

DATES: Public comments will be accepted on or before 60 days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register**.

SEND COMMENTS TO: Dr. James H. Gramann, Visiting Chief Social Scientist, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW., (3127), Washington, DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. James H. Gramann. Voice: 202-513-7189, Fax: 202-371-2131, Email: james_gramann@partner.nps.gov or Brian E. Forist. Voice: 202-513-7190, Fax: 202-371-2131, Email: brian_forist@partner.nps.gov.

Request for Clearance of a Three Year Program of Collections of Information: Programmatic Approval of NPS-Sponsored Public Surveys.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Programmatic Approval of NPS-Sponsored Public Surveys.

Bureau Form Number: None.

OMB Number: 1024-0224.

Expiration date: 9/30/2004.

Type of request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Description of need: The National Park Service needs information concerning park visitors and visitor services, potential park visitors, residents of communities near parks, NPS management partners, and recipients of NPS agency technical assistance to provide park and NPS managers with usable knowledge for improving the quality and utility of agency programs, services, and planning efforts.

Automated data collection: At the present time, there is no automated way to gather this information, since the information gathering process involves asking the public to evaluate services and facilities that they used during their park visits, services and facilities they are likely to use on future park visits, perceptions of park services and facilities, opinions regarding park management, and technical assistance provided by the agency. The burden on individuals is minimized by rigorously designing public surveys to maximize the ability of the surveys to use small samples of individuals to represent large populations of the public, and by coordinating the program of surveys to maximize the ability of new surveys to build on the findings of prior surveys.

Description of Respondents: A sample of visitors to parks, potential visitors to parks, residents of communities near parks, NPS management partners, and recipients of NPS agency technical assistance.

Estimated average number of respondents: The program does not

identify the number of respondents because that number will differ in each individual survey, depending on the purpose and design of each information collection.

Estimated average number of responses: The program does not identify the average number of responses because that number will differ in each individual survey, depending on the purpose and design of each individual survey. For most surveys, each respondent will be asked to respond only one time, so in those cases the number of responses will be the same as the number of respondents.

Estimated average burden hours per response: The program does not identify the average burden hours per response because that number will differ from individual survey to individual survey, depending on the purpose and design of each individual survey.

Frequency of response: Most individual surveys will request only 1 response per respondent.

Estimated annual reporting burden: The program identifies the requested total number of burden hours annually for all of the surveys to be conducted under its auspices to be 15,000 burden hours per year. The total annual burden per survey for most surveys conducted under the auspices of this program would be within the range of 100 to 300 hours.

Dated: December 15, 2003.

Leonard E. Stowe,

Acting, Information Collection Clearance Officer, WASO Administrative Program Center, National Park Service.

[FR Doc. 04-1281 Filed 1-21-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312-52-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Information Collection; Request for Extension

AGENCY: National Park Service.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the National Park Service (NPS) is announcing its intention to request an extension of a currently approved collection of information (OMB# 1024-0233) for NPS Leasing Regulations; 36 CFR part 18, concerning the leasing of historic properties as authorized by law.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received no later than March 22, 2004.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Cynthia Orlando, Concession Program Manager, National Park

Service, 1849 C Street, NW., (2410), Washington, DC 20240, or 202/513-7144.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Leasing Regulations—36 CFR part 18.

OMB Control Number: 1024-0233.

Expiration Date of Approval: January 31, 2004.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations as 5 CFR part 1320, which implement provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), require that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice identifies information collection activities that NPS will submit to OMB for approval. The OMB control number for this collection of information is 1024-0233, and is identified in 36 CFR Section 18. NPS has identified burden estimates based on its experience with concession contracts and on information previously supplied by concessioners or offerors in response to concession prospectuses. NPS will request a 3-year term of approval for this information collection activity.

Bureau Form Number: None.

Frequency of collection: On occasion.

Description of Respondents: Persons or entities seeking a leasing opportunity with the National Park Service.

Estimated Annual Responses: 627.

Estimated Average Burden Hours Per Response: 7.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 4,392.

Send comments on (1) the need for the collection of information for the performance of the functions of the agency; (2) the accuracy of the agency's burden estimates; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (4) ways to minimize the information collection burden on respondents, such as use of automated means of collection of the information. Please refer to OMB control number 1024-0233 in all correspondence. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record. Copies of the information collection can be obtained from Cynthia L. Orlando, Concession Program Manager, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW., (2410), Washington, DC 20240.

Dated: December 10, 2003.

Leonard E. Stowe,

Acting, NPS Information Collection Clearance Officer, Washington Administrative Program Center.

