

Old Spanish Trail lawsuit plaintiffs

PEER is a national nonprofit that works with and for current and former government employees to promote an honest and open government and help hold governmental agencies accountable for faithfully implementing and enforcing the environmental laws entrusted to them by Congress. PEER has commented on ten federal land use proposals affecting the Old Spanish Trail, noting their deleterious effects on the Trail, the problematic absence of a Comprehensive Management Plan, and the failure to comply with agency guidance policies designed to implement the National Trails System Act.

THE COALITION TO PROTECT AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS is a nonprofit that informs and educates the public, the media, NGOs, elected officials, and governmental agencies about issues related to the National Park Service and System. Its over 3,000 membership is composed of current, former, and retired NPS employees and volunteers, with over 50,000 collective years of stewardship of America's most precious natural and cultural resources. The Old Spanish Trail passes through Great Sand Dunes National Park, Curecanti National Recreation Area, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Pipe Spring National Monument, and Mojave National Preserve, and it is immediately adjacent to Arches National Park and Castle Mountains National Monument. Ad-hoc land use permitting has resulted in the loss of valuable natural and cultural resources in many places along the Old Spanish Trail and over the years, the Coalition has invested approximately 240 hours reviewing and commenting on proposals by the federal government that pose potential threats to the Trail.

BASIN AND RANGE WATCH is a Nevada-based nonprofit that works to conserve the deserts of Nevada and California, help local communities, and educate the public about the diversity of life, culture, and history of the ecosystems and wild lands of the desert. The Old Spanish Trail runs through the area that is the focus of Basin and Range Watch, and the organization has witnessed several actions over the years that have negatively impacted the Trail, including a solar project that completely wiped out a segment of roughly three miles. Basin and Range Watch has commented on several land use proposals including on their negative impacts to the Old Spanish Trail.

JOHN HISCOCK is a retired employee of the National Park Service who served for over thirty-eight years total, including for twenty-one years as Superintendent of Pipe Spring National Monument, which the Old Spanish Trail crosses. He is a long time and regular user of the Trail and an avid student of its history. Plaintiff Hiscock has advocated for the Old Spanish Trail for decades, including by drafting numerous public comments on federal planning and actions under NEPA and the National Historic Preservation Act and by

coordinating unified comments among groups such as PEER and various trail advocacy groups. In his personal capacity and in concert with the Old Spanish Trail Association, he has filed thirty-eight comment letters, protests, and appeals of agency actions that would adversely impact Old Spanish Trail resources, values, and landscapes. Plaintiff Hiscock has personally witnessed harms to the Old Spanish Trail stemming from the lack of a comprehensive management plan and right-of-way, such as oil and gas leasing, solar development, vegetative habitat manipulation, and mining activities. Plaintiff Hiscock also served as Manager of the nonprofit group Old Spanish Trail Association for three years (2015-2018), is a life member of that organization, and served as a member of its stewardship committee from 2015-2023.

MARK FRANKLIN is a long-time user of the Old Spanish Trail and a former National Park Service Park Ranger at Bryce Canyon National Park, North Cascades National Park and New River Gorge National River. He also worked for BLM in El Malpais National Monument. As a graphic designer, he developed extensive experience creating interpretive signage and wayside exhibits for federal land management agencies and partnership organizations. He regularly attends conferences about the Old Spanish Trail and has participated in countless training hours, stewardship training, and mapping workshops with historians and experts regarding certain segments of the Trail. He has submitted public comments as a concerned citizen on land use proposal affecting the Trail, including a proposal that ultimately resulted in the flooding of an area of the Trail when BLM created Lake Nighthorse in Southern Colorado. Additionally, he is a lifetime member of the Old Spanish Trail Association where he served as Treasurer for eleven years, Colorado Director for four years, Vice President for four years, and Retail Sales Manager for twelve years.