

This EIS is being prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4331 *et seq.*), and its implementing regulations at 40 CFR part 1500.

Scoping: The NPS requests input from federal and state agencies, local governments, private organizations, recreational users, and the public on the scope of issues to be addressed in this EIS. Scoping comments are being solicited. NPS representatives will be available to discuss issues, resource concerns and the planning process at public scoping meetings. Scoping meetings will be held in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Tok, Glennallen, and Slana, Alaska in early 2008. When public meetings have been scheduled, their dates, times, and locations will be announced in local newspapers and posted on the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) Web site at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/WRST>.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. We will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of this EIS should be received 60 days after the last scoping meeting referenced above. The draft EIS is projected to be available to the public in early 2009. Electronic comments may be submitted to the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) Web site at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/WRST>. Written comments also may be mailed or faxed to the address and phone number provided below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Meg Jensen, Park Superintendent, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, P.O. Box 439, Copper Center, Alaska 99573. Telephone (907) 822-5234, Fax (907) 822-7259.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 13.2 million acre Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve was established in 1980 at which time the nine trails under evaluation were already in existence and had use. As part of the general management planning for the park,

ORVs were determined to be a means of surface transportation traditionally employed by local rural residents engaged in subsistence uses. In 1983, the park began issuing permits for recreational use of these trails initially in accordance with 36 CFR 13.14(c) which was replaced by 43 CFR 36.11(g)(2) in 1986. The park annually issues approximately 200 recreational permits largely for sport hunters traveling to preserve areas. Subsistence users and inholders (there are 784,000 acres of non-federal lands within the park) also use ORVs on these trails. They are also used by hikers, and in the winter by skiers, mushers and trappers. Snowmachines are the typical motorized use in the winter months. Over the history of the park, research has been conducted to assess the conditions of the trails and to experiment with a variety of trail hardening materials.

On June 29, 2006, the National Parks Conservation Association, Alaska Center for the Environment, and The Wilderness Society (Plaintiffs) filed a lawsuit against the NPS in the United States District Court for the District of Alaska regarding recreational ORV use on the nine trails that are the subject of this EIS. The plaintiffs challenged the NPS issuance of recreational ORV permits asserting that the NPS failed to make the finding required by 43 CFR 36.11(g)(2), that such ORV use is compatible with the purposes and values of the Park and Preserve. They also claimed that the NPS failed to prepare an environmental analysis of recreational ORVs.

In the May 15, 2007, settlement agreement, the NPS agreed to endeavor to complete an EIS and Record of Decision (ROD) by December 31, 2010, during which time the NPS can issue permits authorizing recreational use of ORVs on the Suslota Lake Trail, Tanada Lake Trail, and a portion of the Copper Lake Trail only when the ground is frozen. The NPS may continue to issue permits for recreational ORV use of the remaining six trails through the year 2010.

The litigation and settlement did not change the use of ORVs by local rural residents engaged in subsistence uses. The trails remain open to other uses such as hiking, skiing, or horseback riding. Prior to the 2007 summer/fall season, all recreational ORV permit holders were contacted and apprised of the situation.

Executive Order 11644, issued in 1972 and amended by Executive Order 11989 in 1977, states that federal agencies allowing ORV use must designate the specific areas and trails on

public lands on which the use of ORVs may be permitted, and areas in which the use of ORVs may not be permitted. Agency regulations to authorize ORV use shall provide that designation of such areas and trails will be based upon the protection of the resources of the public lands, promotion of the safety of all users of those lands, and minimization of conflicts among the various uses of those lands. Executive Order 11644 was issued in response to the widespread and rapidly increasing use of ORV on the public lands—"often for legitimate purposes but also in frequent conflict with wise land and resource management practices, environmental values, and other types of recreational activity." Therefore, the purpose of this EIS is to consider alternative management strategies for the recreational use of ORVs consistent with the park's enabling legislation and other applicable laws and regulations.

Dated: December 12, 2007.

Tim A. Hudson,

Acting Regional Director, Alaska.

[FR Doc. E7-24853 Filed 12-20-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312-HC-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Advisory Commission; Notice of Public Meeting

AGENCY: Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Advisory Commission will be held at 9:30 a.m., on Friday, January 18, 2008, at the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Headquarters, 1850 Dual Highway, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740.

DATES: Friday, January 18, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Headquarters, 1850 Dual Highway, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kevin Brandt, Superintendent, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, 1850 Dual Highway, Suite 100, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740, telephone: (301) 714-2201.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission was established by Public Law 91-664 to meet and consult with the Secretary of the Interior on general policies and specific matters related to

the administration and development of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park.

