National Trails Intermountain Region Press Release

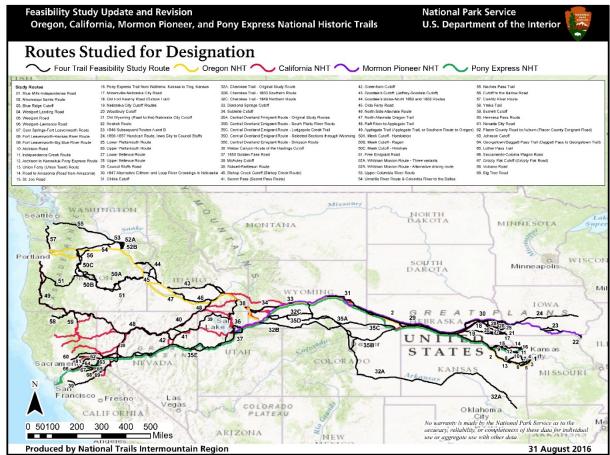
For Immediate Release, September 22, 2017
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National Trails Intermountain Region Announces the Termination of the Environmental Assessment Process for the Revised Feasibility and Suitability Study for Additional Routes of the Oregon, Mormon Pioneer, 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.



FILE: 4trails_8_5x11land_2016_Overview

Data Sources: NPS, ESRI, US Census Bureau, NREL
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