

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

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Hovenweep National Monument

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: HOVE

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

Containing some of the most distinctive prehistoric architecture in the American Southwest—the towers and villages of Hovenweep National Monument comprise the largest and best preserved examples of 13th century Puebloan architecture and communities in the San Juan River basin and represent the final period of Puebloan occupation in the basin. Public surveys have indicated that the values visitors to Hovenweep hold in highest esteem are the solitude and tranquility of the site and its sense of timeless isolation. In anticipation of ever increasing pressures from surrounding interests—expanding oil and gas development, burgeoning residential development in once open farm and ranch land on the boundaries of the eastern units , and the growing population of the Navajo Nation to the southwest—Hovenweep National Monument will strive to work with neighboring land owners and area state and Federal land managers to mitigate impacts from surrounding development on the park's natural, cultural and scenic resources to leave the park unimpaired for future generations.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Coralee (Corky) Hays

Site: HOVE

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)

Relocate maintenance shop and water system to new facility to restore key cultural resource viewsheds, enhance visitor experiences and support visitor safety. Will also provide office space for resource management and an on-site archeologist, reduce sound pollution, and increase safety by providing a safe working environment for employees and increased water pressure for fire protection.

Install fire rings in 30 campsites (FY11) enhancing and preserving the historic aesthetic atmosphere of the park's campground.

To retain the elements identified by park visitors as critical to the quality of their park experience—the solitude and tranquility of the site and its sense of timeless isolation—current and future management efforts will emphasize the preservation of park viewsheds, dark night sky, and the natural soundscape. This will be accomplished by mindful decision making within monument boundaries and through proactive coordination with neighboring land owners, oil and gas leaseholders, and area state and Federal land managers to mitigate impacts from surrounding development on the park's natural, cultural and scenic resources.

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

Site: HOVE

STEWARDSHIP

☒ **Improve the condition of park resources and assets.**

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

Using park staff with volunteer support, identify, eradicate, annually monitor, and maintain control of all significant exotic plant species (with the exception of cheat grass) within the monument including tamarisk, Russian thistle, horehound mint, etc.

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

Continue to maintain park visitor use facilities and support infrastructure in good to excellent condition. Targeted work on high priority assets includes replacing well pumps & drop piping in FY09 providing potable water for park visitors and employees and a readily accessible water supply for fire protection of park resources and assets and performing crack and chip seal in FY13 to recondition all paved road and parking surfaces (1.5 miles) enhancing visitor satisfaction and safety.

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☒ **Improve the natural resources in parks, as measured by the vital signs developed under the Natural Resource Challenge.**

Gain a complete, well-documented understanding of hydrological processes in and surrounding all units of the monument. Determine potential effects on hydrological resources from influences beyond park boundaries. Work with park neighbors /managing agencies to prevent impact on area water resources' quality.

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☒ **Complete all cultural resource inventories for designated priority resources.**

Complete archeological surveys of remaining four park units—Cajon Cutthroat, Horseshoe/Hackberry and Holly. Update archeological documentation on smaller sites in Little Ruin Canyon, Square Tower Unit that were not included in the 2004 survey. Complete architectural documentation on standing architectural sites yet to be conducted (all of Square Tower Unit); recommend stabilization treatments and implement as necessary.

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Site: HOVE

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

For all prehistoric cultural resources, continue the cycle of preservation (stabilization), keeping standing architecture in good maintainable condition. Enter architectural documentation into a usable database format. Curate additional Hovenweep material stored at the Anasazi Heritage Museum (BLM).

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Site: HOVE

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)

Based on current research conducted at the Goodman Point Unit and other Hovenweep Units, a variety of educational and interpretive media will be developed and used to convey the next chapter of contemporary knowledge about the ancestral Pueblo people's waning years in the Four Corners area. This will be part of the partnership effort with Crow Canyon Archaeological Center of Cortez, Colorado. If this initiative is able to be fully developed it is projected to be able to reach not only park visitors, but also would be delivered to thousands of Crow Canyon Center students and hundreds of thousands of people over the Internet. Through inter-park cooperation, the effort could easily be expanded to include nearby NPS units and regional museums and educational institutions.

