

ROW grant and an adjacent Temporary Use Permit (TUP) for subsequent construction, operation and maintenance of the 292 mile-long TransColorado Gas Transmission pipeline from Meeker, Colorado to Bloomfield, New Mexico. Under the authority of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 185), as amended by the Act of November 16, 1973 (37 Stat. 567), the BLM issued a 50 foot-wide ROW grant on December 4, 1997, accompanied by a 25 foot-wide TUP, excepting 1.7 miles near Grand Junction, Colorado. The FERC issued TransColorado a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity on June 3, 1994. TransColorado completed the 22.5 mile Phase I of the project in December, 1996. The proponent is now prepared to construct the remainder of the pipeline during 1998. TransColorado is requesting approval of additional temporary work areas to construct the pipeline, and is requesting that the existing ROW be amended to accommodate the proposed route changes and minor realignments (less than 100 ft). Public meetings or open houses may be conducted during the comment period to gather comments from the public prior to preparation of the supplement. Public notice of locations, dates, and times of any meetings to be held will be provided. Maps and plats of the project are available for public review at the following offices of the BLM and USFS: the Grand Junction District Office, the Montrose District Office, the Grand Mesa/Uncompahgre/Gunnison National Forest Office, the San Juan National Forest/San Juan Resource Area office, and the Farmington District Office. The level of public interest in the issues of the supplement to the FEIS will determine if additional meetings will be held.

Dated: November 7, 1997.

Phillip W. Dwyer,

Assistant District Manager, Montrose District.

Dated: November 17, 1997.

Gloria Manning,

Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-050-1220-00: GP8-0036]

Prineville District; John Day River, OR: Special Recreation Permits

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Department of the Interior (DOI), Prineville District.

ACTION: Notice is hereby given that the existing moratorium on the issuance of new commercial floatboating permits for the John Day River will be extended until completion of the John Day Wild and Scenic River Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

The current moratorium on the issuance of new Special Recreation Permits for commercial boating use of the John Day Wild and Scenic River has been extended by Administrative Decision (dated November 12, 1997). The moratorium will remain in effect until the completion of the John Day Wild and Scenic River Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

The BLM is currently in the process of completing the John Day Wild and Scenic River Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. This plan addresses management issues within the Wild and Scenic corridor, including the desired use level of commercial floatboating. To allow the desired use level of to be determined by the planning process, application for new commercial boating permits will not be accepted until further notice.

Decisions made by the plan will direct the future availability of commercial floatboating permits for the John Day Wild and Scenic River.

The authority for this decision comes from 43 CFR 8372.0-3: Authority, 8372.1-1: Public lands, general, and 8372.3 Issuance of permits.

A more specific location of public lands covered by this notice may be obtained at the BLM Prineville District Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Heidi Mottl, Recreation Planner, BLM Prineville District Office, P.O. Box 550, Prineville, Oregon 97754, telephone number (541) 416-6700.

Dated: November 12, 1997.

Donald L. Smith,

Acting District Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-30590 Filed 11-20-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Concession Contract Negotiations: Gateway National Recreation Area; Staten Island, Fort Wadsworth

SUMMARY: Public notice is hereby given that the National Park Service proposes to award a concession contract authorizing food service, and conference center facilities and services for the public at Fort Wadsworth within the Staten Island Unit of Gateway National Recreation Area for a period of ten (10) years from date of contract execution.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 20, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties should contact National Park Service, Boston Support Office, Concession Management Program, 15 State Street, Boston, MA 02109-3572 ATTN: Lynne Koser, Telephone (617) 223-5209, to obtain a copy of the prospectus describing the requirements of the proposed contract.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This contract has been determined to be categorically excluded from the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act and no environmental document will be prepared.

There is no existing concessioner. The Secretary will consider and evaluate all proposals received as a result of this notice. Any proposal must be received by the National Park Service, Boston Support Office, Concession Management Program, 15 State Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109-3572, not later than the sixtieth (60th) day following publication of this notice to be considered and evaluated.

Dated: November 3, 1997.

Chrysandra L. Walter,

Acting Field Director, Northeast Field Area.

[FR Doc. 97-30647 Filed 11-20-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/General Management Plan Amendment for Backcountry and Wilderness Management Plan, Joshua Tree National Park, San Bernardino County, CA; Notice of Availability

SUMMARY: Pursuant to § 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Pub. L. 81-190 as amended), the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, has prepared a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS)

assessing the potential impacts of amending the current General Management Plan (approved in 1995). The DEIS includes a draft Backcountry and Wilderness Management Plan, and identifies and evaluates the environmental consequences of a proposed action and three alternatives. Mitigation measures are noted and evaluated. No significant adverse environmental impacts are anticipated. Once approved, the plan will guide wilderness management and other operations for the next 10–15 years.

