

The biological assessment concluded that existing and future road conditions along Highway 85 would continue to act as a barrier to pronghorn movements. It stated that “. . . these actions may adversely affect Sonoran pronghorn if it leads to a reduction in genetic exchange and reduced viability, potentially eliminating populations from this portion of their range.” The USFWS Biological Opinion concluded with a number of reasonable and prudent measures proposed to help reduce the impact on the Sonoran pronghorn. The USFWS issued a biological opinion on the NPS assessment on June 26, 1997. The opinion stated that the plan was “. . . not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the Sonoran pronghorn.”

A Record of Decision on the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument General Management Plan/Development Concept Plan/Environmental Impact Statement selecting the *New Proposed Action* was signed on 28 January 1998.

On June 30, 1999, Defenders of Wildlife, et al., filed suit in Federal District Court (Defenders of Wildlife, et al. vs. Babbitt, et al., Civil Action No. 99–927) against the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Air Force, U.S. Marine Corps, National Guard, and the U.S. Border Patrol, charging that those agencies violated the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by failing to protect the Sonoran pronghorn. On February 12, 2001, the Court ruled, in part, that the USFWS issued Biological Opinions that failed to address the impact of each defendant’s activities on the pronghorn when added to the environmental baseline. The Court also ruled that the NPS issued an Environmental Impact Statement (of the *GMP/DCP/EIS*) that failed to address the cumulative impacts of their activities on the Sonoran pronghorn, when added to other past, present, and reasonable foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency undertakes those actions.

Alternatives Considered

Pursuant to the Court order, the National Park Service re-evaluated cumulative impacts of the no action, and the selected action contained in the *GMP/DCP/EIS* and approved in the 1998 Record of Decision. In order to present the current environmental baseline at the monument, Alternative (A) *Existing Conditions/No Action*, was updated with those actions, authorized by the plan, that have either occurred since its approval or are currently underway. Alternative (B) *The New Proposed*

Action, appears exactly as it did in the approved *GMP/DCP/EIS*.

Findings of the Supplement

The National Park Service has found that both the no action alternative and the preferred alternative (Alternative B: *The New Proposed Action*), when combined with past, present, and foreseeable future federal and non-federal actions, would likely result in a continued, incremental reduction in the ability of Sonoran pronghorn to maintain a viable population in the United States. Although the NPS contributes to a fraction of the overall impact on Sonoran pronghorn, increasing human presence in the form of monument visitors; undocumented aliens; travelers on Highway 85; and law enforcement officers constitute the greatest amount of adverse impacts on the pronghorn that the monument adds to the cumulative scenario.

Findings on Impairment

The cumulative impacts of this alternative have been determined to result in major adverse effects to the existing and future Sonoran pronghorn population in the United States. The loss of one or more Sonoran pronghorn would be a major adverse effect to a park resource. However, that loss would not be an impairment of park resources and values.

Basis of the Decision

After careful consideration of the findings of the supplement, USFWS conservation measures and recommendations, and public comment, the NPS has decided to continue to implement the *New Proposed Action* alternative that was selected through the 1998 Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument *GMP/DCP/EIS* Record of Decision. This decision is based on the following factors:

- The alternative continues to best achieve applicable NPS laws and policies, including the dual statutory NPS mandate to ensure long-term natural and cultural resource preservation while allowing for appropriate levels of visitor use, appropriate means of visitor enjoyment, and improved operational efficiency ;
- The alternative continues to be the option that best reconciles the many needs and desires expressed by extremely diverse public interest groups, including neighboring communities; Native Americans; advocacy groups; regional, state, and national publics; and multiple local, state, and Federal permitting authorities and agencies;

- The conservation measures agreed upon by the NPS and the USFWS consist largely of modifications to park operations that are administrative in nature and are not the type of actions that would require amendments or revisions to the *GMP/DCP/EIS*.

Conclusion

The Environmental Impact Statement provides the National Park Service findings of the cumulative impacts of past, present, and foreseeable future federal and non-federal actions on the Sonoran pronghorn. In addition, consultation between the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has resulted in conservation measures, approved in the November 16, 2001 Final Biological Opinion and included in the record, that are proposed to minimize the incidental take of Sonoran pronghorn. The continued implementation of the *New Proposed Action* alternative would not result in the impairment of park resources and would allow the National Park Service to conserve park resources and would allow the National Park Service to conserve park resources and provide for their enjoyment by visitors.

Dated: March 11, 2002.

William E. Wellman,

Superintendent, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

Dated: March 15, 2002.

Karen P. Wade,

Director, Intermountain Region.

