

Each of the sections of the proposed procedures is described below.

101.1 Purposes and Principles.

Paragraph (a) references the findings of Congress regarding the purposes and principles for management of the Preserve. The comprehensive management of the Preserve called for in the enabling legislation, is to be achieved through the delegated authorities of the Board of Trustees. The Responsible Official is the person who has the delegated authority to plan and make decisions as authorized by the Board. In the absence of delegation, the Chair of the Board is the Responsible Official.

Paragraph (b) emphasizes the vital role of citizens in the overall management, use, and enjoyment of the Preserve. The monitoring and evaluation of on-the-ground stewardship actions by citizens and the Trust provide the basis for the consideration of future stewardship actions.

The vital role of monitoring and considering new information among the Trust and the public is emphasized in paragraph (c).

Paragraph (d) presents the 10 guiding principles for management of the Preserve adopted by the Board on December 13, 2001. These principles are intended to guide the consideration of all proposed stewardship actions and the evaluation of outcomes. Noteworthy, is the recognition that the whole of the Preserve is greater than the sum of the parts. The stewardship actions implemented within the Preserve are intended to complement the whole of the Preserve and enhance the unique character of the Preserve envisioned by the Congress and enjoyed by the occasional or frequent visitor.

101.2 Terminology. This section of the proposed procedures lists 16 terms and their meanings as they are used throughout the text. It is important to review these terms and their meanings to ensure that they are understood in the context of the proposed procedures. It is intended that these terms are to be used consistently by the Board, staff of the Trust, and citizens involved in the planning and decisionmaking of the Trust.

101.3 Overall Procedures. In paragraphs (a) to (e) of this section, the overall procedures for integrating NEPA within the planning and decisionmaking of the Trust are presented. Paragraph (a) points out that comprehensive management of the Preserve is achieved through strategic guidance adopted by the Board and through the selection and implementation of appropriate

stewardship actions. As described in section 101.4 of the proposed procedures, stewardship actions may be site-specific actions as well as broader, planning-related goals, objectives, and performance requirements that set the stage for future stewardship actions. It is the intent of the Trust to maintain open and collaborative working relationships with all government and private parties interested in the Preserve. Positive working relationships are envisioned during the consideration, implementation, and monitoring of stewardship actions. The paragraph concludes with a statement that the information regarding a stewardship action is available to the public in accordance with applicable law.

Paragraph (b) establishes a standard that a clear statement of the purpose and need for each stewardship action must accompany the proposal for action by the Responsible Official. This requirement is made to ensure that each proposed stewardship action has a clear explanation of why it is necessary.

Paragraph (c) states that the Responsible Official, based on public comments or other reasons, may prepare an environmental document to improve understanding of a proposal before making an implementing decision. For many stewardship actions, an environmental document is required. The requirements related to the evaluation of stewardship actions and the preparation of the appropriate environmental documents are described section 101.5 of the proposed procedures.

It is stated in paragraph (c) that the outcomes of implemented stewardship actions are monitored to provide information to aid future choices, consistent with the principles of adaptive management. "Adaptive management," though not described in the section 101.2, Terminology, 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. A requirement to prepare a concise account of the systematic review of monitored outcomes along with review of other information is described in general terms in paragraph (d). This summary of monitored outcomes provides the technical and scientific basis for the development and subsequent revision of the comprehensive management program described in section 101.8, Preparing and Approving the Comprehensive Management Program.

Section 101.3 of the proposed procedures concludes with paragraph (e) which is a statement describing the ongoing review of monitored outcomes and interpretation of information to guide current and future stewardship actions. 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.

If the Board is proposing a stewardship action for the Preserve as an element of stewardship guidance, the Chair of the Board is the Responsible Official and must evaluate the proposal and follow the procedures in section 101.5, Evaluating a Stewardship Action. This requirement is proposed to ensure that all actions that may have a significant effect on the Preserve are considered through the environmental review procedures of the Trust. It is important to note that each stewardship action proposed by the Board must contain a goal, objective, and performance requirement. The Board may have previously adopted one or more of these three required items prior