



Project Scoping

February 2013

Park wide Road Maintenance and Modifications at Arches National Park

The National Park Service (NPS) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the effects of conducting improvements to the park road, pullouts and parking lots within Arches National Park. The NPS is soliciting comments from the public to help identify issues associated with this project and develop alternative resource protection approaches that will be evaluated in the EA.

Proposed road maintenance activities include rehabilitating, restoring and resurfacing (3R) approximately 18.2 miles of the Main Entrance Road including the Devils Garden Loop, 2.7 miles of the Windows Road including the Windows Loop and parking, approximately 2.2 miles of the delicate Arch Road, and the Panorama Overlook Road, Salt Valley Overlook Road, and the Fiery Furnace Road, expanding parking in Devils Garden parking loop and constructing a loop around section. The park is also proposing to construct a loop around section in the Window loop road, and formalizing or rehabilitating pull-offs along the park's paved roads. The road to the entrance stations would also be expanded to include an additional lane intended as a bypass road for future shuttle operation.

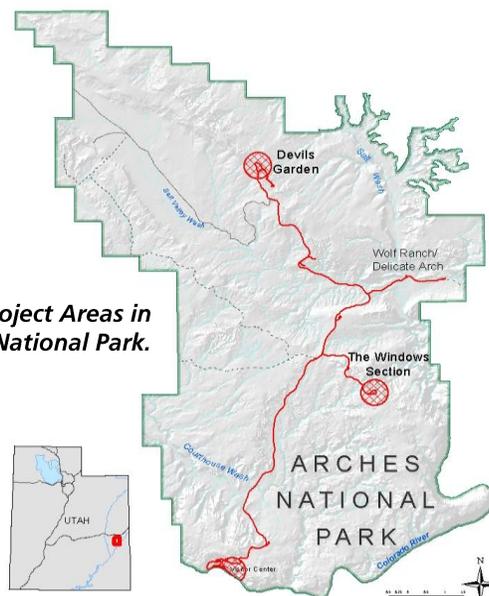
The EA will be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act to provide the decision-making framework that 1) analyzes a reasonable range of alternatives to meet objectives of the proposal, 2) evaluates potential issues and impacts to Arches National Park resources and values, and 3) identifies mitigation measures to lessen the degree or extent of these impacts.

As the superintendent of Arches National Park, I invite you to participate in this scoping process.

Sincerely,

Superintendent
Arches National Park

Proposed Project Areas in Arches National Park.



Overview of Process

Project milestones include:

- Public scoping period (closes March 12, 2013)
- Preparation of EA
- Public review of EA
- Analysis of public comment
- Preparation of decision document
- Announcement of decision

Resources and Concerns

Initial internal project scoping identified the following resources and other concerns for consideration in the EA:

- Cultural Resources
- Soil Resources
- Vegetation
- Visitor Use and Experience

What does the scoping period mean? Scoping is done in the initial phase of a project to seek input from a variety of sources. The input is used to identify issues, areas requiring additional study, and topics that will be analyzed in the EA process. This is an opportunity for you to provide us with your suggestions, comments and concerns regarding road maintenance and road modifications at Arches National Park.

Is scoping my only opportunity to comment on the project? No, once the EA is developed, the document will be made available for public review for a 30-day period.

Alternatives

An internal scoping process has developed the following preliminary alternatives:

- Alternative 1 – No Action – Continue current management. Road improvements would not occur. Parking lots would remain at current capacity and design, pull-offs would remain as is and the entrance road would not be expanded.
- Alternative 2 – Action Alternative:
 1. Resurfacing, restoration, and rehabilitation (3R) improvements would occur along the main park road including Windows and Delicate roads.
 2. Expand Devils Garden parking and construct loop around section.
 3. Construct Windows loop around section.
 4. Formalize and rehab pull offs throughout park.
 5. Expand entrance road by one lane.

Questions to Consider:

1. Do you have any ideas to share about issues/concerns, or are there any issues/concerns about the project that you think we should consider?
2. Are there any other alternatives that you think should be considered?
3. Do you have another comments and suggestions for us to consider in the environmental assessment?

How Do I Comment on this Project?

The preferred method to submit your comments is online at the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/arch>. Click on **Parkwide Road Maintenance and Modification (Project ID: 43632)** to view document.

Please provide all comments by **March 12, 2013**. If you wish to be added to the project mailing list, please indicate that in your response.

If you are unable to submit comments electronically through this website, then you may also submit written comments to *the National Park Service, Attention: Planning and Compliance 2282 S. West Resource Blvd, Moab, UT 84532*.
