

Dated: July 10, 1995.

Marcia Blaszak,

Acting Field Director.

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Final Environmental Impact Statement/General Management Plan Joshua Tree National Park, California; Availability

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Pub. L. 91-190, as amended), the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, has prepared a final environmental impact statement (FEIS) that describes and analyzes the effects of a proposed and two alternative General Management/Development Concept Plans for Joshua Tree National Monument, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, California. The approved plans will guide park management over the next 15 years.

The plans selected (*Alternative A*) would improve visitor contact facilities and services at each of the three main entrances and a visitor center would be developed for the west entrance. Opportunities for Wilderness and trail experiences would be expanded. Wayside exhibits and interpretive programs would be updated and expanded. Facilities in existing developed areas would be replaced or redesigned to improve resource protection, aesthetics, and efficiency. Campground locations and capacities are basically unchanged, but campsites would be redesigned. Picnic facilities and day use parking would be expanded somewhat, primarily in already-disturbed areas. Research and resource monitoring and management programs would be increased to enhance resource protection. Management of Wilderness would be enhanced through an array of planned actions that reduce threats to Wilderness by removing incompatible uses and development.

Two alternatives were evaluated: *Alternative B—No Action* would continue current management strategies with no changes in visitor and park support facilities or programs; *Alternative C—Minimum Requirements* would rehabilitate deteriorated facilities in their current locations. Capacities of camp areas and day use parking areas would be unchanged, while the number of picnic sites would be slightly increased. The primary visitor center would remain at the Oasis of Mara.

The draft environmental impact statement and plans (DEIS) were released for public review pursuant to a notice of availability published in the **Federal Register** on August 25, 1994.

During the comment period ending November 7, 1994, 144 written comments were received. Thirty-eight persons attended public meetings held on September 14 and 15, 1994. The FEIS incorporates minor modifications and clarifications in response to some comments, although no significant new issues or concerns were surfaced.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The no-action period on this FEIS will extend for 30 days from the date the Notice of Availability is published by the Environmental Protection Agency in the **Federal Register**.

For copies of the FEIS, or for further information, please contact: Superintendent, Joshua Tree National Park, 74485 National Monument Drive, Twentynine Palms, California, 92277, or via telephone at (619) 367-7511.

Dated: June 26, 1995.

Patricia L. Neubachen,

Field Director, Pacific West Field Area.

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Availability of the Final General Management Plan/Implementation Plan Alternatives/Environmental Impact Statement for Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, Washington

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Pub. L. 91-190, as amended), the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, has prepared a Final General Management Plan/Implementation Plan Alternatives/Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/Plans/FEIS) that describes and analyzes a proposal and four alternatives that meet immediate and long-term needs at Lake Chelan National Recreation Area for future management and use of Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, as required by the consent decree that was approved and entered on April 22, 1991, in the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington (Civil Case No. C-89-1342D).

The Draft General Management Plan/Implementation Plan

Alternatives/Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/Plans/DEIS) was released for public review on August 26, 1994 (59 FR 165), and the public comment period closed November 1, 1994. During this comment period, three public hearings were held and written comments were also received. The GMP/Plans/FEIS contains responses to the comments received and modifications to the document as needed in response to the comments.

Under the proposed action, which was developed in response to public and agency comments on the GMP/Plans/DEIS, the National Park Service would not manipulate the Stehekin River nor remove or manipulate woody debris except to protect public roads and bridges. The active sand, rock, and gravel borrow pit would be maintained at less than or equal to its current size. Fire suppression, prescribed natural fire, management-ignited prescribed fire, and selective manual fuel reductions would provide more effective fire protection. Firewood would be provided at fair market value, and there would be no guaranteed cordage per year. The airstrip would remain open. Land protection would emphasize high flood influence areas, wetlands, riparian areas, and high visual sensitivity areas. Under the no-action/minimum requirements alternative, river erosion and flooding would be controlled only to protect life, health, public roads, and bridges. Where feasible, federal lands would be treated with prescribed fire to reduce fuels. Firewood would be obtained from harvesting 1-acre woodlots. The airstrip would remain open. Land protection would emphasize wetlands, shoreline characteristics, high scenic quality, water quality, visitor access, restriction of unsightly development, and development on areas with gradients greater than 20%. Under alternative A, new river shoreline or bank protection structures would be prohibited. The mining of sand, rock, and gravel would be prohibited within the valley. Natural ignitions would be suppressed on the valley floor for the protection of human life and property. Woodlot cutting of firewood would stop immediately. The airstrip would be closed and restored to natural conditions. The Stehekin Valley road between the Landing and Cottonwood Camp would be converted to a trail. All NPS and concession housing and maintenance facilities would be substantially reduced and located at the Landing. Land protection would involve acquisition, on a willing seller/willing buyer basis, or by eminent domain authority, of all private lands within the recreation area. Under alternative B, riverbank protection structures would be allowed if no adverse environmental impacts would result. Mining of sand, rock, and gravel in the valley would be prohibited. Fire and forest fuels would be managed to restore or replicate the natural role of fire. Firewood would be provided at fair market value instead of a set permit fee. There would be no guarantee of firewood cordage per year. The airstrip