

Dated: May 6, 2003.

Richard G. Ring,

Associate Director, Administration, Business Practices and Workforce Development.

[FR Doc. 03-13333 Filed 5-28-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312-HX-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Intent to Issue a Temporary Concession Contract for Food and Beverage, Lodging, and Merchandise Services at Oregon Caves National Monument

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Park Service Concessions Management Improvement Act of 1998, notice is hereby given that the National Park Service intends to issue a temporary concession contract authorizing continued operation of food and beverage, overnight lodging and merchandise services to the public within Oregon Caves National Monument. The temporary concession contract will be for a term of not more than 1 year. This short-term concession contract is necessary to avoid interruption of visitor services while the National Park Service completes the solicitation and selection of a concessioner for a new long-term concession contract. This short-term contract will be for a one-seasonal operating period ending October 31, 2003. This notice is pursuant to 36 CFR part 51, section 51.24(a).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The previous concession contract at Oregon Caves National Monument expired on October 31, 2002. The operation is seasonal and operates primarily from mid-May through mid-September and provides visitors with lodging, food and beverage and merchandise services. The prospectus for Oregon Caves National Monument long-term concession contract was issued in February 2003 and the solicitation period will not be concluded until May of 2003. The review of proposals and selection of a concessioner will not be completed for another several months. The short-term concession contract is necessary to avoid the interruption of visitor services for the summer operating season of 2003 while the National Park Service conducts its solicitation and the evaluation of offers for the award of a new long-term concession contract.

Information about this notice can be sought from: National Park Service, Chief, Concession Program Management Office, Pacific West Region, Attn: Mr. Tony Sisto, 1111 Jackson Street, Suite

700, Oakland, California 94607 or call 510/817-1366.

Dated: May 1, 2003.

Richard G. Ring,

Associate Director, Administration, Business Practices and Workforce Development.

[FR Doc. 03-13331 Filed 5-28-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Intent To Prepare a General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Cumberland Gap National Historical Park (KY, TN, VA)

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the National Park Service (Service) will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the General Management Plan for Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. The EIS will assess potential environmental impacts associated with various types and levels of visitor use and resources management within the National Historical Park. This General Management Plan/EIS is being prepared in response to the requirements of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, Public Law 95-625, and in accord with Director's Order Number 2, the planning directive for NPS units.

The NPS will conduct public scoping meetings in the local area to receive input from interested parties on issues, concerns, and suggestions pertinent to the management of Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. Representatives of the NPS will be available to discuss issues, resource concerns, and the planning process at each of the public meetings. Suggestions and ideas for managing the cultural and natural resources and visitor experiences at the park are encouraged.

DATES: Locations, dates, and times of public scoping meetings will be published in local newspapers and may also be obtained by contacting the park Superintendent. This information will also be published on the General Management Plan web site for Cumberland Gap, <http://www.nps.gov/cuga>.

ADDRESSES: Scoping suggestions should be submitted to the following address to ensure adequate consideration by the NPS: Superintendent, Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, P.O. Box 1848, Middlesboro, Kentucky 40965, Telephone: 606-248-2817, Email: CUGA_Superintendent@nps.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Superintendent, Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, P.O. Box 1848, Middlesboro, Kentucky 40965, Telephone: 606-248-2817, Email: CUGA_Superintendent@nps.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park is located on the tri-state boundaries of Kentucky, Virginia, and Tennessee. The park was authorized on June 11, 1940, and now consists of over 20,000 acres. The park lies in four counties in the three states, ranges from 1 to 4 miles in width, and stretches for 20 miles astride the forested Cumberland Mountain. Fourteen thousand acres in the park are managed as wilderness. The Cumberland Gap itself is a natural notch in the mountain ridge. It was this low passageway that provided access for travel among American Indian tribes and access for Daniel Boone and hundreds of thousands of settlers who poured into the west in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

The Gap continued to serve as a strategic transportation corridor during the Civil War and during the late 19th-century period of intense industrial development. Today the Cumberland Gap Tunnel provides easy and safe vehicular travel among the connecting states, and the historic corridor has been returned to its natural topography. Visitors are able to walk in the footsteps of pioneers along the Wilderness Road through the restored Gap.

