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mission



*Whitman Mission*  
National Historic Site  
*General Management Plan &  
Final Environmental Impact Statement*

*May 2000*

SCANNED

6/7/01

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Whitman Mission National Historic Site  
328 Whitman Mission Rd.  
Walla Walla, Washington 99362

April 24, 2000

Dear Friends of Whitman Mission National Historic Site,

We are pleased to provide you with a copy of the *Whitman Mission National Historic Site General Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement*, in abbreviated format. As you know the planning process for this General Management Plan, (GMP) has been a long one. I appreciate the active role that you have taken in this process. Your input and comment provided an important contribution to the decision-making process and helps shape long-term management decisions about public use and protection of the park. With this document, both the public and park management have a road map to follow regarding actions that are needed to help ensure the future long-term protection and public use of the national historic site.

During the public comment period for the Draft GMP numerous comments and concerns were expressed relating to the plan. This document incorporates all changes that have been made to the Draft GMP as a result of public comments and staff review. Please note that this abbreviated format is not a full reprint of the original Draft GMP. It simply shows revisions that have been incorporated. Some readers may find it convenient to refer to the Draft GMP while reviewing this abbreviated Final GMP/EIS.

Although this document is the final "official planning document" a supplementary, or presentation document, is being prepared. This presentation document will contain selected sections from the GMP along with the preferred alternative. It is intended to provide a more condensed and readable format for the GMP without the Final Environmental Impact Statement sections. I anticipate that this presentation document will be printed and mailed by late summer. Individuals and organizations already on our mailing list will automatically receive a copy.

Again, I'd like to thank you for taking an active role in the management of your national historic site. Your participation in the planning process is helping us preserve the resources and provide for public enjoyment not only for our current visitors but also for future generations.

Sincerely,

Francis T. Darby

**General Management Plan  
Development Concept Plan  
Final Environmental Impact Statement**

for

**Whitman Mission National Historic Site**

Prepared by  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Four alternatives have been examined in this final General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS). They respond to both National Park Service planning requirements and to the issues identified during the scoping process. These alternatives address visitor use and the preservation of the cultural and natural resources that provide the environment in which the Whitman Mission story is presented to the public. One of these alternatives, Alternative C, constitutes the Proposed Action and the Preferred Alternative of the National Park Service and, if approved, would become the general management plan for the park.

The draft GMP/EIS was on public review from September 3 to November 12, 1999. Public meetings were held in Walla Walla, Washington and in Mission, Oregon during September 1999. A total of 28 letters were received and have been reproduced in this document. Because the changes to the draft document are minor and confined primarily to factual corrections, which do not modify the analysis, the abbreviated format has been used. Use of this format is in compliance with the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1503.4[c]). This abbreviated format requires that the material in this document be integrated with the draft GMP/EIS to describe the final plan, its alternatives, all significant environmental impacts, and the public comments that have been received and evaluated.

The Proposed Action contains four major components including the following: 1) providing for a three-dimensional delineation of the original structures, and substituting the existing lawn for native grasses at the Mission Grounds; 2) providing a recreational trail through the riparian area near the Walla Walla River; 3) constructing additional exhibit and administrative space; and 4) encouraging the acquisition of voluntary conservation easements on properties adjacent to the national historic site by a non-profit entities.

Coordination and partnerships would be encouraged with other agencies to support implementation of the Proposed Action. In addition, the Proposed Action contains one development concept plan related to enhancements to the visitor center, parking lot, picnic area, and pedestrian circulation. Actions in this plan include reconfiguring the main parking lot, adding a group shelter to picnic area, adding several improvements to the visitor center entry, and constructing additional administrative space on the existing administrative wing of the visitor center, and reconfiguring the pedestrian access to the Oregon Trail and the Mission Grounds.

The environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and other alternatives are fully explained in the abbreviated final EIS and by referencing the draft GMP/EIS. The abbreviated final GMP/EIS includes results of public involvement, and consultation and coordination.

The release of this final GMP/EIS and published Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register* will be followed by a 30-day no-action period: if no substantive comments are received during that period, the alternative or actions constituting the approved plan will be documented in a Record of Decision. For further information contact the Superintendent at Whitman Mission National Historic Site, Route 2, Box 247, Walla Walla, Washington 99362; telephone: (509) 522-6360 .

# Summary

This document is a final general management plan and environmental impact statement for Whitman Mission National Historic Site (NHS). The plan provides National Park Service (NPS) management with the necessary framework to guide the management of the NHS for the next 15 years. The plan is intended to be a useful long-term decision-making tool, providing National Park Service managers with a logical and trackable rationale for decisions about the protection and public use of park resources.

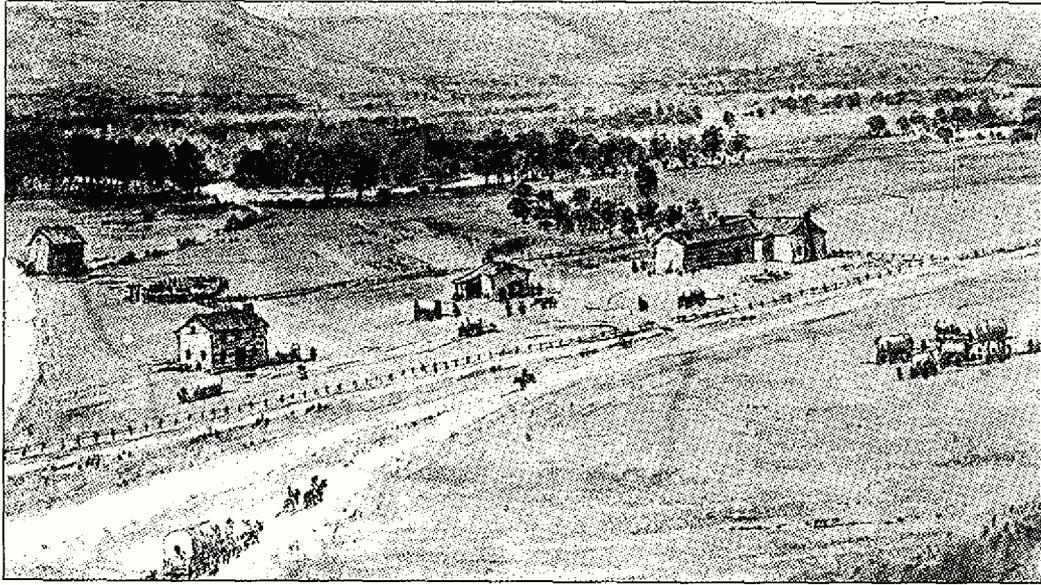
At the beginning of the planning process, a series of public scoping meetings were held to present the purpose and significance of the NHS to the public, to outline park goals, and to present issues that would be addressed in the plan. Input was solicited from the public and other governmental agencies to discern if there were other issues that needed to be addressed in the plan which were not initially listed. A draft GMP/EIS was released for public review and comment in September 1999. Public meetings were held in conjunction with this public review period.

Alternative C remains the "Preferred Alternative" and Proposed Action by the National Park Service. The Proposed Action would provide for enhanced visitor experience and education by providing for a three-dimensional delineation of the original structures and substituting native grasses for the existing lawn at the Mission Grounds, providing a recreational trail along the riparian area of the Walla Walla River, constructing additional exhibit and administrative space within the visitor center, and encouraging the acquisition of voluntary conservation easements on properties adjacent to the national historic site by a non-profit land trust or other entity. In addition, the Proposed Action contains a development concept plan. Actions in this plan include reconfiguring the main parking lot, adding a group shelter to the picnic area, adding several improvements to the visitor center entry, and constructing additional administrative space on the existing administrative wing, and reconfiguring the pedestrian access to the Oregon Trail and the Mission Grounds.

Actions common to all alternatives would include the following: keeping the required occupancy in the existing park residence, providing a photographic panoramic of the view from Memorial Hill for mobility-impaired visitors, coordinating with the staff of other Oregon Trail sites, completing a baseline inventory for the NHS, developing a Whitman Mission NHS Friends group, re-establishing Doan Creek, and planting native plants at the NHS when non-historic ornamental trees and shrubs die.

Some modifications have been made in the Proposed Action. One of these changes involves deletion of the viewshed analysis as a component of the land protection section of the Proposed Action. The concept of viewshed protection was misunderstood by several members of the public who commented on the draft GMP and attended public meetings. While the protection of the historic scene and retention of compatible land uses surrounding the national historic site remain an important objective of the National Park Service and the general management plan, the viewshed analysis component of the plan has been eliminated from the final GMP.

Additional changes in the text of the Proposed Action were also made, and where applicable, text changes have been noted. Several substantive comments are addressed in the public involvement section of this report.



William H. Jackson, painting of Waiilatpu, 1930

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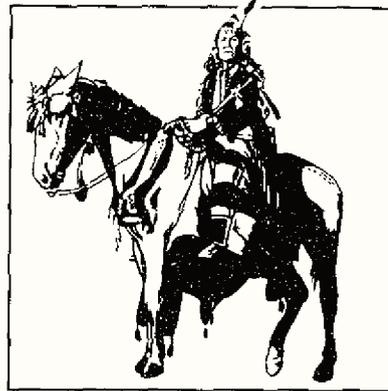
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*Corrections and Revisions*



# Corrections and Revisions

Changes to the *Whitman Mission National Historic Site Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS)* are minor and confined primarily to factual corrections which do not modify the original analysis. The changes have been handled in the following way: To review this final GMP/EIS, it is necessary to use the draft GMP/EIS. The chapter number relating to the draft GMP/EIS will be identified first for ease of reference. Next, page numbers will refer to the page numbers in the draft GMP/EIS. Text that is to be removed from the draft document appears as **remove**. Text that is to be added appears underlined. Maps needing corrections (Figures 2-9) are included at the end of this chapter (following page 13).

## Title Page

Page I

*Second paragraph and first sentence of third paragraph:*

These alternatives address visitor use and the preservation of the cultural and natural resources that provide the environment in which the Whitman Mission story is presented to the public. One of these alternatives, Alternative C, constitutes the Proposed Action and the Preferred Alternative of the National Park Service and, if approved, will become the general management plan for the ~~Monument~~ national historic site.

The Preferred Alternative enhances visitor experience by including the following: providing for a three-dimensional delineation of the original structures, and substituting native grasses for the existing lawn ~~for native grasses~~ at the Mission Grounds; providing a recreational trail through the riparian area near the Walla Walla River; constructing additional exhibit and administrative space; and encouraging the voluntary acquisition of conservation easements on ~~visually sensitive~~ properties adjacent to the national historic site.

## Summary

Page ii

*First sentence in last paragraph:*

Alternative C constitutes the “Preferred Alternative” and Proposed Action by the National Park Service. Alternative C would provide for enhanced visitor experience by providing for a three-dimensional delineation of the original structures and substituting native grasses for the existing lawn ~~for native grasses~~ at the Mission Grounds, providing a recreational trail along the riparian area of the Walla Walla River, constructing additional exhibit and administrative space within the visitor center, and encouraging the voluntary acquisition of conservation easements on ~~visually sensitive~~ properties adjacent to the national historic site by a non-profit land trust.

Page iii

*First paragraph on page:*

Alternative D has many of the same general actions as Alternative C. In addition, at the Mission Grounds, dirt paths would be established, the historic fence alignment would be re-established, and the orchard would be enlarged to be closer to its historic size. Archeological research would be conducted to try to determine the exact location of the Whitman sawmill site. Cattle would again be grazed in the pasture and river oxbow area to approximate the historic scene. A replicated Cayuse village would be located on the Walla Walla River floodplain. Adjacent to the maintenance area, a new administrative building would be constructed and administrative functions moved out of the visitor center creating additional space for interpretive functions, association sales area and exhibit space. Finally, to protect the foreground ~~viewshed views to and from the national historic site~~ and enable the National Park Service to acquire and hold conservation easements, a boundary adjustment of approximately 450 acres would be recommended under this alternative. This would require Congressional authorization to implement.

## **Chapter 1: Background of the Park**

Page 3

*Bullet # 4 under "Significance of Whitman Mission National Historic Site":*

~~The massacre of the Whitmans and eleven others (and one who disappeared and presumably drowned) and the unsuccessful end of the Mission helped lead to the establishment of the Oregon Territory as part of the United States. The United States government's reaction to the massacre led to the dispatch of additional U.S. Army troops to the region, reaffirmation of territorial claims, settlement of disputed territory with England, the formal establishment of the Oregon Territory in 1848, and provided the impetus for the signing of the Walla Walla treaty by five Indian tribes in 1855 led to a war between the militia and the Cayuse in 1848 and the arrival of federal troops in 1849. The ensuing 1855 treaties resulted in opening up the territory to pioneer settlement.~~

## **Chapter 2: Purpose and Need for the Plan**

Page 7

*Second paragraph under "Defining Access Along Park Entrance Road":*

Recently, land use conversion, including residential subdivision, has occurred in the agricultural land immediately surrounding the NHS. These approved subdivisions by the County have resulted in proposals to the staff at the NHS by landowners to permit access points along the federally owned road. The NPS has four concerns: 1) The inability of NPS to grant new legal access along a federally owned road. 2) The prospect of future increases in the number of requests for granting access for subdivision development. 3) Safety issues related to numerous access points. 4) The ability of NPS to provide an attractive access road entrance to the NHS for

the traveling public. At issue is the need to address how and whether future subdivision access should be legally granted onto the current federal road.

### Chapter 3: Alternatives, Including the Proposed Action

Page 15

*First paragraph under "Actions Common to All Alternatives," # 1:*

1) Required occupancy (Category I Housing)—The park would continue to provide onsite housing to serve as a deterrence to crimes against park resources and timely response to emergencies outside normal working hours. The required occupancy requirement would be in addition to any other appropriate on-site security and safety measures (such as lighting and motion sensors), which would also be common to all alternatives.

Page 24

*Fourth paragraph under Natural Resource Management:*

The asphalt rip-rap lining along the bank at Mill Creek within the NHS would be removed and the bank stabilized with rock rubble and revegetated.

Page 28

*First and part of second paragraphs under "Park Boundary and Land Protection" section:*

#### **Park Boundary and Land Protection**

In addition to the Agricultural General zoning designation, which has a wide range of permitted uses, Walla Walla County would be encouraged to establish a historic overlay protection zone on lands surrounding Whitman Mission National Historic Site. This overlay zone ~~would be based on the NPS visual analysis and~~ would provide additional protection for the historic, scenic, cultural, and natural resources of the area, while protecting the traditional agricultural use of the land. The zone would be administered by Walla Walla County and would place additional restrictions on non-agricultural uses of land surrounding the NHS. This could be done through such techniques as elimination, or reduction, of certain permitted and conditional uses, and exceptions to existing zoning laws.

The NPS would also encourage Walla Walla County to consider using clustering techniques to minimize the impact of residential development in the future in the surrounding properties viewshed.

Page 37

*First sentence in paragraph under "Scenic Resource Management" section:*

#### **Scenic Resource Management**

In Alternative C, the scenic resources within ~~the foreground viewshed~~ adjacent properties would be protected by the voluntary acquisition of conservation easements, agricultural easements, and

development rights by a nonprofit organization.

Page 38

*Third paragraph:*

Additionally, park archives, library, and collection storage would also be addressed in the expanded administrative space in the existing administrative wing of the visitor center. Modifications to the visitor center would include a correction of storage deficiencies, such as security and safety improvements and research/work space, as identified in the NHS's Checklist for Preservation and Protection of Museum Collections.

Page 45

*"Park Boundary and Land Protection" section:*

### **Park Boundary and Land Protection**

The National Park Service would continue to work with park neighbors, and encourage area landowners, Walla Walla County, and others to work in a spirit of partnership in promoting the protection of rural character and landscapes in the area surrounding the park.

Walla Walla County would be encouraged to explore various ways to help ensure that agricultural and rural land uses remain within the county, including lands surrounding Whitman Mission. This could include a refinement of permitted uses in agricultural zones. Land Protection options would be the same as Alternative B. In addition, the park would coordinate with one or more private nonprofit land trusts, historical societies, or other eligible groups to encourage the voluntary acquisition of conservation easements, agricultural easements, and development rights from adjacent landowners who are willing sellers in order to ensure the perpetual protection of surrounding farmland in its open and scenic character. A local land trust would be recommended to be involved where possible.

Implementation of this approach would mean that lands acquired would remain in private ownership. Land would continue in its traditional farm and agricultural use and property tax revenues would continue to be received by local county government. In addition, owners would be fully compensated for voluntarily removing the development rights to the property, and any acquisition would be done only with the full consent of the landowner. ~~Conservation easements to be acquired would be within the foreground viewshed as defined by the NPS visual analysis. The boundary of the NHS would not be expanded, and no legislative action would be required. Efforts to secure conservation easements would be reviewed after five years for completion of the plan. Consideration would be given to other land protection options if private land trust activities for some reason prove unsuccessful. (See Appendix C for Analysis of Boundary Adjustment and Land Protection Criteria.)~~

It should be reiterated that opportunities for area landowners to consider strategies such as conveyance of a conservation easement interest in their land to a private not-for-profit land trust or similar entity would be encouraged, but would be strictly voluntary on the part of the landowner.

The following lands, comprising approximately 450 acres would be proposed for acquisition of conservation easements from willing sellers under this alternative:

- 1) A western parcel that was once farmed by Marcus Whitman—Though the exact configuration is not known, a 40-acre tract that was originally part of Whitman Mission was not included in the original boundary of the NHS. This property is ranked as having a “very high visual sensitivity” on the visual analysis map and has high historic significance.
- 2) A northern parcel located south of Highway 12—This parcel was also ranked as having a “very high visual sensitivity” on the visual analysis map. Visitors stopping at the interpretive panel on U.S. Highway 12 would be able to view the Memorial Shaft on Memorial Hill in a setting compatible with the historic scene.
- 3) An eastern parcel bisected by the Oregon Trail—This parcel was ranked as having a “moderate visual sensitivity” on the visual analysis map. Though not as important from a visual analysis standpoint (in terms of number of times seen), the property has added value in that it is the termination of the proposed city-county bicycle trail and has added historical significance as the route of the historic Oregon Trail.
- 4) An eastern property containing the top of Memorial Hill—The hill is ranked as having a “low visual sensitivity” since it is seen from one viewpoint, the Memorial Shaft. However, this viewpoint has a 360-degree view of the surrounding landscape, and any development on Memorial Hill would be only about 500 feet from the Memorial. In addition, any structure built over one-story tall would be visible from several other viewpoints.

In addition, purchase of conservation easements would aid in protecting the night sky from surrounding light pollution. Local colleges would be able to continue to conduct astronomy observations from the park.

If within five years, efforts to interest a land trust in helping to protect the agricultural character of lands surrounding the NHS prove unsuccessful, then the NPS will need to consider other protection options. These options may include, but are not limited to, a congressionally authorized boundary change presented in Alternative D.

Page 46

*Caption for second photograph:*

Views from Memorial Hill west to visitor center showing visually sensitive lands adjacent to park entrance road.

Page 47

*Caption for first photograph under “Park Boundary and Land Protection”:*

View from Memorial Hill looking east showing visually sensitive lands.

Page 47

*Caption for second photograph under “Park Boundary and Land Protection”:*

View from Memorial Hill showing visually sensitive land along the top of the bluff and changing development patterns in area.

Page 50

*Fifth line on page:*

The historic alignment of fencing would be replicated and the existing orchard would be enlarged within the existing boundary to more closely replicate the historic scale and character.

Page 55

*Second and third paragraphs under "Park Boundary and Land Protection" section:*

Implementation of this approach would mean that lands acquired would remain in private ownership. Land would continue in its traditional farm and agricultural use, and property tax revenues would continue to be received by local county government. Owners would be fully compensated for voluntarily removing the development rights to the property, and any acquisition would be done only with the full consent of the landowner. Conservation easements to be acquired would be from adjacent properties that can be seen from with the national historic site. ~~within the foreground viewshed as defined by the NPS visual analysis:~~

The following lands would be included :

- 1) A western parcel that was once farmed by Marcus Whitman—Though the exact configuration is not known, a 40 acre tract that was originally part of Whitman Mission was not included in the original boundary of the NHS. This property is ranked as having a "very high visual sensitivity" ~~on the visual analysis map~~ and has high historic significance.
- 2) A northern parcel located south of U.S. Highway 12—~~This parcel was also ranked as having a "very high visual sensitivity" on the visual analysis map.~~ Visitors stopping at the interpretive panel on U.S. Highway 12 would be able to view the Memorial Shaft on Memorial Hill in a setting compatible with the historic scene.
- 3) An eastern parcel bisected by the Oregon Trail—~~This parcel was ranked as having a "moderate visual sensitivity" on the visual analysis map.~~ Though not as important from a visual analysis standpoint (in terms of number of times seen), the property has added value in that it is the termination of the proposed city-county bicycle trail and has added historical significance as the route of the historic Oregon Trail.
- 4) An eastern property containing the top of Memorial Hill—~~The views from this hill is ranked as having a "low visual sensitivity" since it is seen from one viewpoint, the Memorial Shaft. However, this viewpoint has have a 360 degree view of the surrounding landscape, and any development on Memorial Hill would be only about 500 feet from the Memorial. In addition, any structure built over one-story tall would be visible from several other viewpoints.~~

Page 58

*In "Summary of Actions for Each Alternative" under "Cultural Resource Management," "Mission Grounds," "Alternative D", 4th bullet:*

- ~~Enlarge orchard closer to historic size orchard within existing boundary~~

Page 60

In "Summary of Actions for Each Alternative" under "Scenic Resource Management,"  
"Alternative C", first bullet:

- Protect scenic resources within foreground viewshed adjacent properties

## Chapter 4: The Affected Environment

Page 73

Third line from top of page:

During a 1997 meeting with the Walla Walla County Water Master (Washington State Department of Ecology) and the Washington State Department of Fish and Game Wildlife, it was decided to place a screen at the diversion box where Doan Creek enters the NHS.

Page 79

First paragraph under "Fish" subheading:

The following species of fish have recently been found in Mill Creek: steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), and sunfish (*Eupomotis gibbosus*). The USFWS has identified bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) and the National Marine Fisheries Service has identified steelhead in the area, both which are federally listed, but there have been no documented sightings within park waters. No other information is available concerning fish in the waters running through the NHS. However, occasionally fish (carp) enter the irrigation channel.

Page 86

Add as fifth paragraph under the "Regional Cooperation" subheading the following paragraph:

### Whitman College

On December 20, 1859, the Territorial Legislature at Olympia granted a charter to "an Institution of Learning in Walla Walla County to be known as Whitman Seminary." By 1882, this institution had become Whitman College. Located just seven miles east of Whitman Mission National Historic Site, the college staff, students, and facilities have supported the historic site. The "museum and archives" at Whitman College became the natural collection point for artifacts associated with the Whitman era prior to the development of Whitman Mission National Historic Site. The college's collection, and the scholars at the college, are both important components of the knowledge base associated with the Whitmans and the times in which they lived. The park and college have collaborated on many projects ranging from the items on display in the park's museum to programs relating to local Indian tribes.

Page 92

Third paragraph, first sentence:

Two cities within Washington are located within the Walla Walla Valley, College Place and Walla Walla, the county seat.

Page 97

*Last sentence of the first paragraph under "Walla Walla Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan":*

The Walla Walla Regional Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee was established in July 1997 by the cities of Walla Walla and College Place and the County to develop and implement the plan.

Page 104 - 106

*"Visual Analysis" section:*

### **Visual Analysis**

During the public scoping period, the potential for incompatible land uses surrounding the national historic site was defined by the public as an issue to be addressed by the GMP planning team. The historic scene is important to both the character and interpretive mission of the NHS. Adjacent agricultural lands are compatible with this setting. However, as mentioned earlier in the "Regional Context" section, current zoning allows a wide variety of permitted land uses, including subdivision of agricultural land into 10 acre single family lots, which is already occurring around the NHS.

