

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended, mandates that all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System are to be managed in accordance with an approved CCP. The CCP will guide management decisions by identifying Refuge goals, long-range objectives and management strategies for achieving the Refuge purposes. The planning process will consider many elements, including habitat and wildlife management, habitat protection, wildlife-dependant recreation and other public uses, cultural resources, and environmental effects. Public input into this planning process is important. The CCP will provide other agencies and the public with a clear understanding of the desired conditions for the Refuge and how the Service will manage the Refuge Complex.

The Service is soliciting information from the public via written comments and public meetings. Interested parties are urged to submit their names and addresses to be added to the Service's mailing list. The Service will periodically send out special planning updates to those who are interested in the Refuge Complex. Among other things, these mailings will provide information on how to participate in the CCP planning process. Comments received will be used to identify key issues and to develop goals, objectives, and management strategies. Additional opportunities for public participation will occur throughout the process, which is expected to be completed in mid 2001.

The Kern Refuge Complex is composed of three refuges: Kern, Pixley, and Blue Ridge. Kern Refuge is located 19 miles west of Delano, California at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley. It was established in 1960 to provide wintering habitat for waterfowl in the southern San Joaquin Valley. The Kern Refuge consists of a single, 10,618-acre unit owned by the Federal government. The Refuge purpose is to provide "an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds." 16 U.S.C. 715d (Migratory Bird Conservation Act).

Pixley Refuge is located approximately 19 miles south of the City of Tulare, northeast of Kern Refuge. This Refuge was set aside in 1959 to provide wintering habitat for waterfowl as well as the endangered blunt-nosed leopard lizard. Pixley Refuge is composed of a 8,800 acres, of which about 70 percent are owned by the Federal government. The Refuge purposes are: (1) "a land-conservation and land-utilization

program * * * 7 U.S.C. 1011 (Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act); (2) "as refuges for migratory birds and other wildlife: * * * Secretarial Order 2843, dated Nov. 17, 1959; and (3) "to conserve (A) fish or wildlife which are listed as endangered species or threatened species * * * or (B) plants * * * 16 U.S.C. 1534 (Endangered Species Act of 1973).

Blue Ridge Refuge is located in central Tulare County, northeast of Porterville, in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. This Refuge was established in 1982 to protect critical roosting habitat for the California condor. The 897 acres in the Blue Ridge Refuge are all owned by the Federal government. The refuge purpose is "to conserve (A) fish or wildlife which are listed as endangered species or threatened species * * * or (B) plants * * * 16 U.S.C. 1534 (Endangered Species Act of 1973).

The outcome of this planning process will be a CCP to guide Refuge management for the next 15 years and accompanying NEPA document. It is estimated that a draft CCP and NEPA document will be made available for public review in the latter part of 2000.

Dated: August 9, 1999.

Elizabeth H. Stevens,

Acting Manager, California/Nevada Operations.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-010-07-1020-00-241A]

Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: The next meeting of the Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council will be held on Wednesday, September 29, 1999, at the Garfield County Courthouse in Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

DATES: Wednesday, September 29, 1999.

ADDRESSES: For further information, contact Lynn Barclay, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 455 Emerson Street, Craig, Colorado 81625; Telephone (970) 826-5096.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Northwest Resource Advisory Council will meet on September, 29, 1999, at the Garfield County Courthouse, County Commissioners Meeting Room, 109 8th

Street, Glenwood Springs, Colorado. The meeting will start at 9 a.m. and include discussions of the proposed statewide recreation guidelines, grazing permit renewals, and wilderness review.

The meeting is open to the public. Interested persons may make oral statements at the meetings or submit written statements following the meeting. Per-person time limits for oral statements may be set to allow all interested persons an opportunity to speak.

Summary minutes of council meetings are maintained at the Bureau of Land Management Offices in Grand Junction and Craig, Colorado. They are available for public inspection and reproduction during regular business hours within thirty (30) days following the meeting.

Dated: August 10, 1999.

Mark T. Morse,

Center Manager, Northwest Center.

[FR Doc. 99-21176 Filed 8-13-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Availability of Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan/Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: National Park Service, Big Cypress National Preserve, Florida.

SUMMARY: This Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan/Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (ORVMP/SFEIS) identifies and assesses potential impacts of alternative options for the management of off-road vehicles within the Big Cypress National Preserve. The ORVMP/SFEIS describes management concerns which include the need to protect natural resources while providing recreational ORV access to the Preserve.

DATES: The ORVMP/SFEIS will be available for review August 13, 1999, until November 12, 1999. Written comments must be received by the Superintendent at the address below or postmarked no later than November 12, 1999. Public meetings will be held in the Preserve area at times to be published in local newspapers.

ADDRESSES: The ORVMP/SFEIS may be viewed on the Internet at www.nps.gov/BICY/ORVPLAN. Copies of the ORVMP/SFEIS are available from the Superintendent at the following address. Superintendent, Big Cypress National Preserve, HCR 61, Box 110,

Ochopee, Florida 34141, Telephone: (941) 695-2000.

