

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**National Park Service****General Management Plan, Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Colorado National Monument, Colorado**

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the draft environmental impact statement for the general management plan, Colorado National Monument.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4332(c), the National Park Service announces the availability of the draft environmental impact statement for the general management plan for Colorado National Monument, Colorado.

DATES: The National Park Service will accept comments from the public on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for 60 days after the publication of this notice. Public meetings will be scheduled in the vicinity of the monument and announced in the local media.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the document will be available at the following locations:

Colorado National Monument Visitor Center/Headquarters, 7 miles east of Fruita on Rim Rock Drive, Fruita, CO 81521-0001, Tel: (970) 858-3617.

Fruita Branch Mesa County Public Library District, 325 East Aspen Avenue, Fruita, CO 81521, Tel. (970) 858-7703.

Mesa County Central Library, 530 Grand Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81502-5019, Tel. (970) 243-4442.

On the Web at: <http://planning.nps.gov/plans.cfm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Superintendent Palma Wilson, Colorado National Monument, Fruita, CO 81521-0001; Tel: (970) 858-3617; fax: (970) 858-0372; e-mail: palma_wilson@nps.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments by several methods: (1) Mail to Suzanne Stutzman, National Park Service, IMDE-PE, 12795 W. Alameda Parkway, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225-0287; (2) e-mail to suzu_stutzman@nps.gov; (3) utilize the "input" section of the Colorado National Monument planning Web site at <http://planning.nps.gov/plans.cfm>; (4) hand-deliver comments to Colorado National Monument visitor center/headquarters 7 miles east of Fruita,

Colorado, on Rim Rock Drive. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours.

Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. 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.

Dated: February 20, 2004.

Michael D. Snyder,

Deputy Director, Intermountain Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**National Park Service****Notice of Availability (NOA) for a Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

SUMMARY: This notice is being published in accordance with 40 CFR 1506.6. Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Feasibility Study (Special Resource Study) on the Preservation of Civil War Battlefields and Related Historic Sites along the Vicksburg Campaign Trail (VCT) in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee. More than 500 sites were examined with a view to how they might best be preserved and linked together into the Vicksburg Campaign Trail Initiative. The study process evaluated the national significance, suitability, feasibility, and management options for each identified site according to NPS standards and criteria established by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields (1993).

Experts and professional historians evaluated each site to determine whether it qualifies as Tier One (Decisive-Major), Tier Two (Formative), or Tier Three (Limited) as well as Associated Sites (non-battlefield) and submerged resources. Decisive battles

(Tier One sites) had a direct, observable impact on the direction, duration, conduct, or outcome of the Civil War. Major battles (also Tier One) had a direct, observable impact on the direction, duration, conduct, or outcome of the Vicksburg Campaign. Formative battles (Tier Two sites) had an observable influence on the direct, duration, or conduct of the Vicksburg Campaign. Tier Three (Limited) sites typically involved detachments of the field armies, in which a commander achieved a limited tactical objective of reconnaissance, defense, or occupation, without observable influence on the direction of the campaign. The study identified 19 Tier One, 26 Tier Two, 131 Tier Three, and numerous associated sites, for a total of over 500 sites included in the Vicksburg Campaign Trail.

Based on this evaluation, some Tier One sites have been recommended for addition to the National Park System. Protection and interpretation of sites not recommended for addition to the National Park System will be sought via other arrangements that may include management by other Federal agencies, State or local governments, non-profit organizations or private owners. These different management options form the basis for three alternatives, the environmental impacts of which are analyzed in the DEIS:

Alternative A: No Action. The Federal Government/NPS would take no action to enhance the preservation of battlefields and other historic sites and resources associated with the Vicksburg Campaign Trail. No new sites among the over 500 identified Tier One, Two, Three, and associated properties would be added to the National Park System and no Federal efforts would be undertaken to link individual sites into a campaign trail initiative.

Alternative B: Limited Preservation—Tier One Actions. The NPS would engage in the protection/preservation of all sites associated with the Vicksburg Campaign Trail that have been recognized as being nationally significant, *i.e.* the Tier One Sites. Actions would range from direct acquisition by the NPS of some sites (such as Fort Heiman, now in private ownership) to assisting other managing authorities in the protection and preservation of other sites (*e.g.* Fort Pillow). While the Tier One sites would be acknowledged and linked, no formal VCT Initiative would be established.

Alternative C: Comprehensive Preservation—The Vicksburg Campaign Trail Initiative. This is the preferred alternative and constitutes the recommendation of the Feasibility