



## General Management Planning

### What is a General Management Plan?

- ⚙ A General Management Plan (GMP) is a plan that sets a vision for a national park unit for the next 15-20 years.
- ⚙ A GMP is developed with input from the public, other agencies, and National Park Service staff.
- ⚙ A GMP lays out different concepts for park management and allows staff to develop management alternatives that complement each concept.



### What will I find in a General Management Plan?

- ⚙ A summary of a park's purpose, significance, and important resources and values.
- ⚙ A description of natural and cultural resources, visitor amenities, and park operations.
- ⚙ Several alternatives for park management. Management zones that specify uses and resource management in different areas.
- ⚙ General descriptions of changes that would occur at different locations in the park.
- ⚙ A method for monitoring visitor impacts on resources and other visitors' experiences.
- ⚙ An assessment of the impacts of the various alternatives on park resources.

### What are the next steps in this process?

- ⚙ These public meetings and review periods are designed to collect your feedback about the alternatives and other parts of the plan.
- ⚙ We will incorporate your input as well as input from other stakeholders and partner agencies.
- ⚙ We will finalize the plan over the next 18 months or so.
- ⚙ The national seashore will begin implementing parts of the plan as funding and staff allow.





## Different Alternatives for Managing Gulf Islands

Over the past several years, the National Park Service has developed three different alternatives for managing Gulf Islands National Seashore. These alternatives were shared with the public in 2007, and changes were made to reflect public comment and input from stakeholders. A summary of the alternatives is presented below.

### Alternative 1

- ⊗ No-action alternative
- ⊗ Continue the existing management and trends
- ⊗ Alternative 1 serves as a basis for comparing the other alternatives

### Alternative 2

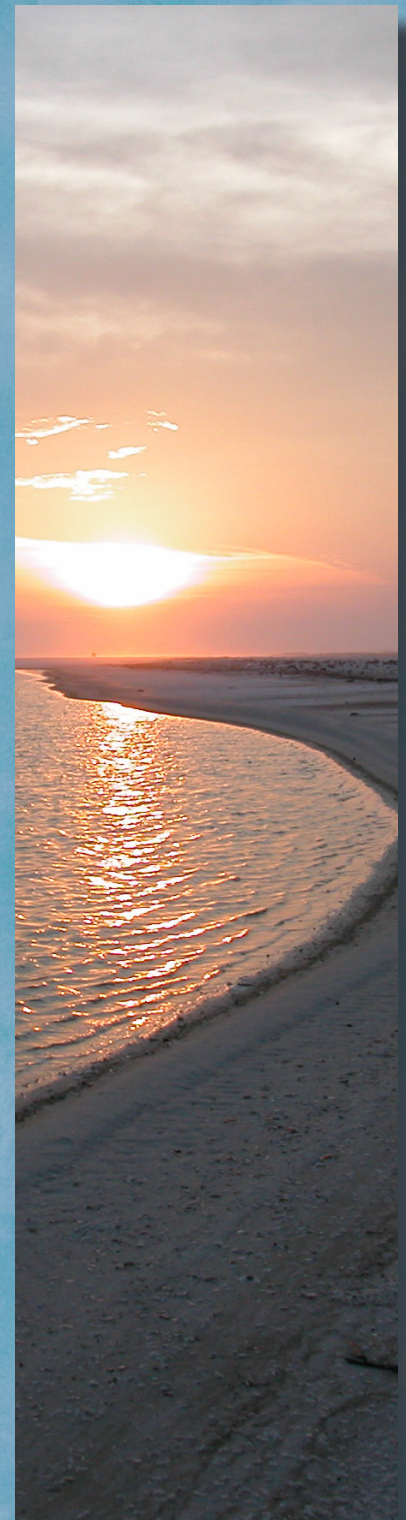
- ⊗ Manage the national seashore to adapt to the wild and dynamic processes of the northern Gulf Coast
- ⊗ Provide recreational and educational opportunities for visitors
- ⊗ When storms or other natural processes significantly impact barrier island infrastructure, there would be very limited rebuilding of contemporary accommodations

