

Baltimore-Washington Parkway (Anne Arundel County)

Dated: August 2, 1996.

Chris Andress,

Chief, Division of Ranger Activities, National Park Service.

[FR Doc. 96-20207 Filed 8-7-96; 8:45 am]

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Devils Tower National Monument, Wyoming

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.
ACTION: Notice—reconsideration of a portion of the Devils Tower Climbing Management Plan.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service (NPS) has decided to reconsider certain portions of the Climbing Management Plan for Devils Tower National Monument which address climbing limitations based on concerns about Indian religious and cultural values.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted through September 23, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to: Superintendent, Devils Tower National Monument, P.O. Box 10, Devils Tower, Wyoming 82714-0010.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah O. Liggett, Superintendent, Devils Tower National Monument. Telephone 307-467-5283.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In March 1995, the NPS adopted a Final Climbing Management Plan (Plan) for Devils Tower National Monument. In general, the Plan states that Devils Tower will be managed primarily as a crack climbing site and that climbing will be managed taking into account the religious and cultural significance of Devils Tower as a site sacred to some Native Americans.

To this end, the Plan calls for technical rock climbers to voluntarily refrain from climbing Devils Tower during the culturally significant month of June. In addition, the Plan states that commercial use licenses for climbing will not allow commercially guided climbing during June (starting in 1996).

On May 24, 1996, Executive Order 13007 was issued by the President. It generally states that federal agencies with land management responsibilities, to the extent practicable, permitted by law, and not clearly inconsistent with essential agency functions, are to accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners and to avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity

of sacred sites. The Executive Order supplements the protection afforded by the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act Amendments of 1994.

On June 8, 1996, the United States District Court for the District of Wyoming issued a preliminary order in *Bear Lodge Multiple Use Association v. Babbitt*, C.A. No. 96-CV-0063D. The court's order enjoined the NPS from restricting commercial guide climbing activities during the month of June pending a final decision of the court. The order upheld the Plan's voluntary program to encourage climbers not to climb in the month of June.

In light of these circumstances, NPS has decided to reconsider those portions of the Plan which address climbing limitations based on concerns about Indian religious and cultural values. Pending the outcome of this reconsideration and in accordance with the court's order, the NPS will not enforce the Plan's requirements regarding commercial guide climbing in the month of June. Except with respect to commercial guide activities in the month of June, the Plan remains in full force and effect.

Through this notice, the public is asked to comment on the Plan's climbing limitations based on concerns about Indian religious and cultural values. Particularly, the public is asked to comment on appropriate means for the NPS at Devils Tower to comply with the President's Executive Order regarding Indian Sacred sites. NPS, upon consideration of all public comments received, will determine whether to continue the Plan or to modify it with respect to climbing limitations based on concerns about Indian religious and cultural values. It is expected that this reconsideration will be completed by December 1, 1996.

Copies of the Plan, the court's order and Executive Order 13007 will be made available upon request from Devils Tower National Monument.

Dated: August 2, 1996.

Chris Andress,

Chief, Division of Ranger Activities, National Park Service.

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Bureau of Reclamation

Quarterly Status Report of Water Service and Repayment Contract Negotiations

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of proposed contractual actions that are new, modified, discontinued, or completed since the last publication of this notice on April 30, 1996. The February 5, 1996, notice should be used as a reference point to identify changes. The number in parenthesis corresponds to the number in the February 5, 1996, notice. This notice is one means in which the public is informed about contractual actions for capital recovery and management of project resources and facilities. Additional Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) announcements of individual contract actions may be published in the Federal Register and in newspapers of general circulation in the areas determined by Reclamation to be affected by the proposed action. Announcements may be in the form of new releases, legal notices, official letters, memorandums, or other forms of written material. Meetings, workshops, and/or hearings may also be used, as appropriate, to provide local publicity. The public participation procedures do not apply to proposed contracts for sale of surplus or interim irrigation water for a term of 1 year or less. Either of the contracting parties may invite the public to observe any contract proceedings. All public participation procedures will be coordinated with those involved in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act.

ADDRESSES: The identity of the approving officer and other information pertaining to a specific contract proposal may be obtained by calling or writing the appropriate regional office at the address and telephone number given for each region in the supplementary information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alonzo Knapp, Manager, Reclamation Law, Contract, and Repayment Office, Bureau of Reclamation, PO Box 25007, Denver, Colorado 80225-0007; telephone 303-236-1061 extension 224.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 226 of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (96 Stat. 1273) and 43 CFR 426.20 of the rules and regulations published in 52 FR 11954, Apr. 13, 1987, Reclamation will publish notice of proposed or amendatory contract actions for any contract for the delivery of project water for authorized uses in newspapers of general circulation in the affected area at least 60 days prior to contract execution. Pursuant to the "Final Revised Public Participation Procedures" for water resource-related contract negotiations,