

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Fire Management Plan
National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior
Lewis and Clark National Historical Park
July 2011

INTRODUCTION

This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been prepared in accordance with the NPS Director's Order 12 for the Fire Management Plan for Lewis and Clark National Historical Park in Clatsop County, Oregon, and Pacific County, Washington. The FONSI, along with the EA, comprise the complete record of environmental impact analysis for the project. The Environmental Assessment analyzed three alternatives, the No Action Alternative (Alternative 1), Mechanical and Limited Prescribed Fire Option (Alternative 2), and Mechanical Treatments Only Option (Alternative 3). The selected alternative – Mechanical and Limited Prescribed Fire Option – will provide Lewis and Clark National Historical Park staff with an appropriate approach to restore the natural landscape, reduce forest fuels, control invasive plant species, and protect park buildings and neighbors' property.

This Fire Management Plan will apply to federal lands in five different units of Lewis and Clark National Historical Park: Cape Disappointment, Station Camp – Middle Village, and Dismal Nitch in Washington and the Yeon property and Fort Clatsop unit in Oregon. For the 900 acre forest in the Fort Clatsop unit, the park is also preparing a Forest Restoration Plan to accelerate the forest's conversion from tree farms to a forest more natural and unmanaged in structure, function, and appearance. The 30 forest acres thinned under the Fire Management Plan in the Fort Clatsop Unit will be accounted for in the specific forest prescriptions written under the Forest Restoration Plan. In addition, to help rebuild forest soils in this unit, the fire crews will lop and scatter debris rather than create burn piles.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

NPS Wildland Fire Management Guidelines Director's Order 18 (DO-18) state that "all parks with vegetation that can sustain fire must have a fire management plan." The purpose of this federal action is to update the current Lewis and Clark NHP fire management plan to achieve desired natural and cultural resource conditions while minimizing the fire danger to the public and park staff, park resources, and adjacent lands from hazardous fuel accumulations.

The project is needed now because the current Fire Management Plan for Lewis and Clark NHP expired in 2010. The expansion of the park and addition of new federal management sites require the park to complete a new fire management plan in accordance with pertinent National Environmental Policy Act requirements.

SELECTED ALTERNATIVES & OTHER ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

NPS selects **Alternative 2** for implementation; this was identified and analyzed as the Agency Preferred Alternative in the EA. There are no modifications due to public comment incorporated herein.

The approved Fire Management Plan (Mechanical and Limited Prescribed Fire) will expand the park's current applications mechanical/manual fuel reduction and prescribed fire to help achieve protection and resource objectives to the entire park. In addition, the park will continue its policy of suppressing all human/natural caused wildland wildfires as quickly as possible, while ensuring public and firefighter safety and protection of natural/cultural/historic resources and developments.

Park management under the Fire Management Plan would include the following strategies and actions at park units, pending available funds:

Fort Clatsop Unit

The coastal forests of the Fort Clatsop Unit are the wettest forests in North America with a fire return interval between 240 and 1,100 years. Work in this unit will be focused on manual thinning projects along the park boundaries to create fuel breaks in the former commercial timberland. Mechanical methods include the use of chainsaws to fall, limb and buck trees. Handsaws and, or, power saws would be used prune tree branches to reduce ladder fuels. Debris will be lopped and scattered to help rebuild forest soils, but may be pile burned if conditions warrant. Thinning will also occur along strategic access points such as trails and roads. There would be no new roads constructed for these purposes. The Fire Management Plan will thin 30 acres within the Fort Clatsop Unit over the next five years.

This alternative also allows for broadcast prescribed fires, in conjunction with herbicide treatment, to eradicate reed canary grass and Canada Thistle on 20 acres of wetland and old pasture over the next five years. This will prepare the land for revegetation of native species.

Yeon Unit

In contrast to the Sitka spruce forests of the Fort Clatsop Unit, the planted non-native shore pine forests in the Yeon unit are more prone to wildfire. The work done under this plan reflects the difference in risk. Of the 161 acres identified for treatments under this plan, 86 acres are in the smaller 107 acre Yeon unit. In addition to thinning along the boundary, the fuel loads of dead and dying trees in the interior forests will be reduced. Defensible space will also be enhanced around the Yeon house.

Limited research burns at the Yeon Unit are authorized under the Fire Management Plan. Although heavily covered by invasive species, there are still patches of remnant coastal prairie including early blue violet which is locally rare. Small research burns, totaling 15 acres over 5 years, will help the park and its partners on the Clatsop plains better understand how to restore this native prairie.

Cape Disappointment, Station Camp - Middle Village, and Dismal Nitch

These three sites are in Washington State and contain mature forests. In these areas, the Fire Management plan will focus on general developed landscape maintenance including mowing, roadside clearing, and cord trimming. Hazardous fuel loads will be reduced within 200 feet of the boundary at the wildland urban interface. Fuel breaks and access points will also be maintained. Approximately five acres per year are to be treated in this mechanical manner.

Other Alternatives Considered and Analyzed

Alternative 1: No Action. Under the No Action Alternative, the park would continue to operate under the 2004 Fire Management Plan. This plan was written before the substantial enlargement of the park under the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park Designation Act or the acquisition of the Yeon Property. As a result, the 2004 plan covers only 300 acres closest to Fort Clatsop, less than 10% of the current park area. This alternative would manually thin 30 acres along the boundary and potentially use prescribed fire on 15 acres of reed canary grass and Canada thistle.

Alternative 3: Mechanical Treatments Only Option. Alternative 3 would carry out the same mechanical/manual thinning treatments in all of the units that are discussed in Alternative 2. However, no pile burning of excess debris would be allowed. In addition, this alternative does not include the prescribed fire to eradicate reed canary grass and Canada Thistle or the research burns for coastal prairie restoration at the Yeon Unit.

Other Alternatives Considered and Dismissed

Alternative 4: Use of Wildland Fire – Wildfire Option was considered but dismissed. This alternative would manage unplanned ignitions to achieve natural resource objectives instead of immediate suppression of human-caused and naturally occurring wildfires. This alternative also would use the mechanical and prescribed fire techniques of Alternative 2.

The reasons for dismissing this alternative include: the park is small and does not have much room for the development of a reasonable and safe maximum manageable area; there is a lack of on-site management expertise available at the park for initiating long-term management of an incident; and the wildland urban interface is in close proximity to all of the park boundaries. These three factors make this management strategy too risky.

ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The National Park Service (NPS) has determined that the environmentally preferred alternative for this project is Mechanical and Limited Prescribed Fire Option (identified as Alternative 2 in the EA).

The environmentally preferred alternative is the alternative that will promote the national environmental policy expressed in NEPA (sec. 101 (b)), including alternatives that:

- Fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as a trustee of the environment for succeeding generations.
- Ensure for all Americans safe, healthful, productive, and esthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings.
- Attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk of health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences.
- Preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage and maintain, whenever possible, an environment that supports diversity and variety of individual choice.
- Achieve a balance between population and resource use that will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities.
- Enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources.

The Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA and the NPS NEPA guidelines require that “the alternative or alternatives which were considered to be environmentally preferable” be identified (Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, Section 1505.2). Ordinarily, this means the alternative that causes the least damage to the biological and physical environment; it also means the alternative that best protects, preserves, and enhances historic, cultural, and natural resources.

Alternative 2, Mechanical and Limited Prescribed Fire Option, is the *Environmentally Preferred Alternative*. Alternative 2 fulfills the NPS responsibility as a trustee of the environment by preserving park resources through wildland fire suppression and restoring cultural landscapes and local ecosystems through specific applications of prescribed fire. This alternative ensures a safe environment by reducing the risk of fire from the accumulation of hazardous fuel, and helps restore natural ecological processes, including native vegetation function and structure, and ensures the cultural landscape is maintained. Alternative 2 helps protect park resources and public and adjacent lands from the threat of wildfires. Finally, the alternative would provide an updated management document that best protects and helps preserve the historic, cultural, and natural resources in the park for current and future generations.

