

northeast corner of the Bloody Marsh Memorial site. Other management zones will provide for potential natural resource based recreation, park administrative, visitor service, and maintenance purposes.

The selected management alternative will emphasize the daily life, lifestyles and events associated with the inhabitants of Fort Frederica, and the colonial military settlement on Saint Simons Island. The goal will be to give the visitor some idea (within the context of current laws regarding sanitation, solid waste disposal, air/water pollution, etc.) of the sights, sounds, smells, and other experiences that would have been typical in this bustling British Army outpost. Since the 1940s, at least 40 archeological field investigations at Fort Frederica have been conducted to reveal vital information about the people and events associated with this military settlement. Thousands of artifacts that were recovered through archeological investigations are housed in the Monument's museum collection and the storage facilities of the Southeast Archeological Center in Tallahassee, Florida. These artifacts, along with other information obtained through the field investigations, play an important role in telling the story of Fort Frederica to the visitor.

Archeological field investigations will continue to be an important attribute of this alternative. There will be a strong archeological research effort to provide information on landscape elements, lifestyles, important events, and other features of the settlement.

The plan designates the area presently occupied by the visitor center/administrative complex and the parking lot as part of the Historic Preservation Zone. As a result, when the current visitor center/administrative complex becomes functionally obsolete, the National Monument will seek authority and funding to demolish the facility and build a new visitor center in a currently developed or previously disturbed area that is not visible from the historic town site. The area formerly occupied by the visitor center, entrance drive, and parking would be cleared and reforested. Existing park residences would be converted to office and administrative space.

Entrance and access to the site would then more accurately mirror colonial conditions and experience. Although the relocated visitor center might be as much as 200–300 yards more distant from the town site than the present one, the enhanced visitor experience will more than counterbalance the slightly greater distance. This alternative

envisioned a visitor walking down a wooded path from the visitor center to the town site, gradually leaving the sights and sounds of the modern visitor center and parking lot and entering a different place and time where views in all directions would be uninterrupted by modern structures, vehicles or other intrusions on the historic scene. Although there will be no attempt to recreate the palisades, homes and other elements of the colonial settlement, the setting will be similar to that experienced by the original British colonists when they first arrived. Americans with Disabilities Act concerns could be addressed by developing a new and improved visitor center film or video, new exhibits and displays, active interpretive efforts by park staff and volunteer costumed interpreters.

The NPS has identified and incorporated into the selected action all practical measures to avoid or minimize environmental impacts that could result from its implementation. These measures are presented in detail in the Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement.

The full ROD includes a statement of the decision made, synopses of other alternatives considered, the rationale for the decision, a description of the environmentally preferred alternative, a determination of non-impairment of park resources and values, a listing of measures to minimize environmental harm, an overview of public involvement in the decision-making process, and a statement regarding section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

Basis for Decision

In reaching its decision to select the preferred alternative, the NPS considered the purposes for which Fort Frederica National Monument was established, and other laws and policies that apply to lands in the monument, such as the National Park Service Organic Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and the NPS Management Policies. The NPS also carefully considered public comments received during the planning process.

To develop a preliminary preferred alternative, the planning team evaluated three action alternatives that were reviewed by the public as well as the required no-action alternative. To minimize the influence of individual biases and opinions, the team used an objective analysis process called "Choosing by Advantages." This process has been used extensively by government agencies and the private sector.

DATES: The Record of Decision for the Final General Management Plan (GMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Fort Frederica National Monument was signed by the Director, Southeast Region for the National Park Service on November 15, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Fort Frederica National Monument, Route 9, Box 286C, St. Simons Island, Georgia 31522.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Superintendent, Fort Frederica National Monument, (912) 638–3639.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A copy of the Record of Decision on the Final General Management Plan for Fort Frederica National Monument can be obtained via the Internet by visiting the NPS Web site at <http://planning.den.nps.gov/> or by calling 404–562–3124, ext. 685.

Dated: December 18, 2002.

Patricia A. Hooks,

Acting Regional Director, Southeast Region.

[FR Doc. 03–7952 Filed 4–1–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–70–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Jamestown Project Development Concept Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Colonial National Historical Park, Jamestown Unit, Jamestown, Virginia, and Jamestown National Historic Site, Jamestown, VA

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Jamestown Project Development Concept Plan, Colonial National Historical Park, Jamestown Unit, and Jamestown National Historic Site.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4332(c), the National Park Service announces the availability of Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Jamestown Project Development Concept Plan, Colonial National Historical Park, Jamestown Unit, Jamestown, Virginia, and Jamestown National Historic Site, Jamestown, Virginia.

DATES: The National Park Service will execute a Record of Decision (ROD) no sooner than 30 days following publication by the Environmental Protection Agency of the notice of availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

ADDRESSES: Information will be available for public review in the office

of the Superintendent, Colonial National Historical Park, Yorktown, Virginia, in the administrative offices located below the Yorktown Visitor Center. It will also be available at the following locations: Jamestown Visitor Center, Jamestown, VA, Colonial National Historical Park, Gloucester County Library, Hampton City Library, James City County Library, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library, Newport News City Library, Surry County Library, Williamsburg Regional Library, York County Public Library.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mike Litterest, Information Officer, Colonial National Historical Park, 757/898-2409.

