

actions are monitored to provide information to aid future choices, consistent with adaptive management. Based on comments received, the meaning of "adaptive management," is added to section 101.2, Terminology. As noted in the proposed procedures, "adaptive management" is the preferred means for managing complex natural systems, builds on learning based on common sense, experience, experimentation, and monitoring results. Practices within the Preserve are to be adjusted based on what is learned. It is the intent of the Trust to respond positively to change. Through adaptive management, the Trust's focus is on accelerated learning and adapting through partnerships based on finding common ground where managers, scientists, and citizens learn together to create and maintain sustainable ecosystems. Learning in the achievement of sustainable ecosystems requires an array of strategies and partnerships of managers and citizens working directly with scientists to provide a holistic view of desired conditions and positive, creative responses to change. Through adaptive management, the Trust will provide for multiple use and sustained yield of renewable resources of the Preserve.

Paragraph (d) is revised to emphasize that the Trust is to prepare a "State of the Preserve" at least once every five years after August 2, 2002, the date the Trust assumed management responsibility of the Preserve. As noted in section 101.2, Terminology, the term "State of the Preserve" is described. The requirement to prepare a concise account of the systematic review of monitored outcomes along with review of other information is intended to provide a technical and scientific basis for the comprehensive management of the Preserve and aid in the consideration of the goals within strategic guidance that may be adopted by the Board of Trustees. As described in the revised section 101.10, The Comprehensive Management of the Preserve, the State of the Preserve is intended to provide valuable information to the Board of Trustees as they consider amending, eliminating, continuing, or adding to the goals of strategic guidance. A current State of the Preserve must be reviewed before the Board may act regarding a goal of strategic guidance. This change in the procedures is made based upon requests to strengthen the role of the Board of Trustees in establishing overall direction and to ensure that in the future the Board does not change its direction without being fully informed

regarding the overall condition of the Preserve and the evolving natural and social environments related to the Preserve.

Section 101.3 of the procedures concludes with paragraph (e) that describes the on-going, adaptive management regime of the Preserve. The overall procedures are intended to efficiently and effectively achieve the goals of the Trust and NEPA and eliminate unnecessary or redundant paperwork.

101.4 *Proposing a Stewardship Action and Following its Progress.* Paragraphs (a) to (d) describe how a stewardship action is proposed for consideration and the requirements that must be followed. Paragraph (a) states that the Responsible Official may propose a stewardship action at any time. However, each stewardship action must be accompanied by a clear statement of its purpose and need and recorded in a stewardship register. The required items of a stewardship register are displayed in Exhibit I. If the Board approves consideration of a proposed stewardship action, the stewardship register will be made available to the public through appropriate media as soon as practicable and throughout the process, leading either to termination of the proposal or to an implementing decision and subsequent monitoring of outcomes. The stewardship registers will also, as relevant, contain information regarding completion of stewardship actions and the monitoring of one or more of the outcomes.

Paragraph (b) states that the public and government officials have many opportunities to review the activities of the Trust. Based on several comments, the text is revised in sentence two to read: "The Responsible Official will request public review and comment on a proposed stewardship action, its purpose and need, alternatives, and/or anticipated outcomes as described in 101.7." If comments are requested and received within the dates specified, the Responsible Official must consider the comments before making an implementing decision. It is the intent of the Trust to maintain open and collaborative working relationships. Comments from the public or government officials may include a wide variety of media including, but not limited to, personal discussions, letters, photos, or electronic communications.

The procedures for amending and keeping the stewardship registers current are described in paragraph (c). The Trust staff responsible for any entry in a stewardship register must record their name and the date of entry to provide an accurate record. The Trust

staff may prepare additional documents or electronic media to manage activities associated with one or more stewardship actions and other matters related to administration of the Preserve. These additional documents are intended to aid in the planning, execution, and general management of Trust activities.

Section 101.4 concludes with paragraph (d) that states that the Executive Director of the Trust is responsible for the overall review of agency NEPA compliance and preparation of any necessary environmental documents.

101.5 *Environmental Evaluation and Documentation.* The title and text of this section is revised from "Evaluating a Stewardship Action" to more accurately describe the requirements of this section and the three following sections, 101.51 to 101.53, which describe required environmental evaluation and documentation. Paragraph (a) is revised to read: "An environmental document must be prepared and considered before the Responsible Official can make an implementing decision unless a stewardship action is within a categorical exclusion listed in 101.6."

Paragraph (b) points out that the Responsible Official may, in the absence of extraordinary circumstances, make an implementing decision without the preparation of an environmental document (an environmental assessment, finding of no significant impact, notice of intent, or environmental impact statement) for proposed stewardship actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment.

Because the requirements in (c) of the proposed procedures are included in the revised (a), (c) is no longer needed and is removed.

The following sections, 101.51 to 101.53, describe the environmental impact statement, environmental assessment, and finding of no significant impact. Procedures for the preparation of a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement are described in CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1501.7.

101.51 *Environmental Impact Statement.* This section in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) describes when the Responsible Official must prepare an environmental impact statement before making an implementing decision for a proposed stewardship action. In paragraph (a) the content and procedures for the preparation of an environmental impact statement are referenced to 40 CFR 1502. An environmental impact statement must