



United States Department of the Interior  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WUPATKI – SUNSET CRATER VOLCANO – WALNUT CANYON  
NATIONAL MONUMENTS  
6400 North Highway 89  
Flagstaff, Arizona 86004



H4217

December 19, 2011

Dear Interested Party:

**Subject:** Proposed Environmental Assessment for the Integrated Pest Management Action Plan for Sunset Crater Volcano, Walnut Canyon, and Wupatki National Monuments.

**Reference:** Request for Comments on Initial Proposed Action (General Scoping)

The National Park Service is planning for the possible treatment of vertebrate and invertebrate pests (rodents, insects, etc.) in and around the buildings and stabilized archaeological sites of the Flagstaff Area Monuments: Sunset Crater Volcano, Walnut Canyon, and Wupatki National Monuments. A Flagstaff Area National Monuments *Integrated Pest Management Plan* (Plan) will be developed in 2012, and we are assessing the impacts on park resources of implementing this plan. Treatments will primarily be for the elimination of pests, such as rats, mice, cockroaches, etc. that are causing damage or are a concern to human health. Invertebrate species with the highest priority for treatments are ants, cockroaches, and bed bugs. High priority vertebrate species include mice, rats, squirrels, etc. Other species outlined in the Plan, and species that may appear in the monuments in the next 10 years will also be treated.

Treatments will be specific to the biology of the pest, and will be based on the best research available and the least harm to human health and the environment. Treatments may include: pesticides, trapping, or hand removal. Pesticides will only be applied under the supervision of a State of Arizona licensed applicator, and strictly according to label directions. Restoration following treatments will be implemented to restore any damaged resources and to ensure the prevention of future re-colonization by pests.

An Environmental Assessment will be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) to provide the decision-making framework that:

- 1) analyzes a reasonable range of alternatives to meet project objectives;
- 2) evaluates issues and impacts to park resources and values; and
- 3) identifies mitigation measure to lessen the degree or extent of these impacts.

**Request for Comments:** The National Park Service encourages public participation throughout the planning process. There will be two opportunities to comment formally on the project; first during initial project scoping, and secondly following release of the DRAFT Environmental Assessment. Before we begin the environmental analysis for this project, we would like to hear your viewpoints on the action and any issues or concerns you have regarding the proposal. Please send your comments to the following address:

Superintendent  
Flagstaff Area National Monuments  
6400 N. Hwy. 89  
Flagstaff, Arizona 86004  
Attn: Charles Schelz

Comments can also be sent by email to [Flag\\_Superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:Flag_Superintendent@nps.gov) or submitted at the following NPS web site address:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/flagipmp>.

Please submit your comments no later than January 31, 2012.

Please be aware that names and addresses of respondents may be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individuals 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 available for public inspection in their entirety. Anonymous comments may be included in the public record. The National Park Service, however, is not legally required to consider or respond to anonymous comments.

We appreciate your input on this proposal. If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Charles Schelz, Ecologist, at (928) 526-1157, ext. 234.

Sincerely,



Diane Chung  
Superintendent