



Shepherdstown Battlefield Special Resource and Boundary Study

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

- **If legislation is passed to make the recommended boundary adjustment, how will that affect what landowners are allowed to do with or on their land?**
 - The National Park Service has no authority to regulate the use and development of private land, even if it falls within a congressionally authorized National Park unit boundary. If Congress were to adjust the boundary of Antietam National Battlefield to include the Shepherdstown Battlefield, existing land uses and private property rights would remain intact.
- **What's next?**
 - There would be no immediate change to existing landownership and the National Park Service would not carry out any actions that would affect the battlefield lands as a result of this study. An act of Congress is required before the National Park Service could begin to purchase property from willing sellers within the proposed boundary.
- **How will the NPS purchase land within the boundary?**
 - An act of Congress is required before the National Park Service can begin to purchase property from willing sellers within the proposed boundary. Congressional approval of a boundary adjustment would not require property owners to negotiate with NPS, it would merely allow NPS to purchase the property within the adjusted boundary for fair market value if it was on the market and funding was available for the acquisition.
- **How was the public involved in this study?**
 - The planning team held a total of four public meetings in the vicinity of Shepherdstown battlefield which were announced in local and regional media outlets. The meetings were attended by over 200 people. Over 100 newsletters were sent out to stakeholders and individuals on the project mailing list.

Approximately 150 notification letters were sent out to potentially affected landowners in both MD and WV during both public scoping and public review of the study. An additional letter has been sent to the 10 landowners within the proposed boundary concurrent with the release of the study recommendations.

- **What was the public response to the study?**

- The majority of comments received during public review of the study were supportive of its findings that the Battlefield would be a suitable and feasible addition to Antietam National Battlefield. Comment summary reports can be found on the project website.

- **How much will this cost?**

- Specific costs for acquisition, development, and operations would be determined in the future if Congress were to expand the boundary of Antietam to include the Shepherdstown Battlefield. Acquisition costs for the lands associated with the Shepherdstown battlefield could be significant, however it is not anticipated that the National Park Service would seek to acquire all properties within the proposed boundary. It is anticipated that protection of battlefield resources in the boundary would occur through a mix of fee simple acquisition and conservation easements from willing sellers and donors. Fee simple acquisition would be the preferred acquisition tool only for highly sensitive resource areas and critical visitor access points. Operation costs would be modest for an addition of this size to the national park system.

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