

Welcome!

Capitol Reef National Park Livestock Grazing & Trailing Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement



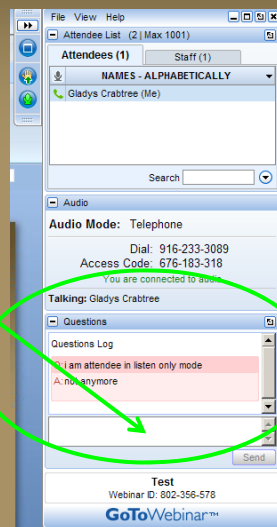
Public Scoping Webinar

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**Capitol Reef National Park
Livestock Grazing & Trailing
Management Plan/
Environmental Impact Statement
Public Scoping Webinar**

Opening Remarks

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Overview of this Presentation

- Background: Grazing and Trailing in the Park
- Overview of planning process
- Livestock Grazing & Trailing Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement
 - Purpose and Need
 - Objectives
- Grazing management tools
- Your involvement



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History of grazing in Capitol Reef National Park

- When Congress established Capitol Reef as a National Park on December 18, 1971, it recognized that livestock grazing and trailing were pre-existing uses and provided for grazing and trailing to continue on park lands, with an eventual phase-out of grazing.



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History of grazing in Capitol Reef National Park

- Continuation of these uses was granted to existing livestock grazing and trailing permit holders (permit holders), subject to appropriate management by the NPS.
- Capitol Reef National Park (CRNP) currently operates under Public Law 100-446. Grazing will phase out after the current generation of permit holders ceases operations in CRNP.



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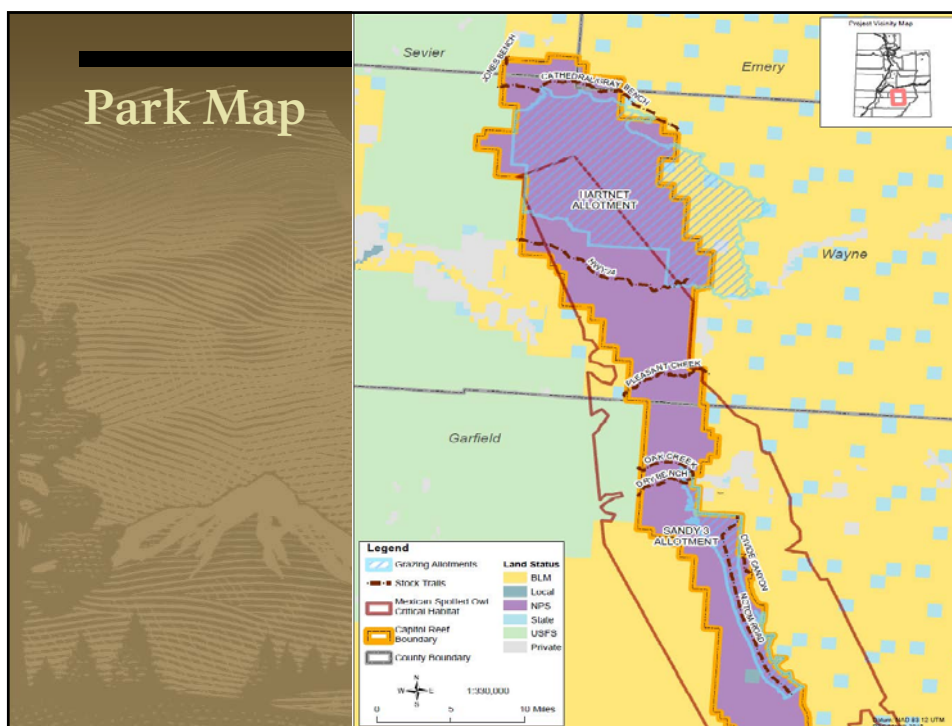
Current grazing and trailing in Capitol Reef National Park

- There are two remaining allotments within CRNP, Hartnet Allotment and Sandy 3 Allotment. The Hartnet Allotment, located in the northern part of the park is 70,760 acres and the Sandy 3 Allotment, located in the southern part of the park is 14,982 acres.
- Livestock trailing along the eight traditional routes crossing the park will continue for perpetuity, subject to appropriate management by the NPS.



