

Public Lands Improvement Act of 1990, P.L. 101-442 (104 Stat. 1020).

6. Except for valid existing rights, this island will not be subject to application, petition, location or selection under any public law until February 22, 2000.

7. Interested parties protesting the determination that these islands are public land of the United States, must present valid proof showing that the island in question did not exist at the time of statehood or that it was attached to the mainland at the time of the original survey. Such protests must be submitted in writing to the Chief Cadastral Surveyor, Eastern States, Bureau of Land Management, 7450 Boston Boulevard, Springfield, Virginia 22153, prior to 7:30 a.m., February 22, 2000.

Copies of the plat will be made available upon request and prepayment of the appropriate fee.

Dated: January 6, 2000.

Stephen G. Kopach,

Chief Cadastral Surveyor.

[FR Doc. 00-1114 Filed 1-14-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-GJ-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ES-030-1430-00] ES-50582, Group 547, Minnesota

Notice of filing of plat of an island; Minnesota

1. The plat of the survey of an island in Cedar Lake, Township 117 North, Range 30 West, Fifth Principal Meridian, Minnesota, accepted on January 6, 2000, will be officially filed in Eastern States, Springfield, Virginia at 7:30 a.m., on February 22, 2000. The tract shown below describes the island omitted from the original survey.

Fifth Principal Meridian, Minnesota

T. 117 N. R. 30 W.

Tract No. 42.

2. Tract No. 42 is firm land rising 10-15 ft. above the ordinary high water mark. The soil has evolved from glacial till parent material and is similar to the soil found on the adjacent uplands. Numerous stones were located along the northerly and westerly shore line and at the highest points of the island. Tree species consist of ash, basswood, cedar, cottonwood, elm, oak and willow, ranging in size from 3 to 20 inches in diameter, with a maximum age of 120+ years. The ground cover consists of hazel, willow, cattails and native grasses along the southerly shore line.

3. The present water level of the lake compares favorably with that of the lake

at the time of the original survey; therefore, the elevation and upland character of the island along with the depth and width of the lake between the adjacent upland and the island are considered evidence that the island did exist in 1858, the year Minnesota was admitted to the Union. The original survey in 1857 did not note the presence of this island.

4. Tract No. 42 is more than 50 percent upland in character within the interpretation of the Swamp and Overflow Act of September 28, 1850 (9 Stat. 519) as extended to the State of Minnesota under the Act of March 12, 1860 (12 Stat. 3). Therefore, the island is held to be public land.

5. The survey was requested by the Assistant Field Manager, Division of Natural Resource Management, under the authority of Section 211 of FLPMA (43 U.S.C. 1721) and the Minnesota Public Lands Improvement Act of 1990, Public Law 101-442 (104 Stat. 1020).

6. Except for valid existing rights, this island will not be subject to application, petition, location or selection under any public law until February 22, 2000.

7. Interested parties protesting the determination that these islands are public land of the United States, must present valid proof showing that the island in question did not exist at the time of statehood or that it was attached to the mainland at the time of the original survey. Such protests must be submitted in writing to the Chief Cadastral Surveyor, Eastern States, Bureau of Land Management, 7450 Boston Boulevard, Springfield, Virginia 22153, prior to 7:30 a.m., February 22, 2000.

Copies of the plat will be made available upon request and prepayment of the appropriate fee.

Dated: January 6, 2000.

Stephen G. Kopach,

Chief Cadastral Surveyor.

[FR Doc. 00-1115 Filed 1-14-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-GJ-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ES-030-1430-00] ES-50578, Group 545, Minnesota

Notice of Filing of Plat of an Island; Minnesota

1. The plat of the survey of an island in Fox Lake, Township 59 North, Range 25 West, Fourth Principal Meridian, Minnesota, accepted on January 6, 2000, will be officially filed in Eastern States, Springfield, Virginia at 7:30 a.m., on

February 22, 2000. The tract shown below describes the island omitted from the original survey.

Fourth Principal Meridian, Minnesota

T. 59 N. R. 25 W.

Tract No. 37

2. Tract No. 37 is firm land rising 3-5 ft. above the ordinary high water mark. The soil has evolved from glacial till parent material and is similar to the soil found on the adjacent uplands. Numerous stones were located along the northerly and easterly shore of the island. Tree species consist of birch, cedar, fir and spruce, ranging in size from 3 to 15 inches in diameter, with a maximum age of 80+ years. The ground cover consists of alder, hazel, willow and native grasses on the southerly and westerly shore line.

Structures located on the island consist of an old log cabin, 14½ × 21½ feet, longside bears S. 68° W., a privy, an old well and a power pole with line bearing S. 19 E., to the adjacent upland.

3. The present water level of the lake compares favorably with that of the original meander line; therefore, the elevation and upland character of the island along with the depth and width of the lake between the adjacent upland and the island are considered evidence that the island did exist in 1858, the year Minnesota was admitted to the Union. The original survey in 1875 did not note the presence of this island.

4. Tract No. 37 is more than 50 percent upland in character within the interpretation of the Swamp and Overflow Act of September 28, 1850 (9 Stat. 519) as extended to the State of Minnesota under the Act of March 12, 1860 (12 Stat. 3). Therefore, the island is held to be public land.

5. The survey was requested by Edwin A. and Sheryl I. Olson, under the authority of Section 211 of FLPMA (43 U.S.C. 1721) and the Minnesota Public Lands Improvement Act of 1990, P.L. 101-442 (104 Stat. 1020).

