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**CONSULTATION
AND
COORDINATION**

CHAPTER 5 — CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

BRIEF HISTORY OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The *Draft General Management Plan / Wilderness Study / Environmental Impact Statement* for Fort Pulaski National Monument represents thoughts of the NPS/monument staff, state and local agencies and organizations, and the public. Consultation and coordination among the agencies and the public were vitally important throughout the planning process. Public meetings and newsletters were used to keep the public informed and involved in the planning process for Fort Pulaski. A mailing list was compiled that consisted of members of governmental agencies, organizations, businesses, legislators, local governments, and interested citizens.

Initial scoping began in May of 2003. Scoping is an early and open process for determining the scope of a proposed action or project and for identifying issues related to the project. During scoping, NPS staff provides an overview of the project, including purpose and need and preliminary issues. State and local agencies, private organizations and individuals, and the general public are asked to submit comments, concerns, and suggestions relating to the project and preliminary issues.

On May 21, 2003, the planning team met with the Georgia Department of Transportation in connection with the proposed widening and elevation of U.S. Highway 80, which runs through the national monument. The planning team also met with staff from the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to discover any concerns or issues the team should consider in the planning process.

Additional monument staff and agency scoping meetings were conducted at the monument in June 2003. The participants included

- Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division
- U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U. S. Coast Guard
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The first general management plan newsletter was mailed in November 2003 with a postage-paid response card provided for recipients to express their opinions and suggestions for the future management of Fort Pulaski. Subsequent public scoping meetings and multiple party stakeholder meetings were conducted at the monument and in various venues between Savannah and Tybee Island in December 2003.

Participants in these meetings represented

- Savannah State University
- Georgia Historical Society
- Savannah Bar Pilots Association
- Tybee Island City Council
- Coastal Georgia Regional Development Council
- Savannah/Chatham County Police Department
- Tybee Island Historic Society
- Chatham County Public Works & Parks Department
- Oatland Island Educational Center
- Georgia Land Trust
- Metropolitan Planning Commission
- National Park Service, Denver Service Center, Curatorial Services

The previously described organizations additionally represent, individually and collectively, the African American community, Civil War enthusiasts, descendants of Civil War era escaped slaves and prisoners of war, and other groups.

Newsletter #2 was issued in the spring 2004 to report the findings of the scoping process to the public. Those findings are discussed in detail in chapter 1. A notice of intent to prepare the *General Management Plan / Wilderness Study / Environmental Impact Statement* was published in the *Federal Register* on February 24, 2005. Another notice of intent was published in the *Federal Register* on July 2, 2007. This notice expanded the scope of the general management plan/EIS to include a wilderness study to determine if any portions of the national monument should be recommended for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System as defined in the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Newsletter #3 was published in May 2007 and contained preliminary alternatives for the public to review and critique. Subsequently between May 22 and May 23, 2007, four public open house meetings were held in the Savannah area (two meetings in the park, one meeting at the Tybee Island City Hall, and one meeting at the Savannah Civic Center) to provide direct opportunities for the public to hear descriptions of and to comment on the proposed alternatives.

CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Section 7 Consultation

During the preparation of this document, NPS staff has coordinated informally with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Savannah Coastal Refuge Complex Office. The Fish and Wildlife Service provided a list of federal threatened and endangered species that might be in or near the national monument (appendix C).

In accordance with the Endangered Species Act and relevant regulations at 50 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 402, the National Park Service determined that the management plan is not likely to adversely affect any federally threatened or endangered species and sent a copy of this draft

management plan to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office with a request for written concurrence with that determination. In addition, the National Park Service has committed to consult on future actions conducted under the framework described in this management plan to ensure that such actions are not likely to adversely affect threatened or endangered species.

Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Section 106 Consultation

Agencies that have direct or indirect jurisdiction over historic properties are required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470, et seq.) to take into account the effect of any undertaking on properties eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In addition to the informal meeting with staff from the Georgia Historic Preservation Division cited earlier, the planning team sent the Historic Preservation Division a copy of newsletter number 1 in November of 2003 and newsletter number 2 in the spring of 2004. Informal consultation with other parties regarding cultural resource issues took place in the context of the meetings described previously in this chapter. Nine federally recognized Native American tribal organizations were formally invited to consult on the general management plan. They were

- Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
- Catawba Indian Nation
- Chickasaw Nation
- Seminole Tribe of Florida
- Kialegee Tribal Town
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
- Poarch Creek Indians
- Thlopthlocco Tribal Town

No tribal or local government representative or any other interested party expressed an

1 interest in consulting on this plan pursuant to
2 36 CFR 800.2.

3 Under the terms of the 2008 Programmatic
4 Agreement among the National Park Service,
5 the Advisory Council on Historic
6 Preservation, and the National Conference of
7 State Historic Preservation Officers, “all
8 undertakings that do not qualify for
9 streamlined review [e.g., preparation of
10 general management plans] . . . will be
11 reviewed in accordance with 36 CFR Part
12 800.” Therefore, this *Draft General*
13 *Management Plan / Wilderness Study /*
14 *Environmental Impact Statement* will be
15 submitted to the Historic Preservation
16 Division of the Georgia Department of
17 Natural Resources for review and comment.

List of Reviewing Agencies and Recipients

18 Federal Agencies.

19 Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
20 U.S. Department of Defense
21 Army Corps of Engineers
22 Coast Guard
23 U.S. Department of the Interior
24 National Park Service
25 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
26 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

27 American Indian Tribal Governments.

28 Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
29 Catawba Indian Nation
30 Chickasaw Nation
31 Seminole Tribe of Florida
32 Kialegee Tribal Town
33 Muscogee (Creek) Nation
34 Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
35 Poarch Creek Indians
36 Thlopthlocco Tribal Town

37 U.S. Senators and Representatives.

38 Honorable Johnny Isakson, Senator
39 Honorable Saxby Chambliss, Senator
40 Honorable Jack Kingston, House of
41 Representatives

42 State Officials, Senators, and 43 Representatives.

44 Honorable Sonny Perdue, Governor
45 State Senator Earl “Buddy” Carter (District 1)
46 State Senator Lester G. Jackson (District 2)
47 State Representative Ann Purcell (Chatham
48 District 159)
49 State Representative Bob Bryant (Chatham
50 District 160)
51 State Representative Mickey Stephens
52 (Chatham District 161)
53 State Representative J. Craig Gordon
54 (Chatham District 162)
55 State Representative Burke Day (Chatham
56 District 163)

57 State Agencies and Commissions.

58 Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia
59 Department of Natural Resources

60 Regional, County, and Local 61 Governments.

62 Savannah
63 Tybee Island
64 Chatham County
65 Coastal Georgia Regional Commission

66 Organizations, Businesses, and 67 Universities.

68 Savannah College of Art and Design
69 Savannah State University
70 Armstrong Atlantic State University
71 Tybee Island Historic Society
72 Georgia Historical Society
73 National Parks and Conservation Association
74 Civil War Preservation Trust

75 Libraries.

76 Tybee Island Branch Library, Tybee Island
77 Islands Branch Library, Wilmington Island
78 Bull Street Library, Savannah

79 Television Stations.

80 WSAV Television
81 WJCL Television
82 WTOG Television

- 1 **Newspapers.**
- 2 Savannah Tribune
- 3 Savannah Morning News
- 4 Savannah Herald