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Dated: February 13, 2002.

Pat Phelan,

Associate Regional Director, Administration, Northeast Region.

[FR Doc. 03-8492 Filed 4-7-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan, County of Hawaii, HI; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

Summary: Pursuant to provisions in § 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Pub. L. 91-190), the National Park Service is initiating conservation planning and environmental impact analysis for a Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) for the recently designated Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. This effort will provide an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and CMP that encompasses protection of sacred, cultural and natural resources, visitor use and interpretation, and facilities. This National Historic Trail traces approximately 175 miles of the prehistoric coastal Ala Loa ("long trail") on the island of Hawaii, from Upolu Point on the northern tip of the island, south along the entire west coast, around Ka Lae (South Point), and then up to the eastern boundary of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. The original trail linked many pre-contact communities on the island, as well as

locations of many significant events in Hawaiian history.

The Ala Kahakai Trail was designated a National Historic Trail by the United States Congress on January 24, 2000. This designation was derived from a trail feasibility study entitled Ala Kahakai National Trail Study (and Final Environmental Impact Statement, January 1998), as well as on testimony offered by community advocacy groups for the trail. On November 13, 2000, the 106th U.S. Congress and President William Clinton officially incorporated the trail into the National Trails System. Pub. L. 106-509 calls for establishment of a continuous trail, which is to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior.

Alternatives: As basis for preparing the Ala Kahakai NHT CMP/EIS, the NPS jointly with the State of Hawaii, Native Hawaiian groups, private landowners and other stakeholders will identify and analyze several alternative management concepts, consistent with agency policy. At this time, in addition to establishing an environmental baseline by developing a "No Action" alternative (maintaining existing conditions and management), the conservation planning process is expected to identify several alternative options for providing visitor use opportunities and suitable protection strategies. The CMP/EIS will evaluate the potential environmental impacts of each alternative, and identify appropriate mitigation actions. The alternatives will be based upon input from the community, an environmental constraints analysis using updated Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data, and other analytical and decision-making methods.

Impact Analysis Issues: The CMP/EIS will be tiered to the 1998 Ala Kahakai National Trail Study and EIS. All issues and concerns which informed completion of that project will be updated through consultations and discussions with current landowners, agencies, Native Hawaiian groups, local business owners, and other stakeholders. A planning newsletter is available detailing issues identified to date (copies may be obtained as noted below). At this time, topics to be addressed include:

- (1) Protection of sacred and cultural Native Hawaiian sites from intended and unintended damage by trail users;
- (2) Management of marine and terrestrial natural resources that are or may be affected by increased public use of the Ala Kahakai;
- (3) Landowner liability with regard to access across privately-owned property, as well as trespassing, littering, and other property offenses (approximately

50% of the trail corridor, much of which may be owned in fee simple by the State of Hawaii, traverses private lands);

(4) Trail maintenance and monitoring by volunteer community-based groups;

(5) Facility development and maintenance; and

(6) Safety and security of trail users.

Scoping/Public Involvement: There will be public open house meetings held throughout the various stages of the overall conservation planning process. These meetings will be hosted in communities across the various regions along the designated trail route. The first public meetings will be to elicit comments that identify new concerns and issues, provide essential environmental information, and suggest trail design alternatives. These initial meetings will take place beginning on March 22, 2003. A final summary of all information developed in the scoping phase will be available. Subsequently, draft management alternatives will be developed and available for review through a second round of public meetings. Finally, public meetings to foster broad review of the Draft CMP/EIS will be hosted. All meetings will be noticed and publicized through the local news media, direct mailings, and on the trail's Web site.

