



Foundation Document

Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site

North Dakota

June 2013





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Mission of the National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

The NPS core values are a framework in which the National Park Service accomplishes its mission. They express the manner in which, both individually and collectively, the National Park Service pursues its mission. The NPS core values are:

- **Shared stewardship:** We share a commitment to resource stewardship with the global preservation community.
- **Excellence:** We strive continually to learn and improve so that we may achieve the highest ideals of public service.
- **Integrity:** We deal honestly and fairly with the public and one another.
- **Tradition:** We are proud of it; we learn from it; we are not bound by it.
- **Respect:** We embrace each other's differences so that we may enrich the well-being of everyone.

The National Park Service is a bureau within the Department of the Interior. While numerous national park units were created prior to 1916, it was not until August 25, 1916, that President Woodrow Wilson signed the act formally establishing the National Park Service.

The national park system continues to grow, and comprises 401 park units covering more than 84 million acres in every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These units include, but are not limited to, national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House. The variety and diversity of park units throughout the nation require a strong commitment to resource stewardship and management in order to ensure both the protection and enjoyment of these resources for future generations.



The arrowhead was authorized as the official National Park Service emblem by the Secretary of the Interior on July 20, 1951. The Sequoia tree and bison represent vegetation and wildlife, the mountains and water represent scenic and recreational values, and the arrowhead represents historical and archeological values.

Introduction

This foundation document will be used to guide future planning and management of Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. A foundation document provides a record of what is most important about the park and provides the basis for planning and decision-making documents. This foundation document comprises a description of the park's purpose, significance, fundamental resources, fundamental values, primary interpretive themes, special mandates, and the legal requirements for administration and resource protection of Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site.

Definition of the park's legal and policy mandates is the prerequisite for all subsequent planning and decision making. This document provides a description of components that define the significance and importance of park resources and the parameters for ensuring that all programs and actions contribute to achieving the park's purpose and other mandates. To this end, the park's foundation document defines the congressionally or presidentially established purpose of each park, the reasons why the park's resources and values are significant enough to warrant national park designation, the primary interpretive themes to be conveyed to visitors, any special mandates Congress may have placed on that particular park, and the more general mandates contained in the large body of laws and policies that apply to all units of the national park system.

Additionally, the foundation document identifies and analyzes a set of resources and values (features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, etc.) that warrant primary consideration during park planning and management. Based on this analysis, the foundation document summarizes the policy-level issues (potential for incompatibility among resources and values) that require management discretion to resolve.

This foundation document will serve as a guide for the park's future management.



Part 1: Core Components

The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park, park purpose, significance statements, fundamental resources and values, other important resources and values, and interpretive themes. These components are core because they typically do not change over time. Core components are expected to be used in future planning and management efforts.

Brief Description of the Park

Situated on river bluffs and floodplains along the Knife and Missouri rivers, Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site tells the story of thousands of years of habitation by people who made central North Dakota their home. The park protects village remains that are among the best surviving examples of native villages in the Missouri River ecosystem of the northern Great Plains. The park contains archeological evidence reflecting the continuum of community development and lifeways from sporadic use of the area by prehistoric hunter-gatherer groups to the establishment of permanent agricultural communities with sophisticated trade economies. The landscape comprising the park remains sacred to the descendants of the village inhabitants today. Additionally, the history of the villages is integral to the story of the European American exploration and settlement of the western United States.

Permanent earthlodge communities composed of hundreds of round structures were established over several centuries in many locations along the Missouri River. Ancestors of today's Hidatsa, Mandan, and Arikara tribes lived in these earthlodge villages. They hunted free-roaming herds of bison, cultivated crops, and participated in a vast trade network that stretched from the Gulf Coast to the Rocky Mountains. These tribes were matrilineal societies where women established large gardens on the rich floodplain soil and constructed earthlodges out of trees and earth. Well-insulated earthlodges provided shelter during the harsh extremes of temperature on the Northern Plains. These structures played an essential role as family and community spaces where daily and ceremonial activities took place.

An abundance of crops, wild game, and flint for tools and trade sustained large populations and connected all things in a sacred circle of life. Every item essential to living was created from natural resource materials and viewed as a gift imbued with power from the spiritual realm. The earthlodge was believed to be a living being with a soul. There was no distinction between the spiritual and the physical world in the Northern Plains people's worldview. This belief system exists today among descendants of these tribes.



A surplus of natural materials allowed these Northern Plains communities to develop a trading empire that benefited other tribes and later European settlers. The Missouri River was a thoroughfare used for transportation and trade. The village proximity to the Missouri River and to the Knife River flint quarries 65 miles to the northwest of the villages allowed for prosperity and economic advantage over other peoples. Knife River flint is found only in central North Dakota. It is one of the highest quality flint types used for tool making and it was greatly desired. Knife River flint artifacts have been found throughout the United States, documenting the extensive reach of Northern Plains influence and exchange. Items from distant areas such as copper from the Great Lakes, sea shells from the Pacific and Atlantic Coasts, and tools made of stone originating from other areas have been found in the villages and are evidence of a complex continental trade network.

In the 1800s the villages played an important role in European American exploration of the American West, having hosted the Lewis and Clark Expedition, John James Audubon, George Catlin, and others of national and international importance during the westward expansion era. The Corps of Discovery led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark spent the winter near the villages at Fort Mandan in 1804. Sacagawea was living in Awatixa Village when Lewis and Clark recruited her husband Toussaint Charbonneau, a French fur trader, to interpret for the Corps of Discovery expedition. Sacagawea accompanied her husband on the expedition and was an invaluable resource due to her knowledge of the people and land to the west. At Fort Mandan she gave birth to a son, Jean Baptiste, whom she cared for during the long journey. She is well known as one of the most significant individuals associated with the Corps of Discovery and North American history. Several spellings are used for Sacagawea's name, but "Sacagawea" is considered most accurate based on modern research. "Sakakawea" is the spelling commonly used in North Dakota for the village site where she lived and for the large reservoir on the Missouri River.

Although this meeting was probably a relatively minor event for the villagers as they had routinely hosted and traded with diverse people for centuries, the visit by Lewis and Clark heralded many changes that would impact native cultures throughout the 19th century. Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site marks a specific place in time and space where one event precipitated a cascade of changes for American Indian peoples. European American historic accounts of the period focus on the Lewis and Clark Expedition, fur trade, and rich resources of the west. Settlers following the explorers in search of land and wealth became a steady force that eventually pushed indigenous people from their native lands. Waves of European settlers claiming western lands led to the permanent alteration of demographics that would shape the growing nation and erode native cultures that had inhabited the region for millennia.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, the Knife River communities endured hardships caused by colonialism, devastating disease epidemics, and intertribal warfare. The remaining residents of the Knife River villages, fleeing diseases transmitted by the new settlers, moved to Like a Fishhook Village in the 1840s. Ancestors of the Arikara Tribe moved into the vicinity of the villages during this time of upheaval, becoming tied to the Hidatsa and Mandan tribal lands by inhabiting villages abandoned by the other tribes. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers created Lake Sakakawea by inundating Like a Fishhook Village and other tribal lands in the late 1940s. The reservoir was built to provide flood control, electricity generation, and recreation on the upper Missouri River. Many members of the displaced tribes now live on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation and are known collectively as the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara (MHA) Nation or the Three Affiliated Tribes. They continue to maintain their strong cultural traditions and connection to their ancestral heritage at Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. The tribes consider the park a living homeland and an integral part of their ancestral history.



Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site continues to be a fundamental site for archeological, ethnographic, and historic research on Northern Great Plains cultures. Archeological sites provide valuable physical information for understanding the daily lives of village inhabitants and changes to these communities over time. The primary villages contain many centuries' worth of well-preserved, stratified deposits that hold the answer to questions concerning development of agricultural practices, hunting practices, village dynamics, participation in sophisticated trade networks, the unique cultural challenges caused by European colonial expansion, and the effects of introduced disease. Additionally, research potential for understanding human adaptation to climate changes over thousands of years exists in the layers of archeological deposits. Ethnographic research on culture, heritage, and oral traditions is another tool for understanding adaptation and incorporation of historic resource use into modern practices. The park serves to advance research technologies and methods that foster collaboration among park managers, associated tribes, archeologists, and historians. Archeological and ethnographic research continually adds historical information and greater insight into the lives of the village inhabitants.

Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site includes Big Hidatsa Village National Historic Landmark and an additional 64 archeological sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places, including Lower Hidatsa, Sakakawea, and Taylor Bluff villages. Potential traditional cultural properties (TCPs) important to the associated tribes are located in the park. Future formal TCP designation in the National Register of Historic Places would identify specific areas as important spiritual and cultural places for contemporary tribal connections with their ancestors, spirituality, and homeland. While these areas are not marked on maps or by signs they remain significant, intangible elements of origin, cultural history, and nature of the world that define a tribal worldview.

The park is associated with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail as a documented site along the Corps of Discovery route. Additionally, the park anchors the northern end of the Northern Plains National Heritage Area, which was designated by Congress specifically to interpret the history of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation; the passage of the Lewis and Clark Expedition; and the fur trade. The heritage area runs along an 80-mile stretch of the Missouri River between Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site and Huff Indian Village State Historic Site. The privately owned Lynch Knife River Flint Quarry, located 65 miles west of the park, is the principal source of Knife River flint. The quarry was designated a National Historic Landmark in July 2011. Northern Great Plains peoples mined the raw material for thousands of years for the production of superior tools and trade items. Several North Dakota state lands preserve the archeological remains of other villages associated with local tribes, including Double Ditch State Historical Site, Fort Clark State Historical Site, and Cross Ranch State Park.

Within the park, remnants of large earthlodge villages marked by circular depressions are visible as honeycombed topography. Visitors can experience the unique landscape that supported vast numbers of people over thousands of years. A reconstructed earthlodge furnished with replica items provides a visual and tangible connection to daily village life. A visitor center, park film, and museum demonstrate how people survived and prospered in the villages. Events featuring crafts, dancing, music, and native stories are held throughout the year. These events give visitors firsthand experience of modern activities that would have occurred in the villages historically.

Park Purpose

Public Law 93-486, signed on October 26, 1974, authorized the establishment of Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site as a unit of the national park system. The site was established with three distinct purposes: 1) preservation of historic and archeological resources, 2) interpretation of the historic and archeological resources, and 3) study of those resources for the benefit of the public. (For further information, see appendix D.)

The following purpose statement was formulated during the development of the foundation document.

The purpose of KNIFE RIVER INDIAN VILLAGES NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE is to preserve, protect, and interpret archeological and natural resources as they relate to cultural and agricultural lifestyles of Northern Great Plains Indian peoples, and to conduct research to further understand how these lifestyles have changed over time.



Park Significance

Statements of significance are guided by legislation and knowledge acquired through management, research, and civic engagement. These statements of significance define why, within a national, regional, and systemwide context, the park's resources and values are important enough to warrant National Park Service (NPS) designation.

Significance statements express the importance of the site to our cultural or natural heritage. They are not an inventory of the site's resources; rather, they describe the park's distinctiveness and help to place it in regional, national, and international contexts. Understanding the significance assists managers in making decisions that will preserve the resources and values necessary to fulfill the park's purpose.

The significance statements below are largely drawn from the legislative history outlined in appendix A.

- Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site contains some of the best-preserved examples of remnant earthlodge villages along the Missouri River in the Dakotas. The three main sites are Big Hidatsa National Historic Landmark (Hidatsa Village), Lower Hidatsa (Awatixa Xi'e) Village, and Sakakawea (Awatixa) Village.
- Park resources represent the extensive history and development of Northern Great Plains communities and cultures on the Knife and Missouri rivers through the mid-19th century. These resources continue to be an essential part of the heritage and contemporary culture of the Three Affiliated Tribes as their traditional homeland.
- Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site is a cornerstone of Plains Indian archeological and ethnographic research and the park continues to offer an outstanding opportunity for study of the archeological, ethnographic, and museum resources.
- Abundant ethnographic information on Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara peoples adds unparalleled detail to the park's historic record. This record includes primary accounts of art, scientific observations, and anthropological writings. Notable travelers Alexander Henry, John Bradbury, George Catlin, Karl Bodmer, Prince Maximilian, John J. Audubon, David Thompson, Lewis and Clark, and later anthropologists such as Gilbert Wilson provided much of this information by documenting life in the villages during the 19th and 20th centuries.
- Sacagawea was living in Awatixa Village when Lewis and Clark recruited her husband to guide and interpret for the Corps of Discovery expedition. The park is one of the few sites along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail where the explorers' presence is well documented.

Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values (FRVs) are elements critical to the park's purpose and maintaining its significance. They are directly tied to the reason(s) that the park was established. Fundamental resource and value analysis defines the importance of each element, the current condition, potential threats, and related issues that need to be considered in future planning and management efforts.

Identifying the resources and values that support the park purpose and significance provides managers and planners with a focus on what is most important about a park. If the fundamental resources and values are degraded, then what is most important about the park may be jeopardized.

The following are identified as fundamental resources or values for Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site:

- archeological resources
- cultural landscape
- museum collection
- traditional and contemporary cultural significance
- interdisciplinary scholarly research and traditional ecological knowledge

Please see the "Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values" section for details.

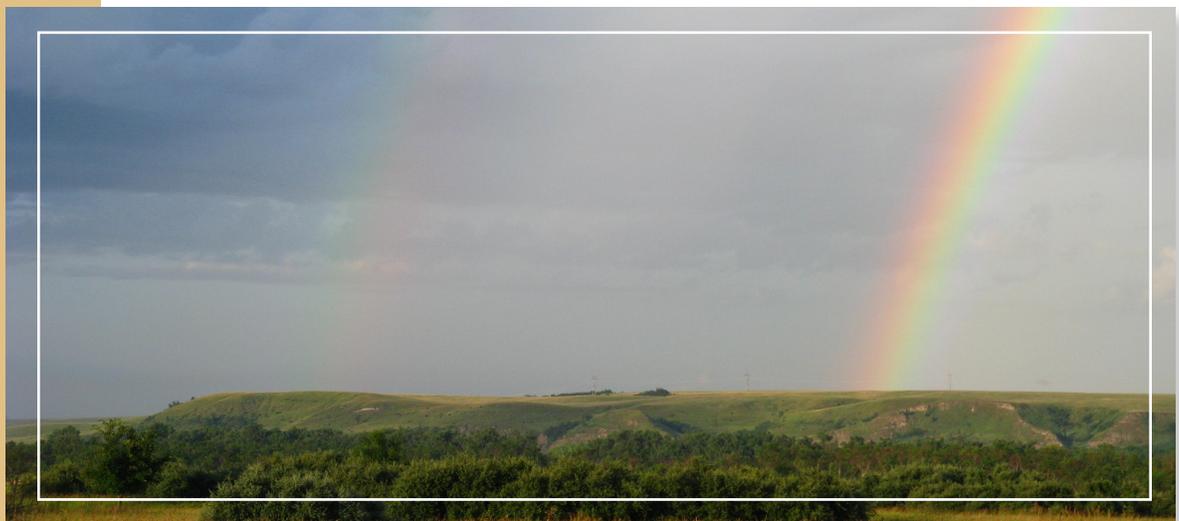


Other Important Resources and Values

Parks may also have other important resources and values that may not be fundamental to the park's purpose and significance, but are still important resources to protect and address in planning actions.

