

Dated: May 6, 2003.

**Richard G. Ring,**

*Associate Director, Administration, Business Practices and Workforce Development.*

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BILLING CODE 4312-HX-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### Notice of Intent to Issue a Temporary Concession Contract for Food and Beverage, Lodging, and Merchandise Services at Oregon Caves National Monument

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the National Park Service Concessions Management Improvement Act of 1998, notice is hereby given that the National Park Service intends to issue a temporary concession contract authorizing continued operation of food and beverage, overnight lodging and merchandise services to the public within Oregon Caves National Monument. The temporary concession contract will be for a term of not more than 1 year. This short-term concession contract is necessary to avoid interruption of visitor services while the National Park Service completes the solicitation and selection of a concessioner for a new long-term concession contract. This short-term contract will be for a one-seasonal operating period ending October 31, 2003. This notice is pursuant to 36 CFR part 51, section 51.24(a).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The previous concession contract at Oregon Caves National Monument expired on October 31, 2002. The operation is seasonal and operates primarily from mid-May through mid-September and provides visitors with lodging, food and beverage and merchandise services. The prospectus for Oregon Caves National Monument long-term concession contract was issued in February 2003 and the solicitation period will not be concluded until May of 2003. The review of proposals and selection of a concessioner will not be completed for another several months. The short-term concession contract is necessary to avoid the interruption of visitor services for the summer operating season of 2003 while the National Park Service conducts its solicitation and the evaluation of offers for the award of a new long-term concession contract.

Information about this notice can be sought from: National Park Service, Chief, Concession Program Management Office, Pacific West Region, Attn: Mr. Tony Sisto, 1111 Jackson Street, Suite

700, Oakland, California 94607 or call 510/817-1366.

Dated: May 1, 2003.

**Richard G. Ring,**

*Associate Director, Administration, Business Practices and Workforce Development.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare a General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Cumberland Gap National Historical Park (KY, TN, VA)

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the National Park Service (Service) will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the General Management Plan for Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. The EIS will assess potential environmental impacts associated with various types and levels of visitor use and resources management within the National Historical Park. This General Management Plan/EIS is being prepared in response to the requirements of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, Public Law 95-625, and in accord with Director's Order Number 2, the planning directive for NPS units.

The NPS will conduct public scoping meetings in the local area to receive input from interested parties on issues, concerns, and suggestions pertinent to the management of Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. Representatives of the NPS will be available to discuss issues, resource concerns, and the planning process at each of the public meetings. Suggestions and ideas for managing the cultural and natural resources and visitor experiences at the park are encouraged.

**DATES:** Locations, dates, and times of public scoping meetings will be published in local newspapers and may also be obtained by contacting the park Superintendent. This information will also be published on the General Management Plan web site for Cumberland Gap, <http://www.nps.gov/cuga>.

**ADDRESSES:** Scoping suggestions should be submitted to the following address to ensure adequate consideration by the NPS: Superintendent, Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, P.O. Box 1848, Middlesboro, Kentucky 40965, Telephone: 606-248-2817, Email: [CUGA\\_Superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:CUGA_Superintendent@nps.gov).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Superintendent, Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, P.O. Box 1848, Middlesboro, Kentucky 40965, Telephone: 606-248-2817, Email: [CUGA\\_Superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:CUGA_Superintendent@nps.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park is located on the tri-state boundaries of Kentucky, Virginia, and Tennessee. The park was authorized on June 11, 1940, and now consists of over 20,000 acres. The park lies in four counties in the three states, ranges from 1 to 4 miles in width, and stretches for 20 miles astride the forested Cumberland Mountain. Fourteen thousand acres in the park are managed as wilderness. The Cumberland Gap itself is a natural notch in the mountain ridge. It was this low passageway that provided access for travel among American Indian tribes and access for Daniel Boone and hundreds of thousands of settlers who poured into the west in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

The Gap continued to serve as a strategic transportation corridor during the Civil War and during the late 19th-century period of intense industrial development. Today the Cumberland Gap Tunnel provides easy and safe vehicular travel among the connecting states, and the historic corridor has been returned to its natural topography. Visitors are able to walk in the footsteps of pioneers along the Wilderness Road through the restored Gap.

Public documents associated with the planning effort, including all newsletters, will be posted on the Internet through the park's website at <http://www.nps.gov/cuga>.

The Draft and Final General Management Plan/EIS will be made available to all known interested parties and appropriate agencies. Full public participation by Federal, State, and local agencies as well as other concerned organizations and private citizens is invited throughout the preparation process of this document. Please note that due to public disclosure requirements, the NPS, if requested, will make the names and addresses of those who submit written comments public. Anonymous comments will not be considered; however, individual respondents may request that we withhold their names and addresses from the public record. If you wish to withhold your name and/or address, you must state that request prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as