Public documents associated with the planning effort, including all newsletters, will be posted on the Internet through the park's website at <http://www.nps.gov/cuga>.

The Draft and Final General Management Plan/EIS will be made available to all known interested parties and appropriate agencies. Full public participation by Federal, State, and local agencies as well as other concerned organizations and private citizens is invited throughout the preparation process of this document. Please note that due to public disclosure requirements, the NPS, if requested, will make the names and addresses of those who submit written comments public. Anonymous comments will not be considered; however, individual respondents may request that we withhold their names and addresses from the public record. If you wish to withhold your name and/or address, you must state that request 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.

The responsible official for this Environmental Impact Statement is William W. Schenk, Regional Director, Southeast Region, National Park Service, 100 Alabama Street SW., 1924 Building, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Dated: April 18, 2003.

Charlie Powell,

Acting Regional Director, Southeast Region.

[FR Doc. 03-13334 Filed 5-28-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement, Montezuma Castle National Monument and Tuzigoot National Monument, Arizona

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for the general management plan, Montezuma Castle National Monument and Tuzigoot National Monument, Arizona.

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 Montezuma Castle National Monument and Tuzigoot National Monument, Arizona. The environmental impact statement will be approved by the Director, Intermountain Region.

Montezuma Castle National Monument and Tuzigoot National Monument are located in Yavapai County, Arizona. Montezuma Castle was established in 1906 under the authority of the Antiquities Act. The proclamation states it “* * * is of the greatest ethnological value and scientific interest * * *” (Presidential Proclamation No. 696, December 8, 1906, 34 Stat. 3265). Montezuma Well was added in 1943 as a detached unit of the monument with an act of Congress (October 19, 1943, 57 Stat. 572).

Tuzigoot National Monument was established by presidential proclamation on July 25, 1939. The proclamation states that “certain Government-owned lands in the State of Arizona have situated there on historic and prehistoric structures and other historic objects of historic or scientific interest, and * * * it would be in the public interest to reserve such lands as a national monument to be known as Tuzigoot National Monument.” Public

Law 95-625 (March 1978) expanded the boundary by approximately 791 acres.

The general management plan will prescribe the resource conditions and visitor experiences to be achieved and maintained in the monuments 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 monuments’ purpose, significance, special mandates, and the body of laws and policies directing management of the monuments. Management decisions to be made where law, policy, or regulations do not provide clear guidance or limits will be based on the purpose of the monuments, 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 monuments in the future. Alternatives will be developed through this planning process and will include, at a minimum, the no-action and preferred alternative.

Major issues include protection of natural and cultural resources, providing for visitor enjoyment and understanding, and evaluating potential boundary expansions. Potential partnerships will be explored with 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 houses 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 Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments.

ADDRESSES: Throughout the scoping and planning process, information will be available for public review and comment in the office of the superintendent (Kathy M. Davis, Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments, PO Box 219, Camp Verde, AZ 86322-0219).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Superintendent Kathy M. Davis, Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments, PO Box 219, Camp Verde, AZ 86322-0219; TEL (928) 567-5276; FAX: (928) 567-3597; e-mail: kathy_m_davis@nps.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: If you wish to comment on the general management planning process for Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments, 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 Kathy M. Davis, Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments, PO Box 219, Camp Verde, AZ 86322-0219. You may also e-mail comments to kathy_m_davis@nps.gov. You may also hand-deliver comments to the Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments visitor centers. 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 comments. 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: May 1, 2003.

Karen P. Wade,

Director, Intermountain Region.

[FR Doc. 03-13339 Filed 5-28-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Elk and Vegetation Management Plan, Environmental Impact Statement, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Elk and Vegetation Management Plan, Rocky Mountain National Park.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C 4332(C), the National Park Service is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement for the Elk and Vegetation Management Plan for Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado. This effort will result in a plan for adaptively managing elk and vegetation that addresses important environmental and social