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STATEMENT FOR MANAGEMENT

GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE

APPROVED: _____ DATE 10/13/75
Superintendent

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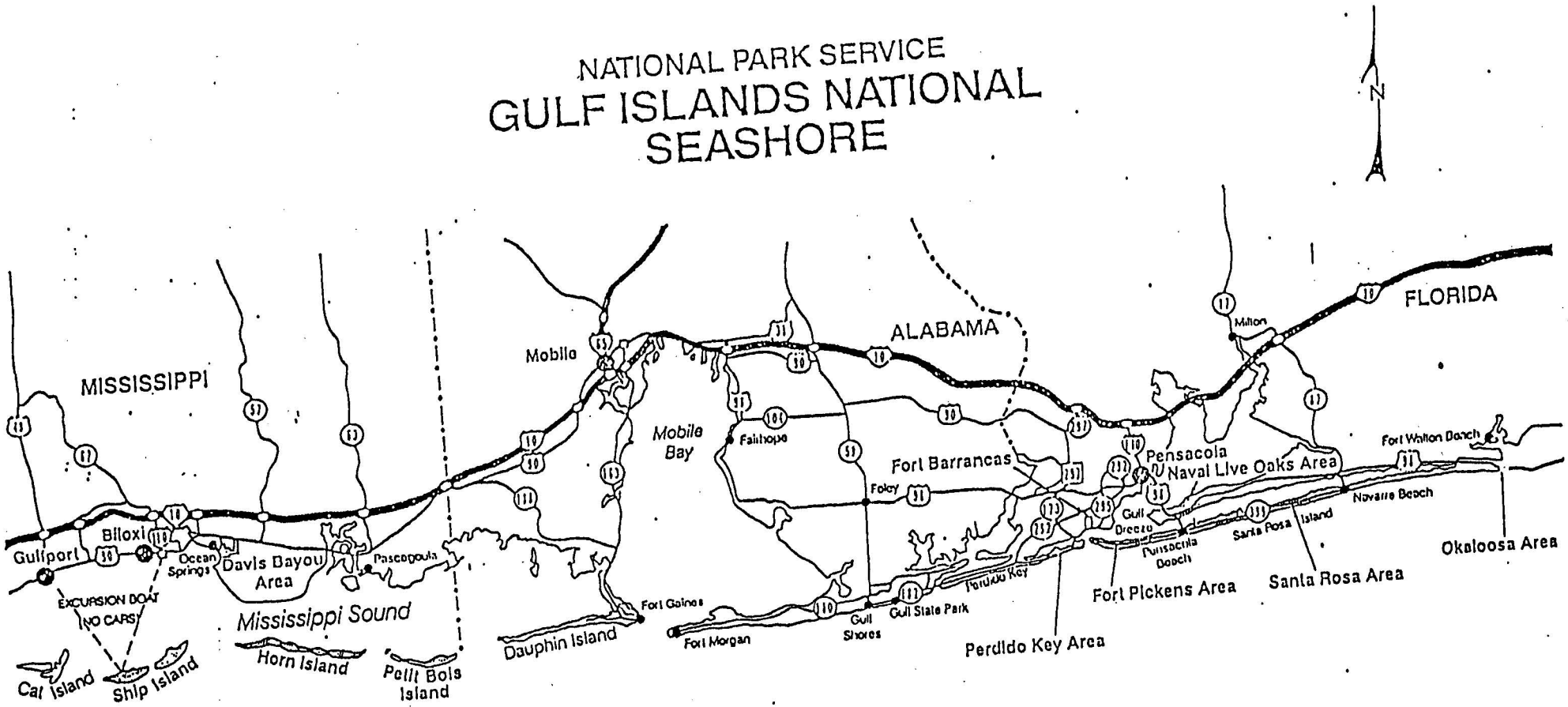
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LOCATION

Gulf Islands National Seashore is situated along the northeastern coast of the Gulf of Mexico and includes a widely spaced chain of barrier islands extending nearly 150 miles along the coast. These include most of Santa Rosa Island and a portion of Perdido Key in Florida and East and West Ship, Horn and Petit Bois Islands in Mississippi. Also included are sections on the mainland at Davis Bayou in Ocean Springs, Mississippi and the Naval Live Oaks Area and the Pensacola Forts Area in Florida. The Florida District is located in Congressional District 1. The Mississippi District is located in Congressional District 5.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE



PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE

Gulf Islands National Seashore was authorized by Congress in the Act of January 8, 1971 (P.L. 91-660, 84 Stat. 1967, 16 U.S.C. 459h). A general statement of purpose for the Seashore was included in Section 1 of the Act, which states:

"In order to preserve for public use and enjoyment certain areas possessing outstanding natural, historic, and recreational values, the Secretary of the Interior...may establish and administer the Gulf Islands National Seashore."

Other sections of the act set forth more specific requirements regarding the manner in which certain aspects of the overall mission are to be accomplished. These requirements are discussed in detail in the Legislative and Administrative Requirements portion of this Statement for Management.

The significance of the National Seashore lies in several areas. Firstly, it is located in an area of the Gulf Coast which is undergoing rapid development. This development reduces the amount of coastal land and other open space available for public use, while it increases the number of people who want to use this land. Thus, undeveloped land accessible to the public is becoming an increasingly valuable commodity.

Secondly, the natural resources of the Seashore are, in and of themselves, highly important. The beaches are known for their beauty, while the associated terrestrial communities are both interesting and complex. The water areas of the Seashore are also exceptional, and in conjunction with the salt marshes, bayous, and submerged grass beds play a crucial role in the ecology of this area. Of particular significance are the Mississippi islands, among the most pristine examples of intact coastal barrier ecosystem remaining.

Because of their diversity, national significance and specific mention in the legislation establishing Gulf Islands National Seashore, cultural resources are of greater concern at Gulf Islands than at other national seashores. These resources include prehistoric and historic archaeological sites and numerous examples of coastal defense structures which span more than two centuries of military activity along the Gulf Coast.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS OF INFLUENCES

LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Overview

Legislation and Legislative History

A number of specific requirements for administering the National Seashore were set out in the enabling legislation:

All areas of the Seashore are to be administered in accordance with the National Park Service Organic Act and all other general legislation pertaining to areas of the National Park System.

Fort Barrancas, the Advanced Redoubt, Bateria de San Antonio, Fort Pickens, the Perdido Key Historic District, and Fort Massachusetts are to be administered so as to recognize, preserve and interpret their national historical significance in accordance with the Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act (49 Stat. 666, 16 U. S. C. 461-467).

Hunting and fishing shall be permitted on lands and waters within the Seashore in accordance with applicable Federal and State Laws except where or when prohibited by the Secretary for reasons of public safety, administration, fish or wildlife management, or public use and enjoyment.

On April 6, 1995, the Office of the Solicitor rendered an opinion that neither the Act authorizing the creation of Gulf Islands National Seashore nor the applicable regulations permit commercial fishing within the boundaries of the park.

Existing gas and oil transmission easements and rights-of-way through the Seashore shall not be diminished, and the Secretary may permit additional rights-of-way or easements.

The authority of the Corps of Engineers, with respect to navigation or related matters, shall not be abridged by the establishment of the Seashore, except that beach erosion control and hurricane protection activities shall be planned jointly between the Corps and the Department of the Interior.

A twenty-four member Advisory Commission was established and served for a period of ten years from the date the Seashore was established by (Secretarial Order July 13, 1984). The purpose of the Commission was to consult with the Secretary of the Interior with respect to matters relating to the development of the Gulf Islands National Seashore, and on matters relating to zoning within the Seashore.

Within the boundaries of the Seashore, lands, waters, and interests therein may be acquired by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange, except that property owned by a State or any political subdivision, thereof, may be acquired only with the consent of the owners.

Owners of improved residential property might retain a right of occupancy and use for periods of time and under conditions specified in the Act.

Areas within the National Seashore were to be studied for wilderness suitability within four years, with recommendations made for wilderness designation of areas found suitable.

The original legislation authorized acquisition of not more than 135 acres of land outside the boundaries of the Seashore in the area of Biloxi-Gulfport, Mississippi. This land was to be used for an administrative site. This authorization was amended by P. L. 92-275 (April 20, 1972) to increase the authorized size of this site to 400 acres, thereby allowing acquisition, by donation, of the former Magnolia State Park at Ocean Springs, Mississippi. The authorized area of this site was increased to 1,000 acres by P. L. 95-625 (November 10, 1978) so that the Marsh Point area could be added to the Davis Bayou area. Although technically not boundary changes, these acreage increases are the only change in areas authorized for the Seashore since enactment of the original legislation.

The legislative history indicates that there was strong local support in the Pensacola area and in coastal Mississippi for establishment of the National Seashore. At various times during the development and consideration of authorizing legislation, certain other land areas were proposed for inclusion in the Seashore. These included the Chandeleur Islands in Louisiana, Cat Island in Mississippi, and Ono Island and portions of Dauphin Island in Alabama. The western portion of Perdido Key, lying in both Alabama and Florida, was also deleted from the legislation as originally proposed.

The enabling legislation for the National Seashore and subsequent amendments contained the following ceilings for land acquisition and development:

Public Law	Date	Land Acquisition	Development
91-660	Jan. 08, 1871	$ 3,120,000	14,779,000
92-275	Apr. 20, 1972	3,462,000	17,774,000
94-578	Oct. 21, 1976	22,162,000	17,774,000
95-628	Nov. 10, 1978	22,162,000	24,224,000

In addition to the statutory ceiling actions listed above, P.L. 95-628 also authorized the expenditure of an additional $300,000 for

the acquisition of the Marsh Point area. The specific authorization, however, was not a general increase in the ceiling for Gulf Islands.

Wilderness

As directed in the authorizing legislation, a wilderness study for Gulf Islands was conducted. The preferred alternative named in the study called for inclusion of nearly all of Horn and Petit Bois Islands, Mississippi, in the wilderness area. No other areas were considered suitable for such status. The study recommendations were adopted by Congress in P. L. 95-625 (November 10, 1978), which established the Gulf Islands Wilderness. With the exception of a small administrative enclave on Horn Island, the legislation placed all federally owned lands on these islands in wilderness status with non-Federal lands designated as potential wilderness additions. The law provides for administrative designation, through a "Federal Register" notice, of these lands as wilderness upon their acquisition. The House of Representatives committee report on this bill, in recognition of support from conservation organizations for wilderness status for the water around these islands, directed that the submerged lands be administered as wilderness, insofar as possible, while Congress further considered this matter. A further requirement in the committee report directed that routine administrative use of motorized equipment was not to be made and could occur only in emergency or very unusual situations.

Wilderness status for these two islands places significant constraints on possible development of these areas and lesser restrictions on National Park Service operations on the islands. In accordance with the requirements of the Wilderness Act, they will contain no facilities for the convenience of visitors and will be managed to maintain their primeval character. Administrative facilities will be limited to the ranger station and boat dock located in the enclave on Horn Island. Essential administrative activities will be carried out, to the fullest extent possible, without the use of motorized equipment within the wilderness.

Oil and Gas

In recent years, exploration for oil and gas in both land and offshore areas near the National Seashore has been successful. Exploration and production are continuing in these areas based upon the success of initial attempts.

Concessions

Concession contracts have been executed to provide for the following services:

Boat transportation from the mainland to the islands of the Mississippi District. Commercial use licenses also authorize boat

transportation to Horn and Petit Bois islands.

A campground convenience store at the Fort Pickens Campground. The sale of food, snacks and convenience items at facilities in the Santa Rosa, Perdido Key, and Fort Pickens areas in Florida and on West Ship Island in Mississippi.

A concessions outlet at the Okaloosa Unit providing the sale of pre-packaged food and beverages, souvenirs and sundry items, rental of beach equipment, sailboards, instruction in sailboard and sailboat operations, and dry storage for boats and trailers.

Memorandums of Understanding

The Ocean Springs Art Association:

Allows for the use of a section of the William M. Colmer Visitor Center at the Davis Bayou Area for the purpose of displaying art work by the authorized members of the association. All art work on display must illustrate the natural, cultural or recreational themes of the National Seashore.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Mark Seymour Post No. 5699:

Allows for the use of a section of National Park Service property by the authorized members and their guests of VFW post No. 5699 for the purpose of recreation.

The Ocean Springs Police Department, the Escambia County Sheriff's Department, the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Department, the city of Gulf Breeze Police Department, and the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Department.

Provides the opportunity to work in harmony for the common purpose of better protecting life and property of the public they serve by cooperating in the use of trained personnel and equipment where unforeseen threats to human life and property within the respective jurisdictions arise.

Santa Rosa Island Authority and Escambia County Utilities Authority:

Permits SRIA and ECUA to use designated areas for storage of rolling stock during declared "state of emergency" periods.

Florida Sea Grant:

Provides for cooperative assistance in marine debris education and cleanup and the Adopt-A-Shore program.

Santa Rosa Clean Community System:

Provides for cooperative assistance in marine debris education and cleanup and the Adopt-A-Shore program.

The Gulf Breeze Volunteer Fire Department, Midway Volunteer Fire Department, Pensacola Beach Volunteer Fire Department, Navarre Volunteer Fire Department, Innerarity Point Volunteer Fire Department, the Okaloosa Island Fire District, and the Ocean Springs Fire Department:

Provide assistance for structural fire prevention/suppression and the protection of life and property from fire on lands administered by the National Seashore.

Big Lagoon State Park:

Provide personal services and equipment required for prevention/suppression of wildland fires and the protection of life and property from these fires in the Perdido Key Area administered by Gulf Islands National Seashore and the Big Lagoon State Park Area administered by the State of Florida.

Federal Bureau of Prisons:

Provides the services of United States inmates for masonry labor services at the Fort Pickens site on Santa Rosa Island to repair and rebuld brick work.

MS Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks:

Provides for the State of Mississippi, to assist in the enforcement of Federal laws and regulations on the lands and waters of Gulf Islands National Seashore located within the State of Mississippi

Memorandums of Agreement

Eastern National Park and Monument Association:

(1) Undertake the development and production of exhibits on the park's natural history for local schools at Battery Cooper.

Cooperative Agreements

Mississippi State University:

Study: Wetland Delineation and Hydrologic/Community Survey of the Davis Bayou Area of Gulf Islands National Seashore. **(PENDING)**

University of Southern Mississippi:

(1) Development of GIS Applications for the Seashore.

(2) Faunal inventory of the ponds of GUIS.

(3) Ecological and faunal inventory of the intertidal and shallow subtidal benthic and epibenthic invertebrates of GUIS.

(4) Oil Impact Study - East Ship, Horn, Petit Bois, and Santa Rosa Island and Perdido Key.

Southeastern Louisiana University:

(1) SLU is performing a herpetological survey. The study includes several areas within the Florida District as well as Horn and Ship Islands.

University of West Florida:

Consider for funding projects proposed by the faculty and staff of UWF and will coordinate and help facilitate the in-park work.

Louisiana State University:

Conduct studies of the ecology and managment of natural areas of the NPS and the States of Florida and Mississippi.

Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium:

(1) Conduct bioassessment research of the estuarine-marine macrobenthos at five sites in the Santa Rosa Sound.

(2) Ecological Analysis of Seagrass Meadows of GUIS.

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

May conduct fire management activities and preliminary fire-related investigations. This is an NPS Basic Agreement.

Interagency Agreements

National Marine Fisheries Service

Provide systematic aerial surveys to detect and document marine turtle strandings on the barrier islands in Mississippi.

Corps of Engineers:

Provide a Formulation Study and Detailed Design for the potential construction, erosion control and storm damage reduction for Fort Massachusetts and West Ship Island. Place (as may be called for by

the NPS) an estimated 50,000 cubic yards of beach quality sand on the shoreline adjacent to Fort Massachusetts, West Ship Island, Mississippi.

Rights-of-Way

The National Seashore presently has a right-of-way agreement with the city of Gulf Breeze to allow for the construction and maintenance of a storm drain and water line along the northwestern boundary of the Naval Live Oaks Area.

The Florida Department of Transportation was granted a perpetual easement and right-of-way to operate, maintain, and repair that section of U.S. Highway 98 that crosses the Naval Live Oaks Unit. The easement includes the right to issue and renew public utility permits within the right-of-way.

The Department of the Air Force has a right-of-way to operate and maintain a small unmanned tracking instrument and associated facilities on Horn Island. The purpose and intent of the unmanned tracking instrument and associated facilities are to provide a means for improving the training of Air National Guard fighter pilots in fighter tactics and techniques in areas outside the National Seashore.

UACC MIDWEST, INC. (formerly United Artist Cable Systems of Mississippi) received a letter of authorization to operate and maintain underground trunk cable for cable television communication service to the Eagle Point section of Ocean Springs, Mississippi and the Yates house in the Davis Bayou Area.

