

Executive Summary

Background and Study Process

The Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-229, May 2008) authorized the National Park Service to conduct a special resource study of sites that are significant to the life of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement in the western United States.

The overall purpose of this study is to evaluate the significance and suitability of sites significant to Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement, and the feasibility and appropriateness of a National Park Service (NPS) role in the management of any of these sites. Through the study process, the NPS identifies alternative strategies to manage, protect, or restore the resources, and to provide or enhance public use and enjoyment. These alternatives explore partnerships and efforts to protect important resources in ways that do not necessarily require the commitment of funds and staff by the NPS. This study will provide information to aid the Congress, the U.S. Department of Interior, and the National Park Service in determining whether designation of a unit of the national park system is desirable and appropriate. The legislation authorizing this study specifically directs the NPS to determine appropriate methods for preserving and interpreting the sites and whether any of the sites meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or designation as a National Historic Landmark. The NPS, with assistance from the Center for Oral and Public History at California State University, Fullerton (COPH), investigated nearly 100 sites associated with Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement.

Legislative and Policy Direction

Several laws and policies outline the criteria for units of the national park system. The National Park System New Area Studies Act and NPS management policies establish the basic process for NPS studies of potential new national park areas. According to NPS management policies, a proposed addition to the national park system will receive a favorable recommendation from the NPS only if it meets all of the following four criteria for inclusion:

- it possesses nationally significant natural or cultural resources;
- it is a suitable addition to the system;
- it is a feasible addition to the system; and
- it requires direct NPS management, instead of alternative protection by other public agencies or the private sector.

These criteria are designed to ensure that the national park system includes only the most outstanding examples of the nation's natural and cultural resources, while recognizing that there are other management alternatives for preserving the nation's outstanding resources.

Alternatives for NPS management are developed for sites that meet all four of the criteria for inclusion.

Public Involvement

Public Scoping

The NPS study team launched public scoping for this study in spring of 2011. In April 2011 the study team produced and distributed, mailed, or emailed 1,900 newsletters to individuals, organizations, government officials, and the media. Newsletters were available in English and Spanish. The purpose of public scoping was to introduce the study, explain the process to community members and others, and solicit comments on issues the study should address. The newsletter was published and made available for comment on the National Park Service's Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website. The comment period extended to June 16, 2011, thirty days after publication of the notice of scoping in the Federal Register. The NPS also considered comments received after this date.

Press releases announcing the beginning of the study process and the public meeting schedule were distributed to local media. Numerous articles and opinion pieces about the study have appeared in area newspapers.

All information sent by the NPS to the public by mail or e-mail has also been available on the study website at www.nps.gov/pwro/chavez. Updates and information about the study process were also made available on the study's Facebook page at facebook.com/chavezstudy.

In May 2011, the study team held a series of public scoping meetings in California and Arizona. Public scoping meetings were attended by approximately 240 people and held in San Jose, Salinas, Los Angeles, Oxnard, Coachella, Delano, (CA), and Phoenix and Yuma (AZ). Spanish translation was available at all meetings. The study team also consulted with representatives of the Cesar E. Chavez Foundation, the Filipino Community of Delano, Inc., the United Farm Workers, the Chavez Family Vision, and Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc. during the course of this study, as well as local, state and federal government officials.

In addition to comments received at the public scoping meetings, the NPS received approximately 65 comments via written letters and through e-mail. Most of these comments expressed a desire to see a national park system unit with interpretive and education programs and partnership opportunities.

Public Review of the Draft Study

In October 2011 the study team produced and distributed the *Draft Cesar Chavez Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment* and a newsletter/ Executive Summary to elected officials, government entities, organizations and individuals for review and comment. Approximately 555 copies of the draft study report and 2,500 copies of the newsletter were distributed through mail, email and at public meetings.

Eight public meetings were held between October 20, 2011 and November 10, 2011 in San Jose, Salinas, Delano, Coachella, Oxnard, Los Angeles, (CA) and Phoenix and Yuma (AZ) to present the draft study report and solicit public comments. A total of 170 people attended the meetings. The NPS presented the study process and criteria used in the study, discussed the study results, and solicited comments. Copies of the draft study report were made available and participants were encouraged to submit comments by mail or through the study website or the PEPC website. The comment period ended November 14, 2011. In addition to comments received at the public meetings, 60 written comments on the draft study report were received.

The NPS also consulted with individuals and representatives of various organizations and government entities, including the Cesar E. Chavez Foundation, the Filipino Community of Delano, Inc., the United Farm Workers of America, the Chavez Family Vision, Chicanos Por La Causa, former

participants in the farm labor movement and numerous local, state and federal government officials.

Study Sites

The study evaluated over 100 sites in California and Arizona related to Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement. The National Park Service partnered with the Center for Oral and Public History at California State University, Fullerton (COPH) to identify sites significant to Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement and evaluate their significance.

COPH faculty and students developed a preliminary list of 84 sites based on information obtained through personal interviews, books and essays written in the 1960s and 1970s, declassified FBI surveillance files, newspapers, and photographs. They then conducted site visits to determine current conditions and integrity of the sites. The research team noted in their report the challenges of documenting sites associated with transitory events and activities (such as marches or picket lines). They observed that many sites associated with important events have changed dramatically in the years since the events, and therefore retain less historic integrity. The research team also noted in their report their expectation that additional significant sites will likely be found as information is gathered through the NPS study process. The research was completed between October 2009 and December 2010. Additional sites were identified through public comments. Information has been added and revised based on contributions obtained during public scoping and subsequent research.

Study Findings

National Significance

The National Park Service (NPS) uses four basic criteria to evaluate the significance of proposed areas. These criteria, listed in the National Park Service *Management Policies*, state that a resource is nationally significant if it meets all of the following conditions:

- It is an outstanding example of a particular type of resource.
- It possesses exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the natural or cultural themes of our nation's heritage.

- It offers superlative opportunities for public enjoyment, or for scientific study.
- It retains a high degree of integrity as a true, accurate, and relatively unspoiled example of a resource.

The NPS evaluates national significance for cultural resources by applying the national historic landmarks (NHL) criteria contained in 36 CFR Part 65 (Appendix D).

National Park Service professionals consult with subject matter experts, scholars, and scientists, in determining whether a study area is nationally significant. Resource experts and scholars within and beyond the NPS contributed expertise, research, and technical review of the statement of significance.

