

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Headquarters and Maintenance Facility Improvements Environmental Assessment Petroglyph National Monument

Petroglyph National Monument was established on Albuquerque's West Mesa on June 27, 1990 "In order to preserve, for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations, that area...containing the nationally significant West Mesa escarpment, the Las Imagines National Archeological District, a portion of the Atrisco Land Grant, and other significant natural and cultural resources..." The 7,200 acre Monument is jointly owned and managed by the National Park Service, the State of New Mexico and the City of Albuquerque. Monument resources include an estimated 25,000 petroglyphs, over 350 documented archeological sites and ethnographic resources important to many of the tribes of the Southwest.

Petroglyph National Monument staff is currently occupying a maintenance building and a headquarters building co-located on approximately 1.41 acres at 6001 Unser Boulevard. The buildings were purchased for use as maintenance and headquarters facilities in 1995. The buildings did not undergo any major renovations prior to being occupied by staff. Over the years, small projects have been completed to better utilize the limited amount of space available. As the Monument's staff has grown, it is now necessary to update, remodel and create new structures to meet the expanding needs of a young, growing unit of the National Park Service.

The proposed projects will provide the monument resolution to several issues including OSHA identified violations for employee workplace health and safety, protection and dedicated storage space for monument operations and security concerns with the monument's information technology equipment. The resolution to these issues necessitates related actions such as the need to renovate existing spaces. The monument is also attempting to keep up with cyclic maintenance schedules for utilities and structures. The only impact topic selected for analysis in the Environmental Assessment (EA) is park operations.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative will allow for the completion of the improvements listed below.

- **Construction of a Storage Facility in the Maintenance Bone yard** – The storage facility would be constructed on the west-side of the boneyard and would provide storage and holding space for the division of administration and would house the Petroglyph National Monument recycling program. The facility will be approximately 40' x 60' in size and equipped with a modern climate control system, which will include heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC). A security system will be installed to protect from unauthorized entry, in addition to a fire protection system for the entire building, which will consist of smoke and heat detection alarms and sprinklers. In an effort to "green the parks", construction of the new building will enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources, to the extent possible. Architecture and height will be similar to that of the existing buildings.
- **Construction of Equipment/Material Shed in Maintenance Bone Yard** – The shed would be constructed on the south-side of the boneyard and would be a pole-barn style building approximately 35' x 60' in size. This will allow for the storage of NPS-owned heavy equipment and vehicles and the unloading of bulk building materials.

- **Expansion of the Maintenance Shop --** The maintenance shop would be expanded approximately 100 feet along the north side of the boneyard, connected to the existing maintenance shop. The overall size of the addition would be 45' x 100'. The architecture would be similar to the existing buildings and would not be any higher than the existing buildings.
- **Paving of the Boneyard and Installation of Parking Bollards –** Approximately 7,200 ft² of the boneyard area would be paved with asphalt to reduce maintenance and dust.
- **Construction of an Information Technology Room –** A small room approximately 10' x 15' in size would be added to the east side of the headquarters building. The room would be constructed to match or blend into the existing architecture of the building.
- **In-Kind Replacement of Shade Structure and Concrete Patio –** The concrete patio and shade structure approximately 20' x 25' in size would be rehabilitated.
- **Utilities –** Utilities will be installed to each of the new construction as appropriate and existing utilities will be replaced according to an existing replacement schedule.
- **Installation of New Headquarters Sign –** A new headquarters sign would be installed closer to the intersection of Unser Blvd. and Montano Road in the southwest corner of the headquarters facility to be more visible to the public.
- **Construction of a Foyer into Headquarters Building –** An approximately 10' x 15' foyer would be constructed at the current location of the front entrance to the building. The foyer would be constructed to match or blend into the existing architecture of the building.
- **Office and Workspace Renovation –** To meet the needs of a growing park, interior office and workspace renovation would include installation of shelving, furniture, carpeting, cabinets and possibly walls and doors.
- **Landscaping –** Areas surrounding headquarters would be landscaped appropriately with native vegetation, grading, drip irrigation, and rain collection and distribution.

MITIGATING MEASURES

The following mitigation measures have been developed to minimize the degree and/or severity of adverse effects, and will be implemented during construction of the action alternative, as needed:

- To minimize the amount of ground disturbance, staging and stockpiling areas will be located in previously disturbed sites within the project area and will be located to minimize the impacts to employees.
- Construction zones will be identified and fenced with construction tape, snow fencing, or some similar material prior to any construction activity. The fencing will define the construction zone and confine activity to the minimum area required for construction. All protection measures will be clearly stated in the construction specifications and workers would be instructed to avoid conducting activities beyond the construction zone as defined by the construction zone fencing.

