

public interested in a particular agenda item or discussion should schedule their arrival accordingly.

Written comments may be filed in advance of the meeting for the California Desert District Advisory Council, c/o Bureau of Land Management, External Affairs, 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553. Written comments also are accepted at the time of the meeting and, if copies are provided to the recorder, will be incorporated into the minutes.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David Briery, BLM California Desert District External Affairs, (951) 697-5220.

Dated: March 19, 2012.

Raymond Lee,

Acting Associate District Manager, California Desert District.

[FR Doc. 2012-7785 Filed 3-30-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[NPS-NCRO-MONO-0811-7948; 3130-SZM]

Notice of a Record of Decision; Monocacy National Battlefield

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of a Record of Decision on the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the General Management Plan, Monocacy National Battlefield.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C), the National Park Service (NPS) announces the availability of the Record of Decision for the General Management Plan, Monocacy National Battlefield, Maryland. As soon as practicable, the NPS will begin to implement the preferred alternative as contained in the Final Environmental Impact Statement issued by the NPS on August 27, 2010, and summarized in the Record of Decision. Copies of the Record of Decision may be obtained from the contact listed below or online at www.nps.gov/mono.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David Hayes, National Park Service, 1100 Ohio Drive SW, Washington, DC 20242, (202) 619-7277, DavidHayes@nps.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Record of Decision includes a statement of the decision made, synopses of other alternatives considered, the basis for the decision, a description of the environmentally preferable alternative,

a finding on impairment of park resources and values, a listing of measures to minimize environmental harm and an overview of public involvement in the decision-making process.

Alternative 4 is the Selected Alternative. The following course of action will occur under Alternative 4:

All historic structures will be preserved and maintained, and the historic farmlands will continue to be leased to retain their use in agriculture. The outbuildings on the Best Farm will remain open. The Worthington House will be rehabilitated inside and be open to visitors with exhibits.

Monocacy National Battlefield administration will be moved into the rehabilitated Thomas House. The stone tenant house on the Thomas farm will contain exhibits and restrooms. Monocacy National Battlefield maintenance will continue to operate from its current location in a nonhistoric structure near the Gambrill Mill and be redesigned to meet the needs for office, vehicle storage, and work space.

Three nonhistoric structures will be removed from the landscape—two structures are houses constructed of cinderblocks, and the third is a historic toll house that was moved to the site from its original location. It is in severely deteriorated condition and lacks integrity, and its proximity to the intersection of Araby Church Road and Maryland Highway 355 (MD-355) makes it a safety concern.

The entrance to the 14th New Jersey Monument will be shifted south to allow better sight distances entering and exiting MD-355. An existing informal parking area on the east side of MD-355 used by fishermen will be closed and the area relandscaped. River access will continue from the 14th New Jersey Monument parking area. A landscaped commemorative area will be created at the site of the Pennsylvania and Vermont Monuments as a location for any new memorials that may be added to the Monocacy National Battlefield in the future.

Visitors will use their own vehicles to drive around the Monocacy National Battlefield using existing roadways (Baker Valley Road, Araby Church Road, and MD-355). The possibility of a pedestrian deck spanning Interstate 270 (I-270) is being evaluated in consultation with the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) as mitigation for MDOT widening of I-270 through the Monocacy National Battlefield. If the deck proves feasible and if an agreement can be worked out, it will provide a trail spanning I-270

that connects the Worthington and Thomas farms.

A new trail extension of the Gambrill Mill Trail will enable visitors to walk to the railroad junction and on to the sites of the Union entrenchments and Wallace's headquarters, all important interpretive locations within the Monocacy National Battlefield. Upgraded interpretation using new signs, wayside markers and brochures will be developed. Natural resource areas along rivers and drainages and along the heights behind the Worthington farmhouse will remain undeveloped and protected.

This course of action and three alternatives were analyzed in the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements. Three actions were key in the decision to make Alternative 4 the selected alternative.

First, moving the maintenance and administrative functions from the park into rental space in nearby Frederick, as would have occurred in Alternative 2, would have allowed the removal of the existing metal maintenance structure from the battlefield landscape and the commercial leasing of the Thomas House. However, this would have increased the amount of driving by park staff on busy MD-355 and would have unduly separated park staff from the resources managed and interpreted. It would also have placed a commercial use within the heart of the national battlefield (the lease of the Thomas House).

Second, an alternative transportation system in Alternative 2 would have decreased visitor driving within the park, made visitor access to park areas safer by obviating the use of busy MD-355, and decreased the size of parking areas at each site. This system weighed heavily in the selection of Alternative 2 as the environmentally preferable alternative. However, current visitation does not make such a system financially feasible as a commercial operation and there is no guarantee that such a system would be financially feasible in the future. Both Alternatives 3 and 4 utilize personal vehicles to access the park.

Third, Alternatives 2 and 4 include a connection of the Thomas and Worthington farms via a deck over I-270, while Alternative 3 does not. A connection of the two farms is an important interpretive tool allowing visitors and park staff to easily move back and forth between the two properties.

As a result Alternative 4 was selected to better connect park staff to the resource, (2) to more fully consider the financial feasibility of alternative transportation at this time, and (3) to

ensure the connection of the Thomas and Worthington farms both physically and interpretively.

