

insects) environment. There would also be office space for a curator and an archeologist as well as classrooms, additional exhibit space, and storage space for equipment.

Alternative B, which is NPS's preferred alternative, would enable the visitor to experience some of the sights, sounds, smells, and other sensory impressions of daily life in the Fort Frederica colonial military settlement on Saint Simons Island, Georgia. Although archeological field investigations could occur that would provide information on landscape elements and other features of the settlement, there would be no construction of additional labs or other facilities as in *Alternative A*. There would be increased emphasis on re-establishing a visual impression of the colonial Frederica scene by using suitable methods such as appropriate trees, shrubs, ground covers, and other fitting and historically accurate landscape elements. Also, when the existing visitor center and administrative complex becomes functionally obsolete, the NPS would seek authority and funding to demolish it, clear the site, and build a new visitor center in a currently developed or previously disturbed area that is not visible from the historic town site. Administrative offices would be relocated to renovated park residences. The area formerly occupied by the visitor center and parking area would be replanted with native trees and shrubs and allowed to return to a more natural forested condition. Finally, *Alternative B* provides for the possibility of constructing a dock on the Frederica River to permit tour boats and water taxis to bring visitors to the site in the same manner that the original Frederica settlers arrived.

Alternative C would add additional interpretive themes to the story of colonial Frederica to place the monument site in the broader context of coastal sea island history. These themes would include pre-European, post-contact, plantation, and other historical periods associated with the Frederica site. Some on-site archeology would occur to reveal information necessary to interpret these other historical periods. The primary focus would remain the Fort Frederica settlement period, but the expanded number of stories would require an expansion of the visitor center to accommodate additional exhibits and programs.

Alternative D is the no-action alternative, which would continue current management practices and policies into the future. Current interpretive programs include an aging

25-minute visitor center film, ranger-led tours, living history demonstrations, trade and craft demonstrations, military encampments, and the annual Frederica Festival held the first weekend in March. Current resource management activities include riverbank stabilization, monitoring and maintenance of historic structures and earthworks, hazardous tree management, and management of the park's museum collection.

The responsible official for this Environmental Impact Statement is Jerry Belson, Regional Director, Southeast Region, National Park Service, 100 Alabama Street SW., 1924 Building, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Dated: July 16, 2002.

Patricia A. Hooks,

Acting Regional Director, Southeast Region.

[FR Doc. 02-24067 Filed 9-20-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement for the National Coal Heritage Area, Management Action Plan

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of Interior.

ACTION: Availability of the final environmental impact statement for the National Coal Heritage Area Management Plan.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the National Park Service announces the availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the National Coal Heritage Area (NCHA) in West Virginia. The National Coal Heritage Area Act of 1996 requires the NCHA, with guidance from the National Park Service, to prepare a management plan for the heritage area. The purpose of the Management Action Plan is to: (1) Set forth the integrated cultural, historical, and land resource management policies and programs in order to retain, enhance, and interpret the significant values of the lands, water, and structures of the Area. (2) describe the guidelines and standards for projects that involve preservation, restoration, maintenance, operations, interpretation, and promotion of buildings, structures, facilities, and sites; and (3) set forth the responsibilities of the State of West Virginia, units of local government, nonprofit entities, in order to further

historic preservation and compatible economic revitalization.

The study area, designated as the National Coal Heritage Area, includes the following eleven counties in the southern region of West Virginia: Boone, Cabell, Fayette, Logan, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Raleigh, Summers, Wayne, and Wyoming.

The National Park Service (NPS) maintains three park sites within the region: New River Gorge National River, The Bluestone National Scenic River and the Gauley National Recreation Area. Otherwise the majority of land is non-federal and the NPS assumes a management role only within their park units. Instead, conservation, interpretation and other activities are managed by partnerships among federal, state, and local governments and private nonprofit organizations. The national heritage area is managed by the State of West Virginia Division of Culture and History, and Division of Tourism, but will be managed in the future by a State Authority. The National Park Service has been authorized by Congress to provide technical and financial assistance for a limited period to the state (up to 10 years from the time of the designation in 1996).

DATES: The FEIS will remain on Public Review for thirty days after announcement is made by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency of its availability.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Peter Samuel, Project Leader, Philadelphia Support Office, National Park Service, U.S. Custom House, 200 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106, peter_samuel@nps.gov, 215-597-1848.

