



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site
P.O. Box 249
Eads, CO 81036
719-438-5916



IN REPLY REFER TO:

SAND - 108787

June 2, 2010

Leroy Spang, President
Northern Cheyenne Tribe
P.O. Box 128
Lame Deer, MT 59043

Dear President Spang:

As you know, the National Park Service is in the process of developing the general management plan for Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site. Your participation is very important to the success of this planning effort. Please find enclosed a PowerPoint presentation of the draft management alternatives for the general management plan. Per the direction of Steve Brady and Otto Braided Hair from the Sand Creek Committee and Dan Carlson of the tribal council, we are providing this document to you for review and comment.

The PowerPoint slides provide an overview of the legislation that established Sand Creek Massacre NHS, the steps in the planning process for Sand Creek, the management zones, and the draft alternatives for management of the site. Five management zones have been developed for Sand Creek. These management zones are the building blocks for the draft management alternatives that are described in more detail in the PowerPoint presentation. These management alternatives were developed in partnership with members of the Sand Creek committees of the Northern Cheyenne, Northern Arapaho, and Southern Cheyenne/Southern Arapaho tribes, and representatives of the State of Colorado and Kiowa County, Colorado. Both the management zones and the draft management alternatives are based directly on the guidance that Congress provided in the legislation. The alternatives describe different ways to focus on the legislative mandates to: 1) memorialize and commemorate the events of the Sand Creek Massacre; 2) preserve and protect the site and its resources; 3) provide educational and interpretive opportunities for visitors; and 4) allow for traditional cultural observances. All of these mandates are represented to some degree in the draft alternatives.

Alternative A, is the "no-action alternative," also known as the continuation of existing conditions. Under this alternative, management of Sand Creek will continue under the interim management

plan developed in 2007. This "no-action" alternative provides the baseline for analysis of the four action alternatives, which are described below.

Alternative B would emphasize broad interpretation of the history and consequences of the Sand Creek Massacre and allow greater visitor access to the site with the development of additional trails. Alternative C would focus on commemoration and memorialization of the Sand Creek Massacre. Visitor access would be limited, with minimal trails and less interpretive material on the site. Alternative D would balance memorialization with visitor access. Trail development would be greater than in Alternative C, but less than in Alternative B. Alternative E would place the greatest emphasis on resource preservation. The sensitive streambed of Sand Creek would be closed to all visitors.

Under all of the alternatives, development on the site would be minimal. The main visitor center for orientation and education would be located in Eads, Colorado. All of the action alternatives would make preservation of the site a top priority. In all of the action alternatives, at least 90% of the site would be included in the resource preservation zones.

Please submit your comments on the draft management alternatives by June 18 to Tom Thomas, project manager for the general management plan at:

Tom Thomas
National Park Service
Denver Service Center
12795 West Alameda Parkway
Lakewood, CO 80228
You may also email comments at:
Tom.Thomas@nps.gov

Following this review of the management alternatives, the National Park Service will distribute the draft management zones and management alternatives for public review and comment.

We greatly appreciate your participation in this important step in planning for the future of Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site. If you have any questions, please contact me at 719-438-5916 or at Alden_Miller@nps.gov.

Sincerely,



Alden Miller
Superintendent
Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site

Enc.