

Dated: July 10, 1995.

Marcia Blaszak,

Acting Field Director.

[FR Doc. 95-17893 Filed 7-19-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

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.

[FR Doc. 95-17637 Filed 7-19-95; 8:45 am]

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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

would be closed. Land protection would emphasize high flood influence areas, wetland, riparian areas, and high visual sensitivity areas. Under alternative C, protection of public or private improvements threatened by river erosion and flooding would be allowed. The size of the borrow pit would remain constant. Selective manual forest fuel reduction techniques would be used to reduce hazard forest fuel loadings. Firewood would be supplied from administrative wood and natural selection ecoforestry selective cutting from a designated area. The airstrip would be managed by the National Park Service for emergency use only. Land protection would emphasize high flood influence areas, wetlands, and high visual sensitivity areas.

Major impact topics assessed for the proposed action and alternatives include natural and cultural resources and the socioeconomic environment, including the local and regional economy.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The no-action period on this final plan and environmental impact statement will end 30 days after the Environmental Protection Agency has published a notice of availability of the GMP/Plans/FEIS in the **Federal Register**. For further information, contact: Superintendent, North Cascades National Park Service Complex, 2105 State Route 20, Sedro Woolley, WA 98284-1799; telephone (360) 856-5700.

Copies of the GMP/Plans/FEIS will be available at North Cascades National Park Service Complex Headquarters, as well as the following locations: Office of Public Affairs, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC; National Park Service, Seattle System Support Office, 909 First Ave., Seattle, WA; Stehekin Ranger Station, Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, National Park Service, Stehekin, WA; Chelan Public Library, Chelan, WA; Government Publications, Suzzallo Library, University of Washington, Seattle, WA; and Government Documents, Main Public Library, 100-4th Ave., Seattle, WA.

Dated: July 10, 1995.

Rory D. Westberg,

Superintendent, Columbia Cascades System Support Office, National Park Service.

[FR Doc. 95-17892 Filed 7-19-95; 8:45 am]

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Availability and 30-day Comment Period on an Environmental Assessment for a proposed Exchange of Interests in Lands between the National Park Service and Georgetown University

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.
ACTION: Notice of availability of an environmental assessment and a 30-day comment period.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of an environmental assessment for a proposed exchange of interests in lands between the National Park Service and Georgetown University.

Written comments on the EA should be received no later than August 21, 1995. A 30-day no action period will follow this comment period and end on September 20, 1995. Written comments on the EA should be submitted to Mr. Robert Stanton; Field Director, National Capital Area; 1100 Ohio Drive SW., Washington, DC 20242.

Copies of the EA are available for review between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday at the following locations: Office of Stewardship and Partnerships; National Capital Area; National Park Service; 1100 Ohio Drive SW., room 201; Washington, DC 20242; and Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park Headquarters, Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782. A limited number of copies of the EA are available on request from Mr. Glenn DeMarr, Office of Stewardship and Partnerships, room 201; 1100 Ohio Drive SW., Washington, DC. Inquiries should be directed to Mr. Glenn DeMarr at the above address or on (202) 619-7027.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This proposal is for the exchange of interests in lands between the National Park Service and Georgetown University. The National Park Service intends to obtain from Georgetown University, fee interest in an inholding containing mature, native vegetation and wildlife located within the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park. In exchange, the National Park Service will convey to Georgetown University, a fee interest in another tract in the already developed portion of the waterfront of the Georgetown section of the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

The primary purposes of the proposed exchange are: (1) To allow the National Park Service to acquire and thereby preclude from development, a largely undisturbed inholding featuring mature trees and native vegetation and wildlife, and avoid the disruption of adjacent parkland from regular recreational

activities of Georgetown University that could occur on this tract; and (2) consistent with National Park Service studies and regional planning, to provide for placement of a non-motorized boating facility in furtherance of the recreational mandate of the C&O Canal National Historical Park Act, on property with less developed natural features.

By acquiring Georgetown University's tract of land, the National Park Service can ensure that the tract will remain in its present undeveloped condition, consistent with long-term planning for the area. Placement of a non-motorized boating facility on the other tract conforms with the conclusions reached in prior recreational boating studies.

Dated: July 14, 1995.

Terry R. Carlstrow,

Acting Field Director, National Capital Area.

[FR Doc. 95-17891 Filed 7-19-95; 8:45 am]

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INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION

[Docket No. AB-3 (Sub-No. 119X)]

Missouri Pacific Railroad Company; Abandonment Exemption; in Sebastian, Franklin, and Logan Counties, AR

[Docket No. AB-3 (Sub-No. 1X)]

Fort Smith Railroad Company; Discontinuance of Service Exemption in Sebastian, Franklin, and Logan Counties, AR

AGENCY: Interstate Commerce Commission.

ACTION: Notice of exemption.

SUMMARY: The Commission exempts from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903-04 the abandonment by Missouri Pacific Railroad Company and discontinuance of service by Fort Smith Railroad Company over 31.03 miles of rail line (part of the line known as the Paris Branch) between milepost 522.39, east of Fort Chaffee, AR, and the end of the track at milepost 553.42, near Paris, AR, in Sebastian, Franklin, and Logan Counties, subject to environmental and standard labor protective conditions.

DATES: Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance has been received, this exemption will be effective on August 19, 1995. Formal expressions of intent to file an offer of financial assistance under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2) ¹ must be

¹ See Exempt. of Rail Abandonment—Offers of Finan. Assist., 4 I.C.C.2d 164 (1987).