

ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN OVERVIEW

**BIG HOLE NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD
MONTANA**

MAY 2018

This page intentionally blank.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The park's Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (SETP) includes findings from the self-evaluation process, as well as a plan for improving accessibility parkwide. The Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan resulted from the work of an NPS interdisciplinary team, including planning, design, and construction professionals; and interpretive, resource, visitor safety, maintenance, and accessibility specialists. Site plans, photographs, and specific actions for identified park areas were developed. Associated time frames and implementation strategies were established to assist NPS park staff in scheduling and performing required actions and to document completed work. Park policies, practices, communication, and training needs were also addressed. The goals of the plan are to 1) document existing park barriers to accessibility for people with disabilities, 2) provide an effective approach for upgrading facilities, services, activities, and programs, and 3) instill a culture around creating universal access.

The following are the key park experiences and associated park areas addressed in the transition plan:

- 1) View the battlefield and become oriented to the tragic events of the Nez Perce Flight of 1877, when they fled through Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana** – Big Hole National Battlefield Visitor Center, Big Hole Trailhead Parking and Picnic Area, Howitzer Capture Site, Nez Perce Camp and Camp Trail, Nez Perce National Historic Trail, and Siege Area Trail
- 2) Walk trails that lead to various points of interest** – Howitzer Capture Site, Nez Perce Camp and Camp Trail, Nez Perce National Historic Trail, and Siege Area Trail
- 3) Learn about the Nez Perce Flight of 1877 and the larger Nez Perce historic and modern-day story through participation in interpretive and educational programs** – Big Hole National Battlefield Visitor Center, Howitzer Capture Site, Nez Perce Camp and Camp Trail, and Siege Area Trail
- 4) Experience interpretive exhibits prepared in collaboration with three tribal partners** – Big Hole National Battlefield Visitor Center
- 5) Experience the landscape sights and sounds, a range of emotions, and feel the power of place in the varied sacred sites that inspire understanding of the Nez Perce people** – Big Hole National Battlefield Visitor Center, Big Hole Trailhead Parking and Picnic Area, Howitzer Capture Site, Nez Perce Camp and Camp Trail, Nez Perce National Historic Trail, and Siege Area Trail
- 6) Gather at picnic areas** – Big Hole Trailhead Parking and Picnic Area
- 7) Learn about and experience the natural resources on which the Nez Perce relied** – Big Hole National Battlefield Visitor Center, Big Hole Trailhead Parking and Picnic Area, Howitzer Capture Site, Nez Perce Camp and Camp Trail, Nez Perce National Historic Trail, and Siege Area Trail

Overall, similar services, activities, and programs were found throughout park areas, as were assessment findings for physical and program accessibility.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY

Reoccurring findings and solutions were generally identified for parking areas, accessible paths of travel, outdoor recreational access routes, hiking trails, and interpretive waysides. These findings included slopes that exceeded allowable standards, tread obstacles, mechanisms to open doors exceeded allowable poundage for operation, and small font sizes. Some restroom features did not meet required standards. Some amenities offered for picnicking were not accessible including trash receptacles and picnic tables that lack required clear ground space and were located on surfaces that are not firm and stable in some areas.

Other physical access issues where improvements are recommended include providing accessible oversized-vehicle spaces and adding designating signage on all accessible parking locations. In addition, the gift shop and amphitheater need wider accessible paths of travel. Informational signage including items posted at the visitor center as well as information posted at the trailheads contain small font sizes and text in all capital letters and trailhead signage in particular needs to contain more information regarding the trail conditions. Assessments for trails not specifically identified in this plan will need to be conducted in the future. Refer to Appendix H: "Trail Assessment Protocol" for additional information on how hiking trails are assessed and what standards apply.

PROGRAM ACCESSIBILITY

Recurring findings related to program accessibility included font and contrast issues at interpretive waysides that require modifications to meet size and readability standards. In general, interpretive panels, waysides, publications, videos, and self-guided tours did not have alternate formats in braille, large print, open captioning, or audio or electronic formats. Audio description for ranger-led interpretive tours and self-guided tours that describe visual elements to persons with low or no vision also were not available.

Specific program areas would better serve visitors with increased accessible formats such as improvements to the self-guided Camp Trail. Additional interpretive materials for visitors who cannot access some inaccessible culturally sensitive areas on trails are not provided. One of the most sacred and introspective sites, the Nez Perce camp, may be too far for some visitors, and an alternative experience needs to be expanded at the viewing deck to improve access to that experience.

PARKWIDE ACCESSIBILITY

Some of the more noteworthy parkwide accessibility challenges that were discussed by the planning team during the self-evaluation and assessment process include: providing programmatic alternatives to both exhibits displayed at the visitor center as well as

alternative experiences for those areas that may be too challenging to reach from trails. Other barriers such as those related to accessible parking, paths of travel, reach ranges, and operational parts are generally quick fixes that will go far to improve the accessibility of the park.

It is recommended that the park employ trained consultants to assist in determining how best to address accessibility improvements parkwide and to ensure that design and implementation of alternate format programs meet the needs of the intended audiences. Notify visitors through signage placed in appropriate locations and in park publications that alternative formats are available.

Creating parkwide accessibility requires staff awareness, understanding, and appropriate action. The assessment process served as a field training tool that increases staff knowledge and commitment toward embracing accessibility as a core park value. Continued training in physical and programmatic access requirements for all park staff, particularly those in maintenance and interpretation, is strongly advised.

Because of fiscal constraints and limited park resources, staff will need to determine which park area improvements will benefit the greatest numbers of park visitors with disabilities. Suggested implementation time frames and relative costs need to be factored into all accessibility investment decisions.

Big Hole National Battlefield strives to be inclusive and welcoming. Its dedication not just to providing physical accessibility, but in wanting to evoke a sense of place for the events that took place at Big Hole is a model for the holistic approach to accessibility all parks should strive for. Park staff demonstrate a sincerity and eagerness to make accessibility improvements in an effective and efficient manner.

This page intentionally blank.

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
Physical Accessibility	4
Program Accessibility.....	4
Parkwide Accessibility.....	4
INTRODUCTION.....	9
Big Hole National Battlefield Description	10
Big Hole National Battlefield Purpose and Significance Statements	11
Park Purpose.....	11
Park Significance	11
Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan	12
Implementation of the Plan	12
ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN PROCESS	12
Self-Evaluation	12
Step 1: Identify Key Park Experiences and Park Areas.....	13
Step 2: Identify Park Areas to be Assessed.....	14
Step 3: Identify Services, Activities, and Programs in Each Park Area	14
Step 4: Conduct Accessibility Assessment.....	14
Transition Plan	15
Step 5: Draft and Finalize Transition Plan.....	15
IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR BIG HOLE NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD	17
Park Areas Assessed	17
Implementation Strategy for Park Areas Assessed	18
Visitor Center.....	20
Site Plan.....	20
Implementation Strategy.....	21
Picnic Area and Trailheads.....	28
Site Plan.....	28
Implementation Strategy	29
Big Hole National Battlefield Park Policies, Practices, Communication, and Training ..	34
Park Features	34
Implementation Strategy.....	35

CONCLUSION..... 41

APPENDIX A: ACCESSIBILITY LAWS, STANDARDS, GUIDELINES, AND NPS POLICIES APPLICABLE TO BIG HOLE NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD..... 43

APPENDIX B: GLOSSARY OF TERMS 55

APPENDIX C: CONTRIBUTORS 58

BIG HOLE NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN MAY 2018 59

INTRODUCTION

Since 1916, the National Park Service (NPS) has preserved, unimpaired, the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system, while also providing for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of current and future generations.

Many of our national parks were founded because of their stunning views, extreme and unique geography, challenging and sensitive natural environments, and historic and fragile. This park, Big Hole National Battlefield, and other parks exist because of their history and resources. The NPS mission balances protection of resources (both natural and cultural) with visitation. Facilities, services, activities, and programs were designed and built within parks to accommodate our visitors and help them better understand each park purpose and significance.

Many facilities were constructed prior to the passage of laws and policies that reflect the commitment of the National Park Service to provide access to the widest cross section of the public, and to ensure compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC 12207). The accessibility of commercial services within national parks is also governed by all applicable federal laws. After 100 years of operation, the National Park Service continues to work toward a more inclusive environment. The more than 400 park units that comprise the national park system today include not only the large western parks, for which the agency is well known, but also nationally significant urban parks, historic sites, monuments, parkways, battlefields, and a diversity of other park types across the country.

For a century, the National Park Service has been a leader in connecting people to both our natural and cultural heritage. Visitors today have different needs and expectations, and the agency must adapt to meet these changing demands. Modern scientific research and visitor trend analysis provide new insight into accessibility opportunities and challenges in the national park system. There are approximately 60 million people with disabilities in the United States today, and the number is expected to rise to 71 million in upcoming years as more baby boomers reach retirement age (people 65 and older). This information helps the National Park Service understand changing visitation patterns, the nexus between resource stewardship and accessibility, and the impacts of managing visitors, resources, and infrastructure against the threat of decreased funding. Adequate planning can identify solutions to challenges and provide services with the knowledge and understanding that serves as a trajectory full of opportunity for current and future visitors. The National Park Service is committed to making NPS facilities, programs, services, and employment opportunities accessible to all people, including those with disabilities.

BIG HOLE NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD DESCRIPTION

Nez Perce National Historical Park was established as a unit of the national park system on May 15, 1965, by Public Law 89-19. Since its establishment, the park has evolved into a model for working in partnership with public and private agencies, tribes, organizations, and individuals to achieve its goals. Unlike “traditional” parks, Nez Perce National Historical Park retains little NPS fee land; instead the park is managed and operated through collaborative processes, relying on cooperative agreements, memorandums of understanding, and other unconventional means for protecting and interpreting resources owned by others. Similarly, in order to understand and accurately interpret ni·mí·pu· culture, the park partners with the Nez Perce Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, which represent significant ni·mí·pu· communities, as well as allied Palouse and Cayuse peoples.

The park consists of 38 sites dispersed throughout Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. There are no designated sites in Wyoming; however, there are many sites there that are important to the Nez Perce people. These sites illustrate the historic role of the Nez Perce people in the westward expansion of the United States and include, but are not limited to, historic buildings, missions, battlefields, cemeteries, archeological sites, cultural landscapes, geological features, and trails. The sites provide opportunities for the interpretation of Nez Perce culture, the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the fur trade, missionaries, gold mining and logging, and the Nez Perce Conflict of 1877.

At its 1965 establishment, Nez Perce National Historical Park consisted of 24 sites. In October 1992, Congress passed new legislation expanding the park to include 14 sites in the states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. As part of this expansion, Big Hole National Battlefield, a distinct unit of the National Park Service established in 1910 and designated a national monument in 1939, was added to Nez Perce National Historical Park as an administrative unit.

