

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Notice Excluding the Alabama-Coushatta Tribal Leases From Valuation Under 30 CFR 206.172

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe has requested that all gas produced from its leases be excluded from valuation under the rules of 30 CFR 206.172 (64 FR 43517, August 10, 1999). The Minerals Management Service (MMS) approves the request.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David S. Guzy, Chief, Rules and Publications Staff; telephone, (303) 231-3432; FAX, (303) 231-3385; email, David.Guzy@mms.gov; mailing address, Minerals Management Service, Royalty Management Program, Rules and Publications Staff, P.O. Box 25165, MS 3021, Denver, Colorado, 80225-0165.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 10, 1999, MMS published a final rule titled Amendments to Gas Valuation Regulations for Indian Leases (64 FR 43506) with an effective date of January 1, 2000. The final rule permits an Indian tribe to request that some or all of its leases be excluded from valuation under 30 CFR 206.172 (64 FR 43517). If MMS, after consulting with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, approves the request, value is determined under 30 CFR 206.174 (64 FR 43520) beginning with production on the first day of the second month following the date MMS publishes notice in the **Federal Register**.

On December 13, 1999, by Tribal Resolution Number ACITC 99-52, the Alabama-Coushatta decided to exclude their production. MMS received the tribe's request on January 20, 2000.

As a result of the tribe's request and the publishing of this document, beginning April 1, 2000, gas production from leases on the Alabama-Coushatta Reservation must be valued under 30 CFR 206.174.

Dated: February 18, 2000.

Lucy Querques Denett,

Associate Director for Royalty Management.
[FR Doc. 00-4562 Filed 2-25-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Renouncement, Notice of Availability of the Final General Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement for Missouri National Recreational River (59-Mile District), Nebraska and South Dakota

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the National Park Service (NPS) is reannouncing the availability of a final environmental impact statement (FEIS) and general management plan (GMP) for the Missouri National Recreational River 59-mile district located in portions of Clay, Union, and Yankton counties, South Dakota; and Cedar, Dixon, and Knox counties in Nebraska.

The original NPS notice of availability for this document was previously published in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 56215, Oct. 18, 1999). A record of decision for the project was signed on December 17, 1999, and also was published in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 72359, Dec. 27, 1999). However, it recently was discovered that the FEIS was inadvertently not filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as required by 40 CFR 1506.9.

Accordingly, the NPS is suspending the record of decision and implementation of the plan. The FEIS has been filed with the EPA. No action will be taken towards implementation of the GMP until 30-days after the EPA's notice of availability is published in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: The no action period for review of the FEIS will end 30-days after the EPA publishes its notice of availability in the **Federal Register**. A revised record of decision will be issued following the no action period.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Hedren, Superintendent, Missouri National Recreational River, P.O. Box 591, O'Neill, Nebraska 68763, or by e-mail to MNRR_Superintendent@nps.gov, or call 402-336-3970.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The draft environmental impact statement and general management plan for the recreational river was on public review from October 5 to December 18, 1998. The FEIS responds to Public Law 95-625 (1978), which amends the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by adding a 59-mile reach of the Missouri River below the Gavins Point Dam to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The NPS prepared this FEIS to update a previous management plan written in 1980 by the

Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service and only partially implemented. Cooperating agencies included the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Nebraska Game and Parks Commission; South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Department; South Dakota Region Three Planning; and Nebraska Lewis and Clark Planning District. The NPS's preferred alternative for the Missouri National Recreational River is identified in the FEIS as alternative 2. The preferred alternative would provide for maintenance and restoration of biologic values and would seek to minimize the effects of the mainstem dams. It also would provide for management activities that would emphasize the history and culture of the river and its surroundings. In this preferred alternative, as well as alternative 3, the Corps of Engineers (COE) and the NPS would manage the area through a cooperative agreement. The COE would function as the day-to-day manager of the water-related resources, while the NPS would administer the land-related resources. The agencies would work together where their responsibilities overlapped. Two other alternatives were also considered. The no-action alternative (alternative 1) would continue a current cooperative agreement and otherwise provides a baseline for comparison of the other alternatives; and alternative 3, providing increased recreational emphasis on the river. Partnerships with local entities would be sought to provide services in all alternatives.

The boundary in alternatives 2 and 3 is the same. It differs slightly from the existing boundary in alternative 1, chiefly by adding several historic sites. Both boundaries include important examples of the river's outstandingly remarkable resources.

Dated: February 16, 2000.

Catherine A. Damon,

Acting Regional Director, Midwest Region.

[FR Doc. 00-4630 Filed 2-25-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Environmental Statements, Notice of Intent; Niobrara National Scenic River, Nebraska

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the General Management Plan, Niobrara National Scenic River, Nebraska.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service will prepare a General Management Plan (GMP) and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Niobrara National Scenic River (hereinafter, "the Park"), Nebraska, in accordance with section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), and a court decision invalidating a similar 1996 GMP/EIS and ordering a new one. This notice is being furnished as required by NEPA Regulation 40 CFR 1501.7.

