prepared under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (section 202). This plan and FEIS is prepared under the authority of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Interlakes Special Recreation Management Area is a 74,850 acre region which encompasses lands administered through the United States Department of the Interior's BLM, National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service. Once approved, this plan will guide management activities for the BLM for the next 10 to 15 years. The National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Forest Service may approve this plan by continuing with this joint planning effort and approving a Record of Decision, or may implement portions of this plan by tiering to this document within their own planning documents.

DATES: Comments on this plan and FEIS should be submitted in writing by December 1, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles M. Schultz, Area Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 355 Hemsted Drive, Redding, CA 96002.

Dated: October 27, 1997.

Francis Berg,

Acting Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 97–29111 Filed 11–03–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–40–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Record of Decision

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Record of Decision.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR Section 1505.2) and the implementing procedures of the National Park Service (NPS) for the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (40 U.S.C. 1501 *et seq.*), the NPS has prepared this Record of Decision with respect to the general management plan and final environmental impact statement, Missouri/Niobrara/Verdigre Creek National Recreational Rivers, Nebraska and South Dakota. This Record of Decision describes the recreational river management alternatives considered, mitigating measures adopted to avoid or minimize environmental impacts, and the reasoning behind the decisions reached.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Superintendent, Niobrara/Missouri National Scenic Riverways, 114 North Sixth Street, O'Neill, Nebraska 68763–0591, or 402–336–3970.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pub. L. 102–50, the Niobrara Scenic River Designation Act of 1991, amended section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 to designate as recreational rivers sections of the Missouri River, Niobrara River, and Verdigre Creek as listed below:

Missouri River: The 39-mile section from the headwaters of Lewis and Clark Lake to the Fort Randall Dam.

Niobrara River: The segment from the western boundary of Knox County to its confluence with the Missouri River (20 miles).

Verdigre Creek: The segment from the north municipal boundary of Verdigre, Nebraska, to its confluence with the Niobrara River (8 miles).

The Act states these segments shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, who has delegated the task of planning and operation to the NPS. As such, the three segments have become a unit of the National Park System.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act directs the administering agency to prepare a management plan and establish final boundaries for protection of important resources along designated rivers. The Act requires the managing agency to emphasize the protection of scenic, historic, archeological, and scientific features. It states that recreational use may be permitted as long as these values are not jeopardized. Under the Act, the boundary is 0.25 mile from the ordinary high water mark on both sides of the rivers until a final boundary is established.

Decisions for management and boundary: The NPS selects Alternative 5, the Preferred Alternative, for management of the National Recreational Rivers. The Preferred Alternative was developed by the planning team by combining aspects of two other action alternatives. It includes resource protection and a boundary similar to alternative 3 and a management philosophy similar to alternative 2. This alternative neither encourages nor discourages increased visitor use. It also does not encourage additional or expanded agricultural practices. It strongly discourages construction of residences or other private development. Boundaries were delineated to include important river-related habitat. Implementation of natural resource objectives would take precedence over other objectives where possible without loss of significant cultural resources. Management actions would be accomplished through cooperative associations with landowners, county governments, state and federal agencies, and private interest groups.

The NPS will remain the administrator of the recreational rivers as authorized by Congress. The degree of NPS presence will depend on the success of local governments in maintaining existing landscapes and providing for recreational uses. To fulfill its river management responsibilities, the NPS will continue to have staff on or near the river to manage inherently federal requirements of the law, administer cooperative agreements, and monitor ongoing water, land and visitor use activities along the designated rivers.

Alternative 5 emphasizes management for conserving, protecting, and restoring riverine biological diversity on public land and includes potential for technical assistance and incentives for private property owners to do the same. Implementation on private land would take place through local protection and restoration efforts, including federal standards for minimum protection requirements and the use of regulations and a flexible package of financial incentives, funding options, and technical assistance.

Local concerns were expressed during public meetings regarding: an unwanted influx of visitors on the river; dangers the dynamic nature of the river presents to novice users; and increased river bank erosion caused by additional power boat use. Because of those concerns this alternative allows only for the replacement of river access sites lost to sedimentation and the improvement (not expansion) of existing facilities. Present recreational uses will continue (fishing, boating, hunting, etc.) and there could be expansion of visitor services and facilities as long as they did not add significant numbers of people to the river.

