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[Kids](#)
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[Park Planning](#)
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[Project Home](#)
[Plan Process](#)
[Meeting Notices](#)
[Links](#)
[Document List](#)
[Open For Comment \(0\)](#)

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SMMNRA Interagency Trail Management Plan

[Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area »](#)
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[Document List](#)

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TO SUBMIT COMMENTS: The comment period for the Notice of Intent and Notice of Preparation of the joint TMP EIS/EIR closed on April 1st. We are now reviewing the comments and will post a summary report in early May. The next opportunity for comment will be when the draft TMP EIS/EIR is published later this fall or winter.

National Park Service (NPS), California State Parks (State Parks), Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and the Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority are reinitiating preparation of the long-awaited Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) Interagency Trail Management Plan (TMP). The TMP will establish the overall vision for future development and management of the nearly 500-mile SMMNRA trail network. Based on identified desired conditions for park natural, cultural and recreational resources, the TMP will prescribe a comprehensive plan for circulation, access, and allowable trail uses for trails throughout the national recreation area. Because NPS and State agencies are jointly preparing the TMP, a NEPA and CEQA-based Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) will accompany the TMP. The TMP EIS/EIR will consider alternative visions for the trail network and will provide a detailed analysis of potential environmental impacts of each vision.

A reissued federal Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS was published in the Federal Register on January 31,



2014. The state Notice of Preparation of an EIR was reissued on [February 3, 2014]. NPS and State Parks are now accepting the public's suggestions for issues the TMP EIS/EIR should address and for the content and design of a range of alternatives. Please click on "Open For Comment" to the left to submit your comments online.

Planning for the greater SMMNRA trail network began in mid-1990s with the Santa Monica Mountains Area Recreation Trails (SMMART) Project. The original federal and state notices to prepare the TMP EIS/EIR were published in 2003. In September 2005, NPS, State Parks, and SMMC/MRCA conducted public scoping meetings and gathered public comments on conceptual trail facilities and map alternatives needed to prepare the Draft EIS/EIR. Owing to lack of funding, the NPS and partner agencies were unable to prepare the Draft EIS/EIR after the 2005 public scoping effort. With funding now in hand, the partner agencies are resuming preparation of the joint TMP EIS/EIR. We invite your participation throughout the planning process.

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