

## Decision

Following the formal DEIS review period, comments received will be considered in preparing the Final EIS (FEIS). The FEIS is anticipated to be completed during summer 2002—its availability will be similarly announced in the **Federal Register**. As this is a delegated EIS, the official responsible for the final decision is the Regional Director, Pacific West Region. The Record of Decision may be approved by the Regional Director not sooner than 30 days after the release of the FEIS; subsequently the official responsible for implementation would be the Superintendent, Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

Dated: April 17, 2002.

**Holly Bundock,**

*Acting Regional Director, Pacific West Region.*  
[FR Doc. 02-10027 Filed 4-23-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### **Biscayne National Park; Notice of Intent To Prepare a Fisheries Management Plan With Environmental Impact Statement**

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to prepare a Fisheries Management Plan with Environmental Impact Statement for Biscayne National Park.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS) will prepare a Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) with Environmental Impact Statement for Biscayne National Park. The plan will identify the current status of the fishery, describe desired future conditions, develop fisheries management objectives and present a range of alternatives that will directly contribute to the long-term protection and perpetuation of the Park's marine resources. Specific issues to be addressed include commercial and recreational harvest limits, park visitor use/access, availability of educational opportunities about fisheries resources within the Park, conservation and preservation of natural aquatic habitats, and the overall health and vitality of the fishery community. The plan will also address current tackle, techniques, methods, and practices pertaining to the recreational and commercial fisheries.

**DATES:** To determine the scope of issues to be addressed in the FMP and to identify significant issues related to the project, the NPS will hold three public scoping meetings. The first public meeting will be held in Miami, Florida on May 14, 2002. The second meeting will be held in Homestead, Florida on May 15, 2002, and the third will be held in Key Largo on May 16, 2002. An additional meeting will be held in Miami, Florida on May 13, 2002, to provide an opportunity for the NPS to respond to issues and concerns raised by commercial fishermen. A press release and advance mailing will be sent out providing details about the exact times and locations of each meeting. Representatives of the NPS will be available to discuss issues, resource concerns, and the planning process at each of the public meetings.

**ADDRESSES:** Any comments or requests for information should be addressed to Rick Clark, Chief, Resource Management, Biscayne National Park, 9700 SW 328th Street, Homestead, FL 33033-5634.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** (1) Monika Mayr, Assistant Superintendent, Biscayne National Park, 9700 SW 328th Street, Homestead, FL 33033-5634, by telephone at 305-230-1144, ext. 3004 or by e-mail at [Monika\\_Mayr@nps.gov](mailto:Monika_Mayr@nps.gov). (2) Rick Clark, Chief, Resource Management, Biscayne National Park, 9700 SW 328th Street, Homestead, FL 33033-5634, by telephone at 305-230-1144, ext. 3007 or by e-mail at [Rick\\_Clark@nps.gov](mailto:Rick_Clark@nps.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Biscayne National Monument was established by Congress in 1968 (Pub. L. 90-606). The Monument was later expanded in 1974 (PL 93-477), and again in 1980 (Pub. L. 96-287) to its current size of 173,000 acres (270 square miles), when it was also redesignated Biscayne National Park to "preserve and protect for the education, inspiration, recreation, and enjoyment of present and future generations a rare combination of terrestrial, marine, and amphibious life in a tropical setting of great natural beauty." As part of the enabling legislation, Congress recognized "the unique and special values" of the resources within the Park as well as the "vulnerability of these resources to destruction or damage due to easy human access by water." Congress therefore directed the NPS to "manage this area in positive and scientific way in order to protect the area's natural resource integrity." With respect to fisheries management, Congress provided additional direction by stipulating in the enabling legislation

(Pub. L. 96-287) that "The Secretary shall preserve and administer the park in accordance with the provisions of the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; U.S.S. 1-4), as amended and supplemented. The waters within the park shall continue to be open to fishing in conformity with the laws of the State of Florida except as the Secretary, after consultation with appropriate officials of said State, designates species for which, areas and times within which, and methods by which fishing is prohibited, limited, or otherwise regulated in the interest of sound conservation to achieve the purposes for which the park is established."

Biscayne National Park is predominantly made up of submerged lands (95%), and may generally be divided into three major environments: coral reef, estuarine and terrestrial. The boundaries of the Park are from the mangrove shoreline to the west, extend east to Biscayne Bay (including seagrass communities and shoals), the keys (including hardwood hammocks, mangrove wetlands, sandy beaches and rocky inter-tidal areas), the reef, and continue to a contiguous 60-foot depth contour to the east. The northern boundary for the Park is near the southern extent of Key Biscayne, while the southern boundary is near the northern extent of Key Largo, adjacent to the Barnes Sound and Card Sound areas. This fisheries planning effort will evaluate a range of management recommendations to provide a quality visitor experience while maximizing the protection of the Park's resources.

