

Summary of DENCA Advisory Council Recommendations on Zone 1

Pulled from notes of meeting on May 4, 2011

Input on demands that exist in this area/Range of alternatives should provide for:

- Community Connection Trail: A community trail is important to local economies, and should be multi-use
 - Already exists except at Wells Gulch—action needed is largely just putting segments together and designating it
- Old Spanish Trail—protect sections of trail that are still visible but give people the experience of the Old Spanish Trail. Consider interpretive displays, but maybe along the road or along jeep roads
- This zone is one where it may be important to protect other uses (more than recreation).
- Counterpoint:
 - Terry—There will be demand for use here, as the zone closest to a population center and most people have access;
 - Bill-Front Country recreation (here, Escalante Canyon, Cactus Park) but note that this level of development helps manage the impacts of recreation
 - Mike and Terry—Recreation activity is growing, especially among the 55-70 year olds who are influencing demand.
- Would like to see an alternative that is based on “Change only where required” but is otherwise largely similar to current situation (changes justified by cultural, unsustainable routes, dead end routes that aren’t necessary)
- Might not be a need for a “quiet” alternative: Quiet users who were present indicated that they don’t need a separate area: want a few non-motorized trails but don’t require motors to be excluded entirely from this zone.
- Most of the commitments to recreation in this area should be at the lower end of the spectrum. None of the public or advisory council members see a need for this area to be turned into an SRMA-like experience with enhanced recreation facilities (e.g., Mack Ridge where recreation is the dominant focus).
 - This is a fragile area, so we should not be building things here that draw a huge number of folks.
 - Expect tradeoffs for conservation—it’s a National Conservation Area, not a National Recreation Area
- Suggestions for criteria to use during travel management
 - Trail and road sustainability: expect closures or reroutes for user-created routes with erosion occurring
 - Dead end routes: Mike Wilson: dead end routes lead to route proliferation.
 - Members of the public would like BLM to look at creating loops from dead end roads.
 - Closing dead-end roads

- High density of cultural sites
- Prairie dogs
- Potential Management Actions/Allowable Uses:
 - Consider requiring routes to be built and closed simultaneously on work days for new projects
 - Consider a restriction on bringing glass into this zone.
 - Consider designating dispersed campsites. Katie Steele notes the tremendous amount of litter and resource damage evident from camping in this zone. Tamera noted that this could be done initially, or using an adaptive management approach based on defined indicators.
 - If a Rim Trail is developed, it should be multiple use (both motorized and quiet users agree)
 - Any main trails or motorized routes should have cattleguards with gates beside them to reduce occurrence of people on or in vehicles leaving gates open.
 - NOT THIS ZONE: Consider some level of seasonal restrictions on dogs in Dominguez Canyon (lambing season)
 - In desert country, restrictions should be aimed at all user groups, not just motorized—there will be places where people should stay on trail regardless of mode of travel

Comments and Reminders from the public

- Quiet Use:
 - Would like to see some separation of motorized and non-motorized uses (clarified, through later public discussion, that motorized use does not necessarily need to be excluded from this area, but would like to see some separate trails)
 - As a group, quiet users will accept restrictions where they are necessary for resource protection (e.g., even hikers staying on trails where necessary)
 - Quiet use includes hiking, dog walking, photographers, artists, wildlife viewing, hunting, bird watching
 - Think forward: in 10-15 years, will visitation spoil enjoyment?
 - Consider adaptive management—triggers for when restrictions will increase. May need a permit system eventually to preserve sense of isolation.
 - While separating quiet and non-quiet uses geographically isn't necessary, there might be an opportunity to funnel quiet users to the south end of the zone as there already seems to be a "natural" geographic split with fewer roads and uses toward the south end.
 - Keep door open for future quiet use even as visitation increases.
- Wildlife
 - White tailed prairie dog colonies should be considered important here (e.g., consider not putting trails through)
 - Work with DOW on antelope population objectives
- Travel Management

- Look for opportunities for loop trails (created from two spurs)
- Consider White tailed prairie dogs/burrowing owls and not funneling use through colonies through travel management—also peregrine falcons.
- In fragile areas, focus people on trails, regardless of mode of travel
- Wells Gulch south—seems to be very little recreational use and very few roads
- Remind that travel designations can change along segments, e.g. Rim Trail would not need one designation end-to-end if there were opportunities to divide use meaningfully
- Parking lots focus use-consider several small parking lots vs. one big one
- Target Shooting
 - Remember that target shooting should be addressed-not discussed much by Council—prefer no target shooting or if allowed, only where very specifically designated for safety reasons and dispersed trash reasons
- Camping
 - Well spread out, dispersed designated campsites recommended.