

location of this meeting, as well as to describe the status of the general management plan process to date. The purpose of this meeting is to obtain both written and verbal comments concerning the management alternatives that will effect Fort Stanwix National Monument. Those persons who wish to comment verbally or in writing should contact Joanne Arany, Planning Project Manager, Upstate New York Project Office, National Park Service, C/O SUNY-ESF, Room 331 Marshall Hall, One Forestry Drive, Syracuse, New York 13210, (315) 470-6995.

The draft GMP/EIS is expected to be completed and available for public review in late 1999. After public and interagency review of the draft document comments will be considered and a final EIS followed by a Record of Decision will be prepared. The responsible official is Gary Warshefski, Superintendent, Fort Stanwix National Monument, 112 E. Park Street, Rome, New York 13440.

Dated: May 3, 1999.

Gary Warshefski,

Superintendent, Fort Stanwix.

[FR Doc. 99-13060 Filed 5-21-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

General Management Plan Point Reyes National Seashore Marin County, CA; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

SUMMARY: The National Park Service will prepare a General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS) for Point Reyes National Seashore (PORE) and initiate the scoping process for this document. This notice is in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.7 and 40 CFR 1508.22, of the regulations of the President's Council on Environmental Quality for the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Public Law 91-190.

This notice supersedes a previous Notice of Intent which was published on October 14, 1997. Subsequent to issuance of that notice it became necessary to delay preparation of the GMP/EIS. Scoping comments received in response to that notice will be considered in preparation of the GMP and need not be resubmitted.

Background

The purpose of the GMP/EIS will be to state the management philosophy for the Seashore and provide strategies for addressing major issues. Two types of

strategies will be presented in the GMP: (1) Those required to manage and preserve cultural and natural resources; and (2) those required to provide for safe, accessible and appropriate use of those resources by visitors. Based on these strategies, the GMP will identify the programs, actions and support facilities needed for their implementation. The GMP will guide management of PORE over the subsequent 10-15 years.

Persons wishing to comment or express concerns on the management issues and future management direction of Point Reyes National Seashore should address these to the Superintendent, Point Reyes National Seashore, Point Reyes, California 94956. Comments on the scoping of the proposed GMP/EIS should be postmarked no later than November 30, 1999. Public scoping sessions to receive comments and suggestions will be conducted during the scoping period at the park and in the vicinity. The times and locations of these sessions will be announced in the local media. Questions regarding the plan or scoping sessions should be addressed to the Superintendent either by mail to the above address, or by telephone at (415) 663-8522.

The responsible official is John J. Reynolds, Regional Director, Pacific West Region, National Park Service. The draft GMP/EIS is expected to be available for public review in the summer of 2001, and the final GMP/EIS and Record of Decision completed in the spring of 2002.

Dated: May 7, 1999.

John J. Reynolds,

Regional Director, Pacific West Region.

[FR Doc. 99-13062 Filed 5-21-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Availability of Director's Order Concerning the Establishment of a National Tourism Policy

AGENCY: National Park Service, DOI.

ACTION: Public notice.

SUMMARY: National parks have been interwoven with tourism from the earliest days of the National Park Service. Railroads developed resorts at natural wonders and scenic attractions before parks were established. The lure of the parks as magnets for tourism and related economic activity has been understood and capitalized on by many interests. In the early part of this century, National Park Service leaders

Stephen Mather and Horace Albright believed the public needed to be enticed into the parks to experience them first-hand in order to understand and support their values and importance. Today, the Service is challenged to protect park resources in the face of increased visitation demands, particularly in the high use portions of the most heavily visited parks.

Travel and tourism rank as the number one or two industry in most States and will soon be the leading industry worldwide. Tourism in the United States is a half-trillion dollars-a-year industry that employs more than 15.5 million people directly and indirectly. Many National parks are icons that are on "must see" lists for domestic and international travelers. International travel is this country's largest services export earner.

The purpose of this tourism policy is to promote and support sustainable, responsible, informed, and managed visitor use.

The National Park Service is "dedicated to conserving unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park system for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations." This mission can be partially achieved through a national tourism policy that addresses the needs of both the National Park Service and the tourism industry, i.e., businesses that stage, transport, house, feed, and otherwise provide services to our actual and potential visitors.

At the core of the National Park Service tourism policy is the reality that it is in the best interest of the Service that we understand and pro-actively communicate with tourism businesses. It is to each park's advantage to find appropriate common ground with tourism interests and gain a common understanding of park missions and limitations.

National Park Service participation can help steer tourism in positive directions that emphasize: better visitor information, awareness and responsibility, sustainable practices, greater respect for ecosystems and cultural landscapes and avoidance of conflicts. Furthermore, while the tourism industry places demands on parks, it also can be an effective voice in speaking on behalf of parks and using its considerable influence.

