

Public Comment

Public input is critical to the trail study process. It helps the National Park Service gauge public interest and identify concerns, and can bring new information about the trail to light. The NPS has identified a series of questions to help solicit input.

Outreach and Engagement Questions:

1. Are there sites or areas on or adjacent to the route that are, or could be, visited by the public for recreational opportunities or historic appreciation (e.g. hiking or outdoor access, museums, historic sites, educational exhibits)? If so, please tell us about them.
2. Does the study route accurately identify Pike's 1806-1807 route? If not, where does it differ? Is there anything else you want the National Park Service to know about this route and its associated sites?
3. How might designation of this route as a national historic trail affect you and your community? Do you have concerns? What benefits do you see?
4. Would you like to see Pike's 1806-1807 expedition designated as a national historic trail? Why or why not?
5. Do you think this route is important in America's history? Why or why not?

Attend a Virtual Public Meeting

The primary purpose of virtual public meetings is to explain the study process and to answer questions. Meetings are organized by state. One meeting will be conducted in Spanish. Visit go.nps.gov/PikeMeetings to view a complete schedule with meeting links.

Zoom meetings will allow you to view the presentation and type comments into the "chat" box. Participants can listen in by calling the meeting's conference phone number. Callers will not be able to speak during the meetings. All phone lines are "listen only."

For all meetings:

Zoom Link: zoom.us/join
Zoom Meeting Passcode: piketrail
US Phone # 1 346 248 7799
Mexico Phone # 52 558 659 6002

Colorado

Monday, May 24: Noon-2pm MST
Meeting ID: 840 3093 7946
Participant ID: 530852973

Monday, May 24: 6-8pm MST
Meeting ID: 828 6939 0971
Participant ID: 172502062

Saturday, June 12: 10am-Noon MST
Meeting ID: 856 5344 0707
Participant ID: 72732556

Kansas and Nebraska

Tuesday, May 25: Noon-2pm CST
Meeting ID: 827 8296 7057
Participant ID: 220943572

Kansas and Nebraska (cont.)

Tuesday, May 25: 6-8pm CST
Meeting ID: 889 1217 9442
Participant ID: 300930688

Louisiana

Wednesday, May 26: Noon-2pm CST
Meeting ID: 839 9100 4135
Participant ID: 761202222

Wednesday, May 26: 6-8pm CST
Meeting ID: 840 5548 1626
Participant ID: 714240317

Missouri

Thursday, May 27: Noon-2pm CST
Meeting ID: 826 6010 2248
Participant ID: 455020726

Thursday, May 27: 6-8pm CST

Meeting ID: 899 7164 1072
Participant ID: 506950327

How to Participate

Public Comments must be received by June 30, 2021 to be considered as part of the study. There are three ways to participate:

1. Submit Comments Online:
parkplanning.nps.gov/pike
Note: This is the preferred method for comment submission.

2. Write or email the Project Manager with questions or comments

Lillis Urban
National Trails
1100 Old Santa Fe Trail
Santa Fe, NM 87505

E-mail
lillis_urban@nps.gov

3. Attend a Virtual Public Meeting.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Trails (Interior Regions - 6, 7, 8)



The National Park Service launches the Pike National Historic Trail Feasibility Study



In the winter of 1806, Pike's expedition traversed the valley of what is today Great Sand Dunes National Park, CO.

Dear Friends,

The National Park Service (NPS) is conducting a study on the Pike Trail to evaluate its eligibility as a new national historic trail.

The study addresses the 1806-07 expedition led by Lt. Zebulon M. Pike into the southern portions of the Louisiana Purchase, and the northern edge of the Spanish colonial empire. The route affects areas and interests in present-day Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Texas, as well as Mexico.

We invite you to learn about and participate in the study process.

Visit parkplanning.nps.gov/pike to connect to the study's webpage where you can provide comments and track updates.

As we begin the study, we invite the public to submit comments.

Your thoughts and ideas are important to us. Guidance for submitting comments is included at the end of this newsletter. The public comment period is open through June 30, 2021.

After the public comment period closes, the NPS will evaluate the Pike Trail using congressionally-established criteria for eligibility, suitability, feasibility and desirability. Our findings will determine if the trail meets criteria for designation as a new national historic trail. Findings of the study will then be sent to Congress. Congress has the sole authority to enact legislation to designate a new national historic trail.

