



Project Scoping

November 2015

Lake Meredith National Recreation Area is proposing to construct a sustainable, multi-use trail system for pedestrian, bicycle, and horse use on the north side of the park in Moore and Potter Counties, Texas.

The staff at the park continues to address the need for the development of non-motorized, land-based recreational activities. The proposed North Side Trail System would provide non-vehicular access to Devils Canyon and Big Canyon and would connect with the Mullinaw Trails and the South Side Trails System.

Currently, the north side of the park has no formal trails; however, a series of modified social trails that do not conform to National Park Service (NPS) policies and standards were created. A new sustainable North Side Trail System would follow NPS policies and standards and protect natural and cultural resources in the park.

The proposed North Side Trail System ranges from Upper Plum to Hackberry Butte. The trail head would be located at the Lower Plum Creek campground to take advantage of existing park infrastructure (all-weather access road, parking, outback restroom, and picnic tables). New trail construction, converted administrative dirt roads, and modified existing social trails would be combined, resulting in approximately 23 miles of multiuse trails. An outback restroom would be constructed in the upper reach of Big Canyon.

The 2 to 4-foot-wide trail would be primitive with no paved surfaces. It would be designed to blend into the natural surroundings, using native materials, and would offer visitors an improved recreational experience. In designing the proposed trail route, existing social trails would be considered for use to the extent feasible to minimize unnecessary impacts on natural and cultural resources. Some areas of the new trail, primarily areas with steep slopes that are prone to erosion, would require construction of rock walls, drains, and water bars. Local, natural materials would be used to gain elevation and prevent erosion on the new trail.

A 30-day public scoping period is now open to solicit comments on this proposal prior to the park completing an environmental analysis of the proposal.

As the superintendent of Lake Meredith National Recreation Area, I invite you to participate in this scoping process.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Maguire, Superintendent

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 Environmental Assessment (EA) process. This is an opportunity for you to provide us with your suggestions, comments, and concerns regarding this project at Lake Meredith.

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.

Preliminary Alternatives

Initial internal project scoping identified the following preliminary alternatives for consideration in the EA.

1. No action (a new multi-use trail on the north side of the park would not be constructed).
2. Build a North Side Trail System utilizing new trail construction, existing administrative dirt roads, and modified social trails.

Resources and Concerns

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

- Vegetation
- Nonnative and Exotic Species
- Soils, Erosion, and Sedimentation
- Floodplains
- Visitor Use and Experience/Recreational Opportunity
- Archeology

Overview of the Process/Project Milestones:

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



Do you have ideas to share about the resources and concerns, or are there additional resources and concerns that you think we should consider?

1. Are there any other alternatives that you think should be considered?
2. Do you have other comments and suggestions for us to consider in the EA?

Please let us know by December 5, 2015:

If you wish to comment on the scoping brochure or on any other issues associated with the project, you may submit your comments in the following ways:

- Submit comments electronically at the National Park Service's Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/lamr>.
- Submit written comments to:
Superintendent, Lake Meredith National Recreation Area
P.O. Box 1460
Fritch, TX 79036
- Hand-deliver comments to Lake Meredith National Recreation Area, 419 Broadway, Fritch, TX.

If you wish to be added to the park's mailing address for this and other announcements, please be sure to indicate that in your response.

GENERAL LOCATION OF THE TRAIL SYSTEM:

PROPOSED NORTH SIDE

