

Dated: June 29, 2015.

**Alma Rippes**,

Chief, Office of Policy.

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## DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

### National Park Service

[NPS-SERO-BICY-17490; PPSEROC3, PMP00UP05.YP0000]

#### Determination of Eligibility for Consideration as Wilderness Areas, Intent To Prepare Wilderness Study, Big Cypress National Preserve

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

**ACTION:** Notice of determination of wilderness eligibility for lands in Big Cypress National Preserve and intent to expand the scope of the Backcountry Access Plan (BAP)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to include a wilderness study.

**SUMMARY:** The National Park Service (NPS) has completed a Wilderness Eligibility Assessment to determine if lands within the original 1974 legislated boundary of Big Cypress National Preserve (Preserve) meet criteria indicating eligibility for preservation as wilderness. Based on the assessment, the NPS has concluded that of the 557,065 acres assessed, 188,323 acres meet the eligibility criteria.

In accordance with NPS *Management Policies 2006*, Section 6.2.2, the scope of the BAP/EIS currently being prepared for the Preserve will be expanded to include a wilderness study to determine if any portions of the Preserve should be recommended for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System as defined in the Wilderness Act of 1964. A notice of intent to prepare an EIS with the BAP was published in the **Federal Register** of March 11, 2014. This additional notice is being published in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), specifically 40 CFR 1501.7.

The NPS will conduct public meetings in the local area to receive further input from interested parties on issues, concerns, and suggestions pertinent to backcountry use and access and wilderness designation within the Preserve. The comment period will be announced through local media outlets, at the meetings, and on the backcountry access plan Web site at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/bicy>.

**DATES:** The date, time, and location of public meetings will be announced

through the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) Web site <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/bicy>, the Preserve Web site, and in local media outlets.

**ADDRESSES:** Maps and descriptions of eligible lands are on file at Big Cypress National Preserve Headquarters, 33100 Tamiami Trail East, Ochopee, Florida 34141-1000 and available on the backcountry access plan Web site at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/bicy>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for further information should be directed to Big Cypress National Preserve Chief of Interpretation Bob DeGross by phone at 239-695-1107, via email at [Bob\\_DeGross@nps.gov](mailto:Bob_DeGross@nps.gov), or by mail at Big Cypress National Preserve, 33100 Tamiami Trail, East Ochopee, Florida 34141.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Preserve staff reviewed the Primary Eligibility Criteria in Section 6.2.1.1 of the NPS *Management Policies 2006* to evaluate the Preserve's wilderness eligibility. This wilderness eligibility assessment was prepared in support of the Preserve's Backcountry Access Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. More detailed analysis and intensive review of the eligibility of these lands will be carried out through a formal wilderness study in the context of the BAP/EIS. According to NPS Director's Order 41, the completed wilderness study may result in revised eligibility determinations for lands within the original Preserve as well as the identification of a need to re-assess adjacent areas added to the Preserve in 1988.

Public notices announcing the Preserve's intention to conduct this eligibility assessment were published in the **Federal Register** on December 15, 2014, and through a press release sent to local media outlets on September 12, 2014.

Dated: June 29, 2015.

**Shawn T. Benges**,

Deputy Regional Director, Southeast Region.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

[NPS-IMR-ZION-15480; PX.PD166570D.00.1]

#### Boundary Description and Final Maps for Virgin River, Zion National Park, Utah

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the National Park Service has transmitted the final boundary description and map of the Virgin Wild and Scenic River to Congress. The classification and boundaries became effective as stated elsewhere in this notice.

**DATES:** The boundaries and classification of the Virgin Wild and Scenic River became effective October 26, 2014.

**ADDRESSES:** Documents may be viewed at any National Park Service Office through the LandsNet Web site [[http://landsnet.nps.gov/tractsnet/documents/ZION/Miscellaneous/zion\\_VirginWSR\\_116-123881-83,85,87,89-90.pdf](http://landsnet.nps.gov/tractsnet/documents/ZION/Miscellaneous/zion_VirginWSR_116-123881-83,85,87,89-90.pdf)] and at Zion National Park Headquarters, SR 9 Springdale, UT 84767.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** National Park Service Denver Service Center, 12795 W. Alameda Parkway, Denver, CO 80228, 303-969-2325; [tracy\\_atkins@nps.gov](mailto:tracy_atkins@nps.gov). Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Pub. L. 111-11) of March 30, 2009, designated the Virgin Wild and Scenic River, to be administered by the Secretary of Interior. As specified by law (16 U.S.C. 1274(b)), the boundary becomes effective 90 days after the boundary amendments are forwarded to Congress. Since the boundary amendments were forwarded on July 28, 2014, the boundaries became effective on October 26, 2014.

Additional portions of the Virgin Wild and Scenic River are managed by the Bureau of Land Management. In accordance with national BLM policies outlined in BLM's Manual 6120, section .12, *Congressionally Required Maps and Legal Boundary Descriptions for NLCS Designations* requires that legal boundary description must be developed in conformance with BLM's *Manual of Surveying Instructions, 2009* and be finalized by the State Office Chief Cadastral Surveyor. Utah BLM will prepare these maps and legal boundary descriptions specific to the BLM segments of the Virgin River. Utah BLM will submit them to Congress as an amended submittal and to the Eastern States Office (in accordance with Manual 6120) at a later date.