



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK  
P.O. BOX 129  
GRAND CANYON, ARIZONA 86023-0129



IN REPLY REFER TO:

D18 (GRCA 8217)

JUL 2 2009

Subject: Train Operations at Grand Canyon National Park

Reference: Review of Environmental Assessment

Dear Interested Party:

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for Train Operations in Grand Canyon National Park is now available for public comment. In the EA, Grand Canyon National Park proposes to reasonably limit train operations and make improvements to the depot area in the Grand Canyon Village on the South Rim.

This EA evaluates a No-Action Alternative and a Preferred Alternative that proposes to cap train use at a reasonable level and incorporate operational and safety improvements to the rails and depot area. The preferred alternative includes the following:

- Restoration of tracks currently unused and partially covered by a gravel parking lot;
- Installation of an electrical source for powering the train cars;
- Capping train operations at 3 daily trains and up to 30 special trains or events per year.

Another alternative proposed was for an excursion train to operate in late afternoon or evening. That alternative was considered and dismissed due to conflict with the purpose and need and objectives of the project. Specifically, it was concluded that the excursion train is not a historic use of the rail lines and depot, does not reduce the number of vehicles entering the park and does not enhance visitor experience or promote interpretative opportunities in the park.

This planning effort was initiated and communicated through a letter soliciting issues and input on a preliminary project proposal. Responses to the proposal during scoping were incorporated where appropriate in the EA.

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The National Park Service encourages your review of and comment on the EA, which is available online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/grca> by clicking on the project name and then scrolling to "Open for Public Comments." Comments may also be mailed to the Superintendent at the address below. The comment period will be open for 30 days, ending July 29th, 2009.

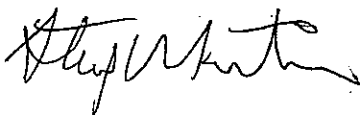
Superintendent  
Grand Canyon National Park  
Attention: Train Operations  
P.O. Box 129 (1 Village Loop for express mail)  
Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023

Before including your address, telephone number, e-mail address or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can 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.

We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

We appreciate your input on this planning effort. To obtain a disk or hardcopy, please contact Edward A. Bennett with the Office of Planning and Compliance, at 928-638-7695 or by email at [Edward\\_Bennett@nps.gov](mailto:Edward_Bennett@nps.gov). In the future, we will be sending 'Dear Interested Party' letters for environmental assessments via email. Please submit your email address in order to receive correspondence electronically to the email address above.

Sincerely,



Steve Martin  
Superintendent