

p.m.) Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EIS. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, please state this prominently at the beginning of your written correspondence. The BLM will honor such requests to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information or to have your name added to the Coeur d'Alene RMP Mailing List, contact Scott Pavey at the Coeur d'Alene Field Office (see address above), telephone (208) 769-5059.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Coeur d'Alene RMP planning area is located entirely in the northern part of the Idaho panhandle. The area is bordered to the west by the Washington state line, to the north by the Canadian border, to the east by the Montana state line, and to the south by Latah and Clearwater Counties, Idaho. The Coeur d'Alene Field Office planning area also lies partially within the ceded territory of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. The Coeur d'Alene Reservation lies entirely within the planning area, and there are about 180 acres of BLM-administered land within the reservation boundary. Management of BLM-administered lands within the ceded area and the reservation boundaries will involve trust and treaty resources. Other Federally recognized tribes with aboriginal or historic ties to the planning area include the Kootenai Tribe in Idaho, the Kalispell Tribe in Washington, and the Salish and Kootenai Tribes in Montana.

The BLM-administered public lands within the Coeur d'Alene Field Office planning area are currently managed in accordance with the decisions in the 1981 Emerald Empire Management Framework Plan (MFP) as amended. BLM will continue to manage these lands in accordance with the MFP and amendments until the RMP is completed and a Record of Decision is signed.

Preparation of an RMP for the Coeur d'Alene Field Office is necessary to respond to changing resource conditions; respond to new issues; and prepare a comprehensive framework for managing public lands administered by the field office. The RMP will establish

new land use planning decisions to address issues identified through public scoping and, where appropriate, will incorporate decisions from the existing Emerald Empire MFP.

Public Participation: The BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to local, regional, and national interests. The public scoping process will help identify planning issues and provide for public comment on the proposed planning criteria.

BLM has identified the following preliminary issue themes:

1. Vegetation management (including noxious weeds, riparian areas and wetlands, and fuels and forest management).
2. Fire management.
3. Management of habitat for wildlife and special status species.
4. Management of transportation, public access, and recreational opportunities.
5. Land tenure adjustments.
6. Availability and management of public lands for commercial uses (minerals, forest products and livestock grazing).
7. Management of areas with special values.
8. Tribal treaty rights and trust responsibilities.

These preliminary issue themes are not final and may be refined or added to through future public participation.

BLM has also identified some preliminary planning criteria to guide development of the plan, to avoid unnecessary data collection and analysis, and to ensure the plan is tailored to the issues.

These criteria may be modified or other criteria identified during the public scoping process. The public is invited to comment on the following preliminary planning criteria:

1. The plan will comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and current policies. This includes local, State, tribal, and Federal air quality standards; as well as water quality standards from the Idaho Non-Point Source Management Program Plans.
2. The RMP planning effort will be collaborative and multi-jurisdictional in nature. The BLM will strive to ensure that its management decisions are complementary to other planning jurisdictions and adjoining properties, within the boundaries described by law and Federal Regulations.
3. All previously established Wilderness Study Areas will continue to be managed for wilderness values and character until Congress designates them as wilderness areas, or releases them for multiple use management.

4. The RMP will recognize all valid existing rights.

5. As part of this RMP process, BLM will analyze areas for potential designation as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) in accordance with 43 CFR 1610.7-2, and river corridors for suitability for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Dated: July 6, 2004.

K. Lynn Bennett,

Idaho State Director, Bureau of Land Management.

[FR Doc. 04-19916 Filed 9-2-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore General Management Plan, Environmental Impact Statement, Wisconsin

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the General Management Plan, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4332(C), the National Park Service (NPS) is preparing an environmental impact statement for a general management plan for Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Wisconsin. The environmental impact statement will be approved by the Regional Director, Midwest Region.

The general management plan will establish the overall direction for the park, setting broad management goals for managing the area over the next 15 to 20 years. The plan will prescribe desired resource conditions and visitor experiences that are to be achieved and maintained throughout the park based on such factors as the park's purpose, significance, special mandates, the body of laws and policies directing park management, resource analysis, and the range of public expectations and concerns. The plan, also, will outline the kinds of resource management activities, visitor activities, and developments that would be appropriate in the park in the future.

A range of reasonable alternatives for managing the park will be developed through this planning process and will include, at a minimum, a no-action and a preferred alternative. Major issues the plan will address include changes in visitor use patterns, adequacy and

sustainability of existing visitor facilities and park operations, management of natural and cultural resources, and partnership opportunities. The environmental impact statement will evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the alternative management approaches.