[FR Doc. 04-1283 Filed 1-21-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312-53-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Final Environmental Impact Statement/General Management Plan, Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, Clark County, Washington; Notice of Availability

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Pub. L. 91-190, as amended) and the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations, the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, has prepared a final environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed general management plan (GMP) for Fort Vancouver National Historic Site located in the city of Vancouver, Washington. This GMP describes and analyzes "action" alternatives responsive to issues and concerns voiced during the public scoping process (as well as NPS conservation planning requirements). These alternatives address visitor use and the preservation of the cultural and natural resources that provide the environment in which the Hudson's Bay Company story is presented to the public. Alternative A constitutes the No Action alternative and assumes that existing programming, facilities, staffing, and funding would generally continue at their current levels. Alternative B, the agency preferred alternative, expands opportunities for the visitor to appreciate the broad sense of history that occurred at Fort Vancouver and its place in Northwest history. Alternative C proposes full reconstruction within the Fort and additional reconstruction or delineation elsewhere within the National Historic Site (NHS). The environmental consequences of all the alternatives, and mitigation strategies, are identified, compared, and analyzed in the EIS—based on this information, Alternative B was deemed to be the "environmentally preferred" alternative.

Scoping: Public meetings were initiated by the National Park Service (NPS) in January 1999 to solicit early participation into the conservation planning and environmental impact analysis process, which aided in defining the range of issues to be

analyzed. A Notice of Intent announcing preparation of the EIS/GMP was published in the **Federal Register** on January 7, 1999. A newsletter was produced and mailed to approximately 600 people on the park's mailing list to encourage feedback on critical park issues. The park received 29 scoping letters. Two public meetings were hosted in January 2000 from which over 150 oral comments were obtained. Scoping comments continued to be accepted and considered through the end of March 1999. During this period, the park facilitated discussions and briefings with the Vancouver National Historic Reserve Trust Board, congressional staff, elected officials, tribal representatives, public service organizations, educational institutions, and other interested members of the public.

Response to Draft Plan: During November 2002, over 670 copies of the draft EIS/GMP were mailed to agencies, organizations, and interested individuals; the documents were also made publicly available in local libraries in Vancouver, Washington and Oregon City, Oregon. A Notice of Availability was published in the **Federal Register** on December 3, 2002 (and EPA's notice of filing was published on December 27, 2002). In addition, advertisements were placed in the *Oregonian* (Portland, Oregon) and *The Columbian* (Vancouver, Washington) announcing release of the draft plan and locations, times, and dates for four public meetings to be held in Vancouver and Oregon City. Announcements were posted periodically on the park website, and a newsletter was prepared featuring a summary of the draft plan (and which included details for the December 2002 public meetings). A total of 4,500 newsletters were printed. Each newsletter included a mailbox postage-paid response form for people to provide comments concerning the plan. Newsletters were made available at the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site visitor center, several venues at the Vancouver National Historic Reserve, and other places through the City of Vancouver including the library, museums, the Chamber of Commerce, City Hall, and the Parks and Recreation Department, and at the McLoughlin House in Oregon City, Oregon.

The public review period ended on February 8, 2003. Resulting from the opportunity for public comment, a total of 118 pieces of written correspondence were received, which included letters from agencies, organizations, and individuals, newsletter mail-back response forms, and electronically

mailed responses through the Internet from the park website. In addition, a total of 65 people signed in at the public meetings (and 185 comments were recorded). Written comments were received from the following locations in the Pacific Northwest: 57 from Vancouver, Washington, 21 from Portland, Oregon, 5 from Oregon City, Oregon, 12 from other locations in Washington State, 7 from other locations in Oregon State, and 2 from Idaho. A total of 14 letters arrived from California, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Arizona, Maryland, New York, Massachusetts, and Washington, DC.

Throughout the overall conservation planning and environmental impact analysis process, consultations were held with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Washington State Historic Preservation Office, and the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation. Except for the Washington State Historic Preservation Office, no written comments were received from these four agencies. Three tribes prepared written comments; the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon.

The following elements of the proposed plan received the most comment: Village and Waterfront expansion, reconstruction, Research and Education Center, living history, Reserve visitor center, land bridge connection, adding the McLoughlin House NHS as a unit of Fort Vancouver NHS, East Fifth Street closure, relationship with Pearson Field, parking, food concessions, HBC cemetery, and staffing and funding. All letters are reproduced in the final EIS/GMP.

In addition to corrections and editorial changes, two elements of the proposed plan were modified based on public comment. Neither of these two changes constitutes an impairment of park resources or a significant impact of a singular or cumulative nature. The first relates to the proposed closure of East Fifth Street. East Fifth Street will remain open to public vehicular use. As mentioned in the draft EIS/GMP, NPS staff will work with the city's Public Works Department staff and officials to change the appearance and texture of the street surface to reflect a more historic appearance.

The second change relates to the temporary parking lot at the Fort. The action proposed in the draft EIS/GMP was to remove this parking lot completely and to construct a new