

# Capitol Reef National Park



*Welcome*

*Please Sign-in*

**Livestock Grazing and Trailing Management Plan /  
Environmental Impact Statement**

**Public Scoping Open House**





# Capitol Reef National Park



## Livestock Grazing and Trailing Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

### *Why is there cattle 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.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 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.



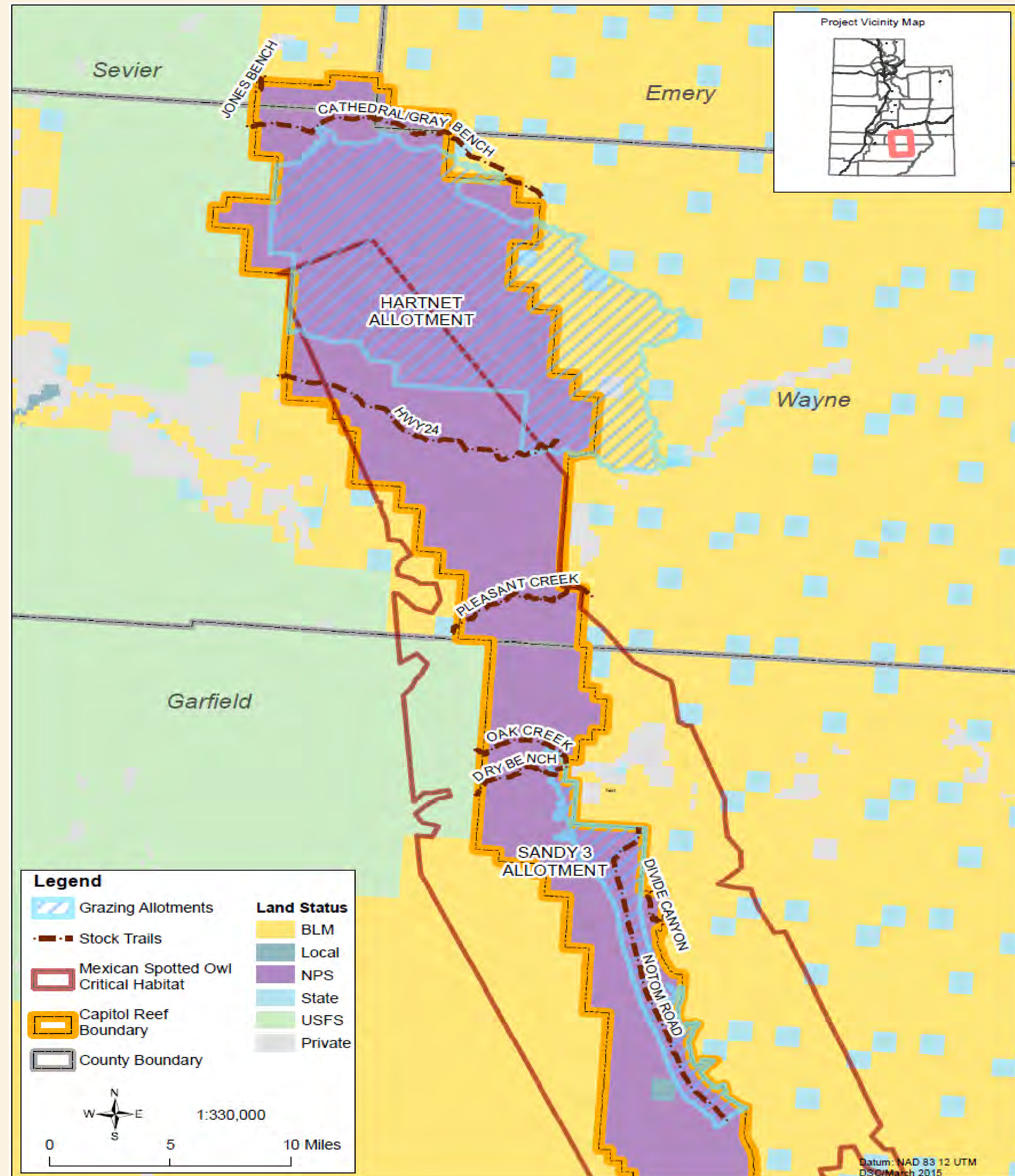


# Capitol Reef National Park



## Livestock Grazing and Trailing Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

### *Project Area*





# Capitol Reef National Park



## Livestock Grazing and Trailing Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

### *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).
- ◆ 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.





# Capitol Reef National Park



## Livestock Grazing and Trailing Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

### *Purpose, Need, and Objectives*

#### **Purpose**

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.

#### **Need**

CRNP 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



#### **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



# Capitol Reef National Park



## Livestock Grazing and Trailing Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

### *Impact Topics*

The NPS uses impact topics to organize discussion of environmental issues and the environmental effects of alternatives under consideration in an EIS. Impact topics for this project include those listed below.

- ◆ Soils and biological soil crusts
- ◆ Vegetation (both upland and riparian)
- ◆ Water resources (both permanent and intermittent)
- ◆ Special status species (including plants, animals, and critical habitat listed under the Endangered Species Act, and NPS sensitive plants and animals)
- ◆ Wildlife and wildlife habitat including migratory birds
- ◆ Cultural resources
- ◆ Visitor use and experience
- ◆ Socioeconomics



*We look forward to your feedback on the issues you believe we should focus on for each of these impact topics, as well as any additional impact topics we should consider.*



# Capitol Reef National Park



## Livestock Grazing and Trailing Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

### *Livestock Grazing and Trailing Management Practices and 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



#### *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 such as precipitation totals
  - ◇ Rangeland health and forage use





# Capitol Reef National Park



## Livestock Grazing and Trailing Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

### *Livestock Grazing and Trailing Management Practices and 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



#### *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



*We encourage you to submit your thoughts not only on the practices and tools, but how they might be combined into alternatives. We are also seeking your input on key resources, associated desired conditions, and relevant indicators which should be a part of the monitoring program and adaptive approach.*



# Capitol Reef National Park



## Livestock Grazing and Trailing Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

### *NEPA Process and Timeline*

The NPS is preparing this plan/EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which requires federal agencies to consider the environmental impacts of its proposed action, and alternatives to that proposal, before making a decision on what action to take.

*In this case, the National Park Service has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be prepared to complete the NEPA process for the livestock grazing and trailing management plan.*

NEPA also requires federal agencies to involve the public when making decisions with the potential for environmental impacts.

*Public involvement opportunities are provided during scoping and upon release of the Draft Plan/EIS. These meetings are part of initial scoping, which provides an early way for you to learn about and provide input into this plan and EIS process.*

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



# Capitol Reef National Park



## Livestock Grazing and Trailing Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

### *How to Comment*

Options to submit comments are listed below.

1

Submit comments electronically at:  
[http://parkplanning.nps.gov/care\\_lgtmp\\_eis\\_scoping](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/care_lgtmp_eis_scoping)  
(preferred method)

2

Submit written comments in person at a public meeting to NPS staff.

3

Submit written comments by mail to this address:  
Superintendent  
Capitol Reef National Park  
HC 70 Box 15  
Torrey, UT 84775

4

Submit written comments by hand to the park's office at:  
52 West Headquarters Drive  
Torrey, UT 84775

Please submit comments no later than **May 15, 2015**.

If you would like to stay informed about this project, please include your full name and address with the comments, so we may add you to our mailing list for future notices about this process.

*Comments will not be accepted by fax, e-mail, or in any way other than those specified above. Bulk comments in any format (hard copy or electronic) submitted on behalf of others will not be accepted. Before including an address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment including your identifying information may be made publicly available. While you can ask us to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.*