All areas of the National Seashore with the exclusion of the offshore Mississippi islands have highways, utility lines, drainage ditches, and etc. The areas should be inventoried to identify, mark, and document rights-of-way as they currently exist.

Other Cooperative Activities

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service - The habitats contained within Breton National Wildlife Refuge, 55 miles southeast of New Orleans, are important to Gulf Islands wildlife resources because this refuge provides wintering habitat for waterfowl, and breeding habitat for shore birds, gulls, and terns. Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge is also located near Davis Bayou.

Environmental Protection Agency - This agency conducts marine studies from laboratories on Little Sabine Island just off Santa Rosa Island, and at Pascagoula. Its operations provide a ready source of professional and technical personnel and data. The major topic for research is the water quality of the respective area.

United States Coast Guard - The Coast Guard has active stations in Florida and Mississippi that add a measure of safety for recreational boaters and interest for the visitor.

U.S. Navy - Plans and programs of the Pensacola Naval Air Station have direct effects on ingress and egress to the forts that are located there.

The Fort Pickens Aquatic Preserve surrounds the western end of Santa Rosa Island and the eastern end of Perdido Key. It is managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and contains state-owned submerged lands from the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway on the north to three miles offshore in the Gulf of Mexico. Aquatic preserves are "established for the purpose of being preserved in essentially natural or existing condition so that their aesthetic, biological, and scientific values may endure for the enjoyment of future generations" (18-20 Florida Administrative Code). The preserve includes nearly 6,000 acres within the Perdido Key Area extending from the east tip to 1.5 miles inside the park's western boundary. It also includes over 8,000 acres in the Fort Pickens Area from the eastern boundary to Pensacola Pass. Management of the preserve will be a joint effort between DEP and GUIS, especially since the submerged lands in the Fort Pickens Area are under federal ownership.

The city of Gulf Breeze and city of Ocean Springs - The city limits of Gulf Breeze include the Naval Live Oaks Area, and the city limits of Ocean Springs include the Davis Bayou Area.

Memorandum of Agreement, Historic Preservation

Gulf Islands National Seashore uses the "Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement Between the National Park Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers," August 1990, to comply with Section 106 of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act.

Law Enforcement

Federal jurisdiction over law enforcement matters is mixed. In Florida, all areas, with the exception of the Pensacola Forts Area, are under concurrent jurisdiction, meaning that both the Federal government and the State have the power to deal with all degrees of crimes. Exclusive Federal jurisdiction has been retained for the Pensacola Forts Area since the surrounding Naval Air Station lands are held under the same jurisdiction. In Mississippi all lands and waters of the National Seashore are under concurrent jurisdiction. National Park Service law enforcement actions are generally limited to those situations covered by park regulations written to protect resources and provide for orderly use of the Seashore. Most serious crimes must be dealt with under applicable State law and by officers of State or local agencies.

Issues and Objectives

Legislative and Administrative Requirements

Unforeseen high costs set by the courts for lands on Petit Bois Island that were acquired through a declaration of taking have exhausted the statutory land acquisition ceiling for Gulf Islands. A number of tracts of land on Horn Island remain to be acquired, but action on these cannot proceed without an increase in the ceiling. Objective: Implement Land Protection Plan recommendations to acquire remaining privately owned tracts on Horn Island.

Lands on Santa Rosa Island with significant potential for public recreational use remain under Eglin Air Force Base administration, although Air Force use of much of the area appears to be light. The ability of the Seashore to provide recreational opportunities would be significantly enhanced if these lands could be transferred to the National Park Service. In the legislative history, the Eglin Air Force Base lands were referred to by Congressman Robert Sikes as two sections. This was June 1970. The first, 12 miles between Navarre Beach and Okaloosa, and the second, 3.2 miles on the eastern tip of the Santa Rosa Island. Objective: The legislative history indicates a short period of time for certain lands to be transferred from military ownership on Santa Rosa Island to the National Seashore and a longer time period for other lands on Santa Rosa Island. It is assumed that the 3.2 mile section on the eastern tip is the parcel identified for transfer to the Seashore in a short period of time. Those lands that were indicated as being of short term need for military activities should be sought for transfer to the National Seashore (with or without the southside lands).

With regard to wilderness management, the status of the submerged lands around Horn and Petit Bois Islands remains unresolved. This is an issue which needs to be resolved to avoid uncertainties. Objectives: Formalize the Seashore's position that the submerged lands are to be added to the Gulf Islands Wilderness and present recommendations. This could be through Congressional action or through Departmental notification to the appropriate committees that these submerged lands are being managed in the same manner as other submerged lands. Pursue legislative action. Objective: Develop a Wilderness Management Plan for the National Seashore.

Increased interest in oil and gas exploration activities could have a direct impact on the Seashore's operations. In most cases, the government does not own the mineral rights to lands within the boundaries. This raises a significant potential for exploration, and possibly extraction activities on these lands. Objectives: Modify Land Protection Plan to address the mitigation of potential threats from non-secured mineral rights. Closely regulate oil and gas exploration and production proposals, to protect National

Seashore resources; however, they cannot be restricted to the point that access to valid non-Federal mineral rights is blocked.

Lands within the National Seashore must be inventoried for potential areas which would require rights-of-way to protect the resources and legal boundaries of the Seashore. Objectives: Inventory Seashore lands utilizing current boundary descriptions. Formalize any necessary agreements.

RESOURCES

Overview

Natural Resources

The barrier islands of Gulf Islands National Seashore are part of a series of coastal barrier islands managed by the National Park Service, and comprise a large portion of the undeveloped coastal barriers of Mississippi and northwest Florida. They are among the last surviving portions of a natural ecological continuum that once extended from Cape Cod to Mexico. Areas within the Seashore range from remote wilderness islands with limited visitation to readily accessible recreational beaches visited by several million people each year. The protected and undeveloped resources of the Seashore provide an enclave for the complex plant and animal communities, both terrestrial and aquatic, which characterize the northern Gulf Coast, and fully illustrate the natural processes which shape these unique areas.

Coastal Processes

The interface of land and sea expressed by coastal barriers causes them to be some of the most dynamic landforms found within the National Park System. The factors contributing to this natural dynamicism include wave action from longshore currents, short and long term fluctuations in sea level, storm events, and littoral drift. Man caused changes to landforms, vegetation, and hydrologic systems can have an equally profound effect on barrier island systems. The natural environment of Gulf Islands is dominated by the Gulf of Mexico and its associated coastal processes.

Storms

The Seashore is within a region affected by severe storms and hurricanes generated in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. Analysis of past storm occurrence in this area suggests a damaging hurricane may occur about once in seven years. The peak of the hurricane season occurs during the months of August, September, and October.

Hurricane damage from a human standpoint can be tragic and devastating, as in the case of Hurricane Camille in 1969 and Hurricane Frederic in 1979. From a natural system standpoint, hurricanes are an integral part of barrier island ecology, affecting both landforms and the associated plant and animal communities. The relative lowness of the islands allows hurricane-pushed flood tides to wash over and inundate portions of the dunes and interior habitat with severe, but entirely natural, consequences. The channel which now separates the east and west portions of Ship Island was opened by the storm of 1969 and it appears that it will be many years before it will naturally close.

Littoral Drift

The littoral drift and associated currents are determined by the predominant southeasterly wind and current circulation in the northeastern part of the Gulf of Mexico. Littoral drift contributes to the erosion of the eastern ends and accretion on the western tips of all of the islands. This generally westward transport of beach sediments, both on the northern and southern shores, results in a gradual movement of Seashore landforms to the west.

Two hundred years ago, Petit Bois Island formed part of Dauphin Island. It was cut off from Dauphin Island and has migrated westward, losing half of its length in the process. The western tip of Petit Bois today lies 8 to 8.7 miles west of its original position. During the 1860-1948 period, the western end of Ship Island moved 0.72 miles westward as a result of this accretion, and the west tip of Horn Island moved 2.5 miles. The land loss was equally significant on the eastern ends of the islands. Littoral drift and island migration play a highly significant role in the management of Gulf Islands.

Ship Channel Maintenance

Several continuing maintenance projects have considerable bearing on National Seashore management. Within the Seashore there are four shipping channels which require periodic maintenance dredging, three in Mississippi and one in Florida. Viewed in the context of island dynamics and the natural westward migration of these islands, the maintenance of ship channels by the Corps is an issue with significant long term ramifications.

At present, West Ship, Horn, and Petit Bois Islands in Mississippi and Santa Rosa Island in Florida are being progressively truncated as they migrate into fixed location, maintained ship channels. This disruption of the natural accretion of sediments at the islands' western tips is accompanied by the effective loss of these sediments to the littoral drift system. The flow of sediments is diminished, thereby speeding the rate of erosion on the eastern tips of islands "downstream". The selection of dredged material disposal sites is critical with respect to maintaining the natural littoral process. Ship Island Pass has recently been realigned several thousand feet to the west in an attempt to alleviate this loss. However, it is only a matter of time before the island migrates to the channel and the same problem is encountered.

The Corps is currently studying dredged material disposal in the Mississippi Sound and adjacent areas. The primary purpose of this study is to develop a regional dredged material disposal plan, and is examining the issue of island migration and other related water resource issues. All dredged material disposal in the Pensacola Bay area is conducted under the guidelines established by the

Florida Coastal Management Program and a regional Environmental Impact Statement.

Several areas within the Seashore have, and will continue to require special attention. Significant changes in ship channel maintenance practices are currently being implemented by the Corps for the Gulfport and Pensacola channels. The Gulfport project involves deepening and widening of the ship channel adjacent to the west tip of West Ship Island. The on-going Homeport Project for the Pensacola Naval Air Station has included a major dredging project to deepen and widen the Pensacola Pass ship channel. Additional Homeporting plans for Pascagoula, Mississippi may also involve future modifications to the channel at Horn Island Pass. The Seashore is working closely with the Corps and other agencies to insure the continued preservation of the barrier island system.

Beach Nourishment

Artificial beach nourishment using dredge spoil has been, and will continue to be utilized at Gulf Islands as a management tool. Nourishment projects have been conducted at Fort Massachusetts on West Ship Island and on the eastern portion of Perdido Key. A natural cycle of shoreline erosion which is threatening historic resources has necessitated the cyclic nourishment project on West Ship Island. The Perdido Key project (1989-1990) utilized beach nourishment as mitigation for the accelerated rates of erosion caused by channel maintenance projects in Pensacola pass. A comprehensive analysis of nourishment effects on the natural communities of Perdido Key has been initiated. The five-year monitoring program is designed to evaluate the viability of beach nourishment as an acceptable, recurring mitigation practice.

Dunes

One of the more fragile resources of the National Seashore are the dunes. The dune systems of coastal barriers are its most basic element, and provide the first line buffer against shoreline erosion. Preservation of natural dune systems is critical to maintaining the geomorphological integrity of these islands. Most of the present damage to dunes within the Seashore is caused by visitors crossing to and from the beaches. Dune "blow outs" eventually form from this activity, increasing the possibility of breaches in the dune line during storm events.

In Mississippi and Florida, elevated boardwalks have been constructed over dunes and trails to prevent erosion by foot traffic in the high use areas of West Ship and Santa Rosa Islands, and Fort Pickens.

An area of relic dunes in the Santa Rosa Area has been closed and posted for monitoring and observations of recovery from the years of foot traffic and congregating of parties.

The erection of wood fences around the east and west parking lots at Fort Pickens and the west parking lot at Perdido Key have been used to direct foot traffic away from damaged and sensitive areas. These measures seem to have positive results without overly inconveniencing visitors.

However, uncontrolled visitor access along all stretches of the Florida District will eventually result in the loss of the protective dunes.

Flora

Within the National Seashore there are four major plant associations, three terrestrial and one aquatic, typical of coastal areas along the northern Gulf of Mexico. By far the most common is the association of plant communities found on the barrier islands. Mainland units within the Seashore account for the two additional terrestrial associations, and aquatic vegetation is found scattered throughout the shallow waters of Mississippi and Santa Rosa Sounds. Extensive wetlands are found within all areas of the Seashore and account for approximately 10% of all land above the mean low water mark. Primarily saltmarsh, these are areas of extremely high basic productivity and are critical habitat for a variety of animals.

The plant communities found on the Seashore's barrier islands are, perhaps, the most interesting in terms of adaptation and significance. Subjected to environmental extremes, the island flora is in a near continuous state of transition. Of particular importance are the dune related species. Plants such as sea oats, panic grass, sea rocket, and beach elder are critical to the growth and stabilization of dune systems. The barrier island association consists of five major communities: beach/dune, high marsh/meadow, relic dune, forest, and low marsh.

Several distinct forest communities characterize the mainland units of Gulf Islands National Seashore. Within the Davis Bayou area are found examples of pine/palmetto flatwood, mixed pine/hardwood, and upland and lowland hardwood forests. Some of the more notable species include: loblolly pine, live oak, southern magnolia, turkey oak, sweet gum, and cypress. The Naval Live Oaks and Pensacola Forts Areas of Florida are characterized by live oak hammocks, sand pine, scrub oak thickets, long leaf and slash pine, and lowland hardwoods. Seven different community types are recognized and are collectively termed mixed coastal forest.

Isolated patches of submerged vegetation are found throughout National Seashore waters wherever bottom conditions and light penetration provide suitable habitat. Fragile in nature, aquatic plant communities are easily disrupted by human activities such as dredging and fisheries trawling. Although these communities make

up only a small percentage of the total submerged lands within the Seashore, high primary productivity and the protective cover they provide enhances their significance to marine species.

Fauna

The protected lands of the National Seashore support a wide variety of vertebrate and invertebrate fauna, many in numbers not found outside of Park boundaries. The faunal community includes the numerous permanent resident species, as well as many present only on a seasonal or transitory basis. The diverse assortment of marine and terrestrial species provides examples of nearly every major taxonomic group. The isolated nature of the barrier islands provides a unique opportunity for the appreciation and study of populations and dynamics in undisturbed condition.

More than 200 species of fish have been reported in the waters around and on the barrier islands. Reptiles in the Seashore include snakes, turtles, lizards, and the American Alligator. More than 290 species of birds have been reported within the National Seashore many of which breed within the boundaries as well. Marine mammals are common in Seashore waters and, along with sea turtles, are fully protected by Federal Law. Terrestrial mammals include the river otter, fox, bobcat, raccoon, rabbits, bats, and numerous rodents. In terms of both numbers and diversity, invertebrate species dominate the faunal community of Gulf Islands. Both aquatic and terrestrial forms occur in abundance and include arthropods molluscs, echinoderms, and crustaceans.

Endangered Species

Several plant and animal species listed by the Fish and Wildlife Service as threatened or endangered are found as permanent residents within the National Seashore. A number of additional species are considered seasonal residents or possible transients. A complete listing of these species is found in Appendix A. The National Park Service is committed to the protection and preservation of endangered species, and receives primary guidance in endangered species matters from the Fish and Wildlife Service. Gulf Islands is currently involved in several endangered species re-introduction projects in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Perdido Key Beach mouse was eliminated from the Seashore by Hurricane Frederic in 1979, with only a small population remaining outside park boundaries on Perdido Key. In 1986, a translocation project was initiated to re-establish a viable beach mouse population within the National Seashore. At present, the population is fluctuating but is showing signs of permanent establishment. Long term studies will continue to monitor the status of this species.

A program to re-introduce the Bald Eagle to the Gulf Coast was initiated in 1986 with the release of four fledglings on Horn Island. Efforts continued in 1987, 1988, and 1989 bringing the total number of Eagles released to forty three. As these birds reach maturity, it is expected that they will return to the Gulf Coast area and breed, thus reestablishing an extirpated population.

In cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Seashore is participating in the recovery of the endangered Red Wolf. The five-year project involves the temporary placement of red wolves on Horn Island for the purpose of producing wild reared stock for reintroduction projects in other parts of the country. The first breeding cycle in 1989 produced seven pups. Additional personnel and project funding will be necessary to continue the project.

Exotic Species

The most noted species of exotic plants within the Seashore are chinese tallow, mimosa, oleander, chinaberry and various non-native grass species in the Florida District, and palms and azaleas in the Mississippi District. Other exotic species inhabit isolated developed locations but are not spreading significantly, nor posing a threat to native plants. Bermuda grass should be maintained as a historically accurate exotic on the historic structures as an appropriate cover to prevent erosion.

There are six species of exotic animals found within the Seashore: feral dogs and cats, nutria, rabbits, and black rats. The feral cats and dogs, primarily found in mainland units, are currently controlled by live capture and removal to nearby animal shelters. These animals are potential rabies vectors and may also replace endemic predators. Nutria have become established throughout the Seashore and are altering the natural ecology of the islands. The nutria diet consists of primarily aquatic vegetation although a significant amount of grazing and rooting does occur within all vegetative communities. Vegetation destruction is especially evident on the Mississippi islands where Eastern Cottontail rabbits have been introduced. Research has shown that rabbits are having a significant impact upon natural vegetative processes. Black rats are found in association with certain developed and high use visitor areas but are not believed to be impacting natural features. Control measures are periodically effected for public and safety reasons.

