

GMP Dynamic Sourcebook - Appendix C: Examples of Legal Requirement Sections

C.2 Examples of Documentation

Example 3: Briefing Statement Accompanying the Chickasaw GMP/EIS Federal Register Notice

January 5, 2005

Notice Briefing Statement

Unit: Chickasaw National Recreation Area

Title: Notice of termination of an environmental impact statement for the Chickasaw National Recreation Area General Management Plan

Congressional District:

Oklahoma: 3rd District: Tom Cole

Senate: James Inhofe and Tom Coburn

The National Park Service (NPS) is terminating the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Chickasaw National Recreation Area General Management Plan (GMP) because it has determined an environmental assessment (EA) will suffice.

Background

- A notice of intent to prepare an EIS for the Chickasaw National Recreation Area GMP was published in Vol. 67, No. 184, of the September 23, 2002, *Federal Register*. The congressional delegation's staff was notified that the National Park Service was updating the GMP that guides the management of Chickasaw National Recreation Area during the initial scoping for this project in the summer of 2002.
- *The DO-12 Handbook* states that it is standard NPS practice and policy to prepare an EIS for a park GMP because a GMP is a major federal action, with long-term management implications for a national park system unit (sec. 7.1A). The Environmental Quality Division, through the Associate Director for Natural Resources Stewardship and Science, may grant an exception to the EIS requirement when it is clear that the potential for significant impact does not exist. The request for a waiver was approved on December 19, 2005.
- Section 4.10 of *The DO-12 Handbook* states that if an EIS is terminated, a *Federal Register* notice announcing the termination must be published.

Issues

- The plan was originally scoped as an EIS. However, few public comments were received in the scoping process. Although several concerns were expressed during the public scoping process, particularly on the future of the recreation area's water resources, no issues were identified for the GMP that have the potential for controversial impacts. The planning process has generated little public interest and controversy and no substantive issues have been raised by the public.
- None of the three alternatives developed for the national recreation area would result in substantial changes in the operation and management of the area. No major or significant impacts to resources from any of the actions in the action alternatives were identified in the analysis of impacts.

- Work is now proceeding on completing the GMP/EA. Converting the EIS to an EA will substantially reduce costs and time in completing the planning process.
- The draft GMP/EA is expected to be distributed for a 30-day public comment period in the summer/fall of 2006. The draft document will be mailed to the recreation area's mailing list, placed on the park's website, and be available at the recreation area and other locations. Public open houses on the draft document will be held in Sulphur and surrounding communities. Input from local/state official is anticipated upon release of the draft document. A finding of no significant impact (FONSI) is expected to be signed by the regional director, in the fall of 2006, completing the planning process.

Contact: Greg Jarvis, GMP Project Manager, Denver Service Center, 303-969-2198
Connie Rudd, Superintendent, Chickasaw National Recreation Area,
580-622-3161, ext. 1-200