

plans for Dyea and the Chilkoot Trail and will expand park management, development, resource (cultural and natural) protection, and maintenance components to meet most of the expected visitor-use increases and interests in the park. A Klondike History Research Center will be established, in cooperation with the city of Skagway and state of Alaska, to process, study, conserve, and store historical, ethnographic, and natural history artifacts. In Seattle, the plan will eventually lead to acquiring a permanent location for the park visitor center, park offices, and historic collections. The interpretive focus will shift with more emphasis toward the role of the Pacific Northwest in the gold rush.

A Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS), published in the Federal Register in May 1992, formally initiated the National Park Service planning and EIS effort for the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park. A draft and final plan and EIS were prepared. The final plan and EIS describes a proposed action for the three Alaska units and one Seattle unit of the park and three alternatives (two in Seattle) to provide additional opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy the park units while protecting the park's cultural and natural resources. A no-action alternative also is evaluated.

The ROD documents the decision of the National Park Service, regarding the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park plan. This ROD briefly states the decision and discusses the basis for it, describes other alternatives considered, specifies the environmentally preferable alternative, and defines a course of action for implementing the decision, including mitigating measures.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the ROD are available on request from: Superintendent Willie Russell, Klondike Gold Rush-Seattle, 117 South Main St, Seattle WA, 98104, telephone: (206) 553-7220, FAX: (206) 553-0614 or Superintendent Clay Alderson, Klondike Gold Rush NHP, PO Box 517, Skagway, AK 99840, telephone: (907) 983-2921, FAX: (907) 983-2046.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jack Mosby, National Park Service, Alaska System Support Office. Telephone: (907) 257-2650 FAX: (907) 257-2510.

Dated: March 7, 1997.

Marcia Blaszn,

*Acting Regional Director, Alaska.*

[FR Doc. 97-6555 Filed 3-14-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

## **Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Development Concept Plan for South Side Denali, AK**

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of the record of decision for the Development Concept Plan for South Side Denali, Alaska.

**SUMMARY:** The National Park Service announces the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Development Concept Plan for South Side Denali. The plan was prepared cooperatively by the National Park Service, State of Alaska, Denali Borough, and Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Ahtna, Inc. and Cook Inlet Region, Inc., two Native regional corporations with substantial land ownership within the planning area, participated as planning partners pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), Public Law 92-203, Sec. 2(b).

The emphasis of the plan is to enhance access and recreational opportunities throughout the south Denali region for a variety of visitors, including Alaskans, independent travelers, and package tour travelers, while at the same time protecting the important resource and community values in the area, including the rural lifestyle of local residents. Visitor facilities are planned for the Tokositna area at the western edge of Denali State Park near the end of an upgraded and extended Petersville Road, in the central development zone of Denali State Park along the George Parks Highway, at Chelatna Lake, and in the Dunkle Hills. Appropriately-sited bicycle and pedestrian enhancements along the Petersville Road also are part of the plan.

In cooperation and where desirable, a partnership between the National Park Service, local communities, ANCSA Native corporations, and the state of Alaska will develop visitor facilities and services in the central development zone of Denali State Park, at Broad Pass, and in Talkeetna, when the need and opportunity to do so are established. Similarly, in cooperation and where desirable, partnerships for providing additional visitor services along the George Parks Highway may be pursued.

A phasing and funding schedule will be developed by a South Side Denali Plan Implementation Partnership to be established by the governor. Phasing construction of developments will allow orderly plan implementation over an established period of time that compliments funding availability and addresses visitor needs.

A Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS), published in the Federal Register in April 1991 (56 FR 15931), formally initiated the National Park Service's planning and EIS effort for the south side. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the National Park Service prepared a draft plan and EIS, published in 1993; however, a final was never completed. Instead, a Notice of Intent to prepare a revised draft EIS was published in the Federal Register in October 1995 (60 FR 54705), reinitiating the planning process for the south side as a cooperative effort among the major land managers in the region. A draft and final plan and EIS were prepared by the cooperating partners, with the National Park Service acting as the lead federal agency. The final plan and EIS describes and analyzes the environmental impacts of a proposed action and two other action alternatives. A no action alternative also is evaluated.

The Record of Decision (ROD) documents the decision of the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, regarding the South Side Denali plan. The State of Alaska has signed this ROD in concurrence with its findings. This ROD briefly discusses the background for the planning effort, states the decision and discusses the basis for it, describes other alternatives considered, specifies the environmentally preferable alternative, identifies measures adopted to minimize potential environmental harm, and summarizes the results of public involvement during the planning process.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the ROD are available on request from: Superintendent, Denali National Park and Preserve, Post Office Box 9, Denali Park, Alaska 99755.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nancy Swanton, Park Planner, Denali National Park and Preserve. Telephone: (907) 257-2651 FAX: (907) 257-2485 Email: Nancy Swanton@nps.gov.

Dated: March 7, 1997.

Marcia Blaszn,

*Acting Regional Director, Alaska.*

[FR Doc. 97-6557 Filed 3-14-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

## **Niobrara National Scenic River Advisory Commission**

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice sets the schedule for the forthcoming meeting of the

Niobrara National Scenic River Advisory Commission. Notice of this meeting is required under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463).

**DATES:** Wednesday, March 26, 1997; 1:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** American Legion Post, 201 E. Buchanan, Bassett, Nebraska.