The 38 units of Nez Perce National Historical Park form a park unit about a people, for all people. It is not one place, but many. It is not one story, but a multitude. It is not one viewpoint, but many more than one. It is often controversial and emotional. Approximately 300,000 visitors annually come to Nez Perce National Historical Park to experience and understand the cultural heritage and history of the Nez Perce as well as to see the scenery along two national historic trails: the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, a unit of the National Park Service, and the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail, which is managed by the U.S. Forest Service in close partnership with Nez Perce National Historical Park. The majority of visitors discover Nez Perce sites as they travel to and from other destinations but are able to discover the many stories and legends inexplicably tied to this landscape.

BIG HOLE NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENTS

In 2017, Big Hole National Battlefield completed a foundation document. Foundation documents provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions by identifying the park purpose, significance, and fundamental resources and values. The Big Hole National Battlefield foundation plan identifies special mandates and administrative commitments and provides an assessment and prioritization of park planning and data needs. Understanding these elements helps set the stage for appropriately integrating accessibility into the overall park priorities and plans. The following foundation elements were identified for Big Hole National Battlefield.

Park Purpose

The purpose of Nez Perce National Historical Park is to facilitate protection and offer interpretation of Nez Perce sites in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Montana, and Wyoming that have exceptional value in commemorating the history of the United States; to preserve and protect tangible resources that document the history of the Nez Perce peoples and the significant role of the Nez Perce in North American history; and to interpret the culture and history of the Nez Perce peoples and promote documentation to enhance that interpretation.

Park Significance

- Nez Perce National Historical Park offers for all Americans an important perspective about our history as a people. It is not the view from the Gateway Arch looking west; it is a view from a homeland looking out, witnessing the march of history and change, yet continuing today and tomorrow to commemorate and celebrate Nez Perce culture and traditions. The following significance statements have been identified for Nez Perce National Historical Park and help explain why it is a *park about a people, for all people*.
- The park preserves a continuum of at least 11,000 years of Nez Perce culture. Its archeological record, museum collection, cultural landscapes, and structures are of national significance. The park contains historical and cultural landmarks that are of legendary significance to the Nez Perce people. The Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail commemorates a significant event in the history of the Nez Perce people.
- Nez Perce National Historical Park offers a unique opportunity for visitors to gain an understanding of present-day Nez Perce culture within and outside the Nez Perce homeland and to learn about important events of the past.
- Past and present Nez Perce culture has been shaped by the geography and the rich and varied resources of the Nez Perce homeland.
- The park includes parts of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and the Lolo Trail, both of which were used by other cultures. The Nez Perce country, Nez Perce

National Historical Park sites, and other American Indian cultures overlap but also differ in many ways.

- The park contains burial sites and sacred sites; it is also a focal point for current Nez Perce culture and allows for the continued traditional use of resources. The park honors the rights retained in the 1855 and 1863 treaties and will fully apply all applicable laws, executive orders, policies, and treaties related to the protection of cultural properties and sacred sites.

ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN

The creation of a transition plan is mandated by regulations under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as they apply to the US Department of the Interior, which states that “No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States . . . shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal assistance.” It specifically requires parks to document architectural barriers, solutions, and time frames for making improvements to increase accessibility.

This Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan has been prepared to provide Big Hole National Battlefield a tool for addressing overall needs associated with making the park accessible when viewed in its entirety. The plan is based on an understanding of key park experiences and establishes a methodical process that identifies, prioritizes, and outlines improvements to park accessibility. The plan proposes strategies for implementation over time and in a manner consistent with park requirements and protocols.

All key park experiences and all park areas were identified to ensure that the plan would consider all park programs. Park areas were then evaluated against measurable criteria to determine which would be assessed for purposes of the plan. Each park area assessed was evaluated to identify barriers that prevented participation in park programs, and the best manner in which access could be improved. In some situations it is not reasonably practicable to create physical or universal design solutions.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

One of the goals of the plan is to increase accessibility awareness and understanding among staff and volunteers of Big Hole National Battlefield. The park superintendent is responsible for implementing and integrating the plan. The park-designated accessibility coordinator ensures adequate communication to park employees and works with the superintendent to follow up on the implementation and relevancy of the plan by documenting improvements and keeping the plan updated.

ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN PROCESS

SELF-EVALUATION

The following graphic illustrates the primary steps in the self-evaluation process. Each step is further described in the following text.



Step 1: Identify Key Park Experiences and Park Areas

Key park experiences are those park experiences that are iconic and important for visitors to understand the purpose and significance of the park unit. They are “musts” for park visitors. Park legislation serves as the foundation for key park experiences, which are identified through park purpose, significance, interpretive themes, and those programs or activities highlighted in park communications. Key park experiences were identified at Big Hole National Battlefield to ensure that planned improvements were prioritized to best increase overall access to the experiences available at Big Hole National Battlefield.

- 1) View the battlefield and become oriented to the tragic events of the Nez Perce Flight of 1877, when they fled through Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana.
- 2) Walk trails that lead to various points of interest.
- 3) Learn about the Nez Perce Flight of 1877 and the larger Nez Perce historic and modern-day story through participation in interpretive and educational programs.
- 4) Experience interpretive exhibits prepared in collaboration with three tribal partners.
- 5) Experience the landscape sights and sounds, a range of emotions, and feel the power of place in the varied sacred sites that inspire understanding of the Nez Perce people.
- 6) Gather at picnic areas.
- 7) Learn about and experience the natural resources on which the Nez Perce relied.

After key park experiences were identified, all park areas were listed. Next, a matrix was developed to determine which key experiences occurred in each park area. A park area is

a place defined by the park for visitor or administrative use. All park areas within Big Hole National Battlefield were evaluated per criteria in step 2, to determine which, if not all, areas would be assessed.

Step 2: Identify Park Areas to be Assessed

The criteria below were used to determine which park areas would receive assessments:

- 1) Level of visitation
- 2) Diversity of services, activities, and programs offered in the area
- 3) Geographic favorability (as a whole, the park areas selected reflect a broad distribution throughout the park)
- 4) Other unique characteristics of the site

The areas selected for assessment provide the best and greatest opportunities for the public to access all key park experiences. These park areas received comprehensive assessments as outlined in steps 3 and 4. Areas not assessed at this time are to be assessed and improved as part of future facility alterations or as a component of a future planned construction project.

Step 3: Identify Services, Activities, and Programs in Each Park Area

Step 3 is the identification of all services, activities, and programs within each park area. This process ensured that during step 4 all visitor amenities within a park area, including both physical and programmatic elements, are reviewed for accessibility. The comprehensive lists of services, activities, and programs were the basis for conducting the six assessments and documenting all elements as they pertain to improving access to park experiences.

Step 4: Conduct Accessibility Assessment

During step 4, an interdisciplinary assessment team identified physical and programmatic barriers and reviewed possible solutions within each park area.

Existing conditions and barriers to services, activities, and programs were discussed on-site by the assessment team. The assessment team then developed a reasonable range of recommended actions for consideration, including solutions that would provide universal access. Barrier-specific solutions, as well as alternative ways to improve access overall, were addressed and included both physical changes and/or the addition of alternate format methods. In some cases, programmatic alternatives needed to be examined because it was not always possible to eliminate physical barriers due to historic designations, environmental concerns, topography, or sensitive cultural and natural resources. Therefore, a full range of programmatic alternatives was considered that would provide access to the key experience for as many visitors as possible. All field results, including collected data, findings, preliminary options, and conceptual site plans, are organized by park area and formalized with recommendations in the transition plan.

TRANSITION PLAN

The following graphic illustrates the primary steps taken in developing the Big Hole National Battlefield transition plan. Public involvement will occur at the draft stage of the transition plan, however it is recommended that at the beginning of the SETP process parks initiate public outreach efforts with organizations representing people with disabilities. The draft plan will be released for a 30-day period to solicit input from the public, including people with disabilities and organizations that represent people with disabilities, to provide comments and thoughts on whether the document represents a reasonable review of the park's barriers and a feasible and appropriate strategy for overcoming the barriers. After the comment period has closed, the park will analyze all comments to determine if any changes to the plan are necessary. Those changes will be made before the implementation strategy is finalized. Once finalized, a notification will be sent to the public to announce the plan's availability.

- This is an image identifying the final fifth step of the self-evaluation and transition plan: drafting the transition plan, conducting public involvement, and finalizing the transition plan.

TRANSITION PLAN



Step 5: Draft and Finalize Transition Plan

The final step of the process is drafting and finalizing the transition plan and implementation strategy. Developing an implementation strategy can be complex because of a large range of coordination efforts associated with scheduling accessibility improvements. All improvement efforts need to consider park activities and operational requirements. The final plan recommends accessibility improvements, identifies improvement time frames, and identifies responsible parties for such actions.

Implementation time frames are based on the park's ability to complete the improvements within normal scheduling of park operations and planned projects. Time frames are categorized as follows:

- 1) **Immediate (0–1 year):** Improvements that are easy, quick, and inexpensive to fix internally. It does not require supplemental NPS project funding.

immediate

- 2) **Short-term (1–3 years):** If the improvement does not require supplemental NPS project funding, park staff will initiate the elimination of the barrier internally; or, if a project is currently scheduled for funding, the improvement will be incorporated into the project and the barrier eliminated.

short-term

- 3) **Mid-term (3–7 years):** The park will develop a proposal and submit it for those projects requiring supplemental NPS project funding in the next annual servicewide budget call. For those projects requiring supplemental NPS project funding, the park will submit a request in the next budget call. Improvements will be scheduled dependent upon the year funding is received. If the improvement does not require supplemental NPS project funding, park staff will continue the elimination of the barrier internally.

mid-term

- 4) **Long-term (>7 years):** The park will eliminate the barrier when other work is taking place as part of facility alterations or as a component of a future planned construction project.

