

APPENDIX C

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
STUDY PROCESS
FOR
PROPOSED AREAS
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS
AND
NATIONAL SCENIC AND HISTORIC TRAILS

September 1978

INTRODUCTION

Need

The Federal government is being asked to assist in protecting a growing number of natural and cultural areas in an increasing variety of ways. The National Park Service, the agency normally turned to for protection of natural and cultural resources, recognizes the need for an objective process to deal with resource protection. The Administration has already embraced the Areas of National Concern concept which is included in the Service's study process. The process is also a response to:

Section 8 of P.L. 94-458
Secretarial Order 3017 assigning NPS responsibility
for rivers and trails studies
Desires of OMB & PBA for full range of protection
alternatives

Purpose

Identify resource values and develop alternative means of protection, use and management; Federal dollars to provide maximum protection by all possible means; and provide an objective basis for decision making.

Authority

Administrative authority exists for NPS to conduct these studies through the Congressional Appropriations process, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, National Trails Act, etc.

Application

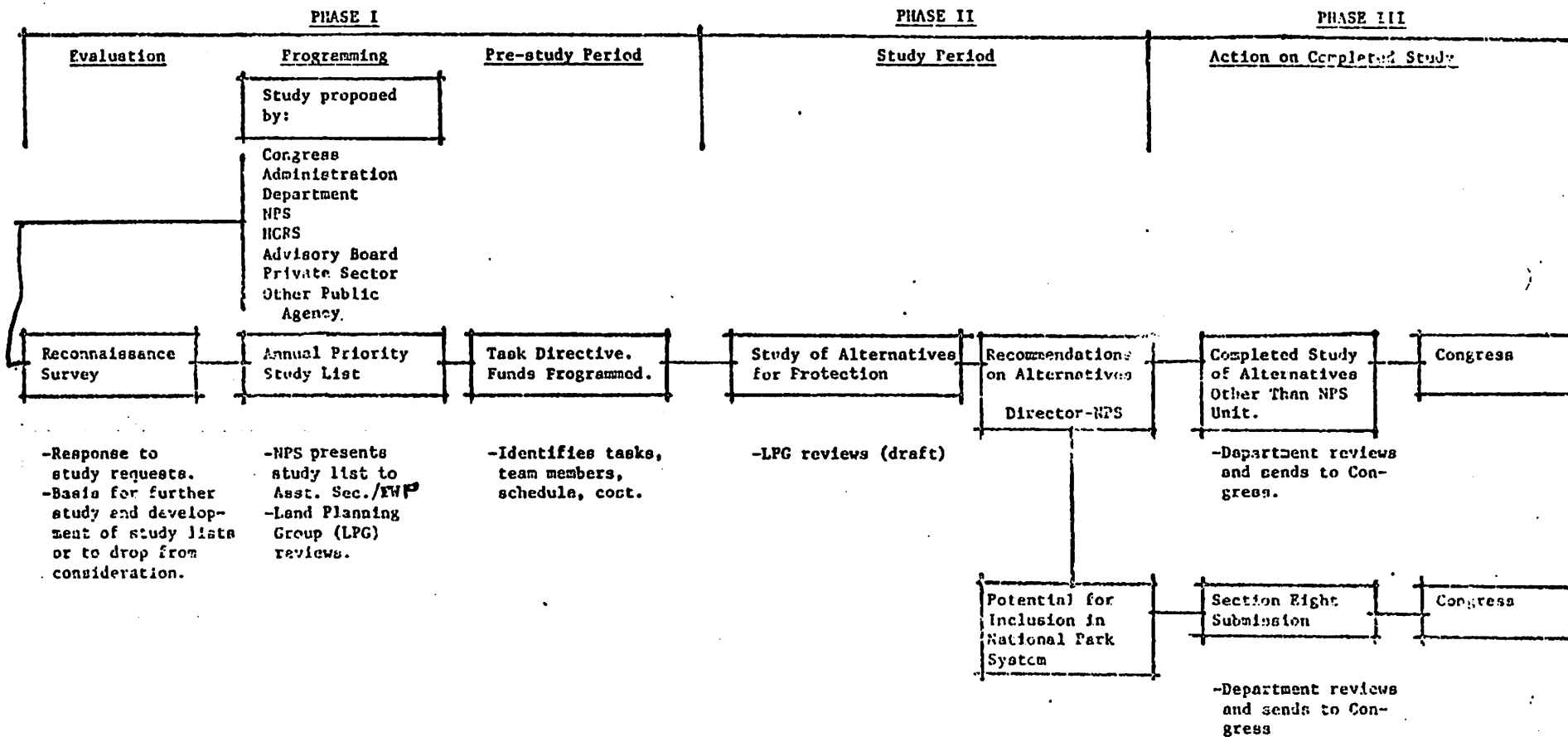
NPS has developed a process to meet the above purpose and is organized to administer it. The process will be applied to all studies the Service is requested or required to make

- Areas of national concern
- Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Scenic Trails
- Park proposals
- Urban recreation proposals
- Multi-jurisdictional proposals
- All others

Responsibility

NPS Office of Planning and Development is responsible for management and coordination of studies.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE STUDY PROCESS



All studies made by multidisciplinary teams.

