



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

February 9, 2012

Subject: Initial Scoping for an Environmental Assessment for the Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument Comprehensive Trail Management Plan
Reference: Request for Comments on Initial Proposed Action (General Scoping)

The National Park Service is initiating a Comprehensive Trail Management Plan (Plan) for Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument (SUCR). The Plan will be developed in 2012, and will address impacts on the creation of additional trails to accommodate monument visitors, monument resources, and ongoing maintenance needs.

Proposed trail designs will promote minimal impacts to soil, vegetation, and cultural resources, and inform the visitor of the varied terrains and viewsapes at SUCR. The proposed trails will link points of interest, have routes that are removed from monument infrastructure, and address current sustainability issues with existing trails.

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 measures 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 second 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 suggestions or issues you may have regarding this proposal. Please send your comments to the following address no later than March 12, 2012:

Superintendent
Flagstaff Area National Monuments
6400 N. Hwy. 89
Flagstaff, Arizona 86004

Comments can also be submitted to the following NPS web site address:

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

Please be advised that names and addresses of respondents may be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). 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 Josh Kleinman, Compliance Coordinator, at (928) 526-1157, ext. 270.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diane Chung". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'g' at the end.

Diane Chung
Superintendent