Alternative 1, the No Action alternative, would be a continuation of the current fire program, which includes mechanical/manual fuel reduction and prescribed fire. This alternative falls short because the application of these fire management tools is limited to the 300 acres in the vicinity of the Fort Clatsop site. Utilization of these tools is not covered for the Yeon property, or any of the Washington State sites. Therefore this alternative would not reduce fuel loadings, reduce wildland fire risk or promote ecosystem enhancement projects in a large percentage of the park.

Alternative 3, Mechanical Treatments Only, would reduce the risks associated with wildland fire to the public and park resources by allowing mechanical and manual fuel reduction. There would be no prescribed fire activities. However, this alternative precludes the use of prescribed fire to reduce populations of invasive species, to promote populations of landscape disturbance

dependent species, or to conduct scientific research. Therefore, it is not the alternative that would best protect and preserve the historic and cultural resources of the park or promote the development of native ecosystems.

Decision Rationale

Alternative 2 (the Agency preferred alternative and the environmentally preferred alternative) is the selected course of action because it best meets the objectives of reducing the risk of wildland fire to private and public property; reducing the chance of catastrophic wildfire, restoring native plant communities, and improving science-based decision making.

This alternative can be implemented without any major adverse impacts to air quality, soils, vegetation, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, historic and cultural resources, visitor experiences, park operations, and soundscape.

There were no highly controversial effects identified during either the preparation of the environmental assessment or the public review period, and the impact analysis has not been highly debated. The nature of this project is such that it does not involve highly uncertain, unique or unknown risks. The available information on which to base this decision is adequate.

The NPS followed required compliance processes to ensure that this project does not violate any federal, state, or local environmental protection laws or requirements.

Mitigation

In areas where there is the potential for short- term or long-term adverse effects, mitigation measures will be used to minimize negative impacts. Mitigation measures include best Management practices (BMPs). BMPs required for implementation are listed below:

Resource Area	Mitigation	Responsible Party
General Considerations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Whenever consistent with safe, effective suppression techniques, the use of natural or human-made barriers would be used as extensively as possible; 2. Fire retardant agents must be on an approved list for use by the NPS; 3. Tracked vehicles would generally not be used for fire suppression. The superintendent can authorize tracked vehicles if needed. 4. When handline construction is required, construction standards would be issued requiring the handlines to be built to Minimum Impact Suppression Tactic (MIST) standards. 5. No handlines exposing mineral soil would be allowed through cultural sites, and all handlines would be rehabilitated. 6. Erosion control methods would be used on slopes exceeding 10% where handline construction takes place; 7. All sites where improvements are made or obstructions removed would be rehabilitated to pre-fire conditions, to the extent practicable; 8. Educational/informational materials would be developed and distributed to park visitors on what to expect during fire management activities including potential noise from chainsaws during line construction, smoke dispersion, safety, and information on where and when these activities would occur; 9. A rehabilitation plan as required by NPS RM-18, with the use of a Burned 	OLYM Fire Management Officer / LEWI Chief of Resources

	Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) Team, would be formulated and implemented in advance of demobilization from major fire events.	
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Resource Area	Mitigation	Responsible Party
Soil and Water Resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Riparian areas, which have been burned, may be seeded with native seed from native genotypes, as specified in a Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) plan; 2. Fire lines would be located outside of highly erosive areas, steep slopes, and other sensitive areas; 3. Fire control strategies would be sensitive to wetland values, and firelines would not "tie" into wetland or bog margins except when relying on those areas to naturally retard the fire without constructed line; 4. Foams and retardants would not be used within 300 feet of surface waters, except in the event of a life threatening situation; 5. Heavy earth-moving equipment would not be used in any "fragile environment"; 6. Crews would implement Minimum Impact Suppression Techniques (MIST) fire suppression guidelines to minimize and/or eliminate adverse soil impacts resulting from ground crew activities; 7. Mechanical equipment would use multiple entry and exit points within a treated area to minimize concentrated soil compaction or soil disturbance impacts resulting from continued use of a single entrance and/or exit; 8. Crews would implement MIST fire suppression guidelines to minimize and/or eliminate adverse impacts to surface water resources. 	OLYM Fire Management Officer / LEWI Chief of Resources
Air Quality	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Avoidance – This strategy relies on monitoring meteorological conditions when scheduling prescribed fires to prevent smoke from drifting into sensitive receptors, or suspending burning until favorable weather conditions. 2. Dilution – This strategy ensures proper smoke dispersion in smoke-sensitive areas by controlling the rate of smoke emissions or scheduling prescribed fires when weather systems are unstable, not under conditions when a stable high-pressure area is forming with an associated subsidence inversion. An inversion would trap smoke near the ground. 3. Emission Reduction – This strategy utilizes techniques to minimize the smoke output per unit area treated. Smoke emission is affected by the number of acres burned at one time, pre-burn fuel loadings, fuel consumption, and the emission factor. Reducing the number of acres that are burned at one time would reduce the amount of emissions generated by that burn. Reducing fuel beforehand, i.e. removing wood for utilization purposes reduces the amount of fuel available. Emission factors can be reduced by pile burning or by using certain firing techniques. If weather conditions changed unexpectedly during a prescribed fire, and there was a potential for violating air quality standards or for adverse smoke impacts on sensitive receptors, the park would cease burn operations at an appropriate and safe location to avoid further smoke impacts. 	OLYM Fire Management Officer / LEWI Chief of Resources
Visitor Experience and Use	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fire management activities (excluding fire suppression) would not be conducted on holidays; 2. Public information in the form of pamphlets, signs, and/or information stations would be used to inform park visitors of project activities and purpose; 3. Area closures due to safety concerns would be implemented for the least 	OLYM Fire Management Officer / LEWI Chief of Resources

Resource Area	Mitigation	Responsible Party
	amount of time possible.	
Wildlife and Plants	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marbled Murrelet habitat has been identified 0.3 miles west of the Station Camp Unit. To avoid effects, during the marbled murrelet breeding period of April 1 until September 15, no burning will take place and no disturbance will take place within .25 miles of the habitat. 2. If threatened, endangered, or sensitive wildlife are found in or adjacent to a treatment area, in park biologists would be consulted with respect to designating buffer zones and/or scheduling of the project so as to minimize impacts to the wildland from noise, smoke, or change in habitat structure; 3. If threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are found in a treatment unit, a buffer surrounding the plants would be imposed that prohibits physical damage to the identified population; 4. Park staff would survey for noxious weeds in treatment units prior to ignition of prescribed fires and provide mitigation measures deemed necessary by exotic vegetation management specialists. 	OLYM Fire Management Officer / LEWI Chief of Resources
Cultural Resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prior to all fire management activities, cultural resources in treatment areas would be surveyed, identified and avoided; 2. Fire retardant use would be prohibited within 100 feet of any historic structure, unless there is imminent threat from wildfire to the historic structure; 3. The park cultural resources manager or a designated representative would conduct an inspection and develop a plan to protect any existing or new cultural resources identified before and after prescribed fires. 	OLYM Fire Management Officer / LEWI Chief of Resources

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND AGENCY CONSULTATION

Scoping

Scoping occurred between October 1st and November 15th. A total of 19 scoping letters were sent to individuals, organizations, and agencies requesting feedback on the fire management program. Along with letters, an attachment outlining the general park management direction and the fire management plan process was provided. Press releases were sent to local news outlets and on November 1, the Daily Astorian newspaper wrote an article about the development of the fire management plan and announcing the scoping meeting. The public meeting was held at park headquarters the evening of November 3rd with a turnout of approximately 25 individuals.

The following issues were raised during the public scoping and written comment period. All issues identified in scoping were given equal consideration during development of the environmental assessment and possible alternatives.

- **Hazard Fuels:** Concerns about the 2007 wind event creating blow-down areas in timber stands, Scotch broom and dead and down Shore Pine stands on Yeon property

and defensible space around park structure all relate to the hazard associated with various fuel types found within Lewis and Clark NHP.

- Interagency Coordination/Cooperation: The need for close cooperation between the park and fire departments/districts.
- Air Quality: Concern about the legality of burning within a specified distance of cities and towns in the area.
- Fire protection: Concern about the actual infrastructure to fight a wildfire if it were to occur
- Wildfire risk: Many comments were directed towards the risk of wildfire by fuel type, especially areas adjacent to the wildland urban interface.
- Insect Disease: One comment was focused on insect and disease and the role of fire management for containment.
- Wildland fire vs. structural fire: One comment questioned how the National Park Service wildland fire management fire management plan deals with structural fires.
- Policy: Several comments were related to National Park Service wildland fire management policy.
- Plan coverage: One comment asked why there is a need to change the 2004 plan.