- Fugitive dust generated by construction will be controlled by spraying water on the construction site if necessary.
- To reduce noise and emissions, construction equipment will not be permitted to idle for long periods of time.
- To minimize possible petrochemical leaks from construction equipment, the contractor will regularly monitor and check construction equipment to identify and repair any leaks.
- Construction workers and supervisors will be informed about special status species. Contract provisions will require the cessation of construction activities if a species were discovered in the project area, until park staff re-evaluates the project. This would allow modification of the contract for any protection measures determined necessary to protect the discovery.
- Should construction unearth previously undiscovered cultural resources, work will be stopped in the area of any discovery and the Monument Archeologist will be contacted. The Monument will consult with the state historic preservation officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, as necessary, according to §36 CFR 800.13, *Post Review Discoveries*. In the unlikely event that human remains are discovered during construction, provisions outlined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (1990) will be followed.
- The National Park Service will ensure that all contractors and subcontractors are informed of the penalties for illegally collecting artifacts or intentionally damaging archeological sites, or historic properties. Contractors and subcontractors will also be instructed on procedures to follow in case previously unknown archeological resources are uncovered during construction.
- To minimize the potential for impacts to park staff, variations on construction timing may be considered. One option includes conducting the majority of the work in the off-season (winter) or shoulder seasons. Another option includes implementing daily construction activity curfews such as not operating construction equipment between the hours of 6 PM to 7 AM in summer (May – September), and 6 PM to 8 AM in the winter (October – April). The National Park Service will determine this in consultation with the contractor.
- Construction workers and supervisors will be informed about the special sensitivity of Monument's values, regulations, and appropriate housekeeping.

According to *2001 Management Policies*, the National Park Service will strive to construct facilities with sustainable designs and systems to minimize potential environmental impacts. Development will not compete with or dominate Monument's features, or interfere with natural processes, such as the seasonal migration of wildlife or hydrologic activity associated with wetlands. To the extent possible, the design and management of facilities will emphasize environmental sensitivity in construction, use of nontoxic materials, resource conservation, and recycling. The National Park Service also reduces energy costs, eliminates waste, and conserves energy resources by using energy-efficient and cost-effective technology. Energy efficiency is incorporated into the decision-making process during the design and acquisition of buildings, facilities, and transportation systems that emphasize the use of renewable energy sources.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

No Action Alternative

Under this alternative, none of the projects would be completed. A storage facility in maintenance boneyard would not be constructed; an equipment/material shed in maintenance boneyard would not be constructed; the maintenance shop would not be constructed; the boneyard would not be paved; an information technology room would not be constructed; a shade structure and concrete patio would not be replaced; a sewer line would not be replaced; a new headquarters sign would not be installed; landscaping, including a drip irrigation system surrounding headquarters would not be installed; shelves, cabinets, and workbench in the maintenance shop would not be built; a rain collection system with gutters/downspouts would not be installed; the headquarters conference room would not be rehabilitated; office space in headquarters would not be rehabilitated; a foyer to the headquarters building would not be constructed; parking bollards would not be installed; and grading dirt/stone around headquarters building would not be completed to improve drainage. The existing facilities would continue to provide administrative and maintenance functions. NPS property would continue to be exposed to the elements, safety concerns would not be addressed, IT security concerns would not be addressed and the Monument would continue to have storage problems. The National Park Service would respond to future needs and conditions of the facilities without major actions or changes in present course of action.

Environmentally Preferred Alternative

The environmentally preferred alternative is the alternative that will promote the national environmental policy as expressed by §101 of the National Environmental Policy Act. This includes alternatives that:

- (1) fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations;
- (2) assure for all generations safe, healthful, productive, and esthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings;
- (3) attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk of health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences;
- (4) preserve important historic, cultural and natural aspects of our national heritage and maintain, wherever possible, an environment that supports diversity and variety of individual choice;
- (5) achieve a balance between population and resource use that will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities; and
- (6) enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources.

The "no action alternative" meets four of the above six evaluation factors because it retains facilities that do not meet OSHA health and safety standards in terms of employee safety and that do not take full advantage of the recycling of depletable resources. While it minimizes potential impacts to significant park resources, it does not achieve a balance between these resources and the health and safety of Monument staff. This alternative also does not meet the criteria for improving renewable resources because the infrastructure is not in place to make maximum use of renewable resources.

The preferred alternative is the environmentally preferred alternative because it best addresses these six evaluation factors. The preferred alternative, *Proposed Improvement Projects Completed*, will provide a working environment for Monument staff that meets health and safety recommendations, while

minimizing environmental impacts to the extent possible. The improvements will be completed to maximize the use of recycling and to get maximum benefit from renewable resources.

