

Devils Tower National Monument

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Project Scoping

March 2009

Devils Tower National Monument General Management Plan Implementation Plan Environmental Assessment Crook County, Wyoming

The National Park Service is reviewing a proposed plan to implement the 2002 Devils Tower National Monument General Management Plan (GMP). The park proposes to implement some actions outlined in the 2002 GMP while retaining specific visitor service areas that were identified for removal in that plan. The proposed actions will result in increased visitor satisfaction, continue to provide existing popular visitor services, address the issue of vehicular congestion with adjacent business owners at the park entrance, and increase visitor knowledge of park resources and issues.

The purpose of the analysis is twofold: 1) to comply with applicable laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act, and 2) to determine whether the proposed actions will have any adverse environmental effects if implemented.

As the superintendent of Devils Tower National Monument, I invite you to participate in this scoping process.

Sincerely,

Dorothy FireCloud, Superintendent

Overview of the Process

Project milestones include:

- Public scoping period
- Preparation of environmental assessment
- Public review of environmental assessment
- Analysis of public comment
- Preparation of decision document
- Announcement of decision on implementation of 2002 GMP

Resources and Concerns

Initial internal project scoping identified the following resources and other concerns for consideration in the environmental assessment (EA).

Soils	Floodplains
Vegetation	Cultural Resources
Wildlife	Historic Resources
Air Quality	Visitor Experience
T&E and Candidate Species	Local/Regional Economy
Wetlands	Businesses and Neighbors



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 GMP Implementation Plan at Devils Tower.

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.

The following alternatives were identified:

1. Implement the proposed plan (Preferred Alternative), wherein the park proposes to:
 - a) retain the campground, amphitheater, and picnic areas identified to be removed in the 2002 GMP;
 - b) construct a long-vehicle parking area near the park entrance;
 - c) relocate the park entrance kiosk further into the park along the existing park road and add a second kiosk and entrance lane;
 - d) add a third building to serve as an interim Visitor Center (VC) near the current VC;
 - e) convert the existing paved VC parking lot to a pedestrian plaza, and formalize and pave the existing dirt parking lot near the VC.
2. No action (actions described above will not be implemented)

The deadline for comment is April 26, 2009:

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 any other comments/suggestions for us to consider in the environmental assessment?

If you wish to comment on the scoping brochure or any other issues associated with the project, you may submit your comments by any one of several 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/deto>.

You may submit written comments to:
Superintendent,
Devils Tower NM
P.O. Box 10
Devils Tower, WY 82714

You may hand-deliver comments to Devils Tower National Monument.

Comments will not be accepted over the phone, by fax, or e-mail.

If you wish to receive a copy of the environmental assessment (EA) when available, please check one of the lines below.

- ☐ I will download my own copy of the EA from the NPS web site.
- ☐ I prefer to have a copy of the EA on CD-ROM.
- ☐ I will go to park headquarters or library and read the copy on file there.
- ☐ 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.

Please add/remove my name from your mailing list:
