

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**National Park Service****Notice of Availability of a Record of Decision (ROD) on the Final Environmental Impact Statement/General Management Plan (FEIS/GMP) for Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Kentucky and Tennessee (National Area)**

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, 83 Stat. 852, 853, codified as amended at 42 U.S.C. 4332 (2)(C), as well as National Park Service (NPS) policy in Director's Order 2 (Park Planning) and Director's Order 12 (Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-making), the NPS announces the availability of the ROD for the FEIS/GMP for the National Area. On May 26, 2005, the Southeast Regional Director approved the ROD for the project. As soon as practicable, the NPS will begin to implement the GMP, described as the Preferred Alternative (Alternative D) in the FEIS issued on February 24, 2005.

Under the preferred alternative, a total of eight management zones will be created for the National Area, each of which will be attended with particularized management prescriptions. Overall, the level of development and types of facilities proposed over the planning horizon of 15 to 20 years will remain essentially the same as currently exists.

The notable exceptions include new sites in the southwest portion of the National Area where NPS has been actively acquiring land in recent years.

Under Alternative D, the NPS will devote considerable effort and resources to improving the National Area's road and trail system. A principal feature of Alternative D is a roads and trails plan that sets forth the official road and trail system for the National Area. Henceforth, public use of roads and trails will only be allowed on the official system; all trails not expressly included as part of the official system will be designated as administratively closed. In addition, public use of a particular road or trail will be limited to the designated use set forth in Alternative D, with certain limited exceptions. Each road and trail in the official system will be constructed and maintained in accordance with a standard that supports the designated use(s) and also is consistent with desired resource conditions in the surrounding area, or zone.

Alternative D increases the trail miles available to hikers, equestrians, and bicyclists from the levels currently maintained by the National Area. The official trail system includes trails specifically dedicated to each of these user groups, plus a larger universe of trails that are "shared use." Generally speaking, designated horse trails will also be open to hikers and bicyclists, while designated bike trails will be open to both bicyclists and hikers. Specified hiking trails will also be open to bicyclists in order to provide more opportunities for this increasingly popular activity.

In implementing Alternative D, the NPS will continue the use of a trail type known as "multiple-use trail." In the National Area, this trail type is typically known for allowing motor vehicles, horses, hikers, and bicyclists on a single route maintained to trail rather than road standards. Under Alternative D, persons driving motor vehicles that are licensed and registered may use any multiple-use trails that will accommodate such use. All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) will generally not be permitted on any multiple-use trail, park road, or any other trail type. However, visitors will be permitted to use ATVs on multiple-use trails while actively hunting, during big game season only. Multiple-use trails will be closed to ATVs at all other times of the year. Big game season is defined for this purpose as the legal season for white-tailed deer and, in jurisdictions where they are regulated as "big game," wild boar. Alternative D also provides that ATV routes for year-round general recreational use may be designated within "planning areas" identified for consideration of such use. The plan includes two such planning areas in the Darrow Ridge area. These planning areas will provide the opportunity to design an experimental prototype system.

Under Alternative D, the route of the old O&W railroad will provide continued passenger vehicle access to the O&W bridge from the east. The route will be improved to the extent of providing safe passage. The NPS will coordinate with Scott County on the necessary improvements to achieve desired use and resource conditions. The O&W route west of North White Oak Creek has been determined to be abandoned. This portion of the route, extending to trail connections near the western boundary of the National Area, will be a trail designated for foot, horse, and bike use, as recommended by previous studies. The route will be brought to a standard suitable for the intended trail uses.

Basis for Decision

In reaching the decision to select Alternative D, the NPS considered the purposes for which the National Area was established and other laws and policies that apply to lands in the National Area, including the NPS Organic Act, NEPA, NPS Director's Order 12, and the NPS Management Policies 2001. Alternative D has the greatest potential of all four alternatives to preserve the unique resources of the National Area while making available a wide range of recreational opportunities to the visiting public. With eight management zones specifically tailored to the diverse resources and facilities of the National Area, Alternative D provides National Area management and the public with a higher degree of information and guidance concerning objectives, management, use, and development than do the other action alternatives. In so doing, it offers the broadest level of resources protection, interpretation, visitor services, and the optimum opportunity for high quality visitor experiences. Therefore the NPS has opted to select this alternative.

Findings on Impairment

The NPS has determined that implementation of Alternative D will not constitute an impairment to the National Area's resources and values. This conclusion is based on a thorough analysis of the environmental impacts described in the EIS, the public comments received, relevant scientific studies, and the professional judgment of the decision-maker guided by the direction in the NPS Management Policies. Overall, the FEIS/GMP results in benefits to National Area resources and values and opportunities for their enjoyment, and it does not result in their impairment.