To our old trail friends, I'm grateful for your continued support and interest in the National Trails System. To those who are learning about National Historic Trails and the feasibility study process for the first time, my staff and I look forward to meeting you and hearing your thoughts and concerns.

Sincerely,

Aaron Mahr Yáñez
Superintendent
National Trails (Interior Regions - 6, 7, 8)
National Park Service



The Pike Trail is displayed in blue. The expedition set out from Fort Belle Fontaine, Missouri and traveled approximately 3,700 miles before ending at Natchitoches, Louisiana.

NPS MAP



Visit [go.nps.gov/PikeVideo](https://www.nps.gov/PikeVideo) to watch a short, introductory video about the Pike Trail Feasibility Study.

Pike's 1806-07 Expedition

The study addresses the route taken by Lt. Zebulon M. Pike during his 1806-1807 expedition into the southern portions of the Louisiana Purchase and the northern edge of the Spanish colonial empire. The expedition was among the first United States government-ordered, American-led explorations into the area. It spans seven states and over 2,700 miles in the United States, with an additional 1,000 miles of trail in Mexico. The section of trail which traverses Mexico is not eligible for designation as it falls outside of the United States.

What is a National Historic Trail?

National historic trails recognize past routes of travel that are significant in the history of the United States. These historic routes are designated so that the public can enjoy, visit, connect with, and understand them. Examples of other national historic trails include Lewis and Clark, Selma to Montgomery, and Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo).

Created by the National Trails System Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-543), national historic trail designations are continuous from end to end, often cross state boundaries, and a variety of types of land ownership.

However, national historic trails are not hiking trails, open to public use from end to end. Rather, discrete locations on public lands and participating private property along the alignment are open to visitation. Designation of a national historic trail does not establish public right-of-way or change land ownership or authority over private property.

Visit www.nps.gov/subjects/nationaltrailssystem to learn more.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Trail Feasibility Study?

The purpose of the Pike National Historic Trail (NHT) Feasibility Study is to evaluate the national historical significance of the route, as well as the feasibility, suitability, and desirability of designating the route as a national historic trail. The Pike NHT Feasibility Study was directed by Congress in 2019 under the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (P.L. 116-9).

How Does the NPS Evaluate the Route?

To determine the route's feasibility, suitability, and eligibility as a new national historic trail, the Pike route will be evaluated according to three criteria in the National Trails System Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-543). To qualify for designation as a new national historic trail, a trail must meet all three of the following criteria:

1. It must be a trail or route established by historic use and must be historically significant as a result of that use.
2. It must be of national significance with respect to any of several broad facets of American history, such as trade and commerce, exploration, migration and settlement, or military campaigns. To qualify as nationally significant, historic use of the trail must have had a far reaching effect on broad patterns of American culture. Trails significant in the history of Native Americans may be included.
3. It must have significant potential for public recreational use or historical interest based on historic interpretation and appreciation. The presence of recreation potential not related to historic appreciation is not sufficient justification for designation under this category.

When Will We Know the Results of the Study?

Based on experience, trail studies typically take approximately two and half years to complete. After the trail study is complete it will be transmitted to Congress and the NPS will publicly release the study report. The timeline for transmission to Congress is December 2022.

How is the Decision Made to Designate a National Historic Trail?

Only Congress has the authority to enact legislation to designate new national historic trails. Congress may or may not act on or follow the findings of the study. There is no timeframe for legislative action.

What Happens if Congress Designates the Pike Trail as a New National Historic Trail?

Should Congress designate the route as a new national historic trail, that would trigger a set of additional actions, to include a Comprehensive Management Plan for the trail. At the Comprehensive Management Plan stage details on how the trail is to be managed would be assessed and determined. The Comprehensive Management Plan is where the rubber meets the road, so to speak. Details on interpretive signage, location of historic sites, educational programming, and places where the public could visit, connect and understand the route would be fleshed out. The Comprehensive Management Plan would involve a great deal of additional public engagement and comment.

How Would the Trail's Designation Impact Private Property Owners?

Designation does not give the federal government any ownership or control over private property along a NHT. Private property rights remain intact. Landowner participation is entirely voluntary. Non-federal landowners are under no obligation to participate or to allow the public on their lands.

Public Comments must be received by June 30, 2021. To submit comments visit parkplanning.nps.gov/pike.



Zebulon Montgomery Pike (1779-1832) as he appeared during the War of 1812.

GIMBREDE, THOMAS, ENGRAVER. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.