Nationally Significant Sites

The NPS finds that five sites associated with Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement meet national historic landmark criteria. The Forty Acres National Historic Landmark (NHL), Filipino Community Hall, the Nuestra Senora Reina de La Paz, the Santa Rita Center and the 1966 Delano to Sacramento march route meet NHL criteria and retain a high degree of integrity for each attribute used to evaluate integrity for National Historic Landmarks: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The 1966 March Route also meets eligibility criteria for a national historic trail.

- **The Forty Acres NHL (Delano, CA)** - The National Farmworkers Service Center acquired this property in 1966, and this organization and its successors proceeded to build a service station, multipurpose hall, health clinic, and retirement housing. Cesar Chavez conducted his 1968 fast in the service station building, and his 1988 fast in the retirement village. The United Farm Workers Organizing Committee was headquartered at the Forty Acres from 1969-71, and the contracts that ended the 1965-70 strike against Delano-area growers were signed here. Many public events and rallies were based at the Forty Acres. As a property purchased, built, and used by farm workers, the Forty Acres embodies the farm labor movement itself. Forty Acres was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2008. It continues to function as a United Farm Workers (UFW) field office.
- **Filipino Community Hall (Delano, CA)** - The Filipino Community Hall represents the

nationally significant role of Filipino Americans in the farm labor movement. On September 8, 1965, Filipino American farm workers led by Larry Itliong and affiliated with the AFLCIO's Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC) gathered in this building and voted to go on strike against Delano table-grape growers. When members of the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA) voted to join the AWOC strike eight days later the Filipino Hall became the joint strike headquarters. The hall hosted important visits by United Auto Workers' President Walter Reuther, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and other influential supporters, and became a symbol of the farm labor movement's multi-racial unity during the 1960s.

- **Nuestra Senora Reina de La Paz (Keene, CA)** - Between 1970 and 1984, the farm labor movement transitioned into a modern labor union, the UFW. This union secured unprecedented gains during these years which were closely associated with La Paz. The property supported not only the UFW headquarters and Cesar Chavez's residence, but also the thousands of union members who came to La Paz to help devise organizing strategies, to receive training, and to strengthen their sense of solidarity. Upon his death in 1993, Chavez was buried at La Paz.
- **Santa Rita Center (Phoenix, AZ)** - Cesar Chavez's fast at the Santa Rita Center in 1972 focused national attention on farm workers and their organized protest against restrictive legislation, and it invigorated two social movements—the Chicano movement and the farm labor movement. Ultimately it reshaped the political landscape in Arizona and beyond. . Thousands of Arizona farm workers, and influential supporters such as Coretta Scott King, came to the Santa Rita Center to participate in rallies, celebrate nightly Masses, give voice to the movement's newly adopted slogan "Si Se Puede!" and pledge their support for *La Causa*.
- **1966 March Route (Delano to Sacramento, CA)** - This march was a milestone event in the history of the farm labor movement. More than one hundred men and women set out from Delano on March 17, 1966, and thousands of farm workers and their families joined in for short stretches along the way. The march route passed through forty-two cities and

towns of the San Joaquin Valley, as well as vast stretches of the agricultural landscape. By the time the marchers entered Sacramento on Easter Sunday, April 10, 1966, the farm

worker movement had secured a contract and attracted new waves of support from across the country.

Nationally Significant and Potential Nationally Significant Sites - Additional Research Needed

An additional 11 sites are nationally significant or potentially nationally significant for their association with Cesar Chavez and/or the farm labor movement, but need further research to assess their integrity and determine whether they fully meet National Historic Landmark criteria. Many of these sites represent major aspects of the historic context that are not represented by the five NHL-eligible sites above. Each of these sites provides high interpretive value for depicting nationally significant events or activities associated with Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement and therefore, may be appropriate for inclusion in a national park unit. These 11 sites include:

Property / Site	City (or proximate)	Description
McDonnell Hall, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church	San Jose, CA	The first phase of Cesar Chavez’s productive life as a community organizer, civil rights advocate, and labor leader began in the “Sal Si Puedes” barrio of East San Jose, where Chavez lived from 1952 to 1955 and met the two men whose influence shaped the rest of his life: Father Donald McDonnell and Fred Ross. The building most closely associated with this phase of Chavez’s life is now known as McDonnell Hall.
Monterey County Jail	Salinas, CA	Cesar Chavez’s imprisonment at the Monterey County raised national attention for the Salinas Valley lettuce boycott and affirmed the legal use of the boycott as a means of union organizing; legitimizing that would be one of the union’s most powerful tools for raising awareness about farm labor working conditions. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2004.
St. Mary’s Catholic Church	Stockton, CA	St. Mary’s Catholic Church is significant for its association with Dolores Huerta and CSO organizing.
Cesar and Helen Chavez Family Residence	Delano, CA	Cesar Chavez and his family lived here from 1962-71; the house also served as the first headquarters of the FWA.
Baptist Church (“Negrito Hall”)	Delano, CA	This small church building became a strike headquarters for the 1965-70 Delano grape strike.
NFWA Office (Albany Street)	Delano, CA	Headquarters of the FWA and its successor organizations from 1963-69.
People’s Bar and Café	Delano, CA	During the 1960s and 1970s, People’s Bar and Café served as the central gathering place in Delano for union volunteers.
Arvin Farm Labor Center	Bakersfield, CA	Established as a migrant labor camp in 1936, this site remained in use as farm worker housing into the 1960s. The Kern County Housing Authority now manages the site. Three buildings are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
UFW Field Office (“El Hoyo”)	Calexico, CA	Served as a UFW office and hiring hall in the 1970s; thousands gathered at El Hoyo to mourn the fatal shooting of Rufino Contreras during the lettuce strike of 1979. The significant events of the late 1970s, many of which played out in and around El Hoyo, marked the high point of the union’s power. At the same time, increasing incidents of violence signaled an impending decline in the union’s fortunes.
Chavez Family Homestead Site	Yuma, AZ	Chavez lived in the adobe farmhouse on his grandparents’ homestead in the Gila River Valley from 1932 until the family lost the property and moved to California in 1939.
UFW Field Office	San Luis, AZ	The UFW opened this office during the early 1970s and from this site led melon workers on strike.

