

PARK: Great Basin National Park

ISSUE: Great Basin National Park Profile

STATUS:

- **SUPERINTENDENT:** Cindy Nielsen
- **ACREAGE:** 77,100 acres of park lands, and an additional 80 acres in Baker, NV, designated as an administrative site. All land is owned in fee simple.
- **BUDGET:** ONPS--\$2,255,000 (FY 2006).
- **PERSONNEL:** 25 permanent; 5 term employees; 36 temporary employees; = 43 full-time equivalents (FY 2005)
- The park's **General Management Plan (GMP)** was approved March 2, 1993.
- **Major resource issues** roads and trails maintenance, potential for large scale groundwater development in basins adjacent to the park, restoration of the natural fire cycle, protection of a number of sensitive plant species in research and protected natural areas, recovery of Bonneville Cutthroat Trout and associated non-game species native to park waters.

PRIMARY FEATURES:

- Lehman Caves, highly decorated with stalactites, stalagmites, helictities, and rare shield formations. Lehman Cave is the largest known cave of 40 discovered caves in the park.
- Ancient bristlecone pines dated in excess of 4,900 years of age.
- Wheeler Peak at 13,063 feet in elevation is the highest peak in the Great Basin and second only to Boundary Peak as the second tallest mountain in Nevada. It has 7,000 feet of vertical relief, glacial geology and the only glacier in Nevada, and the 12 mile scenic Wheeler Peak Drive.
- The Great Basin physiographic region consists of wide valley basins separated by about 160 long, parallel mountain ranges. This basin region covers over 200,000 square miles, as much area as the combined landmass from Maine to Maryland. Its few waterways drain not into the sea, but into the desert flats; it is one of the least known and understood areas in the West. The Great Basin's appeal has to do with silence and space, with the grand lonesome sweep of the country itself, with long vistas and clear air.
- Great Basin National Park's 77,100 acres encompass some of the best representative features of the Great Basin region. Over 660 species of flora and fauna, including mule deer, cougars, bighorn sheep, antelope, sage grouse, bald eagles and golden eagles, attest to its biological diversity.
- Ancient bristlecone pines, one of the world's oldest living things, survive in excess of 4,900 years.
- Significant geological values include more than 40 caves, of which the best known and most visited is Lehman Cave.
- Glacial formations include cirques, moraines, alpine tarns, and the only glacier in the Great Basin region.
- The air quality of the park is the best in the continental United States with visibility often exceeding 120 miles.
- Cultural resources range from prehistoric artifacts and drawings dating back 12,000 years, to historic mining and ranching endeavors.
- The Great Basin is a region where exploration and discovery await everyone who enters its boundaries. The best place to begin that exploration and to uncover the mysteries of the region is Great Basin National Park.

EXHIBIT C Treasures

Document consists of 8 pages.



Entire document provided.



A copy of the complete document is available through the Research Library (775/684-6827) or e-mail

library@lcb.state.nv.us.

Meeting Date 5/19/06

BACKGROUND:

- Lehman Caves National Monument was established by Presidential Proclamation on January 24, 1922.
- Administration of Lehman Caves NM was transferred to the NPS from the U.S. Forest Service effective August 10, 1933, by Executive Order No. 6166.
- Great Basin National Park was established by PL 99-565 on October 27, 1986. It included the former Lehman Caves NM, as well as 76,460 acres formerly within the Humboldt NF.
- On November 5, 1990, PL 101-512, Section 323, provided for the 80 acre Baker administrative site to be under the jurisdiction of the NPS. Prior to this Act, the administrative site was owned by the Bureau of Land Management, with a withdrawal held by the USFS.
- In 1996, the park enabling legislation was amended to allow grazing permits to be donated to the Secretary of Interior and to require the Secretary to retire any donated grazing permits.

CONTACT:

- Superintendent Cindy Nielsen, Great Basin National Park, (775) 234-7331.