WHY THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

As defined in 40 CFR §1508.27, significance is determined by examining the following criteria:

Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse

The Monument's administrative and maintenance functions are based out of the project area. The proposed improvements will have a moderate beneficial impact on routine park operations and employee health and safety. Arrangements will need to be made for the Monument's staff and how/where they conduct their work. Mitigating measures proposed will reduce disruptions in park operations. No effects to natural or cultural resources were identified for the preferred alternative.

Degree of effect on public health or safety

All of the proposed projects are within the headquarters and maintenance facilities and are not in public-use areas. There are no trails located near the headquarters facility and the area surrounding the facility is heavily developed with residential houses, power lines, a public library and major arterial highway. Since any construction activities in the area will be confined to the park facility, no effect to public health and safety is anticipated from completion of the proposed projects.

Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas

As described in the EA, no effects to natural or cultural resources were identified for the preferred alternative. There are no prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas affected.

Degree to which effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial

The proposed improvements have gone out to the public on two occasions and no public concern or comment has been generated. Comments of support or no known effects have been received from tribes, state agencies and other federal agencies. The project is not expected to be controversial.

Degree to which the possible effects on the quality of the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks

The proposed improvements are entirely within the existing headquarters and maintenance facility. The entire area proposed for the improvements is previously disturbed. No new ground disturbance (i.e. outside of the existing facility) is anticipated. There should be no uncertain, unique or unknown risks associated with completion of the proposed improvements.

Degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration

There should be no precedent-setting activities associated with the proposed improvements. There are no controversial or unknown effects related to the completion of the improvements.

Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts

The Headquarters and Maintenance Facility Improvements Environmental Assessment was undertaken to analyze the cumulative effects of the proposed projects. Many of the projects were individually categorically excludable, but had the potential for cumulative impact. Through the EA process, it was determined that there were no significant impacts associated with the proposed improvements and no related actions that would result in cumulatively significant impacts.

Degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed on National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.

The West Mesa Escarpment is part of the Las Imagenes Archeological District and lies west of the proposed project area. Compliance with §106 of the National Historic Preservation Act was completed with a concurrence with the NPS determination of "No Historic Properties Affected" by the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer on 3 October 2005.

Degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its critical habitat

There are no endangered or threatened species or critical habitat documented for Petroglyph National Monument. Given the area is entirely disturbed with little or no natural habitat remaining there are no effects to endangered or threatened species or its critical habitat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was contacted and responded on 24 August 2005, that they no longer issue concurrence when the action agency determines "no effect" to threatened or endangered species or its critical habitat. The New Mexico Dept of Game and Fish responded that they do not "anticipate significant impacts to wildlife or sensitive habitats" on 29 September 2005.

Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, state, or local environmental protection law

This action violates no federal, state, or local environmental protection laws.

Impairment

In addition to reviewing the list of significance criteria, the National Park Service has determined that implementation of the proposal will not constitute an impairment to Petroglyph National Monument's resources and values. This conclusion is based on a thorough analysis of the environmental impacts described in the Headquarters and Maintenance Facility Improvements Environmental Assessment, the public, tribal and agency comments received, relevant scientific studies, and the professional judgment of the decision-maker guided by the direction in NPS *Management Policies* (December 27, 2000). Overall, the plan results in benefits to park resources and values, opportunities for their enjoyment, and it does not result in their impairment.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A 30-day public scoping period was made available for issues regarding the proposed improvement of the headquarters and maintenance facility ending 22 August 2005. No public comments were received during that period. The environmental assessment was made available for public review and comment during a 30-day period ending 21 October 2005. No general public comments were received during the comment period.

A total of 4 responses were received from state agencies and tribes. One response from the State Historic Preservation Office, one from the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, one from Laguna Pueblo and one from Isleta Pueblo. All of the letters indicated their determination that there would be no impacts to the resources of the Monument.

CONCLUSION

The following two paragraphs must be included. If you cannot agree with these statements, you should be preparing an EIS, not signing a FONSI.

The preferred alternative does not constitute an action that normally requires preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS). The preferred alternative will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Negative environmental impacts that could occur are minor or moderate in intensity. There are no significant impacts on public health, public safety, threatened or endangered species, sites or districts listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, or other unique characteristics of the region. No highly uncertain or controversial impacts, unique or unknown risks, significant cumulative effects, or elements of precedence were identified. Implementation of the action will not violate any federal, state, or local environmental protection law.

Based on the foregoing, it has been determined that an EIS is not required for this project and thus will not be prepared.

Recommended:

Joseph P. Sandy 11/8/05
Superintendent Date

Approved:

Hal Smith 11/10/05
Intermountain Regional Director Date