

The No Action alternative is the same alternative as was discussed in the 1996 Implementation EIS; that is, no dam removal would take place. Because the dams would remain, water and flooding mitigation would not be needed.

Scoping. Public scoping for the SEIS took place in September and October 2002, and six comment letters resulting in twelve comments were received. All scoping comments are addressed in the SEIS (in chapter 5, Consultation and Coordination). In addition to public scoping, the park and its cooperating agencies have also consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries to provide protection and restoration for bull trout and chinook salmon.

Comments: This Supplement to the 1996 Implementation EIS is now available for public review. Interested persons and organizations wishing to express any concerns or comments should send written comments to Dr. Brian Winter, Elwha Project Manager, at 826 East Front Street, Ste. A, Port Angeles, WA 98362; telephone inquiries may be directed to (360) 565-1320. Faxed or electronic transmittals will be accepted also (electronic comments should be sent to Brian_Winter@nps.gov, and faxes may be sent to (360) 565-1325).

Because several public meetings have already taken place on the 1996 Implementation EIS (and the prior Programmatic EIS for dam removal), no additional public meeting for this supplement to discuss mitigation measures is anticipated. Therefore, written comments are the only vehicle for making your opinions and concerns known and a part of the record for this SEIS process. The following options are available: you may request a summary of the SEIS, a full paper copy of the SEIS, a CD of the SEIS and/or a CD of the full 1996 Implementation EIS which the subject document supplements. Those who commented during prior scoping processes will receive a full SEIS and a CD of the FEIS, as will agencies and others on the park mailing list (see chapter 5 of the SEIS). Please specify which of these documents/CDs you would like to receive when calling, e-mailing or faxing the Elwha Project Management Office. Finally, both the SEIS and 1996 Implementation EIS will be posted on the Elwha project Web site at <http://www.nps.gov/olym/elwha/home.htm>.

All written comments must be postmarked no later than 60 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes its notice of filing in the **Federal Register**. Immediately upon confirmation of this date it will be

posted on the park's Web site and announced via local and regional media. Please keep in mind that *decisions or facts in the 1996 implementation EIS are not subject to public comment at this time*. The 1996 Implementation EIS is being made available for background information only, and no response to comments made on the 1996 Implementation EIS during this 60-day review period will be forthcoming in the final SEIS. In other words, decisions associated with dam removal and sediment management have already been made and the information on which they were made has already been publicly reviewed—comments should be confined to information provided in the SEIS only. Be sure to include your complete name and address along with your comments. Please note that names and addresses of people who comment become part of the public record. If individuals commenting 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 from the record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. As always: the 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.

Dated: September 13, 2004.

Patricia L. Neubacher,
Acting Regional Director, Pacific West Region.
[FR Doc. 04-25356 Filed 11-15-04; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Final Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Study Report Environmental Impact Statement; Maryland, District of Columbia, and Virginia

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of the final environmental impact statement for the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Study.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4332(C), the National Park Service announces the availability of the

final Environmental Impact Statement for the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Study.

DATES: The National Park Service will execute a Record of Decision (ROD) no sooner than 30 days following publication by the Environmental Protection Agency of the notice of availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

ADDRESSES: Information will be available for public inspection from the Northeast Region, National Park Service, 200 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106 or at <http://www.nps.gov/phso/jstarspan/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William Sharp, Project Manager, Northeast Region, 215-597-1655 or william_sharp@nps.gov.

Dated: August 20, 2004.

Marie Rust,
Regional Director, Northeast Region, National Park Service.

[FR Doc. 04-25433 Filed 11-15-04; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

General Management Plan, Record of Decision, Big Bend National Park, TX

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of a Record of Decision on the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the General Management Plan, Big Bend National Park.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to § 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 83 Stat. 852, 853, codified as amended at 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C), the National Park Service (NPS) announces the availability of the Record of Decision for the General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Big Bend National Park, Texas. On September 13, 2004, the Director, Intermountain Region approved the Record of Decision for the project. As soon as practicable, the NPS will begin to implement the General Management Plan, described as the Preferred Alternative contained in the Final Environmental Impact Statement issued July 9, 2004. In the preferred alternative, a new visitor center will be built at Panther Junction to provide room for interpretive media to adequately interpret key aspects of the park's stories and to help visitors plan their stays. The space in the headquarters building vacated by the visitor center function will be redesigned for staff offices. A storage warehouse,

