



Cades Cove Opportunities Plan

"Looking Back - Moving Forward"

Issues & Concerns Identification

The National Park Service and Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization held a public scoping meeting on May 23, 2002. More than 120 participants attended the meeting held at the Townsend Elementary School. The meeting provided participants the opportunity to ask questions, make comments, and to meet with individual project team members to discuss issues and concerns regarding the Cades Cove Opportunities Plan.

The meeting featured a series of boards that showed existing conditions within Cades Cove. These included natural and cultural resources, access issues, visitor experience, and infrastructure. The boards also summarized issues and concerns that had been identified through previous processes and comments received by the NPS. These boards were used to stimulate discussion and to prompt the public to identify other issues and concerns. Comment sheets and a court reporter were also available during the meeting to give participants additional ways to provide input.

After the meeting, comment forms were distributed within Cades Cove and made available on the project website. The website, www.cadescoveopp.com, was developed to open the project up to a wider range of park users. This combination of public outreach has produced significant input to the project. An overview and sample of

the issues and concerns received from comment forms, the website, and letters and e-mails to the NPS is listed here:

Overview of Issues & Concerns

May 23rd meeting attendees = 127
Comments and comment forms received since May 23 = 190
Locations that comments are coming from: 18 states. The majority have come from TN and NC. A map of the 18 states is on the back page of this project report.

A sample of the issues and concerns received from the **public** include:

- Lack of signs/visitor information
- Lack of park rangers/enforcement
- Vandalism/littering
- Noise (vehicles, dogs in campground)
- Level of visitor services (electricity/showers)
- Condition of historic structures
- Natural areas being damaged
- Lack of bicycle trails
- Too few auto-free times for biking/walking
- Narrow road /number of pull-outs
- Need for alternative transportation such as buses
- Loss of automobile access to Cades Cove
- Loss of ability to experience the cove at their pace.
- Loss of ability to continue family activities/traditions

Steps in the Process



Cades Cove Opportunities Plan Public Comments

Comments have been received from eighteen states including Alaska. Sources for comments have included: the May 23rd public meeting, comment forms distributed in Cades Cove, the project web site, and letters to the NPS.



Great Smoky Mountains
National Park

Goals and Objectives - Public Input

Public input is an important element in the development of a set of goals and objectives. These goals and objectives will guide the development of alternatives and management activities for Cades Cove now and into the future. The success of the Cades Cove Opportunities Plan will be measured by its ability to accomplish these goals and objectives. Goals and Objectives comments will be accepted through August 22, 2002.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



If you are interested in additional information or would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact us at:

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Website
www.cadescoveopp.com
Boards from the first public meeting are available on the website

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.