



## Project Scoping

March 2014

### Delicate Arch/Wolfe Ranch Site Plan at Arches National Park

Parking at Delicate Arch/Wolfe Ranch trailhead is frequently congested, causing visitors to park outside of paved areas and along roadsides, damaging soils and vegetation. Flooding is another issue in the area since Winter Camp Wash bisects the road. During flood events the road to Delicate Arch Viewpoint must be closed. Congestion and inadequate parking along with road closures frustrates our visitors. There is a need to develop a site plan to help determine specific goals and objectives for the management of congestion related issues within this area of the park.

Delicate Arch is one of the primary locations in the park visitors want to see when they are in Arches. Daily visitation to Delicate Arch during the peak seasons is approximately 2,000 people and the parking lot is one the smallest of the popular park sites. Current parking capacity of 73 parking spaces is not sufficient for today's visitation.

The National Park Service (NPS) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the effects of implementing parking congestion management strategies for parking at the Delicate Arch/Wolfe Ranch trailhead. For example, expanding the existing parking lot, placing restrictions on roadside parking and implementing a reservation system are some site strategies proposed. The NPS is soliciting comments from the public to identify issues associated with these strategies and to assist the NPS in developing alternatives to be evaluated in the EA.

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 Area in  
Arches National Park.**



### Overview of Process

Project milestones include:

- Public scoping period (closes April 8, 2014)
- 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  
Water Resources  
Vegetation  
Visitor Use and Experience  
Park Operations

**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 proposed actions at the Delicate Arch/Wolfe Ranch area.

**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 – No change in the current management of the area.
- Alternative 2 – No Parking Lot Expansion; Implement a reservation system; Restrict roadside parking
- Alternative 3 – Expand the Parking Lot; Implement a reservation system; Restrict roadside parking

**Questions to Consider:**

1. Do you have any ideas to share about issues/concerns that you think we should consider in the EA?
2. Are there any other alternatives that you think should be considered in the EA?

**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 **Delicate Arch/Wolfe Ranch Site Plan (Project ID: 51385 )** to view document.

Please provide all comments by **April 8, 2014**. 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*.

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