

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**National Park Service****Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items in the Possession of the School of American Research, Santa Fe, NM**

AGENCY: National Park Service.

ACTION: Notice.

Notice is hereby given under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 43 CFR 10.10 (a)(3), of the intent to repatriate cultural items in the possession of the School of American Research, Santa Fe, NM which meet the definition of "sacred object" and "object of cultural patrimony" under Section 2 of the Act.

The four cultural items consist of four Kiva jars.

In 1923, the Indian Arts Fund, Inc. purchased a Kiva jar from J.F. Collins. In 1956, Mr. Fank Tilgham collected a Kiva jar from the Pueblo of Zia and the Indian Arts Fund, Inc. purchased this jar from Mr. Tilgham the same year. In 1931, Mr. Andrew Dasburg collected a Kiva jar from the Pueblo of Zia and donated the jar to the Indian Arts Fund, Inc.. In 1928, the Indian Arts Fund Inc. purchased a Kiva jar from the Spanish and Indian Trading Co., Santa Fe, NM. In 1972, these four Kiva jars were transferred to the School of American Research.

The six cultural items consist of three matalotes, a club, a feather bundle, and a headdress.

In 1925, Mr. Frank Applegate collected the headdress at the Pueblo of Zia and donated this headdress to the Indian Arts Fund, Inc. In 1958, Mr. Frank Tilgham collected the three matalotes, club, and feather bundle from the Pueblo of Zia, and donated these cultural items to the Indian Arts Fund, Inc. In 1972, these cultural items were transferred to the School of American Research.

Based on accession information and consultation with representatives of the Pueblo of Zia, these ten cultural items have been clearly identified as having come from the Pueblo of Zia. Representatives of the Pueblo of Zia have indicated that these ten cultural items are specific ceremonial objects needed by traditional Native American religious leaders for the practice of traditional Native American religions by their present-day adherents. Representatives of the Pueblo of Zia have also indicated that these ten cultural items have ongoing historical, traditional, and cultural importance central to the tribe itself, and could not

have been alienated, appropriated, or conveyed by any individual.

Based on the above-mentioned information, officials of the School of American Research have determined that, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.2 (d)(3), these ten cultural items are specific ceremonial objects needed by traditional Native American religious leaders for the practice of traditional Native American religions by their present-day adherents. Officials of the School of American Research have also determined that, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.2 (d)(4), these ten cultural items have ongoing historical, traditional, and cultural importance central to the tribe itself, and could not have been alienated, appropriated, or conveyed by any individual. Lastly, officials of the School of American Research have also determined that, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.2 (e), there is a relationship of shared group identity which can be reasonably traced between these items and the Pueblo of Zia.

This notice has been sent to officials of the Pueblo of Zia. Representatives of any other Indian tribe that believes itself to be culturally affiliated with these objects should contact Ms. Christy Sturm, Collections Manager, Indian Arts Research Center, School of American Research, P.O. Box 2188, Santa Fe, NM 87594; telephone: (505) 954-7205 before March 31, 2000. Repatriation of these objects to the Pueblo of Zia may begin after that date if no additional claimants come forward.

Dated: February 9, 2000.

Francis P. McManamon,

*Departmental Consulting Archeologist,
Manager, Archeology and Ethnography
Program.*

[FR Doc. 00-4824 Filed 2-29-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-F

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**National Park Service****Extension of Comment Period for an Environmental Assessment and Plan of Operations for Oil and Gas Exploration (Plan) Within Big Cypress National Preserve, Florida**

AGENCY: National Park Service; Interior.

SUMMARY: The Preserve published a Federal Register Notice on December 14, 1999, announcing the availability of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Plan of Operations for comment and public review. At the request of the applicant, the review period has been extended until February 21, 2000. The Plan was submitted pursuant to Title 36

of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 9, Subpart B (36 CFR 9B). The National Park Service has prepared an Environmental Assessment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act to evaluate the proposed activity.

DATES: The Plan and EA are available for public review at Preserve Headquarters in Ochopee, FL. Copies of the EA can be requested at the address below. Written comments should be submitted to: Superintendent, Big Cypress National Preserve, HCR 61 Box 110, Ochopee, FL 34141; Telephone: (941) 695-2000, extension 325.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the rulemaking record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the rulemaking record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish for us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. 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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Plan calls for the construction of approximately 8 miles of road, a drilling pad, drilling an exploratory well and conducting a 41-square mile, three-dimensional geophysical survey. In 1992, the National Park Service finalized a Minerals Management Plan (MMP) for the Preserve. The MMP along with other appropriate laws and regulations provide the framework for assessing proposals from owners of non-federal oil and gas rights. The MMP was evaluated as part of the Preserve's General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement.

The EA for the Plan of Operations evaluates three alternatives: (1) Denial of the Plan of Operations; (2) approval of the Plan as submitted; and (3) approval of the Plan with stipulations.

Dated: February 11, 2000.

Daniel W. Brown,

Acting Regional Director, Southeast Region.

[FR Doc. 00-4832 Filed 2-29-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-M