

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## National Park Service

**Mary McLeod Bethune Council House  
General Management Plan,  
Environmental Impact Statement, Mary  
McLeod Bethune Council House  
National Historic Site**

**AGENCY:** National Park Service,  
Department of the Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an  
Environmental Impact Statement for the  
Mary McLeod Bethune Council House  
General Management Plan.

**SUMMARY:** Under the provisions of the  
National Environmental Policy Act, the  
National Park Service is preparing an  
Environmental Impact Statement for the  
General Management Plan for the Mary  
McLeod Bethune Council House  
National Historic Site. This statement  
will be approved by the National Capital  
Regional Director.

The effort will result in a  
comprehensive general management  
that addresses strategies for the  
preservation of the Council House and  
the archives, appropriate visitor use and  
interpretation, accessibility, and the use  
of the facilities. In addition to the no-  
action, four additional alternatives are  
being considered. The first one places  
dual focus on the house and the  
museum, the second emphasizes the  
archives, the third one concentrates on  
activities and programs, and the fourth  
one focuses on the house as museum.

Major issues include inadequate and  
insufficient space for exhibits, archives,  
staff, volunteers, parking; lack of  
accessibility and facilities, such as rest  
rooms; need for specific staff with  
certain expertise; and visitor and staff  
safety.

Scoping meetings were conducted  
during the summer and fall of 1998. The  
results from these meetings will be  
included in a forthcoming newsletter.  
Copies of the information can be  
obtained from Susan Calafate Boyle, Job  
Captain, Denver Service Center,  
National Park Service, PO Box 25287,  
Lakewood, Colorado 80225, (303) 969-  
2319.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Contact  
Superintendent John Hale, National  
Capital Parks East, (202) 690-5185.

Dated: November 25, 1998.

**Terry Carlstrom,**

*Regional Director, National Capital Region.*  
[FR Doc. 98-33249 Filed 12-15-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## National Park Service

**Yosemite Valley Plan, Yosemite  
National Park, Mariposa County,  
California; Notice of Intent to Prepare  
a Supplemental Environmental Impact  
Statement**

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to § 102(2)(c) of the  
National Environmental Policy Act of  
1969 (Pub. L. 91-190) and Council on  
Environmental Quality regulations (40  
CFR 1502.9(c)), and in order to foster  
coordinated valley planning and  
operations, the National Park Service  
intends to supplement the 1980 Final  
General Management Plan/  
Environmental Impact Statement (1980  
GMP/EIS) with a single, comprehensive  
*Yosemite Valley Plan* for Yosemite  
National Park. The Yosemite Valley  
Plan (YVP) will integrate alternatives (or  
elements thereof) and environmental  
analysis formerly part of four distinct  
initiatives: (a) the 1992 and 1996 Draft  
*Yosemite Valley Housing Plan/EIS*  
intended to supplement the 1980 GMP/  
EIS; (b) the 1997 Draft *Yosemite Valley  
Implementation Plan/EIS* intended to  
supplement the 1980 GMP/EIS; (c) the  
*Yosemite Lodge Development Concept  
Plan/Environmental Assessment*; and  
(d) a *Yosemite Falls* facilities design  
project. In addition, the YVP will  
implement previously approved actions  
set forth in the 1992 *Concessions  
Management Plan*.

Notice is hereby given that the  
National Park Service (NPS) will  
prepare a new Supplemental  
Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)  
to update the 1980 GMP/EIS. This SEIS/  
YVP consolidates ongoing conservation  
planning and impact analysis efforts  
into one plan for the valley, so as to  
provide for a holistic, landscape-view of  
critical initiatives so vital for preserving  
the valley environs for visitor  
inspiration now and in the future. The  
decision to prepare a consolidated SEIS/  
YVP also results from proactive public  
involvement; and in response to public  
comment, the SEIS/YVP may include  
new or modified alternatives or  
mitigation strategies.

**Background**

In July, 1992 a Draft Yosemite Valley  
Housing Plan/Supplemental  
Environmental Impact Statement  
intended to amend the 1980 GMP/EIS  
was issued (57 FR 34146), with the  
public comment period ending  
September 30, 1992. This document  
examined the effects of a proposal and  
four alternatives for housing NPS and  
concession employees who work in

Yosemite Valley. After reviewing public  
comments, the NPS identified two  
additional alternatives. A second Draft  
Housing Plan/SEIS was issued in  
December 1996 (61 FR 64361) with the  
public comment period ending March  
31, 1997. Housing alternatives that are  
still under consideration and responses  
to the 1992 and 1996 public comments  
will be included in the consolidated  
SEIS/YVP.

The 1997 Draft Yosemite Valley  
Implementation Plan/SEIS examined  
the effects of alternatives for  
implementing 1980 GMP goals of  
reclaiming priceless natural beauty,  
reducing traffic congestion, allowing  
natural processes to prevail, reducing  
visitor crowding, and promoting visitor  
understanding and enjoyment in  
Yosemite Valley. It was intended to  
develop a coherent, comprehensive site  
plan for all necessary visitor services in  
Yosemite Valley. It included  
alternatives for relocating non-essential  
NPS and concession functions and  
facilities out of sensitive resource areas  
and hazardous areas; and for  
redesigning essential buildings, roads,  
campgrounds, interpretive centers and  
concession facilities. It identified  
alternative site plans for past and  
current implementation of the 1980  
GMP, as well as the 1992 Concession  
Services Plan, the draft Yosemite Valley  
Housing Plan, and various  
transportation studies. The Draft Valley  
Implementation Plan/SEIS was issued  
in November 1997 (62 FR 60264) with  
an extended public comment period  
ending February 23, 1998 (63 FR 3000).  
Public open houses and workshops  
were held. Implementation alternatives  
that are still under consideration and  
responses to the 1997-98 public  
comments will be included in the  
consolidated SEIS/YVP.

In April 1997, as part of the park's  
urgent response to a disastrous flood,  
the Yosemite Lodge Development  
Concept Plan/Environmental  
Assessment was released for public  
review, with the public comment period  
ending May 16, 1997. Public walk-  
throughs and public information  
sessions were conducted. The DCP  
considered alternative site plans for the  
lodge area lodging, housing, circulation  
and visitor services. Subsequent to  
various legal proceedings, an approved  
Finding of No Significant Impact was  
formally rescinded on December 3,  
1998. Lodge DCP alternatives that are  
still under consideration and a summary  
of the public comment will be included  
in the consolidated SEIS/YVP.

After several Yosemite Falls Design  
Elements, Issues and Questions  
workshops were held during 1998, a