Pest Control

In Florida there is termite control in historic structures. Government housing and administrative offices are sprayed for household pests.

In Mississippi, pest control programs consist of spraying for mosquitoes in Fort Massachusetts during heavy visitor use and for household pests in government housing and administrative buildings throughout the year.

In both districts, control of ants in high use visitor areas such as the campground and picnic areas and fort parade grounds occasionally becomes necessary.

Rodents are prominently visible in Fort Massachusetts, Mississippi District and the Ranger Station, Florida District. Thusfar, control measures have not been successful.

A significant national public health concern has recently been identified and associated with rodents. A strain of the Hantavirus family, spread by rodents in urine, feces, and saliva, has been shown to cause acute respiratory disease in humans. Measures are being taken to reduce visitor and employee exposure to rodents and their leavings. Measures will include prevention, risk reduction, and eradication as the last alternative in buildings occupied by employees and visitors.

Water Resources

Water quality is a major concern in Northwest Florida. Effort is being made to improve the quality through environmental regulation of industrial and nonpoint source pollutants and increased sewage treatment. An active 208 and 201 areawide waste treatment management plan is being implemented. Water quality is also an active concern in coastal Mississippi. Recent improvements to sewage treatment facilities in the Ocean Springs community have significantly improved water quality in the Davis Bayou Area. In general, the quality of surface water within the National Seashore is good.

According to Florida state law, all waters within national seashores and state aquatic preserves are designated Outstanding Florida Waters (OFW). Because of their natural attributes, these waters are assigned additional water quality protection through Florida Department of Environment Protection (DEP). An OFW designation places more stringent standards on the issuance of DEP permits. Activities that lower ambient water quality are normally denied.

The waters of the bay system are also classified by use in accordance with DEP regulations. Class I waters have the most stringent water quality criteria while Class V has the least. Classes I, II, and III surface waters share water quality criteria established to protect recreation and the propagation and maintenance of a healthy, well-balanced population of fish and wildlife.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Priorities by Tract

PRIORITY	TRACT	OWNER	ACREAGE	INTEREST
1	02-101	Frank O'Rourke	1.84	Fee
1	02-~~103~~ 167	OKC Dredging	9.18	Fee*
1	02-~~104~~ 168	OKC Dredging	15.61	Fee*
1	02-115	Myratt Button, et al	39.70	Fee
1	02-116	Ralph Hopkins	6.43	Fee
1	02-~~120~~ 169	OKC Dredging	257.12	Fee*
1	02-163	Martha Ann Curtis	52.42	Fee
1	02-164	Charles Green	18.30	Fee
1	02-166	J. S. Delmas, et al	78.97	Fee*
2	03-142	Louis Frierson	600.00	Fee
3	--	Escambia County	372.00	Fee
3	07-108	University of West Florida	152.00	Fee
4	06-118	State of Florida	6,653.00	Fee
5	02-137	Rodger Day, et al	(Subm.)	Fee
5	02-139	W. W. Dibble, et al	(Subm.)	Fee
5	02-140	Minerals Management, Inc.	(Subm.)	Fee
5	02-149	Armand Weilbacher, et ux	(Subm.)	Fee*
5	02-141	Rena Ford, et al	(Subm.)	Fee
5	02-162	Arthur Baker, et al	(Subm.)	Fee
6	05-139	Corps of Engineers	70.60	Fee
7	01-104	~~BLM~~	42.00	Fee
7	01-105	~~BLM~~	50.00	Fee
7	05-106	~~BLM~~	135.00	Fee
7	05-111	~~BLM~~	195.26	Fee
7	02-142	BLM	(Subm.)	Fee
7	02-144	USF&WS	(Subm.)	Fee
7	02-145	BLM	(Subm.)	Fee
7	02-146	BLM	(Subm.)	Fee

*Undivided partial interest.

Until funds are made available for acquisition, the National Park Service will monitor the integrity of the resources to prevent serious damage. Private property rights will be recognized and respected. However, should an adverse action become imminent, the Service will take appropriate action.

With the anticipated continuation of development and population increase throughout the Gulf Coast region, the quality and availability of groundwater resources will be an active issue in park management. Within many areas of the National Seashore, excessive removal of groundwater in adjacent areas for public utility could lead to a lowering of the water table and salt water intrusion of shallow aquifers. Both possibilities would have a dramatic impact upon park resources.

Marine Waste

The problem of marine litter and waste is becoming an increasingly significant issue within the Seashore. Beyond aesthetic considerations, marine pollution poses a real hazard for a variety of animals, including several endangered species. Research has shown the primary sources of marine waste to be commercial fishing operations, offshore mineral development, and recreational activities.

Air Quality

In general, the Seashore experiences good air quality as a result of its coastal location and prevailing wind patterns. However, occasional periods of degradation occur when either prevailing winds direct pollutants from the heavily industrialized and populated areas of Mobile and New Orleans or weather conditions create air stagnation. In 1990, the Pensacola Area for the first time exceeded National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone.

Fire

The National Park Service recognizes the significance of fire in the perpetuation of natural systems. All current knowledge indicates that within the ecotypes encompassed by Gulf Islands, fire has played a significant role in shaping and maintaining the biota. At present, the Seashore is making the transition from a management program of full suppression to one which incorporates prescribed natural fire in appropriate areas.

Issues and Objectives

Natural Resources

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) requires consideration of the environmental effects of proposed federal actions. It is the principal means by which the NPS can evaluate the actions it is proposing on parkland and determine ways to mitigate potential harmful effects. Objectives: Any park action that involves disturbance to soil, vegetation, animal life, cultural site or structure, or water will be evaluated for potential environmental impacts. A determination will be made as to whether the action, either individually or cumulatively, will have a significant effect on the environment. The use of NEPA will help ensure that park resources are protected to the maximum extent in the park's own development process.

NEPA ✓

Significant tracts of land within the authorized boundaries of the National Seashore remain under the ownership of private parties, other Federal agencies, and the State of Florida. To date, no land use conflicts have arisen which jeopardize park resources or values, but this remains a potential problem. Objective: Implement Land Protection Plan recommendations for completing acquisitions and exchanges to clarify boundaries.

LPP ✓

Adequate baseline information about the Seashore's natural resources is not currently available to park managers. The deficiency of accurate and up to date resource inventories, baseline scientific data, and assessments of condition and threats present serious impediment to sound decision making. Objectives: Determine the Seashore's inventory and assessment needs and establish methodology for program management. Develop and implement programs for information management, including geographic information system themes, computerized databases, reference bibliography, and natural history collections. Complete on-going inventory and assessment research and initiate additional projects as necessary.

I & M ✓

The natural processes which affect island geomorphology and migration, vegetative succession, and animal populations and dynamics are often subtle and, in general, poorly understood. Man induced changes to the natural environment, both internal and external, can also have a profound impact upon the natural environment and evolution of the National Seashore. Adequate knowledge concerning natural processes and the ability to detect unnatural change is critical for the long term management and preservation of Gulf Islands. Objectives: Evaluate the key processes and parameters influencing the Seashore's natural environment and determine monitoring needs. Continue research to

I & M ✓ Research

characterize indicator species and develop long term monitoring programs. Establish protocol for review and interpretation of monitoring results.

Ship channel maintenance involves actions which can have a significant impact on natural coastal processes. The expansion of port facilities and modifications to the channels and maintenance practices at Pensacola, Gulfport, and Pascagoula will affect several areas within the Seashore. The utilization of dredged materials for periodic shoreline renourishment has been used for cultural resource preservation at West Ship Island, and for mitigation of shoreline erosion at Perdido Key. Objectives: Maintain liaison with the Corps for information exchange, scoping, and review of proposed activities. Continue long term programs to monitor the geomorphological, oceanographic, chemical, and biological parameters associated with coastal processes and beach nourishment. Formulate mitigation strategies to address current and anticipated conditions and projects within the National Seashore and develop a compendium of all relevant information. Coastal processes

Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, the National Seashore is directed to identify and promote the conservation of all federally listed threatened, endangered, or candidate species. The Seashore provides critical habitat for several listed species, and lies within the potential range of numerous others. Objectives: Formulate protocol for review of endangered species programs and proposals. Develop information and educational programs to enhance public awareness of endangered species issues. Continue on-going projects and evaluate additional needs. T&E ✓

Exotic plant and animal species have become established within the boundaries of the Seashore. The impact of these species on the natural environment is not yet completely understood although some initial work has been accomplished. Objectives: Complete baseline research on exotic species ecology and impacts. Develop an action plan for monitoring and mitigation programs. Exotics ✓

The role of insect communities in natural systems is both complex and critical to environmental health. The natural environment of Gulf Islands provides favorable conditions for a diverse and sometimes prolific insect population. Under certain conditions the populations of select species can reach levels where park operations and visitation are impacted. Objectives: Initiate research on the ecology, distribution and abundance, and impacts of the Seashore's insect populations. Develop and implement an integrated pest management plan for the Seashore's developed areas. Insects

The natural environment of Gulf islands is dominated by the Gulf of Mexico and its associated coastal waters. Maintaining present standards of water quality, both surface and groundwater, is essential for the long term health and integrity of park resources. Objectives: Complete an analysis of water rights, and evaluate Water quality ✓

existing surface and ground water baseline information. Develop a water resources management strategy.

Increasingly large amounts of marine waste and litter impact the National Seashore, marring the aesthetic quality and threatening animal species. Objectives: Develop plans for mitigation of marine debris, including hazardous materials disposal and disposition of grounded ships and dredge pipes. Continue efforts to improve public awareness through interpretive programs and participation in State projects such as the Adopt A Beach program in Mississippi and the Adopt A Shore program in Florida. Continue to work with other agencies on the Gulf of Mexico program initiatives.

Marine debris

Within the Seashore, fire has been eliminated as a component of the natural processes which shape the environment. Several areas on the mainland have experienced a buildup of natural fuel levels to the point where resources, and development on adjacent lands, are in jeopardy. Exclusion of fire from the wilderness areas within the Seashore may be having an adverse impact on those resources. Objectives: Implement a fire management plan in accordance with National Park Service guidelines. Provide for the use of prescribed natural fire within wilderness areas. Continue program of mechanical fuel reduction for mainland areas of high wildfire threat.

Fire mgmt. ✓

Minerals development, in particular offshore oil and gas, is increasing in scope and magnitude on lands adjacent to the Seashore. The ramifications of these activities include the potential for serious impacts to national resources and values. The lack of mineral rights ownership on lands within National Seashore boundaries presents additional concern. Objectives: Maintain currency with minerals related activities on adjacent lands and participate in regional planning efforts. Develop a minerals management plan, to include minerals ownership, rights-of-way, oil spill contingency planning, and monitoring programs. Begin baseline research of water quality, inventory and characterization of indicator species, and development of a geographic information system theme.

Minerals develop.

Gulf Islands is one of the most heavily visited units of the National Park System. Regional demographic trends seem to indicate that a continued growth in National Seashore utilization is likely. With this anticipated increase in visitor use comes a greater potential for derogation of the natural resources and values. Objectives: Devise strategies to identify, evaluate, and mitigate both current and potential visitor use impacts to Seashore natural resources. Develop management plans to address consumptive activities presently allowed within the Seashore. Develop a comprehensive visitor access plan addressing preventive measures for ecological damage while providing adequate beach access. Initiate public education and interpretation of impacts of public

Visitor impacts ✓

use on natural resources.

The wilderness status of Horn and Petit Bois Islands mandates an increased level of protection, and places restrictions on administrative practices within those areas. Anticipated future increases in visitation may necessitate changes in management to ensure perpetuation of wilderness values. Objectives: Determine appropriate uses of the Gulf Islands Wilderness and develop administrative use and visitor use plans. Increase efforts to enhance public appreciation for the wilderness concept. Wilderness ✓

Past military uses of Horn Island prior to the creation of the National Seashore raise questions of health and safety for both park personnel and the visiting public. Concerns remain over the possible presence of hazardous materials on the island. Objective: Continue to research the past military use of Horn Island with emphasis on chemical warfare materials disposal and "Manhattan Project" activities. HAZMAT

The character of Gulf Islands is shaped by the presence of its numerous cultural resources throughout the natural environment. Conflicts in management occasionally arise when cultural resource preservation practices affect natural processes or populations, and vice versa. Objective: Develop a decision matrix to ensure compliance with environmental laws and policy during cultural resource actions. NEPA Historical

Overview

Cultural Resources

The cultural resources of Gulf Islands, many of which are specifically mentioned in the enabling legislation, interact with Seashore natural resources to provide unique attractions for visitors.

Historic Structures

Gulf Islands National Seashore contains one of the most complete collection of structures relating to the evolution of seacoast defense in the United States. Many of these structures are individually significant for their architectural design or the part they played in the history of our nation. Fort Massachusetts, Fort Pickens, Fort Barrancas and its Water Battery, and the Advanced Redoubt of Fort Barrancas are some of those significant structures. The U.S. "Third" System of fortifications (Fort Pickens, Advanced Redoubt, Fort Massachusetts) and the Endicott System structures (batteries, seawalls, searchlight foundations, torpedo facilities, igloos and mining casemate) at Gulf Islands are collectively the best surviving examples of the integration of several defense works into a total harbor defense program. In addition to structures, the Seashore also houses a very important collection of artillery that spans a time frame from early colonial times through the 1930s. All of the artillery is on display, including an original 15" Rodman mounted at Fort Massachusetts, two six-inch shield guns mounted at Battery 234, a six-inch disappearing rifle at Battery Cooper, a Rodman converted to a 8" rifle mounted at Fort Pickens and an iron 24 pounder gun mounted at Fort Barrancas, both mountings are on 1993 constructed aluminum non-historic reproduction carriages, and numerous other pieces at Fort Pickens and Fort Barrancas.

There are several sites that have been listed or are considered to be eligible for listing on the National Register. On the National Register are the Fort Barrancas Historical District (64 acres); Perdido Key Historic District (6 acres); Fort Pickens (850 acres); Fort Massachusetts (85 acres); and the French Warehouse Site (8 acres). The Naval Live Oaks Historic District (1,378 acres) has been formally determined eligible (08/15/78) for the National Register.

Gulf Islands National Seashore has one National Historic Landmark: Bateria de San Antonio. This Spanish period structure is one of three Spanish masonry fortifications remaining in the continental United States. Bateria de San Antonio has been restored to its 1840 appearance as the Water Battery of Fort Barrancas.

Within the authorized boundaries of Gulf Islands is the Pensacola Lighthouse and Keepers Quarters located on the Naval Air Station.

The property is owned and managed by the Coast Guard. Park staff is available to provide technical assistance concerning the preservation and maintenance of these structures.

Archaeological Resources

Prehistoric and historic archaeological sites exist throughout the Seashore. Of primary importance is the Third Site of Pensacola (8ES22) on Santa Rosa Island, near Fort Pickens. The Spanish occupied the site from 1722 until its destruction by a hurricane in 1752. The Third Site of Pensacola is especially important because it represents an undisturbed look at a brief but important phase of the history of Spanish colonization in eastern North America.

The Naval Live Oaks area is particularly rich in prehistoric and historic archaeological sites. While pot-hunting and shoreline erosion have damaged some of the sites, all however can still yield certain kinds of important information. The following periods of sites are represented within the Naval Live Oaks Area:

(1) Deptford (50 BC to AD 500)
(2) Santa Rosa-Swift Creek (AD 200 to AD 600)
(3) Weeden Island 1 and 2 (AD 600 to AD 950)
(4) Fort Walton (AD 950 to AD 1542)
(5) Leon-Jefferson (AD 1542 to AD 1750)

There has been no complete systematic inventory of all the sites in the Naval Live Oaks Area. Therefore, those sites that were previously recorded probably represent only a fraction of those likely to be found. Among these are several extremely important sites. The Third Gulf Breeze Site (8SR8) is an aboriginal site of the Swift Creek Period which appears to have little earlier or later occupation by aboriginal groups. Its single component aspect makes it one of the most significant sites of the Swift Creek period in Northwest Florida. Additionally, this site played a significant role in the history of archeology and formed a major part of the synthesis of Eastern U. S. Archeology.

Several sites at the Naval Live Oaks Area contain both aboriginal and European material and are important in enhancing our knowledge of the interactions between the earliest settlers and the original inhabitants of this area of the Gulf Coast.

The Brackenridge Plantation Site is represented by archaeological remains of several structures. These represent a particularly significant aspect of Gulf Islands because of the role that Naval Live Oaks played in the conservation history of the United States. In 1828, President John Quincy Adams set aside this reserve as part of the Nation's first timber conservation program to conserve live oak timber for use in ship building. The first American built road in Florida, the Pensacola-St. Augustine Road, is another important 19th Century archaeological site in Naval Live Oaks.