The following are identified as other important resources or values for Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site:

- **Replica Earthlodge.** A replica earthlodge was built in 1996 adjacent to the park's visitor center as a tangible association to the earthlodge villages that once thrived along the Missouri River. The replica earthlodge is filled with reproduction items of daily living that would have been found in a typical historic structure, and plays an important role in providing a visual interpretation and description of the patterned village landscape and park history. While the replica earthlodge in the park today may need to be replaced over time as its materials degrade, it will be important for the park to replace it, as it holds strong value to both American Indians and visitors. American Indians have a spiritual connection with the earthlodge and they often offer prayers inside the structure. The earthlodge is the single most visited feature in the park and it is often cited as the reason that people visit the park.
- **Viewshed.** The viewshed of the park can be considered to be one of the various attributes comprising the cultural landscape, which is a fundamental resource. However, the contemporary viewshed is also a resource independent of the cultural landscape. The views from the highest points in the park gave village inhabitants the opportunity to view the Missouri and Knife rivers, the bluffs on the east side of the Missouri River, and sightlines to the north, west, and south afforded advance knowledge of approaching people. While the viewshed has changed considerably, one can still visualize the topography and the landscape that was home to historic village inhabitants. The viewshed is part of the interpretation of life in the villages. The sky and the landscape are seen as sacred by native peoples associated with the site. The views from the park are an important part of their native homeland and cosmology.
- **Natural Soundscape.** The natural sounds emanating from rivers, wind, wildlife, insects, and vegetation create a sound signature that is unique to the park. Unlike the viewshed, the soundscape is missing many elements of the historic scene including large herds of bison, horse traffic, village life, and trading center sounds. The present soundscape gives visitors a quiet experience where they can imagine the sounds of human habitation at the site. The natural sounds associated with the site are revered by tribal members as part of the physical and spiritual landscape of their homeland.



- **Dark Night Sky.** The remote location offers a night sky of great clarity and darkness. A relative lack of development and light pollution in the surrounding area gives visitors and associated tribes a view of the same night sky that village inhabitants saw for thousands of years. The stars, planets, constellations, and natural phenomena continue to have spiritual meaning for the villager's descendants.
- **Native Prairie.** The park has remnants of native midgrass prairie that include regionally important species characteristic of the prairie ecosystem. Native prairie species would have been used for ceremonial and mundane purposes by the village inhabitants. The plants comprising the midgrass prairie ecosystem play a role in tribal use and beliefs focused on native botany and phenology of the region.
- **Missouri and Knife Rivers.** The complete river ecosystem is defined by natural processes, features, and topography. The ecosystem was a critical part of village spiritual and daily life. Floodplains and hydrology provided water, food, and transportation corridors. Historically, the tribes believed the rivers were filled with spiritual meaning. These landscape features are still revered as an essential part of the sacred circle of life.
- **Visitor Center.** The park visitor center was completed in 1992. Although it is not a historic structure, the building is a unique architectural design that incorporates elements of the earthlodge structure and shape. The outside of the building has a large stylized eagle feature on the south side, while the north side has a window wall that integrates the park's landscape into the building. The visitor center houses interpretive displays, the museum collection, park offices, a research library, and an archeological lab.



Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are those ideas and concepts of the park that are key to helping visitors understand and appreciate the park's resources. These themes are derived from—and should reflect—park purpose and significance. The interpretive themes connect park resources to relevant ideas, meanings, concepts, contexts, beliefs, and values.

The following were identified as interpretive themes for Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site during the development of the foundation document:

- Archeological remains of earthlodge village sites provide tangible evidence of the size, dominance, resilience, persistence, and culture of the Northern Great Plains peoples who lived beside the Knife and Missouri rivers for hundreds of years.
- Access to plentiful natural resources and a fertile environment enabled Hidatsa and Mandan people to develop prosperous, semi-permanent, agricultural communities that flourished for centuries.
- Situated on the Missouri River transportation corridor, the villages were an integral part of a vast trading empire: a crossroads of culture where trade goods, ideas, technology, spirituality, and world views were shared.
- Sacagawea became a symbol of peace for the Corps of Discovery on their expedition, giving her status as one of the most famous and mysterious figures in U.S. history.
- The Hidatsas and Mandans welcomed 18th and 19th century explorers, traders, artists, travelers, and other visitors who produced some of the most well-known images of the life of Northern Great Plains Indians in both the United States and Europe.
- Amahami Village, one of the villages recorded by Lewis and Clark, was destroyed by modern development, making imperative the preservation of the remaining villages and their invaluable historic and cultural insight into the heritage of Northern Plains Indians.
- Present-day members of the Hidatsa, Mandan, and Arikara tribes remain connected spiritually and culturally to the homeland of their ancestors where the resources, topography, and landscape features sustained the villages both spiritually and physically.



Part 2: Dynamic Components

The dynamic components of a foundation document include special mandates and administrative commitments and an assessment of planning and data needs. These components are dynamic because they will change over time. New special mandates can be established and new administrative commitments made. As conditions and trends of fundamental and other important resources and values change over time, the analysis of planning and data needs will need to be revisited and revised, along with key issues. Therefore, this part of the foundation document will be updated accordingly.

Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments

Special mandates and administrative commitments are legal requirements that apply to a specific park. These special mandates may be legislative requirements or signed agreements that add another dimension to a park unit's purpose and significance (such as the designation of an area as wilderness). They may commit managers to specific actions (such as a mandate to allow hunting) or limit their ability to modify land use in the park unit (such as when an easement is in place).

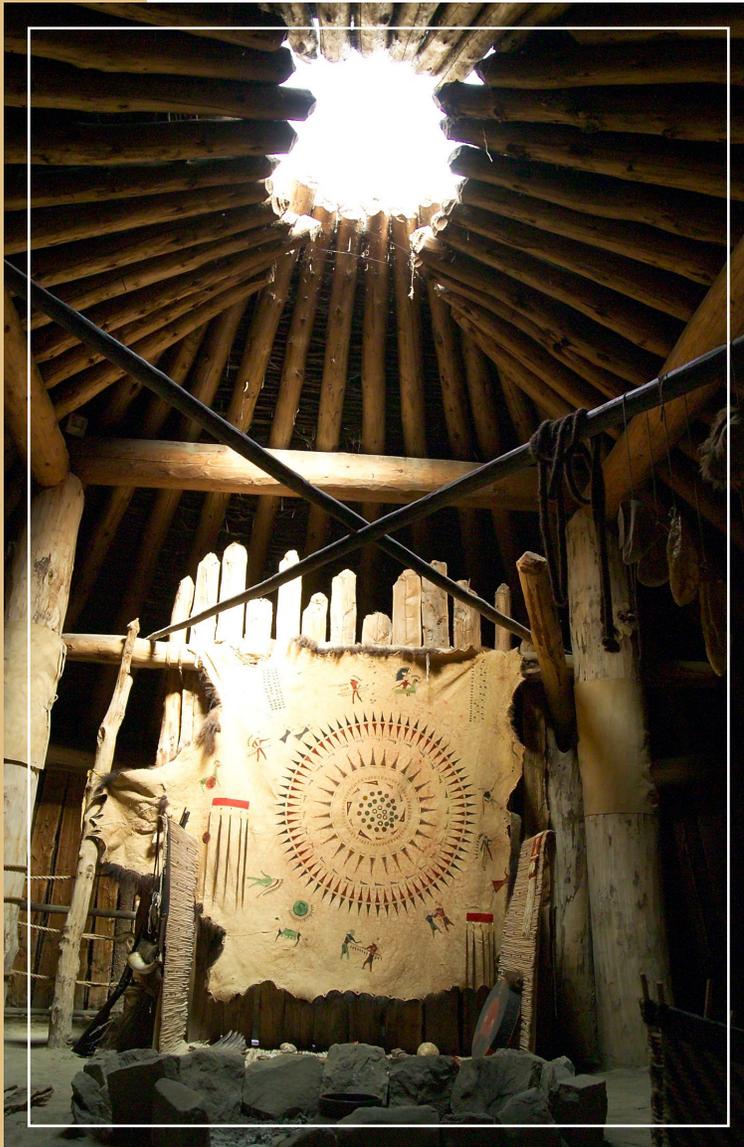
Following are some mandates and constraints specific to Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site:

- Memorandum of Understanding between the park and the State of North Dakota, Water Commission, (Office of Recreation Department, Office of the State Engineer, Game and Fish Department, Parks and Recreation, State Historical Society) that gives the park authority over management of the Knife River through the park. Renewed every five years.
- A letter of authorization between the National Park Service and West River Mutual Aid Telephone Corporation for access to park-owned lands, for the purpose of providing telephone service to the park.
- Easements were purchased from two separate landowners in September 1989 for the purpose of installing a waterline between the city of Stanton and the park.
- Contiguous scenic easements along the western side of the park on the west side of County Road 37 restrict the use of the properties to traditional farming or hunting practices.

Other current agreements include the following:

- Cooperative agreements for fire protection with the cities of Stanton, Hazen, and Beulah establish terms and conditions under which the parties will provide mutual assistance in preventing, detecting, and suppressing structural fires and wildfires, and in conducting prescribed fire operations on lands within the park's boundaries and in Mercer County, North Dakota. Annually updated.
- Cooperative fire agreements with the Nature Conservancy and Cross Ranch Field Office establish the standards, terms, and conditions for release of personnel and equipment, and provide for technical assistance with fire management plans and prescribed burn plans.
- Memorandum of Understanding with the Mercer County Sheriff's Department coordinates emergency law enforcement assistance between the two agencies.

- Memorandum of Agreement for the Remote Automatic Weather Station (RAWS). Between the National Park Service and the North Dakota Forest Service. The National Park Service is responsible for the cost of the RAWS site maintenance and ensuring the appropriate funding transfers, obligations, and purchases. The North Dakota Forest Service will provide the RAWS infrastructure.
- Cooperative agreement between City of Stanton and Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site for a recycling trailer. The National Park Service will remain the owner of the trailer, perform annual inspections, and be responsible for routine maintenance. The city will store the trailer, repair anything beyond routine maintenance, transport and dump the trailer at a recycle center, be responsible for liability, and have proof of insurance against injury or damages.
- General agreement between National Park Service and the State Historical Society of North Dakota ensures that both parties agree to mutual assistance, historic preservation, and training.
- The National Park Service has concurrent jurisdiction with the State of North Dakota.



Assessment of Planning and Data Needs

The planning needs assessment documents the most important issues park staff believe they currently face and will probably need to address in the future and also identifies planning priorities. This section of the foundation document will require periodic review and updating as monitoring and research improves the understanding of the needs of the site.

High Priority

Archeological Resources Protection Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

Park archeological resources are impacted by riverbank erosion, road locations, placement of park facilities, and burrowing mammals. Analysis of these complex, interrelated issues requires a substantial planning effort that would provide direction for park managers. Loss of archeological resources to riverbank erosion has occurred since Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site was established in 1974. Park managers have implemented numerous emergency actions along the Knife River to prevent erosion and loss of archeological resources. Emergency action and inaction have resulted in cumulative adverse impacts to both cultural and natural resources. In 2010 an interdisciplinary team including park staff; Midwest Regional Office Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, Planning and Compliance, and Facility Management staff; and Midwest Archeological Center (MWAC) staff was created to address these issues. This planning effort and impact analysis would benefit NPS areas in the Southeast and Midwest regions whose archeological sites are impacted by erosion. This plan would address how to manage pests that threaten archeological resources (an issue that could also be addressed in an integrated pest management plan) and how to manage vegetation to preserve archeological resources (an issue that could also be addressed in a vegetative management plan).

Integrated Pest Management Plan. Each of the three major villages in the park has large resident populations of burrowing rodents. The overall effect of burrowing activities is to destroy intact archeological deposits and displace artifacts from their original contexts. This plan is needed to effectively control rodent populations in key archeological areas.

Vegetation Management Plan. Diverse mixed-grass prairie vegetation is found throughout the park. The vegetative mix must be evaluated to determine what mix is desired to meet the park's resource management objectives and to guide the park in the best management practices to maintain the prairie ecosystem, as well as the forest/woodland and shrub communities, and former croplands.

Collection Management Plan. This plan would provide the park with guidelines and recommendations for improving collection management at the park.

Collection Condition Survey. This plan, which builds on the collection management plan, would identify collection condition and treatment needs for the museum collections.

Cultural Landscape Report. Needed to document the historic and ethnographic landscape and provide guidance for future management decisions.

Energy Development Impacts Management Plan. Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site is a small park in a region known for agriculture and various methods of energy production. Four surface mining operations, six coal-fired electric generation plants, a coal gasification plant, a Missouri River hydropower facility, several windfarms, and high voltage power lines are within a 30-mile radius of the park boundary. In the past two years, the nationally recognized Bakken Oil Field boom has increased oil production throughout western North Dakota at an unprecedented rate, with the introduction of hydrofracking technology. North Dakota has become the second largest oil-producing state in the country. Attendant infrastructure and housing issues have begun to impact the park in ways that were unimagined a year ago. The park needs a plan(s) to contend with these threats in a proactive manner.

Long-range Interpretive Plan. Because there has been no general management plan update since 1986, and the enabling legislation for the site does not identify a direction for primary interpretive themes, a long-range interpretive plan is needed to establish a foundation and direction for the park education and interpretation program.

Traditional Cultural Property Determination. Native peoples maintain a contemporary connection to the park as a homeland and as an important spiritual location to honor their ancestors. Determination of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places designations for traditional cultural properties is needed.

Moderate Priority

Resource Stewardship Strategy. This plan, which is recommended for all NPS units with significant natural resources, would enable the park to identify and prioritize resource issues and needs.

Low Priority

Air Quality Management Plan. Under this plan, the park would manage resources with the information gathered from air quality monitoring and associated identified impacts.

Recently Completed Plans

- Fire management plan, 2008
- Exotic plant management plan and environmental assessment, 2005
- Natural resource management plan, 1999
- Natural resources condition assessment, 2012

Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values

The analysis of fundamental resources articulates the importance of each fundamental resource and value, the resource's current condition, potential threats, and the related issues that need to be considered in planning and management. Because monitoring and research improves our understanding of each fundamental resource and value, periodic review and updates of this analysis will be necessary.

