

Table Mesa Recreation Plan

Public Meeting #2

**Anthem Community Center, 41130 N. Freedom Way, Phoenix
Thursday November 20, 2008 6:30-8:00 pm**

Approximately 60 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?

- Arizona Virtual Jeep Club
- BLM Flyer
- Friend
- Arizona Classic Jeep Tour
- National Rifle association email
- Mailer
- Internet
- Friends Of Agua Fria National Monument
- email
- zuksofarizona.com
- Black Canyon Trail Coalition
- Postcard
- BLM website
- Arizona Game and Fish website
- Big Bug News

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?

- Shooters – 22
- Equestrians – 8
- Rock Crawlers – 6
- Mountain Bikers – 2
- Cultural (sacred and traditional) – 1
- Archaeological site stewards – 5
- ATV'ers – 16
- Campers – 7
- Hikers – 3
- Gold panners – 9
- Geo-cachers – 1
- Cattle ranchers – 2
- 4x4'ers – 29
- Jeep tours – 3
- Concessionaires – 1
- Hunters – 15
- Accessing Lake Pleasant – 11

How many times per year do you visit this area?

- 1 time per year – 1
- 12 times per year – 17
- 2 times per month – 9
- More than 50 times per year – 12

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 – 9

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

- Yes
- Some trails could be joint usage trails because of volume of traffic.
- Horses get spooked.
- Non-motorized uses do not need a trail.
- Need for compatible uses.

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

- Yes
- Need for open range shooting during hunting season.

Should there be places where shooting should be discouraged?

- There should be places to both encourage and discourage shooting.

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

- Landing zone (LZ) for Air Posse
- Cell site / tower for emergency services
- Signage for hunters
- Large dirt parking lot for large trailers
- Dumpsters at parking areas that encourage use
- Strict enforcement on trash
- More road maintenance
- Maricopa County Sheriff's Office sub-station
- More law enforcement

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

- Any type of pavement
- Any type of lighting
- Do not want to see any kind of facilities developed – leave it like it is
- Accessibility
- Everything on the list [above]

What are your ideas on funding for this area?

- Trash enforcement fines going back to law enforcement
- Events
- Dumping fines
- Volunteer workers from differing trades offering their service for maintenance and upkeep of area and facilities
- OHV sticker monies
- Voluntary donation box
- Entrance fee
- User fees
- Nominal permit fee "if enforced"
- Do not build facilities
- Stewardship opportunities
- Volunteerism
- ATV usage fee to add to license
- Special shooting stamp fee
- Fines in area stay in area
- Enforce permit requirement

General Comments and Questions:

- Need for warning signs at motorized / non-motorized trail crossings.
- Shooting occurs along side of washes.
- People are riding in washes.
- People cannot tell if wash is part of trail or when trail diverges from wash.
- Need for signage as motorized and non-motorized users get lost easily.
- There are dust issues with motorized users.
- Not everyone uses common sense.
- Lack of common sense is disturbing.
- Need safe areas to shoot.
- Need areas to shoot away from trails.
- Need for signage related to shooting activities.
- More patrolling rangers.
- More patrols by rangers.
- Need for the enforcement of rules / laws.
- As accessibility to area has increased so has trash.
- There should be some type of educational effort in schools as to proper usage of desert areas.
- Off trail users running into shooting areas.
- Dumping = Disrespect.
- More people with more facilities will require more funding.
- Gatekeeper inspector to see that what goes in comes out (i.e. trash such as microwaves).
- If there is an entry station freedom will be given up and regulated.
- Concerns with ownership of Rock Springs.
- Concerns with private land access to public lands.
- Concerns with neighbor complaints about shooters on BLM lands.

- Will a process similar to this Table Mesa recreational Plan be coming to the Bumble Bee area?
- It is common courtesy to pick up your trash.
- Need for parking access.
- The road is very rough to access BLM lands.
- Loop trails should be added.
- Stacked system of trails where some trail would be more difficult than others.
- Need for mountain bike trails.
- Shells from shooters damage the environment.
- People need to pick up spent shot and shells.
- Marked trail crossings.
- Marked trail heads.
- Landing Zone area for shooting.
- At this time shooting area undefined.
- Need for camping areas.
- Need for rock climbing areas.
- The Landing Zone should be close to activity areas.
- Will there be residential development in private property areas?
- Need for motorized points of access.
- Need to separate motorized and non-motorized uses.
- Need for a gold panning area at the Agua Fria river.
- Do not reduce amount of trails.
- Need to open cut off trails.
- Need to open back road to Crown King.
- Table Mesa area trash needs to be cleaned up.
- Area needs to be kept the way it is today only cleaned up.
- Local shooting spots need to be saved.
- There needs to be fines for sign shooting.
- Why is off road motorized game hunting prohibited? Especially, for the disabled?
- Create a Friends of Table Mesa group.
- 20+ people indicated they were interested in forming a stakeholders steering group.

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.