
CHAPTER 5: CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

The NPS places a high priority on public involvement in the NEPA process and on giving the public an opportunity to comment on proposed actions. As part of the NPS NEPA and Section 106 process, issues associated with the proposed action were identified during the internal scoping meeting held with NPS and have been communicated to other affected agencies and stakeholders. Coordination with local and federal agencies was conducted during the NEPA process to identify issues and/or concerns related to natural and cultural resources in Rock Creek Park.

Compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA, as Amended, including consultation with the DCHPO and the assessment of effect, will be done separately from this EA. The NPS began consultation with the DCSHPO in October 2011 (see appendix A); coordination and consultation is on-going. This EA includes the summary of the Assessment of Effect under Section 106 of the NHPA in the “Environmental Consequences” section under “Cultural Resources.” A copy of this EA will be sent to the DCSHPO.

In accordance with Section 7 of the ESA, on October 3, 2011 a letter was sent on behalf of Rock Creek Park to solicit comments from the USFWS regarding rare, threatened, and endangered species known to be present in the project area that could be adversely impacted by the proposed alternatives. A follow-up letter was sent by the NPS on April 16, 2012 to solicit comments from USFWS regarding the existence of one federally listed endangered species, Hay’s Spring amphipod and one candidate species, Kenk’s amphipod, within the project area (see appendix A). According park staff, the closest Hay’s Spring amphipod population is within the Smithsonian Institution’s National Zoo, which is approximately one and a quarter miles northeast of the project site. The majority of Hay’s Spring and Kenk’s amphipod populations within Rock Creek Park are approximately two and a half miles to the northeast of the project site. Therefore, there is no evidence of the presence of either the Hay’s Spring or Kenk’s amphipod within the project location. In April 2012, the USFWS responded with their concurrence on the NPS’s determination that the federal candidate Kenk’s amphipod and the federally-listed Hay’s Spring amphipod occur in Rock Creek Park and that no other federally listed or candidate species are known to occur there. In addition, the USFWS concurred with the NPS’s findings concerning the distances between the springs known to support these species and the project area, and that neither of these species is known to occur in the project area. A copy of this EA will be sent to the USFWS.

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CHAPTER 8: ACRONYMS AND GLOSSARY

ACRONYMS

Acronym	Definition
ADT	average daily traffic
BMP	best management practice
CCC	Civilian Conservation Corps
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
dbh	diameter at breast height
DCHPO	D.C. State Historic Preservation Officer
DDOE	District Department of the Environment
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
HALS	Historic American Landscape Survey
mph	miles per hour
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
National Zoo	National Zoological Park
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NOAA Fisheries	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture
PL	Public Law
PWA	Public Works Administration
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USC	U.S. Code
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
VRSS	vegetated reinforced soil slope
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey

GLOSSARY

affected environment. The existing environment to be affected by a proposed action and alternatives.

best management practices (BMPs). Methods that have been determined to be the most effective, practical means of preventing or reducing pollution or other adverse environmental impacts.

cofferdam. A temporary, watertight enclosure that is pumped dry to expose the bottom of a body of water so that construction activities may take place.

contributing resource. A building, site, structure, or object that adds to the historic significance of a property or district.

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). Established by Congress within the Executive Office of the President with the passage of NEPA. The CEQ coordinates federal environmental efforts and works closely with agencies and other White House offices in the development of environmental policies and initiatives.

cultural landscape. A geographic area (including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein), associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values.

cultural resources. Prehistoric and historic districts, sites, buildings, objects, or any other physical evidence of human activity considered important to a culture, subculture, or community for scientific, traditional, religious, or other reason.

cumulative impacts. Under NEPA regulations, the incremental environmental impact or effect of an action together with the effects of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions (40 CFR 1508.7).

enabling legislation. Legislation that gives appropriate officials the authority to implement or enforce the law.

endangered species. Any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. The lead federal agency for the listing of a species as endangered is the USFWS, and it is responsible for reviewing the status of the species on a five-year basis.

environmental assessment. An environmental analysis prepared pursuant to NEPA to determine whether a federal action would significantly affect the environment and thus require a more detailed environmental impact statement.

executive order. Official proclamation issued by the president that may set forth policy or direction or establish specific duties in connection with the execution of federal laws and programs.

fall line. A narrow zone that marks the geological boundary between an upland region and a plain, distinguished by the occurrence of falls. Regionally it is the zone demarcating the Piedmont from the Atlantic coastal plain.

floodplain. The flat or nearly flat land along a river or stream or in a tidal area that is covered by water during a flood.

historic property. Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion on the National Register. The term includes artifacts, records, and remains which are related to such district, site, building, structure, or object. 16 USC Section 470(w)(5).

impairment. The NPS requires an analysis of potential effects to determine whether actions would impact or impair park resources. The NPS is empowered with the management discretion to allow impacts to park resources and values (when necessary and appropriate) to fulfill the purposes of a park, as long as the impact does not constitute impairment of the affected resources and values.

Jersey barrier. A three-foot-tall concrete structure that varies in length; most commonly used as a barrier to separate or stop moving vehicles.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The act, as amended, articulates the federal law that mandates protecting the quality of the human environment. It requires federal agencies to systematically assess the environmental impacts of their proposed activities, programs, and projects, including the “no action” alternative of not pursuing the proposed action. NEPA requires agencies to consider alternative ways of accomplishing their missions that are less damaging to the environment.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as Amended (16 USC 470 et seq.). An act to establish a program for the preservation of historic properties throughout the nation, and for other purposes, approved October 15, 1966 (PL 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 USC 470 as amended by PL 91-243, PL 93-54, PL 94-422, PL 94-458, PL 96-199, PL 96-244, PL 96-515, PL 98-483, PL 99-514, PL 100-127, and PL 102-575). See **Section 106** and **National Register of Historic Places**.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). A register of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects important in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture, maintained by the Secretary of the Interior under authority of section 2(b) of the Historic Sites Act of 1935 and section 101(a)(1) of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as Amended.

redoximorphic features. Colors in the soil that indicate water is seasonally present at the level the features are found.

scoping. Scoping, as part of NEPA, requires examining a proposed action and its possible effects, establishing the depth of environmental analysis needed, and determining analysis procedures, data needed, and task assignments. The public is encouraged to participate and submit comments on proposed projects during the scoping period.

Section 106. Section 106 of the NHPA, as Amended, and as implemented in 36 CFR 800, requires federal agencies to consider the effects of federally funded, regulated, or licensed undertakings on cultural resources listed in or eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. In addition, the federal agency must afford the ACHP the opportunity to comment in the event that an undertaking will have an adverse effect on a cultural resource that is eligible for or listed in the NRHP.

State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). The official appointed by the governor of a state or territory to carry out the state’s responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act.

theoretical gore. A triangular piece of land found where roads merge or split marked by a solid white line extending from the triangle or neutral area.

threatened species. Any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

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