

NAVAJO COUNTY AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FORM

Meeting Date: February 10, 2015	Time Needed: 10 min.										
Requesting Department: Petrified Forest	Presenter(s) Name: Brad Traver, Superintendent										
Motion before the Board: Presentation on the Petrified Forest National Park											
Recommendation: (who, what, where, when, how, etc.)											
<p>Background: (why should it be done, what will happen if not approved, etc. include resolution)</p> <p>Annually in the winter, the park superintendent provides a briefing for the Board about the park and any issues that may be of interest to Navajo County.</p>											
<p>Fiscal Impact: (what will it cost, where funds will come from, is it budgeted, etc.)</p> <p>None.</p>											
Reviewed and approved by:	<table style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 16.6%;">County Manager</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;">County Attorney</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;">Human Resources</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;">Finance</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;">IT</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	County Manager	County Attorney	Human Resources	Finance	IT	<input type="checkbox"/>				
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<p style="text-align: center;">Board Action Taken</p> <table style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">Approved</td> <td style="width: 20%;">Denied</td> <td style="width: 20%;">No Action</td> <td style="width: 20%;">Continued</td> <td style="width: 20%;">Continued to:</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>_____</td> </tr> </table>		Approved	Denied	No Action	Continued	Continued to:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Approved	Denied	No Action	Continued	Continued to:							
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<p>Approved with changes as follows: _____</p>											
Clerk's Notes											
Date:	Initial:										

REMINDER: Email this coversheet and all backup documentation to **BOS.Clerk** by **Noon the Tuesday before the BOS meeting.**

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Petrified Forest National Park