In case of inclement weather an alternate date is set, as follows:

**SNOW DATE:** Wednesday, April 9, 1997; 1:30 p.m.

**ADDRESS:** American Legion Post, Bassett, Nebraska.

**AGENDA:** (1) Discussion of the counties progress in developing a management council for the Niobrara National Scenic River; (2) Review and discussion of L.B. 656, to provide state funding for operation of the Niobrara Council; (3) The opportunity for public comment and proposed agenda, date, and time, of the next Advisory Group meeting. The meeting is open to the public. Interested persons may make oral/written presentation to the Commission or file written statements. Requests for time for making presentations may be made to the Superintendent prior to the meeting or to the Chairman at the beginning of the meeting. In order to accomplish the agenda for the meeting, the Chairman may want to limit or schedule public presentations.

The meeting will be recorded for documentation and a summary in the form of minutes will be transcribed for dissemination. Minutes of the meeting will be made available to the public after approval by the Commission members. Copies of the minutes may be requested by contacting the Superintendent. An audio tape of the meeting will be available at the headquarters office of the Niobrara/Missouri National Scenic Riverways in O'Neill, Nebraska.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Superintendent Warren Hill, Niobrara/Missouri National Scenic Riverways, P.O. Box 591, O'Neill, Nebraska 68763-0591, or at 402-336-3970.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Advisory Commission was established by the law that established the Niobrara National Scenic River, Public Law 102-50. The purpose of the group, according to its charter, is to advise the Secretary of the Interior on matters pertaining to the development of a management plan, and management and operation of the Scenic River. The Niobrara National Scenic River consists of a 76-mile segment from Borman Bridge, southeast of Valentine, downriver to State Highway 137.

Dated: February 27, 1997.

William W. Schenk,

*Field Director, Midwest Field Area.*

[FR Doc. 97-6554 Filed 3-14-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

## Bureau of Reclamation

### Proposed Long-term Contract Renewal, Angostura Irrigation District, Angostura Unit, Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, South Dakota

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare a draft environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to sec. 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) will prepare a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) on the proposed renewal of a long-term contract (LTC) with the Angostura Irrigation District (District) for water supply, repayment of construction costs, and payment of operation and maintenance costs. A series of public information/scoping meetings will be scheduled in connection with the development of the EIS. These meetings will be scheduled to inform the public of the status of contract renewal; to inform the public of the NEPA and LTC processes; and, to solicit from the public significant issues that should be analyzed in the draft EIS.

**DATES:** Five scoping meetings have been scheduled for this action. See Supplementary Information section for meeting dates.

**ADDRESSES:** Five scoping meetings have been scheduled for this action. See Supplementary Information section for meeting addresses.

Comments and questions concerning this notice should be addressed to Mr. Kenneth Parr, Bureau of Reclamation, Dakotas Area Office, Newell Field Office, P.O. Box 226, Newell, SD 57760.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Kenneth Parr, Bureau of Reclamation, telephone: (605) 456-2695; e-mail: KPARR@GP.USBR.GOV.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The existing contract expired in December 1995. In July 1996, Reclamation signed an interim contract for the Angostura Unit (Unit). The interim contract will expire in July 1999. This 3-year period is intended to allow Reclamation sufficient time to conduct the NEPA process and negotiate an LTC.

The purpose of this action is to provide for the continued beneficial use of federally developed water associated

with the Unit in southwestern South Dakota. Reclamation is proposing to renew the LTC with the District in accordance with current law and policy while examining all reasonable alternatives to balance contemporary surface water needs within the Basin.

The Angostura Unit, Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, is located at the southeastern edge of the Black Hills in southwest South Dakota. The Unit consists of a Dam, Reservoir and surrounding uplands, and associated irrigation distribution system. The Dam impounds the Cheyenne River near Angostura Canyon.

The Unit was originally authorized by the Water Conservation and Utilization Act of 1939. The Flood Control Act of 1944 reauthorized the Unit, and construction of the Dam began August 23, 1946, and was completed December 7, 1949. The Unit was authorized as a multipurpose facility for irrigation, flood control, power generation, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits. The first delivery of water to the District was in 1953 and full service water was available to 12,218 acres of irrigable lands in 1956. The power plant constructed with the dam was abandoned in 1959 due to an inadequate water supply.

In May 1951, Reclamation executed the initial contract with the District for water service from Angostura Reservoir and repayment of delivery system construction costs. The water service provisions of the contract provided a 40-year water supply which began in 1956 and expired in December 1995. The repayment and operation and maintenance provisions of the contract were initiated in 1966 following a 10-year development period and do not expire. In 1996, Reclamation negotiated a 3-year interim contract with the District.

Recreation and land management activities at the Reservoir are currently the responsibility of South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGF&P) under a Memorandum of Understanding with Reclamation. SDGF&P has documented a continual, steady increase in recreational visitation at Angostura.

The Angostura Unit is within the lands ceded to the United States by the Great Sioux Nation in the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie. The Cheyenne River forms the northwest boundary of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and the southern boundary of the Cheyenne River Sioux Indian Reservation. These conditions indicate the potential presence of Indian Trust Assets. The Oglala, Cheyenne River, and Lower Brule Sioux Tribes have responded to