



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

MEMORANDUM

TO: Secretary of the Interior

THROUGH: Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks *John M. ...*

FROM: Director, National Park Service *Ivan P. Minella*

DATE: February 18, 2004

FEB 18 2004

I am transmitting with this memorandum a Resolution of the Flight 93 Advisory Commission advising you of their determination that certain lands at and near the impact site of Flight 93 are essential to any interpretation of the Flight 93 National Memorial and requesting that you immediately begin the process of protecting these lands prior to the issuance of the Commission's final report on the Flight 93 National Memorial. The Commission adopted the Resolution at its meeting of November 14, 2003.

The Flight 93 Advisory Commission was established pursuant to P.L. 107-226. It is charged with the responsibility to submit to the Secretary and Congress a report containing recommendations for the planning, design, construction, and long term management of a permanent memorial at the crash site. Section (4)(i)(2) of the Act provides that "the Commission shall advise the Secretary on the boundaries of the memorial site."

The Commission has determined that the Flight 93 impact site, properties comprising the viewshed from the impact site, and those associated with the entry to the site from Route 30 will be included in any future boundary recommendation that the Commission may make for the National Memorial. It requests that you exercise the authority granted in Section 5(8) of the Act to "acquire from willing sellers the land or interests in land for the memorial site by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange." The lands contained the Commission's Resolution constitute approximately 1500 acres.

Somerset County currently holds approximately \$550,000 in donated funds to be used by the National Park Service for the acquisition of land inside the fenced area. This fenced area is +/-100 acres encompassing the crash site, debris field and the extent of human remains. In addition the Administration's FY 05 request includes \$2.214 million for land acquisition at the Flight 93 Memorial.

After conferring with the Superintendent of the Flight 93 Memorial, Joanne Hanley, I am recommending that you authorize the NPS to begin the process of acquisition of the fenced area (\pm 100 acres) and that you concur with the concept of the remaining lands recommended in the Commission's resolution. We are, however, recommending that lands which are immediately south, southeast and southwest of the present proposal also be considered by the Commission as it refines the ultimate boundary recommendation for the National Memorial. These lands if developed in the future would detract from the memorial site and the optimal visitor experience.

I am enclosing for your consideration a draft response letter to Mr. John Reynolds, the Commission's Chairman. Please contact me should you desire additional information regarding the Commission's request and the NPS recommendation.

Enclosures (2)