

changes, the NPS determined that the appropriate National Environmental Policy Act documentation for the update and review of Bandelier's Fire Management Plan is an EA.

Through the EA process, Bandelier will revise and update the Fire Management Plan to include the following goals: (1) Provide the means for staff and the public to preserve, protect, understand, and enjoy the natural and cultural resources of Bandelier National Monument through an integrated program where management activities support naturally functioning ecosystems consistent with cultural resource preservation needs. (2) Educate, inform, consult, collaborate, and maintain cooperative fire planning with other land agencies, landowners, and local communities. (3) Achieve ecologically sustainable vegetative conditions across broad vegetation communities by restoring a natural range of variability and bio-diversity. (4) Identify and mitigate hazards related to the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) through coordination and collaboration with neighboring agencies and landowners over time and across boundaries.

The following fire management objectives support these goals: (1) Protect life, property, and Bandelier's natural and cultural resources from the effects of unwanted fire. (2) Prevent or mitigate impacts due to fire suppression activities. (3) Institute and maintain a comprehensive Fire Information and Education Program. (4) Restore and maintain fire-dependent ecosystems with the appropriate use of fire. (5) Use prescribed fire to meet fire and resource management goals and objectives. (6) Allow natural fires to function in fire dependent ecosystems. The new Fire Management Plan will emphasize the importance of mitigating measures to reduce effects in the Wildland/Urban Interface and maintaining a comprehensive Fire Information and Education Program.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Whittington, Fire Information Officer, HCR 1, Box 1, Suite 15, Los Alamos, NM 87544. Telephone (505) 672-3861 x512.

Dated: August 20, 2004.

Stephen P. Martin,
Director, Intermountain Region.

[FR Doc. 04-23743 Filed 10-21-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312-EW-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Final General Management Plan/ Wilderness Study, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, MI

AGENCY: National Park Service.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of the Final General Management Plan/Wilderness Study/Final Environmental Impact Statement, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*, the National Park Service (NPS) announces the availability of a final general management plan/wilderness study/environmental impact statement (FEIS) for Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Michigan.

DATES: The draft general management plan/wilderness study/environmental impact statement was on public review from August 29, 2003 through November 23, 2003. Public hearings were held on the draft wilderness study on August 26 at Munising, Michigan, and on August 27 at Grand Marais, Michigan. Responses to substantive public comments are addressed in the final general management plan/wilderness study/environmental impact statement. The NPS will execute a record of decision (ROD) no sooner than 30 days following publication of the Environmental Protection Agency's notice of availability of the final environmental impact statement in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Copiers of the final general management plan/wilderness study/environmental impact statement are available upon request by writing Karen Gustin, Superintendent, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, P.O. Box 40, Munising, Michigan 49862-0040, by phone 906-387-2607, or by e-mail message at *piro_gmp@nps.gov*. The document can be picked up in person at the park's headquarters at N8391 Sand Point Road, Munising, Michigan.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Gustin, Superintendent, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, or by calling 906-387-2607.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The final general management plan/wilderness study/environmental impact statement combines two planning elements and an environmental analysis that covers both the plan and the wilderness study. The general management plan (GMP) provides a framework for making decisions about and managing the national lakeshore's resources and

visitor use for the next 15 years. The wilderness study explores options for wilderness designation in the national lakeshore from no wilderness to 26 percent of the park. The environmental impact statement (EIS) includes information and analysis on the potential effect of the alternatives explored in the final general management plan/wilderness study both within the national lakeshore boundaries as well as regionally. Five alternatives are examined that address wilderness as well as other visitor use and resource issues. The NPS preferred alternative would expand visitor services on the west and east ends of the park, recommend upgrading of county Road H-58, and propose the Beaver Basin (16% of the lakeshore) be designated as wilderness.

Based on the findings of the wilderness study, a formal wilderness proposal will be submitted to the Director of the NPS for approval and subsequent consideration by the Department of the Interior, President, and Congress.

Dated: July 9, 2004.

Ernest Quintana,

Regional Director, Midwest Region.

[FR Doc. 04-23745 Filed 10-21-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312-52-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Fire Management Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, Shasta County, CA; Notice of Approved Record of Decision

Summary: Pursuant to § 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Pub. L. 91-190, as amended) and the implementing regulations promulgated by the Council of Environmental Quality (40 CFR part 1505.2), the Department of the Interior, National Park Service has prepared and approved a Record of Decision concerning the revision of the Fire Management Plan for Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. The purpose of the fire management plan is to provide comprehensive direction for park fire management activities over the next 10 years. The selected plan prescribes goals to be achieved and the methods for achieving them during this period. The formal no-action period was officially initiated June 18, 2004, with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's **Federal Register** notification of the filing and availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Decision: As soon as practical the park will begin to implement as its updated Fire Management Plan the “multiple strategy” alternative (identified and analyzed in the Draft and Final EIS as Alternative IV). The selected plan will focus on restoring high elevation logged plant communities and reducing the risk of high severity wildland fire by decreasing forest stand density, reducing surface fuels, and attempting to restore fire as a natural disturbance process to the greatest extent feasible. Implementation of these strategies combines use of prescribed fire and mechanical treatment, and includes both pile and broadcast burns.

