

available for review at the following locations:

- Office of the Superintendent, Gettysburg National Military Park, 97 Taneytown Road, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325. (717) 334-1124 ext. 1452.
- Office of Public Affairs, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 18th and C Streets NW, Washington, DC 20240. (202) 208-6843.
- Chesapeake Systems Office, National Park Service, Park Planning, Natural Resources and Special Projects Office, U.S. Customs House, 200 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106-2878. (215) 597-1669.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DEIS/GMP describes four alternatives for the management of Gettysburg National Military Park, the environment that would be affected by the management prescriptions, and the environmental consequences of implementing those actions. Alternative A continues the existing management direction of the park. Alternative B proposes rehabilitation of large-scale landscape patterns on the 1863 battlefield and in the Soldiers' National Cemetery, the development of a new visitor center, enhanced interpretation and resource management. Alternative C, the proposed plan, proposes the rehabilitation of features significant to the Battle of Gettysburg and to the Soldiers' National Cemetery, a new visitor center, enhanced and expanded interpretation, and enhanced resource management. Alternative D proposes restoration of the 1863 battlefield, the Soldiers' National Cemetery and the commemorative areas of the park, a new visitor center, interpretation using the historic tablets, markers and monuments of the park and enhanced resource management.

The DESI/GMP evaluates the environmental consequences of the proposed action and the other alternatives on: the historic landscapes of the park; collections and archives; buildings and structures; threatened, endangered and sensitive species; other species; socioeconomics; traffic, parking and transit; and park operations.

All review comments received on the DEIS will become part of the public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Superintendent, Gettysburg NMP, at the above address and telephone number.

Dated: August 10, 1998.

John A. Latschar,

Superintendent, Gettysburg NMP.

[FR Doc. 98-22120 Filed 8-17-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Approval of Record of Decision Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Santa Rosa Island Resources Management Plan for Improving Water Quality and Conserving Rare Species and Their Habitats, Channel Islands National Park, Santa Barbara County, California

Introduction: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Public Law 91-190, and the regulations promulgated by the Council of Environmental Quality at 40 CFR Part 1500, the Department of Interior, National Park Service (NPS) has prepared and approved a Record of Decision (Decision) on the abbreviated Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Resources Management Plan for Improvement of Water Quality and Conservation of Rare Species and Their Habitats on Santa Rosa Island (Final EIS/RMP). This Notice of the Decision is a summary statement of the nature of public comment during the "no-action" period, what alternatives were considered, and what alternative was selected. The complete Decision may be obtained from the Superintendent, Channel Islands National Park, 1901 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura, CA 93001.

Decision: The NPS will implement the actions described as the Proposed Action, Alternative F, in the Final EIS/RMP issued in May, 1998. The Draft EIS/RMP was issued in February, 1998. The actions selected to be implemented are summarized as follows.

Selected Action: Alternative F, Negotiated Settlement, was selected to improve water quality and riparian habitat, and to conserve rare plants and their habitats. There will be rapid removal of cattle by the end of 1998 (except for 12 head in Lobo Pasture). There will be phased removal of elk and deer by the end of 2011 (although removal may be earlier if necessary to achieve selected recovery goals; and after initial reductions an adaptive management program may be implemented). Other actions to be implemented include road management to reduce impacts to streams, and development of a comprehensive alien plant management plan to reduce impacts on native plants. Monitoring programs for rare species, water quality, and riparian recovery will be developed by the park. Visitor access to Santa Rosa Island will be increased beyond current levels.

Alternatives Considered: Five alternatives to the selected action were

considered and evaluated in the Draft and Final EIS/RMP. These were: Alternative A (No Action), Alternative B (Minimal Action), Alternative C (Targeted Action), Alternative D (Revised Conservation Strategy), and Alternative E (Immediate Removal of Ungulates). These are summarized in the Decision and analyzed in detail in the Final EIS/RMP.

Basis for Decision and Finding: In choosing an action from those identified and analyzed in the Final EIS/RMP, the NPS sought to select an alternative that would: meet the goals and objectives of the plan; comply with applicable laws, regulations and policies regarding management of grazing, water quality and rare species; and minimally impinge upon park operations necessary to fulfill stewardship obligations while protecting core interests of the negotiating parties. The detailed rationale for selecting Alternative F is set forth in the Decision.

Public Comments: During the public comment period for the Draft EIS/RMP, the park received 9 comments. The substantive responses focused on: (1) adequacy of adaptive management for protecting and restoring plants and habitat; (2) management use of fire; (3) conflicts between deer and elk management activities and visitor use; and (4) entry by visitors into buildings and areas traditionally used by Vail and Vickers. All comments were carefully considered and aided in preparation of the Final EIS/RMP.

In contrast, no comments were received during the 30-day "no action" period for the Final EIS/RMP.

Conclusion: The above briefly summarizes factors considered in selecting Alternative F, Negotiated Settlement, for implementation. The actions contained in this alternative will be incorporated into a new Special Use Permit for the hunting operation. This new permit will become effective, and actions encompassed under Alternative F will be implemented, as soon as possible. As noted above, copies of the approved Decision may be obtained from the Superintendent, Channel Islands National Park, address as noted above or via telephone at (805) 658-5776.

Dated: August 3, 1998.

John J. Reynolds,

Regional Director, Pacific West Region.

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