

National Trail Study, Hawaii (FEIS/NTS).

The National Park Service recommends a continuous historic trail management strategy for this trail along and near the coast of Hawaii. This strategy (described as the Proposed Action, Alternative B) and three other alternatives were detailed and analyzed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement issued in April, 1998. The findings in the FEIS/NTS include: (1) the Ala Kahakai meets all three criteria for a national historic trail (as outlined in the National Trails System Act); (2) establishing a continuous trail is physically feasible; (3) local communities, landowners, and native Hawaiians must be involved in planning and implementing the trail, should it be designated by Congress.

The National Park System Advisory Committee has corroborated the national historical significance of the Ala Kahakai. The FEIS/NTS and Record of Decision (ROD) will be transmitted to Congress by the Secretary of the Interior. Copies of the ROD may be obtained from the Superintendent, Pacific Great Basin Support Office, 600 Harrison Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94107-1372, (415) 427-1438.

Dated: June 15, 1998.

John J. Reynolds,

Regional Director, Pacific West Region.

[FR Doc. 98-17086 Filed 6-25-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior Department.

ACTION: Availability of Plan of Operations for Old Trail School Well #1.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Superintendent John P. Debo, Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, 15610 Vaughn Road, Brecksville, Ohio 44141 or call (440) 546-5903.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given in accordance with § 9.52(b) of Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations that the National Park Service has received from Bass Energy Company, Incorporated, a Plan of Operation to drill one oil/gas well in Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, located within Summit County, Ohio.

The Plan of Operations and Environmental Assessment are available for public review and comment for a

period of 30 days from the publication date of this notice. The documents can be viewed during normal business hours at the Office of the Superintendent, Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, 15610 Vaughn Road, Brecksville, Ohio. Copies can be requested from the Superintendent, Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, 15610 Vaughn Road, Brecksville, Ohio 44141.

Dated: June 12, 1998.

John P. Debo,

Superintendent, Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area.

[FR Doc. 98-16496 Filed 6-25-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Final Environmental Impact Statement/General Management Plan; National Park of American Samoa; Notice of Approval of Record of Decision

SUMMARY: Pursuant to § 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Pub. L. 91-190, as amended) and the regulations promulgated by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR Part 1505.2), the Department of the Interior, National Park Service has prepared and approved a Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement/General Management Plan, National Park of American Samoa.

The National Park Service will implement the selected plan (identified as the proposed action in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the General Management Plan issued in February 1998) as soon as practical. This option and three other alternatives were detailed and analyzed in the Final and Draft Environmental Impact Statements (latter issued in December, 1996).

Copies of the approved Record of Decision may be obtained either from the Superintendent, National Park of American Samoa, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799, or by phone request at (684) 633-7083; or from the Superintendent, Pacific Islands Support Office, 300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Box 50165, Honolulu, Hawaii 96850, or by phone request at (808) 541-2693.

Dated: June 15, 1998.

Patricia L. Neubacher,

Acting Regional Director, Pacific West Region.

[FR Doc. 98-17085 Filed 6-25-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Availability of the Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Sitka National Historical Park

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of the Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Sitka National Historical Park.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service announces the availability of a draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS) for Sitka National Historical Park, in the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska. The document describes and analyzes the environmental impacts of a proposed action and two action alternatives for the future management of the park. A no action alternative also is evaluated. This notice announces that public meetings will be held to solicit comments on the draft GMP/EIS.

DATES: There will be a 60-day public review period for comments on this document. Comments on the draft GMP/EIS must be received no later than August 24, 1998. Public meetings will be held in Sitka, Alaska, on July 20, 1998, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Shee Atika Hotel.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the draft GMP/EIS should be submitted to the Superintendent, Sitka National Historical Park, 106 Metlakatla Street, P.O. Box 738, Sitka, Alaska 99835. A limited number of copies of the draft GMP/EIS are available by request from the aforementioned address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ron Johnson, Job Captain, National Park Service, Denver Service Center. Telephone: (303) 969-2342 FAX: (303) 987-6679.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Pub. L. 91-190, as amended), the National Park Service has prepared a GMP/EIS with proposed guidance for management of Sitka National Historical Park for the next 15-20 years. This document was developed in consultation with The Sitka Tribe of Alaska and the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center.

The draft GMP/EIS describes and analyzes the environmental impacts of a proposed action, two other action alternatives, and a no action alternative. The proposed action, alternative 1, would balance resource management and visitor use. It would improve visitor

access and safety and the accuracy of information available to potential park and city visitors. It also would better protect cultural resources and enhance existing park partnerships. Alternative 2, the no-action alternative, would continue current management direction. Benefits would continue for visitors in information and interpretation, but crowding in the visitor center unit would result in adverse visitor safety conditions. In addition, the uses of adjacent lands would continue to have adverse effects on visual resources and land use. Alternative 3 would emphasize resource preservation. This alternative would increase protection of cultural and natural resources, moderately benefit visual resources and the visitor experience, and improve park administration and operation. Alternative 4 would accommodate more visitors during peak visitation times. It would lead to some improvement in visitor access and circulation in and near the park, improvements in opportunities for information about Sitka attractions, and a better visitor experience.