Project sizes may range from 0.5 to 1,000 acres, and will occur in all vegetation types. Up to 2,200 acres could be treated in each year of implementation. To facilitate these operations, the park’s fire operations cache will be centrally located at the Oak Bottom area.

An additional component of the Draft and Final EIS was the amending of the 2001 General Management Plan (GMP), to allow for future consideration of replacing or modernizing the existing park administrative center within the park. Under the selected alternative, the park’s GMP is amended to allow the park to consider construction a new administrative building at the existing park headquarters site on Kennedy Memorial Drive (subsequent environmental compliance, with opportunity for public involvement, would be necessary to address this option within a full range of alternatives).

The selected plan was determined to be the “environmentally preferred” alternative. Since the Fire Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement is programmatic in nature, project- or site-specific mitigations may need to be developed and implemented to ensure resource protection efforts reduce or avoid adverse effects. During the fire management planning phase, subject matter experts will review evaluate existing databases and maps, and, if necessary, conduct additional surveys to field verify natural or cultural resource conditions. Additional consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California State Historic Preservation Officer, the Redding Rancheria, and others may be required and will be documented in the project planning phase.

This selected plan and three alternatives were identified and analyzed in the Draft and Final EIS. In addition to the selected alternative, the environmental analysis addressed:

Alternative/No Action (the current fire management program); Alternative II Prescribed Fire Dominated (the fire program would have focused on the intentional use of fire through the application of prescribed fire to meet ecological restoration and maintenance objectives, and to reduce hazardous fuels throughout the park); and Alternative III Suppression Dominated (all natural and human-ignited wildland fires would have been suppressed). The full spectrum of foreseeable environmental consequences was assessed, and appropriate mitigation measures identified for each alternative.

Conclusion: The selected plan (Alternative IV) provides the most comprehensive and effective method among the alternatives considered for meeting the NPS purposes, goals, and criteria for managing fire and fire risks in Whiskeytown National Recreation Area and for meeting national environmental and fire policy goals. The selection of Alternative IV, as detailed in the Fire Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement, will not result in the impairment of park resources nor violate the Organic Act of 1916, and will allow the park to most effectively conserve park resources and provide for the long term enjoyment of visitors.

Interested parties desiring to review the Record of Decision may obtain a complete copy by contacting the Superintendent, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, P.O. Box 188, Whiskeytown, CA 96095 (530) 242-3400.

Dated: August 25, 2004.

Jonathan B. Jarvis,
Regional Director, Pacific West Region.
[FR Doc. 04-23742 Filed 10-21-04; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4312-52-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Committee for the Preservation of the White House; Notice of Public Meeting

AGENCY: Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act that a meeting of the Committee for the Preservation of the White House will be held at the White House at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, November 17, 2004.

DATES: November 17, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Executive Secretary, Committee for the

Preservation of the White House, 1100 Ohio Drive, SW., Washington, DC 20242. (202) 619-6344.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: It is expected that the meeting agenda will include policies, goals, and long range plans. The meeting will be open, but subject to appointment and security clearance requirements. Clearance information, which includes full name, date of birth and social security number, must be received by November 10, 2004. Due to the present mail delays being experienced, clearance information should be faxed to (202) 619-6353 in order to assure receipt by deadline. Inquiries may be made by calling the Committee for the Preservation of the White House between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays at (202) 619-6344. Written comments may be sent to the Executive Secretary, Committee for the Preservation of the White House, 1100 Ohio Drive, SW., Washington, DC 20242.

Dated: October 8, 2004.

Ann Bowman Smith,
Executive Secretary, Committee for the Preservation of the White House.

[FR Doc. 04-23741 Filed 10-21-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312-54-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Announcement of Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) Meeting

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act that a meeting of the Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commissions will be held at Fairbanks, Alaska. The purpose of the meeting will be to continue work on currently authorized and proposed National Park Service subsistence hunting program recommendations including other related subsistence management issues. The meeting will be open to the public. Any person may file with the Commission a written statement concerning the matters to be discussed.

The Subsistence Resource Commission is authorized under Title VIII, Section 808, of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Pub. L. 96-487, and operates in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

DATES: The meeting times are, 1. Tuesday, November 9, 2004, from 9 a.m. to approximately 5 p.m. 2. Wednesday,