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Site: HOVE

STEWARDSHIP

☒ **Serve as the Preeminent resource laboratory by applying excellence in science and scholarship to understand and respond to environmental changes.**

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

Continue state-of-the-art archeological research at the Goodman Point Unit in partnership with Crow Canyon Archaeological Center to complete the ten-year project (which includes six years of field study). This study focuses on the largest site in the Four-Corners occupied just prior to regional abandonment by ancestral Pueblo peoples. Initial evidence indicates that long standing questions behind the inhabitants' departure in the mid-1200s may be answered by this research and shed light on the understanding and response of a population to environmental changes—a story which once more fully learned will serve as a core interpretive message in years to come.

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Site: HOVE

ENVIRONMENT

☒ **Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.**

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

Continue to maintain a practical, sustainable recycling program to serve park visitors and residents. Since trash pickup and disposal is a major expense to an isolated park such as Hovenweep, encourage park visitors to "drive it in, drive it out," and dispose of personal trash in municipal waste management collection facilities, at community-based overnight accommodations, etc.

Convert all exterior lighting to be dark night sky friendly to improve the quality of the area's night sky and to preserve the park's sense of timeless isolation.

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Site: HOVE

ENVIRONMENT

☒ **Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.**

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

Purchase/lease energy efficient, alternative fuel and/or hybrid vehicles whenever possible for park use. Purchase and use small street-legal vehicles (4-wheeler type) and/or electric carts for transportation within the developed visitor-use zone (Square Tower Unit).

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

Employ green, energy efficient state-of-the art building techniques when designing and constructing the new maintenance resources management facility in the park. Increase the general use of sustainable building materials in construction and other green products in the day-to-day facility maintenance.

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Site: HOVE

ENVIRONMENT

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

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

Engage surrounding communities and partners to participate in an adopt-a-highway program for the park's three access roads to assure they are clean of trash and debris. Work with the local Navajo Nation Chapter House to develop a substation(s) for household trash pick-up, a service that is not available in this neighboring remote section of the reservation and which helps magnify the problem of waste disposal locally and increases the probability of blowing trash and unsightly litter throughout the area.

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Site: HOVE

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.**

Rehabilitate the four-mile long Holly Trail, FY08, to preserve and protect natural and cultural resources while providing a safe and enjoyable hiking trail for visitors; work will the trail which currently crosses an ancestral Puebloan archeological site, prevent erosion through native vegetation protection, and increase accessibility to visitors. The work will be done in conjunction with BLM whose jurisdiction is crossed by a portion of the trail. The trail will become part of the Canyons of the Ancients (BLM)/Hovenweep NM (NPS) regional trail system.

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

Establish outreach programs to provide on-site orientation/information training opportunities for individuals working at the county's three community information centers (Monticello, Blanding and Monument Valley) and interpretive skills training for employees at Monument Valley Tribal Park (Navajo Nation). Provide "fam" tours to the park for local county commissioners and town officials.

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Site: HOVE

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.

Proactive support expansion of the State, BLM and NPS "Site Stewardship Program" partnership which uses volunteers to monitor area archeological sites for more comprehensive coverage of critical key cultural resources throughout SE Utah and SW Colorado. Pursue a means of offering monetary support to this undertaking either through OFS funding or a donation from the cooperating association or another outside source.

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☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Encourage volunteerism from the local community (approximately one hour drive) by promoting an exchange program with the town visitor information center—one-day a week in season, a local community resident work at the park visitor center and a park employee or volunteer would assist staffing the community information center. The arrangement lacks efficiency but would encourage stronger relations between the park and the local community and encourage locals to better know "their" park and identify it as a commercial asset for the community and county.

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Site: HOVE

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)

Maintain and expand the park's televised "Distant Learning" program especially targeting local area schools and those on the nearby Navajo Nation and other tribal entities with affiliation to the ancestral Pueblo resources of the park.

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Site: HOVE

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.

Establish a San Juan County Day (corresponding to the park's fee-free day) offering special activities in the park emphasizing local history, park ties with local families, etc. and encourages visits from county residents and pride in "their" national park.

