

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Kingman Field Office is proposing to realign portions of the Twenty-six Wash Trail in Mount Tipton Wilderness and Wabayuma Peak Trail in Wabayuma Peak Wilderness. BLM is asking for input for this proposed project. The deadline for comments is Monday, March 16, 2012.

Comments can be mailed to the Kingman Field Office at 2755 Mission Boulevard, Kingman, Arizona, 86401, or emailed to rmccoy@blm.gov. For questions regarding this proposed project, please contact Ramone McCoy at 928-718-3722.

Wabayuma Peak and Mount Tipton areas were designated as Wilderness with the passage of the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990. The Wabayuma Peak and Mount Tipton Wilderness Management Plan Environmental Assessment and Decision Record (WMP) was completed August 1995 establishing the existing Twenty-six Wash Trail and Wabayuma Trail as designated trails. Since then, trail degradation has occurred on steep sections of the trail due to rainwater erosion and horse traffic. If approved, the proposed actions will allow for reconstruction of portions of these trails in more environmentally benign locations in the same vicinity and rehabilitation of the current existing sections of the trails.

The trails would be constructed to BLM standards, which includes a tread outslope of 1-2 percent, a sustained 2-3 foot wide level trail surface at a maximum grade of 10 percent with pitches of up to 15 percent, and a maximum sustained grade of 10 percent. Ideally, the grade would be 8 percent or less to reduced soil erosion.

All viable cacti would be transplanted using hand tools. All removed vegetation would be hand carried and dispersed in a mosaic pattern so as to not draw attention. No slash piles would be stacked. Boulders would be moved using hand tools or winches/come-alongs/grip hoists. Boulders would not be allowed to roll down the hill.

The proposed realignment areas of Twenty-six Wash Trail are marked in **green**. The adjacent portions of the trail are highly eroded and have slopes up to 40% in grade. There is insufficient area adjacent to the existing trail to provide switchbacks to ease the grade and reduce potential for erosion.

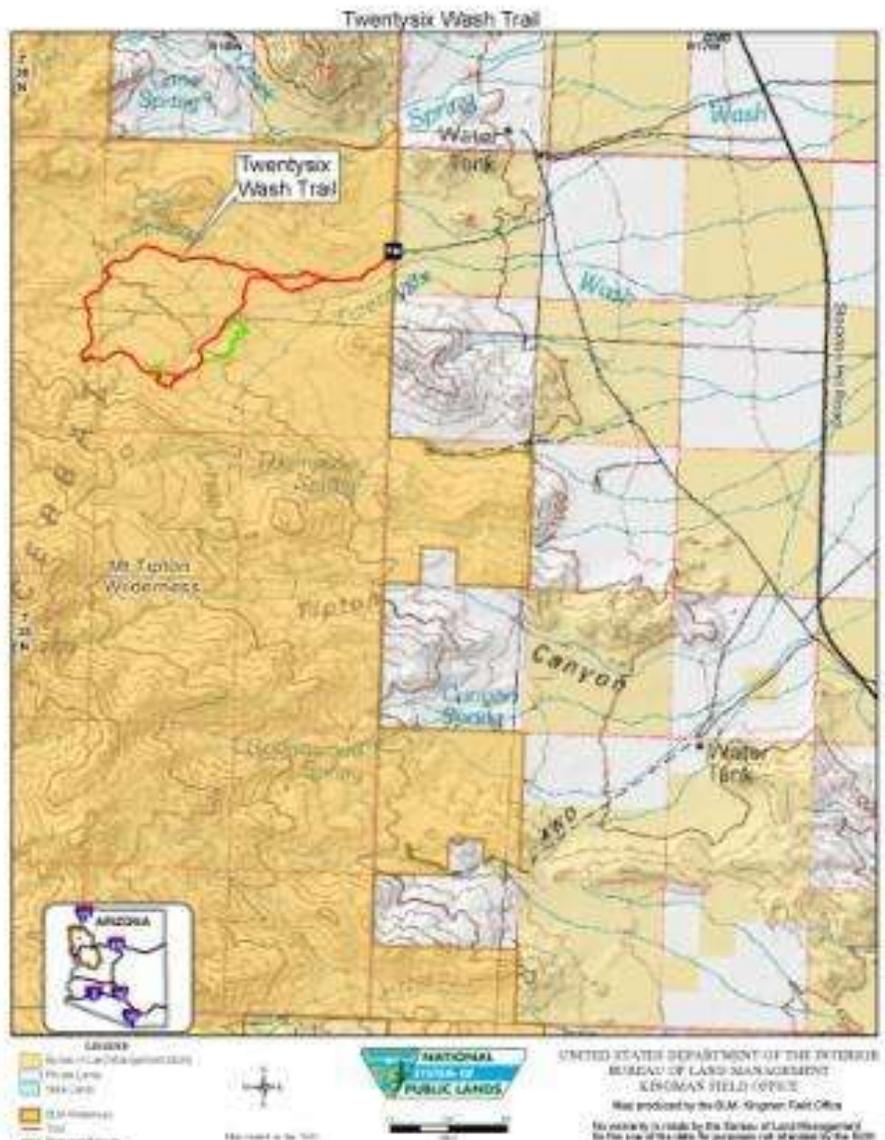


Figure 1 Twenty-six Wash Trail in Mount Tipton Wilderness Realignment

The proposed realignment area for Wabayuma Peak Trail would be for the last 0.25 miles at the upper end of the trail.

