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U.S. Department of the Interior

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# Grand Canyon News Release

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## **National Park Service Requests Public Review of the Desert View Inter-tribal Cultural Heritage Site Plan / Environmental Assessment at Grand Canyon National Park**

**Grand Canyon, Ariz.** – The National Park Service (NPS) is seeking public review of a site plan / environmental assessment that proposes to modify facilities at Desert View to create an Inter-tribal Cultural Heritage Site.

Located at the southeast edge of Grand Canyon National Park, Desert View is at the east entrance to the park. Desert View provides many visitors with their first introduction and orientation to some of the park's most significant resources, including the Desert View Watchtower and its surrounding historic district. The area also offers spectacular views of the Painted Desert and the Little Colorado River Gorge.

Given the significance of the site, its infrastructure, and proximity to neighboring tribal lands, the NPS is proposing to transform Desert View from a traditional scenic overlook and visitor services area into an Inter-tribal Cultural Heritage Site. This will provide opportunities for first-voice cultural interpretation from associated American Indian Tribes—including cultural demonstrations—and enhance visitor orientation to the cultural significance of the site and park while helping inform visitors about tourism opportunities on surrounding tribal lands.

To accomplish these goals, the NPS is proposing modifications to existing infrastructure, relocation of underutilized facilities, and potential new construction within the existing developed footprint at Desert View. Additional information, including a newsletter on the specifics of the proposed action is available on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/DesertViewICHS>. Interested parties can participate in the following public review meetings:

Wednesday, November 7, 2018  
6:00 to 8:00 pm

DoubleTree Hotel Flagstaff  
1175 West Route 66  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Thursday, November 8, 2018  
4:00 to 6:00 pm  
Shrine of the Ages Auditorium  
20 S. Entrance Road  
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

A webinar is scheduled for Thursday, November 8 from 12:30 to 1:30 pm. For additional information on the webinar visit <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/DesertViewIChS>.

Public comments on the proposed action will be accepted for 30 days (closing November 24, 2018). During this time, any individual or group can submit scoping comments electronically at the PEPC website, in person at public review meetings, or via mail to Superintendent, Grand Canyon National Park, Attn: Desert View EA, PO Box 129, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023. The preferred method for submitting comments is on the PEPC website listed above.

Following the public review period, the NPS will consider all feedback and make a final decision as to which alternative (or variation of an alternative) will be implemented. This final decision document, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), will be reviewed by the Superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park and, if appropriate, approved by the Regional Director of the NPS Intermountain Region.

The NPS is working cooperatively with a number of partners, including: representatives from the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians, Havasupai, Hopi, Hualapai, Navajo, Zuni, and Yavapai-Apache tribes, the Grand Canyon Association, the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA), the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and park concessioners.

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About the National Park Service: More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 409 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).