

Chapter 4: Consultation and Coordination

SCOPING

Scoping is an early and open process to determine the breadth of environmental issues and alternatives to be addressed in an environmental assessment. Rocky Mountain National Park conducted both internal scoping with appropriate NPS staff and external scoping with the public and interested and affected groups and agencies.

INTERNAL SCOPING

A formal internal scoping meeting was held at Rocky Mountain National Park on August 27, 2012. Participants included the project interdisciplinary team and representatives from Parsons, the consultant preparing the environmental assessment. Products included the clarification of the project scope and features, definition of the action alternative, determination of the relevant impact topics, and identification of issues.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The following actions were taken to inform agencies and the public about the intent to prepare a National Environmental Policy Act environmental assessment on this project. Internal and external scoping period was from August 9 through September 30, 2012.

- Scoping letters or notices were sent to the approximately 120 people and organizations on the NPS' core mailing list. These included local, state, and federal agencies; organizations; and individuals.
- The scoping notice was made available electronically on the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website at <<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ROMO>>.

Public scoping produced 135 responses, as follows.

- Correspondence from the Continental Divide Trail Coalition stated their wish to see a determination that any new use along the East Shore Trail would not substantially interfere with the nature and purpose of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. Additionally, they suggested a new list of public scoping questions to more extensively address potential issues regarding the additional of a new recreational use on the trail.
- 134 responses came from members of the public, including 100 individuals and 34 organizations. The comments were divided in support and opposition for the use of bicycles on the East Shore Trail. Many of the comments identified environmental and social concerns with allowing bicycles on the trail while others were strongly in support of the additional recreational use and expressed their desire for a multiuse trail connection between Grand Lake and Granby. Those that favored bicycle use included suggestions on how to manage multiple user groups through signage, education, and public involvement in trail management. Suggestions included posting signs to educate users on the hierarchy of yielding to different user groups on the trail, building the trail to International Mountain Bicycling Association standards with adequate sight distance and avoidance of sharp turns, marking and monitoring the wilderness boundary, and the inclusion of refuge zones.

The agency correspondence and response letters are provided in appendix B. All of the concerns identified in public scoping were addressed in this environmental assessment.

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

Agencies, organizations, and experts who were consulted in the process of preparing this environmental assessment are included below. Individual agency letters initiating consultation are included in appendix B.

AMERICAN INDIAN CONSULTATION

A number of American Indian tribes traditionally, and currently, value the Rocky Mountain National Park area. Traditionally associated tribes include those listed below. No responses were received to the scoping letters sent on April 18, 2013. All associated tribes will continue to be kept informed about the status of the environmental assessment. When the environmental assessment is released to the public, the National Park Service will again send letters to the tribes, formally asking for their input.

The following Native American tribes were contacted and invited to participate in the planning process:

- Jicarilla Apache Tribe of the Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, New Mexico
- Northern Arapaho Tribe
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, Montana
- Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, Wyoming
- Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado
- Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation, Utah
- Ute Mountain Tribe of the Ute Mountain Reservation, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah

LIST OF PREPARERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

The people identified in table 5 were primarily responsible for preparing this environmental assessment.

Table 5: Preparers

National Park Service, Rocky Mountain National Park	
Vaughn Baker	Superintendent
Kevin Dowell	Trail Foreman
Larry Gamble	Chief of Planning and Compliance
Parsons	
John Hoesterey	Project Manager
Don Kellett	Wetland / Wildlife Specialist
Rachael Mangum	Cultural Resource Specialist
Alexa Miles	Environmental Scientist
Bruce Snyder	Wildlife Biologist (former)

LIST OF RECIPIENTS

Elected Officials

Colorado Delegate Jared Polis
Colorado Delegate Randy Baumgardner
Colorado Senator Jean White
U.S. Senator Mark Udall
U.S. Senator Michael Bennet

Federal Agencies

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Forest Service Arapaho National Recreation Area
U.S. Forest Service Sulphur Ranger District

State and Local Agencies

Colorado Division of Wildlife
Colorado Historical Society
Colorado National Heritage Program
Grand County
Grand Lake Chamber of Commerce
Grand Lake Metro Recreation District
Grand Lake Planning Commission
Town of Granby
Town of Grand Lake
Town of Winter Park

Other Agencies and Organizations

Ala Kahakai Trail Association
American Discovery Trail
American Hiking Society
American Lands Alliance
Amigos de Anza

Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Arizona Trail Association
Audubon Society
Back Country Horsemen of America
Back Country Horsemen of Colorado
Backcountry Parachutists
Biodiversity Associates
Biodiversity Conservation Alliance
Boulder Mountain Bike Alliance
Carson Valley Trails Association
Center for Native Ecosystems
Chesapeake Conservancy
Colorado Environmental Coalition
Colorado Horse Council
Colorado Mountain Bike Association
Colorado Mountain Club
Colorado Mountain School
Colorado National Areas Program
Colorado Open Lands
Colorado University Cycling
Connecticut Forest and Park Association
Continental Divide National Scenic Trail
Continental Divide Trail Coalition
Continental Divide Trail Society
E Mau Na Ala Hele

El Camino Real de los Tejas	Overland Mountain Biking Club
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro	Overmountain Victory Trail Association
Florida Trail Association	Pacific Crest Trail Association
Fraser Valley Partnership for Trails	Pacific Northwest Trail Association
Grand Mountain Bike Alliance	Partnership for the National Trails System
Grand Sports	Potomac Heritage Trail Association
Great Old Broads for Wilderness	Red Mountain RV Park
Headwaters Trail Alliance	Redstone Cyclery
Home James	Rock Mountain Nature Association
Ice Age Trail Alliance	Rocky Hi Speedway
Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance	Santa Fe Trail Association
International Mountain Bike Association	Sierra Club
Juniper Library	Sierra Club Rock Mountain Chapter
Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association	Tahoe Rim Trail Association
Lewis and Clarke Trail Heritage Foundation	The Anza Trail Foundation
Lower Arkansas Valley Mountain Bike Association	The Mormon Trails Association
Maple Street Builders	The Nature Conservancy
Middle Park Land Trust	The Wilderness Society
National Frontier Trails Museum	Three Lakes Watershed Association
National Parks Conservation Association	Trail of Tears Association
Nez Perce Trail Foundation	Trout Unlimited
North Country Trail Association	Wilderness Watch
Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District	YMCA of the Rockies
Old Spanish Trail Association	ZoSports
Oregon-California Trails Association	American Indian Tribes
	Jicarilla Apache Tribe of the Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, New Mexico
	Northern Arapaho Tribe

Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern
Cheyenne Indian Reservation, Montana

Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reserva-
tion, Wyoming

Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern
Ute Reservation, Colorado

Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray
Reservation, Utah

Ute Mountain Tribe of the Ute Mountain
Reservation, Colorado, New Mexico, and
Utah