

planning process, including comments on the draft EIS, the selected action best accomplishes the legislated purposes of Padre Island National Seashore and balances the statutory mission of the NPS to provide long-term protection to the park's resources and significance, while allowing for the exercise of rights to oil and gas not owned by the United States. The selected Alternative A also best meets the objectives of the Oil and Gas Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement to:

- Identify which park resources and values are most sensitive to oil and gas exploration and development disturbance, and define mitigation requirements to protect such resources and values;
- Establish reasonable oil and gas exploration and development performance standards to protect park resources and values; and
- Provide pertinent information to oil and gas owners and operators that will facilitate operations planning and compliance with all applicable regulations.

The mitigating measures applied through specific operating stipulations for each SRA under Alternative A will increase protection to SRAs over baseline conditions (No Action Alternative B), so that potential adverse impacts are either avoided or reduced to acceptable limits; but will provide less than the maximum protection provided SRAs under Alternative C. Due to the extensive acreage of SRAs where a blanket No Surface Access operating stipulation is applied under Alternative C, a portion of this acreage may be effectively unavailable for oil and gas development. Therefore, the NPS has decided that Alternative A best accomplishes identified planning objectives, with the fewest environmental impacts.

Description of Mitigation Measures and Monitoring Plans for the Selected Alternative A

The NPS will implement the resource protection, mitigation, and monitoring measures found in the selected Alternative A, and described under Current Legal and Policy Requirements (Chapter 2, Part II; and Appendix C) of the final EIS and plan. The operating stipulations applied in Alternative A to Sensitive Resource Areas (SRA) provide specific mitigation measures that result in avoiding or minimizing potential adverse impacts from nonfederal oil and gas operations.

The final location for each well site, production facility, access road, gathering pipeline segment, or other facility will be determined following a

site specific environmental document in accordance with the NPS' NEPA policy (Director's Order 12). Development and evaluation of these individual "Plans of Operations", by the NPS, and with input from interested state, federal agencies, and public involvement, will incorporate existing mitigation measures described here and in the final plan. Additional mitigation measures will be developed to avoid or minimize potential adverse impacts. The park will continue to routinely monitor and inspect nonfederal oil and gas operations to ensure compliance with approved plans of operations, and to protect resources and seashore values. NPS and the operator's personnel will conduct these monitoring inspections to ensure that the mitigation measures are effective and implemented.

Mitigation measures also may include: reclaiming/closing roads and wellpads to restore fish and wildlife habitat; reducing the extent of surface disturbance associated with wellpads, access roads and pipeline corridors (to the extent permitted by safety standards); and maximizing reclamation and restoration success on disturbed lands to improve wildlife habitat wherever reasonably possible.

All practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental impacts from the selected alternative will be adopted and incorporated into the final plan.

Public Involvement

Public comment has been requested, considered, and incorporated throughout the planning process:

- A Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on June 10, 1997 (Vol. 62, No. 111, pg. 31622), and in newspapers, including the Austin American-Statesmen, the Houston Chronicle, and the Corpus Christi Caller Times.

- The NPS mailed a public scoping newsletter to over 300 individuals, organizations, and government agencies to explain the planning process, provide information, and encourage public participation.

- A public scoping open house was held in Corpus Christi, Texas, on July 9, 1997. During the scoping period, nine comment letters were received, and 13 individuals requested to be added to the mailing list.

- A second newsletter was sent to more than 280 individuals on March 6, 1998, summarizing the results of the scoping open house and the written comments received by the NPS.

- The following state and federal agencies were consulted: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Marine Fisheries Service

Texas Parks and Wildlife
Texas State Historic Preservation Officer
and Tonkawa Tribe
Texas General Land Office
Texas Coastal Coordination Council.

- A Notice of Availability was published by the NPS in the **Federal Register** on February 24, 1999 (Vol. 64, No. 36, pg. 9167-9168); and, upon filing of the Draft Oil and Gas Management Plan/EIS.

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register** on February 26, 1999 (Vol. 64, No. 38, pg. 9508). Fifteen (15) comment letters were received. All substantive comments (62) were addressed in the final EIS.

- The public review period ran from February 26 through May 12, 1999.

- In addition, the document was posted on the Internet at the Padre Island NS web site.

- The Final Oil and Gas Management Plan/EIS was released to the public on February 23, 2000. The EPA Notice of Availability was published in the **Federal Register** on March 3, 2000 (Vol. 65, No. 43, pg. 11575); the NPS Notice of Availability was published in the **Federal Register** on March 7, 2000 (Vol. 65, No. 45, pgs. 12029-12030). The final document included a reprint of the 15 comment letters and NPS responses. In response to releasing the Final Oil and Gas Management Plan/EIS, 4 comment letters were received. The comments in the 4 letters raised no new substantive issues.

Dated: August 14, 2000.