A visual analysis was begun by the planning team in the spring of 1998. The purpose of this analysis was to define and document the views most important to visitor experience. This visual analysis was used to support development of alternatives in the "Alternatives" chapter. It also provides the NHS with a planning tool to help identify sensitive areas and possibly mitigate potential visual impacts that could be seen by visitors within important viewsheds. Information produced by this analysis also presents an opportunity for further dialogue between staff at NPS, and Walla Walla County Planning Department, and park neighbors, to help to protect the historic scene at Whitman Mission. While the viewshed analysis component has been eliminated from the final plan, the protection of the historic setting of Whitman Mission remains an important issue for park staff and management.

### **Viewpoints**

Four viewpoints were selected by the planning team where the park visitor would most often view the surrounding historic setting and scenery. These points included two views within the NHS and two points outside the NHS looking toward Memorial Hill. The viewpoints were selected by digitizing a point in the Geographic Information System (GIS), using other digital spatial data as a backdrop. Using a digital elevation model (10-meter grid of elevations), these points were used to generate individual and composite viewsheds of the surrounding landscape.

#### ***Viewpoints Within Whitman Mission National Historic Site***

Viewpoint 1 — Panoramic view (360 degrees) from Memorial Hill.

Viewpoint 2 — Panoramic view (360 degrees) from Mission Grounds/Oregon Trail.

#### ***Viewpoints Outside Whitman Mission National Historic Site***

Viewpoint 3 — View (180 degrees) from intersection of Swegle Road and Whitman Mission Road looking east towards NHS:

Viewpoint 4 — View (180 degrees) from Highway 12 at interpretive sign looking south towards NHS.

It is important to note that the computer-generated viewshed for each point is based upon landform and not vegetation. Though any future changes to the landform would probably be minor, fire or flood damage to riparian vegetation, could remove existing vegetation.

### **Distance Zones**

The viewshed was divided into two distance zones—foreground and middleground. Background views were not considered because, though important, they have the least impact on visitor experience and can extend many miles into the distance. Distance zones are divisions of a particular landscape being viewed. They are used to describe the part of a characteristic landscape that is being evaluated. The planning team used the distance zones as defined in the 1974 U.S. Forest Service document, *National Forest Landscape Management, Volume 2*, Chapter I, The Visual Management System, and information from the new updated handbook, *Landscape Aesthetics, A Handbook for Scenery Management* (Agricultural Handbook 701).

### **Foreground**

The limit of this zone is based upon distances at which details can be perceived. Normally, in foreground views, the individual boughs of trees form texture. It will usually be limited to areas within one-half mile of the observer, but must be determined on a case-by-case basis.

### **Middleground**

This zone extends from the foreground zone to three to five miles from the observer. Texture normally is characterized by the masses of trees in stands of uniform tree cover. Individual tree forms are usually only discernible in very open or sparse stands. For the purposes of this study, an average of four miles was chosen as the maximum middleground zone extent. (This zone was not depicted on the maps in the viewshed analysis, but is defined by those areas directly outside of the delineated one-half mile foreground.)

### **Background**

This zone extends from outer edge of the middleground to infinity. Texture in stands of uniform tree cover is generally very weak or non-existent. In very open or sparse timber stands, texture is seen as groups or patterns of trees. (This zone was not depicted on the maps in the viewshed analysis.)

### **Composite Viewsheds**

A composite viewshed is the combination of individual viewsheds. For the purposes of this study, one composite viewshed map was produced—Composite Foreground Viewshed. This composite viewshed map was developed by overlaying the viewsheds of all four viewpoints. (See Figure 10, Composite Foreground Viewshed.)

### **Findings**

The visual analysis revealed that the visually sensitive lands are primarily bounded by U.S. Highway 12 to the north, Last Chance Road to the east, Stovall Road and the Walla Walla River to the south and Swegle Road to the west. These lands were then ranked by how many times the visitor would view the landscape from the four viewpoints. This ranking included “low visual

sensitivity” for lands seen from only one viewpoint, “moderate visual sensitivity” for lands seen from two viewpoints, “high visual sensitivity” for lands seen from three viewpoints, and “very high visual sensitivity” for lands that are seen from all four viewpoints. The “very high visual sensitivity” lands includes property outside the boundary of the park to the north and west of Whitman Mission NHS.

Even though the viewshed analysis ranks a large portion of Memorial Hill as having “low visual sensitivity”, that area is more visually sensitive than the analysis implies. For example, any permanent structure, such as a house, would not only be visible, but could be as close as 500 feet from the Memorial Shaft. This may cause the structure to be seen from several viewpoints.

The property to the east of the NHS, though ranked as moderately sensitive, has visual significance in that the proposed city-county bicycle path bisects this property along the old county road. Many visitors would see this land before they enter the NHS boundary. In addition, the county road was built upon the historic Oregon Trail which gives it added historic significance.

Page 108

*Add to last sentence under “Utilities” the following text:*

These systems are adequate to meet both present and future anticipated needs of both visitors and park staff. If visitation increases substantially, frequency of septic system maintenance would need to increase.

## Chapter 5: Environmental Consequences

Page 113

*First and second paragraphs under “Effects on Scenic Resources Under Alternative A”:*

The visual analysis conducted by the planning team revealed that the visually sensitive lands are primarily bounded by U.S. Highway 12 to the north, Last Chance Road to the east, Stovall Road and the Walla Walla River to the south and Swegle Road to the west. The most visually sensitive lands (ranked by how many times the visitor views the landscape from the four viewpoints) include land parcels that are outside the present boundary of the park to the north, east, and west. Without any protection of adjacent visually important land, future changes in land use from agricultural to residential or other uses, may negatively impact the historic setting of Whitman Mission and the scenic quality of the general area.

### Conclusions

Changes in land use within the visually sensitive lands surrounding the NHS may negatively affect the historic setting of the site.

Page 123

*"Conclusions" paragraph under "Effects on Cultural Resources Under Alternative C" add the following paragraph at the end:*

Since the actions listed under Alternative C may have the potential to affect historic properties, the NHS would comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act when specific proposals are developed. Should the NHS determine that any historic properties would be adversely affected, the NHS would consult with the Washington State Historic Preservation Office, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the interested public, as appropriate, to mitigate the adverse effect in accordance with the 1995 Nationwide Programmatic Agreement among the NPS, the Council, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.

Page 126

*Third paragraph:*

Remodeling of the existing space in the visitor center would provide for more efficient staff operation and expansion for exhibits. The conflict between the kitchen area and administrative space would be eliminated. Management of the park facilities, utility systems, and infrastructure would remain unchanged so no adverse impacts would be expected. If visitation increases substantially, the frequency of septic system maintenance would need to increase.

Page 128

*Third paragraph, first sentence under "Effects on Socioeconomics Under Alternative C":*

If Alternative C recommendations concerning the acquisition of conservation easements on adjacent lands ~~within the foreground viewshed~~ by a private nonprofit are realized, lands would remain in agricultural use.

Page 131

*"Conclusions" paragraph under "Effects on Cultural Resources Under Alternative D" add the following paragraph:*

Since the actions listed under Alternative D may have the potential to affect historic properties, the NHS would comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act when specific proposals are developed. Should the NHS determine that any historic properties would be adversely affected, the NHS would consult with the Washington State Historic Preservation Office, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the interested public, as appropriate, to mitigate the adverse effect in accordance with the 1995 Nationwide Programmatic Agreement among the NPS, the Council, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.

Page 135

*Third paragraph, first sentence under "Effects of Socioeconomics Under Alternative D":*

If Alternative D recommendations concerning the acquisition of conservation easements on adjacent lands ~~within the foreground viewshed~~ by the NPS are realized, lands would remain in

agricultural use.

## Chapter 6: Summary of Public Involvement

Page 139

*First paragraph, the last sentence:*

The purpose of this newsletter was to explain the general management planning process to the public; relate relevant information about the Monument ~~national historic site~~; provide dates, times and locations for the public scoping meetings; and encourage public participation and comment on issues or problems that needed to be addressed at the ~~Monument national historic site~~.

## Chapter 7: List of Preparers and Cooperating Entities

Page 144

*Third paragraph under "Consultants":*

Ms. Emily McLuen

GIS Specialist, Environmental Careers Organization Associate, Seattle, Washington, Spatial Analysis and Cartography ~~Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialist, Columbia Cascades Support Office (CCSO), NPS, Seattle, Washington, Spatial Analysis and Cartography~~

## Chapter 8: List of Agencies, Organizations and Persons to Whom Copies of the GMP/EIS Were Sent

There are no changes.

## Chapter 9: Appendices

Page 159

*Second item under "Analysis of Boundary Adjustment and Land Protection Criteria":*

### **2) Operational and Management Issues Related to Access and Boundary Identification by Topographic or other Natural Features**

The current park boundary is mainly rectangular in shape and does not provide the optimal boundary configuration to protect cultural, natural and scenic resources. Portions of the historic Whitman Mission are located on private land to the west of the park boundary. Riparian areas along the Walla Walla River immediately to the south of the park are not within the boundary. Finally, foreground views (~~defined as one-half mile from the viewer~~) to the Whitman Memorial atop Memorial Hill as seen from the U.S. Highway 12 interpretive panel and along the main park entrance road are not now protected. Neither is the corresponding ~~foreground views protected of~~

the surrounding agricultural setting as viewed from the top of Memorial Hill.

Page 160

*Second sentence on page:*

The Proposed Action calls for a private land trust to work cooperatively with area land owners on a voluntary basis to acquire conservation easements on adjacent farmland to keep the land in farm use and to retain the open character of the land.

*Third paragraph, # 3, first sentence:*

**3) Protection of National Historic Site Resources and Fulfillment of Park Purposes**

The Proposed Action calls for the voluntary acquisition of conservation easements on adjacent properties by willing sellers by a not-for-profit land trust or other entity.

*Sixth paragraph, #5:*

**5) Protection Alternatives Considered**

The land protection options considered ranged from providing additional protection through more stringent land use controls through Walla Walla County government, to adding approximately 450 acres to the park boundary and applying a similar approach as the Proposed Action, including the voluntary acquisition of conservation easements or development rights from willing sellers. While the National Park Service certainly would have the full capability to work cooperatively with area landowners concerning the voluntary willing seller acquisition of conservation easements, the proposal to enlist the support of private land trusts, or other qualified entities, to assist in land protection adequately provides the necessary protection of farmland surrounding Whitman Mission without having to modify the park boundary to do so.

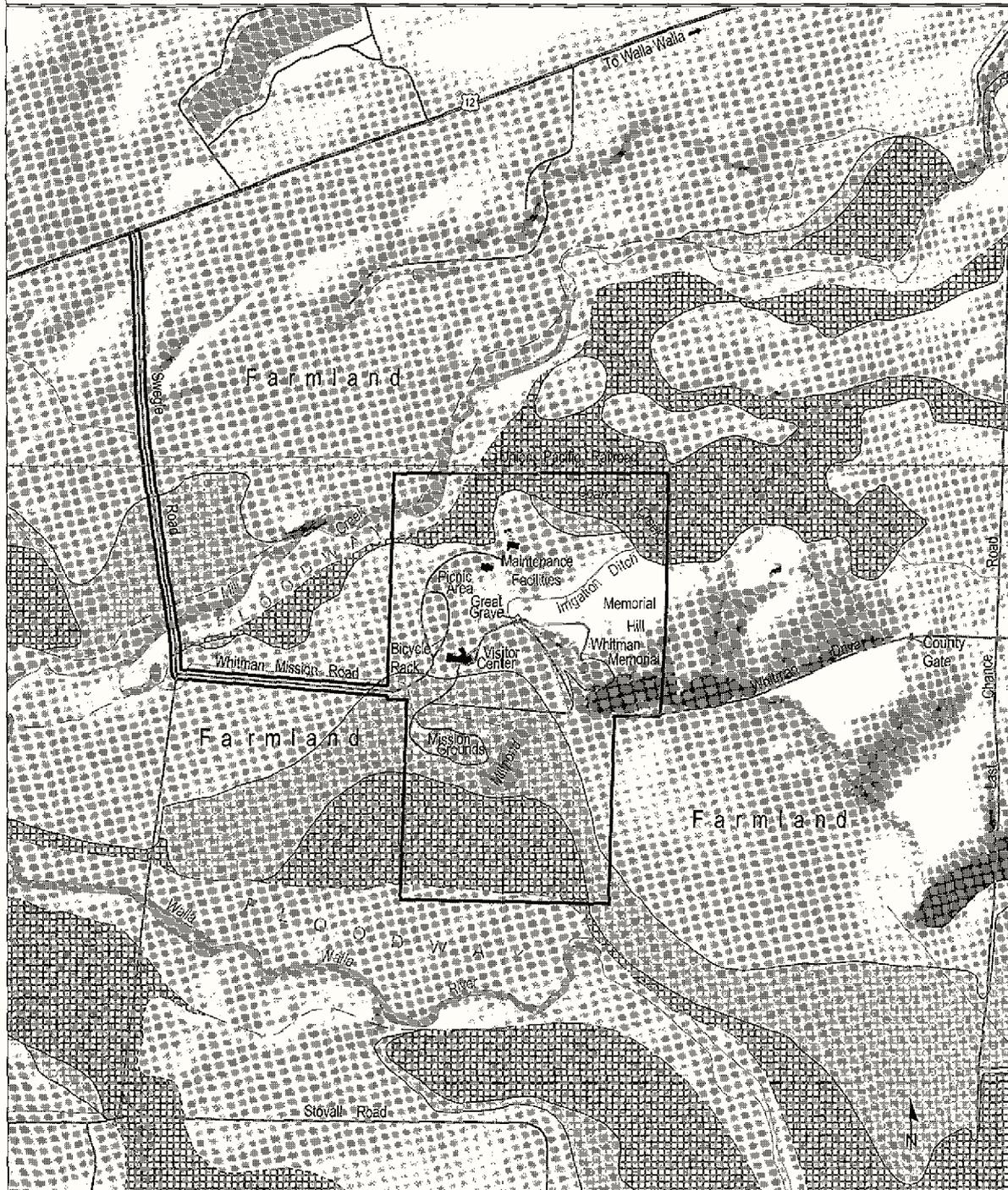
## Chapter 10: Bibliography

There are no changes.

## Chapter 11: Index

There are no changes.

# Physical & Natural Features



## Legend

- |                             |          |                                     |
|-----------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| Park Boundary - 98.15 acres | Highway  | 100-Year Flood Boundary             |
| Historic Site               | Road     | 500-Year Flood Boundary             |
| Structure                   | Railroad | Approximate 100-Year Flood Boundary |
| Water Body                  | Stream   | Floodway Fringe                     |
|                             | Trail    | 100-Year Floodway                   |
|                             |          | 500-Year Floodway                   |

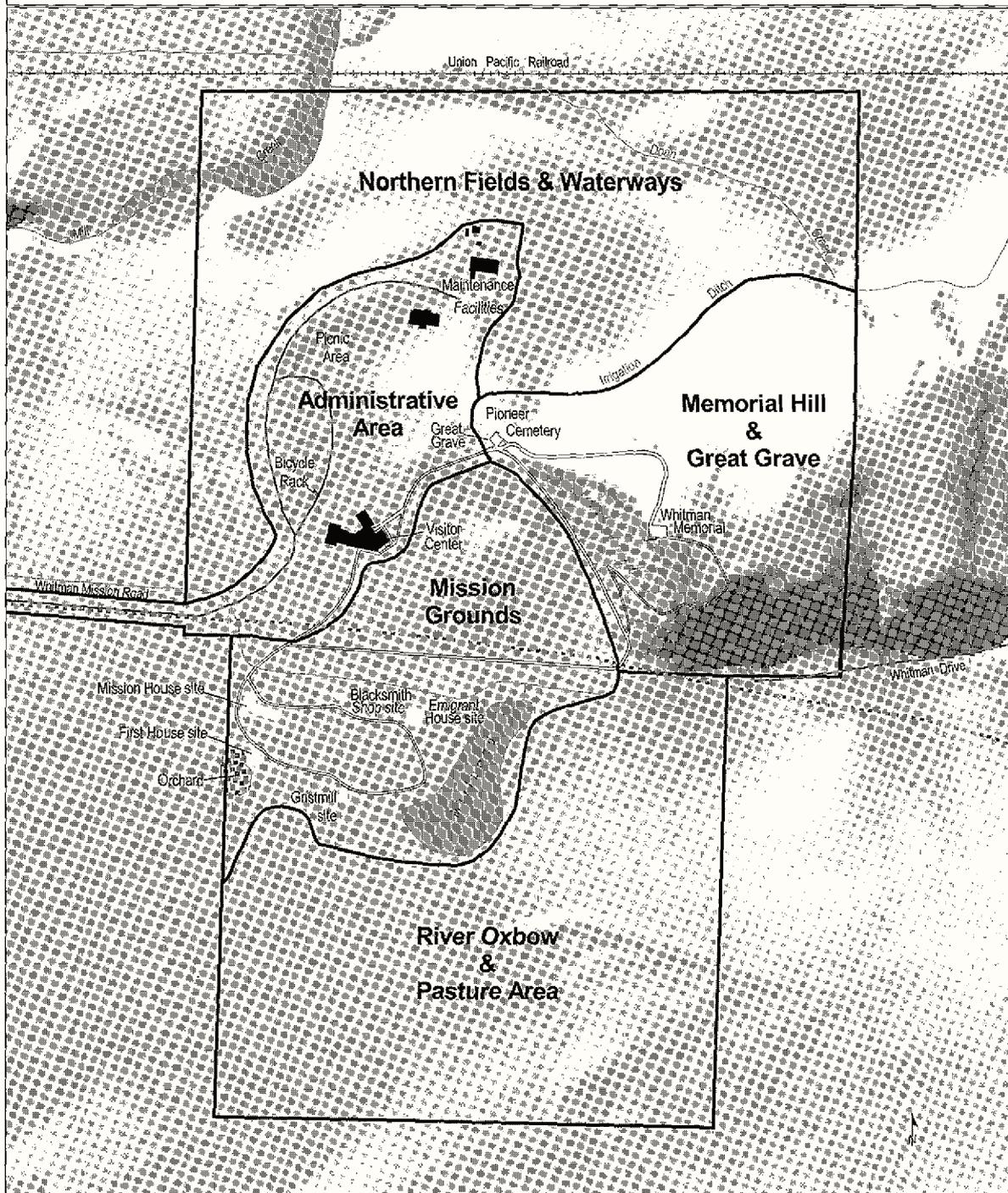


Data Sources:  
 FEMA: flood plains  
 NPS: Doan Creek, historic sites, park boundary, structures, topography, trails  
 USGS: highways, railroads, roads, streams, water bodies

LGIS\AVPRO\WHMIGMP\BFIN.APR  
 Physical and Natural Features (B/W)

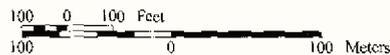
Date Created: April 28, 2000

# Cultural Landscape & Features



## Legend

- Park Boundary - 98.15 acres
- Historic Site
- Structure
- Water Body
- Road
- Railroad
- Stream
- Trail
- Oregon Trail

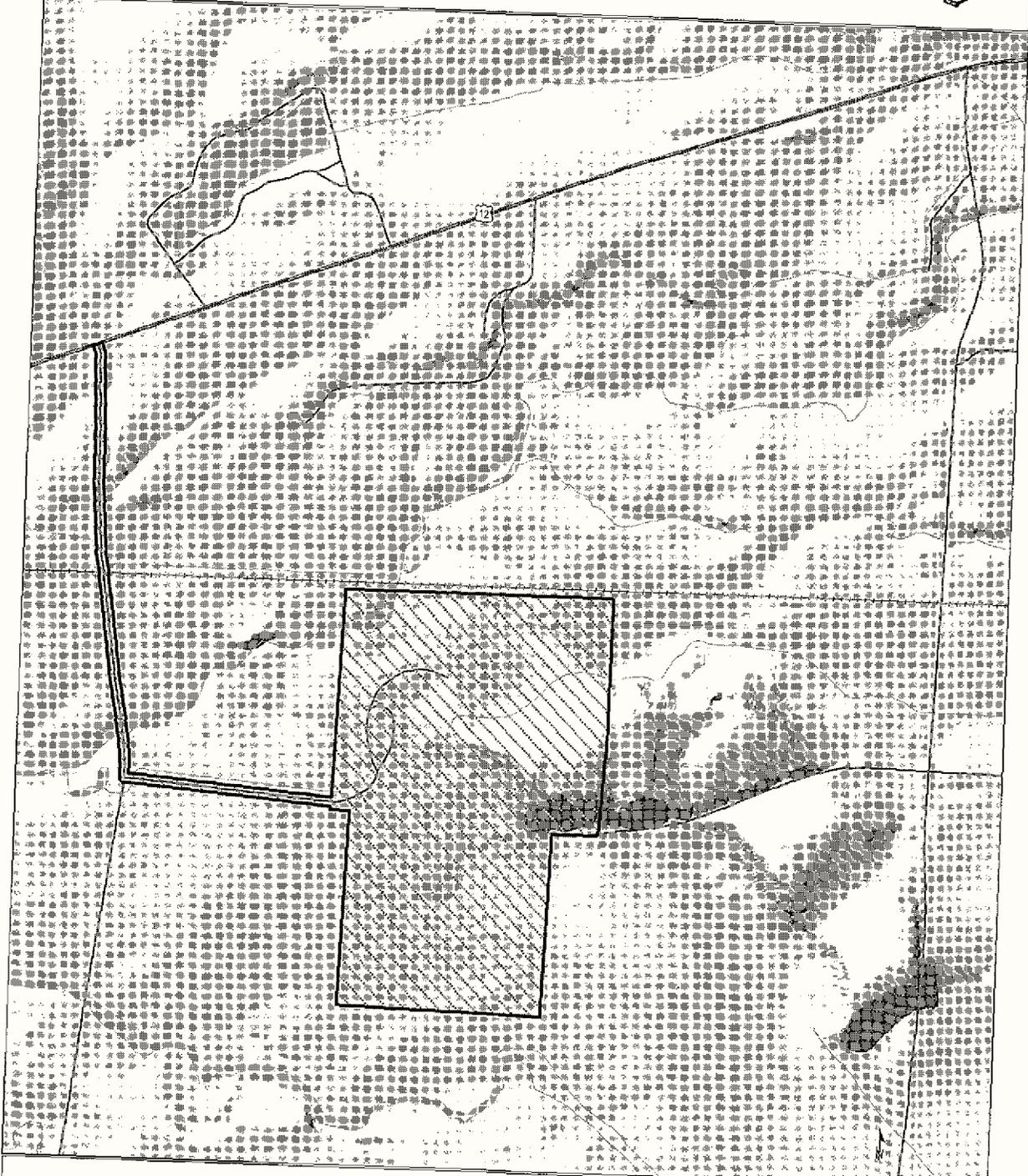


Data Sources:  
NPS: Doan Creek, historic sites, orchard, Oregon Trail, park boundary, structures, topography, trails  
USGS: railroads, roads, streams, water bodies

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Cultural Landscape & Features

