

In the general management planning process the NPS planning team developed three alternatives for the national recreation area, none of which would result in substantial changes in the operation and management of the area. The two action alternatives primarily focus on maintaining and protecting resources, upgrading several existing visitor facilities, addressing park maintenance/operations needs, implementing selected treatments from the recreation area's recent cultural landscape report, and conducting several future studies. The preliminary impact analysis of the alternatives revealed no major (significant) effects on the human environment nor impairment of park resources and values. Most of the impacts to the recreation area's resources and values were negligible to minor in magnitude.

For these reasons the NPS determined the appropriate National Environmental Policy Act documentation for the general management plan is an EA.

DATES: The draft general management plan/EA is expected to be distributed for a 30 day public comment period in the summer/fall of 2006 and a decision is expected to be made in the fall of 2006. The NPS will notify the public by mail, Web site, and other means, and will include information on where and how to obtain a copy of the EA, how to comment on the EA, and the length of the public comment period.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Connie Rudd, Superintendent, Chickasaw National Recreation Area; 1008 W. 2nd, Sulphur, OK 73086, telephone: (580) 622-2161, extension 1-200; e-mail: connie_rudd@nps.gov.

Dated: January 5, 2006.

Michael D. Snyder,

Director, Intermountain Region.

[FR Doc. E6-1101 Filed 1-27-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

AGENCY: National Park Service.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Elkmont Historic District General Management Plan Amendment.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and National Park Service (NPS) policy in Director's Order Number 2 (Park Planning) and Director's Order Number 12 (Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact

Analysis, and Decisionmaking) the NPS announces the availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/General Management Plan Amendment (Draft EIS/GMPA) for the Elkmont Historic District within Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The authority for publishing this notice is contained in 40 CFR 1506.6.

The document provides a framework for management, use, and development options for the historic district by the NPS for the next 15 to 20 years. The document describes seven management alternatives for consideration, including a no-action alternative that is tiered to the existing Park GMP, and analyzes the environmental impacts of those alternatives. The Elkmont Historic District is located within the Little River Watershed in Sevier County, Tennessee, approximately 6 miles from the Sugarlands Visitor Center and approximately 8 miles from the city of Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

DATES: There will be a 90-day comment period beginning with the Environmental Protection Agency's publication of its notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Draft EIS/GMPA are available by contacting the Park Superintendent at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, 107 Park Headquarters Road, Gatlinburg, Tennessee 37738. An electronic copy of the Draft EIS/GMPA is available on the Internet at <http://www.nps.gov/grsm/pphtml/documents.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NPS held public and stakeholder meetings and consulting party meetings as outlined in 36 CFR 800.3 to gather advice and feedback on desired outcomes for the future management of the Elkmont Historic District. The meetings assisted the NPS in developing alternatives for managing the cultural and natural resources, creating interpretive and educational programs and ensuring traditional uses are maintained. Responses from the meetings were incorporated into the alternative described in the plan.

The No-Action Alternative is tiered to the GMP and calls for all structures to be removed and building sites to be returned to a natural state. Alternative A is similar to the No-Action Alternative but proposes active restoration of natural resources upon removal of all structures. Alternative B calls for the retention of 12 buildings for use as a museum community, and the Appalachian Clubhouse for use as a day use facility. Alternative C would retain 17 buildings for use as a museum community, including one cabin

granted to a figure prominent in the creation of the National Park, and the Appalachian Clubhouse for use as a day use facility. Alternative D adds to the number of buildings retained and uses described in Alternative C by retaining 18 cabins for use as a museum community, including an additional building associated with a prominent figure from the Lumber Company that operated during the period of significance. Additionally, six cabins would be retained for overnight administrative use by visiting scientists participating in Park research programs, also included would be two options for the Wonderland Hotel and Annex, by either removing both or reconstructing the hotel and rehabilitating the annex for Park curatorial use for cultural resource collections. Alternative E would retain 17 buildings for use as a museum community and the Appalachian Clubhouse for use as a day use picnic facility. Additionally, six buildings would be retained for overnight use by visiting scientists as described in Alternative D and seven cabins would be retained for overnight use by visiting public operated by a private concessionaire. Two options for the Wonderland Hotel and Annex include either removing both or reconstructing the hotel and rehabilitating the annex for lodging by the visiting public also operated by a private concessionaire. Alternative F proposes retaining 17 buildings for use as a museum community and the Appalachian Clubhouse for use as a day use facility. In this alternative, 37 buildings would be retained for lodging by visiting public operated by a private concessionaire. Two options for the Wonderland Hotel and Annex include either removing both or reconstructing the hotel and rehabilitating the annex for lodging by the visiting public also operated by a private concessionaire. Alternative C is both the environmentally preferred and the agency preferred alternative.

