

an opportunity to review and comment on draft recovery plans. We consider all information presented during the comment period prior to approving any new or revised recovery plan. We and other Federal agencies also consider these comments when implementing approved recovery plans.

Holy Ghost ipomopsis was given endangered status under the Act on March 23, 1994 (59 FR 13840). It is known from a single canyon in the Santa Fe National Forest in northwestern San Miguel County, New Mexico. An estimated 2,500 plants occupy about 80 hectares (200 acres) along a U.S. Forest Service road. Impacts from road maintenance, recreation, and catastrophic forest fire are immediate management concerns. In the long term, present land uses influence management away from frequent disturbances that produce the preferred habitat for this species.

Recovery will focus on protecting and enhancing the existing population. Additional recovery work will include research to determine the biological and ecological requirements of the species, establishment of a botanical garden population and a seed bank, and establishment of seven more populations in suitable habitat in the upper Pecos River Basin.

Public Comments Solicited

We are soliciting written comments on the draft Holy Ghost Ipomopsis Recovery Plan. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to approval of the plan.

Authority: The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: February 3, 1999.

Lynn B. Starnes,

Acting Regional Director, Southwest Region, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 99-3345 Filed 2-23-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Receipt of Application for Approval

The following applicant has applied for approval to conduct certain activities with birds that are protected in accordance with the Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 112(4) of the Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992, 50 CFR 15.26(c).

Applicant: Judith A. Robben, Goddard, KS. The applicant wishes to

establish a cooperative breeding program for the Roseifron conure (*Pyrrhura picta roseifrons*), the Rose-crowned conure (*Pyrrhura rhodoccephala*) and the Fiery-shouldered conure (*Pyrrhura egregia egregia* and *Pyrrhura egregia obscura*). Ms. Robben wishes to be an active participant in this program with five other private individuals. The Coastal Carolina Bird Society has assumed the responsibility for the oversight of the program.

Written data or comments should be submitted to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203 and must be received by the Director within 30 days of the date of this publication.

Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, *subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act*, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone: (703/358-2095); FAX: (703/358-2298).

Dated: February 17, 1999.

Dr. Rosemarie Gnam,

Chief, Branch of Operations, Office of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 99-4477 Filed 2-23-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Oil and Gas Management Plan, Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Padre Island National Seashore, Texas

AGENCY: National Park Service, DOI.

ACTION: Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Oil and Gas Management Plan for Padre Island National Seashore, Texas.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the National Park Service (NPS) announces the availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Oil and Gas Management Plan (DEIS/OGMP) for Padre Island National Seashore, Texas.

DATES: The DEIS/OGMP will remain available for public review through May 12, 1999. If any public meetings are held concerning the DEIS/OGMP, they will be announced at a later date.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the DEIS/OGMP should be sent to the Superintendent, Padre Island National Seashore, P.O. Box 181300, Corpus Christi, Texas 78480-1300. Public reading copies of the DEIS/OGMP will be available for review at the following locations:

Office of the Superintendent, Padre Island National Seashore, 20301 Park Road 22, Corpus Christi, Texas, Telephone: 361-949-8173

Office of Minerals/Oil and Gas Support, Intermountain Support Office-Santa Fe, National Park Service, 1100 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501, Telephone 505-988-6095

Planning and Environmental Quality, Intermountain Support Office-Denver, National Park Service, 12795 W. Alameda Parkway, Lakewood, CO 80228, Telephone: (303) 969-2851

Office of Public Affairs, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 18th and C Streets NW, Washington, DC 20240, Telephone: (202) 208-6843

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Oil and Gas Management planning objectives are: 1) identify which park resources and values are most sensitive to oil and gas exploration and development disturbance, and define impact mitigation requirements to protect such resources, 2) establish reasonable oil and gas exploration and development performance standards to protect park resources and values, and 3) provide pertinent information to oil and gas operators that will facilitate operations planning and compliance with all applicable regulations. Three alternatives are analyzed in the DEIS/OGMP for managing surface uses associated with the exploration, development, and transportation of nonfederal oil and gas underlying Padre Island National Seashore. Under Alternative A: Proposed Action, there would be no surface occupancy in some sensitive resource areas that have important natural, cultural and visitor use values. Alternative B is the No Action/Current Management alternative that provides for the continuing evaluation and permitting of operations on a case-by-case basis. Under Alternative C: Maximum Protection Alternative there would be no access in any sensitive resource area for any type of nonfederal oil and gas activity.

