



United States Department of Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Petrified Forest National Park
P.O. Box 2217
1 Park Road
Petrified Forest, Arizona 86028



D18 (DSC-P)
PEFO 116203

February 17, 2010

Dear Friends of Petrified Forest National Park,

On behalf of the planning team, I am pleased to share with you the enclosed General Management Plan Amendment / Environmental Assessment for Petrified Forest National Park. The purpose of this plan amendment is to establish the overall management direction (for the next 15 to 20 years) for the park addition lands.

The park addition lands (125,000 acres) are within the expanded park boundary as authorized by the Petrified Forest National Park Expansion Act (Public Law 108-430). These lands include globally significant paleontological resources, nationally significant archeological resources, diverse flora and fauna, stunning high-desert scenery, and significant scientific resources that surpass those already in the park. The act directs the National Park Service to amend the park's 1993 *General Management Plan* to describe how the addition lands would be managed once they are acquired.

This document describes two alternatives for managing the park addition lands and the impacts on the environment from implementing each alternative. The no-action alternative describes continuation of existing management and serves as a basis of comparison for the action alternative.

The action alternative describes what park management would be like once private parcels in the addition lands are acquired from willing sellers and the Park Service has acquired the state lands (or developed a cooperative agreement for managing state lands). Under this alternative, the Park Service would manage the addition lands cautiously, and initial priorities would be to conduct resource inventories, condition assessments, and research to increase NPS and public understanding of these lands. Eventually, opportunities for visitors to experience the addition lands would become available. Sensitive resources would be preserved and/or rehabilitated as appropriate, with particular emphasis on paleontological and archeological resources. The action alternative has been identified as the Park Service's preferred management approach. The comments and suggestions that many of you provided earlier were considered when developing the action alternative presented in the plan.

Please look at the document and provide us your comments by April 2, 2010. You can submit your comments by any one of the following ways:

- 1) Submit written comments to the superintendent of Petrified Forest National Park at the address shown above.
- 2) Attend our public meeting: The meeting will be held March 15, 2010, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Holbrook City Hall Council Chambers, 465 1st Avenue, Holbrook, AZ 86025
- 3) Submit comments on the Internet at the NPS planning website:
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/pefo>.

I welcome your continued participation in this important planning effort and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cliff Spencer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cliff" being more prominent and the last name "Spencer" written in a more compact, connected style.

Cliff Spencer
Superintendent