Date Created: April 28, 2000

# Management Zoning: Alternative A



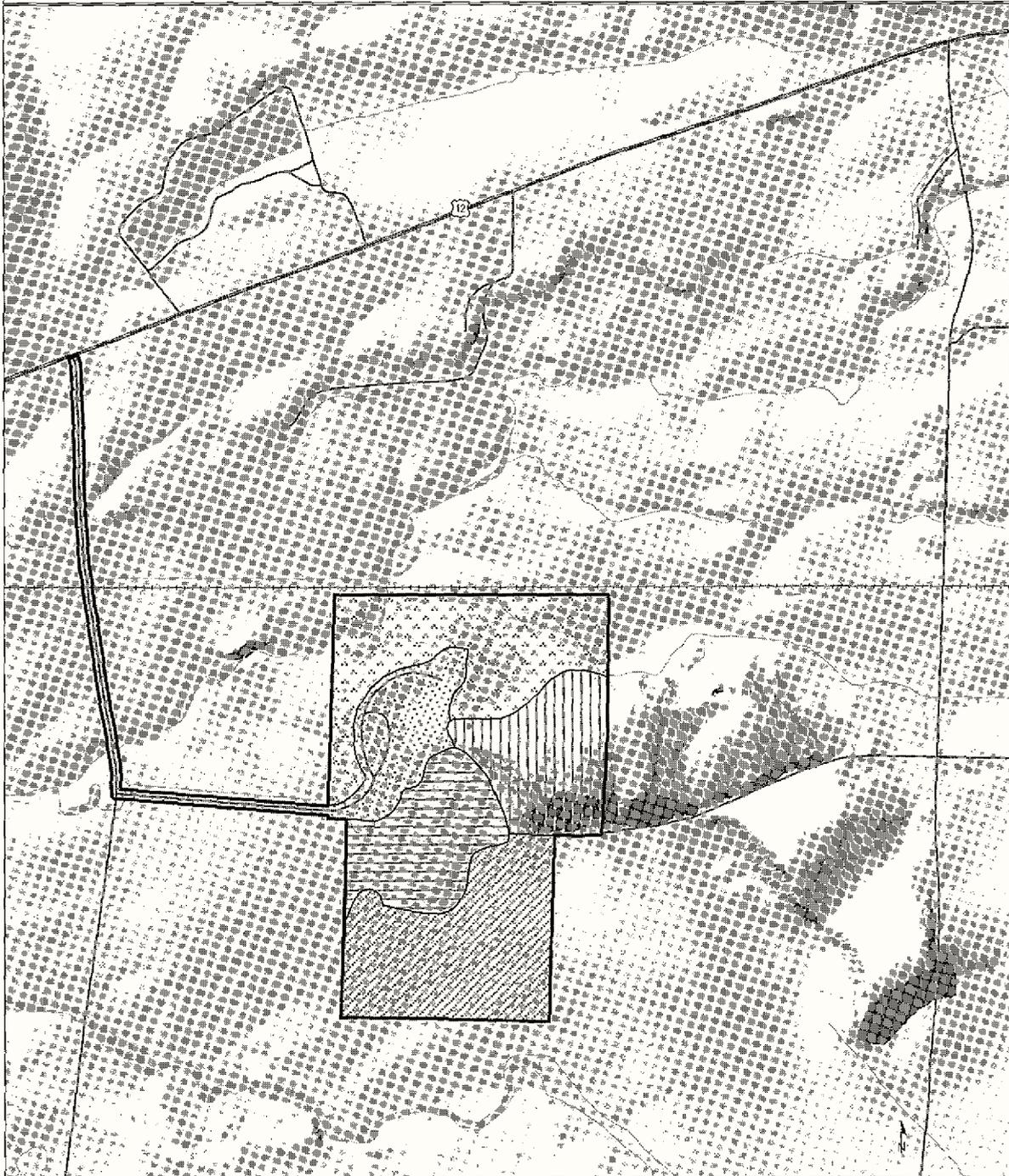
## Legend

- Highway
- Road
- Railroad
- Park Boundary
- Stream
- Water Body
- Management Zone
- Cultural



Data Sources:  
NPS: Deon Creek, management zone,  
park boundary, topography  
USGS: highways, railroads, roads,  
streams, water bodies  
FGIS\AVPROJ\WHMIGMP\ABFIN.APR  
Management Zoning: Ak A  
Date Created: April 28, 2000

# Management Zoning: Alternative B



## Legend

- |  |               |  |                          |
|--|---------------|--|--------------------------|
|  | Highway       |  | Management Zone          |
|  | Road          |  | Historic - Commemorative |
|  | Railroad      |  | Historic - Interpretive  |
|  | Stream        |  | Historic - Setting       |
|  | Water Body    |  | Natural                  |
|  | Park Boundary |  | Park Development         |

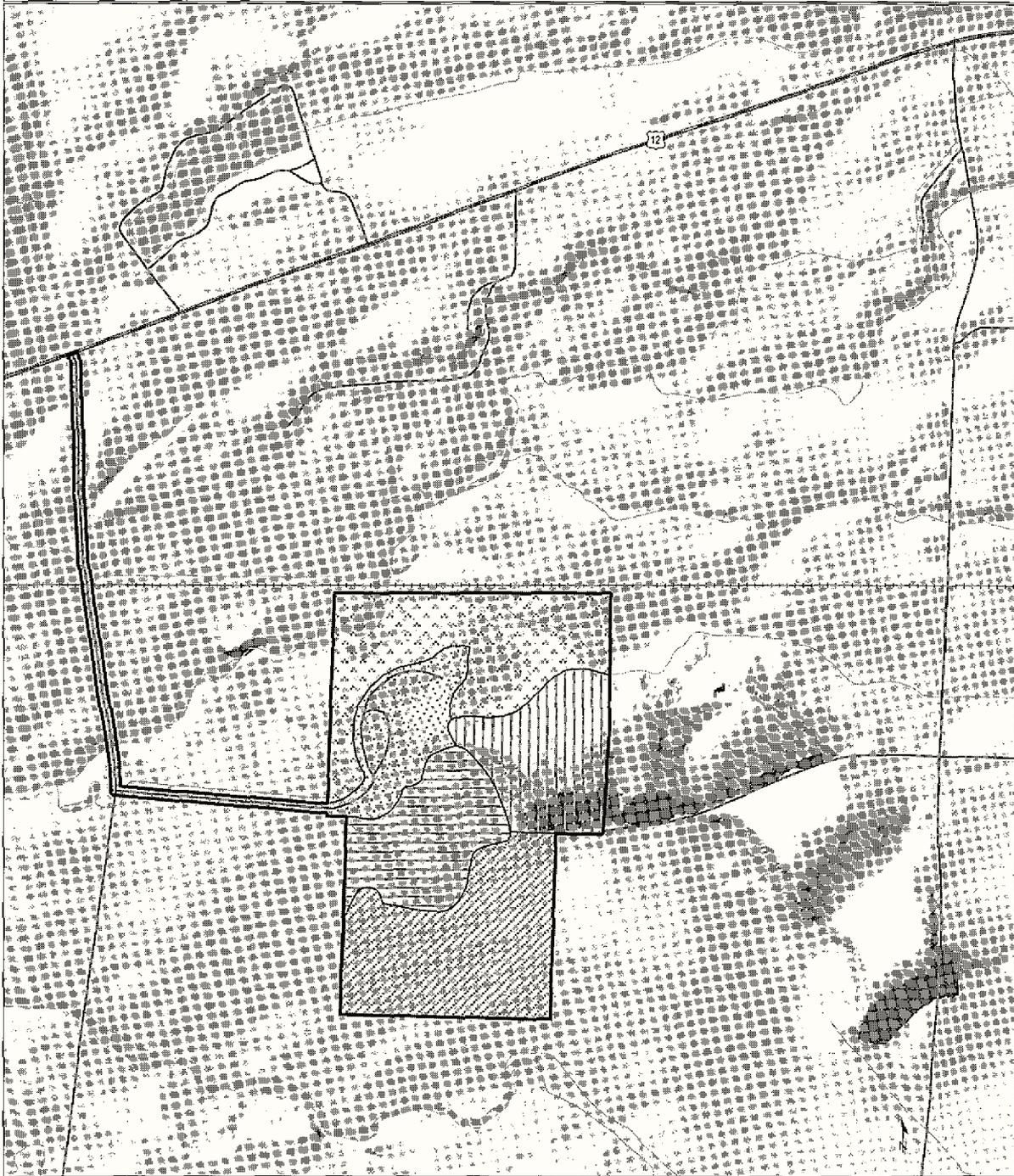
150 0 150 Feet  
150 0 150 Meters

Data Sources:  
NPS: Doan Creek, management zones,  
park boundary, topography  
USGS: highways, railroads, roads,  
streams, water bodies

FGIS:AVPROJ\WHMIEGMP\BFIN.APR  
Management Zoning: Alt B

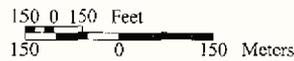
Date Created: April 28, 2000

# Management Zoning: Alternative C



## Legend

- |  |               |  |                          |
|--|---------------|--|--------------------------|
|  | Highway       |  | Management Zone          |
|  | Road          |  | Historic - Commemorative |
|  | Railroad      |  | Historic - Interpretive  |
|  | Stream        |  | Historic - Setting       |
|  | Water Body    |  | Natural                  |
|  | Park Boundary |  | Park Development         |

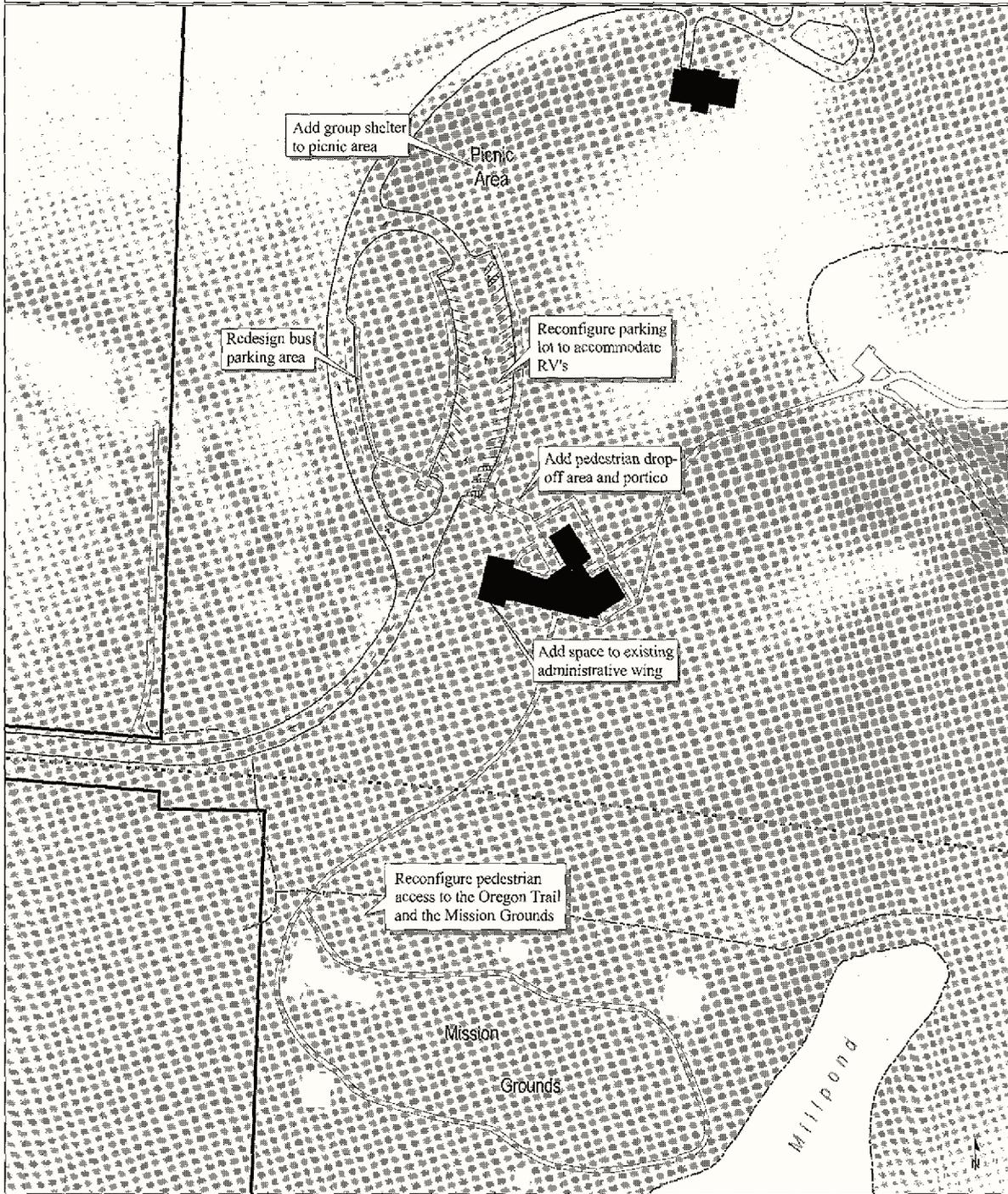


Data Sources:  
 NPS: Doan Creek, management zones,  
 park boundary, topography  
 USGS: highways, railroads, roads,  
 streams, water bodies

\\GIS\AVPROJ\WHMI\GMP\BFIN\APR  
 Management Zoning: Alt C

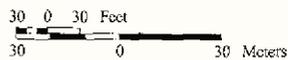
Date Created: April 28, 2000

# Schematic Development Concept Plan



## Legend

- |  |              |  |               |
|--|--------------|--|---------------|
|  | Oregon Trail |  | Water Body    |
|  | Paved Road   |  | Historic Site |
|  | Walkway      |  | Structure     |
|  | Stream       |  | Park Boundary |

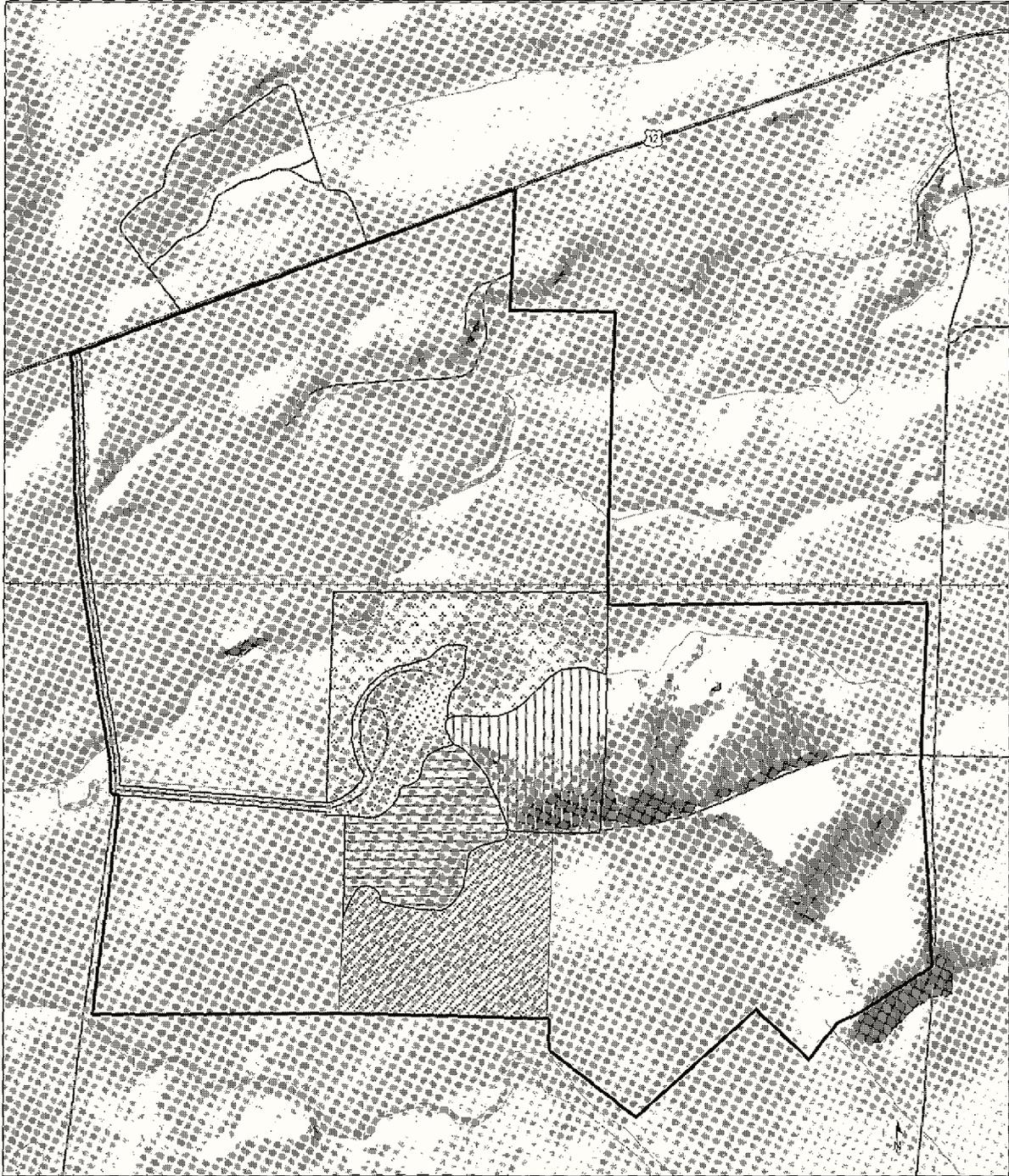


Data Sources:  
NPS: historic sites, Oregon Trail,  
park boundary, paved roads,  
streams, structures, topography,  
walkways, water bodies

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Schematic Development Concept Plan

Date Created: April 28, 2000

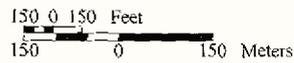
# Management Zoning: Alternative D



### Legend

- Highway
- Road
- Railroad
- Stream
- Water Body
- Park Boundary

- Management Zone**
- Historic - Commemorative
- Historic - Interpretive
- Historic - Setting
- Natural
- Park Development

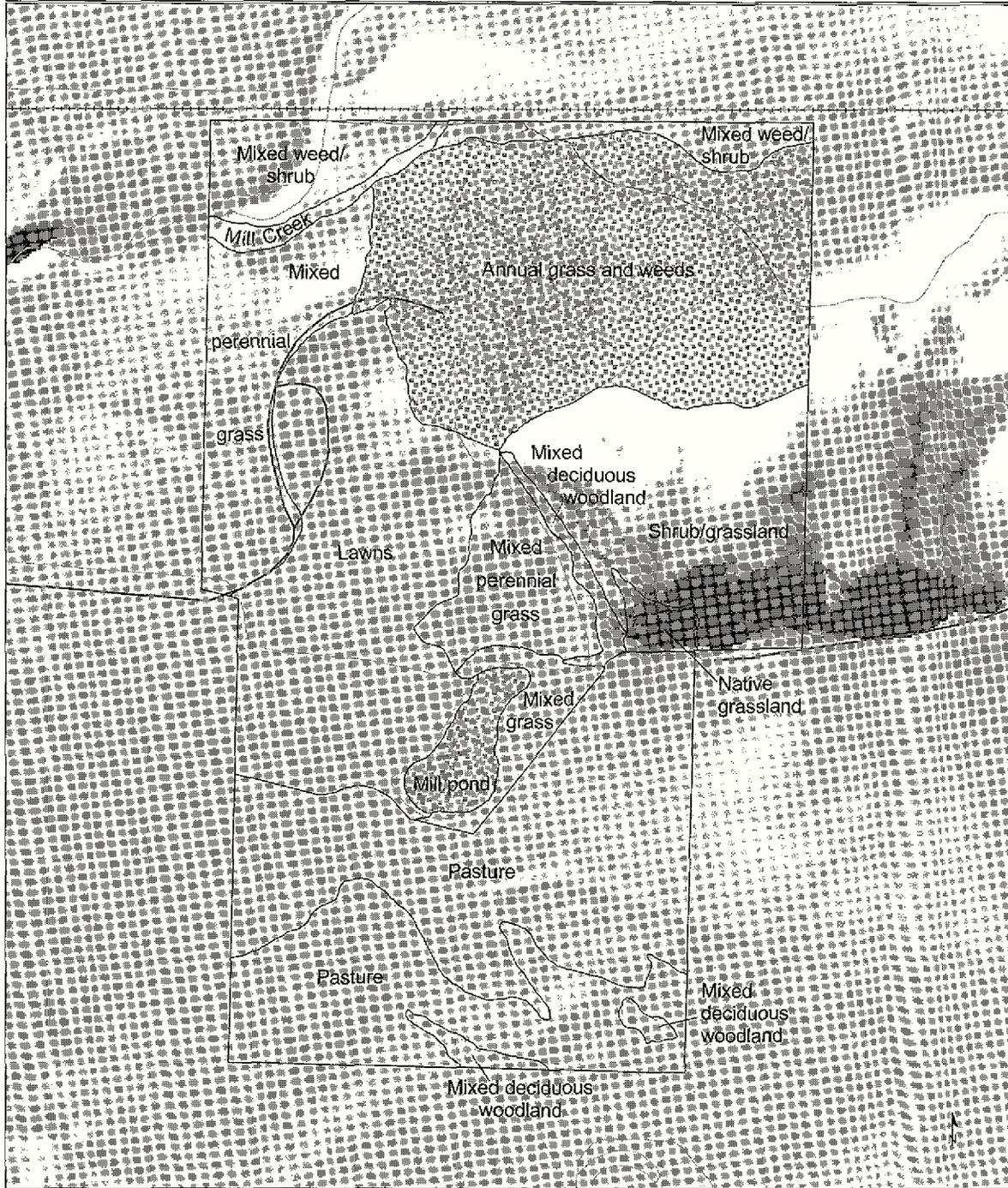


Data Sources:  
 NPS: Doan Creek, management zones,  
 park boundary, topography  
 USGS: highways, railroads, roads,  
 streams, water bodies

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 Management Zoning: Alt D

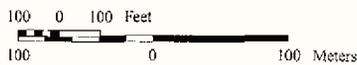
Date Created: April 28, 2000

# Vegetation



## Legend

- Road
- Railroad
- Stream
- Wetland

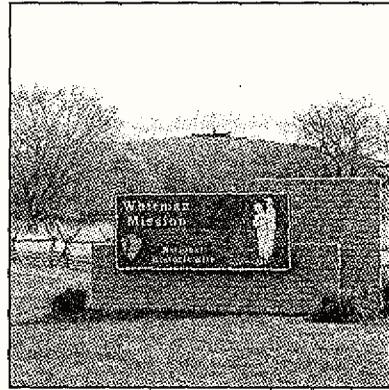


Data Sources:  
NPS: Doan Creek, topography,  
vegetation, wetlands  
USGS: railroads, roads, streams

FIGIS\AVPROJ\WHMIGMP\BFTN.APR  
Vegetation

Date Created: April 23, 2000

*Public Involvement*



## Public Involvement

A Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for Whitman Mission National Historic Site was published in the *Federal Register* on September 20, 1996, (Volume 61, Number 184, page 49481). In early August 1996, a one page newsletter was produced by the National Park Service and made available to visitors at the NHS. The purpose of the letter was to inform visitors about the upcoming general management planning process and to provide an opportunity for the visitors to get on the NHS's mailing list. In October, a comprehensive four-page newsletter was produced and distributed to 510 individuals on the NHS's mailing list. Additional copies were distributed throughout Walla Walla at public buildings including colleges, universities, clubs, libraries, and civic buildings. The purpose of this newsletter was to explain the general management planning process to the public; relate relevant information about the National historic site; provide dates, times and locations for the public scoping meetings; and encourage public participation and comment on issues or problems that needed to be addressed at the National historic site.

In addition, advertisements were published on October 20 and October 22 in both the daily *Walla Walla Union Bulletin* newspaper and the weekly *Buyline* newspaper, informing readers about the planning process including the dates, times, location of the public meetings.

### Scoping Meetings

The National Park Service held three public scoping meetings in 1996. A follow-up meeting was held with the Cultural Resource Committee of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). The main purpose of the meetings was to identify additional issues that should be addressed in the GMP/EIS.

The first meeting was held from 7:00-9:00 p.m. on October 21, at the Whitman Mission National Historic Site Visitor Center. Five individuals attended the meeting including a representative from the Daughter's of the Pioneers.

A second meeting was held at the Walla Walla Community College on October 23, 1996 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Four individuals attended this meeting, including a representative from the Daughter's of the Pioneers and the Kirkland House Museum.

A third meeting was held on December 17, 1996 in Mission Oregon. This meeting was with members of the Cultural Resource Committee of the CTUIR. Another meeting with the Cultural Resource Committee was held on April 7, 1998 in Mission, Oregon to provide an opportunity for the NPS to brief the committee on a preliminary range of alternatives. The committee requested that one of the public meetings for input on the draft Whitman Mission GMP/EIS be held in Mission, Oregon.

