

Dated: March 31, 1997.

Stanley T. Albright,

Regional Director, Pacific West Region.

[FR Doc. 97-10430 Filed 4-22-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Final Environmental Impact Statement for Resources Management Plan to Improve Water Quality and Conserve Rare Species and Their Habitats on Santa Rosa Island; Channel Islands National Park, Santa Barbara County, California; Notice of Availability

Summary

Pursuant to § 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190, as amended), the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement assessing the potential impacts of alternatives identified in a Resources Management Plan proposed for improving water quality and conserving rare species and their habitats on Santa Rosa Island in California. Once approved, the plan will guide resources management on Santa Rosa Island for the next 15 years.

Background

The Final Environmental Impact Statement and Resources Management Plan (FEIS/RMP) presents and analyzes a proposal and four alternatives for improving water quality and riparian areas and promoting conservation of rare species and their habitats on Santa Rosa Island. "Rare species" includes: species which have been listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered in accordance with the Endangered Species Act; those species which are candidates for such listing; and those which were formerly candidates.

Alternatives

The Draft EIS/RMP (Draft) was made available for public review and comment on May 6, 1996, and had identified Alternative C, Targeted Management Action, as a preferred alternative. In response to public comment on the Draft, the National Park Service has identified a different alternative as the proposed action in the FEIS/RMP. The new proposed action, Alternative D, Revised Conservation Strategy, would improve water quality, protect riparian habitat areas, and conserve rare species and their habitats on Santa Rosa Island, in part by requiring changes in the Vail & Vickers

cattle grazing-commercial hunting operation over the next 14 years. Additional actions proposed include: the immediate closure of two pastures to cattle and horses, and reduction in the number of cattle grazing in other pastures with resources at risk; removing deer from the island within three (3) years and phased removal of elk over a fourteen (14) year period. The Park would also implement road management actions to reduce impacts to island streams from existing practices; develop a comprehensive weed management plan to address problems resulting from invasion of alien plant species; and develop monitoring programs for rare species, water quality and riparian areas.

The following alternatives to the proposal are also evaluated in the FEIS/RMP:

Alternative A, No Action, would continue the existing cattle ranching and commercial hunt operation, with no changes.

Alternative B, Minimal Action, includes exclusion of cattle from one pasture, removal of deer from the island, and construction of small riparian enclosures in several drainages.

Alternative C, Targeted Action, includes removal of cattle and horses from one pasture, implementation of a seasonal grazing rotation in another pasture, construction of small riparian enclosures, and removal of deer and reduction of elk.

Alternative E, Immediate Removal of Ungulates, includes removal of all cattle, horses, elk and deer from the island within three years.

Decision Process

A "no action" period on the part of the National Park Service will end 30 days after the Environmental Protection Agency's notice of receipt of this FEIS/RMP is filed in the **Federal Register**. Subsequently, notice of a Record of Decision (ROD) will be published, prior to any implementation of elements of the proposed action. Anticipated elements include the following: after the ROD has been duly noticed, the National Park Service will revise terms of an existing Special Use Permit issued to Vail & Vickers, so as to make their forthcoming operations consistent with the alternative selected and identified in the ROD. Accordingly, at that time the existing Special Use Permit would be revoked and replaced with a new permit incorporating pertinent management practices prescribed in the selected FEIS/RMP alternative.

Information

Inquiries about the FEIS/RMP or requests for copies should be directed to Channel Islands National Park, 1901 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura, CA 93001, or by telephone at (805) 658-5776.

Dated: April 11, 1997.

Stanley T. Albright,

Regional Director, Pacific West Region.

[FR Doc. 97-10531 Filed 4-22-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Mojave National Preserve Notice of Intent to Prepare Environmental Impact Statement for AT&T Corp's Removal of Coaxial Cable

Summary

In accordance with § 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL91-190), the National Park Service is initiating an environmental impact analysis process to identify and assess potential impacts of alternative means proposed for recovering approximately 220 miles of a coaxial cable communications system. AT&T Corp. of Atlanta, Georgia (AT&T) owns and maintains a transcontinental Phillips-140 cable system, a portion of which extends for 709 miles between Mojave, California and Socorro, New Mexico. This communications technology is obsolete and AT&T officials have notified the Department of the Interior of their desire to remove segments of the system (consisting of underground coaxial communications cable and appurtenant surface and below-ground servicing facilities).

