

Chapter 5

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

This chapter contains the environmental impact analysis, including the impact topics retained for analysis, a description of the affected environment, and the potential environmental consequences of implementing any of the alternatives described in Chapter 4; it also describes the consultation processes and public involvement that went into preparation of the special resource study and environmental assessment.

NPS policy requires that a special resource study be accompanied by an Environmental Assessment (EA), prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR 1500-1508), and Director's Order #12, *Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-Making* (2001), and accompanying Handbook. This document also fulfills the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA), and has been prepared in accordance with the implementing regulations of the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (36 CFR Part 800) and NPS Director's Order #28: *Cultural Resources Management* (DO-28) and accompanying Handbook. Since a study presents management alternatives at a broad level, the EA is similarly broad and the analysis is general in nature. Implementation of any action alternative would come only after action by Congress, and in the event that Congress authorizes the National Park Service to implement an alternative, the first order of business would be a general management planning process.

PART I • IMPACT TOPICS RETAINED FOR ANALYSIS

The following section describes the impact topics that were retained for analysis in the EA. Impact topics are resources of concern that could be affected, either beneficially or adversely, by implementing any of the proposed alternatives. Impact topics were identified on the basis of federal laws, regulations, Executive Orders, NPS Management Policies, 2006, and NPS knowledge of resources.

Natural Resource Impact Topics

Air quality is affected largely by agricultural practices, industries, motor vehicle emissions, etc., which may produce ozone. Geological resources include **topography, soils, and 'prime and unique farmland.'** They are evaluated for potential changes which result in unstable or imbalanced conditions. Soils may be affected by compaction from pedestrian or other traffic, erosion from new soil disturbance, and development. Water resources include **surface water, wetlands, and floodplains.** Biological resources include **vegetation and wildlife. Invasive species and special status species** are included in this topic. Special status species are animals or plants that are federally listed as threatened or endangered, or state-listed as rare, threatened, or endangered, or of other special concern.

Cultural Resource Impact Topics

Cultural Landscapes are geographic areas, including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein, associated with a historic event, activity, or person, or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values. **Historic structures** are buildings and structures to be evaluated for eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. **Archeological resources** include any material remains or physical evidence of past human life or activities which are of archeological interest, including the record of the effects of human activities on the environment. **Collections and archives** currently and potentially available to the public and researchers include museum collections of historic artifacts, natural specimens, and archival and manuscript material. **Ethnographic resources** are sites, structures, objects, landscapes, or natural resource features assigned traditional legendary, religious, subsistence, or other significance in the cultural system of a group traditionally associated with it. For this EA, ethnographic resources include ethnic groups associated with the Tubman sites and American Indian groups. They may include Tubman family members and descendants of the communities affiliated with Harriet Tubman, both African American and white.

Visitor Use and Experience

This topic addresses people's enjoyment of resources and values of a site. The **visitor experience** includes being able to become oriented to a site, view exhibits, take tours of the site, and participate in educational programs.

Socioeconomic Impact Topics

Socioeconomic impact topics include the local economy, land use, economic development, population changes, employment, per capita income, poverty rate, housing stock, economic development, and tourism.

Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts are defined as “the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions” (40 CFR 1508.7). Cumulative impacts are considered for all alternatives, including the no-action alternative.

Impact Topics Eliminated from Further Evaluation

Hazardous Materials: Implementation of any of the alternatives is not expected to result in exposure of any population to hazardous materials. **Noise:** The primary noise source from implementation of the alternatives would be increased automobile traffic associated with visitors, but any increase is thought to be negligible. **Energy:** The action alternatives presented in this document subscribe to and support the practice of sustainable planning and design in part by preserving existing sites connected to Harriet Tubman and purchasing agricultural and open space easements to preserve additional resources related to Harriet Tubman. Although the alternatives would not significantly affect the use of energy, additional fuel consumption may occur from the possibility of increased traffic to the sites. This increase is negligible, so energy issues have been dismissed from further analysis.

Environmental Justice in minority or low-income populations: The proposed actions do not negatively impact minority or low-income populations and it is possible they may experience negligible beneficial impacts through increased employment provided and education by the action alternatives.

Sacred Sites: No sacred sites have been identified at the sites, so the topic has been dismissed from further analysis.

Indian Trust Resources: No Indian Trust resources exist at the sites, so the topic was dismissed.

Cultural Soundscapes: There are no cultural or historic sounds associated with the time period or site. Therefore, the proposed actions would not impact cultural soundscapes.

Public Health and Safety: Implementation of some of the proposed actions could potentially benefit public health. The alternatives would preserve agricultural land and open space which would contribute to improved health and recreational opportunities. Providing financial assistance for the preservation, protection, enhancement, and maintenance of resources would improve working conditions for employees and the safety of visitors. The benefits to public health and safety would be minor, and therefore have been dismissed from further analysis.

PART II • AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The “Affected Environment” section highlights the cultural, natural, and socioeconomic environments of the two areas considered by the alternatives: Auburn, NY, and the Choptank River Region of Maryland. The environments contain resources that may receive impacts as a result of future federal action. These potential impacts are discussed in the “Environmental Consequences” section. Information for the natural resources and impact in Maryland are drawn from the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge environmental assessment done in 2005, and for Auburn from the Final Environmental Assessment, New York Army National Guard Auburn Readiness Center and Organizational Maintenance Shop, March 2005.

CHOPTANK RIVER REGION, MARYLAND

Natural Resources

Air quality

Separated from major cities, industrial facilities, and residential developments, air quality in the watershed is generally good. The airshed for the Chesapeake Bay extends over a much larger area than the actual bay, covering approximately 420,000 square miles. Motor vehicles, agricultural practices, and construction create pollution concerns, because nitrogen oxides and organic compounds released by emissions react together in sunlight to produce ozone, a major pollutant.

Geological resources

Topography. Much of the lowland area of the Choptank River region is composed of tidal marsh. The area is characterized by little relief, and elevations range from below mean sea level to approximately eight feet above mean sea level. The upland is agricultural land with some forests. **Soils.** Nearly a dozen major soil types occur in the Blackwater area, with Bestpitch and Transquaking series predominating. The wetland soils are poorly to moderately drained, and marshes have been expanding in acreage through inundation.

Prime farmland. The better drained soils include Metapeake silt loam, mattapex silt loam, and othello silt loam, all considered prime farmland. Elkton loam and elkton silt loam are also good soil types for farmland if properly drained. All these soil types are found on land in active agricultural production and on the edges of lowland flats, or fluvial banks. Agriculture in this area produces predominantly sorghum, soybeans, and corn, which supply the chicken industry of the Eastern Shore.

Water resources

Surface water. The area of Tubman resources in Maryland is drained by the Choptank and Blackwater rivers and their tributaries. The area represents one of the most important and dominant components of this part of the Eastern Shore. It is an extremely diverse watershed. Open water and intertidal wetlands predominate. The intertidal wetland community includes several categories – open water, mudflat, sandbar, submerged aquatic vegetation beds; brackish marshes; freshwater intertidal marshes; and shrub swamps. In the Blackwater Refuge, nearly 6,000 acres out of a total of 17,400 are open water.

Wetlands are an important component of the ecosystem to trap sediments, recycle nutrients, and provide habitat for many fish, shellfish, waterfowl, and mammals in and around the Chesapeake Bay. About 498,000 acres of emergent wetlands surround the bay. The most productive plant communities in the world, these wetland habitats range from shrub swamps and cattail marshes along secluded streams, to open salt marshes in the lower Bay. Sixteen species of submerged aquatic vegetation provide important nourishment to several species. Conservation and restoration efforts in the Bay and watershed have been increasing the area of submerged aquatic vegetation. The whole study area contains up to 75 percent marsh, open water, and forested wetland.

Floodplains. Given the flat, near-sea level topography and the extent of wetlands in the study area, most land is subject to seasonal flooding.

Biological resources

Vegetation. The Choptank River region contains primarily four main forest habitat types: palustrine forested wetlands, forested uplands, estuarine intertidal forests, and palustrine scrub forests. Loblolly pine is the most dominant tree species. Mixed hardwood species include sweet gum, black gum, red maple, willow oak, black oak, swamp chestnut oak, white oak, and American beech. Shrubs found in these forest habitats include high bush blueberry, sweet pepper bush, maleberry, swamp sweet bells, poison ivy, and several green briar species. Phragmites and purple loosestrife constitute the main **invasive exotic plants**.

Wildlife. Varied shallow water habitats support a productive community of **invertebrates and benthic organisms**. Commercially harvested species include oysters, clams, and blue crabs. Dozens of species of **reptiles and amphibians** live in the Choptank River Region including diamondback terrapin, box turtle, northern water snake, and rough green snake. Species listed on the state's rare, threatened, or endangered list include the Eastern narrow-mouthed toad, Carpenter frog, Eastern tiger salamander, spotted turtle, ground skink, Eastern kingsnake, rough green snake, Northern brown snake, Northern redbelly snake, and the Northern copperhead.

Nearly 300 **fish** species are found within the Chesapeake Bay region and its surrounding tributaries. Half of these species are ocean fishes that migrate into the Bay in the summer months to feed, helping to create a diverse fish population. The most abundant and most commonly seen fish in the Bay is the Atlantic menhaden. Other common species found primarily in the shallows in the middle and lower parts of the Bay include the Atlantic croaker, silver perch, and three species of drum-spot.

