
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park
Alaska



Finding of No Significant Impact

Real Property Acquisition for Government Housing

September 2008

Recommended: Susan Bronckman Sept 17, 2008
Superintendent, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Date

Approved: [Signature] 9/17/08
Regional Director, Alaska Date

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Real Property Acquisition for Government Housing Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park September 2008

The National Park Service (NPS) prepared an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate a proposal to purchase a 1,240 sq. ft. wood-frame house located on a 5,000 sq. ft. lot at 2000 Main Street (Lot 7, Block 119) in Skagway, Alaska. The house contains three bedrooms, 2-baths and an attached, heated, two-car garage. The site is currently used for residential housing. The property is outside of the boundary of KLGO's Skagway Unit, but within the boundary of the Skagway Historic District and White Pass National Historic Landmark as well as within the Borough of Skagway boundary. The purpose of the housing acquisition is to provide living quarters for park staff.

The NPS has selected Alternative 2: Acquire Real Property for Government Housing (NPS Preferred Alternative). No public comments were received on the EA.

ALTERNATIVES

Two alternatives were evaluated in the EA.

Alternative 1: No Action

Under the no-action alternative no real property would be acquired for government housing at 20th and Main Street, Skagway, Alaska. If the need for seasonal housing exceeds capacity, seasonal employees will be required to find alternative housing on their own until additional government housing becomes available for their use.

Alternative 2: Acquire Real Property for Government Housing (NPS Preferred Alternative)

The NPS would acquire one 3-bedroom house located at 20th and Main Street in Skagway, Alaska. The building will be located outside of the park boundaries. The building contains 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, and an attached and heated garage. The NPS would use the house for government living quarters.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The EA was issued for public review and comment from August 29 to September 12, 2008. The notices of the EA were sent by mail or email to seven government agencies, tribal entities, interest groups and individuals. The EA was posted on PEPC and the park's web page. The park issued a press release on August 29, 2008 announcing the availability of the EA. The park posted the notice on bulletin boards at the Skagway City hall, public library, and post office

announcing the comment period and document availability. No public comments were received on the EA.

DECISION

The NPS decision is to select Alternative B, Acquire Real Property for Government Housing (NPS Preferred Alternative).

Rationale for the Decision

The selected action will satisfy the purpose and need of the project better than other alternatives because the identified need is for additional government housing. The park staff continues to grow, while housing opportunities are limited. If the park does not acquire additional housing it will be more difficult to attract and retain qualified applicants for positions in Skagway.

The reason for rejecting alternative A is that it does not satisfy the purpose and need of the project, which is to increase available housing to meet the park's management needs.

Significance Criteria

The selected alternative will not have an effect on the human environment. This conclusion is based on an examination the significance criteria defined in 40 CFR Section 1508.27.”

FINDINGS

No impacts are anticipated from the selected alternative and no impairment of park resources that fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or that are key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park will occur. The selected alternative complies with the National Historic Preservation Act.

The National Park Service has determined that the selected alternative does not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1508.9), an environmental impact statement is not needed and will not be prepared for this project.