

provides worldwide airlift and logistical support of the President of the United States, the Vice President, cabinet members, and other high-ranking United States and foreign officials. Many of the trees requiring management are located on the NPS' Suitland Parkway which is listed on the National Register for Historic Places. Other trees requiring management are located on Andrews AFB and on lands within an industrial park immediately north of Suitland Parkway and lands adjoining the southern base perimeter. This EA follows on a 2001 EA which analyzed emergency tree pruning to remove obstructions to the Andrews AFB West Runway.

The EA describes a no-action alternative (Alternative 1), a preferred alternative (Alternative 2) involving vegetation management to manage obstructions without reconfiguring the runways, and a third alternative (Alternative 3) involving reconfiguring the runways to reduce the severity of the required vegetation management. It also contains discussion of those alternatives which were considered but rejected. The USAF and NPS, in consultation with the Maryland Historic Trust, are in the process of complying with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This EA, the USAF draft Finding of No Significant Impact/Finding of No Practicable Alternative (FONSI/FONPA), and the NPS draft Statement of Findings (SOF) are all available for review.

Edward F. Duffy, Jr.,

Acting Regional Director, National Capital Region.

[FR Doc. 03-988 Filed 1-15-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

General Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Arkansas Post National Memorial

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the draft general management plan/draft environmental impact statement for the Arkansas Post National Memorial, Arkansas.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the National Park Service (NPS) announces the availability of the draft environmental impact statement and general management plan (DEIS/DGMP) for Arkansas Post National Memorial (ARPO).

DATES: The DEIS/DGMP will remain available for public review on or after March 17, 2003. No public meetings are scheduled at this time.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the DGMP/DEIS are available by request by writing to Arkansas Post National Memorial, 1741 Old Post Road, Gillett, Arkansas 72055, by telephoning 870-548-2207, or by e-mail arpo_superintendent@nps.gov.

The document is also available to be picked-up in person at the visitor center, 1741 Old Post Road, Gillett, Arkansas. The document can be found on the Internet in the NPS Planning Web site at: <http://planning.den.nps.gov/plans.cfm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Edward E. Wood, Jr., Superintendent, Arkansas Post National Memorial, 1741 Old Post Road, Gillett, Arkansas 72055, telephone 870-548-2207, or John Paige, Job Captain, Denver Service Center, 12795 West Alameda Parkway, PO Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225-0287, telephone 303-969-2356.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: ARPO consists of two units, the Memorial unit, and Osotouy unit. Together they commemorate the human settlement near the confluence of the Arkansas and Mississippi Rivers and the events associated with the first European settlement in the lower Mississippi River Valley. This is accomplished by interpreting and fostering an appreciation of the interaction of all cultural groups, their histories, and their significance to the region. The purpose of the general management plan is to set forth the basic management philosophy for ARPO and to provide strategies for addressing issues and achieving identified management objectives. The DGMP/DEIS describes and analyzes the environmental impacts of the proposed action and two action alternatives for the future management direction of ARPO. A no action alternative is also evaluated. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There may also be circumstances where we would withhold from the record a respondent's identify, 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. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials or

organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: December 10, 2002.

William W. Schenk,

Regional Director, Midwest Region.

[FR Doc. 03-999 Filed 1-15-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Fort Davis National Historic Site; Texas

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of a Record of Decision on the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Fort Davis National Historic Site, Texas.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to § 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Public Law 91-190, 83 Stat. 852, 853, codified as amended at 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C), the National Park Service announces the availability of the Record of Decision for the Final General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, Fort Davis National Historic Site, Texas. On November 5, 2002, the Director, Intermountain Region approved the Record of Decision for the project. As soon as practicable, the National Park Service will begin to implement the Preferred Alternative contained in the FEIS issued on September 23, 2002. The following course of action will occur under the preferred alternative. The selected alternative provides an overall combination of actions to restore natural processes, preserve cultural resource values, reduce harmful environmental impacts and continue to provide opportunities for high quality visitor experiences based on resource values. With the exceptions described below, the current level of development and interpretation and the pattern of visitor use will be maintained. Alternative C quality will enhance visitor services and provide for the preservation and protection of cultural and natural resources. This alternative provides the balance and flexibility necessary to accomplish both of these objectives in a realistic manner. Change in the fort's outward appearance will be minimal. There will be no further major exterior restoration or modern development. Well-balanced preservation, resource protection, and interpretive programs would complement one another. Existing buildings, ruins, and foundations will undergo stabilization

and conservation measures so as to preserve their historical integrity. Broader interpretive themes highlighting the more complex role of Fort Davis in the history of the American West would complement existing interpretive programs. The interior of the post hospital will be partially restored and refurbished to more fully tell the story of Fort Davis and therefore provide the visitors with a more comprehensive learning experience. This restoration and refurbishing project would be dependent on partnerships resulting in private sector funding. The park will continue to encourage adjacent landowners to use their land in ways that complement park values, thereby promoting the natural and scenic character of the landscape.