If you correspond using the internet, please include your name and return address in your e-mail message. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. 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 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.

Dated: September 7, 2002.

David Hollenberg,

Assistant Regional Director, National Heritage Partnerships, NPS Northeast Region.
[FR Doc. 02-24048 Filed 9-20-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Right of Way Request, Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park; Correction

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; correction.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service published a document in the **Federal Register** of September 13, 2002, concerning request for comments on a Right of Way Request, Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement at Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park. The second and third sentences of the first paragraph of the Summary were incorrect.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kevin Brandt, 301-714-2201.

Correction

In the **Federal Register** of September 13, 2002, in FR Doc. 02-23370, on page 58072, in the second column, correct the first paragraph of the SUMMARY by eliminating the second and third sentences and inserting the following sentence to read:

The area under consideration for the proposed crossing is between the U.S. 15 bridge area and the Nolands Ferry boat ramp area along the canal near the community of Point of Rocks in Frederick County, Maryland.

Dated: September 13, 2002.

Kevin Brandt,

Assistant Superintendent, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park.
[FR Doc. 02-24068 Filed 9-20-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Chesapeake Bay Special Resource Study

AGENCY: National Park Service.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and to

Hold Public Scoping Meetings for the Chesapeake Bay Special Resource Study.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the intent to prepare an environmental impact statement and hold public scoping meetings for the Chesapeake Bay Special Resource Study.

The Fiscal Year 1999 appropriations bill for the Department of the Interior and related agencies included direction to the National Park Service to conduct a Chesapeake Bay Special Resource Study. The purpose of the study is to explore the appropriateness of representing additional Chesapeake Bay resource areas within the national park system and determine whether this would help advance the partnership effort to conserve and restore the Chesapeake Bay; to determine what type of resource(s) and concept(s) might be appropriate, if any; and to make recommendations to Congress regarding these findings. Such recommendations will focus on overall concepts and criteria, rather than evaluating specific sites. Direct input from political, environmental, business and community leaders, as well as local citizens, will help develop these concepts and criteria.

Four public meetings will be held in September 2002 to discuss the Chesapeake Bay Special Resource Study being undertaken by the National Park Service and to conduct scoping for an associated Environmental Impact Statement. The study is authorized by the fiscal year 1999 appropriations bill for the Department of the Interior. For information on specific meeting dates and locations may be obtained from <http://www.chesapeakestudy.org> or by contacting Jonathan Doherty, National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Program Office, 410 Severn Avenue, Suite 109, Annapolis, MD 21403, 410 267 5725, jdoherty@chesapeakebay.net.

Dated: June 27, 2002.

Pat Phelan,

Acting Director, Northeast Region.

[FR Doc. 02-24080 Filed 9-20-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on the Backcountry Management Plan and General Management Plan Amendment for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Backcountry Management Plan, General Management Plan Amendment, and Environmental Impact Statement, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, Alaska.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service (NPS) is amending the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve General Management Plan with a Backcountry Management Plan and accompanying Environmental Impact Statement (plan/EIS). Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve was established by the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conversation Act (ANILCA). With passage of ANILCA, Congress designated 7.2 million acres of wilderness within the park and set forth special provisions for management in recognition of the unique situations and traditional lifeways of Alaska.

The purpose of the plan/EIS is to formulate a comprehensive plan that will provide management direction during the next 15-20 years for the backcountry of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. The backcountry consists of all of the acreage within the park and preserve boundary, including 7.2 million acres of designated wilderness. Tracts in private ownership are excluded.

Gates of the Arctic National park and Preserve is one of four national park units in Alaska to initiate a backcountry management planning process and GMP amendment. This notice of intent is being published simultaneously with notices to prepare plan/EISs for Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. A plan/EIS for Denali National Park and Preserve is underway (64 FR 49503, September 13, 1999).

The Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve plan/EIS is being prepared in response to the increasing level and diversity of activities in the park, resource management and protection needs, and requests for activities and facilities not anticipated or addressed in the 1986 General Management Plan. Specific topics to be addressed in the plan/EIS include, but are not limited to: backcountry hiking, sport hunting, mountaineering, aviation, boating, snowmobiling, dogsledding, commercial services, administrative and scientific/research activities, and the various facilities related to these activities.

The proposed action and other action alternatives will assess variations in the types and levels of backcountry activities and facilities. Toward this end, prescriptive management zones will be described and allocated to park land to provide a spectrum of visitor experience opportunities, resource