

Notice of Scoping

Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah

Rehabilitate Failing Park Sewage System Environmental Assessment

July 2009

Dear Friend of Bryce Canyon National Park:

The National Park Service (NPS) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to rehabilitate a failing park sewage system. The EA is needed in order to evaluate potential impacts to natural and cultural resources from proposed project activities, including impacts to Utah prairie dog habitat. The NPS is soliciting comments from the public to help identify issues associated with this project and develop alternative resource protection approaches that will be evaluated in the EA.

The Rehabilitate Failing Park Sewage System EA will be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to provide the decision-making framework that 1) analyzes a reasonable range of alternatives to meet project objectives, 2) evaluates potential issues and impacts to park resources and values, and 3) identifies mitigation measures to lessen the degree or extent of these impacts.

Why does Bryce Canyon need to rehabilitate the park sewage system?

The park's existing sewage collections system includes deteriorating portions originally built in 1958 of clay pipe. These sections of the system and appurtenant manholes are deteriorating into pieces that regularly clog the system and cause raw sewage to back up, leak out of the system into the groundwater, and spill onto the ground from backed-up manholes.

This project will replace broken and deteriorating portions of the park's sewage collection system, demolish two failed small independent septic tank and leach field systems and replace them with piped connections to the park's main sewage collection system. This project will also recondition one of the sewage treatment lagoon cells, install an inline grinder pump on the main sewer pipe feeding the treatment lagoons, install a small wash station and install a water supply line from the visitor's center to the existing dump station located at the lagoons.

Have preliminary issues and alternatives been identified?

The NPS has identified preliminary issues related to activities associated with rehabilitation of the park's sewer system that will be analyzed through the EA process. Issues and/or

alternatives identified through public scoping will also be addressed in the EA.

The EA will describe and analyze:

- methods to recondition the park's main sewage system;
- methods to protect wildlife, sensitive species and meadow habitats during construction activities;
- effects on wildlife and threatened/endangered species; and
- effects on water quality.
- effects on cultural resources

Why involve the public?

The National Park Service encourages public participation throughout the NEPA process during which the public has two opportunities to formally comment on the project: once during initial project scoping and again following release of the Rehabilitate Failing Park Sewage System EA.

We are currently in the scoping phase of this project, and invite you to submit your written comments online at the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>. If you are not able to submit comments electronically through this website, then you may also submit written comments using the attached comment form to

this scoping notice. These comments will be considered during preparation of the Rehabilitate Failing Park Sewage System EA. We look forward to hearing from you!

What's next?

Once the NPS has received and reviewed the scoping comments, alternatives will be developed and incorporated into the document. The Rehabilitate Failing Park Sewage System EA is expected to be available for review in the Spring 2010.

If you wish to remain on the mailing list and receive future information about this project, please check the box on the comment form, print your name and mailing address, and return to the address provided.

Thank you for your interest in Bryce Canyon National Park and your participation in the development of the Rehabilitate Failing Park Sewage System EA. If you have questions, please contact Kelly Fuhrmann, Program Manager, Resources Stewardship and Science Program, Bryce Canyon National Park, (435) 834-4900.

**Please submit your comments on any issues associated with this project
in one of the following ways by August 21, 2009:**

Submit written comments to:
Bryce Canyon National Park
Rehabilitate Failing Park
Sewage System EA
P.O. Box 640201
Bryce, UT 84764

***Comment via the internet
through the NPS's Planning,
Environment, and Comment
website,***
<<http://parkplanning.nps.gov>>

Hand-deliver comments to:
Bryce Canyon National Park
Visitor Center Building
Hwy 63
Bryce Canyon NP, UT

Scoping Comment Form
Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah
Rehabilitate Failing Park Sewage System Environmental Assessment

Please respond to the following questions and **return this form by August 21, 2009**. You may attach additional pages if needed. Also, include your name and mailing address in the space provided below. Thank you again for your interest in Bryce Canyon National Park.

Please be aware that names and addresses of respondents may be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

What issues would you like to see addressed in the EA?

What alternatives or strategies would you like to see addressed in the EA?

Do you have additional information, concerns, or other comments about the proposed project?

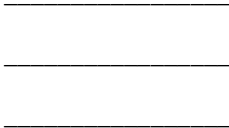
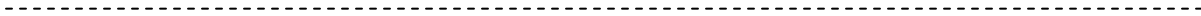
Please check the box if you would like to remain on the mailing list to receive additional information concerning this project.

Name: _____

Street/Box #: _____

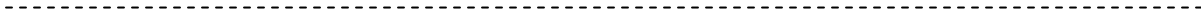
City, State, Zip Code: _____

Fold along line and tape closed



Place
1st Class
Postage
Here

BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK
Rehabilitate Failing Park Sewage System EA
PO BOX 640201
BRYCE CANYON, UT 84764



Fold along line and tape closed