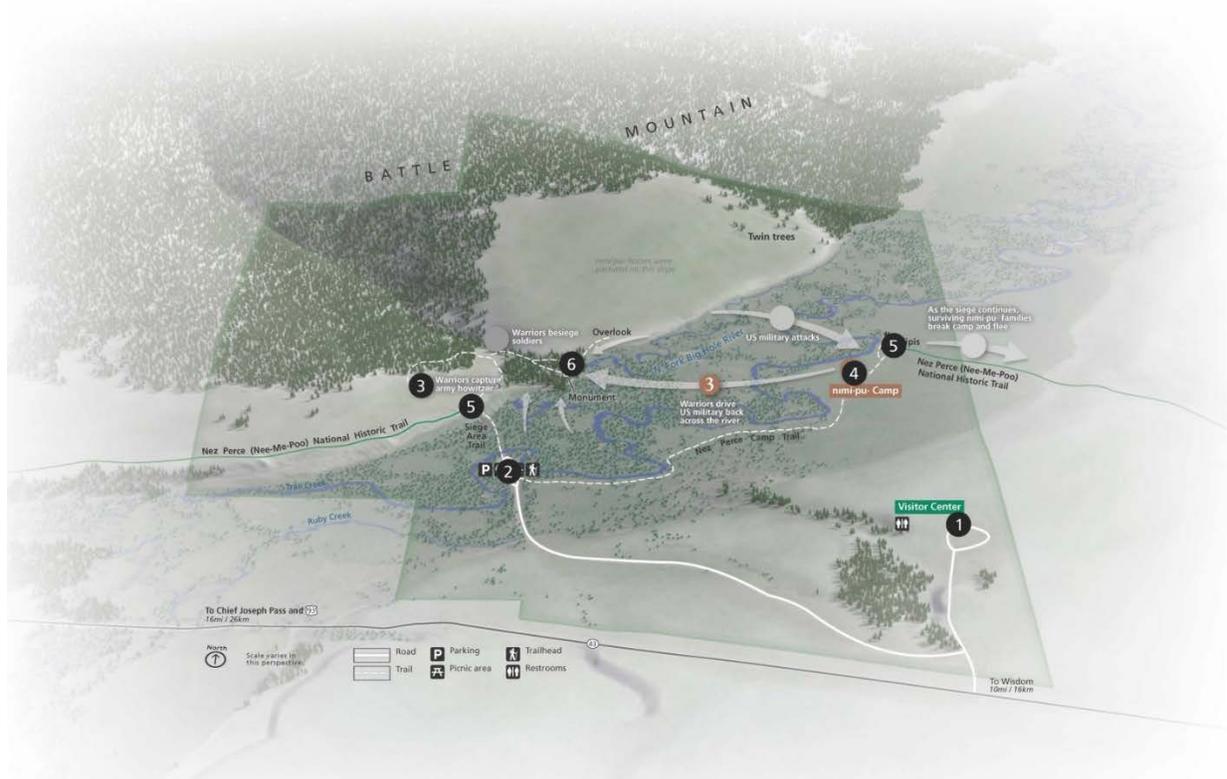
long-term

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR BIG HOLE NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

PARK AREAS ASSESSED

All key park experiences at Big Hole National Battlefield are represented within the park areas assessed. Park areas not included in the park area list will be upgraded to current code requirements when facility alteration and/or new construction is planned. Each park area identified for assessment is addressed during the implementation strategy exercise. Refer to Appendix D: "Park Areas Not Assessed" for a rationale on why park areas were determined to not be assessed in this planning effort. All park areas assessed are listed in alphabetical order and identified in the associated map below.

1. Big Hole National Battlefield Visitor Center
2. Big Hole Trailhead Parking, Trails, and Picnic Area
 - 3. Howitzer Capture Site
 - 4. Nez Perce Camp and Camp Trail
 - 5. Nez Perce National Historic Trail
 - 6. Siege Area Trail



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR PARK AREAS ASSESSED

The Architectural Barrier Act (ABA) of 1968 requires that any building or facility designed, constructed, altered, or leased with federal funds be accessible and usable by any individuals with disabilities. The Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) and the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS) were adopted for federal facilities in 1984 and 2006, respectively. Subsequently in 2011, standards for recreational facilities were incorporated into ABAAS as chapter 10.

Dependent upon the date of a building's construction or alteration, different design standards apply. In conducting the transition plan facility assessments, the 2011 ABAAS standards were used as the on-site assessments. Although a barrier may be identified by the current assessment for improvement, facilities constructed pre-1984, or between 1984 and 2011, are only required to be in compliance with the standard in place at the time of construction and/or alteration. Therefore, they may not be in violation of ABAAS. However, any renovation or upgrade of that building will be required to meet the most current standard at the time of work.

Recommended improvements for park policies, practices, communication and training are included. Park policies are adopted by the park and are those defined courses of action for reaching a desired outcome. Park practices are those habitual and/or customary performances or operations park staff employs for reaching a desired outcome. Communication and training strategies help park staff keep informed on how to best deliver services, activities, and programs to visitors with disabilities in the most appropriate and accessible formats.

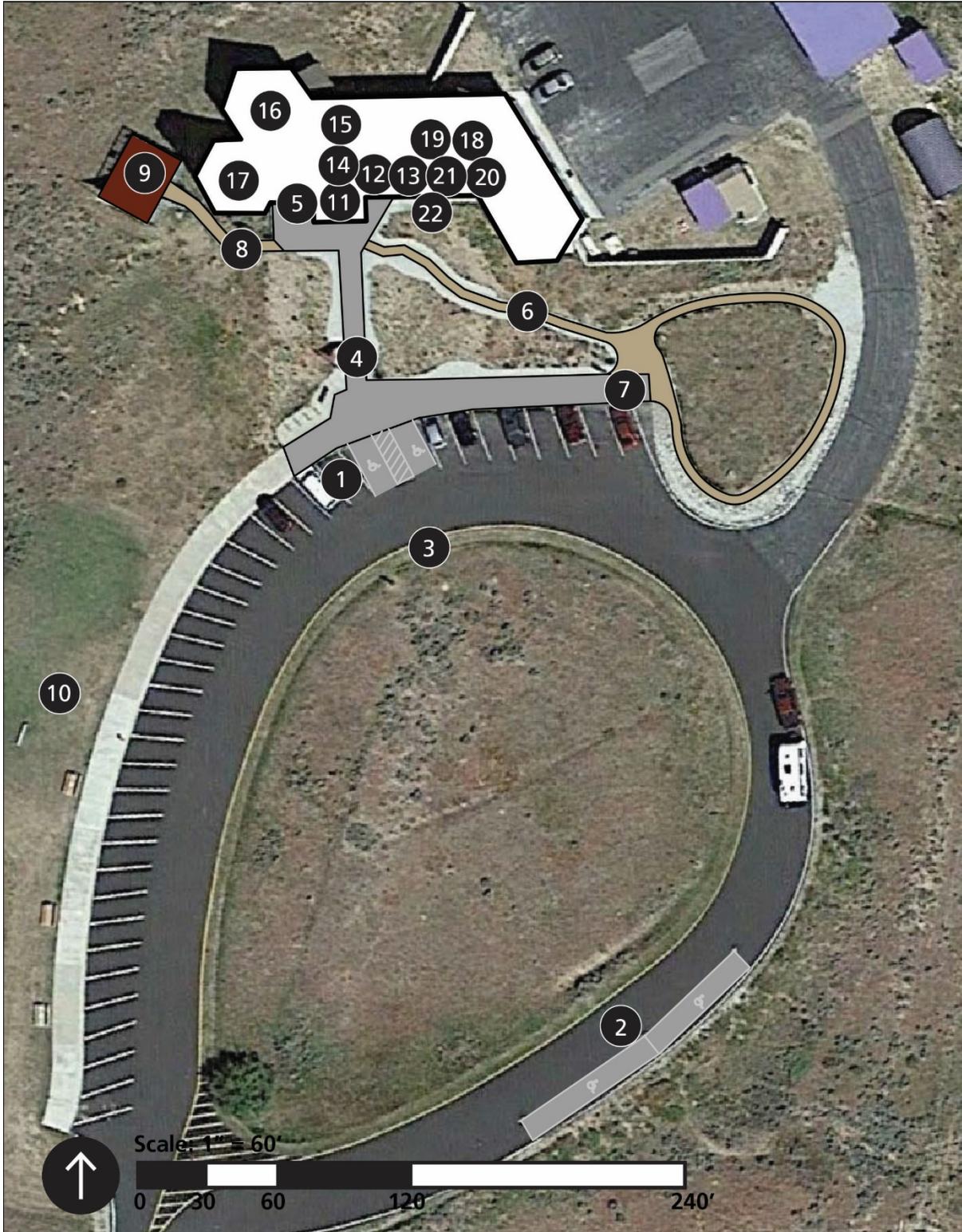
This document does not include strategies for transitioning employee work spaces to be accessible. In the event an employee with a disability is hired by Big Hole National Battlefield, the supervisor and employee will discuss the employee's needs. The supervisor will then determine what accommodations are reasonable within the given work environment and determine a plan of action to meet those needs.

For each park area, site plans illustrate existing conditions and recommended improvements. During the implementation phase, reassessment of the project site conditions and consultation with the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards is necessary to ensure that specific design and programmatic solutions are addressed correctly. Assistance is available at the Denver Service Center and through the Pacific West Region Accessibility Coordinator.

This page intentionally blank.

VISITOR CENTER

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

The activities and programs provided at this area for visitors include; audio-visual programs and videos, tours, educational programs, and special events, site interpretation through exhibits, waysides and theater programs, and shopping. The existing services that support these activities and programs include; accessible route and walking surfaces, benches, bookstores and gift shops, car parking areas, drinking fountains, drop boxes and guest books, hiking trails, information desks and service counters, interior signage, public telephones, recreational vehicle and oversized vehicle parking areas, restrooms, trash and recycling, vending machines, viewing areas, and viewing scopes.

The Visitor Center parking lot includes accessible parking and an access aisle that ramps up onto a wide, flat concrete pedestrian system leading into the Visitor Center entry area, with flag pole, telephone, benches and picnic tables along the route. A concrete path heads westerly from the entrance, passing a wayside, then gently ramps up to a viewing deck that overlooks the battlefield landscape, and is furnished with benches with companion space, a wayside and two viewing scopes, one with forward approach at accessible height. East of the entry, a gently sloped crushed stone path winds through an area planned to be an interpretive native plant and ecosystem trail. Double entry doors with a push entry opens into areas that have generally good circulation space, and include a relief site map with braille and audio elements, seating with companion space, and a wheelchair available for visitor use. An audio tour that describes all objects and exhibits is available, and information and registration counters are dual height, with a forward approach lower counter. The bookstore and exhibit area provides most items within reach range, and several audio exhibits, interactive tables and interpretive panels with forward approach access. Battlefield views are visible throughout. The auditorium plays an open captioned video and has moveable seating. Both restrooms include braille signed entry, and are fully equipped with an accessible stall, child protection seats, baby changing station, forward approach sinks with insulated pipes and hand dryers.