The Alternative 5 boundary for the 39-mile stretch of the Missouri River includes the river, its islands, and a minimum setback of 200 feet from the 1991 ordinary high water mark (32,000 cfs). Also included is the Karl Mundt National Wildlife Refuge and all other federal and state fee land within 0.25 mile of the river. In addition, significant cottonwood stands and land that would be covered by a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) high release of 60,000 cfs is included within the boundary. All fee and easement lands included in the boundary will continue to be managed by the present land managers.

For the Niobrara and Verdigre Creek National Recreational Rivers the boundary includes the rivers, its islands, a minimum setback of 200 feet from the ordinary high water mark, and significant natural areas as identified by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. The Niobrara National Recreational River boundary includes land that would be affected by a rise in the groundwater table as projected by the COE.

Other management alternative considered:

Alternative 1, No Action: In the no-action alternative the river area would continue to evolve without benefit of a coordinated, comprehensive effort by the NPS and its partners and generally would continue current trends. The current conditions include a mix of private property with some local, state, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and COE management. Existing conditions would continue with varied management under federal, state, and local laws and by property owners with minimal coordination. The NPS would assign an individual to provide minimal monitoring of conditions along the rivers and limited coordination and review among federal, state, and local agencies. Other managing agencies, whether federal, state, or local, would work from existing offices and NPS staff would work at an undetermined location.

The designation act established an interim boundary during the planning period. The boundary includes the three rivers, their islands, and land within 0.25 mile of the 1991 ordinary high water mark on each side of the rivers (see alternative 1 maps). The 0.25-mile boundary would remain in place under this alternative.

Protection of the scenery and natural features would depend on existing or developing programs including county zoning, voluntary landowner covenants, and other private land strategies. It would be unrealistic to believe any of these controls or strategies would have as their primary goal the maintenance of wild and scenic river values. Therefore, the no action alternative was determined not to implement the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act on these rivers as Congress has directed and intended. The long-term protection of the river and adjacent land and provision of a good quality visitor experience could not be ensured under this alternative.

Alternative 2, Rural Landscape Integrity and Character: This alternative would emphasize the rural landscape. It would maintain patterns of land use while protecting significant natural and cultural resources. This alternative seeks to stabilize visitor use at or near current levels. It allows for limited construction of new residences or other private development. Implementation of rural landscape objectives would be emphasized as long as significant natural and cultural resources were not compromised.

Alternative 2 would rely heavily on the cooperation of local property owners and officials. Private land would be managed through local means such as zoning, land use management plans, or property owner agreements. The alternative would rely on counties and property owner agreements to develop standards for protecting private land and meeting the objectives and goals of this plan and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Local plans consistent with the recreational river legislation incorporating voluntary practices that preserve the landscape and river values would be developed in cooperation with the NPS.

The visitor experience under alternative 2 would be similar to the activities, orientation, and interpretation presently available. Interpretation and information would emphasize safety and preservation of the recreational rivers' values. Additional interpretation emphasizing land stewardship and the integrity of the landscape could be offered through cooperative efforts.

The boundaries for the Missouri and Niobrara river segments under this alternative would include the river and its islands and be established as a 200-foot setback from the 1991 ordinary high water mark. COE land within 0.25 mile of the river is within the boundary. Along the Missouri River segment the Fort Randall historic site, Niobrara State Park, Verdel Landing, and Karl Mundt National Wildlife Refuge would be included to help depict the rural agrarian, natural, and historic character of the landscape. The Verdigre Creek boundary would be established as a 200-foot setback from the riverbank. All fee and easement lands included within the boundary would continue to be managed by the present land managers.

Total land area above the 1991 ordinary high water mark for the Missouri National Recreational River would be 4,718 acres. Total land area above the 1991 ordinary high water mark for the Niobrara National Recreational River and Verdigre Creek would be 1,559 acres.