The region provides habitat for nearly 300 species of **birds**. The Blackwater Wildlife Refuge Complex of the Eastern Shore is one of the most significant areas for migratory waterfowl on the mid Atlantic coast. Approximately 35 percent of the Atlantic Flyway's waterfowl population uses the Chesapeake Bay. Twenty four species of ducks, five species of geese, and three species of swan migrate to the region each winter. Notable waterfowl species nest on the Refuge Complex, including the wood duck, mallard, black duck, gadwall, blue-winged teal, northern shoveler, Canada goose, and mute swan. The Blackwater Refuge Complex provides habitat for 68 species of migratory nongame birds including 24 raptor species (especially peregrine falcons, osprey, and barn owls). Fifty-two species of shorebirds, gull, tern, and allied species are supported by diverse shallow water habitats in the region. Nesting species include the laughing gull, herring gill, great black-backed gull, royal tern, common tern, Forster's tern, least tern, black skimmer, killdeer,

American oystercatcher, willet, and woodcock. Marshes provide habitat for 30 marsh and water bird species. Blackwater Refuge's forested wetlands support 85 species of breeding songbirds. Several species of forest interior dwelling birds are important components of the natural large forest habitat. These include tanagers, vireos, warblers, and other colorful Neotropical migrant songbirds, as well as short-distance migratory or resident species such as woodpeckers, hawks, and owls.

The region is habitat to more than three dozen species of **mammals**, including the federally endangered Delmarva fox squirrel. Native muskrats, red and gray foxes, beavers, mink, river otters, raccoons, and nutria are notable furbearers present in healthy populations on the Blackwater Refuge Complex. Sika deer populations exist primarily in Dorchester County and on Assateague Island in Worcester County, inhabiting swamps, marshes, and associated woodlands and fields.

Chief among **invasive species** is the nutria, an exotic species that was imported into the United States between 1899 and 1930 in an attempt to establish a fur farm industry. Many of these farms failed in the late 1940s and nutria were released into the wild. They are now reported in every Maryland Eastern Shore county. Nutria, mute swans, and gypsy moths are significant **exotic invasive species** found in the region, while among the **resident invasive species** are Canada goose, bobwhite quail, eastern wild turkey.

Special Status Species. The Blackwater Refuge area has many rare, threatened, and endangered species – in the entire Chesapeake Marshlands National Wildlife Refuge Complex, more than 200 plant species and almost 70 animal species have been documented that are rare, threatened, or endangered. Prominent species include the American bald eagle, Delmarva fox squirrel, shortnose sturgeon, sensitive joint-vetch, Canby's dropwort, swamp pink, northeastern beach tiger beetle, and five species of sea turtles. Blackwater NWR forests provide habitat for the largest aggregation and nesting population of American bald eagles along the Atlantic coast north of Florida and the Nation's largest protected population of Delmarva fox squirrel.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service administers the Endangered Species Act and lists the Delmarva fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger cinereus*) as a federally endangered species; the bald eagle is protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Lacey Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Cultural Resources

Cultural Landscapes

The “Tubman Area” on the Eastern Shore contains the basic estuarine environment of the Blackwater River, Transquaking River, Choptank River and other waterways remains unchanged. Greenbriar Swamp and the tidal marshes are characteristic of Maryland’s coastal plain. Forests are mixed pine and oak. Farms produce corn, soybeans, and sorghum reflecting the field patterns of the 19th century. The basic road and field-forest patterns remain. There are few residential subdivisions in the area, but increasing development pressure is being felt nearby.

The Blackwater component is a swath of land from Stewart’s Canal in the west to Bucktown in the east, much of it contained within the boundaries of Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. The component on the Choptank River contains the historic river farm of Dr. Anthony Thompson at Poplar Neck, Caroline County, assembled in the 1850s, and key viewsheds toward the river and Talbot County.

Historic Structures

In this agricultural landscape, most buildings are homes and farm structures built in the 20th century. At Bucktown Crossroads, the Bucktown Store and the Meredith house date to the 19th century. At Poplar Neck, elements of the main farmhouse of Dr. Thompson are thought to date from the Tubman period, as is a small corn crib nearby. None has been formally evaluated for listing on the National Register, but all three are thought to be potentially eligible.

Archeological Resources

Some archeological research has been done in the pertinent areas – in Dorchester County at the Brodess Farm on Greenbriar Road and the future state park property (Linthecum parcel) on Golden Hill Road. Findings at the former concerning the original farm house and other structures from c. 1820-50 were inconclusive but warrant further work. At the site of the future state park visitor center, findings suggested transient Native American activities in the vicinity of the existing building.

Collections and archives

The Harriet Tubman Organization in Cambridge, Maryland, has a small collection of non-original material on display in its museum and holds no archives. Archives related to research of land records of families to whom Tubman was enslaved and

other property owners are held by private parties in the region. There is potential for natural history collections in the future.

Ethnographic resources

Lateral descendents of Harriet Tubman live in the region and identify themselves with Tubman. Descendents of free and enslaved African Americans likewise reside in the Eastern Shore and identify with the 19th century ancestors who remained and endured slavery.

Visitor Use and Experience

Currently, approximately 150,000 people visit Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge annually of which approximately 80,000 use the visitor center. Visitors include bird watchers, hunters, fishermen, and boaters. In addition, tour groups and individuals visit the area to view the Brodess Farm, which has been identified for years as a property where Tubman lived. Under an agreement with the landowner, Dorchester County Tourism built a pull-off for vehicles, which has improved safety for visitors who stop to view the farm. Intermittently, guides from the Harriet Tubman Organization assist tour buses with visitors from out of the area. There are fewer than 50 of these tours each year. The county tourism offices also developed a driving tour through Dorchester and Caroline counties with more than a dozen sites where Tubman lived or worked or where her associates were based. These places and landscape are described in a brochure available at Sailwinds Visitor Center in Cambridge.

Socioeconomic Environment

Dorchester County, MD, located in the southwestern portion of Maryland's Eastern Shore is virtually surrounded by Chesapeake Bay, except for the point of attachment in its northeast section. With 350,300 acres, it is Maryland's largest county. With only 3% of its land developed, it is characterized by open, natural, agricultural, and forested areas. It has a population of 31,401 (2005), a slight increase since 1970. Cambridge is the county seat. The county per capita personal income is \$27,290, with a poverty rate of 13.5% (2003). It had approximately 14,800 housing units around the turn of the 20th century. It has older housing stock and housing values lower than other Maryland counties.

In tourism, Dorchester County ranks 21st out of 24 counties in the state. The Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development estimates that Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) generates approximately \$15 million annually, or almost 90% of the county's tourism revenue. The refuge attracts 150,000 visitors annually, with up to 100,000 observing and photographing wildlife. There is deer hunting, recreational fishing, and boating at the Refuge.

AUBURN, NEW YORK

Natural Resources

Air quality

Auburn and Cayuga County are located in New York's Central Air Quality Control Region, which is in attainment with all National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Motor vehicles, agricultural practices, and construction create pollution concerns, because nitrogen oxides and organic compounds released by emissions react together in sunlight to produce ozone, a major pollutant.

Geological resources

The Cayuga County soil survey shows the Tubman Home situated on deep, slow-to-moderate-draining silt loams. Some areas contain mucky silt loam suitable for forest or wetland pasture, but most is prime farmland. The topography of Central New York was created through glacial activity, which formed narrow, deep lakes and valleys lying roughly parallel to each other and oriented along a north-south axis. The area surrounding the Tubman Home has flat to sloping topography with an elevation at approximately 700 feet above mean sea level sloping from low at the front on South Street rising about 30 feet at the rear of the property. Soils of the area are prime farmland.

Water resources

The Tubman Home is located in the Seneca watershed of the large Finger Lakes region of central New York. Owasco Lake and Owasco Outlet are approximately one mile to the east-southeast. Wood Creek, a permanent stream, some of which is contained in culverts, flows through the northern portion of the property. Although the property is not in an area mapped as flood plain, Wood Creek occasionally floods. Two federally listed wetlands are present, with a small pond behind the contemporary visitor center building, and the other deep in back of the brick residence.

Biological resources

Vegetation. Approximately one-quarter of the Tubman Home property, the historic core, consists of developed and maintained grounds. The remainder contains old field communities, brambles, heavy brush, and woods.

Wildlife. The property supports bird habitat and a substantial deer population. The wildlife species are those that have habituated to urban-suburban environments, and fish, amphibian, and invertebrate species prone to small streams and moist areas provided by Wood Creek.

Protected Species

Federally listed species in Cayuga County are the Bog turtle, threatened, and Indiana bat, endangered. There are no records of threatened or endangered species, or critical habitat at the property.

Invasive species

Northern Cayuga County has phragmites, purple loosestrife, black swallowwort, European buckthorn, Japanese knotweed, tartarian honeysuckle, Norway maple, which may be present at the Tubman Home.

Cultural Resources

Cultural Landscapes

The Tubman Home complex in Auburn comprises 32 acres in a suburban setting developed on 19th century farm land. Surrounding development is largely residential but also includes a high school, small commercial properties, and an adjacent New York State National Guard armory. Views from within the property show a residential subdivision across South Street to the north, a suburban house next door, and a one-acre former commercial structure directly across the road on what early 20th century photos show as an open field. The Tubman property had supported small scale farming and an orchard, but today contains large stretches of lawn between buildings. Two contemporary buildings have been constructed on the site in recent decades.

Historic Structures

The Tubman Home property contains structures which comprise a National Historic Landmark first designated in 1974 and expanded in 2000. The Harriet

Tubman Residence, constructed by Tubman and her husband in 1883, is a two-story brick house facing South Street. It retains the original configuration but has been renovated since Tubman's occupation, and is currently undergoing restoration. The Residence stands on the site of a frame house Tubman occupied until a fire destroyed it in 1880. Behind the house is a garage, dating to c. 1896, built around an original barn with two frame bays.

In 1896 Tubman purchased an adjacent 25-acre lot with a frame two-story house that became the Tubman Home for the Aged. The parcel included barns, outbuildings, and two other houses. This is the only surviving building and there is a remnant foundation of a two-story brick building, John Brown Hall, at the back of the property. The house, which has little original fabric, was reconstructed in the 1950s after decades of decline and today houses exhibits and is open to the public.

