

National Trails Intermountain Region Press Release

For Immediate Release, December 7, 2016

For further information, contact:

Michael Elliott, Chief of Planning
(505) 988-6015

National Park Service

National Trails Intermountain Region

PO Box 728, Santa Fe, NM 87505

Aaron Mahr, Superintendent, 505-988-6736

National Trails Intermountain Region Announces the Termination of the Environmental Assessment Process for the Butterfield Overland Trail Special Resource Study

In 2010, the National Park Service (NPS) notified the public that an environmental assessment (EA) would be prepared to analyze the potential environmental effects of the Butterfield Overland Trail Special Resource Study (SRS). A planning newsletter for the project was released in January 2012. Public meetings for scoping purposes were completed in spring 2012. The scoping report was released in September 2012. A series of maps showing the trail, the significance statement for the trail, and other information was posted on the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website, or PEPC.

NPS is now informing the public that due to recent internal scoping conducted under current NPS policy; the NPS has determined that an EA is no longer required. The SRS has no measurable environmental impacts. With this press release, NPS is terminating the EA process. The NPS is preparing a categorical exclusion (CE) for the SRS to fulfill our obligation under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The CE will be signed by the superintendent when the study is complete.

The completed study document will be submitted to Congress for their consideration in 2017. After transmittal to Congress, the public will be able to inspect the document at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/butterfieldsrs>

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Elliott, Chief of Planning, at (505) 988-6015 or by email at michael_elliott@nps.gov.

Available for use:



Credit: Butterfield Overland Trail, Markers at the Site of the Ashmore Station, Missouri, National Park Service, 2010