### Scoping Meeting Comments

The following is a summary of comments received at the two scoping meetings:

### **Cultural Resources**

Some commentors were interested in whether the NPS plans on expanding archeological research at the site, including off-site locations such as the Whitman saw mill at the foot of the Blue Mountains. There were several questions regarding treatment of the Memorial Hill and Mission Grounds. Some wanted to retain the meditative and "sacred and hallowed" character of Memorial Hill. Others felt the Mission Grounds treatment as a cemetery should be changed to reflect the historic character: more dirt and native grasses. Also, one person asked about Native American rights to historic park artifacts and stated the desire to see original artifacts, not artificial ones.

The CTUIR was concerned about the preservation of cultural resources at Whitman Mission. The tribe also expressed concern about any construction that might occur at the NHS that could potentially adversely affect cultural and natural resources within the park.

### **Natural Resources**

A commentor wanted to know what natural resource inventories have been done in the past and which ones are still incomplete. Another commentor suggested that turf grass be removed at the mission and replaced with native vegetation to eliminate necessary irrigation and provide more water flow in Doan Creek. It would also be more compatible with the historic setting.

### **Interpretation and Visitor Use**

Several participants mentioned that the interpretive story at Whitman is incomplete and could include the following: the regional context including interpreting nearby Fort Walla Walla, events that occurred in the Oregon after the killings at Whitman Mission, the identification and of people responsible for putting up the memorials to the Whitmans, the relationship between Mrs. Whitman and Mrs. Spalding, the values of New England society that helped shape the Whitmans' character, and the 1855 treaty between the Indians and the U.S. Government.

One person wanted NPS to place a brass plaque where Dr. Whitman was killed. Another suggested that the NPS reconstruct a glass display over some of the archeological ruins of the building foundations for viewing.

Several participants wanted the NPS to improve the following: accommodating special population groups, such as the hearing and visually impaired, and non-English speaking visitors; providing access to sites at the park; providing a better audio-video program; and using interactive media for interpretation.

It was also suggested that Whitman become the primary research center about the Whitmans, though the Washington State Historical Museum in Tacoma was also mentioned as a resource. On the subject of computers, several noted that it would be advantageous if additional space were needed at the NHS for research and public Internet access related to Oregon Trail and pioneer history. Also, that the NPS should consider commemorating the Oregon Trail including links to other historic trail locations, and that the NPS could tie in with the computer data base of frontier trails. Information about the people who traveled on the trails could also be made available.

One commentor suggested that NPS should address the scale and amount of picnicking and recreation that is appropriate at the NHS.

### **Scenic Issues**

Several participants expressed a concern in preserving the rural agricultural character of the landscape and would not like to see incompatible development such as townhouses occur around the park boundary.

### **Park Operation Issues**

Some participant wanted to know about the NPS budget and possible "park closure" listings that were being circulated during the time of the scoping meetings. Suggestions included partnerships with other groups, broadening interpretive themes to bring in other sources of funding, inviting public officials to visit the park, and setting up a private endowment fund to support the park in the future.

### **Park Boundary and Land Protection**

One commentor suggested that the NPS consider purchasing easements from land owners who are willing to convey them and the possibility of using a non-profit land trust to assist in this effort. Another suggested that NPS consider expanding the park boundary to include lands important to the interpretation of the Whitman Mission story.

Another participant suggested not only considering agricultural easements, but to consider other conservation easements, such as for scenic or historic purposes.

### **Regional Cooperation**

A commentor asked how Whitman Mission NHS would relate to the Tamustalik Cultural Institute in Mission, Oregon, which interprets the Cayuse culture along with the Umatilla and Walla peoples.

## **Written Comments**

During the scoping period the NPS received a total of six letters. A summary of the comments follows:

- Make the NHS more accessible to older people and people with disabilities.
- Include a visitor center with interpretive video, and walking paths with markers and self-guiding trail.
- Reconstruct the original structures of the Mission Grounds
- Replace the split-rail fence that runs parallel to and south of the Oregon Trail. Historic fencing was simpler and in a different location.
- Consider alternatives which would allow some development on lands surrounding the NHS.
- *Initiate weed control problem for yellow star thistle and rye to prevent spread into neighboring farms.*

## Distribution and Notice of Availability of Draft GMP/EIS

Over 250 copies of the draft GMP/EIS were mailed to agencies, organizations, and interested individuals during the last week of August 1999. This included documents that were sent to local libraries in Walla Walla, Washington. In early September, adjacent landowners were also mailed copies of the draft GMP/EIS.

A notice of availability of the draft GMP/EIS was published in the *Federal Register* on September 3, 1999 (Volume 64, Number 171, page 48394). In addition, advertisements in the *Buyline* and the *Union-Bulletin* newspapers in Walla Walla, Washington, and in the *Confederated Umatilla Journal*, in Mission, Oregon, announced the release of the draft document stating locations, times, and dates for the public workshops. The public comment period deadline for comments on the draft GMP/EIS was November 12, 1999 and any comments received at the park by November 26, 1999 were included in the official record.

To coordinate with the mailing of the draft GMP/EIS, a newsletter was prepared featuring a summary of the draft plan and included the times, location, and dates of the September 1999 public workshops. A total of 3,000 newsletters were printed. Each newsletter included a mailback postage-paid response form to make it easier for people to provide comments concerning the plan. Newsletters were made available at the NHS visitor center and the Chamber of Commerce in Walla Walla, Washington.

## Public Workshops on Draft GMP/EIS

The initial notice of availability also announced the schedule and location of the two public workshops that were organized to offer the public an opportunity to meet with NPS staff and planning team members to discuss the draft GMP/EIS. The location, time and date of the workshops were as follows:

### **Walla Walla, Washington**

September 29, 1999 (7:00 - 9:00 p.m.)  
Walla Walla Community College  
Administrative Building Dining Room  
500 Tausick Way  
(16 people signed-in)

### **Mission, Oregon**

September 30, 1999 (1:00 - 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.)  
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation  
Yellowhawk Conference Room  
Tribal Office Complex  
(5 people signed-in)

In addition, a meeting with adjacent landowners was held on September 28, 1999 from 7:00 - 10:00 at Whitman Mission National Historic Site in Walla Walla, Washington. Over 50 people attended that meeting.

The public meetings first provided an overview of the planning process and several issues the park is facing. The meetings were arranged in a "workshop" setting having four topic "stations." These four

stations were spaced around the room and included a “natural resources” station, a “cultural resources” station, a “visitor use and facilities” station and a “land protection” station.

The following comments were documented from the two workshops and a meeting with adjacent landowners.

## Walla Walla, Washington

### Comments Recorded at “Natural Resources” Station

- “Ditch” changed the original/natural drainage.
- Will the proposed wetland affect landowner to east of national historic site?
- To determine where Doan Creek was located, NPS needs to look at area to east.
- Water rights for all will be preserved.
- Encourage Washington DOT to move U.S. Highway 12 “Whitman Mission National Historic Site” sign, 100 - 200 yards west of Last Chance Road to avoid confusion for tour buses and park visitors turning early.
- Add three small directional signs at the following locations:
  1. Last Chance Road and Whitman Drive
  2. Last Chance Road and Stovall Road
  3. Stovall Road and Swegle Road
- Need better directional sign at park entrance road and Swegle Road.
- Problem with containing controlled burns to protect neighbors to east.
- NPS needs better management of yellow star and Canadian thistle. NPS needs to coordinate with neighbors.

### Comments Recorded at “Cultural Resources” Station

- Need more interpretation on Cayuse settlement patterns and relationship to the other components of native settlement.
- Relationships among Cayuse and other bands.

### Comments Recorded at “Visitor Use and Facilities” Station

- The park needs better lighting along paths and at parking lot. Use low voltage and switchable “on/off” lights, or motion sensors.
- Would like to see an economic use analysis (cost/benefit analysis) in plan to compare visitation with annual operation (cost per user). Would like this compared with other similar parks.
- Park entrance road has no railroad signal on Swegle Road crossing. (Last Chance Road has both signal and signal arm.)
- NPS needs to actively “market” the park to increase visitation to justify expansion of facilities, and programs in the Preferred Alternative (cost/benefit analysis).
- Has a poll been conducted at Whitman Mission or a similar park that addresses “viewshed” and whether people are interested in encouraging that the surrounding view be protected? Justify viewshed.
- “Government control” is issue.
- How does visitation compare at other parks? Is it declining too?
- Has Whitman Mission National Historic Site been challenged in court, such as using tax dollars to promote one particular religion?
- Landowner is opposed to boundary expansion.

### Public Involvement

- Alternative D is not a realistic alternative given the amount of visitors and size of the park.
- Is there anything the park can do to help the school classes afford to come and visit the park, such as a “friends group”?
- Question as to whether the area is primarily agricultural anymore. The transition to subdivision is already happening, so the NPS does not have a “historic setting” to protect any longer.
- Park needs to be a “good neighbor” and more responsive to weeds, such as star thistle.

### Comments Recorded at “Land Protection” Station

- Keep park within existing boundaries.
- If NPS agrees not to implement Alternative D, some landowners would support Alternatives A, B, or C.
- Look for ways to *balance* impact of numbers of visitors to those who live in area. There may have to be future limits to address any impacts.
- Attendance seems to be declining.
- Concerns about buses turning around in private driveways. Sign on Highway 12 is too close to Last Chance Road.
- Problem of public use of county road to east (Whitman Drive) and gate that was put in. Better signage to park needed. Road needs to be abandoned. Sign bike trail loop to go south to Stoval Road up to Swegle. Possibility move gate to Last Chance Road. Need to coordinate with county and park.
- Alternative D is an inappropriate alternative as relates to expanding the park boundary.
- Expand on Alternative A. Remove viewshed concept from plan.
- Support annual or regular working meeting to coordinate between park neighbors and park management and staff to address concerns as opportunities for cooperation.
- Park is national and local treasure to be preserved. Acknowledge role of local citizens in preserving Whitman Mission. It’s a special place in the community.
- No one has yet said that keeping open space agricultural use in not preferred.
- Surrounding land use has impact on the park and visa versa. This creates need for partnership.
- Land protection should not be carried on backs of local property owners. Some sort of “voluntary” empowered, grass-roots partnership is needed to make this right for landowners and park and protect private property rights.
- Annual or regular meeting should exchange ideas about land protection/land use.
- Land trust will not coerce landowners “to do anything.” It is voluntary and partnership.
- We can work out our *own* land trust and other arrangements to protect land.
- Acceptance of proposed concept in Alternative C revolves around the word “voluntary”.
- Park neighbors are not against history, but it is not our *duty* to preserve the view for park visitors. We are good neighbors.
- If any attempt by NPS to force implementation of Alternative D, it will be a lose-lose situation and would negatively affect protection of the area.
- Best thing we can do is have a direction.

## Mission, Oregon

### Recorded Comments

- No mention in the GMP in how to enhance the Indian perspective for the visitor. NPS needs to enhance or change the message.
- Indian theme needs to be updated. For example, the park could exhibit a copy of the 1855 treaty and how the tribe is currently working to protect resources. The park could interpret why the tribes are

not at the national historic site now (1855 to present). NPS could employ young Indians as interns and interpreters.

- Interpretation needs more balance between Whitmans and Indians.
- NPS should change the word “massacre”. Part of this comes for understanding the culture. There needs to be an education of visitors between the historical perspective and present perspective.
- Indian history is a part of an Indian’s everyday life unlike how non-Indians perceive history.
- NPS should consider memorializing Indians, not just the Whitmans.
- The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation will be making formal comments.
- Were any landowners receptive to expanding the park boundary?
- State will be requiring water meters on all streams.
- Rock in picnic area in park was recently discovered to be a petroglyph. Was rock always there or was it moved there? NPS needs to acknowledge that it’s a culturally sensitive object. See what laws address it and address in GMP.
- Likes the idea of establishing native grasses and using grasses to accent the mission building foundations to show mass and scale.
- Will there be any change or diversion within park that would affect adjacent landowners?
- Expanding orchard is a good idea.
- Concerned about safety for NPS employee living in park residence. NPS should consider security measures.
- What is the history of road access of Whitman Mission Drive when it changed from county to NPS ownership?
- Would like to see the Mission Grounds kept green and “inviting” to people.

## **Landowners Meeting**

### **Recorded Comments**

- One landowner stated that the Federal Government is threatening landowners if they don’t cooperate.
- One owner did not like the statement in Alternative C that stated “Efforts to secure conservation easements would be reviewed after five years for completion of the plan. Consideration would be given to other land protection options if private land trust activities for some reason prove unsuccessful.” (p.45 of draft GMP/EIS)
- Some felt that Alternative D would be implemented with a boundary expansion, if Alternative C was not successful in five years.
- Landowners wanted to know what uses other than agriculture would be allowed around the NHS.
- Director of Walla Walla County Planning stated that the county is considering deleting some of the permitted uses that the county now allows in the Agricultural General Zone.
- Landowners wanted to know who the Blue Mountain Land Trust is and what they do. A landowner wanted to know how the NPS as a federal government can partner with non-profit groups such as land trusts.
- A landowner stated that the NPS seemed just concerned about the potential for subdivisions, not any incompatible land uses.
- Someone wanted the word “subdivision” changed in the document to read “incompatible development”.
- A commentor did not like the government telling private landowners that they can’t subdivide.
- One landowner did not believe NPS held previous public (scoping) meeting and said that even though NPS may have mailed out 3,000 newsletters, only 6 landowners will be affected by the plan.
- One person said the preferred Alternative constituted an “involuntary taking”.

*Public Involvement*

- If NPS wants to create a wetland in Doan Creek, NPS must compensate downstream users.
- One person suggested that Alternative B represents an “inverse taking” since the NPS suggests that Walla Walla County evaluate and limit the existing permitted uses in the Agricultural General Zone surrounding the park.
- There was mention of the Heritage Corridor Management planning process for U.S. Highway 12 that evidently did not include adequate public participation.

## Written Comments and Responses

At the close of the public comment period for the draft GMP/EIS on November 12, 1999, a total of 28 pieces of written correspondence had been received by the National Park Service in response to the *Draft Whitman Mission National Historic Site General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*. The correspondence received included 16 letters from individuals and agencies, 7 electronically-mailed responses through the Internet from our NPS posted Whitman Mission NHS website ([www.nps.gov/WHMI](http://www.nps.gov/WHMI)), and 5 postage paid mail-back response forms containing public comments from a draft plan summary newsletter which was mailed to the park's mailing list and distributed through the national historic site visitor center and other places throughout Walla Walla.

Additional consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Washington State Historic Preservation Office, and the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation was held as part of the planning process. Other than the letters provided in the following section, no additional written comments were provided from these four agencies.

This section of the comment and response section is divided into two main parts. The first section is NPS responses to the comments received from the public workshops held in September 1999. The second section includes the reproduction of all the letters received during the public comment period and address those that have either substantive comments or comments that the NPS staff felt needed clarifying. All comments received were reviewed and considered by the NPS in the preparation of this final environmental impact statement, consistent with the requirements of 40 CFR 1503.

Substantive comments are those that are defined as the following:

- 1) question, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of information in the environmental impact statement
- 2) question, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of environmental analysis
- 3) present reasonable alternatives other than those presented in the environmental impact statement
- 4) cause changes or revisions in the proposal

In other words, the comments raise, debate, or question a point of fact or policy. Comments in favor of or against the Proposed Action or alternatives, or those that only agree or disagree with NPS policy, are not considered substantive.

Due to the small amount of comments received, all 28 comment letters have been reproduced.

### **I. NPS Responses to Comments from the Public Workshops**

**Will the proposed wetland affect landowner to east of national historic site? To determine where Doan Creek was located, NPS needs to look at area to east.**

The NPS, in conjunction with affected park neighbors, would determine the most appropriate location of any diversion installed on Doan Creek.

**Encourage Washington DOT to move U.S. Highway 12 "Whitman Mission National Historic Site" sign, 100 - 200 yards west of Last Chance Road to avoid confusion for tour buses and park visitors turning early.**

The NPS staff at Whitman Mission NHS has contacted the Department of Transportation and a request

has been made.

**Add three small directional signs at the following locations:**

- 1. Last Chance Road and Whitman Drive**
- 2. Last Chance Road and Stovall Road**
- 3. Stovall Road and Swegle Road**

**Need better directional sign at park entrance road and Swegle Road.**

The NPS staff will seek cooperation with Walla Walla County and the regional bike commission for appropriate signing to get visitors to the national historic site.

**Need more interpretation on Cayuse settlement patterns and relationship to the other components of native settlement.**

**Relationships among Cayuse and other bands.**

These topics would be addressed in the Comprehensive Interpretive Plan which will be produced in the near future by the NHS staff and other NPS interpretive personnel.

**Park entrance road has no railroad signal on Swegle Road crossing. (Last Chance Road has both signal and signal arm.)**

The NHS staff will address this safety issue in coordination with the NPS regional safety office and other appropriate entities.

**Is there anything the park can do to help the school classes afford to come and visit the park, such as a "friends group"?**

Please see page 16, number 9, in the Actions Common to All Alternatives section, of the draft GMP/EIS, which encourages formation of a park "friends" group.

**Keep park within existing boundaries**

No boundary change to Whitman Mission National Historic Site has been proposed. Walla Walla County is encouraged to explore various ways to help ensure that agricultural and rural land uses remain within the county, including lands surrounding Whitman Mission. This could include a refinement of permitted uses in agricultural zones.

It should be reiterated that opportunities for area landowners to consider strategies such as conveyance of a conservation easement interest in their land to a private non-profit land trust or similar entity is encouraged, but is strictly voluntary on the part of the landowner.

**Concerns about buses turning around in private driveways. Sign on Highway 12 is too close to Last Chance Road.**

**Problem of public use of county road to east (Whitman Drive) and gate that was put in. Better signage to park needed. Road needs to be abandoned. Sign bike trail loop to go south to Stoval Road up to Swegle. Possibility move gate to Last Chance Road. Need to coordinate with county and park.**

The NPS staff would seek cooperation with Walla Walla County and the regional bike commission for appropriate signing to get visitors to the national historic site.

**Support annual or regular working meeting to coordinate between park neighbors and park management and staff to address concerns as opportunities for cooperation.**

**Annual or regular meeting should exchange ideas about land protection and land use.**

The NPS staff looks forward to working with park neighbors on matters of mutual interest.

**Acceptance of proposed concept in Alternative C revolves around the word “voluntary.”**

Any conveyance of conservation easements to a land trust or other entity by park neighbors and surrounding landowners would be totally voluntary on the part of the private landowner. The NPS has no jurisdiction or land use authority outside the existing park boundary and no boundary change is proposed as a part of the GMP. The word “voluntary” has been added to the text of this document wherever the notion of the conveyance of conservation easements is addressed. This includes the “Park Boundary and Land Protection” section of the Proposed Action.

**Indian theme needs to be updated. For example, the park could exhibit a copy of the 1855 treaty and how the tribe is currently working to protect resources. The park could interpret why the tribes are not at the national historic site now (1855 to present). NPS could employ young Indians as interns and interpreters.**

These topics would be addressed in the Comprehensive Interpretive Plan which will be produced in the near future by the NHS staff and other NPS interpretive personnel.

**The NPS should change the word “massacre”. Part of this comes for understanding the culture. There needs to be an education of visitors between the historical perspective and present perspective.**

The word “massacre” has been used historically and was included in the enabling legislation establishing Whitman Mission NHS. Interpretation and education strives to provide visitor understanding of this issue.

**Rock in picnic area in park was recently rediscovered to be a petroglyph. Was the rock always there or was it moved there? NPS needs to acknowledge that it’s a culturally sensitive object. See what laws address it and address in GMP.**

The rock was probably moved to Whitman Mission from the Tri-cities area when its original Columbia River site was inundated by the damming of the Columbia River. The NPS cultural resources staff believes that the rock is well protected where it is. However, if a tribe can show ownership, they could remove it and place it insitu, or move it to a museum or other suitable location. Since this would be a government action (the permission to move) the NPS must be assured that the rock would be protected. In addition, this action must be reviewed and approved by the superintendent.

**Expanding orchard is a good idea.**

If the NPS staff expands the orchard, it would be outside the existing boundary or invade upon an area which is on the List of Classified Structures (such as the irrigation ditch). Therefore the NPS staff has no intention of expanding the orchard. The text in the final GMP/EIS has been amended to state that any action to expand the orchard in Alternative D would only occur within the existing boundary.

**Concerned about safety for NPS employee living in park residence. NPS should consider security measures.**

Please see page 15, number 1, in the Actions Common to All Alternatives section, of the draft GMP/EIS, which addresses safety measures recommended.

**What is the history of road access of Whitman Mission Drive when it changed from county to NPS ownership?**

Please see the "Affected Environment" chapter, "Whitman Mission National Historic Site Entrance Road" section of the *Whitman Mission National Historic Site Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*, page 106.

**One owner did not like the statement in Alternative C that stated "Efforts to secure conservation easements would be reviewed after five years for completion of the plan. Consideration would be given to other land protection options if private land trust activities for some reason prove unsuccessful." ( page 45 of the draft GMP/EIS)**

The Proposed Action stresses reliance upon voluntary participation by landowners with a local land trust or other entity to protect surrounding farmlands. The reference to a review after five years has been deleted from the final text on the Park Boundary and Land protection section of the proposal.

**Landowners wanted to know what uses other than agriculture would be allowed around the NHS.**

The NPS has no jurisdiction outside the park boundary. Walla Walla County is the responsible entity.

**Landowners wanted to know who the Blue Mountain Land Trust is and what they do. A landowner wanted to know how the NPS as a federal government can partner with non-profit groups such as land trusts.**

The Blue Mountain is a private not-for-profit land trust, and according to their brochure, was formed to preserve the natural resources and open space, including streams, farm and forest lands in the Blue Mountain region. They are led by a fifteen member volunteer Board of Directors made up of local residents and landowners from Walla Walla County and the Blue Mountain region. While the NPS encourages area landowners to consider working with the land trust to protect farmland surrounding the park, this relationship is purely voluntary on both the part of the trust members and individual landowners. The NPS does not have any role in either the development or operation of the Blue Mountain Land Trust. It is a fully independent private non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote the preservation of natural resources, open space, farms, and forest lands throughout the Blue Mountain region.

**Someone wanted the word "subdivision" changed in the document to read "incompatible development".**

The context in which the word "subdivision" is used in the text relates to the issue of property access from the park owned roads. In these instances, subdivision of land can create multiple ownership patterns with corresponding access, public safety, and other issues.

Regarding other text locations not related to the access issue, the text will be revised to acknowledge that land use conversions do occur that do not necessarily involve a subdivision of land ownership.

It should be noted, however, that the potential subdivision of large tracts of agricultural lands surrounding the park remain a concern. The conversion of a neighboring farm of say, 200 acres in size, to 20 ten acre homesites or "ranchettes" constitutes a significant change in the character and quality of the surrounding landscape and could fall into the category of "incompatible development". The incompatibility in this example is in the context of comparing the current and historic land use of surrounding land compared to what uses and densities would be permitted under existing County zoning laws.

It is, however, important to clarify that Walla Walla County, not the NPS, has the legal authority to regulate land use outside the authorized boundary of Whitman Mission National Historic Site. Therefore, expressions of concern about this issue are done by the NPS in the context of recommendations contained within the plan. By including this important issue in the plan, it provides guidance to future park managers so they can better articulate park concerns at county land use hearings and other occasions. This is particularly important where changes in land use to a more incompatible use may have an affect upon the historic setting of the park and the visitor experience. In these instances, the NPS has the same right as any property owner would have to communicate these concerns to County officials. Given the NPS public stewardship role at Whitman Mission National Historic Site, this right is also a responsibility.

**One landowner did not believe NPS held previous public (scoping) meetings and said that even though NPS may have mailed out 3,000 newsletters, only 6 landowners will be affected by the plan. Please see the chapter on "Public Involvement" in the draft GMP/EIS or refer to this section preceding this on public involvement.**

**If NPS wants to create a wetland in Doan Creek, NPS must compensate downstream users.**

This plan would ensure that downstream users will receive their legal water allotments. In periods of low flow, downstream users would not interfere with legal water rights before any water would be diverted into Doan Creek.

