

Tuesday, Oct. 27, Death Valley Natl Park, Visitor Center Auditorium, Furnace Creek, CA

Wednesday, Oct. 28, Eastern Sierra Fairgrounds, Sierra St. & Fair Dr., Bishop, CA

Thursday, Oct. 29, Boulder Creek RV Park, Hwy 395 (5mi s. of Lone Pine), Lone Pine, CA

Friday, Oct. 30, Ridgecrest Public Library, 131 E. Las Flores, Ridgecrest, CA

Decision

Following the formal DEIS review period all written comments received will be considered in preparing a final plan. Currently the Final EIS and GMP/LPP are anticipated to be completed during spring 1999. Their availability will be similarly announced in the **Federal Register**. Subsequently a Record of Decision would be approved by the Regional Director, Pacific West Region, no sooner than 30 (thirty) days after release of the Final EIS. The responsible officials are the Regional Director, Pacific West Region, and the Superintendent, Death Valley National Park.

Dated: August 31, 1998.

John J. Reynolds,

Regional Director, Pacific West Region.

[FR Doc. 98-24597 Filed 9-11-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service Draft Environmental Impact Statement General Management Plan; Mojave National Preserve, San Bernardino County, CA; Notice of Availability

Summary

Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190, as amended), the National Park Service (NPS), Department of the Interior, has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) identifying and evaluating potential impacts of a proposed General Management Plan (GMP) for Mojave National Preserve. Mojave is a new unit of the National Park System, established by Congress on October 31, 1994, by the California Desert Protection Act. The DEIS also includes a draft Land Protection Plan (LPP) that addresses management options for non-federal lands that exist inside the preserve boundary. This planning document and DEIS were initiated as a component of the Northern and Eastern Mojave Planning Effort, a coordinated interagency project involving the NPS,

Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The DEIS identifies and evaluates potential environmental consequences of a proposed action and two alternatives; appropriate mitigations are addressed. No significant adverse environmental impacts are anticipated. The GMP will serve as the initial overall management strategy for the next 10-15 years under which more detailed activity or implementation plans are prepared.

Proposal

This DEIS presents the proposed management approach and two alternatives for the management of the 1.6 million-acre Mojave National Preserve (Preserve) in the northeastern Mojave Desert in California. The proposed action (Alternative 1) envisions the Preserve as a natural environment and a cultural landscape, where the protection of native desert ecosystems and processes is assured for future generations. The protection and perpetuation of native species in a self-sustaining environment is a primary long-term goal. The proposal seeks to manage the Preserve to perpetuate the sense of discovery and adventure that currently exists. This includes minimizing development inside the Preserve (including proliferation of signs, new campgrounds, and interpretive exhibits) and fulfilling wilderness stewardship obligations. The NPS would look to adjacent communities to provide most support services (food, gas, and lodging) for visitors. The proposal seeks to provide the public, consistent with the NPS mission, with maximum opportunities for roadside camping, backcountry camping and appropriate access via existing roads. The proposal would seek funding for the complete historic restoration of the Kelso Depot and its use as a museum and interpretive facility. A balance is struck between the NPS mission of resource preservation and other mandates from Congress, such as maintaining grazing, hunting, and mining under NPS regulations and continuing the existence of major utility corridors. The proposal would maintain the ability of private landowners inside the boundary of the Preserve to maintain their current way of life, while seeking funding to purchase property from willing sellers where proposed uses conflict with the primary mission of preserving resources. Nearly 230,000 acres within the Preserve are in nonfederal ownership.

Alternatives

In addition to the proposal, the two alternatives described and analyzed are

existing management (no action) and an optional management approach. The existing management alternative (Alternative 2) describes the continuation of current management strategies. It is commonly referred to as the no-action or status quo alternative. Under this alternative, existing visitor and administrative support services and facilities would be maintained in their current locations. There would be few improvements in existing structures and there would be no change in road maintenance, although some roads might be improved if funding became available. No significant change in current accommodations to recreation use would occur. Protection of Kelso Depot from fire, earthquakes and vandalism would be provided if funding could be obtained, but it would not be restored. Land acquisition would focus on obtaining minimum funds to acquire property from willing sellers and properties where uses conflict with the Preserve mission. The optional approach (Alternative 3) provides for an increase in the facilities and services provided for public enjoyment. A small visitor contact building might be built at Kelso to provide information. Land would be acquired in sensitive areas and wilderness.