Background

AT&T was originally issued Right-of-Way Grants for the subject communications system in 1963 and 1964. In March, 1997 a formal request to terminate portions of the right-of-way was submitted to the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management, pursuant to the terms of the grants. Upon preliminary review of the formal termination request and supplemental materials (an environmental report and draft plan of operation for removing the cable), it has been determined that the potential for significant impact to the human environment may exist. Notice is hereby given that it is anticipated that a draft environmental impact statement and removal plan (DEIS/RP) will be prepared. As the Department's designated lead bureau, the National

Park Service will be joined by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as cooperating agencies in the DEIS/RP process. All three agencies will collaborate in identifying and analyzing alternative means for accomplishing cable removal while providing for resource protection and restoration, and minimizing disturbance to visitors, users, and operations. As a conceptual framework for formulating these alternatives, the purposes of the Federal lands managed will be identified and contrasted. Other key elements to be addressed include: project-associated cultural and natural resources, visitor patterns and experiences, authorized users, access and management facilities, and available recovery and remediation techniques.

Comments

All interested persons, organizations, and agencies wishing to provide initial comments or suggestions about issues and concerns recommended to be addressed in the DEIS/RP may send such information to the Superintendent, Mojave National Preserve, 222 East Main Street, Suite 202, Barstow, California, 92311; or to Ms. Joan DeGraff, Project Manager, Denver Service Center, 12795 West Alameda Parkway, P.O. Box, Denver, Colorado, 80225-0281. All such comments should be postmarked not later than sixty (60) days from the date of publication of this Notice. All respondents will be included in timely project updates. In addition, it is anticipated that several public hearings will be held in late April or early May, 1997, affording an additional early comment opportunity. Full details on times and locations of these sessions may be obtained by contacting the Project Manager at the above address or via telephone at (303) 969-2464.

Supplementary Information

The subsequent availability of a DEIS/RP will be announced by formal Notice and in local and regional news media. The DEIS/RP is anticipated to be completed and available for public review during late summer, 1997. A final environmental impact statement (FEIS) is anticipated to be completed approximately six months later. A Record of Decision will be published in the **Federal Register** not sooner than thirty (30) days after distribution of the FEIS document. The responsible official is the Regional Director, Pacific West Region, National Park Service.

Dated: April 9, 1997.

Patricia L. Neubacher,
Acting Regional Director, Pacific West Region.
[FR Doc. 97-10433 Filed 4-22-97; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

National Capital Region; National Capital Memorial Commission Notice of Public Meeting

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act that a meeting of the National Capital Memorial Commission will be held on Wednesday, April 29, 1997, at 1 p.m., at the National Building Museum, Room 312, 5th and F Streets, NW.

The Commission was established by Public Law 99-652, the Commemorative Works Act, for the purpose of preparing and recommending to the Secretary of the Interior; Administrator, General Services Administration; and Members of Congress broad criteria, guidelines, and policies for memorializing persons and events on Federal lands in the National Capital Region (as defined in the National Capital Planning Act of 1952, as amended), through the media of monuments, memorials and statues. It is to examine each memorial proposal for adequacy and appropriateness, make recommendations to the Secretary and Administrator, and to serve as information focal point for those persons seeking to erect memorials on Federal land in the National Capital Region.

The members of the Commission are as follows:

Director, National Park Service
Chairman, National Capital Planning Commission
The Architect of the Capital
Chairman, American Battle Monuments Commission
Chairman, Commission of Fine Arts
Mayor of the District of Columbia
Administrator, General Services Administration
Secretary of Defense

The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss currently authorized and proposed memorials in the District of Columbia and environs.

The meeting will be open to the public. Any person may file with the Commission a written statement concerning the matters to be discussed. Persons who wish to file a written statement or testify at the meeting or who want further information concerning the meeting may contact the

Commission at (202) 619-7097. Minutes of the meeting will be available for public inspection 4 weeks after the meeting at the Office of Stewardship and Partnerships, National Capital Support Office, 1100 Ohio Drive, SW., Room 220, Washington, D.C. 20242.

Dated: April 2, 1997.

Terry R. Carlstrom,
Acting Regional Director, National Capital Region.
[FR Doc. 97-10432 Filed 4-22-97; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Notice of Proposed Information Collection

AGENCY: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) is announcing its intention to request approval for the collection of information for noncoal reclamation, 30 CFR Part 875.

DATES: Comments on the proposed information collection must be received by June 23, 1997, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to John A. Trelease, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, 1951 Constitution Ave., NW., Room 210-SIB, Washington, DC 20240. Comments may also be submitted electronically to jtreleas@osmre.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request a copy of the information collection request, explanatory information and related forms, contact John A. Trelease, at (202) 208-2783.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR 1320, which implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), require that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice identifies information collections that OSM will be submitting to OMB for extension. These collections are contained in 30 CFR 876, Acid mine drainage treatment and abatement program.

OSM has revised burden estimates, where appropriate, to reflect current