Fundamental Resource	Archeological resources
<p>Related Significance Statement(s)</p>	<p>1. Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site contains some of the best-preserved examples of remnant earthlodge villages along the Missouri River in the Dakotas. The three main sites are Big Hidatsa National Historic Landmark (Hidatsa Village), Lower Hidatsa (Awatixa Xi'e) Village, and Sakakawea (Awatixa) Village.</p>
<p>Importance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The largest and most prominent of the earthlodge villages, Big Hidatsa Village, contains earthlodge depressions, fortification ditches, linear mounds, and trail remnants. It is believed that the Big Hidatsa Village contains the best-defined earthlodge depressions of any major Indian community in the Great Plains. The Big Hidatsa Village site covers more than 15 acres and is exceptionally well preserved. Depressions of more than 108 circular earthlodges and several fortification trenches are clearly visible. The majority of other archeological resources within the park include the Lower Hidatsa (Awatixa Xi'e) Village, Sakakawea (Awawtixa) Village, Taylor Bluff Village, the Buchfink site, the Elbee site, and the Stanton Mound Group. This archeological district includes more than 60 contributing sites covering much of the park. The park preserves archeological landscape structures including linear mounds, trails, cemetery areas, effigy mounds, and other features. In addition to the rich archeological and historical resources that the villages comprise, they serve to complement Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site by revealing another example of a cross-section of interacting native and European American cultures on the Missouri River frontier. The Knife River villages, exemplifying Northern Plains Indian cultural development, serve to fill a gap in the roster of archeological sites in the national park system.
<p>Current Conditions, Trends, and Threats</p>	<p>Conditions/Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The park has a nearly complete baseline inventory of the extent of archeological resources within the park. Currently, the majority of sites (55) are listed in good condition. Six sites are listed in fair condition, including the main village sites of Big Hidatsa Village, Lower Hidatsa Village, Sakakawea Village, and the Elbee site. There is a trend of archeological site deterioration from natural causes including burrowing mammals, riverbank erosion, and vegetation growth. <p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small and large burrowing mammals are causing widespread damage to archeological resources throughout the park. These impacts are particularly pronounced at the primary villages. Burrowing mammals are displacing large amounts of archeological materials and soil causing measureable damage to the archeological record. Riverbank erosion is an ongoing threat to resource preservation in several locations. Large-scale riverbank stabilization structures have been installed at the Sakakawea and Taylor Bluff sites. The structures require regular maintenance and could experience catastrophic failure under winter ice dam conditions. Currently, the rate of erosion at the Elbee site poses measureable threats to archeological resources and county road infrastructure. Encroachment of vegetation on the periphery of Big Hidatsa, Lower Hidatsa, and Sakakawea villages disturbs buried resources due to extensive root structure development. Additionally, vegetation growth makes some archeological resources inaccessible or difficult to view during research. While data show that the local climate is warming and the precipitation average is slightly increasing, it is unclear to what degree these changes are affecting local environmental variables such as river erosion, flooding, burrowing mammal population dynamics, and vegetation growth trends. Changing climate has been shown to impact these variables in other ecosystems and it is expected that changes in climate will have some impact on the park's cultural and natural resources.

Fundamental Resource	Archeological resources
Desired Conditions (within law and policy)	<p>Archeological sites are protected in an undisturbed condition unless it is determined through formal processes that disturbance or natural deterioration is unavoidable. Archeological sites are identified and inventoried, and their significance is determined and documented.</p> <p>Research determines how the culture, agriculture, economy, and lifestyle of Northern Plains tribes evolved, and this information is used to develop and enhance park interpretation.</p>

Fundamental Resource	Cultural landscape
Related Significance Statement(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site contains some of the best preserved examples of remnant earthlodge villages along the Missouri River in the Dakotas. The three main sites are Big Hidatsa National Historic Landmark (Hidatsa Village), Lower Hidatsa (Awatixa Xi'e) Village, and Sakakawea (Awatixa) Village. 2. Park resources represent the extensive history and development of Hidatsa and Mandan life and culture on the Knife and Missouri Rivers through the mid-19th century and these resources continue to be an essential part of the heritage as their homeland and the current cultural life of these peoples.
Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cultural landscape is defined by the geographic area that has meaning to the Three Affiliated Tribes. The environment is an integrated system of both cultural and natural resources. The cultural landscape is the physical evidence of human beliefs and manipulations of the environment over time. The cultural resources are synonymous with the natural resources and all resources comprise the cultural landscape. Both the viewshed and soundscape of the park are included as integral parts of the cultural landscape. • The cultural landscape characteristics and features define the site's integrity including: location, workmanship, materials, design, setting, feeling, and association. These aspects provide a recognizable sense of place and a tangible connection to the past. • The Hidatsa sustained the villages for extended periods due to the abundance and diversity of natural resources at the confluence of the Knife and Missouri rivers. These resources provided tribal prosperity evidenced by the village layout, circulation, and defined uses of space within the village proper and support areas beyond where agricultural, burial, and other activities took place. The natural flooding and deposition processes of the Missouri River enabled substantial agricultural practices and development, which then contributed to an extensive continental intertribal trade network.

Fundamental Resource	Cultural landscape
<p>Current Conditions, Trends, and Threats</p>	<p>Conditions/Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A primary trend (and threat) is visual impairment caused by energy development within the region. The park lies within one of the largest structural and sedimentary basins in North America. This basin has been active in energy development since the mid-1970s. Four coal surface mines, six coal-fired power plants, several wind farms, and one coal gasification plant lie within a 30-mile radius of the park. This development is visible from all areas of the park and it threatens the historic context, spiritual tribal connection, and resources within the park. Other visual impairments to park resources include the Stanton city water tower, overhead utilities, power plants, barns, and abandoned vehicles and farm equipment that erode the setting, feeling, and association of the site and degrade the authenticity of the visitor experience. • Another primary impact to park resources is riverbank erosion. Garrison Dam is located upstream on the Missouri River. Primary effects of Garrison Dam’s flow regulation include changes in the natural hydrologic regime, such as causing the flood peaks to become nonsynchronous between the Knife and Missouri rivers. A severe reduction in magnitude and frequency of large floods on the Missouri River has caused the “backing up” of floodwaters into the Knife River. Flooding also occurs during spring runoff and exceptionally heavy rainfall in the Knife River watershed. • Besides river impoundments, similar impacts on resources have resulted from energy development, timber harvesting, and agricultural disturbances altering ecosystems along these waterways. <p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal burrowing, riverbank erosion, invasive plant and insect species, ash heart rot fungus that attacks green ash trees, nearby energy development, and even park management practices threaten the resources. • Other significant threats include continued riverbank erosion, bank stabilization and erosion-control activities by other entities without consultation and cooperation with the park, habitat fragmentation and loss of critical riparian habitat for grassland and riparian bird species, loss of natural floodplain processes, biological and chemical treatments of neighboring lands, and uncontrolled wildfires. Spring floods transport invasive species seeds to the park. Again, climate change is expected to have an impact on these resources, but the magnitude of impact is currently unknown.
<p>Desired Conditions (within law and policy)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural landscapes are preserved with their character-defining features, physical attributes, and biotic systems, and are used to protect and enhance the integrity of the site relative to the historic and current cultural significance to the Three Affiliated Tribes. To the extent practicable, permitted by law, and not clearly inconsistent with essential agency functions, the National Park Service accommodates access to and ceremonial use of American Indian sacred sites by American Indian religious practitioners and avoids adversely affecting the physical integrity of these sacred sites. • Visitors are provided with a river experience similar to that of the time of Lewis and Clark through preservation of the river corridors and related ecosystem and by restoration of the natural scenic processes of the Knife River, management of development to protect viewsheds, maintenance of natural streambanks without stabilization, and provision of extensive areas of wildlife habitat. Burrowing mammal activity is reduced, protecting archeological sites from erosion, and vegetation is managed for optimal archeological site protection.