bunkhouse, and employee residence will also be built at Panther Junction. The natural resources and collection management building should adequately provide for the collection storage needs for the duration of this plan. If additional storage collection space is needed, the other new storage areas will be evaluated to accommodate this need. One employee residence and one employee bunkhouse will be removed from Chisos Basin to reduce human water use at the area. At Rio Grande Village the RV campground will be enlarged by about 40% in area, with no more than 30 total sites. Cottonwood Campground campsites will be relocated away from bank cave-in areas, and a new egress road will be constructed. Fifteen percent of park personnel will be moved to gateway communities where offices and residences will be built or leased. This course of action and two alternatives were analyzed in the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements. The full range of foreseeable environmental consequences was assessed, and appropriate mitigating measures identified. The full Record of Decision includes a statement of the decision made, synopses of other alternatives considered, the basis for the decision, a description of the environmentally preferable alternative, a finding on impairment of park resources and values, a listing of measures to minimize environmental harm, an overview of public involvement in the decisionmaking process, and a statement of findings.

Basis for Decision

In reaching its decision to select the preferred alternative, NPS managers considered the purposes for which the park was established and other laws and policies that apply to lands in the park, including the NPS Organic Act, National Environmental Policy Act, NPS Director's Order 12 (Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decisionmaking), and the NPS Management Policies 2001. The NPS also carefully considered public comments received during the planning process.

To develop a preliminary preferred alternative, the planning team evaluated the alternatives that had been reviewed by the public. The alternatives were tested against the decision points and issues identified by the public and park to determine their relative advantages. The following conclusions were reached:

- The preferred alternative includes more actions that are beneficial to the

cultural and natural resources than other alternatives.

- The preferred alternative will enhance the visitor's experience by providing multiple opportunities for visitors to make intellectual and emotional connections to the park. Enhanced interpretation, programs, and activities will enable visitors to link tangible resources with the intangible meanings and significance of the park. The proposed development will provide opportunities for the interpretive division to fully address the various themes and complexities of the park.

Findings on Impairment

The NPS has determined that implementation of the proposal will not constitute an impairment to Big Bend National Park's resources and values. This conclusion is based on a thorough analysis of the environmental impacts described in the Environmental Impact Statement, the public comments received, relevant scientific studies, and the professional judgment of the decision-maker guided by the direction in the NPS Management Policies. Overall, the plan results in benefits to park resources and values and opportunities for their enjoyment, and it does not result in their impairment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John H. King, Big Bend National Park, P.O. Box 129, Big Bend National Park, TX 79834-0129, (915) 477-2251.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Copies of the Record of Decision may be obtained from the contact listed above.

Dated: November 8, 2004.

Bernard C. Fagan,

Deputy Chief, NPS Office of Policy.

[FR Doc. 04-25354 Filed 11-15-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

National Park System Advisory Board; Meeting

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.
ACTION: Notice of meeting.

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. Appendix, that the National Park System Advisory Board will meet November 29-30, 2004, in Coral Gables, Florida. On November 29, the Board will tour Everglades National Park and will be briefed regarding environmental, education and partnership programs of Everglades National Park and Big Cypress National Preserve. The Board will convene its

business meeting on November 30 at 9 a.m., e.s.t., in the Prado Room of The Biltmore Hotel, 1200 Anastasia Avenue, Coral Gables, Florida 33134, telephone 305-445-1926. The meeting will be adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The Board will be addressed by National Park Service Director Fran Mainella and will receive the reports of its Education Committee, Partnerships Committee, National Landmarks Committee, Director's Council, and National Parks Science Committee. The Board also will receive reports on national park philanthropic issues and the HealthierFeds Physical Activity Challenge.

Other officials of the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior may address the Board, and other miscellaneous topics and reports may be covered. The order of the agenda may be changed, if necessary, to accommodate travel schedules or for other reasons.

The Board meeting will be open to the public. Space and facilities to accommodate the public are limited and attendees will be accommodated on a first-come basis. Anyone may file with the Board a written statement concerning matters to be discussed. The Board also may permit attendees to address the Board, but may restrict the length of the presentations, as necessary to allow the Board to complete its agenda within the allotted time.

Anyone who wishes further information concerning the meeting, or who wishes to submit a written statement, may contact Mr. Loran Fraser, Office of Policy, National Park Service; 1849 C Street, NW., Room 7250; Washington, DC 20240; telephone 202-208-7456.

Draft minutes of the meeting will be available for public inspection about 12 weeks after the meeting, in room 7252, Main Interior Building, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC.

Dated: November 8, 2004.

Bernard Fagan,

Deputy Chief, Office of Policy.

[FR Doc. 04-25434 Filed 11-15-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312-52-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Intent to Repatriate a Cultural Item: Heard Museum, Phoenix, AZ

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.
ACTION: Notice.

Notice is here given in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act