



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Lassen Volcanic National Park
Post Office Box 100
Mineral, California 96063-0100

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L76(LAVO)

September 22, 2010

Dear Friends of the Warner Valley,

I am pleased to announce the release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Warner Valley Comprehensive Site Plan (FEIS). The FEIS is the result of eight years of collaboration by park staff, researchers, and members of the public, who have devoted their time to providing input on, and reviewing, the development of the plan and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Warner Valley Comprehensive Site Plan was developed in response to the numerous management needs identified within the Warner Valley area, including the restoration of the valley's unusual fen and wetland complex, protection and maintenance of archaeological and cultural sites, enhancement of the trail network which traverses the valley's developed areas, and improvement of vehicle circulation and parking.

The document can be viewed and/or downloaded from the park's website at (<http://www.nps.gov/lavo/parkmgmt/index.htm>) and at the NPS Planning, Environmental and Public Comment web site at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/lavo>. In addition, printed copies of the FEIS are available for review at the Park Headquarters Administration Building, located in Mineral, California, and the following public libraries: Plumas County Library, Susanville District Library, Chester Library, Tehama County Library, Shingletown Library, Shasta County Library (Burney Branch), Chico Public Library, and the Redding Public Library.

Throughout the plan's development, the Park received valuable input from individuals and groups who have a long involvement with and deep commitment to the Warner Valley area. Responses to comments received during the public comment period for the Draft Warner Valley Comprehensive Site Plan Environmental Impact Statement are included in the FEIS under Chapter 6, *Comments and Responses*. Changes reflected in the FEIS in response to public comments, and resulting from internal clarifications, have been incorporated directly into the text of the document.

Alternative 2 has been identified as the agency-preferred and environmentally-preferred alternative in the FEIS. This alternative includes the following components: 1) ecological restoration of wetlands throughout Warner Valley, which includes permanently filling ditches within Drakesbad Meadow; 2) creation of a concession service center and housing area comprised of tent cabins surrounding a single-story bathhouse building located outside of the

Drakesbad Guest Ranch Historic District; and, 3) removal of the Dream Lake Dam and the subsequent reversion of the area to a riparian/wetland complex. A notable difference between the draft and final documents under Alternative 2 is the recommended relocation, not removal, of the volleyball court located within the Drakesbad Guest Ranch Historic District. The court would be relocated to a site east of the swimming pool, in order to maintain recreational opportunities while restoring significant cultural landscape resources.

Two alternatives were analyzed in the FEIS in addition to Alternative 2: Alternative 1, the No Action Alternative, would continue current management practices; and, Alternative 3, which includes: 1) restoration of Warner Valley fen, through the installation of metal sheets to dam ditches within Drakesbad Meadow; 2) creation of a concession service center and housing area comprised of a two-story dormitory building with bathrooms located outside of the Drakesbad Guest Ranch Historic District; and, 3) reconstruction of the Dream Lake Dam to Bureau of Reclamation engineering standards.

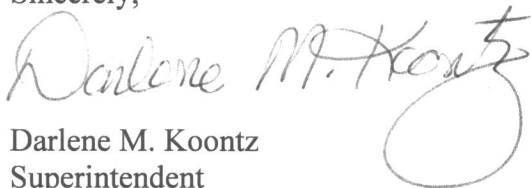
Changes between the draft document and the FEIS include the addition of Chapter 6, *Comments and Responses* (mentioned above), and the addition of Appendix C, *Programmatic Agreement*. In accordance with Section 800.8 of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) regulations (36 CFR Part 800), the Park prepared a draft Programmatic Agreement (PA) with the ACHP and the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in July 2010. The draft PA outlines the specific process whereby the NPS will consult with the California SHPO on each undertaking to be implemented as part of the FEIS.

The Environmental Protection Agency's announcement will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 24, 2010, after which a minimum 30 day waiting period will begin. After the end of the waiting period, a Record of Decision will be prepared and then signed by the Regional Director, Pacific West Region, as the official responsible for the approval of the Comprehensive Site Plan. After approval, the Superintendent of Lassen Volcanic National Park would be the official responsible for plan implementation.

The FEIS will be sent to affected Federal, Tribal, State, and local government agencies, interested parties and all those requesting a copy, either via printed copy or CD. For more information about the FEIS, please contact the Superintendent's office at the above address or by phone at (530) 595-4444, extension 5101.

I greatly appreciate your continued interest and involvement with Lassen Volcanic National Park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darlene M. Koontz". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the printed name and title.

Darlene M. Koontz
Superintendent