

**Brief from**

**Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument**

**General Management Amendment/Environmental Assessment Call**

December 14, 2017, 2 p.m. MST

Brenda Maas “attended” the conference call and provided this brief.

Purpose of the General Management Plan (GMP) Amendment:

1. Provide direction for future of park’s visitor center
2. Safeguard the park’s museum collection.
3. Improve quality of visitor’s experience
4. Provide better access to the museum collection

More details and image, including slideshow available at: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?parkID=77&projectID=55179>

VIC was built in 1952; it is in poor condition. Many visitors have a diminished experience – 10,000 are turned away annually from viewing film and other endure “tough” conditions during ranger talks on the patio.

Need: Protect museum collection (removed in 2011).

The NPS-preferred action includes:

1. Implement an interim remodel of VIC to address immediate facility and visitor experience needs.
2. Build a new VIC in the current location of existing VIC
3. Return, at minimum, priority museum objects, if not all items, through the provision of appropriate curatorial space.

Comment period ends Jan. 1, 2018. Next steps in Winter 2018.

**Q & A Session**

Individuals asked questions on call or via the chat box online.

Brenda Maas reiterated that artifacts should be returned to Montana.

Asked about timeline; remodel could happen as early as winter of 2018-19. No firm answer on completely new VIC. However, it would need to follow the “Freeze the Footprint” concept.