

development, resource (cultural and natural) protection, and maintenance components to meet most, but not all, of the expected visitor-use increases and interests in the park. A Klondike History Research Center would be established, in cooperation with the city of Skagway and state of Alaska, to process, study, conserve, and store historical, ethnographic, and natural history artifacts. Part of the center's function would be to provide interpretive and educational programs, as well as the opportunity for interagency training and academic research within Skagway. Specialized historic-building restoration skills would be made available on a cost-reimbursable basis. Access to the Dyea area would be improved with a rerouted, gravel road with enhanced parking, picnic, interpretive, and trail opportunities. Selected Dyea townsite streets would be cleared and signed. Archaeological inventory, surveys, and mapping; marking the historical segments; minor trail rerouting; and increased interpretive programs would occur along the Chilkoot Trail. White Pass archaeological inventory, surveying, mapping, and marking the historic trail route would be completed; but no facilities are proposed in the unit.

In Seattle, the proposed action would lead to acquiring a permanent location for the park visitor center, park offices, and historic collections. In the interim, expanded lease space at the present location would allow park offices to move to accessible space on the third floor; and park collections would be moved to the mezzanine level of the building. The interpretive focus would shift with more emphasis toward the role of the Pacific Northwest in the gold rush. Additional interpretive information (exhibits and walking tours) would be developed within the Pioneer Square area. Interpretive exhibits, in cooperation with the city of Seattle, would be added to the waterfront area at Washington Street Landing. Contacts with the Skagway office would be expanded with staff cross training. A Friends of the Park group would be organized.

Under the No-Action Alternative (alternative A), the development of a new general management plan would not take place. Management actions would react to situations as needed. In Alaska, work toward a new crossing of Nelson Slough and beach area access would continue, and the existing park management and operations would continue. In Seattle, the basic operation would continue unchanged.

Under alternative B (minimal alternative), some actions would take

place in the park units. In Alaska, the park boundary in Dyea would be marked. Work toward a new crossing of Nelson Slough and beach area access would continue. The existing road along Nelson Slough would be graveled, but remain one lane. The campground, picnic area, and ranger station would be moved to be within the park boundary; and the historic segments of the Chilkoot Trail would be marked. In Skagway interpretive programs would be slightly increased, as would the visitor center operation. Site bulletins would be developed for each restored building. There would be an increased emphasis on maintaining the restored historic buildings as that program is completed. In Seattle about 2,800 square feet of additional lease space would be acquired, and improvements would be made to storage capabilities and the mezzanine area. Collections would be moved out of the basement and minor improvements made to existing exhibits. Pioneer Square and Washington Street Landing and other appropriate waterfront location's interpretive exhibits would be developed and sited. A Friends of the Park group would be established.

Under alternative D for Alaska, park management, development, resource protection, and maintenance needs would expand to meet all of the expected visitor use increases and interests in the park well into the next century. To accommodate the additional visitor use, there would be an increase in operational activities, maintenance, interpretation, and resources management, while protecting park resources from degradation. Park facilities would be upgraded with improvements to the visitor and administrative facilities in Skagway and the development of new facilities in Dyea and along the Chilkoot Trail. The day-use education center proposed in alternative C would be expanded to provide for overnight use. This would provide visitors with additional activity options for a better understanding of park themes. Additional historic buildings would be acquired for restoration and leased for commercial activities, or retained for administrative purposes. A historical building restoration center and a Klondike History Research Center would be established in Skagway. Alternative D (Substantial Change) was not developed for the Seattle unit.

The park would work with the state of Alaska and city of Skagway to provide better access for the Dyea and Chilkoot Trail areas. The park would also initiate and maintain additional cooperation with the city of Skagway,

Parks Canada, and state and federal land management agencies to assure compatible uses in areas adjacent to the park. Maximum protection of cultural and natural resources would be provided. Connections with the Brackett Wagon Road and Canadian trails would be examined.

This document is a collaborative effort between two vastly separated National Park Service system support offices and two park locations with input from the city of Skagway, state of Alaska, and international assistance from Parks Canada.

The responsible officials for a Record of Decision on the proposed action are the NPS field directors in Alaska and the Pacific West areas.

Dated: November 22, 1996.

Paul R. Anderson,

*Acting Field Director, Alaska.*

[FR Doc. 96-30663 Filed 12-2-96; 8:45 am]

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### **Petroglyph National Monument, Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement**

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of the Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Petroglyph National Monument, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and Public Law 101-313 (the legislation that established the monument) the National Park Service announces the availability of a Final General Management Plan/Development Concept Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/DCP/EIS) for Petroglyph National Monument.

The Final GMP/DCP/EIS has been prepared in cooperation with the City of Albuquerque, the State of New Mexico, and the Federal Aviation Administration.

The purpose of this Final GMP/DCP/EIS is to set forth the basic management philosophy of the monument and the overall approaches to resource management, visitor use, and facility development that would be implemented over the next 10-15 years.

Petroglyph National Monument, encompassing 7,244 acres, was established in June 1990 as a new unit of the National Park System to preserve the estimated 15,000 prehistoric petroglyphs and other significant natural and cultural resources that are on the west side of Albuquerque, New Mexico. The monument is the first National Park System area specifically

established to protect and interpret rock carvings and their setting.