The Big Hole National Battlefield Visitor Center and the exhibits within were designed not only with the intent of conveying a series of events on a timeline but also to evoke emotion and place the visitor in the minds of soldiers, warriors, women, and children both past and present, that were touched by the tragic events at Big Hole. With a few improvements, including text edits on exhibits for readability and contrast, providing alternative formats for exhibit information such as an audio tour, and providing hand-held listening devices that are operable with a closed fist at oral story exhibits, visitors will have access to all of the information the visitor center has strove to convey. Other minor improvements will eliminate or lessen barriers to the services provided, fully supporting the total experience of all visitors to the Big Hole National Battlefield Visitor Center.

The following planned improvements to this park area are:

1 Car Parking Area

- 1) Stripe one van-accessible parking stall 11' minimum in width with a 5' minimum width access aisle or 8' minimum in width with an 8' minimum with access aisle. The stall shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant at 2% maximum slope in all directions. Provide a firm and stable landing with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions at the top of the curb-cut.
- 2) Provide an accessible parking sign at each stall at 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" designation on the sign.

mid-term

2 Oversized Vehicle Parking

- 1) Provide two accessible recreational vehicle parking stall at 16' minimum width. The surface shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant, with a 2% maximum slope in any direction. If necessary for drainage, slopes up to 5% are allowable on non-paved surfaces.
- 2) Install accessible parking signage to be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign.
- 3) Establish an accessible route between the stall, restrooms, and picnic facilities.

mid-term

3 Courtesy Dog Station

- 1) Relocate courtesy dog station to accessible location that provides a firm and stable forward approach at 30" by 48" minimum with a 2% slope in all directions OR provide accessible route and clear floor space at existing dog station.

short-term

4 Accessible Route and Walking Surfaces

- 1) Improve the route between accessible parking and the visitor center to be firm, stable, and slip resistant, with a 2% maximum slope and a 5% maximum running slope.
- 2) Provide an access route landing and walk from the emergency exit door to a safe distance from the building in the event of an emergency. Access routes can have up to a 5% maximum running slope and a 2% maximum cross slope with a minimum of 36" clear width on a firm and stable surface.

mid-term

5

Benches

- 1) Provide a firm and stable surface and a minimum of 36" x 48" of clear ground space for either a forward or parallel approach.
- 2) Best practice is to include back rests and arm rests on benches for ease of use.

short-term

6 Accessible Route and Walking Surfaces (nature trail)

- 1) Provide a firm and stable surface and adjust the cross slope of the interpretation path to be 2%.
- 2) Bevel the concrete or raise the crusher fines to be a maximum of 1/2" at the threshold.

short-term

7 Public Telephones

- 3) Replace the public telephone with one complying with ABAAS 704.
- 1) Provide TTY capabilities either as part of the phone unit or affixed adjacent to the unit.
- 2) Add signage indicating that phone is inoperable except for emergencies OR replace coin-operated phone with accessible emergency call box.

immediate

8 Outdoor Recreational Access Route (to viewing deck)

- 1) Establish a firm and stable outdoor recreation access route compliant with ABAAS 1016 between the visitor center and the viewing platform at 36" minimum width with a 2% maximum cross slope and a 5% maximum running slope wherever possible.
- 2) Improve all waysides to have 24-point minimum text, avoid the use of italics and all caps, and use high contrast images and text.
- 3) Provide a firm and stable surface and forward approach at the wayside, 30" by 48" minimum at 2% maximum slope in all directions.

short-term (8.1,3)

mid-term (8.2)

9 Viewing Deck

- 1) Alter the railing to provide distinct accessible viewing spaces. Railing can be a maximum of 32" in height at all viewing spaces.
- 2) Relocate the wayside so that its bottom edge is a maximum of 30" above the ground.
- 3) Develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) to ensure that sufficient clear space (36") is provided between movable benches and an accessible route is provided to the viewing scope.

- 4) Provide handrail gripping surfaces with an outside diameter between 1 1/4" and 2".

short-term

10 Accessible Route and Walking Surfaces (teepee and picnic site)

- 1) Provide an accessible route to the teepee interpretive site and picnic areas OR move teepee to an alternate location along an accessible route. Accessible routes can be up to a 5% maximum running slope and a 2% maximum cross slope with a minimum of 36" clear width on a firm and stable surface.

long-term

11 Guest Book

- 1) Provide an unobstructed side approach to the guest book that is a minimum of 30" by 48" with a 2% maximum slope in all directions. The registry table must be between 28" and 34" from the finish floor.

short-term

12 Brochure Rack and Information Station

- 1) Adjust the top of the brochure rack to be within reach range (48" maximum) or provide an equal distribution of informational material within reach range.
- 2) Provide information stations with leading edges a maximum of 27" from the finish floor or that protrude no more than 4" horizontally into the circulation path.
- 3) Improve all information panels to have 24-point minimum text, avoid the use of italics and all caps, and use high contrast images and text.

immediate (13.1)

short-term (13.2,3)

13 Information Panels

- 1) Improve all information panels to have 24-point minimum text, avoid the use of italics and all caps, and use high contrast images and text.

short-term

14 Automatic Door Opener

- 1) Provide tactile signage adjacent to the latch side of the entrance door with the base of the lowest tactile characters 48" minimum in height above the finish floor and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" minimum in height above the finish floor.
- 2) Add a bevel to reduce door threshold to a maximum of 1/4" or 1/2" with a beveled edge.

immediate

15

Bookstore and Gift Shop

- 1) Provide a variety of items for sale within reach range (48" maximum) and add 'please request assistance' signs for high-to-reach items.
- 2) Develop standard operating procedures to ensure that sufficient clear space (36") is provided between movable displays. Ensure displays provide appropriate turning space.

immediate

16 Visitor Center Exhibits

- 1) Provide alternative formats of exhibit information (audio tour, large print transcripts, and Braille).
- 2) Adjust tactile models to be easily read by visitors with color-blindness.
- 3) Develop standard operating procedures to provide visitor center staff training for use of accessible media.
- 4) Provide a minimum of 30" by 48" clear floor space at the donation box OR relocate donation box to an accessible area.
- 5) Improve all interpretive panels to have Braille support or 24-point minimum text, avoid the use of italics and all caps, and use high contrast images and text.
- 6) Provide hand-held listening units that are operable with a closed fist.
- 7) Provide Braille support and large font text for touch-table ID signs.

short-term (16.3)

mid-term (16.1,4,7)

long-term (16.2,5-6)

17 Amphitheater

- 1) Provide two companion seating spaces by removing chairs at back, middle or front row aisles.
- 2) Establish a room plan standard operating procedure for integrated seating within the theater.
- 3) Indicate accessible seating spaces with placards.
- 4) Provide at least 36" of circulation space around the perimeter of the theater.
- 5) Provide signage indicating that the howitzer on display can be touched.
- 6) As a best practice, provide additional lighting (such as recessed floor lighting).

immediate

18 Restroom (Men's)

- 1) Provide tactile signage adjacent to the latch side of the restroom door with the base of the lowest tactile characters 48" minimum in height above the finish floor and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" minimum in height above the finish floor.
- 2) Provide doors that are operable with a closed fist and no more than 5 pounds of force.
- 3) Provide bathroom stall handles that are operable with a closed fist.

short-term (18.1)

mid-term (18.2,3)

19 Restroom (Women's)

- 1) Provide tactile signage adjacent to the latch side of the restroom door with the base of the lowest tactile characters 48" minimum in height above the finish floor and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" minimum in height above the finish floor.
- 2) Provide doors that are operable with a closed fist and no more than 5 pounds of force.
- 3) Provide bathroom stall handles that are operable with a closed fist. Relocate the toilet paper dispenser to be between 7" and 9" in front of the toilet measured to the centerline of the dispenser, with the dispenser outlet between 15" and 19" above the finish floor.

short-term (20.1)

mid-term (20.2,3,4)

20 Vending Machines

- 1) Replace existing vending machine with one that complies with ABAAS F228 and 308-309. The maximum reach range is 48" from the finish floor.

mid-term

21 Drinking Fountain

- 1) Provide one additional standing-height drinking fountain with a spout outlet between 38" and 43" above the finish floor or ground.

mid-term

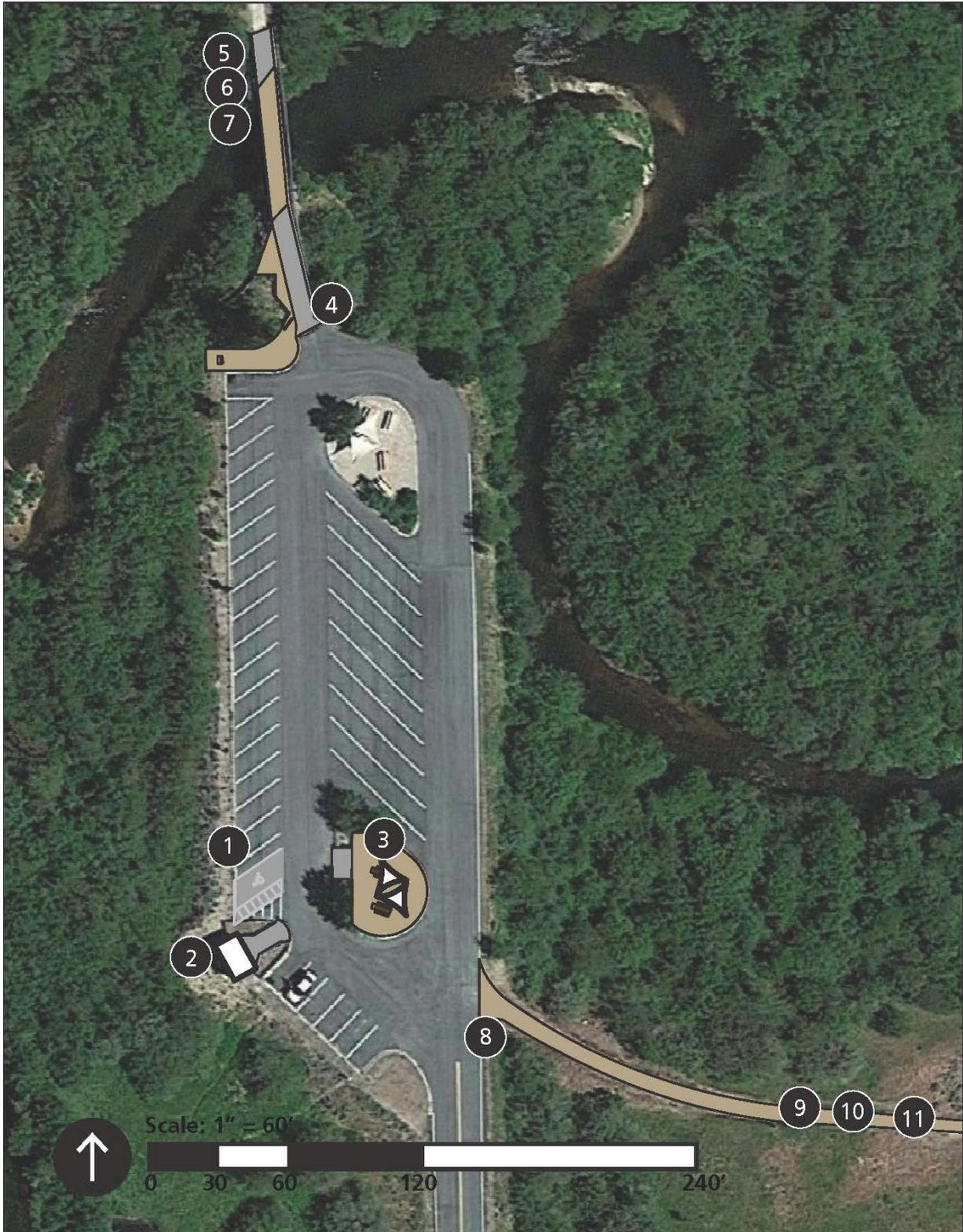
22 Emergency Exit Door

- 1) Adjust the emergency exit doorway to have a minimum clear width of 32".
- 2) Provide tactile signage adjacent to the latch side of the emergency exit door with the base of the lowest tactile characters 48" minimum in height above the finish floor and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" minimum in height above the finish floor.

