

including members from the Air Force and a number of state and federal land management agencies) needs information to assess the effectiveness of current mitigation efforts in limiting impacts of Air Force training activity on human users of Alaskan Military Operations Areas.

*Automated data collection:* At the present time, there is no automated way to gather this information because it includes asking land-owners for expectations and evaluations they associate with their experiences with military aircraft on the Salcha River.

*Description of respondents:* Persons owning land on the Salcha River.

*Estimated average number of respondents:* 150.

*Estimated average number of responses:* Each respondent will respond only one time, so the number of responses will be the same as the number of respondents.

*Estimated average burden hours per response:* 30 minutes.

*Frequency of response:* 1 time per respondent.

*Estimated annual reporting burden:* 75 hours.

**Leonard Stowe,**

*Information Collection Clearance Officer, WASO Administrative Program Center, National Park Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-17650 Filed 7-9-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-10-M

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**ABSTRACT:** The National Park Service (NPS) in conjunction with a natural resource protection council including members from the Air Force and a number of state and federal land management agencies is proposing in 1999 to conduct surveys of persons using selected Alaskan Military Operations Areas where Air Force training occurs. In one of these surveys, visitors entering Harding Lake and Chena River State Recreation Areas (SRAs) will be asked about their expectations concerning Air Force training, and will be sent a mail questionnaire asking about the impacts of reported overflights on their activities and experiences.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**National Park Service**

**Submission of Study Package to Office of Management and Budget; Review Opportunity for Public Comment**

**AGENCY:** Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve.

| Estimated numbers of  | Responses | Burden hours |
|---|-----------|--------------|
| Alaskan Military Operations Areas On-Site Entrance Survey ..... | 1410      | 235          |
| Alaskan Military Operations Areas Mail Survey .....             | 950       | 396          |
| Total .....   | 2360      | 631          |

**SUMMARY:** Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and 5 CFR part 1320, Reporting and Record Keeping Requirements, the NPS invites public comment on these six proposed information collection requests (ICR). Comments are invited on: (1) The need for the information including whether the information has practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the reporting burden estimate; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

The NPS goal in conducting these surveys is to incorporate survey information into the process of setting policy to mitigate the impact of Air Force activity in the Alaskan MOAs on recreational users of those areas.

One request for further information was received as a result of publishing in the **Federal Register** a 60 day notice of intention to request clearance of information collection for these six surveys. Further information was provided as requested. No other comments were received.

**DATES:** Public comments will be accepted on or before August 11, 1999.

**SEND COMMENTS TO:** Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of

OMB, Attention Desk Officer for the Interior Department, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20530; and also to: Darryll R. Johnson, USGS/BRD/FRESC/UWFS, College of Forest Resources, Box 352100, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-2100; or Mark E. Vande Kamp, USGS/BRD/FRESC/UWFS, College of Forest Resources, Box 352100, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-2100.

The OMB has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove the information collection but may respond after 30 days. Therefore, to ensure maximum consideration, OMB should receive public comments on or before August 11, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR A COPY OF THE STUDY PACKAGES SUBMITTED FOR OMB REVIEW, CONTACT:** Darryll R. Johnson. Voice: 206-685-7404, Email: <darryllj@u.washington.edu>; or Mark E. Vande Kamp. Voice: 206-543-0378, Email: <mevk@u.washington.edu>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Titles:* Alaskan Military Operations Areas On-Site Entrance Survey; Alaskan Military Operations Areas Mail Survey.

*Bureau Form Number:* None.

*OMB Number:* To be requested.

*Expiration date:* To be requested.

*Type of request:* Request for new clearance.

*Description of need:* The National Park Service (in conjunction with a natural resource protection council including members from the Air Force and a number of state and federal land management agencies) needs information to assess the effectiveness of current mitigation efforts in limiting impacts of Air Force training activity on human users of Alaskan Military Operations Areas.

*Automated data collection:* At the present time, there is no automated way to gather this information because it includes asking visitors about the expectations and evaluations they associate with their experiences in Harding Lake and Chena River State Recreation Areas.

*Description of respondents:* A sample of individuals who use Harding Lake and Chena River State Recreation Areas for recreation purposes.

*Estimated average number of respondents:* 1410 Total respondents.

*Estimated average number of responses:* 2360 total responses.

Approximately 950 respondents will respond twice, once to an entrance survey, and once to a mail follow-up survey, thus accounting for the difference between total respondents and total responses.

*Estimated average burden hours per response:* 10 minutes (Alaskan Military Operations Areas On-Site Entrance

Survey); 25 minutes (Alaskan Military Operations Areas Mail Survey).

*Frequency of response:* 2 times per respondent (for persons completing both the Alaskan Military Operations Areas On-Site Entrance Survey and the Alaskan Military Operations Areas Mail Survey).

*Estimated annual reporting burden:* 235 hours (Alaskan Military Operations Areas On-Site Entrance Survey); 396 hours (Alaskan Military Operations Areas Mail Survey); 631 Total hours.