## **II. NPS Responses to Comments from Letters**

The section that follows contains letters which have made substantive points regarding information contained in the draft GMP/EIS or comments that need clarifying. These letters have all been reproduced, and individualized detailed responses to these comments have been provided by the NPS in many cases.

Each distinct comment is numbered and bracketed. The response of the NPS to each letter appears on the right side of the page with the responses numbered on the left to correspond to the comments.

# COMMENTS



L-16

STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY, TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
420 Golf Club Road SE, Suite 201, Lacey • PO Box 48343 • Olympia, Washington 98504-8343 • (360) 407-0752  
Fax Number (360) 407-6217

November 22, 1999

Mr. Francis T. Darby  
Whitman Mission National Historic Site  
Route 2, Box 247  
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Log. No.: 082599-12-NPS  
RE: Whitman Mission National Historic Site Draft Management  
Plan & EIS

Dear Mr. Darby:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Whitman Mission National Historical Site Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. We appreciate the opportunity to review and provide comments. In general, we are supportive of your overall efforts to increase interpretive opportunities and support your efforts to protect and enhance the protection of cultural resources.

Following our review of the alternatives, we are comfortable with both Alternative C (preferred alternative) or Alternative D. We note that both of these alternatives expand interpretive opportunities and site restoration activities. To this end, Alternative D is our preference as it is more far reaching toward achieving these goals. However, in view of budget constraints Alternative C is acceptable. One note of caution concerns the re-creation of a Cayuse village in the river oxbow area. Although this concept provides an opportunity for interpreting Cayuse life, there seems to be potential for the village to confuse the visitor's understanding of historic events and places.

In addition to these points, we would also note that the archaeological research at the Mission site is now very dated and we would encourage you to examine the potential for archaeological research given new theoretical, research, and technical advances that were not available to earlier archaeologists.

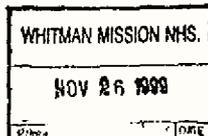
Again, thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft General Management Plan for Whitman Mission National Historic Site. The State Historic Preservation Officer and Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation staff look forward to working with you and your staff toward implementing the Plan.

Sincerely,

Gregory Griffith  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

GAG

Cc: Cathy Gilbert



# RESPONSES

## Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

- 1 The Cayuse village incorporated in Alternative D was not part of the proposed action.
- 2 There was a study conducted for the national historic site by Rick Sprague in the late 1980s. Sprague did a draft "overview" of the archaeology at Whitman Mission. The NHS has the original draft copy and the Seattle NPS support office archaeologist has a copy of the draft. The document is available for your review and comments, and NPS staff would appreciate any suggestions you may have for further research, both for the historical or prehistorical sites.

## COMMENTS

L-15



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101

Reply To  
Attn Of: ECO-088

Ref: 96-072-NPS

November 12, 1999

Superintendent, Whitman Mission N.H.S.  
Rt. 2 Box 247  
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Dear Superintendent:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Draft General Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Whitman Mission National Historic Site (NHS) in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. The draft EIS analyzes four alternatives that address visitor use, and the preservation of the cultural and natural resources within Whitman Mission. The draft EIS identifies Alternative C as the preferred alternative.

Based on our review, we have rated the draft EIS LO (Lack of Objection). This rating and a summary of our comments will be published in the *Federal Register*. A summary of the EPA rating system is enclosed for your reference.

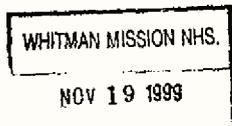
The proposed General Management plan would not have any adverse impacts to the natural resources located within the NHS, but rather, would improve existing conditions. The EPA is happy to see that you will be restoring Doan Creek to its historic, free-flowing condition, and planting native vegetation in riparian areas. The use of light cattle grazing over a relatively small area, as exemplified in Alternative D, is a method for maintaining vegetation while mitigating the air quality impacts associated with prescribed burning. Although uncontrolled and mismanaged grazing can be detrimental to range resources, light grazing can be beneficial in areas where the range resources are not currently degraded, such as the wheatgrass fields within the NHS.

If you have any questions our would like to discuss our comments, please call Anna Maria Muñoz in our Office of Ecosystems and Communities at (206) 553-0266.

Sincerely,

Richard B. Parkin, Manager  
Geographical Implementation Unit

Enclosure



Printed on Recycled Paper

## RESPONSES

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Thank you for your comments.

## COMMENTS

L-8



### WALLA WALLA COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING

310 W. Poplar • Suite 001 • Walla Walla, WA 99362-2865  
Telephone (509) 527-3285 • FAX (509) 527-1892 • TDD relay: (800) 833-6388

November 8, 1999

Superintendent Darby  
Whitman Mission National Historic Site  
Route 2, Box 247  
Walla Walla, WA 99362

RE: Draft Whitman Mission NHS GMP/EIS

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the planning process and to comment on the Draft GMP/EIS. We have the following comments to offer:

1. Page 28, Park Boundary and Land Protection: The creation of an overlay district would not necessarily be required in order to place restrictions on non-agricultural uses. In fact, as a part of our comprehensive planning process for the County, we anticipate reviewing our development regulations and ensuring that they are in compliance with the comprehensive plan. Therefore, if this area is designated agricultural in the plan, non-agricultural uses would be removed. Since one of our goals in this process is to simplify the regulations, the addition of a specific district around the Mission may not be a preferred means of dealing with incompatible uses in the agricultural districts.
2. Page 45: Since a purchase of development rights by a trust or donation of rights to a trust would be available to any landowner in the County, lands beyond the foreground could also be included (assuming that they meet the goals of the trust) which would further the goals of the NHS in preserving the agricultural nature of the surrounding area.
3. Page 73, first paragraph: The Water Master is employed by the State Department of Ecology, not Walla Walla County. 1
4. Page 92, fourth paragraph: Two cities within Washington are located in the Walla Walla Valley. Milton-Freewater, Oregon is also located in the valley. 2

## RESPONSES

### Walla Walla County Regional Planning

- 1 The change has been made in the final GMP/EIS.
- 2 The change has been made in the final GMP/EIS.

## COMMENTS

Superintendent Darby  
Page 2  
November 8, 1999

Again, thank you for the opportunity to review the document. It is well laid out and clearly identifies the alternatives that have been studied. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any assistance during the remainder of your process.

Sincerely,



Darcey Fugman-Small, AICP  
Director

## RESPONSES

COMMENTS

RESPONSES

SEP 12 1999

WILLIAM NOISSIM SHN

MR. FLOYD C. TOLLESON, JR  
1114 SCHOOL AVE  
WALLA WALLA, WA 99362

L-1

9/10/99

Dear Mr Dax by

Thanks you for including me  
among the 137 (I can't find the  
no. again) lay persons <sup>to whom</sup> ~~lay persons~~  
the Whitman Mission have been sent.

I have had little time to peruse  
the report. I have been impressed by the  
analysis which underlies the report, and  
which guarantee the usefulness of the  
plans.

It was a pleasure to be a  
yearly man librarian for a few months  
until a <sup>series of</sup> ~~series of~~ <sup>carelessness</sup> I had an  
accident. (The Almighty took out for  
fools: I received a better than Blue  
Book compensation. Unfortunately, I had  
planned to stop driving within a  
month - to save on insurance, main-  
tenance and upkeep, for bus transpor-  
tation is good and cheap in Walla Walla  
(over)

I am now a house-bound recluse.

Floyd C. Tolleson, Jr.

Thank you for your comments



## COMMENTS

L-2

October 1, 1999

Terry Darby, Superintendent  
Whitman Mission National Historic Site  
Route 2 Box 247  
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Dear Terry:

Concerning your draft management plan now out for public comment, I would like to offer two suggestions.

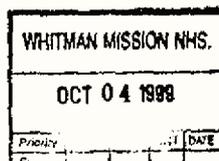
1 First, there needs to be some sort of process once or twice a year for the landowners contiguous and near the mission to be able to sit down as a group with the superintendent to brain storm about the challenges of living next to the mission and to find common ground for common sense solutions to real and perceived problems. I think that such a process would go a long way to improve relations for everyone involved with the mission as a property owner.

2 Second, at the public presentation at Walla Walla Community College on September 29, 1999, Keith Dunbar publicly said that the only reason for noting the concept of viewsheds on the draft plan was to make nearby landowners aware of other options such a land trusts before they sell property to private parties. After listening to the landowners talk to you, on September 28 and 29, 1999, it seems obvious to me that they are now very well aware that other options such as scenic easements etc. of land trusts exist. Let's put out the firestorm that the viewshed concept has caused. Remove any references to viewsheds in the final report. You've accomplished your goal as Keith Dunbar noted.

Sincerely,



Walter J. Gary



## RESPONSES

Walter J. Gary

- 1 The National Park Service staff looks forward to working with park neighbors on matters of mutual interest and meeting with you from time to time.
- 2 Several members of the public who commented on the plan and attended public meetings misunderstood the concept of viewshed protection. While the protection of the historic scene and retention of compatible land uses surrounding the national historic site remain an important objective of the NPS and the general management plan, the viewshed analysis component of the plan has been eliminated from the land protection section of the proposed action and the management zoning map.

The NPS will continue to work with our park neighbors, and to encourage area landowners, Walla Walla County and others to work in a spirit of partnership in promoting the protection of rural character and landscapes in the area surrounding the park.

## COMMENTS

L-3

Francis Darby  
Superintendent  
Whitman Mission National Historical Site  
RT 2 Box 247  
Walla Walla, WA. 99362

Oct 8, 1999

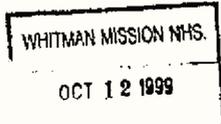
Dear Sir,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on your Alternative Plans.

I certainly would give my vote to Alternative Plan C as the best one. Plan C is well thought out and as a handicapped person I was interested that a visit by handicapped people would be made more enjoyable.

I have family in Walla Walla and visit your fine facility as often as I can. You people do a good job of telling the Whitman story to the public.

Please keep me on your list of people who would like to be advised about the Whitman Mission.



Sincerely,  
Tom Kennedy  
25310 - 49TH AVE. S.E.  
BOTHELL, WA.

## RESPONSES

Tom Kennedy

Thank you for your comments.

## COMMENTS

SEP 28 1999

L-4

The Whitman Mission National Historic Monument, money and power are number one. Wrong! People and freedom are number one.

Freedom to be, freedom to move about, freedom to own and maintain, freedom to communicate, freedom to not indanger, impair or interfere with the rights of others.

Freedom to mature, become educated, achieve self esteem, be respected by others and learn to respect the right to freedom of other persons.

I believe God gave us choice. Willingness must come from us. Willingness is the key, put it in the lock and the door swings open.

Freedom to seek the source that frees us from living in fear of those that would keep us from opening that door.

In 1776 America's Declaration of Independance, 1787 our Constitution and 1791 our Bill of Rights marked the beginning of the end of the concept that singular men possessed the divine right to own government in rule of the people of our community, of our country and of our world.

Far removed as you are in Walla Walla don't for a minute think that as it happened with the people that built the house that government "big bosses" found offensive to the Columbia River Scenic Highway that this contagious overstepping of power has not spread to us. It has.

Our Port District and Ben-Franklin Transit Authority expects us to stupidly give up and stop telling them we do not want their Snake River Bridge to Walla Walla Scenic Corridor Highway Management Plan.

Their intended exercise of control to prevent or remove from the "viewshed" all things they might see as offensive is one local example of the spread of government overstepping it's necessary regulatory priveleges.

Are Whitman Mission officials intending to overstep power with proposals spending taxpayer's money to acquire control over 400+ acres through purchase, conservation easements, county planning/zoning enforcement or possible condemnation? Their history of being a pushy, bad neighbor is reason to be suspicious of current management's potential to threaten property owners rights. Over regulation is strangling us taxpayers. Want more?

Government regulation without representation (informed involvement) of the people regulated does not work. We have the right to representation but willingness must come from us personally.

How do you get rid of the notion your efforts will do no good, that government "big bosses" will not take directions from a common citizen, what do you do about your fears, finding the time, believing you can make a difference. Swing the door open, willingness is yours if you use it.

Truly,  
*Jean Dolling*  
Jean Dolling  
Rt 2 Box 258  
Walla Walla  
Washington, 99362  
509-525-6559

Sept 27, 1999

## RESPONSES

Jean Dolling

Thank you for your comments.

## COMMENTS

WMNHS

### COMMENTS

By

LAWRENCE L. DODD, Oct. 20, 1999

Seasonal - WMNHS - 1964-69  
Archivist, Whitman College - 1969 +

WHITMAN MISSION NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE  
DRAFT GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN  
&  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
July 1999

June 29, 1936: "the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States" passed an act establishing "Whitman National Monument" (in 1962 the name changed to Whitman Mission National Historic Site) as a " national memorial to Marcus Whitman and his wife, Narcissa Prentiss Whitman, ". This act was the result of citizens of the Walla Walla Valley (and friends of the Whitman story) spending four years making it possible to transfer the site to the National Park Service, and that action set in motion the commitment by the National Park Service to commemorate the story of Marcus and Narcissa Prentiss Whitman. Since 1940 that goal has taken numerous turns and in some respects has lost the initial objective.

In more recent times museum planners for Whitman Mission NHS have been over zealous in attempting to be politically correct and consequently down played the Whitman story while placing increasing emphasis on the tribes who occupied the Walla Walla Valley. Although part of the interpretative story of Whitman Mission NHS should address the interaction between the missionaries and the local residents it should also give a strong and clear understanding of Marcus and Narcissa Whitman and their activities.

With the establishment of the Tamastlikt Cultural Institute Museum on the Umatilla Indian Reservation (east of Pendleton, Oregon) the story of the tribes, be they Walla Walla, Umatilla or Cayuse, and the ABCFM Missionaries, is presented to the public from the tribes' points of view. At Whitman Mission NHS the interaction between the Whitmans and the tribes should not be eliminated from the interpretative goal, but become only one of the many aspects of the interpretation of the lives at Waiilatpu of Marcus and Narcissa Whitman.

## RESPONSES

Lawrence L. Dodd

## COMMENTS

Dodd, Oct. 20, 1999

To bring into focus the Whitman story the National Park Service should rethink the present museum displays by developing a better balance of historical facts that shaped the Whitmans, prompted their movement west, the work they did at Waiilatpu, relationship with the personnel at Fort Vancouver and Fort Walla Walla (Nez Perce), and the relationships with other ABCFM missionaries. Also, the Whitman story does not end with the death of Marcus and Narcissa Whitman, but continues on in a series of events that had important ramifications in the history of the Pacific Northwest and the Walla Walla Valley. With that in mind the following is a brief outline of suggested guidelines towards helping develop a strong, informative and educational National Historic Site dedicated to the Marcus and Narcissa Whitman.

### 1. Museum:

Museum layout should place emphasis on the Whitmans and the people who helped the missionaries build and run the mission. The following lists important aspects of the Whitman story that should be addressed in the museum.

A chronological approach to interpretative displays should be followed:

#### Pre-Whitman Mission:

Present the background, education, church work, professional pursuits and reasons for considering going west for both Marcus & Narcissa. This is an ideal opportunity to tie eastern U.S. Whitman sites with Waiilatpu.

Presentation of 1835 and 1836 trip to the west.

Reason/reasons why Whitman chose the Cayuse Indians

Nature of Cayuse tribe in 1836

Descriptive understanding of the Walla Walla Valley - in particular the site chosen by Whitman

#### The ABCFM missionaries and their missions

Spaldings, Eells, Walkers, Grays, Smiths

Alice Clarissa Whitman (birth/impact on Indians/death)

Relationship with the Hudson's Bay Company personnel  
Fort Vancouver; Fort Walla Walla

## RESPONSES

1 Specific detailed implementation plans will be necessary following completion of this GMP. The Comprehensive Interpretive Plan (CIP) for Whitman Mission NHS would be developed in accordance with the primary interpretive themes established in the GMP on pages 80-82 of the draft GMP. The information specified here will be useful in developing the CIP for the park.

## COMMENTS

Dodd, Oct. 20, 1999

People at the mission: Who they were and what they were doing

The International boundary dispute of Old Oregon

Whitman's travels

Establishment of the mission and its progress up to the time Whitman went east.

Agricultural activities - 1836-1847

Troubles at the missions - the ABCFM western missionaries and the problems they were having; events leading up to the trip east.

The 1842-1843 trip east and its impact -

How activities at Whitman Mission and relationships with the Indians changed after Whitman's return from the east.

Impact upon Whitman Mission due to the Oregon Trail

The children at Whitman Mission

Whitman's attitude toward settlement of the Walla Walla Valley by Oregon Trail immigrants.

Diseases

Changes in attitudes of some of the Cayuse Indians towards the Whitmans during the Oregon Trail migration. Events leading up to the death of Marcus and Narcissa Whitman and co-workers.

The Saw Mill

The Catholic priests arrival in the area

Deaths of the Whitmans and the month following.

The rescue.

The survivors

Visitors to the site within the first month after the Whitman's death and what they saw

## RESPONSES

## COMMENTS

Dodd, Oct. 20, 1999

### Aftermath of the Whitman's deaths

The common grave  
Fort Waters, Volunteers  
Trial and hanging of 5 members of the Cayuse Indian tribe  
The Rev. Cushing Eells  
The Pioneer cemetery  
The Whitman-Eells Memorial Church  
W. H. Gray and his work to establish memorial to Whitman  
Walla Walla citizens work to save the mission site  
Whitman Centennial - 1936

### Mission Grounds:

For a number of years the mission buildings have been studied, giving rise to the idea of reconstruction. This is a subject that surfaced as early as 1936 during the Whitman Centennial, was emphasized in 1940 by Marvin M. Richardson's book, *The Whitman Mission, The Third Station On The Old Oregon Trail* and was a suggestion in the written comments for the July 1999 *Whitman Mission National Historic Site*

*Draft General Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement*. Erwin N. Thompson's *Feasibility Study on Historical Reconstruction*, May 1973, gives historically sound evidence that construction of the mission buildings should not be undertaken, especially if historical accuracy is important to the National Park Service and Whitman Mission National Historic Site. 2

Fortunately the partial wall display of the first house was removed, for it only showed a ridge of clay/dirt that did not give evidence of individual bricks, although when first exposed it may have. Recreating a corner of the mission house (or a small section of one of the buildings made of adobe) does hold some credibility, as then a visitor could see what the structural material was like. It would have to be of such material that it would withstand weather and human contact and be properly identified as a re-creation. In the 1940's Mr. Tom Garth built an adobe storage building, which later became a place to display artifacts for visitor enjoyment. When removed some people believed that the NPS was destroying a Whitman building.

The idea of returning the mission grounds to a more natural environment, at least to what it may have been like during the Whitman era, does have some pitfalls. During the early years of the NPS ownership of the grounds the area had a look of activity, especially when Mr. Tom Garth was doing his archeological excavations. It also was a less pleasant experience for visitors, but then seeing the archeological dig did have appeal. I expect that between 1836-1847 the native vegetation around the building grounds became less visible, for more and more foot and wagon traffic were

## RESPONSES

- 2 Please see page 57 of the draft GMP/EIS, "Alternatives Considered but Rejected" section for reconstruction discussion.

## COMMENTS

Dodd, Oct. 20, 1999

using the area. If true, then turning the clock back 150 years would require proper measures to stabilize the soil so that a visitor would not have to experience the conditions of a bare ground environment, - dust, mud, etc.

Returning the mission grounds back 163-152 years would require the removal of trails and signs, which would put the visitor into an environment that could diminish the understanding of the site. But then, if enough people would be willing to walk into this type of environment and be allowed to freely roam around the grounds then it probably would be more like the 1836-1847 era. Of course, the elimination of trails and audio stations could be replaced by the tour guide (or rangers placed at each site), who, dressed in period clothing, could give some comprehension to the visitor's tour of the grounds. In part this was done in earlier times but abandoned due to dollars and/or time commitment of personnel required to sustain this responsibility. This also required that permanent staff be actively involved during those months that sufficient seasonal staff was not available. Another reason for abandoning the tour guide was to give visitors more freedom to the site, both during the time when staff were available, when the museum was closed and the grounds were still open and allowing the visitor a chance to see and learn about the site during bad weather (suspect not many visitors would cope with the muddy conditions of fall, winter or spring). Like the museum, if the tourist is to leave with an understanding of the Whitman story then adequate and historically sound interpretation is a must and it is most desirable to have an environment that leaves the visitor in the same condition as when they arrived.

Less drastic measures could be introduced to give a more accurate view of the grounds. Ones that come to mind are the installation of the bridges that crossed the irrigation ditch and access to the mission ground could be across one of these bridges (Gray's 1842 map shows two bridges entering the mission grounds); along the base of the hill have Doan Creek run through a covered pipe as I do not believe Doan Creek ran in that location during the Whitmans' time (at present this has not been confirmed by the author); early views do not show any trees along the base of the hill or around the Pioneer cemetery; and evaluate the rail fence to determine if it is accurate in size, style, and location.

### General Comments:

I believe considerable negative response will be generated if the NPS attempts to restrict neighboring land owners from developing their holdings. The Walla Walla County Planning Commission has opened up the agricultural lands in the valley floor to 10 acre plot development, and it appears this will continue as long as farm families can not afford to farm and county planners want to see the valley floor become more residential than agricultural. If Whitman Mission National Historic

## RESPONSES

## COMMENTS

Dodd, Oct. 20, 1999

Park staff finds that more land is needed then it should be through acquisition, if possible.

A buffer zone would be nice, but for each acre controlled by the Park Service a commitment of dollars must be made to re-establish a 1836-1847 scene, or at least help keep the land appearance so not to distract from the visual enjoyment of Whitman Mission. Although progress has been made on the presently managed 98.15 acres still considerable work needs to be accomplished. Example is shaft hill where non-native plants are taking over. On my recent spring visits I have not been able to see wild flowers that were visible from the trail to the memorial shaft some 30 years ago.

If the staff at Whitman Mission NHS wishes to improve the interpretative aspect of the park then the farm land west of the mission building sites should be acquired (or appropriate arrangements made that when the land became available the National Park Service would have first chance at purchase), and the Whitman Mission farm be re-established. This action would go further toward understanding the mission than investing in land not used as part of the 1836-1847 mission.

### In conclusion.

Whitman Mission National Historic Site is a relatively small park that has an important frontier story to tell. Those planning the future of the park must be realistic in just what can be accomplished while insuring that the park does not extend itself beyond realistic support from the National Park Service (or private funded endowments or unrestricted monetary gifts). First and uppermost the true story of the Whitman's lives and activities must be told through a well designed museum. Second, the mission grounds must be preserved to give the visitor a feeling for the life and times of the Whitman's while residing in the Walla Walla Valley, third the visitor needs to understand what activities took place on the mission site after 1847 and fourth the visitor must leave the park feeling that they had a rewarding experience.

Whitman Mission, by law, is not an interpretative center or research facility for Walla Walla Valley history, but a "public national memorial to Marcus Whitman and his wife, Narcissa Prentiss Whitman, -", who were part of the development of the region.

Finally a comment on the suggestion (page 140, paragraph 7 - Summary of Public Involvement) that Whitman Mission NHS "become the primary research center about the Whitmans-". That is a lofty idea but one that would require an allocation of funds, which would better be spent towards improving the interpretive aspects of

## RESPONSES

## COMMENTS

Dodd, Oct. 20, 1999

the park. Some libraries and research centers are already doing that job - Yale, Washington State University, Washington State Historical Society, Oregon Historical Society, Bancroft Library, - - - . I feel it would be more beneficial to the park and its visitors if the historian's position would again be available at Whitman Mission NHS. While improving the interpretative capabilities of the staff that person would also be a valuable resource for visitors conducting research on the Whitman story.

