



# REFERENCES GLOSSARY ACRONYMS PREPARERS INDEX

CEDAR CREEK AND BELLE GROVE  
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK





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## Glossary

**Accessibility.** The provision of NPS programs, facilities, and services in ways that include individuals with disabilities or makes available to those individuals, the same benefits available to persons without disabilities.

**Affected environment.** The existing biological, physical, cultural, social, and economic conditions that are subject to direct and indirect changes which result from actions described in alternatives under consideration.

**Alternative.** A possible course of action, one of several ways to achieve an objective or vision. The term is used in a GMP to describe different management actions.

**Area-specific management prescriptions.** Area-specific guidance about the desired resource conditions, visitor experience opportunities, and appropriate kinds and levels of management, development, and access (modes of transportation) for each area of a park, based on how it is zoned; also the kinds of changes needed to move from the existing to the desired conditions.

**Best management practices (BMPs).** Practices that apply the most current means and technologies available to not only comply with mandatory environmental regulations, but also maintain a superior level of environmental performance.

**Carrying capacity.** The type and level of visitor use that can be accommodated while sustaining the desired resource and visitor experience conditions in a park.

**Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park (NHP).** A unit of the National Park System, created by an Act of Congress in 2002.

**Community Partners.** Communities in and around the park who participate with the NPS in management of the park, as identified in Section 13 of the park's enabling legislation, including: the towns of Strasburg and Middletown, Virginia, as well as Frederick, Shenandoah, and Warren counties.

**Connected action.** Actions that are closely related. They automatically trigger other actions that have environmental impacts, they cannot or will not proceed unless other actions have been taken previously or simultaneously, or they are interdependent parts of a larger action and/or depend on the larger action for their justification.

**Cooperating agency.** A federal action other than the one preparing the National Environmental Policy Act document (lead agency) that has jurisdiction over the proposal by virtue of law or special expertise and that has been deemed a cooperating agency by the lead agency. State or local governments, and/or Indian tribes, may be designated cooperating agencies as appropriate.

**Cultural landscape.** A geographic area (including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife and domestic animals therein) associated with a historic event, activity or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values. There are four types of cultural landscapes, not mutually exclusive: historic sites, historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes, and ethnographic landscapes.

**Cultural resources.** Aspects of a cultural system that are valued by or significantly representative of a culture or that contain significant information about a cultural. A cultural resource may be a tangible entity or a cultural practice. Tangible cultural resources are categorized as districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects for the National Register of Historic Places, and as archeological resources, cultural landscapes, structures, museum objects, and ethnographic resources for NPS management purposes.

**Cumulative actions.** Actions that, when viewed with other actions in the past, the present, or the foreseeable future regardless of who has undertaken or will undertake them, have an additive impact on the resource the proposal would affect.

**Cumulative effects.** The culmination of a proposed action when added to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions; action can be taken by anyone and can occur inside or outside the park.

**Desired condition.** A qualitative description of the integrity and character for a set of resources and values, including visitor experiences, that park management has committed to achieve and maintain.

**Developed area.** An area managed to provide and maintain facilities (e.g. roads, campgrounds, housing) serving park managers and visitors. Includes areas where park development or intensive use may have substantially altered the natural environment or the setting for culturally significant resources.

**Direct effect.** An impact that occurs as a result of the proposed action or alternative in the same place and at the same time as the action.

**Environmental consequences.** The scientific and analytic basis for comparing alternatives in an environmental impact statement, based on their environmental effects, including any unavoidable adverse effects. Environmental consequences include short-term, long-term, and cumulative impacts to ecological, aesthetic, historical, cultural, economic, and social environments.

**Environmental impact statement.** A detailed National Environmental Policy Act document that is prepared when a proposal or alternatives have the potential for significant impact on the human environment.

