

Dated: February 25, 2002.

John J. Reynolds,

Regional Director, Pacific West Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Environmental Assessment for proposal to reconstruct the entrance station at Great Falls Park, Virginia

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the reconstruction of the entrance station at Great Falls Park, Virginia.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Council on Environmental Quality regulations and National Park Service policy, the National Park Service announces the availability of an Environmental Assessment for the reconstruction of the entrance station at Great Falls Park, a unit of the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP). The existing entrance station is in major disrepair, has deficiencies with respect to accessibility, does not include a restroom facility, has unsafe pedestrian circulation patterns, and in its current form does not function to move incoming traffic through expeditiously, causing lengthy delays and long traffic backups. The Environmental Assessment examines several alternatives for reconstruction of the entrance station aimed to correct deficiencies with respect to improving access, providing a restroom and office/remit space for staff who work there, and providing better traffic flow into and out of the park. The National Park Service is soliciting comments on this Environmental Assessment. These comments will be considered in evaluating it and making decisions pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

DATES: The Environmental Assessment will remain available for public comment 30 days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register**. Written comments should be received no later than this date.

ADDRESSES: Comments on this Environmental Assessment should be submitted in writing to: Ms. Audrey F. Calhoun, Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Turkey Run Park, McLean, Virginia 22101. The Environmental Assessment will be available for public inspection Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. through 4 p.m. at the Great Falls Park Visitor Center, Great

Falls, Virginia; GWMP Headquarters, Turkey Run Park, McLean, Virginia; and at the following libraries: Dolly Madison Library, McLean, Virginia; Great Falls Library, Great Falls, Virginia; and Fairfax City Regional Library, Fairfax, Virginia.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Park Service proposes to construct a new accessible entrance station at Great Falls Park, Virginia, in replacement of the existing one. The new entrance station will correct the following:

1. The existing entrance station has deficiencies with respect to accessibility,
2. The existing entrance station does not provide a restroom facility for staff who work there,
3. The existing entrance station provides few security measures,
4. Pedestrian circulation around the existing building is currently unsafe for staff and visitors,
5. The existing entrance station is in major disrepair, and
6. Traffic trying to enter the park during high visitation periods, backs up on Old Dominion Drive, creating lengthy delays entering the park.

A related project will rehabilitate the existing roads and parking areas throughout the park. This includes minor road widening around the entrance station and the intersection of the entrance road with the lower parking lot access road. All interested individuals, agencies, and organizations are urged to provide comments on the Environmental Assessment. The National Park Service, in making a final decision regarding this matter, will consider all comments received by the closing date.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Daniel E. Sealy (703) 289-2531.

Audrey F. Calhoun,
Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Summary of Record of Decision; Re-analysis of Cumulative Impacts on the Sonoran Pronghorn; Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument; Arizona

The Department of the Interior, National Park Service, has prepared a Record of Decision on the *Final*

Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, Re-analysis of Cumulative Impacts on the Sonoran Pronghorn for Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. The Record of Decision includes a brief planning history, the alternatives considered, the methodology used in the decision-making process, findings of the supplement, findings on impairment of park resources and values, basis for the decision, a description of the environmentally preferred alternative, an overview of public and agency involvement in the decision-making process, and measures to minimize harm. This notice serves as a summary of the Record of Decision and does not constitute the decision document. For a copy of the Record of Decision, please contact Laurie Domler, Planning and Environmental Compliance, NPS Intermountain Region, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225-0287, or by e-mail at Laurie-Domler@nps.gov.

Planning History

*The General Management Plan/ Development Concept Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/ DCP/EIS) for Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument was completed in 1997. The GMP/DCP/EIS looked at a range of alternatives for management of park resources and visitation as well as the appropriateness and location of needed facilities. The NPS initially presented a range of three alternatives that were presented in Draft and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statements. A fourth alternative and the selected action, the *New Proposed Action*, was developed by combining concepts and actions from the other alternatives.*

During the general management planning process, the NPS entered into formal consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) through its May 22, 1996 submittal of a biological assessment. The biological assessment examined the effects on four endangered species in the park, including the Sonoran pronghorn. The analysis of the Sonoran pronghorn indicated that there were no proposed actions in the GMP/DCP/EIS that would directly effect the pronghorn. However, it was found that increased visitor use may lead to indirect effects on the Sonoran pronghorn if human presence in the front- and backcountry causes an alternation in behavior and habitat use. The potential for increased traffic on Highway 85 was also examined. Past observations of pronghorn movements suggested that traffic along Highway 85 acts as a barrier to pronghorn, restricting their movements across the highway.