Although NPS actions under this alternative would have minimal negative impacts to any of the resources, the boundary would not include some significant bottomland and periodically flooded areas that contribute to the biologic integrity of the river. The NPS has determined that alternative 2 is minimally acceptable in meeting the intent of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Alternative 3, Riverine Biological Management: This alternative would emphasize the recreational rivers' biological diversity. It would improve the quantity, quality, and diversity of native plant and animal (primarily aquatic) habitat. A meandering river, eroding banks, sandbars, backwater areas, cottonwood forests, and instream snag habitat were characteristics of the pre-dam river that would be recreated where feasible.

This alternative neither encourages nor discourages increased visitor use. It also does not encourage additional or expanded agricultural practices. It strongly discourages construction of residences or other private development. Boundaries were delineated to include important river-related habitat. Implementation of natural resource objectives would take precedence over other objectives where possible without loss of significant cultural resources.

The primary goal of this alternative would be to protect and restore the Missouri River and the lower stretches of the Niobrara River and Verdigre Creek as a nearly natural ecosystem.

The boundary for the Missouri National Recreational River under this alternative would include the river, its islands, and a minimum setback of 200 feet from the 1991 ordinary high water mark. Also included is the Karl Mundt National Wildlife Refuge and all other federal and state land within 0.25 mile of the river. Other criteria used in determining the remaining land inside the boundary include significant biological bottomland as defined by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and land that would be covered by a COE release of 60,000 cfs. All fee and easement lands included within the boundary will continue to be managed by the present land managers.

The boundary for the Niobrara National Recreational River would include a minimum setback of 200 feet from the riverbank plus significant biological bottomland areas as identified by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Also included are COE projections for areas that might be affected by a rise in the water table. The Verdigre Creek boundary would include a minimum setback of 200 feet from the riverbank plus significant biological bottomland as identified by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Total land area above the 1991 ordinary high water mark for the Missouri National Recreational River would be

10,463 acres. Total land area above the 1991 ordinary high water mark for the Niobrara National Recreational River and Verdigre Creek would be 5,962 acres.

The NPS has determined that this alternative would be fully acceptable and would meet the intent of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Alternative 4, Visitor Use Balanced with Resources Protection: Consistent with resource protection and goals and objectives of the general management plan, implementation of recreational uses would be emphasized in this alternative. The NPS and its partners would be actively involved in day-to-day management of the rivers. Private and public recreational development (including river access points, scenic roads, trails, and structures) would remain, and some future expansion is envisioned. Land needed for visitor facilities would be acquired from willing sellers. Additional sites or improvements are proposed in Nebraska near the Pishelville Bridge, Sunshine Bottom, and Verdigre Creek. Additional locations for primitive camping along the river could be developed if warranted by increased recreation demand. Interpretation of cultural and natural resources would be important for resource protection as well as for visitor education and enjoyment.

Natural features of the landscape would be maintained, such as sandbars and beaches, backwater areas for recreational fishing, and open spaces. Cooperative efforts to enhance backwater areas, sandbars, and other habitats would be encouraged to preserve resources and increase recreational fishery and wildlife viewing opportunities. Significant resources would be inventoried and monitored to protect river-related resources from visitor use and other recreational stresses.

This alternative encourages the continuation of agricultural practices and landscapes as important elements of pastoral scenes that visitors can enjoy. It encourages compatible agricultural practices, and it allows for an increase in construction of residences within the residential and other private development land class.

The boundary would include a minimum setback of 200 feet from the riverbank, plus significant resource areas and potential public use areas on the rivers. Karl Mundt National Wildlife Refuge, Niobrara State Park, and Fort Randall historic site are included within the boundary in this alternative because they are public facilities that contribute to the goals of the alternative. Other state land and COE fee land within 0.25 mile of the 1991 ordinary high water mark would also be included. All fee and easement land included within the boundary would continue to be managed by the present land managers.

Total land area above the 1991 ordinary high water mark for the Missouri National Recreational River is 6,443 acres. Total land area above the 1991 ordinary high water mark for the Niobrara National Recreational River and Verdigre Creek is 1,492 acres.

