

affect any rights with respect to

selection for award of a new concession contract.

Concession contract No.	Concessioner name	Park
CC-YOSE001	Ansel Adams Gallery	Yosemite National Park.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cynthia Orlando, Concession Program Manager, National Park Service, Washington, DC 20240, Telephone 202/513-7156.

Dated: January 20, 2004.

Richard G. Ring,

Associate Director, Administration, Business Practices and Workforce Development.

[FR Doc. 04-4224 Filed 2-24-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312-53-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Availability of the Finding of No Significant Impact for Proposed Field Evaluation of Innovative Capping Technologies for Contaminated Sediment Remediation, Anacostia River, Washington, DC

ACTION: Notice of availability of Decision Notice (DN) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality regulations, National Park Service (NPS) guidance and requirements, the NPS prepared an environmental assessment (EA) evaluating environmental impacts potentially resulting from implementation of a demonstration project of innovative capping techniques for contaminated sediment remediation. This EA presented a pilot project recommended by the Anacostia Watershed Toxics Alliance and coordinated with the Environmental Protection Agency for evaluating innovative capping techniques, which involve placement of a covering or cap of material over river bottom areas that contain known contaminated sediments to physically and chemically isolate them from the aquatic environment. The EA was made available for a 30-day public review period that ended on October 24, 2003. It was also discussed in meetings open to the public. The NPS conducted the EA as part of its decision making process for its issuance of a special use permit to authorize this proposed action to occur on the bed of the Anacostia River, which it administers. After the comment period,

NPS selected Alternative 2: Implement the Demonstration Project, and on November 25, 2003 it issued a FONSI.

In Alternative 2, researchers would use caps made from alternative materials that can degrade or control sediment-bound contaminants more efficiently than sand alone. This approach of "active capping," could significantly improve the effectiveness of capping as a remedial approach and has great potential to reduce costs and durations of cleanups across the country. A grid of capping cells will be established of approximately 200 by 300 feet at a site in the Anacostia River near the General Services Administration Southeast Federal Center, Washington, DC. The installation of the demonstration project would occur over a two-month period and the capping material would be studied over a two-year period. The cap material would be placed in a manner that would provide the necessary layer thickness while minimizing re-suspension of the contaminated sediment and dispersal of the capping materials.

The Anacostia River offers an opportunity for the proposed demonstration under realistic, well-documented, *in-situ* conditions at contaminated sediment sites. The demonstration will advance the ongoing federal restoration of the Anacostia River and it will also provide better technical understanding of controlling factors, guidance for proper remedy selection and approaches, and broader scientific, regulatory and public acceptance of innovative approaches. The results of the proposed study would be available to the public.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Requests for copies of the NPS' DN/FONSI/EA, or for any additional information, should be directed to Mr. Michael Wilderman, National Capital Parks-East, 1900 Anacostia Drive, SE., Washington, DC 20020, Telephone: (202) 690-5165.

Dated: January 28, 2004.

Terry R. Carlstrom,

Regional Director, National Park Service, National Capital Region.

[FR Doc. 04-4133 Filed 2-24-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-71-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Availability of the Finding of No Significant Impact for Proposed Actions To Manage Flight Obstructions To Preserve Safety at Andrews Air Force Base, Affecting Suitland Parkway

ACTION: Notice of availability of Decision Notice (DN) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality regulations, and NPS guidance, the United States Air Force (USAF) and the National Park Service (NPS) prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for the management of flight obstructions to preserve safety at Andrews Air Force Base (AAFB), which is an action affecting Suitland Parkway, in Prince George's County, Maryland. Suitland Parkway is administered by the NPS. The EA contained analysis developed in consideration of comments received as a result of a public scoping meeting held on February 6, 2001. The USAF is the lead agency for this project and prepared an EA with assistance from the NPS and advertised its availability for public review on December 26, 2002. The NPS is a cooperating agency and published a **Federal Register** notice of availability on January 16, 2003. The NPS 30-day public review period initiated by the FR notice ended on February 17, 2003. After the comment period, NPS selected Alternative 2: Vegetation Management, and issued a FONSI on May 13, 2003.

Alternative 2 would bring the runways into compliance with airspace clearance requirements established to ensure safe operation of the runways by trimming, removing, and replacing trees within the Suitland Parkway corridor that are tall enough to penetrate the approach/departure surfaces at the adjacent AAFB. These obstructions are considered by the USAF to be an adverse effect on safe flight operations at AAFB and the selected alternative would improve safety for aircraft using AAFB. The USAF also selected this alternative for action.

Suitland Parkway is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The NPS and USAF, in consultation with the Maryland State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), determined the undertaking has the potential to have an adverse effect on cultural landscape characteristics contributing to Suitland Parkway's listing on the NRHP. In order to meet their responsibilities pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, prior to making decisions on the EA, the NPS, USAF, and SHPO entered a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that directs the preparation and implementation of a Supplemental Implementation Plan (SIP) providing specific details for work to be carried out on Suitland Parkway. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) signed in concurrence with this MOA. The MOA was provided to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), and its acknowledgment of the filing of the MOA completed the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Council's regulations.