Sites Potentially Eligible for Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Twenty-four sites appear eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), most likely at the state or local level of significance. To be eligible, a site must be associated with an important aspect of history, and retain adequate integrity. With additional research, more sites may prove eligible for nomination to the NRHP. In many cases, more information is needed about integrity and historic location. These 24 sites include:

Property / Site	City (or proximate)	Description
San Francisco Labor Temple	San Francisco, CA	Boycott organizing center during the late 1960s.
Cesar and Helen Chavez Family Residence	San Jose, CA	Cesar Chavez and his family lived here in the early 1950s when he began organizing for the CSO.
Mexican American Political Association Office	Salinas, CA	Salinas Valley strike headquarters in 1970.
UFW Legal Offices	Salinas, CA	Legal offices for the UFW during the 1970s.
El Teatro Campesino	San Juan Bautista, CA	El Teatro Campesino performed songs and skits for and with farmworkers at Friday night meetings and on the picket lines.
El Centro Campesino Cultural	Fresno, CA	Headquarters of El Teatro Campesino between 1969 and 1971.
Graceada Park	Modesto, CA	1975 march from San Francisco to the Gallo Brothers (grape growers) culminated here.
Woodville Farm Labor Center	Porterville, CA	Location of FWA rent strike against the Tulare Housing Authority.
Linnell Farm Labor Center	Visalia, CA	Location of FWA rent strike against the Tulare Housing Authority.
Fresno County Jail	Fresno, CA	In 1973, more than two thousand UFW members and supporters were sent to the Fresno County Jail, including 76-year-old Catholic activist and writer, Dorothy Day.
Stardust Motel	Delano, CA	The motel was the site of pivotal negotiations at the beginning and end of the 1965-70 Delano grape strike.
Larry Itliong Residence	Delano, CA	Itliong was a long-time labor leader and resident of Delano who led the AWOC into launching the Delano strike in September 1965.
Kern County Superior Court Building	Bakersfield, CA	Site of many hearings for arrested strikers. Cesar Chavez was brought to this courthouse in 1968 during his first public fast to respond to contempt of court charges related to the Delano grape strike. The judge's favorable decision marked an important turning point in the court's attitude towards the union.

Sites Potentially Eligible for Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places		
Property / Site	City (or proximate)	Description
Cesar and Helen Chavez Family Residence	Oxnard, CA	The Chavez family rented this house during the late 1950s.
NFWA Office	Oxnard, CA	1966 office of the NFWA.
Cesar and Helen Chavez Family Residence	Los Angeles, CA	Chavez lived here for most of his tenure as executive director of the CSO, 1959 to 1962.
Boycott House (Harvard House)	Los Angeles, CA	Boycott headquarters during the 1960s.
La Iglesia de Nuestra Senora Reina de Los Angeles ("La Placita" Church)	Los Angeles, CA	Chavez attended mass and did organizing at this location. Built in the 1860s, it has California Historic Landmark status.
Church of the Epiphany	Los Angeles, CA	Cesar Chavez attended mass and organized here.
Veterans Park	Coachella, CA	The park served as UFWOC strike headquarters in the Coachella Valley in 1973.
Cesar Chavez Elementary School	Coachella, CA	This was the first public building in California named for Cesar Chavez, dedicated in 1990.
Maria Hau Residence	San Luis, AZ	Chavez was staying at this home when he died in his sleep in April 1993.
Laguna School Building	Yuma, AZ	Cesar Chavez attended school here for much of his childhood.
Chavez General Store	Yuma, AZ	Cesar Chavez was born on this property in 1927.
The communities of Delano and San Jose, California contain a concentration of significant sites that may be eligible for both NHL and national register nomination and therefore possess exceptional opportunities to tell multiple aspects of the story of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement.		

Suitability

To be considered suitable for addition to the national park system, an area must represent a natural or cultural resource type that is not already adequately represented in the national park system, or is not comparably represented and protected for public enjoyment by other federal agencies; tribal, state, or local governments; or the private sector.

Adequacy of representation is determined on a case-by-case basis by comparing the potential addition to other comparably managed areas representing the same resource type, while considering differences or similarities in the character, quality, quantity, or combination of resource values. The comparative analysis also addresses rarity of the resources, interpretive and educational potential, and similar resources already protected in the national park system or in other public or private ownership. The comparison results in a determination of whether the proposed new area would expand, enhance, or duplicate resource protection or visitor use opportunities found in other comparably managed areas.

The NPS finds that sites associated with Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement in the American West are suitable for inclusion in the National Park System. These sites depict a distinct and important aspect of American history associated with civil rights and labor movements that is not adequately represented or protected elsewhere.

Feasibility

To be feasible as a new unit of the national park system, an area must be: (1) of sufficient size and appropriate configuration to ensure sustainable resource protection and visitor enjoyment (taking into account current and potential impacts from sources beyond proposed park boundaries), and (2) capable of efficient administration by the National Park Service at a reasonable cost.

In evaluating feasibility, the NPS considers a variety of factors for a study area, such as the following:

- size
- boundary configurations
- current and potential uses of the study area and surrounding lands
- landownership patterns
- public enjoyment potential

- costs associated with acquisition, development, restoration, and operation
- access
- current and potential threats to the resources
- existing degradation of resources
- staffing requirements
- local planning and zoning
- the level of local and general public support (including landowners)
- the economic/socioeconomic impacts of designation as a unit of the national park system

The feasibility evaluation also considers the ability of the NPS to undertake new management responsibilities in light of current and projected availability of funding and personnel.

An overall evaluation of feasibility is made after taking into account all of the above factors. Some management options are more feasible than others. The national park system includes many types of sites, a range of ownership and management approaches. The NPS also offers grant and technical assistance programs that help local communities achieve their goals for conservation and recreation.

The feasibility analysis focuses on the five sites that have been found eligible for national historic landmark designation and the eleven sites that are nationally significant or potentially nationally significant, needing further research.

The historically significant sites and march route each provide for the inclusion and protection of the primary resources; they include sufficient surrounding area to provide a proper setting for the resources; and they offer sufficient land for appropriate use and development, if needed. Current land uses, land ownership patterns, and planning and zoning would all support a range of NPS and partnership management approaches. Designation of a collaborative national park unit that works with property owners and local communities to protect the resources and provide public access, interpretation, education and other uses could be compatible with existing ownership patterns.

There is potential for public access and enjoyment among the historically significant sites and march route. Most sites are easily accessible from public

roads, on major state or federal highways, and within a half a day's drive of major metropolitan areas. There are opportunities for a variety of visitor experiences at the sites and along the march route, and ample potential for development of additional visitor use opportunities.