The Mississippi District of the National Seashore has two very important archaeological sites: the Ship Island Quarantine Station Site and the early French Warehouse Site on East Ship Island. Both sites illustrate the importance and significance of the Ship Island anchorage as the principal port of entry and departure for the Mississippi/Louisiana Gulf Coast from the beginning of the 18th century until the early years of the 20th Century.

Prime archeological sites for possible study are shipwrecks off the barrier islands. In 1973, and again in 1978 and 1979, archeologists conducted partial and brief underwater surveys of some of the submerged lands at the western tip of Santa Rosa Island, the eastern tip of Perdido Key and along the southern shore of Naval Live Oaks. The remains of eighteen apparent wrecks were located. In almost every case, however, they were covered by sand to the extent that it was not possible to evaluate them properly.

In 1989, the Southeast Archeological Center conducted "An Archeological Overview and Assessment of Gulf Islands National Seashore." The report is to identify and assess all of the known and potential cultural resources within the boundaries of the National Seashore. The Seashore contains 121 known archeological and cultural resources. Twelve of these properties are currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Most of the terrestrial parts of the park have been surveyed as per Executive Order 11593 and the National Historic Preservation Act, Amended 1980. Two areas of the park have not been surveyed for cultural resources. These are the natural preserves of Horn and Petit Bois Islands, Mississippi.

In 1991, the State of Florida Division of Historical Resources and Bureau of Archaeological Research conducted "The Pensacola Shipwreck Survey Phase One, 1991" as part of the Submerged Historical Resources of Pensacola Bay, Florida. Two of the 33 sites located, assessed, and recorded under the survey were within the National Park Service jurisdiction. No additional threats are evident for the two sites.

In 1992, the National Register Programs Division requested a review of a draft prehistoric site survey, entitled "Prehistory in the Southeast Region of the United States, 12,000 B.C.-A.D. 1500." The geographic and temporal focus of the archeological site survey was the prehistoric period of human occupation in the Southeastern United States. The survey used information gathered from a variety of public and private sources to identify the most important prehistoric archeological sites in the region. Identified sites were evaluated using both the National Register of Historic Places criterion, and the National Historic Landmark thematic framework and criterion for prehistoric archeology. Sites found to meet these criteria will be recommended for listing in the National Register, or study as Landmarks, as appropriate. The Naval Live Oaks Archeological District was listed as an extensive Post-Archaic

District containing numerous Deptford, Weeden Island, Fort Walton, and Pensacola culture sites.

In 1992, a survey was conducted under the National Archeological Survey Initiative, entitled "Archeological Inventory and Evaluation of Portions of the Fort Pickens Unit, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida. The survey was completed by the Southeast Archeological Center. The target area for the investigation was a specific portion of land identified for future development in the Fort Pickens Area.

Sites located underwater along the Naval Live Oaks southern shore give indications that prehistoric Indian remains could be found in peat deposits in the area. More recently, small illusive material remains have been recovered from sites indicating that the 1559 Spanish Fleet may have been wrecked along the north shore of Santa Rosa Island.

Cultural Resources Preservation

The Seashore maintains two artifact collections, one in Florida and one in Mississippi, and appropriate storage space has been designated for each collection. Both collections contain extremely significant data concerning the cultural resources of the Seashore. Additionally, archeological collections are stored at the Southeast Archeological Center, the Southeast Field Area's central repository for archeological collections.

All of the cultural resources at Gulf Islands are undergoing some degree of deterioration. Some are stabilized as ruins and, barring man-caused or catastrophic storm-caused disturbances, will deteriorate slowly. Other sites deteriorate faster as a result of age, erosion, vegetation encroachment, vandalism and lack of routine care. They require varied approaches to minimize preventable losses.

Cultural resource management projects are identified in the park's Resource Management Plan (01/90). The projects include museum management, archaeological surveys, and the research, assessment, stabilization, maintenance and monitoring of cultural resources. Through planning initiatives by the Southeast Regional Office, Historic Structures Preservation Guides; Collection Management Plans; Collection Condition Surveys; and updates to the List of Classified Structures (LCS) and Cultural Resource Bibliographies are being completed. The Southeast Archaeological Center is responsible for completing a Cultural Sites Inventory.

All of the main historic fortifications; Fort Pickens, Fort Barrancas and Water Battery (Bateria de San Antonio), the Advanced Redoubt of Fort Barrancas, and Fort Massachusetts, have received varying amounts of preservation work with varying degrees of success being achieved in preventing a continued loss of or

deterioration to historic fabric. Fort Barrancas and the Water Battery were the object of a stabilization and preservation project in 1978. Fort Pickens and the Advanced Redoubt of Fort Barrancas were the objects of a stabilization and preservation project in 1976. The Base End station (Tower) was the object of a stabilization and preservation project in 1981. In 1984, Battery Pensacola received stabilization/preservation.

The cultural resource management cyclic program is current, and the program is heavily utilized to complete major preservation work normally through the contract process. The Outline of Planning Requirements/10-238's is being utilized concurrently for other major project work.

Routine preservation maintenance is planned through an annual work plan and completed inhouse through base operational funding. The routine preservation maintenance program includes a field developed monitoring schedule for structures and artillery.

A priority listing for development of Historic Structure Reports was submitted to the Southeast Regional Office in October 1992. In November 1992, an inventory and assessment was completed on Building 32, former Coast Guard Station, now used as the Ranger Station on Santa Rosa Island. Also reviewed were Building 3 currently used as cultural resource management office space and Building 2 used as employee quarters. A Historic Structure Assessment Report has been finalized for Building 32.

The Seashore's historical structure drawing needs were submitted to the Southeast Regional Office in March 1993 for future Historic American Buildings Survey funding.

In June 1988, a field developed archaeological monitoring program was implemented. The program was developed to provide basic information for preservation efforts; monitor vandalism, theft, and destruction; monitor erosion and build up of vegetation; and to prevent total destruction of sites. Nine sites are monitored in the Florida District and two in the Mississippi District. Monitoring efforts are documented through the use of an archaeological resource monitoring card and the Form 10-343, Case Incident Record. The Southeast Archaeological Center is notified if significant findings are reported. Also, results are coordinated with SEAC for updating of the CSI-Archeology. It has been discussed with the Southeast Archaeological Center to develop a more concurrent formal monitoring program at the time the Cultural Sites Inventory is completed.

Issues and Objectives

Cultural Resources

The historic resources at Gulf Islands National Seashore lack a complete and updated inventory, assessment and required documentation of historic structures, settings and associated archaeological sites. Objectives: Update the Cultural Resources Bibliography (CRBIB), List of Classified Structures (LCS) and the Cultural Sites Inventory (CSI) theme for the historic resources. Continue to inventory and assess structures to complete Historic Structure Reports. Complete a Historic Resource Study for the Fort Pickens area of the Seashore. Systematically assess the condition of all historic resources and develop guidelines that determine the level of intervention and preservation of the historic resources. 1B

There are historic resources within the authorized boundaries of the National Seashore, the Lighthouse and Keepers Quarters (rehab of K.Q. completed in 1995 by NAS) located onboard the Naval Air Station and possible archaeological resources located within the Eglin Air Force property on Santa Rosa Island, which are not yet in park ownership. Objectives: Continue to monitor the condition of these resources within the authorized park boundaries and provide technical assistance where appropriate. Develop cooperative agreements with the current management agency of the properties to ensure continued preservation. 1A

While Historic Structure Reports have been completed for the four main historic fortifications and a Historic Resource Study for the Pensacola Harbor Defense Project and Ship Island, the Architectural Data Section of the Historic Structure Reports and the Historic Structure Preservation Guides have not been completed. Objective: Complete the Architectural Data Section of the Historic Structure Reports and the Historic Structure Preservation Guides for Forts Massachusetts, Barrancas and the Water Battery, Pickens, the Advanced Redoubt and Batteries Pensacola, Langdon, Trueman, Payne, Cullum-Sevier, #234, Cooper, Worth, Van Swearingen and #233. 1B

Gulf Islands contains such a wide diversity of cultural resources that numerous preservation techniques are required to address the preservation of those resources. Objectives: Develop and provide training to park employees in the area of preservation techniques. Research and develop preservation techniques that are particular to the historic and archaeological resources of Gulf Islands. 1A

The Seashore's extensive collection of artifacts and site related data are housed and maintained in museum storage facilities. The museum storage facilities have dedicated space which is (1) suitable and sufficient, (2) organized, and (3) effectively accessible. Objects are housed in appropriate containers and packaged with appropriate materials. The physical security for entrance into the storage areas meets National Park Service

standards. An intrusion detection system to provide security from theft and vandalism is needed for the Florida District. An intrusion detection system is operable in the Mississippi District. Fire protection is currently being met through the availability and use of hand held extinguishers. A fire detection system is needed for the Florida and Mississippi Districts. Environmental control measures are implace. Objectives: Complete a systematic survey of all museum objects and site related material in terms of conservation, catalogue and acquisition needs. Procure and install intrusion and fire detection systems. Design, install and operate a small electrolysis laboratory in the park to handle small items in need of metal treatment. Work with other agencies to treat larger metal items requiring conservation. 1B

Vandalism is a recurring problem at many of the historic structures, most frequently at the numerous Coast Artillery Batteries which are spread throughout the two main areas of the Florida District. New door and window enclosures were installed in 1987-1989 to Batteries Langdon, Worth, Cooper, and 234 to control public access to the structure. Objectives: Continue cyclic replacement of door and window enclosures (at all of the structures). Continue public education programs to curtail vandalism. Increase the monitoring of structures by Resource Management and Visitor Protection personnel in hopes of reducing the number of acts of vandalism through public contact as well as enforcement of regulations. 1A

A number of historic alterations and adaptive uses have been implemented to achieve management goals. Other adaptative uses will continue to be necessary to meet overall management needs. Objectives: Develop guidelines for determining what adaptive uses are necessary and appropriate to specific structures. Continue strategies for achieving accessibility (Section 504) standards. Continue to consider the options of moving the Florida District maintenance operations from the Fort Pickens area to a new location. 1A

The majority of the cultural resources within Gulf Islands National Seashore are impacted in some manner by the natural processes occurring around them such as shoreline migration, erosion and fire. Objectives: Implement a shoreline monitoring program for Fort Pickens and erosion-threatened archaeological sites. Develop a protection plan for the resources threatened by natural processes. Coordinated results with SEAC for updating of the CSI-Archeology. Monitor fire conditions on a regular basis and address the needs of the cultural resources especially at the Naval Live Oaks area in the Seashore's Fire Management Plan. A draft Fire Management Plan has been developed for the Seashore. 1A

The Quarantine Site on East Ship Island has been the subject of investigations which have lead to the recovery of specific site information relative to nomination for National Register status.

Objective: Complete the National Register nomination forms for the Quarantine Site on East Ship Island. 1A

An archaeological survey and testing of Gulf Islands was conducted in 1973 and while important information is contained in this very early survey of the cultural resources of Gulf Islands, it can only be considered as preliminary indications of valuable resources as these site evaluations do not meet the standards of NPS-28 or the Management Policies of the National Park Service. Objective: Conduct a complete inventory of the surface and subsurface sites of Gulf Islands National Seashore. 1A

Pothunting and the unauthorized collections of historic items are occurring throughout the Seashore on both surface and subsurface sites. Objectives: Increase monitoring by park personnel of all cultural sites within the Seashore in order to identify any patterns of violations and to prevent further damage to the sites. Coordinated results with SEAC for updating of the CSI-Archeology. Continue interpretive messages in all programs on the need to protect archaeological resources. 1A

Fort Pickens, the oldest, largest and most heavily visited of all the historic structures within Gulf Islands National Seashore, is in the worst state of preservation and in the most immediate need of stabilization. Due to the advanced state of deterioration, complete restoration is not feasible due to extreme costs. Objective: A general stabilization of the Fort's remains should be programmed for and implemented through the funding process, with limited restoration of certain portions of the fort. 1A

Vegetation control and grounds maintenance is of concern at all of the Seashore's historic structures. A conflicting erosion problem exists with vegetation control. Many of the structures are overgrown with various types of vegetation leading to the erosion of slopes and exposure of historic fabric. In conflict, the lack of vegetation causes more erosion than the vegetation overgrowth. Objective: Develop a cultural landscape plan for all major historic structures and districts which details the desired setting and establishes the steps in which vegetation removal, replanting and maintenance can be achieved. 1A *

The effects of visitor use and access on the cultural resources of the National Seashore is not fully known or understood. Objectives: Develop criteria for permitting access to resources based upon safety concerns and resource impact/damage. Identify the appropriate uses of cultural resources and limit access and use based upon the pre-identified levels of compatible and appropriate use. 1A

All of the historic artillery on display throughout the Seashore is outside and exposed to the harsh environmental conditions associated with a seashore area. Due to these harsh environmental

conditions the iron cannon is in a constant state of corrosion resulting in varying degrees of historic fabric loss. Objective: Implement a preservation treatment program for all artillery pieces on a cyclic basis which includes the removal of existing coats of paint, repriming, sealing and painting of all iron surfaces. 1A

STATUS AS OF JULY, 1995

WEAPON(S)	PRESERVED	NEEDS PRESERVATION
15" Rodman FM	X	
15" Rodman FP	X	
8" Rodman FP	X	
8" Rodman FP	X	
6" DC Rifle Cooper	X	
6" Shield gun 234	X	
6" Shield gun 234		X
10" Mortar, U.S. FP	X	
24" Pdr, U.S. FB	X	
32" Pdr, U.S. FP	X	
42" Pdr, U.S. FB	X	
32" Pdr, Brit FP	X	
32" Pdr, Brit FP	X	
32" Pdr, Brit FP	X	
24" Pdr, Span FP	X	
6" Pdr, Brit FP	X	
6" Pdr, Brit FB	X	
6" Pdr, Brit FB	X	
13" Mortar Brit FB	X	
13" Mortar FR FB	X	
16" Pdr FR FB	X	
24" Pdr Span FB	X	
24" Pdr Span FB	X	
24" Pdr Brit FB	X	
12" Pdr Brit FB	X	

Overview

Recreational Resources

Water-Related Recreation

Fishing: Sport fishing within the waters of the National Seashore is largely for mullet, flounder, pompano, Spanish mackerel, king mackerel, redfish, bluefish, white trout, speckled trout, grouper, bonito, shark and shrimp.

Fishing piers are maintained at Fort Pickens and in the Davis Bayou area. The most widely-caught fish are mackerel, bluefish, flounder and mullet. The boat pier at West Ship Island receives considerable use as a fishing platform, and surf fishing occurs throughout the park. The majority of sport fishing within the Mississippi District takes place on private boats and charter vessels.

Beach routes for four-wheel drive vehicles to reach desired fishing areas on Perdido Key and Santa Rosa Island, flanking the entrance to Pensacola Bay, have been available in the past but are now closed.

Shellfishing: Recreational shellfishing, primarily for oysters and scallops, is a common activity within certain areas of the Seashore.

Surfing, Scuba: The Fort Pickens Area is popular for surfing (especially at the west end of Santa Rosa Island), and scuba diving. Snorkeling is enjoyed throughout the park, especially where underwater formations such as jetties or grassbeds congregate marine life.

Swimming: The extensive beaches of Gulf Islands encourages swimming virtually everywhere within the park. Protected swim areas are maintained during the summer season at Johnson Beach in the Perdido Key Area, within the developed area of the Santa Rosa unit, Langdon Beach in the Fort Pickens Area, and on West Ship Island.

Boating: Boat launch ramps are available at the Davis Bayou and Okaloosa Areas. Other ramps are available at nearby locations outside the Seashore. A boat dock is available at West Ship Island for private boats as well as the concession boats. Pleasure boating is one of the most popular uses of the Seashore and is the primary means of access to Horn, Petit Bois and East Ship Islands.

Land-Based Recreation

Picnicking: Picnic facilities are located in the Naval Live Oaks, Santa Rosa, Fort Pickens, Okaloosa, Perdido Key, Fort Barrancas, West Ship Island, and Davis Bayou Areas of the National Seashore.

Available picnic areas are becoming more and more in demand for group activities, such as company picnics, family reunions, and school or club outings.

Hiking: The Seashore maintains hiking trails in most areas, including several self-guided nature trails. Popular activities associated with hiking include wildlife observation, beachcombing, bird watching, and photography. In October, 1994, a total of 14.3 miles of shoreline and inland trail were designated as a section of the Florida National Scenic Trail. The sections of trail are located in the Fort Pickens and Santa Rosa Areas.

