

1999 Hemphill Knob Road, Asheville, North Carolina 28803, (828) 271-4779.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Blue Ridge Parkway is located in southwestern Virginia and northwestern North Carolina in the Central and Southern Appalachian Mountains. The parkway is 469 miles long, connecting Shenandoah National Park in the north with Great Smoky Mountains National Park to the south. Created in 1936 as a national rural parkway, the parkway is designed for recreational driving free from commercial traffic and with limited access. The parkway traverses the crests, ridges, and valleys of five major mountain ranges, encompassing several geographic and vegetative zones ranging from 500 to over 6,000 feet above sea level. It provides visitors with many varied vistas of scenic Appalachian landscapes ranging from forested ridge tops and mountain slopes to rural farm lands to urban areas. Although most of the parkway has a very narrow right of way, it includes several large recreational and natural history areas and Appalachian cultural sites along its length.

Today, the parkway encompasses 82,000 acres of federally owned land. The parkway has over 1000 miles of boundary to manage, 4000 adjacent land owners, 29 county and several city governments to interact with, and has 500,000 acres of scenic viewshed outside of its boundary. There are 191 public access points on the parkway from the regional road systems. This planning effort will evaluate a range of alternative methods to provide a quality visitor experience while maximizing protection of resources and operational efficiency.

Public documents associated with the planning effort, including all newsletters, will be posted on the Internet through the Info Zone at www.nps.gov.

Our practice is to make the public comments we receive in response to planning documents, 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. Anonymous comments will be included in the public record. However, the National Park Service is not legally required to consider or respond to 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.

The draft and final environmental impact statement will be distributed to all known interested parties and appropriate agencies. Full public participation by federal, state, and local agencies as well as other concerned organizations and private citizens is invited throughout the preparation process of this document.

The responsible official for this environmental impact statement is Jerry Belson, Regional Director, National Park Service, Southeast Region, 100 Alabama Street, SW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Dated: November 5, 2002.

Wallace A. Hibbard,

Regional Director, Southeast Region.

[FR Doc. 02-6042 Filed 3-12-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement, Colorado National Monument, Colorado

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for the general management plan, Colorado National Monument.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Park Service is preparing an environmental impact statement for the general management plan for Colorado National Monument. The environmental impact statement will be approved by the Director, Intermountain Region.

Colorado National Monument was established May 24, 1911 by Presidential William H. Taft, under the authority of the Antiquities Act (1906), because "[t]he extraordinary examples of erosion are of great scientific interest, and it appears that the public interest would be promoted by reserving these natural formations as a National Monument, together with as much public land as may be necessary for the proper protection thereof." Two later Presidential proclamations (1933 and 1959) added additional land to the Colorado National Monument, primarily for the protection of "* * * features of historical and scientific interest and for the protection of the Rim Road * * *"

The general management plan will prescribe the resource conditions and visitor experiences that are to be achieved and maintained in the

monument over time. The clarification of what must be achieved according to law and policy will be based on review of the park's purpose, significance, special mandates, and the body of laws and policies directing park management. Management decisions to be made where law, policy, or regulations do not provide clear guidance or limits will be based on the purposes of the monument, the range of public expectations and concerns, resource analysis, an evaluation of the natural, cultural, and social impacts of alternative courses of action, and consideration of long-term economic costs. Based on determinations of desired conditions, the general management plan will outline the kinds of resource management activities, visitor activities, and development that would be appropriate in the monument in the future. Alternatives will be developed through this planning process and will include, at a minimum, no-action and the preferred alternative. Major issues include protection of natural and cultural resources; the adequacy of interpretive programs; potential partnerships with other agencies, organizations, and local interests; and boundary concerns.

The National Park Service is planning to begin public scoping in January 2002, via a newsletter to state and Federal agencies; associated American Indian tribes; neighboring communities; county commissioners; local organizations, researchers and institutions; the Congressional Delegation; and visitors who signed up to be on the mailing list. In addition, the National Park Service will hold public scoping meetings regarding the general management plan, beginning in January 2002. Specific dates, times, and locations will be announced in the local media and will also be available by contacting the Superintendent of Colorado National Monument. There will also be a web site for the general management plan, established at a later date. The purpose of the newsletter, public meetings, and web site is to explain the planning process and to obtain comments concerning appropriate resource management; desired visitor experience and use, and facilities; as well as any other issues that need to be addressed. In addition to attending the scoping meetings, people wishing to provide input to this initial phase of developing the general management plan may address comments to the superintendent. Scoping comments should be received no later than 60-days from the publication of this Notice of Intent.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Contact Superintendent Palma Wilson, Colorado National Monument, Fruita, CO, 81521-0001; Tel: (970) 858-3617; FAX: (970) 858-0372; e-mail: palma_wilson@nps.gov.

