

VIII. Public Involvement and Consultation

A. Internal and External Scoping

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site conducted both internal scoping with appropriate NPS staff and external scoping with the public and interested and affected groups, agencies, and tribes to determine the range of issues to be discussed in this Environmental Assessment. This interdisciplinary process defined the purpose and need, identified potential actions to address the need, determined the likely issues and impact topics, and identified the relationship of the preferred alternative to other planning efforts in the park.

Media

A newsletter was prepared in April 2004 and sent to approximately 700 people on the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site General Management Plan mailing list. The original GMP mailing list was expanded to include Oregon government agencies, organizations, tribes, and businesses interested in or relating to the McLoughlin House. The newsletter announced the transfer of the McLoughlin House National Historic Site to the National Park Service, explained the planning process and how the public would be informed and involved.

Agency Consultation and Coordination

The following section documents the consultation and coordination efforts undertaken by the NPS during the preparation of the unit management plan and environmental assessment. Congressional representatives and staff received newsletters that informed them about progress on this project.

Native American Indian Tribes

Tribes in three states received information regarding the preparation of this plan. The tribes were the Chinook, the Cowlitz, and the Yakima tribes in Washington; and the Nez Perce Tribe in Idaho. Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians in Oregon was also contacted. No responses were received during the scoping period. Tribes were also sent copies of the draft Alternatives from this document for comment.

State Historic Preservation Offices

The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation must be consulted concerning any proposals that might affect a cultural property listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Consultation with the Oregon SHPO and the Advisory Council for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, was done for this planning process. (Letters for NHPA 106 Compliance on file).

In August 2005, park staff sent a copy of the Archaeological Results report and met with the Oregon SHPO. During this meeting, park staff reviewed the proposals for impending utility upgrades, and the installation of a sign; as well as the possible need for creating an MOU for the future management of the property.

NPS archaeologists will survey areas of potential effects for specific projects to determine if there are intact, national register-eligible subsurface cultural deposits. If the NPS determines that there are significant cultural deposits, then measures to avoid or mitigate the loss of these deposits will be developed in consultation with SHPO, Native American Tribes, and other interested parties under Section 106 of the NHPA and Oregon State Law.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, authorizes federal agencies to enter into early consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to ensure that any federal action would not jeopardize the existence of any listed species or destroy or adversely modify its habitat. Consultation with the USFWS for species information relating to the McLoughlin House Unit was initiated in May 2004.

No listed threatened or endangered plant species were found to be present during an August 2004 survey. Marginal and limited habitat for the Willamette daisy exists along a portion of the cliff edge, but it is outside of any area that has been or would be disturbed under the proposed action. No further consultation is considered necessary at this time. (See “Affected Environment Chapter” in the “Vegetation” section and “Appendices” for “2004 Site Visit Species List.”)

Oregon Natural Resource Agencies

In addition to the USFWS, the NPS contacted the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Service (ODFW) and the Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center in May 2004 for species information. This information was used in conjunction with the USFWS species information. No concerns regarding threatened and endangered vertebrate species were expressed.

B. Public Review

This Environmental Assessment is available for a sixty-day public review period from October 30, 2006 to December 30, 2006. At that time, a press release will be distributed to people and businesses who have expressed an interest in the project. A letter will also be mailed or emailed to a list of persons and agencies that have expressed interest in Fort Vancouver National Historic Site proposed actions and events. Included on this list are agencies, civic and non-profit organizations, local government officials, libraries, and individuals. In addition, organizations and individuals that have requested to will receive a copy of the Environmental Assessment. Others will be sent to those who request copies during the review period. The Environmental Assessment will also be available on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment system website at <https://pepc.nps.gov>, with more information on the park’s website, located at <http://www.nps.gov/fov>. During the public review period for this document, two public meetings will be held at the Barclay House on November 14, 2006.

Comments on this Environmental Assessment should be directed to:

Superintendent
Fort Vancouver National Historic Site
612 East Reserve Street
Vancouver, Washington 98661

or sent via email to FOVA_Superintendent@nps.gov

If reviewers do not identify substantial environmental impacts, this Environmental Assessment will be used to prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), which will be sent to the National Park Service Pacific West Regional Director for signature.

During the public review period, additional consultation will occur to affirm determinations of effect (if needed) with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office. Notice of the concurrence with the determinations of effect for historical resources will be identified in the FONSI for this Environmental Assessment, if prepared (see above).

For more information concerning this Environmental Assessment, please contact the Superintendent, Fort Vancouver National Historical Site at the above address, or at (360) 816-6212. For a copy of this document, please call Fort Vancouver National Historic Site at (360) 816-6212 or the McLoughlin House Unit at (503) 656-5151.

C. List of Preparers

Planning Team

An interdisciplinary planning team comprised of National Park Service staff from Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, the Seattle Office of the Pacific West Region, the Intermountain Region, and board members from the McLoughlin Memorial Association was established in fall 2003. An orientation and planning workshop was conducted on March 29-30, 2004. A list of management issues were developed at this time for the future management, operation, and maintenance of the site.

The names and titles of participating team members are provided below:

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

Tracy Fortmann, Superintendent
Gary Bickford, Chief of Maintenance
David Hansen, Former Park Curator/Historian
Elaine Huff, Administrative Officer
Theresa Langford, Site Manager, Park Curator/Historian
John Salisbury, McLoughlin House Unit Park Guide
Greg Shine, Chief Ranger

Intermountain Region

Sharon A. Brown, Outdoor Recreation Planner, National Trails System, Salt Lake City, UT

Pacific West Region – Seattle Office

Kent Bush, Staff Curator
Theo K. Chargualaf, former Landscape Architect (now at War in the Pacific National Historical Park in Guam)
Keith Dunbar, Chief of Planning and Environmental Compliance
Hank Florence, Historical Architect
Amanda Schramm, Planning Intern (Preparer)
Anna Tamura, Landscape Architect
Cheryl Teague, Landscape Architect (Preparer)
Stephanie Toothman, Chief of Cultural Resources
Doug Wilson, Vancouver National Historic Reserve Archeologist
Arlene Yamada, former Administrative Support Technician

McLoughlin Memorial Association

Patty Farrell, Treasurer
Rolla Harding, First Vice President
Denyse McGriff, President
Lorien Petersen, Secretary
John Salisbury, Past President
Ed Turpin, Second Vice President

Trustees

Wade Byers
Nelda Davis
Phyllis Gehring
Jr, Harriet Jorgensen
Denise McGee
Doug Neeley
Janine Offut
Rita Randall,
Shermalee Roake
Mike Smith
Linda Spillum
Ruth Van Arnam
John Williams
Joan Williams
Earl Zak

Consultants

Lewis and Clark National Historical Park

Scott Stonum, Chief of Resources
Nancy Eid, Biological Science Technician

Pacific West Region – Seattle Office

Rose Rumball-Petre, Environmental Protection Specialist (Preparer)