**Ethnographic resources.** Objects and places, including sites, structures, landscapes, and natural resources, with traditional cultural meaning and value to associated peoples. Research and consultation with people identifies and explains the places and things they find culturally meaningful. Ethnographic resources eligible for the National Register are called traditional cultural properties.

**Environmentally preferred alternative.** Of the action alternatives analyzed, the one that would best promote the policies in NEPA Section 101.

**Fundamental resources and values.** Those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes, including opportunities for visitor enjoyment, determined to warrant primary consideration during planning and management because they are critical to achieving the park's purpose and maintaining its significance.

**General Management Plan (GMP).** A National Park Service planning document which clearly defines direction for resource preservation and visitor use in a park, and serves as the basic foundation for decision making. GMPs are developed with broad public involvement.

**Historic site.** A landscape significant for its association with a historic event, activity or person.

**Indicators of user capacity.** Specific, measurable physical, ecological, or social variables that can be measured to track changes in conditions caused by public use, so that progress toward attaining the desired conditions can be assessed.

**Impact topics.** Specific natural, cultural, or socioeconomic resources that would be affected by the proposed action or alternatives (including no action). The magnitude, duration, and timing of the effect to each of these resources is evaluated in the impact section of an EIS.

**Impairment.** An impact so severe that, in the professional judgment of a responsible NPS manager, it would harm the integrity of park resources or values and violate the 1916 NPS Organic Act.

**Indirect effect.** Reasonably foreseeable impacts that occur removed in time or space from the proposed action.

**Interpretation.** Activities or media designed to help people understand, appreciate, enjoy, and care for the natural and cultural environment.

**Issue.** Some point of debate that needs to be decided. For GMP planning purposes issues can be divided into "major questions to be answered by the GMP" (also referred to as the decision points of the GMP) and the "NEPA issues" (usually environmental problems related to one or more of the planning alternatives).

**Key Partners.** Organizations who participate with the NPS in management of the park, as identified in Section 13 of the park's enabling legislation, including: Belle Grove Incorporated, Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Shenandoah County, and the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation.

**Lead agency.** The agency either preparing or taking primary responsibility for preparing the National Environmental Policy Act document.

**Management concept.** A brief, inspirational statement of the kind of place a park should be (a "vision" statement).

**Management prescription.** A description of the specific resource conditions and visitor experiences along with appropriate kinds and levels of management, use, and development for each area of a park that are to be achieved and maintained over time.

**Mitigation.** Modification of a proposal to lessen the intensity of its impact on a particular resource.

**National Historic District.** (see Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District)

**National Park Service (NPS).** The agency in the U.S. Dept. of the Interior charged with overseeing the National Park System.

**No Action Alternative.** An alternative in an environmental impact statement that continues the current management direction. This alternative serves as a benchmark against which action alternatives are compared.

**Notice of intent.** The notice submitted to the *Federal Register* that an environmental impact statement will be prepared. It describes the proposed action and alternatives, identifies a contact person in the National Park Service, and gives time, place, and descriptive details of the agency's proposed scoping process.

**Other important resources and values.** Those attributes that are determined to be particularly important to park management and planning, although they are not related to the park's purpose and significance.

**Park.** In this GMP/EIS, the term "park" is used interchangeably with "Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park (NHP)" to describe the area of approximately 3,471 acres designated by Congress as a unit of the national park system.

**Park purpose.** The specific reason(s) for establishing a particular park.

**Preferred alternative.** The alternative an NPS decision-maker has identified as preferred at the draft EIS stage. It is identified to show the public which alternative is likely to be selected to help focus its comments.

**Primary interpretive themes.** The most important ideas or concepts to be communicated to the public about a park.

**Projected implementation costs.** A projection of the probably range of recurring annual costs, initial one-time costs, and life-cycle costs of plan implementation.

**Proposal.** The stage at which the National Park Service has a goal and is actively preparing to make a decision on one or more alternative means of accomplishing that goal. The goal can be a project, plan, policy, program, and so forth. The National Environmental Policy Act process begins when the effects can be meaningfully evaluated.

