

cultural resources; and the protection of rare, threatened and endangered species. Other issues include: allowing for natural processes in ecosystems and varied habitats; maintaining park values including protection of air quality, water quality, existing wilderness and visitor enjoyment; protecting structures and facilities within the park and on neighboring lands; addressing concerns of the 24 tribes associated with the park; addressing economic and other concerns of the park concessionaire, neighboring communities including local business and the Ute Mountain Ute tribe; and developing partnerships with other agencies, organizations, and local interests. The plan will also address the effects of emergency actions taken in response to recent fires and extreme lightning and weather conditions.

The scoping process will include public meetings to explain the planning process, solicit alternative ideas, and identify issues to be addressed in the plan. Specific dates, times and locations of the meetings will be announced in the local media and will also be available by contacting the Superintendent of Mesa Verde National Park. Information about the planning process as well as copies of the draft and final plans will be posted on the park's Web site at www.nps.gov/meve.

DATES: The public scoping process will be initiated from the date this notice is published in the **Federal Register** and will extend a minimum of 60 days.

ADDRESSES: Information will be available for public review and comment in the Mesa Verde Park Headquarters (970) 529-4465.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Larry Wiese, Superintendent, Mesa Verde National Park, P.O. Box 8, Mesa Verde, CO 81330, (970) 529-4465.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: If you wish to provide input, you may submit your comments or questions by any one of several methods. Comments will be collected during the public meetings, or can be sent or hand delivered to: Larry Wiese, Superintendent, Mesa Verde National Park, P.O. Box 8, Mesa Verde, CO 81321. You may also comment via the Internet to MEVE_PLANNING@nps.gov. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include "Attn: Fire Management Plan" 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 us directly at (970) 529-4465. 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.

Dated: May 15, 2002.

R. Everhart,

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

[FR Doc. 02-24069 Filed 9-20-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Transportation Plan, Environmental Impact Statement, Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for the Transportation Plan, Mesa Verde National Park.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the National Park Service is preparing an environmental impact statement for the transportation plan for Mesa Verde National Park. This effort will result in a comprehensive transportation plan that considers various means to get visitors and employees into the park, and effectively manage use within the park in order to enhance visitor experience, protect resources and otherwise carry out the mission of the park. The plan will be developed in consultation with local communities, other federal and state agencies, the 24 tribes affiliated with the park, including the neighboring Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and all other interested and affected organizations and individuals. Alternatives to be considered include no-action, the environmentally preferred alternative, the agency-preferred alternative, and transportation options such as improving roadway, parking and trail

facilities, using various ground and aerial guideway systems, applying various visitor management strategies, and other ideas that come out of the public process.

Major issues include protecting natural resources, systems and processes; protecting cultural resources such as archeological, ethnographic, historic and landscape resources; changes to the visitor experience; requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act; local economic impacts that may result from any changes to visitor use; cultural concerns of the 24 affiliated tribes; and impacts to park operations and existing and future capacity constraints of any proposed transportation system.

A scoping newsletter will be distributed via mail and will be posted on the Internet. Also, meetings will be held to solicit input from the public, federal and state agencies, and affiliated tribes. Copies of scoping information may be obtained from Larry T. Wiese, P.O. Box 8, Mesa Verde, CO 81330, (970) 529-4465.

DATES: The scoping period will be a minimum of 60 days and will begin the date this notice is published in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Information will be available for public review and comment in the Mesa Verde National Park Headquarters (970) 529-4465.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Larry T. Wiese, Superintendent, Mesa Verde National Park, (970) 529-4465.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: If you wish to comment on the scoping brochure, or any other issues associated with the plan, you may submit your comments or questions by any one of several methods. You may mail comments to Patricia Trap, Planner, Mesa Verde National Park, P.O. Box 8, Mesa Verde, CO 81330. You may also comment via the Internet to MEVE_PLANNING@nps.gov. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include "Attn: Mesa Verde Transportation Plan" 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 us directly at (970) 529-4465. Finally, you may hand-deliver comments to Mesa Verde National Park Headquarters. 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.

Dated: May 15, 2002.

R. Everhart,

Director, Intermountain Region, National Park Service.

[FR Doc. 02-24070 Filed 9-20-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Environmental Statements; Notice of Intent

AGENCY: National Park Service.

ACTION: Notice of intent for a General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Monocacy National Battlefield (NB), Maryland.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the National Park Service (NPS) is preparing an environmental impact statement for the general management plan (GMP) for Monocacy National Battlefield. The planning effort will result in a comprehensive general management plan that encompass preservation of cultural and natural resources, visitor use and interpretation, and necessary and appropriate facilities. In cooperation with local interests, attention will also be given to resources outside the boundaries that affect the integrity of the battlefield. Alternatives to be considered include no-action, the preferred alternative, and other alternatives addressing the following major issues:

- How can the important natural and cultural resources be best protected and preserved, while providing for visitor use for present and future generations?
- What level and type of use is appropriate to be consistent with the park's purpose and to relate to the park's significance?
- What facilities are needed to meet the mission goals of the park regarding natural and cultural resource management, visitor use and interpretation, partnerships, and operations?

The NPS is planning to hold public scoping meetings regarding the project during the week of July 29, 2002. Specific dates, times, and locations will be announced in the local media, and can be obtained by contacting the park superintendent. The purpose of these meetings is to explain the planning process and to obtain comments concerning appropriate resource management desired visitor use, interpretation, facilities, and issues that need to be resolved. In addition to attending scoping meetings, people wishing to provide input to this initial phase of developing GMP may address comments to the superintendent. Scoping comments should be received no later than 60 days from the publication of this Notice of Intent.

Comments: If you wish to submit issues or provide input to this initial phase of developing GMP, you may do so by any one of several methods. In addition to attending scoping meetings, you may mail comments to Park Manager, Monocacy National Battlefield, 4801 Urbana Pike, Frederick, Maryland 21704-7307. You may comment via the Internet to susan_trail@nps.gov. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include "Attention: GMP Team" 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 Park Manager Susan Trail, directly, at (301) 662-6980. Finally, you may hand-deliver your comments to park headquarters, Monocacy National Battlefield, 4801 Urbana Pike, Frederick, Maryland. Scoping comments should be received no later than 60 days from the publication of this Notice of Intent. 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 addresses 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 identify, 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. 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Park Manager Susan Trail, 4801 Urbana Pike, Frederick, Maryland 21704-7307; telephone: (301) 662-6980; fax: (301) 662-3420; e-mail: susan_trail@nps.gov.

Terry R. Carlstrom,

Regional Director, National Capital Region.

[FR Doc. 02-24049 Filed 9-20-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Fire Management Plan, Environmental Impact Statement, Saguaro National Park, Arizona

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for the Fire Management Plan for Saguaro National Park.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the National Park Service is preparing an environmental impact statement for the Fire Management Plan for Saguaro National Park. 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 purposes that governs resources management. Alternatives to be considered include no-action, the Fire Management Unit Based Plan Natural Ignition, and Landscape Plan. The no-action alternative maintains the current 1991 fire management plan strategy of suppression, prescribed natural fire, and prescribed burning. The Fire Management Unit Based Plan Natural Ignition alternative would allow fires to burn in certain areas of the park under conditions which meet resource objectives. Prescribed fires would be carried out by park personnel to reduce hazardous fuel accumulations around developments and near park boundaries. The Landscape Plan calls for the National Park Service and adjacent U.S. Forest Service to jointly formulate a fire management plan that covers the entire landscape of the Rincon Mountains or a more naturally bounded portion of the range.

Major issues include environmental effects of the FMP that are potential problems and include depression of plant and wildlife populations,