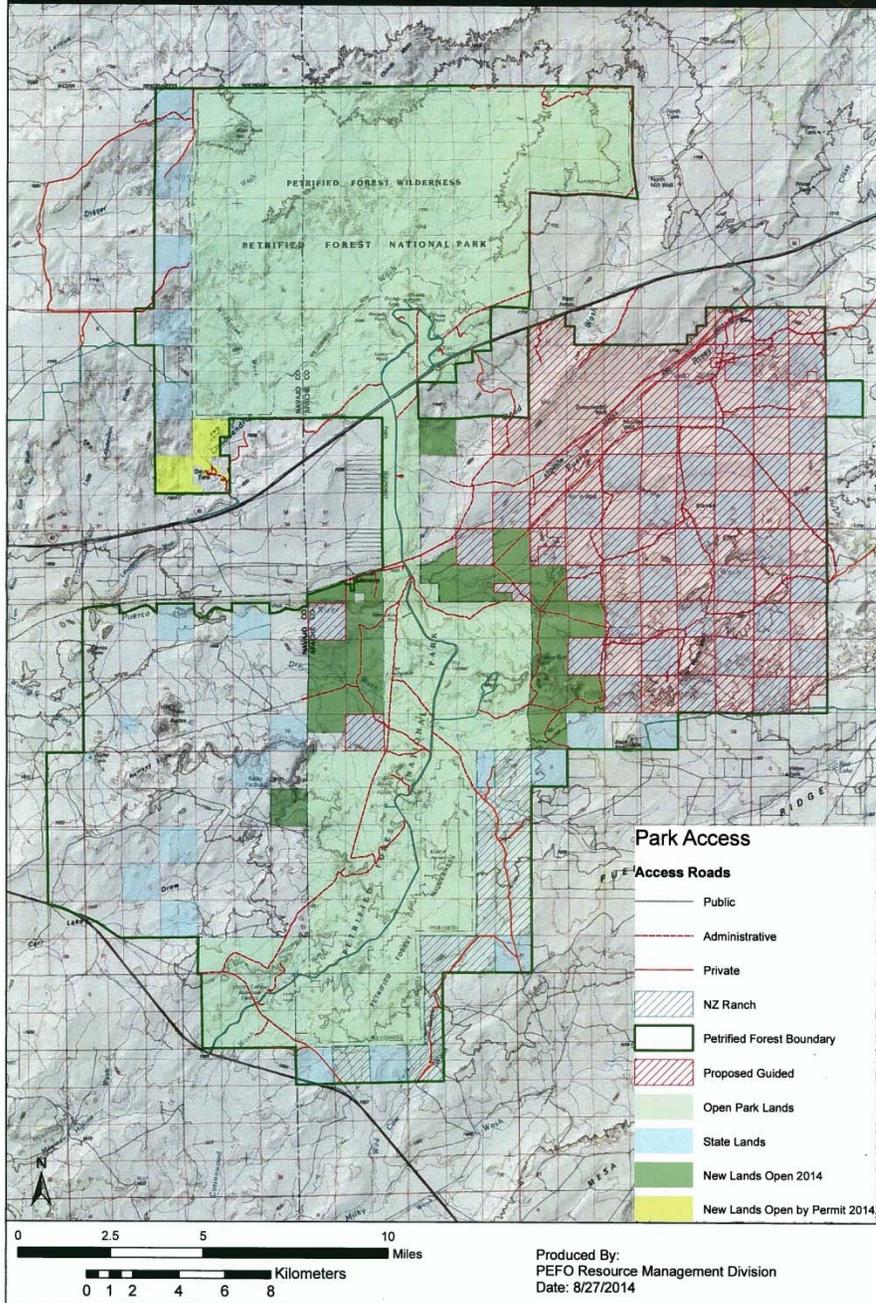
Petrified Forest Update

Navajo County – February 2015

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Land Access
Petrified Forest National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



- New lands opened in 2014
- Proposed area for guided only access – under discussion with State Lands
- Planning a few Field Institute classes in 2015 through PFMA

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Off the Beaten Path Hikes

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Petrified Forest National Park

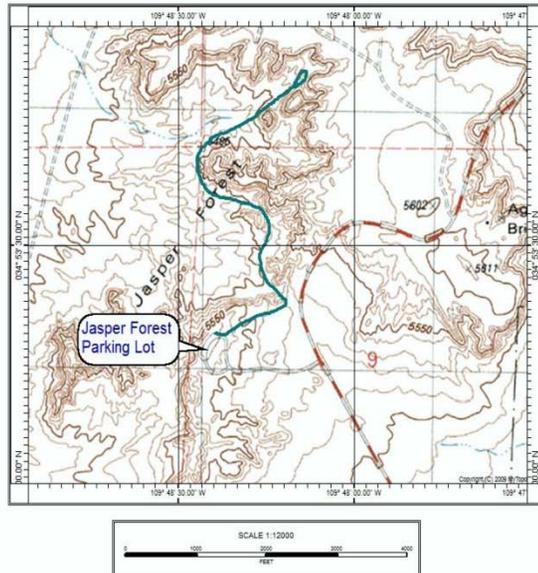


View from the Jasper Forest Overlook

Old Jasper Forest (First Forest) Road 2.5mi (4km)

This 2.5 mile round trip hike along the old 1930's road into Jasper Forest is a nice stroll through an incredible garden of petrified wood. This area was originally called the First Forest because it was the first collection of petrified wood that travelers encountered when they came by wagon from the Adamana train station one hundred years ago. The road was added for car traffic later. The road is mostly eroded away now but if you look carefully for the old gravel you can still follow it in most places.

Please respect the visitors who follow you and leave all petrified wood, fossils, artifacts, and natural objects in their places.



Enjoy your hike safely and protect the park

This walk, although not difficult or steep, does require sturdy shoes. The footing can be difficult at any time—the walk should not be attempted in wet conditions. Please take normal hiking precautions and bring food and water, sun protection, and navigation aids. Pack out whatever you packed in.

Park in the Jasper Forest overlook parking lot. From there walk towards the main road until the slope is less steep and it is safe to walk to the area below the overlook. Please don't walk in the Jasper Forest loop road because drivers may not be able to see you. The old 1930's road bed meets the current paved road and looks like a path of small round river rocks or brown cobbles.



View looking northwest

Jasper Forest is one of the largest deposits of petrified wood in the park. These petrified log segments were originally encased in the sandstone bluffs above the road, but thousands of years of erosion have sent them tumbling down into the valley.