Despite resource degradation and threats to a few sites, most sites contain resources of high integrity. These sites are not subject to resource degradation or threats that would preclude management as a unit of the national park system.

Significant public interest and support has been expressed during public scoping for the NPS to play a collaborative role in one or more nationally significant sites in partnership with other organizations and local communities. Organizations that own the Forty Acres, Filipino Community Hall, Nuestra Senora Reina de la Paz, the Santa Rita Center, and McDonnell Hall have indicated their interest in partnerships with the NPS.

The social and economic impacts of NPS designation or other support/coordination role appear to be largely beneficial and would support the feasibility of NPS designation. Costs for establishment of a national park unit appear to be feasible, provided that partnership opportunities are pursued to support collaborative operations and development.

Based on the above analysis, 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.

Need for NPS Management

Determination of the need for NPS management is the final criterion for evaluating resources for potential designation as a new unit in the national park system. The criterion requires a finding that NPS management would be superior to alternative management arrangements by other entities.

Under all of the alternatives considered in this study, the majority of sites associated with Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement would continue to be owned and operated by nonprofit organizations, private property owners, and local governments. The 300-mile long Delano to Sacramento march route primarily travels largely along public roads and rights

of way. While many of the owners and managers of these sites are interested in long term preservation and public education, none of them provide the level of expertise in resource protection, visitor services and interpretation and education that could be offered by the NPS.

NPS partnerships with organizations and private property owners would provide enhanced opportunities for comprehensive interpretive planning, and coordinated site management to showcase the national significance of these sites. Development and cooperative management of interpretive programs and comprehensive visitor services with the NPS would be beneficial. Collaboration among multiple, predominantly privately owned sites and the NPS would offer a superior visitor experience that would allow the broadest understanding of the resources and stories relating to the life of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement.

NPS planning and research capabilities, as well as historic preservation, cultural resource management and interpretive and educational programming expertise, would offer superior opportunities for the full range of sites to be preserved and interpreted. Depending on the selected alternative, disparate sites that are currently owned and managed by multiple entities would become parts of a cohesive national park experience and would become more accessible to a broader array of audiences.

The NPS finds that there is a need for NPS management in partnership with others to fully protect resources and to enhance visitor appreciation of the nationally significant resources and important stories associated with the life of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement.

Alternatives

Introduction

The following section describes the selected alternative for the final *Cesar Chavez Special Resource Study* and the range of preliminary management alternatives that were presented in the *Draft Cesar Chavez Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment*.

The legislation authorizing this study specifically directs the NPS to determine appropriate methods for preserving and interpreting sites significant to the life of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement; and

whether any of these sites meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, designation as a National Historic Landmark or inclusion in the national park system.

Overview of the Alternatives

The special resource study team developed a range of alternatives based on information gathered from public and stakeholder input, internal NPS discussions, historical research and management models used in national park units around the nation. Five such alternatives were developed and presented for public review in the *Draft Cesar Chavez Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment*. The alternatives presented in the draft study report include traditional national park service management of nationally significant historic sites, as well as a range of programs and services that provide recognition, technical assistance, and interpretive opportunities at other important sites. Those alternatives were:

- **Alternative A: Continuation of Current Management**
- **Alternative B: National Network** of sites and programs related to the farm labor movement
- **Alternative C: National Historic Trail** following the route of the 1966 march from Delano to Sacramento
- **Alternative D: National Historic Site** focused on the Forty Acres site in Delano, CA.
- **Alternative E: National Historical Park** incorporating nationally significant sites in California and Arizona

The Selected Alternative

The National Park Service special resource study process requires that the study identify the alternative or combination of alternatives that in the professional judgment of the NPS Director is most effective and efficient in protecting significant resources and providing for visitor enjoyment. Based on public and stakeholder input and professional judgment, the NPS selected the national historical park (from alternative E), incorporating aspects of the national network (from alternative B). The National Park Service has determined this to be the most effective and efficient alternative in protecting significant resources and providing for visitor enjoyment.

The actions encompassed in the selected alternative are the same as those identified and analyzed in

alternatives E and B in the environmental assessment, with the exception of minor modifications made as a result of information and comments derived from public review of the EA, as follows:

- The national historical park would include McDonnell Hall in San Jose, CA. McDonnell Hall appears to be the best location to tell the story of Cesar Chavez's early education as a community organizer. There is significant support by the site owner and local community for this site to be included in a national historical park.
- The selected alternative does not include the provision for adding "associated sites," to the national historical park as was presented in alternative E, 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 related to Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement.
- The NPS would establish an oral history program with park partners or universities to further document the story of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement.

The above modifications would not constitute a change in environmental impacts beyond what was analyzed in the environmental assessment. The modifications would assure beneficial effects on the resources associated with Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement. The following is the full description of the selected alternative.

THE SELECTED ALTERNATIVE: NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Concept

Congress would establish a national historical park (NHP) as a unit of the national park system. The NHP would initially include the Forty Acres, Nuestra Senora Reina de la Paz, Filipino Community Hall, the Santa Rita Center, and McDonnell Hall. Most park sites would remain in existing ownership, although NPS land acquisition would be authorized. Management would occur through collaborative processes such as cooperative agreements, memoranda of understanding, and other partnership approaches to protecting and interpreting resources owned by partners. The NPS would have primary responsibility for overall interpretation and education, and would provide technical assistance in preservation of park sites. The NPS would also work

beyond NHP boundaries to facilitate oral histories, research and recognition of other related historic sites, and to establish a voluntary national network of sites and programs that tell the story of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement to help preserve resources and tell important stories outside of the national historical park.

Definition

A national historical park extends beyond single properties or buildings. Resources include a mix of significant historic features. National historical parks preserve places and commemorate persons, events, and activities important in the nation's history.

Examples include:

- Nez Perce NHP: MT, ID, WA, OR
- Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front NHP: CA
- Tumacacori NHP: AZ

Proposed Area

The national historical park would initially include lands and historic structures associated with the Forty Acres (Delano, CA), Nuestra Senora Reina de la Paz (Keene, CA), Filipino Community Hall (Delano, CA), the Santa Rita Center (Phoenix, AZ), and McDonnell Hall (San Jose, CA).

As part of an initial management plan for the national historical park, the NPS would evaluate additional significant sites that represent key events and geographic regions and recommend any other sites that should be considered by Congress for addition to the national historical park to fully reflect the story of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement. The potential for designation of the 1966 Delano to Sacramento march route as a national historic trail would also be further explored.