DATES: The Record of Decision was signed by the Southeast Regional Director on May 26, 2005. As soon as practicable, the NPS will begin to implement the Preferred Alternative, listed as Alternative D in the Final General Management Plan.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the ROD are available from the Superintendent, Big South Fork NRRRA, 4564 Leatherwood Ford Road, Oneida, TN 37841, or by calling (423) 569-9778. An electronic copy of the Record of Decision is available on the Internet at <http://www.nps.gov/biso>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Reed Detring, Superintendent, Big South Fork NRRRA, 4564 Leatherwood Ford Road, Oneida, TN 37841. Telephone: (423) 569-9778.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Copies of the ROD may be obtained from the contact listed above.

The responsible official for this FEIS/GMP is Patricia A. Hooks, Regional Director, Southeast Region, National Park Service, 100 Alabama Street SW., 1924 Building, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Dated: July 1, 2005.

Patricia A. Hooks,

Regional Director, Southeast Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Revised Comprehensive Management Plan, Merced Wild and Scenic River, Yosemite National Park, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono & Tuolumne Counties, CA; Notice of Approval of 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 regulations promulgated by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1505.2)—and in accord with instructions of the U.S. District Court—the Department of the Interior, National Park Service has prepared and approved a Record of Decision for the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Merced River Revised Comprehensive Management Plan, Yosemite National Park. This programmatic Plan addresses NPS stewardship of an 81 mile segment of the 122 miles of the Merced River designated as “Wild and Scenic” by Congress in 1987. The requisite no-action period was initiated June 24, 2005, with the Environmental Protection Agency’s **Federal Register** notification of the filing of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS).

Decision: As soon as practical the National Park Service will begin to implement the Revised Comprehensive Management Plan described as the Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2) contained in the FSEIS. This alternative was deemed to be the “environmentally preferred” alternative. This course of action and three alternatives (including no-action) were identified and analyzed in the Final and Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statements (the opportunity for public review of the latter was announced in the **Federal Register** on January 14, 2005). The full range of foreseeable environmental

consequences were assessed, and appropriate mitigation measures have been identified.

Copies: Interested parties desiring to review the Record of Decision may obtain a copy by contacting the Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite, California 95389; or via telephone request at (209) 372-0201.

Dated: July 25, 2005.

Jonathan B. Jarvis,

Regional Director, Pacific West Region.

[FR Doc. 05-16080 Filed 8-12-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park Advisory Commission; Notice of Meetings

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act that meetings of the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park Advisory Commission will be held to discuss the development of the park’s general management plan.

DATES: September 15, 2005, at the Strasburg Town Hall Council Chambers, 143 East King St., Strasburg, VA; November 17, 2005, at the Middletown Town Hall Council Chambers, 7875 Church St., Middletown, VA; January 19, 2006, at the Strasburg Town Hall; March 16, 2006, at the Middletown Town Hall; May 18, 2006, at the Strasburg Town Hall; and July 20, 2006, at the Middletown Town Hall. All meetings will convene at 9 a.m.

All meetings are open to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Diann Jacox, Superintendent, Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park, (540) 868-9176.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Topics to be discussed at the meetings include: General management plan scoping issues, public involvement strategy, commission by-laws, election of a commission chair, planning process and schedule, commission sub-committees, park boundaries, and land protection planning.

Dated: August 5, 2005.

Diann Jacox,

Superintendent, Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park.

[FR Doc. 05-16084 Filed 8-12-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312-52-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

National Park System Advisory Board; Meeting

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.
ACTION: Notice of meeting.

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. Appendix, that the National Park System Advisory Board will meet September 8-9, 2005, in New York, New York. On September 8, the Board will tour Liberty Island, Ellis Island, and Manhattan Sites and will be briefed regarding environmental, education and partnership programs. The Board will convene its business meeting on September 9 at 8:30 a.m., e.s.t., in the Board Room of Thirteen/WNET, 450 West 33rd Street, New York, New York 10001, 202-356-5548. The meeting will be adjourned at 5 p.m. The Board will be addressed by National Park Service Director Fran Mainella and will receive the reports of its Education Committee, Committee on Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit, National Landmarks Committee, Committee on Health and Recreation, National Parks Science Committee, Committee on Philanthropy, and Partnerships Committee. The Board also will be briefed concerning civic engagement in the National Park Service.

Other officials of the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior may address the Board, and other miscellaneous topics and reports may be covered. The order of the agenda may be changed, if necessary, to accommodate travel schedules or for other reasons.

The Board meeting will be open to the public. Space and facilities to accommodate the public are limited and attendees will be accommodated on a first-come basis. Anyone may file with the Board a written statement concerning matters to be discussed. The Board also may permit attendees to address the Board, but may restrict the length of the presentations, as necessary to allow the Board to complete its agenda within the allotted time.

Anyone who wishes further information concerning the meeting, or who wishes to submit a written statement, may contact Mr. Lorán Fraser, Office of Policy, National Park Service; 1849 C Street, NW., Room 7250; Washington, DC 20240; telephone 202-208-7456.

Draft minutes of the meeting will be available for public inspection about 12