

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

COMMERCIAL SERVICES PLAN LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK

APRIL 2007

Introduction

The National Park Service (NPS) has assessed the commercial services program at Lassen Volcanic National Park to determine the levels and types of necessary and appropriate commercial services that should be provided. The scope of this planning effort includes all existing and potential commercial services at the park for the next 10 years.

At this time the commercial services program at Lassen Volcanic National Park includes one concession contract, which is currently with California Guest Services, Inc. (this contract has expired and has been continued under its existing terms). California Guest Services provides visitor services at Manzanita Lake campground, the Southwest entrance area, and Drakesbad Guest Ranch. A new concession contract is expected to be awarded by January 1, 2008. In 2005 the park issued 13 Incidental Business Permits (IBPs) to provide services such as guiding and bus tours. In addition, Lassen Association operates under a cooperative agreement wherein they are permitted to sell educational and interpretive materials in specific areas of the park.

This Commercial Services Plan is an implementation plan and therefore must be consistent with the established planning direction for the park and achieve the desired future conditions or goals for the park. However, the drafting of this plan offers the park an opportunity to revisit the decisions and proposed actions of previous plans to assure that they are still appropriate and fulfill the needs of the park and its visitors. The mission for Lassen Volcanic National Park, as defined in the 2003 General Management Plan (GMP), is to “conserve, preserve, and protect Lassen Volcanic National Park and its geological, biological, and cultural resources for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of present and future generations.” The goal of the Commercial Services Plan is to provide visitors with quality, necessary and appropriate services, while at the same time supporting the Park’s mission. To facilitate achieving these goals, as noted below the GMP is amended in regards to providing low- impact lodging at Manzanita Lake.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of this Commercial Services Plan is to provide a process for establishing the types and levels of commercial activities necessary and/or appropriate for Lassen Volcanic National Park. This plan will provide a comprehensive guide for managing commercial services in Lassen Volcanic National Park for ten years, and will address in more detail decisions regarding commercial activities that were determined necessary in the 2003 GMP.

Commercial activities in the park that will be managed by the implementation of this plan include Concession Contracts, Commercial Use Authorizations (CUAs), Special Use Permits, and Cooperative Agreements. By law (36 CFR 5.3), all commercial activities that occur within a park must be authorized by some written agreement. Park concessions are contracted visitor services that have been determined to be necessary and appropriate. Other commercial activities such as guide and instructional services that originate and end outside the park or that have limited sales will generally be authorized by Commercial Use Authorizations which are issued for one or two years. The Lassen Association has a cooperative agreement with the park to sell educational and interpretive materials in specific locations within the park. Special Use Permits authorize “one- time” and quasi- commercial events and activities such as utilities, roads, communications equipment, commercial filming, weddings, festivals, and other special events.

The NPS should determine what types of commercial activities are necessary and/or appropriate at Lassen Volcanic National Park. The *National Park Service Concessions Management Improvement Act of 1998* mandates that concession development and services at Lassen Volcanic National Park, and all NPS units, be both necessary and appropriate to the park in which they are located because they usually involve a commitment of resources. Other authorized commercial activities need only be appropriate. All commercial activities must operate in a manner that is consistent with the mission of Lassen Volcanic National Park. That is to say, all commercial activities operating within the park should provide high quality visitor experiences while protecting important natural, cultural, scenic, and wilderness resources. The General Management Plan and other planning documents identified that the park mission or purpose is to conserve, preserve, and protect Lassen Volcanic National Park and its geological, biological, and cultural resources for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of present and future generations.

Selected Alternative

Under the selected alternative, which includes minor modifications from what was identified and analyzed in the Environmental Assessment (EA) as the preferred alternative (alternative 2), the National Park Service will take actions that will achieve the desired future conditions identified in the plan. The intent is to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the commercial services management program. This alternative also authorizes some new services and makes changes to existing operations in order to improve visitor experience and convenience. Details of the selected plan as noted below include several non- substantive changes made as a result of public comment; however, the essence of the preferred alternative described in the EA remains the same.

Southwest Area

In 2004, the NPS signed a Finding of No Significant Impact for the construction of a new Southwest Visitor Center at Lassen Volcanic National Park. The original Chalet was demolished in 2005 and will be replaced with a new, larger, energy efficient, accessible, and sustainable facility. The commercial elements of the building will include food and beverage service and gift/merchandise sales. The food service includes deli style/grab and go food with indoor and outdoor seating. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be available. It will be a year round operation with seasonally adjusted hours. In the winter the level of service and amount of offerings may be reduced in accordance with the level of visitation and visitor needs. Beer and

wine sales will be authorized. The concessioner will be authorized to accommodate large groups such as tour bus groups for meals but not at the expense of use by general visitors. Merchandise sold will be thematic (specifically related to the natural and cultural resources found at Lassen Volcanic National Park) and will also include convenience and support items. Rental of recreational equipment such as, skis, snowshoes and bear proof food containers is authorized. The Lassen Association will have space in the new facility for the sale of educational and interpretive materials. Groups will be allowed to use the new visitor center multi- purpose room for special events after obtaining a special use permit. Finally, the concessioner and other CUA permit holders will be authorized to cater food for NPS approved special activities and events such as fund raisers, appreciation days, visitor activities, and events authorized under a Special Use Permit.

Manzanita Lake

The camper store will continue to offer food and beverage, gift shop, and merchandise sales and services. The food service will remain the same with limited hot food, ice cream and deli items, with outdoor seating. Beer and wine sales will continue to be authorized. Gift and merchandise sales will continue to be required to be thematic and appropriate for the park. The camper store will continue to provide a range of camper supplies and support merchandise such as groceries, firewood and ice. The gas station, showers, and laundry facilities will all continue .

The chosen alternative also serves to amend the park's GMP to allow low- impact lodging to be provided for visitors in the Manzanita Lake area. Twenty to forty tent- cabins or/and yurts may be erected in the old campground Loop B. These lodging units will be placed in the former campsite areas, and the footprints for either will be essentially the same. The implementation of this lodging project will be phased in order to assess any unforeseen impacts before determining if more tent cabins or yurts can be put in. The first phase will include erecting 20 lodging units, one of which may be authorized for use by the concessioner's staff as a seasonal residence. The re-paving of the road will be minimal (gravel and chip seal in existing road prism). The restroom in Old Loop B will not be improved; instead the visitors staying at the tent- cabins or yurts will use the existing restrooms located near the camper store. No utilities will be extended through the loop to any visitor's lodging unit, and no private bathrooms are planned. The camper store will rent out some camping supplies that may be needed by visitors staying in the new lodging units. Within two years after installing the initial tent- cabins or yurts the anticipated impacts will be assessed, and it will be determined if up to twenty more lodging units can be added, based upon re- assessing actual impacts and monitoring of water quality and fish populations. If and when the additional lodging is erected, the existing restrooms in Old Loop B may be remodeled or replaced to further accommodate the needs of additional overnight visitors, the road may get further improvements, the camper store may be improved, and a long term monitoring plan will be established.

In order to alleviate any crowding concerns regarding increased use at the Manzanita Lake Day- Use area, the Reflection Lake Picnic Area will be re- opened. Reflection Lake is directly across the main park road from Manzanita Lake. Re- opening of the Reflection Lake Picnic Area was approved in the park's 2003 GMP but has not yet been implemented. The re- opening of this area will be scheduled to coincide with the opening of the new low- impact lodging and will serve to disperse the use in the Manzanita Lake developed area.

The concessioner will be authorized to rent a maximum of 10 small row boats or kayaks on Manzanita Lake. The hours of boat rentals will be limited from between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. in order to minimize any experiential impacts to fly fishermen who typically utilize the lake in the early morning and late afternoon hours. Rental of recreational equipment such as skis, snowshoes, hiking equipment and bear proof food containers will also be authorized. The concessioner will also be authorized to provide a small, unobtrusive private boat storage area near Manzanita Lake (pending location approval by the park) so that campers staying multiple days in the park may leave their private non- motorized boats near the lake and not have to shuttle them back and forth to their campsites.

If and when a gas station were to be operated in close proximity to Manzanita Lake, but outside the park boundary, the gas pumps that are currently located near the camper store could be removed, and the site restored.

The Lassen Association will continue to be authorized to sell educational and interpretive materials at the Loomis Museum through a cooperative agreement.

Warner Valley and Drakesbad

Rustic lodging will continue to be required by a concession contract at the current level of service. Food service will continue to be sit- down dining with a fixed menu “American Plan” program that also accommodates common diets such as vegetarian. The general public will continue to be allowed to use the dining room; however, advance reservations will continue to be required. Merchandise sold will continue to include snacks, convenience and gift items. Horseback rides will continue to be required by the concessioner as well as the boarding of private party horses. The swimming pool will only be available to overnight guests of Drakesbad as it has been determined that pool use is already at capacity with Drakesbad guests. Operation of the swimming pool and bath house will be required in the concession contract. The NPS will continue to authorize the concessioner to operate services such as massage therapy. Those services can also be expanded as long as they do not utilize more than two rooms in the bath house, are appropriate and continue to serve visitor needs. Rental of minimal hiking equipment and bear proof food containers is also authorized.

The Lassen Association would continue to be authorized to operate a sales outlet for educational and interpretive items from the ranger station through a cooperative agreement.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a comprehensive Warner Valley plan has been initiated, and this FONSI is not intended to constrain options for future park management beyond the scope of the above concession operations at this site.

Butte Lake

Subject to a separate concession contract, the Lassen Association may continue to be authorized to sell educational and interpretive items from the ranger station. Sale of limited convenience items from the ranger station may also be authorized for the Lassen Association.

The concessioner may be authorized to operate one mobile food service vehicle, consisting of a van or truck that will enter the campground approximately once or twice per day to offer limited food items and camping supplies to campers at this remote location.

Juniper Lake

Subject to a separate concession contract, the Lassen Association may continue to be authorized to sell educational and interpretive items from the ranger station. Further, they may be authorized to sell limited convenience items from the ranger station.

Summit Lake Developed Area and Devastated Area Parking Lot

A mobile food service, similar to that described above for Butte Lake will be authorized for the concessioner.

Following completion of additional financial feasibility analysis, a commercial entity, either under concession contract or Commercial Use Authorization, may be authorized to erect not more than four removable yurts at the Summit Lake developed area and at the Devastated Area parking/interpretive area for winter use. These yurts will be accessible to visitors only by skiing or showshoeing; the road will not be plowed. These two yurt locations will allow visitors to go further into the park and experience the park at night during the winter season without having to bring their own tents or build snow caves. These yurts will provide only basic shelter for overnight use by visitors. There will be no electricity and no running water. Vault toilets currently at these sites are adequate for the disposal of human waste; however, all other waste will be required to be packed out.

Parkwide (Concessioner and Commercial Use Authorizations)

Back- country ski tours, bus tours, guided art seminars, guided backpacking, guided camping, guided fishing, guided hiking, guided photography, guided sightseeing, emergency road services, guided kayaking/canoeing, guided snowshoeing, step- on guides, and a hiker shuttle are activities that will be specifically authorized to be permitted in the park. These activities will be managed either through CUAs or as part of the concession contract. Commercial llama and goat pack trips, bicycle tours and any other activity listed in the Superintendent's Compendium (which is updated annually) will continue to be prohibited. Activities not specifically listed and approved in this plan will be reviewed by an interdisciplinary team in the park utilizing an evaluation form (Appendix A in the EA) for their appropriateness before a CUA will be issued.

Alternatives Considered

The EA identified and evaluated three alternatives: a no- action alternative, the preferred alternative referenced above, and a third alternative. The selected plan is essentially the same as the preferred alternative but includes minor modifications in order to address various issues raised during the public comment period.

No- Action

The no action alternative would have continued the existing commercial services management strategy at Lassen Volcanic National Park.

Groups would not have been allowed to use the new visitor center multi- purpose room for special events after obtaining a special use permit and the concessioner would not have been authorized to cater food for NPS approved special activities.

No new lodging would have been constructed in the Manzanita Lake area. No rental boats would have been available on Manzanita Lake. No rental of recreational equipment would have been authorized. If and when a gas station were to be operated in close proximity to Manzanita Lake, but outside the park boundary, a separate NEPA document would have been needed before the gas pumps that are currently located near the camper store could be removed.

The concessioner would not have been authorized to offer more spa services at Drakesbad and rental of hiking equipment and bear proof food containers would not be authorized.

The sale of limited convenience items from the ranger station at Butte Lake would not have been authorized.

The sale of limited convenience items from the ranger station at Juniper Lake would not have been authorized.

A mobile food service would not have been authorized anywhere in the park. No winter- use yurts could have been erected anywhere in the park. Emergency road services, guided kayaking/canoeing, step- on guides and a hiker shuttle would not have been authorized to be permitted in the park.

Alternative 3

This alternative would have provided the same services and operations at the same level as described in the preferred alternative for the Southwest area.

Lodging at Manzanita Lake would have included a full service lodge with 40- 50 rooms, a full service sit down restaurant, and a parking lot.

The concessioner would have been allowed to expand the destinations of horse trail rides and lengthen the rides into full- day excursions at Drakesbad.

A pack station including a corral and tack and feed storage would have been established at Butte and Juniper Lakes to provide guided trail rides to visitors. Small boat, canoe, and kayak rentals would also have been authorized at these lakes.

Winter use ski- in yurts could also have been erected at the Kings Creek Picnic Area and the Little Hot Springs Valley Overlook.

Environmentally Preferred Alternative

The “environmentally preferred” alternative is determined by applying criteria identified in Section 101 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to each alternative considered. In accordance with the NEPA, the “environmentally preferred” alternative will best: (1) fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations; (2) assure for all generations safe, healthful, productive, and esthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings; (3) attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk of health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences; (4) preserve important historic, cultural and natural aspects of our national heritage and maintain, wherever possible, an environment that supports diversity and variety of individual choice; (5) achieve a balance between population and resource use that will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life’s amenities; and (6) enhance the quality of renewable resources and approaching the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources.

The selected alternative is also an environmentally preferred course of action. Based upon review of potential resource and visitor impacts, the selected plan achieves the greatest balance between providing the necessary commercial services and protecting the park’s resources. The no- action alternative does not achieve this balance because it does not allow for any low- impact lodging. Providing such lodging will result in a wide range of beneficial uses as called for above. The third alternative does not achieve this balance because it calls for a much higher level of visitor use at Manzanita Lake with the inclusion of a lodge. A greatly increased overnight visitor presence in the area would not achieve the balance between population and resource use as called for above.

Why the Selected Alternative Will Not Have a Significant Effect on the Human Environment

In evaluating the Preferred Alternative in the EA, NPS decision makers considered the NEPA Regulations criteria for significance and this section presents the results of the assessment, which do not appreciably differ for the selected alternative.

The following impact topics were not assessed in the EA because they either would not be affected or would be affected negligibly: prime and unique farmlands, air quality, floodplains, wetlands, geologic/geothermal resources, wilderness, historic structures, cultural landscapes, ethnographic resources, environmental justice, health and safety.

The impact topics that were evaluated in the EA were soils, vegetation, wildlife, archeological resources, socio- economics and visitor experience.

Under the selected alternative, the NPS will return visitor overnight use to a previously disturbed site (Old Loop B of the campground at Manzanita Lake) resulting in a minor, long- term adverse effect to soils. There will be no impact to soils from the winter- use yurts at the Devastated Area and the Summit Lake developed area because the yurts will be located in previously disturbed areas and there would be a significant amount of snow over any nearby exposed soils. The selected alternative will have a minor, long- term, adverse effect, but will not impair soils in the Park.

The selected alternative will result in minor, long- term adverse effects on existing vegetation. Addition of tent- cabins or/and yurts will result in increased visitor use in the Old Loop B campground. More people concentrated in the area and increased camping could result in minor impacts to the vegetation. There will also be a minor, short- term adverse effect to existing forest cover. There will be a need to do some minor removal of second- growth vegetation in order to clear the spaces for the first 20 lodging units. This area has been free of overnight visitor use for over 30 years and as such, some vegetation has grown in the areas where the cabins will be placed. The clearing of vegetation for the tent- cabins or yurts will be minimal, however. Moreover, some young fir trees in the Manzanita Lake campground area are scheduled to be thinned for forest health and fire management reasons, as is outlined in the park's Fire Management Plan (this effort will be coordinated with area vegetation management planning as called for in the 2003 GMP). Ground disturbance could potentially introduce non- native plant species if equipment is contaminated or/and exposes a pre- existing seed bank; however, the potential for non- native plant species introduction will be decreased with the implementation of the mitigations discussed below. The selected alternative will have a minor, long- term, adverse effect, but will not impair vegetation in the park, and visitor safety will be improved.

The selected alternative will result in minor, long- term adverse effects on wildlife. Having more people concentrated in the Old Loop B area and camping overnight will result in negligible impacts to wildlife, as this is already a heavily used visitor area. There will also be a negligible, short- term adverse effect to wildlife. The clearing of vegetation which serves as habitat will be minimal due to the thinning project for forest health that will take place prior to implementing of this project. Manzanita Lake is already heavily used by fishermen using float tubes (belly boats) and small boats for fishing. Due to the already heavy use by fishermen, the addition of 10 or fewer small boats or canoes is not likely to adversely affect threatened bald eagles. There will be no effect on any other federally listed species or candidate species from this alternative due to the lack of these species to occur within the park or within the areas proposed to have increased activity in this EA. There are 19 state species of concern that occur within the park. Many will not be impacted at all by the actions in this plan and the rest will be impacted negligibly.

Activities resulting from the selected alternative that could affect previously unidentified prehistoric or historic archeological resources include excavation, grading, vegetation removal, and the installation of new buildings and infrastructure. The potential for finding previously unidentified archeological resources will be increased. However, work is taking place in previously disturbed areas and surface surveys for archeological resources will be completed prior to the project's initiation. Therefore, because mitigation measures will be employed, there will be no adverse effect on archeological resources.

The selected alternative will result in more visitors staying overnight in the park due to the availability of low- impact lodging (tent- cabins or yurts) in the Manzanita Lake Area. There is no competing lodging to the Manzanita site within Lassen Volcanic National Park. The closest competing lodging to the Manzanita Lake site outside the park is located approximately 15 miles north of the boundary between Old Station and the Hat Creek Work Center, where there is an RV park with several yurts available for rent. Twenty- five miles away in the community of Shingletown, there is one bed and breakfast and several RV parks available. McArthur Burney Falls State Park is 45 miles away and is planning on having 24 park model cabins available for rent in the summer of 2007. The next closest competing lodging units are located in Redding,

California. The increase in commercial services in other areas, however, could also result in increased visitation to the park. Therefore, any overnight stays that could be taken away from local lodging outside of the park could be filled with the influx of an increased number of visitors to the park. Also, any increase in visitation could result in beneficial effects for other retailers and restaurants in the area. Long- term effects to socio- economics in the local area are expected to be beneficial but negligible.

The selected alternative will result in moderate beneficial effects to visitor experience. Visitors will have the opportunity to use the Visitor Center multi- purpose room for special events and catering will be authorized for these special events. The addition of low- impact lodging at Manzanita Lake will allow for more visitors to experience the park for longer periods of time. It will allow those people who do not own tents, but who want to have a rustic national park experience, to do so relatively inexpensively. This lodging option will be much less expensive than the only other existing lodging available within the Park at Drakesbad. It is recognized, however, that a small number of visitors to the campground as well as some fly fishermen may find the increased number of people in the area a minor adverse effect. However, these people can also benefit from the other improved and expanded services throughout the park. Visitors at Manzanita Lake will also benefit from the availability of recreational rental equipment. Visitors to Drakesbad will benefit from expanded spa services without any further space being utilized for this purpose and all visitors will benefit from hiking equipment and bear- proof food container rentals at Drakesbad. Visitor experience will be beneficially affected by the addition of limited convenience item sales at Butte and Juniper Lakes, as well as the addition of a mobile food/grocery/gift service throughout the park. Both Butte Lake and Juniper Lake are in remote areas with no other services (other than the limited sale of education items at the ranger station). The addition of these services will make the difference between having to drive out of these remote areas to get needed items and being able to stay in the area. The addition of winter use yurts at the Devastated Area parking lot and the Summit Lake developed area will provide for an excellent winter experience in a remote area with lots of snow. The addition of these yurts could make the winter backcountry visitor's trip more enjoyable, as they will not have to carry their tents with them.

Non-impairment of Park Resources

Based on the potential impacts which could result from the preferred alternative that are documented in the EA, and as summarized above, there will be no major adverse impacts to a resource or value whose conservation is (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the park; (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park or to opportunities for enjoyment of the park; or (3) identified as a goal in the Park's General Management Plan or other relevant NPS planning documents. Consequently, the selected alternative will result in neither unacceptable impacts nor impairment of resources or values. Furthermore, no uses which may be allowed under the selected plan are inappropriate.

Measures to Minimize Harm

Bear- proof food storage lockers will be added to Old Loop B to prevent human- bear conflicts from occurring.

All construction equipment will be thoroughly cleaned prior to entering the park in order to prevent the spread of non- native vegetation species.

Should presently unidentified archeological resources be discovered during implementation activities, work in that location will stop until the resources are properly recorded by an NPS archeologist and evaluated under the eligibility criteria of the National Register of Historic Places. If the resources are determined eligible, appropriate measures will be implemented either to avoid further resource impacts or to mitigate their loss or disturbance in consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Office.

In order to alleviate any concerns regarding increased use at the Manzanita Lake Day- Use area, the Reflection Lake Picnic Area will be re- opened. Reflection Lake is directly across the main park road from Manzanita Lake. The re- opening of the Reflection Lake Picnic Area was approved in the park's 2003 GMP but has not yet been implemented. The re- opening of this area will be scheduled to coincide with the opening of the new low- impact lodging and will serve to disperse the use in the Manzanita Lake developed area.

As called for in the 2003 GMP, in order to facilitate overall comprehensive site planning in the Manzanita Lake area, a vegetation management planning effort will be completed.

Monitoring of the water quality and fish populations will be continued at Manzanita Lake, both immediately after the first year of Phase I as well as after the first year of Phase II of the low- impact lodging project.

In addition, the park will work with the California Regional Water Quality Control Board to ensure that all water quality requirements are met. If required by the state, a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) will be submitted at least 140 days before any projected increase in wastewater disposal occurs.

Public Involvement & Agency Coordination

A press release initiating the public scoping process and comment period was issued in early August, 2002, and was published in the *Red Bluff Daily News* on August 12, 2002. Also in early August of 2002, a newsletter was sent to 245 organizations, agencies, and individuals notifying them about the start of the planning process for the Commercial Services Plan and of upcoming public scoping meetings.

Public scoping meetings for this plan were held in 2002 in Chico (August 19), Red Bluff (August 21), Redding (August 20), and Chester (August 22). They were an open house format with information displayed to generate discussion with park and planning team staff. A total of 32 people participated in the meetings and 6 individuals mailed comment letters to the park.

In August, 2004, a second newsletter was sent to the same 245 organizations, agencies, tribes, and individuals, informing them about the comments received during the scoping period, the alternatives being formed, and the future timeline for the plan.

On June 8, 2005, the first EA for the Commercial Services Plan was put out for public review and was available for a thirty day public review and comment period. Four comments were received during the EA review period. Another comment letter was received on March 5, 2006. All of these comments were considered in the second EA for the Commercial Services Plan.

With changes in personnel for several key park positions, the first EA and Commercial Services Plan were carefully reviewed along with public comments. It was decided in the Fall of 2005 that as a result of public comment, several significant changes were needed within the plan and that a new plan and EA would be drafted.

On January 17, 2007 the second plan and EA were made available for a public review period that closed on February 23, 2007. At that time, the document was distributed to people and businesses who have expressed an interest in the Commercial Services Plan. The document was also mailed to a list of persons and agencies that have expressed interest in Lassen Volcanic National Park proposed actions and events. A press release was distributed to local newspapers on January 17, 2007. The *Redding Record Searchlight* published a lengthy front- page article about the plan on January 25, 2007 and an Editorial on January 26, 2007. The *Red Bluff Daily News* published an article on January 19, 2007. The *Chico Enterprise Record* published an Editorial that referenced the plan on January 22, 2007. The EA was also mailed to local libraries, organizations and individuals that have requested to receive a copy of the EA as well as others who requested copies during the review period. The EA and press release were also available on the park's website, located at <http://www.nps.gov/lavo.html>.

Fifty- three written comment letters and 5 telephone calls were received. Of the comment letters, 49 were from private citizens, 3 were from government agencies and one was from the park's current concessioner. Thirty- three percent were strongly in favor of the proposed component in the preferred alternative to return low- impact lodging and establish limited boat rentals in the Manzanita Lake area. While there were no comments that specifically cited concerns about the amendment to the GMP to allow lodging at Manzanita Lake, thirty- eight percent were opposed in some way to the actions proposed for the area, mostly because respondents believed it would impact their fly fishing experience. Twenty- five percent opposed the component of the preferred alternative to allow non- Drakesbad guests to utilize the pool and showers at Drakesbad. Finally, nineteen percent had general comments relating to a variety of different aspects of the plan and EA. The previous numbers add up to greater than one hundred percent because several people commented on more than one of these issues. All written and oral comments were thoroughly considered and are available for public inspection in the Commercial Services Plan project administrative record.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was sent a request for their concurrence with the park's findings of "not likely to adversely effect bald eagles" in a letter dated January 22, 2007. The USFWS concurrence with these findings was documented in a letter dated February 28, 2007.

Because there is no effect on cultural resources from implementing the selected alternative, the park determined that no Section 106 (National Historic Preservation Act) consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Office will be necessary for the Concession Services Plan.