The DEIS/OGMP evaluates the environmental consequences of the proposed action and the other alternatives on oil and gas exploration and development, soil and water resources, wetlands, cultural resources,

visitor experience, and sensitive resource areas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact Superintendent, Padre Island National Seashore, at the above address and telephone number.

Dated: February 26, 1999.

John Gibson,

Acting Superintendent, Padre Island National Seashore.

[FR Doc. 99-4481 Filed 2-23-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Scoping for Fire Management Plan Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Tulare & Fresno Counties, California

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et. seq.) that public scoping has been initiated for a conservation planning and impact analysis process for updating the fire management plan for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The purpose of the scoping process is to elicit early public comment regarding issues and concerns, a suitable range of alternatives and appropriate mitigating measures, and the nature and extent of potential environmental impacts which should be addressed.

Background

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, units of the National Park System, are managed as one administrative unit. Extensive research has shown that fire is a significant natural process across a large portion of the 864,000 acres of the parks. An extensive fire management program was begun in 1968 and has continued to the present time. All forms of fire management, from aggressive suppression to managing natural (lightning) ignitions, have been used to achieve natural and cultural resource management and hazard fuel reduction goals. The parks fire management program also has a significant fire prevention and suppression function.

The last revision of the fire management plan culminated in a *Finding Of No Significant Impact*, dated November 1, 1989. Since that time, a range of new issues, improved information, and unforeseeable constraints have emerged which have the potential to affect the future direction of the fire management

program within the parks. Some of these issues include but are not limited to: a continued decline in ecosystem health due to fire suppression, increased hazards and costs associated with fire suppression, and more stringent air quality regulations.

Comment and Approval

As noted, the National Park Service will undertake an environmental analysis effort to address issues and alternatives for fire management in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. At this time, it has not been determined whether an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared, however, this scoping process will aid in the preparation of either document.

As the first step in this undertaking, a series of five public scoping meetings will be conducted during March, 1999. California cities where scoping meetings will be held are:

- Wednesday March 3, 7:00 pm at Fort Miller Middle School Cafeteria, 1302 E. Dakota, Fresno;
- Wednesday March 10, 7:00 pm at the Tulare County Education Center (Education Building Corner of Burrell Ave. near the County Civic Center), Visalia;
- Monday March 15, 7:00 pm at the Visitor Center Auditorium at Griffith Park, Los Angeles;
- Monday March 22, 7:00 pm at the Presidio Visitor Center, 1st floor conference room, Building 102 on Montgomery St., San Francisco (adjacent parking available on parade grounds);
- Tuesday March 23, 7:30 pm at Three Rivers Union School gym.

For those unable to attend meetings, a scoping document will be available through the park. The main topics addressed in the scoping document and meetings are: background information on the fire management program; a review of relevant policy and law affecting the fire management program; an assessment of current fire management needs; and the identification of issues and alternatives related to the fire management in the parks.

Interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to provide comments or suggestions. Written comments regarding the fire management program must be postmarked no later than June 7, 1999. For additional information on the scoping meetings, or to request a copy of the scoping background material and provide comments, please contact: Superintendent, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks; Attn: Fire

Management Plan; Three Rivers, California 93271 (telephone (559) 565-3164 or email seki_fire@nps.gov).

The official responsible for approval is the Regional Director, Pacific West Region, National Park Service. The official responsible for implementation is Michael J. Tollefson, Superintendent, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The draft fire management plan and environmental document are expected to be available for public review in January, 2000. At this time it is anticipated that the final plan and environmental document are to be completed in June, 2000.

Dated: February 16, 1999.

John J. Reynolds,

Regional Director, Pacific West.

[FR Doc. 99-4484 Filed 2-23-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Record of Decision; Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement; Oregon Caves National Monument, Oregon

ACTION: Notice of Approval of Record of Decision.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the regulations promulgated by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1505.2), the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, has prepared a Record of Decision on the Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Oregon Caves National Monument in Oregon.

DATES: The Record of Decision was recommended by the Superintendent of Oregon Caves National Monument, concurred by the Deputy Regional Director, Pacific West Region, and approved by the Regional Director, Pacific West Region, on December 23, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Inquiries regarding the Record of Decision or the Environmental Impact Statement should be submitted to the Superintendent, Oregon Caves National Monument, 19000 Caves Highway, Cave Junction, OR 97523, phone (541) 592-2100.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The text of the Record of Decision follows:

The Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS), has prepared this Record of Decision (ROD) on the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the General Management Plan for Oregon Caves