

## Chapter 5 Consultation and Coordination




*Photo Courtesy of  
National Park Service*



## CHAPTER 5

## Consultation and Coordination

 This chapter describes the consultation and coordination efforts conducted by the National Park Service in preparation of this *Environmental Assessment*.

### Project Scoping

Project scoping is designed to gather early input in the NEPA process. These efforts include both internal scoping and public involvement. In addition to notifying interested parties about the proposed project, the purpose of scoping is to solicit input on the conceptual range of alternatives being contemplated and to identify issues and concerns that should be studied in the environmental document.

#### *Internal Scoping*

Discussion of ideas related to the relinquishment of the East and South Barracks from the U.S. Army to the National Park Service has been ongoing since August of 2005, when the Vancouver Barracks was listed on the Department of Defense's BRAC list. Starting in the spring of 2006, National Park Service and U.S. Army representatives met at least quarterly to discuss an orderly transition of the property from the Department of Defense to the Department of the Interior.

In addition, an IDT consisting of NPS representatives was formed to provide guidance for the *Environmental Assessment*. In 2009 the IDT developed a set of planning guidelines for the development of alternatives for the *Environmental Assessment* (see the Alternatives Development Process section of the Alternatives chapter for more detail).

In October 2009, the NPS IDT members participated in an internal alternatives development workshop from which alternative concepts for campus improvements and expansion were drafted. These concepts were further refined and approved for presentation during public scoping which was held in April 2010 (see Public Scoping below). In August 2010, an internal IDT workshop was held to further refine the plan alternatives. Comments obtained through public scoping efforts (see Public Scoping below) were considered in this effort. As a result, three action alternatives were identified for analysis.

In January 2011, the NPS IDT used a decision making process called Choosing by Advantages to help make value-based decisions and identify a preferred alternative. Attendees of this workshop (Fort Vancouver staff, NPS Denver Service Center staff, NPS Pacific West Regional Office staff, City of Vancouver representatives, Washington State Historical Society representatives, Fort Vancouver National Site Trust representatives, and consultants), worked together to develop the preferred alternative.

#### *Public Scoping*

To ensure a high degree of transparency and involvement from the public, the National Park Service announced opportunities to participate in the planning process in many different ways. A scoping newsletter and a postcard were sent in March 2010 via direct mail and email to park

visitors, regulatory agencies, park neighbors and other interested parties. These mailings were meant to introduce the project, announce public meetings and initiate the formal public scoping period. A press release was also issued, and meetings were advertised via local media outlets and social media tools such as Twitter. Comments were also solicited on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/fova> and [www.nps.gov/fova](http://www.nps.gov/fova), and comment cards were made available at public meetings and at the Visitor Center for Fort Vancouver NHS.

The public scoping comment period ran from March 20 through May 1, 2010, during which time open houses and solicitation of public comments were designed to gather early input on the public's ideas and thoughts on the project and the range of conceptual alternatives being considered (Figure 25). Information from these studies and data collection efforts was used to refine the plan alternatives.



Figure 25. Public scoping meetings in April 2010 allowed NPS personnel to gather the public's ideas on what this plan should address. (National Park Service)

The National Park Service conducted several scoping meetings in April 2010 to gather the public's ideas on what the plan should address. On April 6, 2010, an agency scoping meeting was held to collect input from the Washington DAHP, as well as from tribes affiliated with the Fort Vancouver NHS. Attendees at this meeting included NPS staff, representatives from the Washington DAHP, and five participants with tribal or Hawaiian ancestry. At a later date, NPS staff also attended a meeting with the Associated Tribes of Northwest Indians in order to discuss the plan and gather additional input from tribes.

On April 7, 2010 the National Park Service hosted two public scoping meetings at the VNHR, which were designed to promote a high level of interaction between the public and planning team personnel. NPS staff set up listening stations at the meetings where the background, issues, vision and goals for this project could be discussed in depth. Maps, posters and handouts presented this material in a visual format and helped guide discussion. These materials are available online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/fova>. NPS staff also led walking tours of the project site in order to familiarize attendees with the East and South Barracks.

Attendance at these public meetings mostly consisted of members of the local Vancouver community, as well as some from outlying areas in the region. Approximately 70 people attended the afternoon meeting, and 60 people attended the evening meeting. In addition, local journalists covered the meetings, resulting in several articles in Vancouver's local newspaper *The Columbian*.

