

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**National Park Service****Notice of Availability of Record of Decision for the North Shore Road Environmental Impact Statement, Great Smoky Mountains National Park**

AGENCY: National Park Service.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C) and National Park Service (NPS) policy in Director's Order 12 (Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision Making), the NPS in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration announces the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the North Shore Road Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (Park), North Carolina. The ROD was approved by the Southeast Regional Director on December 28, 2007. The NPS has selected the preferred alternative (Monetary Settlement Alternative) as described in the Final EIS to ensure that resources of the Park and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (Trail) will be unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations, and fulfill project goals and objectives including the protection of natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

The selected alternative and four other alternatives, including a No-Action Alternative, were analyzed in the Draft and Final EIS. The full range of foreseeable environmental consequences was assessed. The NPS believes the Monetary Settlement Alternative will best accomplish the goals of the Park and the Trail. NPS selected the Monetary Settlement because it protects the significant and diverse natural resources and ecosystems of the Park (forest communities, water resources, protected species, and soundscapes). It will avoid disturbance to the Park and allow the Park to protect resources from adverse effects of problematic geologic formations and acidic runoff. The Monetary Settlement will also protect the tangible (archaeological sites, historic structures, landscapes, cemeteries, and traditional cultural properties) and intangible (feelings of attachment, family life, myth, folklore, and ideology) aspects of cultural resources in the Park. The Monetary Settlement Alternative is consistent with NPS management of the Park within the study area as backcountry. The Monetary Settlement Alternative allows for the traditional recreational activities of hiking, camping, fishing,

and horse use in this backcountry area of the Park. It maintains the existing balance of visitors and resource use in this backcountry area and preserves the associated peace and solitude currently available there.

The ROD includes a statement of the decision made, other alternatives considered, the basis for the decision, a finding of no impairment of Park resources and values, and an overview of public involvement in the decision-making process. This decision is the result of a public planning process that began in 2003. The official responsible for this decision is the NPS Regional Director, Southeast Region.

DATES: The ROD was approved by the Southeast Regional Director on December 28, 2007.

ADDRESSES: The ROD, Final EIS, Draft EIS, and other information are available for review or download on the Internet at <http://www.northshoreroad.info>.

Copies of the ROD will also be available for review at the following locations:

Pack Memorial Library, 67 Haywood Street, Asheville, North Carolina 28801; Marianna Black Library, 33 Fryemont Road, Bryson City, North Carolina 28713; Charlotte and Mecklenburg County Main Library, 310 North Tryon Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202; Qualla Boundary Public Library, 810 Acquoni Road, Cherokee, North Carolina 28719; Anna Porter Public Library, 207 Cherokee Orchard Road, Gatlinburg, Tennessee 37738; GSMNP Headquarters, 107 Park Headquarters Road, Gatlinburg, Tennessee 37738; Lawson-McGee Library, 500 West Church Avenue, Knoxville, Tennessee 37915; Cameron Village Regional Library, 410–200 Oberlin Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27605; Graham County Public Library, 80 Knight Street, Robbinsville, North Carolina 28771.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: North Shore Road EIS, Attention: Superintendent, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, 107 Park Headquarters Road, Gatlinburg, Tennessee 37738, Telephone: 865–436–1207 or Fax: 865–436–1220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The authority for publishing this notice is 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C).

The responsible official for this EIS is Paul Anderson, Acting Regional Director, Southeast Region, National Park Service, 100 Alabama Street, SW., 1924 Building, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Dated: February 8, 2008.

Paul R. Anderson,

Acting Regional Director, Southeast Region.

[FR Doc. E8–7146 Filed 4–7–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–8A–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**National Park Service****General Management Plan, Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Texas**

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the General Management Plan, Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C), the National Park Service announces the availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Draft General Management Plan for Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Texas.

DATES: The National Park Service will accept comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement from the public for 60 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the Notice of Availability. Public meetings will be scheduled during the 60 day review period.

These meetings will be announced in the local media, on the park's Web site at <http://www.nps.gumo/>, and via the NPS park planning Web site at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>. Interested persons may also contact the park's headquarters at 915–828–3251.