Dated: October 19, 2001.

Karen P. Wade,

Director, Intermountain Region.

[FR Doc. 02-6043 Filed 3-12-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**National Park Service**

Notice of Intent; Livestock Management Plan With Allotment Management Plans, Environmental Impact Statement, Dinosaur National Monument, Utah and Colorado

January 17, 2002.

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for the Livestock Management Plan and associated Allotment Management Plans, Dinosaur National Monument.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the National Park Service is preparing an environmental impact statement for the Livestock Management Plan and associated allotment management plans for Dinosaur National Monument. This effort will result in a comprehensive livestock management plan that encompasses preservation of natural and cultural resources, meets current policies, and provides a framework for making grazing-related decisions, and serves as an operational manual. Development of these plans is compatible with the broader goals and objectives derived from the Monument mission that governs resources management. In cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, attention will also be given to resources outside the boundaries that affect the integrity of Dinosaur National Monument resources. Alternatives will be developed through the scoping and planning process, and at a minimum will include a No Action Alternative and a Preferred Alternative. Major issues are: effects to soil and water resources, to proposed wilderness, presence of threatened, endangered and/or sensitive species, invasive nonnative species; conflicts with recreational uses; proposed Research Natural Areas; archaeological/historic resources; socioeconomic effects; and other sensitive natural

resources such as riparian areas. A scoping letter as been prepared that details the issues identified to date. Copies of that information may be obtained from Nanci Regnier SWCA, Inc., *Environmental Consultants, 8461 Turnpike Drive, Suite 100, Westminster, CO 80031*. The scoping period will be 30 days from the date this notice is published in the **Federal Register**. In addition, NPS will hold public scoping meetings regarding the plans in April 2002; specific dates, times, and locations will be announced in local media and will also be available by contacting the Superintendent of Dinosaur National Monument at (970) 374-3001 or by contacting SWCA as above.

Comments: If you wish to comment on the scoping letter, you may submit your comments by any one of several methods. You may mail comments to SWCA, at the above address. You may also comment via the Internet to nregnier@swca.com. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include "Attn: DINO LMP" and your name and return address in your Internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your Internet message, contact Nanci Regnier at SWCA, Inc. directly at above address or at (303) 487-1183. Finally, you may hand-deliver comments to above address. 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:

Nanci Regnier, SWCA, Inc., Environmental Consultants (303) 487-1183.

Dated: January 22, 2002.

R. Everhart,

Director, Intermountain Region, National Park Service.

[FR Doc. 02-6040 Filed 3-12-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**National Park Service**

Northeast Region; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Hold Public Meetings

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Pub. L. 91-109 Section 102(c)), the National Park Service is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the resource study of the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area, as authorized by Public Law 106-470. The Upper Housatonic Valley study area encompasses a watershed area with eight municipalities (Litchfield County) in Connecticut and eighteen municipalities (Berkshire County) in Massachusetts. The purpose of the EIS/study is to determine if this region is eligible to become a National Heritage Area. If the National Park Service determines that the Upper Housatonic Valley has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use, Congress could designate the region a National Heritage Area. The study will identify alternative management options to interpret and manage the heritage area. The alternatives will describe: proposed heritage area boundaries; evaluations of significance, suitability, and feasibility; characteristics of the proposed management entity; participation of State and local governments and private and public organizations; anticipated levels of public use; economic and social benefits of public use.

The National Park Service will hold three public meetings in September, 2002, that will provide opportunities for public input into the scoping for the EIS/study. The purpose of these meetings is to obtain both written and verbal comments concerning the future direction and development of the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area.

Additional information about the EIS/study will be available from the National Park Service Boston Support Office, James O'Connell, Project Manager, National Park Service Boston Support Office, 15 State Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109-3572, (617) 223-5222. Those persons who wish to comment verbally or in writing, or who require further information, should contact Mr. James O'Connell, Project Manager.