Fundamental Resource	Museum collection
Related Significance Statement(s)	<p>3. Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site is a cornerstone of Plains Indian archeological research and the park continues to offer an outstanding opportunity for study of the museum collection and archeological resources.</p>
Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of this collection is to preserve a portion of our nation’s cultural heritage and to increase knowledge and inspiration among present and future generations through exhibits, research, and interpretive programs. • The existing collections are composed primarily of three components. The first part is the Robinson Collection of ethnographic items collected from a family that owned a trading post near Fort Berthold Reservation around the turn of the 20th century. The second part represents archeological material recovered during authorized NPS excavations. The third part consists of herbarium and invertebrate specimens collected as part of natural resource baseline inventories. • Archeological material from prior excavations forms the bulk of the collection at present and is expected to remain the largest part of the collection into the future. The main emphasis of the collection is the Plains Village period (AD 1000–1861) and the European American period (AD 1861 to present).
Current Conditions, Trends, and Threats	<p>Conditions/Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The collection primarily consists of centuries-old wood, lithic, ceramic, bone, and metal objects collected during archeological investigations between 1978 and 1983. The European American period items are the Robinson Collection moccasins, weapons, decorated clothing, and other traded items. It also includes a major ethnographic component in recorded tribal oral histories. The entire collection has been cataloged, but a condition assessment has never been done. Currently, some of the items, such as a wooden post from a Hidatsa earthlodge, are showing distinct signs of deterioration and there is an immediate need to stabilize and preserve these items. The collection is housed in a climate-controlled facility that meets most of the NPS standards for museum collection storage. • Insufficient museum staff prevents proper curation of the collection, including housekeeping, environmental monitoring, and general oversight of collection conditions that ensure collection longevity. <p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The museum collection is housed in a basement that has had water infiltration issues. The water issues have contributed to significant fluctuations in the temperature and relative humidity within the collection storage space. The potential for mold growth and damage to museum archives, objects, and records is significant if water issues are not resolved.
Desired Conditions (within law and policy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional conservators complete recommended conservation treatments documented in a collection condition survey to ensure long-term preservation of museum collections. Any deficiencies are corrected. • The park’s collection is moved out of the basement to an alternate location that is not compromised by water intrusion and environmental fluctuations. The alternative location includes appropriate museum cabinetry to house collections and meet NPS museum collection standards. • The park employs a full-time museum curator.

Fundamental Value	Traditional and contemporary cultural significance
<p>Related Significance Statement(s)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site contains some of the best-preserved examples of former earthlodge villages along the Missouri River in North and South Dakota. The three main sites are Big Hidatsa National Historic Landmark (Hidatsa Village), Lower Hidatsa (Awatixa Xi'e) Village, and Sakakawea (Awatixa) Village. 2. Park resources represent the extensive history and development of Hidatsa and Mandan life and culture on the Knife and Missouri Rivers through the mid-19th century and these resources continue to be an essential part of the heritage of these peoples as their homeland.
<p>Importance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional and contemporary cultural significance that Northern Plains peoples associate with the site include beliefs, customs, and practices that have been passed down through generations. Park resources represent the extensive history and development of Hidatsa, Mandan, and Arikara life and culture on the Knife and Missouri Rivers through the mid-19th century. Park resources continue to be an essential part of the heritage as their homeland and the current culture of these peoples. • Abundant off-site ethnographic information on Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara peoples adds unparalleled detail to the park's historic record. This record includes primary accounts of art, scientific observations, and anthropological writings. Notable travelers Alexander Henry, John Bradbury, George Catlin, Karl Bodmer, Prince Maximilian, John J. Audubon, David Thompson, Lewis and Clark, and later anthropologists such as Gilbert Wilson provided much of this information by documenting life in the villages during the 19th and 20th centuries. • The site is also important as a potential traditional cultural (TCP) property as defined by National Register of Historic Places guidelines.
<p>Current Conditions, Trends, and Threats</p>	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present-day members of the Hidatsa, Mandan, and Arikara Tribes are still connected spiritually and culturally to the park. <p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining close ties and communication with the Three Affiliated Tribes in the wake of energy development pressures and modern tribal impacts. Another challenge is the variation in individual tribal interpretations of park significance and resource preservation. Each tribal member has different ideas of how park resources should be preserved and the significance of park resources to their culture.
<p>Desired Conditions (within law and policy)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Park Service recognizes that important and culturally significant sites associated with American Indian tribes can be determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as TCP. Park managers will manage the park as a National Register of Historic Places-eligible TCP in consultation with the tribal historic preservation officer. Potentially sensitive resources and traditional cultural properties are identified, recorded, and evaluated through consultation with affected American Indian nations. The TCP integrity is preserved and tribal connection to the park is supported.

<p>Fundamental Resource</p>	<p>Interdisciplinary scholarly research and traditional ecological knowledge</p>
<p>Related Significance Statement(s)</p>	<p>3. Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site is a cornerstone of Plains Indian archeological and ethnographic research and the park continues to offer an outstanding opportunity for study of archeological, ethnographic, and museum resources.</p> <p>4. Abundant ethnographic information on Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara peoples adds unparalleled detail to the park’s historic record. This record includes primary accounts of art, scientific observations, and anthropological writings. Notable travelers Alexander Henry, John Bradbury, George Catlin, Karl Bodmer, Prince Maximilian, John J. Audubon, David Thompson, Lewis and Clark and later anthropologists such as Gilbert Wilson provided much of this information by documenting life in the villages during the 19th and 20th centuries.</p>
<p>Importance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued scholarly research and data collection about Northern Plains tribal culture and traditional ecological knowledge through ethnography, the archeological record, primary documentation, and museum collections contribute to our understanding of historic events and contemporary tribal significance associated with this site.
<p>Current Conditions, Trends, and Threats</p>	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The park currently has an effective research program that encompasses a broad range of resources and disciplines including archeology, ethnography, ethnobotany, ethnoornithology, botany, biology, wildland fire, and water monitoring. The park staff maintains research relationships with tribal representatives from the Three Affiliated Tribes and the North Dakota State Historical Society. Culture evolves over time, creating an ever-present need for continuing research about cultural connections to the location and resources. Additionally, research technology and methods are constantly improving, allowing researchers access to a continuously evolving field of data and information gathering tools. <p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sporadic research funding and a lack of staffing create obstacles to maintaining a viable research program. Cultural knowledge is lost when members of the tribes pass away or oral traditions give way to other methods of cultural information sharing.
<p>Desired Conditions (within law and policy)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The park maintains an active interdisciplinary research program that enhances interpretive programs, ethnographic collections, and resource stewardship. The park has a framework for a long-range research program. Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site continues to promote and develop collaborative research strategies with representatives of the Three Affiliated Tribes and the North Dakota State Historical Society. Collaboration with tribes allows gathering of traditional ecological knowledge in formats that allow for data collection and cultural education.

Part 3: Contributors

Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site

Wendy Ross, Superintendent

Craig Hansen, Chief of Interpretation and Cultural Resources

John Moeykens, Park Ranger / Natural Resources Manager

Charles Folk, Chief of Maintenance

Kaylene Jaeger, Administrative Support Assistant

Valerie Naylor, Theodore Roosevelt National Park Superintendent (North Dakota Group Superintendent)

Midwest Regional Office

Sharon Miles, Community Planner / Project Manager

Ruth Heikkinen, Chief of Planning and Compliance

Tom Richter, Chief of Interpretation and Education

Roberta Young, Landscape Architect

Others

Midwest Archeological Center

Jay Sturdevant, Archeologist

Northern Great Plains Inventory and Monitoring Network

Kara Paintner-Green, Network Coordinator

Three Affiliated Tribes (Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara)

Dr. Paige Baker, retired NPS Superintendent

Appendixes

Appendix A: Enabling Legislation and Legislative Acts for Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site

Public Law 93-486 (88 Stat. 1461)

An Act to provide for the establishment of the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, North Dakota; and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE I

SEC. 101. (a) Unless otherwise provided hereafter, the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") is authorized to acquire by purchase with donated or appropriated funds, donation, exchange, or by transfer from another Federal agency such lands and interests in lands as hereafter provided for establishment as units of the National Park System, as follows:

(3) for establishment as the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, North Dakota, those lands depicted on the map entitled "Boundary Map, Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, North Dakota", numbered 468-20,012 and dated July 1970.