The maintenance of the trails would consist of clearing of the pathway involving brush trimming and removal by means of dispersal. The brush clearing would be on both sides of the trail and up to two feet from the center of the trail. Maintenance of the trail drainages include the cleaning and repairing of structures, under-drains, water bars, grade dips and drainage ditches.

Maintenance of the trail tread includes grading tread, removal of slough and slide material with rakes, and surface replacement with similar material. All trail work would be accomplished with hand tools.

Similar maintenance activity would recur on these trails on a periodic basis.

Conservation or Youth Corps, five to eight members per crew, would conduct the project work. The crews would camp at the Pine Flat area for one to two weeks for the Wabayuma Peak Trail construction and maintenance project. The crews would camp at the wilderness access point for one to three weeks for the Twenty-six Wash Trail construction and maintenance project. The crews would practice “Leave No Trace” ethics at their campsites and at the project sites. The crews would be requested to wash off their vehicles and tires prior to departing their home base of operation to prevent transportation and spread of weeds into the field.

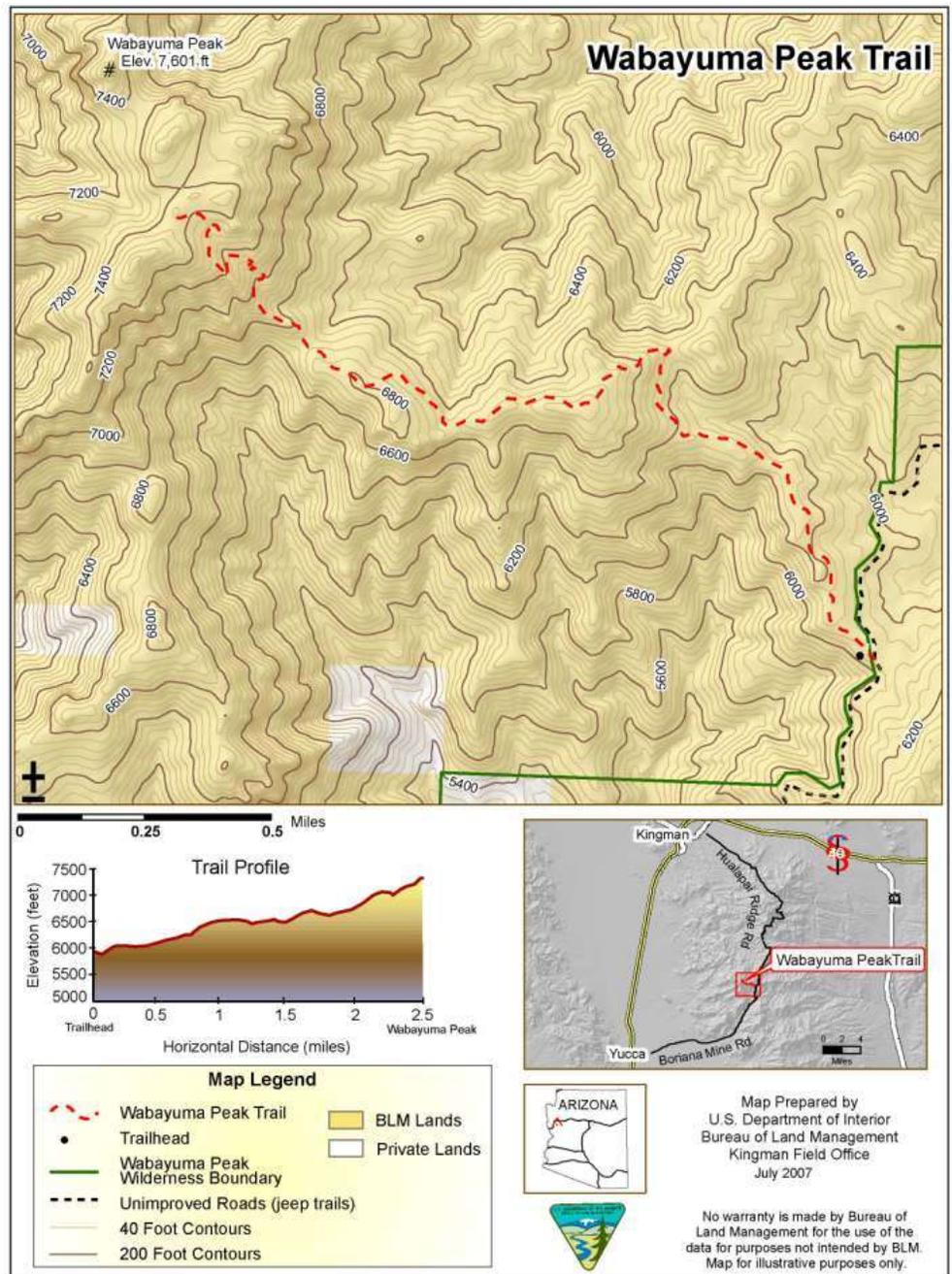


Figure 2 Wabayuma Peak Trail in Wabayuma Wilderness Area Realignment