

COMMENTS: If you wish to comment, you may mail your comments to the Superintendent, Fort Bowie National Historic Site, Dos Cabezas Route, Box 6500, Willcox, Arizona 85643-9737. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety. Copies of the DEIS/GMP are available from the Superintendent at the following address. Public reading copies of the DEIS/GMP will be available for review at the following locations:

Office of the Superintendent, Fort Bowie National Historic Site, Dos Cabezas Route, Box 6500, Willcox, Arizona 85643-9737, Telephone: (520) 824-3560.
 Planning and Environmental Quality, Intermountain Support Office—Denver, National Park Service, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225-0287, Telephone: (303) 969-2851 [or (303) 969-2377].
 Office of Public Affairs, National Park Service, Department of Interior, 18th and C Streets NW, Washington, D.C. 20240, Telephone: (202) 208-6843.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DEIS/GMP analyzes two alternatives to identify and assess the various management alternatives and related environmental impacts relative to park operations, visitor use and access, natural and cultural management, and general development at the monument. The general management plan would guide the management of the Fort Bowie National Historic Site for the next 12 to 15 years. The National Park Service proposal continues the concept established—the principle of a very low level of development, intended to allow the visitor a “discovery” experience in a place of “historic abandonment.” The No-Action Alternative would maintain visitor services and resource protection at current limited levels throughout the life of the plan.

The DEIS/GMP in particular evaluates the environmental consequences of the proposed action and the other alternatives on visitor experience, cultural resources, long-term health of natural ecosystems, economic contribution to gateway communities, adjacent landowners, and operational efficiency.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Contact Superintendent, Fort Bowie National Historic Site, at the above address and telephone number.

Dated: November 17, 1999.

Michael D. Snyder,

Director, Intermountain Region, National Park Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Draft General Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Kansas.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the National Park Service announces the availability of the Draft General Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DGMP/DEIS) for the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve. This notice also announces public open houses for the purpose of receiving public comments on the DGMP/DEIS.

DATES: There will be a 60-day public review period for comments on this document. Comments on the DGMP/DEIS must be received no later than January 19, 2000. Public open houses for information about, or to make comment on the DGMP/DEIS will be held at the following times and locations: Tuesday, November 30, 1999, 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Chase County Community Building (Swope Park), Walnut and County Road, Cottonwood Falls, Kansas; Wednesday, December 1, 1999, 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center, 6232 E. 29th Street North, Wichita, Kansas; and Thursday, December 2, 1999, 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 200 McDonald Drive, Lawrence, Kansas.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the DCMP/DEIS are available by request by writing the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, P.O.

Box 585, Cottonwood Falls, Kansas 66845, by phone 316-273-6034, or by e-mail from TAPR_Superintendent@nps.gov. The document can be picked-up in person at the Tallgrass National Preserve administrative headquarters, 226 Broadway, Cottonwood Falls, Kansas. The document also can be downloaded via the Internet at <http://www.nps.gov/tapr/>.

If you wish to comment, you may submit your comment by any one of several methods. You may attend one of the open houses noted above. You may mail comments to Superintendent, Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, P.O. Box 585, Cottonwood Falls, Kansas 66845. You also may comment via e-mail to TAPR_Superintendent@nps.gov. If you attach a file to your e-mail, please ensure the file is in ASCII format avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include your name and return address in your e-mail message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your e-mail message, contact the Superintendent directly at 316-273-6034. Comments also may be submitted electronically through a form on the Preserve's website (<http://www.nps.gov/tapr/>). Finally, you may hand-deliver comments to the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve administrative headquarters at 226 Broadway, Cottonwood Falls, Kansas. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Superintendent, Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, at P.O. Box 585, Cottonwood Falls, Kansas 66845 or at telephone number 316-273-6034.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the General Management Plan is to set forth the basic

management philosophy for the Preserve and to provide the strategies for addressing issues and achieving identified management objectives. The DGMP/DEIS describes and analyzes the environmental impacts of a proposed action and four action alternatives for the future management direction of the Preserve. A no action alternative is also evaluated.