long-term

PICNIC AREA AND TRAILHEADS

Site Plan



Implementation Strategy

The activities and programs provided at this area for visitors include ranger-led programs, site interpretation through waysides and a numbered trail guide, picnicking, fishing, and hiking. The existing services that support these activities and programs include trailhead parking that provides standard car, oversize vehicle and accessible parking, outdoor recreation access routes to picnic areas, trailheads and viewing areas, trailheads, trails, picnicking facilities, interpretive waysides, a trail guide, benches and restrooms.

Restrooms are accessed via a concrete curb cut and pad. Both picnic areas are covered by shade sails and include moveable tables on a flat, crushed stone surface. The picnic area closest to accessible parking has a curb cut entry. The trailhead to the Siege Trail and to the Howitzer Capture site and Battlefield Overlook includes a wayside and information panel and bench at the entrance. A wide, flat concrete pathway meets up to a wooden bridge river crossing and continues onto a firm and stable, natural earth trail with a mown grass strip down the centerline. A sign with trail lengths and a trail guide box are posted along the edge of the trail. Both trails are steep and uneven, and both the Capture Site and Overlook have impressive views of the battlefield and valley.

One of the most sacred of locations within this site is the Nez Perce Camp. The park has put forward a substantial effort to provide visitor access to the camp and the opportunity to quietly and respectfully reflect on the events that transpired. A wide trail composed of crushed stone begins with gentle to moderate slopes, then the trail continues within flat conditions. All cross slopes are less than 2%. Large print trail guides are provided just off the improved trail. The trail changes from compacted crushed stone to a flat but rough dirt road bed with grassy outcrops throughout the trail centerline. These trail conditions continue up to the Nez Perce Campsite, where the trail grass is mowed. Numbered guide rocks are located just off the trail within the grassy meadow edge. Benches and waysides are provided off the trail and within the camp.

Most recommended changes focus on the accessibility of the trailhead by providing improved trail conditions and information as well as minor improvements to slopes, surfaces, and wayside approaches along the trail. While the nature of the Siege Trail remains steep in some locations as it traverses battle locations along the hillside, this plan identifies both physical and programmatic improvements including improved trailhead signage, trail slope and surface improvements, bridge planking improvements, and the provision of audio tours as an alternative to the printed numbered trail guides. The picnicking area including the parking area and restrooms, needs very few improvements to make the site and the experiences connected to it more accessible to all visitors.

The following planned improvements to this park area are:

1 Car Parking Area

- 1) Stripe one van-accessible parking stall 11' minimum in width with a 5' minimum width access aisle or 8' minimum in width with an 8' minimum width access aisle. The stall shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Provide an accessible parking sign at the stall at 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" designation on the sign.
- 3) Ensure that drainage from the parking lot does not create obstructions within the access aisles.

mid-term

2 Restrooms

- 1) Provide soap dispensers that protrude a maximum of 4" into the circulation path.

immediate

3 Picnic Facilities

- 1) Improve 20% of the picnic tables to be accessible (a minimum of two), with integrated wheelchair seating spaces 30" by 48" minimum, extended tabletop surfaces with 27" minimum height and 11" minimum depth knee clearance, and 36" minimum clear space at a 2% maximum slope in all directions around all usable sides of the tables. Disperse accessible picnic tables to provide different types of picnicking experiences.
- 2) Provide a firm and stable landing with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions at the top of the curb-cut.
- 3) Create standard operating procedures to ensure that at least 36" of clearance is provided between movable picnic tables.
- 4) Improve surface to be firm and stable.
- 5) Relocate the trash and recycling receptacles to accessible locations with firm and stable approaches. Provide a minimum clear space of 36" by 48" for a forward approach or 30" by 60" for a side approach with a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 6) To the extent practicable, improve or replace at least two trash and recycling receptacles so that they are operable with a closed fist and 5 pounds of force or less.

immediate

(3.1-2,5)

short-term

(3.2,4,6)

4 Trailhead Signage (at Siege Trail)

- 1) Improve the surface at the trailhead sign to be firm and stable with a 30" by 48" minimum for a forward or parallel approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Provide trailhead signage at the entrance to the trail that contains details of all trail conditions (including holes burrowed by animals), trail length, surface type, typical and maximum running and cross slopes, and typical and minimum tread width. Other recommended information includes providing a description of potential obstacles, distances to experiences and/or features, and graphics, such as a cross-section that demonstrates slope conditions.
- 3) Improve all signs to have 24-point minimum text, avoid the use of italics and all caps, and use high contrast images, symbols, and text.

short-term (4.3)

mid-term (4.1-2)

5 Hiking Trail (Howitzer Capture Site and Battlefield Overlook)

- 1) Reroute the trail to comply with ABAAS 1017, OR provide alternative programming such as waysides and audio recordings.

long-term

6 Hiking Trail (Siege Trail)

- 1) Provide a firm and stable surface a minimum of 36" wide and devoid of obstacles over 2" high.
- 2) Provide a turning space of a minimum of 60" radius at all overlooks. Turning spaces shall be a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 3) Remove all protruding objects such as tree limbs from the clear tread width to be compliant with ABAAS 304.
- 4) Provide alternate program formats for trail guide such as audio recordings.
- 5) Re-deck bridge so that openings (gaps) are a maximum of 1/2".

short-term (6.3)

mid-term (6.1,5)

long-term (6.2,4)

7 Benches (along Siege Trail)

- 1) Provide a firm and stable clear ground space at the bench, 36" by 48" minimum.
- 2) As best practice, adjust seat heights to be between 17" and 19".

long-term

8 Trailhead Signage (Nez Perce Camp Trail)

- 1) Improve the surface at the trailhead sign to be firm and stable with a 30" by 48" minimum for a forward or parallel approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Provide trailhead signage at the entrance to the trail that contains details of all trail conditions, trail length, surface type, typical and maximum running and cross slopes, and typical and minimum tread width. Other recommended information includes providing a description of potential obstacles such as burrowing holes, distances to experiences and/or features, and graphics, such as a cross-section that demonstrates slope conditions.
- 3) Improve all signs to have 24-point minimum text, avoid the use of italics and all caps, and use high contrast images, symbols, and text.

mid-term

9 Hiking Trail (Nez Perce Camp Trail)

- 1) Provide edge protection along sections of trail with steep drop-offs.
- 2) Improve the surface at the map box to be firm and stable with a 30" by 48" minimum for a forward approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 3) Provide alternate program formats for trail guide such as audio recordings.
- 4) Provide a firm and stable surface a minimum of 36" wide and devoid of obstacles over 2" high.

mid-term

10 Benches (along Nez Perce Camp Trail)

- 1) Provide a firm and stable companion space, 36" by 48" minimum.
- 2) As best practice, adjust seat heights to be between 17" and 19".

mid-term

11 Interpretive Wayside (along Nez Perce Camp Trail)

- 1) Relocate waysides to accessible locations that provide forward approaches 30" by 48" minimum, OR provide accessible routes to each wayside and clear ground spaces at each wayside.
- 2) Improve all waysides to have 24-point minimum text, avoid the use of italics and all caps, and use high contrast images and text.

mid-term

This page intentionally blank.

BIG HOLE NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK POLICIES, PRACTICES, COMMUNICATION, AND TRAINING

Park Features



Implementation Strategy

Park policies and practices are specific to the park unit and provide guidance for reaching desired outcomes. Park policies are defined courses of action adopted by the park, while park practices are those habitual and/or customary performances of operations that the park employs.

Posting and Publications

1 Publications

- 1) Provide Braille publications and tactile wayfinding maps.
- 2) Provide audio described publications.
- 3) Provide large-print format publications. Use a minimum readable typeface at 18-point font. Align flush left and rag right. Avoid hyphens. Use black or white type color and avoid red text. Avoid italicized and underlined text. Provide graphics with at least 70% contrast.
- 4) Add accessibility information in all publications, as they relate to services, activities, and programs.

mid-term

Staff Training and Park Protocols

2 Accessibility Awareness Training

- 1) Provide ongoing accessibility awareness training for all staff, including permanent and nonpermanent employees.

immediate

3 Accessible Facilities and Maintenance Training

- 1) Provide ongoing training for maintenance staff on planning, maintaining and constructing accessible facilities, including, but not limited to, restrooms, walks and trails, door pressure requirements, assistive devices, accessible routes, and universal design principles.

immediate

4 Accessible Interpretive Training

- 1) Provide ongoing training for the interpretation and education division.
- 2) Training may include, but is not limited to, how to evaluate programs for accessibility compliance; which websites offer more information; information about service animals; information about Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMDs); how and when to offer live audio description programming; accessibility specifications for interpretive tactile models and maps; what

assistive technologies are available; universal design principles; visitor services and communication about accessibility. It is also important to provide regular and ongoing visitor information and interpretive staff training in use of, distribution, and procedures for wheelchairs and assistive technology—assistive listening devices, T-coil hearing loops, neck loops, and text telephone machines.

immediate

5 **Emergency Preparedness**

- 1) Develop, distribute, and practice standard operating procedures for assisting people with disabilities in the case of an emergency.

immediate

6 **Movable Seating**

- 1) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures for movable cubicles and conference rooms, so there is adequate clear space and accessible routes to all elements in a room or building. Post a map in an area with accessible layout and instructions for use of the space.
- 2) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures for movable seating arrangements and moving things to create an accessible route and maintain integrated accessible seating. Post a map in an area with accessible layout and instructions for use of the space.

immediate

7 **Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices**

- 1) Provide guidance outlining use of other power-driven mobility devices within the park.

