

Dated: October 15, 1999.

Donald W. Hill,

Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Environmental Impact Statement; Notice of intent; Big Cypress National, Florida

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a draft environmental impact statement for the general management plan addendum for the Big Cypress National Preserve Addition, Florida.

SUMMARY: Big Cypress National Preserve, located in south central Florida, was established in 1974. The preserve's boundary was expanded in 1988 by PL 100-301 (Big Cypress National Preserve Addition Act) to include 147,280 acres of land northeast of the original preserve and a strip of land along the western boundary. Known as the Addition, these lands increased the area of the original preserve by approximately 30 per cent. The current General Management Plan (GMP) for the preserve, which was already under preparation when PL 100-301 was approved, does not address the management of the addition lands. Consequently, an Addendum to the GMP will be prepared for the Addition.

Under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Park Service (NPS) will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess the impacts of alternative management concepts for a General Management Plan Addendum for the Addition to Big Cypress National Preserve.

The purpose of a General Management Plan Addendum is to set forth a clearly defined direction for resource preservation and visitor use for the addition lands. The General Management Plan Addendum/Environmental Impact Statement will evaluate the environmental impacts of a range of alternatives to address distinct management issues for the Addition, such as resource protection, visitor use, and development.

Participation throughout the planning process will be encouraged and facilitated by various means, such as public meetings and newsletters. The NPS will conduct public scoping meetings to explain the planning

process and to solicit opinion about issues to address in the GMP/EIS. Notification of all such meetings will be announced in the local press and in NPS newsletters. This notice will also serve as an additional scoping method. Persons who may be interested in or affected by the GMP/EIS are invited to participate in the scoping process by responding to this notice with written or e-mail comments.

DATES: Written comments concerning the GMP Addendum/EIS should be received no later than December 27, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments concerning the GMP/EIS or requests to be added to the project mailing list should be sent to: Mr. Wally Hibbard, Superintendent, Big Cypress National Preserve, HCR 61, Box 110, Ochopee, FL 34141.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ellen Hand, GMP Planning Coordinator, at the above address or at telephone number (941) 695-2000 ext. 318, or *Bicygmp@nps.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Commenters should be aware that National Park Service practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual commenters may request that we withhold their home address from the planning record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the planning record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: October 15, 1999.

W. Thomas Brown,

Regional Director, Southeast Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Environmental Statements; Notice of Intent: Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, Alabama

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for a comprehensive management plan for the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail in Alabama.

SUMMARY: In 1990, Congress directed the National Park Service (NPS) to study the route and events associated with the 1965 Voting Rights March from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, for potential designation as a National Historic Trail. Completed in 1993, the feasibility study recommended that the march route be designated as the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, and be administered by NPS. ON November 12, 1996, Congress amended Section 5(a) of the National Trail System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244 (a) to establish the Selma to Montgomery NHT, and to designate 54 miles of city streets and U.S. Highway 80 from Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church in Selma to the State Capital building in Montgomery as the official trail corridor.

In August 1995, at the request of Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), Governor Fob James designated the U.S. Highway 80 corridor between Selma and Montgomery as a state scenic highway. The Federal Highway Administration approved the route as part of the National Scenic Byways Program in December of the same year. In 1996 the route was also designated as an All-American Road by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The ALDOT conducted a series of public meetings in 1997 and 1998 and prepared a draft master plan for the National Scenic Byway/All-American Road. This plan provides an overview of possibilities. The National Park Service is seeking to further coordinate the efforts of both agencies by preparing a Comprehensive Management Plan that will build upon the information and options presented in the ALDOT master plan. The Comprehensive Management Plan will provide strategies for the management, visitor use, and development of the National Historic Trail. Key management concerns will include preservation of significant cultural and natural resources including historic sites, structures and the march route. Other issues involve the story of the march and facilities and programs needed to convey this story to the visitor.

The Comprehensive Management Plan shall identify a resource-based framework for the trail and describe future conditions, preferred alternative, and general strategies, consistent with the trail's significance and mandates. The alternatives and general strategies required to achieve desired future