

Pikes Peak Summit Complex Environmental Assessment Public Scoping Period Begins

Public Scoping Open House

August 25th, 2015

3 pm to 7 pm

Library 21c (Venue @21c)

1175 Chapel Hills Drive

Colorado Springs, CO 80920

**Drop in at any time
to learn about the
project and participate
in identifying issues.**



Your Input is Needed

The City of Colorado Springs, Pikes Peak – America's Mountain (PPAM), in partnership with Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) and U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine (U.S. Army), are proposing to redesign and reconstruct the existing Pikes Peak Summit Complex located in the Pike National Forest in El Paso County, Colorado. The U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service), Pikes Peak Ranger District, is the federal lead agency for the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) to consider and disclose the environmental effects of redesigning and constructing the Pikes Peak Summit Complex. The Forest Service is soliciting comments from Federal, State, and local agencies, and other individuals or organizations that may be interested in or affected by implementation of the proposed project.

Interested parties are invited to stop by anytime during the open house to:

- review background information
- understand ways to provide input throughout the process
- identify key issues to be analyzed in the EA.

Representatives of the project proponents, along with the members of the Summit Complex redesign team, an associated process, will be present to address questions related to these processes.

About the Project

The City, PPAM, U.S. Army, and CSU are requesting approval to design and construct three facilities on two building sites on the summit of Pikes Peak. Connected to the proposal and integral to the proposed project is decommissioning and removing the existing facilities, building new facilities designed specifically for the Pikes Peak summit use objectives and environment, restoring disturbed sites to native tundra, protecting heritage resources, and enhancing visitor experiences above the 14,000-foot contour.

The proposed action is to redesign and construct a new Summit Complex, consisting of PPAM's Summit Visitors Center on one site and to consolidate the City's Plant Building, CSU's Communications Facility, and the U.S. Army's High-Altitude Research Laboratory (HARL) on the second site. Although separate facilities, the City's Plant, CSU's communications tower, and U.S. Army's HARL, will be designed to give the appearance of one facility.

Schedule

Scoping
Summer
2015

Analysis
Fall 2015/
Winter 2016

Draft EA
Spring 2016

Final EA
Fall 2016

Pikes Peak Summit Complex Environmental Assessment How to Comment

Comments
must be
received
by
September
21, 2015

Purposes of Scoping

The comments received from agencies and the public during scoping will be used to guide the EA analysis in the next phase.

- Introduce and describe the proposed project.
- Describe the key milestones and opportunities for public involvement.
- Identify issues for analysis in the EA.
- Gain an understanding of the concerns and issues expressed by interested parties.
- Outreach to identify key stakeholders and obtain their perspectives.
- Gain input from local, state, and national public.
- Provide opportunity to review the Proposed Action.

How to Comment

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the publication of notice in Pueblo Chieftain (paper of record) and The Gazette newspapers on August 21, 2015. Comments must be received by September 21, 2015.

Written comments must be submitted to: Pikes Peak Summit Complex Project, C/O District Ranger, Pikes Peak Ranger District, 601 S. Weber Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80903 or by fax to 719-477-4233. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Oral comments may be provided at the Responsible Official's office during normal business hours via telephone 719-636-1602 or in person, or at an official agency function (i.e. public meeting) that is designed to elicit public comments. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=47229>.

Additional Information

Visit the Forest Service project website for additional information and to sign up for project updates at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=47229> or Pikes Peak Ranger District office at (719) 636-1602.

