

would be constructed along existing fence lines, thereby creating six distinct management units of about 12,000 acres each. Complete eradication would be achieved in each of the zones in a coordinated effort lasting approximately one year using trained, professional hunters. Techniques and tools for achieving eradication goals would be similar to other pig eradication efforts such as neighboring Santa Rosa Island and Santa Catalina Island. A helicopter may occasionally be used to transport hunters or serve as a hunting platform.

The eradication campaign would occur in four distinct phases. Phase I (Administration, Infrastructure, and Acquisition) includes putting in place the necessary staff to oversee, manage, direct, and carry out the project including fencing and hunting contractors. It also includes bolstering current housing structures and establishing adequate communications on the island. Necessary equipment and supplies would also be secured at this time. Phase II (Fencing) involves constructing six distinct zones of pig-proof fence across the island. Hunting and trapping in a zone may begin as soon as the zone fence is completed, and prior to the next sequential zone fence being completed. Phase III (Hunting) involves eradicating pigs within a zone, then moving to the next zone in sequential order. Contracted professional hunters would use American Veterinarian Medical Association (AVMA) approved techniques for euthanasia. Eradication techniques that would be used include walk-in traps, baiting, ground hunting with dogs, and aerial shooting. Once hunting commences, it is estimated that a complete island-wide eradication could be achieved within six years. Phase IV (Final Hunting and Monitoring) is perhaps the most important, as the intention is to exhaustively search the island for remnant pigs and pig sign. A systematic protocol of monitoring for remnant feral pigs would be developed for the island. Monitoring of the island would continue for five years after elimination of the "last pig" in order to insure success. Long term ecological monitoring to assess ecosystem changes due to pig eradication would continue into the foreseeable future.

It has been determined that in order to successfully eradicate pigs from Santa Cruz Island that fennel will have to be manipulated in areas where it has formed large dense thickets. These dense thickets of fennel create a safe harbor for pigs to escape from being hunted, and thus potential failure of the project. Fennel will also be controlled in

this area by using a technique developed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) that consists of a fall prescribed burn with a follow-up treatment of herbicide (Garlon 3A) at 1 lb. AI/acre in the two springs following the burn. Herbicide application would use ground and aerial application techniques. TNC developed this protocol in an extensive 600-acre test program in the Central Valley of Santa Cruz Island. Approximately 1,800 acres of fennel infestation would be treated.

Alternatives

After identifying the significant environmental issues associated with the proposed action, the Park began developing alternatives to the proposed action. Modifying the eradication strategies to address the environmental issue concerns was the basis the Park used to develop alternatives. In all, three alternatives were developed, including "No Action" (Alternative One). The alternatives are as follows: Alternative Two, "Simultaneous Island-wide Eradication of Pigs", involves eradicating pigs island-wide without the use of fenced zones. A simultaneous island-wide operation would require several teams of hunters and dogs repeatedly working sections of the island. This is considered to be a high intensity effort for a short period of time (approximately 2–3 years) in order to complete island-wide eradication. Alternative Three would eradicate pigs from eastern Santa Cruz Island but only exclude pigs from selected sensitive resources on central and western Santa Cruz Island. To keep pigs from impacting sensitive resources, pig-proof fence would be constructed that would enclose selected resources such as archeological sites, and threatened and endangered plant species. Alternative Two was determined to be the "environmentally preferred alternative" because it accomplishes eradication in a shorter period of time and does not require the construction of fence *i.e.* less physical disturbance. Alternative Four is the "agency preferred" alternative because this deliberate longer term strategy can be implemented more easily given the logistical and financial challenges of supporting a complex program on an offshore island.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Final EIS is now available for public review. CD copies are available at park headquarters. Paper copies will be made available at Ventura's Foster Library, and Santa Barbara's Central Library. A digital version will also be available online at the Park's Web site (<http://www.nps.gov/chis/restoringsci/>

[island.html](#)). Distribution of the Final EIS to interested publics will be on digital compact disk (CD) in Adobe Acrobat pdf format. Inquiries regarding the Final EIS should be directed to: Superintendent, Channel Islands National Park, 1901 Spinnaker Dr, Ventura, California 93001. The telephone number for the park is (805) 658–5700.

If individuals submitting comments request that their name or/and address be withheld from public disclosure, it will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Such requests must be stated prominently in the beginning of the comments. There also may be circumstances wherein the NPS will withhold a respondent's identity as allowable by law. As always: NPS will make available to public inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses; and, anonymous comments may not be considered.

Decision

No sooner than 30 (thirty) days after the Environmental Protection Agency has published its notice of filing of Final EIS in the **Federal Register**, a Record of Decision (ROD) will be executed. As a delegated EIS, the Regional Director, Pacific West Region, is responsible for the final decision; subsequently the Superintendent, Channel Islands National Park, would be responsible for plan implementation and monitoring activities.

Dated: June 24, 2002.

James R. Shevock,

Acting Regional Director, Pacific West Region.