Lawrence L. Dodd

Home Address:

134 Lowden Gardena Road  
Lowden, Wa. 99360-9715  
(509) 525-2879

Work Address:

Northwest & Whitman College Archives  
Penrose Memorial Library  
Whitman College  
Walla Walla, Wa 99362  
(509) 527-5922

## RESPONSES

## COMMENTS



WHITMAN COLLEGE

Department of History  
Walla Walla, Washington 99162  
(509) 527-5125

L-6

1

2 November 1999

Superintendent Francis Darby

Whitman Mission National Historic Site

I want to summarize my long association with Whitman Mission National Historic Site. I have visited the Whitman Mission National Historic Site many times since I began teaching at Whitman College in 1964. Years ago I gave the address at the dedication of the Alice Clarissa Whitman monument. I took many of my American History survey classes to the Whitman Mission site after they had read Irvin Thompson, Shallow Grave at Waiilatpu. I stressed that his history and the Whitman Mission Museum interpreted a very important part of regional history. Over the years the NPS has told a more complete and fairer story. I have also taken school children, townspeople, and historical groups to the Whitman Mission.

In 1986 I was involved in a missionary conference that Whitman College, the National Park Service, and other institutions co-hosted. Many of the talks were published in a special issue of Idaho Yesterdays. In 1997 I chaired a committee

WHITMAN MISSION NHS.

NOV 03 1999

## RESPONSES

**Dr. G. Thomas Edwards**  
Professor of History, Whitman College

Thank you for your comments. Many of your comments relate to interpretation and will be incorporated into the Comprehensive Interpretive Plan (CIP) for Whitman Mission NHS. The CIP is a specific and detailed implementation plan that is developed in accordance with the primary interpretive themes established on pages 80-82 of the draft GMP.

## COMMENTS

that discussed and evaluated the massacre that had taken place 150 years earlier. The National Park Service participated in planning and hosting the conference. My opening address was revised and printed by Whitman College.

In summary, I have an understanding of the controversial Whitman story. I am fully aware that it will never be interpreted to the satisfaction of everyone, but different interpretations make history interesting.

I want to respond to several pages in the Draft General Management Plan published in 1999.

On page three is the statement that the NHS wants "to preserve and maintain the site of the Mission and school for Indians established by" the Whitmans. I believe that the agricultural grounds should also be emphasized because Marcus Whitman had considerable success in teaching the Cayuse how to farm.

On page three there is a statement that the mission site aided settlement along the Oregon Trail. It is more precise to state that they aided settlement at the end of the Oregon Trail. Travelers did not settle on the Umatilla or Walla Walla Rivers prior to 1847.

On page three there is some confused chronology. It is important to put the massacre into historical context. In 1846 The Oregon Treaty settled the disputed territory with Great Britain; in 1847 the massacre took place; between 1848-1850 the Cayuse War was waged (the militia, not the United States army,

## RESPONSES

- 1 It was Congress, and not the National Park Service, that established the enabling legislation for Whitman Mission National Historic Site, as a public national memorial to the Whitmans. However, the act calls upon NPS to maintain and preserve Whitman Mission for the benefit and enjoyment of the public.
- 2 The bullet has been changed in the final GMP/EIS to read: "The massacre of the Whitmans and eleven others (and one who disappeared and presumably drowned) and the unsuccessful end of the Mission helped lead to a war between the militia and the Cayuse in 1848 and the arrival of federal troops in 1849. The ensuing 1855 treaties resulted in opening up the territory to white settlement."

## COMMENTS

participated); in 1848 Congress established the Oregon Territory; in 1849 federal troops arrived. Furthermore, the impetus for the treaties of 1855 resulted from the activities of Governor Isaac Stevens who wanted to open the territory to white settlement. Thus he worked to concentrate tribes east and west of the Cascades on reservations, and, like Whitman, he wanted to teach its occupants how to farm.

2

I want to made several points made on page 81.

1. When the Whitmans arrived in 1836 the Old Oregon Country was jointly occupied by the United States and Great Britain, an unusual situation. This was resolved in the Oregon Treaty that favored the United States. An expansionist, Marcus Whitman wanted the United States to gain control of Oregon, and he was undoubtedly satisfied with the boundary line drawn at the 49th degree of parallel. The HBC Fort Walla Walla had been a constant reminder to the patriotic Whitman that the English co-owned Oregon.

2. The Cayuse had contact with Lewis and Clark and with the Hudson Bay Company, especially with the garrison at Fort Walla Walla. Thus they had some understanding of European culture prior to the arrival of the Whitmans.

3. The Cayuse welcomed the Whitmans in 1836; the missionaries did not force themselves upon the tribe. If a significant element of the tribe had asked them to leave, Marus Whitman would have gone because he lacked the power to resist. Whitman aided immigrants, but he encouraged the vast majority of

## RESPONSES

## COMMENTS

4

them to move westward. The missionary wanted pioneers to share the Walla Walla Valley with the natives, but he wanted to delay that time until the Indians were better acculturated.

4. Although Whitman had little success in teaching Christianity, he did have succeed in teaching agriculture. An unknown number of Cayuse farmed, a point that should be emphasized. The Cayuse traded successfully with Oregon Trail travelers prior to and after the massacre.

5. The statement that the visitor should learn "how the Whitmans obtained the land" needs clarification. The Whitmans did not have a land title. They were on the land as long as the Cayuse permitted it.

6. Whitman's central assessment that the Indians must share their land was one long held by the federal government. The Oregon pioneers, however, would simply take Indian land. The invaders insisted that the Indians should be removed to marginal land. The Treaty of 1855 needs emphasis because it removed the Indians from their native lands and placed them upon reservations. Whitman had nothing to do with the implementation of the federal reservation policy.

6. On page 65 there is a general statment about the reasons why a renegade band of Cayuse killed the Whitmans. The terrible measles epidemic was the immediate cause and should be stressed. Cultural conflict had long been a problem, but the deaths resulting from this disease was a major factor.

7. The point should be made that the Whitmans lived with the

## RESPONSES

## COMMENTS

Cayuse for 11 years. This demonstrated patience and toleration on all sides.

8. On page 86 the booklet lists groups that have cooperated with the Whitman Mission. Whitman College could be added because it has conducted joint conferences with the National Park Service. The college, which is mentioned in your film, has had a long association with the Whitman Mission National Historic Site, especially in 1897.

3

I think that the visitor should be told *why much of the mission site is in grass, giving it a park-like quality. Many visitors have told me that this part of the grounds looks like a golf course, not an Indian mission site. They would prefer that some other type of vegetation should be planted.*

I think that it is unfortunate that some of the buildings could not be restored. Blocks in the grass do not demonstrate the work that Whitman and his associates accomplished and the crowded conditions that immigrants faced when wintering at the site.

In conclusion I want to express my thanks for the opportunity to comment on your plan. The Whitman Mission is an important teacher of regional history. I have heard scores of people--school children to scholars--express pleasure after visiting the site. The National Park Service faces a great responsibility in teaching the basic missionary history to visitors. I hope that my comments prove of some assistance in accomplishing this challenging task.

## RESPONSES

3 Thank you for your comment. We agree that Whitman Mission National Historic Site staff have enjoyed a working relationship with Whitman College. Therefore, we have added the following text to the final GMP/EIS:

### **Whitman College**

On December 20, 1859, the Territorial Legislature at Olympia granted a charter to "an Institution of Learning in Walla Walla County to be known as Whitman Seminary." By 1882, this institution had become Whitman College. Located just seven miles east of Whitman Mission National Historic Site, the college staff, students, and facilities have supported the historic site. The "museum and archives" at Whitman College became the natural collection point for artifacts associated with the Whitman era prior to the development of Whitman Mission National Historic Site. The college's collection, and the scholars at the college, are both important components of the knowledge base associated with the Whitmans and the times in which they lived. The park and college have collaborated on many projects ranging from the items on display in the park's museum to programs relating to local Indian tribes.

## COMMENTS

Sincerely,



Dr. G. Thomas Edwards

William Kirkman Professor of  
History, Emeritus

## RESPONSES

## COMMENTS

L-7

11/04/1999

Mark & Donna Hanebut  
Route 2 Box 240  
Walla Walla, WA 99362

To: Superintendent, Whitman Mission NHS  
Route 2 Box 247  
Walla Walla, WA. 99362

cc: Senator Slade Gorton  
U.S. Senate  
730 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

cc: Senator Patty Murray  
U.S. Senate  
111 Russell Senate Office Bldg  
Washington, D.C. 20510

cc: Representative G. R. Nethercutt Jr.  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1527 Longworth House Office Bldg  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Attachment: Letter to the editor of the Union Bulletin resulting in attendance at property owners meeting.

Attachment: Synoptic history of this land owners problems with the NPS management at Whitman NHS

Subject: Comments regarding the Whitman Mission National Historic Site Draft Management Plan

I am a landowner. I live on a 40 acre Centennial Farm adjacent to the east boundary of the Whitman Mission Historical Site. This land has been owned and occupied by my family for 117 years. My intent and obligation is to maintain and retain this heritage, unencumbered, for following generations. This attitude is shared by Neil Sheldon, another Centennial Farm owner living adjacent to the Site.

The original establishment of the Marcus Whitman Mission Site and the installment of markers was by the local community to both commemorate the historical significance, and to provide a lasting memory of the Whitman's historic efforts in the area. My family and the Sheldon's gave land and moneys at that time to dedicate the site. Since the Federal Government through the NPS has become involved, expansion and a park-like atmosphere have been pursued and developed. The Whitman Mission Draft General

WHITMAN MISSION NHS.

NOV 05 1999

## RESPONSES

Mark and Donna Hanebut

## COMMENTS

Management Plan reaches out again for land intended for expansion and a "half mile viewshed" to extend the park-like atmosphere. I am objecting totally to *ANY* intended land use requirement change on or over my land.

1

With attendance at an all time low for recent history, the current NHS management would prefer to build a "field of dreams", intimidate the surrounding landowners, and ignore the continuing problems that the National Park Service management has created or allowed to perpetuate over time.

The ending paragraph on Page i includes the words "initial public involvement". There was very little *public* involvement other than NPS employees. When asked for the attendee lists of these meetings we were informed that there were none. However we did note that they made a list of the attendees at the landowners meeting. We saw the results of this *public* involvement at the last three meetings after the plan was introduced. The only attendees at these meetings, other than NPS employees from Seattle, Local, and elsewhere, were landowners opposing the NPS plan of expansion for the NHS, a representative of the Blue Mt. Land Trust, and a member of the Fort Walla Walla Museum. One Native American at the Mission OR. Meeting interested only in and if any artifacts etc. are uncovered. Apparently, the community interest does not support this plan or expansion of the NHS.

2

The map shown on figure 6 opposite page 32 in the DGMP depicting the management zoning has some interesting exclusions of property parcels. In the NE sector of the map, north of the RR tracks and highly visible from the marker on the hill in the NHS are two farms and a new Winery under construction. These are omitted from the viewshed zone.

We were informed by the Walla Walla County Planning Commission that they had no intention of supporting the NHS zoning overlay plan and had notified the NHS in January of 1999 of this fact by letter. We have obtained a copy of this letter to verify the wording. Yet, the NPS saw fit to leave the threat of this zoning overlay in the DGMP.

3

Option A appears to be the only viable option for the NPS to pursue. I feel Option B,C, and D would lower attendance as not too many visitors would want to wander around dirt trails etc. to view patterns on the ground and listen to tape recordings. Options C, and D of the DGMP represent an outright threat to the landowners surrounding the NHS. Cooperate, or else we have the option to go to Congress to change the law and proceed to take your land. These two options should be removed in their entirety.

The NPS has provided us with another plan for expansion, and recently a fire protection plan. (after three uncontrolled fires) Maybe it's time for a *problem resolution plan* dealing with the resolution of the Doan Creek water problems, the trespass problems, weeds, and road sign placement problems being ignored by the current Whitman NHS management. Landowners would applaud this effort.

## RESPONSES

1 The concept of viewshed protection was misunderstood by several members of the public who commented on the plan and attended public meetings. While the protection of the historic scene and retention of compatible land uses surrounding the National Historic Site remains an important objective of the National Park Service and the general management plan, the viewshed analysis component of the plan has been eliminated from the final plan.

The National Park Service staff will continue to work with park neighbors, and encourage area landowners, Walla Walla County, and others to work in a spirit of partnership in promoting the protection of rural character and landscapes in the area surrounding the park.

2 Please see the "Public Involvement" chapter for a full detailed explanation of the public process and public involvement. Any member of the public can request a list of the attendees for any public meeting. It is part of the public record.

3 Please see the letter from Walla Walla County Regional Planning. The NPS has no regulative authority on lands outside the boundary of the park. As any member of the public and a property owner, the National Park Service can give recommendations regarding local land use decisions affecting the national historic site.

## COMMENTS

Our only other comments are very simple. The moneys spent on this plan would have paid a major portion of the desirable improvements at the NHS.  
We would like to pursue our lives without the constant threat of Big Brother as a neighbor dictating what we can or can't do with our land.



Mark F. Hanebut  
Donna M. Hanebut

## RESPONSES

## COMMENTS

L-9

NEIL M. SHELDEN  
MISSION FARMS  
Route 2, Box 246  
Walla Walla, Washington 99362

November 8, 1999

Francis T. Darby, Superintendent  
Whitman Mission National Historic Site  
Route 2, Box 247  
Walla Walla, Washington 99362

Re: Whitman Mission National Historic Site  
General Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement

Mr. Darby:

Responding to your solicitation for public comment relative to the above plan, we submit our position in an outlined 4-page historical resume of our Centennial same family farm and a listing of a few encounters with the Park.

Within the Summary of Actions table for each Alternative, Alternative A (NO CHANGE) is the least objectionable, with these conspicuous exceptions:

1. Parking, Access and Circulation:  
"Access to park entrance road by exercise of valid existing rights." By whose decision and by what criteria is such a determination of legal standing to be made? Access onto the Park-owned approach road should not be prejudiced against neighbors. In this regard access of Park neighbors should be treated no different from any other county property-tax-paying citizen of the area.

2. Action Plan Items:  
"Implement recommendations from Inter-Fluve report", with regard to the restoration of Doan Creek; such a plan would support the Park's desire to appropriate Doan Creek water away from the designated Doan Creek channel, as clearly indicated on the 1978 Photorevised U. S. Geological Survey Map, and also away from Washington State legal Water Right holders to foster nonagricultural wildlife wetlands.

We advocate the complete exclusion of Alternatives B, C and D, from all and any consideration involving lands beyond the present existing Whitman Mission Site boundaries.

WHITMAN MISSION NHS.

NOV 09 1999

## RESPONSES

Neil M. Sheldon

1 Access to and from the park entrance road is not prejudiced against neighbors, nor does being a park neighbor provide any special privileges. The park embraces the concept of treating park neighbors "no different from any other county property-tax paying citizen..." but also must operate within the law and framework of federal standards on this federal road. The National Park Service does not have the authority to grant "right-of-ways", therefore access has to be provided, and limited to, valid existing rights.

Please note that the Preferred Alternative calls for an agreement to be made with the County for oversight of the "entrance" road. While the County would also be limited to valid and existing rights, it is felt that the County would be in a better position to respond to individual requests while providing for resource protection.

2 The park does not have the authority to appropriate water. Any actions taken by the NHS will be consistent with state law and within our existing allocation.

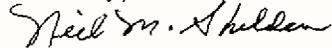
## COMMENTS

It seems the conclusive facts of declining visitation and rising expenditures per visitor, would deem a cost-benefit analysis appropriate to determine if, indeed, there is a necessity for this proposed plan of expansion?

The undeveloped portions within the Park boundaries offer ample space to implement many of the Park's proposed plans; therefore, any plan involving our adjoining land has need to be left alone.

Our goal is to preserve and perpetuate our children's inheritance in the historically consistent environment as the land was passed on to us--free from encumbrances.

Sincerely,



NEIL M. SHELDEN  
MISSION FARMS

NMS:fs

cc: Monte A. Willis, Minick Hayner Attorneys at Law

Enclosures - September 27, 1999, Sheldon letter to Monte A. Willis,  
Minnick Hayner, Attorneys at Law  
October 18, 1999, List of neighborly observations  
USGS Photorevised 1978 Map

## RESPONSES

## COMMENTS

L-10

November 7, 1999

Whitman Mission HMS General Management Plan  
National Park Service  
909 1st Ave. Suite 500  
Seattle, WA 98104-9882

Subject: Public comment on Draft General Management Plan and  
Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Sirs:

In accordance with your letter request of July 15, 1999, to "Dear Friend of Whitman Mission National Historic Site," I am forwarding herewith my public comments pertaining to the subject publication. (the Report)

I am a property owner of ten acres approximately one half mile southwest of the Whitman Mission site and have resided on the same property along with my wife and three children for over seven years. We train and board horses and raise our own grass hay on the property.

I have reviewed the subject Report and have attended the meeting with "Park neighbors" on September 28, 1999, at the Park Site, and also the "workshop meeting" on September 29th, at Walla Walla Community College. In addition, I have made several visits to the Mission site so as to be better able to appraise the contents of the Report, and have discussed it with several of the other affected property owners.

Based upon my investigation as noted above, I perceive that the essence of the Report is a desire on the part of the National Park Service to expand the area of the site. Alternate D would propose a boundary adjustment of 450 acres which would necessitate Congressional authorization to implement. Alternate C, the "Preferred Alternate" would propose an expanded area of control by means of the acquisition of conservation easements.

It is my considered opinion that the Report does not support or justify the expansion of the site either by outright acquisition or conservation easements for the following reasons:

- A. The original intent of the Whitman Mission National Historic Site legislation of 1936 based upon page 9 of the Report was to "acquire the site of the Indian Mission established in 1836 by the Whitman's on the Walla Walla River....to be a public memorial to Marcus and Narcissa

## RESPONSES

William G. Dryden

## COMMENTS

Whitman." The initial purchase of 45.94 acres assumably would comply with the intent of the original legislation to "acquire the site." This appears to be justified on page 65 of the Report which indicates that the Whitman's established "approximately 40 acres of cultivated fields," and on page 69 where it is stated that "The mission grounds cover approximately seven acres, forming the historic core of the cultural landscape, and extending from the base of Memorial Hill, around the Millpond, to the entrance road and visitor center. This area comprises the ground upon which the Whitmans built the structural complex of the mission between 1836 and 1847."

A statement on page 82 appears to conflict with this as it states that "the original mission grounds, which are much larger than what is included in the NHS," even though in 1960 and 1961 over 50 acres of additional land was purchased for roadways and service facilities. Approximately 40 acres of which are described on page 70 as having an "absence of historically significant events or aspects relating directly to the Whitman area. Today this area principally serves as a physical buffer between U. S. Highway 12, and the historic core of the park."

- 1
- B. It would appear that usage of the park has been declining over the past nearly 20 years as indicated on page 88 of the report. The figures presented indicate an approximately 20% decline since 1980 and an approximately 33% decline since the peak year of 1987.
- C. Proposed operating costs for Alternate C as reported on page 42 of the report are indicated to be \$723,000. When compared to the nearly 80,000 visitors per year noted on page 88, it would appear that the taxpayer cost per visitor amounts to between nine and ten dollars, not taking into account Park Service general overhead. It would be helpful to relate these cost to other similar Park Service facilities with respect to cost-benefit ratios.
- D. The Report indicates that the primary justification for expansion of the park boundaries and \or influence over adjacent properties is based upon the highly subjective concept of "visual analysis," as related to "views most important to visitor experience." I find no indication in the Report that the visitor experience has in any way been objectively defined and yet this subjective concept is used as justification for restricting the property rights of surrounding land owners.
- 2

If one is visiting the core mission area, trees, shrubs and topographic factors effectively limit ones visual experience

## RESPONSES

- 1 Parts of the original Mission grounds, which included agricultural fields cultivated by Whitman, are not included in the national historic site and remain on private lands.
- 2 The concept of viewshed protection was misunderstood by several members of the public who commented on the plan and attended public meetings. While the protection of the historic scene and retention of compatible land uses surrounding the National Historic Site remains an important objective of the National Park Service and the general management plan, the viewshed analysis component of the plan has been eliminated from the final plan.

The National Park Service staff will continue to work with park neighbors, and encourage area landowners, Walla Walla County and others to work in a spirit of partnership in promoting the protection of rural character and landscapes in the area surrounding the park.

## COMMENTS

to the core area itself and of course to the contemporary Visitor Center building and adjacent walks and parking.

Further, if a hardy soul is successful in scaling the Memorial Hill to view the Memorial Shaft, he or she will also be able to experience the 360 degree view which includes the Blue Mountains, portions of the cities of Walla Walla and Milton-Freewater, Highway 12, rolling wheat fields, the tree lines of Mill Creek and the Walla Walla River, as well as various farmsteads. However, the primary focus consists of the very scenic core area including the Millpond, covered wagon exhibit, orchard, interpretive trail and of course the very prominent contemporary Visitor Center with its exposed walls and flat roof. Most of the other adjacent farmsteads are shielded by trees and thus have

subtle visual impacts. I found no mention in the report of plans to mask off the Visitor Center from view. Perhaps it would be helpful to scientifically determine the number of hardy visitors who scale the "hill" each year and their reasons in order to justify the inordinate weight given to "viewshed" in the report. On page 90 of the Report, it is stated that "The most common adult visitor to the NBS lives within a 50 mile radius..." If that is the case, most adult visitors will be quite familiar with rural "viewsheds."

Assuming that it is possible to objectively justify the view analysis, it would appear that the report has taken an unjustified pessimistic view of potential land development of the surrounding properties. The trend as prompted by economic growth appears to be toward ten acre farmsteads as all but large acreage farming becomes unprofitable. The present codes limit 10 acre parcels to one residence and outbuildings and either the remaining portions of the property become pasture for livestock or are left in natural grasses and weeds dependent upon availability of water. Our local planning processes which provide for public input tend to guard against the prospect of incompatible development.

The Park Service itself as a land owner has the same opportunity as the rest of us to participate in the process.

- E. The reliance on the "coordination with one or more private non-profit land trusts" to do the work of securing conservation easements from adjacent land owners appears to be extraneous to a report of this nature, unless there is more to the situation than meets the eye. Representatives from the Blue Mountain Land Trust were present at the September 28, 1999 land owner meeting and testified that they had only been established for three months. It would appear that by including the concept in the report as a significant factor, the Park Service is proposing a

## RESPONSES

- 3 The visitor center is non-historic. The NPS planning team will review measures to look at screening the building from the historic scene.
- 4 The NPS staff concurs that we have this opportunity as a landowner. It is proposed in our land protection strategy to work with Walla Walla County.
- 5 The Blue Mountain Land Trust is a private, local, non-profit organization, that according to their brochure, was formed to preserve the "natural resources and open space, including streams, farm and forest lands in the Blue Mountain region." The National Park Service has no formal or legal relationship with the Blue Mountain Land Trust, but applauds their purpose and dedication to conservation principles.

## COMMENTS

partnership of sort to obtain an end result that could not be obtained directly by securing congressional approval. And if this is the case, the subject land trust would be operating with apparent government backing thus bringing into the picture the specter of extortion. 5

Further, by including the concept as a valid proposal along with a pictorial exhibit titled "Composite Foreground Viewshed", the threat to adjacent properties is implied with its corresponding effect on property values. It appears to be a clear cut example of insensitivity on the part of the Park Service to the implications when "Big Brother" speaks. The logical question arises, was the Blue Mountain Land Trust coincidentally formed independently to preserve the agricultural nature of the areas surrounding the Mission, or was their formation in some way encouraged by the Park Service to achieve the end proposed in the report. That lingering question and its implications may help explain the turn out of approximately fifty irate adjacent land owners and other interested parties at the September 28, 1999 meeting. Any private land trust organization is free to approach individual landowners with offers to purchase conservation easements if they have a "burning desire" to do so. It is quite another matter for the Federal Government to manipulate that desire.

In summary then, I question the justification for the proposed expansion of the Parks Service influence and control over adjacent properties as indicated in the Alternates B,C and D of the subject Report for the reasons noted above.

