

for solar projects supported by DOE in any location, not just BLM-administered lands in the six-state study area.

The DOE will consider this guidance, including recommended environmental practices and mitigation measures, in its investment and deployment strategies and decision-making process. This guidance, based on the analyses in the Draft Solar Programmatic EIS and other information, would provide DOE with a tool for making more informed, environmentally sound decisions at the outset, help to streamline future environmental analysis and documentation for DOE-supported solar projects, and support the DOE's efforts to comprehensively (1) Determine where to make technology and resource investments to minimize the potential environmental impacts of solar technologies for DOE-supported solar projects, and (2) establish environmental mitigation recommendations for proponents of DOE solar projects to consider in project plans.

Through the Solar Programmatic EIS, the DOE is evaluating two alternatives: an action alternative and a no action alternative. Under the action alternative, the DOE would develop and adopt programmatic environmental guidance that would be used by DOE to further integrate environmental considerations into its analysis and selection of proposed solar projects. In the Supplement, DOE presents for public comment proposed guidance intended to amend its existing case-by-case approach, thus facilitating the advancement of solar energy development. Under the no action alternative, the DOE would continue its existing case-by-case process for addressing environmental concerns for solar projects supported by DOE. It would not develop programmatic environmental guidance with recommended environmental best management practices and mitigation measures that could be applied to DOE-supported solar projects.

#### Other Agency Involvement

Cooperating Federal agencies on the Solar Programmatic EIS include the Department of Defense; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the National Park Service; the Bureau of Reclamation; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9; and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Pacific Division. Other cooperating agencies on the Solar PEIS include the Arizona Game and Fish Department; the California Energy Commission and Public Utilities Commission; the Nevada Department of Wildlife, the N-4 Grazing Board, and

the Southern Nevada Water Authority; the Utah Public Lands Policy Coordination Office; Clark, Esmeralda, Eureka, Lincoln, and Nye Counties, Nevada; Saguache County, Colorado; and Dona Ana County, New Mexico.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Michael D. Nedd,**

*Assistant Director, Minerals and Realty Management, Bureau of Land Management.*

**Henry Kelly,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy.*

**Authority:** 40 CFR 1506.6, 1506.10, 43 CFR 1610.2, and 10 CFR 1021.313.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

**[NPS-NCR-NAMA-0411-7123; 3401-007-SZM]**

#### Record of Decision on the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the National Mall Plan, National Mall and Memorial Parks, Washington, DC

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability, Record of Decision on the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the National Mall Plan, National Mall and Memorial Parks, Washington, DC.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C), the National Park Service announces the availability of the Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the National Mall Plan, National Mall and Memorial Parks (Final EIS/Plan).

**ADDRESSES:** The Record of Decision, Final EIS/Plan, and other information are available for public review in the Office of the Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks, 900 Ohio Drive SW., Washington, DC 20024-2000. Copies are also posted online at <http://www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks, 900 Ohio Drive SW.,

Washington, DC 20024-2000, or by telephone at (202) 245-4690.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Record of Decision was signed at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial in Washington, DC on November 9, 2010, by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar; Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks Tom Strickland, and National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis. The Record of Decision was also signed by National Capital Regional Director Peggy O'Dell and Acting National Mall and Memorial Parks Superintendent Maria Burks. A Floodplain Statement of Findings was signed on September 30, 2010, and a Programmatic Agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office, and others was signed on November 8, 2010. All of these documents are posted online at <http://www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan>.

Other related material is also available at <http://www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan>—"A National Mall Plan: Summary," "The National Mall Plan: 2010 General Implementation Priorities" list and related map, "The Draft Environmental Impact Statement and National Mall Plan," newsletters, studies, public comment reports, maps, historic reports and background materials, and a number of related papers.

The National Mall in Washington, DC is managed by the National Park Service as part of the National Park System. Following direction by Congress, in November 2006, the National Park Service announced an intensive planning effort to refurbish the National Mall so that (1) Its treasured memorials and historic landscapes could be preserved, (2) very high levels of use could be sustained, and (3) the needs of visitors could be met. This effort recognized that the National Mall was not designed for the types and levels of use it currently receives—nearly 25 million visits annually, including demonstrations, national celebrations, and permitted events. This high level of visitation has resulted in adverse impacts on the cultural and natural resources of the National Mall. Adequate facilities are lacking for large gatherings, events, exhibitions, and celebrations; for tourism and general visitation; for group visitation; for visitors with disabilities; and for recreational opportunities. This has had adverse impacts on visitor experiences and park operations.

The scope of the Final Plan/EIS encompasses three specific locations

collectively referred to as the National Mall, in Washington, DC.

