

**SUMMARY:** The National Park Service has prepared a Final General Management Plan Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement (GMPA/EIS) that evaluates long-term management alternatives for Dry Tortugas National Park. Consistent with the park's purpose, significance, and mission goals, five alternatives were evaluated for guiding the management of the park over the next 15 to 20 years. The alternatives incorporate various zoning applications and other management provisions to ensure resource protection and quality visitor experience conditions. The environmental consequences anticipated from implementation of the various alternatives are addressed in the document. Impact topics include natural and cultural resources, visitor experience, socioeconomic environment, and park operations/facilities.

**DATES:** The document will be available for review for 30 days from the publication of a notice by the Environmental Protection Agency in the **Federal Register**. After the 30-day review period, a Record of Decision will be signed that will document NPS approval of the final Dry Tortugas GMPA/EIS, and identify the selected alternative for implementation.

**ADDRESSES:** The final Dry Tortugas GMPA/EIS will be mailed to agencies, organizations, and individuals on the park's mailing list. Public reading copies of the document will also be available for review at the following locations:

- Everglades National Park—Headquarters, 40001 State Road 9336, Homestead, FL
- Offices of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary: 216 Ann Street, Key West, FL, 5550 Overseas Highway, Marathon, FL, 95200 Overseas Highway, Key Largo, FL
- Miami-Dade Public Library Branches: 700 N. Homestead Blvd., Homestead, FL, 101 West Flagler St., Miami, FL, 10750 SW 211th St., Miami, FL
- Monroe County Public Library Branches: 700 Fleming St., Key West, FL, 3251 Overseas Highway, Marathon, FL, Mile Marker 81.5, Islamorada, FL, Mile Marker 100, Key Largo, FL
- Collier County Public Library, 650 Central Avenue, Naples, FL
- St. Petersburg Public Library, 3745 9th Ave. North, St. Petersburg, FL

In addition, the document will be posted on the Dry Tortugas National Park Webpage ([www.nps.gov/dрто/planning](http://www.nps.gov/dрто/planning)). A limited number of printed

copies will be available from the Superintendent on request.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Maureen Finnerty, Superintendent, Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks, 40001 State Road 9336, Homestead, FL 33034-6733.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following management alternatives were evaluated in the GMPA/EIS:

*Alternative A*—As the no-action alternative, this alternative represents a continuation of current management policies and operations. The park would attempt to accommodate increasing visitor use while protecting resources to the extent allowable under current policy and legal requirements.

*Alternative B*—Under this alternative, visitors would be free to travel throughout much of the park and have a variety of recreational experiences. However, the park would more closely manage the types and levels of acceptable visitor use to provide greater protection of park resources and to ensure quality visitor experiences. Greater emphasis would be placed on measures to monitor resource conditions and to implement appropriate protection/remedial actions as necessary.

*Alternative C (proposed action)*—In addition to the provisions of Alternative B, this alternative calls for the application of a research natural area zone (covering about one half of the park) in which no fishing would be allowed, the implementation of a visitor permitting system, and increased reliance on commercial service providers to direct and structure visitor use. These measures would be anticipated to further enhance resource protection and visitor experience objectives.

*Alternative D*—Provisions of this alternative are similar to those of Alternative C, with the further restrictions that only commercial tour operators providing public tours would be allowed in the research natural area zone. Private boaters would be required to obtain a permit to boat or engage in other park-allowed activities outside of the research natural area zone. As under Alternative C, the research natural area zone would cover approximately half of the park, although its spatial configuration would be different. Visitor experiences would be highly structured, but diverse opportunities for recreational activities would remain available.

*Alternative E*—This alternative places primary emphasis on resource protection and conservation with the majority of the park zoned a research

natural area. Visitation would be strictly managed throughout most of the park to reduce or avoid impacts on the fragile resource base.

Planning for the Dry Tortugas GMPA/EIS was coordinated with concurrent planning for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The latter plan proposes a no-take ecological reserve within the remote westernmost portion of the marine sanctuary.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. If you wish for us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. 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.

Dated: January 9, 2001.

**W. Thomas Brown,**

*Regional Director, Southeast Regional Office, National Park Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-10-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### Notice of Record of Decision for Final Environmental Impact Statement and Bison Management Plan for the State of Montana and Yellowstone National Park

The U.S. Department of the Interior's National Park Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and Forest Service have signed a Record of Decision (December 20, 2000) on a Joint Management Plan for bison in Yellowstone National Park and Montana.

The Plan is designed to preserve the largest wild, free-ranging population of bison in the United States while minimizing the risk of brucellosis disease transmission (between bison and cattle) to protect the economic interest and viability of the livestock industry in the State of Montana.