(b) The Secretary may also acquire personal property associated with the areas referred to in subsection (a) of this section. Lands and interests therein owned by a State or any political subdivision thereof which are acquired for the purposes of subsection (a) of this section may be acquired only by donation.

SEC. 102. (a) When the Secretary determines that an adequate interest in lands has been acquired to constitute an administrable unit for each of the areas described in section 1 of this Act, he may, after notifying the Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States Congress of his intention to do so at least fourteen days in advance, declare the establishment of such unit by publication of a notice to that effect in the Federal Register. Such notice shall contain a map or other description of the boundaries of the unit, together with an explanation of the interests acquired and the costs incident thereto. The Secretary may refrain from acquiring property for establishment of any unit authorized by this Act where, in his judgment, satisfactory agreements or donations with respect to properties which are needed for the protection and administration of a particular unit have not been consummated with the owners of such properties.

(b) Pending the establishment of each unit and, thereafter, the Secretary shall administer the property acquired pursuant to this Act in accordance with the provisions of the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), as amended and supplemented, and, to the extent applicable, the provisions of the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666), as amended.

SEC. 104. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, not to exceed, however, the following:

(c) Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, \$600,000 for the acquisition of lands and interests in lands and \$2,268,000 for development:

Approved October 26, 1974.

102 STAT. 618

PUBLIC LAW 100-337—JUNE 17, 1988

Public Law 100-337
100th Congress

An Act

June 17, 1988
[H.R. 3869]

To amend the Act providing for the establishment of the Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site, Alabama, to authorize an exchange of properties between the United States and Tuskegee University, and for other purposes.

Conservation.
National parks,
monuments, etc.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 101(a)(5) of the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the establishment of the Clara Barton National Historic Site, Maryland; John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, Oregon; Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, North Dakota; Springfield Armory National Historic Site, Massachusetts; Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site, Alabama; Martin Van Buren National Historic Site, New York; and Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site, Washington, District of Columbia, and for other purposes", approved October 26, 1974 (88 Stat. 1461), is amended by striking out "(5)" and inserting in lieu thereof "(5)(A)" and by changing the semicolon to a period, deleting the word "and" thereafter, and inserting the following new subparagraph:

16 USC 461 note.

"(B) If, following the acquisition of Grey Columns, the Secretary determines that it would be in the public interest and in furtherance of efficient administration of the national historic site to do so, the Secretary may convey Grey Columns to Tuskegee University and in exchange therefor he may accept from the University properties which the Secretary deems necessary for administrative, parking, and maintenance facilities for the national historic site. As to the property between the Carver Museum and the Oaks, the Secretary may accept an easement from the University which shall limit development for the purpose of maintaining the view between the Carver Museum and the Oaks and provide for construction and maintenance by the Secretary of a public walkway from Campus Avenue to Montgomery Road. The conveyance of Grey Columns shall be made upon the express condition that the grantee shall maintain its historic integrity in accordance with the Secretary's standards on historic preservation and make the property available for public use subject to its primary purpose as the residence of the University's president. The exchange herein authorized shall be accomplished without monetary consideration to or from either party. Following such exchange, the Secretary shall cause to be published in the Federal Register a revised boundary map or other boundary description of the national historic site."

Public buildings
and grounds.

Federal
Register,
publication.

Approved June 17, 1988.

Public Law 101-430 (104 STAT. 959)
101st Congress

An Act

To authorize the acquisition of additional lands for inclusion in the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, and for other purposes. [S. 1230]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL LANDS.

(a) The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to acquire by purchase with donated or appropriated funds, donation, or exchange the lands comprising approximately 465 acres and described in subsection (b) as an addition to the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, North Dakota: *Provided*, That no such lands may be acquired without the consent of the owner thereof unless the Secretary determines that, in his judgment, the property is subject to, or threatened with, uses which are having, or would have, an adverse impact on the archaeological historical, or other values for which the site was established.

(b) The lands referred to in subsection (a) are those lands depicted on the map entitled "Proposed Boundary Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site" numbered 468-80,039A and dated July 1990.

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATIONS.

Section 104(c) of Public Law 93-486 (88 Stat. 1462) is amended by striking "\$600,000" and inserting in lieu thereof "\$1,000,000" and by striking "\$2,268,000" and inserting in lieu thereof "\$4,000,000".

Approved October 15, 1990.

Appendix B: General Law and Policy Guidance

Management decisions at Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site are based on specific laws, policies, and regulations designed to protect environmental quality, preserve historic resources, promote public enjoyment of the site, and ensure that the benefits and costs of federal action are equitably shared by all citizens. The primary laws of particular importance to the decision-making process and management in the National Park Service are outlined below.

The Organic Act of 1916 (16 USC 1, et seq.). The National Park Service Organic Act remains after nearly 100 years the core of National Park Service authority and the definitive statement of the purposes of the parks and of the National Park Service’s mission: “to promote and regulate the use of the federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations . . . by such means and measures as conform to the[ir] fundamental purpose . . . to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

General Authorities Act of 1970 (16 USC 1). This act affirms that all national park areas are “united through their interrelated purposes and resources into one National Park System, as cumulative expressions of a single national heritage.”

The Redwood Act of 1978 (16 USC 1a-1). Congress supplemented and clarified the provisions of the Organic Act through enactment of the General Authorities Act in 1970, and again through enactment of a 1978 amendment to that law (the “Redwood Amendment”) contained in a bill expanding Redwood National Park. This act states that the provisions of the Organic Act apply to all units of the national park system. A key phrase is that activities “shall not be exercised in derogation of the values and purposes for which these areas have been established.” It is applicable unless Congress has “directly and specifically provided” otherwise. This act also affirms that, if a conflict occurs between visitor use and protection of resources, the intent of Congress is to favor resource protection.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Title 42 U.S. Code sections 4321 to 4370 [42 USC 4321-4370]). This landmark environmental protection legislation requires federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision-making processes by considering the environmental impacts of their proposed actions and reasonable alternative to those actions. The National Environmental Policy Act establishes the format and process that the National Park Service must use in preparing the environmental analyses that are incorporated into the general management planning process. The results of these analyses are presented to the public, federal agencies, and public officials in document format for consideration prior to taking official action or making official decisions.

Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, as amended (40 CFR 1500–1508). These regulations implement the National Environmental Policy Act and provide guidance to federal agencies in the preparation of environmental documents identified under the act.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (Sec. 106 and Sec. 110, 16 USC 470; 36 CFR 800). The purpose of this act is to protect and preserve districts, sites and structures, and architectural, archeological, and cultural resources. Section 110 requires that the National Park Service identify and nominate all eligible resources under its jurisdiction to the National Register of Historic Places. Section 106 of the act requires that federal agencies with direct or indirect jurisdiction take into account the effect of any actions on cultural resources listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Executive Order 11593, “Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment,” May 13, 1971. This executive order directs federal agencies to inventory cultural properties under their jurisdiction, to nominate to the National Register of Historic Places all federally owned properties that meet the criteria, to use due caution until the inventory and nomination processes are completed, and also to assure that federal plans and programs contribute to preservation and enhancement of nonfederal properties. Some of the provisions of the executive order were turned into section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, as amended (16 USC 469-469c). This act requires survey, recovery, and preservation of significant scientific, prehistorical, historical, archeological or paleontological data when such data may be destroyed due to a federal project. The act directs federal agencies to notify the Secretary of the Interior whenever they find that such a project may cause loss or damage.

Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 [16 USC 470aa (1988)]. This act defines archeological resources as any material remains of past human life or activities that are of archeological interest and at least 100 years old; requires federal permits for their excavation or removal, and sets penalties for violators; provides for preservation and custody of excavated materials, records, and data; provides for confidentiality of archeological site locations; and encourages cooperation with other parties to improve protection of archeological resources. The act was amended in 1988 to require development of plans for surveying public lands for archeological resources, and systems for reporting incidents of suspected violations.

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, November 16, 1990, (PL101-601). The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act provides a process for museums and federal agencies to return certain American Indian cultural items—human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony—to lineal descendants, culturally affiliated American Indian tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

Executive Order 13007, “Indian Sacred Sites,” May 24, 1996. This executive order instructs each executive branch agency with statutory or administrative responsibility for the management of federal lands to 1) accommodate to the extent practicable, permitted by law, and not clearly inconsistent with essential agency functions, access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners, 2) avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites, and 3) where appropriate, maintain the confidentiality of such sites.

Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36 The Code of Federal Regulations provides the regulations “for the proper use, management, government, and protection of persons, property, and natural and cultural resources within areas under the jurisdiction of the NPS.” These regulations are used to fulfill the statutory purposes of national park system units—to conserve scenery, natural and historical objects, and wildlife, and to provide for the enjoyment of those resources in such a manner as to leave them unimpaired for future generations.

NPS Management Policies 2006 is the basic servicewide policy document of the National Park Service. It is the highest of three levels of guidance documents in the NPS directives system. The directives system is designed to provide NPS management and staff with clear and continuously updated information on NPS policy and required and/or recommended actions, as well as any other information that would aid in the effective management of parks and programs.

Museum Properties Management Act of 1955, as amended (16 USC 18) (PL 84-127, 69 Stat. 242). This act authorizes the National Park Service to accept donations or bequests of museum properties, purchase them from donated funds, or exchange, transfer, convey, or destroy them and receive and grant museum loans.

Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections (36 CFR 79). Part 79 established standards, procedures, and guidelines to be followed by federal agencies in preserving and providing adequate long-term curatorial services for archeological collections of prehistoric and historic artifacts and associated records that are recovered under section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Reservoir Salvage Act, Archeological Resources Protection Act, and Antiquities Act.

Appendix C: Purpose and Significance From Legislative History

Purpose

Public Law 93-486 (88 Stat. 1461) dated October 26, 1974, authorized the creation of Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site as a unit of the national park system. The law did not explicitly state the purpose for which the park was to be created. Instead, it simply stated that the park was established with the following statement.

For establishment as the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, North Dakota, those lands depicted on the map entitled Boundary Map, Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, North Dakota Numbered 468-20, 012 and dated July 1970.

Two key elements of the enabling legislation history, House Report No. 93-1285 and Senate Report No. 93-1233, specifically state that the park was to be established “to preserve certain historic and archeological remnants of the culture and agricultural lifestyles of the Plains Indians.”

Additionally, it is clear from the legislative history of Public Law 93-486 that it was the intent of Congress that the park’s historic and archeological resources be interpreted for the benefit of the public and that study of these resources be conducted (see Congressional Record, Volume 120, August 19, 1974, section titled “Brief Background of Components of H.R. 13157”: on page 8621). The final environmental statement (p. 6) for the proposed establishment of the park also clearly anticipates an ongoing program of archeological research in the park.

The third component of the H.R. 13157 is the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, located in the State of North Dakota. The new unit will add to the National Park System several important archeological sites where the life of the Plains Indians can be studied and interpreted. At one time, it was a hub of trading between tribes, as well as with white fur traders. In addition, it is important as a place where Indian culture and agricultural adaption developed. Protection of the archeological site in this area is needed, but equally important is the need to properly study, develop, and interpret the area for the visiting public.

The site was established with three distinct purposes: 1) preservation of historic and archeological resources, 2) interpretation of the historic and archeological resources, and 3) study of those resources for the benefit of the public. There was a pressing need to establish a park to preserve these resources since many related sites had been destroyed by developments during the 20th century including downstream Mandan villages and the Amahami Village just south of the current park boundary.

Significance

Significance in the documented legislative history is described in verbal and written testimony (from the 1986 general management plan):

The Office of the Secretary's letter to the Chairman of the House and Senate Committees of Interior and Insular Affairs signed by Nathaniel Reed on November 6, 1973, emphasizes the following as unique qualities for which the park was set aside:

- a. *The archeological value of Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site.*
- b. *The historical associations with Lewis and Clark, Bodmer, Lisa, Catlin, Maximillian, Henry, Bradbury, and Audubon.*
- c. *The importance of the agricultural phase of Plains Indian development.*
- d. *The trade regime and its effect on the spread of horses.*

The national significance of these sites is detailed by the National Park Service in testimony for site designation within the Congressional Record.

The cluster of villages, spanning a period of several centuries, contains the remnants of earth-lodge dwellings or house rings, cache pits, burials, fortifications, and travois trails- all in an extraordinarily fine state of preservation and integrity. These features, located in the relatively unspoiled setting of the Knife River's debouchment into the Missouri River, provide the media to dramatize certain ethnological and historic themes which have a unique focus here:

- a. *A widespread aboriginal culture characterized by earth-lodge villages and a horticulture/buffalo-hunting complex that dominated the middle Missouri region for several centuries at the dawn of the European-American invasion.*
- b. *One of the major sites and the best surviving examples of the adaptation of aboriginal farming practices of the eastern woodlands to the environment of the northern Great Plains. The techniques and new crops developed by these Indians were adopted by American settlers.*
- c. *The evolution of house types, village patterns, fortifications, and burial methods resulting from diverse environmental and cultural factors.*
- d. *A major hub for trading activities, both intertribal and with the fur traders; also a major source of horses, without which the culture of the Plains Indians could not have evolved. Inevitably, this was the scene of many confrontations between the Canadians, the French, the Spanish, and the Americans.*
- e. *The ethnic origins of the Crow Nation of Montana (both the river and mountain branches), and an unparalleled opportunity for telling the story of a plains agricultural group adapting to a nomadic, equestrian way of life- the prototype Plains Indian.*
- f. *The classic hostile encounter between the village farmers (Hidatsa) and the plains nomads (Sioux)*



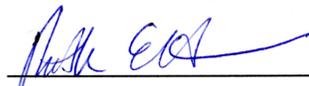
**Midwest Region Foundation Statement Recommendation
Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site**

March 2013

This Foundation Statement has been prepared as a collaborative effort between Park and Regional staff, and is recommended for approval by the Midwest Regional Director.

 2/26/13

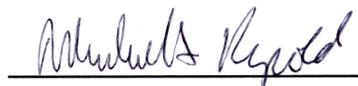
RECOMMENDED
Superintendent, Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site **Date**

 5/2/13

RECOMMENDED
Planning Division Chief, Midwest Regional Office **Date**

 5/15/13

RECOMMENDED
Associate Regional Director, MWRO Planning, Communication and Legislation **Date**

 5/22/13

APPROVED
Regional Director, Midwest Region **Date**



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

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June 2013

Foundation Document • Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site



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