Place Holder

8 **Wheelchairs**

- 1) Provide a standard operating procedure or guidance for checking out and returning wheelchairs.
- 2) Provide a standard operating procedure or guidance on protocol for pre- and post-inspecting, cleaning, and maintenance of wheelchairs.
- 3) Inform visitors and program participants that wheelchairs are available upon request. Provide information on wheelchair availability in all publications and on signage. Inform visitors using services, activities, and programs that wheelchairs are available upon request.

immediate (8.3)

short-term (8.1,2)

Audio and Visual Programs

9 Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs)

- 1) Provide ALDs for educational programs, and guided tours with audio components.
- 2) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures or guidance for checking out and returning assistive listening devices.
- 3) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures or guidance describing protocol for pre -and post-inspection of the devices and for cleaning and maintaining all devices.
- 4) Provide signage and information where programs are offered stating device availability. Verbally inform visitors and program participants that auxiliary aids are available. Add information to all publications and communications stating that assistive listening devices are available and provide information on how they can be attained.

short-term

10 Live Audio Description

- 1) Provide live audio descriptions on guided interpretive tours when needed.

short-term

11 Open Captioning and Audio Description

- 1) Provide audio description of all images shown on the videos.

long-term

12 T-Coil Hearing Loops or Neck Loops

- 1) Purchase T-coil hearing loops and neck loops. Inform visitors and program participants that auxiliary aids are available and provide information on check-out procedures. Post signage in appropriate locations and in all publications specifying availability of services.
- 2) Develop and distribute standard operating procedure or guidance for checking out and returning T-coil hearing loops and neck loops.
- 3) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures or guidance for pre-and post-inspection of T-coil hearing loops and neck loops and cleaning and maintenance of all devices.

short-term

13 Text Telephone Machines

- 1) Provide a TTY machine at all locations where there is a public telephone.
- 2) Include TTY number on publications and on the park's website with the park contact information and phone number
- 3) Provide a standard operating procedure or guidance describing use and protocol for pre- and post-inspection of TTY machines. Address cleaning and maintenance of all devices.

immediate (13.2)

short-term (13.3)

long-term (13.1)

Visitor Information

14 Communication

- 1) Provide park e-mail address and telephone number on the park's website and in publications for questions: [BIHO Visitor Information@nps.gov](mailto:BIHO_Visitor_Information@nps.gov).
- 2) Develop an accessibility guide for Big Hole National Battlefield that outlines accessible services, activities, and programs.

short-term (14.1)

mid-term (14.2)

15 Outreach

- 1) Conduct outreach via social media (Pinterest, Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, etc.) to describe accessible programs, services, and activities available at the park.
- 2) Conduct outreach via traditional media and other advertising methods to describe accessible programs, services, and activities available at the park.
- 3) Contact groups with disabilities to inform them about the accessible programs, services, and activities that have become available at the park as solutions are implemented.
- 4) Outreach to and engage groups with disabilities to determine appropriate ways to involve them in park accessibility improvement projects as they occur (case-by-case basis).

short-term

16 Signage

- 1) Provide signage at visitor center that states availability of accessible alternative formats.

short-term

Tours, Programs, and Special Events

17 Tours (Guided and Self-Guided), Educational Programs, and Special Events

- 1) Upon request, provide alternative formats such as trail information in large print; audio descriptions for tours; educational programs; or special events. Provide alternative formats on park website and in publications at visitor center.
- 2) Provide information on the physical conditions of the tour, education program, or special event (e.g., number of steps, slopes, other barriers that exist, etc.) on-site, in a publication and/or on a website.
- 3) Provide designated stopping points or resting areas for the tour, education program, or special event, with 2% maximum cross and running slopes, firm and stable surfaces, and a minimum 30" by 48" clear space.

mid-term

18 Sign Language Interpreters

- 1) Develop the process for requesting sign language interpreters. Provide sign language interpreters within five days of request.
- 2) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures for contacting and scheduling sign language interpreters.

short-term

19 Special Events

- 1) Provide a system for people to call in and request a sign language interpreter within five days of service. Provide assistive listening devices and a T-coil or neck loop system. Post signage indicating devices and systems are available for special events. Provide large print of any handouts or waivers being provided.
- 2) Provide information on how people can contact the park for accommodations for special events, and release event announcements in a variety of accessible methods (e.g., large-print flyers, electronic accessible PDFs, etc.)
- 3) Develop and distribute a standard operating procedure on how to post accessibility information and how to request accommodations on event announcements.

short-term

This page intentionally blank.

CONCLUSION

Big Hole National Battlefield is committed to providing all visitors the opportunity to connect with and learn about the park's unique natural, cultural, and recreational resources. Accessibility improvements identified in the Big Hole National Battlefield Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan will make it easier for individuals with cognitive, hearing, vision, and mobility disabilities to discover, understand, and enjoy the range of experiences available at the park. Implementation of the plan will ensure that Big Hole National Battlefield will continue to work toward accommodating all park visitors while sustaining its legacy to preserve, protect, and interpret the culture and history that outlines the pivotal role of the Big Hole Battle in the past and the perseverance of the Nez Perce in the present and into the future.

The Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan for Big Hole National Battlefield is a living document intended to be used as a guiding reference for the park as it implements accessibility upgrades and documents accessibility accomplishments. As barriers to accessibility are removed and/or improved, the changes will be updated in this plan. The park will conduct periodic reviews to evaluate and update conditions to reflect accomplishments and to document new programs or other changes that occur over time. Revisions to the plan may include conducting additional assessments for areas not originally conducted as a part of this plan.

The primary goal of the transition plan is to define key park experiences and document modifications needed to provide independent program participation for the widest range of disabilities possible. As the park works towards its accessibility goals and makes the implementation strategy a reality, both physical and programmatic accessibility will improve across the breadth of key park experiences at Big Hole National Battlefield.

For visitors with mobility disabilities, access will be improved from the moment they enter the park. Facilities, as well as numerous programs, services, and activities the park offers will be more universally accessible. Experiences such as hiking along historic trails and understanding the events of the Nez Perce Flight of 1877, experiencing the introspection and emotion of sacred sites, picnicking with friends and family, and learning about the human history and environment of the park will be enhanced.

Park programs will be created and delivered for all visitors, including visitors with mild to severe disabilities impacting their mobility, vision, hearing, and/or cognitive abilities. Ranger led walks/talks, visitor center exhibits, films, trail waysides, and all materials that interpret park resources to the public will be provided in formats that allow visitors with disabilities to participate fully. Some of those formats include, but are not limited to: large-print transcripts for printer materials, audio description for exhibits and films, assistive listening devices and sign language interpreters for ranger-led tours and programs, T-coil hearing loops for park films.

Over time, the results of this collective effort will make Big Hole National Battlefield a truly welcoming and accommodating place for all visitors and will provide equal opportunity to access the many places, resources, stories, and experiences the park has to offer.

APPENDIX A: ACCESSIBILITY LAWS, STANDARDS, GUIDELINES, AND NPS POLICIES APPLICABLE TO BIG HOLE NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

As a national park, Big Hole National Battlefield is required to comply with specific federal laws that mandate that discriminatory barriers be removed to provide equal opportunities to persons with disabilities. The following laws, design guidelines, and Director's Orders specifically pertain to Big Hole National Battlefield.

LAWS AND STANDARDS

A law is a principle and regulation established in a community by some authority and applicable to its people, whether in the form of legislation or of custom and policies recognized and enforced by judicial decision. A standard is something considered by an authority or by general consent as a basis of comparison; an approved model. It is a specific low-level mandatory control that helps enforce and support a law.

Architectural Barriers Act of 1968

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-aba-standards/guide-to-the-aba-standards>

The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 requires physical access to facilities designed, built, altered, or leased with federal funds. The Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) are the design guidelines used as the basis for enforcement of the law. The UFAS regulations were adopted in 1984. Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS) were revised and adopted in November 2005. Four federal agencies are responsible for the standards: the Department of Defense, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the General Services Administration, and the US Postal Service. The United States Access Board was created to enforce the Architectural Barriers Act, which it does through the investigation of complaints. Anyone concerned about the accessibility of a facility that may have received federal funds can easily file a complaint with the United States Access Board.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.550>

To the extent that section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 applies to departments and agencies of the federal government, the parks operated by the National Park Service are subject to the provisions of that statute. As will be discussed in the following text, both section 504 and the Architectural Barriers Act require the application of stringent access standards to new construction and the alteration of existing facilities. The Rehabilitation, Comprehensive Services, and Developmental Disabilities Amendments of 1978 (PL 95-602) extends the scope of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (PL 93-112) to include Executive Branch agencies of the federal government. As amended, section 504 states:

Section 504: No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States, as defined in Section 7 (6), shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance or under any program or activity conducted by any Executive agency or by the United States Postal Service. The head of each such agency shall promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the amendments to this section made by the Rehabilitation, Comprehensive Services, and Developmental Disabilities Act of 1978. Copies of any proposed regulation shall be submitted to appropriate authorizing committees of Congress, and such regulation may take effect no earlier than the thirtieth day after the date on which such regulation is so submitted to such committees.

As noted above, section 504 and the Architectural Barriers Act govern new construction and alterations. However, as a civil rights law, section 504 goes further. Unlike the construction-driven ABA mandates, section 504 also requires covered entities to consider the accessibility of programs, services, and activities.

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

<http://www.section508.gov/>

In 1998, Congress amended the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to require federal agencies to make their electronic and information technology (EIT) accessible to people with disabilities. Inaccessible technology interferes with an ability to obtain and use information quickly and easily. Section 508 was enacted to eliminate barriers in information technology, open new opportunities for people with disabilities, and encourage development of technologies that will help achieve these goals. The law applies to all federal agencies when they develop, procure, maintain, or use electronic and information technology. Under section 508 (29 USC §794 d), agencies must give disabled employees and members of the public access to information that is comparable to access available to others. It is recommended that you review the laws and regulations discussed in the following sections to further your understanding about section 508 and how you can support implementation.