petrified wood above and old road gravel in bottom right corner

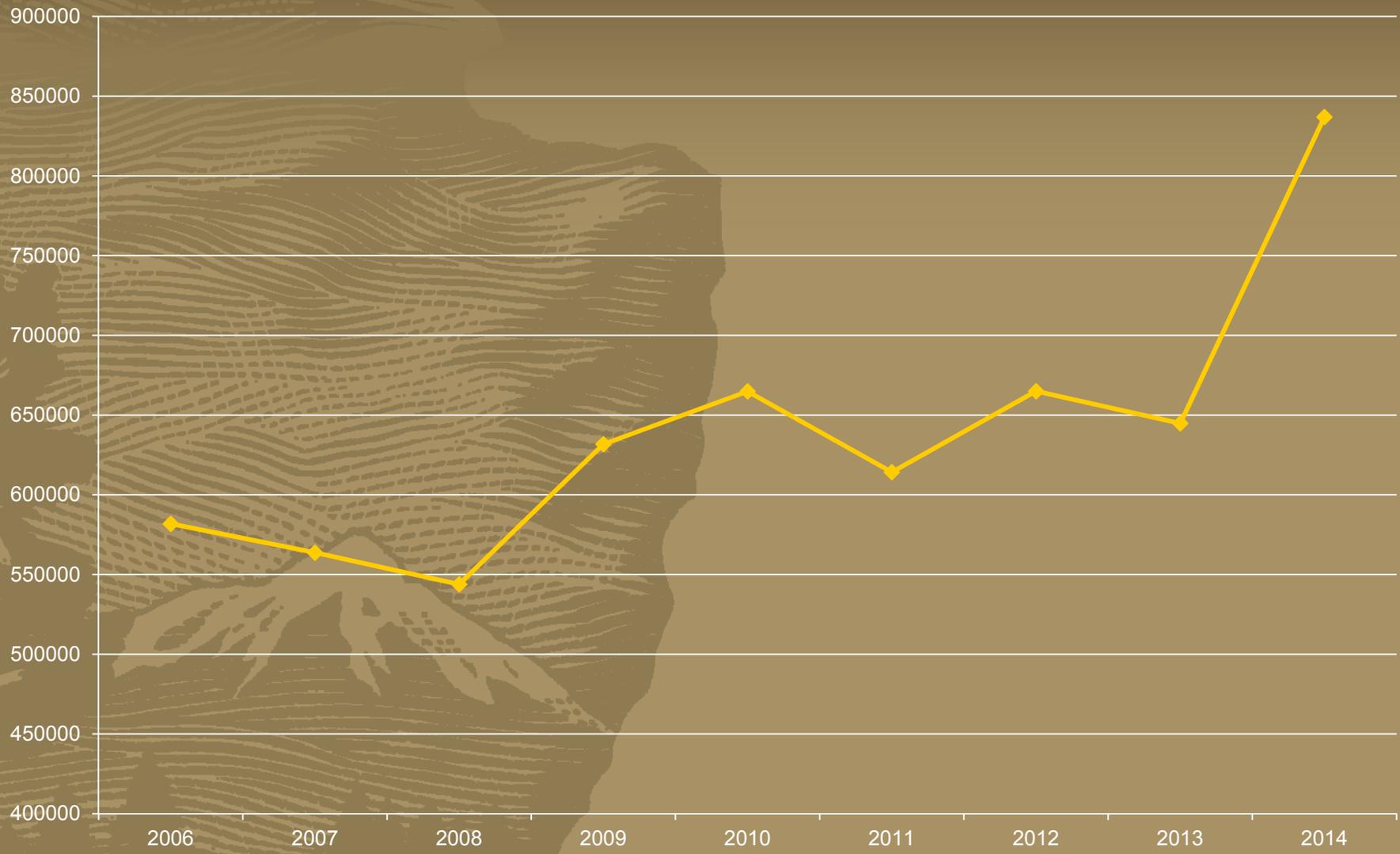
This gravel road you are following was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corp in the mid-1930s. The road was closed in November of 1965 and replaced by the upper road to the present parking lot and overlook. You can still see many of the original stone culverts lining the old roadbed where it crosses a wash.

The end of the road looped around a geological feature called Eagle Nest Rock. Unfortunately the feature fell in January 1941 after a period of unusually heavy rains. However, you can still see the base in the center of the loop.



