



Project Scoping

February 2010

Upgrading Potash Boat Launch near Canyonlands National Park

The National Park Service (NPS) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the effects of the proposed improvements to the Potash Boat Launch area. 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 Potash Boat Launch Area is a major launch site for park visitors and commercial outfitters, who are accessing Canyonlands National Park via the Colorado River. Though the Potash Boat Launch is on private land, the NPS and its partners (the landowner, Utah Guides and Outfitters Association and individual outfitters) want to improve the visitor experience for people taking river trips on the Colorado River through Canyonlands National Park. The improvements will provide important information about the trip ahead and provide basic facilities at the launch ramp for those launching river trips there. The EA will be developed to address the impacts the proposed projects may have on the visitor and other resources within the project area.

Proposed improvements by the NPS include constructing three shade structures to cover picnic tables, a private changing area, and three information kiosks. An access trail from the picnic area to the boat launch will be established and access to the picnic area will be done via a new loop road behind the existing new vault toilets. The existing parking area will be improved by re-grading and new gravel. The boundaries of the parking area will also become better defined.

As the superintendent of Canyonlands National Park, I invite you to participate in this scoping process.

Sincerely,
Kate Cannon, Superintendent

Overview of Process

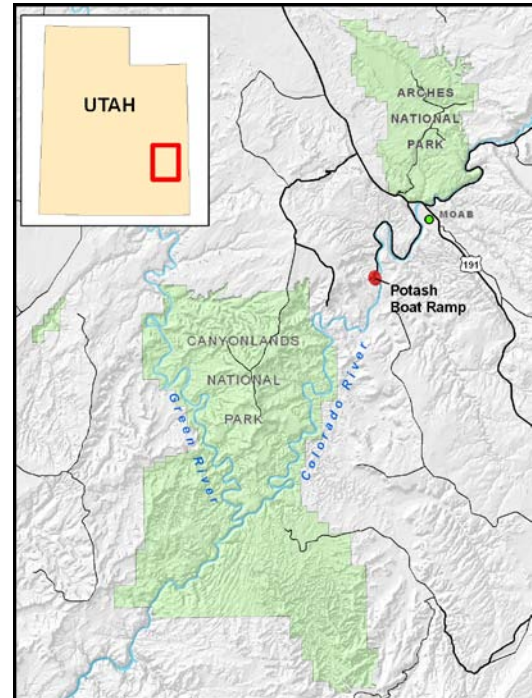
Project milestones include:

- Public scoping period
- Preparation of EA
- Public review of EA
- Analysis of public comment
- Preparation of decision document
- Announcement of decision

Resources and Concerns

Initial internal project scoping identified the following resources and other concerns for consideration in the EA:

Vegetation
Soils
Floodplains
Visitor Use and Experience
Wild and Scenic Rivers
Park Operations



Potash Boat Launch location.

What does the scoping period mean? Scoping is done in the initial phase of a project to seek input from a variety of sources. The input is used to identify issues, areas requiring additional study, and topics that will be analyzed in the EA process. This is an opportunity for you to provide us with your suggestions, comments and concerns regarding the proposed improvements to Potash Boat Ramp.

Is scoping my only opportunity to comment on the project? No, once the EA is developed, the document will be made available for public review for a 30-day period.

Alternatives

An internal scoping process has developed the following preliminary alternatives:

- Alternative 1: No Action – Improvements will not be constructed to the Potash Boat Launch area.
- Alternative 2: Action- Improvements will be made to the Potash Boat Launch area to provide a better parking area with picnic shelters, a changing room, information kiosks, an access road to the picnic shelters and a trail to the boat ramp.

Please let us know by March ?, 2010 :

1. Do you have any ideas to share about issues/concerns, or are there any issues/concerns about the project that you think we should consider?
2. Are there any other alternatives that you think should be considered?
3. Do you have another comments and suggestions for us to consider in the environmental assessment?

If you wish to comment on the scoping brochure or on any other issues associated with the project, you may submit your comments by the below methods.

The scoping brochure and an electronic form to submit comments on the internet can be found at the Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/cany>.

You may submit written comments to:

Superintendent, Southeast Utah Group
2282 W. Resource Blvd
Moab, UT 84532.

If you wish to receive a copy of the environmental assessment (EA) when available, please check one of the lines below and include your address, then seal and mail this form.

Please add/ retain my name on your mailing list:

- ☐ I prefer to have a copy of the EA on CD-ROM.
☐ I will download my own copy of the EA from the NPS PEPC website.
☐ I will go to park headquarters or the library and read the copy on file.
☐ I don't want a copy of the EA, but please keep me on your mailing list.
☐ I would like to receive a printed copy of the EA.

Place
Stamp
Here

**National Park Service
Southeast Utah Group
Attn: Planning and Compliance Coordinator
2282 S. West Resource Blvd
Moab, UT 84325**