On a positive note may I suggest that the park planning for over the next 15 years concentrate on utilizing the nearly 100 acres at its disposal to the greatest possible advantage based upon its original purpose as established by Congress, and guided, by visitor growth or decline and cost/benefit and other economic considerations. Secondly, and perhaps of equal importance the plan should emphasize the long term purpose of establishing good neighbor relationships. Specifically, emphasis should be placed on water matters, noxious weed control, fire protection, fairness and integrity in dealing with adjacent land owners.

Perhaps the most visual example of the need to modify the present patterns in this area is the pile of 10" water pipe located adjacent to the northwest corner of the Monument property on private land. This pile itself stands as a monument to the Park Service's unlawful arbitrariousness in denying permission to the adjacent property owner to replace the storm destroyed inverted siphon river crossing of a water line conveyance that predated

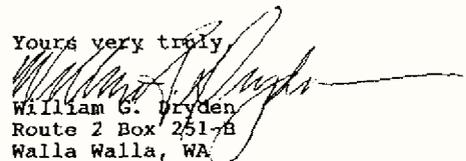
## RESPONSES

## COMMENTS

Page 5 of 5

the acquisition of the property by the Park Service. The damage occurred during the winter of 1995 and thus the adjacent landowner has been deprived of long established gravity flow water distribution for several years.

Yours very truly,

  
William G. Dryden  
Route 2 Box 251-B  
Walla Walla, WA

CC Valley Times  
Senator Slade Gorton  
Representative George Nethercutt Jr.  
County Commissioners

## RESPONSES

COMMENTS

RESPONSES

L-11

11-12-99

comment on Whitman Mission Draft Management Plan.  
 at page 18 NHS states that it would allow natural  
 processes to occur on the river. This is not what NHS  
 has done. In the 1960's NHS prevented the  
 river from entering NHS land and restoring the  
 oxbow (page 73) by dumping tons of broken concrete  
 on then private property without permission.  
 The result ~~was~~ severe erosion on the private  
 property. The area of the dump was over  
 the southern boundary on the east end.  
 The concrete should be removed, it may  
 result in the oxbow being restored.

The NHS concern about residential growth  
 is ironic. Dr. Whitman wanted "amensons" to come.  
 The Tribal people wanted neither the "amensons"  
 nor the plan. The NHS vision is different  
 from both. The area will not become  
 a small lot subdivision within the next  
 fifty years, even if the zoning permitted it.  
 Economics, water and other restrictions, large  
 equipment and small fields, have changed  
 farming in the area. Many farms are  
 supported by second jobs. The plan should  
 be ~~to have the appearance of a well cared for~~  
~~neighborhood.~~ The objective should be  
 to have the appearance of a well cared for  
 neighborhood. Any "concrete" fixed formula  
 may be like the concrete in the river and not  
 give the intended result.

Yancy Beer  
 239  
 Wally Waller

NOV 12 1999  
 WHITMAN MISSION NHS

## COMMENTS

Craig B. Shelden  
PO Box 4663  
Crofton MD 21114

L-12

WHITMAN MISSION NHS.	
NOV 13 1999	
Priority	In
Sheet	

11 November 99

Superintendent  
Whitman Mission National Historic Site  
Rt 2 Box 247  
Walla Walla WA 99362

Subj: Whitman Mission National Historic Site Draft General Management Plan and  
Environmental Impact Statement

Sir,

I reviewed the subject plan with considerable interest and find that I most strongly support  
Alternative A, the "continue status quo" option.

It is important that you continue the course your predecessors have established by working in  
cooperation with your neighbors and not attempting to overtake or inappropriately devalue their  
property.

Even Alternative B has the potential to violate your neighbors Fifth Amendment rights by  
devaluing their property without just compensation.

Your draft plan has several errors of fact in it. One of which is the issue of access from private  
property onto the Whitman Mission Road and Swegle Roads. My family may have donated the  
land to the county, but they never gave up their rights to access the road. That the county  
conveyed the property to the Park Service is a matter of fact, but the county could not have given  
away what it did not own, the rights of citizens to access a public road. Your draft plan's  
statements about "allowing local landowner access" is at best inaccurate and at worst a  
misrepresentation.

I find it difficult to believe that in this period of tight resources you would have the fiscal  
irresponsibility to indulge publicly in the fantasy future you portray in your preferred alternative.

Each of us in federal service has the requirement to husband the taxpayers' dollars. None of  
your alternatives, save Alternative A, properly safeguard the taxpayers' investment in our nation.

Your plans for restoration (as put forth in Alternatives C & D) would not restore the Mission  
Grounds to a state which would mirror the mission at the time of Marcus Whitman. In fact, you  
would regress the park property and surrounding property even further from the effects of man,  
to some presumed pristine state. Marcus Whitman came west with a mission to educate the  
Native Americans and provide a way station for the frontier families enroute to a better future.  
Your plan would deny the heritage of the descendants of the very people Dr Whitman hoped to  
serve.

## RESPONSES

Craig B. Shelden (duplicate of e-mail message)

I Please see page 107 of the draft GMP/EIS, second paragraph under the  
"Whitman Mission National Historic Site Entrance Road" section. Please  
also see response on page 74.

## COMMENTS

Finally, because the National Park Service is so invested with trust and keeping of our national scenic treasures, any funds that could be earmarked for the Whitman Mission expansion would be better served if applied towards the preservation of any of the Park Service's truly great treasures, such as Yellowstone, Mount Rainier, Yosemite, the Grand Canyon, or the Hoh Rain Forest, to name just a few. I have had the opportunity to personally observe the damage people bring with them as they visit these beautiful treasures, and it saddens me greatly. These parks and others like them need defending and represent the true scenic treasures of our nation. Any available funds should be directed towards preserving this natural heritage, and not towards a completely inappropriate turning back of the clock and infringement upon the rights of your neighbors at Whitman Mission.

In closing, your proposal runs counter to the very mission upon which Dr Whitman set forth, it is fiscally inappropriate, and it is, at best, unneighborly. I can only endorse your Alternative A.

Very Respectfully,



Craig B Sheldon  
Commander (select) USN

## RESPONSES

## COMMENTS

L-13

WHITMAN MISSION NHS.				
NOV 12 1999				
Priority	INFO	ACT	INT	DATE
Soc				
Admin				
Ch. & Fu.				
Ch. Mgmt				
Staff				
File				

Attn: Mr. Darby  
Whitman Mission National Historic Site  
Route 2, Box 247  
Walla Walla, WA 99362

November 9, 1999

Re: Whitman Mission National Historic Site  
General Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Darby,

My comments are to address the Draft Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement. I submit these thoughts as a daughter, as a landowner of Mission Farms, a 40year neighbor to the NHS, concerned tax-payer, and active member of the local business community.

I attended the three meetings hosted by the NHS. The 9-28-99 meeting held at the Whitman Mission for the local landowners, the public meeting 9-29-99 at Walla Walla Community College, and the 9-30-99 meeting held in Mission, Oregon. The landowner meeting was by far the best attended. The Community College meeting had maybe four or five attendees that were *not* either employees of the NHS or an involved landowner. The Mission, Oregon meeting was attended by one gentleman representing membership of the Confederated Tribes, NHS employees, myself, Donna Hanebut(landowner), and Ms. Dolling. My intent was to familiarize myself with all the facets needing considered.

The Management Plan was hand-delivered by a Whitman Mission employee to my parents as they were leaving to attend the burial service for their 16yr old grandson, and my nephew, Matthew Shelden who had been killed in a tractor roll-over accident three days prior. After a few neighborly comments, Dad (Neil M. Shelden) discovered that a fair number of the landowners directly affected by this draft management proposal had not received a copy, nor any solicitation of any kind from the NHS informing of the meetings, or how their interests were involved. I note on page 149 of the report that 137 individuals received copies.

Our farm has been in the family for going on six generations continuously. It has been recognized as a Centennial Farm by the State of Washington, and other various organizations. I've grown up with the Whitman Mission in my heart, in my memories. Each generation, till my father's had donated land to the making, and sustaining of the Whitman Mission National Historic Site.

## RESPONSES

Lorinda I. Shelden

1 Please see the chapter on "Public Involvement" for a detailed description of the public involvement process.

## COMMENTS

Most recently (as in at least the last 25 years of my recollection) the working relationship of "being neighbors" has soured. I recall as a child, the Superintendent coming over to the farm, and "telling" Dad that he needed to come rescue a stuck NHS vehicle of a NHS employee as the NHS did not have equipment large enough to safely rescue. Dad provided the equipment *and* labor, never receiving reimbursement to my knowledge. This was not a one-time occurrence. We had a rental contract with the NHS for the south "park pasture" area of the NHS. The contract was for "x" amount of livestock. Probably close to daily I would wave at the NHS employee doing his daily count as I brought the milkcow(s) home for chores. I got to wave for quite a few months if not years. About 10:AM one morning, my parents were served papers stating we had violated the herd numbers and the contract was canceled. A baby calf had been born early. Sheldon's using/renting that pasture had existed since during W.W.II in trades for Grandpa acting as Sup. as funding was not available during the war effort. Home from college, I was coming back from the haystack area and rounding the corner when I see a NHS employee trying to capture my dog. He was surprised to see me. He was obviously on private property and un-announced. He said sneeringly he'd come to get my dog and take care of it for what he had done to his son's dog (who frequented our property often). Dad arrived home about now and I asked what was going on! Dad had to ask the Sup what was going on? He stated his dog was pregnant and our dogs were guilty. Dad asked which one? He stated my sister's dog first, a neutered male, he then stated it had to have been my brother's dog, a neutered male, he then said that made the decision clear...it had to be my dog. (Dad & I both chuckled (as we could not help ourselves). My dog Daisy was a spayed female. The Sup left very agitated. The NHS by letter informed us they would be doing maintenance on the Mill Pond and would require drainage of all water. Dad returned letter stating not a problem as long as the water went down the irrigation ditch, and not into the pasture area where our water table is supplied. The Mill Pond was drained into the pasture, and I personally ended up in the emergency room with poisoning from contaminated water. Other family members were effected. When Dad wrote the NHS, the response was "this is not our problem." Most recently the Walla Walla Valley experienced a flood in 1996. The flood waters washed away a centrifugal water siphon located across Mill Creek, which supplied water to the North portion of our property. We have WaterRights to Doan Creek water. The NHS is not known for being generous when it comes to sharing irrigation water with down stream users even when Rights exist. The siphon had been in place at least my lifetime (I'm 40yrs) and longer. The Rights have not changed, but the current administration states that the siphon is wrong, and never should have been, and thereby we have not been allowed to rebuild. The economics of farming are challenging and precarious enough without having to deal with water shortages of justified water. Our livestock, as well as pasture land have definitely been "browned" these last three summers. Fire hazards have definitely increased in the down stream areas. The NHS stands firm. History has not been changed. The Rights have not been changed. What changed? A constant frustration has been that each Superintendent interprets/often contradicting the decisions and stewardship of his predecessors.

## RESPONSES

## COMMENTS

Other issues dealing with trespassing visitors on foot and vehicles, noxious weeds, "if a cow's out and on the NHS property it's automatically assumed it belongs to Shelden's (interrupting our day to discover it's not ours) do exist.

There is a reluctance on my behalf to accept any assurance given by the NHS with regards to the General Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement as it relates to our property. I questioned Sup. Darby, and Mr. Dunbar at the Mission, Oregon meeting why our private driveway and road along the front of the farm house were included on several of the maps in the Management Plan(see attached). Mr. Darby stated for efforts of assurance that at this time no purchasing of lands was possible and that he could not tell me why they had been included. I asked if not at this time, when? He again reiterated not at this time could property be purchased. Note the Oregon Trail is designated as going across our driveway and along the side of the approach road...on our property. I asked why? What intentions? I again was told no changes at this time...no changes were in the making. Note the "Reconfigure pedestrian access..." box in Alternative C. My concern remains that all parcels/fields/driveways be accessible for the daily, customary routine activities of farming & living.

2

I oppose any option other than Option A as presented in the July 1999 draft **General Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement**. Less than 5 acres of the 94 acres are developed which are within the boundaries of the NHS at present. I have always been under the impression that the Whitman Mission National Historic Site was intended to commemorate the lives and deaths of all involved at Whitman Mission. Any ancestor of mine never stated the Whitman Mission's atmosphere and intent was to compete with Fort Walla Walla Park & Museum for visitors. The visitor attendance has been steadily decreasing. The number of NHS staff has not adjusted accordingly. General community population interest is basically low to they really do not care. As a local business person, I see far more productivity for tourism in the WW area if gasoline prices were the same as surrounding communities... not notoriously high. At the WWCC public meeting, an excellent slide presentation addressed concerns and plans for improvements.

There were 90% within the existing boundaries of the NHS, and I commend the ideas. I hesitate about the removal of existing asphalt trails to return to dirt...potential for muddy feet inside, outside, and any other side, to slipping, to twisted ankles, and erosion control.

3

I commend the return to natural grasses, and possible 3-D portrayal of the known building sites. My hesitation here is the cougar that has come to reside in the area in the last two months or so. Because of the hunting regulation change about three years ago, the younger "fearless & stupid teenagers" are being forced from the mountains to locate their own radius of territory. This cougar has already attacked and killed some of the neighbor's livestock, and probably is what stampeded our cattle home in the midst of the night about two weeks ago.

## RESPONSES

- 2 The final GMP/EIS has been revised to delete the Oregon Trail designation from private land shown on all maps. Lines designating private driveways have also been deleted.
- 3 This action (returning asphalt trails to dirt) is not in our proposed action.

## COMMENTS

## RESPONSES

I see the Whitman Mission National Historic Site as a quiet place of contemplation. There is no need to adjust boundaries to accomplish and maintain the serenity. Modernize the existing grounds and facilities, adjust the staff to provide maintenance and up-keep, and then use those available funds to fortify securities at Yosemite, Mt. Rainier etc. where visitation is not declining and funding is in shortage. At least one someone at the NHS needs to be certified CPR/First-aid, and legally carry a firearm. I was surprised to read that CPR/First-aid was not a mandatory requirement when dealing with the public entity.

4

I resent as presented every shape and form of Alternative B,C,D. Alternative D is about as contradicting to the terminology "willing seller" as possible. Alternative B,C,D, do very little to modernize, improve, and increase the *historical essence* of the Whitman Mission Story, and thereby are not particularly wise investments of monies allotted.

I love to see the spire atop the Monument Hill. It's always been there. It is beautiful to my heart and soul. My emotions draw very close to the surface thinking of the histories it's shared with me, and I with it. I look out the front porch and see the covered wagon with the spire above and beyond. It is the sentine! of the neighborhood. It's representation is quiet and simple, as in its own likeness. As in the time of Narcissa, when you see the hill top, you know you're almost home. NHS Sup's come and go. This nomadic life-style provides a very different definition of "Home". Phrases such as "I'm the fifth generation on the farm" and those similar, do not generate the same level of value, sentiment and emotions. An observation...not intended as a complaint or belittlement, but see the difference to be a source of friction and mis-understandings. I would dare to be so bold to suggest a "Community NHS Board of Directors" as the main policy-forming administrator. Board would allow equal representation of NHS employees and surrounding landowners. In-sites would be heard ahead of time in lieu of friction points after the fact. Diffused could be the attitudes of "our way or no way" as illustrated in Alternatives B, C & D.

In Summary, within the Draft General Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement dated July 1999, Alternative A is the only acceptable alternative. As stated in Mr. Darby's 9-3-99 letter(see attached) I agree with "The prospect of working cooperatively together..." statement...as long as the word *prospect* is deleted, and statement reads *The working cooperatively together will go a long way.....*"

Speaking only for myself, I sense we're both wishing to establish a means to maintain quality. Quality of experience for the visitors, quality of daily life and life-style for my family.

I would like to review the "revised" General Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement before submission to the Director.

5

Best Regards,

  
Lorinda I. Shelden

4 No boundary change has been included in the proposed action.

5 There is a 30-day no-action period prior to approval of the final plan by the regional director. This final plan does reflect revisions made based upon public comment.

## COMMENTS

L- 14

My Comments on the Whitman Mission National Historic Site Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

To the persons listed as Preparers and Cooperating Entities

1. After having been to your public meetings and read the above referenced document I see much truth in your statement "The story of Whitman Mission is a clash between two cultures and their lack of understanding and ability to solve problems peacefully."

2. I fully support the Whitman Historic Site. It is a nice compliment to Fort Walla Walla Museum and other historic sites in the area.

3. I would like to see the reestablishment of native grasses, plants, flower gardens food production, and the orchard.

4. The buildings currently on the grounds and those to be built should look like buildings milled and built by hand in the early 1800's.

5. The actual buildings present in Whitman's time should be recreated. People want to see more than foundation lines in the ground. Do you really believe the foundation lines of the Giza Pyramids would attract visitors any where near to what the highly visible structures do?

6. You've recreated the wagon ruts complete with a wagon, good idea, expand on it and get building.

7. Make public events out of the building reconstruction. Bring together volunteers and relive history putting the buildings up. Then you will have something else interesting to tell park visitors.

8. What happened to the artifacts from Whitman's time? Are they destroyed, yet to be found or some place else and need to be returned to the Whitman Site?

1

9. The type of people coming to the Whitman Site want to see artifacts and buildings in their natural setting and learn the history of the days of the Whitman's time here.

10. Reestablish Doan creek but do so with out watering the neighbors where they don't want to be watered.

11. Tell visitors the story of how the locations of buildings and trails etc. have been discovered, how the Site was established, by whom and when.

12. I think the idea of animals on the grounds is excellent to round out the portrayal of life at the mission.

## RESPONSES

### Jean Dolling

1 The first National Park Service employee stationed at Whitman Mission was archeologist Tom Garth. He began investigating the locations of Whitman's buildings shortly before World War II. Artifacts from his work then, and again during his excavations after World War II, are stored in the visitor center at Whitman Mission National Historic Site. On display in the visitor center museum are a few of the more than 20,000 items in the park collection. Almost all of these came from archeological excavations conducted at the park.

The park holds a few artifacts that were never excavated at the park. These include a few letters from the time of the Whitmans, a Bible, a toy cradleboard, and a few other items directly associated with someone who lived with the Whitmans or during their time. Many other items are housed in college and university library collections and public historical museums. Friends and relatives of the Whitmans donated many of these objects before Whitman Mission National Historic Site was set aside as a monument to the Whitmans, so the logical recipient would have been a nearby institution that housed historical items.

As time and funding permit, the Whitman Mission staff, with the assistance of professional historians, curators, and other museum personnel, will conduct research into different topics related to the Whitman Mission story. The park staff uses resources at Whitman Mission as well as resources at other institutions. There is no need for the National Park Service to obtain and hold items if the items are being preserved properly and future researchers have access to them.

## COMMENTS

13. Another important history lesson to tell visitors is what the land was like and how it was used by the Walla Walla Indian tribes and others before the Whitmans came here.
14. The view from the top of Mission hill is no longer wilderness as it was when the Whitmans were here and those peoples before the Whitmans.
15. The country side is cut through by State Route 12 and county roads, the water ways spanned by steel and concrete bridges, and the land is dotted with electricity dependant houses, petroleum fueled transportation, and airplanes that fly overhead while tractors whose only kindrence to horses is their listed horsepower circle the fields.
16. The Whitmans claimed ownership and developed the wilderness into permanent habitat for people.
17. How likely is it that you are going to successfully develop this same area into your wished for semblance of wilderness settlement surrounded by open space character controlled by county planning and conservation easements?
18. Who are you to take control and stop future growth like the new winery visible to the North East and Nelson Construction and Onion World to the North West?
19. Who are you to tell people they can neither buy nor sell nor build a house in which to live simply because they are in your 'viewshed'?
20. I find it unfortunate that you chose to formulate plans directly affecting your neighboring landowners with out going to them in the very beginning and asking their help in making improvements to Whitman Mission.
21. Doing so has kept the problem addressed in item #1. alive. The Whitmans did not do well dictating to their neighbors and you have put your neighbors on the defensive and wasted taxpayer's dollars in the course of doing so.
22. Either accept the growth and development around the Whitman Historic Site or relocate to the wilderness.
23. So how do you get your neighbors off of the defensive and earn their trust so that they will work with you in maintaing and improving the Whitman Site?
24. Invite them to monthly meetings, reach a concensus of your mission, vision, values and goals, with your neighbors, not just the exclusive listing of preparers and supporting entities.
25. If you have gone too far and the neighbors will never trust you again, then move on and let people that will work with the

## RESPONSES

- 2 Please see the chapter on "Public Involvement" for a detailed description of the public involvement process.

## COMMENTS

neighbors take over the job of managing the Whitman Site.

26. Regards Conservation Easements. It takes money to maintain land. Either the money is earned off site or earned on site.

SCENARIO; The year is 2072, I have inherited land to the North of The Whitman Mission Historic Site, All up and down Route 12 are houses and commercial development. Asparagus, Onions, Organic Gardening and Wine are big business.

Why have people divided off 10 to 30 acre parcels sold to families wanting to live out of town?

Some people wanted out of large scale farming, and the land brought more money sub divided than it would if left intact.

I'm like the tractor, old and worn out, There is not enough ground here to pay for new equipment but there is the incumbrance of the Conservation Easement put on it by my Grandparents.

I can no longer afford to pay for their dream and yet I can't sell it to pay for mine and my kids have watched me struggle under the burden of the Conservation Easement and want no part of it.

There have been no potential buyers other than at damaged goods prices because of it.

Dreams are nice if you can afford to pay for them.

26. I suggest you focus on being grateful for the ground that was donated for the Whitman Site and working with the neighboring landowners so that they know they are a part of this planning process.

27. Consider this, who is paying the bill for this planning for your Alternatives A, B, C, and D? Is all the money coming out of your pockets? Are we taxpayers paying the expenses?

28. Do you want me first thing making plans that are going to directly affect you and then coming to you and collecting the money for my expenses?

29. How are you going to feel when I eventually ask you which of my options do you like?

*Jean Dalving*  
*RT 2 Box 258*  
*Walla Walla*  
*Wa 99362*  
*November 3, 1999*

## RESPONSES

## COMMENTS

Author: WHMI Superintendent at NP-WHMI  
Date: 9/7/1999 7:56 AM  
Normal  
TO: Terry Darby  
Subject: Plan C

----- Message Contents

----- Forward Header -----

Subject: Plan C  
Author: "Julianne Fletcher" <fletchjm@info2000.net> at NP--INTERNET  
Date: 9/6/1999 10:49 AM

To the Superintendent:

I am a former resident of Walla Walla, and a recent graduate in Public History, Historic Preservation, from Colorado State University. I agree with Plan C and wish you well in your endeavors.

Julianne Fletcher

## RESPONSES

**Julianne Fletcher**

Thank you for your comments.

## COMMENTS

E-2

Author: WHMI Superintendent at NP-WHMI  
Date: 9/7/1999 7:56 AM  
Normal  
TO: Terry Darby  
Subject: GMP

----- Message Contents

----- Forward Header -----

Subject: GMP  
Author: Paul Boehle <boehle@geneseo.net> at NP--INTERNET  
Date: 9/6/1999 8:40 PM

Dear Superintendent:

As I was glancing through the General Management Plan, I cannot comment on the various items since I have not visited the site. However, as an engineer I was concerned when I saw that you might remove rip-rap from the creek. You may want to revegetate the area but do it over the rip-rap. Vegetative erosion control can work well but it can also fail and be constant maintenance and cost problem.

Since the rip-rap is already in place, do not remove it. It is costly and counter-productive. In this part of the country and along the Mississippi River we find that a mix of rip-rap and vegetation works well for the desired effect and erosion control.

Tina has done nice things for this site.

Paul Boehle, P.E.

## RESPONSES

Paul Boehle, P.E.

1 As stated in the draft GMP/EIS on page 117, the asphalt "rip-rap" is a petroleum-based product and may be leaching into the water. However, to address your concern, we have corrected the text on page 24 to read: "The asphalt rip-rap lining along the bank at Mill Creek within the NHS would be removed and the bank stabilized with rock rubble and revegetated."

