DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

National Capital Region; Environmental Assessment of Proposed Land Transfer, Arlington House—The Robert E. Lee Memorial, George Washington Memorial Parkway to Department of the Army, Arlington National Cemetery

ACTION: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of an environmental assessment (EA) for land transfer from National Park Service to Department of Army, Arlington National Cemetery.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations and National Park Service policy, the National Park Service has completed an EA which evaluated the potential impacts of the proposed land transfer of an area known as Section 29. The EA examines the environmental and visual impacts of the land transfer on the natural and historic resources and scenic quality of Arlington House—The Robert E. Lee Memorial. The National Park Service is soliciting comments on this EA. These comments will be considered in evaluating it and in making decisions pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.

DATES: There will be a 45-day public review period for comment on this document. Comments on the EA should be received no later than August 24, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the EA should be submitted to Ms. Audrey Calhoun, Superintendent, National Park Service, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Turkey Run Park, McLean, Virginia 22101. A limited number of copies of the EA are available on request. A public reading copy of the EA will be available at the Arlington County Main Library, the Headquarters of the George Washington Memorial Parkway and at the Arlington House—The Robert E. Lee Memorial.

And at the National Park Service web page at: http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/section29index.htm.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Audrey Calhoun, Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway, McLean, VA 22101, Telephone: (703) 289–2500.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 29 is a 24.44 wooded ravine that is the remaining portion of the historic Custis-Lee estate's forested grounds at Arlington House—The Robert E. Lee Memorial (Arlington House). The forested area and the adjacent mansion are administered by the George Washington Memorial Parkway, a unit of the National Park Service (NPS), and are located in Arlington National Cemetery (ANC). The area was part of the historic forest of the Custis-Lee estate and was transferred from ANC to the NPS in 1975 to maintain the historic setting of Arlington House in perpetuity.

The Department of the Army recognized that ANC is nearing capacity and on February 22, 1995 signed an interagency agreement with the Department of the Interior to transfer a portion of Section 29 to the cemetery. The agreement divided Section 29 approximately in half, into the "Preservation Zone" and the "Interment Zone".

The Preservation Zone consists of approximately 12.5 acres to the west of Arlington House; that the agreement described as having steep slopes, a high potential for archeological resources pertaining to Arlington House, and forest cover which dates to the Lee occupancy and contributes significantly to the historic setting of Arlington House. The Interment Zone is a 12-acre area west of the Preservation Zone, which the agreement described as containing no known cultural resources, slopes that are not steep, and forest cover that is not historically significant.

Implementation of the agreement required carrying out a study to consider archeological resources, cultural landscape values, and National Register eligibility; an environmental analysis of the transfer under the National Environmental Policy Act; and satisfaction of the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The cultural resources study was contracted and the resulting cultural investigation report identified the Arlington House Ravine Site, an archeological site of high integrity containing historic elements related to the period of the Custis-Lee occupancy and also prehistoric quarrying and tool making components. It encompasses a large portion of the project area and is an element that enhances the National Register of Historic Places listing of the site. The archeological site is the only recorded Late Archaic period quartzite quarry on National Park Service land in northern Virginia.

The cultural landscape analysis determined that much of the existing forest canopy dates to the Custis-Lee occupation and retains the historic landscape character. A forestry study demonstrated that the hardwood forest in the Preservation Zone contained trees 220–230 years old. Other portions of the project area forest have grown to maturity and presently recreate the landscape characteristics that defined the appearance and significance of the forest historically as a portion of the Arlington estate. This forest is the same type that once covered the estate, and regenerated from trees that were present historically. A representative tree in the southern Interment Zone was determined to be 258 years old. The forest constitutes the oldest and largest stand of climax eastern hardwood forest in Arlington County, Virginia.

Analysis of the resources of Section 29 identified other conditions that affect the potential for transfer of land. The Interment Zone was determined to contain significant archeological and cultural landscape resources, in addition to those of the Preservation Zone. Upon consideration of these resources, four alternatives were developed.

Alternative 1 retains the highest significance resources to NPS (The Preferred Alternative): NPS would transfer approximately 9.6 acres, comprising most of the Interment Zone, except for the southeastern sloped area containing archeological locus 1 and a stream; and also transferring to ANC the northern tip of the Preservation Zone, containing two disturbed areas.