Proposal

As described under Alternative A, the National Park Service (NPS) proposes to amend the General Management Plan (GMP) for Joshua Tree National Monument, including but not limited to the following changes: designate a trail system with prescriptions for specific uses; designate unpaved roads newly added to the park as part of the Development Zone (allowing limited motor vehicle use); designate places where installing fixed anchors for rock climbing may or may not be permitted; and designate locations where roadside vehicle-camping may or may not be permitted. The DEIS also analyzes the artificial water sources installed for wildlife in designated Wilderness and would determine where such sources should be removed or maintained. The draft plan would designate areas closed to public access and establish group size limits for overnight stays in the backcountry and Wilderness. Finally, the draft plan would implement the Department of the Interior's Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan of June 1994. Implementing Alternative A would result in the protection of (with no additional disturbance) park lands, and the reclamation of some previously disturbed lands. User conflicts would be minimized by providing for a variety of visitor experiences, groups sizes, trail allocations and designations, and a climbing bolt permit system.

Alternatives

Alternatives to the actions proposed include No Action (Alternative B), Maximum Protection (Alternative C), and Minimum Requirements (Alternative D). Under Alternative B the park would maintain existing programs and operations. Alternative C would impose greater restrictions upon all uses in the park and afford the most rigorous and strict protection to the resources, in particular the wilderness resource. Also, those lands in the Natural Zone that are not Wilderness would be treated and managed as if they were so designated. Alternative D would impose no

restrictions on use of the old monument lands other than those that already exist. The public could use the newly added lands much as the lands were used prior to their inclusion within the park. Only those public recreational activities that are illegal in NPS or other regulations, such as hunting or operating vehicles in wilderness, would be prohibited.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DEIS is now available for public review; review copies are available at park headquarters, as well as at local public libraries. Inquiries and comments on the DEIS should be directed to: Superintendent, Joshua Tree National Park, 74485 National Park Drive, Twentynine Palms, California 92277. The telephone number for the park is (760) 367–5503. All written comments must be postmarked not later January 31, 1998.

Public Meetings

A series of public workshops will be held to provide NPS staff an opportunity to hear concerns and suggestions from the public. In contrast to a traditional formal hearing, interested individuals and organization representatives will have the opportunity to offer informal input and engage in dialog about the range of alternatives, elements of the alternatives, and issues involved. This dialog is intended to provide additional guidance to the NPS in preparing a final EIS and plan amending the GMP. These workshops are scheduled as follows:

December 2, Santa Monica area—6:00–9:00 p.m.
December 11, Palm Desert area—6:00–9:00 p.m.
January 16, Moronga Basin area—6:00–9:00 p.m.

Complete details about locations for the meetings may be obtained via written or telephone inquiry as noted above.

Decision

After the formal DEIS review period has concluded, all comments and suggestions received will be considered in preparing a final plan. Currently the final EIS and plan amending the GMP are anticipated to be completed during summer 1998; their availability will be similarly announced in the **Federal Register**. Subsequently a Record of Decision would be executed no sooner than 30 (thirty) days after release of the final EIS. The responsible officials are John Reynolds, Regional Director, Pacific West Region and Ernest Quintana, Superintendent, Joshua Tree National Park.

Dated: November 4, 1997.

Sondra S. Humphries,

Acting Regional Director, Pacific West Region.

[FR Doc. 97–30648 Filed 11–20–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–70–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Kaloko Honokohau National Historical Park Advisory Commission; Notice of Meeting

Notice is given in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act that a meeting of the Na Hoa Pili O Kaloko Honokohau, Kaloko Honokohau National Historical Park Advisory Commission will be held at 9:00 a.m., December 13, 1997, the Coffee Mill Room, Keauhou Beach Hotel in Kona, Hawaii.

On Saturday, December 13, the Commission will begin its first meeting with a formal swearing in ceremony. The business meeting will begin immediately following and last until 3 p.m.

The Advisory Commission was established by Pub. L. 95–625 and has been re-established by Title I, Section 503, of Pub. L. 104–333 to advise the park superintendent with respect to the historical, archeological, cultural, and interpretive programs of the park.

Members of the Commission are as follows:

David Roy, chairperson
Henry Auwae
Abbie Napeahi
George Naope
Hannah Kihalani Springer
Francis Kuailani
Bryan Harry
Angel Pilago
Stephen Kane–A–I Morse
Mervyn Thompson
Pualani Kanahele
Fred Cachola
Duane Hanakeawe

The regulations involving nude bathing and the use of the fish ponds and traps will be the principal discussion topics at the Saturday meeting.

This meeting is open to the public. It will be recorded for documentation and transcribed for dissemination. Minutes of the meeting will be available to the public after approval of the full Advisory Commission. A transcript will be available after December 30, 1997. For copies of the minutes, contact the Park Superintendent at 808–329–6881.