Public EA Review

After the EA was completed, it was made available for public review and comment during a 30-day period from May 6, 2011 to June 6, 2011. Public notice of the availability of the EA was provided to individuals, organizations, and agencies through notification on the park website (www.nps.gov/lewi) and park planning website (parkplanning.nps.gov/lewi). A total of six printed copies of the EA were made and left for review at each of the following locations: NPS park headquarters, the Ilwaco Timberland Library, Astoria Public Library, Warrenton Community Library, and Seaside Public Library. A guest column on the Fire Management plan and Fort Clatsop Unit Forest Restoration Plan was written by the park superintendent and published in the Daily Astorian on May 12, 2011. Press releases were published in the local newspapers inviting the public to review the completed EA at public meetings held May 24, 2011. The public meeting was attended by 7 private citizens including 2 neighbors of the Yeon unit, where the most intensive work will occur. Comments received at the meeting were positive. One question was asked about the timing of the work at the Yeon unit, which is scheduled to begin in the summer and fall of 2011. Another question was about mutual aid agreements which are currently in place with local fire districts. No written comments were received during the EA review period.

Agency Consultation

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On May 6, 2011, NPS sent a formal request for concurrence with a finding of no effect on threatened and endangered species and copies of the Environmental Assessment to the Oregon and Washington State offices of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In phone calls and a subsequent email on June 20, 2011, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with the NPS finding of no effect. Because no fish bearing streams are in the project areas, they also concurred with the NPS that the National Marine Fisheries Service did not need to be consulted.

State and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers

On May 6, 2011, NPS sent a formal request for concurrence with a finding of no adverse effect on historical and cultural resources and copies of the Environmental Assessment to the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, Washington Department of Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Chinook Indian Nation. The Oregon SHPO responded with a letter on May 25, 2011 concurring with the finding of no adverse effect on historical and cultural resources.

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Because the Selected Alternative includes some prescribed burning of piles and research burns, the Oregon DEQ has requested notification concerning such activities, to ensure compliance with their regulations.

WHY THE SELECTED ALTERNATIVE WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE QUALITY OF THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

NPS used the following NEPA criteria and factors defined in 40 CFR §1508.27 to evaluate whether the Selected Alternative would have a significant impact on the environment.

Degree of effect on Public Health or Safety.

This plan aims to reduce the public health and safety risk due to wildfire. Safety risks of fire management activities will be mitigated through established safety precautions. Firefighter and public safety is the first priority in every fire management activity. In all park units, an expanded hazard fuel reduction program would enhance protection of residents, visitors and employees by creating defensible space around structures. Pile burning and prescribed fire precautions would minimize the risk of escaped fire. Smoke mitigation measures will be applied to all types of wildland and prescribed fire use, limiting the impact to human health and safety.

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

The plan will allow the park to better protect historic and cultural resources by creating defensible spaces around structures. Best management practices will limit the impact of work on unknown culturally sensitive sites.

The plan is also designed to help restore ecologically important areas through the limited use of prescribed fire. At the Yeon Unit, small research burns are authorized to restore coastal prairies which are locally rare. Work in the park's wetlands is limited to a prescribed burn of invasive reed canary grass.

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

Members from local fire departments attended the initial scoping meeting and spoke with the Olympic Fire Management Officer about coordination and suppression. Of the 161 acres to be treated at the park, work at the Yeon Unit will account for 86 of the acres because climate and vegetation make the unit a higher fire danger than the forested units of the park. Neighbors of that property attended the EA review meeting and were supportive of the plan.

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

Park trails and recreation areas may be closed temporarily during fuels reduction projects or prescribed fires. All efforts will be made to minimize the amount of time an area is closed to visitor use. While the potential for a fire escape will always exist when conducting prescribed fires, that potential is extremely small. Recent statistics summarized by the Boise Interagency Fire show that 0.1% of prescribed fires required major suppression actions.

