

Plan, Environmental Impact Statement was released on November 21, 1998. More than 800 copies were distributed to local, state, and federal government agencies and to organizations and individuals on the plan's mailing list. Following this, a newsletter was released and six public meetings were held to present the plan and record public comments. Written comments on the document were requested to be received by January 25, 1999. However, some comments were received after that date and were also considered.

Forty-two letters and comment forms were received from government agencies, organizations, and individuals. These letters were reproduced in the "Comments and Responses" section of the abbreviated FEIS, and are on file at the New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park headquarters in New Orleans, Louisiana. All comments were considered by the National Park Service in the preparation of the abbreviated FEIS.

A notice of availability for the abbreviated FEIS was published in the **Federal Register** on May 5, 1999. The 30-day no-action period ended on July 6, 1999.

### Conclusion

After careful evaluation of each alternative and its environmental impacts, and consideration of public response, park mission, and park goals, the National Park Service believes that the selected action, alternative C, represents the best course of action in the future preservation of jazz resources and interpretation of the story of New Orleans jazz and its progression.

Approved: July 9, 1999.

### W. Thomas Brown,

*Acting Regional Director, Southeast Regional Office, National Park Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Vancouver National Historic Reserve Draft Cooperative Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement, Washington

**AGENCY:** National Park Service.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of draft environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** The National Park Service announces the availability of a Draft Cooperative Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement (CMP/EIS) for Vancouver National Historic Reserve, Washington. This notice also

announces public meetings for the purpose of receiving comments on the draft document.

**DATES:** Comments on the draft CMP/EIS should be received no later than September 21, 1999. Public meetings will be held in Vancouver, WA, on August 25, 1999, 6-8 p.m. at the Water Resources Education Center, and in Portland, OR, on August 26, 1999, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the Oregon Historical Society.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This plan provides for the cooperative administration of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve as directed by the legislation establishing the Historic Reserve. The 366-acre Reserve includes Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, the U.S. Army's Vancouver Barracks, Officers Row, Pearson Field, the Water Resources Education Center, and portions of the Columbia River waterfront. This plan is a statement of a shared vision by four public agencies and their partners in the coordinated management of the Historic Reserve for public benefit. The Historic Reserve will be administered through this plan by a partnership composed of the National Park Service, the Department of the Army, the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation of the State of Washington, and the City of Vancouver, Washington.

The plan analyzes three possible alternatives for future management and recommends a preferred alternative. The shared vision presented in the preferred alternative can be summarized in three broad goals:

- Preservation* of historic structures, physical assets, and cultural landscapes,
- Education* and interpretation of the significance and history of the area for public benefit,
- Public use* of and accessibility to the Historic Reserve.

The primary consideration for the Vancouver Barracks would be to adaptively use the historic structures for sustainable public use and enjoyment, interpretation, and preservation of the historic scene. A new interpretive center would be developed for the barracks to focus on their history. Barracks structures would be adaptively used for a mix of public, nonprofit, and commercial uses. For the Parade Ground, a variety of theme-related activities would be encouraged.

Reconstruction of Fort Vancouver would continue, consistent with interpretative objectives, and the portions of the cultural landscape adjacent to the fort would be rehabilitated. The National Park Service

would prepare a general management plan for the national historic site to address visitor center needs and location, further reconstruction of the fort, access, parking, interpretation, and other issues.

The Pearson Field visitor experience would provide interwar period civilian and U.S. Army aviation history and ambiance. The ongoing adaptive use of historic structures would continue, and older, nonhistoric hangars would be removed. Along the Columbia River Waterfront there would be expanded interpretation of the historic activities that link the waterfront with the Historic Reserve.

The CMP/EIS includes a no-action alternative and another alternative that would restore historic structures and landscapes to a condition representative of the most significant period of the structures and landscape. The DEIS presents a full discussion of the environmental impacts associated with implementing each alternative.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments on the draft CMP/EIS should be submitted to: Larry Beal, Denver Service Center, 12795 W. Alameda Parkway, Denver, CO 80225-0287. Copies of the draft CMP/EIS are available by request from the aforementioned address. The document will also be available on the Internet at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Larry Beal, Job Captain, Denver Service Center, phone (303) 969-2454, or E-mail: [larry\\_beal@nps.gov](mailto:larry_beal@nps.gov).

Dated: July 13, 1999.

### William C. Walters,

*Deputy Regional Director, Pacific West Region.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

### Extension of Public Scoping Comment Period for Merced Wild and Scenic River Management Plan, Yosemite National Park, Mariposa and Madera Counties, CA

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (Pub. L. 91-190) and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Pub. L. 90-542), the National Park Service is initiating a conservation planning and environmental impact analysis process for a Merced River Management Plan for river segments within Yosemite National Park. In deference to public interest expressed to date during the scoping effort, the original period