

request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the 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. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the DEIS/GMP are available from the Superintendent, Dale Thompson, Coronado National Memorial, 4101 East Montezuma Road, Hereford, AZ 85615. Public reading copies of the DEIS/GMP will be available for review at the following locations:

Coronado National Memorial Visitor Center, Coronado National Memorial, 4101 East Montezuma Road, Hereford, AZ 85615, Telephone: (520) 366-5515.

Planning and Environmental Quality, Intermountain Support Office—Denver, National Park Service, 12795 West Alameda Parkway, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225-0287, Telephone: (303) 969-2851 [or (303) 969-2377].

Office of Public Affairs, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 18th and C Streets NW., Room 7012, Washington, DC 20240, Telephone: (202) 208-6843.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DEIS/GMP analyzes a "no-action" alternative and four "action" alternatives:

- *Alternative A* (no-action) represents the continuation of existing conditions and management at the park.
- *Alternative B* (the NPS preferred alternative)—the visitor center would be rehabilitated, with an annex added for more office space and storage. New trails would be developed, and pullouts and waysides would be added to roads. Programs would help visitors understand the Coronado Expedition and its impact on the American Southwest. Grazing in the memorial would be ended.

- *Alternative C*—would focus on conserving cultural and natural resources. The visitor center's interior would be remodeled to make more space for interpretation. Grazing in the memorial would be ended.

- *Alternative D*—the memorial's international aspects would be emphasized. A structure would be built to commemorate the Coronado Expedition, and an educational center would be developed in the Montezuma

ranch area. The visitor center would be expanded and rehabilitated. Grazing would continue in the Joe's Spring allotment, but not in the Montezuma allotment.

- *Alternative E*—A new visitor/educational center, to which visitors could drive on a paved two-lane road and enjoy a panoramic view of the San Pedro valley and the United States-Mexico border. The visitor center would be converted into administrative offices. Grazing would be eliminated from the Joe's Spring allotment.

The DEIS/GMP evaluates the environmental consequences of the proposed action and the other alternatives on natural resources (e.g., air quality, cave resources, soils; vegetation; wildlife; water quantity; and threatened and endangered species); cultural resources (e.g. archeological resources, ethnographic resources, historic structures, and cultural landscapes); the visitor experience (e.g. visitors' experience of park resources, and access to orientation and interpretive information); and socioeconomic resources (e.g. recreational use, grazing, and the local and regional economy).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Superintendent, Dale Thompson or Job Captain John Paige at the above addresses and telephone numbers.

Dated: June 20, 2003.

Karen P. Wade,

Director, Intermountain Region, National Park Service.

[FR Doc. 03-19961 Filed 8-5-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312-DP-P

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

National Park Service

Fire Management Plan, Environmental Impact Statement, Bandelier National Monument, NM

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Fire Management Plan for Bandelier National Monument.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4332 (C) the National Park Service is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement for the Fire Management Plan for Bandelier National Monument. This effort will result in a new wildland fire management plan that meets current policies, provides a framework for making fire-related decisions, and

serves as an operational manual. Development of a new fire plan is compatible with the broader goals and objectives derived from the park purpose that governs resources management. Alternatives to be considered in addition to the required no-action alternative include: 1. In-park comprehensive action alternative, 2. the cooperative comprehensive management alternative, and 3. the limited strategies alternative. The no-action alternative maintains the current 1997 fire management plan strategy of suppression, wildland fire use, and prescribed burning. The In-park comprehensive alternative is a fully integrated fire management plan with all strategies available for use within park boundaries including suppression, mechanical thinning and prescribed and natural fires that meet management objectives. The cooperative comprehensive management alternative also is a fully integrated fire management plan with all strategies available. Opportunities for cooperative planning with interagency partners and adjacent land managers would be encouraged. The limited strategies alternative would allow the limited use of prescribed burning, limited manual (*i.e.*: chainsaw) thinning in developed areas only, and does not allow wildland fire use.

Major issues are environmental effects of the FMP that are potential problems. These include: protection of cultural resources, restoration of plant and wildlife habitats, habitat protection for threatened and endangered species, protection of park neighbors' properties, protection of air quality values, protection of life and property, and changes in landscape-scale vegetation patterns.

A scoping brochure has been prepared describing the issues identified to date. The brochure is available for downloading as a pdf document from Bandelier National Monument's Web site at <http://www.nps.gov/band>. To obtain a paper copy of the brochure, write to the Fire Management Office, Bandelier National Monument, HCR 1, Box 1, Suite 15, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544.

DATES: The Park Service will accept comments from the public through September 5, 2003.