[FR Doc. 02–22372 Filed 8–30–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–70–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Availability of Record of Decision on the Final Environmental Impact Statement/General Management Plan

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of a record of decision on the Final Environmental Impact Statement/General Management Plan, Devils Tower National Monument, Wyoming.

SUMMARY: On June 26, 2002, the Director, Intermountain Region approved the Record of Decision for the project. As soon as practical, the National Park Service will begin to

implement the General Management Plan described as the Preferred Alternative (Alternative 3) contained in the FEIS issued on March 21, 2002. In the Preferred Alternative a shuttle system would be established, a staging area would be constructed north of the entrance station, the paved parking area at the base of the Tower would be converted to a landscaped pedestrian plaza, and the campground and other facilities in the Belle Fourche River floodplain would be eliminated and the area restored to natural conditions. This alternative was deemed to be the environmentally preferred alternative, and it was determined that implementation of the selected actions will not constitute an impairment of park resources and values. This course of action and four alternatives were analyzed in the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements. The full range of foreseeable environmental consequences were assessed, and appropriate mitigating measures identified.

The full Record of Decision includes a statement of the decision made, synopses of other alternatives considered, the basis for the decision, a description of the environmentally preferable alternative, a finding on impairment of park resources and values, a listing of measures to minimize environmental harm, an overview of public involvement in the decision-making process, and a Statement of Findings for Wetlands.

Basis for Decision

In reaching its decision to select the preferred alternative, the National Park Service considered the purposes for which Devils Tower National Monument was established, and other laws and policies that apply to lands in the monument, including the Organic Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and the *NPS Management Policies*. The National Park Service also carefully considered public comments received during the planning process.

To develop a preliminary preferred alternative, the planning team evaluated the five draft alternatives that had been reviewed by the public. To minimize the influence of individual biases and opinions, the team used an objective analysis process called "Choosing by Advantages." This process has been used extensively by government agencies and the private sector. The following conclusions were reached:

- Alternative 3 represented a significant improvement in visitor experience at the base of the Tower over existing conditions, despite the potential for noise from shuttle vehicles

and continued high concentrations of visitors in the Tower area.

- In "Ease of access to the monument" which includes the ability to visit the monument on one's own schedule and seldom encountering waiting lines at the entrance station, Alternative 3 was rated highest of the alternatives because waiting lines at the entrance station would be reduced and visitors could enter the monument before being required to ride a shuttle.

- "Visitor understanding of the monument's significance" includes offering high quality interpretive services for visitors. Alternatives 3 and 4 rated highest for interpretive opportunities because of the inclusion of a staging area, interpretive opportunities on the shuttle, and the ability to keep more facilities open in the winter.

- The viewshed to be preserved comprises views within the park from the Tower and from the Tower and Red Beds trails. Though Alternative 3 did not score highest, the developments called for in Alternative 3 probably could be screened from many areas, giving it and another alternative a score of second.

Overall, Alternative 3 received the highest score and was adopted as the preferred alternative.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Superintendent Lisa Ekert, Devils Tower National Monument, P.O. Box 10, Devils Tower, Wyoming 82714; telephone 307/467-5283, or e-mail deto_planning@nps.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A limited number of individual copies of the Record of Decision may be obtained from the Superintendent listed above.

Dated: June 26, 2002.

Karen P. Wade,

Regional Director, Intermountain Region.

[FR Doc. 02-22374 Filed 8-30-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Record of Decision Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site, Washington, DC

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service has prepared a Final General Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS) for Mary McLeod Bethune

Council House National Historic Site. Four alternatives were evaluated for guiding the management of the site over the next 15-to-20 years. The alternatives incorporate various management provisions to ensure resource protection and quality visitor experience conditions. The environmental consequences anticipated from implementation of the various alternatives are addressed in the document. Impact topics include cultural resources, visitor use/experience, socioeconomic environment, and site administration and operations.

The purpose of this Record of Decision (ROD) is to document the National Park Service (NPS) selection of the proposed action for the final GMP/EIS. The ROD contains a statement of the decision made, other alternatives considered, the basis for the decision, the environmentally preferable alternative, measures to minimize environmental harm, finding of no impairment of park resources and values, and public involvement.

The NPS will implement the proposed action as described under Alternative 2 in the final GMP/EIS. The primary intent of this alternative is to place a dual emphasis on the Council House, which would be used as a museum, and on the archival collection of African-American women's history. Both the museum and the archives would be expanded and linked by using the archival materials in changing interpretive exhibits and programs. Interpretation would provide a broad and balanced program and in-depth treatment of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune's role as a public figure and organizer.

In March 2002, NPS distributed the final GMP/EIS to agencies, organizations and individuals on the park's mailing list. Copies of the document were also made available at Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site and other NPS sites in addition to the Council House website. The Department of the Interior, National Park Service's notice of availability of the final GMP/EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on March 22, 2002. The 30-day no-action period has ended permitting the issuance of this record of decision.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The final Record of Decision can be obtained in the following ways:

- An electronic version can be found at the following Web site: www.nps.gov/mamc/or
- By writing: Mary McLeod Bethune Council House Site Manager, 1318