Alternative 2—retains most resources to NPS: NPS would transfer 4.3 acres of the Interment Zone between the ANC old warehouse (maintenance) area and Fort Myer. Alternative 3—retains the Preservation Zone to NPS and Interment Zone transfers to ANC: NPS would transfer the 12-acre Interment Zone to ANC and retain the 12.5-acre Preservation Zone. Alternative 4—All of Section 29 is retained by NPS (the No Action Alternative): No property would be transferred from NPS to ANC.
Public Law 104-201 directed the Secretary of the Interior to transfer the Secretary of the Army jurisdiction over the Intermont Zone, which is the plan in Alternative 3. Adoption of any of the other alternatives would require legislative action to amend the existing law.

A public meeting on the EA will be held July 21, 1999 at the Women In Military Service For America Memorial’s Education Center from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. The Memorial is located on Memorial Drive at the Gates to Arlington National Cemetery. Parking will be at the Arlington Cemetery’s Visitor Parking Lot. There is a $1.25 fee per hour to park in the lot.

Dated: July 2, 1999.

Audrey F. Calhoun, Superintendent.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
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BILLING CODE 4110–70–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
National Park Service

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Parkwide Trails Plan Environmental Impact Statement and General Management Plan Amendment (GMPA/EIS)

AGENCY: National Park Service. DOI.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area announces the availability of the draft Trails Plan/General Management Plan Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement. The draft plan has been developed to meet the needs of its many visitors. This plan serves as an amendment to the park’s 1987 General Management Plan. The document will be available for a 45-day public review beginning on July 2, 1999. Public meetings will be held in early August. Notices of these meetings will be distributed to prior respondents/participants and through the local media. For further information about this document, contact: Superintendent, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, 1 River Road, Bushkill, PA 18324, 570-588-2418. Copies available at: Website: www.nps.gov/dewa

Park Headquarters, River Road, Bushkill, PA 18324

Warren County Library, Belvidere NJ, 07823

Congressional Listing for Delaware Water Gap NRA

Honorable Frank Lautenberg, U.S. Senate, SH–506 Hart Senate Office

Building, Washington, D.C. 20510–3002

Honorable Robert G. Torricelli, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510–3001

Honorable Richard Santorum, U.S. Senate, SR 120 Senate Russell Office Bldg, Washington, D.C. 20510


Honorable Don Sherwood, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC, 20515–3810


Honorable Tom Ridge, State Capitol, Harrisburg, PA 17120

Honorable Christine Whitman, State House, Trenton, NJ 08625

Kemp Library, East Stroudsburg University, E Stroudsburg, PA 18301

State Library of PA, P.O. Box 1601, Harrisburg, PA 17105

Easton Area Public Library, 6th and Church Street, Easton, PA 18042

Sussex County Library, 125 Morris Turnpike, Newton, NJ 07860

New Jersey State Library, 185 West State Street CN 520, Trenton, NJ 08625

Eastern Monroe Public Library, 1002 North Ninth Street, Stroudsburg PA 18360

Pike County Library, 201 Broad Street, Milford PA 18337


J. Robert Kirby, Acting Superintendent.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
National Park Service

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area; Notice; Correction


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chris Nelson, 570–588–2418.

Correction

In a Federal Register publication request letter published June 23, 1999 (64 FR 33501), Summary section, correct date to read:

The document will be available for a 45-day public review beginning on July 9, 1999.

Dated: June 29, 1999.

J. Robert Kirby, Acting Superintendent.

BILLING CODE 4110–70–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Pea Ridge National Military Park

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.


SUMMARY: The National Park Service (NPS) will prepare a General Management Plan (GMP) and an associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Pea Ridge National Military Park, Arkansas, in accordance with section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). This notice is being furnished as required by NEPA Regulations 40 CFR 1501.7.

To facilitate sound planning and environmental assessment, the NPS intends to gather information necessary for the preparation of the EIS, and to obtain suggestions and information from other agencies and the public on the scope of issues to be addressed in the EIS. Comments and participation in this scoping process are invited.

Participation in the planning process will be encouraged and facilitated by various means, including newsletters and open houses. The NPS will conduct a series of public scoping meetings to explain the planning process and to solicit opinion about issues to address in the GMP/EIS. Notification of all such meetings will be announced in the local press and in NPS newsletters or other mailings.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and information concerning the scope of the EIS and other matters should be directed to: Mr. Steve Adams, Superintendent, Pea Ridge National Military Park, P.O. Box 700, Pea Ridge, Arkansas 72751; E-mail: steve_adams@nps.gov. Requests to be added to the project mailing list can be made to Jennie Wagner at the above address or telephone 501–451–8122, extension 103.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Superintendent, Pea Ridge National Military Park, at the address above or at telephone 501–451–8122, extension 104.