



Cesar Chavez Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment

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Abstract

The National Park Service (NPS) conducted the Cesar Chavez Special Resource Study to evaluate the significance, suitability, and feasibility of designating sites significant to Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement in the western United States as part of the national park system, and to determine whether such sites are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or designation as a National Historic Landmark. Congress authorized this study in 2008.

Through the study process, the NPS is making the following determinations:

- The study team evaluated over 100 sites significant to Cesar Chavez and/or the farm labor movement in the western United States. Of these sites, five have preliminarily been found to be **nationally significant**: the Forty Acres National Historic Landmark ((NHL) Delano, CA); Filipino Community Hall (Delano, CA); Nuestra Senora Reina de la Paz (Keene, CA); the Santa Rita Center (Phoenix, AZ) and the 1966 Delano to Sacramento march route. The 1966 Delano to Sacramento march route also meets eligibility criteria for designation as a national historic trail.
- The nationally significant sites associated with Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement in the western United States depict a distinct and important aspect of American history associated with civil rights and labor movements that is not adequately represented or protected elsewhere and are therefore **suitable** for inclusion in the National Park System.
- A partnership-based national park unit or technical assistance program which provides opportunities for collaborative management to protect cultural resources, provide public access, interpretation, and educational opportunities at certain sites associated with the life of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement is a **feasible** addition to the national park system.
- There is a **need for NPS management** to achieve partnership-based protection of significant resources and enhanced visitor appreciation of the important resources and stories associated with the life of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement.

Five management alternatives were developed to explore a range of approaches to manage, protect, or restore significant resources and to provide or enhance public use and enjoyment.

- **Alternative A: Continuation of Current Management.** Sites, organizations, and programs significant to the life of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement would continue to operate independently without additional NPS management or assistance other than that available through existing authorities.
- **Alternative B: National Network.** Congress would establish a farm labor movement network to facilitate preservation and education efforts related to the life of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement. Coordinated by the NPS, the program would consist of an integrated network of historic sites, museums and interpretive programs, coordinated with national, regional and local organizations.
- **Alternative C: National Historic Trail.** Congress would establish a new national historic trail (NHT) that would commemorate the 1966 Delano to Sacramento march.
- **Alternative D: National Historic Site.** Congress would establish a national historic site (NHS) at the Forty Acres in Delano, CA as a unit of the national park system that would preserve and interpret resources significant to the life of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement.
- **Alternative E: National Historical Park.** Congress would establish a national historical park (NHP) that would incorporate nationally significant sites in California and Arizona related to the life of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement. These sites would include the Forty Acres, Filipino Community Hall, Nuestra Senora Reina de La Paz (La Paz) and the Santa Rita Center. The Secretary of the Interior would be authorized to add significant associated sites or districts to the national historical park that would be owned and operated by park partners.

The Selected Alternative

The actions encompassed in the selected alternative include those identified and analyzed in alternatives E and B, with the exception of minor modifications made as a result of information and comments derived from public review. The national historical park in the selected alternative would add McDonnell Hall in San Jose, CA which appears to be the best location to tell the story of Cesar Chavez's early education as a community organizer. The selected alternative does not include the provision for adding "associated sites," to the national historical park, but does provide for the establishment of a national network where the NPS would coordinate a network of sites and programs outside of the park. The NPS would also establish an oral history program with park partners or universities to further document the story of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement.

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