Thompson Memorial AME Zion Church, built in 1891 with fund-raising assistance from Harriet Tubman, is one block from Fort Hill Cemetery where Tubman's gravesite is located. It is part of the Harriet Tubman NHL. The active congregation moved to another Auburn church building in 1993. The two-story frame building is set in a residential neighborhood with comparably scaled buildings. The interior contains a sanctuary, a vestibule, an office, basement, and balcony. Its steeple has recently been restored. Although of degraded condition, the church contains potentially the most original fabric of all the buildings associated with Tubman. The building has recently been stabilized. Next to the church is the vacant rectory, which has lain empty for more than a decade.

Harriet Tubman's gravesite is a National Register property listed in 1999. It is located in Fort Hill Cemetery in a section of the cemetery designed in the Olmsted tradition of curving roads and paths winding through hilly terrain. Tubman had selected and purchased her plot with other members of her family. The cemetery is owned and maintained by Fort Hill Cemetery Association, Inc., and is open to the public during daylight hours.

Archeological Resources

Ongoing archaeological investigations since 1998 have produced important information about the Tubman site. Artifacts are kept either on site or with the archeologists at Syracuse University. Findings suggest potential for continuing archeological investigation throughout the property, which could reveal details of Tubman's farm operation as well as her long-time residence and operation of the John Brown Hall.

Collections and archives

In addition to the property and the frame house, there is a small collection of donated Tubman related objects plus artifacts unearthed in archaeological investigations. The property owner, AME Zion Church, also has archives which have not been catalogued.

Ethnographic resources

Lateral descendants of Harriet Tubman are known to have affiliation with the Home. Living in nearby sections of Auburn are descendants of both African American and white contemporaries of Tubman, who may have affiliation with the site.

Visitor Use and Experience

The Tubman Home receives up to 10,000 visitors annually, many in school groups. Visitors receive a tour of the grounds including exteriors of the Tubman Residence and barn, which are closed to visitors, and the Home for the Aged where they are conducted through the first floor. The visitor center building offers a film, exhibits of archeological artifacts uncovered at the site, displays on the walls, and a small store. Some tours are conducted to Thompson Memorial AME Zion Church and Fort Hill Cemetery and Tubman's gravesite. A site manager and a tour coordinator maintain the Tubman Home year round, assisted by several volunteer guides.

Socioeconomic Environment

Auburn is the seat of Cayuga County and is part of the Syracuse-Auburn Combined Statistical Area. The city population is 28,080 and the county population is 81,916 (2004). Cayuga County has an unemployment rate of 4.8% (2005), and the per capita personal income is \$26,676. The percentage of individuals below the poverty rate (1999) was 16.5% for Auburn and 11.1% for Cayuga County. Auburn has older housing stock, with 12,637 units of housing. Auburn is located in the Finger Lakes region of New York, which attracts tourists for recreation, historic sites visitation, and winery tours, among other activities. Cayuga County Office of Tourism receives more than 75,000 visitors to its offices, which supplies information on all attractions. Along with the Tubman Home, other prominent historic sites are the Seward House, Cayuga Museum, Case Research Lab, Schweinfurth Memorial Art Center, and Willard Memorial Chapel.

PART III • ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This section assesses the potential impacts of implementing any of the alternatives in this study on the impact topics described above. A description of the alternative concepts is presented first, followed by a brief description of how impacts were determined, a chart that defines the impact intensities used to measure potential impacts, and a table that presents the impact analysis by alternative so that impacts can be compared between alternatives. The planning team based the impact analysis and conclusions on the review of existing research and studies and site reconnaissance.

Summary of Alternatives

ALTERNATIVE A: No Action

Sites, organizations, and programs devoted to commemorating Harriet Tubman, including those in Auburn, New York, and the Choptank River Region of Maryland, would continue to operate independently without additional NPS management or assistance other than that available through existing authorities. Resources contained at the Harriet Tubman Home in Auburn, New York, would continue to be owned and managed by the AME Zion Church, and the Church would continue to preserve resources and provide programs and interpretive opportunities at the site. The State of Maryland would continue to plan and develop the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park in Dorchester County. State and local authorities would continue on an ad hoc basis to purchase agricultural and other open space easements that may preserve some portion of Harriet Tubman related resources in Dorchester, Caroline, and Talbot counties. Discussions would continue for creating an interstate commemorative byway among involved states. The private Harriet Tubman Organization, a nonprofit advocacy group, operates a Tubman museum and runs interpretative programs in Cambridge, Maryland. It would continue its operations and seek to expand its efforts. It serves as a connecting facility to the large community of Tubman supporters on the Eastern Shore.

ALTERNATIVE B: An Affiliated Area in New York and a National Memorial in Maryland

In Auburn, New York, resources related to Harriet Tubman owned by the AME Zion Church would be designated a National Historic Site and become an

affiliated area of the national park system. NPS would be authorized to provide technical and financial assistance to the National Historic Site for resource protection and interpretation. These resources would continue to be owned and managed by the AME Zion Church, and the Church would continue to provide programs and interpretive opportunities at the site. NPS would not provide staff to the site, and any financial or technical assistance would be subject to available program capacity and available funding.

In Dorchester County, Maryland, a Harriet Tubman National Memorial would be established at and become an integral component of the Maryland Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park. NPS would be authorized to provide financial assistance to the State for the construction of a suitable memorial. The State would manage and operate the National Memorial. The State would continue to plan and develop the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park visitor center in Dorchester County. State and local authorities would continue to purchase agricultural and other open space easements on an ad hoc basis that may preserve some portion of Harriet Tubman related resources. The state, working with others, would continue to further the initiative to create an interstate commemorative byway dedicated to Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad. NPS would not provide staff to the site, and any financial or technical assistance would be subject to available program capacity and available funding.

ALTERNATIVE C: National Historical Parks in New York and Maryland

In Auburn, New York, resources related to Harriet Tubman, owned by the AME Zion Church would be established as the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park and become a unit of the national park system. NPS would be authorized to hold an easement on the property for resource protection and visitor access purposes.

The site would be managed jointly by the Church and the NPS. NPS would be authorized to provide 1:1 matching financial assistance for the preservation, protection, enhancement and maintenance of resources including exhibits, and to conduct interpretive programming at the site. Resources subject to the preservation and visitor use easement would continue to be owned by the AME Zion Church and the Church would continue to provide programs at the site in coordination with the NPS. The Church would continue to be eligible for other technical assistance provided through existing authorities. NPS management policies would be applicable to properties within the boundary of the park since NPS would have an ownership interest through the easement.

The proposed boundaries of the potential national historical park would include the properties containing the Harriet Tubman Home, the Home for the Aged, and the Thompson Memorial Church and Rectory. The Fort Hill Cemetery would not be included in the boundary of the park, although NPS would be authorized to provide technical and financial assistance for interpretation and maintenance of the Tubman grave site. NPS would also be authorized to conduct interpretive tours of resources related to Tubman in Auburn, New York.

In Maryland, a Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park would be established comprising selected properties in Dorchester, Caroline, and Talbot counties, involving approximately 6,750 acres of farmland, forests, and wetlands (of which approximately 1,980 acres are currently under easement). The proposed boundaries are adjacent to or include lands already protected by federal, state, local, and private land protection agencies and organizations. The boundary would not include Tubman related lands within the acquisition boundary of the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, nor would current authorities exercised by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service be altered.

Since further research is likely to identify additional resources critical to understanding Tubman's early life in the region, the Secretary of the Interior would be authorized to extend the boundaries of the park to include such resources that are within close proximity to the park.

The Tubman landscapes in Dorchester, Caroline, and Talbot counties are predominately used for active agricultural and forestry purposes and hunting and fishing, traditional uses that reflect those of the period of Tubman's presence. The lands would remain in individual private ownership and a potential park objective should be to promote the continuation of these low intensity uses. Recognizing the conservation and interpretive values of these land uses, the study team would recommend that any NPS management policies which would inhibit such traditional land uses not apply to privately owned land within the boundary of any potential unit.

Measuring Impacts

The impact analysis was developed by planning team members who drew on knowledge of existing conditions, existing literature and studies, information from other professionals and input from the public. The following table characterizes the impact intensity, or degree to which a resource may be affected by the actions contained in any of the alternatives. Impacts can be both adverse and beneficial, and they can be short-term or long-term.

Intensity of Impact	Natural Resources	Cultural Resources	Visitor Use & Experience	Socioeconomic Resources
Negligible	Impact localized and not detectable, or at lowest levels of detection	Impact barely perceptible and not measurable. No evident consequences, either adverse or beneficial	Visitors would not detect or be affected by changes. Impact would be short-term.	Impact on the regional and local economy would not be measurable.
Minor	Impact localized and slightly detectable but would not affect overall structure of natural community	Impact would be perceptible or measurable, but slight and localized. Action would not affect character or diminish features of eligible site. No permanent effect on integrity of resources	Changes would be detectable, but slight and short-term. Visitors would be aware of impacts.	Impact would be barely measurable and affect only small sector of economy. Consequences of actions not readily apparent.
Moderate	Impact clearly detectable; could appreciably affect individual species, communities, or natural processes	Impact would be perceptible and measurable. Action would change a character-defining feature of a resource, but not eliminate integrity.	Changes would be apparent and likely long-term. Visitors would be aware of impacts and would likely be able to express opinions about changes.	Impact would be clearly measurable and affect a sector of local or regional economy. Adverse impacts would not threaten economic sectors, and beneficial impacts would not produce noticeable structural shifts.
Major	Impact highly noticeable; would substantially influence individuals or groups of species, communities, or natural processes	Impact would be substantial, discernible, measurable, and permanent. Adverse impact could change a character-defining feature making resource no longer eligible for National Register.	Changes would be apparent, severely adverse or exceptionally beneficial; would have important long-term consequences. Visitor would be aware of the impacts and would likely express strong opinion.	Impact would be readily apparent and cause appreciable shifts in regional and local economy, either adverse or beneficial.

