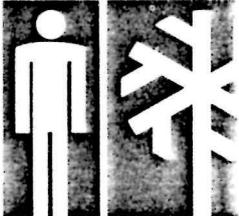


interim development concept plan
amendment to the general management plan

april 1985

CRATER LAKE



NATIONAL PARK / OREGON



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pacific Northwest Region
Westin Building, Room 1920
2001 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98121

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L7619(PNR-R)

Greetings:

Enclosed is a copy of the Interim Development Concept Plan (interim plan) and Finding of No Significant Impact for Crater Lake National Park. Comments will be accepted on the interim plan for 30 days at the above address. Unless there are significant comments requiring reevaluation of the proposed actions, the interim plan will be approved and implemented at the conclusion of the comment period.

The decision to issue an interim plan was made when it became apparent that all of the issues addressed in the previous Draft Development Concept Plan (draft plan) and Environmental Assessment could not be resolved in a timely manner. Following is a brief discussion of the decision making process:

The draft plan and environmental assessment for Crater Lake National Park were made available for public and agency comment on March 1, 1984. Public meetings were held March 20-23, 1984, in Klamath Falls, Medford, Roseburg, and Salem, Oregon. Comments were accepted until April 23, 1984.

The draft plan was generally well received and the comments indicated that the public understood the issues and alternatives. Most favored Alternative C and at least half of the respondents preferred retaining the existing lodge if financially practical. While it was stated that the existing lodge could not be restored for public lodging in a cost-effective manner, some respondents expressed concern that the focus of the Service's renovation study was based on a "deluxe" lodging standard which would not preserve the rustic character of the historic lodge.

Other elements of the draft plan were not controversial. These included at the Rim Village area improved circulation, restoration of a pedestrian environment by relocating parking, development of an interpretive center, and connection of sewage facilities to the Munson Valley wastewater treatment system. Also not controversial were the replacement of the dilapidated cold water cabins with new budget cabins near the Mazama campground which would be expanded in the future and include a camper services facility with a relocated gas station. Most of those commenting agreed that some year around lodging at a varied price range should be provided in the park.

Because of concerns expressed with the lodge renovation study done by the National Park Service and public sentiment in preserving the existing lodge, we have elected to seek an independent cost study for rehabilitation of the lodge to provide rustic lodging accommodations. The focus of the cost study will be directed to essentially maintaining the present floor and room configurations of the existing lodge while meeting essential life/safety building codes. The study will be closely coordinated with representatives of the historic preservation community. The study will provide additional engineering and cost information to permit further analysis of possible adaptive uses of the lodge structure.

Approval of this interim plan incorporating noncontroversial elements of the previous draft plan will allow needed improvements to proceed. These elements are unrelated to the issue of restoration of the existing lodge or the provision of new or additional lodging. No major actions will be taken in the Rim Village area until the lodge issue has been resolved. Then the interim plan will be amended accordingly and a final plan issued and approved.

We appreciate your continued interest in Crater Lake National Park.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. Tobin, Jr.
Regional Director

Enclosures

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
INTERIM DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT PLAN
CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK
OREGON

PROPOSED ACTION

The action proposed is the approval of an Interim Development Concept Plan (interim plan) which would amend the General Management Plan (GMP). In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1508.9) an environmental assessment was previously prepared to evaluate a Draft Development Concept Plan (draft plan). The draft plan, assessment, and GMP amendment were combined and published in one document. It described four possible alternatives for the improvement of visitor facilities and services in Crater Lake National Park. A fundamental premise of all alternatives was that lodging, food service, camping, and winter use opportunities would remain in the park.

The approved General Management Plan calls for removal of facilities, to the extent feasible, from the existing Rim Village and left to future study the need for, and location of, replacement facilities. Two major objectives of the draft plan include minimizing visual intrusions and congestion in the Rim Village area and reducing environmental impacts in this area that could affect the Crater Lake ecosystem.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Some proposed actions are common to all alternatives. These include a 50-site expansion and construction of a camper services facility at Mazama Campground, relocation of the gas station to the camper services facility, development of budget cabins adjacent to the campground, development of a group campsite at the former Annie Creek Campground, and connection of all facilities at Rim Village to the Munson Valley wastewater treatment system.

Use and eventual disposition of the existing lodge was treated in the draft plan as a separate but parallel issue to the alternative development concepts. It had been determined that the lodge could not be renovated in a cost effective and safe manner and therefore, its use as a hotel facility ultimately must be discontinued. It was stated the Service would continue to explore possible adaptive uses prior to making a final decision on the building. The validity of the determination that the existing lodge could not be renovated as a hotel in a cost effective manner was questioned during the public comment period. The Service since has elected to seek an independent cost study for rehabilitation of the existing lodge for "rustic" lodging accommodations.

There would be only a slight increase in runoff as a result of increased vegetation clearing. One action, the development of the group campsite, may have the potential to affect water quality at Annie Spring (the source of potable water for the park); other alternative sites for a group campsite will be explored, and the potential for contamination of the park water source will be fully evaluated prior to a decision on development of this campsite.

7. Minor impacts to soils would include:
 - a. Approximately 5 acres of surface soil disturbance and moderate soil compaction due to building installation, campsite preparation, vehicular access, and use of trail systems.
 - b. Approximately 6 acres of surface would be disturbed as a result of restoration.
8. No impact would occur to any known archeological resources. A site-specific archeological survey would be conducted and clearance obtained prior to any ground-disturbing actions.
9. Under this phase of the project there would be no impact to any significant historical resources. Approval of the removal of the cold water cabins, which are not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, will be obtained from the Associate Director, Cultural Resources, NPS, as required by NPS policy before any action affecting the cabins is taken. Studies are continuing on the potential adaptive uses and renovation costs of the Crater Lake Lodge. Prior to implementation of any action which would affect the Lodge, full consultations would be held with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, in accordance with appropriate historic preservation laws and regulations.

Major redevelopment of the Rim Village area would be deferred until further lodging studies have been completed and the public has been informed.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT/AVAILABILITY

The environmental assessment was made available for public and agency comment on March 1, 1984. Public meetings were held March 20-23, 1984, in Klamath Falls, Medford, Roseberg, and Salem, Oregon; and comments were accepted until April 23, 1984. Copies of the assessment and an analysis of the comments received are available at park headquarters and in the Regional Office. Copies of this Finding of No Significant Impact will be sent to all those who received a copy of the environmental assessment, submitted oral or written comments, or have since expressed an interest in the proposal.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Crater Lake National Park General Management Plan	1977
Crater Lake National Park Winter Use Study	1980
Emergency Survey of Concessions Facilities, Crater Lake National Park	1981
"Analysis of Feasibility of Year-Round Lodging, Demand and Cost Effectiveness for Concessions Operation." Supplement to the 1982 <u>Market Study</u> .	
Crater Lake National Park Statement for Management	1983

DETERMINATION

The proposed action is in compliance with all applicable executive orders, laws, and regulations. On the basis of the environmental assessment as summarized above, and the public/agency comments, the National Park Service has determined that this proposal is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, nor is it one which normally requires an environmental impact statement. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared for this action prior to implementation.



 Regional Director
 Pacific Northwest Region

4/12/85

 Date