periodically for regular and reoccurring tasks and projects to review and emphasis safe-work procedures.

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Site: GICL

PROFESSIONALISM

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Without partners the existing budget and staff could not provide the quality of visitor services or resource protection currently available and to continue and further that work the Monument is dedicated to adding one new partner each year through the current five year planning effort.

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