IMPACT TOPIC	ALTERNATIVE A No Action	ALTERNATIVE B Affiliated Area in Auburn, NY, and National Memorial in Maryland	ALTERNATIVE C National Historical Parks in Auburn, NY, and Maryland
<p>NATURAL RESOURCES considered are air quality, geological resources, water resources, biological resources, protected species</p>	<p>MARYLAND It is anticipated that continuation of existing independent management practices may result in negligible to minor adverse impacts to natural resources in the short term and possible minor to moderate adverse impacts in the long-term due to increased development. Agricultural soils are likely to experience negligible to minor adverse impacts in the short-term and minor to moderate adverse impacts in the long-term, also due to increased development. Negligible to minor adverse impacts will occur in the short term due to construction of the State Park visitor facility. Mitigation including storm water runoff protection measures during construction will help to offset these impacts.</p> <p>AUBURN The impact on natural resources as a result of continuing current independent management practices is anticipated to be negligible.</p>	<p>MARYLAND Development of the state park and the National Memorial may produce a minor to moderate increase in visitation and thus vehicular traffic producing a slight increase in air pollutants over alternative A. Overall impacts would be negligible. Minor short-term impacts may occur during construction of the memorial which will require mitigation techniques to be applied. Other impacts would be similar to those described in Alternative A.</p> <p>AUBURN With designation as an affiliated area of the NPS, the Tubman Home may experience minor increased visitation and thus slightly more vehicular traffic producing a negligible impact on air quality.</p>	<p>MARYLAND There would be a moderate increase in visitation and thus increased vehicular traffic producing a minor increase in air pollutants. Overall impacts would be negligible. Impacts to the biological resources would be negligible in association with the expansion of public access in the Dorchester component (near Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge), and negligible with potential public access increase at Poplar Neck. Efforts would be made to mitigate any impacts associated with increased public access in these areas. There would be long term minor to moderate beneficial impacts in habitat protection at by protecting open space and moderate to major long-term beneficial impacts for protection of agricultural soils and lands from large-scale development.</p> <p>Minor negative short-term impacts from construction and mitigation techniques would be similar to that indicated in Alternative A.</p> <p>AUBURN There would be a moderate increase in visitation and thus vehicular traffic producing a slight increase in air pollutants. The anticipated impact over alternative A would be negligible to minor. As an NPS</p>

<p>CULTURAL RESOURCES include cultural landscapes, buildings and structures, archeological resources, collections and archives, and ethnographic resources</p>	<p>MARYLAND Continuation of existing independent management practices is expected to result in adverse minor to moderate impacts associated with this alternative include deterioration of cultural landscapes, historic structures, and potential archeological resources in the long-term due to conversion of agricultural and forest lands to development. Impacts to collections and archives and ethnographic resources are likely to be negligible. Cultural landscapes would experience adverse minor to moderate long-term impacts due to deterioration based on development pressures</p> <p>Since no federal actions are proposed under this alternative, the implementation of Alternative A in Maryland would result in a determination of no historic properties affected for cultural resources.</p> <p>AUBURN There are no federal actions proposed under this alternative. Cultural landscapes, structures, and archeological resources are likely to experience short term minor adverse impacts and long-term minor to moderate beneficial effects as restoration continues and additional research discloses new information leading to increased</p>	<p>MARYLAND Impacts under this alternative would be the same as those listed in Alternative A.</p> <p>For the purposes of Section 106, the implementation of Alternative C in Maryland would result in a determination of no adverse effect on cultural resources. Any long-term effects on historic structures would likely be beneficial.</p> <p>AUBURN NPS financial and technical assistance for cultural resource protection would reinforce best practices for managing structures, landscapes, archeological resources, ethnographic resources, and collections management. This would have a long term minor to moderate beneficial impacts on cultural resources at the Tubman property. Negligible to minor adverse short-term impacts are likely to occur during construction. Mitigation techniques will be necessary to offset any impacts.</p> <p>For the purposes of Section 106, the implementation of Alternative B in Auburn would result in a determination of no adverse effect on cultural resources. Any long-term effects on historic structures would likely be beneficial.</p>	<p>unit, greater emphasis would be placed on protection of the site's natural resources resulting in a long term minor beneficial impacts.</p> <p>MARYLAND In Maryland, the national historical park, in partnership with state, local, and private entities would seek the short and long-term protection of cultural landscapes, open space resources and historic structures through protective easements. This would result in long-term, moderate to major beneficial impacts for the cultural landscapes, open space resources, and historic structures. Additional archeological research would result in the identification of resources with a minor to moderate beneficial impacts over that provided by Alternative A. Archeological collections and archives would be inventoried and protected with a minor to moderate beneficial impact over Alternative A. Ethnographic resources would be researched and recorded with an overall moderate to major beneficial impact over Alternative A.</p> <p>For the purposes of Section 106, the implementation of Alternative C in Maryland would result in a determination of no adverse effect on cultural resources. Any effects on historic structures would likely be beneficial.</p> <p>AUBURN Co-management of the national historical park is likely to provide for increased</p>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>IMPACT TOPIC</p>	<p>ALTERNATIVE A No Action</p> <p>protection. Minor adverse effects are likely to occur during construction or where actions are taken without a comprehensive resource management plan to guide future development and treatment.</p> <p>Since no federal actions are proposed under this alternative, the implementation of Alternative A in Auburn would result in a determination of no historic properties affected for cultural resources.</p>	<p>ALTERNATIVE B Affiliated Area in Auburn, NY, and National Memorial in Maryland</p>	<p>ALTERNATIVE C National Historical Parks in Auburn, NY, and Maryland</p> <p>short- and long-term protection of cultural resources with moderate to major beneficial impacts for the cultural landscape and historic structures over that provided by Alternative A. Moderate beneficial impacts would occur for ethnographic resources, archeological resources, and museum and archival collections over that provided by alternative A.</p> <p>Adverse short-term impacts due to construction would be similar to that provided in Alternative A.</p>
<p>VISITOR USE & EXPERIENCE refers to public access, information, orientation, and interpretation</p>	<p>MARYLAND</p> <p>There are no federal actions proposed under this alternative.</p> <p>Due to new interpretive opportunities at the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park, the beneficial impact on visitor services and experiences will be minor to moderate in the long-term. Impact opportunities for visitors to explore other Harriet Tubman related sites in Dorchester County will be negligible to minor and beneficial. Impacts on visitor use and experience in Caroline County will continue to be negligible due to its separate location and lack of public access to historic properties.</p>	<p>MARYLAND</p> <p>With the addition of a unit of the national park system there would be enhanced opportunities for public access to and interpretation of the regional landscapes and resources associated with Harriet Tubman. These opportunities would result from public awareness of the park and the availability of NPS and state park expertise in interpretation and visitor services. Beneficial impacts on the visitor experience are anticipated to be moderate in the short-term and major in the long-term.</p> <p>AUBURN</p> <p>Minor to moderate visitor use and experience impacts of a beneficial nature would result from financial and technical</p>	<p>MARYLAND</p> <p>The impacts under this alternative are basically the same as those in Alternative A, although the existence of a national memorial would have minor beneficial visitor experience impacts over those in Alternative A. Visitors would also be able to access information about the sites on NPS web pages.</p> <p>AUBURN</p> <p>With the benefit of NPS joint management and increased interpretive planning expertise, the National Historical Park would offer significantly enhanced opportunities for visitors to understand the full breadth of resources and stories that comprise the Tubman Home site.</p>

<p>AUBURN There are no federal actions proposed under this alternative.</p>	<p>assistance from the NPS in the design of interpretive exhibits and other interpretive media. Should financial assistance be available for capital improvements, including limited restoration and rehabilitation of resources, minor beneficial impacts over alternative A would occur. Visitors would also access information about the national historic site on NPS web pages.</p> <p>Opportunities to explore regional landscapes with NPS interpreters and programs are anticipated to have a major beneficial impact on visitor experience when compared to Alternative A.</p> <p>Due the restoration of Harriet Tubman's home and additional long-term improvements to the Thompson Memorial Church, visitor use and experience opportunities will benefit at a minor impact level.</p>	<p>The beneficial impact of this alternative is anticipated to be moderate to major over Alternative A.</p>
<p>SOCIOECONOMIC RESOURCES includes population, employment, per capita income, poverty rate, housing stock, economic development, tourism, land use</p>	<p>MARYLAND Increased visitation to Dorchester County at the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park is likely to have negligible to minor beneficial impacts on socio-economic resources in the Choptank Region and minor to moderate impacts on certain local businesses within its immediate vicinity. The latter comprise visitor accommodations in Cambridge and nearby food service and recreational establishments frequented by visitors to the Blackwater National Wildlife</p>	<p>MARYLAND Increased visitation to Dorchester and Caroline counties County is likely to have negligible to minor impacts on socio-economic resources when compared to Alternative A.</p> <p>AUBURN Increased visitation to the Harriet Tubman National Historical Site is expected to have negligible to minor beneficial impacts when compared to Alternative A.</p>
<p>MARYLAND Increased visitation to Dorchester County at the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park is likely to have negligible to minor beneficial impacts on socio-economic resources in the Choptank Region and minor to moderate impacts on certain local businesses within its immediate vicinity. The latter comprise visitor accommodations in Cambridge and nearby food service and recreational establishments frequented by visitors to the Blackwater National Wildlife</p>	<p>MARYLAND Increased visitation to Dorchester and Caroline counties County is likely to have negligible to minor impacts on socio-economic resources when compared to Alternative A.</p> <p>AUBURN Increased visitation to the Harriet Tubman National Historical Site is expected to have negligible to minor beneficial impacts when compared to Alternative A.</p>	<p>MARYLAND In the short-term an increase in visitation in Dorchester County would produce a minor beneficial impact on local tourism related businesses. In the long-term, visitation would increase gradually as the state park and the national historical park operate together to reach new audiences. A long-term minor to moderate beneficial impact would occur on local tourism related businesses within the immediate vicinity of the park. In Caroline County a minor to</p>