Dated: June 18, 1998.

Paul R. Anderson,

Regional Director, Alaska.

[FR Doc. 98-17084 Filed 6-25-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Salton Sea Project, Riverside and Imperial Counties, California

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the improvement of the Salton Sea, California and notice of public scoping meetings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the Salton Sea Authority (Authority), State of California, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, will be preparing an EIR/EIS document to assess the impacts of alternative solutions for restoring the Salton Sea (Sea) located in Riverside and Imperial Counties, California.

DATES: Written comments on the scoping issues will be accepted until September 30, 1998. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following locations:

July 15, 1998, 5 PM—8 PM, Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, West Shores Post 3251, 50 Desert Shores Drive, Desert Shores, California.

July 16, 1998, 5 PM—8 PM, Imperial Irrigation District Board Room, 81-600 Avenue 58, La Quinta, California.

July 17, 1998, 10 AM—1 PM, El Centro Board of Supervisors Chambers, 940 Main Street, Suite 212, El Centro, California.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region, PO Box 61470, Boulder City, NV, 89006-1470, ATTN: Salton Sea Program Manager or to the Salton Sea Authority, Tom Kirk, Executive Director, 46-209 Oasis Street, 2nd Floor, Indio, CA 92201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. William Steele, Salton Sea Program Manager (Reclamation), at (702) 293-8129; or Mr. Tom Kirk, Salton Sea Authority Executive Director, at (760) 863-7942.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pub. L. 102-575, 1992, directs the Secretary of the Interior to "conduct a research project for the development of a method or combination of methods to reduce and control salinity, provide endangered species habitat, enhance fisheries, and protect human recreational values * * * in the area of the Salton Sea * * *". In addition to this authority, Reclamation and the Authority have entered into an agreement, Salton Sea Planning and Research Program, to jointly study problems associated with the Sea.

The Authority is a public agency formed under the provisions of Articles I and II, Chapter 5, Division 7, Title 1 of the Government Code of the State of California for the purpose of "directing and coordinating actions relating to improvement of water quality and stabilization of water elevation and to enhance recreational and economic development potential of the Sea and other beneficial uses, recognizing the importance of the Sea for the continuation of the dynamic agricultural economy of Imperial and Riverside Counties."

The Sea is a hypersaline lake located in a closed basin of the southern California desert; it is the largest body of water within California. The Sea was initially formed in 1905-1907 by flooding on the Colorado River which breached an irrigation control structure allowing virtually the full flow of river water into the Salton Basin. The Sea's current existence is primarily due to agricultural drainage from the Imperial, Coachella, and Mexicali Valleys; smaller

volumes of municipal effluent and storm water runoff also flow to the Sea.

The Sea is home to a highly eutrophic ecosystem and a productive sport fishery. The Sea, and wetlands along its shoreline, are a critical part of the Pacific flyway providing seasonal and migratory habitat to millions of birds of varying species. Several endangered species, including the desert pupfish, Yuma clapper rail, brown pelican, peregrine falcon, and bald eagle, inhabit the Sea and/or adjacent habitats.

The Sea ecosystem is under stress. Increasing salinity, currently about 43 parts per thousand, is threatening the reproductive ability of some parts of the biota. Other potential issues include high nutrient loading, heavy metals, DDT residues, and discharges of agricultural chemicals to irrigation drains leading to the Sea. At the scoping meetings, participants will be requested to identify other potentially significant issues as well as potential alternative solutions.

The purpose of the project is to identify a plan that improves the human environment and ecological conditions of the Sea. Based on past studies, various alternatives to control salinity in the Sea have been investigated. These alternatives include diked impoundments, pump-out, a combination of impoundment and pump-out alternatives, and salt removal from inflow to the Sea. Other options may surface during the scoping process. Opportunities to address other environmental issues facing the Sea, including issues related to wildlife resources, will be investigated and considered for implementation as we increase our understanding of the Sea's ecology.

The objective of this effort is to evaluate alternatives (1) capable of maintaining the Sea as a reservoir of agricultural drainage, (2) provide a safe, productive environment for resident and migratory birds and endangered species, (3) restore recreational uses, (4) maintain a viable sport fishery, and (5) identify opportunities for economic development.

The analysis will address the current issues of (1) accumulation and concentration of salts, nutrients, and organic compounds and other constituents, (2) water elevation stabilization, (3) reduced recreational use of the Sea, and (4) reduced ecological values. The environmental document will also address any Indian Trust Assets (ITA) of the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians and assets of any other Tribe(s).

Environmental and engineering baseline data have been collected over