

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Minerals Management Service****Agency Information Collection
Activities: Approved Collection**

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of approval of information collection (1010-0051).

SUMMARY: As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, this notice informs the public and other Federal agencies of the approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) of a collection of information. The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) provides that an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alexis London, Rules Processing Team, telephone (703) 787-1600. You may also contact Alexis London to obtain a copy of this collection of information.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 30 CFR Part 250, Subpart L, Oil and Gas Production Measurement, Surface Commingling, and Security.

Abstract: On May 12, 1998, MMS published a final rule on the titled collection (RIN 1010-AC23, 63 FR 26362). A correction to the final rule on May 20, 1998 (63 FR 27677) made the rule effective on June 29, 1998. The Paperwork Reduction Act section of the preamble to the final rule stated that the information collection requirements would not take effect until approved by OMB. The preamble to the final rule provided the required public comment period and announced that we had submitted the information collection request to OMB for approval. On July 7, 1998, OMB approved the collection of information required in 30 CFR 250, subpart L, with an expiration date of July 31, 2001.

MMS Information Collection Clearance Officer: Jo Ann Lauterbach (202) 208-7744.

Dated: July 10, 1998.

William S. Cook,

Acting Chief, Engineering and Operations Division.

[FR Doc. 98-19254 Filed 7-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**National Park Service****Correction; Grand Canyon National Park; Concession Contract for Operation of Accommodations, Facilities, and Services at Grand Canyon National Park (South Rim)**

CORRECTION: In notice document 98-15128, appearing on pages 31228-31229, in the issue of Monday, June 8, 1998, the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** is corrected to read as follows:

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This contract renewal has been determined to be categorically excluded from the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act and no environmental document will be prepared.

The existing concessioner has performed its obligation to the satisfaction of the Secretary under an existing contract, which expires by limitation of time on December 31, 1998. Therefore, pursuant to the provisions of Section 5 of the Act of October 9, 1965 (79 Stat. 969; 16 U.S.C. 20), the concessioner is entitled to be given preference in the renewal of the contract and in the award of a new contract, providing that the existing concessioner submits a responsive offer (a timely offer which meets the terms and conditions of the Prospectus). This means that the contract will be awarded to the party submitting the best offer, provided that if the best offer was not submitted by the existing concessioner, then the existing concessioner will be afforded the opportunity to match the best offer. If the existing concessioner agrees to match the best offer, then the contract will be awarded to the existing concessioner.

If the existing concessioner does not submit a responsive offer, the right of preference in renewal shall be considered to have been waived, and the contract will then be awarded to the party that has submitted the best responsive offer.

The Secretary will consider and evaluate all offers received as a result of this notice. Any offer, including that of the existing concessioner, must be received by the Regional Director, Intermountain Region, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, Colorado 80225-0287 (street address: 12795 West Alameda Parkway, Lakewood, Colorado 80228); no later than one hundred and twenty (120) days following release of the Prospectus to be considered and evaluated.

Dated: July 7, 1998.

Michael D. Snyder,

Acting Director, Intermountain Region.

[FR Doc. 98-19149 Filed 7-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**National Park Service****Notice of Availability of Reference Manual Concerning Wilderness Preservation and Management Within the National Park Service**

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.
ACTION: Public notice.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service (NPS) is converting and updating its current system of internal instructions to a three-level system consisting of: (1) NPS Management Policies; (2) Director's Orders; and (3) Reference Manuals/Handbooks and other helpful information. When these documents contain new policy or procedural requirements that may affect parties outside the NPS, this information is being made available for public comments. Reference Manual #41 establishes operation policies and procedural guidance for the day-to-day and long-term preservation and management of the Service's wilderness resources.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted until August 17, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The draft Reference Manual #41 is available on the Internet at: <http://www.nps.gov/refdesk/Dorders/index.htm>. The specific link can subsequently be reached at: "Dorder41.htm". Requests for copies and written comments should be sent to Jim Walters, National Park Service Deputy Wilderness Program Coordinator, National Park Service, P.O. Box 728 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0728.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Walters at 509 988-6022 (fax) (505 988-6123 or Wes Henry at 202 208-5211).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Table of Contents: Reference Manual #41: Wilderness Preservation and Management.

I. Background and Purpose

The purpose of Reference Manual #41: Wilderness Preservation and Management is to provide national park managers with the information they need to understand the laws and policies affecting the NPS wilderness resource and guidance for the application of the edicts into the day-to-day and long-term preservation of these

resources. The Reference Manual contains: (1) An update of the NPS Management Policies pertaining to wilderness; (2) the Director's Orders intended to assist managers in the application of these policies, and (3) specific detailed references and background information affecting the Service's wilderness resource.