Accessibility Standards for Outdoor Developed Areas

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/recreation-facilities/outdoor-developed-areas/final-guidelines-for-outdoor-developed-areas>

Achieving accessibility in outdoor environments has long been a source of inquiry because of challenges and constraints posed by terrain, the degree of development, construction practices and materials, and other factors. The new provisions address access to trails, picnic and camping areas, viewing areas, beach access routes, and other components of outdoor developed areas on federal sites when newly built or altered. They also provide exceptions for situations where terrain and other factors make compliance impracticable. In 2013, this final rule amended the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines by adding scoping and technical requirements for camping facilities, picnic facilities, viewing areas, trails, and beach access routes constructed or altered by or on behalf of federal agencies. The final rule ensures that these facilities are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. The final rule applies to the following federal agencies and their components that administer outdoor areas developed for recreational purposes: Department of Agriculture (Forest Service); Department of Defense (Army Corps of Engineers); and Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service). The final rule also applies to nonfederal entities that construct or alter recreation facilities on federal land on behalf of the federal agencies pursuant to a concession contract, partnership agreement, or similar arrangement.

Accessibility Standards for Shared Use Paths

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/streets-sidewalks/shared-use-paths>

Shared use paths provide a means of off-road transportation and recreation for various users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, skaters, and others, including people with disabilities. In its rulemaking on public rights-of-way and on trails and other outdoor developed areas, comments from the public urged the board to address access to shared use paths because they are distinct from sidewalks and trails. Shared-use paths, unlike most sidewalks, are physically separated from streets by an open space or barrier. They also differ from trails because they are designed not just for recreation purposes but for transportation as well.

In response, the board is supplementing its rulemaking on public rights-of-way to also cover shared-use paths. The proposed rights-of-way guidelines, which address access to sidewalks, streets, and other pedestrian facilities, provide requirements for pedestrian access routes, including specifications for route width, grade, cross slope, surfaces, and other features. The board proposes to apply these and other relevant requirements to shared-use paths as well. This supplementary rulemaking also would add provisions tailored to shared-use paths into the rights-of-way guidelines.

Draft Accessibility Standards for Public Rights-of-Way

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/streets-sidewalks/public-rights-of-way>

Sidewalks, street crossings, and other elements in the public right-of-way can pose challenges to accessibility. The United States Access Board's ADA and ABA Accessibility Guidelines focus mainly on facilities on sites. While they address certain features common to public sidewalks, such as curb ramps, further guidance is necessary to address conditions and constraints unique to public rights-of-way.

The board is developing new guidelines for public rights-of-way that will address various issues, including access for blind pedestrians at street crossings, wheelchair access to on-street parking, and various constraints posed by space limitations, roadway design practices, slope, and terrain. The new guidelines will cover pedestrian access to sidewalks and streets, including crosswalks, curb ramps, street furnishings, pedestrian signals, parking, and other components of public rights-of-way. The board's aim in developing these guidelines is to ensure that access for persons with disabilities is provided wherever a pedestrian way is newly built or altered, and that the same degree of convenience, connection, and safety afforded the public generally is available to pedestrians with disabilities. Once these guidelines are adopted by the Department of Justice, they will become enforceable standards under ADA Title II.

Effective Communication

<http://www.ada.gov/effective-comm.htm>

People who have vision, hearing, or speech disabilities ("communication disabilities") use different ways to communicate. For example, people who are blind may give and receive information audibly rather than in writing and people who are deaf may give and receive information through writing or sign language rather than through speech. The ADA requires that Title II entities (state and local governments) and Title III entities (businesses and nonprofit organizations that serve the public) communicate effectively with people who have communication disabilities. The goal is to ensure that communication with people with disabilities is equally effective as communication with people without disabilities.

- The purpose of the effective communication rules is to ensure that the person with a vision, hearing, or speech disability can communicate with, receive information from, and convey information to, the covered entity.
- Covered entities must provide auxiliary aids and services when needed to communicate effectively with people who have communication disabilities.
- The key to communicating effectively is to consider the nature, length, complexity, and context of the communication and the person's normal method(s) of communication.

The rules apply to communicating with the person who is receiving the covered entity's goods or services, as well as with that person's parent, spouse, or companion in appropriate circumstances.

Reasonable Accommodations

<http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/disability-employment/reasonable-accommodations/>

Federal agencies are required by law to provide reasonable accommodation to qualified employees with disabilities. The federal government may provide reasonable accommodation based on appropriate requests (unless so doing will result in undue hardship to the agencies). For more information, see the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's [Enforcement Guidance: Reasonable Accommodation and Undue Hardship under the Americans with Disabilities Act \(external link\)](#).

Reasonable accommodations can apply to the duties of the job and/or where and how job tasks are performed. The accommodation should make it easier for the employee to successfully perform the duties of the position. Examples of reasonable accommodations include providing interpreters, readers, or other personal assistance; modifying job duties; restructuring work sites; providing flexible work schedules or work sites (i.e., telework); and providing accessible technology or other workplace adaptive equipment. [Telework \(external link\)](#) provides employees additional flexibility by allowing them to work at a geographically convenient alternative worksite, such as home or a telecenter, on an average of at least one day per week.

Requests are considered on a case-by-case basis. To request reasonable accommodations:

- Look at the vacancy announcement.
- Work directly with person arranging the interviews.
- Contact the agency [Selective Placement Program Coordinator](#).
- Contact the hiring manager and engage in an interactive process to clarify what the person needs and identify reasonable accommodations.
- Make an oral or written request; no special language is needed.

Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices

<http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/ADAREgs2010.htm>

The definition and regulation to permit the use of mobility devices has been amended. The rule adopts a two-tiered approach to mobility devices, drawing distinctions between wheelchairs and other power-driven mobility devices such as the Segway Human Transporter. Wheelchairs (and other devices designed for use by people with mobility impairments) must be permitted in all areas open to pedestrian use. Other power-driven mobility devices must be permitted for use unless the covered entity can demonstrate that such use would fundamentally alter its programs, services, or activities, create a direct threat, or create a safety hazard. The rule also lists factors to consider in making this determination.

Service Animals

<http://www.nps.gov/goga/planyourvisit/service-animals.htm>

[The following is excerpted from the Department of Justice and Americans with Disabilities Act Revised Regulations \(effective 3/15/2011\).](#)

34.104 Definitions: Service animal means any dog [or miniature horse as outlined in the following text] that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the handler's disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing nonviolent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.

- a. General. Generally, a public entity shall modify its policies, practices, or procedures to permit the use of a service animal by an individual with a disability.
- b. Exceptions. A public entity may ask an individual with a disability to remove a service animal from the premises if-
 - (1) The animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it; or
 - (2) The animal is not housebroken.

- c. If an animal is properly excluded. If a public entity properly excludes a service animal under § 35.136(b), it shall give the individual with a disability the opportunity to participate in the service, program, or activity without having the service animal on the premises.
- d. Animal under handler's control. A service animal shall be under the control of its handler. A service animal shall have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control (e.g., voice control, signals, or other effective means).
- e. Care or supervision. A public entity is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal.
- f. Inquiries. A public entity shall not ask about the nature or extent of a person's disability, but may make two inquiries to determine whether an animal qualifies as a service animal. A public entity may ask if the animal is required because of a disability and what work or task the animal has been trained to perform. A public entity shall not require documentation, such as proof that the animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a service animal. Generally, a public entity may not make these inquiries about a service animal when it is readily apparent that an animal is trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability (e.g., the dog is observed guiding an individual who is blind or has low vision, pulling a person's wheelchair, or providing assistance with stability or balance to an individual with an observable mobility disability).
- g. Access to areas of a public entity. Individuals with disabilities shall be permitted to be accompanied by their service animals in all areas of a public entity's facilities where members of the public, participants in services, programs or activities, or invitees, as relevant, are allowed to go.
- h. Surcharges. A public entity shall not ask or require an individual with a disability to pay a surcharge, even if people accompanied by pets are required to pay fees, or to comply with other requirements generally not applicable to people without pets. If a public entity normally charges individuals for the damage they cause, an individual with a disability may be charged for damage caused by his or her service animal.
- i. Miniature horses.
 - (1) Reasonable modifications. A public entity shall make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures to permit the use of a miniature horse by an individual with a disability if the miniature horse has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of the individual with a disability.
 - (2) Assessment factors. In determining whether reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures can be made to allow a miniature horse into a specific facility, a public entity shall consider-

- i. The type, size, and weight of the miniature horse and whether the facility can accommodate these features;
- ii. Whether the handler has sufficient control of the miniature horse;
- iii. Whether the miniature horse is housebroken; and
- iv. Whether the miniature horse's presence in a specific facility compromises legitimate safety requirements that are necessary for safe operation.

(C) Other requirements. Paragraphs 35.136 (c) through (h) of this section, which apply to service animals, shall also apply to miniature horses.

Section 17.549 Program Accessibility: Discrimination Prohibited

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.549>

Except as otherwise provided in §17.550, no qualified handicapped person shall, because the agency's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by handicapped persons, be denied the benefits of, be excluded from participation in, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity conducted by the agency.

The reference to §17.550 in the below quotes is intended to address exclusions available to covered entities in connection with existing facilities.

Section 17.550 Program Accessibility: Existing Facilities

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.550>

(a) General. The agency shall operate each program or activity so that the program or activity, when viewed in its entirety, is readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. This paragraph does not:

- (1) Necessarily require the agency to make each of its existing facilities or every part of a facility accessible to and usable by people with disabilities;
- (2) In the case of historic preservation programs, require the agency to take any action that would result in a substantial impairment of significant historic features of an historic property; or
- (3) Require the agency to take any action that it can demonstrate would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of a program or activity or in undue financial and administrative burdens. In those circumstances where agency personnel believe that the proposed action would fundamentally alter the program or activity or would result in undue financial and administrative burdens, the agency has the burden of proving that compliance with §17.550(a) would result in such an alteration or burdens. The decision that compliance would result in such alteration or burdens must be made by the agency head or his or her designee after considering all agency resources available for use in the funding and operation of the conducted program or activity, and must be accompanied by a written

statement of the reasons for reaching that conclusion. If an action would result in such an alteration or such burdens, the agency shall take any other action that would not result in such an alteration or such burdens but would nevertheless ensure that handicapped persons receive the benefits and services of the program or activity.

(b) Methods.