This course of action and four alternatives were analyzed in the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements. The full range of foreseeable environmental consequences was assessed, and appropriate mitigating measures were identified.

The Record of Decision includes a statement of the decision made, synopses of other alternatives considered, the basis for the decision, a description of the environmentally preferable alternative, a finding on impairment of park resources and values, a listing of measures to minimize environmental harm, an overview of public involvement in the decision-making process, and a Statement of Findings

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jerry Yarbrough, Fort Davis NHS, 1379, Lieutenant Flipper Dr., Fort Davis, TX 79734; 915-426-3225 (P), Jerry_Yarbrough@nps.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Copies of the Record of Decision may be obtained from the contact listed above or online at <http://planning.nps.gov/parkweb/what.cfm?RecordID=56>.

Dated: November 5, 2002.

Michael Snyder,

Deputy Director, Intermountain Region, National Park Service.

[FR Doc. 03-996 Filed 1-15-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement, Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve, Colorado

AGENCY: National Park Service,
Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the general management plan, Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the National Park Service is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement for the general management plan for Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve. The Environmental Impact Statement will be approved by the Director, Intermountain Region.

Great Sand Dunes National Monument was established by President Herbert Hoover in 1932 "for the preservation of the great sand dunes and additional features of scenic, scientific, and educational interest." The Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve Act of 2000 enlarged Great Sand Dunes National Monument from 39,000 acres to almost 150,000 acres to protect the entire Great Sand Dunes natural system. The name will change to Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve when sufficient lands are acquired within the new boundary. The legislation expanding the park identifies a variety of additional features for long term protection, including "geological, hydrological, paleontological, scenic, scientific, educational, wildlife, and recreational resources of the area." Land in and adjacent to the Great Sand Dunes is recognized for the "culturally diverse nature of the historic settlement of the area, offering natural ecological, wildlife, cultural, scenic, paleontological, wilderness, and recreational resources." The law further notes that the "preservation of this diversity of resources would ensure the perpetuation of the entire ecosystem for the enjoyment of future generations." The legislation directs establishment of the "Great Sand Dunes National Park Advisory Council" to "advise the Secretary of the Interior with respect to the preparation and implementation of a management plan for the national park and preserve."

The general management plan will prescribe the resource conditions and visitor experiences that are to be achieved and maintained in the monument over time. The clarification of what must be achieved according to law and policy will be based on review of the park's purpose, significance, special mandates, and the body of laws and policies directing park management. Management decisions to be made where law, policy, or regulations do not provide clear guidance or limits will be based on the

purposes of the monument, the range of public expectations and concerns, resource analysis, an evaluation of the natural, cultural, and social impacts of alternative courses of action, and consideration of long-term economic costs. Based on determinations of desired conditions, the general management plan will outline the kinds of resource management activities, visitor activities, and development that would be appropriate in the monument in the future. Alternatives will be developed through this planning process and will include, at a minimum, no-action and the preferred alternative. Major issues include protection of natural and cultural resources; the adequacy of interpretive programs; wilderness suitability; potential partnerships with other agencies, organizations, and local interests; and land status within the new boundary.

DATES: The Park Service will accept comments from the public through April 16, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Information will be available for public review and comment in the office of the Superintendent, Steve Chaney, Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve, 11500 Hwy. 150, Mosca, CO 81146-9798; Tel: (719) 378-2312; (719) 378-2594; e-mail: steve_chaney@nps.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Contact Superintendent Steve Chaney, Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve; Tel: (719) 378-2312; (719) 378-2594.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Park Service is planning to begin public scoping in January 2003 via a newsletter to state and federal agencies; associated American Indian tribes; neighboring communities; county commissioners; local organizations, researchers and institutions; the Congressional Delegation; and visitors who signed up to be on the mailing list. In addition, the National Park Service will hold public scoping meetings regarding the general management plan, beginning in January 2003. Specific dates, times, and locations will be announced in the local media and will also be available by contacting the Superintendent of Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve. There will also be opportunities for input at Advisory Council meetings. There will be a web site for the general management plan. The purpose of the newsletter, public meetings, and web site is to explain the planning process and to obtain comments concerning appropriate resource management; desired visitor experience and use, and