Copies of the ORVMP/SFEIS may also be read at the following libraries:

Barron Public Library, P.O. Box 785, La Belle, FL 33935, Telephone: (941) 675-0833

Glades County Public Library, P.O. Box 505, Moore Haven, FL 33471, Telephone: (941) 946-0744

Monroe County Public Library, 700 Fleming Street, Key West, FL 33040, Telephone: (305) 292-3595

Collier County Public Library, 850 Central Avenue, Naples, FL 34102, Telephone: (941) 261-8208

Miami-Dade Public Library, 101 W. Flagler Street, Miami, FL 33130, Telephone: (305) 375-2665

Broward County Public Library, 100 South Andrews Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301, Telephone: (954) 357-7444

Palm Beach County Public Library, 3650 Summit Boulevard, West Palm Beach, FL 33406, Telephone: (561) 233-2600

Lee County Public Library, 2050 Lee Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901, Telephone: (941) 479-4620

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information, please contact the Superintendent.

Dated: August 6, 1999.

Daniel W. Brown,

Regional Director, Southeast Region.

[FR Doc. 99-21072 Filed 8-13-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Record of Decision; Final Environmental Impact Statement General Management Plan; Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park, Texas

Introduction

Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Public Law 91-190 (as amended), and the regulations promulgated by the Council on Environmental Quality at 40 CFR 1505.2 the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, has prepared the following Record of Decision on the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the General Management Plan for Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park.

This Record of Decision is a concise statement of what decisions were made, what alternatives were considered, the environmentally preferred alternative, the basis for the decision, and the mitigating measures developed to avoid or minimize environmental impacts.

Decision (Selected Action)

The National Park Service will implement Alternative 3, the proposed action, as described in the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements.

Concept

This alternative significantly expands the park operations, maintenance, and interpretation levels in Johnson City and at the ranch. It greatly increases park outreach to the region and allows the public much greater access to the Texas White House.

This alternative depends heavily on construction of a new combination bus maintenance facility/interpretive ranger office south of the Pedernales River. This new facility would allow the ranch maintenance and ranch operations to move into the existing bus maintenance facility and a visitor contact station to be installed in Klein's shop. Without this new facility, none of the other operations could be moved and this alternative could not be implemented. All facets of visitor interpretation and transportation would be affected.

Interpretation and Visitor Use

Interpretive programs and facilities throughout the park would present all primary and many secondary interpretive themes to enhance the visitor experience. Visitors would find opportunities to participate in a range of orientation, education, and interpretive activities for differing levels of interest, understanding, and sophistication. They would be able to explore the park's diverse resources, visualize the setting associated with the historic time period interpreted, and identify with the experience and feelings of personalities who historically lived at or visited this site. They would have access to accurate, balanced, and in-depth information about Johnson's life and legacy.

The interpretation would be designed to significantly increase the number of repeat visitors who return to the park for additional programs and special events. The return of the wagon transport in Johnson City and the opening of the Texas White House is expected to create considerable interest initially in visiting the park and the variety and number of new programs and events would continue to bring visitors back. The improved park experience and greater outreach programs would enhance the park's position within the crowded tourism market of south-central Texas and would be expected to substantially increase visitation at both the Johnson City and LBJ Ranch districts.

Johnson City District

All facilities in this district would be open on a daily basis. Additional interpretive staff (up to 14 FTEs) would provide creative, well-researched, high quality interpretive programs. The visitor center would function as it does now, but with extended emphasis on children's interpretation, lectures, and additional interpretive presentations on a variety of topics.

Ranger-led tours of the LBJ boyhood home would continue to be provided daily on a regularly scheduled basis. Education program opportunities would be expanded to educational institutions and schools throughout the region.

Significant improvements in interpretive opportunities would be implemented at the Johnson settlement. Interpretation would be expanded to provide costumed interpreters at the cabin and chuckwagon on a daily basis. A wagon would be used to provide transportation for visitors from a staging area (the Smith house site) outside the historic area to the exhibit center, and to set the mood for the costumed interpretive program.

LBJ Ranch District

Cooperative arrangements with the Lyndon B. Johnson State Historical Park and the Southwest Parks and Monuments Association would remain positive and strong with increased dependence on each organization to share in the responsibility of effectively presenting both parks' stories in all interpretive programs and materials when feasible. The cooperative arrangement between the state and national historical parks would be expanded to include cooperation/assistance with exhibits and interpretation and better overall integration of programs. Both parks would work together to encourage package bus tours from around the region and country.

Interpretation at the show barn would be expanded to include personal services, exhibits, and audiovisual productions. There would be an upgrade of exhibits in the barn as well as a display of historic farming and ranching equipment. There would also be an increase in special events and education programs.

In phase 2, the Texas White House complex would become the focal point of the interpretive program at the LBJ Ranch. Visitors would also have access to several other historic features of the Texas White House complex. The Secret Service command post would be restored and interpreted. The airplane hangar would become a flexible exhibit