

**Notice of Scoping  
Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah  
Paria View Rehabilitation Project  
March 2007**

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Dear Friend of Bryce Canyon National Park:

The National Park Service (NPS) is preparing to determine the level of compliance necessary under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; e.g., an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement) in order to repair an area of erosion damage and take additional measures to reduce social trails and improve safety along the visitor walkways at Paria View. This compliance is needed in order to evaluate potential impacts to the environment that may result from the proposed removal of deteriorated asphalt walks, rebuilding of stone walls beneath undercut sections of trail, relocation of the trail an average of three feet back from the rim, and installation of new concrete walkways and safety railing. The NPS is soliciting comments from the public to help identify issues and develop alternative repair approaches that will be evaluated through the compliance process.

You are invited to provide your comments and take part in this planning effort. For your convenience, a comment form is attached to this scoping notice.

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**Why does Bryce Canyon need to plan and mitigate erosion repairs?**

The purpose of the Paria View Rehabilitation Project is to provide a safe and accessible trail system for viewing the hoodoos, amphitheater, and Paria River Valley from Paria View, while preventing the resource damage that occurs from social trails. Foot traffic from the parking area to the rim has expanded beyond the existing system of asphalt trails that were designed to handle this flow, creating a network of social trails that are impacting the surrounding natural environment. The main 900-foot asphalt trail and supporting stone walls along the rim are being undercut by erosion and collapsing material into the canyon, threatening the stability and safety of the trail. If no repairs are conducted, there is a high likelihood that the trail will be undercut and fail.

The Paria View overlook and sidewalks, located off of the spur road to Bryce Point, were last improved during the late 1950s and early 1960s. No major improvements have been made in the recent past. The existing asphalt trails are unsafe and riddled with potholes and undulations. The historic stone retaining wall is undercut in several locations and will eventually collapse if it is not set back and rebuilt further from the rim. The present pedestrian safety railings are antiquated, showing their age, and are insufficient in length to protect visitors. The existing pedestrian safety railing does not

provide adequate protection to visitors in areas of 900-foot vertical cliffs. Social trails lead off from un-railed portions of the existing trail, especially at the trail endpoint. The redesign and replacement of deteriorated asphalt walks and stone retaining walls, the replacement of pedestrian railings, and the installation of drainage features to reduce erosion, will eliminate safety hazards, social trailing and impacts to the surrounding natural environment.

In this plan, the NPS will identify options for all proposed repair activities at Paria View. Visitor safety and the protection of resources will be taken into account during the design and planning for this project. Impacts of future repairs required on park trails will be addressed in future plans as the need arises.

**Have preliminary issues and alternatives been identified?**

The NPS has identified preliminary issues related to repair activities that will be analyzed through the NEPA process. The NPS has not yet identified alternatives. Issues and/or alternatives identified through public scoping will be added to the following and addressed during the planning process.

The compliance will identify and analyze:

- methods to address the visitor safety problems and resource damage

associated with deteriorated asphalt walkways, undercutting and erosion of stone retaining walls, and aging safety railings along the rim trail at Paria View;

- methods to redesign and redirect visitor traffic between the parking area and the viewpoints to prevent the development of social trails;
- methods to restore and revegetate existing social trails and disturbed areas along the parking area and trail;
- methods to improve trail accessibility using American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design;
- methods to improve drainage to minimize erosion and undercutting along the rim trail at Paria View;
- effects on soils, vegetation, cultural resources, and visitor experience; and
- a plan that is consistent with the principles and mandates of the Endangered Species Act, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service policy, the NPS Organic Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act.

### What's next?

After the scoping comments have been received and reviewed, the NPS will begin to develop alternatives. The public will have an opportunity at that time to review a summary of the scoping comments received and to comment on the preliminary alternatives. The next step will be to determine the appropriate NEPA pathway (i.e., EA, EIS, Categorical Exclusion, etc.) to ensure that the resulting plan addresses all potential environmental impacts. The final draft document should be available for review in summer 2007.

### Please submit your comments on any issues associated with this project in one of the following ways by April 27, 2007:

Submit written comments to:  
Bryce Canyon National Park  
Paria View Rehabilitation  
Project  
PO Box 640201  
Bryce, UT 84764

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

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



Paria View Rehabilitation Project Area

If you wish to remain on the mailing list and receive future information about this planning and compliance process, please check the box on the comment form, print your name and mailing address, and return to the address listed above.

Thank you for your interest in Bryce Canyon National Park and your participation in the development of the Paria View Rehabilitation project. If you have questions, please contact David Roemer, Resource Management Specialist, Bryce Canyon National Park, (435) 834-4901.

**Scoping Comment Form  
Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah  
Paria View Rehabilitation Project**

Please respond to the following questions and **return this form by April 27, 2007**. 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?

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What alternatives or alternative activities related to this specific project would you like to see addressed?

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

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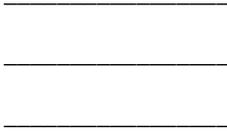
**Please check the box if you would like to remain on the mailing list to receive additional information concerning this proposal.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street/Box #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

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1<sup>st</sup> Class  
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**Paria View Rehabilitation Project**  
**P.O. Box 640201**  
**Bryce, UT 84764-0201**



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