

Dated: June 29, 2009.

Michael J. Ryan,

Regional Director, Great Plains Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

General Management Plan, Environmental Impact Statement, Assateague Island National Seashore, Maryland and Virginia

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent To Prepare a General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, Assateague Island National Seashore.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the National Park Service is preparing a General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS) for the Assateague Island National Seashore (AINS). The park comprises approximately 39,727 acres, located along the Atlantic coasts of Maryland and Virginia.

Prepared by park staff and planners in the NPS Northeast Region, with assistance from advisors and consultants, the GMP/EIS will propose a long-term approach to managing the AINS. Consistent with the park's purpose, NPS policy, and other laws and regulations, alternatives will be developed to guide the management of the park over the next 15 to 20 years. The GMP/EIS will address a range of management alternatives for natural and cultural resource protection, visitor use and interpretation, park carrying capacity, facilities development and operations. A "no action" alternative will also be considered and an agency preferred management alternative identified. The alternatives will incorporate various zoning and management prescriptions to ensure resource preservation and public appreciation of the park. The environmental consequences that could result from implementing the various alternatives will be evaluated for cultural and natural resources, visitor experience, park operations, and the socioeconomic environment. Major issues to be explored include: measures for the preservation of resources; indications of the types and general intensities of development; identification of, and implementation commitments for, visitor carrying

capacities; and indications of potential boundary modifications.

Meeting Notices: The public is invited to express views, issues and concerns about the long-term management of the AINS early in the process through public meetings and other media; and will have an opportunity to review and comment on a draft GMP/EIS. Public scoping meetings will be announced by the NPS and noticed in local newspapers serving the area. Scoping and other periodic public meeting notices and information regarding the GMP/EIS will also be placed on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) Web site (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/asis>) for continuing public review and comment.

ADDRESSES: Information related to the GMP/EIS planning process and ongoing public involvement opportunities will be provided online at the AINS Web site (<http://www.nps.gov/asis>) and on the NPS PEPC Web site (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/asis>). Requests to be added to the project mailing list may be made electronically through the NPS PEPC Web site or by directing requests to the contacts listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Trish Kicklighter, Superintendent,
Assateague Island National Seashore,
7206 National Seashore Lane, Berlin,
MD 21811, Telephone: 410-641-1443.
Megan Lang, Community Planner/
Project Manager, National Park
Service, Park Planning and Special
Studies, 200 Chestnut Street,
Philadelphia, PA 19106, Telephone:
215 597-8875.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: If you wish to comment on the GMP/EIS, you may submit your comments by any one of several methods. You may mail comments to contacts listed above or you may submit comments electronically through the NPS PEPC Web site (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/asis>). Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Dennis R. Reidenbach,

Regional Director, Northeast Region, National Park Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Availability Draft Environmental Impact Statement and White-Tailed Deer Management Plan; Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement and White-Tailed Deer Management Plan for Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C), the National Park Service announces the availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and White-tailed Deer Management Plan for Rock Creek Park, Washington, District of Columbia. The White-tailed Deer Management Plan will support long-term protection, preservation, and restoration of native vegetation and other natural and cultural resources in Rock Creek Park. The DEIS describes four management alternatives, including the No Action Alternative (continue existing management) and three Action Alternatives, one of which is identified as the preferred alternative.

DATES: A Notice of Intent (NOI) was published in the **Federal Register** on September 20, 2006 (71 FR 182). A 60-day comment period was begun when the NOI was published. Public scoping meetings were held at the Rock Creek Park Nature Center November 1-2, 2006. Responses to public comment are addressed in the DEIS. The NPS will accept public comments on the DEIS until September 8, 2009. In addition, public meetings will be conducted at the Rock Creek Park Nature Center. Details on these public meetings will be available in local newspapers, on the NPS Web site <http://www.nps.gov/rocr>, or by contacting staff at Rock Creek Park by telephone at (202) 895-6000.

ADDRESSES: The DEIS and White-tailed Deer Management Plan will be available for public review on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) Web site at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/rocr> by selecting the link "Deer Management Plan for Rock Creek Park." Bound copies of the DEIS and White-tailed Deer Management Plan will also be available at the Rock Creek Park Nature Center, 5200 Glover Road, NW., Washington, DC; at Rock Creek Park Headquarters, 3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW., Washington, DC; and at public libraries adjacent to Rock Creek Park.