To help solicit comments from the public, the planning team developed four questions (see below) about the *Environmental Assessment*. The questions were presented on comment cards, in the public scoping newsletter, online at the project website, and at public scoping meetings. In response, 59 individuals or organizations submitted comments online or in writing. Among these respondents were members of nine organizations, including the Vancouver Bridge Club, Vancouver Police, Lewis and Clark Young Marines, Southwest Washington Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Ft. Vancouver Pipe Band, Vancouver USA Scottish Dancers, Veterans of Foreign Wars Vancouver Post 7824, National Parks Conservation Association, and Métis Consulting, LLC.

The summary below synthesizes comments submitted online and via email, in hard copy, and at the public scoping meeting. A more comprehensive summary of scoping comments is posted online at <http://www.parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=30274>.

### **1. What do you like best about the East and South Barracks?**

Generally speaking, respondents described the historic character of the building and grounds as a favorite aspect of the Barracks. Many also mentioned the Barracks' close proximity to the Columbia River and downtown Vancouver as qualities they like best about the barracks. The open green spaces of Fort Vancouver NHS are also cherished. One respondent greatly appreciates the periodic archeological digs carried out in the area.

### **2. What opportunities do you see for these areas?**

Almost all comments included suggestions for future use of the Barracks buildings. Many spoke about museums and collections space, including popular support for the idea of a military museum located on-site. Many comments also expressed a clear desire for expanded interpretation in general and included specific recommendations for increased interpretation of American Indian history and culture. One comment recommended involving the Métis people in this process, as well as in other work around the Fort Vancouver NHS.

Other popular suggestions for adaptive re-use of buildings included art galleries and studios, performance venues, restaurants, community spaces, educational facilities, offices and facilities for non-profits, and a hotel or hostel. Some expressed concern that too much commercial development might overpower the quiet, historic site. Other comments suggested that all Barracks structures should be removed altogether, or that buildings and infrastructure located



within the HBC Cemetery be removed to restore a park-like setting. At the same time, there was also strong support for adapting the area to become a conference retreat center similar to Fort Worden State Park in Port Townsend, Washington.

Ideas on how to address the building grounds were also submitted, such as restoring and maintaining the cultural landscape, adding an off-leash dog park and designing more walking paths. Suggestions also addressed access and circulation issues, such as adding parking at the MASH unit site, reinstating historic circulation patterns and materials, and improving public transportation to, from, and around the site.

### **3. What issues do you think this plan should address?**

There were many opinions on what the plan should explore. Most commonly, these included the preservation of historic and cultural resources, funding for implementation, proposed management structures for the transfer and management of the Barracks, public use of the Barracks, and the development character of the East and South Barracks as it relates to the rest of the VNHR. Several comments also addressed management and interpretation of the HBC Cemetery. Others suggested that the plan should address interpretation, parking, wayfinding, stormwater management, and the sustainability of aging buildings. One respondent reiterated the need for careful research and analysis of cultural, natural and economic conditions as alternatives are developed and evaluated. This level of analysis is required by the NEPA and common practice for the National Park Service.

### **4. What challenges should we keep in mind?**

The comment analysis revealed several concerns held by respondents. The most common concern involved costs and funding for implementation, especially with respect to the aging condition of historic structures and the advantages and disadvantages of rehabilitation. At times, these concerns were coupled with questions about the long-term viability of proposed uses, as well as current and future market conditions of the surrounding neighborhoods and downtown Vancouver. The second most common concern involved the desire to see the historic character of the Barracks upheld and enhanced through the rehabilitation of the project area. Many also felt that the proposed developments along Interstate 5 should be closely monitored and considered in the development of the *Environmental Assessment*. Others brought up challenges related to the disorganized layout of the site, the need for additional parking, and the need to balance new uses with desires and needs of American Indian groups affiliated with the Fort Vancouver NHS.

### ***Agency Scoping***

The National Park Service prepared scoping packets which included descriptions of the conceptual alternatives, issues identified for study, the draft environmental screening form, and the dates of public scoping for interested or affected public agencies. No agency comments were received during initial public scoping.

A list of regulatory and/or interested agencies included in this scoping notification is presented in Table 27. Letters to the Washington DAHP and the ACHP informing them of early planning efforts can be accessed from the NPS website.