Eagle Nest Rock then and now

Petrified Forest Visitation



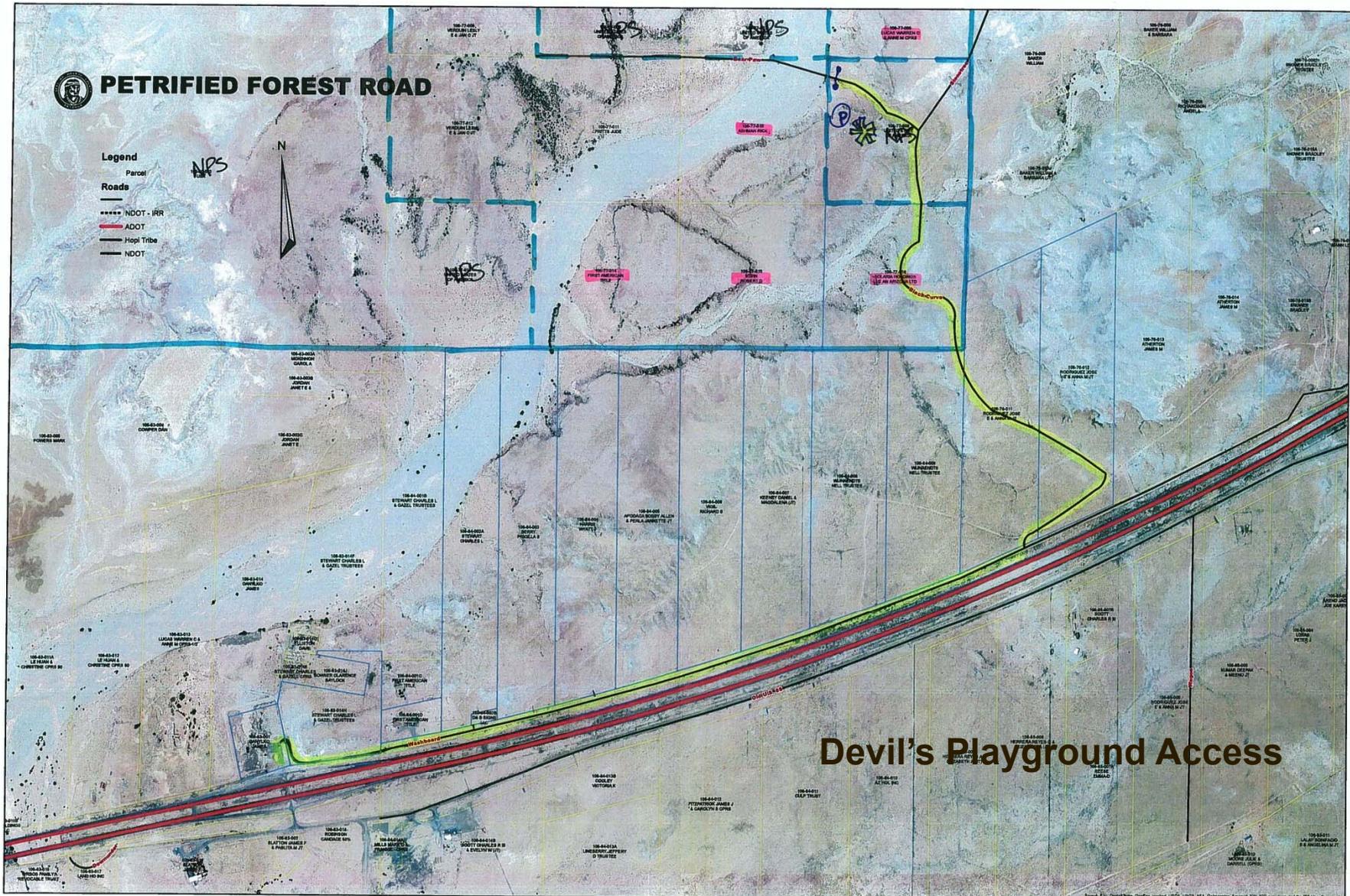
EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Visitation

- Largest numbers since 1995 – 836,919
- Largest single year increase since 1956
- Records set in October and December
- Causes –
 - Low fuel prices
 - Improving economy
 - Gov't shutdown previous year
 - Positive buzz about new opportunities in the park
- All causes except gov't shutdown comparison continue into 2015

Centennial Marketing Campaign

- Starting in spring of 2015, the National Park Foundation will begin a marketing campaign to raise awareness of the National Park system in advance of our 100th anniversary in 2016
- The campaign will continue through 2016
- We expect this will place parks front of mind for many people and encourage more visitors
- We, along with all other National Park units, will be holding special events and activities to celebrate the centennial – 100 days of Petrified Forest



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2014 Field Season





Paleontology

- Found an animal new to science, about 220 million years old – discovered that the same animal was recently found in Texas and Madagascar – all three scientists collaborating on a paper to describe it
- Found several new track sites
- Continued exploring a pond bottom with an estimated 80 different species of small reptiles, amphibians, and fish





Archeology

- Continued surveys of newly acquired lands – found over 80 sites on only 2000 acres, including two Basketmaker sites from BC1500 – AD750. This discovery was picked up by the national press.
- Sites ranging from early Archaic (BC7000 – 1500) to Pueblo IV (AD1350 – 1500) were found
- Recorded several additional rock art sites and developed a recording method

Visitor Facility Improvements

Accomplished
using
Entrance Fee
revenue



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Proposed Fee Increase

- Fees have been \$10 per car since 1997
- Proposed to increase to \$20 per car by next summer
- All parks across the country that charge fees are being asked to consider raising fees
- Fee revenues are used to improve visitor services
- At Petrified Forest, plans in the near term include:
 - Renovating both visitor centers
 - Producing a new park orientation movie
 - Consideration of a small campground



Comments on the Proposal

or on anything else

Brad Traver, Superintendent

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