

similarly announced in the **Federal Register**. As this is a delegated EIS, the official responsible for the final decision is the Regional Director, Pacific West Region; subsequently the official responsible for implementation would be the Superintendent, Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.

Dated: November 25, 2002.

Arthur E. Eck,

Acting Regional Director, Pacific West Region.

[FR Doc. 02-30485 Filed 12-2-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Lake Meredith National Recreation Area and Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument, Texas

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of a Record of Decision on the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Oil and Gas Management Plan for Lake Meredith National Recreation Area and Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument, Potter, Hutchinson, and Moore Counties, Texas.

SUMMARY: On September 26, 2002, the Director, Intermountain Region, approved the Record of Decision for the project. As soon as practical, the National Park Service will begin to implement the Oil and Gas Management Plan as described as the Preferred Alternative (Alternative B) contained in the FEIS issued on August 9, 2002. In the Preferred Alternative, all areas of the two NPS units would be formally designated as Special Management Areas (SMA's), and specific operating stipulations would be applied. While this alternative was not deemed to be the environmentally preferred alternative, it was determined to best accomplish the legislated purposes of the two NPS units by balancing the statutory mission of the NPS to provide long-term protection to the NPS units' resources and significance, while allowing for the exercise of rights to oil and gas not owned by the United States. It was also determined that implementation of the Preferred Alternative will not constitute an impairment of park resources and values. This course of action and two alternatives were analyzed in the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements. The full range of foreseeable environmental consequences was assessed, and appropriate mitigating measures identified.

The full Record of Decision includes a statement of the decision made; synopses of the alternatives considered, a description of the environmentally preferable alternative; the decision rationale used in selecting the alternative; a finding on impairment of park resources and values; a description of mitigation measures and monitoring plans that will be implemented for the selected alternative; a statement that addresses how all practical means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the selected alternative have been adopted; and a description of public involvement in the decision-making process.

Basis for Decision

In reaching its decision to select the preferred alternative, the National Park Service considered the purposes for which the two NPS units were established, and other laws and policies that apply to lands in the units, including the Organic Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and the *NPS Management Policies*. The National Park Service also carefully considered public comments received during the planning process.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Karren Brown, Superintendent, Lake Meredith National Recreation Area and Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument, P.O. Box 1460, Fritch, TX 79036, Telephone: 806-857-3131.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A limited number of individual copies of the Record of Decision may be obtained from the Superintendent listed above.

Dated: September 26, 2002.

Karen Wade,

Director, Intermountain Region, National Park Service.

[FR Doc. 02-30487 Filed 12-2-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Big Lagoon Wetland and Redwood Creek Restoration, Marin County, California; Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

SUMMARY: In accordance with § 102 (2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et. seq.*), the National Park Service (NPS) is undertaking a comprehensive conservation planning and environmental impact analysis process regarding the proposed restoration/enhancement of the lower Redwood Creek watershed at Muir Beach. The

purpose of the project is to restore or enhance ecological conditions and processes, reducing flooding of local infrastructure, and providing public access to the beach and restored wetland and creek. Key issues to be addressed will include habitat for fish and wildlife, ecosystem conditions and processes, effects on special status plant and animal species, hydrology, flood hazards, traffic, visitor access, and visitor experience. Notice is hereby given that a public scoping process has been initiated. The purpose of the public scoping process is to elicit public comment regarding the full spectrum of issues and concerns, a suitable range of alternatives, the nature and extent of potential environmental impacts or ecological benefits, and appropriate mitigation strategies that should be addressed in preparing a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Background: The Big Lagoon project site is located at the mouth of the Redwood Creek watershed, which drains an 8.9-square-mile area on the southwestern slopes of Mt. Tamalpais in coastal Marin County. Approximately half of the restoration planning area is federally owned and is situated within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA); the remainder is owned by the San Francisco Zen Center. The project site is a popular destination in the park, receiving approximately 440,000 visitors annually. Historically this area supported a freshwater and brackish lagoon with associated permanent and seasonal wetlands, riparian forest, and beach dune communities. The entire area of Muir Beach and the adjacent lowland pastures were part of the Redwood Creek floodplain. The creek meandered across the valley floor and, during floods, deposited sediment across the floodplain area. Today, the creek has been confined and much of the floodplain eliminated due to the combined effects of road and levee construction, channeling projects, and placement of the NPS parking lot and picnic area.

Restoration Goals: The GGNRA is preparing an EIS to address possible extent of restoration and/or enhancement of natural resource values. The goals of the proposal include the following:

- Restore a functional, self-sustaining ecosystem, including wetland, aquatic, dune, upland, and riparian components.
- Develop a restoration design that:
 - (a) Functions in the context of the watershed and other pertinent regional boundaries,
 - (b) identifies and, to the extent possible, mitigates factors that reduce the site's full restoration