II. Legislative Guidance Applicable To NPS Wilderness Preservation

This information is intended to provide park managers and the public with an understanding of the primary laws regulating the wilderness resource. This discussion includes: the relationship between the Wilderness Act and the NPS Organic Act, the clarification of Section 4(a)(3) of the Wilderness Act which is often misinterpreted by park managers, the implication of the Redwood Act Amendments to the Service's wilderness program, and an explanation of the Eastern Wilderness Act as it applies to the National Park Service.

III. Revised Management Policies Guiding Wilderness Preservation and Management (Level One)

The "Level One" wilderness policy statements will revise and update previous policies included in Chapter 6 of the 1988 Wilderness Policies handbook. These revised policies include general statements addressing: wilderness characteristics and values, the process for reviewing potential wilderness additions, general wilderness policies, consistency of the Service's wilderness program, zoning, accountability and responsibility, management plans, the minimum requirement process, monitoring strategies, signing, research protocols, NPS administrative facilities, fire management, cultural resources, environmental compliance standards, general public use, commercial services, special events, grazing and livestock driveways, rights-of-way and mineral development and public education standards.

IV. Director's Order #41 (Level Two)

The "Level Two" Director's Order are intended as more detailed guidance and standards for managers to use in the application of the revised policy statements. Director's Order #41 will be issued by the NPS Associate Director—Operations and Parks as required standards at which the respective programs and functions must be managed within NPS wilderness. These program, identified as "Critical Issues" include: wilderness management plan requirements, procedures for applying

the "minimum requirement" concept, interagency coordination, cultural resource management, climbing protocols, fire management, interpretation and education, mineral development, research and other scientific uses, wilderness use by persons with disabilities, special events, training requirements, and the administration of commercial services in wilderness.

IV. Appendices

The appendices of the Level 3 Reference Manual are intended as a reference and bibliography for wilderness managers. This information includes: a glossary of wilderness terms, the text of the Wilderness Act, the *Wilderness Access Decision Tool*, examples of minimum requirement decision tools, the minimum requirements of a wilderness management plan, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, the format of the annual Report to Congress, and a list of suggested readings relating to wilderness management.

Dated: July 10, 1998.

Maureen Finnerty,

Associate Director, Operations and Education.

[FR Doc. 98-19151 Filed 7-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of the Intent to Issue a Prospectus for the Operation of Commercial Visitor Services Within Carlsbad Caverns National Park

SUMMARY: The National Park Service will be releasing a concession Prospectus authorizing continued operation of food and beverage, merchandise (souvenir and gifts), kennels and storage lockers services for the public within Carlsbad Caverns National Park, New Mexico. The operation consists of providing these services at one location in the park. The proposed operation will be provided on a daily basis year round. The term of the proposed concession contract will be for ten (10) years beginning on January 1, 1999.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Offers will be accepted for SIXTY (60) days under the terms described in the Prospectus. The SIXTY day application period will begin with the release of the Prospectus, which will occur within thirty days of the publication of this notice. The actual release date of the Prospectus shall be

the date of publication in the "Commerce Business Daily".

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This contract renewal has been determined to be categorically excluded from the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act and no environmental document will be prepared.

The existing concessioner has performed its obligations to the satisfaction of the Secretary under an existing contract, which expires by limitation of time on December 31, 1998. Therefore, pursuant to the provision of Section 5 of the Act of October 9, 1965 (79 Stat. 969; 16 U.S.C. sec. 20), the concessioner is entitled to be given preference in the renewal of the contract and in the award of a new contract, providing that the existing concessioner submits a responsive offer (a timely offer which meets the terms and conditions of the Prospectus). This means that the contract will be awarded to the party submitting the best offer, provided that if the best offer was not submitted by the existing concessioner, then the existing concessioner will be afforded the opportunity to match the best offer. If the existing concessioner agrees to match the best offer, then the contract will be awarded to the existing concessioner.

If the existing concessioner does not submit a responsive offer, the right of preference in renewal shall be considered to have been waived, and the contract will then be awarded to the party that has submitted the best responsive offer.

The Secretary will consider and evaluate all offers received as a result of this notice. Any offer, including that of the existing concessioner, must be received by the Regional Director, Intermountain Region, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, Colorado 80225-0287 (street address; 12795 West Alameda Parkway, Lakewood, Colorado 80228); not later than SIXTY (60) days following release of the Prospectus to be considered and evaluated.

ADDRESSES: Parties interested in obtaining a copy should contact the National Park Service, Concessions Management Program, Intermountain Region-Denver Support Office, Office of Concessions Management, 12795 West Alameda Parkway, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, Colorado 80225-0287; Attention: Judy Jennings. Please include a mailing address indicating where to send the Prospectus in your request. Inquires may be directed to Ms. Judy Jennings, Office of Concessions Management Program (303) 969-2661.