**Diane M. Cooke,**

*Information Collection Clearance Officer,  
WASO Administrative Program Center,  
National Park Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-17651 Filed 7-9-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### **National Capital Region; Environmental Assessment of Proposed Land Transfer, Arlington House—The Robert E. Lee Memorial, George Washington Memorial Parkway to Department of the Army, Arlington National Cemetery**

**ACTION:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of an environmental assessment (EA) for land transfer from National Park Service to Department of Army, Arlington National Cemetery.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Council of Environmental Quality regulations and National Park Service policy, the National Park Service has completed an EA which evaluated the potential impacts of the proposed land transfer of an area known as Section 29. The EA examines the environmental and visual impacts of the land transfer on the natural and historic resources and scenic quality of Arlington House—The Robert E. Lee Memorial. The National Park Service is soliciting comments on this EA. These comments will be considered in evaluating it and in making decisions pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.

**DATES:** There will be a 45-day public review period for comment on this document. Comments on the EA should be received no later than August 24, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments on the EA should be submitted to Ms. Audrey Calhoun, Superintendent, National Park Service, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Turkey Run Park, McLean, Virginia 22101. A limited number of copies of the EA are available on

request. A public reading copy of the EA will be available at the Arlington County Main Library, the Headquarters of the George Washington Memorial Parkway and at the Arlington House—The Robert E. Lee Memorial.

And at the National Park Service web page at: <http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/section29index.htm>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Audrey Calhoun, Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway, McLean, VA 22101, Telephone: (703) 289-2500.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 29 is a 24.44 wooded ravine that is the remaining portion of the historic Custis-Lee estate's forested grounds at Arlington House—The Robert E. Lee Memorial (Arlington House). The forested area and the adjacent mansion are administered by the George Washington Memorial Parkway, a unit of the National Park Service (NPS), and are located in Arlington National Cemetery (ANC). The area was part of the historic forest of the Custis-Lee estate and was transferred from ANC to the NPS in 1975 to maintain the historic setting of Arlington House in perpetuity.

The Department of the Army recognized that ANC is nearing capacity and on February 22, 1995 signed an interagency agreement with the Department of the Interior to transfer a portion of Section 29 to the cemetery. The agreement divided Section 29 approximately in half, into the "Preservation Zone" and the "Interment Zone".

The Preservation Zone consists of approximately 12.5 acres to the west of Arlington House; that the agreement described as having steep slopes, a high potential for archeological resources pertaining to Arlington House, and forest cover which dates to the Lee occupancy and contributes significantly to the historic setting of Arlington House. The Interment Zone is a 12-acre area west of the Preservation Zone; which the agreement described as having no known cultural resources, slopes that are not steep, and forest cover that is not historically significant.

Implementation of the agreement required carrying out a study to consider archeological resources, cultural landscape values, and National Register eligibility; an environmental analysis of the transfer under the National Environmental Policy Act; and satisfaction of the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The cultural resources study was contracted and the resulting cultural investigation report identified the

Arlington House Ravine Site, an archeological site of high integrity containing historic elements related to the period of the Custis-Lee occupancy and also prehistoric quarrying and tool making components. It encompasses a large portion of the project area and is an element that enhances the National Register of Historic Places listing of the site. The archeological site is the only recorded Late Archaic period quartzite quarry on National Park Service land in northern Virginia.

The cultural landscape analysis determined that much of the existing forest canopy dates to the Custis-Lee occupation and retains the historic landscape character. A forestry study demonstrated that the hardwood forest in the Preservation Zone contained trees 220-230 years old. Other portions of the project area forest have grown to maturity and presently recreate the landscape characteristics that defined the appearance and significance of the forest historically as a portion of the Arlington estate. This forest is the same type that once covered the estate, and regenerated from trees that were present historically. A representative tree in the southern Interment Zone was determined to be 258 years old. The forest constitutes the oldest and largest tract of climax eastern hardwood forest in Arlington County, Virginia.

Analysis of the resources of Section 29 identified other conditions that affect the potential for transfer of land. The Interment Zone was determined to contain significant archeological and cultural landscape resources, in addition to those of the Preservation Zone. Upon consideration of these resources, four alternatives were developed.

Alternative 1 retains the highest significance resources to NPS (The Preferred Alternative): NPS would transfer approximately 9.6 acres, comprising most of the Interment Zone, except for the southeastern sloped area containing archeological locus 1 and a stream; and also transferring to ANC the northern tip of the Preservation Zone, containing two disturbed areas. Alternative 2—retains most resources to NPS: NPS would transfer 4.3 acres of the Interment Zone between the ANC old warehouse (maintenance) area and Fort Myer. Alternative 3—retains the Preservation Zone to NPS and Interment Zone transfers to ANC: NPS would transfer the 12-acre Interment Zone to ANC and retain the 12.5-acre Preservation Zone. Alternative 4—All of Section 29 is retained by NPS (the No Action Alternative): No property would be transferred from NPS to ANC.