Chapter VI: Consultation and Coordination

Internal and External Scoping

The Northern Rocky Mountains parks conducted both internal scoping with appropriate NPS staff and external scoping with the public and interested and affected groups, agencies, and tribes to determine the range of issues to be discussed in this EA. This interdisciplinary process defined the purpose and need, identified potential actions to address the need, determined the likely issues and impact topics, and identified the relationship of the preferred alternative to other planning efforts in the park.

Press Release / Public Scoping Letter: Public scoping was conducted through the following means: a press release or public scoping letter announcing the intent of the proposal and its evaluation by the NPS was released between February 1 and 25, 2008 by the 10 parks. The press release was also mailed to interested park constituents, including adjacent landowners, at each of the 10 parks. This resulted in publication in numerous local and national news media, including in the Wood River Journal, now the Idaho Mountain Express (Blaine County, Idaho), Silverstate Post (3-5-08) (Powell and Granite counties in southwest Montana), Kemmerer Gazette (south Lincoln County), and the Friends of the Little Bighorn Battlefield internet homepage. For Nez Perce National Historical Park (Bear Paw and Big Hole), copies of the press release and draft purpose and need were posted in the Wisdom, Montana Post Office, the Chinook, Montana Post Office and listed on the Big Hole National Battlefield and Nez Perce National Historic Park websites.

Public Comments: During the public scoping process for this Invasive Plant Management Plan EA which took place from February 1, 2008 to March 15, 2008, a total of eleven comment letters were received. Five of these were received from agencies: USFWS (MT), USFS (Wisdom Ranger District of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest), IDPR, State of Idaho, Department of Agriculture (IDAG), and Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD). Other comment letters included four from individuals, none from non-profit organizations, and 1 from county commissioners (Board Lincoln County Commissioners, Wyoming). Two were received via the Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website. Little Bighorn and several other parks did not receive any comments.

Agency Consultation

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Consultation

In accordance with local implementing procedures for Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, on February 6, 2008, former Little Bighorn Superintendent Darrell Cook sent a letter to the USFWS Montana Field Office initiating consultation on behalf of the MT parks (LIBI, BIHO, GRKO, and BEPA). The letter initiating consultation for the Idaho Parks was sent on February 4, 2008 for Idaho Parks; on February 1, 2008 for Fossil Butte (Wyoming); and on February 5, 2008 for Golden Spike (Utah). A request for concurrence with the determinations of effect will be sent during the public review period for this EA.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Consultation

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a letter notifying the state and tribal SHPOs of the proposed undertaking was sent during public scoping. The press release notifying the Montana State Historic Preservation Office and the Crow Tribal Historic Preservation Office on January 31, 2008; to the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office on January 31, 2008; to the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office on February 1, 2008; and to the Utah State Historic Preservation Office on February 5, 2008. A series of meetings were held to identify project objectives and to evaluate options for some project components. A request for concurrence with the determinations of effect will be sent during the public review period for this EA.

Tribal Consultation

1. City of Rocks / Craters of the Moon / Hagerman Fossil Beds / Minidoka

Shoshone Bannock Tribe

Carolyn Boyer Smith, Cultural Resources Coordinator and Yvette Tuell, Environmental Program Manager-Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, P.O. Box 306, Fort Hall, Idaho 83023

A combined Idaho parks scoping letter under Hagerman Fossil Beds / Minidoka letterhead was sent February 13, 2008 to Alonzo A. Coby and Yvette Tuell. Follow-up consultation was requested by Craters of the Moon but no comments were received.

2. Fossil Butte

Eastern Shoshone Tribe

M. Vernon Hill, Chairman of the Business Council, P.O. Box 538, Fort Washakie, Wyoming 82514

The cultural director was contacted by phone on March 18, 2008 after receipt of a scoping letter. No scoping comments were provided.

Northern Arapaho

P.O. Box 396, Fort Washakie, Wyoming 82514

The Northern Arapaho were contacted in June 2007, following receipt of a scoping letter. The tribal leader changed in the interim and additional contact was made with the new chairman and cultural preservation officer in March 2008. A desire for elders to visit the park to determine what plants might be treated was expressed. The tribe had no specific comments regarding particular issues or concerns for scoping.

Ute Tribe

P.O. Box 190, Fort Duschene, Utah 84206
P.O. Box KK, Towaoc, Colorado 81334

The Ute Tribal Office was contacted on March 19, 2008 after receipt of a scoping letter. No scoping comments were provided.

3. Little Bighorn

A scoping letter was sent January 28, 2008 to 12 tribes and January 31, 2008 to the Crow Tribe of Indians (Tribal Historic Preservation Office). No comments were received in response to the scoping letters.