DATE: March 4, 2006

Great Basin National Park Fact Sheet

Great Basin National Park has positive economic impact on White Pine County

- 1. Annual Park Employee Payroll = \$2,250,000. /year**
 - 30 year-round employees = 36 seasonal workers (2005)
 - 5 permanent employees live year-round in Ely, Nevada;
 - 7 permanent employees live in park housing; and
 - 12 permanent employees rent or own in rural Nevada while
 - 6 rent or own in rural Utah.
- 2. Value of contracts awarded Nevada businesses, many in WPC avg. = \$309,000. /year**
 - In 2004 a total of \$396,000 of contracts were awarded
 - In 2003 a total of \$4,200,445 of contracts were awarded including \$2.1 million for new Visitor Center (Utah firm w/ some local supplies and employees)
- 3. Federal Funds to Great Basin National Park in 2005 = \$2,892,000**
 - Annual net appropriation (ONPS) for Operation of the National Parks
 - Project funding awarded to parks on an annual competitive basis
- 4. Recreation Fees Revenue for Park Campgrounds and Cave Tours = \$297,304**
- 5. Additional sources of economic stimulus directly related to Great Basin National Park:**
 - Bookstores operated by Western National Parks Association donate % net proceeds
 - Donations and Grants from Individuals and Private Non-profits
 - Café and Gift Shop at Lehman Caves Visitor Center open April through October

* Unless otherwise noted figures are based on a three year average of 2002, 2003, and 2004

6. Great Basin National Park is an important segment of tourism and outdoor recreation attractions in White Pine County. Visitation to both Great Basin National Park and nearby State Parks are highly variable.

Recreation Visitors to Great Basin National Park

2004: 79,878 park visitors, 29,020 visitors on Lehman Caves Tour,

2005: 77,878 park visitors, 27,191 visitors on Lehman Caves Tour, and

29,340 overnight campers (38% of all visitors stay at least one night in the park)

Great Basin National Park visits compared with State Parks from *denr.nv.gov* website:

- Calendar Year 1999 Visits to Great Basin National Park = 90,125
- Calendar Year 1999: Visitation to Cave Lake State Park = 69,733
- Calendar Year 1999: Visits to Cathedral Gorge State Pk. = 66,025
- Calendar Year 2000 Visits to Great Basin National Park = 81,045
- Calendar Year 2000: Visitation to Cave Lake State Park = 92,548
- Calendar Year 2000: Visits to Cathedral Gorge State Pk. = 57,167



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Great Basin National Park

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Great Basin National Park News Release

Release Date: Immediate
Contact: Cindy Nielsen, Superintendent
Phone Number: (775) 234-7331
Date: May 3, 2006

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK ANNOUNCES CAMPGROUND AND ROAD OPENINGS

Great Basin National Park Superintendent Cindy Nielsen recently announced further openings of campgrounds and roads in the park. Beginning Thursday, May 4, Baker Creek, Upper Lehman Creek and Lower Lehman Creek campgrounds will all be open. Campsites are \$6.00 per night until the water systems have been activated for the season. Drinking water is available at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center. Once water is turned on, campsite rates increase to \$12.00 per night. There is a limit of two vehicles and eight people per site.

Beginning May 4, the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive will be open to the Summit Trailhead. This allows visitors to drive to an elevation of 10,000 feet and to access the upper elevation trails for snowshoeing and skiing. Visitors are encouraged to check at a park visitor center for current weather forecasts and advise for having a safe and enjoyable visit.

Tours of Lehman Caves are offered four times daily. Scheduled tours are the 9:00 90-minute tour, the 11:00 60-minute tour, the 1:00 90-minute tour, and the 3:00 60-minute tour. Beginning Friday, May 26 the summer tour schedule will take affect, with eight tours scheduled daily and additional tours added to accommodate holiday and weekend crowds. You may purchase non-refundable advance tickets for cave tours by telephoning (775) 234-7331 extension 242, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pacific Time. Advanced cave tour tickets may be purchased with a major credit card from one to 30 days in advance on a space available basis.

