

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**National Park Service****Notice of Availability for Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, Arkansas**

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the final general management plan and final environmental impact statement for Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, Arkansas.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the National Park Service (NPS) announces the availability of the final general management plan and final environmental impact (FGMP/FEIS) for Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site (NHS), Arkansas. This notice is being furnished as required by NEPA Regulations 40 CFR 1501.7.

DATES: The required no-action period on this FGMP/FEIS will expire 30 days after the Environmental Protection Agency has published a notice of availability of the FEIS in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the FEIS/FGMP are available from the Superintendent, Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, 2125 Daisy L. Gatson Bates Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72202. Telephone 501-374-1501.7.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the general management plan is to set forth the basic management philosophy for the NHS 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 two action alternatives for the future management direction of the NHS. A no action alternative is also evaluated.

The draft general management plan and draft environmental impact statement for Little Rock Central High School was released to the public on October 20, 2001. The public comment period ended January 6, 2002. No substantive comments were received on the draft document; consequently, no changes were made to the alternatives or environmental consequences.

The responsible official is Mr. William W. Schenk, Regional Director, Midwest Region.

Dated: March 19, 2002.

David N. Given,

Acting Regional Director, Midwest Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**National Park Service****General Management Plan Abbreviated Final Environmental Impact Statement Mojave National Preserve, California; Notice of Approval of Record of Decision**

SUMMARY: The Department of the Interior, National Park Service has approved a Record of Decision for the General Management Plan and Abbreviated Final Environmental Impact Statement for Mojave National Preserve. The Record of Decision details the overall background of the conservation planning effort, a description of the decision made, synopses of alternatives considered, identification of the environmentally preferable alternative, the basis for the decision, findings on impairment of park resources and values, a discussion of measures to minimize environmental harm, and an overview of public and agency involvement in the information and analysis supporting preparation of the environmental impact statement (EIS).

The impetus for this planning effort was the passage of the California Desert Protection Act (CDPA) on October 31, 1994, which transferred over 3 million acres of California desert lands from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to the National Park Service and designated nearly 8 million acres of Wilderness on NPS and BLM lands. CDPA created Mojave National Preserve (Preserve) and redesignated Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Monuments as national parks. In response to anticipated changes in public lands management in the California desert, as well as the listing of the desert tortoise, increasing development, various public use pressures, and other factors, the National Park Service, BLM, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) desert managers decided to prepare updated or new management plans.

Decision (Selected Action)

As detailed in the Record of Decision, the National Park Service (NPS) will implement Alternative 1, the proposed general management plan (described in the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement and General Management

Plan, dated July 2000, and as amended by the Abbreviated Final Environmental Impact Statement and General Management Plan, dated June 2001). Some adjustments to the hunting portion of the proposal have been made as a result of concerns expressed during the no-action period and in consultation with the California Department of Fish and Game and the USFWS. Changes in the hunting regulations will require further regulatory action. Cottontails and jackrabbits would be added to the list of species that may be hunted, and the NPS would seek to adjust the seasons to allow hunting only from September through January, in keeping with the goals of the Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan. The one-mile safety zone around developed areas has been dropped (except for Kelso Depot and Kelso Dunes) in favor of existing State and County regulations of 150 yards. The language regarding safety zones will be modified to adopt State and County regulations. The NPS would seek special regulations for the Preserve through the California Fish and Game Commission to implement the proposed hunting changes.

The selected plan was found to contain the best mix of programs, strategies, and actions for managing the Preserve, given varying mandates and diverse public opinion. The new General Management Plan (GMP) envisions the Preserve as a cultural landscape and natural environment (i.e., an arid ecosystem influenced by successive eras of human use dating back in historic and prehistoric time), where native desert ecosystems and processes are restored and protected for present and future generations. Protecting and perpetuating native species in a self-sustaining environment is a primary long-term goal. The GMP seeks to manage the Preserve to perpetuate the sense of discovery and adventure that currently exists, minimizing new development inside the Preserve to avoid proliferation of directional signs and new campgrounds or interpretive exhibits. The GMP envisions adjacent "gateway" communities as providing most visitor support services. The GMP also seeks to retain current opportunities for roadside and backcountry camping, and access to backcountry via existing primitive roads, consistent with the NPS mission. Planning of actions consistent with Wilderness will also be undertaken. Rehabilitation and partial restoration of the historic Kelso Depot and its use as a museum and interpretive facility is planned. The GMP also recognizes obligations to continue grazing, hunting,