Comments: All responses conveying new information or concerns are encouraged at this time, and may be submitted by any one of several methods. Mail comments to Mr. Mike Donoho, Planning Team Leader, 73-4786 Kanalani Street, #14, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740; or transmit via email c/o mike_donoho@nps.gov (include your name and return address in your email message); or via facsimile to (808) 329-2597. All written scoping comments must be postmarked or transmitted not later than 30 days from the date that this notice is published in the **Federal Register**—as soon as this date has been determined it will be widely publicized, including posting on the trail's Web site to be established in spring 2003.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. If individuals submitting comments request that their name or/and address be withheld from public disclosure, it will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Such requests must be stated prominently in the beginning of the comments. There also may be circumstances wherein the NPS will withhold a respondent's identity as allowable by law. As always: NPS will make available to public inspections all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals

identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses; and, anonymous comments may not be considered.

Decision Process: Availability of the Draft CMP/EIS for review and comment will be officially announced by notice of availability in the **Federal Register**, as well as through local and regional news media, area libraries, and direct mailing. At this time, distribution of the document is anticipated during fall 2004. After due consideration of all comments and information received, a Final CMP/EIS would be prepared which at this time is anticipated could be completed during summer 2005. As a delegated EIS, the official responsible for the final decision is the Regional Director, Pacific West Region; subsequently the official responsible for implementation is the Superintendent, Ala Kahakai National Historic Park.

Dated: February 13, 2003.

Arthur E. Eck,

Deputy Regional Director, Pacific West Region.

[FR Doc. 03-8494 Filed 4-7-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area, Management Plan Update

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area Management Plan Update.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the National Park Service is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Management Plan Update for Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area. The Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area Act of 2000 requires the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority (LHVA), with guidance from the National Park Service, to prepare an update of their 1991 Plan for the Lackawanna Heritage Valley. The Management Plan Update is expected to include: (A) An inventory of the resources contained in the Heritage Area, including a list of any property in the Heritage Area that is related to the purposes of the Heritage Area and that

should be preserved, restored, managed, developed, or maintained because of its historical, cultural, natural, recreational, or scenic significance. (B) A recommendation of policies for resource management that considers and details application of appropriate land and water management techniques, including the development of intergovernmental cooperative agreements to protect the historical, cultural, natural, and recreational resources of the Heritage Area in a manner that is consistent with the support of appropriate and compatible economic viability. (C) A program for implementation of the management plan by the management entity, including (i) plans for restoration and construction; and (ii) specific commitments of the partners for the first 5 years of operation. (D) An analysis of ways in which local, State, and Federal programs may best be coordinated to promote the purposes of this Act. (E) An interpretation plan for the Heritage Area.

The study area, designated as the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area, shall be comprised of all or parts of Lackawanna County, Luzerne County, Wayne County, and Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania in northeastern Pennsylvania as associated with the Lackawanna Valley River corridor.

The National Park Service (NPS) maintains one park site within the region: Steamtown National Historical Park. Otherwise the majority of land is non-Federal and the NPS assumes a management role only within the park unit. Instead, conservation, interpretation and other activities are managed by partnerships among Federal, State, and local governments and private nonprofit organizations. The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority (LHVA) manages the national heritage area. The National Park Service has been authorized by Congress to provide technical and financial assistance for a limited period (up to 10 years from the time of the designation in 2000).

The EIS will address a range of alternatives—they include a no-action alternative and other action alternatives. The impacts of the alternatives will be assessed through the EIS process.

A scoping meeting will be scheduled and notice will be made of the meeting through a broad public mailing and publication in the local newspapers.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Peter Samuel, Project Leader, Philadelphia Support Office, National Park Service, U.S. Customs House, 200 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106, peter_samuel@nps.gov, 215-597-1848.

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Dated: January 28, 2003.

Pat Phelan,

Associate Regional Director, Administration, Northeast Region.

[FR Doc. 03-8493 Filed 4-7-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee: Meeting

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

Notice is here given in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. Appendix (1988), of a meeting of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee.

General Information: The Review Committee was established by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq. Review Committee members are appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. The Review Committee is responsible for monitoring the NAGPRA inventory and identification process; reviewing and making findings related to the identity or cultural affiliation of cultural items, or the return of such items; facilitating the resolution of disputes; compiling an inventory of culturally unidentifiable human remains and developing a process for disposition of such remains; consulting with Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations and museums on matters