• Reduce the number of individual targeted exotic plants to minimize the threat to natural resources (native habitat, plants, and wildlife);
• Reduce to the greatest extent possible the introduction of new exotic plants into parks;
• Ensure that park exotic plant management programs support, and are consistent with, south Florida ecosystem restoration goals;
• Reconcile potential conflicts between preservation of significant cultural landscapes and removal of exotic plants;
• Preserve plants and sites valued by native Americans and other traditional cultures and protect archeological and historic resources, while reducing the spread of exotic plant species;
• Conduct the exotic plant management plan so it is continually monitored and improved, environmentally safe, incorporates best management practices, and supports and is supported by science and research;
• Minimize unintended impacts of control measures on park resources, visitors, employees, and the public;
• Use Federal resources with increased efficiency;
• Ensure that control measures are consistent with the Wilderness Act and NPS wilderness policy;
• Increase visitor and public awareness of the impacts exotic plants have on native habitat and species and on cultural resources, building support for NPS management efforts;
• Coordinate NPS efforts with partners and neighbors (nationally and internationally) to establish compatible goals and provide assistance to achieve them; and
• Restore and protect native plant communities in ways that allow natural processes, function, cycles, and biota to be re-established and maintained in perpetuity.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Sandra Hamilton, Environmental Quality Division, National Park Service, Academy Place, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225. Telephone: (303) 969–2068 for questions about the EIS process or Tony Pernas, Southeast Regional Office, National Park Service (305) 252–0347 for questions about technical aspects of the Plan.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the selected action, the NPS will apply a systematic approach that will prioritize exotic plants for treatment, monitor effects of those treatments on exotic plants and park resources, and mitigate any adverse effects to park resources as determined through the monitoring program. The NPS will employ an adaptive management strategy, using the results of monitoring to adjust treatment methods or mitigation methods to reach the desired future condition of treated areas in the parks. A decision tool will be applied to determine areas that are appropriate for active restoration, which will occur in park areas that have been previously disturbed and in areas with potential threatened and endangered species habitat or sensitive vegetation communities where a more rapid recovery is desirable. The active restoration approach for a given treatment area will be determined based on a site-specific evaluation. Other areas in the parks will recover passively after treatment.

The ROD briefly discusses the selected action, two other alternatives considered, the basis for the decision, and measures to minimize impacts and address public concerns.

The requisite no-action “wait period” before approval of the ROD was initiated on 3 September 2010, with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Federal Register notification of the filing of the Final EIS. As soon as practical after the publication of this Notice in the Federal Register, the nine parks included in the Plan will begin to implement treatment and control, monitoring, adaptive management of exotic plants and restoration of native plant communities as described and analyzed in the Preferred Alternative (Alternative C) presented in the Final EIS.

Interested parties desiring to review the ROD may access it on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment Web site at http://parkplanning.nps.gov/WASO or may obtain a copy by contacting the participating parks’ headquarters: Big Cypress National Preserve, 33100 Tamiami Trail East, Ochopee, FL 34141; Biscayne National Park, 9700 SW 328 Street, Homestead, FL 33033; Canaveral National Seashore, 212 S. Washington Avenue, Titusville, FL 32796; Dry Tortugas National Park, 40001 State Road 9336, Homestead, FL 33034; Everglades National Park, 40001 State Road 9336, Homestead, FL 33034; Buck Island Reef National Monument, Danish Custom House, Kings Wharf, 2100 Church Street #100, Christiansted, St. Croix, VI 00820; Christiansted National Historic Site, Danish Custom House, Kings Wharf, 2100 Church Street #100, Christiansted, St. Croix, VI 00820; Salt River Bay National Historic Park and Ecological Preserve, Danish Custom House, Kings Wharf, 2100 Church Street #100, Christiansted, St. Croix, VI 00820; and Virgin Islands National Park, 1300 Cruz Bay Creek, St. John, VI 00830.

Authority: The authority for publishing this notice is 40 CFR 1506.6.

The responsible official for this ROD is the Regional Director, Southeast Region, NPS, 100 Alabama Street, SW., 1924 Building, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.


David Vela, Regional Director, Southeast Region, National Park Service.

[FR Doc. 2010–11902 Filed 12–17–10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[1790–ROVA–409]

Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites

AGENCY: National Park Service.

ACTION: Record of Decision.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended [42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)], the National Park Service (NPS) announces the availability of the Record of Decision for the General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS) for the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites (NHS), in Hyde Park, New York. The Regional Director, Northeast Region, approved the Record of Decision for the GMP/EIS. The Record of Decision includes a statement of the decision made, a synopsis 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, and an overview of public involvement in the decision-making process. The approved General Management Plan will guide long-term management of the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt NHS, which is comprised of three (3) units of the national park system: The Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt NHS; Eleanor Roosevelt NHS (also known as Val-Kill); and Vanderbilt Mansion NHS. As soon as practicable, the NPS will begin to implement the selected alternative, which is Action Alternative Two, the NPS preferred alternative, as described in the Abbreviated Final GMP/EIS issued on August 6, 2010.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:  
Superintendent, Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites, 4097 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, NY 12538; (845) 229–9116 ext. 33; Sarach_Olson@nps.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary function of a general management plan is to clearly define a park’s purpose and management direction over the long term, typically 15 to 20 years into the future. The plan describes the resource conditions and visitor experiences that are to be achieved and maintained. The clarification of what must be achieved according to law and policy is based on a review of the park’s purpose, significance, and mission. The NPS seeks to have all parks operate under approved general management plans to ensure that park managers carry out as effectively and efficiently as possible the mission of the NPS.