IMPACT TOPIC	ALTERNATIVE A No Action	ALTERNATIVE B Affiliated Area in Auburn, NY, and National Memorial in Maryland	ALTERNATIVE C National Historical Parks in Auburn, NY, and Maryland
<p>CUMULATIVE IMPACTS Multiple actions that may be individually minor but cumulatively significant.</p>	<p>Refuge. Land use outside of the Refuge and the State Park is likely to experience adverse minor to moderate long-range impacts from primarily residential development.</p> <p>AUBURN Increased visitation to the Harriet Tubman related properties in Auburn are likely to have negligible to minor beneficial impacts on socio-economic resources and only for businesses that may benefit from increased tourism such as nearby accommodations and food service establishments.</p>	<p>MARYLAND Cumulative impacts under this alternative are expected to be the same as Alternative A.</p> <p>AUBURN Cumulative impacts under this alternative are expected to be the same as Alternative A, with the exception that there may be additional beneficial protection at the Auburn site due to federal technical and financial assistance.</p>	<p>moderate impact would occur for tourism related businesses and a minor beneficial impact would occur on the development of such businesses and associated enterprises in Preston and Denton.</p> <p>The preservation of agricultural land through easements could result in a moderate to major beneficial impact on agriculture in the immediate region of the park.</p> <p>AUBURN An increase in number of visitors would be expected with the designation of a national historical park with its attendant national publicity. This would lead to a minor to moderate long-term beneficial impact on tourism business income.</p> <p>MARYLAND Impacts under this alternative are anticipated to have negligible to minor adverse impacts to natural resources from expansion of public access to the sites. There would be minor to major beneficial cumulative impacts when compared to Alternative A from land protection in Dorchester and Caroline counties.</p> <p>AUBURN Impacts under this alternative are</p>

minor adverse impacts and negligible to minor beneficial impacts. They should not accumulate to significant adverse impacts unless the AME Zion Church is unable to financially sustain its stewardship of the resources.

OVERALL CUMULATIVE IMPACT

Taken together the overall cumulative impacts associated with this alternative result in negligible to moderate beneficial and adverse impacts in Auburn, New York, and Maryland. The most significant of the adverse impacts is the potential loss of considerable amounts of forested open space and agricultural lands in Maryland.

OVERALL CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The overall cumulative impacts under this alternative consist of a combination of minor to moderate adverse and beneficial impacts in Maryland and Auburn, New York. The most significant adverse impact is the same as Alternative A.

anticipated to have negligible to minor adverse impacts to air pollution from increased vehicular traffic. There would be minor to major beneficial impacts from the protection cultural resources when compared to Alternative A.

OVERALL CUMULATIVE IMPACT

The overall cumulative impacts under this alternative consist of a combination of negligible to minor adverse impacts and minor to major beneficial impacts. The most significant beneficial impact is the moderate to major beneficial impact of land protection in Maryland's Dorchester and Caroline counties.

PART IV • PUBLIC SCOPING, CONSULTATION, AND COORDINATION

Agency Consultation

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) in Maryland and New York were notified by letter in September 2003 of the conduct of the special resource study (letters at the end of this chapter). New York State identified in writing a contact person, and subsequently, was represented at a workshop with key stakeholders in Auburn. In Maryland, the study team held a meeting with the SHPO staff, and over time has had informal contact, including site visits, with office staff. In particular, the team sought and received guidance on research about the Maryland landscapes associated with Harriet Tubman. Both state offices will be invited to comment on the report.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The study team has initiated consultation under Section 7 with field offices of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in Annapolis, MD, and Cortland, NY, with regard to an updated list of any threatened and endangered species. Consultation is in process (letters at the end of this chapter). Both field offices will be invited to comment on the draft report.

Coastal Zone Management Act, Federal Consistency Determination. This process has been initiated with Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Zone Management Program, Annapolis, MD.

Project Scoping and Public Involvement

Repeatedly throughout this study, members of the public have argued for national recognition of Harriet Tubman. “I am delighted to hear that the National Park Service is requesting comments on the Harriett Tubman sites here in Central New York. Recognizing her role and that of Central New York in the ‘underground Railroad’ is long overdue. We need to honor the true heroes of the fight against slavery and oppression and I can’t think of a more worthy leader of that effort than Harriett Tubman,” said one correspondent in July 2002.

Initial formal public scoping meetings took place between spring 2002 and spring 2004, following a notice in the Federal Register. This period was followed by ongoing informal consultation with stakeholders, agency officials, and the interested public. From June through September 2008 the team, in the final study phase, held a series of stakeholder and public meetings on the preliminary

alternatives in Auburn, New York, and in three Maryland counties. These included meetings with affected private property owners who may participate in the voluntary easement purchase program.

Public Meetings, 2002-2004

In the early months of the study, the team traveled to sites where Tubman resources were identified or potentially identifiable. In Maryland, one writer followed a meeting with this note in August 2002, “A Harriet Tubman National Park should be established, as long as it doesn’t impinge or intrude in any way on the Blackwater National Wildlife Preserve; the Park could begin in Bucktown where the Blackwater area ends. Federal involvement is necessary and warranted in view of the national and international significance of Harriet Tubman; state and local officials have treated Harriet Tubman, and the sites associated with her, with, at best, apparent “benign neglect” until the advent of your NPS study. In particular, Federal protection of the sites is warranted and will be needed.”

Initially public meetings were held in the two key sites, Auburn and Maryland, in 2002. In 2003, seven public meetings were held at these locations: Beaufort, South Carolina; Cambridge, Maryland; Wilmington, Delaware; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; New York City; Auburn, New York; Buffalo, New York; and St. Catharines, Ontario. The public was asked to report additional local information about Tubman and to describe the current level of public interest in having Tubman recognized nationally. The public was informed of the NEPA process and ways it could participate in the study and to comment on the draft report when issued. More than 300 people attended, and written comments totaling more than 100 came from comment cards, the study website, and letters. Each meeting was announced in the media and followed by published or radio reports.

The final such meeting took place at the Schomburg Center in New York City, in a program called “Celebrating Harriet Tubman,” in March 2004 and featured presentations from Tubman biographers, a musical program by a composer of music commemorating Tubman, and a discussion of Tubman’s legacy. More than 100 people attended. A hallmark of all public meetings was the co-sponsorship by a local organization at a venue chosen locally. The process contributed to fruitful ongoing links with a range of people in communities throughout the study area.

Participants at the public meetings spoke both of their local resources and the importance of Harriet Tubman in the 21st century. From meeting to meeting, the

Figure 5-1. Composer's presentation of Tubman Oratorio at Schomburg celebration and public meeting, New York City, March 2004.



Figure 5-2. Annual pilgrimage to Tubman's gravesite, Fort Hill Cemetery, Auburn, 2004.



team found remarkable commonalities and summarized the comments in three salient points below. These points figured importantly in the development of management alternatives.

- Tubman is under-recognized by the government and deserves official national attention.
- There needs to be a place or places connected with Tubman where people can visit to see and experience a connection with her life.
- The multiple groups and individuals who have been carrying the Tubman torch for years wish to join others in furthering her recognition and promoting research on her life and contributions.

Ongoing Public Scoping and Stakeholder Consultation, 2004–2008

Harriet Tubman, as a person and a legend, draws the keen interest of many individuals and organizations throughout the United States and, indeed, throughout the world. Keepers of the Tubman legend and those intrigued with her life and contributions reside throughout the country and abroad. It was essential for the study team to be accessible, to reach out, and to consult a geographically dispersed congregation of publics and to understand how both the factual history and the legend of Harriet Tubman have contributed to American culture.

Ongoing consultation involved site visits, meetings with agencies and organizations, stakeholders, public meetings, exhibits at conferences, and other types of outreach. Congressional staff and elected officials were formally briefed at the start of the study, again in 2008 when preliminary management alternatives were defined, and informally throughout. Information acquired through continuous public scoping helped the team ascertain that there is a high level of national interest in Tubman and that many relevant parties sought to be involved in Tubman recognition. This process also produced new information about sites with potential Tubman connections, and pertinent stories related to Tubman. The conclusions in this report are grounded in the information compiled in the on-going scoping process.

Gathering feedback in this way has allowed the team to incorporate information as it became available and to interact with new publics that were discovered during the course of the study. For example, between 2004 and 2007, five new biographies on Tubman have been published, followed in each instance by new public interest and intriguing new Tubman information as authors conducted book tours. The team stayed in contact with several authors.

The study team produced a simple brochure and a traveling exhibit to explain the study and seek input from interested publics. Team members attended conferences at which the study was discussed and the exhibit displayed. NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program staff and team members distributed 30,000 copies of the study brochure at conferences and meetings and to individuals and groups as requested. Early in the study, the team set up a website <http://www.HarrietTubmanStudy.org> giving an overview of the study, announcing public meetings, and inviting comments to engage the public in the process. Approximately one hundred comments have been received electronically (virtually all supporting a potential national park devoted to Harriet Tubman). Three two-page progress reports were circulated during the study. And, to tap the expertise of community activists, scholars, and others, the team held a workshop in Washington, D.C., to elicit the key themes of Tubman's life.

Members of the team made more than 45 site visits to Maryland, New York, and other states with reported Tubman connections, to examine sites and especially, to confer with stakeholders and public officials. The team maintained contact with organizations and individuals who maintain her legacy, agency officials, and direct stakeholders. The study in fact facilitated some important connections, especially between the states of Maryland and New York.

