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PACIFIC WEST REGIONAL OFFICE Memorandum

L7617 (PWRO-P)

01 APR 2017

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park

From: Regional Director, Pacific West Region

Subject: Environmental Compliance for Station Camp and Middle Village Project

The *Finding of No Significant Impact* for restoration of coastal prairie landscape and enhanced interpretation and other facility improvements at this cultural-historic site is approved. To complete this particular compliance effort, the park should provide notice of the decision to all individuals, agencies, and organizations that received the supporting environmental assessment.

Congratulations on continuing in these partnership efforts towards implementing key elements of the 1995 General Management Plan.

 Christine S. Lehnertz

Attachment

cc:
PWR-DRR

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**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
STATION CAMP & MIDDLE VILLAGE PROJECT**

National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior
Lewis and Clark National Historical Park

INTRODUCTION

This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been prepared in accordance with the NPS Director's Order 12 for the Station Camp & Middle Village Project in Pacific County, Washington. The FONSI, along with the EA, comprise the complete record of environmental impact analysis for the project. The Station Camp & Middle Village Environmental Assessment analyzed two alternatives, the No Action alternative (Alternative A) and Improvements to Protect, Restore and Interpret Station Camp & Middle Village (Alternative B). Alternative A would not change the existing management of the site. In contrast, Alternative B would introduce measures to protect and restore cultural and natural resources, as well as interpretative exhibits to explain the full history and significance of the site.

The selected alternative will provide Lewis and Clark National Historical Park staff with an appropriate approach to protecting and interpreting a site of national significance.

This FONSI supersedes the 2004 FONSI and EA for developments and highway realignment at Station Camp. The 2004 project was rescinded in 2008 after new information was obtained about the impacts of moving the highway outside of the current right-of-way. This FONSI and EA recommend no work on the highway outside the existing right-of-way.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

The purpose of this project is to protect, restore, and interpret Station Camp–Middle Village, a unit of the National Park Service and a site of national importance along the Lower Columbia River.

Action is needed to protect and restore sensitive cultural and natural resources and to interpret a nationally significant, but under-represented part of the prehistory and history of the United States.

Protection of the site is needed as soon as is practicable. Archeological investigations in 2005 identified this site as the most important known native trading site along the Lower Columbia River and the most appropriate site to interpret contact from 1790 to 1820 between tribal nations on the Columbia River and the young and expansionist United States. The site is currently unprotected and is used for impromptu parking, campfires and sanitary purposes by anglers and tourists along Highway 101. Although pedestrian and automobile entries are not encouraged, they do occur, and there are few measures in place to control and direct access. The project area is viewed as little more than an open field.

The site is also infested with Scot's broom, an invasive, non-native species. Archeologists fear that the roots of the broom might disturb resources shallowly buried in the thin sandy soil.

Development of this site and interpretation of Station Camp & Middle Village history would allow the nation to share the largely untold story of the Lower Columbia Chinookan people before, during, and after contact. The Station Camp & Middle Village site allows a unique opportunity to interpret events of national importance from the perspective of First Americans. Chinookan people occupied the river for generations before the arrival of Europeans and Euro-Americans. The Columbia-Snake River trading network was one of the two largest pre-contact trading networks in what would later become the United States of America. The Chinookan people who occupied the area near the confluence of the Columbia River and Pacific Ocean not only controlled the intersection of the Columbia- Snake trading network with coastal trading networks to the north and south, they also held a monopoly on the choicest salmon from the continent's largest pre-contact fish run. Contact with this trading network was one of the key objectives of American exploration, but contact also brought devastating diseases to the native people. The pre-contact population along the Lower Columbia was not reached again until the twentieth century. It would also allow the interpretation of the role of the estuary and salmon in the region's history, a story that continues today as tribes, states, and the federal government work to protect and restore salmon runs in the Columbia basin.

Other concerns in the project area include a lack of thematic and physical connections to other nearby public lands and interpretive sites. Station Camp & Middle Village is likely the richest cultural/historic site in the tidewater portion of the Columbia, yet it is only one of many sites along this passage that reveals a deep and dynamic history of the mouth of the Columbia River. In order for visitors to fully understand and appreciate the role of the mouth of the river in the prehistory and history of the northwest, it is important that separate sites are connected into a coherent and connected narrative. Improvements to the Station Camp & Middle Village site will serve as a catalyst for development of these connections.