- (1) **General.** The agency may comply with the requirements of this section through such means as redesign of equipment, reassignment of services to accessible locations, assignment of aides to beneficiaries, home visits, delivery of services at alternate accessible sites, alteration of existing facilities and construction of new facilities, use of accessible rolling stock, or any other methods that result in making its programs or activities readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. The agency is not required to make structural changes in existing facilities where other methods are effective in achieving compliance with this section. The agency, in making alterations to existing buildings, shall meet accessibility requirements to the extent compelled by the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, as amended (42 USC 4151–4157) and any regulations implementing it. In choosing among available methods for meeting the requirements of this section, the agency shall give priority to those methods that offer programs and activities to qualified handicapped persons in the most integrated setting appropriate.
- (2) **Historic preservation programs.** In meeting the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section in historic preservation programs, the agency shall give priority to methods that provide physical access to handicapped persons. In cases where a physical alteration to an historic property is not required because of paragraph (a)(2) or (a)(3) of this section, alternative, methods of achieving program accessibility include:
 - (i) Using audio-visual materials and devices to depict those portions of an historic property that cannot otherwise be made accessible;
 - (ii) Assigning persons to guide people with disabilities into or through portions of historic properties that cannot otherwise be made accessible; or
 - (iii) Adopting other innovative methods.
- (3) **Recreation programs.** In meeting the requirements of paragraph (a) in recreation programs, the agency shall provide that the program or activity, when viewed in its entirety, is readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. When it is not reasonable to alter natural and physical features, accessibility may be achieved by alternative methods as noted in paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

Section 17.551 Program Accessibility: New Construction and Alterations

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.551>

Each building or part of a building that is constructed or altered by, on behalf of, or for the use of the agency shall be designed, constructed, or altered so as to be readily accessible to and usable by handicapped persons. The definitions, requirements, and standards of the Architectural Barriers Act (42 USC 4151–4157) as established in 41 CFR 101 – 19.600 to 101 – 19.607 apply to buildings covered by this section.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DIRECTOR’S ORDERS AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

A policy is a definite course of action adopted and pursued by a government, ruler, or political party. It is an action or procedure conforming to or considered with reference to prudence or expediency.

Director’s Order 16A

<http://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/DOrder16a.html>

Director’s Order 16A establishes the framework for meeting reasonable accommodation requirements in all areas of employment, including: application, hiring, retention, promotion, recognition, and special hiring authority. Within this framework, NPS Human Resources and Equal Opportunity Program officials will take the lead in providing specific guidance and services to applicants, employees, and supervisors and other managers with respect to the provision of reasonable accommodation.

Director’s Order 42

<http://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/DOrder42.html>

Director’s Order 42 addresses accessibility for visitors with disabilities in National Park Service programs and services. It is the goal of the National Park Service to ensure that all people, including persons with disabilities, have the highest level of access that is reasonable to NPS programs, facilities, and services. The order gives detailed guidance based on the minimum requirements set forth in laws, rules, and regulations with the goal to provide the highest level of access that is reasonable, exceeding the minimum level of access required by law. The order sets forth six implementation strategies:

1. to increase employee awareness and technical understanding of accessibility requirements
2. to ensure all new and renovated buildings and facilities, and all new services and programs (including those offered by concessioners and interpreters) will be “universally designed” and implemented in conformance with applicable regulations and standards
3. to ensure existing programs, facilities and services will be evaluated to determine the degree to which they are currently accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities
4. to ensure that barriers that limit access be identified and incorporated into the NPS Assets Management Program

5. to develop action plans identifying how identified barriers will be removed (where feasible)
6. to ensure action will be taken on a day-to-day basis to eliminate identified barriers, using existing operational funds or other funding sources or partnerships

National Park Service Management Policies: Section 1.9.3 – Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

<http://www.nps.gov/policy/mp/policies.html>

All practicable efforts will be made to make NPS facilities, programs, services, employment, and meaningful work opportunities accessible and usable by all people, including those with disabilities. This policy reflects the commitment to provide access to the widest cross section of the public and ensure compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Specific guidance for implementing these laws is found in the Secretary of the Interior’s regulations regarding enforcement and nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in Department of the Interior programs (43 CFR par 17, subpart E), and the General Service Administration’s regulations adopting accessibility standards for the Architectural Barriers Act (41 CFR part 102-76, subpart C).

A primary principle of accessibility is that, to the highest degree practicable, people with disabilities should be able to participate in the same programs, activities, and employment opportunities available to everyone else. In choosing among methods of providing accessibility, higher priority will be given to methods that offer programs and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate. Special, separate, or alternative facilities, programs, or services will be provided only when existing ones cannot reasonable be made accessible. The determination of what is practicable will be made only after careful consultations with persons with disabilities or their representatives. Any decisions that would result in less than equal opportunity is subject the filing of an official disability right complain under the departmental regulations cited above.

GUIDELINES

A guideline is an indication of a future course of action. It consists of recommended, nonmandatory controls that help support standards or serve as a reference when no applicable standard is in place.

Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media

<http://www.nps.gov/hfc/accessibility/>

The “Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media” is for media specialists, superintendents, and other NPS employees and contractors who

develop and approve interpretive media. Publications, exhibits, audiovisual programs and tours, wayside exhibits, signage, and web-based media provide park visitors with information and context so that their experience of visiting national parks can be both safe and meaningful. Park visitors who have physical, sensory, or cognitive disabilities have legally established civil rights to receive the same information and context that NPS interpretive media products have always provided to their fellow citizens.

APPENDIX B: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Accessibility assessment: A process in which physical and programmatic barriers to accessibility are identified at a park unit.

Accessibility assessment team: This group is a subgroup of the Interdisciplinary Design Team (see definition below) and includes an accessibility specialist and/or technician, coordinators, a regional representative, the primary facilitator for the process, architect, engineer and/or landscape architect, and typically the chiefs of interpretation, resources management, and facilities management.

Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan: A tool that establishes a methodical process for identifying and improving parkwide access and proposes strategies for implementing the plan over time, in a manner consistent with park requirements and protocols.

Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standard (ABAAS): Standards issued under the Architectural Barriers Act apply to facilities designed, built, altered, or leased with certain federal funds. Passed in 1968, the Architectural Barriers Act is one of the first laws to address access to the built environment. The law applies to federal buildings, including post offices, social security offices, federal courthouses and prisons, and national parks.

Barrier: Architectural and programmatic obstacles to accessibility that make it difficult, and sometimes impossible, for people with disabilities to maneuver, understand, or experience.

Best practice: A method or technique that has consistently shown results superior to those achieved with other means, and that is used as a benchmark for meeting accessibility requirements.

Consultation: A formal or informal process for discussing an action or process for implementing a solution, such as section 106 (cultural resource compliance), or design for an Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan.

Facility Management Software System (FMSS) work order: The process for documenting work needs and collecting information to aid the work scheduling and assignment process within the Facility Management Software System. Information collected should include labor, equipment and material costs, hours, types, and quantities.

Guideline: A guideline is an indication of a future course of action. It consists of recommended, nonmandatory controls that help support standards or serve as a reference when no applicable standard is in place.

Interdisciplinary design team: This team is composed of all the people involved in the workshop at the park unit, potentially including planning, design, and construction professionals; and interpretive, resource (natural and cultural), visitor safety, maintenance and accessibility specialists.

Key park experience: For the purpose of the Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, key park experiences are those experiences that are iconic and essential for visitors to understand the purpose and significance of a given park unit. They are those experiences that are “musts” for all park visitors. Key park experiences can be identified through a consideration of park purpose, significance, interpretive themes, and those programs or activities highlighted in park communications.

Law: A law is a principle and regulation established in a community by some authority and applicable to its people, whether in the form of legislation or of custom and policies recognized and enforced by judicial decision.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Requirements: NEPA defines a process that federal agencies must follow when proposing to take actions that have environmental impacts. NEPA requires federal agencies to fully consider the impacts of proposals that would affect the human environment prior to deciding to take an action. NEPA also requires federal agencies to involve the interested and affected public in the decision-making process.

Park area: A park area is the geographic location that is home to a single or multiple key park experience(s).

Park Asset Management Plan-Optimizer Banding (PAMP-OB): Provides a 5-year asset management strategy for park units, allowing for annual updates that coincide with the budget and planning processes already occurring in park units. As this approach includes life cycle total cost of ownership, analysis, processing, and calculations, it also helps park units and the service as a whole to manage the gap between what should be spent on facilities and what is actually being spent.

Park policy: A policy is a definite course of action adopted and pursued by a government, ruler, or political party. It is an action or procedure conforming to or considered with reference to prudence or expediency.

Park practice: Those habitual and/or customary performances or operations for reaching a desired outcome that the park employs.

People-first language: A type of disability etiquette that aims to avoid perceived and subconscious dehumanization when discussing people with disabilities. It emphasizes the person rather than the disability, noting that the disability is not the primary defining characteristic of the individual but one of several aspects of the whole person.

Project Management Information System (PMIS) Facility: A separate and individual building, structure, or other constructed real property improvement.

Project Management Information System (PMIS) Nonfacility: A project that includes anything not covered by the definition for PMIS facility

Project Management Information System (PMIS) # (number): A unique Project ID Number that is automatically generated when adding a new project into the Project Management Information System

Project planning team: This group is a subgroup of the interdisciplinary design team and includes DSC planners and PWR staff. This team collects baseline data, facilitates calls, develops the participant guide, plans for and facilitates the workshop, and produces the draft and final documents.

Readily achievable: Easily accomplished and able to be carried out without much difficulty or expense.

Recommended solution: The action to eliminate the identified barrier.

Responsible person: The person/position responsible for seeing that the elimination of a barrier is completed.

Service, activity, and program: A service, activity, or program that is undertaken by a department and affords benefits, information, opportunities, and activities to one or more members of the public.

Standard: A standard is something considered by an authority or by general consent as a basis of comparison; an approved model. It is a specific low-level mandatory control that helps enforce and support a law.

Time frame: Time frames for implementation of a recommended solution are primarily based on park's ability of the park to complete the improvements within normal scheduling of park operations and planned projects. They describe when staff will eliminate the barrier. Recommended solutions are divided into four time frames including: immediate, short-term, mid-term, and long-term.

APPENDIX C: CONTRIBUTORS

BIG HOLE NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

Patti Bacon, Administration Technician
Rebakah Jones, Lead Ranger
Jimmer Stevenson, Chief of Maintenance
Mandi Wick, Superintendent, Montana Unit Manager

PACIFIC WEST REGIONAL OFFICE

Patricia Brouillette, Project Manager and Landscape Architect
Trung-Son Nguyen, Accessibility Coordinator and Architect

MIDWEST REGIONAL OFFICE

David Thomson, Accessibility Coordinator

DENVER SERVICE CENTER

Ian Brighton, former detail as Landscape Architect
Mindy Burke, Contract Editor
Tamara Delaplane, Project Manager and Landscape Architect
Katie Ryan, Landscape Architect

**BIG HOLE NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD
ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN
MAY 2018**

This Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan has been prepared as a collaborative effort between Big Hole National Battlefield, Pacific West Regional staff, and the Denver Service Center and is recommended for approval by the superintendent.

Approved
Superintendent, Big Hole National Battlefield

Date



As the nation’s principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

BIHO/341/145262A
MAY 2018

Back Cover