Camping: This is a popular activity in all seasons. During the warm months, family vacationers and travelers predominate, while in the winter large numbers of retired persons use the facilities. In addition to the Davis Bayou (51 sites) and Fort Pickens (200 sites) Campgrounds, each area has a group tenting area for use by youth and other groups. A third group campground, for use by youth groups only, is located in the Naval Live Oaks Area. Primitive backcountry camping is available on Horn, Petit Bois, East Ship Islands and the undeveloped portion of Perdido Key.

Hunting: Public hunting is limited to waterfowl and doves, and is confined to two small areas in the Florida district (between the road and the Sound in the Santa Rosa Area and to the east beyond the paved road on Perdido Key). Because of the widely separated seasons of visitor use (in turn due to seasonal climate conditions) there is little direct conflict between hunting activities and other recreational uses.

Issues and Objectives

Recreational Resources

The proximity of Gulf Islands' facilities to urban areas results in a high demand for use of these facilities for a variety of group recreational activities. Prominent among these are events such as company picnics, club outings, boat regattas, and competitive or "fun" runs. At times, these activities are in direct competition, in terms of space or demands on National Park Service staffing, with the more traditional, individual uses of the Seashore by visitors. Growing population in the area and more widespread knowledge of the Seashore's facilities and features are increasing the frequency of problems relating to this competition. Objective: Develop a plan to deal with special events and group recreation activities as needed. This plan should identify the appropriate position Gulf Islands should occupy in meeting regional needs for activities of this type and should establish a framework for setting priorities, resolving conflicts, and regulating use. 2A

Another issue of continuing concern is the extent to which recreational facilities in the National Seashore should be expanded in response to growing demand. Camping, picnicking, and boat launching facilities, in particular, are frequently used at or beyond their capacity, resulting in some demands from the public for expansion. Construction of additional facilities, however, would involve not only commitment of additional funds and staffing, but development of lands now of value for their natural and cultural resources. Objective: Evaluate the recommendations of the General Management Plan and Development Concept Plan for future needs. In most cases, the plan establishes a clear basis for what expansions or modifications of recreational facilities are considered appropriate. The only significant need the Seashore has in this regard is funding to accomplish any tasks outlined by these plans which are determined to be necessary and appropriate. 2A

The use of off-road-vehicles (ORV's) on certain Florida District beaches conflicts with the cultural, natural, and recreational resources. Impacts to the cultural and natural resources and conflicts with pedestrian use of the beaches are inconsistent with present park management. Currently, no ORV use is permitted but use is still authorized under existing regulations. Objective: Determine the controversial nature of the ORV issue and pursue deauthorization of the ORV regulations. 2A

An additional issue involving conflicts between recreational resources and cultural resources is at the Third Site of Pensacola (8ES22). The National Park Service maintains a group campground near this site. One of the campsites in the group campground is physically located on part of 8ES22. Objective: Continue to 1A

monitor the effects of group camping on the site and continue to spread vegetation removed from other areas on top of undesignated foot path areas within the site to prevent further erosion.

LAND USES AND TRENDS

Overview

Internal

Total area within the boundaries of the National Seashore is approximately 139,775 acres. Of this total, about 99,006 acres are under National Park Service administration, 5,000 acres are administered by other Federal agencies, 22,000 acres are owned by State or local agencies, and 1,070 acres are in private ownership. Within the Mississippi District, all submerged lands have been acquired; the Marsh Point tract and some 9 tracts on Horn Island remain in private ownership. In Florida, the most significant tracts of fastlands not under National Park Service administration are the lands in the eastern portion of Santa Rosa Island which remain part of Eglin Air Force Base. These tracts total 4,235 acres, while the adjacent submerged lands within the boundary, totaling 15,400 acres, remain State property. Also under State ownership are the submerged lands (6,600 acres) around Perdido Key.

At the present time, all private lands within the boundary remain undeveloped, with no immediate potential for development evident. The Air Force lands on Santa Rosa Island are lightly developed for military purposes, with little apparent potential for any change in status. Within the boundaries in the Pensacola Forts area, lands under Navy and Coast Guard administration are partially developed, but not in a manner significantly affecting adjacent NPS lands.

The Memorandum of Agreement entered into on December 23, 1971, between the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of the Navy states that the Secretary of Navy..."shall erect no structures along and across the beach in an arc of viewing and described as sight lines connecting Fort Barrancas at the Naval Air Station with Fort Pickens on Santa Rosa Island and Fort McRee in Pensacola Bay and the batteries on Perdido Key in any way that would detract from the present condition."

With the exception of limited areas within development and historic zones, most National Park Service lands within the Seashore are in a natural condition, without developments and without influences that might detract from use of these lands for park purposes.

Regional and Local

Gulf Islands National Seashore is within an easy day's drive of an eight state area (Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Georgia and Texas) with a population of more than 54 million. Projected range of increases between 1991 and 2010 varies from 10.3 percent in Mississippi to 48.4 percent in Florida, averaging 16 percent for the region.

The states most closely associated with development of the National Seashore comprise an area where per capita income level, for the most part, is well below the national average. In general, it is reasonable to conclude that the potential attraction of Seashore visitors to this region will provide additional favorable impetus to the changing economy. The greatest impact will be on local areas, but benefits can be expected throughout the region.

The Mississippi beachfront currently houses seven casinos, with an eighth under construction. Twenty-eight casinos are proposed for the 25 miles of beachfront between Biloxi Bay's Point Cadet and Bay St. Louis, to the west. The casinos have drastically changed life along the Gulf Coast in a very short time. Constant, heavy traffic along U.S. Highway 90 has occurred; fishermen have lost access to the beachfront; and local small businesses aren't seeing much positive impact from the casino employment. A tourism expert stated that for the long run, developers will have to add to the tourist mix resorts, hotels, golf courses, and tennis courts to maintain a good mix for the entire family. In view of these developments, the attractiveness of the Seashore's offshore island beaches and mainland area in Mississippi becomes even more critical. Natural, tranquil areas where the public can be assured of a quality experience will most certainly be a tourism promotion for the Gulf Coast.

In the Florida District, public beach areas on Santa Rosa Island are maintained principally by county chartered authorities. There are public facilities at the entrance to the Fort Pickens Area, Pensacola Beach, Navarre Beach, and Fort Walton Beach (Okaloosa Island). Roadside parking, litter barrels, and several 20 car parking lots with boardwalks are the only provisions made along the remaining sections of county controlled beach on Santa Rosa Island.

On Perdido Key, the State of Florida maintains two beach facilities with parking areas at Perdido Key State Preserve about two miles west of the National Seashore boundary. Just north across Big Lagoon, a State recreation area, also named Big Lagoon, has picnicking, camping facilities and a boat ramp.

There are several inland Federal recreation areas which complement the National Seashore, such as DeSoto National Forest, Mississippi, and Apalachicola National Forest, Florida. The many historic sites in Pensacola, Florida, and Biloxi and Gulfport, Mississippi, also provide additional assets to the recreational spectrum. A variety of State parks, including a seashore area in Alabama, three in northwest Florida, and two in Mississippi also serve regional recreation needs.

Issues and Objectives

Land Uses and Trends

For the most part, necessary land acquisition has been completed for the National Seashore. The notable exceptions are the remaining privately owned lands within the Mississippi District. Of lesser concern are the Air Force lands in Florida which may eventually come under National Park Service administration. An approved Land Protection Plan adequately addresses these issues. Objective: Implement the land acquisition recommendations of the Land Protection Plan for Gulf Islands: the acquisition of private lands to ensure their preservation, and transfer of some tracts from other Federal agencies to remove some uncertainties in dealing with the management of these tracts. 1A

The external trend of most concern in management of the National Seashore is the degree to which urbanization is increasing on lands adjacent to many areas of the Seashore. Of particular concern in this regard are the Naval Live Oaks and Davis Bayou areas, both of which have long boundaries facing urban development either already in place or expected within the very near future. Urbanization not only has direct impacts on lands within the boundaries, but also increases demand for use of Seashore lands as open space for specific recreational pursuits. Objective: For the long term, continue cooperation and communication with agencies responsible for controlling development of lands adjacent to the Seashore. This is essential to keep informed concerning changes with potential impact on the Seashore and to ensure that National Park Service concerns are addressed, wherever possible, in local and regional planning activities. Fencing of boundaries that are particularly vulnerable to encroachment may be needed. 1A

The University of West Florida administers a tract of 152 acres of State owned land on Santa Rosa Island, between Pensacola Beach and the Santa Rosa Area. The university has not been using this land and has stated an interest in exchanging it for land in the Naval Live Oaks Area, to be used for a conference center. Objective: Actively work with the University of West Florida to ensure long-term protection of the property. 1A

The Santa Rosa Island Economic Development Council has recommended that 372 acres on Santa Rosa Island be developed as a golf course to stimulate economy. A special state law enacted in 1985 protects the 372 acres, preserving the land for recreation and conservation purposes only. The east boundary of the land is adjacent to the University of West Florida's property. The National Seashore has not taken a position on this endeavor. The land is within legislative boundaries of the Seashore. Objective: Acquire the land if it is offered to the National Park Service. 1A

Public Law 95-625 of November 1978 authorized the purchase of 600 acres of Marsh Point, adjacent to Davis Bayou, for the purpose of preserving the view and protecting the marsh environment. Marsh Point, one of the largest intact salt marshes in Mississippi, is an important spawning ground for fish and provides habitat for waterfowl and a variety of other marsh dependant animal species. It is also an important land barrier to Davis Bayou during hurricanes. Restricting probable land development on Marsh Point would protect the view from Davis Bayou and preserve intact this salt marsh ecosystem. Objective: Implement the acquisition recommendation of the Land Protection Plan for Gulf Islands. 1A

Within the Mississippi District, two areas not within the boundaries have been mentioned in recent years as potential additions to the National Seashore. These areas are Cat Island, which is privately owned, and the chain of islands in Louisiana known as the Chandeleurs, now a National Wildlife Refuge. Both areas were part of the original proposal for Gulf Islands but were dropped during the legislative process. Adding either would require an amendment to the authorizing legislation and would also require additional funds and staffing for their administration. Objective: Continue to monitor the status of these two areas as to their potential for addition to the Seashore. 1A

Renewed interest in construction of a waterway across Santa Rosa Island at Navarre Beach has raised issues of concern to Gulf Islands. In the long run, such a pass has a potential for adverse impact on lands and waters of the National Seashore. It would change erosional patterns, alter water quality in the Santa Rosa Sound, and present a transportation barrier to lands to the east, should they ever be transferred to National Park Service administration. Objective: Monitor the development of this proposal so that opportunities to take part in the planning process are not missed. 1A

VISITOR USE ANALYSIS

Overview

General observation indicates most day use visitors are local Gulf Coast residents, principally family groups and organized groups from local schools, clubs, and youth organizations. Campground users, as expected, come from more distant areas and may stay for several days. Although some such campers are from States far from the region, and could be considered national visitors, most are from the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and adjacent southern States. The length of stay at Gulf Islands varies. In general, about 4% of the visitors stay overnight and 96% are day users.

Visitation Statistics

With few exceptions, visitation to Gulf Islands has increased steadily since the NPS began administering lands within the National Seashore in 1972. During 1973, the first year for which statistics are available, total visits were 943,517. Annual visits for the last ten years have been as follows:

YEAR		TOTAL VISITS
1984		5,803,384
1985		9,880,814
1986		7,572,421
1987	*Accounting System Modified	4,850,841*
1988		4,826,892
1989		5,197,899
1990		5,006,505
1991		5,137,405
1992		5,567,369
1993		5,589,158
1994		5,201,984

Hurricane Frederic in 1979 resulted in a substantial decrease in visitation for that year and 1980. Declines in visitation totals for 1986 and 1987 can be attributed to a change in the methods of collecting visitation data.

Visitation has followed a well defined seasonal pattern since 1971, with 45% to 55% of total annual visitors arriving in the four summer months of May through August. However, the diverse attractions of the separate portions tend to smooth out this seasonality, e.g., in winter auto camping remains attractive whereas beach use declines. Use of Ship Island is very low in the winter months, when the tour boat service is not operating, but smaller declines are seen in Florida and Davis Bayou where roads lead to all locations.

While weather can affect distribution of travel throughout the year, the following monthly statistics for one year are fairly typical:

TOTAL VISITS IN 1994

January	223,134
February	293,185
March	404,199
April	480,907
May	630,936
June	611,593
July	657,551
August	592,648
September	434,039
October	354,639
November	305,149
December	214,004

In the summer, visitation is distributed throughout the week. However, in the spring and fall, there is a distinct increase on weekends. Generally, the busy weeks in the spring are around Easter and Memorial Day. In the fall, good weather makes visitation vary on the weekends. Visitors (both local and regional) like to go to the beach in the spring. By late summer, the beach season is winding down because of active exposure throughout the summer and the return to school. Spring vacations are also a major factor in the increase noticed in visitation in the spring.

Visitor Uses

Use in both districts is heavy and parallels the growth of local populations as well as an increase in the amount of leisure time for nearby residents. Within the Mississippi District, visitation to all of the offshore islands except West Ship is by private vessel only. Due to their distance from land and the potential for sudden, severe weather conditions, the trip to the Mississippi islands can be hazardous, particularly for inexperienced boaters.

Backcountry use and primitive camping are confined to the islands of the Mississippi District, and essentially to those visitors who own or rent small boats. Favored camping (and fishing) sites are on the extreme sandy tips of those islands, where air circulation is maximum and, therefore, irritating insect problems are minimized. Many campers confine their activities to fishing at these points, but others venture inland without benefit of trails or designated corridors to observe the wildlife and vegetation. Some backcountry wandering takes place in the Florida District, but no primitive camping is permitted, except in the roadless portion of Perdido Key.

Commercial and sports fishing are common activities which are continuing in both Florida and Mississippi. Extensive commercial trawling for shrimp, purse seining for menhaden, and gill-netting is done throughout the Mississippi Sound, including National Seashore waters. A 1977 Mississippi law prohibits gill nets within one mile of any offshore island during certain times of the year. Due to perceptions of declining catches, the issue of competition between commercial operations and sport fishing has been raised in recent years. Commercial activities are much less common in Florida District waters, although shore fishing, particularly near the channel separating Santa Rosa Island from Perdido Key, is a very popular activity.

The Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources is authorized by Section 49-15-15 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated to enact all regulations necessary for the protection, conservation or propagation of all commercial fish in the waters under the territorial jurisdiction of the State of Mississippi. In February 1995, the Commission determined that it was in the best interest of the fisheries of the State of Mississippi to regulate areas, methods, and gear types in the saltwaters of the State of Mississippi as well as catch limitations, minimum lengths, and quotas.

Effective May 1995, Gulf Islands began enforcement of regulations prohibiting commercial fishing. This action followed the April 6, 1995 Solicitor's opinion which concluded that neither the Act authorizing the creation of Gulf Islands nor the applicable regulations permit commercial fishing within the park's boundaries.

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks law enforcement officers, under Federal deputation, assists the Mississippi District of the Seashore with the enforcement of federal regulations.

On July 1, 1995, the State of Florida implemented Florida Constitution Article X, Section 16, Limiting Marine Net Fishing. The limitations on marine net fishing in Florida waters protect saltwater finfish, shellfish, and other marine animals from unnecessary killing, overfishing and waste. The Article specifies that no gill nets or other entangling nets can be used in any Florida waters. In addition, no other type of net containing more than 500 square feet of mesh areas can be used in nearshore and inshore Florida waters. Also, no more than two such nets, which shall not be connected, shall be used from any vessel, and no person not on a vessel shall use more than one such net in nearshore and inshore Florida waters.

Automobile/family camping is very popular seasonally at both Davis Bayou (51 sites) and Fort Pickens (200 sites). Summer use is largely by families, while winter campers are almost exclusively retired people.

Swimming and sunbathing are the most common visitor uses. West Ship Island serves virtually all the demand in the Mississippi District for high density use, since that is the only island served by a high capacity public boat service. Private boaters use East Ship, Horn, and Petit Bois Islands' beaches on an individual basis. Virtually all of the Fort Pickens and the Santa Rosa Area are traversed by public road, and swimmers have access at present to all Gulf front beaches by roadside parking or at developed facilities with parking lots and boardwalks. The Perdido Key Area provides concentrated swimming opportunities at the picnic pavilion and a roadway with roadside parking available eastward from the pavilion for two miles.

Picnicking facilities are available at Davis Bayou and West Ship Island and picnicking without facilities is common along beaches in both Florida and Mississippi. There are picnic facilities at all six of the Florida areas.

Touring historic structures is popular at the Fort Pickens and Pensacola Forts Areas and on Ship Island.

Beachcombing, visiting each area of Gulf Islands and commuting on State Highway 399 in Florida account for the remaining visitors.