Spring hours of operation for the Lehman Caves Café and Gift Shop are 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The kitchen closes at 3:00 p.m. The café serves breakfast and lunch featuring fresh deli sandwiches, baked goods and old-fashioned ice cream. The gift shop offers toys, apparel, puppets and local crafts. The café and gift shop adjoin the Lehman Caves Visitor Center.

For further information, visit our website at www.nps.gov/grba or to receive an information packet, phone (775) 234-7331 extension 0.

BUREAU: National Park Service

PARK: Great Basin National Park

ISSUE: Great Basin National Park Foundation

BACKGROUND:

- The Foundation was established by Mrs. Bonnie Bryan, wife of retired Nevada Senator Richard Bryan. The founding meeting was held on June 30, 1998.
- The organization's mission is to promote and support projects that enhance the values of Great Basin National Park including, but not limited to, preservation and restoration of wilderness areas and ecological systems, conservation of endangered species and wildlife, restoration of scenic areas and historic structures, scientific research, expansion of cultural programs, preservation of natural, cultural, historical, or archeological sites, and the beauty associated therewith, acquisition of artifacts and historic materials, exhibit and museum renovations, removal of obsolete facilities, and the promotion of volunteer efforts.
- The Foundation is non-profit and tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Members of the Foundation Board are attached

APPLICABLE PUBLIC LAW:

- 16 U.S.C. sec.6 authorizes the Park to accept donations of money for the purposes of the National Park System.

APPLICABLE MANAGEMENT POLICY:

- Director's Order #21.

CURRENT STATUS:

- Construction of the Great Basin Visitor Center, a project supported by the Great Basin Foundation, is complete. It opened in May 2005.
- The group advocated for a grant from the Nevada Department of Transportation to construct the new Great Basin Center. The Great Basin National Park Foundation successfully sought a grant from the CORD Foundation of Nevada for the TEA-21 project.
- The Foundation is funding an ongoing oral history project to record family histories in the Snake and Spring Valleys surrounding the park and funded a bridge at Pole Canyon to provide all-season visitor access to Pole canyon and the Kious Basin. The Foundation has sponsored media coverage for the park and its projects.
- In 1998, the Foundation proposed to raise all of the funds to build a visitor learning/research center on the park's administrative site in Baker, Nevada. After DAB review of the concept, the scale of the project was reduced and the Foundation began negotiations with Senator Reid to fund most of the project. The Foundation committed their Board to raise funds for the exhibits for the building. To date, more than \$100,000 has been donated to exhibits by the Great Basin Foundation.
- The Foundation requested an appropriation of \$500,000 in FY02 from Senator Reid to fund the planning and design for the new visitor center. For FY03, the Foundation requested that Senator Reid earmark \$2.7 million to construct the visitor center (this amount does not

include exhibit funding). The funding for the visitor center was approved in the appropriations bill for FY03. The Foundation committed to raise approximately \$1 million for exhibits for the visitor center.

- The park was granted \$514,000 in funds under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) to begin site work for the center. The funds were used for an access road from the highway, a parking lot, site preparation, and archeological data recovery as well as new rest rooms.

POSITION OF INTERESTED PARTIES:

- Supporters of the newly constructed Great Basin Visitor Center include the Nevada Commission on Tourism, the Great Basin Business and Tourism Council, the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership, Ely District Bureau of Land Management, Ely District Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, University of Nevada, Desert Research Institute, United States Geological Survey Research Center on Forest and Range Ecology, White Pine Chamber of Commerce, White Pine County Economic Diversification Council (EDC), City of Ely Mayor, Ely Business Council, Great Basin Association, and White Pine County Overall Economic Development Plan Committee.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

- In FY2005, the park received \$245,000 to initiate year round visitor center operations.
- A similar amount will be needed in future years.

ACTION NEEDED (IF ANY):

- Funding of exhibits by the Great Basin Foundation is required.

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DATE: March 4, 2005

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