

Arizona Strip Cooperators and Federal agency planning Meeting
June 10, 2004 10:05 a.m.-4:00 a.m.
Riverside Drive Conference Room

Meeting objectives:

1. Provide information on selection of the Preferred Alternatives.
2. Review and provide input on Chapter 2: Alternative tables and maps.
3. Review and provide input on Chapter 3: Affected Environment

Review meeting ground rules as established by previous meetings.

Meeting attendee's introductions

April 16, 2004 meeting minutes

AGF Luke Thompson suggested we include more language regarding "Areas managed for wilderness characteristics" which would reflect discussions made at that time. Mr. Thompson motioned to approve the minutes with the added wording which Diana will insert, seconded by Brent Mackelprang of Fredonia, all in favor. **M/S/C**

Overview of Schedule, upcoming briefings, Implementation of Travel Management Plan (information) and MOU Status

Diana gave an overview of the planning schedule and explained that much work is ongoing on the draft documents. She explained that July 16th is the deadline for the document to have internal review completed and to be sent to the printer by August 20, 2004. She reminded everyone that this document is a draft and comments will continue to be taken throughout this whole process. This document will go out for public review and the public hearing process around the end of September. The NOA (Notice of Availability) needs to be reviewed by the Washington D.C. office before being published. This process may be delayed due to upcoming political elections. Our next meeting is scheduled for September; we might propose to meet in August instead.

Our office has requested funding in FY 2005 and beyond for completing and implementing the route evaluation process, inventories and Cooperating agencies may want to participate with in-kind contributions. Review these proposed budgets and get back to Diana on whether you would like to participate, let us know if these numbers and your participation shown is all right. This would be a multi-year project to implement the transportation plan. Mr. Luke Thompson requested this information be sent to his office for their consideration in participating.

There are 5 Cooperating Agency Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) documents that have been completed and signed. These are from the Kaibab Paiute Tribe, Washington County, Kane County, Coconino County, and the town of Fredonia. The

Fish and Game will check on the status of their MOU. Please get these signed and sent to us, if you haven't.

Selection of the Preferred Alternative (information)

The selections made were by using a modified version of Choosing by Advantages. In April, we used a National Park Service facilitator who helped us look at each planning area separately. We devoted one day for each planning area using GIS maps and information. With this information and the help of the staff, the managers made their decisions on a Preferred Alternative. As part of this decision making process, we asked these questions: (Guiding Principles) does it protect habitat? How will it affect local communities? Will it accommodate scientific research? What are the appropriate ranges of uses? What gives us the greatest advantages? Next we need to do impact analysis, using the alternative decision tables and looking at specific decisions and begin to write Chapter 4, Environmental Consequences. At the bottom of page 9 of the text for Chapter 2 sent to you, these alternatives were considered but rejected with the big one regarding additional areas considered for wilderness. Because of the Utah settlement on wilderness no new wilderness study areas can be recommended in planning. The next item was livestock grazing. Some public comments recommended that livestock grazing be eliminated completely, we did not do this because livestock grazing is to continue under the Proclamations and so we would not meet our purpose and need if we did so. We are recommending closing some pastures because of resource conditions (Desert tortoise) or uses. Brent Mackelprang of the town of Fredonia expressed his concern that other ranchers should have the right to purchase available permits as they become available and that the government not be allowed to withdraw any allotments from grazing.

Chapter 2 Alternatives: tables and maps (information, discussion, input)

Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument Management Unit – Dennis Curtis & Darla Sidles

Based on the route evaluation/designation process, they are looking at Alternative B on the southern end of the monument, Alternative C for the middle section. OHV designations and definitions were handed out.

Management Units/Routes: There were discussions on the air strips, visual resource management, and managing for wilderness characteristics.

Managed for Wilderness Characteristics: Mark Habbeshaw, Kane County Commissioner expressed his concern with government agencies having land available that doesn't allow grazing or uses on it. He asked the question of how does on the ground management differ in these areas? What is the legality for these areas? Robert Price of the AGFD was concerned about the big horn sheep and how much of the GCPNM are high quality big horn management locations. He made specific recommendations on some of the decisions.