ADDRESSES: Information will be available for public review and comment online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>, in the office of the Superintendent, John Lujan, Guadalupe Mountains National Park Headquarters, 400 Pine Springs Canyon, Salt Flats, Texas, by calling 915–828–3251, and at the following locations: Culberson County Court House, 300 La Caverna Drive, Van Horn, Texas 79855; Carlsbad Public Library, 101 South Halagueno Street, Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220; El Paso Public Library, Government Documents, 501 N. Oregon Street, El Paso, Texas 79901; Dell City ISD Library, 110 North Main Street, Dell City, Texas 79837; Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Administrative Office,

3225 National Parks Highway, Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Lujan, Superintendent, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, 400 Pine Springs Canyon, Salt Flats, Texas 79847–9400, or at GUMO_Superintendent@nps.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The general management plan will guide management of Guadalupe Mountains National Park for the next fifteen to twenty years. The draft general management plan considers four alternatives—a no-action alternative and three action alternatives, including the National Park Service preferred alternative. The no-action alternative would extend existing conditions and management trends into the future. The preferred alternative would emphasize wilderness values and the restoration of ecosystem processes while expanding some opportunities for visitors to enjoy easier access to park settings than currently exist. Alternative B would promote wilderness values and restoration of natural ecosystem processes while providing improved visitor experiences in the existing developed settings. Alternative C would expand opportunities for visitors to enjoy easier access to a range of park settings and disperse park facilities more widely throughout the park. If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments by any one of several methods. You may mail comments to John Lujan, Superintendent, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, 400 Pine Springs Canyon, Salt Flats, Texas 79847–9400. You may also comment via the Internet at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your Internet message, contact us directly at 915–828–3251 x 0. Finally, you may hand-deliver comments to Guadalupe Mountains National Park Headquarters, 400 Pine Springs Canyon, Salt Flats, Texas 79847–9400. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Dated: February 7, 2008.

Michael D. Snyder,

*Regional Director, Intermountain Region,
National Park Service.*

[FR Doc. E8–7144 Filed 4–7–08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Dyke Marsh Wetland Restoration and Long-Term Management Plan

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Dyke Marsh Wetland Restoration and Long-term Management Plan, George Washington Memorial Parkway.

SUMMARY: In accordance with § 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 43321 *et seq.*), the National Park Service (NPS) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement for the Dyke Marsh Wetland Restoration and Long-term Management Plan (EIS) for George Washington Memorial Parkway, Virginia. The authority for publishing this notice is contained in 40 CFR 1508.22.

The purpose of this EIS is to develop a plan for the restoration and long-term management of the tidal freshwater marsh and other associated wetland habitats lost or impacted in Dyke Marsh Preserve on the Potomac River. Dyke Marsh wetland resources, community structure and natural ecosystem functions have been damaged by previous human uses and are subject to continuing threats. A restoration and long-term management plan is needed at this time to: (1) Protect the existing wetlands from erosion, exotic plant species, loss of habitat and altered hydrologic regimes; (2) Restore wetlands and ecological functions and processes lost through sand and gravel mining and shoreline erosion; (3) Reduce increased restoration and management costs associated with continued wetland loss; and (4) Improve ecosystem services that benefit the Potomac Watershed.

Scoping Process. The purpose of scoping outreach efforts is to elicit early public comment regarding project purpose, need, and objectives, issues and concerns, the nature and extent of potential environmental impacts (and as appropriate, mitigation measures), and alternatives which should be addressed in the EIS. Through the outreach activities planned in the scoping phase,

NPS welcomes information and suggestions from the public. This notice formally initiates the public scoping comment phase for the EIS process. A scoping newsletter has been prepared that details the purpose, need, and objectives identified to date. Copies of that information will be posted at parkplanning.nps.gov/gwmp and may be obtained from Brent Steury, Turkey Run Park, McLean, VA 22101, (703) 289–2541. A public scoping open house will be conducted in the area around Dyke Marsh. Please check the local newspapers, the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) Web site at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/gwmp>, or contact Brent Steury for more information regarding the open house.

DATES: The National Park Service is soliciting further public input into this planning process until May 23, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Persons commenting on the purpose, need, objectives, alternative elements, or any other issues associated with the plan, may submit comments through the PEPC Web site at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/gwmp>, by hand-delivery or mail to: Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Turkey Run Park, McLean, Virginia 22101, or by providing comments to NPS staff at the public open house.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brent Steury, Supervisory Biologist, Natural Resources Program Manager, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Park Headquarters, Turkey Run Park, McLean, VA 22101, (703) 289–2541.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this EIS is to develop a plan for the restoration and long-term management of the tidal freshwater marsh and other associated wetland habitats lost or impacted in Dyke Marsh Preserve on the Potomac River.

Dyke Marsh Preserve is one of the last large tracts of tidal freshwater marsh along the Potomac River in the Washington, DC area and has existed for at least 5,000 years.

Located just south of Alexandria, Virginia, Dyke Marsh Preserve is viewed as a national treasure because of its proximity to the Nation's Capital and a large urban/suburban population, its