While the Joint Management Plan is not intended to be a brucellosis eradication plan, it employs many tools to manage and reduce the potential risk of brucellosis transmission from bison to cattle. Limited numbers of bison will

be allowed on public lands outside the park during winter when cattle are not present. Bison will not be allowed to intermingle with cattle and will be hazed back into the park when the weather typically moderates in the spring (mid-April on the north side and mid-May on the west side). The agencies will capture or remove bison still remaining outside the park that cannot be hazed. Any possible risk to cattle will be further minimized before cattle are allowed to return to public lands by waiting a sufficient amount of time to ensure that the bacteria which causes the disease is no longer alive outside the park.

The agencies will further manage the risk of transmission of brucellosis to cattle by limiting the number of bison outside the park in the north (Reese Creek) and west (West Yellowstone) management areas through intensive monitoring and hazing, and when necessary, capture, test, and slaughter of seropositive bison. Management activity will be increased as bison move toward the edges of management zones outside the park. The plan also provides that the agencies will maintain a spring bison population of up to 3,000 animals. The agencies also agree to increase implementation of non-lethal management measures should severe winter conditions result in a large management removal or natural winter die off.

In an effort to further reduce the risk of transmission and protect cattle, the agencies will require vaccination if 100% of all vaccination-eligible cattle in north and west management zones are not vaccinated within one year. APHIS will pay for all direct vaccination costs. Allowing untested bison outside the park in the north and west boundary management zones will begin after the agencies have had experience with seronegative bison in certain areas outside the park during winter and when the National Park Service initiates vaccination of bison with a safe and effective vaccine utilizing a safe remote delivery system inside the park.

With the implementation of this plan, the federal agencies and the State of Montana recognize that bison are an essential component of the greater Yellowstone ecosystem and that the cooperation of several agencies is needed to fully manage the herd to reduce the risk of transmission of brucellosis from bison to cattle and maintain a wild, free-ranging population of Yellowstone bison.

The Joint Management Plan, included in the Record of Decision, is a slightly altered version of the existing plan presented in the federal agencies' final

Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The State of Montana incorporated and adopted the federal agencies' FEIS into its own FEIS for bison management and has recently signed their Record of Decision, which implements the same Joint Management Plan as the federal agencies.

A copy of the Record of Decision on Bison Management for Yellowstone National Park and the State of Montana can be obtained via the internet by visiting the National Park Service web site at <http://www.nps.gov/planning> or by calling (307) 344-2159.

**Jack Neckels,**

*Acting Director, Intermountain Region.*

[FR Doc. 01-1574 Filed 1-19-01; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### **Acadia National Park Bar, Harbor, ME; Acadia National Park Advisory Commission; Notice of Meeting**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463, 86 Stat. 770, 5 U.S.C. App. 1, Sec. 10), that the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission will hold a meeting on Monday, February 5, 2001.

The Commission was established pursuant to Public Law 99-420, Sec. 103. The purpose of the commission is to consult with the Secretary of the Interior, or his designee, on matters relating to the management and development of the park, including but not limited to the acquisition of lands and interests in lands (including conservation easements on islands) and termination of rights of use and occupancy.

The meeting will convene at park Headquarters, McFarland Hill, Bar Harbor, Maine, at 1:00 PM to consider the following agenda:

1. Review and approval of minutes from the meeting held September 11, 2000.
2. Committee reports  
Land Conservation  
Park Use  
Science  
Nomination
3. Old business
4. Chairman's report
5. Superintendent's report
6. Public comments
7. Proposed agenda for next Commission meeting on Monday, June 4, 2001.

The meeting is open to the public. Interested persons may make oral/

written presentations to the Commission or file written statements. Such requests should be made to the Superintendent at least seven days prior to the meeting.

Further information concerning this meeting may be obtained from the Superintendent, Acadia National Park, P.O. Box 177, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609, tel: (207) 288-3338.

Dated: January 9, 2001.

**Len Bobinchock,**

*Acting Superintendent, Acadia National Park.*

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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 (1994), that the National Park System Advisory Board will meet January 24-26, 2001, in the Board Room of the American Geophysical Union Building, 2000 Florida Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.

The Board will convene from 9:00 a.m., until 5:00 p.m., on January 24 and 25. On January 26, the Board will convene at 9:00 a.m., and adjourn at 12:00 noon. The Board will consider procedural matters relative to completing its study of the future of the National Park Service and the National Park System. During the morning session on January 24, the Board will be addressed by leaders of national organizations having interest in National Park Service matters.

The Board may be addressed at various times by officials of the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior; 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 may also 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.