The interests of park managers and the tourism industry are often similar but stem from different missions. Most park units contribute to local and regional economies and are featured destinations for tour operators and for tourism service providers. These

interests provide a vocal demand for continued/expanded access. At the same time, park managers are dealing with limited budgets and staffing, resource management responsibilities, what constitutes a quality park visitor experience, and sometimes catastrophic/abnormal acts of nature. Travel and tourism operators have an interest in protecting park values that attract their clients and customers. They also have payrolls to meet and investments to protect.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted on or before June 23, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Georgette Tolbert, Director of Tourism, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW, Room 3420, Washington, DC 20240-0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Georgette Tolbert @ 202/208-6507.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Operational Policies: The 1995 White House Conference on Travel and Tourism established a basis and framework for closer cooperation and mutual understanding between land-managing agencies and the tourism industry. Regional and State tourism conferences have brought park managers and tourism operators together. This dialogue has fostered many of the principles incorporated in the following operational policies:

It is the National Park Service tour policy to: Develop and maintain a constructive dialogue with tourism and travel organizations and businesses.

Collaborate with industry professionals to promote sustainable and informed tourism that incorporates socio-cultural, economic and ecological concerns, and encourages long-term preservation of park resources and quality visitor experiences.

Encourage practices that highlight America's diversity and welcome park visitation by people from all cultural and ethnic backgrounds, ages, and physical and economic means.

Provide costs-effective park visitor orientation and information services to visitors in parks and, as funding and partnerships allow, at the visit planning stage, and at park gateways. Work to ensure that others who provide information to visitors are well-informed and provide accurate information about park activities and resources.

Encourage visitor use of lesser-known parks, underutilized areas, and use during non-peak seasons and times of the day. Encourage visitation to related sites beyond park boundaries, as appropriate, to enhance overall visitor experiences and protection of resources.

Specifically address tourism-related trends, issues and implications in National Park Service park plans and management decisions.

Represent park needs and realities during the preparation of plans and proposals for gateway community services and park tour operations that could impact park visitation, resources, visitor services and infrastructure support.

Work to establish supportable, park-carrying capacities as a basis for communicating with outside interests and the public-at-large on acceptable visitor loads, tours, recreation equipment uses and services. Carrying capacities are defined as use levels that will not adversely impact the park resources or desired quality of park visitor experiences.

Participate in and monitor travel industry research, data gathering and marketing initiatives to ensure that the National Park Service is fully informed of demographic changes and visitor trends.

Ensure that accurate park information is used, realistic visitor expectations are created, and no unrealistic, unsafe, incompatible or harmful-to-park resources recreation practices are depicted in promotional materials and advertising associated with potential park uses.

Provide appropriate information as early as possible to the tourism industry regarding changes in operations and fees.

When feasible, and consistent with park resource protection and budgetary needs, schedule construction, repairs, and resource management practices, such as prescribed burns, in ways and at times which keep key visitor attractions and services accessible for public use during peak visitation periods. Strive to minimize adverse impacts on visitors, as well as on park visitor-dependent businesses.

Establish and maintain lines of communication and protocols to handle the impact of park emergencies and temporary closures so that the public, including tourism communities and tourism-related businesses, have the best current information on when park services will be restored.

Inform visitors, gateway communities and tourism-related businesses about current conditions of key park resources on current protection and recovery/restoration measures. Establish a common understanding on what is needed to ensure adequate protection of those resources for present and future enjoyment and how this can contribute to sustainable park-related businesses and economies.

Develop new partnerships to help implement Servicewide priorities, i.e., the Fee Demonstration Program, Education Initiative, Natural Resources Initiative, and Millennium Projects.

The WASO Director of Tourism is the primary point-of-contact with the tourism industry at the national and international levels and insures that this Director's Order is reviewed annually and updated as needed.

Park superintendents are responsible for implementing these policies at the park level.

Program managers and staff at the WASO and Regional level are responsible for support superintendents in their implementation of these policies.

Destry Jarvis,

Acting Director of Tourism, National Park Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), this notice announces the following Information Collection Request (ICR) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment: Individual Landholder's Certification and Reporting Forms for Acreage Limitation, 43 CFR part 426 and Proposed Rule 43 CFR part 428, OMB Control Number: 1006-0005. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden.

DATES: Your comments must be received on or before June 23, 1999.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments regarding the burden estimate, or any other aspect of the information collection, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington DC 20503. A copy of your comments should also be directed to the Bureau of Reclamation, Attention: D-5200, PO Box 25007, Denver, CO 80225-0007.