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December 7 and 8, 1993

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 GUIIS.

- *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

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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

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

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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

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**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 Fort 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.