

can be found on the project Web site at <http://www.gunnison-gorge-eis.com>. In addition to the 16 Planning Criteria, The Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Act of 1999 (Pub. L. 106-76, October 21, 1999), the Wilderness Act, public land health standards, as well as other requirements to maintain scenic values, recreational values and meet public recreation demands are additional criteria applied during the process.

The DRMP/EIS recommends the retention of an existing Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and the designation of new ACECs in the various alternatives. Under all alternatives, the effects of retaining and/or recommending designations of ACECs regarding restrictions in surface disturbing activities will occur only to the degree necessary to prevent damage and disturbance to the features and resources for which the area was designated. ACEC recommendations are as follows:

In Alternative A (Continuation of Current Management): The existing designation of the 161-acre Fairview Research Natural Area/Area of Critical Environmental Concern (RNA/ACEC) is retained.

In Alternative B (Conservation): (1) The existing designation of the 161-acre Fairview Research Natural Area/Area of Critical Environmental Concern (RNA/ACEC) is retained; (2) The Gunnison Sage Grouse Important Bird Area/ACEC (IBA/ACEC—16,531 acres outside the NCA boundary) is recommended for designation. The nomination was made by the public collaboration group. The lands are currently being managed according to the existing *Gunnison Sage Grouse Conservation Plan, Crawford Area, Colorado*; (3) Mancos Shale ACEC/Research Natural Area (19,797 acres inside NCA) is recommended for designation by USGS and BLM; (4) Relic Tree ACEC/Outstanding Natural Area (387 acres inside the NCA) is nominated for designation by a public collaboration group and former Management Framework Plan; (5) Native Plant Community ACEC/Outstanding Natural Area (4,577 acres inside NCA) is nominated for designation by The Nature Conservancy, and (6) Gunnison and North Fork Rivers ACEC, 2,702 acres outside the NCA, nominated by the focus group and BLM.

In Alternative C (Mixed Use): The existing designation of the 161-acre Fairview Research Natural Area/Area of Critical Environmental Concern (RNA/ACEC) is retained.

In Alternative D (Agency Preferred Alternative): (1) The existing designation of the 161-acre Fairview Research Natural Area/Area of Critical Environmental Concern (RNA/ACEC) is retained; (2) The Gunnison Sage Grouse Important Bird Area/ACEC (IBA/ACEC—16,531 acres outside the NCA boundary and 5,669 acres inside the NCA boundary for 22,200 acres total) would be recommended for designation. The same values and features as described in Alternative B are contained in the area; and, (3) Native Plant Community ACEC/ACEC/Outstanding Natural Area (3,785 acres inside NCA) is nominated for designation by The Nature Conservancy.

Dated: December 19, 2002.

Allan J. Belt,

Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office.

[FR Doc. 03-5889 Filed 3-13-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement, Canyon De Chelly National Monument, Arizona

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for the general management plan, Canyon De Chelly National Monument.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Park Service is preparing an environmental impact statement for the general management plan for Canyon De Chelly National Monument. The environmental impact statement will be approved by the Director, Intermountain Region.

Canyon de Chelly National Monument is in Apache County, Arizona, on the Navajo Reservation. The monument was authorized by Congress on February 14, 1931, following approval of the monument by the Navajo Tribal Council. Congress charged the National Park Service with the “* * * care, maintenance, preservation, and restoration of the prehistoric ruins, or other features of scientific or historical interest.” The National Park Service was also given the right to provide improvements for the “* * * administration and protection of the monument * * *,” and for the “* * * care and accommodation of visitors.”

The general management plan will prescribe the resource conditions,

visitor experiences, and the nature of the relationship with the Navajo Nation and canyon community that are to be achieved and maintained in the monument over the next 15 to 20 years. The clarification of what must be achieved according to law and policy will be based on review of the monument’s purpose, significance, special mandates, and the body of laws and policies directing monument management. Management decisions to be made where law, policy, or regulations do not provide clear guidance or limits will be based on the purposes of the monument, the range of public expectations and concerns, resource analysis, an evaluation of the natural, cultural, and social impacts of alternative courses of action, and consideration of long-term economic costs. Based on determinations of desired conditions, the general management plan will outline the kinds of resource management activities, visitor activities, and development that would be appropriate in the monument in the future. Alternatives will be developed through this planning process and will include, at a minimum, no-action and the preferred alternative.

Major issues include protection of natural and cultural resources; the adequacy of interpretive programs; and potential partnerships with the Navajo Nation and associated American Indian communities, as well as other agencies, organizations, and local interests.

DATES: The National Park Service will conduct public scoping for 60 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. Open house meetings regarding the general management plan will be held during the public scoping period. Specific dates, times, and locations will be announced in the local media and will also be available by contacting the Superintendent of Canyon De Chelly National Monument.