### Alternative 3 (NPS Preferred Alternative)

- ⊗ Manage the national seashore as an outdoor classroom for exploring the natural and human history of the northern Gulf Coast
- ⊗ Provide national seashore recreational opportunities and traditional beach activities
- ⊗ When storms or other natural processes significantly impact barrier islands, contemporary accommodations and most sections of road would be rebuilt where feasible
- ⊗ Collaborate and cooperate with academia, visiting scientists, conservation organizations, and other agencies to enhance resource management, stewardship, and the northern gulf coastal environment

### Alternative 4

- ⊗ Expand and diversify the range of outdoor recreational and educational opportunities among a variety of coastal settings, including new commercial services to support these opportunities
- ⊗ Collaborate and expand partnerships with educational and cultural institutions, nonprofit organizations, and other partners
- ⊗ Adaptively re-use historic masonry forts, artillery batteries, and associated structures for recreational, interpretive, and educational opportunities







## Alternative 3 (NPS Preferred Alternative)

### Key Highlights for Operations and Administration

- ⚙ The headquarters at Naval Live Oaks would be converted to an environmental education and research center.
- ⚙ The administrative functions currently housed at Naval Live Oaks would be moved to a new facility in the north maintenance compound near Naval Live Oaks. Maintenance staff in Florida would also be relocated there.
- ⚙ The Davis Bayou Visitor Center would continue to provide administrative facilities for Mississippi District Staff.



### Key Highlights for Visitor Experience

- ⚙ The national seashore would be used as a classroom with on-site learning activities.
- ⚙ An environmental education center and stewardship program would be established.
- ⚙ New ranger-led and self-guided activities would teach visitors about significant time periods in the national seashore's history.
- ⚙ Environmental education could include scuba diving and snorkeling, as well as hiking, biking, and nature trails.





## Alternative 3 (NPS Preferred Alternative Continued)

### Key Highlights for Natural and Cultural Resources

- ✿ Exceptional and critical natural resources would be inventoried, evaluated, protected, and restored.
- ✿ Indicators and standards for resource and wilderness area management would be put in place.
- ✿ Selected cultural resources would be rehabilitated to appear as they did in the past.
- ✿ New sites would continue to be inventoried and preserved according to historic preservation guidelines.
- ✿ Partnerships with educational institutions and other agencies would be promoted.
- ✿ A marine management program would be established to monitor and rehabilitate the marine environment.
- ✿ A cultural resource management program would be established to compliment the marine management program.







## Highlights of the NPS Preferred Alternative at Popular Visitor Destinations

### In the Florida Units...

- ⚙ Develop a new environmental education center at Naval Live Oaks
- ⚙ Develop a tent-camping only loop at Fort Pickens Campground
- ⚙ Rehabilitate the Fort Pickens Ranger Station to teach visitors about the historic Lifesaving Service
- ⚙ Move the Fort Pickens campground registration to a new building at the campground store site
- ⚙ Rebuild Fort Pickens Road, if feasible, after major storms
- ⚙ Rebuild parts of Johnson Beach Road after major storms
- ⚙ If the Pensacola Lighthouse is transferred to the NPS, provide interpretative opportunities there
- ⚙ Provide educational opportunities through use of a mobile vehicle at Okaloosa and Perdido Key



### In the Mississippi Units...

- ⚙ Restore the open space near Davis Bayou Campground to a more natural environment
- ⚙ Develop a tent-camping only loop at Davis Bayou Campground
- ⚙ Consider development of a multi-use pedestrian/bicycle trail along Park Road
- ⚙ Evaluate closure of the VFW road to vehicles to assure pedestrian and bicycle safety
- ⚙ Complete land acquisition and secure access for visitor and administrative use at Cat Island
- ⚙ Develop a permit system for overnight camping at Cat Island and East and West Ship islands
- ⚙ A new lateral pier would be added to the dock at West Ship Island for private watercraft
- ⚙ Wilderness values on Horn and Petit Bois islands would be protected with new monitoring efforts