Public comments received in writing and from the public meetings, including names and home addresses of respondents will be available for public review at the Park office during regular business hours. If you wish to withhold your name and/or address, please state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. Anonymous comments will be included in the public record, however, the NPS is not legally required to consider or respond to anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will also be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

The draft and final fisheries management plans will be distributed to all known interested parties and appropriate agencies. Full public participation by federal, state, and local agencies, as well as other concerned organizations and private citizens, is invited during the scoping process and

after the draft Fisheries Management Plan is prepared.

The responsible official for this environmental impact statement is Jerry Belson, Regional Director, National Park Service, Southeast Region, 100 Alabama Street S.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Dated: April 2, 2002.

**Patricia A. Hooks,**

*Acting Regional Director, Southeast Region.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### **Draft Environmental Impact Statement/General Management Plan Minidoka Internment National Monument Jerome County, ID; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement**

**SUMMARY:** In accord with § 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*), the National Park Service is undertaking a conservation planning and environmental impact analysis process for the first General Management Plan (GMP) for the Minidoka Internment National Monument, Idaho. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared concurrently with the GMP. The GMP is intended to set forth the basic management philosophy for this new unit of the National Park System and provide strategies for addressing issues and achieving identified management objectives for that unit, thus serving as a "blueprint" to guide management of natural and cultural resources and visitor use during the next 15-20 years. Development Concept Plans, which guide more detailed, site-specific preservation and development actions may be included with the GMP.

#### **Background**

The Minidoka Relocation Center (an area also known as Hunt) was authorized in August 1942 and operated by the War Relocation Authority until October 1945. The Center included over 33,000 acres of land with administrative and residential facilities. There were more than 600 buildings with a peak population of approximately 10,000 Japanese Americans from Washington State, Oregon, and Alaska. Established January 17, 2001, as the 385th unit of the National Park System, the purposes of Minidoka Internment National Monument, which is to be managed by the National Park Service, are to: (a) Protect the historic structures and

objects of historic interest on 72.75 acres; and (b) Provide opportunities for public education and interpretation of the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. This site is located approximately 25 northeast of Twin Falls, Idaho, surrounded by a rural, sparsely populated agricultural community. The site has many ground features that are the remnants of the camp, dominated by the basalt stone masonry foundations of the original entrance area.

#### **Scoping Process**

In preparing the EIS/GMP, the National Park Service (NPS) will formulate a range of alternatives to define distinct management strategies for the park, including visitor use and appreciation, and cultural and natural resource protection. Public comment is a key component of this conservation planning process, which will also include identification and evaluation of potential environmental impacts, and appropriate mitigation measures, of each alternative.

Some of the major issues we anticipate addressing in the Minidoka Internment National Monument EIS/GMP are:

- Interpretation and educational activities at the site;
- Educational and interpretation activities pertaining to the site in context with other related themes and sites;
- Natural and cultural resource management;
- Cultural resources research;
- Restoration and protection of the site and its historic structures;
- Park maintenance and sustainability;
- Public access to the Monument and on-site circulation;
- Development of the model visitor experience;
- The desired future conditions of the site;
- Park operations and administration;
- Identification and development of partnerships to effect NPS management strategies, including partnering with adjacent southern Idaho communities and organizations, the Japanese-American communities on the West Coast and throughout the Nation, and all other interested citizens in general; and
- Cooperation with other federal agencies, state, local and tribal governments.

#### **Comments**

All interested persons, organizations, agencies, and American Indian tribes wishing to express concerns or provide information about management issues

which should be addressed in the upcoming conservation planning and environmental impact analysis process are encouraged to contact the Superintendent. Comments are also sought in regards to a suitable range of alternatives which should be considered in the EIS/GMP, the nature and extent of potential environmental impacts, and appropriate mitigating measures.

All comments received will become part of the public record. If individuals submitting comments request that their name or/and address be withheld from public disclosure, it will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Such requests must be stated prominently in the beginning of the comments. There also may be circumstances wherein the NPS will withhold a respondent's identity as allowable by law. As always, NPS will make available to public inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses; and, anonymous comments may not be considered.

**DATES:** We anticipate holding public scoping meetings during the summer or early fall of 2002. Details will be announced widely in local and regional news media and via direct park mailings. All written comments regarding the preparation of the EIS/GMP must be postmarked not later than September 30, 2002, and these should be submitted directly to the Superintendent, Minidoka Internment National Monument, P.O. Box 570, 221 North State Street, Hagerman, Idaho 83332. Current information will be available at (208) 837-4793.

#### **Decision**

We expect the draft EIS/GMP to be available for public review during the fall of 2003, with the final document completed in the fall of 2004. Formal announcement of the availability of both documents will be published in the **Federal Register**, as well as publicized via local and regional media. The responsibility for approving the EIS/GMP has been delegated to the National Park Service, and the official responsible for the final decision is the Regional Director, Pacific West Region. Subsequently the official responsible for implementation of the GMP is the Superintendent, Minidoka Internment National Monument.

Dated: April 19, 2002.

**P. Daniel Smith,**

*Acting Director, National Park Service.*

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