

Wickenburg Community Trails Master Plan Description of Alternatives

The Wickenburg Community Trails Master Plan area includes roads and trails surrounding the Town of Wickenburg, Arizona. The planning area is defined in detail by the Wickenburg Community Recreation Management Zone (RMZ), Vulture Mine RMZ, Red Top Trails RMZ and The Box RMZ. These areas are part of the Hassayampa Special Recreation Management Area and are allocated in the overarching planning document for this area, the Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan (RMP). The area between Vulture Mine road and the Hassayampa River inside the Wickenburg Community RMZ will be co-managed through a Cooperative Recreation Management Area Agreement between the BLM and Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department (MCPRD). Select areas west of Vulture Mine Road south of Wickenburg may be co-managed as well. The action alternatives vary in how they would meet the goals of the RMP, MCPRD and the Town of Wickenburg. Roads and trails surrounding the town of Wickenburg will be connected to a trail system being planned by the Town concurrently. It is the goal of BLM to craft a travel system that integrates with Wickenburg.

The alternative maps are summarized as follows:

No Action alternative:

The intent of this alternative is to show the current management without implementing the actions contained in the Bradshaw-Harquahala RMP. All of the existing roads and trails would remain open and have signs installed for navigation, however, they would not be managed for specific uses. No new trails would be proposed. Access across private and state land would be unmanaged.

Alternative 1:

This alternative is an action alternative that would implement the Management Actions found in the Bradshaw-Harquahala RMP. Access to existing trails and proposed trails would be maximized. Resource conditions, including Desert Tortoise, would require mitigation to comply with BLM policy and achieve desired resource conditions. Public submissions of trails are included in this alternative.

Alternative 2:

This alternative is an action alternative that would implement the Management Actions, similar to Alternative 1, however, desired resource conditions would be met through closing many existing roads and trails. A significant change from the No Action alternative is that desert washes would be targeted for closure, having a significant effect on network connectivity. Large areas of habitat would have primitive roads closed.

Agency Preferred Alternative:

This alternative attempts to create the most balanced travel system, considering all interests, while implementing the RMP. Motorized and non-motorized uses are separated in areas where interactions are expected to be highest, seeking to maximize user experiences and minimize use conflicts. Access across non-BLM lands would be managed by seeking necessary permissions or agreements. Mitigation for new roads and trails would be achieved through closure of existing primitive roads.