6. Except for valid existing rights, this island will not be subject to application, petition, location or selection under any public law until February 22, 2000.

7. Interested parties protesting the determination that this island is public land of the United States, must present valid proof showing that the island did not exist at the time of statehood or that it was attached to the mainland at the time of the original survey. Such protests must be submitted in writing to the Chief Cadastral Surveyor, Eastern States, Bureau of Land Management, 7450 Boston Boulevard, Springfield, Virginia 22153, prior to 7:30 a.m., February 22, 2000.

Copies of the plat will be made available upon request and prepayment of the appropriate fee.

Dated: January 6, 2000.

Stephen G. Kopach,
Chief Cadastral Surveyor.

[FR Doc. 00-1116 Filed 1-14-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-GJ-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Homestead National Monument of America

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Record of Decision, General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, Homestead National Monument of America, Nebraska.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the regulations promulgated by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1505.2), the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, has prepared a Record of Decision on the Final General Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Homestead National Monument of America in Gage County, Nebraska.

DATES: The Acting Regional Director, Midwest Region approved the Record of Decision, on December 22, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Superintendent, Homestead National Monument of America, 8523 W. State Highway 4, Beatrice, Nebraska 68310-6743, telephone 402-223-3514.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

The National Park Service has prepared the Final General Management Plan/Abbreviated Final Environmental Impact Statement (FGMP/AFEIS) for Homestead National Monument of America, Nebraska. The FGMP/AFEIS proposes management direction for the park for the next 10-20 years and documents the anticipated effects of the selected action and other alternatives on the human environment, including natural and cultural resources. This Record of Decision is a concise statement of the decisions made, other alternatives considered, the basis for the decision, the environmentally preferable alternative, and the mitigating measures developed to avoid or minimize environmental harm.

Decision

After careful consideration of environmental impacts, costs, and

comments from the public, agencies, and technical evaluations, the National Park Service recommends for implementation the selected action evaluated in the Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement.

Summary of the Selected Action

The goal of the selected alternative, which was identified as Alternative C, Option 1 in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, is to significantly change the physical arrangement of facilities and operational functions of the monument. The alternative represents a comprehensive alteration to the monument's current operational form and to visitor orientation in order to fulfill the legislative requirements of the monument. With this selected action, the key monument facilities will be relocated to a location outside of the existing 100-year frequency flood hazard zone. A minor boundary expansion will be pursued to acquire land outside existing boundaries that would be necessary for the facilities. Management zones will provide guidance for managing specific areas for desired visitor experience and resource conditions (see p. 32 of the FGMP).

The selected action calls for the creation of a new "Homestead Heritage Center" to house the monument's collections, interpretive exhibits, theatre, public research facilities, and administrative offices. This new "Homestead Heritage Center" will be located on the eastern side of the monument.

The "Homestead Heritage Center" will require a separate research facility within the building to act as a repository for the monument's homestead records and other items of homesteading literature, as required by the monument's enabling legislation. In addition, the center will have a parking lot designed to accommodate 50 cars and 10 buses or campers.

The selected action also calls for the existing visitor center/museum to be modified and adaptively reused as an "Education Center". This center will serve as a location where students of all ages could engage in learning more about the homestead story. A "School of Traditional Homesteading Folk Arts" program will be established to give the public an opportunity to learn old homesteading folk crafts. In addition to a range of educational activities that will take place in this center, special events and interpretive programs will also be conducted here. Distance learning technology will also connect the center to schools near and far. The areas to the back of the present facility

will be used to house maintenance functions. The remaining offices will be used by visiting instructors or modified to serve as classrooms. The exhibits presently in use will be removed and that area converted to classrooms. The existing parking lot appears to be suitable to meet the foreseeable needs of this facility.

In addition, the management prescriptions contained within the selected action will seek to promote the establishment of a "Homestead Heritage Parkway". This parkway concept is proposed to form an interpretive linkage between the monument, including the Freeman School, and the surrounding rural countryside and communities to highlight today's visible and tangible results of implementation of the Homestead Act. The principal interpretive and educational theme of the parkway will be agriculture. With comparisons made to modern farm operations. These stories will be communicated through the use of signs and traveler information radio broadcasts.

The creation of this parkway as one of the monument's interpretive tools will depend on voluntary partnerships with the local governments and landowners along the identified highway segment. It is important to note that the NPS is not recommending a formal federal designation for this parkway. The concept of the "Homestead Heritage Parkway" presumes the rerouting of a segment of State Highway 4 outside the monument's boundary. After this realignment has occurred, the abandoned segment of State Highway 4 will become an access road for the monument and for local residents. Existing truck and commuter traffic will be rerouted on a comparable replacement segment of State Highway 4 nearby. The "Homestead Heritage Parkway" will begin where the access road (the abandoned segment of State Highway 4) enters the eastern boundary of the monument and extend to the Freeman School. The NPS envisions the eventual and voluntary extension of the "Homestead Heritage Parkway" concept from the Freeman School west along the access road to where it rejoins State Highway 4. The NPS also endorses the parkway's extension to the east from the monument to the City of Beatrice (meeting at the junction of State Highways 136 and 4 in West Beatrice), however the NPS is not recommending any change to the currently designated speed limit for that segment. It is possible that a public biking and/or hiking path could be connected to the monument.