



Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site General Management Plan

Newsletter 1 • Fall 2007

Dear Friends,

The National Park Service (NPS) is beginning the development of a general management plan for Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site (the site). Just as its name implies, this plan will provide a general framework to guide long-term management and decision making based on a vision of what people wish to see at the national historic site in the future and what Congress has directed. The NPS needs your help in defining that vision and developing the overall management philosophy through which the vision will be achieved.

Before we begin to craft solutions for these challenges, it is important to review the national historic site's purpose, its nationally significant history and associated cultural and natural resources, and the potential for public understanding and appreciation of this important and distinctive resource. This planning process will describe specific desirable resource conditions and visitor goals for the site's future and develop alternate management strategies for achieving these goals. This planning process will be more successful if you share with us your own vision for Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site's future.

We will be meeting with federal, state, local, and tribal government agencies and officials, organizations, and the general public as part of the consultation process. Communication and cooperation with other government agencies, local communities, and the public will identify common interests and goals. Developing partnerships with other agencies can offer creative and efficient ways to achieve our future goals at Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site. In fact, this type of cooperation is essential to developing a plan that meets the needs of the American public and fulfills the NPS mission to protect and interpret our most precious cultural and natural resources.

We hope you will join us in this effort to develop a plan that charts a sustainable future for Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site. After reading this newsletter, please use the enclosed comment card to share your thoughts about the site with us. We will keep you informed throughout the planning process with periodic newsletters. If you have any comments or questions at any time, please feel free to contact us at:

Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site
P.O. Box 249
Eads, CO 81036

Sincerely,

Alden Miller
Superintendent,
Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site



CAMP WELD CONFERENCE - 1864



THE AMERICAN FLAG AND A WHITE FLAG OF TRUCE FLEW OVER THE CAMP AT SAND CREEK ON NOVEMBER 29, 1864.



WHIRLWIND, CIRCA 1870. THIS CHEYENNE WARRIOR SURVIVED THE CARNAGE AT SAND CREEK AND BECAME A NOTED CHIEF.

WHAT IS A GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN?

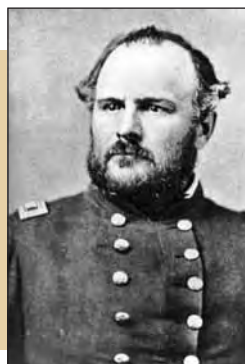
Congress requires a general management plan for all units of the national park system. The legislation that created the national park unit establishes the foundation for the plan. The general management plan in turn defines the fundamental management philosophy for the national park unit, in this case, the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site. The plan focuses on why the national historic site was established and what resource conditions and visitor experiences should be achieved and maintained over time. The plan provides NPS managers with a foundation and framework for making decisions about protecting resources, providing meaningful opportunities for visitors, managing visitor use, and determining the types of facilities necessary to achieving the national historic site's mission. All of these decisions will be grounded in the site's purpose and significance. Park purpose and significance are derived from the establishing legislation and from the special resource study of the Sand Creek Massacre site that was prepared for Congress. Park purpose and significance guide all planning and decision making about the national historic site.

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE PURPOSE

The purpose statement identifies why Congress established the national historic site as a unit of the national park system.

The purpose of Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site is to protect and preserve the cultural landscape of the massacre site and interpret the associated cultural values to enhance public understanding of the massacre and assist in minimizing the chances of similar incidents in the future.

COLONEL JOHN M. CHIVINGTON.
COMMANDER OF
THE MILITARY DISTRICT OF COLORADO.
KNOWN AS "THE
FIGHTING PARSON"
HE LED THE ASSAULT
ON THE VILLAGE AT
SAND CREEK.



SIGNIFICANCE

Statements of significance define what is most important about the national historic site's resources and values and are based on the national historic site's purpose. These statements express the qualities that make the national historic site important enough for Congress to establish it as a unit of the national park system.

