



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

NOV 18 2016

Kaetlyn Jackson
Fire Island National Seashore GMP
120 Laurel Street
Patchogue, New York 11772

Dear Ms. Jackson:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Final General Management Plan – Environmental Impact Statement for Fire Island National (CEQ # 20160238) in accordance with Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to implement a General Management Plan (GMP) for the Seashore. The GMP is a comprehensive document that defines the park's purpose and management direction and provides guidance for all subsequent planning and management decisions over the next 15 to 25 years. The GMP addresses issues related to climate change and sea-level rise, land use and development, shoreline management, and the needs for public access and recreational use that are affecting the Seashore's resource management practices.

NPS has selected Management Alternative 3, in combination with Management Alternative B, as described for the William Floyd Estate, as the preferred alternative for the GMP. Under Management Alternative 3 for the barrier island, existing infrastructure would be retained and, over time, improved and/or reoriented to be greener, more efficient, and better adapted to the coastal environment. Any new development would be limited to existing visitor use areas and undertaken only after appropriate climate change and sea-level rise assessments are completed. The GMP for the Seashore would work to restore the Sunken Forest and other maritime forests on Fire Island, improve water quality through the development and implementation of a wastewater management plan, and engage in more intensive management of non-native invasive species. Specific activities include redesign of the Sailors Haven marina to minimize the erosion that has been undermining the Sunken Forest and rehabilitation of the Wilderness Visitor Center to improve accessibility.

In our letter dated September 3, 2015, EPA rated the draft EIS as EC-2, indicating that the draft EIS did not contain sufficient information for EPA to fully assess environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment. EPA acknowledges that the GMP is intended to serve as a programmatic document and that the NPS will prepare supplemental NEPA documents as specific management efforts proceed. EPA recommends the inclusion of the following language in the Record of Decision: "The NPS will produce, and make available to the public, supplemental NEPA documents assessing the environmental impacts of future restoration, rehabilitation and construction projects authorized under the GMP for the Seashore.

These documents will comprehensively evaluate the environmental impacts of the activities performed under the GMP.”

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Lamster of my staff at (212) 637-3465.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Judy-Ann Mitchell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Judy-Ann" and the last name "Mitchell" clearly legible.

Judy-Ann Mitchell, Chief
Sustainability and Multimedia Programs Branch