

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

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: LAR0

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

The landscape of Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area is dominated by the immense valley and gorge that the Columbia River has created. The vegetation varies from some of the last remaining dry shrub steppe habitat in eastern Washington State to the more temperate forests of the northern part of the river. Evidence of the dynamic and unusual nature of the geology abounds, including the changes brought by the immense floods of the last Ice Age – when floodwaters greater than those seen anywhere else on the face of the earth washing across eastern Washington from the collapsed ice dams in Montana and Idaho.

Lake Roosevelt is a recreation centered park with abundant opportunities for high quality outdoor recreational experiences such as swimming, boating, camping, fishing, picnicking, hiking, and wildlife viewing. It remains a destination vacation area for visitors from all parts of the Pacific Northwest and western Canada, known for its clean, clear waters and unspoiled shoreline. Lake Roosevelt continues to provide inspiration for building healthy, physically fit families and communities.

The interpretative challenge is to help visitors understand that the national recreation area offers more than just recreational opportunities. With well-planned and well-delivered interpretative messages, visitors can understand that the resources along the lake's shoreline reveal many compelling stories – how the earth was formed in this region; why certain plant and animal species have adapted to its changing environment; and when humans came to live in this region and how their activities have impacted, and continue to impact, the land. Our educational capacity is increased through our partnerships with local schools and by more effective orientation and safety information for park visitors.

Lake Roosevelt has a growing list of supporters including active and mutually satisfying partnerships with the Colville Confederated Tribes and the Spokane Tribe of Indians. One new management challenge is the development of the new Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail in concert with a host of community-based partners.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Debbie Bird, Superintendent

Site: LARO

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)**

Continue to maintain safe and accessible day use, camping, and boat launch facilities for visitor use.

Develop prospectus that encourage concessionaires to provide upgraded facilities and high quality recreational opportunities.

Create and install new exhibits for Guard House at Ft. Spokane. Install new accessible audio-visual program.

Establish partnership to promote development of marina facilities at Crescent Bay, helping to encourage economic development within the surrounding communities.

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

Site: LARO

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.**

Plan to replace roofs on historic Fort Spokane Water Reservoir built in 1889, St Paul's Mission built in 1847, and Fort Spokane Guardhouse built in 1892. All of these buildings are included on the List of Classified Structures.

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

Control non-native plant species on 1000 acres on park land, and restore native ecosystem components in areas where encroachments have occurred. Target areas for non-native species control include: road corridors, fallow agricultural fields, and riparian zones. Park will target class A and class B species identified by local noxious weed boards. We are currently working on a cooperative weed management area with tribes, state, and county to successfully control new non-native plant populations.

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

Continue to develop high priority facility projects that improve roads, trails, buildings, campgrounds, utility systems, and water access areas to "acceptable condition".

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

The park is working with Inventory and Monitoring program to develop monitoring protocols for identified vital signs. These include sagebrush-steppe vegetation, water quality, osprey, aquatic plant, and adjacent land use.

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Site: LARO

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

☒ Complete all cultural resource inventories for designated priority resources.

Continue to seek funding to complete numerous cultural landscape inventories.

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Site: LARO

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Set the standard of excellence in urban park landscape design and maintenance.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The park has identified 22 units for fuel reduction in the wildland urban interface. Fuel reduction includes reduction of understory vegetation, crown thins, and prescribed fires. As development increases along our boundaries, the park will continue fuel reduction projects in the future to reduce threats to adjacent lands.

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Site: LARO

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)

Seek donation of land surrounding St. Paul's Mission site near Kettle Falls to help protect cultural site. The mission is not only a monument to the efforts of Jesuit missionaries in the 1800's, but stands as a reminder of the Indians who it was built to serve and the effects of Westward expansion the the indigenous people of the Northwest.

Continue efforts to protect Native burial sites along the lake from vandalism and erosion.

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Site: LARO

STEWARDSHIP

☒ **Encourage children to be future conservationists.**

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

Continue to develop educational outreach program, promoting teacher workshops and the development of curriculum utilized by surrounding school districts.

Expand the floating classrooms program, currently offered to highschool students, to include the River Mile program for 4th - 12th grade students. The program begins with teaching about water quality, monitoring and scientific methods and inquiring, with each successive year building upon the previous. Middle school students are introduced to real world science on the water. High school students participate in both ranger-conducted programs and student-directed inquiry.

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Site: LARO

ENVIRONMENT

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

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

Installation of a up-land watering site for livestock to reduce impacts to water quality and recreational experience.

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

Park had developed and continues to implement a dynamic environmental compliance process to evaluate the potential impacts of park projects.

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Site: LARO

ENVIRONMENT

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

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

Plan to continue installation of solar powered lighting on vault toilets, courtesy docks and information boards throughout the park. Plan to convert some electricity use at Headquarters, Spring Canyon, and Fort Spokane to photovoltaic systems.

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Site: LARO

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.**

Develop trail system on pre-reservoir routes, to provide the visitor with alternative recreational opportunities. The park utilize partnership to help maintain these trail systems.

