

broader interpretive mandate than in Alternative B to include a wider range of themes and historic periods as well as natural resource themes. The three alternatives are described in detail in chapter 2 of the draft plan. The key impacts of implementing the three alternatives are detailed in chapter 4 and summarized in chapter 2.

**Authority:** The authority for publishing this notice is contained in 40 CFR 1506.6.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Superintendent Randy Wester, P.O. Box 30757, Highway 80 East, Savannah, GA 31410-0757 or telephone at (912) 786-5787.

The responsible official for this Draft EIS is the Regional Director, NPS Southeast Region, 100 Alabama Street SW., 1924 Building, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Dated: May 16, 2012.

**Gordon Wissinger,**

*Acting Regional Director, Southeast Region.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-5L-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

[NPS-PWR-PWRO-0411-10062: 9082-NOCA-409]

#### General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, North Cascades National Park Service Complex, Skagit and Whatcom Counties, WA

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of approval of Record of Decision for General Management Plan.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to § 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Pub. L. 91-190, as amended) and the regulations promulgated by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR part 1505.2), the Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS) has prepared and approved a Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the new General Management Plan (GMP) for Ross Lake National Recreation Area, part of the North Cascades National Park Service Complex (Complex). The requisite no-action "wait period" was initiated December 16, 2011, with the Environmental Protection Agency's **Federal Register** notification of the filing of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS).

*Decision:* As soon as practical the NPS will begin to implement the stewardship strategies, park operations, and visitor

service projects identified and analyzed as the Preferred Alternative (Alternative B) described in the Final EIS. The NPS will recommend legislation to change the name of this unit to North Cascades National Recreation Area (NRA). Other plan elements include: (1) Management focus on the NRA as a gateway to millions of acres of wilderness, (2) provision for continued seaplane access with noise abatement procedures, (3) limited expansion of overnight facilities and concessions, and (4) conversion of 3,559 acres of Thunder Creek Potential Wilderness Area to designated wilderness, pursuant to the Washington Park Wilderness Act of 1988. The full range of foreseeable environmental consequences from implementing the proposed actions were assessed, and appropriate mitigation measures identified. In addition, a No Action alternative and two other alternatives were identified and analyzed. Alternative B was determined to be the "environmentally preferred" course of action.

*Copies:* Interested parties desiring to review the Record of Decision may obtain a copy by contacting the Superintendent, North Cascades National Park Service Complex, 810 State Route 20, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284; or via telephone request at (360) 854-7200.

Dated: May 4, 2012.

**Patricia L. Neubacher,**

*Acting Regional Director, Pacific West Region.*

[FR Doc. 2012-12376 Filed 5-21-12; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

[NPS-AKR-GAAR-0512-10281; 9924-PYS]

#### National Park Service Alaska Region's Subsistence Resource Commission

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of open public meeting and teleconference for the National Park Service (NPS) Alaska Region's Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) program.

**SUMMARY:** The Gates of the Arctic National Park SRC will meet to develop and continue work on NPS subsistence program recommendations and other related subsistence management issues. The NPS SRC program is authorized under Title VIII, Section 808 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Public Law 96-487, to operate in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory

Committee Act. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of this meeting be announced in the **Federal Register**.

*Public Availability of Comments:* This teleconference meeting is open to the public and will have time allocated for public testimony. The public is welcome to present written or oral comments to the SRC. This meeting will be recorded and meeting minutes will be available upon request from the park superintendent for public inspection approximately six weeks after the meeting. Before including your address, telephone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

*Gates of the Arctic National Park SRC Meeting Date and Location:* The Gates of the Arctic National Park SRC teleconference meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 19, 2012, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. or until business is completed at the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve office, 4175 Geist Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709, telephone (907) 457-5752. Should a quorum not be available on June 19, 2012, alternate teleconference meeting dates have been scheduled for Thursday, June 21, 2012, and Tuesday, June 26, 2012, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. If the meeting dates and location are changed, a notice will be published in local newspapers and announced on local radio stations prior to the meeting date. SRC meeting locations and dates may need to be changed based on inclement weather or exceptional circumstances.

*Teleconference Meeting Registration:* Space for the teleconference meeting is limited, and you are encouraged to register early if you plan to participate via telephone. Teleconference meeting participants should contact Marcy Okada, Subsistence Manager, via email ([Marcy\\_Okada@nps.gov](mailto:Marcy_Okada@nps.gov)) or by telephone at (907) 455-0639 between June 11-18, 2012, to receive a toll-free call-in telephone number and code.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Greg Dudgeon, Superintendent or Marcy Okada, Subsistence Manager at (907) 457-5752 or Clarence Summers, Subsistence Manager, NPS Alaska Regional Office, at (907) 644-3603. If you are interested in applying for Gates of the Arctic National Park SRC

membership contact the Superintendent at 4175 Geist Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709, or visit the park Web site at: <http://www.nps.gov/gaar/contacts.htm>.

