

to proposing a particular stewardship action. Because of the relationship of goals to objectives and relevant performance requirements, the adoption of one or more of the three required items cannot be proposed without the identification of each in a proposed stewardship action. The consideration of a stewardship action as an element of strategic guidance by the Board must be documented in a stewardship register as described in Exhibit I.

Paragraph (b) states that the public and government officials have many opportunities to review the activities of the Trust and may be asked to comment on a proposed stewardship action. If comments are requested and received within the dates specified, the Responsible Official must consider the comments before making an implementing decision. In keeping with 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 discussion, written text, photos, or electronic communication.

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 Evaluating a Stewardship Action. This section and the three that follow, sections 101.51 to 101.53, describe the procedures the Responsible Official must follow in considering the environmental effects of a proposed stewardship action. Section 101.5 in paragraphs (a) through (c) describes how the Responsible Official determines which environmental document is appropriate to aid in consideration of a proposed stewardship action. Paragraph (a) specifies that the Responsible Official must consider the environmental consequences of the proposed stewardship action and the

preparation of an environmental document before making an implementing decision.

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 for proposed stewardship actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment.

Paragraph (c) states that if a stewardship action is not within a category of exclusion, the Responsible Official must prepare an environmental document (an environmental assessment, finding of no significant impact, notice of intent, or environmental impact statement) before an implementing decision can be made. 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 part 1502. An environmental impact statement must be prepared if the outcome of a proposed stewardship action is known or suspected to create a significant effect on the human environment or if it is otherwise desirable to prepare a statement. If the Responsible Official knows or suspects that implementation of a stewardship action may have a significant impact on the human environment, an environmental impact statement must be prepared.

Paragraph (b) states that an implementing decision for one or more stewardship actions described in an environmental impact statement must be documented in a record of decision. Except for special circumstances outlined in CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1506.10(d), 1506.11, and 1502.9(c), a record of decision cannot be signed by the Responsible Official until 30 after the final environmental impact statement is made available to the public by the Environmental Protection Agency. The environmental impact statement and record of decision is

appended by reference to one or more appropriate stewardship registers.

Paragraph (c) specifies when an environmental impact statement must be prepared. An environmental impact statement is normally required for the following implementing decisions:

(1) Adoption of one or more stewardship actions that guide or prescribe alternative uses of the Preserve upon which future stewardship actions will be based that may be significant as described in 40 CFR 1508.27;

(2) Construction and operation of a visitor center with associated public access to the Preserve; and

(3) Activities or groups of activities within one or more stewardship actions that are anticipated to create outcomes that may be significant as described in 40 CFR 1508.27. Examples are listed for (c)(1) and (3) in the proposed procedures. The implementing decisions described in (c)(1) are typically referred to as "planning-related decisions". These decisions, elements of strategic guidance (101.2), typically do not undertake specific actions on the ground, except for those that may modify one or more ongoing stewardship actions. Stewardship actions by the Board are critical choices in setting the stage, the expectations and bounds, for future stewardship actions. These decisions are intended to follow the portrayal of federal actions that guide or prescribe alternative uses of federal resources upon which future agency action will be based as described in CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1508.18(b)(2). Many people regard these planning-related decisions and their potentially significant consequences as paramount factors in the effective stewardship of natural resources. It is appropriate to consider the effects of these decisions before their adoption by the Board.

101.52 Environmental Assessment. This section, in paragraphs (a) through (d), describes the format for preparation of an environmental assessment. Paragraph (e) lists the types of implementing decisions that are anticipated to have environmental assessments prepared to aid their consideration by the Responsible Official and the public.

Paragraph (a) states that an environmental assessment is prepared by the Responsible Official to aid in determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement, to prepare a finding of no significant impact, to otherwise aid compliance with NEPA, or to facilitate preparation of an environmental impact statement when one is necessary. This is an