

Fairbanks, Alaska—June 23, 1997—  
BLM, Northern District, Office Bldg.,  
1150, University Ave.

Healy, Alaska—June 24, 1997—Tri  
Valley School, Lunchroom

Anderson, Alaska—June 25, 1997—  
Council Chambers, Anderson City  
Hall, 260, W. First St.

Nenana, Alaska—June 26, 1997—  
Nenana Public School, 2nd and C St.

The meetings will be held in an open-  
house format from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00  
p.m. and a public workshop format will  
be conducted from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00  
p.m. Any changes to the above meeting  
times or locations will be posted in the  
local newspaper and in local public  
buildings. Public scoping for this EIS  
will end on July 11, 1997. All written  
comments must be postmarked on or  
before July 11, 1997.

Information, comments, and  
nominations on specific issues to be  
addressed in the EIS are sought from all  
interested parties.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gary  
Foreman, (907) 474-2339 or  
g1forema@ak.blm.gov., or by mail at  
1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks,  
Alaska 99709.

Dated: May 19, 1997.

**Dee Ritchie,**

*Northern District Manager.*

[FR Doc. 97-13743 Filed 5-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4130-84-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### Establishment of the Agate Fossil Beds National Monument

**AGENCY:** National Park Service,  
Department of the Interior.

**SUMMARY:** Notice to announce the formal  
establishment of the Agate Fossil Beds  
National Monument, effective June 14,  
1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Superintendent, Scotts Bluff National  
Monument, P.O. Box 27, Gering,  
Nebraska 69341-0027; or telephone  
308-436-4340.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Public  
Law 89-33 (79 Stat. 123.) approved June  
5, 1965, authorized the Secretary of the  
Interior to establish the Agate Fossil  
Beds National Monument in the State of  
Nebraska as a unit of the National Park  
System. The park was authorized to  
preserve for the benefit and enjoyment  
of present and future generations the  
outstanding paleontological sites known  
as the Agate Springs Fossil Quarries,  
and nearby related geological  
phenomena, to provide a center for

continuing paleontological research and  
for the display and interpretation of the  
scientific specimens uncovered at such  
sites, and to facilitate the protection and  
exhibition of a valuable collection of  
Native American artifacts and relics that  
are representative of an important phase  
of Native American history.

Public Law 89-33 authorized the  
Secretary of the Interior to acquire by  
donation, or by purchase with donated  
or appropriated funds, or otherwise,  
title or a lesser interest in not more than  
three thousand one hundred and fifty  
acres of land in Township 28 North,  
Range 55 West, Sixth Principal  
Meridian, Sioux County, Nebraska, for  
inclusion in the Agate Fossil Beds  
National Monument in accordance with  
the boundary designation made  
pursuant to Section 2 thereof, which  
boundary may include such right-of-  
way as is needed for a road between the  
Stenomylus Quarry site and the  
monument lands lying in Section 3 or  
10 of the said Township and Range.

Further, upon completion of land  
acquisition, the Secretary of the Interior  
may establish the park area by  
publishing a notice in the **Federal  
Register**, and any subsequent  
adjustment of its boundaries shall be  
effectuated in the same manner.

The National Park Service has  
prepared a map identified as Boundary  
Map of Agate Fossil Beds National  
Monument, Drawing Number 165/  
80,023, dated May 1997, which depicts  
the boundaries established by this  
notice. A copy of the map is available  
at the following locations: The  
Department of the Interior, National  
Park Service, Land Resources Division,  
1849 "C" Street, NW, Room 2444,  
Washington, D.C. 20240; the National  
Park Service, Midwest Field Area, 1709  
Jackson Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102;  
and Scotts Bluff National Monument or  
Agate Fossil Beds National Monument  
at the address listed above.

Dated: May 13, 1997.

**William W. Schenk,**

*Field Director, Midwest Field Area.*

[FR Doc. 97-13768 Filed 5-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### Notice of Designation of Potential Wilderness as Wilderness, Joshua Tree National Park

Public Law (Pub. L.) 94-567,  
approved October 20, 1976, designated  
429,690 acres as wilderness in Joshua  
Tree National Monument and further

identified 37,550 acres as potential  
wilderness additions. The National Park  
Service (NPS) depicted the wilderness  
and potential wilderness additions in  
maps entitled "Joshua Tree  
Wilderness," numbered 156-20,003D  
and dated February 1977. In May 1978,  
the NPS published the legal description  
of the wilderness and potential  
wilderness additions. The maps and  
legal description are on file at the  
headquarters of Joshua Tree National  
Park, 74485 National Park Drive,  
Twentynine Palms, California 92277,  
and at the NPS Denver Service Center,  
Technical Information Center at 12795  
West Alameda Parkway, Lakewood,  
Colorado.

The maps and legal description of  
1977 and 1978 respectively show  
422,320 acres of wilderness and 30,740  
acres of potential wilderness additions,  
a lesser amount than cited in Public  
Law 94-567. However, under section 2  
of Public Law 94-567 the maps and  
legal description "\* \* \* have the same  
force and effect as if included in this  
Act."

Public Law 94-567 provided that  
"\* \* \* corrections of clerical and  
typographical errors in such maps and  
descriptions may be made." The NPS,  
after careful review of the maps and  
legal description of 1977 and 1978  
respectively, detected two typographical  
errors. On January 15, 1997, the NPS  
corrected the errors which resulted in a  
recalculation of wilderness established  
by the Public Law 94-567 maps and  
legal description as 422,520 acres. This  
is an increase of 200 acres. The potential  
wilderness additions remain at 30,740  
acres.

Section 3 of Public Law 94-567  
provided a process whereby potential  
wilderness additions within the former  
Joshua Tree National Monument would  
become wilderness upon publication in  
the **Federal Register** of a notice by the  
Secretary of the Interior that all uses on  
the land, prohibited by the Wilderness  
Act (Pub. L. 88-577) have ceased.

The NPS has determined that all the  
Wilderness Act prohibited activities of  
the following described designated  
potential wilderness additions have  
ceased. Such lands are entirely in  
Federal ownership. Because such lands  
fully comply with Congressional  
directions in section 3 of Public Law  
94-567, this notice hereby changes the  
status of the land, totalling 3,502.20  
acres, more or less, from potential  
wilderness additions to wilderness. This  
acreage will be added to the National  
Wilderness Preservation System and  
bring the total wilderness acreage of the  
former Joshua Tree National Monument  
to 426,022 acres, more or less. The