Three Affiliated Tribes Business Council
Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma
Crow Tribal Council
Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board
Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council
Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council
Arapaho Business Committee
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
Crow Creek Sioux Tribal Council
Lower Brule Sioux Tribal Council
Oglala Sioux Tribe Council
Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council

In 2009 Little Bighorn added 5 tribes affiliated with the site. Little Bighorn held a tribal consultation meeting on September 9, 2009 where several park projects were discussed. The Natural Resources staff showed a PowerPoint presentation which described the program including the Invasive Plant Management Plan EA. Another tribal consultation meeting was held May 20, 2010 where several projects were discussed, including the Invasive Plant Management Plan EA.

On August 20, 2010 letters were sent to the following Little Bighorn 17 historically affiliated tribes (chairman, with a copy to the Tribe's THPO Office/Cultural Resource Program) asking the tribes to contact the park for a copy of the draft Invasive Plant Management Plan.

Northern Arapaho Tribe
The Northern Arapaho Tribal Office was contacted on September 2, 2010 after receipt of a consultation letter. An electronic copy of the draft plan was mailed September 3, 2010 to the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.

Three Affiliated Tribes Business Council
The Three Affiliated Tribal and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices were contacted on September 2, 2010 after receipt of a consultation letter. An electronic copy of the draft plan was mailed September 3, 2010 to the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.

Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council
The Northern Cheyenne Tribal Office was contacted on September 2, 2010 after receipt of a consultation letter. Electronic copies of the draft plan were mailed September 3, 2010 to the chairman and the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma
Contact with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices was attempted on September 2, 2010 after receipt of a consultation letter. An electronic copy of the draft plan was mailed September 3, 2010 to the chairman. Little Bighorn received a response letter dated 11/1/10 from the Acting Tribal Historic Preservation Officer with the comment "No objections. However, if human skeletal remains and/or any objects falling under NAGPRA are uncovered during construction, please stop immediately and notify the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes."

Apsaalooke Nation (Crow Tribe)
In a meeting with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer on August 31, 2010 the main points of the plan and section 106 schedule were discussed. An electronic copy of the draft plan and hard copies of the scoping letter (January 31, 2008) and consultation letter (August 20, 2010) were provided to the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer during the meeting on August 31, 2010. Additionally a hard copy of the draft Alternative Comparison Chart, which had not yet been incorporated into the electronic copy of the draft plan, was provided during the meeting.

The Apsaalooke Nation (Crow Tribe) Office was contacted on September 2, 2010 after receipt of a consultation letter. An electronic copy of the draft plan was mailed September 3, 2010 to the chairman.

Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board
The Fort Peck Tribal Office was contacted on September 2, 2010 after receipt of a consultation letter. An electronic copy of the draft plan was mailed September 3, 2010 to the chairman.

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal, Tribal Historic Preservation, and Cultural Program Offices were contacted on September 2, 2010 after receipt of a consultation letter. Electronic copies of the draft plan were mailed September 3, 2010 to the chairman, the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, and the Cultural Program Administrator. A particular interest in the Little Bighorn site and impacts were expressed.

Oglala Sioux Tribal Council
The Oglala Sioux Tribal Historic Preservation Office was contacted on September 2, 2010 after receipt of a consultation letter. An electronic copy of the draft plan was mailed September 3, 2010 to the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.

Crow Creek Sioux Tribal Council
The Crow Creek Sioux Tribal Office was contacted on September 2, 2010 after receipt of a consultation letter. An electronic copy of the draft plan was mailed September 3, 2010 to the chairman.

Lower Brule Sioux Tribal Council
The Lower Brule Sioux Tribal Historic Preservation Office was contacted on September 2, 2010 after receipt of a consultation letter. An interest in which parks were involved was expressed. An electronic copy of the draft plan was mailed September 3, 2010 to the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.

Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council
The Standing Rock Sioux Tribal and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices were contacted on September 2, 2010 after receipt of a consultation letter. Electronic copies of the draft plan were mailed September 3, 2010 to the chairman and the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.

Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council
The Rosebud Sioux Tribal and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices were contacted on September 2, 2010 after receipt of a consultation letter. Electronic copies of the draft plan were mailed September 3, 2010 to the chairman and the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.

Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska
The Santee Sioux Tribal Office was contacted on September 2, 2010 after receipt of a consultation letter. A high interest in the Little Bighorn site was expressed. Electronic copies of the draft plan were mailed September 3, 2010 to the chairman and the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.

Yankton Sioux Tribe
The Yankton Sioux Tribal Historic Preservation Officer requested a copy of the plan on August 26, 2010. An electronic copy of the draft plan was mailed August 26, 2010.

Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe
Contact with the Spirit Lake Sioux Tribal Office was attempted on September 2, 2010 after receipt of a consultation letter. An electronic copy of the draft plan was mailed September 3, 2010 to the chairman.

Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota
Contact with the Spirit Lake Sioux Tribal Office was attempted on September 2, 2010 after receipt of a consultation letter. An electronic copy of the draft plan was mailed September 3, 2010 to the chairman.

Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake
The Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Tribal Historic Preservation Office was contacted on September 2, 2010 after receipt of a consultation letter. An electronic copy of the draft plan was mailed September 3, 2010 to the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.

