

Table Mesa Recreation Plan

Public Meeting #1

*Deer Valley Community Center, 2001 W. Wahalla Lane, Phoenix
Tuesday November 18, 2008 6:30-8:30 pm*

Approximately 140 participants arrived at the meeting and were asked to sign in, pick up a handout and comment form, and asked how they heard about the meeting. The following information was provided:

How did you hear of this meeting?

- A15 Forum on net
- Flyer at Dylan
- Postcard
- Mailing
- Friend
- National Rifle Association
- Arizona Shooting website
- Arizona Game & Fish
- Jeep Club
- BLM Cleanup Day
- Online
- ILA Tour Alert
- email
- Shooters
- Arizona Trail Riders
- Arizona Virtual Jeep Club
- Arizona State Association of 4 Wheel Drive Clubs email
- Flyer at Table Mesa Road
- Property Owner
- AAR
- Postcard
- OHV
- OHVC
- Personal Communication
- Steve

Steve Cohn, Field Manager for BLM, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Steve introduced the project team and began a presentation for the group. He then introduced Tom Bickauskas who provided information from the RMP process. Teresa Makinen then facilitated a series of questions and discussions from the group as follows:

How do you currently use or recreate in the area?

- Equestrian – 7
- Ranchers – 3
- Hikers – 10
- campers – 30
- Shooters – 60
- Rock Crawlers – 50
- Property Owners – 7
- Mountain Bikers – 8
- Fishing access – 12
- Hunters – 29
- ATV'ers – 14
- Dirt Bikers – 12
- Tourists – 12
- Prospectors – 4

How many times per year do you visit this area?

- 1 time per year – 4
- 2 times per year – 1
- 5 times per year – 13
- 12 times per year – 40
- 2 times per month – 25
- More than 30 times per year – 23

What time of the year do you use this area?

- A majority of the participants stated they use the area year round.
- Seasonally in cool months – 10

Do you support multi-use trails for both motorized and non-motorized uses?

- Five participants said that there could be some sharing of trail where there is the opportunity and where there were limitations due to geography.

Do you think there should be areas where shooting activities are encouraged?

- A majority of the participants stated yes.
- There should be some monitoring of shooting activities.
- There is now target shooting in unsafe areas.
- What are the number of shooting mishaps in the area?

Should there be places where shooting should be discouraged?

- A majority of the participants stated yes.

What kind of facilities would you like to see in this area?

- Restrooms
- Trash Cans
- Parking
- Dirt parking for trailers
- An enforcement location
- Signage
- Water stations for horses
- Day use areas
- Picnic areas
- Motorized areas
- Non-motorized areas
- Different access points
- Equestrian watering stations

What types of things do you not want to see in area?

- Trash

What are your thoughts or ideas on funding for this area?

- Mountain Bike competitions
- Congressional bailout
- Rock Crawling competitions
- Non-motorized competitive sports
- Group sponsored events
- Seasonal birding
- Western shootouts
- User fees
- Fines for littering
- There should be a deposit taken for specific area usage to ensure area clean up. Deposit would not be refunded if area not left clean.
- Adopt-a-Trail
- Adopt-a-Staging area
- Grants
- Non-competitive events – one participant pointed out the RMP said no competitive events.
- OHV Bill grants
- Access to gas tax
- Designated lottery funds

General Comments and Questions:

- Do not take the city to this area.
- Who is going to pay for facilities?
- Clean up of trash in area the most important issue at this time.
- User fees should be "reasonable."
- Safe shooting is a primary goal.
- Need additional access to 4x4 areas.
- Need camp sites near shooting areas.
- Need improved roads for cars.
- Maintain access to Tip Top Mine.
- Need fines for enforcement.
- Encourage volunteerism.
- Existing routes need to be identified in area.
- Existing routes need to stay motorized.
- Need for loop routes.
- Need for more access points.
- Portions of current Black Canyon Trail need to be multi-use.
- Shooting needs to be away from developed areas.
- Need for Doe Peak area trails.
- Maintain northern area for motorized use.
- No facilities – Pack in / Pack out.
- Need for more access to southern area.
- Southern area more conducive to shooting.
- Need an RV / large trailer camping area.
- Need a group camping area.
- Dumpsters should be limited to designated shooting areas.

- The river should be bridged to protect it.
- Shooting should be controlled.
- Access should be maintained to Table Mesa trail head.
- Create a back way to access Lake Pleasant. shooting
- OHV and horse trails should be separate.
- Where are safe shooting zones?
- Single track motorized trail should be in southern area.
- We need to work together to make this work.
- Phoenix is too close to leave area uncontrolled.
- Need for drive up shooting areas.
- Need for loops to road and parking areas.
- One way trails are needed.
- Need for access to Moore Gulch.
- Need for shooting backstops.
- Can excavate disturbed areas to create shooting backstops.
- Need better access to check targets.
- Need inventory of known trails.
- Need to know which trails are to be closed.
- Need for trail usage rotation.
- How long will this plan last when put into effect?
- Do not want to be limited to existing trails.
- Campgrounds on level places away from shooting.
- Some against additional facilities.
- Do not close trails.
- Signage will help all users get along together.
- Need for a gatekeeper and/or limiter.
- Need for mapped connectivity.
- No road / trails closed that are now on map.
- There are responsible people who use this area.
- A shooting campground would be a great funding source.
- Need for concentrated shooting area.
- Need to discourage shooting in OHV areas.
- Has any of the area agencies seen *Coyote* or drug trafficking activities?
- This effort is moving the city to the desert.
- A large percentage of shooters leave trash in area.
- The cart is ahead of the horse: Enforce current laws.
- Online BLM calendar should enable groups to schedule cleanup days so other from outside that group could join their cleanup efforts.
- What are the agencies that have law enforcement jurisdiction in the area?
- How do you know who to call when there is shooting across the Right of Way?
- Need signs with jurisdictional agency emergency contact numbers.
- Need strategy so signs do not get shot up.
- Most important thing in area is safety.

The group then participated in a map exercise to identify where trails, staging and parking areas, etc. should be placed in the Table Mesa Recreation Plan Area. Each group briefed out to the larger group regarding their discussions and decisions and provided the map and notes to BLM. Teresa thanked the participants for their time and turned the meeting over to Steve Cohn for closing comments.

Steve Cohn thanked the participants and explained that this is the first step in the process and we are considering assembling an ongoing stakeholder group to work through this information and with BLM for planning the area. The meeting ended.