

National Trails Intermountain Region Press Release

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National Park Service

National Trails Intermountain Region

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National Trails Intermountain Region Announces the Termination of the Environmental Assessment Process for the Revised Feasibility and Suitability Study for Additional Routes of the Oregon, Mormon Pioneer, California, and Pony Express National Historic Trails

In 2011, the National Park Service (NPS) notified the public that an environmental assessment (EA) would be prepared to analyze the potential environmental effects of the Revised Feasibility and Suitability Study for Additional Routes of the Oregon, Mormon Pioneer, California, and Pony Express National Historic Trails (the Study) (see map below). A planning newsletter for the project was released in March 2011 and update in September 2012. NPS held 16 public meetings for scoping purposes during spring 2011. The scoping report was released in September 2011. A series of maps showing the trail, the significance statement for the trail, and other information was posted on the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website, or PEPC.

Due to recent internal scoping conducted under current NPS policy, the NPS has determined that an EA is no longer required, because the feasibility study has no potential for environmental impacts and is not the basis for an NPS decision, but is a document containing findings for Congressional consideration and action. With this press release, NPS is terminating the EA process and, instead, will prepare a categorical exclusion (CE) for the study to fulfill the agency's obligation under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The CE, which does not require public review, will be signed by the superintendent of the administering office, National Trails Intermountain Region. The completed study will be submitted to Congress for their consideration. After transmittal to Congress, the public will be able to read the final document at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/4TRLStudy>.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Elliott, Chief of Planning, at (505) 988-6015 or by email at michael_elliott@nps.gov.



Routes Studied for Designation

Four Trail Feasibility Study Route Oregon NHT California NHT Mormon Pioneer NHT Pony Express NHT

01. Blue Mills-Independence Road	16. Pony Express Trail from Withams, Kansas to Troy, Kansas	32A. Cherokee Trail - Original Study Route	42. Greenhorn Cutoff	55. Naches Pass Trail
02. Mainssippi Saints Route	17. Minersville-Nebraska City Road	32B. Cherokee Trail - 1850 Southern Route	43. Goodale's Cutoff (Jeffrey-Goodale Cutoff)	56. Cutoff to the Balkow Road
03. Blue Ridge Cutoff	18. Old Fort Kearny Road (Oxbow Trail)	32C. Cherokee Trail - 1849 Northern Route	44. Goodale's Horse-North 1852 and 1853 Horses	57. Condit River House
04. Westport Landing Road	19. Nebraska City Cutoff Routes	33. Diamond Springs Cutoff	45. Olds Ferry Road	58. Yreka Trail
05. Westport Road	20. Woodbury Cutoff	34. Sublette Cutoff	46. North Solo Alternative Route	59. Burnett Cutoff
06. Westport-Laurens Road	21. Old Wyoming (Road to the) Nebraska City Cutoff	35A. Central Overland Emigrant Route - Original Study Routes	47. North-Alternative Oregon Trail	60. Hennessy Pass Route
07. Gunn Springs-Fort Leavenworth Route	22. Kokokuk Route	35B. Central Overland Emigrant Route - South Platte River Route	48. Park River to Applegate Trail	61. Nevada City Road
08. Fort Leavenworth-Kansas River Route	23. 1846 Subsequent Routes A and B	35C. Central Overland Emigrant Route - Lodgepole Creek Trail	49. Applegate Trail (Applegate Trail, or Southern Route to Oregon)	62. Placer County Road to Auburn (Placer County Emigrant Road)
09. Fort Leavenworth-Big Blue River Route	24. 1856-1857 Hand-Cut Route, Iowa City to Council Bluffs	35D. Central Overland Emigrant Route - Selected Sections Through Wyoming	50A. Meek Cutoff - Hamilton	63. Johnson Cutoff
10. Atchison Road	25. Lower Platte/South Route	35E. Central Overland Emigrant Route - Simpson Route	50B. Meek Cutoff - Rugen	64. Georgetown/Daggett Pass Trail (Daggett Pass to Georgetown Trail)
11. Independence Creek Route	26. Upper Platte/South Route	36. Weber Canyon House of the Hastings Cutoff	50C. Meek Cutoff - Hinshaw	65. Lutter Pass Trail
12. Atchison to Kennettak Pony Express Route	27. Lower Bellevue Route	37. 1850 Golden Pass Road	51. Free Emigrant Road	66. Sacramento-Coloma Wagon Road
13. Union Ferry (Union Town) Route	28. Upper Bellevue Route	38. McKinley Cutoff	52A. Whitman Mission Route - Three variants	67. Grizzly Flat Cutoff (Grizzly Flat Road)
14. Road to Amazonia (Road from Amazonia)	29. Council Bluffs Road	38. Hoback/Karstner Route	52B. Whitman Mission Route - Alternative driving route	68. Volcano Road
15. St. Joe Road	30. 1847 Altamira, Elkhorn and Loop River Crossings II, Nebraska	40. Bishop Crook Cutoff (Bishop Crook Route)	53. Upper Columbia River Route	69. Big Tree Road
	31. Chiles Cutoff	41. Secret Pass (Secret Pass Route)	54. Unalakleet River Route & Columbia River to the Dalles	



Produced by National Trails Intermountain Region

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