

disturbance of unique sites, increased erosion or debris flow, increased air pollution, hazards to life and property, visitor inconvenience, and damage to cultural resources.

A scoping brochure has been prepared describing the issues identified to date. Copies of the brochures may be obtained from Sarah Craighead, Superintendent, Saguaro National Park, 3693 S. Old Spanish Trail, Tucson, AZ 95730, (520) 733-5153.

DATES: The Park Service will accept comments from the public for 30 days from the date this notice is published in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Information will be available for public review and comment in the Fire Management Office, Saguaro National Park, 3693 S. Old Spanish Trail, Tucson, AZ 85730, (520) 733-5130.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chuck Scott, Fire Management Officer, Saguaro National Park, (520) 733-5130.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: If you wish to comment on the scoping brochure, or any other issues associated with the plan, you may submit your comments by any one of the several methods. You may mail comments to Chuck Scott, Fire Management Officer, Saguaro National Park, 3693 S. Old Spanish Trail, Tucson, AZ 85730. You may also comment via the Internet to Chuck_Scott@nps.gov. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include "Attn: Fire Management Plan" and your name and return 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 the Fire Management Office (520) 733-5130. Finally, you may hand-deliver comments to the above address. 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 name and/or address, you must state this preeminently at the beginning of your comments. 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.

Karen P. Wade,

Director, Intermountain Region, National Park Service.

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BILLING CODE 4310-70-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for a right-of-way request to cross the Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway (Riverway) with the Arrowhead—Weston Electric Transmission Line Project, Wisconsin.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), the National Park Service (NPS) will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to consider a right-of-way request from Minnesota Power and Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (the Utilities). The Utilities are requesting the right-of-way in order to cross the Namekagon River with the Arrowhead-Weston Electric Transmission Line Project.

The Arrowhead-Weston Electric Transmission Line Project is a proposed 345-kilovolt (kV) bulk electric transmission line that would reach 220 miles from the Arrowhead Substation near Duluth, Minnesota to the Weston Substation near Wausau, Wisconsin. According to the applicants, the purpose of the project is to strengthen the bulk transmission system by providing a second high-capacity connection across the Wisconsin-Minnesota transmission interface. The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, the State Agency with regulatory authority for the overall project, approved the routing for the line in late 2001. The Utilities are now seeking other necessary permits from Federal, State and local agencies.

The State-approved route for the Arrowhead-Weston Project crosses the Namekagon River in Stinnett Township, approximately 10 river miles west of Hayward, Wisconsin. The Namekagon River is part of the Riverway, which is administered by the NPS. The Utilities need a right-of-way permit from the NPS to cross the Riverway. The Utilities propose to cross at an existing 161-kV transmission line easement granted to

Xcel Energy by private landowners prior to NPS land acquisition in the area. The span of the transmission line that would be within the Riverway boundary is 4500 feet.

The EIS will consider a range of alternatives for the crossing including a double-circuit single overhead transmission line combined with the existing 161-kV line, undergrounding the existing 161kV with the proposed 345-kV line built overhead, undergrounding the 345-kV line with the 161-kV line built overhead, and undergrounding both lines. Depending on the alternative, an additional 10–55 feet of right-of-way would be required on the eastside of the existing transmission line easement. A no action alternative will be included to provide a baseline of existing conditions against which to compare the impacts of the action alternatives. An additional alternative will be considered that would go around the Namekagon River to the east in order to disclose the potential impacts should the right-of-way request be denied. Since the NPS has no authority to require such a route, this alternative will be explored in a general, rather than site specific, sense.

The Riverway was designated under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1968 (Public Law 90-542, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1271–1287) to protect its free-flowing quality and its outstanding natural, scenic, aesthetic, cultural, and recreational values. The EIS will analyze the impacts of each alternative on natural and cultural resources, scenic values, recreation use, and social and economic resources. Major issues to be addressed in the EIS will include the impact of the proposed crossing on scenic values and the visitor experience. The responsible NPS manager must determine whether or not the proposed action could lead to impairment of park resources and values. The information presented in the EIS will be used to reach a decision about the right-of-way request.

Additional issues to be addressed in the EIS may be identified during the scoping process. Federal, State, local agencies, and individuals or organizations are invited to participate in the scoping process. The scoping process will include the identification of potential issues, the identification of potential impact topics and topics to be analyzed in depth, and the determination of potential cooperating agencies and assignment of responsibilities.