[FR Doc. 02–8816 Filed 4–10–02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Environmental Impact Statement for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Cades Cove Development Concept and Transportation Management Plan for Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 USC 4321 *et. seq.*), the National Park Service (NPS) is undertaking an analysis process to determine the visitor experience and transportation requirements of the Cades Cove area of great Smoky Mountains National Park. This analysis, the Cades Cove Development Concept and Transportation Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

(EIS), will identify and assess potential impacts of alternative transportation management concepts and modes of travel to and within the Cades Cove area of the Park. The goal of this plan is to enhance the visitor experience and protect park resources. Notice is hereby given that a public scoping process has been initiated to prepare the Cades Cove Development Concept and Transportation Management Plan and EIS. The purpose of the scoping process is to elicit public comment regarding the full spectrum of public issues and concerns, including a suitable range of alternatives, the nature and extent of potential environmental impacts, and appropriate mitigation strategies which should be addressed in the EIS process.

DATES: Beginning in Spring, 2002, public scoping meetings will be conducted in the vicinity of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The location, date, and time of scoping meetings and deadlines for written comments will be announced via local and regional media and appropriate Internet locations. All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to attend these meetings to comment orally and/or provide written comments or suggestions during the scoping period.

ADDRESSES: Additional comments, suggestions, or relevant information (or those wishing to be added to the mailing list) should be mailed or hand delivered to the attention of Cades Cove Development Concept and Transportation Management Plan and EIS, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, 107 Park Headquarters Road, Gatlinburg, TN 37738.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Tollefson, Superintendent, Great Smoky Mountains National Park (865) 436-1207 or Fax (865) 436-1220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this planning initiative is to develop a long-term Development Concept and Transportation Management Plan and EIS for the Cades Cove area of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The Plan and EIS will examine local, natural and cultural resources, existing Park facilities and infrastructure, current and projected visitation trends, and incorporate a public involvement plan in developing a range of alternatives and transportation strategies that improve the visitor experience.

Cades Cove is located within Great Smoky Mountains National Park in southeastern Tennessee. The study area lies within Blount County, Tennessee, which is part of the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization's

designated planning area. Visitation in the Cove has tripled in the last 20 years, and has doubled since 1990, with more than 2.1 million visitors annually. Fifty percent of the time during peak summer and fall seasons, the Cove's Loop Road is very congested.

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 record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the 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.

Availability of the draft Cades Cove Development Concept and Transportation Management Plan and EIS for review and written comment will be announced by **Federal Register** notice, via the news media, appropriate Internet locations, Web site, and direct mailing to the project mailing list. At the time the draft Cades Cove Development Concept and Transportation Management Plan and EIS is anticipated to be available for public review in 2004. To afford additional opportunity to comment on the draft Cades Cove Development Concept and Transportation Management Plan and EIS after it is distributed, public meetings will be held in the vicinity of Great Smoky Mountains National Park (dates and locations to be determined).

Dated: February 27, 2002.

Patricia A. Hooks,

Regional Director, Southeast Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park Advisory Commission; Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act that a meeting of the Na Hoapili O Kaloko Honokohau, Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park Advisory Commission will be held at 9 a.m., April

27, 2002 at the Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park headquarters, 73-4786 Kanalani St. Suite 14, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

The agenda will include the following: Update on Park Projects, Construction of Halau for Live-In Cultural Area, Park Brochure, Commission Vacancies and New Appointees, the General Management Plan progress, and Budget.

The meeting is open to the public. Minutes will be recorded for documentation and transcribed for dissemination. Minutes of the meeting will be available to the public after approval of the full Advisory Commission. Transcripts will be available after 30 days of the meeting.

For copies of the minutes, contact Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park at (808) 329-6881.

Dated: February 22, 2002.

Geraldine K. Bell,

Superintendent, Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park.

[FR Doc. 02-8813 Filed 4-10-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Manzanar National Historic Site; Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given that a public meeting of the Manzanar National Historic Site will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday April, 26, 2002 at the Sierra Baptist Church Social Hall, 346 North Edwards Street (U.S. Highway 395), Independence, California, to hear presentations on issues related to the planning, development, and management of Manzanar National Historic Site.

The main agenda will include:

- Status reports on the development of Manzanar National Historic Site by Superintendent Frank Hays;
- General discussion of miscellaneous matters pertaining to future activities and Manzanar National Historic Site development issues;
- Public comment period.

This meeting is open to the public. It will be recorded for documentation and transcribed for dissemination. Minutes of the meeting will be available to the public after approval of the Superintendent. For a copy of the minutes, contact the Superintendent, Manzanar National Historic Site, P.O. Box 426, Independence, CA 93526.