Access

Intensive interstate highway development along the Gulf Coast, combined with existing State and Federal roads, provides relatively easy private vehicle access to the Davis Bayou Area in the Mississippi District and to the Florida District. However, most traffic to the National Seashore from the interstate freeways must now pass through areas already congested with urban traffic. During periods of high visitation, spring and summer, daily traffic tie-ups are common in the Florida District, most noticeably in the Fort Pickens and Santa Rosa Areas of the Seashore. The Mississippi District does not yet experience this problem.

Airports in New Orleans, Gulfport, Mobile, and Pensacola provide relatively easy access for the air traveler. Municipal bus service or any other public system from airports or downtown centers to the Seashore does not exist at present.

Transportation to the offshore islands in Mississippi requires the use of private or rental boats. Four concessioner operated passenger tour boats offer scheduled service from Biloxi and Gulfport to West Ship Island on a seasonal basis. Charter service is offered for a fee to the other islands in the Mississippi District and is available by reservation only.

Vandalism

Because of the widely separated segments of the park, it is not practical with existing staffing to patrol certain areas on a daily

basis. The Florida District alone contains six separate operational areas, all which are attractive to those who do acts of vandalism.

The forts and batteries and their related interpretive exhibits are probably the most prone to vandalism because of the many nooks and passages which invite destructive behavior by certain visitors.

Isolated day use facilities, such as those located along the roadway entering Fort Pickens and the Johnson Beach facility at Perdido Key are also prone to destructive actions of people with no regard for property.

In recent years, a number of man caused wildfires have been started in the woods of the Naval Live Oaks area and in the beach grass of Santa Rosa Island. The damage has been minimal to date.

In all cases, vandalism causes both physical and spiritual disruption of the visitor's enjoyment of the National Seashore; and in some cases, it can cause permanent loss of the very resources for which the area was set aside.

Vandalism can cause a condition to exist which may be a hazard to visitors and employees, and can result in serious injury or even death. It is, therefore, important that every effort be made in planning and administering areas within the National Seashore with an eye toward eliminating or reducing the potential for vandalism.

Issues and Objectives

Visitor Use Analysis

An evaluation of visitor use was completed in 1990 through a specially designed site survey for assessing visitor expectations and attitudes about park conditions at Gulf Islands National Seashore. The focus of the survey was directed toward those visitor benefits and issues that park managers could realistically change within the constraints of their park.

Information profiling the visitor was collected and evaluated in relationship to the visitor's perceived expectations. Demographic characteristics such as age, sex, income, family patterns, and educational levels, together with attitudinal measures of the visiting public, were analyzed in relation to specific services, facilities and programs expected by the public at Gulf Islands National Seashore. Objective: Continue to monitor and adjust to best meet changing demands of the visitors and resource protection. 2A

Vandalism is a visitation issue, as well as a resource issue, and is a matter of serious concern. Major and permanent damage, or damage which is costly to repair, is a frequent occurrence. Objectives: Continue to provide the maximum amount of routine patrol available for the most frequently vandalized areas of the National Seashore. Continue the amount of interpretive messages on vandalism at all program levels including publications. 1A

FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT ANALYSIS

Overview

A substantial amount of both new construction and rehabilitation of existing structures has occurred since the authorization of Gulf Islands National Seashore. Remaining new construction projects that need to be accomplished are a boat dock, bicycle trail, casemate rehabilitation, and day use facilities in the Fort Pickens and Okaloosa areas. Also, rehabilitative work remains to be done on a few historic structures. Most of the work completed has made facilities accessible to disabled visitors. New employee quarters have been constructed at Davis Bayou.

MAJOR FACILITIES (Roads excluded)

Fort Pickens	- 48 historic structures - a visitor center - a comfort station - a campground with 200 sites - a group campground for 50 people - three picnic areas having a combined total of approximately 80 tables, 3 shelters, and 3 restrooms - two concession facilities - a life-guarded beach - a fishing pier - an entrance station
Santa Rosa	- a gulfside picnic area with approximately 110 tables, 43 shelters and 3 restrooms - a concession facility - a life-guarded beach - a soundside picnic area with 8 shelters, 16 picnic tables and 1 restroom
Naval Live Oaks	- a visitor center/headquarters building - a picnic area with 25 tables, a shelter, and a restroom - a group campground for 60 people
Pensacola Forts	- three historic structures - a contact station/restroom building - a picnic area with 10 tables
Perdido Key	- a picnic area with approximately 64 tables, 5 shelters, and 2 restrooms - a Ranger Office/First Aid facility - a concession facility - a life-guarded beach - an entrance station
Okaloosa	- a picnic area with approximately 18 tables and restroom

Okaloosa	- two boat launch ramps - a temporary concessions building
Davis Bayou	- a visitor center/administrative building - a boat operations complex - a maintenance complex - a campground with 51 sites - a group campground for 40 people - two picnic areas having a combined total of approximately 120 tables, 5 shelters and 4 restrooms - a jon-boat tour facility - two boat launch ramps - three government housing units
Ship Island	- one historic structure - a boat dock - a picnic area with approximately 26 tables, 2 shelters, and 2 restrooms - a concession facility - a Ranger office/First Aid facility - three government housing units - a life-guarded beach
Horn Island	- a boat dock - a triplex government housing unit - a maintenance building
Petit Bois Island	- no facilities

UTILITIES

Florida District	- municipal water except wells at Fort Pickens - municipal sewer except Fort Pickens, Okaloosa, and Santa Rosa areas which have septic tanks - electricity furnished by Gulf Power Company - telephone service furnished by Southern Bell and AT&T - radio system, park owned - gas by city of Gulf Breeze at Naval Live Oaks
Mississippi District	- municipal water at Davis Bayou, wells at Horn and Ship Islands - municipal sewer at Davis Bayou, septic tanks at Horn and Ship Islands - cellular phones for Horn and Ship Islands

Mississippi District	- electricity furnished by Mississippi Power and Singing River at Davis Bayou Diesel powered generators at Horn and Ship Islands - telephone service furnished by South Central Bell and AT&T at Davis Bayou - radio system, park owned

ROADS AND TRAILS

Florida District	- approximately 25 miles of roads - paved parking for approximately 1600 cars - seven nature trails having a combined length of approximately 3.6 miles - approximately 2.5 miles of boardwalk
Mississippi District	- approximately 3 miles of road - paved parking for approximately 175 cars - graded parking for approximately 100 cars - a nature trail approximately .5 mile long - approximately .5 mile of boardwalk

ISSUES AND OBJECTIVES

Facilities and Equipment Analysis

If current funding levels continue to support ongoing rehabilitative efforts to repair and/or replace inadequate or badly deteriorated facilities, the Seashore's needs for new accessible facilities in the future should be small. However, all of the historic fortifications are in need of attention, stabilization and preservation efforts. Objective: Seek funding for the stabilization and/or preservation of the numerous historic structures located throughout the National Seashore. 1A

MANAGEMENT ZONING

Seashore lands are classified in order to designate where various strategies for management and use will best fulfill management objectives and achieve the purposes of the Seashore. Classification is based on the inherent nature of Seashore resources and the suitability of the land for the proposed uses and management. The National Park Service land classification system has flexibility which permits adaptation to many different park situations.

In the Seashore, four main land classification zones - natural, historic, development and special-use have been utilized. The natural zone has been further divided into four subzones - wilderness, environmental protection, outstanding natural feature and natural environment - to indicate in greater detail how the land or water will be managed.

1. Natural Zone (132,667 acres)

The natural zone has been divided into four subzones, all of which exist in a relatively natural state and will remain largely unaltered by human activities, except for approved developments essential for management, use or appreciation of the Seashore.

Wilderness Subzone (4,923)

These areas are managed to perpetuate an undisturbed environment that possesses an atmosphere of solitude as well as negligible evidence of resource impairment. Some recreation activities will be permitted in designated wilderness. Congress has directed that lands designated as potential wilderness at Gulf Islands are to be managed "insofar as practicable as wilderness, until such time as said lands are designated as wilderness."

Designated Areas - This classification encompasses all of Horn (with the exception of the administrative corridor) and Petit Bois Islands.

Environmental Protection Subzone (1,240 acres)

Lands and waters possessing particular value as wildlife habitat or for research are designated as environmental protection subzone areas. These areas are to be used for research, protection and interpretation of the outstanding natural features which dominate the environment. Only minimal development is permissible to interact with the resource without interfering with ecological values.

Designated Areas - Most of East Ship Island is classified as an environmental protection subzone area. A portion of the Naval Live Oaks Area dominated by a sand pine community is also designated in this subzone.

All of the Marsh Point lands (south of Davis Bayou) are included in this classification.

Outstanding Natural Feature Subzone (875 acres)

Lands with geological and/or biological features which possess unusual intrinsic values or uniqueness. These areas are representative of the Seashore's principle attractions. Development in these areas will be minimal and natural components will continue to dominate the environment.

Designated Areas - Most of West Ship Island, and land east of the day use facility within the Santa Rosa Area.

Natural Environment Subzone (125,436 acres)

These lands and waters will be managed to permit environmentally compatible recreational activities which might cause limited disruption of the natural environment. Development will not dominate the environment as in the development zone, but will be integrated into it.

Designated Areas - Most of the eastern portion of the Fort Pickens Area; the Santa Rosa Area, west of the day use facility; the Okaloosa Area; and Perdido Key are designated in this category. These are the principal beach recreation attractions of the Florida District of the National Seashore. A small area on western East Ship Island is classified as a natural environment area to accommodate a possible minimum facility camping area. Natural environment subzone designation also includes the day use and other areas on West Ship Island. The undeveloped portion of Davis Bayou is classified as natural environment because of the high-density recreation activities within the remainder of the unit. All Seashore submerged lands up to mean low-tide line (approximately 120,458 acres) are also being classified as natural environment.

2. Historic Zone (2,110 acres)

These areas are managed primarily to preserve significant historic structures for public benefit, as well as to maintain the historic scene.

Designated Areas - In Mississippi, there are two areas designated as historic zones; one on West Ship Island, and one on East Ship Island. The historic zone on West Ship Island includes Fort Massachusetts, the lighthouse complex, and all development in a wide strip extending from the Gulf to the Sound side of the island. The historic zone on East Ship Island incorporates the site of the French Warehouse and the Quarantine Station Site. In Florida, there are four historic zones -- the entire Pensacola Forts Area currently under National Park Service jurisdiction (located within the Pensacola Naval Air Station), most of the Fort Pickens Area

west of the Coast Guard Station, most of the Naval Live Oaks Area and a small site on the eastern tip of Perdido Key.

3. Development Zone (496 acres)

This zone includes land and water where nonhistoric park development and intensive use substantially alter the natural environment. This zone is managed to provide and maintain development that serve the needs of park management and relatively large number of visitors.

Designated Areas - Development zones include the three major beach recreational use areas in the Florida district -- Perdido Key, Fort Pickens, and Santa Rosa. Approximately half of Davis Bayou will continue to be utilized for intensive day and overnight use facilities and is classified as a development zone. A small development zone is in the Naval Live Oaks Area to accommodate the visitor center and other developments.

4. Special-Use Zone (4,502 acres)

Designated Areas - All of the Navarre Beach and Fort Walton Beach units which are included by legislation in the Seashore will remain under the jurisdiction of Eglin Air Force Base until no longer needed for defense purposes. Most of the land of the Pensacola Forts remains under jurisdiction of the Department of the Navy.

STATUS OF PLANNING

Plan/Study	Date Approved	Adequacy/Status	Repository
Transportation Study GUIS, Florida	05/78	Adequate	DSC/GUIS
General Management Plan Development Concept Plan (Mississippi-Florida)	07/78	Satisfactory	GUIS
Final Environmental Statement (GMP/DCP)	08/78	Satisfactory	DSC/GUIS
Transportation Study GUIS, Mississippi	1979	Adequate	DSC/GUIS
Interpretive Prospectus	02/79	Outdated	GUIS
Environmental Assessment DCP-Fort Pickens Unit	04/80	Adequate	DSC/GUIS
Development Concept Plan (Fort Pickens Unit - Florida)	05/81	Outdated	GUIS
Program Evaluation (FL and MS)	08/83	Adequate	DSC/GUIS
Feasibility Study Ferry Services - Florida	06/89	Adequate	DSC/GUIS
Resource Management Plan	01/90	Adequate	GUIS
Evaluation of Visitor Use Gulf Islands National Seashore, FL & MS	07/91	Satisfactory	GUIS
Addendum to Land Protection Plan	09/91	Adequate	GUIS
Fort Pickens Aquatic Preserve Management Plan	01/92	Adequate	GUIS/State of Florida
Summary: Gulf Islands National Seashore Evaluation of Visitor Use, FL & MS	03/93	Adequate	GUIS
Fire Management Plan	(DRAFT)		

Cultural Resources

Plan/Study	Date Approved	Adequacy/Status	Repository
Special Report: Ship Island (MS),French Exploration and Settlement, 1699-1763	1934	Adequate	**SERO
Masonry Forts of the NPS: GUIS Resources Management Plan	08/73	Adequate	**SERO
Evaluation Report: Historic Fortifications	03/74	Adequate	*DSC
HSR: Advanced Redoubt of Fort Barrancas	01/75	Adequate	GUIS
Archaeological Investigations: Fort Barrancas and Advanced Redoubt	1979	Adequate	*DSC
Special Report: GUIS Construction Monitoring	1980	Adequate	*DSC
Special Report: Preservation/Interpretation of Coastal Fortification	1982	Adequate	**SERO
HSR/Historic Resource Study: Pensacola Harbor Defense Project 1890-1947	03/82	Adequate	GUIS
HSR: Historical Data Section-Fort Pickens	02/83	Adequate	GUIS
HSR/Historic Resource Study: Fort Barrancas	09/83	Adequate	GUIS
Special History Study: Naval Live Oaks Reservation Program, 1794-1880	09/83	Adequate	GUIS
HSR: Administrative/ Historical Data Sections, Gulf Islands National Seashore	01/84	Adequate	SERO
Historic Resource Study: Ship Island (MS)	07/84	Adequate	GUIS

Plan/Study	Date Approved	Adequacy/Status	Repository
An Archaeological Overview and Assessment, GUIS	03/89	Adequate	GUIS
Stabilization of Fortifications of Pensacola Advanced Redoubt of Fort Barrancas	(no date)	Adequate	**SERO
Archeological Inventory and Evaluation of Portions of the Fort Pickens Unit (NASI)	05/93	Adequate	SEAC/GUIS
A Survey of Prehistoric Sites in the Southeast Region of the United States, 12,000 B.C. to A.D. 1500 (DRAFT)	12/92	Adequate	SERO/GUIS
Submerged Historical Resources of Pensacola Bay, Florida (The Pensacola Shipwreck Survey, Phase One) (DRAFT)	02/92	Adequate	GUIS/State of Florida
Historic Structure Assessment Report for Ranger Station (U.S. Coast Guard), Bldg. 32	11/93	Adequate	SERO/GUIS
Management Plan for Florida's Submerged Cultural Resources	(DRAFT FOR OUTSIDE REVIEW 10/94)		
Collection Mgmt. Plan	01/95	Adequate	SERO/GUIS
Fire and Security Survey	(DRAFT 01/95)		
Collection Condition Survey	(DRAFT 04/95)		

*Technical Information Center Documented Listing 10/03/89
**Listed in the Cultural Resource Management Overview - GUIS

MAJOR ISSUES

As it is now constituted and functioning, Gulf Islands National Seashore is fulfilling, to a major degree, the basic purposes for which it was authorized by P. L. 91-660. However, there are areas of concern that should be addressed in order to ensure that the Seashore will be able to continue in, or perhaps improve on this situation. The issues described in this section speak to that need. Since these issues are so diverse and are subject to such a variety of internal, external, and budgetary influences, no attempt has been made here to indicate any particular order of importance.

Land Acquisition

Highly significant tracts of land on Horn Island remain in private ownership, presenting the continuing possibility of some type of development or use in conflict with the wilderness character of the island. Although the Seashore's approved Land Protection Plan calls for purchase of fee simple title to these tracts, action cannot proceed until the statutory ceiling for land acquisition is increased.

Natural Resource Preservation

The National Seashore's mandate to preserve the natural environment cannot be adequately fulfilled without a comprehensive knowledge of the resources, an assessment of baseline condition and threats, and an understanding of the processes and parameters which influence these systems. Although much work has been done, or is currently in progress, significant deficiencies exist in the knowledge and information necessary for effective natural resource management.

Historic Preservation

The Seashore contains a wide variety of historic structures in varied states of repair and with varying needs for preservation. A plan is needed to establish priorities for these preservation needs and determine which areas are in need of work and what the nature of that work should be.