Public input has identified issues and concerns which include management responsibilities, cultural and natural resource protection, protection of sites and values of culturally affiliated groups, and location and function of visitor and administrative facilities such as visitor center, parking areas and trail heads, a heritage education center, and a petroglyph research center. Other issues addressed in the Final GMP/DCP/EIS include interpretation, education, visitor circulation and access, public use of the monument, and boundary adjustments. There are four alternatives for the development, resource management, and visitor use of the monument. The alternatives describe different visitor experiences and different kinds and locations for facilities under a common resource management and protection approach. All alternatives have a common resource management approach because of resource management laws and policies that apply to various aspects of all National Park System areas, including cultural landscape and archaeological site values, natural resources and various other aspects of monument management. These alternatives are summarized below:

**Alternative 1:** The overall approach of alternative 1, the proposed action and the National Park Service's preferred alternative, would be to provide various ways for visitors of different ages and abilities to see and appreciate many of the monument's significant resources. Visitors would be directed to a visitor center/heritage education center at Boca Negra Canyon. Horseback and bicycle riding would be permitted only on elected designated mesa-top trails and at three crossing points. No horses or bicycles would be allowed in petroglyph viewing areas or archeological sites anywhere in the monument. Mesa top resources and visitor experiences would be monitored to identify adverse impacts. Impacts on cultural and natural resources, the regional economy, visitors and values held by culturally affiliated groups would be minimal or, in some cases, beneficial. New structures would impact the cultural landscape. There could be adverse impacts on values held by culturally affiliated groups from the intrusion of bicycles and horses.

**Alternative 2:** This alternative would preserve the greatest portion of the monument and adjacent lands in as natural a condition as possible, with the fewest intrusions from development and fewer opportunities for public access and use. Visitors would be directed to

a visitor center at Lava Shadows where they would have access to selected petroglyphs. A heritage education center would be built at Boca Negra Canyon. Visitors would have more opportunities to see the petroglyphs with a greater sense of solitude than in alternative 1. More areas of the monument would be reserved for research, traditional and cultural use, and occasional guided tours than in the other alternatives. Horse and bicycle use would not be permitted in this alternative except at two escarpment crossings. Overall impacts on cultural and natural resources and values held by culturally affiliated groups would be similar to and in some cases slightly less under this alternative than under alternative 1.

**Alternative 3:** The overall approach would be to have easy access to the mesa-top views and the volcanoes as well as petroglyph concentrations below the escarpment. Visitors would be directed to a visitor/heritage education center at Rinconada Canyon. From the visitor center, many visitors would drive to a new 10-mile mesa-top loop road that would provide easy access to the mesa-top views and the volcanoes. Parking and trails would be developed at the volcanoes and geologic windows areas. Horse and bicycle use would be provided at three escarpment crossings. This alternative would have the greatest impact on natural resources, cultural resources and values held by culturally affiliated groups.

**Alternative 4:** The "no-action" alternative, describes the conditions that would exist at the monument without a change in current management direction or an approved management plan—providing a baseline for evaluating the changes and impacts that would occur under the three action alternatives. There would be parking areas and minor trail improvements in some areas. There would be no new visitor center. This alternative would have the fewest facilities. Horseback and bicycle riding would be permitted within the monument only where currently allowed. The interim visitor center at Las Imagines would become the primary visitor center, accommodating only a limited number of visitors. Archeological sites, petroglyphs, and the cultural landscape would continue to be adversely impacted by vandalism.

**DATES:** The no action period will end 30 days after the Environmental Protection Agency publishes notice that the Final GMP/DCP/EIS has been filed with the Environmental Protection Agency. After this period a Record of Decision can be issued by the National Park Service. A

Record of Decision will not be issued prior to February 6, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Questions about this document should be addressed to Superintendent, Petroglyph National Monument, 6001 Unser Blvd. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120 phone# (505) 899-0205.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Public reading copies of the Final GMP/DCP/EIS will be available for review at the following locations: Office of Public Affairs, National Park Service 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240; Department of Interior Natural Resources Library, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240; Petroglyph National Monument Las Imagines Visitor Center, 4732 Unser Blvd., NW., Albuquerque, New Mexico; and local public libraries in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Dated: November 25, 1996.

Vickie E. White,

*Acting Superintendent, Petroglyph National Monument.*

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#### **Maine Acadian Culture Preservation Commission; Notice of Meeting**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (PL 92-463) that the Maine Acadian Culture Preservation Commission will meet on Friday, December 20, 1996. The meeting will convene at 7:00 p.m. at *le musee et centre culturel du Mont-Carmel* on U.S. Route 1 in Lille, Aroostook County, Maine.

The Maine Acadian Culture Preservation Commission was appointed by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the Maine Acadian Culture Preservation Act (PL 101-543). The purpose of the Commission is to advise the National Park Service with respect to:

- The development and implementation of an interpretive program of Acadian culture in the state of Maine; and
- The selection of sites for interpretation and preservation by means of cooperative agreements.

The Agenda for this meeting is as follows:

1. Review and approval of the summary report of the meeting held October 17, 1996.
2. A talk by Dr. Barry Ancelet on the history of Acadian French in Louisiana.
3. Reports of Maine Acadian Culture Preservation Commission working groups.
4. Report of the National Park Service project staff.