Recreation: There is the concern for areas disturbed for camping, however it was explained that in the Proclamation you cannot go off roads for any reason. In fact, in the

last Arizona Strip BLM plan from 1992, people were restricted to existing roads and trails. There was some discussion on antler collecting.

Grazing: Standards and Guides will continue past the planning. There was discussion on the Tuweep allotment and the need for it to be used primarily for scientific research and for a grass bank. Acquisition of all state lands with the GCPNM was also discussed.

Restoration: Dennis reminded everyone that this is a rough draft and asked for comments.

Vermilion Cliffs National Monument Management Unit – Becky Hammond

In this section and the one following on Public Domain, the alternative tables were referred to and comments and edits made directly to these tables, not in the minutes.

Management Units/Routes: There was discussion regarding administrative roads and their designation, language used when referencing Arizona state laws .

Areas Managed for Wilderness Characteristics: Lorraine Christian of the Kanab BLM field office suggested clarification when referencing the parts of the wilderness management plan in Utah or Arizona, use of stronger language on page 18 to restore or augment. There was a question on what kind of poison to be used to kill the tamarisks.

Recreation: Ila Bullets of the Kaibab Paiute tribe expressed her concern on monitors, and the need to keep up the public use sites.

Public Domain – Mike Herder

Comments made directly onto the Alternative tables for this section.

Management Units/Routes:

Areas Managed for Wilderness Characteristics:

Recreation:

Grazing:

Areas of Critical Environment Concern:

Chapter 3: Affected Environment discussion

Time for discussion on any edits or comments on Chapter 3, Affected Environment. Sue Pratt of Coconino County expressed her concern regarding land disposals. Brent Mackelprang of the town of Fredonia stated that the government needs to work in balance with local governments, particularly regarding taxes to insure local governments receive opportunities for a tax base. Air quality section needs to be clarified, Phoenix does not provide pollution to the eastern Arizona Strip. All the pollution is coming from LA and Las Vegas and a study done in the past confirms this. He had other concerns about soils, particularly where we state that livestock grazing is causing soil compaction, and concerns about trampling. He stated that vehicle use is by far causing more soil compaction than cattle grazing ever will. He further reminded us that “the condor cannot affect anything on the monuments!” It is an experimental population only. Luke Thompson of the AGF referred to the Socio economic section and that hunting and guiding was not shown. Alan Gardner of Washington County Commissioners reminded

us to just look at the Arizona strip, not Washington County. Such as in the area of tourism, it is not the same on the Strip as it is in Washington County so the statistics would be very different. Diana interjected that the population and economic data must come from the communities, we recognized this early on and therefore, acquired community data rather than just county data. Alan said that ranching is the only economic activity on the Strip away from the local communities. We needed to look away from the communities.

Diana reminded everyone to review Chapter 3 and get her any comments as soon as possible.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held after the draft is completed but before it goes out to the public which will be on August 5, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. in the Riverside Drive office.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Attendees:

Diana Hawks	AZ Strip BLM	diana_hawks@blm.gov	435-688-3266
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Dennis Curtis	BLM Parashant NM	dennis_curtis@blm.gov	435-688-3202
Roger Taylor	AZ Strip BLM	roger_taylor@blm.gov	435-688-3301
Mark Habbeshaw	Kane County Commission	markh@kanab.net	435-644-3158
Chris Ballard	Mohave County	Christine.ballard@co.mohave.az.us	928-757-0903
Luke Thompson	AZgame and Fish	(b) (6)	435 574-2978
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David Boyd	AZ Strip BLM	David_Boyd@blm.gov	(435) 688-3303
Noel Logan	BLM- GSENM	Wilford_Logan@blm.gov	
Brent Mackleprang	Town of Fredonia	BrentM@fredonia.net	
Mike Herder	AZ Strip BLM	Michael_Herder@blm.gov	(435) 688-3239
Oliver Barlow	Colorado City	oliver@color-country.net	
Sue Pratt	Coconino County	spratt@co.coconino.az.us	
Robert Price	AZ Game and Fish	(b) (6)	
Hilary Boyd	Az Strip BLM	hilary-boyd@blm.gov	
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Lorraine Christian	Kanab BLM FO	l_christian@blm.clm	435 644-4603
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William Dickeinson	NPS-Lake Mead		