

Dated: June 29, 2009.

Michael J. Ryan,

Regional Director, Great Plains Region.

[FR Doc. E9-16043 Filed 7-9-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MN-P

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.

[FR Doc. E9-16327 Filed 7-9-09; 8:45 am]

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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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Adrienne A. Coleman, Superintendent, Rock Creek Park, 3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW., Washington, DC 20008, (202) 895-6000.

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. Although 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. We will make all submissions from organizations, businesses, or individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DEIS evaluates four alternatives for managing white-tailed deer in the park. The document describes and analyzes the environmental impacts of the No-Action Alternative and three Action Alternatives. When approved, the plan will guide deer management actions in Rock Creek Park over the next 15 years.

Alternative A (No Action) would continue the existing deer management actions and policies of monitoring vegetation, deer density and relative numbers, using limited protection fencing and deer repellents to protect rare plants in natural areas and small areas in landscaped and cultural areas, data management, continuing current educational and interpretive measures, as well as inter-jurisdictional communication; no new deer management actions would be implemented.

Alternative B would include all actions described under Alternative A, but would incorporate several non-lethal actions to protect forest seedlings, promote forest regeneration, and gradually reduce the deer numbers in the park. Additional actions under Alternative B would include large-scale exclosures (fencing) and reproductive control of does via sterilization and immunocontraceptives when feasible.

Alternative C would include all actions described under Alternative A, but would also incorporate two lethal deer management actions to reduce the herd size. Additional actions under Alternative C would include reduction of the deer herd by either sharpshooting or capture and euthanasia of individual deer. Capture and euthanasia of individual deer would be an approach used in limited circumstances where sharpshooting may not be appropriate.

Alternative D (the NPS Preferred Alternative) would include all actions described under Alternative A, but would also include a combination of certain additional lethal and non-lethal actions from Alternatives B and C to reduce deer herd numbers. The lethal actions would include both sharpshooting and capture/euthanasia and would be taken initially to quickly reduce the deer herd numbers. Population maintenance would be conducted via reproductive control methods if these are available and feasible. Sharpshooting would be used as a default option for maintenance if reproductive control methods would prove to be unavailable and infeasible. Alternative D would fully meet the plan objectives and has more certainty of success than the other alternatives analyzed. The relatively rapid reduction in both deer density and browsing pressure on native plant communities and species of special concern would provide beneficial impacts to the natural and cultural resources of the park.

Dated: May 1, 2009.

Margaret O'Dell,

Regional Director, National Capital Region.

[FR Doc. E9-16328 Filed 7-9-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Availability of a Record of Decision, White-tailed Deer Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement Catocctin Mountain Park, MD

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of a Record of Decision on the White-tailed Deer Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement for Catocctin Mountain Park, Maryland.

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 the Record of Decision for the White-tailed Deer Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (Plan/FEIS) for Catocctin Mountain Park, Maryland. The Plan/FEIS analyzed four alternatives. Alternative C, the selected alternative, includes two lethal actions that will be used in combination to reduce and control deer herd numbers. Qualified federal employees or contractors will conduct sharpshooting to reduce the deer population, and individual deer will be captured and

euthanized in certain circumstances where sharpshooting is not appropriate.

DATES: The Record of Decision for the project was approved on April 17, 2009, by the Regional Director, National Capital Region, National Park Service. As soon as practicable, the National Park Service will begin to implement the Preferred Alternative contained in the Final Environmental Impact Statement issued on December 12, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Copies of the Record of Decision may be obtained from Becky Loncosky, Park Biologist, Catocctin Mountain Park, 6602 Foxville Road, Thurmont, Maryland 21788, (301) 416-0135, or Online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/cato>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Alternative A was the No Action Alternative studied by the Plan/EIS. The three Action Alternatives each used different combinations of non-lethal and lethal management tools to reduce the deer population and thus address declining forest regeneration and ensure that natural processes (including the presence of deer) support native vegetation, wildlife, and the cultural landscape of the park.

All Action Alternatives included limited fencing, use of repellents around landscaped areas, deer and vegetation monitoring, data management, and research, as currently implemented under the No Action Alternative. Action Alternatives also utilize an adaptive management strategy in order to better manage based on uncertainty concerning the impacts that the change in deer population densities will have on vegetation recovery. By using an adaptive management approach, park managers will be able to change the timing or intensity of management treatments to better meet the goals of the plan as new information is obtained.

Alternative B combined several non-lethal actions including large-scale exclosures (fencing), additional use of repellents in limited areas, and reproductive control of does to gradually reduce the deer population in the park.

Alternative C will utilize two lethal actions in combination to reduce and control deer herd numbers. Qualified federal employees or contractors will conduct sharpshooting to reduce the deer population, and individual deer will be captured and euthanized in circumstances where sharpshooting is determined to be inappropriate.

Alternative D combined elements from alternatives B and C to include sharpshooting, capture and euthanasia, and reproductive control of does. For all alternatives, the full range of foreseeable