

identify the selected alternative for implementation.

ADDRESSES: The final EIS/GMP will be mailed to agencies, organizations, and individuals requesting the document. Copies of the document are available from Terri Urbanowski, PSD, National Park Service, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225-0287 or requests may be mailed to: MAMC_GMP@nps.gov. Public reading copies of the document will also be available for review at the following locations:

- Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site, 1318 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20020.
- National Capital Parks East, 1900 Anacostia Drive, SE, Washington, DC 20020.
- National Capital Region Office of Lands, Resources and Planning Attention: Gail Cain, 1100 Ohio Drive, NW, Washington, DC 20242.
- Frederick Douglass National Historic Site Visitor Center, 1411 W Street, SE, Washington, DC 20020.
- In addition the document will be posted on the National Park Service Planning site under Mary McLeod Bethune Council House Site, <http://www.nps.gov/mamc/pphtml/facts.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Consistent with the park's purpose, significance, and mission goals, 4 alternatives were evaluated for guiding the management of the park over the next 15 to 20 years. The alternatives incorporate various management provisions to ensure resource protection and quality visitor experience conditions. The environmental consequences anticipated from implementation of the various alternatives are addressed in the document. Impact topics include cultural resources, visitor use and experience, socioeconomic environment, and site administration and facilities. The following management alternatives were evaluated in the EIS/GMP:

Alternative 1, the no-action alternative, would maintain current management direction. The Council House would continue to operate as a visitor center and administrative office area; archival collections and archive staff offices would remain in the carriage house. Conflicts would continue to occur between visitor and administrative functions in the limited space of the Council House resulting in a less than desirable visitor experience and operational inefficiency. Storage space for archival collections would remain inadequate.

Alternative 2, the preferred action, would place dual emphasis on the

Council House, which would be used as a museum, and on the archives. Under this alternative new space would be acquired to accommodate some visitor services and most administrative offices. The visitor experience would be enhanced with adequate space to provide broad and comprehensive interpretative opportunities and exhibits in the Council House. The primary storage for archival collections would be in an offsite state-of-the-art facility that would provide enhanced preservation and protection of stored items. The carriage house would be renovated and would house a research room, offices for archival staff, an area for some processing of collections, and space for frequently accessed collections.

Alternative 3 would commemorate the site through the establishment of the Bethune Center for Human Rights. The Council House would be used for interpretation and also would provide a place for groups to meet and engage in activities, workshops and programs. Materials related to social justice and human rights would be emphasized in the archival collections. Additional property would be leased or acquired for administrative offices and would be the primary space for meetings and workshops. This space would be the main contact point for visitors, and access and programmatic interpretation would be provided for visitors with mobility disabilities at this site. Offsite interpretation would be expanded with traveling exhibits. The carriage house would be renovated and expanded to include the archival collections, archival staff offices, and research space.

Under alternative 4, the Council House would be used as a traditional National Park Service museum commemorating the life and times of Mary McLeod Bethune. The Council House would have expanded exhibit space and an orientation area for visitors. Period furnishings would be in the Council House and archival collections would illustrate the highlights of Dr. Bethune's life and activities. Educational materials would focus on the life contributions and legacy of Dr. Bethune. Space would be leased offsite to accommodate current archival collections that would be managed through a contract with others. The carriage house would be torn down and replaced with a new building that would house a bookstore, visitor restrooms and administrative offices.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Site Manager Diann Jacox, Mary McLeod Bethune National Historic Site, 1318 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC

20005, (202) 673-2402; FAX (202) 673-2414; e-mail Diann_Jacox@nps.gov.

Dated: January 23, 2002.

Terry R. Carlstrom,

Regional Director, National Capital Region, National Park Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the General Management Plan for the Blue Ridge Parkway

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the General Management Plan for the Blue Ridge Parkway

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on the General Management Plan for the Blue Ridge Parkway. The statement will assess potential environmental impacts associated with various types and levels of visitor use and resources management within the parkway boundary. Specific issues to be addressed include appropriate levels and types of visitor use along the parkway and at various developed areas, and the protection of natural, cultural, and scenic resources. Adjacent land uses and transportation improvements, their effect on parkway resources and visitors, and strategies for cooperation among public and private land managers will also be explored.

DATES: To determine the scope of issues to be addressed in the GMP and EIS and identify significant issues related to the project, a series of planning newsletters with public response forms will be distributed to the public and public scoping meetings will be held in the summer, 2002. When these meetings have been scheduled, public notice will be provided. Representatives of the National Park Service will be available to discuss issues, resource concerns, and the planning process at each of the public meetings.