Following the public comment period, all comments will be available for public review during regular business hours. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the rulemaking record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the rulemaking record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your

name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ian Shanklin at 865-436-1318, or Amy Wirsching at 404-562-3124, extension 607.

The responsible official for this Draft EIS/GMPA is Patricia A. Hooks, Regional Director, Southeast Region, National Park Service, 100 Alabama Street, SW., 1924 Building, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Dated: December 7, 2005.

Patricia A. Hooks,

Regional Director, Southeast Region.

[FR Doc. 06-838 Filed 1-27-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-8A-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, New River Gorge National River, WV

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare a General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for New River Gorge National River.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the National Park Service (NPS) announces its intent to prepare a General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS) for the New River Gorge National River, located in Fayette, Raleigh, and Summers Counties of southern West Virginia. The GMP will allow the park to develop a unified approach to managing the major changes in and adjacent to the park since the 1982 GMP was prepared, to focus on protecting park natural, cultural, and scenic resources, and to identify opportunities to facilitate appropriate forms of visitor education, interpretation and use. The GMP will provide an opportunity to inform the public regarding the park's significance and resources, and develop partnerships with various stakeholder groups for their preservation. Prepared by NPS staff at the park and the Northeast Region, and with the assistance of consultants, the GMP/EIS will propose a long-term approach to

managing the New River Gorge National River.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Calvin Hite, Superintendent, New River Gorge National River, 104 Main Street, P.O. Box 246, Glen Jean, WV 25846, (304) 465-0508.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Consistent with the park's mission, NPS policy, and other laws and regulations, alternatives will be developed to guide the management of the national river over the next 15 to 20 years. The alternatives will incorporate various zoning and management prescriptions to ensure resource protection and public enjoyment of the national river. As a part of the process, the potential for wilderness will be assessed; if any areas are found to be potentially suitable, they will be considered as a part of the GMP/EIS. The environmental consequences that could result from implementing the various alternatives will be evaluated in the GMP/EIS. The public will be invited to express opinions about the management of the park early in the process through public meetings and other media and will have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft GMP/EIS. Following the public review processes outlined under NEPA, the final plan will become official, authorizing implementation of a preferred alternative. The target date for the Record of Decision is October 2007.

Dated: December 19, 2005.

Calvin Hite,

Superintendent, New River Gorge National River.

[FR Doc. E6-1102 Filed 1-27-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Citizen Advisory Commission Meeting

AGENCY: National Park Service; Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: This notice announces three public meetings of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Citizen Advisory Commission. Notice of these meetings is required under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 2).

DATES: Saturday, March 11, 2006, 7 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Bushkill Meeting Center, Route 209, Bushkill, PA 18324.

The agenda will include reports from Citizen Advisory Commission members including committees such as

Recruitment, Natural Resources, Inter-Governmental, Cultural Resources, By-Laws, Special Projects, and Public Visitation and Tourism. Superintendent John J. Donahue will give a report on various park issues, including cultural resources, natural resources, construction projects, and partnership ventures. The agenda is set up to invite the public to bring issues of interest before the Commission.

DATES: Saturday, March 11, 2006, Immediately following preceeding meeting.

ADDRESSES: Bushkill Meeting Center, Route 209, Bushkill, PA 18324.

The agenda will include the annual election of officers for the 2006-2007 term.

DATES: Thursday, May 4, 2006, 7 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center, 605 Pequest Rd., Oxford, NJ 07863.

The agenda will include reports from Citizen Advisory Commission members including committees such as Recruitment, Natural Resources, Inter-Governmental, Cultural Resources, By-Laws, Special Projects, and Public Visitation and Tourism. Superintendent John J. Donahue will give a report on various park issues, including cultural resources, natural resources, construction projects, and partnership ventures. The agenda is set up to invite the public to bring issues of interest before the Commission.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Superintendent John J. Donahue, 570-588-2418.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Citizen Advisory Commission was established by Public Law 100-573 to advise the Secretary of the Interior and the United States Congress on matters pertaining to the management and operation of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, as well as on other matters affecting the recreation area and its surrounding communities.

John J. Donahue,

Superintendent.

[FR Doc. E6-1100 Filed 1-27-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312-52-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Golden Gate National Recreation Area Notice of Public Meetings for Calendar Year 2006

Notice is hereby given that public meetings of the Golden Gate National