



General Management Plan News

Park Developing General Management Plan

Greetings,

The National Park Service is pleased to announce that the development of a general management plan to guide the future of Kings Mountain National Military Park is underway. The general management plan and accompanying environmental impact statement will serve as the blueprint for the future management of the park.

You are invited to participate in the development of the plan in the months to come. This newsletter provides general background and contact information on this important effort and information on how you can participate. We hope you will join us at the upcoming public meetings to express your thoughts and ideas so that together we can plan for the future of Kings Mountain National Military Park.

*Erin Broadbent
Superintendent*

Understanding the General Management Plan

All parks in the National Park System are required to develop a general management plan (GMP). The GMP represents the broadest level of planning conducted by the National Park Service (NPS). It will describe the general path the NPS intends to follow in managing Kings Mountain National Military Park for 15-20 years. GMPs are developed in consultation with NPS program managers, interested parties, and the general public and focus on what resource conditions and visitor experiences are appropriate and should be achieved and maintained over time. General management planning provides broad guidance about the

best way to achieve resource protection and visitor experience goals. Specific details regarding facility construction, interpretive program development, and maintenance techniques will be specified in implementation plans, such as resource management plans and interpretive plans that tier off the GMP. These plans are separate from the GMP.

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and NPS policy, the GMP will be combined with an environmental impact statement (EIS). The GMP/EIS will identify significant issues and concerns, present a reasonable range of management alternatives, and analyze the environmental impacts of each of the alternatives.

General Management Plan Process

The GMP/EIS process involves the following steps:

- **Initiate Project and Define Planning Context**

The planning team assembles, customizes the planning process, and begins to establish contacts with participants. The team examines why the park was established, affirms its purpose and significance, collects and analyzes data, and gathers public comments. Public meetings are held.

- **Develop, Present, and Evaluate Alternatives**

Using staff and public input, the team explores different futures for the park and presents a range of management alternatives through a newsletter like this one, a website, and a series of public meetings.

- **Prepare Draft Document**

The team publishes the Draft

GMP/EIS. The draft document describes the alternatives and the potential environmental impacts. Based on an impact analysis of each alternative and public input, the team selects a preferred alternative and presents it in the document. Public meetings are held.

- **Publish Final Document**

Based on review by the NPS and the public, the planning team revises the GMP/EIS and publishes a final plan. The plan is approved by the National Park Service Southeast Region Director.

- **Implement the Approved Plan**

The GMP/EIS is implemented, as funding allows.

Public Meeting Schedule

We would like to invite you to attend either of the open house meetings listed below so the NPS can obtain your comments and suggestions and answer any questions you might have.

Locations:

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

3:00 – 7:00 pm

Kings Mountain City Hall

101 W. Gold Street

Kings Mountain, NC 28086

864-936-7921

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

3:00 – 7:00 pm

York Electric Cooperative

1385 E. Alexander Love Hwy

York, SC 29745

864-936-7921

Each open house session will feature a brief slide presentation at 3:30 pm and 5:30 pm.

Background of Kings Mountain National Military Park

Kings Mountain National Military Park in South Carolina commemorates the battle fought on October 7, 1780 between loyalist troops under Major Patrick Ferguson and patriot militias from the Carolinas and Virginia. The park also preserves the entire field of battle, approaches to Battleground Ridge, and surrounding woodlands.

The Park was established by an Act of Congress, 46 Stat. 1508, on March 3, 1931. Executive Order No. 6166, dated June 10, 1933 transferred the authority conferred on the Secretary of War by the act of March 3, 1931 to the Secretary of the Interior. On July 11, 1940 Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes issued an order designating 4,012 acres of land in Cherokee and York Counties, South Carolina, to be within the boundaries of Kings Mountain National Military Park.

Purpose and Significance of Kings Mountain NMP

Purpose statements are based on the park's legislative history and NPS policies. The statements reaffirm the reasons why the park was established as a unit of the National Park System and

provide the foundation for park management and use. Purpose statements also help neighbors, visitors, and other users understand the framework in which managers make decisions.

The legislated purpose of Kings Mountain NMP is:

- to commemorate the Battle of Kings Mountain, which was fought on October 7, 1780.

Significance statements capture the essence of the park's importance to the nation's natural and cultural heritage. Significance statements describe the park's distinctiveness and provide direction for park managers to make decisions that preserve resources and values consistent with the park's purpose.

Kings Mountain NMP is nationally significant because:

- The park preserves the entire battlefield site in a natural setting and commemorates one of the most important Patriot victories of the American Revolution. This battle was recognized by both sides as a turning point in the war.
- The battle at Kings Mountain was one of the few battles of the war where the American long rifle (and the associated tactics) was the primary



weapon of the patriot troops and this fact was instrumental in the outcome of the battle.

- The park contains an example (the 1803 Howser House) of Pennsylvania German architecture that was a clear departure from local building traditions and reflected Howser's wealth and status in the community.
- The Chronicle Marker is the second oldest battlefield monument (1815) in the United States.
- The park contains some of the best preserved remnants of Colonial era roads and trails that are associated with the route marched by the troops in the Battle of Kings Mountain campaign and which are part of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail.
- The park contains mixed hardwood forest resembling the upper piedmont during the 18th century. The Kings Mountain NMP forest preserves several species of concern such as the the Georgia Aster, which exists in only two counties in South Carolina, and the Northern Bobwhite. The size of the total area (15,000 acres) preserved in a continuous band of national and state parks, including Kings Mountain State Park in South Carolina and Crowders Mountain State Park in North Carolina, is important in preserving critical ecosystems.

