

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CEDAR BREAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT 2390 West Highway 56 Suite #11 Cedar City, Utah 84720



IN REPLY REFER TO: I.A.2 (CEBR)

July 10, 2020

Dear Park Constituent,

In partnership with Iron County, the Zion Forever Project, and other local stakeholders, the National Park Service (NPS) is in the process of designing a new visitor contact station within the Point Supreme developed area at Cedar Breaks National Monument (CEBR). As part of this process, the NPS is initiating a 14-day comment period to request your thoughts on a conceptual design and landscape layout. The information obtained during this comment period will be used to refine the design and identify any environmental issues that may warrant further consideration. Once the design is refined and contains sufficient information to effectively analyze environmental issues and associated impacts, the NPS will determine the appropriate environmental compliance pathway prior to making any final decisions on the new visitor contact station.

The CEBR General Management Plan, Foundation Document, and Mission 66 era design and planning documents all communicate the need for a facility that better serves the needs of the visiting public. Currently, existing facilities within the Point Supreme developed area are of insufficient capacity and lack compliance with Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS). Visitor use levels at CEBR remain within the top third of visitation across NPS units and continue to grow. Yet, the only existing indoor visitor use space is a 650-square foot cabin built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1937 which operates as an information desk, a non-profit bookstore, and a small exhibit space. As visitation continues to outpace the capacity of the existing CEBR facilities to provide commensurate public amenities, visitors with disabilities are continually met with challenging inconveniences and the inability to move educational programs indoors or under a covered outdoor area is complicated by violent, unpredictable weather which often results in NPS program cancelations.

As such, the NPS is in the process of designing a new 2,800 square foot single-story visitor contact station with a covered outdoor patio to increase the amount of sheltered space used for educational programs, exhibits, and offices. Point Supreme was determined to be the most appropriate location for this facility in order to maximize operational efficiency as well as visitor safety and enjoyment. Within the design, the NPS is integrating new directional signage, educational waysides, as well as an ABAAS restroom facility and accessible pathway to connect the Point Supreme parking lot. Additionally, the NPS is considering repaving the existing walkway leading to the Point Supreme Overlook within the original alignment and rerouting a short segment of the Sunset Trail around the new visitor contact station to connect the overlook walkway. A new stormwater detention pond may also be required pending results of a percolation study. To provide space for the new facilities, the existing restroom, stone wall, fee booth, and paved walkways surrounding these facilities would be decommissioned and removed from the developed landscape. However, the historic, National Register listed CCC cabin would be retained as an indoor interpretive display area for visitors. Refer to the attached area map and simulation for an overview of the conceptual design and landscape layout.

The NPS encourages your participation in this design process and invites your comments regarding the conceptual design, including any important environmental issues you feel should be considered. To submit a comment, please visit the NPS Planning, Environment & Public Comment (PEPC) website at http://parkplanning.nps.gov/cebr. Comments may also be submitted by writing to: Superintendent, Cedar Breaks National Monument ATTN: Visitor Contact Station, 2390 West Highway 56 Suite #11, Cedar City, Utah 84720. Please submit your comments on or before **July 25, 2020**. Please note that your entire comment—including personal identifying information such as your address, phone number, and e-mail address—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Thank you for your interest in Cedar Breaks National Monument and we look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Kathleen Gonder Superintendent

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN: CEBR Visitor Contact Station

Harrheen Sonder