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENTS

- The site of the Sand Creek massacre has sacred significance to the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes, particularly those who are descended from victims and survivors of the massacre.
- The site is a reminder of the tragic conflicts between American Indians and Euro-Americans over the land that now comprises the United States.
- The intense distrust resulting from the Sand Creek massacre influenced virtually all subsequent conflicts between Native Americans and the U.S. Army.
- The Sand Creek massacre is an essential symbol of the struggles of Native American tribes to maintain their ancestral ways of life.
- The massacre profoundly disrupted the social, political, and economic structures of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes.
- Eliminating most of the Cheyenne's advocates for peace, the massacre hardened resistance to white expansion and escalated warfare between the army and the Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Sioux tribes.
- The circumstances of the massacre elicited wide national outrage — even

against the backdrop of the bloodshed of the Civil War — and forced substantial changes in U.S. government policy toward Indians.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

You can begin providing feedback by completing the enclosed comment form or by submitting your comments at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/sand>. Please let us know your thoughts and concerns regarding the issues and opportunities that should be addressed in the general management plan. If you know someone who is not on the mailing list and wishes to be, please let us know. After completing the postage-paid comment card, just fold and tape it and drop it in a mailbox.

You can also contact us directly with questions or concerns at:

**Sand Creek Massacre
National Historic Site
P.O. Box 249
Eads, CO 81036**

**GEORGE BENT AND
HIS WIFE MAGPIE.**
THE SECOND OF
TRADER WILLIAM
BENT'S THREE
MIXED-BLOOD SONS
FOUGHT FOR THE
CHEYENNES AT
SAND CREEK.

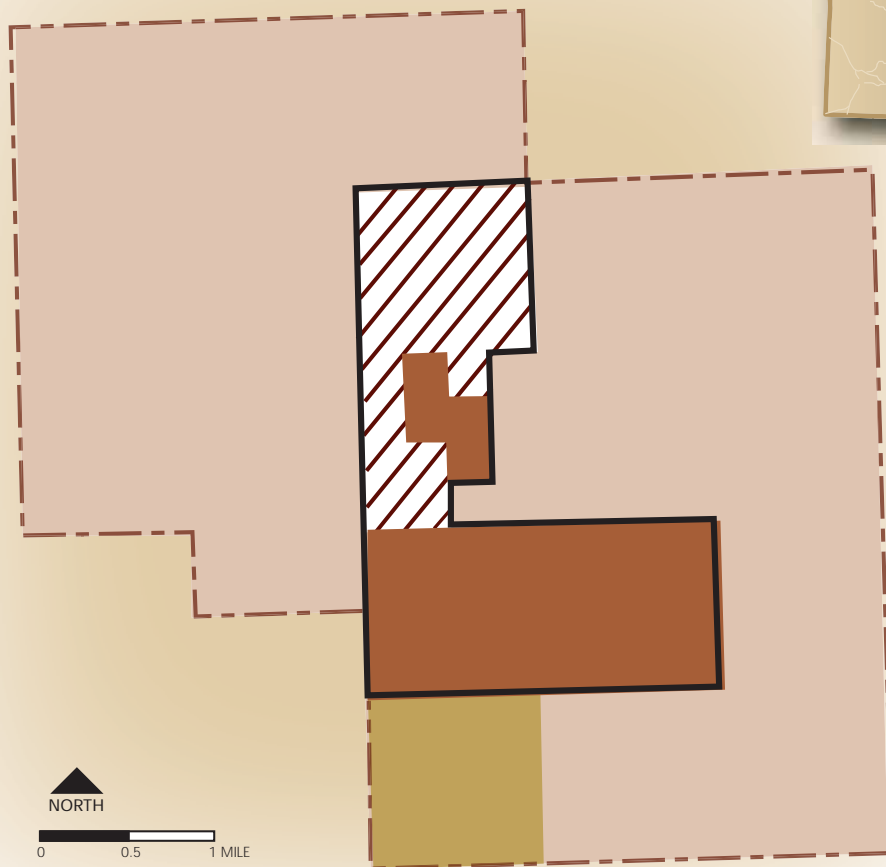


A PUBLIC PLANNING EFFORT

Public involvement is essential to the successful development of the general management plan. This newsletter is the first step in our public planning effort. After this initial public scoping effort, the planning team will send out a second newsletter that summarizes the comments we've heard and announces the dates, times, and locations for public meetings that will provide additional opportunities for the public to become involved in this important process.