Dated: March 14, 2003

Marie Rust,

Director, Northeast Region, National Park Service.

[FR Doc. 03-7945 Filed 4-1-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

ACTION: Notice of availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the potential impacts to the human and natural environment from two existing cellular communications towers located within Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council of Environmental Quality regulations, and National Park Service policy, this notice announces the availability, starting April 2, 2003, of an Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the potential impacts to the human and natural environment from two existing cellular communications towers located within Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC.

Copies of this document are available at www.nps.gov/rocr and the following public libraries: Martin Luther King Memorial Library, 901 G Street NW., Washington, DC, 20001; Chevy Chase Library, 5625 Connecticut Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20015; Cleveland Park Library, 3310 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Washington, DC, 20008; Georgetown Library, 3260 R Street NW., Washington, DC, 20007; Juanita Thorton Shepard Park Branch Library, 7420 Georgia Avenue NW., Washington, DC, 20012; Langston Community Library, 2600 Bennet Road

NE., Washington, DC, 20019; Mt. Pleasant Library, 1600 Lamont Street, NW., Washington, DC 20010; Northeast Branch Library, 330 7th Street NE., Washington, DC, 20002; Petworth Branch Library, 4200 Kansas Avenue NW., Washington, DC, 20011; Tenly-Friendship Branch Library, 4450 Wisconsin Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20016; Watha T. Daniel Library, 1701 8th Street NW., Washington, DC, 20001; Woodbridge Library, 1801 Hamlin Street NE., Washington, DC, 20018; Library of Congress, 101 Independence Avenue SE., Washington, DC, 20540; Palisades, 4901 V Street NW., Washington, DC, 20007; Sursum Corda Community Library, 135 New York Avenue NW., Washington, DC, 20001. You may also request a hard copy at (202) 895-6000.

DATES: There will be a 30-day public review period for comment on this document. Comments on the EA should be received by May 2, 2003, or 30 days from the publication of this notice, whichever is later. The National Park Service will be making its decision on this EA by June 20, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the EA should be submitted via mail or hand delivery to: Superintendent, Rock Creek Park, 3545 Williamsburg Lane NW., DC., 20008-1207. You may also submit comments via e-mail at ROCR@den.nps.gov. It is the practice of the National Park Service to make comments, including names and addresses of respondents, available for public review. However, individual respondents may request that the National Park Service withhold their address from the record, which the National Park Service will honor to the extent allowable by law. If you wish for your name and address to be withheld, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. The National Park Service will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: In 1998, pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Bell Atlantic Mobile, Inc. (now Verizon Wireless) filed applications for permits to locate two cellular towers along with their associated equipment shelters from Rock Creek Park. In 1999, pursuant to NEPA, the National Park Service prepared an EA that considered the environmental impacts of siting the two towers inside the park. After completing the EA, the National Park Service

concluded that the towers would not have a significant impact to the quality of the human environment, and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact. The National Park Service subsequently issued the permits necessary for Bell Atlantic to construct and operate within Rock Creek Park one 100-foot monopole at the Tennis Center, and one 130-foot monopole in the Maintenance Yard. Both towers have since been built and are currently in use. In 2000, suite was filed opposing these cellular towers, and on July 2, 2002 the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia, in *Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States v. the National Park Service and Bell Atlantic Mobile*, ordered the National Park Service to prepare this new EA. The schedule for this EA was set by the court. As part of this process, the National Park Service held a public scoping meeting on December 11, 2002.

This EA evaluates the potential environmental consequences of two action alternatives, alternatives B and C, along with a Non Action Alternative, Alternative A. Alternative A would allow the towers to continue operating at the tennis center and maintenance yard as currently permitted. Alternative B, the preferred alternative, would also allow for the continued operation of the towers at the tennis center and maintenance yard as currently permitted, with additional mitigation to further protect and study park resources. The mitigation measures called for in Alternative B would require the National Park Service to develop telecommunications facilities guidance to assist the park in protecting its resources and values, and also require the park to establish a bird-monitoring program to precisely determine the potential impacts of the towers on migratory birds. Alternative C describes and considers various scenarios for siting towers at alternative locations outside Rock Creek Park. In addition to Alternatives A, B, and C, the EA contains a discussion of those alternatives that were considered but rejected.

For further information contact Adrienne Coleman, Superintendent, Rock Creek Park, at 3545 Williamsburg Lane NW., Washington, DC 20008-1207, or by telephone at (202) 895-6004.

Dated: April 14, 2003.

Terry R. Carlstrom,

Regional Director, National Capital Region.

[FR Doc. 03-7946 Filed 4-1-03; 8:45 am]

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