

for rural landscape management in Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Ohio.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service (NPS) will prepare a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) to address the long-term management of the rural landscape in Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Park managers have understood the park's mandate to include the preservation of the rural landscape—the Valley's agricultural lands and associated structures. Various attempts to stem the decline of this landscape within the park's boundaries have not prevented farms from falling into disuse and disrepair. The park is proposing to implement a fresh approach to rural landscape management to better protect and revitalize this cultural resource.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

A preliminary set of alternatives (including the park's preferred alternative) for protecting the rural landscape have been developed:

(1) No action. Manage the rural landscape through a combination of historical leasing, short-term special use permits, mowing, and utilization of structures for adaptive reuse. Continue current program activities without changing their emphasis.

(2) Contract farming. Manage the rural landscape by hiring employees or contractors to implement a network of working farms as modeled by the NPS.

(3) Historical farming. Manage the rural landscape through the establishment of demonstration farms that replicate farming practices of specific historical eras.

(4) Countryside Initiative (Preferred Alternative). Manage the rural landscape by developing sustainable farms through long-term leases with private individuals. More information on this alternative can be found online at: <http://www.nps.gov/cuva/technical/countryside/index.htm>.

(5) Vista protection. Manage the rural landscape primarily for scenic values by emphasizing the restoration of farm structures for residential, office, or other non-agricultural use and clear and mow fields absent any agricultural purpose.

The park proposed completing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in May 2001 to assess the issues and alternatives for the proposed action. Public scoping was initiated for the EA and included letters to numerous agencies and organizations and a press release to local media. Park managers now believe that an EIS is more appropriate given the scope and complexity of the proposed action. All

information generated during the EA scoping process will be retained for use in the EIS process. Anyone who contributed comments for the EA need not resend their comments.

Comments

To facilitate sound analysis of environmental impacts, the NPS is gathering information necessary for the preparation of the EIS. Suggestions on environmental issues to be analyzed and additional alternatives to consider are being sought from other agencies, tribes, organizations, and the public. Comments and participation in this scoping process are invited and encouraged. This notice is being furnished as required by National Environmental Policy Act regulations 40 CFR 1501.7.

Scoping comments will be accepted for a period of forty-five (45) days from the issuance of this notice. A public scoping open house session will be scheduled no sooner than fifteen (15) days from the issuance of this notice. This open house will provide an opportunity for governments, tribes, agencies, communities, and interested citizens to learn more about the proposed action and express the issues and concerns they believe the EIS should address. Notice of the date, time, and location of this public scoping session will be advertised in local media outlets prior to the event. Persons wishing to receive direct mail notification of the public scoping sessions should contact the park at the address or telephone number below. Interested agencies and organizations are also invited to arrange meetings to provide input directly to the park. Such meetings can be arranged by contacting the EIS Team Leader at the address and telephone below. The public meeting notice, draft documents, and general information regarding the EIS will be found on the park's web site at <http://www.nps.gov/cuva/ruraleis.htm>. Written comments may also be mailed or e-mailed to the park's Superintendent at the address below.

Decision Process

The environmental review of the EIS for rural landscape management at Cuyahoga Valley National Park will be conducted in accordance with requirements of the NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4371 et seq.), NEPA regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), other appropriate Federal regulations, and NPS procedures and policies for compliance with those regulations.

Addresses

Written comments, general park information requests, or requests to be added to the project mailing list should be directed to: Superintendent, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, 15610 Vaughn Road, Brecksville, Ohio 44141. Telephone: 440-546-5903. E-mail: cuva_superintendent@nps.gov.

For Further Information Contact

For information concerning the scope of the EIS and to arrange Agency meetings should be directed to Kevin Skerl, EIS Team Leader, Cuyahoga Valley National Park at the address above. Telephone: 330-650-5071 extension 4. E-mail: kevin_skerl@nps.gov.

Dated: June 19, 2001.

William W. Schenk,

Regional Director, Midwest Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Environmental Impact Statement for the Exit Glacier Area Plan, Kenai Fjords National Park, Alaska

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for the Exit Glacier Area Plan, Kenai Fjords National Park, AK.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service (NPS) is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Exit Glacier Area Plan at Kenai Fjords National Park, under the provisions of the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act. The Exit Glacier frontcountry area is the only area of the park accessible by road and is a popular Alaska tourist destination. Visitation has outpaced projected trends year-round, resulting in changes to the visitor experience and impacts on resources.

