

Decision: As soon as practical the park will begin to implement as its updated Fire Management Plan the “multiple strategy” alternative (identified and analyzed in the Draft and Final EIS as Alternative IV). The selected plan will focus on restoring high elevation logged plant communities and reducing the risk of high severity wildland fire by decreasing forest stand density, reducing surface fuels, and attempting to restore fire as a natural disturbance process to the greatest extent feasible. Implementation of these strategies combines use of prescribed fire and mechanical treatment, and includes both pile and broadcast burns.

Project sizes may range from 0.5 to 1,000 acres, and will occur in all vegetation types. Up to 2,200 acres could be treated in each year of implementation. To facilitate these operations, the park’s fire operations cache will be centrally located at the Oak Bottom area.

An additional component of the Draft and Final EIS was the amending of the 2001 General Management Plan (GMP), to allow for future consideration of replacing or modernizing the existing park administrative center within the park. Under the selected alternative, the park’s GMP is amended to allow the park to consider construction a new administrative building at the existing park headquarters site on Kennedy Memorial Drive (subsequent environmental compliance, with opportunity for public involvement, would be necessary to address this option within a full range of alternatives).

The selected plan was determined to be the “environmentally preferred” alternative. Since the Fire Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement is programmatic in nature, project- or site-specific mitigations may need to be developed and implemented to ensure resource protection efforts reduce or avoid adverse effects. During the fire management planning phase, subject matter experts will review evaluate existing databases and maps, and, if necessary, conduct additional surveys to field verify natural or cultural resource conditions. Additional consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California State Historic Preservation Officer, the Redding Rancheria, and others may be required and will be documented in the project planning phase.

This selected plan and three alternatives were identified and analyzed in the Draft and Final EIS. In addition to the selected alternative, the environmental analysis addressed:

Alternative/No Action (the current fire management program); Alternative II Prescribed Fire Dominated (the fire program would have focused on the intentional use of fire through the application of prescribed fire to meet ecological restoration and maintenance objectives, and to reduce hazardous fuels throughout the park); and Alternative III Suppression Dominated (all natural and human-ignited wildland fires would have been suppressed). The full spectrum of foreseeable environmental consequences was assessed, and appropriate mitigation measures identified for each alternative.

Conclusion: The selected plan (Alternative IV) provides the most comprehensive and effective method among the alternatives considered for meeting the NPS purposes, goals, and criteria for managing fire and fire risks in Whiskeytown National Recreation Area and for meeting national environmental and fire policy goals. The selection of Alternative IV, as detailed in the Fire Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement, will not result in the impairment of park resources nor violate the Organic Act of 1916, and will allow the park to most effectively conserve park resources and provide for the long term enjoyment of visitors.

Interested parties desiring to review the Record of Decision may obtain a complete copy by contacting the Superintendent, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, P.O. Box 188, Whiskeytown, CA 96095 (530) 242-3400.

Dated: August 25, 2004.

Jonathan B. Jarvis,
Regional Director, Pacific West Region.
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Committee for the Preservation of the White House; Notice of Public Meeting

AGENCY: Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act that a meeting of the Committee for the Preservation of the White House will be held at the White House at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, November 17, 2004.

DATES: November 17, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Executive Secretary, Committee for the

Preservation of the White House, 1100 Ohio Drive, SW., Washington, DC 20242. (202) 619-6344.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: It is expected that the meeting agenda will include policies, goals, and long range plans. The meeting will be open, but subject to appointment and security clearance requirements. Clearance information, which includes full name, date of birth and social security number, must be received by November 10, 2004. Due to the present mail delays being experienced, clearance information should be faxed to (202) 619-6353 in order to assure receipt by deadline. Inquiries may be made by calling the Committee for the Preservation of the White House between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays at (202) 619-6344. Written comments may be sent to the Executive Secretary, Committee for the Preservation of the White House, 1100 Ohio Drive, SW., Washington, DC 20242.

Dated: October 8, 2004.

Ann Bowman Smith,
Executive Secretary, Committee for the Preservation of the White House.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Announcement of Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) Meeting

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act that a meeting of the Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commissions will be held at Fairbanks, Alaska. The purpose of the meeting will be to continue work on currently authorized and proposed National Park Service subsistence hunting program recommendations including other related subsistence management issues. The meeting will be open to the public. Any person may file with the Commission a written statement concerning the matters to be discussed.

The Subsistence Resource Commission is authorized under Title VIII, Section 808, of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Pub. L. 96-487, and operates in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

DATES: The meeting times are, 1. Tuesday, November 9, 2004, from 9 a.m. to approximately 5 p.m. 2. Wednesday,