

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

**Mary McLeod Bethune Council House
General Management Plan,
Environmental Impact Statement, Mary
McLeod Bethune Council House
National Historic Site**

AGENCY: National Park Service,
Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an
Environmental Impact Statement for the
Mary McLeod Bethune Council House
General Management Plan.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the
National Environmental Policy Act, the
National Park Service is preparing an
Environmental Impact Statement for the
General Management Plan for the Mary
McLeod Bethune Council House
National Historic Site. This statement
will be approved by the National Capital
Regional Director.

The effort will result in a
comprehensive general management
that addresses strategies for the
preservation of the Council House and
the archives, appropriate visitor use and
interpretation, accessibility, and the use
of the facilities. In addition to the no-
action, four additional alternatives are
being considered. The first one places
dual focus on the house and the
museum, the second emphasizes the
archives, the third one concentrates on
activities and programs, and the fourth
one focuses on the house as museum.

Major issues include inadequate and
insufficient space for exhibits, archives,
staff, volunteers, parking; lack of
accessibility and facilities, such as rest
rooms; need for specific staff with
certain expertise; and visitor and staff
safety.

Scoping meetings were conducted
during the summer and fall of 1998. The
results from these meetings will be
included in a forthcoming newsletter.
Copies of the information can be
obtained from Susan Calafate Boyle, Job
Captain, Denver Service Center,
National Park Service, PO Box 25287,
Lakewood, Colorado 80225, (303) 969-
2319.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Contact
Superintendent John Hale, National
Capital Parks East, (202) 690-5185.

Dated: November 25, 1998.

Terry Carlstrom,

Regional Director, National Capital Region.

[FR Doc. 98-33249 Filed 12-15-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

**Yosemite Valley Plan, Yosemite
National Park, Mariposa County,
California; Notice of Intent to Prepare
a Supplemental Environmental Impact
Statement**

SUMMARY: Pursuant to § 102(2)(c) of the
National Environmental Policy Act of
1969 (Pub. L. 91-190) and Council on
Environmental Quality regulations (40
CFR 1502.9(c)), and in order to foster
coordinated valley planning and
operations, the National Park Service
intends to supplement the 1980 Final
General Management Plan/
Environmental Impact Statement (1980
GMP/EIS) with a single, comprehensive
Yosemite Valley Plan for Yosemite
National Park. The Yosemite Valley
Plan (YVP) will integrate alternatives (or
elements thereof) and environmental
analysis formerly part of four distinct
initiatives: (a) the 1992 and 1996 Draft
Yosemite Valley Housing Plan/EIS
intended to supplement the 1980 GMP/
EIS; (b) the 1997 Draft *Yosemite Valley
Implementation Plan/EIS* intended to
supplement the 1980 GMP/EIS; (c) the
*Yosemite Lodge Development Concept
Plan/Environmental Assessment*; and
(d) a *Yosemite Falls* facilities design
project. In addition, the YVP will
implement previously approved actions
set forth in the 1992 *Concessions
Management Plan*.

Notice is hereby given that the
National Park Service (NPS) will
prepare a new Supplemental
Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)
to update the 1980 GMP/EIS. This SEIS/
YVP consolidates ongoing conservation
planning and impact analysis efforts
into one plan for the valley, so as to
provide for a holistic, landscape-view of
critical initiatives so vital for preserving
the valley environs for visitor
inspiration now and in the future. The
decision to prepare a consolidated SEIS/
YVP also results from proactive public
involvement; and in response to public
comment, the SEIS/YVP may include
new or modified alternatives or
mitigation strategies.

Background

In July, 1992 a Draft Yosemite Valley
Housing Plan/Supplemental
Environmental Impact Statement
intended to amend the 1980 GMP/EIS
was issued (57 FR 34146), with the
public comment period ending
September 30, 1992. This document
examined the effects of a proposal and
four alternatives for housing NPS and
concession employees who work in

Yosemite Valley. After reviewing public
comments, the NPS identified two
additional alternatives. A second Draft
Housing Plan/SEIS was issued in
December 1996 (61 FR 64361) with the
public comment period ending March
31, 1997. Housing alternatives that are
still under consideration and responses
to the 1992 and 1996 public comments
will be included in the consolidated
SEIS/YVP.

The 1997 Draft Yosemite Valley
Implementation Plan/SEIS examined
the effects of alternatives for
implementing 1980 GMP goals of
reclaiming priceless natural beauty,
reducing traffic congestion, allowing
natural processes to prevail, reducing
visitor crowding, and promoting visitor
understanding and enjoyment in
Yosemite Valley. It was intended to
develop a coherent, comprehensive site
plan for all necessary visitor services in
Yosemite Valley. It included
alternatives for relocating non-essential
NPS and concession functions and
facilities out of sensitive resource areas
and hazardous areas; and for
redesigning essential buildings, roads,
campgrounds, interpretive centers and
concession facilities. It identified
alternative site plans for past and
current implementation of the 1980
GMP, as well as the 1992 Concession
Services Plan, the draft Yosemite Valley
Housing Plan, and various
transportation studies. The Draft Valley
Implementation Plan/SEIS was issued
in November 1997 (62 FR 60264) with
an extended public comment period
ending February 23, 1998 (63 FR 3000).
Public open houses and workshops
were held. Implementation alternatives
that are still under consideration and
responses to the 1997-98 public
comments will be included in the
consolidated SEIS/YVP.

In April 1997, as part of the park's
urgent response to a disastrous flood,
the Yosemite Lodge Development
Concept Plan/Environmental
Assessment was released for public
review, with the public comment period
ending May 16, 1997. Public walk-
throughs and public information
sessions were conducted. The DCP
considered alternative site plans for the
lodge area lodging, housing, circulation
and visitor services. Subsequent to
various legal proceedings, an approved
Finding of No Significant Impact was
formally rescinded on December 3,
1998. Lodge DCP alternatives that are
still under consideration and a summary
of the public comment will be included
in the consolidated SEIS/YVP.

After several Yosemite Falls Design
Elements, Issues and Questions
workshops were held during 1998, a