Alternative A is the no-action alternative. It provides a baseline for comparison of the other alternatives. Each of the action alternatives would strive to achieve all desired futures for the preserve, including those related to prairie enhancement, natural and cultural resources protection, and visitor experiences. The primary difference between alternatives is their central focus. The Preferred Alternative (Proposed Action) would focus on the integrated management of the natural and cultural resources of the Preserve. The alternative is based on the ideas that the Preserve was established to preserve, protect, and interpret a remnant of the tallgrass prairie ecosystem and that the remnant prairie exists today because of a complex history of interaction between people and the land. Alternative B would focus primarily on the preservation, protection, and interpretation of the Preserve's cultural resources, although the prairie ecosystem would be enhanced and natural resources protected. Alternative C would emphasize visitor experience goals. This alternative would provide the broadest range of visitor experiences over the largest area of the Preserve. Alternative D would center on the story of ranching in the Flint Hills region, along the story of human interaction with the tallgrass prairie ecosystem. Finally, Alternative E would more fully focus on management of the natural landscape, including unplowed prairie and associated creeks, springs, and seeps.

The responsible official is Mr. William Schenk, Midwest Regional Director, National Park Service.

Dated: November 15, 1999.

William W. Schenk,

Regional Director, Midwest Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

National Park Service

Anacapa Island Restoration Project, Channel Islands National Park, Ventura County, California; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

SUMMARY: Pursuant to § 102 (2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190) and Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1508.22), the National Park Service intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement that addresses eradicating the non-native Black Rat (*Rattus rattus*) from Anacapa Island. In addition, park managers desire to implement preventative actions to keep rats and other non-native rodents from establishing on other islands in the park. These proposed activities would take place within Channel Islands National Park, Ventura County, California.

Background: Anacapa Island, located 17 miles southwest of the Ventura Coast, is comprised of three islets totaling about 700 acres. Known for both its beauty and its biological diversity, Anacapa Island serves as both a destination for visitors as well as habitat for marine and terrestrial species. Anacapa Island as a whole is the largest California Brown Pelican colony in the Southern California Bight. To protect the California Brown Pelican (listed as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act) and its habitat, the west islet has been set aside as a Research Natural Area. The non-native Black Rat impacts the seabird population through predation, and threatens the ecological integrity of intertidal and terrestrial ecosystems. The Black Rat also damages park infrastructure, threatens health and safety, and decreases visitor enjoyment. After careful examination of known impacts of rats on islands generally (and known and potential effects on Anacapa Island in particular), park resource managers and other resource experts conclude that island-wide Black Rat eradication is a prudent management action. This proposed action is consistent with exotic species management direction provided in the Channel Islands National Park General Management Plan (1985) and subsequent Resource Management Plan (1994). Additionally, no other islands in the park are known to have rats. There is a threat of introduction of rats, or other non-native rodents, from shipwrecks or transport of people and materials. Park managers need to have

the capability to respond rapidly to eradicate new introductions of non-native rodents.

Scoping: The NPS is requesting comments regarding this proposed initiative from interested individuals, organizations, and agencies. Respondents should address potential environmental issues, applicable research or mitigations, and reasonable alternatives which they feel should be considered in the EIS. Written comments must be postmarked by January 1, 2000, and should be sent to the Superintendent, Channel Islands National Park, 1901 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura, CA 93001. A public scoping meeting is scheduled to be held in Ventura at 7:00pm, December 8, 1999. Additional information, including specific times and locations for public meetings, will be given via local and regional press releases, public notices, the park's website, and direct mailings.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Updated information regarding the conservation planning and environmental impact analysis process for this initiative and proposed actions identified to date will be distributed and periodically updated via direct mailings, regional and local news media, and the park's website (<http://www.nps.gov/chis/naturalresources/airp.html>). To request being added to the mailing list, interested parties may contact Steve Ortega, Restoration Biologist, at (805) 658-5784 (or HYPERLINK mailto:CHIS_AnacapaRats@nps.gov chis_restoration@nps.gov).

Review and Decision Process

The Draft EIS is expected to be available for public review and comment during winter-spring, 1999-2000. Availability of the Draft EIS for review and written comment will be formally announced by Notice in the **Federal Register**, through local and regional news media, the internet, and direct mailing. At this time it is anticipated that the Final EIS will be completed by July, 2000. Subsequently, notification of an approved Record of Decision would be published in the **Federal Register** not sooner than thirty (30) days after the Final EIS is distributed. This is expected to occur by September, 2000. The official responsible for the decision is the Regional Director, Pacific West Region, National Park Service; the official responsible for implementation is the Superintendent, Channel Islands National Park.