NPS consulted throughout with agencies and organizations in the State of Maryland and with the Harriet Tubman Home in Auburn and state agencies in New York. In Maryland discussion focused on coordinating the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park, which is under development in Dorchester County, with the study as it progressed. The state asked the National Park Service to participate in its planning for the site and future visitor center. The key Maryland agencies are the Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Historical Trust, and the Department of Business and Economic Development – Office of Tourism. Also, team members participated with the Tubman Working Group, which has been holding monthly meetings or conference calls since 2005. This group of stakeholders included representatives from the Maryland Office of Tourism, Department of Natural Resources, Historical Trust, State Archives, Dorchester and Caroline county tourism offices, Harriet Tubman Organization, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Tubman biographers, and Tubman descendents. It grew from the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway created in Dorchester and Caroline counties in 2004, a state-designated interpretive route with a management plan, professional staff, and a board of managers now seeking national designation as a scenic byway.

Discussions with the Harriet Tubman Home in Auburn, New York, began at the start of the project and continued throughout, including periodic conference calls and meetings between team members and representatives of the AME Zion Church and the Home. Together NPS and the Tubman Home board worked out language for a potential easement that could be effected if the Home becomes part of the national park system. NPS also hosted a site visit to the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site in Atlanta for the board to gain insight into park operations at a relatively new site created to honor a key national African American figure. The study team also benefited from the work of the New York State Underground Railroad Heritage Program, which prominently includes the Tubman Home, and has been assisting the Home with funding for interpretation.

Public and Stakeholders Meetings on Preliminary Alternatives, 2008

In 2008, approximately 15 small meetings were held with landowners, elected officials, and other stakeholders in Maryland and New York, to present preliminary management alternative concepts. In addition, four public meetings were held in Auburn, New York, and Dorchester, Caroline, and Talbot counties, Maryland. More than 200 people attended and expressed their views on the alternatives. Meetings were held at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, county offices, Auburn City Hall, and other public meeting venues.

Overwhelmingly, attendees supported the environmentally preferred alternative of establishing national historical parks in Maryland and Auburn as partnerships with existing managers. Maryland property owners in particular, sought specifics on the nature of any future easements which might be acquired for a Tubman park. The range of views include one who said she was ‘...disappointed that NPS is not offering much financial support at this time,’ to another who wanted to donate his property. A member of the agricultural community questioned whether a park designation would bring with it additional regulation of agricultural practices. NPS responded that the study would recommend that this not occur in any potential park designation.

The NPS team emphasized that any actions by private property owners to participate in a future national park site would be entirely voluntary, and that the goal of a park would be to protect the existing landscapes and, thus support current land uses. Much of the Tubman area property is actually protected by Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge and other land protection easements. One property owner in a previous written comment said, “Utilize the federal Interior agencies to protect this area by working with the county and land owners to

restrict development and maintain the natural heritage of the area not through ownership but in partnership. Why destroy the very thing we all are trying to preserve, and that is the way of life we currently enjoy.”

Public Meetings, Site Visits, and Stakeholders Meetings

2002

Dorchester County, Maryland site visits	April, May
Auburn, NY site visits	May, June
Public meeting, Auburn, NY	July 16
Public meeting, Cambridge, MD	July 18

2003

Harriet Tubman Home board meetings and site visit to Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site	January
Maryland site visits	January, February, April
Philadelphia, PA site visit	February
Beaufort, SC, site visit	March
Buffalo, NY site visit	May
Ontario, Canada site visit	May
Interpretation Workshop, Washington DC	March
George Wright Conference Workshop, San Diego, CA	April
Public meeting, Philadelphia, PA	February 19
Public meeting, Beaufort, SC	March 6
Public meeting, Cambridge, MD	May 7
Public meeting, Wilmington, DE	May 8
Public meeting, Buffalo, NY	May 14

2004

New York City, Schomburg Center, Tubman and the Arts Celebration	March 21
Public meeting, St Catharines, Ontario	May 15
Auburn, New York meetings and site visits	May
Maryland meetings and site visits	August, November

2005	
	Maryland meetings and site visits April
2006	
	Auburn, New York meetings and site visits February, September
	Maryland meetings and site visits April, June, October, December
	Tubman Home Board meeting July
2007	
	Maryland meetings and site visits January, April, May, July, August
	Tubman Home Board meetings July, November
2008	
	Auburn meetings and workshop January, July
	Maryland meetings and site visits March, June, July, September
	Caroline County, MD June 16
	Dorchester County, MD June 17
	Auburn, NY July 8
	Talbot County, MD July 29
	Caroline County, MD September 10

Conferences, Meetings, Exhibits where Tubman Study was Publicized

- African-American History Month Events
- American Historical Association
- Association for the Study of African American History and Culture
- Association of African American Museums
- Choptank Region History Network
- Committee for the National Museum of African-American History & Culture
- Congressional Black Caucus
- Famfest, Still Family Reunion
- Freedom Center Conference
- Friends of the Underground Railroad National Meeting
- George Wright Society
- Harriet Tubman Organization Seminars
- Mosaic Conference
- National Black Family Reunion
- National Council for Public History
- National Council for Social Studies

- National Historical Black Colleges and Universities Week
- Organization of American Historians
- Society of Historical Archeology
- UGRR Family Reunion Festival
- Washington College Lecture
- Women's History Month

Sample Press Coverage of Public Consultation

Auburn Citizen, July 10, 2008
The Citizen Copyright ©2008
A division of Lee Publications, Inc.
25 Dill Street
Auburn, NY 13021

Editorial

Our View: National park needs support of everybody

We're optimistic about plans to establish a National Historical Park in Auburn, but the planning stages will require that the community – and its elected officials – get behind it.

While creating a national park honoring the life and work of Harriet Tubman will literally require an act of Congress, the National Park Service outlined this week a preliminary study of the idea that appears to have no major obstacles. The final report should be completed by the end of the year and that will be followed by a public comment period that will be crucial to how – and if – the project moves forward.

Locally, a historical park could be located at both the Tubman home property and the AME Zion Church. National Park Service involvement would mean millions of dollars for preservation of the properties along with federal resources to help manage the sites and develop interactive programming for visitors.

As a tourist attraction, the Tubman home is underutilized and the facilities are not up to par with the stature of such an important historical figure.

With the support of the community, along with the expertise of the National Park Service, a top-notch visitor experience can be developed here. The end result would be an advancement in public education about Tubman's legacy and a boom in tourism for Auburn and the surrounding area. While the final version may still be years away, the potential positive impacts of this project are immeasurable.

Our elected officials need to be vigilant in making sure the federal funding stream gets tapped into, and every stakeholder – right down to the average citizen with a suggestion or comment to make – must have their voices heard as the park becomes closer to becoming a reality.

From the Baltimore Sun

December 24, 2006

Honoring Harriet Tubman

Maryland's most legendary woman was admired by presidents and poets, had her image on two postage stamps and her life story celebrated in song by Woody Guthrie, but she never received the respect she deserves in her native state. Finally, more than 150 years after the self-emancipated Eastern Shore-born Harriet Tubman helped lead hundreds of slaves out of bondage on the Underground Railroad, efforts are under way to see that the woman known as the African-American Moses receives her due. It's been a long time in coming.

Mrs. Tubman was born a slave in the early 1820s in Dorchester County. By the time she died in 1913 in Auburn, N.Y., she was acclaimed internationally for her role as an Underground Railroad conductor, a spy for federal forces during the Civil War, a humanitarian, a suffragist and a philanthropist. While her adopted town preserved her home and burial site, Mrs. Tubman remained largely forgotten or ignored by her birthplace until recently.

In 2000, Congress directed the National Park Service to study ways in which sites associated with the Tubman legacy could be preserved and, if possible, merged into the national park system. Auburn and Dorchester County are vying for honors as a primary park site. Though Congress will soon decide what to do with the study, it would be wise to incorporate both areas into the park service's network.

In the meantime, Maryland groups should continue their endeavors to promote Mrs. Tubman's story by supporting the nascent Cambridge museum in her honor and the increasingly popular Underground Railroad driving tour through Dorchester and Caroline counties, and by securing property for a future Tubman interpretive center. These efforts will go a long way in convincing the National Park Service and Congress that Mrs. Tubman is no longer ignored on the Shore and in establishing a rapprochement with history that Dorchester sorely needs.

Copyright ©2006, The Baltimore Sun

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/new>

Sen. Ben Cardin OpEd:

Parks pay tribute to Harriet Tubman

Community Times (Westminster, MD)
Thursday, September 18, 2008

Parks pay tribute to Harriet Tubman

BENJAMIN L. CARDIN 17.SEP.08

Maryland played an important role in our nation's early history – from the American Revolution to the Civil War and beyond. One of the most important Marylanders to shape our nation's history was Harriet Ross Tubman, an African-American woman who was a leader of the anti-slavery resistance network known as the Underground Railroad.

I am committed to honoring the life of this outstanding woman and I have introduced legislation to establish two parks, one in Maryland and one in New York, to honor her legacy. In Maryland, the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park will trace her early life on the Eastern Shore of Maryland where she was born and later escaped from slavery to become a “conductor” on the Underground Railroad. The Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in New York will be located in Auburn and will focus on her later years where she was active in the suffrage movement and in providing for the welfare of aged African Americans.

Harriet Tubman was born in Dorchester County where she spent nearly 30 years as a slave. She escaped slavery in 1849, but returned for more than 10 years to Dorchester and Caroline counties where she led hundreds of African Americans to freedom. Known as “Moses” by African-American abolitionists and white abolitionists, she reportedly never lost a passenger on the Underground Railroad.

Harriet Tubman was a true American patriot for whom liberty and freedom were not just concepts. She lived those principles and shared that freedom with hundreds of others. These two parks will make it possible for Marylanders and the entire nation to trace her life's work and remember all that she accomplished.