ADDRESSES: Throughout the scoping and planning process information will be available for public review and comment in the office of the superintendent (Scott Travis, Canyon De Chelly National Monument, PO Box 588, Chinle, AZ 86503).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Superintendent Scott Travis, Canyon De Chelly National Monument, PO Box 588, Chinle, AZ 86503; Tel: (928) 674-5500; FAX: (928) 674-5507; e-mail: scott_travis@nps.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: If you wish to comment on the general management planning process for Canyon de Chelly National Monument, or on any issues associated with the

plan, you may submit your comments by any one of several methods. You may mail comments to Superintendent Scott Travis, Canyon de Chelly National Monument, PO Box 588, Chinle, AZ 86503. You may also e-mail comments to scott_travis@nps.gov. Finally, you may hand-deliver comments to the Canyon de Chelly National Monument visitor center (3 miles east of Chinle, Arizona on Highway 7). Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. 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 us to withhold your address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. 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: January 22, 2003.

Karen P. Wade,

Director, Intermountain Region.

[FR Doc. 03-6207 Filed 3-13-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Draft Environmental Impact Statement on Vessel Quotas and Operating Requirements for Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, Alaska

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on Vessel Quotas and Operating Requirements.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service (NPS) announces the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on Vessel Quotas and Operating Requirements for Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. The document describes and analyzes the environmental impacts of four action alternatives, including a preferred alternative, for managing vessels in Glacier Bay and Dundas Bay. A no action alternative also is evaluated. This notice announces the public comment period, the locations of public hearings, and solicits comments on the EIS.

DATES: Comments on the draft plan and EIS must be received no later than May 13, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the EIS should be submitted to Nancy Swanton, EIS Project Manager, 2525 Gambell Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99503. Submit written comments electronically through the park's Web site at <http://www.nps.gov/glba>. The draft EIS may be viewed at this Web site as well. Hard copies and CDs of the Draft EIS are available by request from the aforementioned address. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for the locations of public hearings.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy Swanton, EIS Project Manager, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. Telephone: (907) 257-2651.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to establish new or keep existing quotas (limits) and operating requirements for four types of waterborne motorized vessels—cruise ships and tour, charter, and private vessels—within Glacier Bay and Dundas Bay in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. The purpose for the action is to address the continuing demand for vessel access into Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve in a manner that assures continuing protection of park resources and values while providing for a range of high-quality recreational opportunities for visitors. The need for action stems from legislation enacted in 2001, wherein the U.S. Congress directed the NPS to set the maximum level of vessel entries based on the analysis in this EIS.

The EIS considers a reasonable range of alternatives that include:

- Alternative 1 (no action) would maintain the current vessel quotas, quota season, and operating requirements for Glacier Bay.
- Alternative 2 would set vessel quotas in accordance with the 1985-authorized levels and maintain the current quota season and operating requirements for Glacier Bay.
- Alternative 3 (NPS preferred alternative) would maintain the current vessel quotas for Glacier Bay, with a provision to increase the number of cruise ships. It would maintain the current quota season and operating requirements for Glacier Bay.
- Alternative 4 (environmentally preferred alternative) would maintain the daily quotas for cruise ships and reduce slightly the daily quotas for the other three vessel classes. It would reduce seasonal use days for cruise ships, tour vessels and charter vessels, and would increase slightly the number of seasonal use days for private vessels

for Glacier Bay. The quota season would be lengthened to include May and September for all vessel classes. Seasonal entry quotas would be eliminated. Vessel quotas would be initiated for Dundas Bay. Operating requirements would be modified, including limited closure of certain waters to cruise ships and tour vessels.

- Alternative 5 would maintain the current daily vessel quotas and lengthen the quota season to include May and September for cruise ships. It would maintain the number of seasonal use days for cruise ships, tour vessels, and charter vessels during the current quota season but decrease the number of seasonal use days for cruise ships during May and September. It would increase the number of seasonal use days for private vessels. Seasonal entry quotas would be eliminated. Vessel quotas would be initiated for tour and charter vessels in Dundas Bay. Operating requirements would be modified, including limited closures of certain waters to cruise ships and tour vessels.

Public hearings will take place in April 2003 at the following locations: Anchorage, Juneau, Gustavus, Hoonah, Elfin Cove, and Pelican, Alaska, and Seattle, Washington. The specific dates and times of the public hearings will be announced in local media.

Dated: February 12, 2003.

Marcia Blaszk,

Acting Regional Director, Alaska.

[FR Doc. 03-6206 Filed 3-13-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

General Management Plan Revision, Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the draft Environmental Impact Statement for the General Management Plan Revision for Petrified Forest National Park.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4332(C), the National Park Service announces the availability of a draft Environmental Impact Statement and General Management Plan Revision for Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona.

DATES: The draft Environmental Impact Statement and General Management Plan Revision will remain available for public review through May 13, 2003. No