

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
FORT LAWTON NATIONAL CEMETERY
CEMETERY TRANSFER
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON**

Background

The Department of the Army operates the Fort Lawton Post Cemetery, located in Discovery Park, Seattle, Washington. The Department of the Army is transferring the post cemetery to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The VA's National Cemetery Administration would be responsible for continued maintenance and operation of the cemetery.

Proposed Action

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to follow the Executive Order 13781, Comprehensive Plan for Reorganizing the Executive Branch, focused on the need to reduce "duplication and redundancy," and improving "efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of the executive branch." It recommended transferring responsibility for 11 Department of the Army post cemeteries to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration. This transfer would increase efficiency, limit mission overlap, and ensure that these cemeteries are maintained to national shrine standards to continue the recognition of service of those interred therein.

Actions Completed

Pursuant to Section 102(2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice that a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared.

Conclusions

The Draft EA identifies, analyzes and documents the potential physical, environmental, cultural, and economic impacts associated with the VA's Proposed Action. The Draft EA also evaluates the potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts resulting from the Proposed Action. The proposed action and the no action alternative are considered.

Draft Environmental Assessment Location

The public is advised that it has 30 days to respond from the date of this publication with comments. The public comment period will end on November 26, 2018. Copies of the Draft Supplemental EA and NOA are available for public review at Tahoma National Cemetery, and Magnolia Branch, Seattle Public Library, 2801 34th Avenue West Seattle Washington and the VA website: www.cem.va.gov/ea.asp for further information please contact ATTN: Ms. Jill Schattel, NCA Environmental Engineer, 425 I Street NW, Washington DC 20001. Phone (202) 815-9682. Email: Jill.Schattel@va.gov

