

PIKE



NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Vol. 15 No. 2 Apr.–June. — 2021

THE PIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY

Many of you attended one or more of the 14 National Park Service virtual zoom meetings in late May and early June and left comments in the “chat box.” This was very helpful to the Park Service who are required by law to hold these meetings. It also helped us with our goal of designating the **Pike National Historic Trail**.

Key, critical and most important turned out to be the National Park Service’s comment page.

Most of us placed a full set of comments on NPS’ Comment Page answering five questions about

- sites (historic and recreational) along the proposed route for public visitation,
- accuracy of the Pike study route,
- effects on people and communities,
- if we would like to see the designation of the **Pike National Historic Trail** and
- if the study route was historically important. These are items required to be assessed.

Over 100 full set of comments were submitted to the Park Service. The Park Service in turn publishes them in their report to Congress.

Many of you shared your comments with the president of the Pike Association and all were well thought through. By the way- Unanimously: designation was desired. Surprised?

GLEANED FROM THE NPS PUBLIC MEETINGS Fourteen virtual Public Meetings were held by the National Park Service in late May-early June. Folks from all over the country attended these meetings. We thank you for attending these meetings. We noticed that the number of comments one could offer in the ‘Chat box’ was somewhat limited so we used the Comment Page.

Trail Feasibility Study Process

- The federal government would have no authority over private lands along the route.
- Participation in trail development along the route by private landowners is **entirely voluntary**.
- Private landowners are under no obligation to allow the public on their lands.
- Willing-seller clauses are included in national historic trail legislation. This is used extremely rarely.

Estimated NPS study timeline

Winter 2020-2021	Data gathering and research ✓
April - June 2021	Public Outreach ✓
July - November 2021	Assess criteria and prepare a study document
November 2021 - July 2022	NPS review of study findings
August 2022	Revise study based on NPS review
September 2022	30-day public comment period on draft study
November 2022	Finalize study
December 2022	Submit to Congress

After Designation

Should Congress act to designate the Pike Trail as a new national historic trail, this follows-

- Comprehensive Management plan would be developed.
- Specifics on how the trail is to be managed.
- Trail access locations and opportunities identified.
- Interpretive/educational opportunities identified.
- Public input, public meetings.
- Consultation and cooperation with federal, tribal, state, municipal governments, and the public.

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Notable Details of Pike's Expedition {part of Aaron Mahr's presentation at the NPS public meetings}

- Pike interacted with the Kansas, Osage, and Pawnee, although he achieved no lasting peace between these tribes. He did not make contact with the Comanche.
- He found the headwaters of the Arkansas River deep in the high country of the Rockies. One of his expedition's goals.
[not mentioned – he also found the headwaters of the Osage, Cottonwood, and South Platte Rivers. On his first expedition he had found the headwaters of the Mississippi.]
- Implied as part of his mission, he confirmed the feasibility of traveling over the plains to the Spanish settlements along the Rio Grande— a precursor of the Santa Fe Trail.
- Detained by the Spaniards he made keen observations about the Spanish presence in North America as he traveled through the towns of Santa Fe, Albuquerque, El Paso, Chihuahua, & San Antonio on there Caminos Reales, at a key time in the waning years of the Spanish presence in the Western Hemisphere.
- He captured all of it in his journal, parts of what he was able to keep from the Spanish, other parts constructed from memory, that was printed and released to an eager public in 1810 before Lewis and Clark's journals were.
- Pike's name lives on as place names all across the United States, such as Pike's Peak and counties named for him.

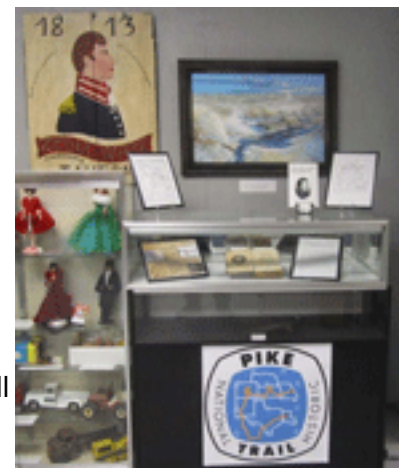
For the record The proposed Pike National Historic Trail is contiguous with parts of the: Lewis and Clark NHT **119.41 mi**, Santa Fe Trail NHT **319.09 mi**, Old Spanish Trail NHT **87.66 mi**, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro **384.56 mi**, and the El Camino Real de los Tejas **586.1 mi**. This is a total of **1496 mi (53.3%)** of the **2807 miles** Pike traveled in today's US and 967 miles in today's Mexico. 46.7% is non-contiguous.