DATES: A public scoping meeting in an open house format will be held in the Hayward area in early fall. Public notice

of the open house will be made in the local press. The public is encouraged to attend the scoping meeting and send written comments and suggestions concerning preparation of the EIS to Mr. Thomas Bradley, Superintendent, Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway, PO Box 708, 401 Hamilton Street, Saint Croix Falls, Wisconsin 54024. The NPS will accept comments at this address at any time during the EIS process. However, to facilitate timely identification of issues and impact topics to be addressed in the EIS, the NPS recommends that initial comments be submitted by November 1, 2002.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There may also be circumstances where we would withhold from the record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives, officials, organizations, or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Jill Medland, Compliance Specialist, Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway, PO Box 708, 401 Hamilton Street, Saint Croix Falls, Wisconsin 54024, telephone 715-483-3284, Extension 609.

Dated: September 4, 2002.

William W. Schenk,

Regional Director, Midwest Region.

[FR Doc. 02-24066 Filed 9-20-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS) will prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the Feasibility Study (Special Resource Study) on the

Preservation of Civil War Battlefields and Related Historic Sites along the Vicksburg Campaign Trail in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee. These sites will each be examined with a view to how they might best be preserved and linked together into the Vicksburg Campaign Trail. The study process entails evaluating the national significance, suitability, feasibility, and management options for each identified site according to NPS standards and criteria established by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields (1993).

For each site, experts and professional historians will determine whether it qualifies as Tier I (nationally significant), Tier II (regionally or state significant), or Tier III (locally significant). Based on this evaluation, some sites may be recommended for addition to the National Park System. Protection and interpretation of sites not recommended for addition to the National Park System will be sought via other arrangements, that may include management by other Federal agencies, State or local governments, non-profit organizations or private owners. These different management options form the basis for various alternatives, the environmental impacts of which will be analyzed in the DEIS. Through the scoping process, the NPS welcomes suggestions from the public both of potential sites and possible management options.

DATES: Public meetings will be conducted during the course of the project. Additional scoping opportunities such as public meetings, newsletters, etc. will be announced in the local media. Representatives of the NPS will be available to discuss issues, resource concerns, and the planning process at each of the public meetings. This Notice will also serve as an additional scoping method. Persons who may be interested in or affected by the Feasibility Study/DEIS are invited to participate in the scoping process by responding to this Notice with written comments. The scoping process will help define issues or problems facing the feasibility study.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the Vicksburg Campaign Trail Feasibility Study, potential sites, management options, and environmental issues that should be addressed should be directed to Bill Koning, National Park Service Planner, Denver Service Center, PO Box 25287, 12795 W. Alameda Parkway, Denver, CO 80225-0287.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for information concerning

dates and background on the feasibility study, including a brochure describing the process should be directed to William O. Nichols, Superintendent, Vicksburg National Military Park, 3201 Clay Street, Vicksburg, MS 39183, (601) 636-0583, or Bill Koning, National Park Service Planner, Denver Service Center, PO Box 25287, 12795 W. Alameda Parkway, Denver, CO 80225-0287, (303) 969-2390.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 4, 1863, after an eight-month campaign and siege, heavily-fortified Vicksburg, Mississippi capitulated to Federal forces commanded by General Ulysses S. Grant. This surrender gave the Union control of the Lower Mississippi River and effectively cut the Confederate States of America in half. It was regarded by many at the time, including President Abraham Lincoln, as one of the pivotal events of that great conflict; contemporary Civil War historians continue to regard it in that light. Grant's monumental campaign to capture the "Gibraltar of the Confederacy" is seen by military historians as a brilliant logistical exhibition, encompassing long and difficult flanking maneuvers, cavalry raids, pitched battles, naval engagements, and siege warfare. Grant's triumph at Vicksburg paved the way for his subsequent battles at Chattanooga in November 1863, and then—as commander of all Union armies—at the Wilderness and Petersburg; ultimately, it made possible his starring role at Appomattox as well as his eventual election as President of the United States.

In November 2000, Public Law 106-487 authorized a feasibility study on the preservation of Civil War battlefields along the Vicksburg Campaign Trail. The task is to examine and evaluate a variety of sites in four states associated with the Civil War events of the Vicksburg Campaign. The feasibility study is to be completed within three years and is to examine a large number (over 400) and wide variety of sites in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Each site will be evaluated for national significance, as well as the suitability and feasibility of adding it to the National Park System. This DEIS will examine the potential environmental effects of different management options for the sites found to be eligible for inclusion in the National Park System.

The legislation directs a review of current NPS programs, policies, and criteria to determine the most appropriate means of preservation; to make evaluations for the establishment