The Exit Glacier area is accessible via a nine-mile road from the Seward Highway, just outside the town of Seward, Alaska. The road enters the park in the last mile and terminates in a parking lot. Exit Glacier flows from the 300-square-mile Harding Icefield, and visitors can approach the towering glacier face on a one-half mile footpath.

The General Management Plan for Kenai Fjords National Park completed in 1984 established broad goals for management of the Exit Glacier area. Specific area developments were approved in the 1996 Frontcountry Development Concept Plan (DCP), and

most have been constructed (road improvements, parking lot expansion, campground upgrades, and new sanitary and power facilities).

The purpose of the Exit Glacier Area Plan and EIS is to provide comprehensive management direction over the next 15 to 20 years that allows for visitor use while protecting resources in the Exit Glacier area. The DCP called for further study before implementing a proposed alternative transportation system (shuttle bus) and visitor use limits. The NPS Visitor Experience and Resource Protection framework will be used to identify desired future conditions and to develop a reasonable range of alternatives. The EIS also will analyze the no-action and agency preferred alternatives. This planning process will result in an amendment to the 1984 General Management Plan for Kenai Fjords National Park to add management prescriptions for the Exit Glacier area and will replace the 1996 DCP.

A preliminary list of issues the alternatives need to consider include:

- How can important natural and cultural resources best be protected while providing for continued visitor use of the Exit Glacier area by present and future generations?
- What level and type of use—in all seasons—is appropriate and consistent with the purposes for which Kenai Fjords National Park was established?
- What specific management strategies, including facilities, alternative transportation systems, and new regulations, are necessary to meet the goals of the plan?

Except for the no-action alternative, these and other issues will be addressed by development of management zones and allocation of activities in those zones. The use of zones will allow NPS to provide a range of user experiences and resource conditions consistent with the park's mandate. The alternatives also will include future management actions to be taken when social and resource standards are exceeded, as determined by area monitoring.

The NPS requests input from federal and state agencies, local government, private organizations, recreational users, and the public. Further information on this planning process will be available through public open houses and meetings, the distribution of a newsletter, and development of a Web page. Specific dates, times, and locations of scoping meetings will be announced in area newspapers, via radio announcements, and on community bulletin boards. The park's Web page will contain updates on the

public involvement schedule: <http://www.nps.gov/kefj/>. Comments may be submitted via the Internet, using the email address kefj_eg_plan@nps.gov. Scoping meetings will be held in Anchorage and Seward, Alaska, in summer and fall of 2001.

Preliminary alternatives will be developed based on the issues identified and comments gathered. The public will be provided the opportunity to comment on the preliminary alternatives before they are incorporated in the draft EIS. The draft EIS is projected to be available for a 60-day public review in fall 2002. The anticipated release date of the final EIS is early in 2003.

Comments on the scope of this project should be received by March 31, 2002. Comments may be hand-delivered to Kenai Fjords National Park at 1212 4th Avenue, Seward, Alaska, e-mailed, or mailed to the Interdisciplinary Team Leader at the address provided below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Tratman, Interdisciplinary Team Leader; Kenai Fjords National Park; P.O. Box 1727; Seward, AK 99664. E-mail kefj_eg_plan@nps.gov. Telephone (907) 224-3175, Fax (907) 224-2144.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, will be made available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the public record, which will be honored to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the public 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, anonymous comments will not be considered. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Paul R. Anderson,

Acting Regional Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Benefits-Sharing Environmental Assessment, National Park Service

AGENCY: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

ACTION: Notice of extension of time for comments to be submitted on the scope of the Benefits-Sharing Environmental Assessment (EA).

SUMMARY: The National Park Service is extending the public review period to August 27, 2001, for comments on the scope of the Benefits-Sharing Environmental Assessment. The notice of intent for the Benefits-Sharing EA was published in the **Federal Register** on June 25, 2001 (notice document 01-15559, pages 33712-33713). Corrections to this notice were published in the **Federal Register** on July 11, 2001 (page 36368). The public review period was originally to end on August 9, 2001. Comments may be mailed to: National Park Service, Benefits-Sharing Environmental Assessment, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190, or emailed to BenefitsEA@nps.gov.

DATES: Comments on the potential scope of the assessment, alternatives to be considered, impacts to be addressed, and any other relevant related issues should be submitted on or before August 27, 2001.

Michael Soukup,

Associate Director, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science.

[FR Doc. 01-18802 Filed 7-26-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Winter Use Plan, Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement, Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway, Wyoming

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for the winter use plan, Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway.

Background

In May 1997, the Fund for Animals, *et al.*, filed suit against the National Park Service (NPS). The suit alleged that the