

# **United States Department of the Interior**

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Point Reyes National Seashore Point Reyes, California 94956

IN REPLY REFER TO:

JUL 3 0 2013

Request for scoping comments regarding road maintenance and improvement activities at Point Reyes National Seashore

## Dear Interested Party:

The National Park Service (NPS) in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration proposes to rehabilitate 22 miles of paved park roads and parking areas in Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) including Limantour Road and the roads to the Lighthouse and Chimney Rock. The purpose of the proposed action is to restore the structural integrity of these roads to ensure safe driving conditions for visitors traveling in the park, provide efficient parking space to support demand for recreational access in the park, correct road-related drainage problems, and reduce long-term road and parking area maintenance needs and costs. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the NPS will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential effects of alternatives for repairing and improving park roads and parking areas on the natural, cultural, and human environment.

The public is invited to comment on the proposal during a 30-day public scoping period which closes August 30, 2013. During this scoping period, the public and government agencies are invited to submit written suggestions, comments and concerns to help develop the scope of the EA. Scoping comments could address, for example: 1) concerns and potential impacts of the proposal, 2) relevant effects of past actions, or 3) possible alternatives to the proposed project that should be considered. It is anticipated that the EA will be available for public review and comment later this year.

Comments may be made through the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/poreroadsea (the NPS-preferred method for receiving comments). Written comments may be mailed to: PORE Roads EA c/o Superintendent, Point Reyes National Seashore, 1 Bear Valley Road, Point Reyes National Seashore, CA 94956. Comments may be hand delivered to the Seashore Headquarters at 1 Bear Valley Road, Point Reyes Station. Office house for hand delivery are Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm. Comments should be received before the end of the scoping period on August 30, 2013. Only written comments or comments submitted through the PEPC website can be accepted.

Comments will not be accepted by FAX, e-mail or in any manner other than the three methods previously specified. Bulk comments in any format (hard copy or electronic) submitted on

behalf of others will not be accepted. Before including a personal address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in written comments, anyone providing

written comment should be aware their entire comment – including their personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While anyone wishing to comment may ask the National Park Service in their comment to withhold their personal identifying information from public review, the National Park Service cannot guarantee it will be able to do so.

If you have questions regarding this process, please contact John Dell'Osso at Point Reyes National Seashore at 415-464-5135. We appreciate your interest and participation in this process.

Sincerely,

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**Enclosures** 

#### PROPOSED ROAD MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES

#### LIMANTOUR ROAD

Approximately 7.5 miles of the Limantour Road between Bear Valley Road and Limantour Picnic Area Parking Lot would be rehabilitated. Proposed maintenance and improvement activities include:

- chip seal and fog seal road surfaces
- replace or repair failed or deficient culverts
- install underdrains to improve road drainage
- reconstruct a slide-damaged road section
- improve pullout areas
- rebuild deficient curbing
- remove and replace signs
- armor failing fillslopes

#### LIGHTHOUSE ROAD

Approximately 1.5 miles of the Lighthouse Road between the Sir Francis Drake Boulevard intersection and Lighthouse Visitor center would be improved to correct pavement and drainage problems on the road, roundabout, and parking area. Other proposed maintenance and improvement activities include:

- modify road alignment within existing road prism
- chipseal or micorsuface road and parking surfaces
- remove and replace signs
- upgrade guard rails
- install sidewalks at the parking area
- recondition roadside drainage ditches
- install a new culvert

#### CHIMNEY ROCK ROAD

The 0.9 miles of the Chimney Rock Road between Sir Francis Drake Boulevard intersection and a short distance east of the parking area would be rehabilitated. Proposed maintenance and improvement activities include:

- remove and re-grade existing road surface
- apply new asphalt concrete surface the road and parking area.
- replace existing cattle guards
- construct and pave pullouts
- reshape cut and fill slopes
- construct a sidewalk and a wood fence on the parking area perimeter.
- replace failed or deficient culverts
- install underdrains to improve road drainage
- recondition obstructed roadside drainage ditches

### PAVEMENT PRESERVATION ON OTHER PARK ROADS

A total of 11.9 miles of road and 9.4 acres of parking area would be treated with chip and fog seal or mircosurfacing to restore the pavement surface to near original conditions.