Assist state and county planners develop a Columbia River water trail from the Canadian border to the Columbia's confluence with the Pacific Ocean.

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

Continue collaboration with local, state, and federal agencies to best manage Lake Roosevelt and to promote recreational use throughout the region.

Promote collaboration through the Lake Roosevelt Cooperative Management Agreement including: Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Spokane Indian Tribe, and the National Park Service. This agreement allows the parties to coordinate the management of the lake, and to plan and develop facilities and activities on Lake Roosevelt and its freeboard lands.

Construct parkwide ADA accessible picnic and campground facilities.

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Site: LARO

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.

Continue to utilize volunteers at the park in various capacities, including campground host program, promoting the program within the surrounding areas and across the country.

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Site: LARO

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)

Develop and implement a Leave No Trace Boating and Camping Education Program at Lake Roosevelt. This outreach effort will build new constituencies and partnerships with organized user groups such as scouts, paddle clubs, fishing clubs and other and is expected to impact about 1,500 to 1,700 boating campers, and 800 to 1,000 other individuals in surrounding communities within the first year.

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Site: LARO

RECREATION

☒ Focus national, regional, and local tourism efforts to reach diverse audiences and young people and to attract visitors to lesser-known parks.

☒ Increase the number of visitors that attend ranger-facilitated programs such as campfire talks, hikes, and school programs.

Lake Roosevelt seeks to offer a diverse range of educational programs, targeting the wide range of visitors to the recreation area. Park interpretive staff will continue to strive to develop new and unique programs that will entice visitors to participate not only in the recreational opportunities at the park, but also provide them with an understanding of other park themes including natural systems and the reservoir, David Thompson and the fur trade, settlement at Fort Spokane, and the Ice Age Floods.

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Site: LARO

EDUCATION

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

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

The park vision is to develop a education program that meets the needs of educators at the park, and enables the park to serve the Northeast Washington education community through a variety of resources. The park strives to provide place-based, hands-on, minds-on, cultural and natural education experiences that encourage the critical thinking process while utilizing all the senses.

Four education themes have been chosen to develop into full programs. They include: natural systems and the reservoir, David Thompson bicentennial and fur trade, Fort Spokane settlement, and the Ice Age Floods with legislation pending for the establishment of a national trail.

Park is conducting teacher workshops to develop curriculum based education materials.

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Site: LARO

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.**

Park continues to update and improve park website following Service standards.

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

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

Replacing exhibit material at Fort Spokane Visitor Center and Guardhouse. Creating and installing parkwide interpretive wayside exhibits.

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Site: LARO

EDUCATION

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

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

Developing interactive junior ranger material to stimulate participation in the program.

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

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

Develop education materials about the Fur Trade and importance of David Thompson to the Lake Roosevelt NRA. Provide opportunity to learn about critical science and/or historical or cultural resource-based issues, processes and research methods. This project would be part of the bicentennial commemoration of David thompson's travels through the upper Columbia River in 2011. Several sites will be partnered with including Fort Vancouver NHS, schools, Education Advisory Board, US Forest Service, and will be linked with state education standards.

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Site: LARO

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.**

Develop and implement a Leave No Trace Boating and Camping Education Program at Lake Roosevelt. This outreach effort will build new constituencies and partnerships with organized user groups such as scouts, paddle clubs, fishing clubs and other and is expected to impact about 1,500 to 1,700 boating campers, and 800 to 1,000 other individuals in surrounding communities within the first year.

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

Develop friends group to facilitate interaction with surrounding communities to better manage and protect park resources.

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Site: LARO

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.**

The park continues to seek to hire a diverse workforce. Vacancies are promoted on the web and with local, state, and federal cooperators. Recruitment not only includes the diversity found in the local communities, but is also actively conducted on the surrounding tribal reservations.

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Site: LARO

PROFESSIONALISM

☒ **Use strategic planning to promote management excellence.**

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

Park is currently working to complete a Strategic Operations Review which includes a position management plan, a summary of park priorities/activities, and cost documentation. Implementation will assist the park in operating more effectively and efficiently, operating within funding allocations.

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Site: LARO

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.**

Bi-annual safety standowns are conducted to remind all employees of safety. Conduct tailgate sessions, and support safety committee composed of representatives from all disciplines.

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Site: LARO

PROFESSIONALISM

☒ **Model what it means to work in partnership.**

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

Lake Roosevelt must work in unison with adjacent landowners, county, state, federal, and Tribal entities to seamlessly manage park resources. The park is bordered by over 400 miles of adjacent lands, including 5 counties, two tribes, and numerous state and federal agencies. The park would like to develop relationships to cooperatively manage recreational use, environmental protection, and promote economic development of the area.

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Site: LARO

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.**

The park will continue to develop relationships with all cooperators - local, state, federal, and private, to increase their understanding of Lake Roosevelt's mission and goals. As needed, public meetings are conducted throughout the area to inform concerned parties of any decisions that may or may not affect them. Park managers have and will continue to develop good working relationships with cooperators. Press releases and the park website aid in keeping the public informed of park operations and management issues.

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