



August 20, 2018

Mary B. Neumayr,
Chief of Staff, Council on Environmental Quality

Re: Implementation of Procedural Provisions of National Environmental Policy Act

***Submitted online at <https://www.regulations.gov/comment?D=CEQ-2018-0001-0001>*

Dear Ms. Neumayr:

On behalf of The Mountaineers' 13,000 members and tens of thousands of books customers, we respectfully submit comments on the Center of Environmental Quality (CEQ)'s Proposed Ruling on the Implementation of Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Founded in 1906, The Mountaineers is a nonprofit dedicated to helping people explore, conserve, learn about, and enjoy the lands and waters of the Pacific Northwest and beyond. With 12,500 members, our community offers thousands of volunteer-led courses, activities, and events each year that connect people to the outdoors. The Mountaineers' conservation advocacy program is Washington's leading voice for protecting the outdoor experience and conserving the wild places where we play. Mountaineers youth programs provide over 6,000 opportunities each year for children to get outside. Mountaineers Books expands our passion for the outdoors internationally through award-winning instructional guides, adventure narratives, and conservation photography. We are a passionate, engaged, and knowledgeable community that cares about the outdoors and protecting the outdoor experience for current and future generations.

We believe in all American's right to public process on how public lands are managed. One of the most significant ways we are ensured this input is through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

We support NEPA for the process it provides the public for input on public lands management. We support current CEQ NEPA regulations that require agency response to public input as currently outlined in NEPA, as well as current processes that require agencies to assess likely environmental outcomes of both a proposed project and possibly better environmental outcomes. Current CEQ NEPA regulations ensure that the public is given the opportunity to participate in decisions that impact their lives and that government agencies take a hard look at the environmental and public health impacts of proposed actions as a basis for making informed decisions. Current regulations provide ample flexibility and a wide array of tools to meet the goal of high quality, efficient, and timely reviews.

Our members and books readers make up part of our nation's outdoor recreation economy. The outdoor recreation industry, as well as educational organizations like The Mountaineers, depend on beautiful, healthy public lands to experience and adventure in. We believe NEPA as it stands is an integral tool to ensuring that multi-uses management on federal public lands is effectively managed, so that recreation and conservation can be maintained alongside of other uses.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of current CEQ NEPA regulations.



The
Mountaineers

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Sincerely,

Katherine Hollis
Conservation and Advocacy Director, The Mountaineers