Record of Determination to Close
Manassas National Battlefield Park to the
Launching, Landing, or Operation of Unmanned Aircraft

Authority: 36 CFR 1.5 (a) (1)- General Closures- Launching, landing or operating an unmanned aircraft from or on lands and waters administered by the National Park Service within the boundaries of Manassas National Battlefield Park is prohibited except as approved in writing by the superintendent.

Definition: The term "unmanned aircraft" means a device that is used or intended to be used for flight in the air without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the device, and the associated operation elements and components that are required for the pilot or system operator In command to operate or control the device (such as cameras, sensors, communication links). This term includes all types of devices that meet this definition (e.g., model airplanes, quadcopters, drones,) that are used for any purpose, including for recreation or commerce.)

Justification: This restriction covers all areas within Manassas National Battlefield Park.

The remainder of the park falls within the closely regulated airspace associated with a major airport in the area, Dulles International. A portion of our parkland is in residential areas, close to multi-story buildings, and in the busy urban environment. Other sites are held sacred for their connection to honor our military. Wildlife and migratory birds, including threatened species, feed and roost in the park. The driver distractions and safety hazards at the well-traveled thoroughfares are to be minimized.

The National Park Service has not had sufficient time to adequately determine the effect and impact of this use of unmanned aircraft in Manassas National Battlefield Park on the atmosphere of solemnity and reverence as well as scenic values of the battlefield; the safety of visitors walking, bicycling and driving in and through the park; the expression of 1st Amendment views; the impact on wildlife and the safety and security of official aircraft that operate over and in the park.

The launching and retrieval of unmanned aircraft, as distinguished from that of the operation of model aircraft (prohibited under 36 CFR 7.96 without a permit), is a new use and subject to the requirements of the National Park Service *Management Policies 2006,* Sections 1.5 and 8.1, "Appropriate Use." Before a new use can be allowed, it must be assessed to determine if it is "(1) appropriate to the purpose for which the park was established, and (2) can be sustained without causing unacceptable impacts." (*Management Policies 2006*, Section 8.1.1) Since that required assessment and evaluation has not yet been done, less restrictive methods involving the launching and retrieval of unmanned aircraft are not appropriate.

Notice of this temporary and partial closure and public use limitation will be made through media advisories, maps and posting at conspicuous locations in the affected park areas as required by 36 CFR 1.7. This determination is available to the public upon request.

3-24-15 /s/

Superintendent, Manassas National Battlefield Park