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

The Fire Management Plan was designed to complement the Forest Restoration Plan for the Fort Clatsop Unit. In this unit, rather than pile burning, the fire crews will scatter thinned material on the wet ground when possible. This will help replenish forest soils that have been depleted after several rotations of commercial timber operations that took place on this recently acquired park unit. Stands in the Fort Clatsop Unit that are thinned under the Forest Restoration plan will also help to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Trails created as part of the Forest Restoration Plan will provide quicker and safer access for crews to conduct manual thinning operations and in the event of a wildland fire. The Forest Restoration Plans outlines thinning on 713 acres of the forest; the specific prescriptions written for the Forest Restoration Plan will include the 30 acres of thinning being performed under the Fire Management Plan.

Both Environmental Assessments were submitted simultaneously to state and tribal historic preservation offices and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service so the agencies could evaluate them concurrently.

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

The Fire Management Plan will have no adverse affect on any cultural resources. Prior to all fire management activities, cultural resources in treatment areas would be surveyed, identified and avoided. The plan allows for up to 35 acres of broadcast prescribed fire at the park. These types of burns are designed to burn out quickly with First Order Fire Effects modeling (FOFEM) indicating that under normal prescriptions the surface temperature will not exceed 21 degrees Celsius and the duration of heat is so short that minimal soil heating is expected.

Currently, there are no park sites listed on US Department of Interior's National Registry of Natural Landmarks. The Norman Yeon house, built in 1965, may eventually become eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Three privately owned properties near the Station Camp Middle Village site may also be eligible. The Fire Management Plan calls for developed landscape maintenance and defensible space preparation near these properties will help reduce the risk of fire to these sites.

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

No effects are expected to endangered or threatened species or critical habitat. Habitat for the marbled murrelet has been identified .3 miles from the Station Camp Unit. However, mitigation measures recommended by the US Fish and Wildlife Service will be undertaken to ensure that there is no effect. They are:

1. No prescribed fires will be conducted during the breeding period of April 1 to September 15th.
2. All projects would be conducted outside of the breeding period or at least a distance of .25 miles within the breeding season.

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

All permits will be obtained prior to construction and no violation of Federal, state or local environmental protection laws will occur knowingly.


IMPAIRMENT

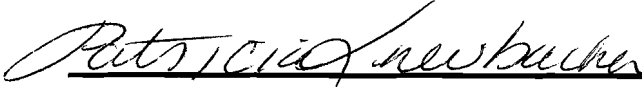
The National Park Service has determined that implementation of the Selected Alternative and mitigation measures will not constitute impairment to Lewis and Clark National Historical Park's resources and values. There would be no major adverse impacts to a resource or value whose conservation is 1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the park's establishing legislation; 2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park or to opportunities for enjoyment of the park; or 3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant NPS planning documents. This conclusion is based on a thorough analysis of the environmental

impacts described in the Lewis and Clark NHP Fire Management Plan Environmental Assessment, the mitigation measures, agency consultations, considerations of the public comments received, relevant scientific studies, and the professional judgment of the decision-maker guided by the direction in NPS Management Policies.

CONCLUSION

Implementation of the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park Fire Management Plan as described above will not have significant impacts on the human environment. The determination is sustained by the analysis in the EA, agency consultations, the inclusion and consideration of public scoping comments and minimal comments to the EA, and the capability of mitigations to reduce or avoid impacts. Adverse environmental impacts that could occur are negligible to minor in intensity, duration, and context. As described in the EA, there are no highly uncertain controversial or unacceptable impacts, unique or unknown risks, significant cumulative effects, or elements of precedence. There are no previous, planned, or implemented actions, which in combination with the selected alternative would have significant effects on the human environment. Requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act have been satisfied and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The park will implement the Selected Alternative as soon as practical.

Recommended:  7/5/11
Andrew Rasmussen FOR: **David Szymanski, Superintendent** Date
Lewis and Clark National Historical Park

Approved:  7/8/11
FOR: **Christine S. Lehnertz, Regional Director** Date
Pacific West Region, National Park Service