To facilitate sound planning and environmental assessment in the preparation of this EIS, the National Park Service intends to both validate information previously acquired for the 1996 GMP/EIS, and obtain suggestions and information from other agencies and the public on several court-driven issues to be addressed in the new EIS. The National Park Service will scope this GMP/EIS via the media, a newsletter, and through a World Wide Web page. Comments and participation in this scoping process are invited.

DATES: A project newsletter is being prepared, which is expected to be ready in February or March 2000. The newsletter will contain specific information about how to provide input to the scoping phase of this project. Availability of the newsletter will be announced through local and regional media outlets. The newsletter will be sent to all addressees of record in the planning of the park's 1996 GMP/EIS, and to others who request the newsletter. To request a copy of the newsletter and to be added to the project mailing list, contact the park superintendent at 402-336-3970 or by writing to one of the addresses below.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and information should be directed to Superintendent, Niobrara National Scenic River, P.O. Box 591, O'Neill, Nebraska 68763; or by email, niob_gmp@nps.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Superintendent, Niobrara National Scenic River, at either of the above addresses or at telephone number 402-336-3970

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A federal district court overturned the park's 1996 GMP/EIS in June 1999. The court did not invalidate the entire document, however, and specifically retained that section pertaining to the park's boundary. The broad array of issues identified in the 1996 GMP/EIS, including land ownership, landscape conservation, water resource protection, hunting, fishing, and trapping, and visitor education and protection appear valid but reaffirmation will be sought

through scoping. The lawsuit prompting the court ruling particularly challenged National Park Service's 1996 preferred management alternative and the associated environmental analysis. Since completion of the earlier document several additional issues such as retention of the Cornell Dam, public use limits, adequacies of public accesses, and general public orientation and education have arisen. The NPS proposes to address these new issues as part of the GMP.

Specific examples of other issues that will be addressed in the GMP are: (1) The extent and manner in which partnerships can and will be employed to achieve management objectives, (2) identify appropriate access and development in the park, particularly balancing growing park use and resource protection; and (3) identify appropriate land protection strategies workable on a predominantly privately owned landscape. Other issues may be added to this list following completion of scoping.

The new GMP will set forth a management concept for the park; establish plans for resource conservation, public use, and development; and identify strategies for resolving issues and achieving management objectives. It is expected that the GMP will guide park management for a period of fifteen to twenty years.

The GMP/EIS will investigate alternatives ranging from no action to a variety of management approaches designed to guide public use and protect natural and cultural resources.

The environmental review of the GMP for the Niobrara National Scenic River will be conducted in accordance with requirements of NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), NEPA regulations, and National Park Service procedures and policies for compliance with those regulations. The National Park Service estimates the draft GMP and draft EIS will be available to the public by November 2000.

Dated: February 15, 2000.

Catherine A. Damon,
Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 00-4631 Filed 2-25-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Announcement of Subsistence Resource Commission Meeting

SUMMARY: The Superintendent of Aniakchak National Monument and the Chairperson of the Subsistence Resource

Commission for Aniakchak National Monument announce a forthcoming meeting of the Aniakchak National Monument Subsistence Resource Commission. The following agenda items will be discussed:

- (1) Call to order.
- (2) SRC Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum.
- (3) Welcome and Introductions.
- (4) Review and Adopt Agenda.
- (5) Review and adopt minutes from the March 29-30, 1999 meeting.
- (6) Commission Purpose.
- (7) Status of Membership.
- (8) Public and Agency Comments.
- (9) Old Business:
 - a. Review Secretary's response to subsistence hunting program recommendations:
 1. Geographic Place Names Request.
 - b. Roster Regulation Proposed Rule Publication.
 1. For Customary and Traditional Use Determinations: Unit 9E Brown Bear.
 2. Cooperative Wildlife Studies: Unit 9E Moose and Caribou.
 3. Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve Access Study Project Statement.
 - c. Status of Air Taxi/Outfitter Guide Concession Permit Program.
 - d. Request for resident zone community status for Perryville and Ivanoff Bay.
 - (10) New Business:
 - a. October 1999 SRC Chairs Workshop Report.
 1. NPS Customary Trade Regulations.
 2. Resident zone community one-year residency requirement.
 - b. Federal Subsistence Program Update.
 1. Bristol Bay Regional Council Report.
 2. Federal Subsistence Board Report.
 - c. Draft Subsistence Management Plan Review.
 - (11) Public and Agency Comments.
 - (12) SRC work session (draft proposals, letters, and recommendations).
 - (13) Set time and place of next SRC meeting.
 - (14) Adjournment.

DATES: The meeting will begin at 1 p.m. on Thursday, March 9, 2000 and conclude at approximately 6 p.m. The meeting will reconvene at 9 a.m. on Friday, March 10 and adjourn at approximately 1 p.m.

LOCATION: Community Subsistence Building, Chignik Lake, Alaska.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deb Ligget, Acting Superintendent, or Donald Mike, Resource Specialist, Aniakchak National Monument, P.O. Box 7, King Salmon, Alaska 99613. Phone (907) 246-3305.