

Great Smoky Mountains  
National Park

Cades Cove Opportunities Plan

**Appendix H**  
**Notice of Intent**

October 2004

United States Department  
Of the Interior  
National Park Service



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

AGENCY: National Park Service

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact statement for the Cades Cove Development Concept and Transportation Management Plan for Great Smoky Mountains National Park

SUMMARY: In accordance with Section 102 (2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 USC 4321 et.seq.), the National Park Service (NPS) is undertaking an analysis process to determine the visitor experience and transportation requirements of the Cades Cove area of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This analysis, the Cades Cove Development Concept and Transportation Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), will identify and assess potential impacts of alternative transportation management concepts and modes of travel to and within the Cades Cove area of the Park. The goal of this plan is to enhance the visitor experience and protect park resources. Notice is hereby given that a public scoping process has been initiated to prepare the Cades Cove Development Concept and Transportation Management Plan and EIS. The purpose of the scoping process is to elicit public comment regarding the full spectrum of public issues and concerns, including a suitable range of alternatives, the nature and extent of potential environmental impacts, and appropriate mitigation strategies which should be addressed in the EIS process.

DATES: A formal public scoping for the Plan and EIS is hereby undertaken. Beginning in Spring 2002, public scoping meetings will be conducted in the vicinity of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The location, date, and time of scoping meetings and deadlines for written comments will be announced via local and regional media and appropriate Internet locations. All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to attend these meetings to comment orally and/or provide written comments or suggestions during the scoping period. Additional comments, suggestions, or relevant information (or those wishing to be added to the mailing list) should be mailed or hand delivered to the attention of Cades Cove Development Concept and Transportation Management Plan and EIS, Great Smoky Mountains National Park at the address below.

ADDRESS: 107 Park Headquarters Road Gatlinburg, TN 37738

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Superintendent, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, (865) 436-1207, Fax (865) 436-1220

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of this planning initiative is to develop a long-term Development Concept and Transportation Management Plan and EIS for the Cades Cove area of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The Plan and EIS will examine local, natural and cultural resources, existing Park facilities and infrastructure, current and projected visitation trends, and incorporate a public involvement plan in developing a range of alternatives and transportation strategies that improve the visitor experience.

Cades Cove is located within Great Smoky Mountains National Park in southeastern Tennessee. The study area lies within Blount County, Tennessee, which is part of the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization's designated planning area. Visitation in the Cove has tripled in the last 20 years, and has doubled since 1990, with more than 2.1 million visitors annually. Fifty percent of the time during peak summer and fall seasons, the Cove's Loop Road is very congested.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

**DECISION PROCESS:** Availability of the draft Cades Cove Development Concept and Transportation Management Plan and EIS for review and written comment will be announced by Federal Register notice, via the news media, appropriate internet locations, website, and direct mailing to the project mailing list. At this time the draft Cades Cove Development Concept and Transportation Management Plan and EIS is anticipated to be available for public review in 2004. To afford additional opportunity to comment on the draft Cades Cove Development Concept and Transportation Management Plan and EIS after it is distributed, public meetings will be held in the vicinity of Great Smoky Mountains National Park (dates and locations to be determined). Notice of the availability of the final Cades Cove Development Concept and Transportation Management Plan and EIS will likewise be published in the Federal Register. The official responsible for the initial recommendation is the Regional Director, Southeast Region, National Park Service. The official responsible for amending or ratifying the recommendation and transmitting to the Secretary of

the Interior is the Director, National Park Service. The Secretary determines whether to forward the recommendation to Congress for their consideration.

For Inclusion on the Mailing List: Please mail or fax to the above Great Smoky Mountains National Park address.

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Regional Director  
Southeast Region

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