The NPS and its partners have developed the following goals for this project:

- Develop a strategy to ensure the protection of cultural resources and sacred sites. This is the primary goal for the site.
- Develop interpretation and access to the site in a way that is consistent with the goal to protect resources and sacred sites.
- Develop interpretation that helps to tie together the entire Lower Columbia region.

SELECTED ALTERNATIVES & OTHER ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

NPS selects **Alternative B** for implementation. There are no modifications due to public comment incorporated herein.

Improvements to Protect and Interpret Station Camp & Middle Village

The selected alternative involves measures to protect, restore and interpret Station Camp & Middle Village. The development of this alternative began with detailed studies and analyses to

identify sensitive features. Two extensive archeological investigations were conducted, one from 2005-2009 and one in 2010. Archeological investigations were supplemented with soil surveys, a geotechnical analysis, and wetland delineation.

The first line of protection will be directed and controlled access. Trails and interpretive elements were designed to keep visitors focused on vistas, landscape, and exhibits and away from sensitive cultural sites. The selected alternative would re-create a dense area of coastal prairie vegetation (grasses and forbs) adjacent to walkways. These grasses and the treated stumps of Scots broom would provide a very uninviting surface and would encourage visitor to stay on improved gravel pathways. Improvements along the road edge, including a sand berm and a breakaway fence, would prevent parking and vehicle entry to areas outside of the hardened parking area. Site improvements and corresponding visitor traffic would also help to curtail the use of the site for impromptu campfires and sanitary functions.

Using the results of archeological and natural resources surveys, NPS worked with Tribal and agency partners to develop a conceptual design that focused on low-impact interpretive trails and exhibits and actions and minimized any ground disturbance. The selected alternative uses previously disturbed areas for visitor developments. A highly disturbed 1-acre gravel pull-off and picnic area would be re-developed into a parking area and site orientation area. The site of a recent, non-historic structure would serve as the location for an interpretive plank house developed in collaboration with the Chinook Nation. The parking and orientation area and the plank house feature, as well as all trails and overlooks, would be constructed on fill and would require no ground disturbance. A layer of protective matting would be placed between the existing ground surface and fill to mark the division between the layers for future generations.

NPS and its partners worked with the Washington State Department of Transportation to minimize ground disturbance in the roadway. Average Daily Traffic (ADT) counts were high enough to require the modification of State Highway 101 to install a left turn lane for the eastbound lane. Construction of this turn pocket will require a slight widening of the road and excavation to as much as 2 feet in depth under the existing road surface. Archeological investigations determined that the right-of-way was a highly disturbed area containing a significant amount of fill brought in to support, in succession, a rail-line, former Highway 12 and the current State Highway 101. Cultural material recovered from the right of way included materials from the construction and maintenance of these three transportation corridors, in sharp contrast to the more sensitive and significant cultural material located within the interior of the site. The current site design recommends coring during road improvements to minimize cut and fill required during construction.

The selected alternative was designed to minimize impacts to wetlands to a level that would not require a section 404 permit. There will be no filling of wetlands in this project, although a retaining wall will be constructed in a wetland margin. This wall, constructed of gabion baskets and approximately 150 feet in length, would be installed between the new orientation area and an adjacent wetland. The purpose of this second wall would be to keep fill brought in to build the parking and orientation area from entering the wetland.

The selected alternative also calls a rock retaining wall between the road and a culvert at the west end of the project site to keep fill from the road improvements from sloughing into the wetlands and stream drainage served by the culvert.

The selected alternative would restore cultural landscapes and natural resources in the project area to enhance visitor understanding. The alternative calls for actively returning the area to native coastal prairie and installing cultural features present between 1800 and 1900, such as a plank house feature, storm-tossed driftwood, canoes, and historically accurate fencing.

Other Alternatives Considered and Dismissed

During the scoping phase, several other options were considered, including a major realignment of US Highway 101 and more extensive park development. These actions were not carried forward for analysis in the EA because they failed to achieve the project's primary goal to protect cultural resources and sacred sites.