NPS Office of Planning and Development coordinates studies.

RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY

Identification of Survey Sites Through:

- Congressional requests
- Administrative requests
- Theme Studies
- Landmark Studies
- Private Sector
- State and local public sector

Purpose of Survey

Respond to Congressional and other study requests; and to evaluate areas for inclusion and priority on the Study List.

Content

- Resource Description and Uses
- Resource Potentials
- Threats to Resource
- Existing efforts and plans for resource protection and use
- Price escalation of land acquisition

Responsibility

National Park Service (Office of Planning and Development)

STUDY LIST

Purpose

To develop an administration priority list for alternative studies

Criteria for List

Includes:

- significance
- threats
- price escalation

Process

Develop a list of areas meriting study, using as a basis reconnaissance surveys as well as other inputs

Recommend list to the Asst. Sec/FWP

Asst. Sec. receives input from Land Planning Group and others and recommends list to the Secretary

Studies are programmed

TASK DIRECTIVE

Purpose

Provides scope, schedule and tasks

Identifies study participants, which may include State and local governments as well as other Federal agencies.

Identifies funding needs and recipients

STUDY OF ALTERNATIVES

Purpose

Develop in cooperation with others, alternatives for management and protection of resources, and assess their impacts and implications

Method

Identify resource values to be protected

Set study boundaries

Acquire information on:

- land ownership
- gross land cost estimates
- land use
- land cover
- trends:
 - demographic
 - recreation
 - economic
 - threats to resource values
 - land costs

Develop, in cooperation with local and State governments, other Federal agencies and the private sector, alternatives for:

- local/regional management
- State management
- Federal management
- private, quasi-public management
- combination of the above, or
- continuation of existing trends

using, as appropriate, such protection methods as:

- regulation
- less than fee
- financial and technical assistance
- buy and lease/sell back
- program coordination (Federal, State, local)
- consistency provisions
- fee

Recommendation by the Department for:

Section 8 submission to Congress or other means of protection.

IMPLEMENTATION

The process is being implemented now by the National Park Service.

The organization is in place. National Park Service Office of Planning and Development will coordinate and manage studies.

A symposium is scheduled in August for NPS planners to inform them of the process and methods to be used.

Planning instructions are now on review.

Scheduling, programming and coordination process is underway.

Required talents are available within NPS, through other study participants, or by contract. Talents required will vary from study to study, but will generally consist of the following:

Natural Resource

Natural resource description and analysis

Cultural Resource

Cultural resource description and analysis

Economics

Demographic analysis
Economic activity and land use
Trends in land use and plans
Transportation and utility infrastructure

Legal

Laws and regulations affecting area
Assistance in plan preparation and legislation

Land Appraisal

Land ownership, values, transaction rate and price escalation

Public Affairs

Public involvement and information

Land Use Techniques

Knowledge of and application of land use techniques to protect resource values.

Study Coordination

Management of study and coordination of study participants.

Physical Planning/Design/Transportation

Plan for use and development of area, costs, access and circulation, etc.

Management Planning

Coordinating development of manageable alternatives

BENEFITS

The process is consistent with the Areas of National Concern and National Reserves concepts and can be implemented now administratively.

It is an extremely flexible and innovative process, developing the best options on a case by case approach.

It provides the Administration with cost-effective alternatives that can stretch Federal dollars for resource protection.

It provides an objective look at alternatives and their impacts before commitment is made.

Involves creative partnership with local and State governments and the private sector and other Federal agencies, encouraging each to do what it can do best to protect, manage and use affected resources.

Provides a means of keeping land on tax roles and in economic production while protecting identified values.

Provides for public involvement in the planning process.

Can incorporate existing plans, programs and regulations to meet planning objectives within affected area.

Provides a systematic method for Section 8 compliance and a basis for the Department's legislative process.

Enables the Department to recommend viable protection alternatives for areas not recommended for inclusion in National Park System.