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☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Proactively support San Juan County's efforts to develop and direct a long-term, community driven, sustainable tourism-based economy. Promote and develop partnerships supporting this goal.

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Site: HOVE

EDUCATION

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

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Maintain and expand the park's televised, curriculum-based "Distant Learning" program especially targeting local area schools and those on the nearby Navajo Nation and other tribal entities with affiliation to the ancestral Pueblo resources of the park.

Provide curriculum based education programs developed through Hovenweep's Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program to schools and universities that visit the park.

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Site: HOVE

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.**

Create a three-dimensional modeling and visualization archeological initiative: Develop state-of-the-art visualization products of the Goodman Point Unit and other Hovenweep units including 3-D images of sites and artifacts that are not currently available to the public. These could be viewed on-line as interactive explorations and also through on-site displays.

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

Place all park publications on-line.

Use new technology like Pod casts and distant learning to effectively reach people of all ages and connect them to the natural and cultural resources.

In partnership with Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, provide educational programs for at-risk students from the Four Corners region building a culture of stewardship for archeological resources and national parks among local residents.

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Site: HOVE

EDUCATION

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

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

Strive to offer the opportunity to participate in the park's Junior Ranger program to 100% of all youth visiting Hovenweep NM. Maintain and sustain park's Junior Ranger program so children can continue to effectively experience the park through an active program that enhances a connection to the resource, provides "take-home" ideas and activities, and promotes personal stewardship. Offer the park's Junior Ranger program on-line and expand to include a wider range of audience ages with appropriately corresponding activities. Offer other in-park interpretive activities specifically targeting children and families.

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

Complete planned development of the park's Senior Ranger program including interactive elements with grandchildren and other youth.

In partnership with Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, work with American Indian educators to develop curriculum specifically designed for Indian students and deliver that curriculum at Crow Canyon Center and Hovenweep NM. These efforts would typically involve active participation of tribal elders and connect multi-generations with the tribe's cultural legacy and its interface with the National Park system.

In partnership with Edge of the Cedar State Museum (Utah) and/or Anasazi Heritage Center (BLM, Colorado), develop an annual history symposium featuring professional and amateur speakers presenting new theories, findings and ideas which would ultimately be collected and available to the public through an annually published periodical and/or on-line and/or on-site. Create an oral history archive by seeking and recording the stories of contributors to recent and historic events which have shaped the park, its management and the history of the immediate area.

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Site: HOVE

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.**

Establish a San Juan County Day (corresponding to the park's fee-free day) offering special activities in the park emphasizing local history, park ties with local families, etc. and encourages visits from county residents and pride in "their" national park.

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

Reach new American citizens by promoting the National Park idea through the curriculum of the Immigration and Naturalization Customs process.

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Site: HOVE

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.**

Continue proactive recruitment and placement of diverse candidates for park vacancies and active participation in special diversity programs such as IMR's Maintenance Leadership Development Program. Continue to use creative means at the park level for funding target positions as illustrated through past accomplishments (diversity candidates hired under the Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program; under represented populations hired under the Cultural Resources Diversity Internship initiative with underwriting by the local cooperating association).

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☒ **Attain the highest employee satisfaction rate of all federal agencies, as measured by Office of Personnel Management surveys.**

Establish an employee wellness program.

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Site: HOVE

PROFESSIONALISM

☒ Use strategic planning to promote management excellence.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Complete Hovenweep's General Management Plan and Long Range Interpretive Plan and begin incorporating the services identified that immediately offer benefits to protecting and interpreting park resources.

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Site: HOVE

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.

Continue to be a leader in safety awareness and protection by conducting regularly scheduled safety meetings and ensuring the entire staff at Hovenweep performs their duties in a safe manner. Increase proactive approach to safety by assuring that all supervisors increase walk-around safety checks, and front-line staff are included in the process by conducting documented walk-arounds in their respective work area on monthly, revolving basis. Assure that at least two managers and one front-line members of the staff are trained in Root Cause Analysis. Dedicate one day every-six months to a park-wide safety stand-down and engaging safety-based activities.

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Site: HOVE

PROFESSIONALISM

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

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Expand the newly formed friends group for Arches/Canyonlands to include Hovenweep NM.

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