



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Fort Bowie National Historic Site
3203 Old Fort Bowie Road
Bowie, Arizona 85605



In reply refer to:
NFPORS 3069623
FOBO

March 8, 2011

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The National Park Service (NPS) has initiated an environmental assessment (EA) for Fort Bowie National Historic Site regarding the management of fire and hazardous fuel reductions within the national monument boundaries. We are seeking public comment for this project during the public scoping period.

Why an assessment is needed

The park has an existing Fire Management Plan however, the level of environmental analysis completed for the plan, called the Healthy Forest Initiative Categorical Exclusion, is no longer considered adequate to meet NPS policy. Therefore a more detailed assessment needs to be conducted. Decisions reached in the EA will be used to revise the current plan, if necessary.

How you can help

We would like to hear your ideas and concerns about fire management including fire suppression, the use of prescribed fire to protect cultural and natural resources, and the use of physical treatment methods to reduce hazardous fuel loads and protect structures.

Plan alternatives

Currently there are two proposed alternatives. The proposed action alternative would allow for implementation of a full range of fire management activities. Wildland fire management actions could include suppression, the use of prescribed fire for resource benefit, physical treatments, and herbicide treatments. The main focus of these activities and treatments is centered on public and firefighter safety, communities identified as at risk from wildland fires (Wildland Urban Interface), historic fire regimes, current condition class, and collaboration with other agencies and stakeholders.

The no action alternative would continue to manage wildland fires consistent with the existing Fire Management Plan and Categorical Exclusion. Fire management activities would be in response to emergencies and to protect people and park resources.

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What's next?

At this time, the Superintendent is announcing a 30-day public scoping period to solicit public comments on this proposal. During this scoping period, the public is invited to identify any issues or concerns they might have with the proposed project so that the National Park Service can appropriately consider them in the preparation of the Environmental Assessment. You may submit suggestions, comments, and concerns electronically (the NPS's preferred method of receiving comments) at the NPS's Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/> and select Fort Bowie National Historic Site

Written comments may be sent to:

Superintendent:
Kym Hall
Park Address:
3203 Old Fort Bowie Road
Bowie, Arizona 85605

Please submit your scoping comments by Close of Business, April 8, 2011. Once the draft EA is completed, it will be made available for public review for a 30-day period. If you wish to be added to the park's mailing list for this or other announcements, please be sure to indicate that in your response.

Sincerely,



Kym Hall
Superintendent

bcc:

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