The project team reviewed several proposals for realignment of US Highway 101 northward. These included a highway relocation project proposed in 2005, as well as more recent adjustments to the highway alignment considered as part of the current project design. Realignment of the existing highway northward would locate the highway unacceptably close or on top of places and cultural items considered sacred by the Chinook Nation and other tribes. Relocation was judged to be incongruent with both the NPS Organic Act and with NPS' responsibility for government-to-government consultation with tribal governments.

During scoping, several citizens put forward broader, more extensive plans for park development. Through planning and design discussion meetings, internal and external scoping meetings, and discussions with local stakeholder groups, several improvements were dismissed for one of three reasons:

- They were judged to require excavation in the interior of the site near known cultural resources;
- Impact to wetlands; or
- An unacceptable safety risk.

The elements dismissed included:

1. Additional parking at the east end of the park. This parking would be too close to the protected archeological area.
2. Additional parking at the proposed parking area. The present 12- space parking lot is as large as possible without impact to wetlands and adjacent archeological site.
3. US Highway 101 buses drop off. Evaluation of a westbound bus drop off along the highway was explored by the project team and the WSDOT. It was not considered a feasible option due to pedestrian safety concerns and the lack of deceleration and acceleration space.
4. Development of a building or contact station with water and electricity. This was dismissed due to requirements for additional excavation and because it does not support the primary

project goal to protect cultural resources. The development of a restroom that does not require electricity or water and that is built on fill would meet the project goals and may be pursued.

ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The National Park Service (NPS) determined that the environmentally preferred alternative for this project is Alternative B. The environmentally preferred alternative is the alternative that will promote the national environmental policy expressed in NEPA (sec. 101 (b)). This includes alternatives that:

- Fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as a trustee of the environment for succeeding generations.
- Ensure for all Americans safe, healthful, productive, and esthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings.
- Attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk of health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences.
- Preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage and maintain, whenever possible, an environment that supports diversity and variety of individual choice.
- Achieve a balance between population and resource use that will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities.
- Enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources.

The Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA and the NPS NEPA guidelines require that “the alternative or alternatives which were considered to be environmentally preferable” be identified (Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, Section 1505.2). Ordinarily, this means the alternative that causes the least damage to the biological and physical environment; it also means the alternative that best protects, preserves, and enhances historic, cultural, and natural resources.

Alternative B is the *Environmentally Preferred Alternative*. The preferred alternative was determined through evaluation by NPS and project stakeholders based on its ability to meet objectives to protect and interpret a significant cultural site, as well as its potential impact on the environment and surrounding properties. In contrast Alternative A, the No Action Alternative, was not selected because NPS would fail to enhance the quality of renewable resources. Under Alternative A, the site would continue to be used seasonally for parking, campfires, and sanitary purposes, without regard to sensitive cultural resources. Scots broom and other invasive plants would be controlled, but there would be no action to re-create the historic cultural landscape or re-establish native plants.

Decision Rationale

Selecting strategic measures to protect, restore and interpret the Station Camp & Middle Village site comports with the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park Designation Act (Public Law

108- 387) with the 2004 Lower Columbia Lewis and Clark Sites Study. The Designation Act implemented the preferred alternative in the Study. This alternative also comports with the results of archeological work and analysis conducted between 2004 and 2009 that established the site as the most significant known trading site in the Lower Columbia.

This alternative strategically avoids impacts to cultural resources and wetlands, while creating modest enhancements that will serve to restore cultural landscapes, and educate visitors.

MITIGATION

In areas where there is the potential for short- term or long-term adverse effects, mitigation measures will be used to minimize negative impacts. Mitigation measures include best management practices (BMPs). BMPs required for implementation are listed below:

Resource Area	Mitigation	Responsible Party
General Considerations	1. All work will comply with agency required permits and their conditions.	NPS LEWI Chief of Facilities/Park Engineer.
Vegetation	2. No more than 10 native trees greater than 6 inches dbh will be removed within the project area. Planting will result in a net gain of native trees, shrubs and forbs.	NPS LEWI Chief of Facilities/Park Engineer.
Water Quality	3. Pervious pavement will be used in the parking areas to decrease the total square footage of impervious surfaces on the site.	NPS LEWI Chief of Facilities/Park Engineer.
	4. Sediment fencing and other appropriate temporary erosion control measures in place to control storm water runoff.	NPS LEWI Chief of Facilities/Park Engineer.
Wetlands	5. No fill will be used in wetlands.	NPS LEWI Chief of Facilities/Park Engineer.
Cultural Resources	6. Tribal and agency monitors will be on site at all times during ground disturbing activities. Contractors and employees must complete cultural resource protection training before working on site.	NPS FOVA Archeologist.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND AGENCY CONSULTATION