LAND OWNERSHIP

Sand Creek Massacre
National Historic Site



- ESTABLISHED SAND CREEK BOUNDARY
- AUTHORIZED SAND CREEK BOUNDARY

LAND OWNERSHIP

- NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
- PRIVATE LANDOWNER
- STATE OF COLORADO
- TRIBAL TRUST LANDS

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The cultural conflict that led to the Sand Creek massacre originated in the complex relationships that evolved between Americans and the Cheyenne and Arapaho peoples in early 19th Century Colorado. Traffic along the Santa Fe Trail and the rapid growth of the western fur trade by the 1830s had placed Colorado in the middle of a booming international trade network. Bent's Fort and other trading forts introduced the Cheyennes and Arapahos to manufactured goods that materially improved their lives but also made them more dependent on a market economy. The 1849 cholera epidemic introduced by migrant wagon trains decimated the tribes and further compromised their independent way of life.

The 1858 discovery of gold brought Americans by the tens of thousands to

land granted to the Cheyennes and Arapahos under the terms of the 1851 Fort Laramie Treaty. This land became part of the Territory of Colorado in 1861 and a handful of chiefs were pressured to sign a new treaty at Fort Wise that ceded rights to most of the land guaranteed them at Fort Laramie. Many Cheyennes and Arapahos rejected the treaty, preferring war to submission.

Conflict between Cheyenne and Arapaho warriors and Colorado troops intensified in 1864. The killing of the Hungate family near Denver in June inflamed white fears and prompted a new policy to kill Indians on sight. Peace factions arranged a last-ditch peace conference at Camp Weld near Denver in September 1864 that resulted only in vague assurances that the tribes would be safe if they placed themselves

under the protection of Major Edward Wynkoop at Fort Lyon in southeastern Colorado. Cheyenne and Arapaho bands made their way toward the fort throughout the fall. By mid-November, Major Scott Anthony who replaced Wynkoop encouraged the tribes to move forty miles to the northeast to Sand Creek, where they had a better chance of finding game and forage. About 600 Cheyennes and a small band of Arapahos camped under a white flag at Sand Creek, while Colonel John Chivington deployed the 3rd Colorado and other Colorado units to launch a devastating strike at the plains tribes.

The massacre that ensued at Sand Creek on November 29, 1864 dashed hopes for peace and provoked a cycle of bloody retribution. Sand Creek ensured that the all-out war feared for years became a reality.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site
 General Management Plan
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ESTIMATED PLANNING PROCESS SCHEDULE

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NPS D-11

STEP	TIME FRAME	PLANNING ACTIVITY	PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES
1	FALL 2007	Initiate Project — The planning team begins to set the stage for planning, identifies project scope, and establishes contact with stakeholders and other interested parties.	The public is invited to review the scoping news-letter, attend meetings, and submit ideas and concerns.
2	WINTER 2007 to FALL 2008	Develop preliminary alternatives.	Provide comments on the preliminary alternatives newsletter and share ideas in public meetings.
3	FALL 2008 to WINTER 2009	Prepare and publish <i>Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement</i> .	Provide written comments on the draft document.
4	WINTER 2009 to WINTER 2010	Revise draft and publish <i>Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement</i> .	
5	SPRING 2011	Implement the approved plan.	Stay involved throughout the implementation of the approved plan. Let NPS staff know what you think.