

## ELEMENTS OF AN INTERIM INTERPRETIVE PLAN

### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

The Interim Interpretive Plan is designed to guide new areas of the National Park System in developing short-range interpretive programs and media. It will identify facilities, services, media, and staffing needed to open the park to the public. The plan will also propose logical increments of interpretive development that can be quickly designed and implemented. The plan will strive for realistic and practical solutions, leaving more comprehensive planning for the future. The Interim Interpretive Plan simply precedes the Interpretive Prospectus rather than preempts it.

Lacking the benefit of an approved General Management Plan or other management documents, the Interim Interpretive Plan will be cautious in approach. It will focus on pragmatic proposals that can be quickly implemented by the park staff, contractors, cooperating associations, and through regular NPS channels. It will generally avoid proposals which require the formal assessment of alternatives, public involvement, impact analysis, or clearance with the National Historic Preservation Act. The plan will be judged not so much by the greatness of its ideas, but rather by the practicality of its proposals that can and will be implemented within the time constraint and the low budget.

### INTRODUCTION/SITE SIGNIFICANCE:

Provide basic background information relevant to interpretive planning, including: a brief description of the resource; discussion of site significance, legislative history, development ceiling (if any);

existence of other planning documents (NPS or other -- e.g., Suitability/ Feasibility Study); Congressionally mandated target dates ( or other important target dates such as centennials or anniversaries); and other unusual factors affecting interpretation such as cooperative agreements with governmental and private organizations.

#### EXISTING CONDITIONS:

Briefly describe existing interpretive programs and facilities (if any). This information can be used as a point of departure when discussing proposals in the plan.

#### INTERPRETIVE THEMES:

A brief summary of the primary and secondary messages or "stories" to be communicated to the park visitor.

#### INTERPRETIVE OBJECTIVES:

State concisely what is expected to be accomplished through the Interim Interpretive Plan. This section should be limited to the practical and realistic -- not the ideal, that will come later. This section might be expanded to describe how visitors' behavior, interest, and understanding will or should change as a result of the interpretive program.

#### VISITOR USE:

Briefly describe existing and projected visitor use if data is available. Factors such as past visitation record, peak seasons, days, holidays, visitor characteristics (such as school group, family group, group size, etc.), and special populations (handicapped, minorities, children, foreign-speaking) should be analyzed.

### RESEARCH NEEDS:

Identify any research needed to implement the interim plan or research vital for future planning. Examples might include Historic Resource Studies and Furnishing Studies.

### THE PLAN:

This is the essence of the document. This section should identify how interpretive themes and objectives are to be communicated and presented through specific media -- exhibits, wayside exhibits, publications, furnishings, personal services, and audiovisual programs.

The plan will be divided into three component parts: Interpretive Development, Interpretive Operations; and an Action Plan.

Interpretive Development: This section should describe in detail all elements which need to be designed, constructed, and installed. This would include media hardware and software (e.g., exhibitry, projection equipment, and slide shows), renovation and adaptation of existing structures, and the construction of (limited) new facilities. Off-site interpretive needs should also be addressed. Professional support will be available from the Regional Office to provide construction advice, specifications and drawings, and cost estimates. Media specialists from HFC can provide advice on media concerns. Regional specialists can help with publication needs.

Interpretive Operations: Issues such as: staffing needs (NPS and volunteers); personal services -- reception/information, conducted tours, roving interpretation; tour routes (conducted and self-guiding);

special events schedule; and operating hours, should be discussed.

Action Plan: Each Interim Interpretive Plan will make recommendations for the speedy implementation of the proposals. This "Action Plan" will prioritize the various elements of the plan, identify specific tasks, assign responsibility for completing that task (Park, Region, Contractor, HFC), identify target dates for completion, and provide cost estimates. The Action Plan is subject to approval by the Regional Director; supervision and coordination of the tasks are the responsibility of the site manager.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

This should not be an exhaustive effort, but should reflect the materials used in preparing the plan and those needed to guide future media planning.

TEAM MEMBERS: