Environmental Assessment

Project Title (e.g. Smalltown Fire Station #23 Construction at City Park)

A conversion of land protected under Section 6(f)3 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, Public Law 108-198

DATE

For Information Contact:

Grant Sponsor

Submitted to:

State Agency

For:

National Park Service

Southeast Regional Office

100 Alabama Street, SW

Atlanta, GA 30303

Room here for whatever standard language your agency requires on official documents.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Stateside Assistance grant program, provides funds to states, and through states to local agencies, for the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation resources. Lands that have received funding through LWCF are protected by section 6(f)3 of the Act unless a conversion is approved by the Secretary of the Interior as delegated to the National Park Service.

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SUMMARY

The GRANT SPONSOR proposes to remove federal protection from all of/a portion of PARK A to allow for XYZ. The GRANT SPONSOR proposes to mitigate this impact with acquisition and development of PARK B.

PARK A is located (See Figure #)

PARK B is located (See Figure #)

This action is needed because WHY.

In addition to the proposed action, the GRANT SPONSOR also evaluated the following alternatives:

Based upon the effects of the alternatives, the GRANT SPONSOR is requesting that STATE AGENCY forward a recommendation to the National Park Service (NPS) to approve the proposed conversion and replacement.

INTRODUCTION

In YEAR, GRANT SPONSOR received a LWCF grant(s) for the WHAT at PARK A, thereby protecting it for public outdoor recreation under section 6(f)3 of the LWCF Act.

Section 6(f)3 requires that protected parkland that is converted to a use other than outdoor recreation be replaced with property that is of at least equal fair market value and equivalent recreation utility as the property that was converted. The replacement property must constitute a viable recreation unit, or be acquired as an addition to an existing recreation unit. Development of the replacement property may be required to ensure that a level of recreation utility is achieved similar to what was lost at the converted site.

The currently protected portion of PARK A is depicted in Figure #, which also shows the outline of the proposed conversion. Figure # depicts the boundary of PARK A that will remain protected by 6(f)3 if the conversion is approved (if applicable).

Purpose, Need and Background

The purpose of this project is to remove federal protection from ACRES of PARK A to allow for WHAT. This action is needed, because WHY.

The GRANT sponsor proposes to convert PARK A and replace it with PARK B. Development at PARK B will include XYZ to be completed by DATE. Figure # depicts the existing boundary of PARK B in color (if applicable), with the replacement property in color. Figure # depicts the proposed site development plan for PARK B.

This Environmental Assessment is required to help the National Park Service evaluate the environmental consequences of the proposed action on the human environment and allow the affected public to understand the context for the proposed action.

Description of Alternatives

# No Action

Under the No Action alternative, what would happen?

Figure # of existing conditions.

# Proposed Alternative

The proposed action is what?

Include figures to show this –

Brief descriptions, since you’ll get into more detail in the next section.

Description of PARK A

A description of the park proposed for whole or partial conversion. Include a discussion of the outdoor recreation opportunities that will be lost and the outdoor recreation amenities that will remain.

What is the acreage lost? What is left?

What is fair market value of what’s lost?

What is the recreation utility of what’s lost?

Describe any public involvement in the proposal to date.

1. For the park site proposed for conversion:
   1. A location map of the proposed conversion site
   2. A map of the existing 6(f) boundary with an overlay of the proposed conversion area. When determining the size of the conversion, consider not only the physical footprint of the activity precipitating the conversion, but how the precipitating activity will impact the entire 6(f) park area. In many cases the size of the converted area is larger than the physical footprint.
   3. A description of the recreation resources, facilities, and recreation opportunities that will be impacted, displaced or lost by the proposed conversion. For proposals to partially convert a Section 6(f) park area, the remaining 6(f) park land must remain recreationally viable and not be impacted by the activities that are precipitating the conversion. If it is anticipated that the precipitating activities impact the remaining Section 6(f) area, the proposed area for the conversion should be expanded to encompass all impacted park land.
   4. Description of the community and population served by the park, including users of the park and uses.
   5. For partial conversions, a new final 6(f) map.

Description of PARK B

A description of the replacement park including a description of the planned development, new recreation opportunities to be provided, and a timetable for completion.

What is the acreage gained?

What is the fair market value of the acreage gained?

What is the new recreation utility?

Discuss any public involvement in determining the proposed park design. How does this fit in with your park master plan? How does this comply with SCORP?

1. For each proposed replacement site:
   1. A location map
   2. A new 6(f) map for the replacement parcel. If the site will be added to an existing public park/outdoor recreation area, indicate on map.
   3. Description of the site’s physical characteristics and resource attributes with number and types of resources and features on the site, for example, 15 acres wetland, 2,000 feet beachfront, 50 acres forest, scenic views, 75 acres riparian, vacant lot, special habitat, any unique or special features, structures, recreation amenities, historic/cultural resources, hazardous materials/contamination history, restrictions, institutional controls, easements, rights-of-way, overhead/underground utilities including overhead wires, towers, etc.
   4. Identification of the owner of the replacement site and its recent history of use/function up to the present.
   5. Detailed explanation of how the proposed replacement site is of reasonably equivalent usefulness and location as the property being converted, including a description of the recreation needs that will be met by the new replacement parks, populations to be served, and new outdoor recreation resources, facilities, and opportunities to be provided.
   6. Identification of owner and manager of the new replacement park
   7. Timeframe for completing the new construction required to replace the recreation opportunity lost per the terms of conversion approval and the date the replacement park(s) will be open to the public.

# Other Alternatives

36 CFR Ch1, Part 59 requires that all practical alternatives to the conversion have been considered. Discuss why you couldn’t avoid park impacts here.

Affected Environment

Using the NPS environmental screening form (see appendix #), WHO assessed PARK A and PARK B to determine the resources on site likely to be negatively impacted and describe them as they currently exist here. Impacts to these resources will be described in the next section.

# PARK A

* Geological resources: soils, bedrock, slopes, streambeds, landforms, etc.
* Air quality
* Sound (noise impacts)
* Water quality/quantity
* Stream flow characteristics
* Marine/estuarine
* Floodplains/wetlands
* Land use/ownership patterns; property values; community livability
* Circulation, transportation
* Plant/animal/fish species of special concern and habitat; state/
* federal listed or proposed for listing
* Unique ecosystems, such as biosphere reserves, World Heritage sites, old growth forests, etc.
* Unique or important wildlife/ wildlife habitat
* Unique or important fish/habitat
* Introduce or promote invasive species (plant or animal)
* Recreation resources, land, parks, open space, conservation areas, rec. trails, facilities, services, opportunities, public access, etc. Most conversions exceed minor impacts. See Step 3.B
* Accessibility for populations with disabilities
* Overall aesthetics, special characteristics/features
* Historical/cultural resources, including landscapes, ethnographic, archeological, structures, etc. Attach SHPO/THPO determination.
* Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure
* Minority and low-income populations
* Energy resources (geothermal, fossil fuels, etc.)
* Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies
* Land/structures with history of contamination/hazardous materials even if remediated
* Other important environmental resources to address.

# PARK B

* Geological resources: soils, bedrock, slopes, streambeds, landforms, etc.
* Air quality
* Sound (noise impacts)
* Water quality/quantity
* Stream flow characteristics
* Marine/estuarine
* Floodplains/wetlands
* Land use/ownership patterns; property values; community livability
* Circulation, transportation
* Plant/animal/fish species of special concern and habitat; state/
* federal listed or proposed for listing
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* Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure
* Minority and low-income populations
* Energy resources (geothermal, fossil fuels, etc.)
* Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies
* Land/structures with history of contamination/hazardous materials even if remediated
* Other important environmental resources to address.

Environmental Impact

For the conversion site, do not get into the impacts associated with activities that may or may not occur after the site is converted. Focus on the impacts of this action, that is, removal of the land from the public recreation estate. Discuss loss to recreation. Remember that removal of protection from any cultural resources eligible for inclusion in the Register is an adverse affect and should be discussed here in depth.

Describe both beneficial and adverse impacts. This should not read like an argument in favor of your alternative, but a statement of the facts.

# PARK A

* Geological resources: soils, bedrock, slopes, streambeds, landforms, etc.
* Air quality
* Sound (noise impacts)
* Water quality/quantity
* Stream flow characteristics
* Marine/estuarine
* Floodplains/wetlands
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* Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure
* Minority and low-income populations
* Energy resources (geothermal, fossil fuels, etc.)
* Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies
* Land/structures with history of contamination/hazardous materials even if remediated
* Other important environmental resources to address.

# PARK B

* Geological resources: soils, bedrock, slopes, streambeds, landforms, etc.
* Air quality
* Sound (noise impacts)
* Water quality/quantity
* Stream flow characteristics
* Marine/estuarine
* Floodplains/wetlands
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* Energy resources (geothermal, fossil fuels, etc.)
* Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies
* Land/structures with history of contamination/hazardous materials even if remediated
* Other important environmental resources to address.

Coordination and Consultation

Who worked on this. List persons, organizations and agencies contacted for information and for identifying important issues, developing alternatives or analyzing impacts. Any scoping or other public involvement should be detailed. A list of prepared and their qualifications should be included here.

Also, how was intergovernmental review handled? Does the State have Clearinghouse process? If yes, has the LWCF Program been selected for review under the State Clearinghouse process? If yes, was this proposal reviewed by the appropriate State, metropolitan, regional and local agencies, and if so, attach any information and comments received about this proposal. If proposal was not reviewed, explain why not.

Public comment periods (how long, when in the process, who was invited to comment) and agency response.

Any formal decision and supporting reasons regarding degree of potential impacts to the human environment.

Was this proposal part of any other federal action? If so, what was analyzed and what impacts were identified? Provide specific environmental review document references.

Appendix #

Environmental Screening Form PARK A

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A. ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES**  Indicate potential for adverse impacts. Use a separate sheet to clarify responses per instructions for Part A on page 9. | **Not**  **Applicable-**  Resource does not exist | **No/Negligible**  **Impacts-**Exists but no or negligible  impacts | **Minor**  **Impacts** | **Impacts**  **Exceed Minor**  EA/EIS required | **More Data Needed to Determine Degree of Impact**  EA/EIS required |
| 1. Geological resources: soils, bedrock, slopes, streambeds, landforms, etc. |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. Air quality |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3. Sound (noise impacts) |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4. Water quality/quantity |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5. Stream flow characteristics |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6. Marine/estuarine |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7. Floodplains/wetlands |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8. Land use/ownership patterns; property values; community livability |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9. Circulation, transportation |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10. Plant/animal/fish species of special concern and habitat; state/  federal listed or proposed for listing |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11. Unique ecosystems, such as biosphere reserves, World Heritage sites, old growth forests, etc. |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12. Unique or important wildlife/ wildlife habitat |  |  |  |  |  |
| 13. Unique or important fish/habitat |  |  |  |  |  |
| 14. Introduce or promote invasive species (plant or animal) |  |  |  |  |  |
| 15. Recreation resources, land, parks, open space, conservation areas, rec. trails, facilities, services, opportunities, public access, etc. *Most conversions exceed minor impacts. See Step 3.B* |  |  |  |  |  |
| 16. Accessibility for populations with disabilities |  |  |  |  |  |
| 17. Overall aesthetics, special characteristics/features |  |  |  |  |  |
| 18. Historical/cultural resources, including landscapes, ethnographic, archeological, structures, etc. Attach SHPO/THPO determination. |  |  |  |  |  |
| 19. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure |  |  |  |  |  |
| 20. Minority and low-income populations |  |  |  |  |  |
| 21. Energy resources (geothermal, fossil fuels, etc.) |  |  |  |  |  |
| 22. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies |  |  |  |  |  |
| 23. Land/structures with history of contamination/hazardous materials even if remediated |  |  |  |  |  |
| 24. Other important environmental resources to address. |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **B. MANDATORY CRITERIA**  **If your LWCF proposal is approved, would it…** | **Yes** | **No** | **To be**  **determined** |
| 1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety? |  |  |  |
| 2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands, wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (E.O. 11990); floodplains (E.O 11988); and other ecologically significant or critical areas. |  |  |  |
| 3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2)(E)]? |  |  |  |
| 4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? |  |  |  |
| 5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects? |  |  |  |
| 6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects? |  |  |  |
| 7. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office.(Attach SHPO/THPO Comments) |  |  |  |
| 8. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species. |  |  |  |
| 9. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? |  |  |  |
| 10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)? |  |  |  |
| 11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)? |  |  |  |
| 12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area, or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)? |  |  |  |