Comments

Printed or CD-ROM copies of the DEIS are available for public review at park headquarters, as well as at many public libraries in southern California and southern Nevada. In addition, the document is posted on the internet at www.nps.gov/moja. Inquiries and comments on the DEIS should be directed to: Superintendent, Mojave National Preserve, 222 E. Main St., Suite 202, Barstow, California 92311. The telephone number for the preserve is (760) 255-8800. All written comments must be postmarked not later than 90 days after publication of a notice of filing of the DEIS in the **Federal Register** by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Public Meetings

The NPS will host a series of open houses to provide interested individuals and organization representatives an opportunity to express concerns, ask questions, view large scale maps and engage in dialogue about the range or content of alternatives. Specific details will be available at the internet site identified above or by calling the Preserve. This dialogue is intended to provide additional guidance to the NPS in preparing the Final EIS and GMP/LPP. Written comments will also be accepted at these workshops. All

workshops are scheduled for 6:00–9:00 p.m., as follows:

Monday, Oct. 19, Doubletree Inn, 191 Los Robles, Pasadena, CA
 Tuesday, Oct. 20, Harvey House (Santa Fe Depot), 685 First St., Barstow, CA
 Wednesday, Oct. 21, Hilltop Hotel, 2000 Ostrems Way, San Bernardino, CA
 Thursday, Oct. 22, Needles Community Senior Center, 1699 Bailey Ave., Needles, CA
 Friday, Oct. 23, Enterprise Public Library, 25 E. Shelbourne Ave., Las Vegas, NV
 Saturday, Oct. 24, Baker Senior Center, 73730C Baker Blvd., Baker, CA
 Tuesday, Oct. 27, Death Valley Natl Park, Visitor Center Auditorium, Furnace Creek, CA
 Wednesday, Oct. 28, Eastern Sierra Fairgrounds, Sierra St. & Fair Dr., Bishop, CA
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Decision

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Dated: August 31, 1998.

John J. Reynolds,

Regional Director, Pacific West Region.

[FR Doc. 98–24596 Filed 9–11–98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Appalachian National Scenic Trail; Notice of Realty Action

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of realty action.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a proposed exchange of federally-owned lands for privately-owned lands both of which are located at the intersection of Miller Hill Road with the Taconic Parkway in the Town of East Fishkill,

Dutchess County, New York. The proposed exchange will provide a much safer crossing of the Taconic Parkway for hikers on the Appalachian Trail. It will also provide for the construction of a new interchange which will include an overpass for the Taconic Parkway.

I. The following described Federally-owned land which was acquired by the National Park Service, has been determined to be suitable for disposal by exchange. The selected Federal land is within the protective corridor for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. The land has been surveyed for cultural resources and endangered and threatened species. These reports are available upon request.

Fee ownership of the following federally owned property is to be exchanged: Tract 727–34, is a 1.14 acre portion of the land acquired by the United States of America by three deeds, each recorded at the Orange County Clerk's Office in Book 1531, Page 710, Book 1528, Page 679, and Book 1960, Page 140. Conveyance of the land by the United States will be done by a Quitclaim Deed and will include a reservation for the footpath of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

II. In exchange for the land described in Paragraph I above, the State of New York will convey to the United States of America a 2.19 acre parcel of land and a right-of-way easement for pedestrian travel over a 0.08 of an acre parcel of land lying adjacent to federal lands for inclusion within the boundaries of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Acquisition of this property will provide permanent protection for the Appalachian Trail. There are no leases that affect the property. Both the surface and mineral estates are to be exchanged. Fee simple title, subject to a reservation for the Appalachian Trail, is to be conveyed by the United States in exchange for the conveyance of all right, title and interest of the State in the 2.19 acre parcel of land together with the pedestrian right-of way easement. This land will be administered by the National Park Service as a part of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail upon completion of the exchange.

The land and interest in land to be acquired by the United States of America are described as follows: Tract 272–35, being a portion the land acquired by the State of New York by deed recorded in the Dutchess County Deed Book 535, Page 25. Conveyances to the United States will be done by Letters Patent. The value of the properties exchanged shall be determined by current fair market value appraisals and if they are not appropriately equal, the

values shall be equalized as circumstances require.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The authority for this exchange is Section 5(b) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act Amendments in Public Law 90–401, approved July 15, 1968, and Section 7(f) of the National Trails System Act, Public Law 90–543, as amended.

Detailed information concerning this exchange including precise legal descriptions, Land Protection Plan and cultural reports, are available at the Appalachian Trail Land Acquisition Field Office, at the address listed below.

For a period of 45 days from the date of this notice, interested parties may submit written comments to the above address. Adverse comments will be evaluated and this action may be modified or vacated accordingly. In the absence of any action to modify or vacate, this realty action will become the final determination of the Department of Interior.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Chief, Acquisition Division, National Park Service, AT/LAFO, P.O. Box 908, Martinsburg, WV 25402–0908, (304) 263–4943.

Dated: August 24, 1998.

Pamela Underhill,

Park Manager, Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

[FR Doc. 98–24532 Filed 9–11–98; 8:45 am]

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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice 98–117]

NASA Advisory Council (NAC), Aeronautics and Space Transportation Technology Advisory Committee (ASTTAC); Propulsion Systems Subcommittee; Meeting

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. 92–463, as amended, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration announces a forthcoming meeting of the NASA Advisory Council, Aeronautics and Space Transportation Technology Advisory Committee, Propulsion Systems Subcommittee meeting.

DATES: Tuesday, November 17, 1998, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 18, 1998, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Thursday, November 19, 1998, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.