



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Crater Lake National Park

P.O. Box 7

Crater Lake, OR 97604

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L7617

December 26, 2012

Subject: Scoping Notice – Release of an Environmental Assessment for Rehabilitation of East and West Rim Drives and Rockfall Mitigation at Crater Lake National Park

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The National Park Service (NPS), in cooperation with the Central Federal Lands Highway Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has released an environmental assessment (EA) that analyzes three alternatives, in addition to a no action alternative, for rehabilitation of and rockfall mitigation along the park's Rim Drive. All of the action alternatives include resurfacing, restoring, and rehabilitation of 29.4 miles of Rim Drive, including 5.9 miles of West Rim Drive and 23.5 miles of East Rim Drive. The proposed project also includes improvements to parking areas at Cleetwood Cove and Rim Village, wall repairs, and drainage work. The alternatives include different levels of rockfall treatment at locations along Rim Drive. The preferred alternative includes use of specialized rockfall mitigation measures at select locations to determine the effectiveness of these types of treatments.

Portions of the existing pavement on both East and West Rim drives have exceeded their service life and have developed ruts, lateral cracking, and severe raveling of the road pavement edge. These roads are the primary routes accessing the Crater Lake caldera, and are used by the majority of Crater Lake's summer visitors. The roads have suffered from incremental erosion of the road bench supporting the pavement due to the soft underlying pumice soils and rock. Historic masonry guardwalls, contributing elements to the National Register listing of Rim Drive, are failing in some locations due to erosion and age and require stabilization to prevent further damage to these historic features. Rockfall from the steep slopes bordering Rim Drive is a common event that has the potential for damaging the road and endangering travel. The proposed project is being considered to address the degraded condition of the road and rockfall hazard. The overall goal of the project is to improve the efficiency of park operations by correcting structural deficiencies and reducing maintenance requirements, as well as providing for visitor enjoyment and safety while protecting the parks' scenic, natural, and cultural resources.

To obtain additional information and to comment on the EA, visit the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/crla>, or you may request more information from Chief of Maintenance, Ray Moore, at (541) 594-3071. In addition, you may

direct comments regarding this project to the park in writing by either hand-delivering or mailing your comments to:

Superintendent at Crater Lake National Park
P.O. Box 7
Crater Lake, OR 97604

All comments must be received 30 days from the date of this notice.

Please note that public comments, including your personal identifying information (name, address, phone number, e-mail address, etc.) may be made available to the public at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we would be able to do so. We make all submissions from organizations and businesses, and individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety. Anonymous comments will not be accepted.

Thank you for your interest in Crater Lake National Park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Ackerman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Craig Ackerman
Superintendent