Management

NPS ownership of these sites is not required for management as a national historic park. Management would occur through collaborative processes such as management agreements, memoranda of understanding, and other partnership approaches to protecting and interpreting resources owned by partners. Within the NHP, the NPS would have primary responsibility for: 1) overall interpretation and education associated with the national historical park sites, including the development of interpretive

media and programs; and 2) technical assistance in preservation of park sites.

The NPS would work cooperatively with the owners of sites within the national historical park, through management agreements and other mechanisms, to preserve historic resources and provide appropriate opportunities for the public to learn about the life of Cesar Chavez and the broader farm labor movement. The NPS role could vary at each site, and could include visitor programs and assistance with cultural resource protection.

The legislation establishing the park would provide the NPS with authorization to acquire sites within the national historical park that meet national historic landmark criteria should the existing owners express interest in donating or selling their properties if funding is available.

Beyond the NHP, the NPS would have the responsibility for: 1) development of a voluntary national network of sites and programs that tell the story of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement, outside of the national historical park; 2) research and documentation of significant sites and stories, including development of an oral history program and assistance with nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places or as National Historic Landmarks; and 3) development of interpretive routes, including working with interested organizations to mark, interpret and preserve elements of the 1966 Delano to Sacramento march route.

Resource Protection

Within the NHP, the NPS would allocate park staff and apply existing NPS grant programs to work with partners to conduct research and preserve historic structures, landscapes and artifacts associated with the historical park sites. The NPS could also assist partners to identify and leverage outside funding for preservation.

Beyond the NHP, the NPS would work with interested organizations to determine eligibility for National Historic Landmark status or listing in the National Register of Historic Places for sites that appear to be nationally significant but need further research. The NPS would establish an oral history program with park partners or universities to further document the story of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement.

Visitor Experience

Visitors would have the opportunity to learn about all aspects of the life of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement through key historical park sites in California and Arizona. The NPS would work with park partners to develop educational and interpretive media and programs (e.g. walking tours, ranger-led tours, waysides, school curriculums, exhibits, and hands-on programs such as working in the fields). The NPS could work with partner organizations and agencies to interpret march routes. For example, signage and an auto tour route could be created to interpret the 1966 Delano to Sacramento march route.

A management plan would determine which historic structures could best be used for a visitor center, education/ research facility and other potential visitor uses. Opportunities for visitor facilities exist at the current visitor center at the National Chavez Center at La Paz, and historic structures at the Forty Acres. Visitor displays could also be offered at other national historical park sites such as the Filipino Community Hall, the Santa Rita Center, or McDonnell Hall in partnership with existing owners.

Network sites could provide visitor interpretation and education related to the significant events which occurred in these locations. A virtual visitor center could use emergent technologies to provide information about the Cesar Chavez and farm labor movement stories.

Operations and Maintenance

Staffing

The national historic park would be staffed initially by a small core staff, potentially shared with other parks, and supplemented over time by additional staff as funding became available. A management plan would identify park priorities, management emphases, and required staffing for a 15 to 20 year timeframe.

Based on comparisons of staffing levels for existing national historic parks of similar scale, the following types of staff might be recommended:

- Superintendent
- Community planner
- Interpretive specialists (2)
- Cultural resource specialists (2)
- Interpretive park rangers (4)
- Visitor use assistants (2)
- Education program specialist

Some positions might be seasonal, temporary, or shared with nearby parks. In addition, partner organizations would likely retain staff, with types and numbers dependent on the functions provided by these partners. Types of partner functions might include staffing a visitor facility or museum, and developing and implementing educational programs. If the NPS acquired any of these sites, maintenance staff would be required to maintain the historic structures and visitor facilities.

Land Acquisition

National Historical Park Sites

NPS ownership of the park sites is not required for the NPS to manage the area as a national historic park. The NPS could operate in partnership with the current landowners through management agreements. Legislation would provide the NPS with authorization to acquire park sites that meet national historic landmark criteria should the existing owners wish to donate or sell these properties, if land acquisition funding is available.

Network Sites

All facilities, sites and programs participating in the national network would remain under their existing ownership and management. Participating in the network would be completely voluntary on the part of the participants.

Operational and Visitor Facilities

Construction of new administrative and visitor facilities for NPS operations and management would not likely be required to support the national historic park. However, some alterations to the site circulation (e.g. trails, parking, roads, exhibits) would likely occur. The NPS could share administrative and operational facilities with partner organizations, or adaptively reuse historic structures.

Funding and Costs

NPS management of a national historical park would be funded through federal appropriations as part of the annual NPS budget. While no formal estimates of operating costs have been completed for this study, NPS operational base budgets for fiscal year 2010 of several national historic parks that could be comparable to the national historic park proposed in this alternative illustrate the potential range. Based on the size and scope of this park, and the types of services and assistance proposed, the annual cost of NPS operations for the network could be expected to be \$1 million to \$3 million. The estimated operational budget would primarily fund NPS staff, interpretive and education programs, and outreach.

If a national historical park is designated by Congress, it is likely that funding for the new unit would start at a low level and grow slowly over time. Many of the activities described in the alternative would have to be phased in as funding and staffing allows, and it may be many years before the park is fully operational as described.

Alternatives Presented in the Draft Study Report

The following section includes the alternatives presented in the *Draft Cesar Chavez Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment*. For each alternative there is a description of the overall concept and key elements of the alternative, including management approaches, resource protection, visitor services, and the role of organizations and public agencies.

ITEMS COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

The following actions would apply to all of the action alternatives (alternatives B-E).

- The NPS would provide recognition and technical assistance for telling the story of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement.
- Interpretation and educational programs would present a wide range of stories about the farm labor movement, told from multiple perspectives (e.g. Filipino, Mexican, growers, farm workers).
- Interpretation would be accessible and relevant to diverse audiences and multiple generations. Information would be presented in multiple languages.
- The NPS recognizes that most of the sites significant to Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement are owned by local government and private entities. Several of the nationally significant sites continue to be used for farm labor efforts or community organizing. The NPS would work cooperatively and in partnership with existing landowners and provide technical assistance opportunities for interpretation and/or preservation of sites included in the various alternatives.

ALTERNATIVE A: CURRENT MANAGEMENT

Concept

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.

Definition

Under a “no action” alternative, current management of resources continues. Current programs and policies of existing federal, state, county and nonprofit organizations remain in place.