In Maryland, the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park would include historically important landscapes in Dorchester, Caroline and Talbot counties that are evocative of the life of Harriet Tubman.

The Maryland properties include about 2,200 acres in Caroline County that comprise the Poplar Neck plantation that Tubman escaped from in 1849. The 725 acres of viewshed across the Choptank River in Talbot County would also be included in the park. In Dorchester County the parcels would not be contiguous, but would include about 2,775 acres. All of them are included within the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge boundaries or abut that resource land. The National Park Service would not own any of these lands.

In New York, the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park would include important historical structures in Auburn, N.Y. They include Tubman's home, the Home for the Aged that she established, the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion Church, and the Fort Hill Cemetery where she is buried.

The bill authorizes \$11 million in grants for the Maryland section. Funds can be used for the construction of the Harriet Tubman State Park Visitors Center and for easements or acquisition of properties inside or adjacent to the historical park boundaries. In New York the bill authorizes \$7.5 million in grants for the preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration of the Auburn properties.

Finally, the bill also authorizes a new grants program. Under the program, the National Park Service would award competitive grants to historically black colleges and universities, predominately black institutions, and minority serving institutions for research into the life of Harriet Tubman and the African-American experience during the years that coincide with the life of Harriet Tubman.

Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin represents Maryland in the United States Senate.

Planning Team and Preparers

National Park Service Planning Team

Northeast Region

Justin Berthiaume, Landscape Architect
Stephanie Bianchi, Graphics Intern
Valerie Bianchi, Graphics Intern
Ellen Carlson, Community Planner
Leslie Dietrich, Administrative Assistant
Michelle Frawley, Editorial Intern
Jennifer Guentour, Administrative Assistant
Peter Iris-Williams, Community Planner
Mike Land, Chesapeake Bay Program, Website
Barbara Mackey, Planner, Team Captain
Terrence D. Moore, Chief of Park Planning and Special Studies
Jim O'Connell, Community Planner
George Robinson, Planning Assistant
Vicki Sandstead, Historian
Marjorie Smith, Landscape Architect
John Wolf, Chesapeake Bay Program, GIS

Underground Railroad National Network to Freedom Program

Sheri Jackson, Northeast Region Program Manager
Jenny Masur, National Capitol Region Program Manager
Diane Miller, National Program Program Manager
Tara Morrison, former Northeast Region Program Manager
Barbara Tagger, Historian & Southeast Region Program Manager

National Park Service Advisers

Northeast Region

Dennis Reidenbach, Regional Director
Michael Reynolds, Deputy Regional Director
Robert W. McIntosh, Associate Regional Director for Construction and
Facilities Management
Maryanne Gerbauckas, Associate Regional Director for Heritage
Preservation, Planning, and Compliance
Bill Bolger, Historian
Jonathan Doherty, formerly Gateways Network, Chesapeake Bay Program

Jacki Katzmire, Environmental Specialist
Jennifer McConaghie, Resource Planning Specialist
John Maounis, Superintendent, Captain John Smith Chesapeake National
Historic Trail
Bob Page, Chief, Division of Cultural Resources
Sarah Peskin, former Boston Planning Team Leader
Chuck Smythe, Ethnographer
Stephen Spaulding, Chief, Architectural Preservation Division
Tina Orcutt, Superintendent, Women's Rights NHP
Paul Weinbaum, Historian
Nancy Woods, Management Assistant

Other NPS Offices

Michael Allen, Interpreter, Charles Pinckney NHS and Ft. Sumter NM
Vincent DeForest, former Special Assistant to the Director
Laura Feller, Historian, formerly, National Register of Historic Places
Program, Washington
Toni Lee, Assistant Associate Director, Historical Documentation Programs,
Washington

Consultants

Cultural Landscapes: John Milner Associates; Cheryl LaRoche; EDR
Editing: Larry Lowenthal, Catherine Barner
Graphics: Hull Creative, Hal Marden
Historians: Kate Clifford Larson, Milton C. Sernett
Interpretation: Apropos Planning



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
15 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109-3572

September 4, 2003

Bernadette Castro
State Historic Preservation Officer
Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
Agency Building #1, Empire State Plaza
Albany NY 12238

Dear Ms. Castro:

I am writing to advise you that, at the direction of Congress in Public Law 106-516, the National Park Service has undertaken a special resource study of sites associated with Harriet Tubman, to examine the suitability and feasibility of designating a potential new park unit. The law specifically directs NPS to evaluate seven sites in Auburn, New York, where Tubman lived for more than four decades, and Dorchester County, Maryland, where Tubman was born and raised. It also requests that NPS investigate other sites associated with Harriet Tubman and their potential for a national heritage area. Enclosed is the project brochure.

Special resource studies consist of these phases: gathering basic resource data; applying National Park Service criteria to determine the level of significance; evaluating the suitability and feasibility of a National Park Service role in the future; and identifying options for management of the sites that are evaluated.

Although the study is being done by the Planning and Legislation Group in the Boston office of the Northeast Region, the study team comes from the Northeast, Southeast, Washington DC, and Midwest areas. This multidisciplinary, multiracial team is made up of planners, historians, landscape architects, and coordinators with the Underground Railroad National Network to Freedom Program.

In the past year, the team has launched a website, www.HarrietTubmanStudy.org, held six public meetings from South Carolina to Canada, and made contact with a wide range of Tubman organizations and supporters.

The team has also collected resource information about sites in nine states and the District of Columbia. It would be a great assistance to the study if a contact person in your office could advise the team about these identified resources; a team member will follow up with a call to your office in the near future.

We appreciate your assistance with this project. Barbara Mackey, the project manager, may be reached at 617-223-5138, or by email at barbara_mackey@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

Marie Rust
Regional Director

Enclosure



NEW YORK STATE
OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Bernadette Castro
Commissioner

George E. Pataki
Governor

October 14, 2003

Ms. Marie Rust
Northeast Regional Director
National Park Service
15 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109-3572

Dear Marie:

Thank you for your letter of September 4 advising us of the Park Service's intent to conduct a special resource study of the sites associated with Harriet Tubman. Members of my staff have long had an interest in the Tubman story and we, therefore, welcome the opportunity to contribute to this effort.

Mark Peckham, Coordinator of our National Register program, will serve as this agency's contact for the purposes of any discussion regarding the resource study. Mr. Peckham may be reached at: Field Services Bureau, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Pebbles Island, P.O. 189, Waterford, New York, 12188; telephone #518-237-8643 ext. 3258.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernadette Castro".

Bernadette Castro
Commissioner
State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: M.Peckham
R.Pierpont



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
15 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109-3572

September 4, 2003

J. Rodney Little
State Historic Preservation Officer
Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place, Third Floor
Crownsville MD 21032

Dear Mr. Little:

I am writing to advise you that, at the direction of Congress in Public Law 106-516, the National Park Service has undertaken a special resource study of sites associated with Harriet Tubman, to examine the suitability and feasibility of designating a potential new park unit. The law specifically directs NPS to evaluate seven sites in Auburn, New York, where Tubman lived for more than four decades, and Dorchester County, Maryland, where Tubman was born and raised. It also requests that NPS investigate other sites associated with Harriet Tubman and their potential for a national heritage area. Enclosed is the project brochure.

Special resource studies consist of these phases: gathering basic resource data; applying National Park Service criteria to determine the level of significance; evaluating the suitability and feasibility of a National Park Service role in the future; and identifying options for management of the sites that are evaluated.

Although the study is being done by the Planning and Legislation Group in the Boston office of the Northeast Region, the study team comes from the Northeast, Southeast, Washington DC, and Midwest areas. This multidisciplinary, multiracial team is made up of planners, historians, landscape architects, and coordinators with the Underground Railroad National Network to Freedom Program.

In the past year, the team has launched a website, www.HarrietTubmanStudy.org, held six public meetings from South Carolina to Canada, and made contact with a wide range of Tubman organizations and supporters.

The team has also collected resource information about sites in nine states and the District of Columbia. It would be a great assistance to the study if a contact person in your office could advise the team about these identified resources; a team member will follow up with a call to your office in the near future.

We appreciate your assistance with this project. Barbara Mackey, the project manager, may be reached at 617-223-5138, or by email at barbara_mackey@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

Marie Rust
Regional Director



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**Northeast Region
15 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109**

September 25, 2008

David Stillwell, Field Office Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
3817 Luker Road
Cortland NY 13045

Re: NPS Special Resource Study of Harriet Tubman Sites
Auburn, New York
Request Informal Consultation

Dear Mr. Stillwell:

The NPS is conducting a study of sites associated with Harriet Tubman. At the direction of Congress in P.L. 106-516, the National Park Service is completing a special resource study (SRS) of sites related to Harriet Tubman in New York and Maryland. The law requested the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the potential to establish a national park area that would commemorate one of the world's best known heroes of emancipation. Attached is a brief report on the project. A report of the findings of the study will be made to Congress by the end of this year.

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of this National Park Service (NPS) planning process taking place in Auburn, New York, and to request initiation of informal consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. We are also requesting a current listing of federally listed species in the study areas as depicted on the enclosed map.

We are preparing an environmental document as part of the SRS, in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which will evaluate potential impacts to federally listed species under implementation of any of the management alternatives considered. We will send your office a copy of the draft report for you to review our assessment of potential effects to federally listed species as part of our Section 7 consultation process.

Tubman Special Resource Study, Page 2

The areas of focus for preliminary alternatives are the Auburn, New York, home of Harriet Tubman, and Maryland Eastern Shore properties in Dorchester and Caroline Counties. The attached map indicates these areas in Auburn.

In New York, the properties in the study area are two sites, one of about 32 acres on South Street in the City of Auburn and the Town of Fleming, and the other a double house lot on Parker Street, the location of the Thompson AME Zion Memorial Church. They are owned by the AME Zion Church, which would become a partner with the NPS in managing a park site. Our preferred alternative would establish a national historical park on these lands, totaling approximately 33 acres.