**Table 27. List of Regulatory and Interested Agencies Consulted During the Development of this *Environmental Assessment***

Agency	Address	City	State	Zip Code
Dept. of Archeology and Historic Preservation	1063 South Capitol Way, Suite 106	Olympia	WA	98501
US Army Corps of Engineers-Environmental Quality	PO Box 2946	Portland	OR	97208
US Fish & Wildlife Service	2600 S.E. 98th Ave, Ste 100	Portland	OR	97266
Environmental Protection Agency-Region 10	1200 Sixth Avenue	Seattle	WA	98101
WA Dept. of Ecology, Water Quality Program	PO Box 47600	Olympia	WA	98504
WA Department of Fish And Wildlife	1111 Washington St. SE	Olympia	WA	98501
US Coast Guard, Sector Portland Oregon	6767 N Basin Ave	Portland	OR	97217
WA State Dept. of Natural Resources	PO Box 47000, 1111 Washington Street SE	Olympia	WA	98504
WA State Dept. of Transportation	PO Box 47331	Olympia	WA	98504
Washington Department of Fish And Wildlife Region 5	2108 Grand Boulevard	Vancouver	WA	98661

## Agency Consultation

### *State Historic Preservation Office*

Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies, or those they fund or permit, to consider the effects of their actions on the properties that may be eligible for listing or are listed in the NRHP. As mentioned above, the NPS conducted an agency scoping meeting with the Washington DAHP. A representative from the Washington DAHP attended the first internal scoping meeting for the project on February 8, 2010. The DAHP was also sent a copy of the administrative draft *Environmental Assessment* to provide early input. The National Park Service will continue to coordinate with the Washington DAHP as part of the environmental compliance effort, including preparation of a draft Programmatic Agreement between the National Park Service and the SHPO regarding the project. The Programmatic Agreement stipulates the procedures for compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA. The Programmatic Agreement, once fully executed, evidences the park's compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA and shall govern the undertaking (36 CFR 800.6). The PA establishes the procedures for conducting further efforts to inventory archeological resources, requirements for American Indian consultation, procedures for consultation with the Washington DAHP, procedures for development of strategies to avoid and protect resources, and reporting and monitoring requirements. This Programmatic Agreement will be completed concurrent with the completion of the *Environmental Assessment*.

### ***American Indian Consultation***

As stated earlier in this document, the National Park Service regularly consults with 26 federally recognized tribes at Fort Vancouver NHS. As part of the efforts of developing this *Environmental Assessment*, the National Park Service has hosted several tribal consultation meetings regarding the future of the East and South Barracks. The first of these agency scoping meetings occurred on February 26, 2010. Representatives of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Indians of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, the Umatilla Tribe of Indians, the Spokane Tribe, the Cowlitz Tribe, the Yakama Tribe, the Nisqually Tribe, and local representatives of Native Hawaiian ancestry all attended this meeting. In May of 2010, NPS staff also attended a meeting with the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians in Grand Ronde, Oregon, in order to discuss the plan and gather additional input from tribes. An additional scoping meeting occurred on April 25, 2011, with representatives of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Indians of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, the Umatilla Tribe of Indians, the Spokane Tribe, the Cowlitz Tribe, the Yakama Tribe, the Nisqually Tribe, and local representatives of Native Hawaiian ancestry attending this meeting. These consulting tribes were also sent a copy of the Administrative Draft of this *Environmental Assessment* to provide input during the summer of 2011. Parties who provided comments were included as signatory parties in the Programmatic Agreement between the National Park Service and the Washington DAHP for future Section 106 of the NHPA activities on the East and South Barracks property.

### ***U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service***

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 requires that each federal agency ensure that proposed agency actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species or result in destruction or adverse impact to designated critical habitat. Fort Vancouver NHS received a Habitat and Species Map from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The National Park Service then conducted a natural resource survey to determine the presence of any special status species that had potential to occur at the site. There are no threatened or endangered species in the area that would be affected by the project. The only species of concern is the Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*), or Garry oaks, which are defined as a priority habitat by Washington Department of Natural Resources. These trees will be retained for their value as wildlife habitat and protected during any construction activities. Because all Oregon white oak trees will be maintained in their current condition and there will be no impact to the grove, the National Park Service has made a determination of no effect to this species. The National Park Service will send a copy of this *Environmental Assessment*, along with notification of the no effect determination, to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service.

### ***List of Environmental Assessment Preparers and Contributors***

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*NPS Washington Support Office*

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**List of Recipients of the *Environmental Assessment***

The *Environmental Assessment* will be distributed to the list of agencies noted in Table 26 that were sent copies of the scoping notice and newsletter. In addition, a notice of availability of the *Environmental Assessment* will be sent to a mailing list of 509 individuals and specific organizations and groups:

The *Environmental Assessment* will be available at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/fova> and hard copies will be available for viewing at the Fort Vancouver NHS Visitor Center as well as:

Vancouver Community Library  
901 C Street  
Vancouver, WA 98660

Vancouver Mall Community Library  
8700 NE Vancouver Mall Drive, Suite 285  
Vancouver, WA 98662

Multnomah County Central Library  
801 S.W. 10th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97205

Oregon City Public Library  
606 John Adams  
Oregon City, OR 97045