Management

Significant sites would continue to be owned and managed by their respective public and private owners. There would be no NPS staffing or operational support other than assistance under existing authorities if requested.

Resource Protection

The primary responsibility for preserving significant sites would fall to the current owners and managers of those sites including the Cesar E. Chavez Foundation, the United Farm Workers of America, the Filipino Community of Delano, Inc., local churches and organizations, private land owners, and state and local authorities. Resource protection would be voluntary and dependent on property owners’ initiative.

The Forty Acres NHL and sites currently listed on the NRHP would receive some level of protection, including opportunities for technical assistance and grants for preservation from existing programs. Locally protected sites in Phoenix and San Jose would receive protection as defined by local preservation ordinances. Sites not listed or protected by local preservation ordinances could change use or ownership which could result in alterations to the structures and loss of integrity. Sites identified as potentially eligible for NHL nomination or nomination to the NRHP would continue to be owned by various public and private entities. These sites would continue to function for private and public uses not related to the farm labor movement. Interpretation and conservation of such sites would be uncoordinated, at the discretion of the current landowner.

Visitor Experience

Communities and organizations that provide visitor opportunities to learn about the life of Cesar Chavez and/or the farm labor movement would continue to provide visitor opportunities. For example, the National Chavez Center would continue to provide visitor opportunities at the La Paz visitor center and memorial garden and the City of San Jose would continue to provide signage and information for the self-guided Cesar Chavez Memorial Walkway. The majority of sites identified as significant to the life of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement are not managed to provide visitor opportunities to learn about or experience these sites.

Operations and Maintenance

Operations and maintenance of existing sites would be assumed to remain at existing levels.

ALTERNATIVE B: NATIONAL NETWORK

Concept

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. The program would consist of an integrated network of historic sites, museums and interpretive programs, coordinated with national, regional and local organizations.

Definition

A network program coordinates private and local preservation and education efforts and facilitates the creation of an integrated network of historical sites, museums, and interpretive programs that have a verifiable association to its subject.

Examples:

- Underground Railroad Network to Freedom
- Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network

Proposed area

Significant sites, museums, and interpretive programs related to Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement in the western United States would be eligible to participate in the network (See Map, *Alternative B: National Network*).

Management

The NPS would evaluate sites and programs nominated for inclusion in the network for their

association to the life of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement.

Elements of the network, such as historical sites and museums, would continue to be owned and managed by their respective public and private owners.

The NPS would administer the program which would focus on:

- Education about the historic significance of the life of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement
- Technical assistance to organizations that identify, document, preserve and interpret significant sites or that develop or operate interpretive or educational programs or facilities
- Matching grants for research, preservation efforts, and interpretive programs
- Coordination of network sites, programs and facilities.

Resource Protection

The primary responsibility for preserving significant sites would fall to current owners and managers of those sites including the Chavez Foundation, the UFW, local churches and organizations, private landowners, and state and local authorities. Resource protection would be voluntary and dependent on property owners' initiative. The NPS would offer technical assistance to preserve historic structures and landscapes.

Inclusion of a site or program in the network would recognize its association with the life of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement. This recognition could be used by advocates to leverage preservation and commemorative efforts. However, inclusion in the network would not assure preservation or resource protection.

Visitor Experience

In alternative B, there would be no NPS visitor center or established presence at any of the significant sites. Network members would have primary responsibility for providing opportunities for visitors to learn about or experience sites and stories.

The NPS would support education and interpretation efforts through technical and financial assistance associated with NPS administration of the program. The NPS would work with network members to provide coordinated information about visitor opportunities through a website, brochures, etc.

Operations and Maintenance

Staffing

A farm labor movement network would likely be managed from NPS regional offices and/or nearby national park units in the areas with the largest concentrations of related sites and programs. The NPS staffing for the network could include a network program coordinator, regional program coordinators, administrative support, an interpretive specialist, and a historic preservation specialist.

Facilities

All facilities, sites and programs participating in this network would remain under their existing ownership and management. Participation in the network would be completely voluntary.

Funding and Costs

NPS coordination of the farm labor movement network and financial and technical assistance would be funded through federal appropriations as part of the annual NPS budget. Any financial assistance provided to network participants would be on a matching basis that would require some level of non-federal funding or in-kind services to match the federal funds. While no formal estimates of operating costs have been completed for this study, based on the breadth of the sites and programs that could be eligible to participate in this network, and the types of services and assistance proposed, the annual cost of NPS operations for the network could be expected to be \$400,000 to \$600,000. The estimated operational budget would primarily fund NPS salaries for coordination and technical assistance, and financial assistance to network participants.

ALTERNATIVE C: NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

Concept

Congress would establish a new national historic trail (NHT) as a unit of the national trails system. The trail would commemorate the 1966 Delano to Sacramento march route. It would follow the historic route, recognizing associated historic resources significant to the life of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement for public use and enjoyment.

Definition

A national historic trail, operated under the authority of the National Trails System Act (16 USC 1241-1251), follows an original trail or travel route of historic significance. National historic trails identify

and protect a historic route and its historic remnants and artifacts for public use and enjoyment.

There are specific NHT criteria that must be met, including significance of the route and potential for public appreciation.

Examples:

- Selma to Montgomery NHT
- Juan Bautista de Anza NHT
- Lewis and Clark NHT

Proposed Area

The NHT would include approximately 300 miles of primary and secondary roads in the San Joaquin Valley along which farm workers marched from Delano to Sacramento in 1966 (See Map, *Alternative C: National Historic Trail*).

Management and Administration

The NPS would administer the NHT. NPS responsibilities would include facilitating coordination among and between agencies and partner organizations.

The trail rights-of-way would continue to be owned by their respective public and private owners. Through partnership with owners and other interested parties, the NPS would engage in planning and marking the NHT; certifying qualifying segments as protected; supporting voluntary resource preservation and protection; and assisting with interpretation, educational programs, and visitor enjoyment of the trail.

The NHT could include a visitor facility in Delano (at the Forty Acres or Filipino Community Hall). All visitor facilities developed to interpret and assist visitors along this proposed trail would be established through partnership agreements.

Resource Protection

The NPS would enter into agreements with landowners, private organizations and individuals to provide the necessary trail rights-of-way for the NHT. If portions of the historic trail are located on federally owned lands and meet the national historic trail criteria, they could be included as federally protected components of the NHT. The NPS could also acquire or accept dedications of rights-of-way for the NHT. Other lands included in the NHT could be certified as protected segments if they meet NHT criteria and if the landowner voluntarily applies for

certification. Preservation of significant sites along the trail would be encouraged; however NHT designation would not assure preservation or resource protection.