John A. King,

Director, Intermountain Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Environmental Statements; Availability, etc: Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, KS

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the final general management plan/final environmental impact statement for the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Kansas.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the National Park Service announces the availability of the final general management plan/final environmental impact statement (FGMP/FEIS) for the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve.

DATES: The no-action period on this FEIS will expire 30 days after the Environmental Protection Agency has published a notice of availability of the FEIS in the **Federal Register**, or on November 20, 2000, whichever is later.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the FGMP/FEIS are available by request by writing the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, P.O. Box 585, Cottonwood Falls, KS 66845, by phone 316-273-6034, or by e-mail from TAPR_Superintendent@nps.gov. The document can be picked-up in person or viewed at the Tallgrass National Preserve administrative headquarters, 226 Broadway, Cottonwood Falls, KS. The document also can be downloaded from the Internet at: www.nps.gov/tapr/gmp/gmp.pdf

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Superintendent, Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, at the address and telephone number listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the general management plan is to set forth the basic management philosophy for the Preserve and to provide the strategies for addressing issues and achieving identified management objectives. The FGMP/FEIS describes and analyzes the environmental impacts of a proposed action and four action alternatives for the future management direction of the Preserve. A no action alternative also is evaluated.

The draft general management plan and draft environmental impact statement (DGMP/DEIS) for this action was released for public review in November 1999 (see **Federal Register**, 64 FR 66641) and the public comment period closed on January 25, 2000.

Modifications to the DGMP/DEIS have been made based on public comment received and further impact analysis.

The responsible official is Mr. William Schenk, Midwest Regional Director, National Park Service.

Dated: October 4, 2000.

William W. Schenk,

Regional Director, Midwest Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Inventory Completion of Human Remains and Associated Funerary Objects in the Possession of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

Notice is hereby given in accordance with provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 43 CFR 10.9, of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects in the possession of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY.

This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA, 43 CFR 10.2 (c). The determinations within this notice are the sole responsibility of the museum, institution, or Federal agency that has control of these Native American human remains and associated funerary objects. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations within this notice.

A detailed assessment of the human remains and associated funerary objects was made by American Museum of Natural History professional staff in consultation with representatives of the Barona Group of Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians of the Barona Reservation, California; the Campo Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of the Campo Indian Reservation, California; the Cuyapaipe Community of Diegueno Mission Indians of the Cuyapaipe Reservation, California; the Inaja Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of the Inaja and Cosmit Reservation, California; Jamul Indian Village of California; the La Posta Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of the La Posta Indian Reservation, California; the Manzanita Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of the Manzanita Reservation, California; the Mesa Grande Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of the Mesa Grande Reservation, California; the San Pasqual Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of California; the Santa Ysabel Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of the Santa Ysabel Reservation, California; the Sycuan Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of California; and the Viejas (Baron Long) Group of Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians of the Viejas Reservation, California.

In 1907, human remains representing a minimum of one individual were collected by an unknown collector ("an Indian") from southern California. Constance Goddard DuBois purchased the remains from the collector in 1907, and the American Museum of Natural History purchased the remains from Ms. DuBois in the same year. No known individual was identified. The eight associated funerary objects include a burial urn, daub, chipped stone, a

projectile point, shell, ceramics, charcoal, and animal bone.

This individual has been identified as Native American based on mortuary treatment, its provenience within the historic territory of the Diegueno, and the association with the culture name Diegueno in American Museum of Natural History records. The practice of cremation and the placement of human remains into mortuary urns is consistent with Diegueno burial practices that were observed at the time of and slightly after contact. Archeological evidence documents cultural continuity in this area from the late pre-contact (circa 1500 B.P.) into the contact period. The Diegueno have remained within this territory under successive Spanish, Mexican, and Anglo-American governments.

In an unknown year, human remains representing a minimum of one individual were collected by an unknown collector from a location 40 miles east of Mesa Grande, Vallecito Mountains(?), Vallecito(?), San Diego County, CA. The American Museum of Natural History acquired these human remains in an exchange with the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation in 1919. Details of the transfer from the unknown collector to the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation are not known. No known individual was identified. The one associated funerary object is a mortuary jar.

This individual has been identified as Native American based on the mortuary treatment of these human remains and geographic evidence. The mortuary practice of cremation and placement of the remains into mortuary urns is consistent with burial practices observed by Diegueno peoples at the time of and slightly after contact in southern California. These remains derive from the territory of the Diegueno in the post-contact period. The Diegueno have remained within these boundaries during successive Spanish, Mexican, and Anglo-American governments.

Based on the above-mentioned information, officials of the American Museum of Natural History have determined that, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.2(d)(1), the human remains listed above represent the physical remains of a minimum of two individuals of Native American ancestry. Officials of the American Museum of Natural History also have determined that, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.2(d)(2), the nine objects listed above are reasonably believed to have been placed with or near these individual human remains at the time of death or later as part of the death rite