Scoping

NPS and the agency partner team, consisting of the Washington State Historical Society, the Washington State Department of Transportation, and the Chinook Nation conducted multiple internal scoping meetings from 2008 to 2010 to identify guidelines and practices that would

protect cultural resources and ensure public safety, to establish goals for interpretation at the site, and, and to set screening and evaluation criteria against which alternatives would be judged and impacts would be analyzed.

On December 9, 2009, NPS notified Tribal governments, local, state, and federal agencies, other interested organizations, and the general public of the proposed actions at Station Camp & Middle Village through a public scoping letter. This letter was posted on the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park website and on the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website and mailed out to individuals and groups on the park's mailing list. In addition, a news release was sent out on December 9, 2009 announcing the public and tribal/agency scoping meetings.

The public and tribal/agency scoping meetings on Thursday December 17, 2009 consisted of presentations that explained both needs and environmental and safety constraints at the site. The agency/tribal meeting was followed by a site tour hosted by the principal NPS archeologist, Dr. Doug Wilson. The tribal/agency meetings were attended by representatives of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Chinook Indian Nation. Eleven individuals attended the public meeting, including 2 representatives of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and 9 private citizens.

NPS and partners conducted public scoping for this project from December, 2009 through February, 2010 and solicited input from the public through the meetings noted above and more than two dozen presentations to local governments and other stakeholders. During the scoping period, many individuals supported goals of the project and two local newspapers ran editorials in support of the project.

All verbal comments received were favorable. Themes which emerged included bathrooms, road speed limits, ingress and egress, interpretation and stories told at the site, and night lighting. No written comments were received during scoping.

Public EA Review

After the EA was completed, it was made available for public review and comment during a 30-day period from November 8, 2010 to December 9, 2010. Public notice of the availability of the EA was provided to individuals, organizations, and agencies through notification on the park website (www.nps.gov/lewi). Two printed copies of the EA were available for reviews at each of the following locations: the Ilwaco Timberland Library and the Ocean Park Library, NPS park headquarters, the Columbia-Pacific Heritage Museum in Ilwaco and the Pacific County Department of Community Development in Long Beach. Press releases were published in the local newspaper inviting the public to review the completed EA at public meetings held November 19, 2010. The public EA review was attended by representatives of the Chinook Indian Nation and the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, as well as 6 private citizens. No written comments were received during the EA review period.

Agency Consultation

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service

A biological assessment of impacts to species under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) was completed on August 19, 2010 and is included as Appendix B in the EA. Both USFWS and NMFS have concurred with NPS' finding of either no effect or not likely to adversely affect listed species.

State and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers

In December 2009, NPS initiated Section 106 consultation with the Chinook Indian Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, the Chehalis Confederated Tribes, the Quinault Indian Nation, and the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe. Representatives from the Chinook Indian Nation and the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde attended the December scoping meeting and shared comments, concerns, and suggestions, which are recorded in the EA. In December, 2009, NPS also initiated consultation with the Washington Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP).

In March, 2010, NPS invited DAHP and the six tribes listed above to review the study and sampling design for the cultural resources inventory. Washington State Archeologist Robert Whitlam provided comments on the study design on March 4, 2010. NPS and partners made changes to the study design to comport with DAHP comments and DAHP provided concurrence via telephone on April 27, 2010, as noted in a memorandum to file.

NPS invited the six tribes listed above to review the EA at a meeting on November 19, 2010. The Chair of the Chinook Nation and the THPO from the Cowlitz Indian Tribe attended the meeting and reviewed the project concept, as well as detailed cut and fill profiles for highway improvements and retaining walls. Both attendees were very positive about the park's interpretive direction and offered suggestions about project implementation, such as the use of magnetic layer between ground surface and fill.