5. Nez Perce NHP- Bighole Battlefield, Bear Paw
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (including the Chief Joseph Band)
Colville Business Council, P.O. Box 150, Nespelem, Washington 99155

A consultation letter dated January 31, 2008 was sent to the Tribal Chair with copies to the Chair of the Natural Resource Committee and the Director of the History and Archeology program, and the THPO. An email was also sent to the same parties on February 26, 2008 informing them of the comment deadline of March 15, 2008. No scoping comments were received.

Assiniboine and Gros Ventres Tribes, Fort Belknap Reservation
Tribal Executive Committee, P.O. Box 305, Lapwai, Idaho 83540

A consultation letter dated January 31, 2008 was sent to the Tribal Chair with copies to the Director of the Cultural Resource Program and the Acting THPO. This was followed up with a telephone call to the THPO on February 26, 2008 to discuss the project and the comment deadline of March 15, 2008. No scoping comments were received.

Nez Perce Tribe, Lapwai Reservation
Tribal Executive Committee, P.O. Box 305, Lapwai, Idaho 83540

A consultation letter dated January 31, 2008 was sent to the Tribal Chair with copies to the Director of the Cultural Resource Program and the Acting THPO. This was followed up with a telephone call to the THPO on February 26, 2008 to discuss the project and the comment deadline of March 15, 2008. No scoping comments were received.

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Board of Trustees, P.O. Box 638, Pendleton, Oregon 97801

A consultation letter dated January 31, 2008 was sent to the Tribal Chair with copies to the Chair of the Cultural Resources Committee, Director of the Department of Natural Resources, Program Manager of the Cultural Resource Protection Program and the THPO. This was followed up with a discussion of the project and comment deadlines at the March 4, 2008 Cultural Resource Committee meeting. No scoping comments were received.

6. Golden Spike NHS
Shoshone - Bannock Tribes
Alonzo A. Coby, Chairman, Fort Hall Business Council *Shoshone - Bannock Tribes*, P.O. Box 306, Fort Hall, Idaho 83203

In 2008, a letter was sent regarding EA. No record of a response to this letter is on file, and it is unclear if the same letter was sent to any other tribes.

Recently, with assistance from the Intermountain Regional Office, Golden Spike has identified additional affiliated tribes. Consultation with these tribes has not yet been initiated, but will take place immediately in the form of a scoping letter similar to what was sent to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes in 2008. The letter will be updated to reflect the most current version of the Invasive Plant Management Plan EA and will be sent not only to the newly identified tribes but to all tribes with known affiliation to Golden Spike.

7. Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS
On September 21, 2010 letters were sent to the: *Blackfeet Nation, the Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation, the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation, and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe* (Tribe's THPO Office/Cultural Resource Program) describing the plan outline and asking the tribes to contact the park for a copy of the draft Invasive Plant Management Plan. The *Shoshone-Bannock Tribe* located at Fort Hall, Idaho is an affiliated tribe and was contacted through City of Rocks and Golden Spike.

October 14, 2010 follow up emails were sent to the four tribes after receipt of the consultation letter. The *Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation* requested and were sent an electronic copy of the draft plan.

Public Review

This Environmental Assessment is available for a ***forty-five day*** public review period. Check PEPC or park websites to determine exact dates. At that time, a press release will be distributed to people and businesses who have expressed an interest in the road rehabilitation. The press release will also be mailed or emailed to a list of persons and agencies that have expressed interest in proposed actions and events at the 10 parks. Included will be organizations such as The Wilderness Society, Wilderness Watch, Sierra Club, National Audubon Society, and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. In addition, organizations and individuals that have requested so will receive a copy of the EA. Others will be sent to those who request copies during the review period. The EA will also be available on the park websites, including for the host park located at http://www.nps.gov/crmo/ and on the Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website located at http://parkplanning.nps.gov/gosp.

Copies of the document may be obtained from the nearest park site included in this plan or from Craters of the Moon, the host park, for the plan:

Superintendent
Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve
P.O. Box 29
Arco, Idaho 83213

Phone: (208) 527-1351 or *Fax*: (208) 527-3073

Internet: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/gosp (PEPC Project Number 20520)

Responses to substantive comments on the EA will be addressed in the proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or will be used to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (if warranted).

If reviewers do not identify substantial environmental impacts, this EA will be used to prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), which will be sent to the NPS Pacific West and Intermountain Regional Directors for signature.

During the public review period, additional consultation would occur to affirm determinations of effect (if needed) with the Idaho, Montana, Washington and Wyoming State Historic Preservation Offices. Notice of the concurrence with the determinations of effect for historical resources will be identified in the FONSI for this EA, if prepared (see above).

For more information concerning this EA please contact Sue Salmons, NRM-EPMT Liaison at (307) 344-2185 (P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 82190). For a copy of this document, please call (307) 344-2185.

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