Visitor Experience

Visitors could experience the trail in segments or as a longer trip. One or more visitor centers operated by the NPS or partners would provide interpretation and visitor services. A virtual visitor center would use emergent technologies to provide information about the NHT and farm labor movement stories.

Local communities along the trail could collaborate to develop tour itineraries that identify destinations along the trail route. Managers of significant sites along the route could choose to make the sites available to visitors.

Operations and Maintenance

Staffing

A national historic trail would be staffed initially by a trail superintendent, supplemented over time by additional staff as funding became available. A comprehensive management plan would identify trail priorities, management emphases, and required staffing for a 15-20 year timeframe.

Some positions might be seasonal, temporary, or shared with nearby parks. In addition, partner organizations would likely retain staff, with types and numbers dependent on the functions provided by these partners. Types of partner functions might include staffing a visitor contact station, running a museum, developing and implementing educational programs.

Land Acquisition

The NPS would acquire little or no land as part of a national historic trail. The trail would be marked on existing public land and rights of way, such as existing roads, freeways, and trails.

Operational and Visitor Facilities

Construction of new administrative facilities for NPS operations and management would not likely be required to support the national historic trail. The NPS could share administrative and operational facilities with partner organizations, or adaptively reuse historic structures. A comprehensive management plan for the trail would identify specific operational and visitor facility needs.

Funding and Costs

NPS management of this national historic trail would be funded through federal appropriations as part of the annual NPS budget. While no formal estimates of operating costs have been completed for this study, based on the size and scope of this trail, and the types of services and assistance proposed, the cost of NPS operations for the network could be expected to be \$500,000 to \$1,000,000. The estimated operational budget would primarily fund NPS salaries for identification and marking of the trail, interpretive and educational programs, outreach, and trail planning.

ALTERNATIVE D: NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Concept

Congress would establish a national historic site (NHS) as a unit of the national park system.

The national historic site would preserve and interpret resources significant to the life of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement at the Forty Acres in Delano, CA.

Definition

A national historic site usually contains a single historical feature with a direct association to its subject. National historic sites preserve places and commemorate persons, events, and activities important in the nation's history.

Examples:

- Martin Luther King Jr. NHS
- John Muir NHS
- Hubbell Trading Post NHS

Proposed Area

The national historic site would include the 40 acres that comprise the Forty Acres National Historic Landmark (See Map, *Alternative D: National Historic Site*).

Management

The NPS would have primary responsibility for: 1) overall interpretation and education associated with the national historic site and its resources, including the development of interpretive media and programs; 2) community outreach and assistance in training of park volunteers in association with local organizations; and 3) technical assistance for

resource preservation efforts for both the historic site and community-based resources in Delano.

The NPS would manage the Forty Acres in partnership with the Chavez Foundation, through management agreements for historic preservation, interpretation, and educational programs. The NPS would provide staffing to manage a visitor or education center, interpretive exhibits, and educational programs at the Forty Acres.

Resource Protection

The NPS and existing owners share in the protection and preservation of the Forty Acres. The NPS would work with the Delano community to assist property owners in interpreting and preserving significant sites.

Visitor Experience

Visitor opportunities to learn about the life of Cesar Chavez and the broader farm labor movement would be available at a visitor facility at the Forty Acres, which could be located in an existing building. The NPS would have a highly visible presence. Visitor services could include ranger-led and self-guided tours, exhibits, and interpretive and educational programs. Visitor opportunities could also include walking tours and waysides at other significant sites in Delano.

The Forty Acres could function as a research or education center for topics related to the life of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement. The NPS would partner with the owners to provide program development and exhibit design and construction. A virtual visitor center would use emergent technologies to provide information about the Cesar Chavez and farm labor movement stories. The NPS would play a primary role in developing curriculum about Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement.

Operations and Maintenance

Staffing

The national historic site would be staffed initially by a superintendent, supplemented over time by additional staff as funding became available. A management plan would identify priorities, management emphases, and required staffing for a 15-20 year timeframe.

Some positions might be seasonal, temporary, or shared with nearby parks. In addition, partner organizations would likely retain staff, with types and numbers dependent on the functions provided by these partners. Types of partner functions might

include staffing a visitor contact station, running a museum, developing and implementing educational programs. If the NPS took ownership of the site at some point in the future, maintenance staff would be required to maintain the historic structures and visitor facilities.

Land Acquisition

NPS acquisition of the Forty Acres property is not required for the NPS to manage a national historic site. However, legislation would provide the NPS with authorization to acquire the Forty Acres should the existing owners wish to donate or sell the property at some future time.

Significant sites other than the Forty Acres would continue to be owned and managed by their respective public and private owners.

Operational and Visitor Facilities

Construction of new administrative and visitor facilities for NPS operations and management would not likely be required to support the national historic site. However, some alterations to the site and circulation (e.g. trails, parking, exhibits) would likely occur. The NPS could share administrative and operational facilities with partner organizations, or adaptively reuse historic structures.

Funding and Costs

NPS management of a national historic site at the Forty Acres would be funded through federal appropriations as part of the annual NPS budget. While no formal estimates of operating costs have been completed for this study, based on the size and scope of this site, and the types of services and assistance proposed, the annual cost of NPS operations for the national historic site could be expected to be \$1 million to \$3 million. The estimated operational budget would primarily fund NPS staff, interpretive and educational programs, and outreach. The higher end of the range would be more likely if the NPS were to acquire the property and assume full responsibility for operations, management, and maintenance of the historic structures.

ALTERNATIVE E: NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Concept

Congress would establish a national historical park (NHP) as a unit of the national park system. The national historical park would consist of nationally significant sites in California and Arizona

related to the life of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement including 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. These sites would likely be owned and operated by park partners.

Definition

A national historical park extends beyond single properties or buildings. Resources include a mix of significant historic features. National historical parks preserve places and commemorate persons, events, and activities important in the nation's history.

Examples:

- Nez Perce NHP
- Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front NHP
- Tumacacori NHP

Proposed Area

The national historical park would include lands and historic structures associated with Forty Acres, Filipino Community Hall, La Paz, and the Santa Rita Center (See Map, *Alternative E: National Historical Park*).

