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Independence National Historical Park

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National Park Service and National Center for the American Revolution Take Next Step on Agreement

Plans Move Forward for Land Exchange

Philadelphia -- The National Park Service and the National Center for the American Revolution have taken the next step to prepare for the exchange of 78 acres owned by the National Center for the American Revolution within the boundary of Valley Forge National Historical Park for 0.87 acres owned by the United States of America within the boundary of Independence National Historical Park.

A Programmatic Agreement and Notice of Realty Action related to the land exchange are now available for public review and comment. The public is invited to view and comment on these documents at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/inde>.

The Notice of Realty Action summarizes the details of the land exchange. The Programmatic Agreement addresses concerns raised previously by stakeholders and the public about this land exchange. The National Park Service has identified five specific conditions that will address potential adverse effects on cultural resources. For example, stipulations require archeological studies on the Independence land parcel, include deed restrictions on the Independence land parcel, address the future of the Independence Living History Center, ensure preservation of the Valley Forge land parcel, and include a design and review process for the Independence land parcel.

The Programmatic Agreement, once finalized, will record the terms and conditions agreed upon to protect cultural resources that will be leaving federal ownership. The National Park Service and the National Center for the American Revolution anticipate that the following parties will be signatories to the final agreement: the City of Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Delaware Nation, The Delaware Tribe of Indians, and the Stockbridge-Munsee Community.

The public is invited to review this draft Programmatic Agreement and Notice of Realty Action and provide comments. The documents are available at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/inde>. The Programmatic Agreement and the Notice of Realty Action will be open for public comment for a period of 45 days.

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