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Why write a plan now?

- Between 2000 and 2010, the National Park Service (NPS) assumed responsibility for the permitting and management of the active allotments within the park, consistent with direction provided in the park's 1998 General Management Plan (GMP).
- In 2010, CRNP requested funding for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to develop and ultimately implement a plan to manage livestock grazing and trailing, which is considered a major federal action subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).



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Planning Efforts—Looking Forward

- NPS is preparing a livestock grazing & trailing management plan to find solutions to these issues
 - Cooperating agencies include the BLM Richfield Field Office, State of Utah Public Lands Policy Coordination Office, Emery County, Garfield County, and Wayne County.
 - The NPS also is coordinating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Utah State Historic Preservation Office.
- Planning efforts require compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act



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What is the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) ?

- Requires federal agencies to:
 - Analyze the environmental impacts of federal actions
 - Engage the public in the decision-making process
- Best described as an environmental planning process
- Requires an environmental impact statement for actions that could significantly affect the quality of the human environment



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Actions Requiring NEPA Review

- Any federal action or federal decision being considered that would, if implemented, have an impact on the human environment
 - Projects, plans, grants, official policy, permits may trigger the need for NEPA review
- In this case, the NPS has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be prepared to complete the NEPA process for the livestock grazing and trailing management plan.



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The Human Environment

"...shall be interpreted comprehensively to include the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with that environment."



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Key Elements of the NEPA Planning Process

- Articulate the **purpose of and need** for taking action
- Consider **reasonable alternatives**, including a “no action” alternative
- Analyze **impacts** using reliable scientific data
- Respond to **substantive comments** received on the Draft EIS and make necessary changes for the Final EIS



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Public Scoping

- The beginning of the NEPA process
- An opportunity for the public to provide early ideas about:
 - the purpose and need for the plan
 - issues and impact topics that should be addressed
 - alternatives that should be evaluated
 - sources of information that should be considered
- ***Public scoping began March 16, 2015 and runs through May 15, 2015***
- You can provide comments at any time during this period



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Purpose of Taking Action

- **Purpose** is a broad statement of goals that NPS intends to fulfill by taking action
- The purpose of this plan/EIS is to: **provide guidance and tools to the NPS and permit holders, which promote the shared conservation and stewardship of the natural resources, ecological processes, and cultural resources of Capitol Reef National Park through the long-term management of livestock grazing and trailing at the park.**



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Need for Action

- **Need** is the answer to the question "Why is action being taken at this time?"
- A plan is needed because: CARE lacks a comprehensive, collaborative approach to address potential impacts to:
 - Soils, vegetation, aquatic systems, and wildlife;
 - Species of concern, including plants and animals listed under the Endangered Species Act
 - Cultural resources, including those protected under the National Historic Preservation Act



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Objectives

- Conservation and recovery of special status species listed under the Endangered Species Act and considered sensitive by the NPS
- Diverse native vegetation associations
- Reduce potential for the introduction and spread of non-native species
- Self-sustaining, diverse native riparian and wetland systems
- Maintain and improve water quality and hydrologic processes
- Naturally occurring geomorphic processes
- Properly functioning soil types and structures, including biological soil crusts
- Maintain and improve habitat for native wildlife
- Reduce potential for impacts to cultural resources, and visitor use and experience
- Improve visitor understanding of livestock grazing and trailing in the park

Tools Under Consideration

Collaboration and Communication

- Coordinate with permit holders and adjacent land managers on administration of livestock grazing and trailing in the park
- Collaborate with permit holders on the investments needed in labor and/or range improvements
- Expand visitor education on livestock grazing and trailing in the park