**Record of decision.** The document that is prepared to substantiate a decision based on an environmental impact statement. It includes a statement of the decision made, a detailed discussion of decision rationale, and the reasons for not adopting all mitigation measures analyzed, if applicable.

**Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District.** The area designated by Congress in 1996 and managed by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation to preserve and interpret the Shenandoah Valley's Civil War legacy. The counties and cities that compose the district include: Augusta, Clarke, Frederick, Highland, Page, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren Counties and the cities of Harrisonburg, Staunton, Waynesboro, and Winchester, Virginia.

**Significance.** Statements of why, within a national, regional, and systemwide context, the park's resources and values are important enough to warrant national park designation.

**Scoping.** Internal NPS decision-making on issues, alternatives, mitigation measures, the analysis boundary, appropriate level of documentation, lead and cooperating agency roles, available references and guidance, defining purpose and need, and so forth. External scoping is the early involvement of interested and affected public.

**Special mandates.** Legal mandates specific to the park that expand upon or contradict a park's legislated purpose.

**Stakeholders.** Individuals and organizations that are actively involved in the project, or whose interests may be positively or negatively affected as a result of the project execution/completion. They may also exert an influence over the project and its results. For GMP planning purposes, the term stakeholder includes NPS officials/staff as well as public and private sector partners and the public, which may have varying levels of involvement.

**Universal design.** The design of products and environments to be usable by all people to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

**User capacity.** The types and levels of visitor and other public use that can be accommodated while sustaining the desired resource conditions and visitor experiences that complement the purposes of a park.

**Visitor experience.** The perceptions, feeling, and interactions that visitors have with the park's environment and programs. The experience is affected by the setting, the types and levels of activities permitted, and the interpretive techniques used to convey park themes.



## Acronyms

**ACHP** – Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

**BMPs** – best management practices

**CBA** – Choosing By Advantages

**CEBE** – Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park

**CEQ** – Council on Environmental Quality

**CFR** – Code of Federal Regulations

**DO** – Director’s Order

**DSC** – National Park Service Denver Service Center

**EIS** – Environmental Impact Statement

**EO** – Executive Order

**EPA** – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**FEMA** – Federal Emergency Management Agency

**FHWA** – Federal Highway Administration

**FONSI** – Finding of No Significant Impact

**FR** – Federal Register

**FTE** – Full-time equivalent (staff positions)

**FWS** – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**GMP** – General Management Plan

**GPRA** – Government Performance and Results Act

**LPP** – Land Protection Plan

**MOA** – Memorandum of Agreement

**NEPA** – National Environmental Policy Act

**NERI** – New River Gorge National River

**NHPA** – National Historic Preservation Act

**NOA** – Notice of Availability

**NOI** – Notice of Intent

**NOAA** – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**NPDES** – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

**NPS** – National Park Service

**NRCS** – U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources and Conservation Service

**NWI** – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetland Inventory

**ONPS** – Operation of National Park System

**PEPC** – Planning, Environment and Public Comment System

**PL** – Public Law

**ppm** – parts per million

**PSA** – public service area

**ROD** – Record of Decision

**ROW** – right-of-way

**T&E** – threatened and endangered

**SHPO** – State Historic Preservation Officer

**SCU** – Stream Conservation Unit

**SIU** – Sections of Independent Utility

**USC** – U.S. Code

**USACOE** – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**USDC** – U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

**USGS** – U.S. Geological Survey

**USFWS** – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**VDCR** – Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

**CEDAR CREEK AND BELLE GROVE NHP General Management Plan – Acronyms**

**VDGIF** – Virginia Department of  
Game and Inland Fisheries

**VDHR** – Virginia Department of  
Historic Resources

**VDOT** – Virginia Department of  
Transportation

**VOP** – Virginia Outdoors Plan

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National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior

