

Serving the American people & international visitor with American History and the Pike Legacy. Tourism is a sustaining factor in the Pike National Historic Trail Association’s mission.

Park Service senior echelon NON-RECOMMENDATION September 14, 2023

The National Park Service has chosen not to recommend designation of the Pike National Historic Trail to Congress.

We will continue to provide information about General Zebulon Montgomery Pike as well as route guidance for the public.

There are several options:

One is for the Pike Association members and supporters to work diligently with Congress to override this obstacle. It would involve the cooperation of our Association members and supporters in contacting the members of Congress, something rarely achieved by us.

A second is to work with one of our retired park service mentors and advisors/ associates [Lewis and Clark and Santa Fe Trail] to achieve like status to a National Historic Trail. More information will be provided in a future newsletter.

Recall that the Pike Trail in Colorado already exists- so what follows is not a pipe dream.

A third option* would be to work with state legislatures create the Pike Trail in Missouri, Pike Trail in Kansas, Pike Trail in Nebraska, Pike Trail in New Mexico, Pike Trail in Chihuahua Province, Pike Trail in Durango Province, Pike Trail in Coahuila Province, Pike Trail in Texas, Pike Trail in Louisiana— —ONE BY ONE. This would allow us to establish the **Pike Trail in New York** as well as the **Pike Trail on the Upper Mississippi River** remembering his first expedition.

* Kansas Kate are you up for this one? [She is already working for Kansas state recognition.]

Significant information follows at the end of this newsletter.

Recent additions to the park service:

- Amache National Historic Site [Japanese-American Relocation Center], Granada, CO,
- Browns Canyon National Monument, Salida, CO,
- Camp Hale National Monument, between Red Cliff and Leadville Colorado
- Chimney Rock National Monument, Pagosa Springs, Colorado

Amazing events by state

Zebulon Montgomery Pike’s Southwest Expedition in 1806 and 1807 covered over 3660 miles from the mouth of the Missouri River north of St. Louis [Fort Belle Fontaine July 15, 1806] to Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana [Fort Clybourn July 1, 1807.]



General Zebulon Montgomery Pike (January 5, 1779 – April 27, 1813) and Clarissa Harlow [nee Brown] Pike

Missouri

Departing Fort Belle Fontaine



The Pike party traveled 430 miles through Missouri, 11.7% of their mileage from Fort Belle Fontaine, and spent 51 + days [of 353] in Missouri, or 14.6% of their days.

Remarkable events occurred for the Pike party in Missouri including joyed reunions of families. Pike's first mission was to return 51 **Potawatomie** - captured Osage Indians to the Grand and Little Osage villages in SW Missouri. He explored portions of southwest Missouri in the A. Busch Jr. Wetlands at Four Rivers. They established Camp Independence just east of the Little Osage village near Nevada and Butler, MO. With Osage guides, he traveled to establish peace between the Republican Pawnee, Kansa and Osage.



Camp Independence

Kansas

The Pike party explored 648 miles of Kansas, 18% of their mileage, and spent 56 days [of 353] in Kansas, or 16% of their days.

Remarkable events occurred for the Pike party in Kansas. Aside from being sought by a large Spanish battalion, they explored large parts of Kansas including all of the Arkansas River, were the first to establish American control on the Great Plains, and established a peace between the Pawnee, Kansa and Osage, while being guided by Osage and Pawnee.

On leaving the Pawnee village they were challenged by the Pawnee not to continue because of promises made by the Republican Pawnee to the Spanish. Pike stood his ground and continued.

Some call Pike the father of the Santa Fe Trail because of his published information regarding price and quality of goods in Santa Fe.

Nebraska



The Pike party explored the Red Cloud/ Guide Rock area of Nebraska, and spent 13 days [of 353] in Nebraska.

Remarkable events occurred for the Pike party in Nebraska. Aside from being sought by a large Spanish battalion, Pike was the first to insist on American control on the Great Plains, established a peace between the Pawnee, Kansa and Osage, while being challenged while departing by the Republican Pawnee.

Pawnee ceremonial charge and greetings to their guests.

Colorado The Heart of the Southwest Expedition

The Pike party explored 670 miles of Colorado, more than any other state or Mexican province, and spent 108 days [of 353] in Colorado.

In each county of Colorado, remarkable events occurred for the Pike party from

1. sighting a 'small blue cloud' →,



2. being challenged by a Grand Pawnee war party east of today's Pueblo,

← 3. attempting to climb of the peak which bears his name, to



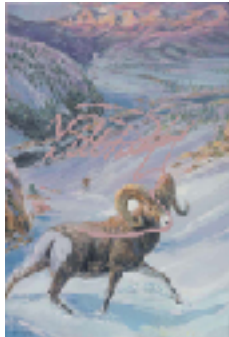
4. building a stockade in Cañon City, their center point in Colorado before entering 'Spanish Territory' →





← 5. Pike climbed High Dune at today's Great Sand Dunes National Park,

6. discovered the headwaters of the Arkansas while viewing Colorado's 14,000 foot Mt. Elbert and Massive mountains → and South Platte Rivers,



7. ← spotted Colorado's mammal- the big horn sheep in Cotopaxi, and

8. spent Christmas near 14,000 foot mountains in Salida →,



← 9. Pike climbed up 955' out of the Royal Gorge.

10. They suffered extremely beside the Sangre de Cristo Range for 13 days in the Wet Mtn. Valley →, and



← 11. built a winter stockade where they were "arrested" by the Spanish, to



← Pike viewed the Colorado 14,000 foot Collegiate Range.

New Mexico

The Pike party was escorted by the Spanish 417 miles in New Mexico along the Rio Grande, 11.4% of their mileage, and spent 21 days [of 353] in New Mexico, or 5.9% of their days. They were led on the Old Spanish Trail and **El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro along the Rio Grande.**

Remarkable events occurred for the Pike party in New Mexico, Mexico and Texas. Although "captives" of the Spanish, fandangos were thrown for them, some were housed in the residence of cartographers, and they were able to collect information and political/military impressions. They were well treated in New Spain. Pike became good friends with his escort the Spanish lieutenant Facundo Melgares, later a governor of New Spain.

Lt. Facundo Melgares also was the commander of the large force [400] sent to attempt to intercept Lewis and Clark as well as Pike at the Pawnee village on the Kansas/Nebraska border. (Pike and his men were 'arrested' after they crossed the Sangre de Cristo Mountains 18 miles into the New Spain while Facundo Melgares was 700 miles from his New Spain base. And yet Pike was deemed by the Spanish to be the bad guy in Chihuahua.)

Mexico

Chihuahua Province

The Pike party was escorted by the Spanish 466 miles in Chihuahua Province Mexico, 12.7% of their milage, and spent 48 days [of 353] in Chihuahua Province, or 13.6% of their days. They were led on what would become today- the **El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro**.

Although “captives” of the Spanish, Pike and his men were able to collect information and political/military impressions including various maps. He learned about Mexico's discontentment with Spanish rule and Commandant/governor General Salcedo. This information was used in the 1846 Spanish American War. Pike provided helpful information used in the 1821 Mexican Revolution.

While in Chihuahua, the capital of Chihuahua province, Pike was treated well and invited to formal social dinners.

He challenged Commandant General Salcedo regarding being arrested only 18 miles into Spanish territory while the Spanish garrison moved 700 miles into American territory.

Durango Province

The Pike party was escorted by the Spanish 92 miles in Durango Province, and spent 6 days [of 353] in Durango Province. They were led on the **El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, turning east just north of Torreón.**

Coahuila Province

The Pike party was escorted by the Spanish 409 miles in Coahuila Province, 11.2% of their milage, and spent 19 days [of 353] in Coahuila. They were led on an old Spanish trail to Monoclova and on to San Antonio on the **El Camino Real de los Tejas.**

Texas

The Pike party was escorted by the Spanish 477 miles through Texas, 13% of their milage, and spent 27 days [of 353] in Texas, or 7.6% of their days. They were led on the **El Camino Real de los Tejas.**

They collected information and political/military impressions useful in Tejas after 1807 at the Alamo. He was the first official American military officer in Texas.

Louisiana

The Pike party was “released” by the Spanish at the Sabine River, traveled through Sabine Parish [then the neutral area] arriving in Natchitoches on July 1, 1807. Home at last. He remained in Natchitoches for a period of time.

Colorado Gator Reptile Sanctuary

Following the fire at **Colorado gator Reptile Sanctuary** in Mosca, CO, on April 18th 2023, Erwin Young reported on October 25th that reconstruction of the Colorado Gator properties was delayed by weeks. The new buildings should be finished in 2 to 3 weeks or the end of November. Pike Newsletter will send photographer and reporter to the facility in November. The spirit of Inspector General Zebulon Pike has agreed to accompany us for our inspection.

Park Service NON-RECOMMENDATION

We and many others are disappointed.

Many wish us to lead the continued quest for designation.

President's Letter

On September 14, 2023, the National Park Service (NPS) transmitted the Pike National Historic Trail Feasibility Study to Congress. NPS conducted the study pursuant to Public Law 116-9 (the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act), which authorized the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the significance, feasibility, suitability, and desirability of designating routes associated with Lieutenant Zebulon Pike's 1806-1807 expedition as a national historic trail (NHT).

The route evaluated in the study begins in Fort Bellefontaine, Missouri and ends in Natchitoches, Louisiana. It spans approximately 2,700 miles, intersecting the States of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Louisiana. The section of trail that traverses Mexico is not eligible for designation as it falls outside of the United States. My understandings that Mexico is willing to designate.

Pike used the Missouri River, Osage River, Cottonwood River, Arkansas River, and Rio Grande River which are certainly significant rivers. They have been used and are continuously used either by Native Americans, the French, or the public.

The Pawnee Trail from the Pawnee Village on the Nebraska state line to Great Bend, Kansas {followed by Pike} is certainly a major historical route for Native Americans with sacred sites all along the route. It was also followed by the Spanish in search of Pike in 1806.

I believe the proposed Pike National Historic Trail more than meets the three established criteria for National Historic Trails: 1) be a trail or route established by historic use and must be **historically significant** because of that use; 2) be of **national significance** with any of several broad facets of American history, which means that a potential NHT's historic use must have had a **far-reaching effect on broad patterns of American culture**; and 3) have **significant potential for public recreational use or historical interest** based on historical interpretation and appreciation.

These terms can be defined or ill-defined. Words like historical and national significance, far-reaching effect, significant potential and others apparently are defined differently by us.

OUR DEFINITIONS FOLLOW— —

historic use & historical significance Our definition of these terms:

The use of the Missouri River, Osage River, Cottonwood River, Arkansas River, Rio Grande River are certainly significant rivers which Pike used and were continued to be used either by Native Americans, the French, or on to this day.

The Pawnee Trail from the Pawnee Village on the Nebraska state line to Great Bend, Kansas {followed by Pike} is certainly a major historical route for Native Americans with sacred sites all along the route. It was also followed by the Spanish in search of Pike in 1806.

The historical significance of the Missouri River, Arkansas River, and Rio Grande River are certainly significant rivers which Pike used/explored and were continued to be used either by Native Americans, the nation on to this day.

national significance Our definition of this term:

Pike stands shoulder to shoulder with many other early explorers sent by Jefferson or Wilkinson in significance for the nation. The route he took along most of the rivers listed above remain today as nationally significant.

significant potential for public recreational use Our definition of this term:

2000 citizens domestic and foreign [Canada, Lithuania, Germany] have a signed documents indicating that they intend to follow the Pike route in the future out of interest and certainly for recreational use.

significant potential for historical interest Our definition of this term:

We continue to get email from individuals wishing to have their Pike site[s] along the route of the Southwest expedition recognized as historically important.

Historical interest continues to be expressed. Examples: in eastern Texas along the Pike route, in the Austin TX area and on Fourmile Creek north of Cañon City.

Historical interest from Heritage Foundations, Historical Societies and educational institutions continue. The proposed Pike National Historic Trail [1806-7 and Pike's 2nd Expedition] provided historical context for several existing National Historic Trails —including the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, Santa Fe National Historic Trail, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail, El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail, and Old Spanish National Historic Trail.

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More information about the Pike National Historic Trail Feasibility Study is available at [ParkPlanning - Pike National Historic Trail Feasibility Study \(nps.gov\)](#).
www.nps.gov

Our **Vision** is TO PROVIDE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT PIKE AND
CELEBRATE HIS MEMORY AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Our **Purpose** is to establish federal designation of the
Pike National Historic Trail.

*"Zebulon Pike was an American hero, a patriot who lived and
died for his country." -Thomas Jefferson*

Contact us: 303/912-9939 harv.pike@gmail.com PO Box 195 Conifer CO 80433
Our Website: www.zebulonpike.org We are a charitable nonprofit organization. [501-C-3]

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