The full range of foreseeable environmental consequences was assessed, and appropriate mitigating measures were identified.

The Regional Director, National Capital Region approved the Record of Decision for the project on November 16, 2010. The official primarily responsible for implementing the General Management Plan is the Superintendent of Monocacy National Battlefield.

Dated: July 22, 2011.

Stephen E. Whitesell,

Regional Director, National Capital Region.

[FR Doc. 2012-7719 Filed 3-30-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312-57-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[2253-665]

Notice of Inventory Completion: U.S. Department of Defense, Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District, Walla Walla, WA, and Alfred W. Bowers Laboratory of Anthropology, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of Defense, Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District, has completed an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects, in consultation with the appropriate Indian tribe, and has determined that there is a cultural affiliation between the human remains and associated funerary objects and a present-day Indian tribe. Representatives of any Indian tribe that believes itself to be culturally affiliated with the human remains and associated funerary objects may contact the U.S. Department of Defense, Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District. Repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects to the Indian tribe stated below may occur if no additional claimants come forward.

DATES: Representatives of any Indian tribe that believes it has a cultural affiliation with the human remains and associated funerary objects should contact the U.S. Department of Defense, Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District, at the address below by May 2, 2012.

ADDRESSES: LTC David Caldwell, U.S. Department of Defense, Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District, 201

North Third Ave., Walla Walla, WA 99362, telephone (509) 527-7700.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is here given in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3003, of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the U.S. Department of Defense, Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District (Corps), Walla Walla, WA, and in the physical custody of the Alfred W. Bowers Laboratory of Anthropology, University of Idaho (UI), Moscow, ID. The human remains and associated funerary objects were removed from Clearwater and Nez Perce Counties, ID.

This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA, 25 U.S.C. 3003(d)(3). The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the museum, institution or Federal agency that has control of the Native American human remains and associated funerary objects. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

Consultation

A detailed assessment of the human remains was made by U.S. Department of Defense, Army Corps of Engineers and University of Idaho professional staffs in consultation with representatives of the Nez Perce Tribe, Idaho.

History and Description of the Remains

In 1963, human remains representing, at minimum, three individuals were removed from site 10CW1, an open fishing camp located on the east side of the North Fork of the Clearwater River at Bruce's Eddy, in Clearwater County, ID. Site 10CW1 is located within the Dworshak Dam and Reservoir Project on the Clearwater River. The Dworshak Dam and Reservoir Project is managed by the Corps, who initiated the land acquisition processes for the Project in 1963. Idaho State College surveyed site 10CW1 in 1961, but did not collect anything. In 1963, the same institution, which had been renamed the Idaho State University (ISU), returned to the site for excavation, at which time three burials were discovered on the hills flanking the north end of the site. Burials 1 and 2 were marked by a semi-circle of rocks measuring approximately 12 feet in diameter and contained human remains and a large amount of copper funerary objects. Burial 3 was disturbed and contained human remains without funerary objects. The human remains and associated funerary objects were removed and transferred to the ISU

Museum. In 1976, the collection was transferred to UI for study and analysis (UI accession number 76-2).

The human remains from Burial 1 include an adult female around 40 years old, placed on its left side in a loosely flexed position with the head positioned to the northwest, found with associated funerary objects. The human remains from Burial 2 include the remains of an infant under 1 year old, placed with its head oriented to the west and found with associated funerary objects. The human remains from Burial 3 were of an adolescent of indeterminate age or gender and did not contain associated funerary objects. No known individuals were identified. The 586 associated funerary objects are: 44 copper tubular beads; 1 antler digging stick handle; 222 copper tubular beads with cordage; 1 bracelet fragment; 16 copper bracelet fragments; 2 seed husks; 193 glass beads; 1 lot red ochre; 6 copper pendants; 7 copper tubular beads with cordage and dentalium; 9 copper bead fragments; 15 copper tubular beads with cordage, hair, fur, leather, and dentalia; 7 copper tubular bead pieces with cordage, hair, fur, cloth, and dentalia; 4 dentalium shell; 3 copper pendants with tubular beads and cordage; 1 chert flake; 9 copper tubular beads with cordage and cut dentalium shell; 8 copper tubular beads with cordage and cut dentalium; 3 copper tubular beads with cordage and dentalium; 20 pieces mixture of soil, cord, beads, hair, fur, and copper; 12 copper tubular beads strung with a leather thong; 1 metal fragment; and 1 pestle.

Burials 1 and 2 from site 10CW1 may date to the protohistoric period due to the presence of copper, glass and cloth. Based on an analysis of the copper objects, the burials likely date to A.D. 1780-1810. Burial 3 may date to the prehistoric period based on the lack of funerary objects. The human remains have been examined by a physical anthropologist. One individual was noted to exhibit signs of fronto-occipital deformation, a common trait found in Native American remains. The archeological assemblage from site 10CW1 indicates that it was continually occupied from the Tucannon Phase (B.C. 5000-3000) to the historic period. The site is located at the traditional Nez Perce salmon fishing weir called *ti mi:mara wispayka:s*. A petroglyph consisting of three parallel lines on a basalt boulder at the waters' edge verifies this location as a Nez Perce fishing site, as these "lines served as guides to the construction of the fish trap." According to Henry Wheeler, a Nez Perce informant consulted during the 1961 investigation at the site,