Hyde Park, New York, is home to three national historic sites established by separate legislation: The Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site; Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site (also known as Val-Kill); and the Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. The sites are combined into a single administrative unit, Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites, under one superintendent and operated by one staff. Together the parks include over 1,100 acres of Federally owned land along the east bank of the Hudson River. The GMP/EIS was created over several years under the guidance of an interdisciplinary planning team including the Superintendent, senior park staff, NPS regional office staff, and consultants. At the outset, the planning team recognized that, although a general management plan was needed for each of the three Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites, a single unifying plan was not only the most expeditious approach, but was also essential for continued coordinated management.

The planning process for the GMP/EIS was conducted with extensive public and agency involvement. During 2005 and 2006, the planning team held meetings with and/or contacted key stakeholders, agencies, Tribes, resource experts, and members of the public. Planning newsletters were distributed in 2006 and 2007 with updates on the planning process, draft statements of purpose and significance, preliminary planning issues, and describing three preliminary alternatives, and also included a mail-back card inviting comment. Over the course of the next two years, the planning team continued to brief and receive input from stakeholders.

The Draft GMP/EIS was released for public review and comment from December 24, 2009, through February 28, 2010. The Draft GMP/EIS presented and evaluated three alternatives: The No-Action Alternative; Action Alternative One; and Action Alternative Two. Action Alternative Two was identified as the NPS Preferred Alternative. Copies of the Draft GMP/EIS were sent to individuals, agencies, Tribes, and organizations, and were made available at park visitor centers, local library, and on the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) Web site (http://parkplanning.nps.gov/rova). Public open houses were held on January 28 and 29, 2010.

The comments received on the Draft GMP/EIS required only minor responses and editorial corrections; thus, an abbreviated format was used for the Final GMP/EIS. The Abbreviated Final GMP/EIS was issued on August 6, 2010. It included an analysis of agency and public comments received on the Draft GMP/EIS with NPS responses, errata sheets detailing editorial corrections to the Draft GMP/EIS, and copies of agency and substantive public comments. No changes were made to the alternatives or to the impact analysis presented in the Draft GMP/EIS. Therefore, Action Alternative Two remained the NPS Preferred Alternative.

The NPS has selected Action Alternative Two because it best fulfills the purposes of the parks and conveys the greatest number of beneficial results in comparison with the other alternatives. The selected action seeks to make the parks relevant to more audiences by encouraging greater civic participation in park activities, while significantly enhancing the historic character of park resources. Resource management efforts will focus on the landscape and be aimed at rehabilitating existing features, but will follow contemporary best practices for land management within select areas. A learning center will be established to expand the scope and magnitude of the educational programs. The selected action calls for a significant expansion of partnership activities in the operation of the sites and opens up greater potential for new approaches to generating revenue to help sustain and improve operations.

The Record of Decision is available online at the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) Web site (http://parkplanning.nps.gov/rova). A printed copy may be obtained by contacting the park at the address shown above.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Notice of Lodging of a Consent Decree Under the Clean Water Act

Notice is hereby given that on December 13, 2010, a proposed Consent Decree (“Decree”) in United States and the State of Georgia v. DeKalb County, Georgia, Civil Action No. 1:10cv4039–WSD, was lodged with the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, Atlanta Division.

The proposed Consent Decree would resolve claims against DeKalb County for the Clean Water Act violations involving its sanitary sewer system, alleged in the complaint filed by the United States and the State of Georgia. The proposed Consent Decree provides for DeKalb County to perform injunctive measures as described in the Consent Decree, to pay a civil penalty of $226,500 to the United States and $226,500 to the State of Georgia, and to perform a Supplemental Environmental Project valued at $600,000.

The Department of Justice will receive for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of this publication comments relating to the Consent Decree. Comments should be addressed to the Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division, and either e-mailed to pubcomment-ees.endr@usdoj.gov or mailed to P.O. Box 7611, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20044–7611, and should refer to United States and State of Georgia v. DeKalb County, Georgia, Civil Action No. 1:10–cv–4039–WSD, D.J. Ref. 90–5–1–1–09497.

The Consent Decree may be examined at the Office of the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia, Richard B. Russell Federal Building, Suite 600, 75 Spring Street, SW., Atlanta, GA 30303, and at the Region 4 Office of the Environmental Protection Agency, Atlanta Federal Center, 61 Forsyth Street, SW., Atlanta, GA 30303. During the public comment period, the Consent Decree may also be examined on the following Department of Justice Web site, http://www.usdoj.gov/ceo/Consent_Decrees.html. A copy of the Consent Decree may also be obtained by mail from the Consent