Urban Encroachment

The Seashore's mission of preserving areas for their natural, cultural, and recreational values cannot be carried out independent of what is taking place on adjacent or nearby lands. As these lands are developed, the potential for direct or indirect effects on lands and waters within the Seashore becomes more significant. Participation in the planning activities of State and local

agencies must be maintained by the National Park Service so the areas within our boundaries remain as free as possible from adverse outside influences.

Shipping Channels

The maintenance of the shipping channels that pass through Gulf Islands is specifically provided for in the authorizing legislation. There is, however, a basic incompatibility between the maintenance of channels in static locations and the dynamic nature of barrier islands. Each has a potential adverse effect on the other. Nevertheless, through cooperation between the Corps and the National Park Service, both must be preserved to the fullest extent possible. In addition to the necessary dredging activities, concern must also be focused on the manner in which the dredged material is disposed of. Spoil deposition can have either positive or negative effects on National Seashore resources and coordination is essential.

Oil and Gas

The Gulf Coast region has, in recent years, been the subject of intense interest over proved or potential resources of oil and gas. Activities involving exploration, extraction, and transportation of these minerals are of major concern in the management of Gulf Islands. Impacts can result from activities dealing not only with minerals underlying adjacent lands and waters, but also with oil and gas beneath those National Park Service lands where the mineral rights are in other than Federal ownership.

Transportation

The surrounding lands to the Seashore are developing rapidly. As a consequence the population expands, tourism strengthens, and the traffic influx increases the demands for accommodating space. The demands of the traffic flow into the Seashore areas, specifically the Florida units, cannot be met through existing Seashore parking facilities. Environmental and resource impacts place many constraints on construction of additional parking areas. The 1978 Transportation Study stated that the private automobile was considered an undesirable mode for increasing access to the Seashore. Management plans and studies portray that a passenger ferry service linking the Florida areas of the Seashore is the first most viable alternative to reduce further automobile infiltration to these areas.

SHORT-TERM MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

To implement land protection recommendations for Gulf Islands.

To assure continued wilderness protection for Horn Island through acquisition of the remaining tracts of private land and subsequent designation as wilderness.

To seek funding for preservation, collection, and research activities necessary to preserve historic resources.

To review and make necessary revisions to the 1985 Scope of Collection Statement.

To maintain close contacts with state and local agencies involved in regulating land use in neighboring areas.

To work with the Corps to ensure that channel dredging and spoil deposition are carried out in a manner most advantageous to the resources of the Seashore.

To monitor the development of oil and gas resources outside the Seashore for potential adverse impacts on NPS lands and waters.

To initiate a comprehensive program of natural resource inventory and assessment, and develop long term environmental monitoring strategies.

To continue endangered species restoration and protection projects and evaluate additional needs.

To develop and implement an integrated pest management plan for the developed areas of the Seashore.

To address the problem of marine waste through interpretation and public education, and develop strategies for mitigation.

To reduce the threat to resources and adjacent land development from wildfire by implementing hazardous fuel reduction programs, and to formulate a comprehensive fire management plan for the Seashore.

To identify and address incompatible uses of the park, and establish methods for determining acceptable levels of use of park resources.

To increase monitoring and enforcement activities to detect and control vandalism, poaching, and resource damage.

To increase efforts in drug interdiction by working closely with U.S. Customs, DEA, and state/local drug agencies.

To increase visitor interpretive media at West Ship Island, Okaloosa, Fort Pickens and Perdido Key.

To educate elementary students about the cultural and natural resources of Gulf Islands National Seashore by providing educational materials.

LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Natural Resources

To protect and perpetuate a portion of the coastal barrier system of the United States, and the natural features, populations, processes, and values found therein.

To promote and preserve a diverse marine biota in the insular and contiguous surrounding waters of the Seashore, and to ensure that sport and commercial fishing, oil and gas operations, navigational dredging and other activities within the National Seashore have the least possible adverse effect on populations of fish, shellfish, and other marine and estuarine organisms.

To minimize disturbances to natural landforms, vegetation, and wildlife habitat due to vehicle use, park development, and public recreational activities at Gulf Islands National Seashore and to restore natural ecological conditions to lands adversely affected by such uses and activities in the past.

Cultural Resources

To identify, evaluate, protect, and preserve the Seashore's cultural resources in accordance with legislative and executive requirements, and the Service's historic preservation policies.

To preserve the fortifications and associated structures of the coastal defense system in the Fort Pickens, Fort Massachusetts, Perdido Key, and Pensacola Forts Areas, and to stabilize these resources for public appreciation of the historic significance of the coastal defense system of fortifications.

To manage the Naval Live Oaks Area to perpetuate the live oak community and preserve the many archaeological sites.

To formally establish through the national register nomination process, the Fort Pickens, Fort Massachusetts, and Naval Live Oaks Historic Districts.

Visitor Use

To encourage visitor use and enjoyment by making opportunities available for swimming, boating, fishing, camping, picnicking, backcountry use, and other activities that are compatible with the Seashore's scenic, natural, and cultural values.

To provide adequately lifeguarded beaches for visitor use and enjoyment.

To provide information and orientation to Seashore visitors at appropriate locations on a year-round basis.

To insure there is adequate directional signing along the access roads to the Seashore's areas and along Seashore roads and trails.

To provide for those concessions services and facilities necessary to serve essential needs of visitors that cannot be reasonably accommodated at locations outside the Seashore.

To promote efficient visitor transportation between the many segments of Gulf Islands National Seashore and within these areas.

Visitor Protection

To improve visitor safety by instructing visitors how to avoid or cope with the hazards associated with swimming, boating, and other water-related activities.

To inform visitors about the hazards associated with exploring deteriorating historic structures, and with other activities and environmental factors.

To develop more efficient operational capabilities in law enforcement, resource protection, and in search and rescue activities.

To develop more knowledge and better equip ranger workforce in drug interdiction.

Interpretation

To foster awareness of the coastal network of barrier islands in the United States, the evolution of coastal military defense of the United States, Gulf Coast history, and water-related recreation activities through interpretation of the Seashore's diverse natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

To provide primary interpretive emphasis on natural and cultural history and resources.

To encourage participation in the diverse recreational activities associated with the Seashore.

To foster public understanding of the need for, and the process of maintaining a proper balance between resource preservation and visitor use.

Development

To ensure that development within the Seashore's authorized boundaries is the minimum necessary to provide essential visitor services and to support management operations.

To the greatest degree possible, encourage the development of recreational, lodging, and other visitor facilities in environmentally compatible locations outside the Seashore.

Maintenance

To perform preventive and cyclic maintenance activities so as to extend the life of Seashore facilities.

To perform operational and maintenance activities that accentuate the cleanliness and appearance aspects of Seashore resources and facilities.

To operate and maintain water and sewer systems in such a manner as to comply with applicable regulations.

To remove, modify, or eliminate any non-historic substandard facility acquired from state or local agencies when the Seashore was authorized.

Research

To obtain an inventory of the Seashore's resources to facilitate improved resource protection and management.

To assess the baseline condition of resources and identify current and potential threats to those resources.

To assist park managers in the development of long term resource monitoring programs.

To develop mitigation strategies for impacted or threatened resources.

To do site specific research on historic, archaeological, and natural subjects to prepare needed publications, records, and files.

1993 Management Objectives Workshop

A planning workshop was held on December 7 and 8, 1993, to develop "management objectives" for Gulf Islands National Seashore. The purpose of the workshop was to develop a series of clear statements specific to the park which will help guide the management of the Seashore.

The synopsis of the workshop is documented in Appendix C.

APPENDIX A

Endangered and Threatened Species

Animals

Brown Pelican (Pelecanus occidentalis carolinensis)

Arctic Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus tundrius)-In Mississippi

Southern Bald Eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus)

Piping Plover (Charadrius melodus)

American Alligator (Alligator mississippiensis) - Similiarity of Appearance only

Eastern Indigo Snake (Drymarchon corais couperi)

Gopher Tortoise (Gopherus polyphemus)

Leatherback Turtle (Dermochelys coriacea)

Kemps Ridley Turtle (Lepidochelys kempii)

Hawksbill Turtle (Ertmochelys imbricata)

Atlantic Loggerhead Turtle (Caretta caretta)

Green Turtle (Chelonia mydas)

West Indian Manatee (Trichechus manatus latirostris)

Perdido Key Beach Mouse (Peromyscus leucocephalus trissyliepsis)

Gray Bat (Myotis grisescens)

Indiana Bat (Myotis sodalis)

Plants

There are no plant species currently listed by the Fish and Wildlife Service as threatened or endangered whose known range includes the National Seashore.

APPENDIX B

LEGISLATION

Public Law 91-660 (H.R. 10874); January 8, 1971

Public Law 92-275 (H.R. 11839); April 20, 1972

Public Law 94-578 (H. R. 13713); October 21, 1976

Public Law 95-625; November 10, 1978

LEGISLATION - GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE

PUBLIC LAW 91-660

An Act to provide for the establishment of the Gulf Islands National Seashore, in the States of Florida and Mississippi, for the recognition of certain historic values at Fort San Carlos, Fort Redoubt, Fort Barrancas, and Fort Pickens in Florida, and Fort Massachusetts in Mississippi, and for other purposes. (84 Stat. 1967)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in order to preserve for public use and enjoyment certain areas possessing outstanding natural, historic, and recreational values, the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") may establish and administer the Gulf Islands National Seashore (hereinafter referred to as the "seashore"). The seashore shall comprise the following gulf coast islands and mainland areas, together with adjacent water areas as generally depicted on the drawing entitled "Proposed Boundary Plan, Proposed Gulf Island National Seashore," number NS-GI-7100J, and dated December 1970:

(1) Ship, Petit Bois, and Horn Islands in Mississippi;
(2) the eastern portion of Perdido Key in Florida;
(3) Santa Rosa Island in Florida;
(4) the Naval Live Oaks Reservation in Florida;
(5) Fort Pickens and the Fort Pickens State Park in Florida; and
(6) a tract of land in the Pensacola Naval Air Station in Florida that includes the Coast Guard Station and Lighthouse, Fort San Carlos, Fort Barrancas, and Fort Redoubt and sufficient surrounding land for proper administration and protection of the historic resources.

SEC. 2. (a) Within the boundaries of the seashore, the Secretary may acquire lands, waters, and interests therein by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange, except that property owned by a State or any political subdivision thereof may be acquired only with the consent of the owner. The Secretary may also acquire by any of the above methods not more than one hundred thirty-five acres of land or interests therein outside of the seashore boundaries on the mainland in the vicinity of Biloxi-Gulfport, Mississippi, for an administrative site and related facilities for access to the seashore. With the concurrence of the agency having custody thereof, any Federal property within the Seashore and mainland site may be transferred without consideration to the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary for the purposes of the seashore.

(b) With respect to improved residential property acquired for the purposes of this Act, which is beneficially owned by a natural person and which the Secretary of the Interior determines can be continued in that use for a limited period of time without undue interference with the administration, development, or public use of the seashore, the owner thereof may on the date of its acquisition by the Secretary retain a right of use and occupancy of the property for noncommercial residential purposes for a term, as the owner may elect, ending either (1) at the death of the owner or his spouse, whichever occurs later, or (2) not more than twenty-five years from the date of acquisition. Any right so retained may during its existence be transferred or assigned. The Secretary shall pay to the owner the fair market value of the property on the date of such acquisition, less their fair market value on such date of the right retained by the owner.

(c) As used in this Act, "improved residential property" means a single-family year-round dwelling, the construction of which began before January 1, 1967, and which serves as the owner's permanent place of abode at the time of its acquisition by the United States, together with not more than three acres of land on which the dwelling and appurtenant buildings are located that the Secretary finds is reasonably necessary for the owner's continued use and occupancy of the dwelling: Provided, That the Secretary may exclude from improved residential property any marsh, beach, or waters and adjoining land that the Secretary deems is necessary for public access to such marsh, beach or waters.

(d) The Secretary may terminate a right of use and occupancy retained pursuant to this section upon his determination that such use and occupancy is being exercised in a manner not consistent with the purposes of this Act, and upon tender to the holder of the right an amount equal to the fair market value of that portion of the right which remains unexpired on the date of termination.

SEC. 3. The Secretary shall permit hunting and fishing on lands and waters within the seashore in accordance with applicable Federal and States laws: Provided, That he may designate zones where, and establish periods when, no hunting or fishing will be permitted for reasons of public safety, administration, fish or wildlife management, or public use and enjoyment. Except in emergencies, any regulations issued by the Secretary pursuant to this section shall be put into effect only after consultation with the appropriate State agencies responsible for hunting and fishing activities.

SEC. 4 Any acquisition of lands, waters, or interests therein shall not diminish any existing rights-of-way or easements which are necessary for the transportation of oil and gas minerals through the seashore which oil and gas minerals are removed from outside the boundaries thereof; and, the Secretary, subject to appropriate regulations for the protection of the natural and recreational values for which the seashore is established, shall permit such additional rights-of-way or easements as he deems necessary and proper.

SEC. 5 Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the Secretary shall administer the seashore in accordance with the Act of August 25, 1916 (30 Stat. 535), as amended and supplemented (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.). In the administration of the seashore the Secretary may utilize such statutory authorities available to him for the conservation and management of wildlife and natural resources as he deems appropriate to carry out the purposes of this Act. With respect to Fort Redoubt, Fort San Carlos, Fort Barrancas at Pensacola Naval Air Station, Fort Pickens on Santa Rosa Island, and Fort McRee on Perdido Key, Florida, and Fort Massachusetts on Ship Island, Mississippi, together with such adjacent lands as the Secretary may designate, the Secretary shall administer such lands so as to recognize, preserve, and interpret their national historical significance in accordance with the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666; 16 U.S.C. 461-467), and he may designate them as national historic sites. The Act of July 2, 1948, (62 Stat. 1220), which provided for the establishment of the Pensacola National Monument, is hereby repealed.

SEC. 6 The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of the Army may cooperate in the study and formulation of plans for beach erosion control and hurricane protection of the Seashore. Any such protective works or spoil deposit activities undertaken by the Chief of Engineers, Department of the Army, shall be carried out within the seashore in accordance with a plan that is acceptable to the Secretary of the Interior and that is consistent with the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 7 There are hereby transferred from the National Wildlife Refuge System to the seashore the Horn Island and Petit Bois National Wildlife Refuges to be administered in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 8 Within four years from the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall review the area within the Gulf Islands National Seashore and shall report to the President, in accordance with subsection 3 (c) and 3 (d) of the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. 1132 (c) and (d)), and recommend as to the suitability or nonsuitability of any area within the seashore for preservation as wilderness, and any designation of any such area as a wilderness shall be accomplished in accordance with said subsections of the Wilderness Act.

SEC. 9 No provision of this Act, or of any other Act made applicable thereby, shall be construed to affect, supersede, or modify any authority of the Department of the Army or the Chief of Engineers, with respect to navigation or related matters except as specifically provided in section 6 of this Act.

SEC. 10 There is hereby established a Gulf Islands National Seashore Advisory Commission. The Commission shall terminate ten years after the date the seashore is established, pursuant to this Act. The Commission shall be composed of three members from each county in which the seashore is located, each appointed for a term of two years by the Secretary as follows:

(1) one member to be appointed from recommendations made by the county commissioners in the respective counties;

(2) one member to be appointed from recommendations made by the Governor of the State from each county; and

(3) one member to be designated by the Secretary from each county.

Provided, That two members shall be appointed to the Advisory Commission in each instance in counties whose population exceeds one hundred thousand.

The Secretary shall designate one member to be Chairman. Any vacancy in the Commission shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation as such. The Secretary is authorized to pay the expenses reasonably incurred by the Commission in carrying out its responsibilities under this Act on vouchers signed by the Chairman.

The Secretary or his designee shall, from time to time, consult with the Commission with respect to the matters relating to the development of the Gulf Islands National Seashore.

SEC. 11 There are authorized to be appropriated not more than $3,120,000 for the acquisition of lands and interests in lands and not more than $14,779,000 (1970 prices) for development, plus or minus such amounts, if any, as may be justified by reason of ordinary fluctuation in construction costs as indicated by engineering cost indices applicable to the types of construction involved herein.

Approved January 8, 1971

PUBLIC LAW 92-275

An Act to amend the Act of January 8, 1971 (Public Law 91-660; 84 Stat. 1967), an Act to provide for the establishment of the Gulf Islands National Seashore, in the States of Florida and Mississippi, for the recognition of certain historic values at Fort San Carlos, Fort Redoubt, Fort Barrancas, and Fort Pickens in Florida, and Fort Massachusetts in Mississippi, and for other purposes. (86 Stat. 123)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Act of January 8, 1971 (Public Law 91-660; 84 Stat. 1967) is amended as follows:

(1) In section 2(a) revise the second sentence by deleting "one hundred thirty-five" and inserting in lieu thereof "four hundred" and

(2) In section 11 delete "$3,120,000" and insert in lieu thereof "$3,462,000" and delete "$14,779,000 (1970 prices)" and insert "$17,774,000 (June 1970 prices)".