- The Mall, which extends from the grounds of the United States Capitol to the Washington Monument and includes Union Square.

- The Washington Monument and its grounds.

- West Potomac Park, including the Lincoln Memorial, the World War II Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, the Tidal Basin, and the Thomas Jefferson Memorial.

The Record of Decision identifies the preferred alternative, as described in the Final EIS/Plan, as the selected action for implementation. The preferred alternative articulates a vision to protect and refurbish the National Mall so that it can better fulfill its function as our American symbol and civic space for our democracy, and so that high levels of use can be sustained, resources protected, and visitor needs met.

The National Park Service's proposed course of action is to reinforce the overall identity of the National Mall and to establish a sense of place through enduring and compatible high-quality design, as well as through the highest standards of facility maintenance. The National Mall will be respectfully rehabilitated and refurbished, with improvements made to the pedestrian environment, so that very high levels of use can be accommodated and so that the needs of all visitors can be met in an attractive, high-quality, energy-efficient, and sustainable manner. As the preeminent civic stage for our country, First Amendment demonstrations, commemorations, national ceremonies and celebrations will be better accommodated. Memorials and landscapes will be protected and the large areas of open space that are defining features of the designed historic landscape will be better maintained.

The landscape will evolve to accommodate contemporary uses while respecting the planned historic character and visions of the L'Enfant and McMillan plans. The National Mall will be emphasized as a year-round destination where the beauty and variety of every season will enhance visitor experiences. Diverse opportunities will be available for visitors and will include educational, cultural, and musical programs, as well as active and passive recreational activities. The National Park Service will continue to manage the National Mall pursuant to the applicable laws, regulations, and policies for these natural, cultural, and historic resources. Taken as a whole, the selected action is

also the environmentally preferred alternative because it best meets all six goals of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). It was developed by combining the advantages of the other alternatives, and resource conditions will be greatly improved to help achieve the paramount goal of enriching and providing a quality American experience for all. The selected action will address high levels of use and improve conditions.

*The decision is based on:*

- Considerations of public use;
- Civic, ceremonial and commemorative functions;
- Park operational efficiency;
- Analyses of environmental impacts on cultural and natural resources;
- Demonstrations;
- Special events;
- National celebrations;
- Access and circulation;
- Visitor experience;
- Socioeconomic environment; and
- Park operations.

Planning started with a National Park Service-hosted national symposium on future use and management of the National Mall and featured nationally-recognized experts in architecture, freedom of speech, First Amendment rights, landscape architecture, history, law enforcement, planning, and government. Substantial public involvement was integral to the process for developing the plan and resulted in more than 30,000 public comments, as well as close collaboration with 21 governmental agencies and 30 organizations with an interest in the National Mall and/or historic preservation.

The Final EIS/Plan will serve as the foundation for subsequent implementation plans. Among decisions made in the Final EIS/Plan, the identification of locations capable of better accommodating use within a designed historic landscape is significant.

The National Park Service investigated means to avoid or minimize environmental impacts as a result of the plan and its projects. The National Park Service had studies, and assessments prepared at the beginning of the planning process, both for public information and as background for the National Park Service planning team. The National Park Service also worked with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and consultants to learn about best practices for solid waste and recycling programs. The results of this extensive background analysis were incorporated into the alternatives, including the preferred alternative. The National Park Service will continue to

take all practical measures to avoid environmental harm and harm to related cultural and historic resources through compliance with statutes such as the NEPA and the National Historic Preservation Act, which provide for analyses and consultation. The National Park Service will continue to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on projects related to the Potomac River, the Tidal Basin, and the Potomac Park levee, and as appropriate with other organizations, agencies, and commissions including the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, and the National Capital Planning Commission.

*The Record of Decision contains:*

- A summary of the selected alternative;
- Mitigation measures developed to minimize environmental harm;
- The four other alternatives considered (including a no-action alternative);
- The basis for the decision in terms of planning objectives and the criteria used to develop the preferred alternative;
- The finding of no impairment of park resources and values;
- The environmentally preferred alternative; and
- The public and agency involvement.

Dated: September 28, 2010.

**Stephen E. Whitesell,**

*Regional Director, National Capital Region.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

**[NPS-WASO-NRNL-1011-8676; 2200-3200-665]**

### National Register of Historic Places; Notification of Pending Nominations and Related Actions

Nominations for the following properties being considered for listing or related actions in the National Register were received by the National Park Service before October 8, 2011. Pursuant to section 60.13 of 36 CFR part 60, written comments are being accepted concerning the significance of the nominated properties under the National Register criteria for evaluation. Comments may be forwarded by United States Postal Service, to the National Register of Historic Places, National