NEW CONSTRUCTION COMPLEMENTS THE PIKE TRAIL

1 At the **Pikes Peak** summit the old visitor store has been replaced by a Visitors Center oriented toward Mount Rosa, 5.5 mi SSE, where Pike was able to climb. The summit area has been rejuvenated with new entries for the Cog Railroad, Barr Trail and the motoring public.



2 The **Royal Gorge** Bridge and Park is re-erecting the large sign at the top oh Pike's Gulch which was consumed in their 2013 fire.



3 The **San Luis Valley Museum** in Alamosa, CO now features the Pike corner. Steve Corn, Museum Director, indicated that this is the most popular exhibit in his museum. It features the 1810 Pike journal (original copy) donated by Jim Bull in 2017, a sign donated by Brian Murphy and several other items.

TWO PIKE MARKERS FOUND IN TEXAS

116 Pike markers and monuments have been located, 65 near the Study route. Two more Pike Markers have been found in **Texas** by the Park Service.

1 Lost Pines of Texas Historical Marker Bastrop, TX. Inscription: "One of the first records of the trees was made in 1807 by Zebulon Pike, explorer for whom Pike's Peak was named. ..."

Marker is at Bastrop State Park in Bastrop, Texas @ **30° 6.638' N, 97° 17.586' W**.



2 Zebulon Pike Campsite Marker btw Alto/Crockett, TX *Inscription:* "In 1807, under commission from Gen. James Wilkinson, Governor of the Louisiana Territory, Lt. Zebulon Pike led an expedition to explore the headwaters of the Arkansas and Red Rivers and to report on Spanish settlements in the New Mexico area. Heading south from present Colorado, where the party saw the mountain later named Pike's Peak for the expedition's leader, they were arrested by Spanish authorities. Under escort back to the United States, the party camped near this site on June 23, 1807. The Pike expedition furnished an important account of Spanish Texas and New Mexico."

@ **31° 35.94' N, 95° 9.05' W**

More are being found as we move through the Feasibility Process.

PIKE JOURNAL 99¢ The Elliott Coues edition of Pike's journal is only 99¢ on Amazon Kindle.- suggested by Kansas Kate, Ft. Scott, KS

One needn't have a Kindle device; there are free Kindle apps for phones, tablets, computers.

Link: <https://smile.amazon.com/Expeditions-Zebulon-Montgomery-Pike-III-ebook/dp/B00FI6U2RC/>



BEST OF CONIFER AWARDS - PIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ASSOCIATION

"It is our pleasure to inform you that Pike National Historic Trail Association has been selected as the Winner for the 2021 Best of Conifer Awards in the category of Association or Organization."

The Conifer Award Program was created to honor and generate public recognition of the achievements and positive contributions of businesses and organizations in and around Conifer. Our mission is to raise the profile of exemplary companies and entrepreneurs among the press, the business community, and the general public.

Conifer Award Program, 337 Garden Oaks Blvd, Houston, TX 77018

We, the Pike National Historic Trail Association, are happy to receive this award once again.

It is gratifying to be noticed in the community, Conifer, CO, from which we are based. This is the 4th year in a row we have been so honored.

PIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING- MAY 8, 2021

This year our Annual Meeting was held using Zoom on May 8th. This year seven members joined us.

The officers and Board were reelected. We now carry liability insurance.

Roy Pike would like those Pike family members who have not participated in the Pike Family DNA project to do so.

Harv reported that his engagements with the National Park Service Feasibility Study Team has been nothing but **encouraging**. He has met numerous times with the team's historian. Working with the Feasibility Study team has been a joy. Linda and Harv meet monthly with the Study Team Manager- Lillis Urban and the Superintendent of the NPS National Trails- Aaron Mahr.

The complete Designation Plan (flexible) was approved and a designation team with duties were also approved.

We discussed at length the **VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETINGS** and NPS comment page held in late June and early July. We must attend and contribute comments and questions at as many Public Meetings and comment on the Park Service's Comment Page. Jim Mallory emphasized that Pike family who attend leave a positive impression in the Public's mind (and later in the mind of Congress). [See Page 1 top item- Well done.] Jim Mallory's commented- "This is a critical time for the PIKE NATIONAL HISTORICAL TRAIL ASSOCIATION."

He has been through this two times with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Feasibility Studies.

CORPORATE SPONSORS

We are also grateful for the support of our Corporate Sponsors.
Apex, Land Title, & Royal Gorge Bridge & Park



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

***Our Purpose:** To Establish federal designation of the Pike National Historic Trail*

We are a Charitable nonprofit organization

Our website is www.zebulonpike.org

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

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Our Website: www.zebulonpike.org