

Transportation

Park managers are currently developing a Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for the park. The LRTP provides a strategy for managing the park's transportation system and operations based on current management plans. The plan includes gathering data to identify transportation conditions and funding needs, identifying strategies, and creating a list of high-priority transportation projects. Once completed, each GMP alternative will be compared with the LRTP to identify any additional transportation infrastructure, projects, or programs that may be needed to support the proposed GMP alternatives. The results of this comparison will be incorporated into the GMP alternatives and presented in the *Draft GMP/EIS*.

Climate Change

Climate change could alter the landscape, natural resources, cultural sites, and facilities of the park. Climate change refers to changes occurring in the earth's atmospheric, hydrologic, and oceanic systems. These changes, including increased global air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global average sea level, provide unequivocal evidence that the earth's climate system is warming.

The GMP will provide guidance on how the parks will assess, interpret, and respond to the impacts of climate change. The GMP also will include goals for:

- reducing greenhouse gas emissions— to the point that the parks and partners become carbon neutral, and visitor travel emissions are significantly reduced;
- educating NPS staff, its partners, and the public on the topic;
- and proactively planning for and adapting to the effects that may be realized from climate change, including the loss of shoreline, altered terrestrial and marine ecosystems, damage to recreation sites and park facilities, and disruptions in visitor use.

User Capacity

General management plans for national park units are required by law to address the topic of user capacity, also known as carrying capacity. The National Park Service defines user capacity as the types and extent of visitor use that can be accommodated while sustaining the quality of park resources and visitor experiences consistent with the purposes of the park. Managing user capacity in national parks is inherently complex and depends not only on the number of visitors, but also on where they go, what they do and the “footprints” they leave behind. In managing for user capacity, the park staff and partners rely on a variety of management tools and strategies, rather than relying solely on regulating the number of people in a park or simply establishing limits on visitor use. In addition, the ever-changing nature of visitor use in parks requires a deliberate and adaptive to approach to user capacity management.

The foundations for making user capacity decisions in this general management plan are the parks' purpose, significance, special mandates, and management zones. The purpose, significance, and special mandates define why the park was established and identify the most important resources and values, including visitor opportunities, that will be protected and provided. The management zones describe the desired resource conditions and visitor experiences, including appropriate recreation activities, for different locations throughout the two parks. These elements direct the National Park Service on how to protect resources while offering a diversity of visitor opportunities.

In addition to these important directives, this plan will include indicators and standards, which are measurable variables that will be monitored to track changes in resource conditions and visitor experiences. The indicators and standards help the National Park Service evaluate whether desired conditions are being met. The general management plan will also include a range of actions that would be taken to maintain or restore desired conditions. For example, management actions may include providing information about low impact recreational use and the principles of “Leave No Trace”; directing visitors to designated facilities or areas; adding or altering facilities (trails, picnic tables) for containment of use to designated areas; directing visitors to lesser-used areas or off-peak times; restricting the types of recreation activities permitted; and/or reducing the amount of visitor use in certain areas.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DENVER SERVICE CENTER
12795 WEST ALAMEDA PARKWAY
PO Box 25287
DENVER CO 80225-0287

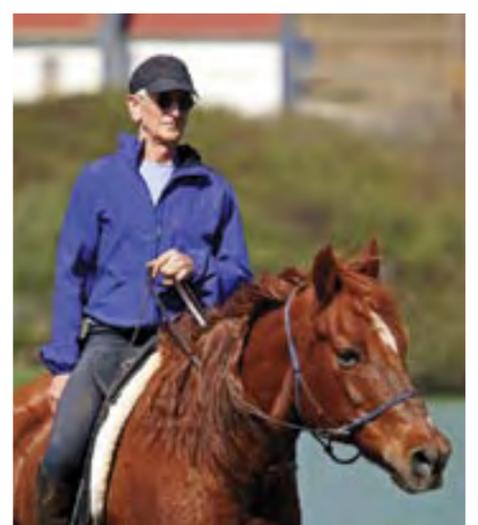
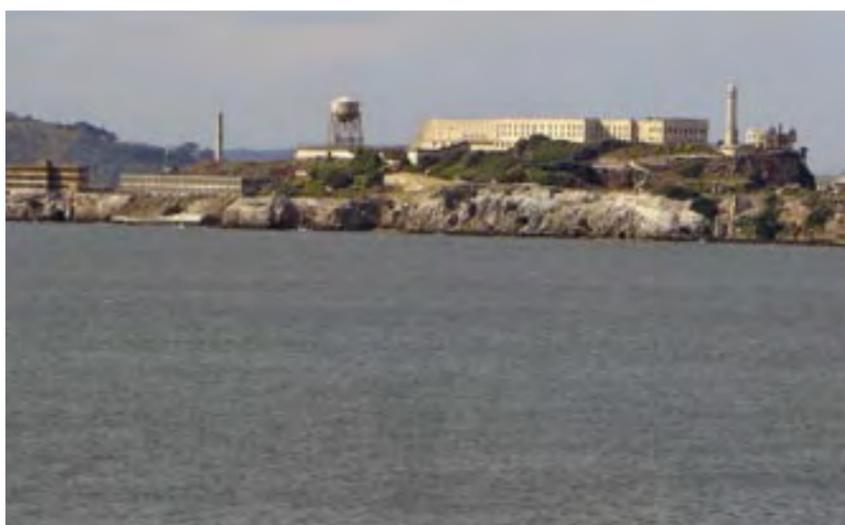
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