As the first phase of the planning process, the NPS is beginning to scope the issues to be addressed in the general management plan/environmental impact statement. All interested persons, organizations, and agencies are encouraged to submit comments and suggestions on issues and concerns that should be addressed in the general management plan/environmental impact statement, and the range of appropriate alternatives that should be examined.

DATES: The NPS is planning to begin public scoping in September 2004 via a newsletter to State and Federal Agencies; associated American Indian tribes; neighboring communities; county commissioners; local organizations, researchers, and institutions; the congressional delegation; and other interested members of the public. In addition, the NPS will hold public scoping meetings regarding the general management plan beginning in October 2004. At least one public meeting will be held in Bayfield, Wisconsin. Specific dates, times, and locations will be announced in the local media, on the Internet at <http://www.nps.gov/apis>, and will, also, be available by contacting the park's chief of planning and resource management. In addition to attending the scoping meetings, people wishing to provide input to this initial phase of developing the general management plan/environmental impact statement may mail or e-mail comments to the park's chief of planning and resource management at the address below.

ADDRESSES: General park information requests or requests to be added to the project mailing list should be directed to: Jim Nepstad, Chief of Planning and Resource Management, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Route 1, Box 4, Bayfield, Wisconsin 54814. Telephone: (715) 779-3398, extension 102, e-mail: jim_nepstad@nps.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Nepstad, Chief of Planning and Resource Management, at the address above. Telephone: (715) 779-3398, extension 102, e-mail: jim_nepstad@nps.gov. General information about Apostle Islands National Lakeshore is available on the Internet at <http://www.nps.gov/apis>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: If you wish to comment on any issues

associated with the plan, you may submit your comments by any one of several methods. You may mail comments to Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Route 1, Box 4, Bayfield, Wisconsin 54814. You may, also, comment via the Internet to apis_comments@nps.gov. Please submit Internet comments as a text file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Be sure to include your name and return street address in your Internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your Internet message, contact us directly at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, (715) 779-3398, extension 102. Finally, you may hand-deliver comments to the park at 415 Washington Avenue, Bayfield, Wisconsin 54814.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There, also, may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: July 9, 2004.

Ernest Quintana,
Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 04-20023 Filed 9-2-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Availability of a Record of Decision on the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Wilderness Study, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of a Record of Decision on the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Wilderness Study, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to § 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, P.L. 91-190, 83 Stat. 852, 853, as

codified as amended at 42 U.S.C. § 4332(2)(C), the National Park Service (NPS) announces the availability of the record of decision for the wilderness study, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Wisconsin. On May 5 the Director, Midwest Region, approved the record of decision for the wilderness study. Specifically, the NPS has selected the preferred alternative (alternative C) as described in the *Final Wilderness Study/Environmental Impact Statement*. Under the selected action (alternative C), the NPS proposes that 33,500 acres of the park's 42,160-acre land base (80%) be permanently protected as wilderness. Basswood, Sand, and Long Islands would not be proposed for wilderness designation.

The selected action and three other alternatives were analyzed in the draft and final environmental impact statements. The full range of foreseeable environmental consequences was assessed.

Among the alternatives the NPS considered, the selected action best protects the park's natural and cultural resources, and most of its wilderness resource, while providing a reasonable level of administrative flexibility for addressing future visitor and management needs. It also ensures that a range of quality recreational and educational experiences will continue to be provided on the islands, meet NPS goals for managing the park, and meet national environmental policy goals. The preferred alternative will not result in the impairment of resources and values.

The record of decision includes a statement of the decision made, synopses of other alternatives considered, the basis for the decision, the rationale for why the selected action is the environmentally preferred alternative, a finding on impairment of park resources and values, and an overview of public involvement in the decisionmaking process.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Jim Nepstad, Wilderness Study Coordinator, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Route 1, Box 4, Bayfield, Wisconsin 54814, or by calling (715) 779-3198, extension 102.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Copies of the record of decision may be obtained from the contact listed above or may be viewed online at <http://www.nps.gov/apis/wstudy.htm>. With the concurrence of the NPS Director, the NPS wilderness proposal will be sent to the Assistant Secretary of Fish and Wildlife and Parks and the Secretary of the Interior, who may revise or approve the proposal. The Secretary may then forward a