

# Adaptive Use of Lucas/Fabian Property Environmental Assessment



National Park Service - Grand Teton National Park

February 2005

## PROJECT CANCELLATION NOTICE

*The National Park Service has decided to not proceed further with an environmental assessment (EA) for the adaptive use of the Geraldine Lucas Homestead/Fabian Place Historic District (Lucas/Fabian Property) as the center for an Artist-In-Residence program in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming. This notice seeks to provide the rationale for this decision, concluding the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for the project, and explain the relationship of the Artist-In-Residence program to the upcoming General Management Plan.*

### BACKGROUND

The National Park Service (NPS) initiated the NEPA process in 2003 to study the potential of adaptively using the Lucas/Fabian Property in Grand Teton National Park for an Artist-In-Residence (AIR) program. Such programs currently operate within 29 units of the national park system. The AIR program offers opportunities for visual artists, photographers, sculptors, performers, writers, composers and craft artists to live and work in the parks on a temporary basis. Grand Teton National Park (GTNP), in conjunction with the Grand Teton Natural History Association (GTNHA) as a partner, proposed to establish such a program at the historic Lucas/Fabian Property.

The Lucas/Fabian Property is located 4½ miles north of Moose, Wyoming along Cottonwood Creek, between Taggart Trailhead and Lupine Meadows, at an elevation of 6,710 feet (2,045 meters). The historic district, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1998, consists of four cabins, a storage shed, a garage, a pump house, an outhouse, and a power house. In recent years, volunteers have preserved portions of the buildings, such as roofs, porches, chinking, and masonry.

In September 2003, the NPS conducted public scoping on the *Adaptive Use of Lucas/Fabian Property Environmental Assessment*. The scoping identified that the **purpose** of this proposal was to establish an AIR program through the adaptive use of the Lucas/Fabian Property. The **need** was to provide an opportunity and suitable, short-term (seasonal) residential facility at the Lucas/Fabian Property for artistic expression in a range of creative media.



Three preliminary alternatives were identified: No Action, Alternative A (Minimal Stabilization Development to Support AIR Program), and Alternative B (Full Infrastructure Development to Support AIR Program).

### RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment focused mainly on the range of alternatives; potential impacts to wildlife and riparian resources; public access and safety; and comprehensive planning and the NEPA process. The NPS held a workshop with 22 participants in January 2004 to address these comments and refine the alternatives accordingly. Due to several comments from the community that questioned whether the Lucas/Fabian Property was the best suited location for an AIR within the park, GTNP reconsidered how it might approach the AIR program in other ways in the park. The park interdisciplinary team discussed various opportunities for artists that currently exist within the park and in the surrounding community.



Jackson Hole is the host of the *Arts for the Parks* program which began in 1986 and is now an international painting competition designed to bring awareness and appreciation of national parks to people. During the Fall Arts Festival, many events such as gallery walks and the QuickDraw Art Sale and Auction are held within the community and at Jackson Lake Lodge. Within the park, the GTNHA hosts the *Artist in the Environment* program which includes one-day roadside opportunities between June and September for park visitors to interact with painters and writers. Elsewhere in Grand Teton National Park partnerships exist with The Murie Center, the Teton Science Schools, and the AMK Ranch. These programs provide facilities that have the potential for use in varying degrees to support an AIR program.

#### **DECISION AND RATIONALE**

Park management has decided to not pursue adaptively using the Lucas/Fabian Property for the AIR program at this time and consider the role of artists in the park in a more comprehensive manner. Consequently, the NPS has decided to not proceed further with an environmental assessment for the project. Preservation activities will continue at the

Lucas/Fabian Property until such time that a suitable adaptive use is identified through further study and planning. GTNP and the GTNHA will continue to host and expand upon day-long programs such as the *Artist in the Environment* until the park has the opportunity to address the AIR program more comprehensively through the guidance of a new General Management Plan (GMP). The National Park Service will retain the comment letters submitted during scoping for the *Adaptive Use of Lucas/Fabian Property EA* process and refer to them during the GMP Process.

#### **WHAT'S NEXT?**

In 2005, the NPS will begin the multi-year process of creating a new General Management Plan for Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway. The environmental impact statement (EIS) will focus on the mission of the units and create a vision of future desired conditions regarding resource preservation, opportunities for visitor use, facilities and operations, and coordination with partners, including such programs as the AIR. Public scoping/workshops are tentatively scheduled to begin in 2006.

---

**GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK**

**P.O. Drawer 170**

**Moose, Wyoming 83012**