

The Trailhead Register

Fall 2008



The Comprehensive Trail Management Plan Newsletter of Mammoth Cave National Park



Thanks for Your Input on the Park's Trail Plan

Earlier this year Mammoth Cave National Park made its draft Comprehensive Trails Management Plan available for public comment, and sent out a call to all interested trail users to review the plan and tell us what you thought. All public comments have been received and given full consideration in this public planning process. You have spoken and we have heard you. Of the 2,905 comments received, only seven supported the park's Preferred Alternative 5, while 2,043 comments specifically stated they opposed the Preferred Alternative.

In full consideration of the public comment, and with the help of park staff and planning personnel from the Southeast Regional office, we have chosen to

implement Alternative 4, as it appears in the draft Environmental Assessment (EA), as the park's Selected Action regarding trail management in Mammoth Cave National Park. It calls for a new trail to be constructed east of Green River Ferry Road North for bicycle and hiking use. Sal Hollow trail will revert to horse and hiking use following an implementation period. A trail monitoring system will be established. In response to public comment, a trail stewardship program will be initiated.

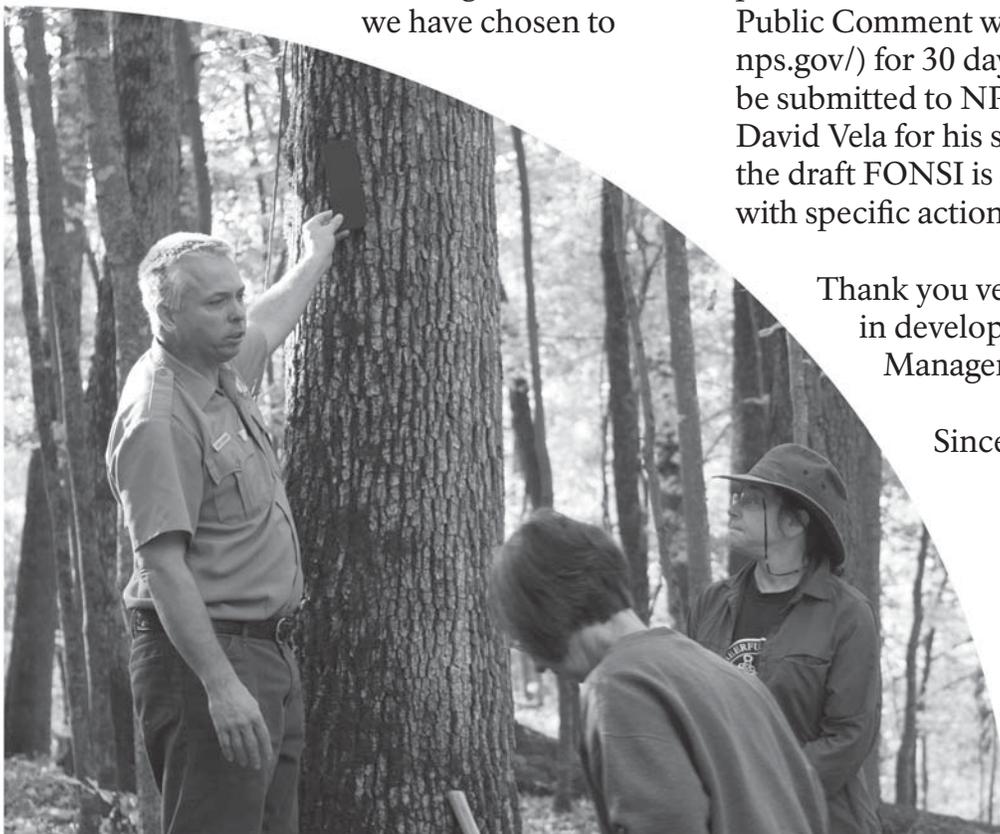
The draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Selected Action Alternative 4 as it appeared in the draft plan and EA will be posted on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>) for 30 days; at the end of that time it will be submitted to NPS Southeast Regional Director David Vela for his signature and approval. Once the draft FONSI is approved, we will follow up with specific action items.

Thank you very much for your assistance in developing the Comprehensive Trail Management Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick H. Reed".

Patrick H. Reed
Superintendent



Park Ranger Larry Johnson works with trail users volunteering their time to improve park trails.

Summary of Public Comment:

A brief summary of public comment is listed here. A complete listing of comments is available in the PEPC website, including the park response to substantive comments.

- Of the 2,905 comments received, only seven were in favor of Alternative 5, the Preferred Alternative presented in the Plan; 2,043 comments were opposed to Alternative 5.
- 1,936 comments received were in favor of Alternative 4 as presented in the plan.
- 823 comments suggested that the park adopt a modified Alternative 4, constructing a new bike/hike-only, single-track trail east of north Green River Ferry Road, longer than six miles.
- A few comments suggested 10-16 miles of single-track trail to be constructed.
- 1,682 comments from horse users were in favor of allowing horses on Sal Hollow Trail.
- 1,728 comments promoted trail stewardship.
- 730 comments were received stating the importance of volunteers in maintaining park trails.
- 770 comments promoted the development of a formal agreement with a local bicycle organization that would encourage members to volunteer in the park.

**Questions? Contact Vickie Carson,
Public Information Officer, 270.758.2192.**

The Trailhead Register is produced by the Office of the Superintendent, Mammoth Cave National Park. Please contact us if you need further information. – Vickie Carson, and Tres Seymour, Mammoth Cave National Park, P.O. Box 7, Mammoth Cave, KY 42259. By telephone: 270.758.2192. Full park information is on the web at www.nps.gov/macaca.



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REMEMBER...

Feeding wild animals in the park makes them dependent on humans for food and places park visitors at risk from unexpected behavior in close encounters. Please don't feed or disturb wildlife.