The NPS feels this alternative allows for the protection of sufficient bottomlands and other biologically important lands to fully comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Because of local concerns regarding increased river traffic this alternative was not selected.

Measures to Minimize Harm: Because few specific land purchase or construction projects are proposed and the alternatives are general strategies for long-term management, the consequences are assessed in general terms. Foreseeable short term impacts are identified along with long-term impacts and potential mitigating measures. The impacts of all the action alternatives are similar.

Recreational use of the river has been relatively stable but with no coordinated management. The selected alternative provides for increased visitor management and for controls to be placed on visitor use if resources are threatened by that use or if negative visitor experiences result from increased use of the rivers.

New boat access areas are permitted to replace access areas lost to sedimentation. The selected sites could cover several acres each. Some habitat would be lost, temporary construction induced siltation could occur, but would be minimized through appropriate construction techniques. Public access sites would be checked for fossils or cultural artifacts before and during construction. If either were found the state historical society and/or appropriate Indian tribes would be consulted.

Suggested guidelines for development are available in each alternative. Recreational home developments have been occurring along the Missouri River. The selected alternative acts to control these developments. Currently there is no zoning in any of the counties. Along with the guidelines, cooperative land owner agreements, voluntary easements, and deed restrictions could be used to control development. If the guidelines and other methods of control are not successful and continued development threatens river resources the plan states that the current policy of no-condemnation will have to be revisited.

Farming and ranching are recognized as valuable tools in maintaining the rural nature of the area. Current levels of use and methods have not been detrimental to the rivers and no controls are foreseen. The NPS would encourage best management practices be in place and for good land stewardship to continue.

Specific impacts and measures that would be taken to mitigate potential negative impacts are described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement on pages 144–187. Compliance with existing laws and executive orders is described on pages 188–193.

Comments on the draft and final general management plan and environmental impact statement (GMP/EIS): The draft GMP/EIS was released to the public on July 12, 1996. Approximately 1,100 copies of the draft plan were mailed to federal, state, and local officials, organizations, and individuals. Public meetings were held between August 13–21 in Yankton, Pickstown, Springfield, and Wagner, South Dakota; and Norfolk, Niobrara, Verdigre, Verdel, and Spencer, Nebraska. The public comment period ended September 14, 1996.

A total of 75 written comments were received during the public review period. A majority of the comments came from the local area and suggested the rivers be deauthorized as a component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Because this would require an additional act of Congress, the NPS cannot comply with these suggestions, and would not support such a proposal.

Some comments were directed towards the silt aggradation occurring in the Missouri and Niobrara rivers. The siltation is a result of decreased water flow velocity as it enters Lewis and Clark Lake. The reduced water velocity decreases the silt load carrying capacity of the river and causes deposition (aggradation). This is not a result of the recreational river designation or the general management plan. The NPS has agreed to work cooperatively with the COE to explore viable solutions to the problem.

In July 1997 the final GMP/EIS was printed and distributed to more than 300 individuals, agencies, and organizations. In the document the NPS named the preferred alternative and boundary. There were seven comments received on the final plan, one from a federal agency, two from private organizations, and four from landowners. To the extent possible comments and concerns therein have

been addressed in the following section and/or other sections of this document.

Clarifications requested through written comments: The NPS would consider boat access areas inside and outside the boundary that serve the recreational rivers as replaceable if substantial access was lost as a result of sediment aggradation in the river. Ramps lost outside the recreational river boundary could be replaced within the boundary. Examples of access areas serving the recreational rivers that are lost, or threatened are the Missouri River access areas at Springfield and Running Water, South Dakota, and Niobrara, Nebraska.

The NPS decision to not actively promote recreational use on the river was based on input of the Federal Advisory Commission in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior during the development of the plan, by local representatives on the planning team, and by comments received from the general public during the planning process. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Section 10(a) allows for ''management plans for any such component'' to ''establish varying degrees of intensity for its protection and development, based on the special attributes of the area.'' In this case the NPS feels there are legitimate safety concerns resulting from shifting sand bars and a significant increase in power boat use on the Missouri National Recreational River. Canoeing danger exists from the high winds that frequent the area and the width of the river. While the NPS has agreed not to actively promote increased use there is recognition in the plan that increased use may occur as the result of actions taken by others. As long as those actions do not threaten river resources or add significant visitor numbers to the river NPS will act to guide such growth rather than restrict it.