Management

The NPS would have primary responsibility for: 1) overall interpretation and education associated with the national historical park sites, including the development of interpretive media and programs; 2) community outreach and assistance in training of volunteers in association with local organizations; and 3) technical assistance for resource preservation efforts for associated sites.

The NPS would work cooperatively with the owners of sites within the national historical park to preserve resources and provide appropriate opportunities for the public to learn about the life of Cesar Chavez and the broader farm labor movement. The NPS role could vary at each site, and could include staffing, visitor programs, and assistance with cultural resource protection. The NPS could enter into management agreements with public and private owners of park sites for historic preservation, interpretation, and education.

Associated sites significant to the life of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement could be later

added to the national historical park. The NPS would develop a process for adding associated sites to the national historical park. Criteria would include significance of the site or district to the life of Cesar Chavez or the farm labor movement, local commitment to preservation of the site or district, and the ability to offer interpretive opportunities or educational programs. Associated sites would be owned and managed by park partners. The NPS could provide technical assistance and grants to associated sites to establish visitor facilities, interpretive exhibits, and educational programs.

Resource Protection

The NPS would work with partners to protect the resources and setting associated with the historical park sites. Through this study, the NPS has identified a number of sites that appear to be nationally significant, but need further research to determine eligibility for National Historic Landmark status or listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In alternative E, the NPS would conduct additional research and provide assistance in preparing nominations for such sites.

The NPS would work with the Delano community to identify and establish preservation zones or districts for neighborhoods with a high concentration of significant sites. The NPS could assist property owners in interpreting and preserving significant sites if requested.

State and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and private property owners would be responsible for protection and preservation of associated sites. NPS matching grants could be available to conduct research and preserve sites, stories and artifacts.

Visitor Experience

Visitors would have the opportunity to learn about all aspects of the life of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement through key historical park sites in California and Arizona. The NPS would work with park partners to develop educational and interpretive media and programs (e.g. walking tours, ranger-led tours, waysides, school curriculums, exhibits, and hands-on programs such as working in the fields). The NPS could work with partner organizations and agencies to mark and interpret march routes, or establish interpretive trails.

At the Forty Acres visitors could be welcomed at a visitor facility, which could be located in an existing building. A smaller visitor display could be located at the Filipino Community Hall. The Forty Acres or La

Paz could function as a research or education center for topics related to the life of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement. A visitor facility or exhibits could be developed at the Santa Rita Center in partnership with Chicanos Por La Causa as part of future development of the site as a community center.

Associated sites would provide visitor interpretation and education related to the significant events which occurred in these locations. A virtual visitor center would use emergent technologies to provide information about the Cesar Chavez and farm labor movement stories. NPS matching grants could be available for development of visitor services and interpretive materials.

Operations and Maintenance

Staffing

The national historic park would be staffed initially by a superintendent, supplemented over time by additional staff as funding became available. A management plan would identify park priorities, management emphases, and required staffing for a 15-20 year timeframe.

Some positions might be seasonal, temporary, or shared with nearby parks. In addition, partner organizations would likely retain staff, with types and numbers dependent on the functions provided by these partners. Types of partner functions might include staffing a visitor facility, running a museum, developing and implementing educational programs.

If the NPS took ownership of a site at some point in the future, maintenance staff would be required to maintain the historic structures and visitor facilities.

Land Acquisition

NPS acquisition of the park sites is not required for the NPS to manage a national historic park. Legislation would provide the NPS with authorization to acquire the nationally significant park sites should the existing owners wish to donate or sell the property at some future time.

The legislation establishing the park would provide the NPS with authorization to acquire sites within the national historical park should the existing owners express interest in donating or selling their properties.

Operational and Visitor Facilities

Construction of new administrative and visitor facilities for NPS operations and management would not likely be required to support the national historic park. However, some alterations to the site and

circulation (e.g. trails, parking, exhibits) would likely occur. The NPS could share administrative and operational facilities with partner organizations, or adaptively reuse historic structures.

Funding and Costs

NPS management of a national historic park would be funded through federal appropriations as part of the annual NPS budget. While no formal estimates of operating costs have been completed for this study, based on the size and scope of this park, and the types of services and assistance proposed, the cost of NPS operations for the network could be expected to be \$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000. The estimated operational budget would primarily fund NPS staff, interpretive and education programs, and outreach.

Environmental Assessment

Background

Before taking an action, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to identify a range of alternatives for that action and to analyze the potential environmental impacts of that action, including any potential adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided if the proposed action is implemented. The NPS prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for the Cesar Chavez Special Resource Study to identify and analyze the potential environmental and socioeconomic consequences of each of the alternatives considered in the study. A Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) was completed for this document in December 2011. The FONSI also contains a summary of public comments on the draft study report.

Impacts

Consequences are determined by comparing likely future conditions under each alternative with the existing baseline conditions as described in the “no action” alternative. The analysis includes consideration of the context, intensity, and duration of direct and indirect effects of all the alternatives.

The NPS based analysis and conclusions on a review of existing literature, information provided by experts within the NPS as well as outside organizations, analysis of case studies of existing programs in other locations, and the professional judgment of the team members.

Given the broad nature of the study, this impact analysis must also be broad and avoid speculation as to site-specific types of impacts.

The outcome of the study is a recommendation to Congress. If Congress takes action, then new environmental analysis would be undertaken prior to specific implementation actions. This new analysis would propose specific actions whose specific impacts would be assessed prior to implementation.

The NPS evaluated the environmental consequences of each alternative on the following topics: land use; water resources (water quality and hydrology); vegetation; wildlife; federally listed species; prehistoric and historic archeological resources; historic structures / cultural landscapes; museum collections; visitor experience; and socioeconomics.

Environmentally Preferred Alternative

The NPS is required to identify an “environmentally preferred alternative” in an EA. The environmentally preferred alternative is determined by applying criteria set forth in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as guided by direction from the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

The NPS has determined the selected alternative, formed by combining elements of alternatives B and E, to be the environmentally preferable course of action. These actions would protect the largest number of resources potentially eligible as national historic landmarks including opportunities for protection in perpetuity should current owners choose to donate or sell the properties to NPS in the future.

The analysis and findings contained in this study do not guarantee the future funding, support, or any subsequent action by the NPS, the Department of the Interior, or Congress. Identification of an environmentally preferred alternative should not be viewed as a positive or negative recommendation by the NPS for any future management strategy or action.