

MANAGEMENT

A meeting of the Gulf Islands National Seashore Advisory Commission was held on December 7, 1990. The present group of commission members was approved by the Secretary in August 1990. The term of the previous commission appointees expired in 1988, and the officially designated commission was lapsed until August 1990. When it became apparent that there would be delays in getting the new appointments made, the earlier appointees agreed to continue serving, and we used the authority of the Volunteers in the Parks to bridge us through the interim period.

In cooperation with the Southeast Regional Office, GUIIS has made significant progress towards the development of a functional, responsive GIS program. FY 90 accomplishments include the development of a GIS plan, installation of a park wide system of ground control benchmarks, production of an ecological atlas, and the development of several primary GIS themes based upon 1989 aerial photography. Physical facilities and support equipment are in place, accommodating a GIS computer work station installed in November, 1990.

GUIIS received approximately \$70,000 in donations during FY 90 for the express purpose of addressing resource management issues. Donated funds were used in the assessment of oil spill impacts, GIS program development, and Sea Turtle monitoring.

Concessions

Strategy movements were attempted to continue desirable tour boat transportation services leaving from Biloxi to Ship Island. Meetings were held with State Representatives, local Biloxi officials, and the concessioner.

Implemented Loss Control Programs for the park's three concessioners.

Cultural Resources

Returned and emplaced the 6" disappearing gun to Battery Cooper. The gun received a three-year preservation treatment at the State of Florida's Research and Conservation Laboratory.

Three additional pieces of artillery on display throughout the Florida District of the Seashore were preserved by the park staff.

Conducted on site meeting with Management Team to formulate solutions to issues effecting the cultural resources in the Fort Pickens Group Campground. The projected tasks included installing barrier fencing to help eliminate unwanted foot and bicycle traffic over an archeological site; constructing campfire pits and repairing benches; removing unneeded water spouts; and removing unneeded concrete slab.

A field visit by the Deputy Associate Regional Director, Cultural Resources was made to both the Florida and Mississippi Districts for orientation and advisory consultation on cultural resource management projects.

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A site visit was made to begin planning the preservation treatment of the 15" Rodman located in Fort Massachusetts.

Cataloging of museum objects and entrance of data into the ANCS system continues with a scheduled completion date of December 1991.

Acquired electrolysis equipment to implement a small scale preservation treatment program.

Safety

Two Memoranda of Understanding were established with local volunteer fire departments (Navarre Beach Volunteer Fire Department and Midway Volunteer Fire Department) to provide personal services and equipment for structural fire prevention/suppression on lands administered by Gulf Islands National Seashore.

Planned and conducted a comprehensive parkwide safety inspection. Inspections involved the district supervisors evaluating each other's operations and making recommendations for enhancement and/or corrective actions.

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

The major administrative accomplishments in 1990 were obtaining a cooperative education agreement with Alcorn State University, a minority college, and with two local area colleges; conducting an in-house operational review of the Personnel Division; development of an affirmative program to keep management informed of affirmative action initiatives and results; completion of an annual property inventory; conversion to the PROPS Servicewide computerized property program; presentation of a procurement and property management refresher course to park staff; installation and implementation of Servicewide computerized payment obligation program (FDE) and Third Party Draft system.

MAINTENANCE

The interiors of Quarters 7A and 7B, located in the Fort Pickens Area, were rehabilitated at a total cost of approximately \$80,000. The units were rewired and replumbed and received new floor, wall and ceiling finishes. New electrical and plumbing fixtures and new kitchen and bathroom cabinets were also installed.

Approximately 800 linear feet of six foot wide boardwalk was replaced at the Santa Rosa Area. The boardwalk extends from the upper deck of the main complex to the shelters located on the north side of the developed area. The boardwalk is handicapped accessible and the replacement cost was approximately \$21,000.

The Fort Pickens Casemate/Accessibility project began in October and should be completed by March 1991. The project includes a new 700 square foot sales outlet/information center and several hundred feet of new concrete sidewalks. Upon completion, the sales outlet and tour route will be handicapped accessible. The estimated cost of the completed project is \$55,000.

INTERPRETATION

Interpreters presented programs emphasizing global themes including biodiversity, global warming, marine debris and recycling in 1990. In Florida more than 12

new programs on these and other resource themes were initiated. In Mississippi a new series of ecological programs called "Nature Links" was presented for school-age children. Junior Ranger activities and scheduled school programs received good attendance.

Using the Civil War time period, interpreters in period dress did rifle firing demonstrations at Fort Pickens and Fort Massachusetts.

Interpretive program plans were developed for Columbus Quincentennial in 1992.

Exhibits on Black History and Women's History were shown in the visitor centers. Temporary exhibits including Stewardship/James Stevens, Resource Management, Marine Debris, Bird Migration, and Update: Red Wolf were displayed in the visitor center/museum.

Wayside exhibits were reinstalled at West Ship Island and refurbished in the Florida District. Bulletin boards were stained. New panels with color and seasonal themes were designed and installed on the bulletin boards.

Access was improved at West Ship Island with a new information-sales desk and at Davis Bayou with a sales display counter. Plans were made for an accessible path within Fort Pickens.

Two issues of The Gulf Islands BARNACLE newspaper were printed.

A library operating policy was written for the two park libraries. Work continues in both districts on in-putting data into the computer library program.

Florida interpretive offices were moved to Building #5 from the Captain's House at Fort Pickens Area.

A pilot recycling program at Davis Bayou Campground began and a site bulletin on recycling was printed.

Community Relations (Special Events)

Gulf Islands National Seashore celebrated the twentieth anniversary of Earth Day on April 22 in Mississippi with an Earth Day Fair - "Think Globally...Act Locally." Activities included a park promenade, music, environmental exhibits, children's games, movies, hikes, tee shirt design and costume contests. Over 1,000 visitors attended the day-long celebration. Programs emphasizing Earth Day were held in Florida at Fort Pickens, Naval Live Oaks and Fort Barrancas on April 23.

The Beach Reach cleanup was held in Mississippi in April for the Adopt-A-Beach groups. Despite inclement weather, five miles of beach were cleaned. In September, more than 1300 volunteers in Florida and Mississippi removed nearly 15 tons of marine debris from the National Seashore. In addition to the benefits derived from a cleaner park, the cleanups serve an important role in educating and involving local communities in the problem of marine debris. The Mississippi District's program was recognized by the State as being the "Best Federal" effort in Mississippi's Take Pride in America Campaign.

Holiday Open Houses were held in Mississippi on December 8, "Christmas on the Bayou" and in Florida on December 15, "Seashells-Treasure of the Seashore."

Mississippi District participated in the Soil Conservation Service Field Day at a local county elementary school. Park rangers talked to over 800 students about endangered species including the Red Wolf.

The Division of Interpretation directed the quarterly marine debris survey and submitted results for publication in the National Park Service - National Marine Fisheries Service Coastwide Survey.

Cooperating Associations

Fiscal year 1990 was a successful year in both districts. Sales remained approximately the same in Mississippi and increased in Florida (by \$5,000). New titles, sales items and adequate stock on hand account for the successful sales. The Fort Pickens Casemate Conversion is to be completed in 1991 and will house the Fort Pickens EN sales outlet. High school student volunteers operated the EN sales outlet at Fort Massachusetts Guardroom in the summer.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND VISITOR PROTECTION

Park Ranger Robert McGhee, Davis Bayou Ranger, was shot and killed in the line of duty on May 26, 1990. The two suspects are now in custody. They were escapees from the Florida prison system. They have also been charged with the kidnap and rape of a female motel clerk from Alabama. The Board of Inquiry was held on September 25-26, 1990.

M. Eugene Phillips, Jr. from Natchez Trace Parkway was selected to fill the position of Chief Ranger. EOD July 15, 1990.

The Red Wolves breeding project on Horn Island was a success with seven pups released into the wild; although they roamed the island all year there were no sightings by visitors.

Mississippi District rangers continue to work with the U.S. Customs Service's Blue Lightning Strike Force. Daily radio communications were maintained and rangers attend cross training as time and scheduling permits. Rangers participated in 58 drug related cases.

There were no major storms during the 1990 season.

There was a 600 acre fire on Horn Island in 1990. Fire was suppressed by GUIS personnel with assistance from the Sandhill Crane Refuge crew. The fire was suppressed in wilderness areas due to extremely high winds which was a threat to the entire island.

Contacts were maintained with local, state, and Federal law enforcement and resource management agencies.

Reach Three of the Pensacola Pass ship channel was completed with beach nourishment on Perdido Key. Monitoring of vegetation, marine life, mammal and dune movement are underway and will continue to evaluate the long term effects of this project upon the natural environment.

The Division participated in various affirmative action initiatives through recruitment and hiring of eligible candidates.

Park rangers maintained their law enforcement commissions by attending required in-service training and semi-annual firearms qualifications.

The Gulf Islands National Seashore Resource Management Plan received final approval from the Regional Director in January, 1990. During FY 90, five of the top ten unfunded RMP natural resource projects were initiated.

Memorandum of Understanding, initiated between Gulf Islands and Ocean Springs Police Department and Fire Department to better serve Law Enforcement needs of Service and local city.

Substantial progress was made during FY 90 in the acquisition of natural resources baseline data. New projects initiated in FY 90 have contributed to the development of baseline inventories for vegetation and marine invertebrate communities, avian populations, and reptiles and amphibians. Ongoing projects continued to enhance baseline data in meteorology, sea turtle nesting activity, mammalian population dynamics, and shoreline change.

Three Interagency and four Sub-Agreements to Cooperative Agreements were either initiated or maintained in FY 90 to advance resource management objectives. Projects accomplished through these agreements include the Red Wolf propagation program Perdido Key beach nourishment monitoring, GIS program development, and the Bayou Cassotte oil spill impacts study.