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Tools Under Consideration

Grazing Management

- Timing (season of use) of grazing
- Intensity of grazing (utilization)
- Distribution of livestock
 - Fencing to protect sensitive resources
 - Provide access to water at locations outside sensitive hydrologic resources
 - Explore the use of supplements and imported feed
 - Herding and/or developing pastures combined with pasture rotation strategies



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Tools Under Consideration

Trailing Management

- Promote shared stewardship of park resources
 - Encourage alternate, shifted, or seasonal use of existing routes where possible
 - Explore the establishment of a suitable duration and number of livestock associated with trailing
 - Fence cultural resources susceptible to impacts from livestock trailing
 - Fence sensitive natural resources temporarily as trailing occurs



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Tools Under Consideration

Adaptive Management and Phased Implementation of Actions

- Adaptively manage
 - Timing, duration, intensity, and distribution of livestock grazing and trailing
- Monitor
 - Listed plant and animal populations and habitat
 - Vegetation communities
 - Extent of biological soil crust
 - Riparian ecosystems
 - Climate conditions (precipitation, temperature, etc)
 - Rangeland health and forage use

Schedule

March to May 2015	Notice of Intent to Prepare Livestock Grazing and Trailing Management Plan/ EIS; Public Scoping Period Begins; Public Scoping Meetings
May 2015	Public Scoping Period Concludes NPS Reviews Public Scoping Comments and Gathers Information Needed to Prepare the EIS
2015-2016	Develop Alternatives, Analyze Impacts, and Write Draft Plan/EIS
Late Spring 2016	Draft Plan/EIS available for Public Review and Comment (60 days)/Public Meetings on Draft Plan/EIS
2016-2017	NPS Prepares Final Plan/EIS and Selects the Alternative to be Implemented
Spring 2017	NPS Issues Record of Decision for Livestock Grazing and Trailing Plan



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How can YOU be involved?

- Join our mailing list
- Follow the project online (website below)
- Send Comments by May 15, 2015

- Electronically to:

- http://parkplanning.nps.gov/care_lgtmp_eis_scoping

Select "Document List" on the left

- Mail to:

Superintendent
Capitol Reef National Park
HC 70 Box 15
Torrey, UT 84775

- Hand deliver to:

Park Headquarters
52 West Headquarters Drive
Torrey, UT 84775



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Thank you!

We will now do our best to answer your questions on the plan and the EIS process.

Your phones will continue to be muted.



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Public Scoping

Livestock Grazing & Trailing Management Plan /Environmental Impact Statement

Capitol Reef National Park

March 16 – May 15, 2015

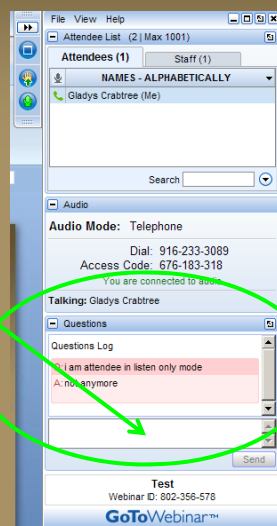


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For more information, please visit:

- NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment Web Site (PEPC):
 - http://parkplanning.nps.gov/care_lgtmp_eis_scoping



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How to provide helpful comments:

At this time, to be most helpful to the plan and EIS process, the NPS is seeking your input on:

- the purpose and need for action;
- environmental issues that should be addressed;
- potential management practices, tools, and alternatives for managing livestock grazing and trailing, including mitigation measures which could reduce potentially harmful effects;
- sources of data and/or methodologies that should be considered for analyzing potential environmental effects.

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Comments that are less helpful

Comments which are not helpful include those which:

- Vote for or against a potential management practice, tool, or alternative without giving reasons why
- Agree or disagree with laws, regulation, or NPS policy
- Discuss other projects or other areas
- Contain vague, open-ended questions'

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