While local governments clearly have existing local law enforcement responsibilities and cooperative relations will be sought, all references to law enforcement in the final plan should be understood to mean that the NPS will not delegate Federal law enforcement responsibilities with respect to the water surfaces and on lands it owns, or other inherently Federal responsibilities as described in the statutes related to the administration of the National Park System, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Act establishing the Missouri/Niobrara/Verdigre Creek National Recreational Rivers.

The COE has purchased flood easements on some of the periodically flooded land along the Missouri and Niobrara rivers. This land remains in private landownership but the COE possesses the right to flood the land. The NPS would not affect the easement relationship between private landowners and the COE. Neither would the NPS boundary alter the payments under the Payment in Lieu of Taxes Act. The periodically flooded land is included within the boundary not because it is COE easement land but because of its contribution to fish and wildlife habitat.

Currently the Yankton Sioux Tribe is challenging the size and location of its reservation boundary. When a final outcome is determined the NPS will honor the final court decision. Until that time any NPS management actions within the disputed area will be minimal and dependent on cooperative agreement with private landowners and the Yankton Sioux Tribe.

The recreational river boundary maps depicted in the final GMP include public lands such as the USFWS Karl Mundt National Wildlife Refuge, as well as easement lands. The Vicinity/Study Area map on page 5 inadvertently portrayed USFWS easement land as a part of the refuge. That easement is not part of the Karl Mundt Refuge and should not have been portrayed as such on that map. The maps on pages 29, 49, 61, 73, and 87 accurately portray the easement land but the arrow points to it as a part of the Karl Mundt Refuge. That arrow should have been pointing to the lower section that is a part of the refuge and not to the easement land. The maps in the final GMP/EIS are designed to be general and for orientation purposes only, and have no formal standing. When the official boundary map for this unit is published the above mentioned errors will be corrected.

Selection of the preferred alternative: All of the action alternatives for management of the rivers are considered acceptable from an environmental standpoint. The boundaries vary with each alternative and preference was placed on the alternatives that included significant wetlands and bottomlands. The preferred alternative was selected because it is considered the most effective alternative for meeting the legislative intent of protecting river values and maintaining the existing economic uses along the river. This alternative will require a minimum of Federal land acquisition, which is consistent with legislative intent. The selected alternative is not expected to have any significant adverse effects on natural or cultural values in the recreational river boundaries.

Dated: October 27, 1997.

David N. Given,

Deputy Regional Director, Midwest Region.

[FR Doc. 97–29131 Filed 11–3–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–70–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Dayton Aviation Heritage Commission; Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets the schedule for the forthcoming meeting of the Dayton Aviation Heritage Commission. Notice of this meeting is required under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463).

DATE, TIME, AND ADDRESS: Tuesday, December 2, 1997, 5:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Innerwest Priority Board conference room, 1024 West Third Street, Dayton, Ohio 45407.

This business meeting will be open to the public. Space and facilities to accommodate members of the public are limited and persons accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. The Chairman will permit attendees to address the Commission, but may restrict the length of presentations. An agenda will be available from the Superintendent, Dayton Aviation, 1 week prior to the meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William Gibson, Superintendent, Dayton Aviation, National Park Service, P.O. Box 9280, Wright Brothers Station, Dayton, Ohio 45409, or telephone 513–225–7705.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Dayton Aviation Heritage Commission was established by Public Law 102–419, October 16, 1992.

Dated: October 24, 1997.

William W. Schenk,

Regional Director, Midwest Region.

[FR Doc. 97–29130 Filed 11–3–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–70–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places; Notification of Pending Nominations

Nominations for the following properties being considered for listing in the National Register were received by the National Park Service before October 25, 1997. Pursuant to section 60.13 of 36 CFR Part 60 written