Approved April 20, 1972

PUBLIC LAW 94-578

An Act to provide for increases in appropriation ceilings and boundary changes in certain units of the National Park System and for other purposes (90 Stat. 2732)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE I - ACQUISITION CEILING INCREASES

SEC. 101. The limitations on appropriations for the acquisition of lands and interests therein within units of the National Park System contained in the following Acts are amended as follows:

* * * * * * * *

(6) Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida and Mississippi: section 11 of the Act of January 8, 1971 (84 Stat. 1967), is amended by changing "$3,462,000" to "$22,162,000".

Approved October 21, 1976

PUBLIC LAW 95-625

An Act to authorize additional appropriations for the acquisition of lands and interests in lands within the Sawtooth National Recreation Area in Idaho. (92 Stat. 3467)(P.L. 95-625)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE I - DEVELOPMENT CEILING INCREASES

SEC. 101. The limitations on funds for development within certain units of the National Park System and affiliated areas are amended as follows:

* * * * * * * *

(13) Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida and Mississippi: section 11 of the Act of January 8, 1971 (84 Stat. 1967), is amended by changing "$17,774,000" to "$24,224,000", and by deleting the phrase "(June 1979 prices) for development, plus such amounts, if any , as may be justified by reason of ordinary fluctuations in construction costs as indicated by engineering costs indices applicable to the types of construction involved herein.", and inserting in lieu thereof "for development.".

* * * * * * * *

TITLE III - BOUNDARY CHANGES

SEC. 301. The boundaries of the following units of the National Park System are revised as follows, and there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary, but not to exceed the amounts specified in the following paragraphs for acquisition of lands and interest in lands within areas added by reason of such revisions:

* * * * * * * *

(9) Gulf Islands National Seashore, Mississippi-Florida: To add approximately six hundred acres as generally depicted on the map entitled "Boundary Map, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Mississippi-Florida", numbered 20,006, and dated April 1978: $300,000.

* * * * * * * *

SEC. 302. Within twelve months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a detailed map or other detailed description of the lands added or excluded from any area pursuant to section 301.

SEC. 303. (a) Within the boundaries of the areas as revised in accordance with section 301, the Secretary is authorized to acquire land and interests therein by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, exchange, or transfer from any other Federal agency. Lands and interests therein so acquired shall become part of the area to which they are added, and shall be subjected to all laws, rules, and regulations applicable thereto. When acquiring any lands pursuant to this title, the Secretary may acquire any such land subject to the retention of a right of use and occupancy for a term not to exceed twenty-five years or for the life of the owner or owners. Lands owned by a State or political subdivision thereof may be acquired only by donation.

* * * * * * * *

TITLE IV - WILDERNESS

SEC. 401. The following lands are hereby designated as wilderness in accordance with section 3(c) Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. 1132(c)), and shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with applicable provisions of the Wilderness Act:

* * * * * * * *

(5) Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida and Mississippi, wilderness comprising approximately one thousand eight hundred acres and potential wilderness additions comprising approximately two thousand eight hundred acres, depicted on a map entitled "Wilderness Plan, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Mississippi, Florida", numbered 635-20,018-A and dated March 1977, to be known as the Gulf Islands Wilderness.

* * * * * * * *

SEC. 403. Any lands which represent potential wilderness additions in this title, upon publication in the Federal Register of a notice by the Secretary that all uses thereon prohibited by the Wilderness Act have ceased, shall thereby be designated wilderness. Lands designated as potential wilderness additions shall be managed by the Secretary insofar as practicable as wilderness until such time as said lands are designated as wilderness.

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SEC 405. Nothing in this title shall be construed to diminish the authority of the Coast Guard, pursuant to sections 2 and 81 of title 14, United States Code, and title 1 of the Ports and Waterways Safety Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1221), or the Federal Aviation Administration to use the areas designated wilderness by this Act within the Everglades National Park, Florida; and the Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida and Mississippi, for navigational and maritime safety purposes.

Approved November 10, 1978

APPENDIX C

1993 Management Objectives Workshop

PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP

The following booklet is a synopsis of a planning workshop held on December 7 and 8, 1993, to develop "management objectives" for Gulf Islands National Seashore (GUIS). The purpose of the workshop was to develop a series of clear statements specific to GUIS which will guide the management of the seashore. These "management objectives" will be the cornerstone of the seashore's Statement for Management and other planning and management documents.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology utilized was to assemble a diverse group of National Park Service and local officials and use a nominal group process to develop a series of "management objectives" for the seashore.

The specific process used in the workshop in developing the management objectives was:

*Review of the legislation relating to GUIS.

*Development of a statement of purpose for the seashore.

*Development of statements of significance that indicate the seashore's distinctive position in the National Park System and its major attributes.

*Listing of issues currently affecting the seashore.

*Drafting of management objectives, based on the aforementioned factors, to guide the management of the seashore.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

James Coleman, Regional Director, Southeast Region, National Park Service

Jerry Eubanks, Superintendent, Gulf Islands National Seashore

Mary Jones, Chief of Interpretation, Gulf Islands National Seashore

David Armstrong, Assistant Executive Director, Harrison County Tourism, Gulfport, Mississippi

Thomas McIlwain, Director, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, Ocean Springs, Mississippi

Brendhan Zubricki, Regional Air/Water Coordinator, National Park Service

Jack Wilburn, Facility Manager, Gulf Islands National Seashore

Carol A. Clark, Administrative Officer, Gulf Islands National Seashore

M. Eugene Phillips, Chief Park Ranger, Gulf Islands National Seashore

Muriel Wagner, Conservationist, Former Escambia County Commissioner, Pensacola, Florida

Libby Graves, President, Gulf Islands Conservancy, Gulfport, Mississippi

Sandi Fury, Environmental Representative, Chevron U.S.A., Inc., New Orleans, Louisiana

Dan Allen, Ecologist, Chevron U.S.A., Inc., New Orleans, Louisiana

Jeff Parsons, Cultural Resource Specialist, Gulf Islands National Seashore

Riley Hoggard, Natural Resource Management Specialist, Gulf Islands National Seashore

Judy Stice, Management Assistant, Gulf Islands National Seashore

Rick McWhite, Chief of Natural Resources, Eglin Air Force Base, Niceville, Florida

Kay Garner, Environmental Protection Specialist, Planning and Compliance Branch, National Park Service

Tom Brown, Associate Regional Director, Planning and External Affairs, National Park Service

Bob Newkirk, Chief, Planning Division, National Park Service

Karen Boyce, Secretary, Gulf Islands National Seashore

Paul Hartwig, Deputy Associate Regional Director, Cultural Resources, National Park Service

Peter Dohms, Gulf Islands Advisory Commission Member and Environmental Engineer, Condor Associates

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY
GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE
FLORIDA AND MISSISSIPPI

Public Law 91-660, January 8, 1971

An Act to provide for the establishment of Gulf Islands National Seashore in Florida and Mississippi for recognition of certain historic values of Fort San Carlos, Fort Redoubt, Fort Barrancas and Fort Pickens in Florida and Fort Massachusetts in Mississippi, and for other purposes.

In order to preserve for public use and enjoyment certain areas possessing outstanding natural, historic, and recreational values, the Secretary may establish and administer Gulf Islands National Seashore.

The seashore shall comprise the following gulf coast islands and mainland areas together with adjacent water areas as depicted on drawing "Proposed Boundary Plan, Proposed Gulf Islands National Seashore," numbered NS-GI-7100J, dated December 1970:

(1) Ship, Petit Bois and Horn Islands in Mississippi;
(2) Eastern portion of Perdido Key in Florida;
(3) Santa Rosa Island in Florida;
(4) Naval Live Oaks Reservation in Florida;
(5) Fort Pickens and Fort Pickens State Park in Florida; and
(6) A tract of land in Pensacola Naval Air Station in Florida that includes Coast Guard Station and Lighthouse, Fort San Carlos, Fort Barrancas, and Fort Redoubt and sufficient surrounding land for proper administration and protection of the resources.

Section 2(a): The Secretary may acquire lands, waters and interests therein by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds or exchange, except that property owned by a State or any political subdivision thereof may be acquired only with the consent of the owner. The Secretary may not acquire more than 135 acres outside the seashore boundaries on the mainland

in the Biloxi-Gulfport, Mississippi, vicinity for administrative site and related facilities for access to the seashore.

Section 2(b): The owner of improved residential property may retain a right of use and occupancy of the property for noncommercial residential purposes for a term ending either at the death of the owner or his spouse or not more than 25 years from date of acquisition. Any right may be transferred or assigned. The Secretary shall pay to the owner the fair market value on the date of such acquisition, less the fair market value on such date of the right retained by the owner.

Section 2(c): Improved residential property means single-family year-round dwelling, construction of which began prior to 1/1/67 and serves as the owner's permanent place of abode, together with not more than 3 acres. The Secretary may exclude from improved residential property any marsh, beach, or waters and adjoining land that he deems necessary for public access.

Section 2(d): The Secretary may terminate a right of use and occupancy upon his determination that such use and occupancy is being exercised in a manner not consistent with the purposes of this Act and upon tender to the holder of fair market value of the portion of the right of use remaining.

Section 3: Hunting and fishing shall be permitted within the seashore in accordance with applicable Federal and State laws. Designated zones where and periods when no hunting or fishing will be permitted may be established for reasons of public safety, administration, fish and wildlife management or public use and enjoyment. Any regulations established will be effective only after consultation with appropriate State agencies.

Section 4: Any acquisition shall not diminish any existing rights-of-way or easements necessary for transportation of oil and gas minerals through the seashore which are removed from outside the seashore boundaries and shall permit additional rights-of-way or easements subject to appropriate regulations for the protection of the natural and recreational values as necessary and proper.

Section 5: Seashore shall be administered in accordance with Organic Act of August 25, 1916. The Secretary may utilize statutory authorities available to him for conservation and management of wildlife and natural resources. Fort Redoubt, Fort San Carlos, Fort Barrancas, Fort Pickens, Fort McRee and For Massachusetts shall be administered in accordance with the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935.

The Act of July 2, 1948, establishing Pensacola National Monument is repealed.

Section 6: The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of the Army may cooperate in the study and formulation of plans for beach erosion control and hurricane protection of the seashore. Any such protective works or spoil deposit activities undertaken by the Corps of Engineers shall be carried out within the seashore in accordance with a plan acceptable to the Secretary and consistent with the purposes of this Act.

Section 7: This Act transfers administration of Horn Island and Petit Bois National Wildlife Refuges to the National Park Service.

Section 8: Within 4 years from the date of this Act, the Secretary shall review the area within Gulf Islands National Seashore for suitability or nonsuitability for preservation as wilderness under the Wilderness Act.

Section 9: No provision of this Act, shall affect or supersede or modify any authority of the Department of the Army or the Corps of Engineers with respect to navigation or related matters.

Section 10: An Advisory Commission is established to terminate 10 years after establishment of the seashore.

Public Law 95-625, November 10, 1978

Title III, Section 301,(9): Add approximately 600 acres as depicted on map entitled "Boundary Map, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Mississippi-Florida", numbered 20,006, dated April 1978.

Title III, Section 303(b)(1): Lands and interests therein deleted from any area pursuant to Section 301 may be exchanged for non-Federal lands with the revised boundaries or transferred to the jurisdiction of any other Federal agency, State or political subdivision thereof.

Title III, Section 303(b)(2): Any land acquired from the State and deleted from the authorized boundary may have exclusive or concurrent legislative jurisdiction transferred to such State.

Title III, Section 303(c): It is the policy of Congress that wilderness, wildlife conservation and park and recreation values of real property owned by the US be conserved, enhanced and developed. It is also the policy of Congress that unutilized, underutilized or excess Federal real property be timely studied as to suitability for wilderness, wildlife conservation or park and recreation purposes.

Title IV, Section 401: The following lands are designated as wilderness in accordance with the Wilderness Act.

Title IV, Section 401(5): Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida and Mississippi, wilderness comprising approximately 1,800 acres and potential wilderness additions comprising approximately 2,800 acres, depicted on map, "Wilderness Plan, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Mississippi, Florida," numbered 635-20,018-A. dated March 1977, known as Gulf Islands Wilderness.

Title IV, Section 402: Maps of the wilderness area and descriptions of their boundaries shall be filed with the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate.

Title IV, Section 403: Any lands which represent potential wilderness additions, upon Federal Register notice that all uses prohibited by the Wilderness Act have ceased, shall be designated wilderness.

Title IV, Section 404: The areas designated by this Act as wilderness shall be administered in accordance with the Wilderness Act.

Title IV, Section 405: Nothing in this title shall be construed to diminish the authority of the Coast Guard, pursuant to sections 2 and 81 of title 14, United States Code, and title 1 of the Ports and Waterways Safety Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1221), or the Federal Aviation Administration to use the areas designated wilderness by this Act within the Everglades National Park, Florida; and the Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida and Mississippi, for navigational and maritime safety purposes.

PURPOSE

The purpose of Gulf Islands National Seashore is to preserve and interpret its Gulf Coast barrier island ecosystem and its system of coastal defense fortifications, while providing for the public use and enjoyment of these resources.

SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the seashore is summarized in following statements that capture the essence of the seashore's important natural, cultural, historical, recreational, scientific and other values:

Several historically/nationally significant coastal defense forts representing a significant continuum of development;

Several, mostly undisturbed, natural areas in close proximity to major population centers;

Several areas of natural significant high quality beaches, dunes and water resources;

Endangered species occur in several areas;

Contains several regionally significant archeological sites (prehistoric in context);

Provides outstanding controlled areas conducive to the successful reintroduction of native threatened and endangered species;

Provides habitat for early life stages of many coastal and marine flora and fauna of commercial and recreational significance; and

Provides a benchmark to compare environmental conditions in developed areas of the Gulf Coast.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The following Management Objectives will guide the seashore's actions over the next 5 to 10 years.

Visitor Experience

Provide the opportunity for residents and park visitors to participate actively in outdoor recreation while conserving the resources unimpaired for future generation to use and enjoy.

Ensure that park visitors are able to experience the beauty of the wide sloping beaches of unusually fine white quartz sand, mild surf, unique flora and fauna and the clear blue water.

Ensure the park visitor has ample opportunity to experience the seashore's historic resources free from competing activities.

Allow the wilderness visitor to experience an area of undeveloped park land retaining its primeval character, without permanent manmade improvements.

Manage fishing in accord with Federal and State laws, and to assure protection and preservation of the aquatic resources, especially nursery habitat.

Interpretation/Education

Provide the visitors with information that promotes uses of the natural, cultural and recreational resources of Gulf Islands National Seashore in a manner that leaves the resources unimpaired.

Provide the public with information and access to the fortifications to understand the evolution of U.S. coastal defense and Gulf Coast history.

Provide the public with information to understand the ecological functions and values of the Gulf Coast barrier island system.

Natural Resources

Maintain and restore park natural resources to perpetuate natural ecological processes, structures, and functions.

Historic Resources

Preserve Fort Pickens, Fort San Carlos (Bateria de San Antonio), Fort Redoubt, Fort Barrancas, Fort Massachusetts, Fort McRee District and associated historical features in a manner which prevents their deterioration.

Access to Park Resources

Ensure that visitors have the opportunity to access park resources especially with respect to Fort Pickens (by means other than private auto) and West Ship Island.

ISSUES

The following issues were raised during the Gulf Islands National Seashore Management Objectives Workshop. The Management Objectives will direct their resolution through management decisions, planning documents and staff actions:

1. Potential impacts from offshore and near shore mineral extraction;

2. Potential impacts of aquaculture and artificial reefs;

3. Overflights;

4. Commercial fishing;

5. Urbanization and potentially detrimental land uses;

6. Conflicts among various recreational user groups;

7. Lack of understanding concerning permitted uses and notification;

8. Conflicts between commercial and other users;

9. Decrease in areal extent of viable seagrass populations;

10. Historical resource degradation due to inappropriate (out of place) activities;

11. Natural resource degradation due to inappropriate (out of place) activities;

12. Marine debris;

13. Oil spill threats;

14. Adequacy of staffing for 24-hour protection of historic and natural resources;

15. Land acquisition within authorized boundary
-lighthouse and keepers quarters
-submerged lands
-areas mandated to acquire
-coastal barrier resource system areas;

16. Cat, Round and Deer Islands as special additions to park;

17. Form of new construction design on West Ship Island; location;

18. Environmentally related cultural resource degradation;

19. Adaptive use versus pure preservation and new construction (Fort Pickens and Naval Air Station);

20. Access to park resources and facilities;

21. ORV (reference 10 and 11);

22. Overuse;

23. Lack of visitor education regarding best use practices in Wilderness areas; and

24. National Register accuracy.