ADDRESSES: Any comments or requests for information should be addressed to Superintendent, Blue Ridge Parkway, 1999 Hemphill Knob Road, Asheville, North Carolina 28803.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Superintendent, Blue Ridge Parkway,

1999 Hemphill Knob Road, Asheville, North Carolina 28803, (828) 271-4779.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Blue Ridge Parkway is located in southwestern Virginia and northwestern North Carolina in the Central and Southern Appalachian Mountains. The parkway is 469 miles long, connecting Shenandoah National Park in the north with Great Smoky Mountains National Park to the south. Created in 1936 as a national rural parkway, the parkway is designed for recreational driving free from commercial traffic and with limited access. The parkway traverses the crests, ridges, and valleys of five major mountain ranges, encompassing several geographic and vegetative zones ranging from 500 to over 6,000 feet above sea level. It provides visitors with many varied vistas of scenic Appalachian landscapes ranging from forested ridge tops and mountain slopes to rural farm lands to urban areas. Although most of the parkway has a very narrow right of way, it includes several large recreational and natural history areas and Appalachian cultural sites along its length.

Today, the parkway encompasses 82,000 acres of federally owned land. The parkway has over 1000 miles of boundary to manage, 4000 adjacent land owners, 29 county and several city governments to interact with, and has 500,000 acres of scenic viewshed outside of its boundary. There are 191 public access points on the parkway from the regional road systems. This planning effort will evaluate a range of alternative methods to provide a quality visitor experience while maximizing protection of resources and operational efficiency.

Public documents associated with the planning effort, including all newsletters, will be posted on the Internet through the Info Zone at www.nps.gov.

Our practice is to make the public comments we receive in response to planning documents, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. If you wish for us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. Anonymous comments will be included in the public record. However, the National Park Service is not legally required to consider or respond to anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of

organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

The draft and final environmental impact statement will be distributed to all known interested parties and appropriate agencies. Full public participation by federal, state, and local agencies as well as other concerned organizations and private citizens is invited throughout the preparation process of this document.

The responsible official for this environmental impact statement is Jerry Belson, Regional Director, National Park Service, Southeast Region, 100 Alabama Street, SW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Dated: November 5, 2002.

Wallace A. Hibbard,

Regional Director, Southeast Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement, Colorado National Monument, Colorado

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for the general management plan, Colorado National Monument.

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 Colorado National Monument. The environmental impact statement will be approved by the Director, Intermountain Region.

Colorado National Monument was established May 24, 1911 by Presidential William H. Taft, under the authority of the Antiquities Act (1906), because "[t]he extraordinary examples of erosion are of great scientific interest, and it appears that the public interest would be promoted by reserving these natural formations as a National Monument, together with as much public land as may be necessary for the proper protection thereof." Two later Presidential proclamations (1933 and 1959) added additional land to the Colorado National Monument, primarily for the protection of "* * * features of historical and scientific interest and for the protection of the Rim Road * * *"

The general management plan will prescribe the resource conditions and visitor experiences that are to be achieved and maintained in the

monument over time. The clarification of what must be achieved according to law and policy will be based on review of the park's purpose, significance, special mandates, and the body of laws and policies directing park management. Management decisions to be made where law, policy, or regulations do not provide clear guidance or limits will be based on the purposes of the monument, the range of public expectations and concerns, resource analysis, an evaluation of the natural, cultural, and social impacts of alternative courses of action, and consideration of long-term economic costs. Based on determinations of desired conditions, the general management plan will outline the kinds of resource management activities, visitor activities, and development that would be appropriate in the monument in the future. Alternatives will be developed through this planning process and will include, at a minimum, no-action and the preferred alternative. Major issues include protection of natural and cultural resources; the adequacy of interpretive programs; potential partnerships with other agencies, organizations, and local interests; and boundary concerns.

The National Park Service is planning to begin public scoping in January 2002, via a newsletter to state and Federal agencies; associated American Indian tribes; neighboring communities; county commissioners; local organizations, researchers and institutions; the Congressional Delegation; and visitors who signed up to be on the mailing list. In addition, the National Park Service will hold public scoping meetings regarding the general management plan, beginning in January 2002. Specific dates, times, and locations will be announced in the local media and will also be available by contacting the Superintendent of Colorado National Monument. There will also be a web site for the general management plan, established at a later date. The purpose of the newsletter, public meetings, and web site is to explain the planning process and to obtain comments concerning appropriate resource management; desired visitor experience and use, and facilities; as well as any other issues that need to be addressed. In addition to attending the scoping meetings, people wishing to provide input to this initial phase of developing the general management plan may address comments to the superintendent. Scoping comments should be received no later than 60-days from the publication of this Notice of Intent.