The NPS and USAF are in the process of preparing the SIP. Vegetation management will convert the naturally growing deciduous forest adjoining both sides of Suitland Parkway to other native vegetation dominated by low-growing deciduous and evergreen shrubs and low trees. The removal of trees would be mitigated by replanting, especially adjacent to the roadway, to expedite the restoration of the natural character and screening qualities of the trees.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Requests for copies of the NPS, DN/FONSI/EA, or for any additional information, should be directed to Mr. Michael Wilderman, National Capital Parks-East, 1900 Anacostia Drive, SE., Washington, DC 20020, Telephone: (202) 690-5165.

Dated: January 28, 2004.

Terry R. Carlstrom,

*Regional Director, National Park Service,
National Capital Region.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Fire Management Plan, Point Reyes National Seashore, Marin County, CA; Notice of Availability

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy

Act of 1969 (Pub. L. 91-190, 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347, January 1, 1970, as amended), and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR part 1500-1508), the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement identifying and evaluating three alternatives for a Fire Management Plan for Point Reyes National Seashore, in northern California. Potential impacts and mitigating measures are described for each alternative. The alternative selected after this conservation planning and environmental impact analysis process will serve as a blueprint for fire management actions for Point Reyes National Seashore over the next 10-15 years.

This Point Reyes Fire Management Plan (FMP) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) identifies and analyzes two action alternatives, and a no action alternative, for a revised Fire Management Plan for Point National Seashore (PRNS) and the north district of Golden Gate National Recreation Area (administered by PRNS). Revisions to the current plan are needed to meet public and firefighter safety, natural and cultural resource management, and wildland urban interface objectives of the park. The action alternatives vary in the emphasis they place on fire management goals developed by the park. The current program has been effective in fire suppression and conducting limited fuel reduction in strategic areas, but has not been able to fully accomplish resource management, fuel reduction, and prescribed fire goals.

The planning area for the Fire Management Plan (FMP) includes NPS lands located approximately 40 miles northwest of San Francisco in Marin County, California. These lands include the 70,046-acre Point Reyes National Seashore, comprised primarily of beaches, coastal headlands, extensive freshwater and estuarine wetlands, marine terraces, and forests; as well as 18,000 acres of the Northern District of Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), primarily supporting annual grasslands, coastal scrub, and Douglas-fir and coast redwood forests.

Point Reyes National Seashore was created on September 13, 1962, to "save and preserve for purposes of public recreation, benefit, and inspiration, a portion of the diminishing seashore of the United States that remains undeveloped" (Pub. L. 87-657). The park is a coastal sanctuary with an exceptionally diverse variety of habitat types—roughly 20% of California's plant species and 45% of North America's bird species have been recorded within its boundaries. The

Seashore contains numerous sites indicating Native American occupancy, as well as cultural resources from early periods of European settlement. To preserve the historic ranching legacy of the area, approximately 30 ranches and dairies within Seashore boundaries are under permit agreements with the Federal government.

In the past, wildland fire occurred naturally in the park as an important ecosystem process that kept forest fuels and vegetation structure within the natural range of variability. Logging and fire suppression activities have led to increased fuel loads and changes in vegetation community structure. This has increased the risk of large, high-intensity wildland fire within the park, threatening the park's developed zones, natural and cultural resources, and neighboring landowners and communities.

Alternatives: Alternative A (No Action)—Continued Fuel Reduction for Public Safety and Limited Resource Enhancement. Alternative A represents the current fire management program which uses a limited range of fire management strategies—including prescribed fire, mechanical treatment, and suppression of all wildland fires, including natural ignitions. Alternative A would continue the existing program described in the 1993 Fire Management Plan including mechanical treatments of hazardous fuels of up to 500 acres per year, primarily mowing in grasslands. Up to 500 acres per year would be treated by prescribed burning, primarily for fuel reduction in grasslands and for Scotch and French broom control. Total treatments per year would not exceed 1,000 acres. Research projects already in progress on reducing Scotch broom and velvet grass through prescribed burning would continue under this alternative.

Alternative B—Expanded Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Additional Natural Resource Enhancement. Alternative B calls for a substantial increase over present levels in the reduction of hazardous fuels through prescribed burning and mechanical treatments (up to a combined total of 2,000 acres treated per year).

Efforts would be concentrated where unplanned ignitions would be most likely to occur (e.g., road corridors), and where defensible space could most effectively contain unplanned ignitions and protect lives and property (e.g., around structures and strategically along the park interface zone). Natural resource enhancement would occur as a secondary benefit only. For example, prescribed burning to reduce fuels may have the secondary resource benefit of