

c. has expertise in Native Hawaiian affairs, and

d. shall include the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and Hui Malama I Na Kupuna O Hawai'i Nei. (25 U.S.C. 3001 (11))

3. Indian tribe official: The principal leader of an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization or the individual officially designated by the governing body of an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization or as otherwise provided by tribal code, policy, or established procedure as responsible for matters relating to NAGPRA. (43 CFR 10.2 (b)(4))

4. Traditional Native American religious leader: A person who is recognized by members of an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization as being responsible for performing cultural duties relating to the ceremonial or religious traditions of that Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization, or exercising a leadership role in an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization based on the tribe's or organization's cultural, ceremonial, or religious practices. (43 CFR 10.2 (d)(3))

Dated: May 6, 2003.

John Robbins,

Assistant Director, Cultural Resources.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Availability; Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a Proposed Land Exchange Between the National Park Service and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians at Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway

AGENCY: National Park Service (NPS).

ACTION: Notice of availability of draft environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and the President's Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), as implemented by Director's Order 12, the National Park Service (NPS) announces the availability of a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for a proposed land exchange between the NPS and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI). The Department of the Interior waived the NPS policy regarding the selection of a DEIS preferred alternative. This notice also announces the locations of public hearings for the purpose of receiving comments on the draft document.

The DEIS analyzes two action alternatives and one no-action alternative for determining the feasibility of the proposed land exchange. The two action alternatives incorporate various management prescriptions to ensure resource protection and quality visitor experience conditions. The no-action alternative would continue current management practices and policies into the future.

Under the 168-acre exchange alternative, the Ravensford site (166 acres located within Great Smokey Mountains National Park and the two acres located within the Blue Ridge Parkway) would be exchanged for the 218-acre Waterrock Knob site. The Ravensford site would become part of the Qualla Boundary and the Waterrock Knob site would become part of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The EBCI would construct a three-school complex on the Ravensford site and would retain restricted use of the entire site. Restricted use would be in the form of deed restrictions on future development and a Government to Government Conservation/Education Agreement on future conservation/educational measures for archaeological, cultural, and natural resources material.

Travel to the Big Cove Community would no longer be jurisdictionally separated from the remainder of the Qualla Boundary. This alternative would place no restriction on the use of the Waterrock Knob site by the Blue Ridge Parkway; however, with the exception of possible future development of nature trails, the site would be expected to remain in its natural state.

Under the 143-acre exchange alternative, the Ravensford site would be exchanged for the 218-acre Waterrock Knob site. This alternative would be similar to the 168-acre exchange, except 25 acres would remain within Great Smoky Mountains National Park at the Ravensford site in order to ensure that certain cultural and natural resources remain under the control of the NPS. Areas of the site not included in the proposed exchange under this alternative are open field areas to the northwest of the Big Cove Road bridge, the floodplain forest located adjacent to the Oconaluftee River, and nearly all of the wetland area located east of Big Cove Road. The open field area contains important cultural resources, while the floodplain forest and wetland are considered important natural areas. The remaining acreage of the Ravensford site would be transferred to the EBCI for development of the three-school campus. This alternative would also reconnect the EBCI jurisdictional authority along the Big Cove Road with the remaining Qualla Boundary. With respect to the Waterrock Knob site, this alternative would be identical to the 168-acre alternative.

DATES: The DEIS will be available for public review from June 13, 2003, through August 15, 2003. Public meetings will be held on July 8, 9, and 10, 2003. Representatives of the NPS will be available at the public hearings to receive comments, concerns, and other input from the public related to the DEIS. Specific information about public meetings follows:

Dates	Times	Locations
July 8	6-10 PM	2431 Center Drive, Hollingworth Auditorium, Knoxville, TN 37996.
July 9	6-10 PM	Milepost 382 Hemphill Road, Blue Ridge Parkway Folk Art Center, Asheville, NC 28803.
July 10	6-10 PM	Cherokee Elementary School, Cherokee, NC.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the DEIS may be submitted by mail to John Yancy, Associate Regional Director, Natural Resources Stewardship & Science, Atlanta Federal Center, 100 Alabama Street SW., Atlanta, GA 30303. Comments may also be submitted via toll free phone: (888) 820-3644; toll free

fax: (888) 820-3643; or via email at NPSlandexchange@saic.com. A very limited number of printed copies of the DEIS are available upon request from the above address. A copy can also be requested on CD. The complete text and an executive summary of the DEIS is available for review or download on the

Internet at <http://www.npslandexchange.com/>.

Copies of the DEIS will also be available for review at the following locations:

Anna Porter Public Library, 207 Cherokee Orchard Road, Gatlinburg, TN 37738