On November 30, 2010, NPS sent a formal request to DAHP and the six consulted tribes for concurrence with a finding of no adverse effect on historical and cultural resources. On December 30, 2010, NPS received a request DAHP for additional information. On February 3, NPS transmitted the requested information to DAHP. On March 15, 2011, DAHP concurred with NPS' finding of no effect on historical and cultural resources.

Pacific County

In the state of Washington, a streamlined permit process is initiated at the local government level. State agencies with jurisdiction review the permit requests. Between September, 2010 and December, 2010, NPS and partners consulted with Pacific County and submitted applications for several required permits. On December 7, 2010, after public hearing and review, the County determined that the following permits could be conveyed to NPS upon request:

- Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Consistency Certification
- State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review
- Shoreline Management Substantial Development Permit
- Critical Areas Resource Lands (CARL) Variance
- Joint Aquatic Resources Permit

WHY THE SELECTED ALTERNATIVE WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE QUALITY OF THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

NPS used the following NEPA criteria and factors defined in 40 CFR §1508.27 to evaluate whether the Selected Alternative would have a significant impact on the environment.

Degree of effect on Public Health or Safety.

NPS worked with WSDOT to assure that this project met appropriate state highway safety guidelines. Project elements that increased public risk, such as at-grade pedestrian crossings and drop-off lanes, were dismissed from consideration.

In addition, NPS worked with WSDOT to conduct a traffic analysis, completed in August, 2010, by DKS Associates. Based on this traffic analysis, project designers would incorporate several measures to maintain or improve public safety. These would include creation of a new left turn lane serving westbound Highway 101 and a sand berm and breakaway border fence (designed to approximate the historic McGowan town fence) to keep pedestrians and vehicles separated. The berm would also discourage dangerous shoulder parking that now occurs within the project area. It is anticipated that the park features themselves would reduce speed through the area and have a traffic calming effect.

The project design also includes a proposed trail connection between the national park and adjacent Fort Columbia State Park. If this trail were to be built, it would reduce the vehicle traffic necessary to travel between these two parks.

Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.

As proposed, the project would re-create certain historic cultural landscape features at Station Camp and Middle Village. Soil probes and test pits dug between 2004 and 2010, as well as historic photographs, have established what the site looked like prior to construction of the modern highway armored with rip-rap. The site fronts the Columbia River estuary. Historically, a wide beach occupied the tidal zone. Inland, the site showed characteristic development of dunes, coastal prairie and interdunal wetlands, as well as small watercourses draining the adjacent hills. Great piles of driftwood occupied the beach and odd pieces of driftwood were thrown into the site's interior by winter storms.

The hydrology and topography of the site has been dramatically modified. Stream courses were re-directed to avoid the town and to create drained pasture. Fill was brought in to raise low areas. Nonetheless, some approximation of the original wetlands and sandy features still exists on site.

The project would remove invasive plants and re-establish native coastal prairie, dune features and driftwood. The project has been designed to avoid impacts to wetlands. While there will be

work in wetland margins, one project goal was to use wetland delineation and strategic design to keep impacts low enough that the project would not require a Statement of Findings or a Section 404 permit. The project design has met this goal.

NPS has worked with the Chinook Indian Nation to include cultural features that would have occupied the site prior to 1830, including a plank house frame interpretive exhibit and several historically accurate canoe exhibits.

Degree to which effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.

The cultural site is very important to the Chinook Indian Nation and members of 5 other tribes, as well as the descendants of P.J. McGowan, founder of the 1850s cannery town that once occupied the site. The Chinook Nation and the McGowan family were part of an interdisciplinary design team and helped the team assure that the final design, and any environmental modifications would be culturally and historically accurate.

Degree to which the possible effects on the quality of the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.

Construction of this project would temporarily exclude park visitors from the one acre pullout and interpretive sign at Station Camp. Construction efforts may temporarily impact the view shed of the area, thereby creating negligible short-term adverse effects. However, over the long term, the project would have a net beneficial effect on environment and view shed.

Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.

Restoring elements of the cultural landscape at Station Camp & Middle Village will complement a tidelands restoration project approximately one-mile downstream at Fort Columbia State Park. The Fort Columbia project will replace a culvert and restore the connection between the Columbia River and adjacent tidelands, a cultural landscape known to the Chinookan people prior to the 1880s. Together, these two projects will help restore some of the historic scene and environment along a stretch of the Lower Columbia.