**Environmental Reviewers**

**The following individual(s) provided input in the completion of the environmental screening form.** *List all reviewers including name, title, agency, field of expertise. Keep all environmental review records and data on this proposal in state compliance file for any future program review and/or audit. The ESF may be completed as part of a LWCF pre-award site inspection if conducted in time to contribute to the environmental review process for the proposal.*

**1.**

**2.**

**3**.

**The following individuals conducted a site inspection to verify field conditions.**

*List name of inspector(s), title, agency, and date(s) of inspection.*

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

Appendix #

Environmental Screening Form PARK B

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A. ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES**  Indicate potential for adverse impacts. Use a separate sheet to clarify responses per instructions for Part A on page 9. | **Not**  **Applicable-**  Resource does not exist | **No/Negligible**  **Impacts-**Exists but no or negligible  impacts | **Minor**  **Impacts** | **Impacts**  **Exceed Minor**  EA/EIS required | **More Data Needed to Determine Degree of Impact**  EA/EIS required |
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| 2. Air quality |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3. Sound (noise impacts) |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4. Water quality/quantity |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5. Stream flow characteristics |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6. Marine/estuarine |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7. Floodplains/wetlands |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8. Land use/ownership patterns; property values; community livability |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9. Circulation, transportation |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10. Plant/animal/fish species of special concern and habitat; state/  federal listed or proposed for listing |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11. Unique ecosystems, such as biosphere reserves, World Heritage sites, old growth forests, etc. |  |  |  |  |  |
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| 23. Land/structures with history of contamination/hazardous materials even if remediated |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **B. MANDATORY CRITERIA**  **If your LWCF proposal is approved, would it…** | **Yes** | **No** | **To be**  **determined** |
| 1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety? |  |  |  |
| 2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands, wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (E.O. 11990); floodplains (E.O 11988); and other ecologically significant or critical areas. |  |  |  |
| 3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2)(E)]? |  |  |  |
| 4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? |  |  |  |
| 5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects? |  |  |  |
| 6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects? |  |  |  |
| 7. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office.(Attach SHPO/THPO Comments) |  |  |  |
| 8. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species. |  |  |  |
| 9. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? |  |  |  |
| 10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)? |  |  |  |
| 11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)? |  |  |  |
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**Environmental Reviewers**

**The following individual(s) provided input in the completion of the environmental screening form.** *List all reviewers including name, title, agency, field of expertise. Keep all environmental review records and data on this proposal in state compliance file for any future program review and/or audit. The ESF may be completed as part of a LWCF pre-award site inspection if conducted in time to contribute to the environmental review process for the proposal.*

**1.**

**2.**

**3**.

**The following individuals conducted a site inspection to verify field conditions.**

*List name of inspector(s), title, agency, and date(s) of inspection.*

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

**Determination**

**Finding of No Significant Impact -** The project will not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

**Finding of Significant Impact -** The project may significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Preparer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name/Title/Organization:

Certifying Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name/Title:

**This original, signed document and related supporting material must be retained on file by the Responsible Entity in an Environmental Review Record (ERR) for the activity/project in accordance with recordkeeping requirements for LWCF program(s).**

Appendix #