ADDRESSES: If you wish to comment on the scoping brochure, you may submit your comments by any one of several methods. You may mail comments to Fire Management Office, Bandelier National Monument, HCR 1, Box 1, Suite 15, Los Alamos, NM 87544. You may also comment via e-mail to *BAND*

Fire@nps.gov. Please submit electronic comments as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your message, contact us directly at Bandelier Fire Management Office at 505-672-3861 x512. Finally you may hand-deliver comments to Bandelier National Monument or at public meetings that will be held Los Alamos and Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours.

Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the 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. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Whittington, Bandelier National Monument, 505-672-3861 x512.

Dated: June 11, 2003.

Michael D. Snyder,

*Deputy Director, Intermountain Region,
National Park Service.*

[FR Doc. 03-19963 Filed 8-5-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312-EW-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Golden Gate National Recreation Area Fire Management Plan, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo Counties, CA; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) that the National Park Service (NPS) is undertaking a conservation planning and impact analysis process for a fire management plan for Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) and Muir Woods National Monument and Fort Point National Historic Site, two units of the National Park system also under the administration of GGNRA. The purpose of the fire management plan and environmental impact statement (EIS) process is to develop and assess

alternative strategies for reducing risks to the public, firefighters, sensitive resources and park facilities posed by unplanned and uncontrolled wildland ignitions and examine the opportunities to use fire as a tool to work towards achieving resource protection objectives. Notice is hereby given that a public scoping process has been initiated with the purpose of eliciting early public comment regarding issues and concerns, a suitable range of alternatives and appropriate mitigating measures, and the nature and extent of potential environmental impacts that should be addressed in the EIS.

Background: The current GGNRA fire management plan (FMP) was adopted in 1993 following a NEPA assessment process that culminated in the NPS approving a Finding of No Significant Impact decision (September 30, 1993). Since that time, a wide spectrum of new issues, improved information, and unforeseeable constraints have emerged which have the potential to affect the future direction of the fire management program within the park. Some of these factors include the continued decline in ecosystem health due to the absence of fire, increased risk of damage to sensitive natural and cultural resources as well as adjacent developed communities, increased suppression costs, and more stringent air quality regulations.

The new FMP will tier from the 1980 GGNRA General Management Plan which called for a park-wide vegetation management planning effort to examine major influences (including fire effects) on the health of native plant communities. Subsequently park boundaries have expanded, and as noted environmental conditions have changed. More recently, major revisions of NPS policy guidance for fire management activities have occurred (Director's Order 18 was re-issued in 2002), and the need for conformance with new Management Policies (2001), have substantially increased the necessary scope of the FMP planning process. As a result, the proposed FMP will supersede the current fire program, rather than update or supplement the 1993 FMP.

Scope of Planning and Analysis: The jurisdictional area of GGNRA covers 75,389 acres in San Mateo, San Francisco and Marin counties. Of the total acreage, 31,100 acres are directly managed by GGNRA in the three park units B GGNRA, Muir Woods National Monument and Fort Point National Historic Site. The northern lands of GGNRA, comprising 18,000 acres on Bolinas Ridge, east of Highway One in Marin County, are managed by the Point

Reyes National Seashore under an agreement between the two park units. These northern lands are part of the conservation planning area for the Point Reyes National Seashore FMP currently in preparation. The Point Reyes environmental impact analysis process is in advance of the GGNRA effort, and the two parks will coordinate closely so as to develop a complementary strategy for fire management activities that meets each park's objectives.

In addition to lands under the direct management of the NPS, the scope of the pending EIS analysis and the affected area to be addressed in GGNRA FMP will include lands within the park's jurisdictional boundary that be acquired for NPS management during the implementation period of the FMP. However, the interior portion of the Presidio of San Francisco (managed by the federal corporation known as Presidio Trust,) is not under the direct management of the NPS and is not included in the planning area. Some of the existing park sites to be addressed in the EIS process are the coastal portion of the Presidio of San Francisco (Area A), Stinson Beach, Tennessee Valley, Muir Beach, the Marin Headlands, Alcatraz Island, Fort Mason, the coastal areas of the Presidio of San Francisco, Ocean Beach, Fort Funston, Milagra Ridge, Sweeney Ridge, and the Phleger Estate.

Naturally occurring fire is an important ecological process necessary for maintaining the native plant communities of the park, but wildfire poses a hazard to life and property in the park's urban-wildland interface boundary area and developed sites within the park. GGNRA practice has been to aggressively suppress all wildland fire in the park whether naturally occurring or human-caused. To that end, GGNRA has conducted fire management projects to control fuel buildup in the last decade, reviewing each project individually for conformance with federal environmental regulations. The park has employed prescribed burning and mechanical fuel reduction to reduce hazardous fuels and to enhance natural and cultural resources.

NPS management policies adopted in December 2000 requires each park with burnable vegetation to prepare a fire management plan. The purpose of the FMP will be to guide a fire management program that protects park values and its cultural and natural resources; provides for safety considerations for park visitors, employees, neighbors, and developed facilities; and addresses potential impacts to public and private property adjacent to the park. Guided by