The members of the Commission are as follows:

Mrs. Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld,
Chairperson

Mr. Charles J. Weir

Mr. Barry A. Passett

Mr. James G. McCleaf II

Mr. John A. Ziegler

Mrs. Mary E. Woodward

Mrs. Donna Printz

Mrs. Ferial S. Bishop

Ms. Nancy C. Long

Mrs. Jo Reynolds

Dr. James H. Gilford

Brother James Kirkpatrick

Dr. George E. Lewis, Jr.

Mr. Charles D. McElrath

Ms. Patricia Schooley

Mr. Jack Reeder

Ms. Merrily Pierce

Topics that will be presented during the meeting include:

1. Update on park operations.
2. Update on major construction/development projects.
3. Update on partnership projects.

The meeting will be open to the public. Any member of the public may file with the Commission a written statement concerning the matters to be discussed. Persons wishing further information concerning this meeting, or who wish to submit written statements, may contact Kevin Brandt, Superintendent, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park. Minutes of the meeting will be available for public inspection six weeks after the meeting at Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Headquarters, 1850 Dual Highway, Suite 100, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740.

Dated: November 1, 2007.

Kevin D. Brandt,

Superintendent, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, National Historical Park.

[FR Doc. E7-24834 Filed 12-20-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312-JW-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve Advisory Committee; Notice of Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Park Service, Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve Advisory Committee, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve Advisory Committee (the

Committee) will be held on Friday, February 8, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. at the Chase County Community Building, Swope Park, 1715 RD 210, Cottonwood Falls, Kansas.

The primary purpose of the meeting will be to receive Committee input on the Environmental Assessment, General Management Plan Revision/Site Development Study for New Visitor Center, Administrative, and Maintenance Facilities and to discuss other current and future topics concerning the preserve.

The meeting will be open to the public. Any person may file with the Committee a written statement concerning the matters to be discussed. Persons who wish to file a written statement or testify at the meeting or who want further information concerning the meeting may contact Superintendent Stephen T. Miller at (620) 273-6034.

DATES: February 8, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: Chase County Community Building, Swope Park, 1715 RD 210, Cottonwood Falls, Kansas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Superintendent Stephen T. Miller, (620) 273-6034.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee was established by Public Law 104-333 to advise the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service concerning the development, management, and interpretation of the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve.

Stephen T. Miller,

Superintendent, Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve.

[FR Doc. E7-24845 Filed 12-20-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312-BE-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Northwest Area Water Supply Project, ND

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Announcement of Public Hearings.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Reclamation published a notice in the **Federal Register** on March 6, 2006 (71 FR 11226) announcing the commencement of work under the National Environmental Policy Act on an environmental impact statement for the Northwest Area Water Supply Project (NAWS Project). We are now notifying

the public that Reclamation has prepared a Draft EIS which is now available for review and comment. The Draft EIS provides information and analyses related to water treatment for the NAWS Project that would further minimize the transfer of potentially invasive species from the Missouri River basin into the Hudson Bay basin from potential treatment or conveyance failures. The Draft EIS analyzes the potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic effects of four alternatives.

DATES: A 60-day public review period begins with the publication of this notice. Written comments on the Draft EIS are due by February 26, 2008, and should be submitted to Reclamation at the address given below.

Public hearings will be held during February 2008 in North Dakota. See the Supplementary Information section for dates of the public hearings.

ADDRESSES: Send comments on the Draft EIS to: Northwest Area Water Supply Project EIS, Bureau of Reclamation, Dakotas Area Office, P.O. Box 1017, Bismarck, ND 58502. See

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section for meeting addresses.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alicia Waters, Northwest Area Water Supply Project EIS, Bureau of Reclamation, Dakotas Area Office, P.O. Box 1017, Bismarck ND 58502; Telephone: (701) 221-1206; or FAX (701) 250-4326. You may submit e-mail to awaters@gp.usbr.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Public Hearing Dates:

- Monday, February 4, 2008, 7 p.m., Bismarck, North Dakota
- Tuesday, February 5, 2008, 7 p.m., Minot, North Dakota
- Thursday, February 7, 2008, 7 p.m., New Town, North Dakota

Public Hearing Locations:

- Bismarck—Best Western Ramkota, 800 South 3rd Street, Bismarck, ND 58504
- Minot—Sleep Inn & Suites, 2400 10th Street SW., Minot, ND 58701
- New Town—Four Bears Casino and Lodge, 202 Frontage Rd, Newtown, ND 58763

Public Review Locations:

Copies of the Draft EIS are available for public review at the following locations:

- Bismarck Public Library, 515 North 5th Street, Bismarck, ND
- Minot Public Library, 516 2nd Avenue SW., Minot, ND