



# CORONADO NATIONAL MEMORIAL

## General Management Plan



Newsletter 4 • Winter 2002

United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service

### Dear Friends:

We would like to take this opportunity to update you on the progress of the *General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement for Coronado National Memorial*. In response to our June newsletter, we received nearly 40 electronic and written comments expressing a wide range of opinions. Regarding the suitability of memorial lands as wilderness, many people favored formal wilderness designation for all undeveloped lands, while others expressed opposition to any wilderness designation. Similarly for grazing, some people favored livestock grazing as currently permitted, while others felt it should be eliminated from the memorial.

The National Park Service has made preliminary decisions concerning wilderness and grazing that we would like to share with you in this newsletter. If you would like to comment on these issues, you may reply via the Internet at [www.nps.gov/planning/coro/news4/indexnews4.htm](http://www.nps.gov/planning/coro/news4/indexnews4.htm) or write to:

National Park Service  
Coronado National Memorial  
General Management Plan - John Paige, PDS  
12795 West Alameda Parkway  
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We are currently preparing the *Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement for Coronado National Memorial*, which will analyze these and other issues for each alternative and state the NPS preferred alternative. You will be notified when the draft document is available for public review. Your participation is important to us, and we urge your continued involvement in this planning effort.

James K. Bellamy,  
Superintendent  
Coronado National Memorial

STEP	PLANNING ACTIVITY	WHAT YOU CAN DO
1	<b>Project Startup.</b> Assemble planning team and start the process for carrying out the project. (Winter 1999)	
2	<b>Identify the Planning Context.</b> Reaffirm the purpose, significance, and mission of the memorial, determine issues and concerns, and gather and analyze information. (Spring-Summer 2000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read newsletter and send us your comments.</li> <li>• Attend public meetings.</li> </ul>
3	<b>Develop and Evaluate Alternatives.</b> Develop a reasonable range of alternative future conditions and management. (Summer 2000-Winter 2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read newsletter and send us your comments.</li> </ul>
4	<b>Prepare and Publish the Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS).</b> The draft document will be distributed for public review. It will describe the planning context, management alternatives, and impacts. (Spring-Summer 2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read draft plan and send us your comments.</li> <li>• Attend public meetings.</li> </ul>
5	<b>Revise and Publish the Final GMP/EIS.</b> Appropriate changes will be made to the draft document based on public comments, environmental analysis, and other information. The final GMP/EIS will be distributed. (Fall 2002)	
6	<b>Implement the Plan.</b> After a record of decision is issued, the management directions in the plan will be carried out as funding allows. (2003-Beyond)	

WE ARE CURRENTLY IN THIS STEP



## Livestock Grazing In The Memorial

Comments concerning livestock grazing in the memorial reflected a broad spectrum of opinions. Some people felt that all grazing should be discontinued on both allotments where it is now permitted. Others felt that grazing should be continued on one or both allotments for a variety of reasons. Still others expressed the desire to see grazing continue only on the Joe's Spring Allotment, which is currently in use, until it can be discontinued through mutual agreement with the permittee.

We have made a preliminary decision to eliminate livestock grazing on both allotments in the NPS preferred alternative of the Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement for Coronado National Memorial due to the conflict with recreational development. The proposed developments for each alternative will be stated along with an analysis of the potential for conflict with grazing and the impacts of recreational development, grazing, and other proposed activities.

## Preliminary Wilderness Suitability Assessment

The National Park Service (NPS) is required by its management policies and the 1964 Wilderness Act to evaluate all NPS units to determine what park lands are suitable for inclusion within the national wilderness preservation system. This evaluation uses the following criteria taken from the 1964 Wilderness Act and *NPS Management Policies, 2001*:

- The earth and its community of life are untrammelled by humans, where humans are visitors and do not remain.
- The area is undeveloped and retains its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation.
- The area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of humans' work substantially unnoticeable.
- The area is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural condition.
- The area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

The preliminary determination by the National Park Service is that the lands within Coronado National Memorial, slightly more than 4,750 acres, do not meet two of the primary suitability criteria. These are that: "The area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation" and "The area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of humans' work substantially unnoticeable." A road bisects the park, and most of the memorial's lands are less than a mile from the road. Consequently, from most areas of the memorial, the road is visible and road noise can be heard. The one area that is protected from the road is the south slope of Smuggler's Ridge, which by itself is too small to constitute a quality wilderness area. The memorial's topography and vegetation are such that houses, roads, and "the imprint of humans' work" outside the boundaries of the park are visible from areas in the memorial.

Furthermore, U. S. Forest Service and NPS managers do not consider wilderness in the memorial to be a significant complement to the Miller Peak Wilderness section of Coronado National Forest. Nor do they believe it would be advantageous to either agency's management of their respective areas. The views of Mexico from Montezuma Pass played a significant role in the establishment of the memorial, and these views will continue to be a focal point in telling the story of Coronado's expedition and interpreting our lasting ties to Mexico. Within the memorial these views can be protected in other ways than by designating wilderness, and efforts to protect the Mexican lands that are part of these views will also need to continue.

Planning is underway for a protected reserve in Mexico that might be adjacent to the memorial boundary. The protection of the core area of the reserve would be similar to NPS wilderness management and protection, although this core area would not likely be adjacent to the memorial boundary.