Both projects would have negligible short-term adverse effects during construction, but construction periods are not likely to overlap in time.

Degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed on National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.

No adverse affects are expected to historic district, highways, structures or objects listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Archeological site 45PC106 occupies a portion of the project area. Investigations at the site by NPS archeologist Dr. Doug Wilson uncovered material from a Chinookan village. Most of the material recovered appears to date from the period of contact with Europeans and Americans (1790-1820). Evidence suggests that the village was occupied by people of wealth and status within Chinookan society and that these people were one of the links between foreign traders and settlers at Astoria and tribal communities in the

Columbia-Pacific region. In the submission to DAHP, Dr. Wilson recommends re-evaluating the site under the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

There are three structures within the larger NPS unit boundary from the town of McGowan which might be eligible for the National Register. These include the 1904 St. Mary's Church, the 1903-era building known as the "office" and the 1911 Henry McGowan House. All three of these structures are in private ownership.

The purpose of this project is to restore, protect, and interpret these historic and cultural resources at Station Camp & Middle Village. The archeological evidence and historical resources would be the basis for interpretation. The project was designed to protect archeological resources by directing access away from these areas. The design also accommodates continued use of the St. Mary's Church and recreates the historic church environment through installation of a historically accurate fence between site and highway.

The primary theme of interpretation will be the Chinookan people of Middle Village, prior to, during, and after contact with Europeans and Americans. The story of contact at the site includes American Captain Robert Gray, first European visitor to the river, the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and the Astor Expedition. Later history includes the McGowan cannery town, whose history is twined with the history of the Chinookan people and early American history in the lower Columbia.

In addition, the project will seek to restore elements of the cultural landscape from Middle Village and the McGowan town era, including coastal prairies, sandy dunes, and river driftwood. Cultural elements, such as a seasonal plank house exhibit and exhibit canoes, created in partnership with the Chinook Indian Nation, would further enhance the historic scene.

Degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its critical habitat.

No adverse affects are expected to endangered or threatened species or critical habitat. Activities associated with Alternative B would involve construction activity between spring and fall. The far western edge of the action area may contain suitable nesting and roosting habitat for the marbled murrelet. The biological assessment judged that the project may effect, but is not likely to adversely affect murrelets. This is because:

- Potential minor short-term adverse effects due to construction would be mitigated by prohibiting construction at or around sunrise and sunset in the western part of the site during the murrelet breeding season.
- There is already an existing pedestrian trail and state park structures and amenities within and near suitable habitat. The additional impacts of distant construction noise are unlikely to change the suitability of existing habitat and conditions.

Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, state or local environmental protection law.

All permits will be obtained prior to construction and no violation of Federal, state or local environmental protection laws will occur knowingly.

IMPAIRMENT

The National Park Service has determined that implementation of the Selected Alternative and mitigation measures will not constitute impairment to Lewis and Clark National Historical Park's resources and values. There would be no major adverse impacts to a resource or value whose conservation is 1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the park's establishing legislation; 2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park or to opportunities for enjoyment of the park; or 3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant NPS planning documents. This conclusion is based on a thorough analysis of the environmental impacts described in the Station Camp-Middle Village Environmental Assessment, the mitigation measures, agency consultations, considerations of the public comments received, relevant scientific studies, and the professional judgment of the decision-maker guided by the direction in NPS Management Policies.

CONCLUSION

Implementation of the Station Camp & Middle Village project as described above will not have significant impacts on the human environment. The determination is sustained by the analysis in the EA, agency consultations, the inclusion and consideration of public scoping comments overall, and the capability of mitigations to reduce or avoid impacts. Adverse environmental impacts that could occur are negligible to minor in intensity, duration, and context. As described in the EA, there are no highly uncertain controversial or unacceptable impacts, unique or unknown risks, significant cumulative effects, or elements of precedence. There are no previous, planned, or implemented actions, which in combination with the selected alternative would have significant effects on the human environment. Requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act have been satisfied and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The park will implement the Selected Alternative as soon as practical.

Recommended: David M. Szymanski 29 March 2011
David Szymanski, Superintendent Date
Lewis and Clark National Historical Park

Approved: Christine S. Lehnertz April 1, 2011
Christine S. Lehnertz, Regional Director Date
for Pacific West Region, National Park Service