#### Proposed SRC Meeting Agenda

The proposed meeting agenda for each meeting includes the following:

1. Call to Order—Confirm Quorum
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Administrative Announcements
4. Old Business
  - a. SRC Hunting Plan Recommendations (HP 10–01)
  - b. NPS Subsistence Collections Environmental Assessment Update
5. New Business
6. Public and other Agency Comments
7. Select Time and Location for Next Meeting
8. Adjourn Meeting

**Debora R. Cooper,**

*Associate Regional Director, Resources and Subsistence, Alaska Region.*

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**BILLING CODE 4312–HK–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

[NPS–WASO–CONC–0427–10012: 2410–OYC]

#### Proposed Concession Contract for Yellowstone National Park—Alternative Formula for Calculating Leasehold Surrender Interest

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The National Park Service (NPS) invites public comments on a proposed alternative formula for the value of leasehold surrender interest (LSI) to be included in its proposed 20-year concession contract for Yellowstone National Park (YELL077–13). The contract will cover operation of the lodging, food and beverage, retail sales, transportation and other services at the park.

**DATES:** Public comments will be accepted on or before June 21, 2012.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to Ms. Jo A. Pendry, Chief, Commercial Services Program, National Park Service, 1201 Eye Street NW., 11th Floor, Washington, DC 20005 or via email at [jo\\_pendry@nps.gov](mailto:jo_pendry@nps.gov) or via fax at 202/371–2090.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jo A. Pendry, 202/513–7156.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The NPS intends to solicit proposals for the operation of the lodging, food and beverage, retail sales, transportation and other services at Yellowstone National

Park in 2012. The new contract is intended to be for a term of 20 years and will include an alternative formula for calculating LSI. In this notice, we are soliciting comments on our use of this alternative formula. While we are not required by law to solicit comments on this alternative formula, we are providing an opportunity for public comment because this is only the third time that we have proposed using an alternative LSI formula.

LSI is the interest in real property improvements that a concessioner provides under an NPS concession contract. Public Law 105–391 of 1998 (the 1998 Act) established the standard LSI valuation formula. The formula is generally as follows:

- The initial construction cost of the related capital improvement;
- Adjusted by the percentage increase or decrease in the Consumer Price Index (CPI);
- Less physical depreciation of the related capital improvement.

The 1998 Act also allows alternative LSI-value formulas for contracts with an LSI value over \$10 million. Because the LSI value of the new contract for Yellowstone National Park will exceed \$10 million, we are proposing to use an alternative LSI formula. Under our proposed alternative formula, the LSI value of all eligible capital improvements will be depreciated annually, in equal portions, on a 40-year, straight-line basis during the contract's 20-year term.

#### We Have Made Two Determinations

We have determined, subject to consideration of public comments, that:

- The proposed alternative LSI formula, in comparison to the standard LSI formula, is necessary to provide a fair return to the Government and to foster competition for the new contract by providing a reasonable opportunity for profit to the new concessioner.
- The proposed alternative LSI formula is consistent with the objectives of the 1998 Act, particularly, as discussed below, with respect to the fair return it will provide to the Government and the new concessioner and the enhanced competition it will foster.

The 1998 Act does not require these determinations or this **Federal Register** notice for alternative LSI formulas (such as the one we propose) that are based on annual straight line depreciation of the initial value as provided under 1998 Federal income tax laws and regulations. However, because this is only the third time that we have proposed using an alternative LSI formula, we have made these

determinations and are publishing this notice to solicit public comment.

If we adopt the alternative LSI formula, it will apply only to the new contract, YELL077–13. We have made no decision to apply the proposed LSI formula or any other LSI alternative to other future concession contracts. If we consider using an alternative LSI formula for any other contracts, we will ask for public comments if required or appropriate.

#### First Determination: Fair Return to the Government

We have determined, subject to consideration of public comments, that the proposed alternative LSI formula is necessary to provide a fair return to the Government, as well as helping to provide a fair return to the new concessioner.

We consider that “fair return” to the Government includes the requirement of the 1998 Act that we include in concession contracts a franchise fee payable to the Government that is based upon consideration of the probable value to the concessioner of the privileges granted by the contract. However, under the standard LSI formula, the amount of money that we would pay (directly or indirectly) for LSI as of the expiration of the new contract is inevitably speculative as of the time of contract solicitation, contract award, and during the contract term. This is because we and prospective concessioners must estimate in advance the future CPI rate, the amount of depreciation that will occur over the term of the contract, and the cost to cure the depreciation.

Thus, if we use the standard LSI formula to establish the required minimum franchise fee for the new contract, that fee will reflect speculative estimates of CPI and depreciation rates over the term of the contract. Likewise, when a prospective concessioner offers to meet or exceed the minimum franchise fee that we would establish under the standard LSI formula, this business decision relies on speculative estimates of future CPI and depreciation rates. A more dependable LSI value will allow us to better project the long-term cost of the concessioner's investment and to calculate a franchise fee that provides a fair return.

For these reasons, we consider it necessary to include the proposed alternative LSI formula in the new contract in order to provide a fair return to the Government.