

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FORT MISSOULA MILITARY CEMETERY
MISSOULA, MONTANA
CEMETERY TRANSFER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Background

The Department of the Army operates the Fort Missoula Military Cemetery. The 1-acre Fort Missoula Military Cemetery is located in the southwest section of the city of Missoula, Montana. The cemetery contains 248 occupied gravesites, with 24 reserved gravesites. It was established in 1877. It is a conventional veteran's cemetery with upright headstones. There are industrial areas to the north and west, open farmland to the south, and open farmland and city ball fields to the east.

Proposed Action

The proposed action is to transfer ownership and responsibilities for operations and maintenance of the Ft. Missoula Military Cemetery, Missoula, Montana from the Department of the Army to the Department of Veterans Affairs. The initial action would include evaluation of the cemetery to meet National Environmental Policy Act requirements and to determine what activities will be necessary to have the cemetery meet the VA's National Cemetery Standards. Detailed requirements would then be written to address any cemetery needs.

Actions Completed

A Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed in March 2019, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Both an Environmental Site Assessment and a Cultural Resource Survey was completed with a finding that no adverse effects would occur as a result of the transfer.

A Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment was published in the Missoulian on April 12, 2019.

Conclusions

The proposed transfer of ownership and responsibilities for operations and maintenance of the Ft. Missoula Military Cemetery, Seattle, Washington, from the Department of the Army to the Department of Veterans Affairs would have no significant effect on human health or the environment.

Draft Environmental Assessment Location

Copies of the Final EA and NOA are available for public review at Fort Logan National Cemetery, and Missoula Public Library, 301 East Main Street, Missoula, Montana 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