## COMMENTS

E-3

Author: WHMI Interpretation at NP-WHMI  
Date: 10/20/1999 4:04 PM  
Normal  
TO: Terry Darby  
Subject: GMP-Comments  
----- Message Contents

Forward Header

Subject: GMP-Comments  
Author: "Joseph Q. Church" <joech@valint.net> at NP--INTERNET  
Date: 10/19/1999 10:40 AM

Dear Terry,

I thought that the Draft of the General Management Plan was very well done. I like Alternative C but I would really like to see the Whitman Mission developed to the extent that Fort Clatsop (near Astoria, Or.) is. I would love to see the Whitman Mission restored to what it would have looked like in the Fall of 1847. I would love to see as much as possible restored.

1

The first thing I would like to see as soon as possible is your staffing level increased so that you can do the things that are mandated now.

Almeda C (Mandy) Church  
133 West Tietan  
Walla Walla, WA. 99362  
509-522-2212

## RESPONSES

**Almeda C. (Mandy) Church**

1 This alternative was considered but rejected. Please see page 57 of the draft GMP/EIS regarding reconstruction for the reason behind this decision.

## COMMENTS

E-4

Author: Craig Shelden <shelden@ccconline.net> at NP--INTERNET  
Date: 11/11/1999 10:14 AM  
Normal  
Receipt Requested  
TO: WHMI Superintendent at NP-WHMI  
Subject: GMP-Comments

----- Message Contents -----

76+  
Sir,

I reviewed the subject plan with considerable interest and find that I most strongly support Alternative A, the "continue status quo" option.

It is important that you continue the course your predecessors have established by working in cooperation with your neighbors and not attempting to overtake or inappropriately devalue their property.

Even Alternative B has the potential to violate your neighbors' Fifth Amendment rights by devaluing their property without just compensation.

Your draft plan has several errors of fact in it. One of which is the issue of access from private property onto the Whitman Mission Road and Swegle Roads. My family may have donated the land to the county, but they never gave up their rights to access the road. That the county conveyed the property to the Park Service is a matter of fact, but the county could not have given away what it did not own, the rights of citizens to access a public road. Your draft plan's statements about "allowing local landowner access" is at best inaccurate and at worst a misrepresentation.

1

I find it difficult to believe that in this period of tight resources you would have the fiscal irresponsibility to indulge publicly in the fantasy future you portray in your preferred alternative. Each of us in federal service has the requirement to husband the taxpayers' dollars. None of your alternatives, save Alternative A, properly safeguard the taxpayers' investment in our nation.

Your plans for restoration (as put forth in Alternatives C & D) would not restore the Mission Grounds to a state which would mirror the mission at the time of Marcus Whitman. In fact, you would regress the park property and surrounding property even further from the effects of man, to some presumed pristine state. Marcus Whitman came west with a mission to educate the Native Americans and provide a way station for the frontier families enroute to a better future. Your plan would deny the heritage of the descendants of the very people Dr Whitman hoped to serve.

Finally, because the National Park Service is so invested with trust and keeping of our national scenic treasures, any funds that could be earmarked for the Whitman Mission expansion would be better served if applied towards the preservation of any of the Park Service's truly great treasures, such as Yellowstone, Mount Rainier, Yosemite, the Grand Canyon, or the Hoh Rain Forest, to name just a few. I have had the opportunity to personally observe the damage people bring with them as they visit these beautiful treasures, and it saddens me greatly. These parks and others like them need defending and represent the true scenic treasures of our nation. Any available funds should be directed towards preserving this natural heritage, and not towards a completely inappropriate turning back of the clock and infringement upon the rights of your neighbors at Whitman Mission.

In closing, your proposal runs counter to the very mission upon which Dr Whitman set forth, it is fiscally inappropriate, and it is, at best, unneighborly. I can only endorse your Alternative A.

Very Respectfully,  
Craig B Shelden  
Commander (select) USN

## RESPONSES

Craig Shelden

1 We concur that the east-west section of the park access road was at one time a county road. However, the statement that access will be limited to valid existing rights would remain applicable. Any rights retained by an individual, or county, would be honored. However, granting "right-of-ways" is not within the authority of the National Park Service, therefore, it was felt that access to this federal road should be addressed within the GMP to prevent misrepresentation from occurring. To not acknowledge that this "entrance" road represents special circumstances, and interest, would have been more of a misrepresentation. The Preferred Alternative calls for an agreement implemented with the County so that resource and property rights can be administered.

Please also note discussion of road on page 107 of the draft GMP/EIS.

## COMMENTS

E-6

Author: WHMI Interpretation at NP-WHMI  
Date: 11/13/1999 8:12 AM  
Normal  
TO: Terry Darby  
Subject: GMP-Comments

----- Message Contents

Terry:

This came in on Nov. 12, can you please add it to GMP comments?  
Tina

----- Forward Header

Subject: GMP-Comments  
Author: "Putnam" <bbsp@televar.com> at np--internet  
Date: 11/12/1999 1:46 PM

P. O. Box 4350

Onak, WA 98841

November 11, 1999

Superintendent

Whitman Mission National Historic Site

Route 2, Box 247

Walla Walla, WA 99362

Hi,

After reading through the Whitman Mission National Historic Site Draft General Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement, I have several thoughts to share.

Much time and effort has obviously gone into its preparation. Several ideas have merit. To me, all the Alternatives seem to have portions, which are good ideas. However, there are some ideas that are very poor. I also wish to suggest a few additional ideas that could be included.

Expanding the bathrooms is a very good idea. Expanding the Visitors Center within the existing footprint to create additional interior space is fine. Adding on to the Visitors Center is a somewhat acceptable goal. Adding a pay telephone is good. A mural of the panoramic view from the top of the hill displayed in the Visitors' Center is a great idea. Updating the video format is a probably an idea whose time has come.

As an idea, adding vending machines could be a little "iffy." They frequently generate litter at an outstanding rate. Additional picnic tables, perhaps even the covered area, might be a good idea. Adding grills could create problems. Again, the potential for litter, food scraps, garbage, and creating "animal moochers" as well as the fire danger seem to outweigh the benefits.

Reconfiguring the existing parking area may, perhaps, be a good idea; but please, save the existing trees. The shade is a great boon to hot, tired tourists returning to baking vehicles as they continue on their way. Requiring

ORIGINAL TYPED LETTER  
REC. 11-15-99 IN OFFICE -  
MUST HAVE BEEN IN SAT. MAIL

## RESPONSES

Brenda Putnam

## COMMENTS

NHS staff to park in the maintenance area parking lot is an idea whose time is past due--especially during the busy tourist months.

Using a Cushman type vehicle to offer rides to the top of the hill is good too. Multi-lingual signage is also a good idea. Preserving the inscriptions on the Great Grave stone cover is past due. Preserving much of the area for quiet contemplation is good.

Be careful about eliminating the lawns and establishing dirt paths. It could get pretty miserable--dusty or muddy depending on the time of year

An additional suggestion to add would be the availability of outdoor lighting near the Visitor Center and parking lot for people leaving meetings after dark. A switch on a timer that would provide light for a 10 - 20 minute interval would probably be adequate. It could save someone from a severe fall.

A few thoughts concerning visitors, have you considered instructing them that the NHS is bordered by private property? Perhaps a sign or notice encouraging visitors to respect the property of private landowners? Have you considered signs on the NHS boundary fences advising visitors that it is a boundary--they are to stay on the NHS side of the fence? These ideas would be applicable not only to the NHS visitors but also to the bike trail users.

Perhaps the fee amount could be posted on the sign that marks it as a fee area? Everyone likes to have some idea of whether it's going to be a \$2 or a \$20 fee prior to entering.

Another issue to add would be the timely tending of not only noxious but also obnoxious weeds--during the bloom stage--BEFORE they go to seed. Some visitors do have trouble distinguishing between a weed patch and native grasses. Many others know a weed patch when they see one.

While the idea of preserving the view shed is perhaps a worthy goal, expanding the boundaries or limiting what local landowners may be able to do with their land is too excessive. What consideration has been given to the use of landscaping techniques to preserve the atmosphere--shield the visitors from the private landowners and their activities--while granting a greater degree of privacy to the landowners as they go about their lives? Another idea would be to re-route trails or relocate the moveable features to enhance the experience for the visitor and preserve privacy for the neighbors. These techniques could be quite helpful in preserving or enhancing the view shed. 1

The paragraph on the bottom of page 45 is vague and sounds threatening. "If within five years, efforts to interest a land trust in helping to protect the agricultural character of lands surrounding the NHS prove unsuccessful, then the NPS will need to consider other protection options." What other options are you considering? Those options need to be clarified as well as explaining how local land trusts operate. To me, the wording seems a lot like a threat to the neighbors. 2

Why would you expect someone to sign away their development rights and continue to pay taxes to the county when the farming/ranching economy is faltering so frequently and real estate prices and taxes are nearly always going up? Also, how would "fully compensated" be defined? Fully compensated for creating major upheaval in a family's life--past, present and future? Fully compensated in light of ever-climbing land values? What would perhaps be called full compensation today will very likely not be full compensation in 5 years, 10 years, 50 years or 100 years. Most things can only be sold once.

With water rights and water conservation being such an important issue now, and even more so in the foreseeable future, diverting even a bit of water to create a wetlands, seems to be an unwise use of water. Isn't there a problem with water "backing up" on one neighbor's land while other neighbors are wondering what has happened to their share of the water? 3

## RESPONSES

1 Adding landscape materials would introduce artificial elements into the historic scene. Also rerouting or relocating historic trails or features would not convey the historic facts. Also, any screening that could be done to de-emphasize adjacent non-historic activities would probably still be visible from Memorial Hill.

2 This sentence has been deleted from the final GMP/EIS.

3 Water allocation and use are issues administered by the state. This plan does not mean to imply that the "wetland" would be created at the expense of valid water certificates. The plan does call for reestablishing the historic channel of Doan Creek. This channel would allow Doan Creek water that is not allocated through water certificates to flow through a natural channel rather than have all of the Doan Creek water flow through the man-made ditch. Reestablishing the natural course of Doan Creek should, in fact, alleviate drainage problems.

In 1993, a flow gauge was installed on the park pump that utilizes Doan Creek water. Records from this pump indicate that the park has not exceeded the flows identified in the water certificates.

## COMMENTS

A revolving door of superintendents-each putting their own "spin" and interpretation on any plan-and ever-changing federal guidelines make it very difficult to develop neighborly relationships built on long-standing, mutual trust. Often the "new" superintendent seems to be unaware of "local, customary practices" or "standing traditions" in the area. Being unaware and seemingly wanting to "leave their mark" on the Whitman Mission National Historic Site; they, perhaps inadvertently, but subsequently do create an environment of suspicion and distrust among the neighbors.

While the National Park Service has an important and tremendously large job to do, it would seem the job would be much easier if they would work cordially, honestly, openly, truthfully, and consistently-without duplicity or being obstructive-with their neighbors.

Sincerely,

Brenda Putnam

Cc: Robert Stanton, Director

National Park Service

## RESPONSES

## COMMENTS

E-6

Author: WHMI Interpretation at NP-WHMI  
Date: 11/13/1999 8:13 AM  
Normal  
TO: Terry Darby  
Subject: GMP-Comments

----- Message Contents

Terry:

This also came in on WHMI Interpretation on the 12th.  
Tina

----- Forward Header

Subject: GMP-Comments  
Author: Laurie Klicker <lklicker@co.walla-walla.wa.us> at NP--INTERNET  
Date: 11/12/1999 4:24 PM

Thank you for the opportunity to review the GMP and EIS for Whitman Mission National Historic Site. Following our attendance at the September 28 neighborhood meeting and our review of the plan, we would like to offer the following comments:

1. We appreciate the fact that the intention of the plan is to keep participation by adjoining landowners voluntary. One area where clarification in the plan would improve the plan is in Alternative C. On page 45, paragraph 2 the plan states that "Consideration would be given to other land protection options if private land trust activities for some reason prove unsuccessful." The plan should be more specific regarding what those other options may be and be specific that condemnation of property would not be an acceptable alternative.

2. We appreciate the attention has been given to the issue of weed control. As tenants on the adjoining land to the east, the spread of weeds from the Mission grounds has been a problem that should be addressed. The spread of Yellow Star Thistle and Canada Thistle has been particularly difficult to control and is counterproductive to the production of quality crops on the adjoining land.

3. While the plan and preferred alternative addresses issues of signage to the park, we would like to again point out that signage which provides directions from the old east entrance to the park to the main entrance is necessary. While this may require cooperation with Walla Walla County, it is an issue that we would like to see addressed.

Again, thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Mike and Laurie Klicker  
Rt. 1 Box 283A  
Walla Walla, WA 99362

## RESPONSES

Laurie Klicker

- 1 This statement has been deleted from the final GMP/EIS.
- 2 In the last 150 years, changes in stream channels, irrigation water systems, and the invasion of weed species from other continents have changed the landscape surrounding the park in some very important ways. With the park goal of providing visitors with a sense of the historic scene of 150 years ago, and National Park Service policy encouraging native species where feasible, it is not possible to continuously till part of the park to eliminate weeds completely.

The park has expanded its efforts over the last two years to use a variety of weed control techniques. These include the use of fire to burn dead and dry vegetation, herbicide use to control unwanted vegetation, and bio-control agents to reduce yellow starthistle. Using a variety of weed control techniques, in partnership with adjacent landowners, and in consultation with county and university weed control experts will continue to reduce the weeds on Whitman Mission to acceptable levels, but may never eliminate them. The integration of various weed management techniques has already reduced the park's use of herbicides. We intend to continue this trend while gaining better control of the park's weeds.

- 3 The park staff has been and will continue to work with Washington State Department of Transportation, Walla Walla County, and park neighbors on various sign issues.

## COMMENTS

*E-7*

Author: WIMI Interpretation at NP-WHMI  
Date: 11/13/1999 8:13 AM  
Normal  
TO: Terry Darby  
Subject: GMP-Comments

----- Message Contents

----- Forward Header

Subject: GMP-Comments  
Author: "Putnam" <bbsp@televar.com> at np--internet  
Date: 11/12/1999 2:00 PM

Sir:

Having reviewed the draft GMP and EIS, I am of the opinion that option A is the logical path to follow. With the concerns of increasingly tight federal budgets, it seems to me that the expenditure of funds required to implement the other proposed options would be ill advised. To maintain what is now in place, would be financially more prudent and acceptable.

Sincerely,

W.G. Putnam  
Omak, WA

## RESPONSES

**W. G. Putnam**

Thank you for your comments.

COMMENTS

RESPONSES

Send your comments! SEP 24 1999

The National Park Service invites you to share your comments and concerns regarding the Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

Do you want to remain on our mailing list?

For future planning newsletters? Yes  No   
 For future park activities? Yes  No

Please print your name and address below if you wish to be added to the mailing list:

By providing your comments on the draft document, you can help make the final plan a better plan to guide the future protection, public use, and management of Whitman Mission National Historic Site.

Name:

Ted Scherff

Address:

P.O. Box 135

City, State, Zip:

AIMO, ID 83312

COMMENTS:

I suggest that all turf grass be removed and native grass restoration occur site-wide. 1

I oppose any and all livestock grazing on public lands. Cattle should NOT be grazed as part of a historic scene.

I support expansion of park boundaries and watershed protection via easements.

(Please include a separate sheet if you have additional comments.)

The Draft GMP/EIS contains four distinct alternatives for the future management of Whitman Mission.

The Draft EIS identifies the alternative that is preferred by the NPS.

Please let us know if you concur with the preferred alternative, prefer another alternative, or elements of other alternatives. You may also have ideas or concepts which the planning team may not have even considered.

We hope that you take the time to read and comment on the Draft GMP/EIS. Your input is important to us. To mail, please fold this form in half, enclose additional sheets of comments if necessary, seal it with tape (do not staple), and mail to the preprinted address.

SEND COMMENTS BY Friday, November 12, 1999

Please contact Terry Darby, Superintendent (509) 522-6360 for additional information

N-1

Ted Scherff

1 Grazing cattle within the national historic site is not part of the Preferred Alternative, or the proposed action.

## COMMENTS

Oct. 1, 1999

Whitman Mission NHS General Management Plan  
National Park Service  
909 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. STE 500  
Seattle WA 98104-9882

-----  
In discussing with friends the proposals for development at Whitman Mission National Historic Site we came to the conclusion there should be a fifth alternative to the listed A, B, C and D plans. This we named Alternative E.

Alternative E would basically tell the story of the mission ... before, during and the years which followed or, The Pre-Mission Years, The Mission Years and Post-Mission Years. Most importantly, Alternative E would adhere to the words in the Act of Congress when the site was established in 1936:

“The property ... shall be a public national memorial to Marcus Whitman and his wife, Narcissa Prentiss Whitman.” --- HR 7736, June 29, 1936.

These words we feel are the guidelines which should have been in force since the site was established. In our opinion, this has not always been the case. With Alternative E in place, this could be the case. There will be no discussion here about size or scope of buildings and grounds necessary to accommodate the proposals in Alternative E. Simply build or rebuild the present facilities to respond to the proposals.

The story which we feel is necessary at the mission site that would adhere to the directive in the 1936 Act can be outlined as follows:

The Pre-Mission Years .... The training and education of Marcus and Narcissa, their church work and other social activities, their reasons for uprooting their lives in New England to come West and their trip West. What were the Cayuse people like in these pre-Mission years?

## RESPONSES

H.V. Orchard

1 The GMP is intended to provide the necessary framework for specific management decisions about the protection and public use of resources at the park into the future. However, more specific and detailed implementation plans will be necessary following completion of this GMP. One such document will be a Comprehensive Interpretive Plan (CIP), which would be developed in accordance with the primary interpretive themes established in the GMP (pages 80-82 of the draft GMP). These ideas that you have suggested for a new alternative will be taken into consideration in developing the CIP.

## COMMENTS

*The Mission Years* .... Establishment of the mission, 1836 to 1840 and the first emigrants after 1840. Marcus Whitman's trip to the East, 1842-43, and its impact on the Westward movement. Whitman's efforts on behalf of the Indians to prepare them for the waves of people coming to the Northwest. The Cayuse 1846-47 and the stirring up of a few of the tribe by outside elements, that led to the massacre of the Whitmans and closure of the mission in November, 1847. Role of the Catholic leaders at time of massacre.

*The Post-Mission Years*. ... Role of the Oregon Volunteers in this area following the massacre and Fort Waters. The Cushing Eells story and his zealous determination to pay tribute to the Whitmans which led to establishment of Whitman College. Rev. Gray's work to secure a monument and its final dedication at top of Monument Hill. The work of Walla Walla people to secure the Whitman National Monument (later re-named as it is today) and the placing of a statue of Marcus in Statuary Hall, Washington, D.C.

The above three sections are not, out of necessity done with fullest details. Historical research will do that as the program progresses, including even further elements.

As to proposals to purchase additional land for the present site ... might it not be better advised to take care of the land now at the site at present? Or, at most, buy land to the west of the main buildings which was farmed by the Whitmans? It was also suggested in our group that piping of water from Doan Creek to the mill pond would make the pond more historically correct.

Another suggestion was to make a study of the type of fencing used around the original mission grounds. Was it as elaborate as now portrayed? Where were gates to the mission buildings?

Our group has also shown concerns there is no mention of the report of former historian at the site, the late Erwin Thompson. In his report of findings about restoration of the original buildings he was adamant in opposing re-construction.

It was also felt that planting of native grasses and other such material should keep in mind the future maintenance of same. Native grasses would likely become a fire hazard if allowed to grow in rankness. The ideas of retaining

## RESPONSES

- 2 The planning team reviewed Erwin Thompson's report on reconstruction. Please see the supplemental bibliography that includes reference of his report.
- 3 Many considerations must be made before selecting a specific species of grass. Initial discussions with fire and range specialist indicate that this option can be implemented without undue fire risk. The plan does not call for the removal of the existing irrigation system which could be preserved to aid in fire suppression. Also, many of these concerns are being addressed in the park's fire management plan.

## COMMENTS

the "culture of the past" might not be fully compatible with the realities of the present.

It is noticeable in Alternative E that there is little mention of the Cayuse people who occupied the land and who asked the Whitmans to be among them. With the creation of the excellent Tamastlikt museum near Mission, Oregon, the story of the Cayuse in this region is quite appropriately and adequately accomplished. What we have at Tamastlikt is an inspiring addition to the presentation of the Cayuse's story.

Our proposals through Alternative E would seek to bring to the Mission here as fine a presentation of the Whitmans the equal of that at Tamastlikt, while adhering directive in the Congressional Act of 1936.



H. V. Orchard  
1433 Pearl St.  
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1692

## RESPONSES

## COMMENTS

The National Park Service invites you to share your comments and concerns regarding the Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

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The Draft GMP/EIS contains four distinct alternatives for the future management of Whitman Mission. The Draft EIS identifies the alternative that is preferred by the NPS. Please let us know if you concur with the preferred alternative, prefer another alternative, or elements of other alternatives. You may also have ideas or concepts which the planning team may not have even considered.

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**SEND COMMENTS BY**  
Friday, November 12, 1999

Please contact  
Terry Darby, Superintendent  
(509) 522-6360  
for additional information

N-2,

Do you want to remain on our mailing list?

For future planning newsletters? Yes No

For future ~~mailing~~ ~~newsletters~~? Yes No

Please print your name and address below if you wish to be added to the mailing list:

Name:

JCT 28 1999

Address:

City, State, Zip:

### COMMENTS:

- Attending one of the public meetings my impressions are:
- ① Why is a change necessary?  
The Park system is very adequate as it is.
  - ② The request by the park service to surrounding landowners is totally unreasonable, leave them completely out of the plan. If the Park Service wants the land, step up to bat and pay the going rate. Don't appear to be philanthropic and saying your doing it for the good of the community. You are lowering the value of this nice farm ground and the landowners shouldn't be burdened by your desire to control the viewpoints at the Park.
  - ③ The Park is great but leave it alone!

(Please include a separate sheet if you have additional comments.)

FOLD HERE

## RESPONSES

(No name)

## COMMENTS

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SEND COMMENTS BY  
Friday, November 12, 1999

Please contact  
Terry Darby, Superintendent  
(509) 522-6360  
for additional information

move to "638" (Please include a separate sheet if you have additional comments.)

the Mission under P.L. 93-638 Indian  
M-4 Self-Determination.

Do you want to remain on our mailing list?

For future planning newsletters?  Yes  No

For future park activities?  Yes  No

Please print your name and address below if you wish to be added to the mailing list:

Name: **OCT 28 1999**

Susan Sheoships

Address:

51910 Sheoships Ln

City, State, Zip:

Adams OR 97810

### COMMENTS:

As a Cayuse Indian I am concerned about the cult-like devotion to the memorialization of the Whitmans. During their lifetimes they promulgated some very racist anti-Indian sentiments & I wonder how much their memorialization engenders among modern day non-Indians. Because the mission is rather inaccessible (location) I would vote for Alternative A - Leave it as is. Any enhanced resources should go to the Tasmatalist Cultural Institute in Pendleton for a better balanced presentation. If other alternatives are selected Umatilla Tribes should

NO PC

FOLO HERE

## RESPONSES

Susan Sheoships

## COMMENTS

The National Park Service invites you to share your comments and concerns regarding the Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

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**SEND COMMENTS BY**  
Friday, November 12, 1999

Please contact  
Terry Darby, Superintendent  
(509) 522-6360  
for additional information

H-5

Do you want to remain on our mailing list?

For future planning newsletters?  Yes  No

For future park activities?  Yes  No

Please print your name and address below if you wish to be added to the mailing list:

OCT 28 1999

Name:

Mitch and Janet Nickolds

Address:

1116 West 16<sup>th</sup> Place

City, State, Zip:

Kennewick, WA 99337

COMMENTS:

We would like to support

Alternative C, and secondly

Alternative D. We have been

to the park twice in one

week and plan on making it

a regular family outing.

It is a wonderful historical place.

(Please include a separate sheet if you have additional comments.)

## RESPONSES

Mitch and Janet Nickolds



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 historical places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and worked 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.

NPS-D-28A May 2000

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Whitman Mission National Historic Site

Route 2, Box 247  
Walla Walla, WA 99362

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