The Park Planning and Special Studies Division of the National Park Service, Northeast Region, is responsible for carrying out the special resource study. If you would like additional information, or have questions regarding this request, please contact me at (617) 223-5138, or via email at Barbara_Mackey@nps.gov.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Barbara Mackey
Project Manager
Harriet Tubman Special Resource Study

Enclosures

cc: Robert W. McIntosh, Associate Regional Director, Northeast Region, Planning,
Construction and Facilities Management
Jacki Katzmire, NEPA Compliance, Northeast Region

Harriet Tubman Special Resource Study

Print Form



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

New York Field Office

3817 Luker Road

Cortland, NY 13045

Phone: (607) 753-9334 Fax: (607) 753-9699

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo>



Project Number: 80763

To: Barbara Mackey

Date: Oct 3, 2008

Regarding: Harriett Tubman sites in the City of Auburn

Town/County: City of Auburn / Cayuga County

We have received your request for information regarding occurrences of Federally-listed threatened and endangered species within the vicinity of the above-referenced project/property. Due to increasing workload and reduction of staff, we are no longer able to reply to endangered species list requests in a timely manner. In an effort to streamline project reviews, we are shifting the majority of species list requests to our website at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/es/section7.htm>. Please go to our website and print the appropriate portions of our county list of endangered, threatened, proposed, and candidate species, and the official list request response. Step-by-step instructions are found on our website.

As a reminder, Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) prohibits unauthorized taking* of listed species and applies to Federal and non-Federal activities. Additionally, endangered species and their habitats are protected by Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA, which requires Federal agencies, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), to ensure that any action it authorizes, funds, or carries out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. An assessment of the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts is required for all Federal actions that may affect listed species. For projects not authorized, funded, or carried out by a Federal agency, consultation with the Service pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA is not required. However, no person is authorized to "take"* any listed species without appropriate authorizations from the Service. Therefore, we provide technical assistance to individuals and agencies to assist with project planning to avoid the potential for "take," or when appropriate, to provide assistance with their application for an incidental take permit pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA.

Project construction or implementation should not commence until all requirements of the ESA have been fulfilled. If you have any questions or require further assistance regarding threatened or endangered species, please contact the Endangered Species Program at (607) 753-9334. Please refer to the above document control number in any future correspondence.

Endangered Species Biologist: Sandra Doran *Sandra Doran*

*Under the Act and regulations, it is illegal for any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to *take* (includes harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect; or to attempt any of these), import or export, ship in interstate or foreign commerce in the course of commercial activity, or sell or offer for sale in interstate or foreign commerce any endangered fish or wildlife species and most threatened fish and wildlife species. It is also illegal to possess, sell, deliver, carry, transport, or ship any such wildlife that has been taken illegally. "Harm" includes any act which actually kills or injures fish or wildlife, and case law has clarified that such acts may include significant habitat modification or degradation that significantly impairs essential behavioral patterns of fish or wildlife.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**Northeast Region
15 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109**

September 25, 2008

Leo Miranda, Field Office Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Maryland Field Office
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive
Annapolis MD 21401

Re: NPS Special Resource Study of Harriet Tubman Sites
Dorchester, Caroline, and Talbot counties, Maryland
Request Informal Consultation

Dear Mr. Miranda:

The NPS is conducting a special resource study (SRS) of sites associated with Harriet Tubman. The purpose of this letter is to notify you of this National Park Service (NPS) planning process taking place in Dorchester, Caroline, and Talbot counties, Maryland, and to request initiation of informal consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. We are also requesting a current listing of federally listed species in the study areas as depicted on the two enclosed maps.

We are preparing an environmental document as part of the SRS, in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which will evaluate potential impacts to federally listed species under implementation of any of the management alternatives considered. We will send your office a copy of the draft report for you to review our assessment of potential effects to federally listed species as part of our Section 7 consultation process.

At the direction of Congress in P.L. 106-516, the National Park Service is completing a special resource study of sites related to Harriet Tubman in Maryland and New York. The law requested the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the potential to establish a national park area that would commemorate one of the world's best known heroes of emancipation. Attached is a brief report on the project. A report of the findings of the study will be made to Congress by the end of this year.

The areas of focus for preliminary alternatives are the Auburn, New York, home of Harriet Tubman, and Maryland Eastern Shore properties north of the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Dorchester County, and Poplar Neck properties in Caroline County. The attached map indicates these areas in Maryland.

Harriet Tubman Special Resource Study

In Maryland, we have been working closely with the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge managers throughout the study, as well as with the state Department of Natural Resources, in developing management alternatives including one for a potential national historical park. Our preferred alternative would establish a park and a land protection zone in two segments totaling approximately 6,700 acres. The land protection would be accomplished through easements acquired by state and private nonprofit agencies with financial assistance from the National Park Service.

The Park Planning and Special Studies Division of the National Park Service, Northeast Region, is responsible for carrying out the special resource study. If you would like additional information, or have questions regarding this request, please contact me at (617) 223-5138, or by email at Barbara_Mackey@nps.gov.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Barbara Mackey
Project Manager
Harriet Tubman Special Resource Study

Enclosures

cc: Robert W. McIntosh, Associate Regional Director, Northeast Region, Planning,
Construction and Facilities Management
Jacki Katzmire, NEPA Compliance, Northeast Region



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Chesapeake Bay Field Office
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive
Annapolis, MD 21401
410/573-4575

October 17, 2008

Barbara Mackey
National Park Service
Northeast Region
15 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109

RE: NPS Special Resource Study of Harriet Tubman Sites Dorchester, Caroline, and Talbot counties, Maryland Request Informal Consultation

Dear Ms. Mackery

This responds to your letter, received September 25, 2008, requesting information on the presence of species which are federally listed or proposed for listing as endangered or threatened within the above referenced project area. We have reviewed the information you enclosed and are providing comments in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

First, we would like to acknowledge our support for this important project, which will establish a park and a land protection area totaling 6,700 acres in Dorchester, Caroline, and Talbot counties in Maryland. One federally endangered species may be present in the project area. The Delmarva fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger cinereus*) occupies mature pine and hardwood forests, both bottomland and upland, with a relatively open understory. If any forest areas are to be cleared for this project or if any activities will occur within 150 feet of mature forest habitat, this species may be affected. Any potential impacts on Delmarva fox squirrel habitat should be analyzed as a part of your environmental assessment. If such impacts may occur, further section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may be required. A "Project Summary Form" has been enclosed in order to guide you through this impact assessment process.

Effective August 8, 2007, under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) removed the bald eagle in the lower 48 States of the United States from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife. However, the bald eagle will still be protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Lacey Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. As a result, starting on August 8, 2007, if your project may cause "disturbance" to the bald eagle, please consult the "National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines" dated May 2007.

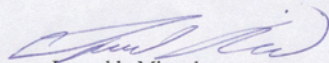
If any planned or ongoing activities cannot be conducted in compliance with these guidelines, please contact us for technical assistance. The Eagle Management Guidelines can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/issues/BaldEagle/NationalBaldEagleManagementGuidelines.pdf>.

Except for occasional transient individuals, no other federally proposed or listed endangered or threatened species are known to exist within the project impact area. Should project plans change, or if additional information on the distribution of listed or proposed species becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered.

This response relates only to federally protected threatened or endangered species under our jurisdiction. For information on the presence of other rare species, you should contact Lori Byrne of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources at (410) 260-8573.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide information relative to fish and wildlife issues, and thank you for your interest in these resources. We would be happy to provide any future technical assistance the National Park Service may need to effectively manage these species and their habitats on land acquired for this project. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact me at (410) 573-4573.

Sincerely,



Leopoldo Miranda
Field Supervisor

cc: Lori Byrne, Maryland Wildlife and Heritage Division, Annapolis, MD



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**Northeast Region
15 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109**

September 23, 2008

Jeff Horan
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Coastal Zone Management Program
Tawes State Office Bldg., E-2
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Harriet Tubman Special Resource Study

Dear Mr. Horan:

I am writing to advise you that the National Park Service is completing a special resource study of sites related to Harriet Tubman in Maryland and New York. Congress directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the potential to establish a national park area that would commemorate one of the world's best known heroes of emancipation. The Harriet Tubman Special Resource Study law (P.L. 106-516) directs the Secretary to evaluate Tubman-associated sites in Auburn, New York, and Dorchester County, Maryland, plus other relevant areas that the study might reveal. Attached is a brief report on the project. A report of the findings of the study will be made to Congress by the end of this year.

The areas of focus for preliminary alternatives are the Auburn, New York, home of Harriet Tubman, and Maryland Eastern Shore properties north of the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Dorchester County, and Poplar Neck properties in Caroline County. The attached map indicates these areas in Maryland.

In Maryland, we have been working closely with the Blackwater Refuge managers throughout the study as well as with the state Department of Natural Resources, in developing management alternatives including one for a potential national historical park. Specifically the key people at Maryland DNR we have been working with are Glenn Carowan and Kristin Saunders.

Our preferred alternative would establish a park and a zone of approximately 6,700 acres for protection through easements acquired by state and private nonprofit agencies with financial assistance from the National Park Service.

Harriet Tubman Special Resource Study

We are interested in input from your office on natural resources at these sites, including wildlife or wetland-related issues. We would be pleased to provide greater detail on this project. A draft report will be distributed for public comments in the fall, and your office will receive a copy.

The Planning and Legislation Group of the National Park Service, Northeast Region, Boston office is responsible for carrying out the special resource study. I can be reached at (617) 223-5138, or via email at Barbara_Mackey@nps.gov.

We appreciate your assistance with this project.

Sincerely,

Barbara Mackey
Project Manager
Harriet Tubman Special Resource Study

Enclosures

Maryland regional map with pink
Progress report, July 2008