



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Prince William Forest Park
18100 Park Headquarters Road
Triangle, VA 22172

(703) 221-4706
FAX (703) 221-4322

L7617(PRWI)

December 7, 2011

Dear Sir or Madam:

Prince William Forest Park, a unit of the National Park Service, announces the availability of the *New Entrance to Chopawamsic Backcountry Area Environmental Assessment/Assessment of Effect (EA/AE)* for public review and comment.

This EA/AE evaluates three alternatives, an alternative including a new parking area with restricted access (the preferred alternative), a new parking area with open access, and the no action alternative. It also describes those alternatives considered but dismissed. The preferred alternative, the new parking area with restricted access, includes the construction of a new entrance and parking area off of Route 619 (Joplin Road) near mile post 22, including a new restroom facility, a handicap parking space, and an information board. A small spur trail will be constructed to access an existing legacy fire road, the Bobcat Ridge Road, which will serve as the footpath to connect the visitor to the existing Chopawamsic Trail loop.

This EA is in response to a land exchange that occurred between the Park and Marine Corps Base Quantico in 2003. During the transaction the National Park Service was directed to seek a new entrance to the Chopawamsic Backcountry Area that did not include adjacent Marine Corps Base Quantico land or use roads that have access to the Breckenridge Reservoir, the current drinking water source for Marine Corps Base Quantico. Park administration conducted internal scoping sessions and drafted the alternatives represented in the *New Entrance to Chopawamsic Backcountry Area EA/AE*.

The EA/AE has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and implementing regulations, 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, and NPS Director's Order #12 and Handbook, Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-making (DO-12). Compliance with NHPA Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 is included in the document.

Access to the Document:

A digital copy of the EA is available at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/PRWI>. To request a hard copy, please e-mail George Liffert at George_Liffert@nps.gov and provide us with your mailing address. To ensure the quickest turn-around time, please note in the subject line **"REQUEST FOR HARD COPY – NEW ENTRANCE TO CHOPAWAMSIK BACKCOUNTRY AREA EA/AE."**

Public review copies of the EA will also be available at the following locations:

Prince William Forest Park
Visitor Center
18170 Park Entrance Road
Triangle, VA 22172

Note to Reviewers and Respondents:

If you wish to comment on the EA, you may submit them electronically or mail comments directly. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Comments on the New Entrance to Chopawamsic Backcountry Area EA/AE may be submitted on-line by following the appropriate links at *(The NPS preferred method of receiving comments)*:

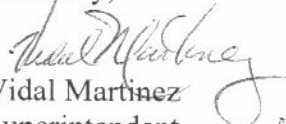
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/PRWI>

Or mail directly to:

George Liffert
Prince William Forest Park
18100 Park Headquarters Road
Triangle, VA 22191

Comments on the EA will be accepted through January 27, 2011. Thank you for your interest and participation in this process.

Sincerely,


Vidal Martinez
Superintendent