

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**National Park Service**

[NPS-SER-CONG-17094; PPSECONGS0/PPMSPD1Z.YM00000]

Establishment of a New Fee Area at Congaree National Park

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Congaree National Park in South Carolina plans to collect expanded amenity recreation fees at the Longleaf Campground and Bluff Campground beginning in early 2015. Revenue will be used to cover the cost of collections at the campground and for deferred maintenance in the park.

DATES: We will begin collecting fees on July 28, 2015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lauren Gurniewicz, Chief of Interpretation, Congaree National Park, 100 National Park Road, Hopkins, SC 29061; telephone (803) 647-3969; or by email at lauren_gurniewicz@nps.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is to comply with Section 804 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004 (Pub.L. 108-447). The act requires agencies to give the public 6 months advance notice of the establishment of a new recreation fee area.

Rates at Longleaf Campground will be \$10 per night for an individual tent only site with no hook-ups; \$20 per night for a group tent only site with no hook-ups. Rates at Bluff Campground will be \$5 per night for an individual tent only site with no hook-ups. These fees were determined through a comparability study of similar sites in the area at Federal, state, and private recreation areas and will only be charged at the Longleaf and Bluff campgrounds. In accordance with NPS public involvement guidelines, the park engaged numerous individuals, organizations, and local, state, and Federal government representatives while planning for the implementation of this fee.

Dated: November 21, 2014.

Lena McDowall,

Associate Director, Business Services.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management**

[BOEM-2014-0085; MMAA104000]

Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), 2017-2022 Oil and Gas Leasing Program

AGENCY: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Notice of Scoping.

SUMMARY: Consistent with the regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), BOEM is announcing its intent to prepare an EIS to inform the decisions that will be taken during the preparation and implementation of the 2017-2022 Oil and Gas Leasing Program (2017-2022 Program). Section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344) requires the development of an OCS oil and gas leasing program every five years. The 2017-2022 Program must address the size, timing and location of the lease sales to be held under it. Section 18 also requires a multi-step process of consultation and analysis that must be completed before the Secretary of the Interior may approve a new Program. BOEM initiated the 2017-2022 Program process by issuing a request for information and comments (RFI) in June 2014. The remaining process required by section 18 of the OCS Lands Act includes development of a Draft Proposed Program (DPP), a Proposed Program, a Proposed Final Program (PFP), and Secretarial approval of the 2017-2022 Program.

The EIS is developed in concert with the 2017-2022 Program documents. The EIS will analyze the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of possible OCS oil and gas activities that could result from lease sales contemplated under the 2017-2022 Program. The scope of the EIS will be based on the DPP after consideration of public input received during the scoping period for the EIS. The DPP includes potential lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico (Western, Central, and a small portion of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Areas not subject to Congressional moratorium), Atlantic (Mid and South Atlantic Planning Areas), and Alaska (Cook Inlet, Chukchi, and Beaufort Planning Areas) (for details, see the DPP at <http://www.boem.gov/Five-Year-Program/>).

This notice starts the formal scoping process for the EIS under 40 CFR 1501.7 of the Council on Environmental

Quality (CEQ) regulations and solicits input from the public regarding alternatives to the proposed action, impacting factors, environmental resources and issues of concern in the DPP area, and possible mitigating measures that should be evaluated in the EIS. The purpose of scoping is to determine the appropriate content for a focused and balanced programmatic environmental analysis by (a) ensuring significant issues are identified early and properly studied during development of the Programmatic EIS; (b) identifying alternatives, mitigation measures, and analytic tools; and (c) identifying insignificant issues and narrowing the scope of the EIS.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This NOI informs the public about the start of the EIS preparation process and continues information gathering to be done through formal scoping. This NOI is published early in the environmental review process in furtherance of the goals of NEPA. The comments received during public scoping will help frame and inform the content of the EIS. Alternatives may be developed based on scoping comments. In addition to the No Action alternative required by CEQ regulations (*i.e.*, not adopting a new oil and gas leasing program), other alternatives will be considered in the EIS.

On June 16, 2014, BOEM published a RFI concerning the preparation of the 2017-2022 Program. Based on the input received in response to the RFI, BOEM is releasing the DPP concurrently with this NOI. The Draft EIS will be released in about one year from the date of the NOI to coincide with the release of the Proposed Program. Stakeholders are encouraged to go to www.boemoceaninfo.com for additional information about the EIS and the 2017-2022 Program.

Scoping Process: BOEM is aware of many of the key issues, concerns, and potential conflicts to be considered in the EIS for the 2017-2022 Program. Some of these concerns were reflected in responses to the RFI. Additional national and regional issues and concerns may be identified and addressed as a result of input received during the scoping period initiated by this NOI. Therefore, BOEM invites the public to submit comments during the EIS scoping process to assist BOEM in drafting the EIS. We recommend that you provide scientific information, technical data, or anecdotal evidence, etc., to support your comments. Specifically, BOEM seeks focused input, including input in geospatial format as we intend to use geospatial information